

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2017 – 2018**

Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre Village of Hall & District Progress Association Inc.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to acknowledge and thank the many individuals and organisations that have supported us during the year in many different ways - including donation of family history material, donation of raffle prizes, loan of exhibition items, curatorial advice, and maintenance. They include:

- Euroka Gilbert, Aboriginal Liaison Officer at ACT Heritage.
- Carl Brown, King Brown Tribal Group
- Wally Bell, Buru Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation
- Barnett Lilley & Associates
- David Kilby
- Rotary Club of Hall
- Hall Post Office
- Hall Mens Shed
- Rural Fringe
- Capital Wines
- Daughters @ Hall
- Jellybug Treasures
- Homeleigh Olive Grove
- Eileen & David Wignall
- Geoff Finger
- Bevis Brown
- Garry Reynolds
- Peter & Ann Toet
- Peter McEvoy
- 1882 Bar & Grill
- Helen and Marion Warman
- John Thompson
- James McDonald
- Keith Amos
- ACT Property Group
- Tom Taverner
- Amanda Swadling

#### HALL SCHOOL MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTRE (HSMHC)

HSMHC is a Special Interest Group in the Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc

Honorary Curator:	Alastair Crombie
<b>Deputy Honorary Curators:</b>	Mardie Troth, Judy Roberts
Treasurer:	Margaret Foley

Address:	Hall School, Palmer Street, Hall, ACT
Postal:	Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre, PO BOX 43, HALL ACT 2618
Email	museum@hall.act.au
Web:	www.museum.hall.act.au
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/Hall-School-Museum-and-Heritage-Centre-
44311457241	3716/

Vision : 'The Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre will become widely recognised and respected as the leading centre for the collection, conservation, study and display of materials and stories concerning the history and development of the Hall–Ginninderra district, including early public schooling'.

#### **A BRIEF HISTORY**

We are now in our seventh year. It is without question that an enormous amount has been achieved in that relatively short time. While this report covers activities for the year 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, the ACT Government has just confirmed that current lease arrangements for the school site, including a peppercorn rent, will be renewed for a further five years. This of course encourages and enables longer term thinking and planning for the future of the Centre. It is appropriate therefore to reflect briefly on where we have come from.

Hall School Museum traces its history back to the school's Diamond Jubilee in 1961 when a display of memorabilia was mounted in the original 1910 school building. Under the leadership of Principal Laurie Copping, an expanding collection was formally approved by the ACT Schools Authority in 1980. The Museum was given an official opening by Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen in 1986 and was then operated by the School as a school museum for the next twenty years, when Hall School was closed by the ACT Government (2006).

For the next five years the Village of Hall and District Progress Association (VHDPA) - in partnership with Elizabeth Burness who was granted a lease to the building - played the role of 'foster parent' to the orphaned museum. Recognising its importance, in 2008 the ACT Government commissioned a full inventory of the museum, which was undertaken by the Australian National Museum of Education (ANME). This was essential underpinning for all that followed.

To help guide future action the Association commissioned a Conservation Management Plan (Dr Kim Morris, May 2010), organised the Hall School Centenary celebrations on 16-17 April 2011, and organised a series of Basic Conservation Skills workshops, conducted by Dr Kim Morris (June 2011). The 'graduates' from those workshops, which were held weekly on Thursday mornings, decided when the workshops finished to continue meeting at that time. We still do!

Most of the graduates from these workshops became founding members of the Friends of Hall School Museum. While formally a 'special interest group' within the VHDPA, the Hall School Museum became a self-managing organisation in 2011, with the appointment of Phil Robson as inaugural Honorary Curator in August 2011, and the foundation meeting of the 'Friends of Hall School Museum' on 21 September. Dr Malcolm Beazley, Director ANME, was the guest speaker, and a small steering committee was elected.

In 2015 recognising the gradual extension of our collection and our interests into matters of local history and heritage we changed our name to Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre.

# **1. PUBLIC ACCESS**

'Increase public awareness, knowledge and understanding of the history of the district through research and publication, displaying material from the collection, attracting visitors, educational programs and other forms of public access'.

