



Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc.

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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TO MEMBERS

The Progress Association has continued to further the interests of the Hall and district community members over this past period, it being ten months since the previous Annual General Meeting when the current committee was elected, on 17 November 2021.

The Association, working in partnership with others as needed, performs a number of functions including acting as the overall responsible body for the Special Interest Groups of the Association and some community activities. These groups include the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre and the Hall's Men Shed. There are separate reports provided by these active groups. The Association also informs the community about local issues, events, and personalities – through the bi-monthly *Rural Fringe* newsletter, and the www.hall.act.au website.

In its role as Licensee of the **Hall School Site and the Hall Pavilion**, the Progress Association Committee has updated management processes, hire charges and community use arrangements for the Pavilion and Cottage. The Progress Association has continued management of ongoing maintenance of buildings on the Hall School Site where the unusually wet weather has presented significant challenges with leaking roofs and water damage.

An important function of the Progress Association is to advocate for and represent the Hall Village and District community in relation to significant planning, development, heritage and environmental issues and the provision of government services. It also facilitates minor works and maintenance in and around the village. In my first "President's Page" in the *Rural Fringe* in February 2022, I shared a number of items that the Progress Association Committee considered for attention including:

- a request from Hall and Wallaroo residents to petition the ACT government to extend the 80 kph speed limit on the Barton Highway from the Clarrie Hermes Drive intersection to the NSW border;
- the somewhat neglected state of the Hall Reserve exacerbated by infrequent mowing, dead foliage and vehicle ruts from parking and driving on the Reserve;
- the perennial problem of storm water drainage and erosion of the laneways in Hall village that has been neglected by the ACT government for more than 20 years and was greatly exacerbated by the much wetter than normal 2020 and 2021 La Nina seasons.

Since then, the Association has had one success, one work in progress, and one as yet to have any positive outcome.

On 19 June, thirty-two volunteers did a truly remarkable job on the **Hall Reserve** of removing dead shrubs, cutting overgrown grass, and removing weeds and undergrowth. The resulting green waste completely filled the skip provided by the Hall Community Fire Unit, a dozen trailer and ute-loads of various village volunteers and finally about ten large truck loads removed by ACT Parks and Conservation with assistance from their front-end loader. The Progress Association Committee will have conversations with residents and stakeholders about further work including reclamation and plantings.

On 14 January 2022, on behalf of the Progress Association, I wrote to the Minister for Transport Canberra and City Services requesting urgent attention to arrange for the relevant ACT government authority to undertake the assessment, design and completion of works on **storm water infrastructure** and associated works to rehabilitate and maintain the laneways in Hall Village. The request to the Minister was also copied to all MLAs in Yerrabi. In April, the Association undertook a media campaign to highlight the lack of action on storm water by Minister Steel and, together with MLAs Leanne Castley and James Milligan and Hall Traders' President Shaun O'Connor, we briefed various media including WIN TV News, RiotAct, ABC TV News, ABC Canberra Radio Mornings, 2CC Radio Drive, CityNews and Canberra Weekly.

After six months of representations to Minister Steel and Yerrabi MLAs, on 11 July, the Hall Progress Association received a response from Transport and City Services Minister Chris Steel committing that TCCS are engaging a suitably qualified consultant to undertake detailed analysis and provide mitigation options to improve storm water drainage in Hall. This will be comprehensive including the total topography, water movement and existing infrastructure as well as the lane ways. The consultants will develop a hydrological model working to Municipal Infrastructure Standard MIS08. Once the model is completed, Capital Works will consult with ACT Heritage about what can be done consistent with the Hall Village Master Plan and the Hall Precinct Code out of which a design options study will be completed with concept drawings and high-level costings. From the design options and costings, Capital Works Planning will develop a Business Case for Treasury to be considered within the ACT Government Budget process. The Business Case will be prepared in early 2023 for consideration in the FY 2024 ACT Budget.

There is still a long way to go before Hall village has appropriate storm water infrastructure. However, we are now on the journey.

To date, the Progress Association has been less successful in securing a positive response from the same Minister Steel to a **request by Hall and Wallaroo residents to reduce the speed limit** on the Barton Highway between the NSW border and Clarrie Hermes/ Kuringa Drive to 80 kph. On 15 December, the Progress Association wrote to Minister Steel to raise serious road safety concerns over the Barton Highway speed limit. On 29 March, Minister Steel responded to the request advising that the design and configuration of this part of the Barton Highway complies with the current speed limit of 100 kph. Subsequently, the Progress Association has contacted all Yerrabi MLAs, Hon Andrew Leigh (MHR for Fenner), Hon Kristy McBain (MHR for Eden-Monaro), Ms Emma Harrington (CEO Membership and Motoring of NRMA), Robert Giltinan (Director of Policy and Public Affairs NRMA). All have expressed support and are taking various actions to advocate on behalf of the Hall and Wallaroo residents.

The Hall Men's Shed, The Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre, and the Rural Fringe are three jewels in the crown of Hall Village and District that reflect the unique nature of our community. Each make an enormous contribution to the quality of our lives and are a source of pride for the Progress Association.

The Progress Association Committee paid for the purchase and installed an **automated external defibrillator** (AED) at the Hall Museum site in the quadrangle door alcove. The Committee is also mapping the location of AEDs throughout the Hall District of Wallaroo, Nanima and Spring Range and, when completed, will share the information in the *Rural Fringe*.

The Progress Association Committee agreed to support the 2022 Christmas Fair being organised by Hall resident Zena Richardson. The Progress Association will provide the use

of the Hall Pavilion for the Fair in addition to covering the costs of rubbish removal and utilities for the event.

After being contacted in June by consultants involved in social impact assessment of the **Wallaroo Solar** installation, the Progress Association has been advocating with one of the Solar installation partners, New Energy Development, to ensure that they engage and consult with the Wallaroo community as those who will be primarily affected by the development and operation of the solar installation.

I would like to thank the Progress Association Committee and Office Bearers for their efforts throughout the year. Whatever has been accomplished by the Association has been achieved by the work of Aaron, Heather, Jan, John, Marg, Olga, Paul, Peter, Phil and Tony.

The Progress Association has been part of this community for more than a hundred years and is believed to be the oldest community association in the ACT.

The Progress Association Committee will continue to seek ideas and suggestions from people throughout Hall District and Village on possible activities and what you would like to see improved in our wonderful and unique community.



Robert Yallop
President
Village of Hall and District Progress Association