



ANNUAL REPORT 2018 – 2019

Honorary Curator: Alastair Crombie
Deputy Honorary Curators: Mardie Troth, Paul Howarth
Treasurer: Margaret Foley

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Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre is a Special Interest Group
in the Village of Hall and 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, maintenance, and more. They include:

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| <p>Keith Amos Kay and Colin Andrews Bessie Bardwell Wally Bell (Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation) King Brown Tribal Group Bevis Brown Karen Denny Buru (Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation) Annaliese Caston Melda Crawford Leonie D'arx Dr Peter Dowling Euroka Gilbert (ACT Government Aboriginal Liaison Officer) Frances Henman (Yass Valley Council) Dr Matilda House (Ngambri-Ngunawal elder) Dr Philip Hughes Ian Irwin Ron Jarman David Kilby Wesley and Elizabeth Kilby Dr Jan Klaver Margaret and Alwin Lane Katrina Marshall James McDonald Liz McMillan Isla Patterson Gary Reynolds Dr Ros Russell Quentin Slade (National Library of Australia)</p> | <p>Dr Marjorie Sullivan Peter and Ann Toet Dr Alison Wain Helen and Marion Warman Eileen Wignall</p> <p>1882 Bar & Grill ACT Heritage ACT Property Group Barnett Lilley & Associates Capital Wines Daughters @ Hall Department of Veterans Affairs Endless Beauty Hall Post Office Hall Men's Shed Heraldry and Genealogical Society of Canberra Hall Stock Feeds Homeleigh Olive Grove Jellybug Treasures Kynefin National Library of Australia National Trust of Australia (ACT) Rotary Club of Hall Rural Fringe The Shearing Shed</p> |
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1. 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

Our ‘visitors’ are both physical and virtual, each equally important to us. In the month of June 2019 (broadly similar to previous months) our website had 9,052 ‘visits’, or about 300 a day. [This is a more meaningful measure than the number of ‘hits’ - 76,287 total (or 2,542 per day) for the same period]. In response to these visits the site delivered 58,347 requested files – 1,616,088 Kbytes of data. A proportion of the ‘visits’ recorded will be ‘non-human’ traffic, but nevertheless the number of virtual visitors obviously vastly exceeds ‘walk in’ traffic, and we should expect that a growing predominance of visitors will only have contact with us on-line.

‘Real’ visitors include members of organised group visits [**Appendix A**], pupils, parents and teachers who are part of school visits. [**Appendix B**], and those who come through the door on the days the Centre is open. Over the past year they together total almost two thousand for the year (group visits 327; school visits 730, individuals 933). This is a significant increase on the previous year, and is due in some measure to the decision in September to open every Sunday, and an increase in the number of schools making visits.

We had eighteen other organised groups. Amongst them was a group of members of the **Bink** family who chose to visit us ahead of their reunion function at the Hall Pavilion. The Binks were one of twenty or so Dutch families who lived in Hall in the 1950’s and 60’s. Eight Bink children lived at ‘Avoca’ for a while, and three of them attended Hall school. These ‘oldies’ enjoyed showing their grandchildren the school that they went to.

We also enjoyed a visit from a group of very keen students and staff from the **ANU College of the Arts and Social Sciences**. Dr Matilda House, Ngambri - Ngunnawal elder, hosted the visit and escorted the participants to several important local indigenous sites as well as visiting the Centre.

The Museum was particularly honoured by a visit from the members of the **Prime Minister’s Indigenous Advisory Council** (13 February 2019), again led by Dr House, with her grandson Reuben on didgeridoo providing a welcome.

It has also been especially rewarding to have a number of small groups of pioneer family descendants (e.g. O’Briens, Gillespies, Southwells) visiting, with a special interest in what the museum has to tell about their ancestors.

EXHIBITIONS

One key factor in maintaining a good flow of visitors is of course the regular refreshing of what we have to offer. It has become an informal standard that we introduce at least one new exhibition every year. In the year past we have in fact presented **two** new exhibitions.

