



VHDPH Committee Ordinary Meeting #9 – MINUTES

Meeting Date	20 August 2025 at 7.00pm
Location	Hall Cottage & Zoom
Office Holders and Committee Present	Lee-Ann Brodrick, Jan Klaver, Margaret Monahan, Tony Morris, Jack McGrath, Phil Robson, Ralph Southwell and Peter Toet, Aaron Whittaker, Robert Yallop
Apologies	Toni Makkai

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

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 16 July 2025 be accepted.

Moved – Jan Klaver

Seconded – Tony Morris

Passed unanimously

b. Treasurer's Report

Financial Reports were as expected with no unusual transactions during the month.

The significant rise in utility costs were noted, however the Pavilion is earning well and membership renewal payments are being received for this financial year. It was also noted that there is modest growth in funds.

Peter Toet moved that the Financial reports be accepted by the Committee.

Seconded – Tony Morris

Passed unanimously

Phil Robson moved that financial transactions made for this month and the financial reports be ratified by the Committee.

Seconded by Jan Klaver

Passed unanimously

c. Actions From July Meeting

1. ACNC Application for charitable status. Contact other Progress Associations who have achieved this status to gain an understanding of their operations in comparison with VHDP. **(Robert Yallop) Ongoing.**
2. Hall Heritage Centre disability ramp. Peter Toet. All is ready to go with this project and now waiting for ACT Property Group to approve the works. **Completed**
3. Waterproof Roof between the Cottage Building and the pergola – Peter Toet and Aaron Whittaker will do the necessary work. **Waiting for dry weather.**
4. CBA limiting locations for cash deposits – Phil will investigate the advantages and disadvantages of changing the VHDP (including SIG) banking to another bank. **Phil Robson – will leave banking arrangements as they are. Completed**
5. Hall Heritage Centre – seepage in boys' toilets and leaking tap outside Cottage. **Ongoing. Peter Toet has reported this problem and followed it up again on 14/8/2025 – will be investigated as a priority.**
6. Memorial Grove Planter Boxes. **Completed Ralph Southwell contacted Jonathan Palmer and Jonathan has provided the comprehensive response below:**

Thanks for asking about the "Floriade" garden beds near the memorials.

The beds were first established in 2020 when, due to COVID restrictions, the Floriade event moved from its traditional location in Commonwealth Park to various locations across Canberra. It involved a "Tulip Trail" where flowers were distributed throughout the city and suburbs, along with community plantings and online experiences. Hall Landcare lodged a successful application to have a planting in Hall and a well attended community event was held to establish the beds. The 80 wooden frames used in 2020 were made by the Hall Men's Shed. Funds for soil, materials, and fertiliser came from Hall Rotary and VHDP. The initial frames (which were made of fence palings) were removed. More substantial wooden frames were installed along the memorial grove in 2021 and used for subsequent plantings in 2021, 2022 and 2023. I did not apply for bulbs in 2024 and 2025 so there have been no recent plantings.

Floriade Community (see <https://floriadeaustralia.com/floriade-community/>) continues with over 100 community groups participating in and receiving a share of the 300,000 bulbs and annuals to plant and maintain in their suburb.

What next? I have no doubt that Floriade would be happy for Hall to rejoin the program. Our plantings have had mixed success - we lost a lot of tulips to birds in 2021 so nets were added. The soil quality in some of the beds has proven to be quite poor so improvement is needed if they are to be used in the future.

So, we have two options:

1. *Maintain and use the beds (perhaps not all of them).*
2. *Dismantle the beds and spread the soil.*

Personally, I would like to see some of the beds retained (say, 10) and used for Floriade Community. Planting the bulbs is a nice community event and the floral display enhances the Village. I will talk to the Hall Rotary Community Committee to gauge interest in its support for future plantings. In any event, I will arrange for a tidy up of the beds as an interim measure.

7. Write to Minister Cheyne and request kangaroo signage at each end of Victoria St and on Gladstone St. **Robert Yallop. No response to VHDP correspondence however ACT Government website advises that there is no longer kangaroo warning signage on ACT roads.**
8. Advise the concerned equestrian to ask ACT Sport and Recreation to suggest appropriate action to protect equestrians and dog owners at Hall Showground. Also contact Sport and Recreation to take appropriate action. **Robert Yallop has been in contact with Parks & Recreation and Luke Halpin and Chris Doyle have the matter under investigation.**
9. Propose to Michael Sinclair that the VHDP Annual general Meeting be held on Thursday 18 September. **Phil Robson and Michael Sinclair have agreed on this date for the AGM.**

d. Correspondence

Correspondence was primarily related to consultation on the Hall Storm Water project and the difficulties between equestrian users and dog owners at the Hall Showground. There was also a letter of request by the Wallaroo Rural Fire Service seeking support for a grant application that they were preparing for works to their base.

4. Reports of VHDP Subcommittees

a. Hall Museum and Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre Annual Meeting will be held on 28 August. There will also be a Heritage Centre planning meeting on 21 August looking at the future of the Heritage Centre in relation to volunteers, publicity, Hall Community Precinct Licence and other matters.

There are many school visits to the Museum booked through until September. A school visit usually lasts about three hours. It is difficult to get enough volunteers to manage the school's programme. Working With Vulnerable People Certificates are essential for every person working on this programme and the Hall Museum is fully compliant with this requirement.

Two grant applications have been lodged. One to fund the installation of blinds and audio visual equipment – managed by Ken Heffernan. The second to fund the engagement of UC students to develop the use of social media which will assist in the promotion of the Museum and Heritage Centre.

