

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

**held on Saturday, 21st September, 2013  
at 5.30 p.m. in the Mount Wilson Village Hall.**

## **1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

The meeting commenced at 5.35 when the chairman welcomed everyone to the 2013 AGM of the Mt Wilson Progress Association, mentioning that it was great to see so many here. At the time of our General Meeting in March funds were being raised for the RFS with the Six Foot Track event keeping many away.

Firstly the committee was recognised:

Unfortunately our Vice President **Alison Halliday** is overseas, Treasurer **Libby Raines**, Secretary **Moir Green**, and Committee members **Brian Abrahams**, **Ted Griffin**, **Bill Ryan** and **Kim Gow** (another apology). This was to be Kim's last meeting as a member of the Committee as she and Tim are moving to Leura and Kim has advised her intention to resign. We are very sorry Kim and Tim will be leaving residence in Mt Wilson but there is little doubt and sincere hope that both will remain closely connected with the community. Thanks are due to Kim for her work on the Committee.

And we can never forget thanks due to our volunteer **First Responders** and **members of the RFS** who selflessly go out at any time of day or night to medical, accident and fire emergencies.

We have four new members of MWPA, **Peter McDonald** and **Keith Ralston** of Coolangatta, and **Johanna** and **Thom Renton** of Timbertop, both homes in Wynnes Rocks Road.

It is sad to have to acknowledge the passing of three well known, long-standing members of our community: **John Holt**, **Paul Gow** and **Bruce Gailey**.

John, a vet, was a champion speaking up in the interests of the animals and birds of our area; he had a keen, focused interest in the whole of Mt Wilson and the preservation of all the best of what makes this place so special. He didn't like to miss an opportunity to remind the Progress Association it could spend more of its reserve funds making the place even more special! He was an extraordinarily generous man and is much missed. Unfortunately Mary Holt is unable to be with us as she is overseas and sent her apology.

Another passing it is sad to note is that of Paul Gow, Lis's husband, Tim's father and Kim's father-in-law. Paul and Lis have been long time residents of Mt Wilson. Paul, who died this week, had been a member of the Progress Association since 1998. For years when able he was a member of the Bush Care Group and he was a most enthusiastic gardener making their property Sefton Cottage one of the special gardens in Mt Wilson.

After more than 30 years, Bruce and Sue Gailey left Mt Irvine about seven years ago to live in South West Rocks on the Mid North Coast. Bruce is remembered especially for his friendships in the community, long service with the RFS and the pleasure he took in bush walking and bush care. He will be missed.

## 2. **PRESENT**

**Committee:** Richard Beattie (President), Libby Raines, (Treasurer), Moira Green (Secretary), Brian Abrahams, Ted Griffin, Bill Ryan.

**Other Members:** Ron Green, Wendy Holland, Robert Chesney, Loretta Beattie, Sarah Howell, Maurice May, Bruce Arnold, Nancy Fox, Johanna & Thom Renton, Philip Beeby, Janet McDonald, George Mayne, Beth Raines, Diana & Joe Landsberg, Marilyn & Peter Laving, Neville Whan, Mary Reynolds, Deborah Griffin, Elizabeth & Joe Montano, Peter Anderson, Rosie Walsh, Stephen List, Michael Sweeney, Wendy Holland.

**Invited Guests:** Mark Bancroft, President MIPA, and Robyn Scrivener were welcomed.

**Apologies:** Louise Markus MP, Roza Sage M.P., Carol & Brian Carrigan (MIPA), Mary Holt, Alison & Alex Halliday, Martin Barge, Anne De Salis, Robyn and John Leonard, Kin & Tim Gow, Beverley & Graham Thompson, Judy & Graham Tribe, Milba Kirk, Jane Mayne, Maureen Ryan, David Howell, Jane Beeby, Linda & Peter Raines.

## 3. **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

It was moved, Mary Reynolds, seconded, Nancy Fox that minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2012 be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

It was moved, Ron Green, seconded Ted Griffin, that minutes of the previous General Meeting, held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

## 4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

## 5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Libby Raines presented the following report and thanked Richard England for auditing the accounts, which he does on an honorary basis.

