



Joint Submission to
Marlborough District Council

Annual Plan

On behalf of Wairau Valley Community Hall Board & The Wantwood
Community Room

May 2023

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. The Wantwood Room Preservation Society (Wantwood Community Room) is also appreciative of the Marlborough District Council (MDC) efforts in helping the society relocate the building in 2016 and with subsequent funding for setting up the room.
3. A request for MDC assistance in funding or co-funding surface repairs for the parking areas of both Wairau Valley community facilities and help to coordone off the parking area for the Hall.



Background

The Wairau Valley Community Hall and the Wantwood Community Room are two different historic community buildings in Morse St, Wairau Valley Township, each administered by a volunteer board.

Wairau Valley Community Hall

The Wairau Valley Community Hall is the only large public gathering space in the area and has been a centre for community life for decades. It also has value as a historic building and Peace Memorial.

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.

Since 2020, the Hall Board has attracted significant funding from the Ministry for Primary Industries, among others, to develop its potential as a rural hub after an almost total decline in use over the past two decades. As a result, the hall is now being used regularly including by: a parent/child play group, Tai Chi, bimonthly social activities run by the Hall, community meetings, a private massage studio, ad hoc gatherings (such as table tennis) and frequent other public and private events. We even provided shelter and hot drinks to a large group of stranded Czech tourists last year.

We appreciate and acknowledge the ongoing help from Council to maintain the facility, which has included the renovation of the kitchen, the current, cofunded, repair of the foyer roof plus, it is hoped, a future new children's playground in the future.

These photos are from a recent event for local seniors, one taken in our renovated kitchen during a cooking demonstration,



Wantwood Community Room

We are a small committee with a small historic room and big ideas. Since the relocation of the Wantwood Room in 2016 with the assistance of MDC, we have held some great workshops and social gatherings to help with connectedness and wellbeing in our community. From games nights to pot luck dinners, winter stargazing and book club gatherings, the room has been utilised by many members of the Wairau Valley and wider Marlborough. Most recently we have been holding a monthly Tea n Talk afternoon to discuss Wairau Valley history and share local knowledge. The Wantwood Room is the community 'go to' for historic information with copies of over 800 photos from the late 1800s to the current day and information on local people and places. It also houses print copies from the 2011 and 2022 Photograph Wairau Valley Exhibitions.



The room has undergone recent improvements with a new log fire installed in December 2021 which allows for cosy winter use by groups. The entire building was repainted in 2022 and now looks fresh and inviting. We are committed to keeping this historic wee building in a good state of repair for use by the community.

The Condition of the Carparks

The Wairau Valley Community Hall has a wonderfully large car park. Unfortunately, from time to time heavy trucks use it to park or turn around and this, plus flooding events, has caused the surface to begin to break up. We would like to have the surface repaired professionally, and at a later date, set up some kind of removable barrier to prevent unauthorized large vehicles parking or turning.



Repairs are needed to prevent further degradation of the surfaces and to prevent trips and falls from Hall visitors. We will not have the repairs done before a big event later in the year, but we hope that our inaugural Rural Resilience Expo on 26 August, will develop into an annual activity. We will be using the carpark and other hard surfaces for parking, exhibition displays and activities.

The Wantwood Room car park is a former tennis court and is in an even worse state of repair as you can see by the photos below. The northern side of the area is the main car park for the popular Wairau Valley Golf course. The land is administered by the Wairau Valley Sports Association which is fully supportive of this application. Please see attached letter of support. Unfortunately the Sports Association is not financially in a position to contribute significant funding, but if other funding was achieved they could be approached to make a small contribution.



For several years, we have held our Christmas Market onsite, but this has become increasingly difficult with the state of the carpark. In 2022 it was deemed to be a significant trip hazard for our older folk and regrettably we decided to move our annual market to another location. The state of the car park inhibits the use of the wheelchair access ramp to the room and makes it difficult to move around freely.

Proposed Work and Quotes

We have received two quotes for the repair/replacement of the seal at both locations.

The quote from TC Nichols is to trim any overhanging trees and sweep up loose material over the full carpark's areas. They will remove damaged seal 6m wide adjacent to the road and supply top course and prepare the area for seal. They will then dig out any soft areas up to 50m², 200mm deep and backfill with base course and prepare all surfaces, including damaged areas, and fill potholes with asphalt then reseal the full area with a two coat chip seal.

TC Nichols has quoted \$67,620 (GST inclusive) to complete both car parks.

The quote from Fulton Hogan is more reasonable. It includes establishment to the sites, preparation of the affected areas with gravel dugout and preparation with a digger, levelling areas with an asphalt mix, chip and seal the carparks. The total is \$29,158.01 (GST inclusive).

Our Request

We seek assistance from the Council in resolving the car park surfacing issues as both facilities are important community assets. Our preference is for the Fulton Hogan quote but would welcome specialist input from Council staff to ensure the work would be fit for purpose..

One option would be to combine any MDC financial support with a grant application to a lotteries community grant or other grant provider. This joint approach has worked well between the Hall and MDC in the past, and could be expanded to include the Wantwood Community Room.

Summary

The Hall Board and the Wantwood Room Community Room are important community places in the Wairau Valley. They help bring the community together to nourish and and safeguard community relationships, cohesion and resilience in a somewhat isolated area.

Having solid, safe surfaces round both buildings are a key part to protect these community assets going forwards. Both organisations only have a small team of dedicated volunteers, with limited resources, and we hope for Council's support to, literally, give us a firm foundation to stand upon.