

## VHDPA PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021

As we near the end of fairly cold Winter, Sydney is hopefully getting on top of its July COVID-19 problems and restrictions will be eased.

The Village of Hall and District Progress Association (VHDPA) Committee has continued its focus on the financial governance of the VHDPA and its Special Interest Groups, to ensure transparency and accountability. The funds of the VHDPA and Special Interest Groups belong to our members, and it is very important that they are managed properly. We have reviewed the objects and activities of the VHDPA and Special Interest Groups to ensure that the activities we all do are included, as required by the Associations Incorporation Act. Ten years since its establishment by the VHDPA to promote and encourage the restoration, preservation and display of early machinery and equipment, the Hall and District Collectors' Club (HDCC) now has 83 vehicles under the ACT government concessional registration arrangements and has regular outings and displays classic vehicles at Hall village events. The HDCC has recently taken the opportunity to Incorporate and is no longer a Special Interest Group of the VHDPA. We hope that they continue to prosper.

**Hall Memorial Grove** - Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) has begun to tidy up the parking around the Memorial Grove on the corner of Gladstone and Victoria Street. This is to improve amenity of the Memorial, reduce compaction and bogging of the ground, and improve pedestrian safety - particularly with bus drop-offs where kids cross the road from parked cars on the verge corner. The plan is to replace broken bollards on Gladstone Street opposite Kynefin and place parking restriction notices in front of the memorial grove entrance. Residents wishing to know more can get in touch with the City Presentation Unit, Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.

**Pavilion maintenance** - your VHDPA committee has successfully obtained \$15,390 of grant funding from the Stronger Communities Programme - Round 6. The Stronger Communities Programme provides each of the 151 Federal electorates with \$150,000 to fund small capital projects. These projects aim to improve local community participation and contribute to vibrant viable communities. Federal Members of Parliament (MPs) identify potential projects and invite applications from their electorate. The VHDPA was invited to apply by the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh, Federal Member for Fenner.

Funds were requested for repainting the Pavilion building, repairing plumbing and the stove. Painting started on 13 July and should be finished before the publication of the August Rural Fringe.

**General Meeting** - a General meeting of the VHDPA was convened on 16 June 2021 to consider a Special Resolution to change the Association Rules. The changes focused on improving financial oversight and governance as recommended by the Association's Reviewer. The new Rules are available on the website [[2021-06-16 Rules of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc](#)] as are the draft minutes of the meeting [<https://www.hall.act.au/meeting-minutes.html>].

**VHDPA Annual General Meeting** - the Annual General Meeting of the VHDPA was scheduled for 7.00 pm Wednesday 18 August 2021 in the Hall Pavilion. However due to ACT Health directives on COVID-19 the AGM had to be postponed as a result of the Delta variant Covid outbreak. The AGM was eventually rescheduled to 17 November when health restrictions eased. At the AGM, all committee positions will be vacated, and nominations for office bearers and Committee

members are welcomed. Nominations were to be submitted to the Secretary before 12.00 noon on Monday 15 November.

**Change in management arrangements for the Cottage and Pavilion and thanks to Tony and Margaret Morris-** in May, Tony and Margaret Morris signalled their retirement from management of the Hall Pavilion and Community Cottage and expressions of interest were sought from the community to assist. The Committee has welcomed the offer from Andy and Bill Pearson to look after the Cottage while the Pavilion will be looked after by VHDPA Committee members. Tony and Margaret have lived in Hall since 1965 and have been part of the VHDPA from that time. Their efforts were instrumental in obtaining the Pavilion for community use. Since then, the building has evolved from a simple galvanised iron shed through several widespread renovations and improvements until now with internal lining, improved acoustics, new lighting, gas heating, renovated kitchen and modern toilet and showers. It is a very popular venue for events. The Cottage was formerly the Headmaster's Cottage and was adapted for community use following closure of the school and after-school care in 2006.

The VHDPA extends its heartfelt thanks to Tony and Margaret for their amazing volunteer contributions to the community.

Speaking of recognition of contributions to the Hall and wider Community. The Hall community should be very proud that three of its residents have been recognised as Members of the Order of Australia, AM, in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours List: Emeritus Professor Toni Makkai of Wallaroo; Professor Neil Manson of Springrange; and Robert Yallop of Hall. Congratulations to Toni, Neil and Robert. Robert has been a member of the VHDPA Committee since 2019.

**HALLS CREEK TIMBER BRIDGE AT THE SHOWGROUNDS** - The Men's Shed has initiated repairs to the timber crossing on Halls Creek which is in disrepair. It is very wobbly at the moment.

MLA Leanne Castley and her Assistant, Felicity, recently visited Hall and had a brief tour of the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre and the Men's Shed. Leanne then had a cuppa at the Daughters' and a discussion with Shaun O'Connor from the Hall Traders. Although the time available was very limited, it was apparent that Leanne gained a little better understanding of the organisations within Hall and the role of the Progress Association.

Please stay SAFE and CONNECTED.