



FISH CREEK MEMORIAL HALL

Fish Creek Memorial Hall

Strategic Plan 2025

Introduction

In 2024, the Fish Creek Memorial Hall Committee came together to develop a shared vision for the hall's future. The goal was to align our efforts, unify our purpose, and coordinate our volunteer contributions. This Strategic Plan captures that vision. It is a living document, designed to guide the Committee of Management and be shared with the community to encourage ongoing feedback, collaboration and continuous improvement of the Hall's role and function.



Background

Fish Creek is a vibrant rural community located approximately 165 kilometres southeast of Melbourne, in the heart of South Gippsland. Known for its rich agricultural heritage, creativity, and tourism appeal, Fish Creek lies between the Boon Wurrung and Gunai/Kurnai Nations and takes its name from the river blackfish that previously inhabited the local creek.

The Fish Creek Memorial Hall, built in 1930, has been a focal point of community life for nearly a century. It is a multipurpose facility that hosts diverse events and supports wide community engagement. Managed by a volunteer committee, the Hall is operated on behalf of the community in accordance with the Association's rules as registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria.

The Hall is recognised by South Gippsland Shire Council as a place of local historic, social, architectural, and aesthetic significance. It is notable for its consistent use by the community and its landmark position within the Falls Road commercial precinct.

Purpose of the Hall

The Committee of Management affirms the following priorities for the Hall:

-  Maintain a multipurpose space for diverse community use
-  Ensure the Hall is welcoming and accessible to all
-  Meet evolving community needs
-  Strengthen community connection
-  Offer a dynamic, vibrant and high-standard facility



Vision

To nurture a thriving community hub where everyone feels a sense of belonging, creativity is celebrated, and the unique character and history of the hall is honoured and preserved. We recognise the hall's deep connection to the past and are committed to ensuring its ongoing relevance by responding to the contemporary needs of our community. In doing so, the Hall will continue to play a vital role in community life for generations to come.



Values

Inclusion & Participation

Ensuring access and representation for all members of the community. We are committed to making the Hall a welcoming space where everyone feels valued, safe, and able to contribute.

Collaboration & Care

Working with transparency, trust, and shared responsibility to steward the Hall for current and future generations. We prioritise respectful relationships and collective action.

Responsiveness & Relevance

Honouring the Hall's legacy while actively adapting to the changing needs of the community. We remain open to innovation, ensuring the Hall continues to serve as a vital, vibrant place for all.



Strategic Approach 2024 and beyond

With the previous 10-year plan now complete, the current committee embarked on a strategic renewal process. An external consultant supported us through a collaborative review of Hall operations, engaging diverse views and examining

all relevant information. This process led to a clear, focused set of objectives and principles to guide the Hall's next chapter, particularly as it approaches its 100th anniversary.

The future direction is anchored by three pillars:



Community

The Hall is a community-owned asset operated for public benefit.



Building

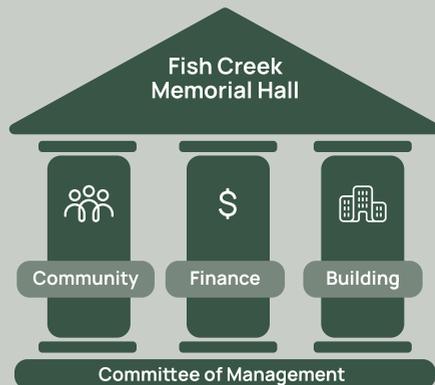
Preserve and upgrade the Hall to meet current and future needs, maintaining its unique character and prominent position.



Finance

Ensure financial sustainability and transparency, using resources in ways that reflect community priorities.

These pillars are supported by a Committee of Management, committed to inclusive decision-making and mindful of members' capacity.



Strategic Focus Areas

The Heritage Building

- ✓ Complete infrastructure upgrades
- ✓ Replace and repair windows and coverings
- ✓ Improve lighting, acoustics, and sound/AV equipment
- ✓ Install energy-efficient heating
- ✓ Upgrade external appearance and entryway
- ✓ Landscape west side and add a paved walkway
- ✓ Upgrade rear car park with accessible parking
- ✓ Repoint brickwork
- ✓ Kitchen: replace appliances and plan for long-term upgrade
- ✓ Improve maintenance across projection room, front rooms
- ✓ Refresh/replace stage stair rail and timberworks
- ✓ Install accessible ramp between hall and supper room
- ✓ Add display systems and new information/notice boards
- ✓ Review Opportunity Shop management and location

Community

- ✓ Create new public branding and logo
- ✓ Invest in a new website with First Nations acknowledgment and potential online booking
- ✓ Continue developing the hall's public profile
- ✓ Maintain a balance of mixed-use activities
- ✓ Establish a "Friends of the Hall" network
- ✓ Strengthen partnerships with local groups
- ✓ Support community events and performances
- ✓ Increase both participation and audience engagement

Finance

- ✓ Always maintain a treasurer role
- ✓ Set a strategy for managing and investing funds
- ✓ Establish a maintenance reserve
- ✓ Explore tax-deductible donation status
- ✓ Establish a "Friends of the Hall" network
- ✓ Strengthen partnerships with local groups
- ✓ Support community events and performances
- ✓ Increase both participation and audience engagement

Committee of Management

- ✓ Recruit additional members to reflect community diversity
- ✓ Support volunteer wellbeing and avoid burnout
- ✓ Regularly rotate executive roles
- ✓ Ensure knowledge is shared and maintained within the committee
- ✓ Define roles and responsibilities
- ✓ Maintain clear internal communication systems
- ✓ Continue to develop an A-Z Policy and Procedures Manual
- ✓ Review and update policies as needed
- ✓ Hold an annual committee event to foster engagement
- ✓ Commit to regular strategic reviews and updates

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