### **Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc. Statement of Accounts 1-7-12 to 30-6-13** **Working Account**

<u>Receipts:-</u>		<u>This Year</u>
<u>2011-2012</u>		
22,000.00	B.M.C.C. Maintenance of Reserves	27,883.69
1,510.00	Membership	1,505.00
3,395.00	Website Repayments for hosting & usage	1,331.66
533.00	A.T.O. - G.S.T. refunds	1,072.66
	Rabbait	110.00
36.00	Extra phone books	46.00
	Sale of booklets	55.00
	Donations	20.00
1,030.59	Interest	867.83
33,280.47	<u>Total Receipts:</u>	<u>\$32,891.18</u>

Expenditure:-

12,035.10	Maintenance	Alan Gunn	19,310.50
445.00		Peter Raines	2,640.00
1,575.00		Micah Fink	1,890.00
2,290.00	Finsure Insurance		2,340.00
5,724.00	Website		920.00
911.40	C.W. Printing – includes phone book & brochure		1,474.78
196.00	A.T.O.	G.S.T. repayments	2,080.00
133.82	Secretary - office supplies		121.80
285.00	Service at War Memorial		200.00
	Jess Delbridge – design for brochure		360.00
	National Trust – inclusion in Garden Trail Brochure		200.00
49.00	Department of Fair Trading - annual fee		51.00
	Geoff McClintock – painting flag pole		200.00
	Tim Gow – Survey Monkey for village survey		228.00
142.00	Bank Fees		143.00
27,345.69	<u>Total Expenditure:</u>		<u>\$32,159.58</u>
	Total receipts		32,891.18
	- Total Expenditure		32,159.58
			= 731.60
	+ Carried forward		11,258.54
	Total		= \$11,990.14
5,323.76	<u>Bank Balance on 1-7-2013</u>		<u>\$11,990.14</u>
	Fixed Term Deposits:		\$18,000.00

Audited and signed by Richard A. England, Chartered Accountant, Auditor.

It was moved by Diana Landsberg, seconded Marilyn Laving that the Treasurer's report be approved.

## **6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

This report is in two sections: Progress Association Committee matters that cover the work of the Committee, and the responsibilities of the Blue Mountains City Council and the other authorities we deal with.

### **A. Committee Matters**

#### **Keeping Mount Wilson Looking Good**

A lot of work is done throughout the year maintaining the public areas of Mt Wilson. The Blue Mountains City Council provides modest funds the Progress Association spends on the maintenance of the street trees and verges, the reserves and walking tracks. Examples of work completed during the past year include restoration of areas throughout Mt Wilson damaged during the multiple visits of the crews involved in 2011 and 2012 filming *The Great Gatsby*. The eyesore of the torn out Armco barrier on the Zigzag was finally replaced and Silva Plana has been much improved.

A vote of thanks is due Judy Tribe for organising the special showing for the community of *The Great Gatsby* at the Katoomba cinema in June. It was a sell-out, it received mixed reviews from our audience, but we got a final credit: "THANKS TO THE PEOPLE OF MT WILSON".

Other work done over the past year included:

- The walking track/fire break at the back of Cathedral Reserve was cleared
- In The Avenue the area about the War Memorial was maintained including a fresh coat of paint for the flag pole. More work is under way to restore the natural fall of the land there.
- Following a big landslide a section of new path was built on the Waterfall walking track. Peter Raines and David Gunn did a great job digging out a pathway, constructing new steps and installing new safety barriers to make safe again one of the most beautiful walks in Mt Wilson.

### **Libby Raines' "2012 Bushcare Legend"**

In May there was very well deserved recognition with the Golden Trowel Trophy presented by Council staff to Libby Raines as the BMCC's "2012 Bushcare Legend" for her many years of work on the preservation of the community's bushland.

### **Communications**

The Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine newsletter *The Mounts* and the Community Website get better and better. Many people contribute input but neither would be the success they are without the ongoing work of Tim Gow and Graham Tribe.

### **Rabbits and Wild Dogs**

There continue to be reports of rabbits in Mt Wilson gardens and George Mayne continues to keep a stock of Rabbait available for purchase to control rabbits. Foxes, dingos and wild dogs, and signs of their depredations, have also been seen. It seems likely there have been so few wallabies about in recent times that the dingoes and wild dogs have become the dominant large animals for now.