Armistice and After

We were successful in applying, through MHR Andrew Leigh (Member for Fenner), for an Armistice Centenary Grant, which enabled us to present the final chapter to our much loved ANZAC display. ‘**Armistice and After**’ follows local diggers through their triumphs in 1918, their reactions to the Armistice, their wait for repatriation, and the disappointments they faced in a post-war world where the promises of peace and prosperity never quite materialised. A booklet written by Allen Mawer accompanied the exhibition, which was launched on Remembrance Day 2018 at 11.00 am by Andrew Leigh.

Selected Spaces

Our second new exhibition was our contribution to the annual Canberra and Region Heritage Festival – **‘Selected spaces – settling the Ginninderra district’**. It was a ‘close-up’ look at six pioneer families of the Ginninderra district launched by historian Dr Barbara Dawson on 14th April 2019 to an audience of around a hundred. The six settler ‘case stories’ stand alone as studies of pioneering families, but collectively give insight into how the Canberra district was settled and turned to farming. The exhibition deploys a lot of spatial information, including early maps, plans, aerial photos, surveyor note books – and google earth, and four large scale maps which paint the big picture of the district’s development.

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 Hall School Museum.

A grant application was made in May 2019, seeking support for a 2020 exhibition on the development of cricket on the Limestone Plains.

On-line displays

We remain committed to increasing the quantity and quality of on-line content – especially in the two curated databases – **Rediscovering Ginninderra** and **Early Schools of the Capital Region**. It has been very rewarding to again have a number of users turn into contributors.

Wamboin resident David McDonald, for example, has contributed entries for Creekborough and Wyanga schools in that district. Annaliese Caston has contributed information and some fine photos on Shannons Flat school, where her father was a teacher. We now have entries for eighty early public schools in Canberra and district, and have registered nearly 650 teachers.

The Ginninderra database has entries – many quite substantial – for sixty-five significant Places – churches, homesteads, schools, post offices etc. and over 260 People. The entries include around 320 illustrative photographs from our very large collection, and in some cases, maps, plans and other documents.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our Education Program is closely linked to the National History Curriculum and this is the second year we have offered schools the opportunity to participate in inquiry learning activities aimed at exposing the differences between modern life and life from the past. Student numbers have increased significantly since the program began, with a total of 675 students, from seven different schools, participating in the 2018-2019 program.

The majority participating in the program are Year 2 students. The curriculum at this level presents a unit of work which focuses on the study of local history with students encouraged to explore, recognise and appreciate the history of their local area by examining remains of the past and considering why they should be preserved.

The success of the Year 2 program has informed the decision to concentrate on this demographic and to expand the activities offered to visiting students by incorporating an Indigenous perspective in the *Then & Now* theme.

A group of volunteers involved in the Program attended a very interesting and informative Inquiry Learning workshop at the National Museum in April 2019, which investigated the teaching strategy of questioning as a method of enhancing learning outcomes. We were introduced to a variety of questioning techniques, including a practical demonstration aimed at facilitating a student’s discovery of information and understanding. We aim to incorporate these teaching strategies into our activities.

2. COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

Policy development

We receive many offers of artefacts, some as long-term loans and others as donations. This can be an opportunity to secure objects which will enhance our collection but it can also expose us to becoming a repository for unwanted articles that need a home.

The collection policy adopted in January 2018 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.

Over the past 12 months related forms and procedures have been developed and tested, using a collection of donated items that had accumulated over a period of time and which had not been assessed for relevance. Images of each item and relevant provenance information are recorded and digitally stored. These procedures are now implemented when artefacts are offered to the Centre.

Archives Unit

The major task this year was to set up digital folders on the new computer which many hundreds of images and documents have been sorted into. In many cases this process requires research to establish who is in the photograph and their connections to the Hall / Ginninderra district.

This has provided a basic method of retrieving images as required. This process uncovered a considerable volume of duplication however, an issue that is now being addressed.

Final year University of Canberra student volunteer, Emma Anderson, entered details of 1378 black and white historic images from the Gillespie Collection onto the Museum's eHive online catalogue account. We have now entered a total of 4,870 eHive records; 3,240 of these relate to the Gillespie Collection. eHive cataloguing of items in the old Hall school has now been completed

GILLESPIE COLLECTION

We were proud to learn in September 2018 that we had been awarded a nationally competitive Community Heritage Grant by the National Library of Australia to undertake a significance assessment of the Gillespie Collection.

