

Halls of the Huon

Short report on key insights

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01 Context and aim

The Halls Review

Context

- Huon Valley Council owns 15 halls across the municipality.
- The halls are generally run by council management committees.
- The Council manages and is responsible for many volunteers.
- Council is considering options for management of the halls, and volunteer management is an important consideration.

Scope of this review

- Online survey for the community. Hard copies were made available.
- Thirteen* community meetings were held. One at each hall.
- The questions focused on current and preferred future use of the halls, the aspects that work well, and not so well. Lastly, the focus was on preferred management models moving forward.

* Cygnet Town Hall had been visited earlier in the year. Geeveston Town Hall a few years ago.

The Halls Review

This report

- Provides a high-level summary of key results.
- There is an underlying rich dataset which is worth perusing.
- When considering individual halls, it is recommended to interrogate the underlying dataset.

Side notes

- This review was the first time community members were asked about future management arrangements. It is a complex subject to discuss, and respondents' views are their initial reflections only.
- Respondents have ongoing questions about the options and how they would work in practice.
- Respondents indicate further consultation is required to discuss the 'fine print' of models: who pays what, roles and responsibilities, the booking system, insurance and liability and training & support.

02 **Key results**

Halls, volunteers and community use

- The level of community ownership of the halls is high.
- All halls and activities held in them are driven by community volunteers.
- Many volunteers contribute significant hours in terms of administration, cleaning, bookings and maintenance.
- The levels of usage and types of activities vary substantially across the halls:
 - Most halls accommodate wide community use.
 - Some halls have specific user groups (theatre, scouts, guides).
 - Bigger halls are more complex to manage and have greater levels of activity.
- The more remote halls typically are very self-sufficient, with volunteers being involved in maintenance and upkeep.
- Some halls take responsibility of the grounds and ovals adjacent to the buildings (at no cost to Council).
- Management committees can be effective in accessing funding and in-kind support that may not be available to Council.
- Most of the halls are used regularly, some of them daily. A few halls are underused, especially in winter.

Halls management

- Most halls are currently managed by Council committees made up of volunteers.
- The community overwhelmingly sees ongoing involvement of community volunteers as essential for cleaning, use, community engagement and activation of the halls.
- Many respondents also mentioned some involvement of Council being important to ensure maintenance and upkeep of the halls and equitable access to venues.
- Respondents would like to better understand future management options. Management committee members expect ongoing consultation by Council.
- Volunteers expressed needs for support, training and exchanging knowledge with other halls' volunteers

The introduction of an **online booking system** for the halls is generally supported.

Booking system positives:

- avoided administrative burden on committees
- better insight into capacity and hire options
- better insight into fees
- equitable access to venues

Booking system concerns/questions:

- loss of control over bookings by committees (i.e. 18th birthday parties)
- would revenue still go into halls?
- management committees' ability to pre-book their own events
- ability to offer discounts
- providing physical access to hall hirers
- What if people do not have online access to book?

Overall observations

- Community volunteers deliver substantial value in terms of administration, cleaning, maintenance, engagement, activation – at minimal cost to Council.
- Most committees expressed to be happy to focus on activation and leave maintenance and bookings to Council.
- There will be substantial effort and cost involved to work with the communities to:
 - introduce the booking system, and
 - introduce changes to volunteer management.
- Volunteer training and management will be needed to support volunteers and manage risk.
- All communities feel strongly about having ongoing involvement in their halls.

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Hall results – high level

Summary table – high level results per hall

	Top 3 works well		Top 3 does NOT work well		Top 3 Improvements		Preferred model	
	Survey	Community session	Survey	Community session	Survey	Community session	Survey (incl # or % preference)	Community session
Baden Powell Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable space for scouts and guides Affordable event space Clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination between users Fencing and security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarity on Council and Committee responsibility Noisy Slow discussion process Governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acoustics Fencing Reduced fees for particular events (already exists) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar panels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary board (3) Council with local group (2) Voluntary committee (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal agreement with “Friends of “ use Control of use
Cradoc Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good facilities Widely used by the community Parking and accessibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heating Facilities Building and BBQ area well-maintained Rubbish management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car park Limited space for large groups and formal meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rubbish dumping alcohol and liability insurance Visibility and signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better promotion with signage and community online presence Walk trails to the river 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness and marketing of hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporated committee (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with existing committee required before decisions are made
Dover Oval Club Rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widely used by community Indoor and outdoor space Good parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bookings Accessibility Location and surroundings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing of events and activities Lack of facilities Road exit / entrance safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor (all abilities) toilet facilities Road exit/entrance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heating Facilities Accessibility and safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking/cycling track Need a community space Subsidise community activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary board (4) Voluntary committee (1) Incorporated committee (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee Need clarify on lease and insurance Central booking system NFP/community activities
Franklin Palais Theatre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widely used by the community Local engagement All ages events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee management Community engagement Fully utilised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management issue, Council interference Lack of belonging Disability access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication with council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance Heating Improve facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing Maintenance and all abilities access Diversity of the committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary board (15) Voluntary committee (8) Incorporated committee (8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance management Share responsibility with Council Influential management committee