Our ultimate purpose is to foster awareness and understanding of the history of the district and its people. This aim is pursued in many ways – including exhibitions, publications, group visits, a program for school students, access for researchers, and via our website.

#### Visitors

Some effort is made to record 'foot traffic' visits to the Centre. During the year there were fifteen organised group visits which brought a total of 303 visitors. For other visitors we had a count of 563, which is likely to be an under-estimate. [**Appendix A**]. These figures are of course dwarfed by the number of visits to our website – averaging 7,250 visitors per month, and 25,450 'page views'. Recognising the significant constraint of our limited opening hours we have decided as a trial to open every Sunday from September  $2^{nd}$  2018 to the end of the year.

#### **Exhibitions - A Tale of Two Villages**

Our major new exhibition for the year, 'A Tale of Two Villages', curated by Allen Mawer, was launched on 22 April by Yerrabi MLA Michael Pettersson. Our contribution to the 2018 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival, it is a composite exhibition, with four inter-related displays focussing on Aboriginal history, the emergence of Ginninderra village, the Cricketers Arms, and the origins and development of Hall at Ginninderra's expense. It is designed to be 'refreshed' from time to time by retiring some items and introducing new ones. The exhibition had some 200 visitors for the opening weekend and will continue indefinitely. We are most grateful to the VHDPA for their generous contribution to the mounting of this exhibition.

Several earlier exhibitions remain on display - 'When Hall Answered the Call' (stories of the local ANZAC's), our 'Canberra District Bush Schools' storyboard collection, 'Stones that Speak' (Award winning display of Aboriginal stone artefacts), 'Memory Lane' and the original School Museum.

'Stones that Speak' was recognised with an award in the 2017 Heritage Awards of the National Trust of Australia (ACT) as a 'valued contribution to the conservation of Indigenous heritage values', at a ceremony presided over by Heritage Minister Mick Gentleman (28 September). In cataloguing the artefacts and mounting the display curator Ken Heffernan was greatly assisted by student volunteers from the University of Canberra. Curation of the display was done in consultation with local Indigenous groups.

# **Education Program – school visits**

Providing a curriculum-based program for primary school students has long been a goal for the Centre, but lack of suitable space has limited the activities that could be offered. This has now been resolved and a team of volunteers has transformed a class-room to display early settler memorabilia

from rural properties, family homes, churches and commercial enterprises in the village, such as the store and picture theatre.

The aim is to create a flavour of the domestic, rural, commercial and social aspects of the lives of early settlers that encourages young students to reflect on the past and how things have changed. Students can participate in classroom activities characteristic of a bush school during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and have 'hands on' experiences with artefacts from the past and their modern equivalents.

The program is linked to the National History Curriculum (details on the Centre's website) and formally communicated to all ACT schools through the Department of Education's intranet. While previously only the Year 2 curriculum was targeted, Years 3, 4 and 5 can now also be accommodated. 235 students from three schools have already attended and more visits are scheduled [Appendix B].

#### **On-line displays**

At present our website carries two substantial database displays – 'Early Capital Region Schools and Teachers' and 'Rediscovering Ginninderra'. Both draw contacts, and sometimes contributions from users, and continue to grow. The former currently has entries for seventy-two schools and over six hundred teachers, illustrated by over four hundred photographs. A 2017 visitor to the database, Keith Amos, once teacher-in-charge at The Mullion school, has become a major contributor, posting a dozen or so well-researched histories.

The 'Rediscovering Ginninderra' database was created in 2016 along with the exhibition of that name. The display enables exploration of historical Ginninderra through a selection of prominent places and people. A good deal of the initial content was authoured by Friend of the Centre James McDonald.

# National Capital Authority (NCA) loan

In late 2017 the NCA asked us if they might borrow items from the Aboriginal stone artefacts in the Gillespie Collection to incorporate into their revamped National Capital Exhibition at Regatta Point. This Exhibition gets around 170,000 visitors a year. After consultation with local Representative Aboriginal Organisations, over a hundred items from the Black Mountain peninsula are to be displayed at Regatta Point. Gillespie Collection coordinator Ken Heffernan (with volunteer helpers) has prepared descriptions, measurements and photographs of each artefact. They will be on loan for five years from March 2018. The Centre will receive a small annual payment and be appropriately credited in the display.

