



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.

The Progress Association has achieved some very significant successes during the 2026 Financial Year. Highlights include Comprehensive Storm Water Infrastructure construction has been included by the ACT Government in the FY 2027 Budget; the Shared Cycle and Pedestrian Path from Hall Village to Nicholls has been jointly funded by the ACT and Commonwealth Governments; the ACT Government has signed a Licence with the Progress Association for the Hall Pavilion for ten years until 2035.

Comprehensive Storm Water Infrastructure

After four-and-a-half years of advocacy by the Progress Association Committee with the ACT Government to address chronic issues of storm water drainage in Hall Village, in mid-August 2025 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. Since the consultation, the design consultants have further refined the storm water infrastructure master plan incorporating feedback received during the consultation and in a subsequent survey of Hall Village residents and businesses.

In presenting the ACT Government Budget in June 2026, the ACT Treasurer, Chris Steel, announced at least \$4.8 million to support new stormwater infrastructure for Hall Village.

The submission of Development Applications (DAs) for the agreed storm water infrastructure works has been delayed due to a change in contractor, and it is anticipated that the DAs will be submitted within the coming months.

Although the having an agreed master plan and funding incorporated in the ACT Government Budget are major milestones, the Progress Association will not stop working on storm water infrastructure until all agreed works are complete.

Shared Cycle and Pedestrian Path from Hall Village to Nicholls

For almost four years, the Progress Association Committee has been seeking the establishment of safe pedestrian and cycle access from the Barton Hwy to Gladstone St Hall. In March 2025, the Commonwealth Government announced funding of the fully paved

2.3 kms long and 3 m wide shared pedestrian and cycle path from Hall Village to Nicholls. Although Commonwealth Government funding was announced as joint funding with the ACT Government, the ACT Government funding had not been budgeted. The Progress Association Committee intensified advocacy with City Services Minister, Tara Cheyne, and included the shared pedestrian and cycle path in our submission to the FY 2027 ACT Government Budget.

The FY 2027 ACT Government Budget includes the construction of the shared pedestrian and cycle path from Hall Village to Gold Creek Nicholls.

In June 2026, over 30 of our Hall community neighbours attended the Community Meeting to hear information, ask questions and provide some feedback on the shared pedestrian and cycle path from Hall Village to Curran Drive, Gold Creek. We anticipate that detailed planning for the Hall Village Path will be undertaken in the coming months with further opportunities for comments by Hall residents and businesses.

As with the storm water infrastructure, the Progress Association Committee will continue working on the shared cycle and pedestrian path until works are complete and the path is open.

Hall Pavilion Licence

The Progress Association has had stewardship of the Hall Pavilion for decades. For the past ten years or so, the Progress Association has had formal Licences with the ACT Government for the operation and management of the Hall Pavilion

In late 2024, the Progress Association signed an interim Licence for the Hall Pavilion with the ACT Government pending clarification of land custodian arrangements between ACT Government Directorates. In November 2025, the Progress Association signed an unprecedented ten-year Licence until 2035 with the ACT Government.

Secure tenure of the Hall Pavilion by the Progress Association is extremely important for the ongoing operation of both the Hall Pavilion and for the Hall Community Precinct without which the Hall Heritage Centre, Hall Men's Shed, Hall Cottage and numerous community activities that happen in these facilities would not be possible. The Hall Pavilion and Hall Cottage not only provide facilities for many Hall community groups and activities but, through the income from hire of the Cottage and Pavilion, basic operation costs are covered for the Hall Community Precinct, and support is provided to other activities undertaken by the Progress Association.

NBN Fibre-to-the-Premises Connection in Hall Village

Following the announcement by the Commonwealth Government in January 2025 that they will fund the upgrade of Australia's as yet to be connected NBN Fibre-to-the Premises (FTTP) network, the Progress Association Committee contacted Senator Gallagher and Fenner MP Leigh to confirm that Hall District is included in the upgrade. Unfortunately, Wallaroo, Spring Range and Nanima are not included in the upgrade although Hall Village is included.

In June, at the Community Meeting arranged by the Progress Association NBN Co staff outlined the FTTP implementation. Initial survey and planning work has been completed, and major construction work is due to commence in September.

Hall Reserve

Led by Progress Association Committee member Aaron Whittaker (and with invaluable assistance from Danny Clynk), the Progress Association has continued to organise working bees on the Hall Reserve with one held in September 2025 and in March 2026.

Progressively, the Hall Reserve has been transformed from a somewhat 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 and made way for six beds to be created and mulched with some 350 shrubs planted. The working bees have also provided a great opportunity to meet neighbours and chat over lunch together.

Hall Village Pizza Picnic

In February, some 60 adults and children enjoyed pizza and soft drinks at the Pizza Picnic hosted by the Progress Association Committee. It was especially good to see some new residents taking the opportunity to meet Hall neighbours. We look forward to hosting similar events in the coming months.

Hall Community Facilities

The Hall Pavilion, Hall Cottage and Hall Community Precinct are important facilities of the Hall community. 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.

In response to concerns over persistent issues with unauthorised camping at the Hall showgrounds highlighted by the Progress Association Committee, in July staff from Sport and Recreation Facilities of City Presentation in the ACT Government erected "No Camping" signs at the Hall Showground and Hall Pavilion as a reminder that these are not areas designated for camping and that anyone camping, caravanning, parking overnight in a camper are illegal and can be required to move on. Subsequently, Access Canberra Compliance staff have moved on a number of caravans and campervans who camped contrary to the notices.

Hall Happy Helpers

Progress Association Committee member Jack McGrath is leading a small group called Hall Happy Helpers (including Hall Progress Association, Hall Collectors' Club and Capital Country Woodchopping) to undertake small repair tasks around Hall Village and the wider District. Initial work has included fixing gates, straightening the fenceposts and clearing some dead shrubs around the perimeter of Hall Showground and straightening sign posts on Victoria St Hall.

Recognition of the Role of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association

Over the last twelve months, the Progress Association has again emerged as the group that represents the overall the interest, welfare, amenity and heritage interests of residents and stakeholders of Hall Village and District.

In announcing the ACT Government Budget allocations for infrastructure in Hall Village, ACT Treasurer Chris Steel acknowledged the significant advocacy from the Hall and District Progress Association on these measures over a number of years. In beginning to scope the NBN FTTP implementation in Hall Village, staff of NBN Co contacted the Progress Association Committee to seek information and assistance to engage with Hall Village residents and businesses. Officer-In-charge of Yass Police Region came to the Progress Association Committee to engage with residents in Wallaroo, Spring Range and Nanima, particularly on the safety and security of these communities.

This recognition of the role of the Progress Association is important to ensure that government and other actors seek to provide information and engage with the Hall Village and District community on concerns and developments that affect us.

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 particularly thank Jenny Whittaker, Gail Condry and Kevin Stone for their ongoing work producing our superb quality *Rural Fringe* magazine every two months.

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, Mardie, Marg, Peter, Phil, 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.



Robert Yallop
President
Village of Hall and District Progress Association