



VHDPA Committee Ordinary Meeting #4 - MINUTES

2025/26

Meeting Date	18 February 2026 at 7.00pm
Location	Hall Cottage
Office Holders and Committee Present	Lee-Ann Brodrick, Toni Makkai, Margaret Monahan, Tony Morris, Phil Robson (Zoom) Mardi Troth, Robert Yallop, Aaron Whittaker
Apologies	Jan Klaver, Jack McGrath, Peter Toet

1. Welcome and Introductions

The President opened the meeting and welcomed the Committee of the VHDPA. 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 10 December 2025 be accepted.

Moved – Tony Morris

Seconded – Aaron Whittaker

Passed unanimously

b. Treasurer's Report – Review Financial Report and Dec/Jan/Feb Transactions

Treasurer Phil Robson reported that activity has been largely related to the Pavilion with some major expenses – a defibrillator being installed at the Pavilion, plumbing works and also a deep clean of the Hall Heritage Centre. These works have meant a negative financial result for the period.

Phil moved that financial report for this month be accepted by the Committee.

Seconded Toni Makkai Passed unanimously

Phil moved that financial transactions made for Dec/Jan/Feb be ratified by the Committee.

Seconded by Lee-Ann Brodrick Passed unanimously

c. Actions From December Meeting – Schedule 1

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 – seepage in boys’ toilets and leaking tap outside Cottage. Peter Toet has reported this problem and followed it up again on 14/8/2025. In August Robert Yallop again highlighted this issue to Property Group officers. Peter Toet will follow up with Infrastructure Canberra again. Tony Morris has identified the problem of seepage in the boys’ toilets as coming from blocked guttering in the space between the boys’ and girls’ toilets. Work is now underway to determine how to rectify this issue. **This is a difficult problem to fix - Ongoing**
3. Waterproof Roof between the Cottage Building and the pergola – Peter Toet and Aaron Whittaker will do the necessary work when trades are available. Other issues – gutter cleaning, rabbit population on school grounds and mould in the Museum are all matters requiring attention. **Peter Toet/Aaron Whittaker - Ongoing**
4. Purchase and installation of AED for the Pavilion. Jan has provided the information on an appropriate AED to Phil Robson to make the purchase. **AED purchased and installed in Pavilion - Complete**
5. Extension of the portico over the entry to the Museum. Grant money was obtained for this purpose and this needs to be acquitted. Aaron has received the building sketch from Phil Robson and will follow up with local resident Tony Kovacs to undertake the work. **Ongoing – in progress**
6. Ask Gungahlin Rotary to remove container on the oval near bins at rear of Pavilion. The appropriate officer from Rotary is unsure of which Rotary Club is responsible for this and investigation is under way. **Phil Robson - Ongoing**
7. A number of issues would benefit from on-site inspection from ACT Government. These matters concern both Sport and Recreation as well as Property Group. A meeting with Sport and Recreation Officers Luke Halpin and Chris Doyle and VHDP Robert Yallop and Aaron Whittaker was held on 2 September 2025 to discuss the following concerns:
 - i) Need for significant maintenance of BBQ shed
BBQ shed (called Sheep Pavilion) is identified as a Place of Specific Value within the Hall Village Heritage Precinct list of Hall Village. Although this building falls within the Heritage Precinct of the Village, the building itself is not listed as Heritage. Jan met with ACT Heritage Advisory Service regarding this building and it was noted that repairs are urgently needed which include loose braces and rear drainage. It was advised that the building is seriously under-engineered and that timbers in the roof are inadequate. Jan asked about the removal of fireplaces. It is estimated to cost about \$100,000 to renew the roof etc. This structure has significant history as it was used for the Canberra Show and with the centenary of the Canberra Show coming up in 2027 it is an important part of the region’s history. A report will be sent to VHDP in due course.
.Luke Halpin will explore the potential for ACT Heritage funding for refurbishment of the Sheep Pavilion (BBQ Shed)
.Aaron to investigate costs of timbers to restore the building to an acceptable and safe standard.
.Jan has requested Phillip Leeson to undertake a heritage assessment of the Sheep Pavilion. Matters ongoing
 - ii) Massive increase in use of Showground arena as de facto “dog park” and dangerous incidents involving dogs, horses and people.
Progress Association will encourage any victims of incidents to report such to sportsgrounds@act.gov.au VHDP will also place article in Rural Fringe with link to complaints reporting facility on ACT Government website. VHDP will also

consider requesting a rezoning of Showground from PRZ1 (free for all users) to PRZ2 (restricted access)

Luke Halpin will explore removing gates to open the enclosed, fenced area of arena to replace with a chain

Nothing further has been heard regarding these two matters. Robert followed up with Chris Doyle and waiting an outcome. Ongoing

8. The Committee recommended that brown coloured “Lids for Kids” produced picnic benches be purchased and installed on the Hall Reserve. Check with Denis Greenwood if picnic benches are available. **Yes they are available.**
9. The Committee agreed to request access to the preschool building to consider future community use. **Robert Yallop to contact Daniel Breen to get access to the preschool while it continues to be the responsibility of Gold Creek and to discuss the VHDPA advancing this matter with ACT Department of Education.**

d) Correspondence (Schedule 2)

Correspondence was primarily related to replacement net for the tennis court on the school site and the need for some repairs to the net post.