Our chosen consultant for this task, Dr Roslyn Russell, is a highly experienced cultural heritage assessor and author who also knew Lyall Gillespie well. Her work, involving contributions by many volunteers, is now well advanced. The NLA award includes the offer of a free place in a Preservation and Collection Management Training Workshop conducted by the NLA. Ken Heffernan took up this opportunity on behalf of the Centre.

Student contributors

Extensive involvement of student volunteers is a striking aspect of the Museum's curation of the Gillespie Collection. Emma Anderson from the University of Canberra assisted Phil Robson's project to digitise the Gillespie photographic collection. Madalyn Grant from the ANU history program used the collection to inform a research essay on Lyall Gillespie. Throughout 2018, Katrina Marshall, an ANU Masters student on internship, made an enormous contribution in preparing digital catalogue entries for remaining Gillespie collection artefacts. Recently, volunteer and University of Canberra student Nicola Donnelly has begun an internship to work on activities including development of an Aboriginal heritage display with Mardie Troth for Year 2 school students.

Margaret Morris and Ken Heffernan completed some long-term projects. Ken finished the digital catalogue of 8,241 items in the Gillespie Aboriginal Stone Artefact collection and prepared material from Black Mountain Peninsula, with guidance from traditional custodians, for temporary loan to the National Capital Exhibition at Regatta Point. The loan MOU with the NCA was signed in August 2018. Margaret not only produced a digital catalogue of around 2000 texts but also managed their conservation and put them on shelves in categories for use by visitors.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

A key message of the Gillespie Collection displays is to encourage respect for Aboriginal sites in their landscape. Exemplifying this, in September 2018 the Museum was awarded an ACT Heritage Grant to study the landscape history of the Hall's Creek Aboriginal sites zone – '**Stories in Dirt**'. The field study was carried out by eminent geo-archaeologists Dr Phil Hughes and Dr Marjorie Sullivan with museum volunteers and traditional custodians Carl Brown of the King Brown Tribal Group, Karen Denny Buru of the Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation, and Ngambri-Ngunnawal elder Dr Matilda House. The Museum was saddened to hear of Carl Brown's passing during the year.

Dr House visited the Museum with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. June 2018 saw a visit to the Aboriginal artefact displays by a large student group from Purdue University, Indiana.

3. MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION-BUILDING

Volunteers

The Centre is a 'special interest group' within the Village of Hall and District Progress Association, which all volunteers belong to. Our affairs are in the hands of the Friends of the Centre (around 65), of whom 25 or so are actively involved as volunteers. In the past year we have been pleased to welcome Robin Astbury, Marilyn Folger, Dylan Rattenbury, Karen Moore and Graham Wilson as volunteers. [Appendix C]

We continue to meet on Thursday mornings, use a weekly eNewsletter, have a regular column in the Rural Fringe, and hold monthly general meetings. During the year members contributed to the establishment of a memorial garden and plaque for late member Val Wiseman. We share a monthly BBQ with the Men's Shed, and also joined them for a fine Christmas Party. A wreath was presented at the Hall Remembrance Day ceremony on our behalf by Pat Kinlyside. Melbourne Cup Day was appropriately celebrated. We were very sorry to have to farewell ANU Intern / volunteer Katrina Marshall in December, and thank her again for the enormous contribution that she made to our work. True to form, she parted with a gift to us. 'Voices in the Hall' is her account of those she met and worked with at the Centre – a compilation of interviews giving an unusually vivid picture of our work.

Management

Management is in the hands of the Honorary Curator (Alastair Crombie, two Deputies (Mardie Troth and Paul Howarth), and a Treasurer (Margaret Foley). The managing group meets regularly, as needed, oversees the budget, and shapes future directions. [Appendix D]

Important relationships

We are conscious that outside the major national institutions, heritage organisations and interests in the region are in general small and rather vulnerable. We have accordingly sought to establish and strengthen relationships with cognate bodies.

Thus we are partnering with the **Canberra and District Historical Society** with a proposal for an exhibition next year on the development of cricket on the Limestone Plains, and were very pleased to have the President and Secretary of the **Heraldry and Genealogical Society of Canberra** visit to address us, and

then participate in our Family History Unit planning workshop. We have also now consolidated our relationship with the **Southwell Family Society Inc.** which shares office accommodation with us. We are jointly seeking grant support for the establishment of a Southwell Family Archive in collaboration with the Society..