## **B. BMCC & Other Authority Matters**

### **Bowens' Creek Road & Bridge and Mt. Irvine Road in the Hawkesbury LGA**

The issues of Bowen's Creek Road on our side – the BMCC side of the bridge – and its extension, Mt Irvine Road on the Hawkesbury City Council side have required a lot of attention. Thank you to everyone who sent submissions to Hawkesbury supporting retention of the road. Before the Hawkesbury Council considered the matter on 6 August we got the message to the staff and councillors with submissions, emails and publicity – in the local *Gazette* and on the ABC TV Friday evening 7.30 *Stateline* program. But the council had its position: "... the road is only of value for hazard reduction/maintenance issues" and "it is unlikely that ... this road will attract government funding ...". Nevertheless we had a win: Hawkesbury withdrew its application – Mt Irvine Road remains a gazetted road and that, as we have been told by council staff, is because of the overwhelming number of objections submitted by the people of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine. It's also good news that BMCC supports retention of Mt Irvine Road in Hawkesbury even if so far only as a "fire trail". And better still Hawkesbury Council at its meeting went one step further with its resolution it work with BMCC in "a joint approach (to) be made to the NSW Government seeking financial assistance to reinstate the road and bridge". The next challenge is to win funding for the restoration of the road. BMCC has an insurance claim in requesting assistance for repairing Bowen's Creek Road as a result of the State Government declaring the February storms a "natural disaster". The issue of the bridge is separate involving both Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury – the joint owners.

### **NSW Electoral Boundary Change Proposal Win**

"One vote, one value" is the mandate the NSW Electoral Commission has to achieve in the 93 electorates across the state. As more people have come in to the Blue Mountains area the

Commission proposed moving the electors in Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine into the Hawkesbury electorate. We worked closely with the Mt Irvine Progress Association to get the message out it is in our interest to remain linked to the Upper Mountains. Our local member, Roza Sage, is keen to keep The Mounts in her electorate. She and her predecessors have been good representing our interests. We could not expect the same level of support from the member for Hawkesbury. Thanks to the 49 people who lodged objections to the change proposal. That was a fantastic response – 49 out of the total of only 258 for the 93 electorates in the whole of the state! And it worked! The Commissioners reversed their proposal so Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine remain in the electorate of the Blue Mountains.

### **Working with BMCC**

The Blue Mountains City Council is the single authority that has the greatest influence on the appearance and upkeep of Mt Wilson. The Progress Association receives support for the costs of maintenance work we direct. Council owns the Village Hall and maintains it. Council does weed control with much help from the Bush Care Group. Council is responsible for the roads. Building on the community survey we did late last year and our submission for the Council's long term business plan, to foster our relationship with the Council Alison Halliday, Ted Griffin and Richard Beattie met with Council's General Manager Robert Greenwood and his directors Steve Corbett and Damien Drew. We discussed all the major outstanding issues with a presentation now on the website available to residents logging in. Substantial developments have happened since the meeting.

### **Elms in The Avenue to be Replaced**

The urgency for removing the failing elms in The Avenue was highlighted during the disastrous July 2011 wind storm that did so much damage to trees in Mt Wilson. Nine of the old elms in The Avenue identified by Council's expert arborist had to be removed. The trees will be replaced next winter by 12 very advanced Green Beech trees complementing others in The Avenue and recommended by the Progress Association.

### **Road Sealing**

The dirt roads in Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine are to be graded, reshaped where necessary and sealed following work by Council demonstrating the economics make sealing possible: it will be less expensive to maintain the sealed roads than regularly mobilising the Council grading crew to keep the dirt roads serviceable. Council brought in its Lower Mountains resealing project \$800,000 under budget and in less time than planned leaving funds able to be used in our area and Mt Tomah. The Progress Association has been advocating for this work to be done for many years and we are very pleased to see an important safety and access security project is to be undertaken for our communities. The work is expected to be under way in October 2013 as soon as the Council crew finish urgent repairs in the Megalong Valley.

The roads to be sealed in Mt Wilson are Farrer Road East and West, Hillcrest Lane, Stephen Lane, Du Fours Rocks Road, Applecot Lane and Wynnes Rock Road where not already sealed. Danes Way will be sealed in Mt Irvine if funds allow.

