



## VHDPA Committee Ordinary Meeting #5 - MINUTES

2025/26

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

### 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 18 February 2026 be accepted.

Moved – Aaron Whittaker

Seconded – Tony Morris

Passed unanimously

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

Treasurer Phil Robson reported that financial activity has been as expected.

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

Seconded Tony Morris Passed unanimously

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

Seconded by Tony Morris Passed unanimously

#### c. Actions From February 2026 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 VHDPA. **(Robert Yallop) Ongoing.**
2. Hall Heritage Centre – seepage in boys' toilets and leaking tap outside. 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. 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.**  
**It has been difficult to find a builder who is willing to quote for this work up until now. At this stage one builder is due to provide a quote very shortly and he is aware that the contract for works must be in place by the end of March to comply with the conditions of the grant. Funds are being held in the Hall Heritage Centre accounts.**
5. 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. There seems to be some confusion as to whether approval from ACT Government Sport and Recreation has been obtained for the positioning of this container. Still under investigation.**
6. 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 VHDPA 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 VHDPA 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](mailto:sportsgrounds@act.gov.au) VHDPA will also place article in Rural Fringe with link to complaints reporting facility on ACT Government website. VHDPA 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**

7. 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, and would be in the vicinity of \$850 per bench. It was decided to reassess the suitability of this proposal in Springtime.**

8. The Committee agreed to request access to the preschool building to consider future community use. **Robert Yallop has contacted Daniel Breen to gain 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. A meeting with Gold Creek School staff is imminent. Ongoing.**
9. A new permanent sign be commissioned for fixing to the tennis court outlining rules for use. These rules would include no playing of loud music at the court, and that the court is not to be used for professional tennis coaching. **Draft text of sign to be provided by Margaret Monahan**
10. Robert to email Ben Cranston to ask for updates on the Wallaroo Solar project. The website has not been updated since July 2024. **Robert Yallop has been in touch with Ben Cranston who will provide an update as soon as possible.**
11. Robert to write to Hume Police District inviting a representative to a VHDPA Committee meeting. **This has been done and Superintendent Cowell has replied and is happy to attend a VHDPA committee meeting in the near future.** Also Robert to write again to the ACT CPO thanking him for increased attention to Hall Village and to reiterate the need for presence after school hours and on weekends. **Robert Yallop has done this and he has been advised that Gungahlin Police will continue to patrol the village of Hall.**
12. Road surfaces – damage. Aaron to take photos to present to Minister and/or Fix My Street. **Aaron Whittaker has completed this task.**
13. Organisation for the Reserve Working Bee. **Aaron Whittaker has all plans in place for this event to be held on 29 March 2026.**
14. Margaret Monahan to prepare an article for inclusion in the April Rural Fringe seeking community feedback on a proposal for Hall taking part in the Blue Tree Project. **Margaret Monahan – the article has been submitted to the Rural Fringe and we will wait for community feedback before any further action.**

#### **d) Correspondence (Schedule 2)**

Correspondence was received from a “concerned resident” expressing concern about any future development on the stockfeeds store site and the lease variation which would now allow for mixed use residential/commercial. Robert Yallop has replied to this person with an offer to meet and discuss concerns. Correspondence also from NBN officer Dee Kniep advising of proposed timeframes being extended but she still would like to hold a community meeting at an appropriate time in the future.

#### **4. Reports of VHDPA Subcommittees**

##### **a) Hall Museum and Heritage Centre**

Report from Mardi Troth as below:

##### **1. Green bin inquiry:**

- Rang City Services ( NO WASTE – 62059521) re an organic waste green bin for the Hall Precinct
- The old Hall Primary School address of 24 Victoria Street was not recognised by the system, because no-one is living at the premises
- When the green bins were first actioned the site was not eligible (no-one living on site) and as such remains ineligible

##### **2. Fire hazard reduction:**

- Gungahlin Fire Brigade contacted to facilitate a campus visit – threats & procedures- date TBD

- Doug Anstess (Men's Shed) invited to participate
- Some reduction of organic litter has begun around the path to the Men's Shed
- New sign-on book & procedures implemented
- Request for a volunteer to take on the position of a Fire Warden & Deputy – no appointments at this stage

### 3. Pre-school building & surrounds:

- Noted that the old pre-school sign remains in Palmer Street
- All acknowledgement of the links with Gold Creek School, have been removed
- HHC would like to request that the sign remains – could be reformatted to display HHC logo & information

Committee response: The frame of the old preschool sign can be kept and used to identify "Hall Community Precinct". If there is sufficient space, the sign can include reference to Hall Cottage, Hall Heritage Centre and Hall Men's Shed.

### 4. Campus pine trees Dr Kim Wells

*I did another 'tour' of the boundary Monterey Pines on Sunday. I have reported before on the dead and dying trees among these now very aged plantings and the obvious risk these pose to life and limb. It is not possible for these trees ever to recover so they should be felled and new trees planted if that is considered desirable.*

*I see the The Hall Progress Association have a meeting scheduled for March 18th. 7:00 pm in the Cottage. Will a representative from HHC be present at this meeting? If the matter of dead and dying trees on the former primary school grounds was on the agenda, I would be pleased to support a case for their early removal and possible replacement.*

*Dr Kim Wells Forestry & Ecology - Research & Editing Services*

Committee response: Mardie will prepare a draft communication about the trees to ACT Property Group (iCBR) for assessment, removal and replanting of trees around the Community Precinct.