# 2. COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

'Carry out systematic acquisition, conservation and management of materials, consultation and research, to describe and explain the Aboriginal, and later settlement history of the district'.

Good collection management is labour intensive and poses significant challenges for us. Even before taking in the extensive and diverse Gillespie Collection the Centre had a significant backlog

in accessioning, cataloguing, and correct storage. This included evaluating many items donated over several years which had accumulated in a storeroom.

# **Policy development**

To help address these challenges we developed and formally adopted a Collection Policy in January 2018. It specifies the scope of the Centre's acquisitions in relation to time ('from Aboriginal pre-history to WWII) and geographic domain (broadly, the Ginninderra Creek catchment), and lists a set of objective criteria for deciding whether or not to collect an item. Related forms and procedures have been developed and tested.

# eHive on-line cataloguing

eHive is our chosen web-based catalogue system which enables us to catalogue objects, store images, manage acquisition information and publish collections online. Making entries is a very systematic and time-consuming process, but will eventually result in a searchable database of our entire collection with each item numbered, and location in the collection recorded. The eHive team has been focussing on validating earlier entries, and cataloguing the contents of the old school-room and annexe. Val Wiseman played a key role in our adoption of eHive and getting the cataloguing process going.

# The Gillespie Collection

Great progress has been made in the past year with cataloguing the Gillespie Collection. This was greatly assisted by the ACT Heritage Grant of \$7,500 to assist the digitisation of photographs, slides, audio tapes, and other items in that Collection. That work, mostly carried out by Phil Robson, was reported and acquitted in September 2017.

During the past year cataloguing of the Collection's stone artefacts has been completed - over 8,000 items weighing 174 kilograms in total. Artefacts were sorted into types, weighed, bagged and boxed by site provenance. Ken Heffernan led this work helped by University of Canberra volunteers Eleanor Wilkinson and Nicola Donnelly. Cataloguing of publications has been carried out by Margaret Morris, with all items now recorded in spreadsheets and the publications carefully ordered and shelved for accessibility - 352 journals and 1698 books. Most of the remainder of the Collection has now been catalogued by Katrina Marshall (ANU Intern).

While the Collection arrived with an informal inventory, we now have a digital catalogue of it and the majority of records have been added to eHive. This is a very significant achievement that will enable us to both manage the Collection intelligently, and make it more accessible to others. The importance of this achievement was underlined in early 2018 when we decided to pursue a grant from the National Library's Community Heritage grant program to undertake a 'significance assessment' of the Collection, which relied on first having a full and accurate description of it.

# Storage improvements

In October 2017 we secured an ACT Heritage grant of \$7,500 for making storage improvements. This enabled us to commission four customised, wall-mounted storage hangers for exhibition storyboards – a sorely needed mechanism for protecting the boards while keeping them accessible. The hangers were produced to our specifications by local enterprise Hall Metal Fabrications. We have also acquired covered shelving for storage of research documentation folders, which is light-and dust-protected.

## **Archives Unit**

An Archives Unit was established this year, with outgoing Honorary Curator Phil Robson taking on the role of manager. The Unit has an on-going programme of digitisation and cataloguing of the current collections and new material loaned or donated to the Museum, and is the repository for research material including documents, photos and other media relevant to the Museum's collections and areas of interest.

Until recently many hundreds of documents held by the Centre, including early Hall School records, plans, maps and other information on the early history of the Hall district, had not been formally recorded or filed so that they could be retrieved easily. Over a thousand photos and hundreds of documents from various sources had been digitised but not catalogued. With the purchase of a new scanner and computer to house the large quantity of digitised images into an easy access filing system, work has now commenced on the large task of identifying, digitising, and cataloguing all this information.

