

LEX LOCI'S TRAVELS

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Lex Rocks at the Bundy

The Bundalaguah-Myrtlebank Hall is a bit off the beaten track – for anyone other than travellers between Sale and Maffra. But wherever we are in rural Victoria, we see halls like 'The Bundy.' There are hundreds of them, including [48 in the Shire of Wellington](#) alone. A plentiful resource.

And that's been their downfall. As modern community centres get built in the next town, who needs the old, isolated rural hall? At the Bundy, usage was reduced to the monthly meetings of the local Country Women's Association.



Too many halls, too few events. Here come the laws of economics: the roof leaks, the floor sags, the plumbing fails, the fences fall down, the insurance lapses... and just to top it off, the electrical wiring is eaten by rats.

What to do? Decrease the number of halls, or increase the number of events? Wellington Council was heading towards the former response, but the local people took off in the direction of the latter. [The hall Committee](#) got to work.

Next came working bees, generous local tradespeople, a Facebook page, and eventually a grant from Regional Development Victoria.

But the mainstay of the revival has been rock-n-roll. A new main tenant called 'Live at the Bundy' has brought in Joe Camilleri, Angry Anderson, the Black Sorrows, and a host of great gigs. On more than one occasion, the carpark has been full to overflowing.

The hall's more traditional users haven't been forgotten. With renovations complete, the hall can now host the Primary School trivia night, kids' birthday parties, and fund-raisers for breast cancer and the local wild-life haven – as well as the CWA.

Meanwhile, Councils like Wellington still have too many halls. Here's their dilemma: half are on the Shire's own freehold, and half on Crown land. Close the freehold halls, and you retain the proceeds for recycling into the community. Close the Crown land halls, and you just enrich State Treasury.

Anyway, Lex is planning to dig out his shades, gold lamé jacket, and blue suede shoes...



See you there! Lex Loci