



VHDPA Committee Ordinary Meeting #6 - MINUTES

2025/26

Meeting Date	15 April 2026 at 7.00pm
Location	Hall Cottage
Office Holders and Committee Present	Robert Yallop, Margaret Monahan, Mardie Troth, Aaron Whittaker, Toni Makkai Via Zoom: Phil Robson and Jan Klaver
Apologies	Lee-Ann Brodrick, Jack McGrath, Tony Morris, 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 Ngambri 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 March 2026 be accepted.

Moved – Toni Makkai

Seconded – Mardie Troth

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. There was a payment of \$8000 for work on the portico at the entry to the Museum. Veolia waste has notified that there will now be a 5% surcharge on waste removal due to increased fuel costs. There was a miscode in this month's report identified and this will be rectified immediately.

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

Seconded Margaret Monahan Passed unanimously

Phil moved that financial transactions subject to the corrected miscode, made for March/April be ratified by the Committee.

Seconded by Toni Makkai Passed unanimously

c. Actions From March Meeting – Schedule 1

1. 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. **Ongoing but has been given a high priority due to the Education Program which will resume this week and involve many visiting children needing to use the facility.**

2. 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
3. Extension of the portico over the entry to the Museum. Grant money was obtained for this purpose and this needs to be acquitted. Quote is due to be received next few days. Funds are in the Hall Heritage Centre Account. **Contract for works has been signed, deposit has been paid and construction may begin 23/24 April.**
4. 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 – still awaiting response to confirm whether approval was given for placement of this container. Robert Yallop has contacted Judy Ford, President of Gungahlin Rotary who advised that they had approval from Sport and Recreation to place the container on the site.**
5. The Committee agreed to request access to the preschool building to consider future community use. Robert Yallop to contact 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. **Robert Yallop – This objective has been achieved. Leighton Mann, Facilities & ICT Business Manager of Gold Creek School has agreed that VHDPA will have use of the preschool building and grounds pending any change of ACT Government determined occupancy.**
6. 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. **Margaret Monahan will provide draft text.**
7. Robert to email Ben Cranston to ask for updates on the Wallaroo Solar project. The website has not been updated since July 2024. **Ben Cranston has advised that objections have been received through the appeals process and therefore there will be no updates until this process has been completed.**
8. Robert to write to Hume Police District inviting a representative to a VHDPA Committee meeting. 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. **Inspector Cowell attended the VHDPA Committee Meeting on 15 April and details of the conversation are provided in these Minutes at item 5d.**
9. Hall Cemetery proposed extension. Robert will write to Memorial Parks asking for current information. **Done – awaiting response.**
10. Working group to attend to small tasks needing attention. Jack to pursue this idea with prospective volunteers and decide on a name for this group before advertising in a future edition of the Rural Fringe. **Ongoing**
11. Jan seeking quotations for works on new heating/cooling units at the Pavilion in order to make a request to EPSDD. Jan is also working on ways consideration to progress the recommended maintenance and preservation of the old Sheep Pavilion. **Separate item in these Minutes at Item 5c.**
12. Robert/Mardie to contact Property Group/Tree Department asking for specifics regarding the condition of the Monterey Pines on the boundary of the school site. This is a follow-up after advice from Dr Kim Wells, Forestry and Ecology regarding the dangerous condition of these trees. **Mardie will prepare a draft email for Robert to send to iCBR based on Kim Wells notes.**

d) Correspondence (Schedule 2)

Correspondence was primarily around police presence in NSW district surrounding Hall Village and setting up suitable time for Inspector Cowell to attend VHDPA Committee Meeting.

4. Reports of VHDPA Subcommittees

a) Hall Museum and Heritage Centre

Mardie reported that activities at the Museum and Heritage Centre continue to be vibrant. Yass U3A, Goodwin Homes, and Chinese Embassy staff all have visits booked at the centre. The Conservation Officer at the Museum will be accompanying a group of Russian speaking school students and their parents through the displays in the near future.

The Palmerville Exhibition had a very successful opening last week and is attracting visitors.