# 3. MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION-BUILDING

#### **Our volunteers**

It is a truism for small voluntary organisations that the most critical resource is committed and capable people. There are now forty-five members of the Friends of the Centre, around half of whom are currently part of the active volunteer force [**Appendix C**]. Volunteer numbers have been augmented during the year by UC student volunteers Emma Anderson, Eleanor Wilkinson and Nicola Donnelly, and by ANU student Intern Katrina Marshall. They have made an exceptional contribution to our work and we are very grateful to them.

Volunteers gather as able on Thursday mornings, when occasionally we have an informal talk from an invited visitor. General meetings are held monthly and internal communication is channelled through 'The Muse', a weekly e-Newsletter. There is also a monthly external newsletter for Friends and associates of the Centre, edited by Judy Roberts. Melbourne Cup Day and Christmas (at Kingsley and Cynthia Southwell's 'Brooklands') were observed appropriately, and a large group of us paid a visit to colleagues at Queanbeyan Museum (18 October 2017). Alf Wilford (sign-maker-in-chief) celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in January, setting a challenge for the rest of us! We remember with sadness and gratitude the major contribution that Val Wiseman made before she passed away on 24 February.

Our volunteers also participated in several outside activities, some of which helped to promote and raise funds for the Centre. These included:

- 27 October 2017 Hall's 'Party at the Shop'
- 28/29 October 2017 Open Garden at 'Yellow Box', Spring Range Road
- 25 March 2018 National Trust (ACT) Hall Heritage Walk
- 14 April 2018 National Trust Heritage Festival, Lanyon Open Day

# Management

Alastair Crombie succeeded Phil Robson as Honorary Curator at the annual meeting on 10 August 2017. Phil was awarded Life Membership of the Centre in recognition of his extraordinary contribution over a long period of time. Gary Shipp, the Aboriginal community representative on the ACT Heritage Council, was our guest speaker. The meeting endorsed Mardie Troth and Judy Roberts as Deputy Honorary Curators, and Margaret Foley as Treasurer. This managing group has met regularly but on an *ad ho*c basis – as necessary. The Centre's affairs are deliberated and decided upon at monthly General Meetings, for which the Treasurer provides regular budget updates. [Appendix D]

Amongst various activities undertaken as a member of the Centre Alastair Crombie gave a talk to the Belconnen CWA (24 July), participated in a strategic planning workshop for the ACT Heritage Library (1 November), wrote an entry about the Centre for 'Canberra's Secrets', organised two visits to the 'Rosewood' homestead site with Hatch family descendants, visited 'The Hub' – Ginninderry project headquarters at 'Strathnairn', represented the Centre at a school site users group meeting (18 October), and attended a CDHS workshop on the ACTmapi 'heritage overlay' initiative (8 August).

# Our organisation

Over the past decade the Centre has evolved from a single purpose 'school museum' to a more encompassing 'school museum *and heritage centre*'. Our structure reflects this evolution. The current 'task groupings' include:

- eHive team online cataloguing of our collection
- 'Old Schoolroom' team care of the school museum and its collection
- Education Program structured learning program offered to primary schools
- Gillespie Collection accessioning, conserving and storing the Collection
- **Exhibitions** each exhibition project is under the control of an appointed curator with a team of volunteers

During the year we added two further functions:

- The Archive Unit was established by Phil Robson to store and organise our digital material and continue the digitisation and cataloguing of our collections.
- The **Family History Unit** was set up to collate and make more accessible our substantial holdings relating to Ginninderra's pioneer families.

# Important relationships

We value our relationships with many other organisations having overlapping or complementary aims and seek to maintain and develop them further.

We are delighted for example to have been able to offer space for the **Southwell Family Society Inc** to move their books and records into the Centre and to explore with Society President Ralph Southwell other opportunities for collaboration.

We again welcomed Dr Alison Wain and her **University of Canberra (UC)** students for their field work day (5 April), while Alastair Crombie gave a class on community museums to **ANU** masters students in the Heritage and Museum Studies Program (14 March). ANU Program Convenor DrMaya Haviland, visited us on 18 January. We have supervised the internship of Katrina

Marshall, one of her students. Several UC students have returned to undertake volunteer work with us.

