



Submission to
Marlborough District Council

Annual Plan

On behalf of Wairau Valley Community Hall Board

May 2022



Purpose of Submission

This submission is:

1. An acknowledgement by the Board of the Wairau Valley Community Hall of the ongoing support received from Marlborough District Council (MDC)
2. A request for MDC assistance in funding or co-funding roof repairs to protect the hall complex for future community use





Background

The original hall building was built by the Wairau Valley community after World War 1 and used for community gatherings, art performances, ANZAC day commemorations, indoor sports, club meetings, town meetings, dances, movie showings etc.

In 1997 the historic Hillersden Hall was moved to the same site and incorporated to make a bigger complex. This provides the community with two linked large halls, two kitchens, various bathroom facilities and side rooms.

The Hall Board is charged, via its Deed, to promote the provision of community facilities for the benefit of the Wairau Valley community. As part of this we must:

- consult with residents on local community needs and priorities for use of community facilities
- promote the development of needed community facilities in the Wairau Valley
- manage and administer the hall and maintain it
- liaise with other organisations providing community facilities and advocate on the needs of the Wairau Valley community.

The Hall is the only large public gathering space in the area. Renwick is 27 kms away, Blenheim 38 kms and St Arnaud 65 kms. It also has value as a historic building and Peace Memorial.

Recent Developments



Figure 1 Children at our new playgroup

In 2020, the Hall Board applied to the Ministry for Primary Industries Rural Hub fund, and was awarded \$20,000 to develop a workplan supporting community resilience and well being, and also support a Coordinator to manage the delivery of these programmes over a twelve month period. This included establishing a weekly playgroup for parents and preschoolers, piloting a regular children's activity club and hosting bi-monthly community events.



Figure 2 Christmas Crafts Dec 2021 at the Hall

Despite the dampening effect of Covid 19 on community participation and events, MPI is very pleased with our success to date, and has provided \$30,000 additional funds to support our resilience and community well-being work into 2023.



Figure 3 Community Bowls Night 2022

In addition to this welcome funding, we have also had successful applications to The Blue Door and Community Lotteries to fund the installation of much improved heating in the two linked halls.



Support from Marlborough District Council

As you are aware, the WVCHT also benefited greatly from Marlborough District Council support through the Long Term Plan process last year. We asked for assistance to remodel some of the main hall kitchen and also funds to repaint the roof (see next section). Both requests were granted and we are extremely grateful.

Work on the kitchen is well underway and should be completed next month. It will make a huge difference to hall users. We recently held a special Mother's Day High Tea at the hall - which was very successful but taxed the aged kitchen facilities to the maximum, catering for almost 80 guests over two sittings. An improved kitchen will make future events, such as a fun community Quiz Night and a specific Men's Day Out so much easier to cater for.

We have also been in discussions with Robert Hutcheson, Marlborough District Council, regarding proposed plans for a community playground to be situated on Hall grounds.

We thank the Marlborough District Council Councillors and staff for their ongoing help in our endeavours to maintain and improve the hall, including the provision of a small annual maintenance grant.



Emerging Problems with the Roof

The hall roof was meant to be painted with the funds allocated by Council. However, this has proved problematic as leaks have appeared recently in the foyer during stormy weather. We have tried some basic repairs but the problem has not been resolved.

The leaks are occurring in the foyer area which links the two main halls in the complex. This is partly due to weather effects on the roof and partly due to a poor choice of initial design back in 1997.

The Board felt it would be a false economy to repaint the roof before the extent of the problem was revealed and fixed, and we have had significant delays finding appropriately qualified roofers to quote on the project.

- The first quote for roof repair came from Bainbridge Roof on 17 March 2022 and is \$23,496 + GST
- The second quote was only received two days ago on 12 May 2022 and is \$78,000 + GST

The Hall Board is currently seeking further advice but it's obvious that to protect the building going forward, significant investment in the roof will be required, and at a time when hall usage is increasing.



Our Request

We seek assistance from the Council in resolving the roofing problem to safeguard this important community asset. As the quotes vary considerably, more work will be required to find out of the scope of the problem and the best way forward. We would appreciate being able to draw on some Council technical support if needed.

One option would be to combine any MDC financial support with a grant application to the Community Lotteries Facilities Fund or similar large funding organisation.

Lottery Community Facilities provides grants:

- to improve or build new community facilities, or
- for feasibility studies to work out if plans to improve or build community facilities can be achieved and will benefit the community.

Funding starts from \$30,000. Given that the Board has only just realised the extent of the problem, we have not investigated this option closely but it may have merit particularly if the Council was to dedicate funds to the project.

Summary

The Hall Board, with the help of community funders, is creating a rural community hub in the Wairau Valley. This is important to improve and safeguard community relationships, cohesion and resilience in a somewhat isolated area, during some challenging times in terms of Covid 19, environmental changes, threats and adverse effects (drought, fire and flooding) and demographic change.

Having a good roof to protect the Hall itself is crucial to protecting the community asset going forwards. We are only a small team, with limited resources, and we hope for Council's continued support to resolve the roofing issue.