The Education Program will be conducted over Terms 2 and 3 and this is very popular. Anzac Day is always a special time for the Centre and this year will feature the life of Clyde Hollingsworth, one of three local boys who lost their lives in WW2.

b. Hall Men's Shed

Men's Shed activities have been quiet this month. Delivery of the April issue of the Rural Fringe has been completed. Members are working on clearing out the grounds of the Preschool Building and developing some garden connectivity between the Preschool and the Cottage buildings.

c. Hall Facilities – Pavilion and Cottage

Regular bookings for the Pavilion continue, however other one-off bookings have been a little quiet over the past months.

Regarding the Cottage, it has been noted that the oven in the kitchen is in need of replacement. Committee agreed to share the cost of a new oven between the Men's Shed and the VHDPA. Aaron has offered to purchase a suitable oven through contacts in the industry and the installation will be undertaken by a qualified electrician who is a member of Men's Shed.

5. Other Business

a. Wallaroo/Spring Range Update

Toni reported that the usual dumping of household items and cars continues in the Wallaroo region. It was noted that the information provided by Inspector Cowell particularly regarding stolen goods from rural properties was very useful. (See Item 5d for a summary of Inspector Cowell's presentation.)

Jack McGrath was an apology this evening however advised by email that all is as usual in Spring Range. Dumping continues as in Wallaroo.

b. Hall Reserve Working Bee – 29th March 2026

The working bee was a success with a good turnout of helpers. Planting and spreading mulch was undertaken and the results are pleasing. A light lunch was provided at the completion of works and it was agreed that these working days are a nice way to get to know neighbours. The involvement of the Ginninderra Catchment Group was acknowledged with thanks to Suzanne Richardson for her attendance. There is one last garden planned for the Reserve which will be near the Telstra shed at the Loftus Street boundary of the Reserve. Another work day will be planned during Spring and will be advertised in due course.

c. Update on Sustainability Assessment Quotations and Sheep Pavilion

Jan is working through the issues relating to quotations for the installation of more environmentally friendly heating/airconditioning units for the Pavilion. It is hoped to have quotes together with ACT Heritage approval completed prior to the deadline for lodgement of this project.

Regarding the old Sheep Pavilion (barbecue shed beside the rugby field), 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. The Sheep Pavilion was the original site of the early Canberra agricultural shows and so has historical significance to the Royal Canberra Show. At the opening of the Palmerville exhibition at the Heritage Centre, Robert Yallop talked to the President and CEO of the Canberra Show Society the repairs required for the Sheep Pavilion and its historic significance to the Centenary of the Royal Canberra Show. The CEO of the Show Society agreed with Robert to make a joint proposal, probably to the Commonwealth, for funding the repairs to the building before the centenary of the Canberra Show in 2027. Robert will explore this possibility through the office of Senator Murray Watt, Federal Minister for Environment and Heritage.

Yass Police OIC David Cowell Presentation

(This presentation was given at the beginning of the meeting to allow Inspector Cowell to leave early.)

Inspector David Cowell gave a very informative and interesting presentation, including Powerpoint graphs, to Committee. Hume Policing District is headquartered in Goulburn and is a large and diverse area. Wallaroo and Spring Range fall within the Yass Sector where Inspector Cowell is OIC. He is very interested in building a good relationship in this area focused on communication.

He advised that "reported crime" in this area is low. Inspector noted that unless theft or other suspected crime is reported to police it is unable to be acted upon. In the Yass sector, most people who engage in theft are opportunists and so he strongly encourages property holders to lock their vehicles, homes and sheds as a first line deterrent. He noted that at Yass Police Station there is a significant amount of stolen property eg tools and farm equipment which is unclaimed.

Inspector Cowell encourages residents to report incidents such as theft and any suspicious activity to Yass Police to give a more complete picture for officers to work on.

Inspector Cowell advised that patrols are taking place on a regular basis in our rural areas and that RBT/RDT patrols are also very active.

Committee expressed thanks to Inspector Cowell for his informative presentation.

The Committee suggested that Inspector Cowell should periodically place an article in the Rural Fringe in order to inform the 300 or so rural residents in the 2618 postcode of Wallaroo, Spring Range and Nanima.

f. Other Matters

NBN upgrade to Hall is moving forward. There will be a community consultation evening in May or June where more information will be available.

Committee agreed to the purchase of a wreath to be laid at the Hall Anzac Day ceremony from VHDP.

Next Meeting is Wednesday 20 May 2026.