Since our inception **ACT Heritage** has been a key organisation for us. The heritage grants program administered by them has been critical to our ability to establish ourselves as a credible organisation with high standards in conservation, cataloguing, storage, and displays. In turn we have worked hard to support and contribute to their other major heritage activity – organisation of the highly successful annual Canberra and Region Heritage Festival. Beyond our participation in these two key programs we have greatly valued periodic encouragement and advice from staff, and were pleased to welcome a number of them on a visit to the Centre (2 May).

Financial Report

Our financial report shows that we are living within our means – while relying on nearly \$7,000 of income raised through donations (\$2,516), sales (trading table, books etc.- \$3,010) and our major fund-raiser, the annual brass band concert with Canberra Brass. Fees from visiting groups, schools and other, added another \$1,846. [Appendix E]

It is noteworthy that we were successful in all four grant applications submitted during the year – a total value of \$18,613. This income of course had to be fully expended and acquitted in relation to the funded projects:

Dept of Veteran's Affairs (Armistice Commemoration Program):

2018: 'Armistice and After' exhibition - \$3000

National Library of Australia Community Heritage Program:

2018 – Significance Assessment of the Gillespie Collection - \$4950

ACT Heritage Grant Program:

2018-19: 'Stories in dirt'. Geomorphology of the Halls Creek Aboriginal Sites Zone - \$7120

2018-19: Augmented reality additions to six Canberra Tracks heritage signs in the Heritage Precinct of Hall - \$3,543.80

APPENDICES

A : Group visits to the Centre

| Group | Date | Numbers |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Goodwin Aged Care, Crace | Thurs 12 July | 24 |
| 2. Canberra Antique & Classic Car Club | Sun 15 July | 20 |
| 3. Southern Tablelands Heritage Automotive Restorers Club | Sun 5 Aug | 40 |
| 4. CWA of NSW Belconnen Branch | Thurs 16 Aug | 14 |
| 5. Belconnen Day View Club | Tues 21 Aug | 13 |
| 6. Gungahlin Lions Club | Sun 9 Sept | 21 |
| 7. Villaggio Sant' Antonio Village | Wed 24 Oct | 12 |
| 8. National Seniors Northside Branch | Thurs 25 Oct | 9 |
| 9. Belconnen Community Service English Conversation Group | Thurs 6 Dec | 20 |
| 10. Sutherland Historical Group | Wed 6 Feb | 8 |
| 11. Prime Ministers Indigenous Advisory Council | Wed 13 Feb | 7 |
| 12. Tuggeranong Probus | Wed 13 Feb | 9 |
| 13. Kangara Waters Independent Living Residents | Fri 15 Feb | 16 |
| 14. Canberra Seniors | Thur 21 Mar | 20 |
| 15. Bink Family Reunion visitors | Sat 23 Mar | 14 |
| 16. North Belconnen Day Centre | Tues 16 April | 12 |
| 17. ANU Indigenous Studies Students | Mon 20 May | 45 |
| 18. Goodwin Aged Care, Crace | Thurs 23 May | 11 |
| 19. Villaggio Sant' Antonio | Wed 12 June | 12 |
| TOTAL VISITORS | | 327 |

B : Education Program – school visits

| Date | School | Students | Teachers/parents |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 28 th August 2018 | Majura Primary | 40 | 3 |
| 29 th August | Majura Primary | 38 | 3 |
| 16 th October | North Ainslie | 42 | 3 |
| 17 th October | North Ainslie | 43 | 3 |
| 19 th October | North Ainslie | 42 | 3 |
| 22 nd October | North Ainslie | 43 | 3 |
| 5 th March 2019 | Giralang Primary | 43 | 3 |
| 26 th March | Miles Franklin Primary | 68 | 5 |
| 1 st April | Palmerston Primary | 39 | 4 |
| 3 rd April | Palmerston Primary | 41 | 4 |
| 7 th May | Farrer Primary | 48 | 3 |

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----|----|
| 15 th May | Gold Creek Primary | 44 | 5 |
| 17 th May | Gold Creek Primary | 48 | 3 |
| 28 th May | Majura Primary | 42 | 5 |
| 31 st May | Majura Primary | 44 | 5 |
| TOTAL: 730 | | 675 | 55 |

