



Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc.

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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TO MEMBERS

The Progress Association has continued to further the interests of the Hall Village and District community members over the past year.

The 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. The Association manages the former school site of the Hall Community Precinct, the Cottage and the Hall Pavilion. The Association also 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.

In late January this year, Association Vice-President Lee-Ann Brodrick and I met with newly appointed Minister for City Services, Tara Cheyne, and Heritage Minister, Rebecca Vassarotti, to discuss priority concerns of infrastructure in Hall Village.

The Progress Association Committee is very pleased that, after two-and-a-half years of advocacy with the ACT Government to address chronic issues of storm water drainage, work is well underway on the detailed design for storm water improvements in Hall Village. Members of the Progress Association Committee met with staff from Major Projects Canberra, City Services Infrastructure Delivery and the contracted design consultants to review initial assessment and possible options for comprehensive storm water infrastructure in the village. From the meeting, it appears that the work being done is comprehensive and recognises the multiple dimensions of the storm water issues affecting Hall. We secured the commitment that, at an appropriate stage of development of the detailed design of storm water infrastructure, the ACT Government staff and consultants will meet with the wider Hall community of residents, businesses and other stakeholders. We are very grateful for the support of Yerrabi MLAs Leanne Castley and James Milligan in our efforts. The Progress Association will continue to advocate with the ACT Government until the required works are completed with a particular focus on the 2025-2026 ACT Budget following the upcoming election.

Over the last two years, the Progress Association Committee has been seeking the establishment of safe pedestrian and cycle access from the Barton Hwy to Gladstone St. In our meeting with City Services Minister Tara Cheyne, we were informed that the ACT Government were contracting a feasibility study for a shared pedestrian and cycle path from hall Village to Gold Creek area in Nicholls. In mid-September, members of the Hall Progress Association Committee met with staff from the ACT Government City Services Infrastructure Delivery to discuss options for the safe pedestrian and cycle link from Hall Village. ACT Labor in the pre-election Gungahlin Plan committed to delivering "a walking and cycling path to connect the historic Hall Village to the broader Gungahlin path network". This

commitment is similar to those made by candidates of the ACT Greens and Independents for Canberra.

In June, with the upcoming ACT election in October, the Progress Association Committee approached candidates for the Yerrabi electorate to seek their views and commitments to some key priorities of the Hall community including storm water drainage infrastructure, safe cycle and pedestrian access from the Barton Hwy to Hall Village, assessment of the safety of the intersection of the Barton Hwy with Gladstone St and Wallaroo Rd, and maintaining the Hall Village Heritage Precinct to conserve its historical significance as a rural village and the natural, aesthetic and Aboriginal values of its landscape. It was encouraging that the four groups contacted – ACT Greens, ACT Labor, Canberra Liberals and Independents for Canberra – all provided responses to our questions and a number of candidates arranged to meet with representatives of the Progress Association Committee to better understand the concerns and needs of the Hall community. Responses from the candidates were summarised in the August edition of the *Rural Fringe* and published on the Progress Association website. Following the election, the Progress Association Committee will be in touch with all elected MLAs to hold them to account and deliver on their commitments to Hall.

Over the last two-and-a-half years, volunteers have participated in seven community workdays that have transformed the Hall Reserve from a somewhat sad and 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. Five beds have been created and mulched with some 250 shrubs planted. On average around twenty people have participated in each workday with one workday involving over thirty volunteers. A Spring working bee will be held on Sunday 27 October from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm to prepare the Hall Reserve plantings for the coming Summer. We will spread mulch on the existing beds and do some replanting of a few shrubs and trees.

While the Progress Association Committee works on major projects like storm water infrastructure and the safe cycle and pedestrian path, some smaller concerns are also addressed. In February, the Progress Association Committee with assistance from MLA Leanne Castley arranged a change to short-term 15 Minute Parking at the Post Office to facilitate easier access for residents to postal services. Twice last year the Progress Association Committee arranged for repairs to dangerous uneven and uplifted paving in the area of Kynefin and the Post Office.

Submissions made by the Progress Association Committee on behalf of residents include:

- Submission to the 2024-2025 ACT Budget. The submission requested the allocation in the 2024-2025 ACT Budget of sufficient resources to install appropriate storm water drainage infrastructure in Hall Village and to create safe cycle and pedestrian access to Hall;
- Submission to Yass Valley Council regarding the Yass Valley Open Space Strategy related to Wallaroo and Spring Range.

Management of the Hall Pavilion, Cottage and Hall Community Precinct 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 Property Group. The Licence for the Hall Community Precinct was renewed in August until 2029. 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.

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 echo our 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, Jan, Lee-Ann, Marg, Peter, Phil, Ralph, Toni and Tony.

The Progress Association has been part of this community for more than a hundred 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 as Association President.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Yallop', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Yallop
President
Village of Hall and District Progress Association