



2024/2025

DRAFT

VHDPA Committee Ordinary Meeting #4 – MINUTES

Meeting Date	19 March 2025 at 7pm
Location	Hall Cottage
Office Holders and Committee Present	Robert Yallop, Lee-Ann Brodrick, Tony Morris, Aaron Whittaker, Jack McGrath, Toni Makkai, Peter Toet and Margaret Monahan. By ZOOM: Ralph Southwell and Phil Robson
Apologies	Jan Klaver
Also Attending for Item 5a Only	Mr Kerry McMurray, CEO, Canberra Memorial Parks and Mr Neil Guthrie, Chair of Board, CMP

1. Welcome and Introductions

The President opened the meeting and welcomed the Committee of the VHDPA to the meeting. The President acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the Hall District, Ngunnawal and Ngambi Peoples, and paid respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

He also welcomed Mr Kerry McMurray, CEO of Canberra Memorial Parks and Mr Neil Guthrie, Chairman of the Board of Canberra Memorial Parks who attended the meeting tonight to share thoughts on the future of the Hall Cemetery. This item was dealt with at the beginning of the meeting to allow the visitors to leave as early as possible but is reported in these Minutes at Item 5a.

2. Notice of any conflicts of interests re agenda items.

No conflicts of interest re agenda items.

3. General Business

a. Approval of the previous Minutes

It was proposed that the minutes of the meeting of 19 February 2025 be accepted.

Moved – Tony Morris

Seconded – Lee-Ann Brodrick

Passed unanimously

b. Treasurer's Report

It has been an uneventful month with all transactions being as expected. Funds have increased slightly since the last report in February.

Phil Robson moved that the Financial reports be accepted by the Committee.

Seconded – Tony Morris

Passed unanimously

Phil Robson moved that financial transactions made for the period of this month's financial report be ratified by the Committee.
Seconded by Tony Morris
Passed unanimously

c. Actions From February Meeting

1. ATO to be notified to remove Alastair Crombie and Tony Morris and add Robert Yallop.
(Phil Robson with assistance from Michael Sinclair) **DONE**
2. Gold Creek School Principal will visit the Hall Pre-School building in early 2025 (Robert Yallop)
WORK IN PROGRESS
3. Contact Yass Police to ask what Police found regarding poor or criminal behaviours in Wallaroo/Spring Range/Nanima regions over past months. (Robert Yallop)
Robert has been advised by Jasmine Jones, Yass Valley Council, that there were increased patrols on Barton Highway. Robert also contacted ACT Chief Police Officer, Scott Lee to ask about hooning and burnouts and requested attention to these anti-social activities. The matter is to be investigated and reported on in due course – no response as yet.
4. Heritage Centre Grant that has elapsed – request extension of time to expend funds (Phil Robson)
Extended until the end of May - Phil Robson
5. Men's Shed – investigate costs associated with purchase of a mower to use for School Site grass cutting (Aaron Whittaker)
Aaron reported that a good second hand mower would cost between \$8,000 - \$12,000. Maintenance will probably fall to Aaron. If purchased, the mower must be reliable and fit for purpose with capacity to mow small acreage. Aaron has contacts in the mower industry who will notify if any potentially suitable machines come up for sale.
6. Contact residents of 1 Hall Street, opposite the Hall Pavilion to discuss issues relating to hire of the facility (Robert Yallop)
WORK IN PROGRESS
7. Prepare and circulate a draft ACT 2025-2026 Budget Submission for Committee comment then finalise and submit. (Robert Yallop)
Submission was made before the end of February
8. Contact Kat McGlip at Ginninderra Catchment Group to request plants for Hall reserve working bee. (Aaron whittaker)
Done. Planning is well advanced for the working bee. Ginninderra Catchment Group has provided 40 plants, there is a skip being delivered on Friday, large branch that fell during recent wild weather is to be removed before Sunday's working bee. Lunch is very generously being provided by GCG.
9. ACT Government grant application for environmental savings. Calculate electricity costs for total school site and investigate the potential to apply (Phil Robson)
Total \$6000 for School Site and Cottage - Phil Robson
10. ACNC Application for charitable status. Contact other Progress Associations who have achieved this status to gain an understanding of their operations in comparison with VHDPA
WORK IN PROGRESS. Robert has found at least 43 other Associations who have achieved ACNC status and who appear to operate in very similar ways to our Association with a range of activities and sub-groups. Some of these groups have been in operation since 1940. He has emailed several of

these and asked for information regarding their operations and the specifics relating to their ACNC application in a bid to achieve this registration.

d. Correspondence

The main items of correspondence this month related to:

1. ACNC Registration – contact with other Progress Associations to gain knowledge
2. Storm Water and Cycle Path projects

4. Reports of VHDPA Subcommittees

a. Hall Museum and Heritage Centre

There were many visitors to the Museum over the week of the Sheepdog Trials.

Work on the paving upgrade is still under discussion.

Melba Men's Shed visited recently for a tour of the Heritage Centre.

This week Ken Heffernan will attend the launch of the Heritage Festival and meet with Lauren, Co-Ordinator of Grants at the ACT Heritage Unit to gain information on upcoming grant opportunities. This year grant applications have been deferred until July.

On 23 February 2025 Phil guided 30+ attendees on a walk around Hall for the National Trust. The Hall Walk is apparently one of the most popular walks and Mary Johnson from the National Trust has reported that there were 40 people on a waiting list to take part in a Hall Walk. Another one will be scheduled for later in the year. The walk was advertised on the ACT Heritage Facebook page as well as the Hall Facebook page.