	Top 3 works well		Top 3 does NOT work well		Top 3 Improvements		Preferred model	
	Survey	Community session	Survey	Community session		Survey	Community session	Survey
Geeveston Community Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good location • Widely used by the community • Parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance • Location • Community Affordable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve facilities • Lack of transparency • Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acoustics • Security • Booking systems • AV facilities • Community interactions • Name of confusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heating • Maintenance • More events and activities (affordable and youth) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement • More use of the hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary board (7) • Voluntary committee (6) • Incorporated committee (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPA management • HVC management • Friends of • Link between Council and community
Glen Huon Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widely used by the community • Good location • Well maintained facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue from bookings • Kitchen • Communication • Committee • Variety function for all age group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Lack of nearby café and eateries • Internet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • booking system • car park • marketing of events • internet • water supply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance schedule • More events • Parking 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary board (2) • Voluntary committee (3) • Incorporated committee (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booking system • Maintenance management • More events
Huonville Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widely used by the community for theatre • Good location • Parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use by local theatre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited back stage • Limited facilities • Lack of community engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some conflict of use between theatre and offices • Insufficient kitchen facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More community events • Maintenance • Better (back)stage and theatre facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage, change rooms, kitchen and toilets • Security • Cast and crew facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary committee (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hourly rates would make it unviable for theatre group • Performance infrastructure owned by group • Need for continued symbiotic relation with Council
Judbury Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking and outdoor area • Indoor facilities and kitchen • Widely used by community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markets and the hall • Committee tidiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency of management • Not affordable • Safety of parking exit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance • Access • Volunteer management • Operational improvement • Community engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved maintenance • More community events • Focus on kids and teens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need of more funding to allow it grow into a thriving community hub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary board (6) • Voluntary committee (2) • Incorporated committee (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued control over funds • Booking system with some control of use • Community lease • Friends of • Need clarify on lease costs and insurance, liability etc

	Top 3 works well		Top 3 does NOT work well		Top 3 Improvements		Preferred model	
	Survey	Community session	Survey	Community session		Survey	Community session	Survey
Mountain River Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Kitchen and facilities • Playground and outdoor area • Active volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active volunteers • Kitchen and facilities • Active communications (socials, letters) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heating / draughty • Parking • Toilet facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heating • Parking • Toilets (all abilities access) • Bookings and community engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heating • Improve (outdoor) facilities • More events and activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heating • Outdoor toilet • Solar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary board (4) • Voluntary committee (7) • Incorporated committee (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booking system • Funds stay with the community/friends • Controlling authority • “Friends of”
Pelverata Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good events • Parking • Maintenance • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bookings • Regular cleaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve facilities • Underutilisation • More events • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities maintenance • Council engagement • Cleaning • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor facilities (BBQ) • More events and classes • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keysafe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council with local group (2) • Voluntary committee (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hybrid • Friends
Ranelagh Soldiers Memorial Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *issue with download of survey results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuller utilisation • Heating and facilities • Stable committee • Bookings 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside lighting • Male toilets • Finding new committee members 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More activities and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current management model • A more diverse committee representation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared responsibility with Council • Council to take on maintenance • Friends of • Opportunity for community to come together • Support from Council on admin and finance
Southport Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widely used by the community • Great community engagement • Good parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual obligation commitments • Volunteer committee • Independence/ autonomy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities • Social inclusion • Access issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities maintenance • Volunteer participation and training • Accessibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities maintenance • Event advertisement • More events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of trust for HVC maintenance • Onboarding/training/respect for volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary board (2) • Voluntary committee (10) • Incorporated committee (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency of Council management • No liability of committee • Funds and insurances • Incorporated entity with delegates • Volunteer burdens • Status Quo

	Top 3 works well		Top 3 does NOT work well		Top 3 Improvements		Preferred model	
	Survey	Community session	Survey	Community session		Survey	Community session	Survey
Surges Bal Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widely used by the community Community engagement Facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilisation Community engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management and transparency Facilities issues Accessibility and use Problems with late-night burnouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Securing gate Access Heating Toilet and facilities Carpark maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> heating facilities accessibility 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary board (5) Voluntary committee (9) Incorporated committee (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Council management "Friends of" – and keep control over who uses the hall Leased by community group

