

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Hall for Guides and Scouts

The Huon Valley Council and local Scouts and Guides groups are pleased with the progress of the renovation of the old Scout and Guide Hall in Heron Street in Huonville.

The project, planned for some time, began with a concept design and in July 2015 demolition of the old hall began. The renovation has taken 9 months since machinery first arrived on site. The Scouts and Guides used the Town Hall for their meetings while the build was underway. There are only minor landscaping and formalising carpark spaces left to do.

Chair of the Hall Management Committee, Kathy Cane said the hall was in a pretty bad state and something had to be done.

“It had deteriorated badly both inside and out. Outside the eaves and guttering were dropping or peeling off, vertical boards, especially out the back were rotting along the bottom, down piping was broken and water then lay around the foundations or in activity areas, generally the building looked old and tired.

“Inside the ceiling lining was drooping with pieces occasionally coming off, the toilets were in very poor condition, the kitchen looked very tired, we did not have hot water except through a very old zip boil type arrangement in the kitchen,” Ms Cane said.

Gerard Brereton, Council’s Property Management Coordinator agreed with Ms Cane on the hall’s condition.

“There were a lot of unknowns with this project as the condition of the main hall floor could not be determined until demolition of the rear section commenced.

“Trying to straighten existing walls and roof timbers to marry in with the new construction was also difficult. We also recycled materials sourced from the demolished sections where possible and utilised these in other parts of the construction such as the timber removed from the ceiling recycled as dado in the main hall,” Mr Brereton said.

Ms Cane said the consultation process had taken a while and changed from a makeover to a complete refurbishment over that time, but Mr Brereton’s management of the project had resulted in an excellent finished building .

“Gerard explained why changes to the original plans had to be made and consulted with us at every stage. He has not wavered in ensuring that the end result would be something that tackled all the underlying



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building issues at the hall and would see Scouting and Guiding and the community at least another 50 years into the future.

“It looks fantastic both inside and out. The new toilets and outdoor areas will be drawcard for bookings by outside groups. The outdoor area has huge potential for ongoing development e.g. sink and storage, barbecues and possibly a fire pot and seating.

“The hall will be a great asset for Scouting and Guiding and the wider community. If we promote and use this well we should be able to get a steady income from outside groups that will enable Scouts and Guides to keep hall use costs to a minimum and allow the Committee to continue improving what the hall and its surrounds have to offer. We already have 2 Scouts and Guides camps booked in,” Ms Cane said.

Gerard Brereton says it was great to have the work done by local tradesmen and women.

“Local builder AJ and JK Woolley won the tender and utilised local contractors Griggs/Reardon Electrical, Huon Plumbing Service, Bob Clark Painters and Southern Carpets among many others.

“We couldn’t be happier with the result we have managed to achieve for the Scouts and Guides groups. They now have a facility that’s compliant, fresh and brand new which will hopefully generate interest for young people looking to get started in scouting and guiding.

“It is also the intention of the Hall’s Management Committee to make the venue available for public hire which would be a fantastic asset for the town as the building has a large undercover area at the rear, a brand new kitchen and the property is fully fenced,” Mr Brereton said.

Scouts and Guides began moving equipment into the hall during the Easter break.

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