On Saturday 22 February members of the Hall Heritage Centre will visit Crookwell, Taralga and Garoorigang Homestead in Goulburn with the Australian National Museum of Education based at University of Canberra. This organization has been connected with Hall Heritage Centre since approximately 2010.

b. Hall Men's Shed

It has been a reasonably quiet month at the Shed. On 29 April 2025 the Worldwide Fund for Saving Wildlife plan to film the building of a Glider Box at the Shed. There is the possibility of the group having another contract to build more Glider boxes. The dust extractor is up and running and associated pipework is well underway, not quite complete yet.

c. Hall Facilities – Pavilion and Cottage

Bookings are continuing well for both facilities and costs are being covered.

Thanks to Lee-Ann Brodrick for the generous donation of a Dyson stick vacuum cleaner to the Cottage.

Sensor light at the Cottage door needs to be fixed. Jack McGrath has undertaken to ask Shaun O'Connor to assist with this task.

ACT Property Group initially agreed to mow the nature strip on the street side of the school site fence. This is not being done. Robert asked Peter Toet if he would meet with the manager at Nicholls depot to arrange for the street side of the school site to be included in the government mowing plan.

Jan has rewritten the Terms and Conditions for hire of the Pavilion which includes an increase in the Bond Fee required for booking.

Margaret Monahan moved that these Terms and Conditions be accepted by the Committee.
Seconded by Robert Yallop
Passed unanimously.

5. Other Business

a. Hall Cemetery with visitors from Canberra Memorial Parks

In December 2024 Mr Kerry McMurray had contacted the VHDPA requesting to attend a future Committee Meeting to discuss Hall Cemetery, on Wallaroo Road. They attended tonight.

Two officials from Canberra Memorial Parks Mr Kerry McMurray, CEO, and Mr Neil Guthrie, Chairman of the Board shared information relating to current considerations for the future of the Hall Cemetery. Hall Cemetery on Wallaroo Road is a “bush cemetery”.

Canberra Memorial Parks is investigating the options and implications regarding Hall Cemetery:

Option 1: expansion of the current site

Option 2: closure of the site for any future burials.

There is currently one grave site remaining for sale, with no further space for expansion, largely due to the presence of protected flora and fauna on the site.

Historically, the Board is conscious of 42 individuals who were listed as having an interest in securing a burial plot when more became available in the Hall Cemetery. Contact has been made with those listed and of the 42, now only 22 remain interested. If the site were to be extended it would require the acquisition of approximately 1ha of land from the proprietor of Farmer Brown's Eggs. If undertaken, this acquisition would add a further 150 to 200 plots for burial.

The officers would like to engage in a process of community consultation before moving forward. It was strongly suggested by Committee that a community meeting would be the most appropriate way to engage with residents. The opportunity to advertise in the Rural Fringe was recommended. CMP officers indicated that they would prepare for a Rural Fringe advertisement (perhaps the May edition).

b. Wallaroo/Spring Range Update

Dumping continues in the Wallaroo area as do burnouts, particularly on the corner of Southwell and Wallaroo Roads. There is no more news on the proposed Solar Farm

Spring Range Clean-Up Australia was held on 9th March with 17 attendees. Lots of rubbish was collected. There are lots of burnouts on Spring Range Road and many trucks are using the road.

c. 2023-24 Tax Filing and Changes to People named with the ATO

Phil is working with Michael Sinclair on this matter and this must be achieved by the end of May.

d. 2025-26 ACT Budget Submission

The VHDPA Submission was completed and lodged drawing attention to three major issues which need to be addressed for our community:

- . Cycle Path
- . Stormwater
- . Review of the safety concerns at the Barton Highway/Wallaroo Road

e. Storm Water and Cycle Path

The Nicholls to Hall cycle path is part of the ACT Government and Commonwealth Government funding initiative that also includes the Garden City Cycle Path from Dickson to the city. Richmond Henty is the officer managing this project and is engaged with the VHDPA to achieve a favourable outcome. Richmond will next week be meeting with Robert Yallop and Lee-Ann Brodrick to discuss the three options for the placement of this cycle path along Victoria Street into Hall Village.

Tim Norton, the officer managing the Hall Storm Water project will be attending this meeting to give an update on designs for the storm water works.

f. Disability Ramp for Access to the School Site

Planning for the disability ramp on the school site is progressing. A design has been drawn up by Doug Anstess and Aaron Whittaker.

g. Solar Panels for School Site/Possible Grant Application for Such

There is a grant round open for environmental savings. Phil has calculated annual electricity costs for the entire school site as being \$6000 per annum. Currently no further updates.

h. ACNC

Michael Sinclair is currently working in conjunction with a lawyer to achieve ACNC status for another association. During this process Michael hopes to be able to gain more insight to advance the VHDPa application for ACNC status. To date Andrew Leigh's office has not responded to requests for assistance in this matter. With the federal election coming up it would be an opportune time to write to Dr Leigh to again seek assistance/support for his constituents in this matter.

i. Sheep Dog Trials Wrap Up

The Sheep Dog Trials held at the Hall Showground were again very successful. There were 6000 visitors over the week with a free-entry day on Tuesday. This is the 47th year that these trials have been held in the village. The dinner on Saturday night was a success with 90 attendees. Local ladies Marion Banyard and Margaret Morris were each presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for their work.

At the conclusion of the meeting Toni Makkai gave a vote of thanks to Robert Yallop for his enormous contribution of hard work, organisation and commitment to the village and surrounding region in his role as President of the VHDPa. Toni's endorsement was unanimously supported by Committee members.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 16 April 2025 by ZOOM