C : Volunteers during the year to 30 June 2019

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

D : General Meetings / Managing Group meetings:

| Management Group Meetings | General Meetings |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 17 th July 2018 | 26 th July 2018 |
| 30 th August | 30 th August |
| 26 th September | 27 th September |
| 29 th October | 25 th October |
| 27 th November | 29 th November |
| 4 th February 2019 | 31 st January 2019 |
| 20 th February | 28 th February |
| 16 th April | 28 th March |
| | 18 th April |
| | 30 th June |
| | 25 th July |

E : Balance Sheet 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019

| | | |
|-------------|--|------------------|
| ASSETS | | \$ |
| | Bank accounts: CBA Cheque Account 062915 10177845 | 311.32 |
| | CBA Online Saver 062915 10215688 | 30,250.29 |
| | ACT Heritage Grant 2018/19 Halls Creek – balance outstanding | <u>2,848.00</u> |
| | | <u>33,409.61</u> |
| LIABILITIES | Grants - expenditure and acquittal 2019/2020: | |
| | ACT Heritage – enhance Canberra Track signs | 2,121.00 |

| | | |
|--|---|------------------|
| | National Library of Australia – Significance assessment | 4,950.00 |
| | Friends 2019/2020 membership in advance | 160.00 |
| | | <u>7,231.00</u> |
| | | <u>26,178.61</u> |

Statement of Cash Flow and Bank Reconciliation

| | | | \$ |
|----------------|---|-----|------------------|
| Cheque Account | Balance reported at 1 July 2018 | | 520.85 |
| Online Saver | Balance reported at 1 July 2018 | | 20,987.95 |
| | | | 21,508.80 |
| | Plus income | (1) | <u>25,584.79</u> |
| | | | 47,093.59 |
| | Less expenditure | (2) | <u>16,531.98</u> |
| | <i>Balance as per cash book 30/6/2019</i> | | <u>30,561.61</u> |
| | <i>Cheque Account Balance as per bank statement 30/6/2019</i> | | 311.32 |
| | <i>Online Saver Balance as per bank statement 30/6/2019</i> | | <u>30,250.29</u> |
| | <i>Total as per bank statements 30/6/2019</i> | | <u>30,561.61</u> |

Statement of Income and Expenditure

| | | \$ | \$ |
|-------------|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| Income | Interest | 112.34 | |
| | Memberships (including subscriptions in advance) | 690.00 | |
| | Donations | 2,516.30 | |
| | Sales (trading table, books net) | 3,010.50 | |
| | Fund-raising events | 1,366.65 | |
| | Visits - groups | 490.00 | |
| | - schools | 1,356.00 | |
| | Project administration | 200.00 | |
| | Grant income – acquittal 2017-18 Heritage Grant | 1,500.00 | |
| | Grant income – DVA Armistice Centenary | 3,000.00 | |
| | Grant income – ACT Heritage Inspection Halls Creek | 4,272.00 | |
| | Grant income – ACT Heritage enhance Canberra Track signs | 2,121.00 | |
| | Grant income – National Library Australia – significance assessment | <u>4,950.00</u> | |
| | | | <u>25,54.79 (1)</u> |
| Expenditure | Stationery supplies | 956.59 | |
| | Information technology | 323.78 | |
| | Kitchen and catering | 646.37 | |
| | Centre promotion | 1,849.17 | |
| | Capital equipment | 188.00 | |
| | Repairs and maintenance | 210.83 | |
| | Display materials | 52.37 | |
| | Office furniture and equipment | 1,026.90 | |
| | Museum exhibition – Heritage Through Maps | 987.06 | |
| | Museum exhibition – Palette Pioneering Places | 58.23 | |
| | Grant expenditure – DVA Armistice Centenary | 3,072.04 | |
| | Grant expenditure – ACT Heritage Inspection Halls Creek | 7,160.64 | |
| | Grant expenditure – ACT Heritage enhance Canberra Track signs | 0.00 | |
| | Grant expenditure – National Library Australia – significance assess | <u>0.00</u> | |
| | | | <u>16,531.98(2)</u> |