We maintained our good working relationship with **ACT Heritage**, as a grant recipient and contributor to the annual Canberra and Region Heritage Festival. One of our volunteers, Dr Ken Heffernan, is Deputy Chair of the **ACT Heritage Council**.

We reached out to the organisations responsible for two large development projects in Belconnen with significant implications for heritage values – **CSIRO's** plan to divest itself of the Ginninderra Field Station, and the West Belconnen development – **'Ginninderry'**. Mary Hutchison (Ginninderry Local History Study) has paid us several visits, and Alastair Crombie joined field visits that she organised to the Kilby family homesteads 'Lands End' and 'The Falls'.

New President of the **Canberra District Historical Society** Nick Swain visited and gave a talk about the Society's work (2 November), and we have enjoyed good coverage for our activities in the CDHS newsletter. Our member Allen Mawer is a CDHS Councillor. We participated in the **National Trust (ACT)** Open Day at Lanyon (14 April), and conducted a Hall Heritage Walk as part of their regular 'heritage walks' program, ably led by Tony Morris (25 March). As reported elsewhere, our 'Stones that Speak' exhibition won a National Trust Heritage Award (September 2017).

We have maintained ties with our sister organisations - the Yass and Queanbeyan Museums, and with the Canberra Museum and Gallery. This year we visited (18 October), and were visited by (9 May) colleagues at Queanbeyan Museum, having had reciprocal visits with Yass Museum the previous year and continued to exchange newsletters.

#### **Financial Report**

The financial statement for the year is attached [**Appendix F**]. It shows a gain of \$4,245 over the year. This can be attributed to both cautious spending and very successful fund-raising. The 'trading table' coordinated by Heather Wilford garnered \$2,789, and we received \$2,142 in donations from visitors. Our major fund-raising event, the annual Canberra Brass concert, again sponsored by Barnett Lilley & Associates, realised \$1,685. This 'twilight' concert, postponed due to rain, was held at 1.30 pm on the same day that 'A Tale of Two Villages' was launched. This 'double-header' proved popular and successful. In total our fund-raising efforts brought in **\$7,297**, a fine achievement.

Grant income for specific projects continued to be a key source of funding, including this year a grant of \$2,500 from the Progress Association to support development of the new exhibition – 'A Tale of Two Villages'. ACT Heritage grants of \$7,500 were won in both 2016-17, and 2017-18, both projects now completed. Five new grant applications were submitted during the year, the total sought being \$20,120. Two applications totalling \$5,500 have already been successful; three more are outstanding [**Appendix E**].

#### A : Group visits to the Centre

GROUP	DATE	NO.
Belconnen Trefoil Guild	Mon 21 Aug	7
Goodwin Queanbeyan Day Care Club	Thurs 24 Aug	19
Representative Aboriginal Organizations	Thurs 14 Sept	4
ANME & Australian & NZ History of Education Society	Mon 25 Sept	35
Villaggio Sant'antonio – Aged Care	Wed 11 Oct	12
Topp Tours	Mon 30 Oct	30
Combined Probus Club of Lake Tuggeranong	Thurs 16 Nov	12
Canberra Academy of Dramatic Art	Friday 12 Jan	40
St Thomas Aquinas / Bungee Arts	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	16
Goodwin Queanbeyan Day Care Club	Wed 21 Feb	21
Gungahlin Probus	Wed 7 March	16
National Trust (ACT) Heritage Walk Group	Sun 25 March	30
University of Canberra Field Day Students	Thurs 5 April	38
Queanbeyan Museum Volunteers	Wed 9 May	6
Students from Purdue University (USA)	Mon 18 June	25
VISITOR TOTAL		303

#### **B**: Education Program – school visits

Date	School	students	teachers/parents
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Gold Creek Primary	38	4
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Gold Creek Primary	40	4
15 <sup>th</sup> May	Giralang Primary	52	4
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Neville Bonner Primary	52	4
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Neville Bonner Primary	53	4
	TOTAL	235	20

