



Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc.

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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TO MEMBERS

The Progress Association is the overall responsible body for the Hall Heritage Centre and the Hall Men's Shed. There are separate reports provided by these groups as well as for the *Rural Fringe*. The Association manages the former school site of the Hall Community Precinct, the Hall Cottage and the Hall Pavilion. The Association informs the community about local issues, events, and personalities through the bi-monthly *Rural Fringe* newsletter and the www.hall.act.au website.

A very 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 the "President's Page" of the *Rural Fringe*, I regularly share the matters that the Progress Association Committee is addressing.

After three-and-a-half years of advocacy by the Progress Association with the ACT Government to address chronic issues of storm water drainage in Hall Village, in mid-August the Progress Association hosted a "pop-up" consultation by Infrastructure Canberra on the Preliminary Design for Storm Water Drainage Improvements. Staff from Infrastructure Canberra and the design consultants presented very detailed mapping of storm water flows, mitigation measures and the proposed storm water drainage infrastructure master plan. More than forty Hall residents attended the "pop-up" consultation and had an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments to the consultants. The "pop-up" was followed by a survey widely shared with residents and businesses in Hall to garner further feedback and comments. From the presentation, it appears that the planning being done is comprehensive and recognises the multiple dimensions of the storm water issues affecting Hall. The Progress Association will continue to advocate with the ACT Government until the required works are completed with a particular focus on the 2026-2027 ACT Budget.

Over the last two-and-a-half years, the Progress Association Committee has been seeking the establishment of safe pedestrian and cycle access from the Barton Hwy to Gladstone St Hall. The ACT Government contracted a feasibility study in 2024 for a shared pedestrian and cycle path from Hall Village to Gold Creek area in Nicholls. In March 2025, the ACT Government announced joint funding with the Commonwealth of the Hall Village to Clarrie Hermes Drive fully paved pedestrian and cycle path. The ACT Government has named the path the 'Hall Village Main Route' and it will be about 2.3 kms long and 3 m wide. Infrastructure Canberra has confirmed that they will present proposals for the path for feedback to Hall residents, businesses and stakeholders before the plans are finalised.

In mid-January, the Australian Government announced that they will fund the upgrade of Australia's as yet to be connected fibre-to-the premises network through an injection of up to \$3 billion. The Progress Association Committee contacted Senator Gallagher and Fenner MP Leigh to confirm that Hall District are included in the upgrade. Senator Gallagher and Fenner MP Leigh both confirmed to the Progress Association Committee that Hall Village is included in the fibre-to-the-premises network upgrade, but that Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo will not be included because they are currently served by a satellite internet service.

The Progress Association has continued to organise working bees on the Hall Reserve with one held in October 2024 and another in March 2025. The Hall Reserve has been transformed from a somewhat sad and neglected place to an area that reflects the care and attention of our Village community. Dead shrubs have been removed, overgrown grass mown, weeds and undergrowth have been removed. Five beds have been created and mulched with some 250 shrubs planted. Another working bee is being held on 21 September to create another bed with shrubs as well as mulch the existing beds in preparation for the Summer. Those who have participated in the working bees have appreciated the opportunity to meet neighbours and chat over lunch together.

On the request of residents, the Progress Association contacted NSW Police and ACT Police about concerns with antisocial and criminal driving behaviour and unlawful entering and burglary of properties in Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo and in Hall in the ACT respectively. The Commander of Hume Police District agreed to arrange for Yass Police to undertake regular and frequent police patrols in the communities of Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo. The ACT Chief Police Officer requested the Officer-in-charge of Road Policing to undertake appropriate measures.

The Hall Pavilion, Hall Cottage and Hall Community Precinct are important facilities of the Hall community. In August 2024, the Progress Association Licence for the Hall Community Precinct was renewed and in December 2024 the Licence for the Hall Pavilion. Management of the of these facilities all take a significant amount of effort. A team from the Progress Association Committee led by Jan Klaver and Margaret Monahan manage the Hall Pavilion and Hall Cottage while Peter Toet carries responsibility for maintenance of the Hall Community Precinct and ongoing liaison with the ACT Government Infrastructure Canberra (former Property Group). We are very grateful for the enormous contribution of Jan, Marg and Peter in managing these facilities that are so important to the life of our community.

Submissions made by the Progress Association Committee on behalf of residents in the last year include:

- Submission to the 2025-2026 ACT Budget. The submission requested the allocation in the 2025-2026 ACT Budget of sufficient resources to install appropriate storm water drainage infrastructure in Hall Village, to create safe cycle and pedestrian access to Hall and to undertake an assessment of the safety of the intersection of the Barton Hwy with Gladstone St and Wallaroo Rd;
- Submission to the ACT Government regarding the Missing Middle Housing Reforms to ensure that requirements of the Hall Heritage Precinct Code are upheld.

The Hall Men's Shed, The Hall Heritage Centre, and the *Rural Fringe* are three remarkable activities that reflect the unique nature of our community. Each make an enormous contribution to the quality of our lives in Hall Village and District.

I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the contribution of Michael Sinclair as Independent Reviewer of the Association.

I would particularly 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, Jack, Jan, Lee-Ann, Marg, Peter, Phil, Ralph, Toni and Tony.

The Progress Association has been part of this community for more than a hundred and twenty 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.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Progress Association for the privilege to represent this wonderful community of Hall Village and District as Association President.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Yallop', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Robert Yallop
President
Village of Hall and District Progress Association