4. Reports of VHDPA Subcommittees

a. Hall Museum and Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre is ramping up again for the year with visits planned to the Education Centre and the Museum. The Hall Rotary Club has donated \$3000 to the education program which has made a big difference to this element of the centre. There is a group within the Museum working on research of the Canberra Show with particular focus on the centenary of the Show in 2027. There is a pizza night to be held in conjunction with Rotary on 3 March.

b. Hall Men’s Shed

The broken window at the Cottage has been repaired and paid for by Men’s Shed. The last Thursday BBQ was an enjoyable event with 45 people in attendance. It is a bit quiet at present however Doug and Phil were interviewed on radio and they spoke about the Glider Box project and mentioned the interest in new projects. It is proposed to reconfigure the pizza area near the Cottage to make it a more user friendly and cohesive area.

c. Hall Facilities – Pavilion and Cottage

Bookings are continuing well for both facilities and Sheepdog Trials will be held in early March. Jan recently met with ACT Heritage Advisory Service at the Pavilion and it was recommended to install floor mounted heating/airconditioning units with compressors against the western wall. Jan will seek quotations for this work to make a request to EPSDD.

Regarding the **tennis court** on the old school site, it seems that this court may be being utilized by a tennis coach. The court is not available for commercial ventures such as coaching. It was also noted that some tennis court users were playing very loud music at the same time as other hirers were in the Cottage. Loud music not permitted to be played by court users as it interferes with paying hirers of the Cottage. It was proposed that a new permanent sign be made outlining these rules for court users.

5. Other Business

a. Wallaroo/Spring Range Update

Toni reported that dumping along the rural roads has become more prevalent over the holiday period. The region is very dry and so there is high alert for fires. No more has been heard about the Solar installation. Robert will email Ben Cranston asking for any updates on the Solar project as their website has not been updated since July 2024. There has been no apparent increase in recent truck traffic along the roads.

It was mentioned that there has been an increase in visible ACT Police presence in Hall Village. Toni suggested that it may be worth contacting Hume Police District and inviting a representative to a meeting of the Progress Association Committee. It was also suggested that we write again to the ACT CPO and thank him for the increased attention on Hall Village and reiterate the need for presence after school hours and on weekends.

b. Hall Open Space Management Plan

In August 2022 the Ginninderra Catchment Group (GCG) secured a grant to enable a management plan for open space around Hall with specific focus on the state of the creek and the enormous presence of blackberry bushes in the creek bed. This work faltered for reasons related to the GCG but it is believed that the funds are still held with the Catchment Group. In January 2026 Kat McGill from the GCG met with Jan Klaver, and other interested members of the community to discuss a way forward. The whole area has been divided into ten precincts and responsibility has been divided. The VHDPa will be responsible for the creek east and west and the playground area and for the Reserve. Jan Klaver will oversee this project for the VHDPa.

c. Reflection on Pizza Picnic – should we do it again?

There were 61 attendees and feedback on this event has been very positive. It was decided that we should have two of these events each year – perhaps in Spring and Autumn.

d. Blue Tree Project

Blue Tree Project is a mental health charity that began in 2019 and has since developed into a global movement. It involves the painting of a large dead tree a bright blue colour. The purpose of this is to create an awareness of mental health issues which may generate conversation, enable a positive transformation of attitudes towards mental health and remind community to check in on each other. There are currently 1571 Blue Trees across Australia.

There is a process involved in identifying a suitable specimen for painting. The tree must be on public land, must be dead and there must be no wildlife habitat. For Hall there are also Heritage issues which must be cleared before approval can be given.

Margaret Monahan moved that the Committee present to the community the idea of Hall Village becoming a site for a Blue Tree within this project. It is planned to put an article in the next edition of the Rural Fringe outlining this project and seeking community feedback.

Seconded Aaron Whittaker Agreed unanimously.

e. Seeking to have Hall a declared cat containment area

The VHDPa received correspondence from a member of the community asking that the association seek to have the Village deemed a cat containment area. It seems that this is only possible in a new suburb with the determination being made at the outset of planning of the suburb. Retrospective deeming of a cat containment area is not possible.

It was suggested that the VHDPa ask a qualified veterinarian to write an article for the Rural Fringe regarding responsible management of pet cats to avoid injuries and death to native birds and animals.

f. Next Hall Reserve Working Bee

Next working bee will be 29 March 2026. Aaron will make the usual arrangements.

g. FY 2027 Budget Submission – include preschool building or make a separate submission?

It was decided to leave the draft 2027 Budget Submission as is, ie not to include the preschool building. The VHDPa will make a separate request to the Minister for Education to have the preschool building transferred to Infrastructure Canberra and included in the Hall Community Precinct Licence.

h. Fire Plan for Hall Heritage Centre (HHC) and the Village

VHDPa received correspondence from a member of the Hall Heritage Centre suggesting the development of a Fire Plan for the Centre and village. The Centre currently has a Disaster Management Plan. This suggestion was noted and is due for discussion by the HHC Steering Committee Meeting to be held 19/2/2026.

i. Other Matters

. Noted that road surfaces are quite damaged in many areas of the village. Aaron will take photos and Robert will write to City Services Minister Cheyne.

. Robert Yallop raised a formal vote of thanks to Alastair and Marjorie Crombie for their contribution and commitment to Hall and district over more than 50 years. Alastair held positions on VHDPa for many years, including President for several years. He has been the Convenor of the Hall Heritage Centre since its inception and is still actively involved there. Marjorie has been a loyal and committed member of our community who was involved in activities at the Hall Primary School while their children attended. She has been a warm and helpful neighbour and friend to many. It is hoped that we will still see them at local events, and wish them happiness in their new home closer to family.

. Robert Yallop acknowledged the recent OAM awarded to committee member Tony Morris for services to community and charity. Many thanks to Tony for his untiring work on many charitable committees and movements. We in Hall have been the recipients of Tony's dedication to community for many years. Tony's wife Margaret has been equally involved in this work and has supported and accompanied Tony on his lifetime of volunteer work. We are lucky to have them in the Hall community.

Next Meeting is Wednesday 18 March 2026.