Planning for the annual Brass on the Grass Concert is ongoing. The Hall Men's Shed will be doing the cooking for this event on 16 November 2025 from 4pm to 6pm.

b. Hall Men's Shed

Men's Shed Annual Meeting is to be held on 11 September 2025 at the Hall Pavilion. Annual membership subscriptions are being paid and membership currently sits at 68.

A very informative and successful Bee-Keeping Workshop was held 20 August with input from a person from Texas. There were 25 people in attendance.

The last monthly BBQ lunch was successful. Construction of the Glider boxes has been completed and they will be collected on 23 August. The Men's Shed have just completed a one-off community service project for a person in Amaroo who was in need of assistance.

It was suggested that the VHDP provide a list of projects that the Men's Shed may be able to assist with.

c. Hall Facilities – Pavilion and Cottage

Bookings are continuing well for both facilities. The Pavilion is showing signs of age and need of maintenance, particularly the rear door. Jan will be away for September, Robert and Margaret will manage during this time.

Jack McGrath thanked the VHDP for the use of the Pavilion for Men's early morning exercise sessions over the Winter.

The Cottage is going well. It is being used for a variety of weekly Hall community activities such as Men's Shed and Ladies Craft Group. There are also a number of bookings each week for other activities such as yoga and wellness groups.

5. Other Business

a. Wallaroo/Spring Range Update

Challenges to the Wallaroo Wind Farm will be heard in the Land and Environment Court on 11 September 2025. The location of this hearing is to be advised.

The AGM of the Spring Range Association was held recently. Wendy Craig will continue as the Convenor of this group, which was set up to keep the community informed of the proposed Wind Farm development. Spring Range Road has recently been resurfaced with a more durable surface containing some road base and is now a very good surface. There are plans with Yass Council to upgrade the road to asphalt in the 2027/28 Financial Year.

The Spring Range Association would like to have a representative attend Yass Council meetings each month.

b. Draft Review Report FY 2025 from Michael Sinclair

Treasurer Phil Robson is happy with the financials for the year. The price of utilities has certainly had an impact. Michael Sinclair has been of enormous assistance and has complimented the Association on management practices. Michael is happy to continue in his role with the VHDPA.

Acknowledgement of VHDPA as going concern

Committee noted the Annual Report and Financial Statement demonstrates that the VHDPA can continue to operate as a going concern, i.e. that it can generate sufficient cashflows from its operations to meet its liabilities.

Moved: Robert Yallop

Seconded: Phil Robson

Committee resolved that the 'going concern assumption' is accurate and appropriate.

Accepting the Review Report

Committee resolved that the Annual Report and Financial Statements give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the VHDPA for the 2024/25 Financial Year.

Moved: Robert Yallop

Seconded: Phil Robson

Committee unanimously accepted the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

c. Blue Tree for Mental Health Awareness in Hall

The Australian Blue Tree Movement has been gaining momentum throughout Australia and it was suggested that this would be an appropriate initiative for the community of Hall. This programme is managed by the ACT Government and involves a careful selection process to identify an appropriate tree. It is understood that the nominated tree must be dead and not home to any bird or animal. More information will be provided for discussion at the next Committee meeting in October.

d. Storm-Water Pop-Up Report

40 people attended the information event at the Hall Pavilion on 13 August which was convened by Tim Norton and several colleagues from Infrastructure Canberra, ACT Government. Tim was impressed by the interest shown by local residents and their depth of questioning. The physical completion of these works will possibly be funded jointly by the Federal Government's Disaster Ready programme and the ACT Government. It is hoped that the funding will be allocated for the 2027 Financial Year. The VHDPA will continue to seek MLA engagement to see this project to fruition.

Jan Klaver proposed a vote of thanks to Robert Yallop for the enormous amount of time he has dedicated to ensuring that this project has progressed.

e. AED

The VHDPA has been asked by a local resident Shaun O'Connor to consider the installation of a defibrillator in the Pavilion. This idea was supported by the Committee and research to achieve this installation will be undertaken as soon as possible. Moved by Robert Yallop. Seconded by Jack McGrath.

f. AGM Arrangements

The VHDPA Annual General Meeting will be held in the main display room of the Hall Museum on 18 September at 11am, followed by a light lunch catered by Daughters of Hall. Notification will be sent by email to all members and recent past members whose membership has lapsed. Notices will be put up in the two noticeboards in the village. Nominations close three days prior on 15th September.

g. Kangaroo and Rabbit Population

The number of rabbits on the school site and in the village as a whole has increased dramatically. They are leaving dangerous holes over the school grounds. It was proposed to contact ACT Property Group for assistance in managing the numbers of these pests.

h. Old Green Pavilion – Open BBQ Area on Edge of Oval and Shipping Container Oval

This building is suffering from age and neglect and is hazardous and close to falling down. It is believed to be heritage listed. Work is needed to make it stable and safe. It was proposed to contact Sport and Recreation to seek urgent work on this building.

Several residents have asked about the presence of a shipping container in the middle of the oval. It was proposed to ask Sport and Recreation about the removal of this.

Additionally:

1. There is concern about a number of incidents of vandalism that have taken place in the village recently. These include damage to the Pavilion rear doors, the floor inside the Pavilion and the churning up and tyre damage to the cricket pitch on the oval.
2. Given the number of items that involve the need for input from ACT Government it was proposed to seek a time for ACT Sport and Recreation officers to visit and discuss these concerns:

Dogs and Equestrian use of the showground
BBQ Shed deterioration
Shipping Container on oval
Recent acts of vandalism

Next Meeting: AGM 18 September 2025, 11am Hall Heritage Centre