### 5. Visit to the Sheep Dog Trials

Jane Southwell organised a visit to the Trials for the CEO & SEO from the Royal National Capital Agricultural Society. Main purpose was to show them that the showground continues to be used for rural type activities, introduce them to some of the showground's heritage & to show them the old sheep pavilion.

### 6. Memorial for Heather Wilford & future volunteers who pass away:

- CWA group preferences were to note Heather's passing on our website – special 'In Memoria' site be created
- Design & fit a simple plaque onto one of the wooden quadrangle seats (CWA to pay)

### 7. Visits:

- Very successful visits by Gungahlin CWA, Rotary Club of Hall (positive feedback), ANU archaeology students & Master students from ANU who will be developing the design structure for an exhibition to be displayed at the ANU & then HHC.
- Ken Heffernan represented the centre at the launch of the 2026 Heritage Festival - 5<sup>th</sup> March

### 8. Collection Management Team:

- Kseniia (our part-time collection officer) has started work again
- Heritage in a Suitcase resources already purchased with Rotary Club of Hall sponsorship money have been identified and entered onto the Dadabik site – ongoing storage is a problem

### 9. Upgrading procedures and hardware:

- IT router has been replaced (\$200+) and the NAS hard drives we have been using will need to be replaced in the near future. Cost approx. \$ 500
- Southwell Society website (\$300)
- Donations & Loans agreement forms updated
- Artefact movement procedures refined & actioned

**10. Project to improve our community profile:**

- Began Semester 2 with Uni of Canberra
- Considerable effort from HHC volunteers
- Outcome negligible
- New project team to be requested

**11. Two new Members:**

- Tracy Lester – initially researching family history
- Ethan Kromholz – high school student with an interest in local heritage

**b. Hall Men's Shed**

Men's Shed activities have been quiet this month. Members had strong representation at the National Sheepdog Trials with many volunteering their time to assist with the smooth running of this event.

**c. Hall Facilities – Pavilion and Cottage**

Bookings are continuing well for both facilities. Sheepdog Trials were held in early March and the Pavilion was used for this event. 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 is seeking quotations for this work to make a request to EPSDD. Once quotes have been received Jan will submit these for consideration and approval. Before approval is granted permission is required from the owner of the building for work to proceed – in this case ACT Government is the owner.

Regarding the old Sheep Pavilion, reports received have identified that this structure, which was built in 1925, is seriously under-engineered and requires some urgent attention. It is estimated that the cost of undertaking this work would be between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and due to the nature and scope of works required it would not be possible to undertake the task with volunteer labour. This matter has informally come to the attention of the Royal National Canberra Agricultural Society Centenary Working Group. The Centenary of Canberra Show will be celebrated in 2027. Consideration as to progressing this project and focusing on the social value of this structure is ongoing.

**5. Other Business**

**a. Wallaroo/Spring Range Update**

Toni reported that there are large infestations of blackberries on road verges in Wallaroo. There is also increasing presence of African Love Grass and St John's Wort. Toni will prepare a letter for Robert to send to Yass Valley Council with supporting photos, asking for control measures to be undertaken to reduce these noxious weeds.

Jack McGrath reported that Spring Range held their annual Clean Up Australia event on 8<sup>th</sup> March and that there was good attendance and lots of rubbish collected. The collected rubbish was bagged and left at the Barton Highway end of Spring Range Road for council collection. Jack also made mention of the number of vehicles travelling well over the speed limit on Spring Range Road.

**b. Hall Reserve Working Bee – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 10am to 1pm**

Plans for the next community working bee are well in hand thanks to Aaron. Advertisements will be placed on the Hall Community Facebook page and the A-frame blackboard on Victoria Street near the bridge to draw attention to the event. A light lunch will be provided at the conclusion of work.

**c. Hall Cemetery – any updates to proposed extension?**

VHDPA has not had any updates on this matter. The survey conducted by Canberra Memorial Parks closed at the end of February. Robert will write to Memorial Parks asking for current information.

**d. Working Group to Attend to Small Tasks Needing Attention**

Jack has suggested forming a group of able men to undertake small tasks to improve the aesthetic appeal of the village. Several members of the Hall Collectors Club and the Men's Morning Gym Club would like to pursue this idea. Jack will speak to prospective volunteers and decide on a name for this group before advertising in a future edition of the Rural Fringe.

**e. Update on Sustainability Assessment Quotations and Sheep Pavilion**

This matter was dealt with under 4c, Hall Facilities.

**f. Canberra Show Centenary – February 2027 – RCS 100 PROJECT**

Royal National Canberra Agricultural Society (RNCAS) began chasing stories and interviews at the Canberra Show in February 2026. The RNCAS Working Group met on 10 March and were subsequently invited to meet at the Hall Showground during the National Sheep Dog Trials. This meeting was significant and with focus on the fact that the Hall Showground was the original site for the Canberra Show, beginning in 1927.

On 12<sup>th</sup> March RNCAS representatives:

**Toni Rolls – President, Adelina LaVita – CEO, Charne Saunders – Senior EO and Margaret Hunter – Board Member**

met with locals Peter Browning, Kingsley Southwell, Ralph Southwell, Margaret and Tony Morris, Jan Dunnett, Mardi Troth and Jane Southwell. Attendees were given a tour of the grounds, explaining the heritage value of the buildings and show “memories”.

**g. Other Matters**

Robert Yallop has been notified that security on VHDPA Google presence @hall needs strengthening. Robert will seek assistance to have this matter addressed.

**Next Meeting is Wednesday 15 April 2026.**