#### C: Volunteers during the year to 30 June 2018

- Emma Anderson Marion Banyard Alastair Crombie (Honorary Curator) Nicola Donnelly Margaret Foley (Treasurer) Ken Heffernan (Deputy Chair, ACT Heritage Council) Jenny Holcombe Paul Howarth Jan Dunnett Anne Lomax Katrina Marshall (ANU Intern) Allen Mawer (Councillor CDHS; Member ACT Place Names Cttee) Olga Minion **Tony Morris**
- Margaret Morris Caroline O'Clery Jan Peelgrane Alison Reynolds Judy Roberts (Deputy HC) Phil Robson **Yvonne Robson** Jane Southwell Kingsley Southwell Ralph Southwell Peter Toet Ann Toet Mardie Troth (Deputy HC) Alf Wilford Heather Wilford Eleanor Wilkinson

#### **D** : General Meetings / Managing Group meetings:

Management Group Meetings	General Meetings
17 August 2017	24 August 2017
31 August	7 September
7 September	28 September
13 September	26 October
16 November	30 November
5 January 2018	25 January 2018
8 February	22 February
20 February	29 March
21 May	26 April
	3 May
	31 May
	28 June

#### E: Grant applications 2017-18

- 1. **'A tale of two villages'.** Village of Hall and District Progress Association. \$2,500 to assist with costs of mounting the exhibition. <u>Granted.</u>
- 'Armistice and After'. Department of Veterans Affairs, Armistice Centenary Grant Program. \$3,000 to produce story boards and a booklet to add to the existing ANZAC display. <u>Granted</u>
- 3. 'Augmented reality (AR) additions to six Canberra Tracks heritage signs in the Heritage Precinct of Hall Village.' ACT Heritage Grants. \$3,000.
- 4. 'Stories in Dirt'. A study of the landscape history and sediments within the '*Aboriginal Sites Zone*' of Halls Creek. ACT Heritage Grants. \$7,120
- 5. 'Significance assessment of the Lyall Gillespie Collection'. National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grants. \$4,500

# F : Balance Sheet 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

ASSETS	Bank accounts:	\$
	CBA Society Cheque Account 062915 10177845	520.85
	CBA Online Saver 062915 10215688	20,987.95
		21,508.80
	ACT Heritage Grant 2017-18 – balance outstanding	<u>1,500.00</u>
		23,088.80
LIABILITIES		<u>0.00</u>
		23,088.80

# Statement of Cash Flow and Bank Reconciliation

			\$
Cheque	Balance reported at 1 July 2017		1,060.01
Account			
Online Saver	Balance reported at 1 July 2017		<u>17,783.15</u>
			18,843.16
	<u>Plus</u> income	(1)	20,622.35
			39,465.51
39,445.51	Less expenditure	(2)	<u>17,956.71</u>
	Balance as per cash book 30/6/2018		21,508.80
	Cheque Account Balance as per bank statement 30/6/2018		520.85
	Online Saver Balance as per bank statement 30/6/2018		20,987,95
	Total as per bank statements 30/6/2018		21,508.80

#### Statement of Income and Expenditure

		\$	\$
Income	Interest	104.80	
	Memberships	430.00	
	Donations	2,142.40	
	Sales	2,789.00	
	Fund-raising events	2,366.15	
	Group visits	540.00	
	Grant income – Heritage 2016-17	3,750.00	
	Grand income – VHDPA 2017-18	2,500.00	
	Grant income – Heritage 2017-18	6,000.00	20,622.35
			(1)
Expenditure	Stationery supplies	1,120.86	
	Information technology	720.97	
	Kitchen and catering	550.18	
	Centre promotion	194.00	
	Capital equipment	1,864.00	
	Repairs and maintenance	272.15	
	Display materials	781.24	
	Project costs underwritten by Museum	406.40	
	Grant expenditure – Heritage 2016-17	2,046.91	
	Grant expenditure – VHDPA 2017-18	2,500.00	
	Grant expenditure – Heritage 2017-18	7,500.00	<u>17,956.71</u> (2)