Council has written to all residents and property owners to be affected by the project. The letter also offers the opportunity for residents to let the Council know where there are springs that may not be visible except following extended wet weather and other issues they would like to be addressed during the design and planning for the new work.

### **Opportunity for home owners**

At property owners own expense, the Council is willing while its road crews and the sealing contractor are working in our area to have the crews prepare private driveways and roads and for

them to be bitumen sealed. About nine or ten requests have already been received by Council.

### **Community Service Requests**

Repair and maintenance work undertaken by Council follow applications for Community Service Requests – CSRs – initiated by the Progress Association. Anyone in the community can put in a CSR with an email or phone call to Council that can be followed up with reference to the CSR number issued with the acknowledgment of the request.

Some of the outstanding CSRs lodged by the Progress Association currently requiring Council attention are:

- Du Fours Rocks Road needs grading. It is to be sealed in the sealing project.
- The landslip on Mt Irvine Road below Wynstay is subject to a Council insurance claim. When the work is done new gabions are expected to be built not only on the affected area but extended towards Davies Lane as that embankment looks like it needs support. Council is not waiting on the outcome of the insurance claim and plans to do the work this financial year when a maintenance crew becomes available.
- The Five Mile – repaint the faded white lines, and clear vegetation obscuring roadside markers.
- Install an asphalt gutter to improve drainage outside the Village Hall.

Other site specific work requested but remaining on Council's to do list includes road edge washaways to be graded, gutter clearing, and securing with a gate the Council dump area at the bottom of the zig zag.

### **Roads & Maritime Services**

Road safety people from Roads & Maritime Services assessed our roads in May and had the new speed limit signs installed. If residents are aware of a time vehicles often speed – say on the Five Mile – the Highway Patrol can make a visit. The police say they cannot with any regularity enforce the local limits. But anyone can call the Lawson Highway Patrol – they know to expect calls from Mt Wilson. They may already have been out since the signs went up. Tradesmen and others who need to know should be aware the highway patrol might be about!

### **Endeavour Energy**

Power outages during bad weather and power shutdowns for maintenance work have been fairly frequent during the past six months. However, the very significant amount of work upgrading and maintaining the power poles and lines done by Endeavour Energy in Mt Irvine and Mt Wilson will help restrict outages to occasions when lines are brought down during storms.

### **Yulefest**

The annual Village Hall Yulefest was a lot of fun and a big success in July. More than 80 people attended including our local Member of State Parliament, Roza Sage, who mentioned she so enjoyed the evening she hopes she and her husband will be invited back next year. It was a great opportunity to discuss the issues of the Hall extension, the Bowen's Creek/Mt Irvine Road and electoral boundary issues.

### **Christmas Party**

We can look forward again to an early start for the Yuletide season with our Christmas party which will be held on Saturday, 30 November 2013.

### **Business Arising from the President's Report**

A question was raised as to whether the issue of wild dogs had been raised with NPWS. The secretary reported that contact had been made in the past with Council which requested that

residents report sighting, time and location so that a pattern could be ascertained before action could be taken. Mark Bancroft reported that MIPA had spoken to NPWS who indicated that they were willing to bait if major attacks continued.

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Hall Upgrade**

Ted Griffin reported on behalf of Judy Tribe that the fundraising appeal has been successful. \$32,000 has been donated. The fundraising account contains \$63,000, \$60,000 of which will be allocated to the upgrade. Council has committed \$50,000 and applied to the State Government for further funding. Council has been supportive but is now waiting for the State Government.

## **9. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2012/13**

The Chairman thanked the 2012/13 Committee for its good work during the year. There has been one additional nomination to join the Committee, Peter Laving, filling the one vacancy. Since the number of nominations equals the number of positions, there was no need for elections.

The Committee for 2013/14 will comprise:

President	Richard Beattie
Vice President	Alison Halliday
Treasurer	Libby Raines
Secretary	Moir Green
Committee Members	Brian Abrahams
	Ted Griffin
	Peter Laving
	Bill Ryan

## **9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

The next General Meeting will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2014  
The meeting closed at 6.35 p.m.

Signed as a true record,

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**Richard Beattie**

**Chairman**