

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

**held on Saturday, 22nd September, 2012
at 5.30 p.m. in the Mount Wilson Village Hall.**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The meeting commenced at 5.35 p.m. The President, Bill Ryan, welcomed everyone to the meeting, including invited guests, Mark Bancroft and Robyn Scrivener of Mount Irvine Progress Association and new Councillors, Robert Stock and Michael Begg, congratulating them on their recent election to Council.

2. PRESENT

Committee: Bill Ryan (President), Richard Beattie, (Vice President) Libby Raines, (Treasurer), Moira Green (Secretary), Kim Gow, Alison Halliday, Brian Abrahams.

Other Members: Ron Green, Tim Gow, Robyn and John Leonard, Owen Haviland, Susie Hope, Wendy Holland, John Holt, Robert Chesney, Peter Anderson, Loretta Beattie, John and Judy Teulon, Beth Raines, Beverley & Graham Thompson, Diana & Joe Landsberg, Marilyn Laving, Lynne & Neville Whan, Timothy Sterling-Levis, Kathleen Oakes, Rosie Walshe, Stephen List, Michael Sweeney, Maureen Ryan

Invited Guests: Mark Bancroft, President MIPA, Robyn Scrivener, Councillor Robert Stock, Councillor Michael Begg .

Apologies: Roza Sage M.P. Councillor Don McGregor, Ted and Deborah Griffin, Jane and George Mayne, Barry & Helen Freeman, Martin Barge, Anne De Salis, Jack Davies, Jill Hoskins, Janet McDonald, Mary and Ellis Reynolds, Peter Laving, Sarah Hope, Alex Halliday, Elizabeth and Joe Montano, Mary Holt.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 17th September, 2011 and the previous General Meeting, held on 17th March, 2012 were confirmed as true records of those meetings.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes that would not be covered in the President's Report.

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 1-7-11 to 30-6-12
Working Account

Receipts:-

| <u>2010-2011</u> | | <u>This Year</u> |
|------------------|--|--------------------|
| 31,834.00 | B.M.C.C. Maintenance | 22,000.00 |
| 1,620.00 | Membership | 1,510.00 |
| 3,395.00 | Website Repayments Rural Fire Service & Hist. Soc. | 955.88 |
| | Payments for listing | 1,425.00 |
| | Bazmark Films Filming in The Avenue | 5,000.00 |
| | C.P.A. Films Filming in Cathedral Reserve | 500.00 |
| | Sale of tree ferns | 290.00 |
| 495.00 | A.T.O. - G.S.T. refunds | 533.00 |
| | Extra phone books | 36.00 |
| 925.00 | Interest | 1,030.59 |
| 39,146.99 | <u>Total Receipts:</u> | <u>\$33,280.47</u> |

Expenditure:-

| | | |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| 15,584.00 | Maintenance Alan Gunn | 12,035.10 |
| 2,530.00 | Micah Fink | 1,575.00 |
| 2,160.00 | Peter Raines | 445.00 |
| | John Shaw Construction of dish drain, Silva Plana | 7,308.62 |
| 5724.00 | Website Maintenance costs | 1,881.25 |
| 779.00 | C.W. Printing | 911.40 |
| 2,245.00 | Finsure Insurance | 2,290.00 |
| 245.00 | Secretary - office supplies | 133.82 |
| 685.00 | A.T.O. G.S.T. repayments | 196.00 |
| 48.00 | Department of Fair Trading - annual fee | 49.00 |
| 192.00 | Service at War Memorial | 285.00 |
| 232.00 | Village Hall - meetings and functions | 93.00 |
| 140.00 | Bank Fees | 142.50 |
| 35,868.98 | <u>Total Expenditure:</u> | <u>\$27,345.69</u> |

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| | Total receipts | 33,280.47 |
| | - Total Expenditure | 27,345.69 |
| | = | 5,934.78 |
| | + Carried forward | 5,323.76 |
| | Total | = \$11,258.54 |
| 5,323.76 | <u>Bank Balance on 1-7-2012</u> | <u>\$11,258.54</u> |
| | <u>Fixed Term Deposits:</u> | <u>\$18,000.00</u> |
| | This includes | |
| | Money held for weed control | \$731.00 |
| | Money paid in advance for membership | \$860.00 |

Audited and signed by Richard A. England, Chartered Accountant, Auditor on 13-9-2012

The insurance policies were questioned by John Holt. It was explained that it is a requirement by Council that we be insured and Council includes payment for insurance in the annual maintenance fees. Ted Griffin is examining the policies and information regarding these will be forwarded to John and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

It was moved by Ron Green, seconded Susie Hope that the Treasurer's report be accepted. It was accepted by the meeting.

A resolution was presented that two members of the incoming committee, who are in attendance at this A.G.M., be authorised to certify for the Department of Fair Trading that this Committee submitted the financial statement in accordance with Section 26(6) of the Act, to members at this A.G.M.

It was moved by Loretta Beattie, seconded Susie Hope, that the resolution be accepted. All members were in agreement.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bowens Creek Road and Bridge

The Rural Fire Service has continued to make submissions to local Federal and State parliamentary representatives. The 2013 edition of the UBD Sydney Street Directory denotes the section of this road between Bells Line of Road and the Wollemi nation Park as "Road closed indefinitely". The intransigence of the Hawkesbury Council reached new levels with the denial of access for the RFS fundraising "Willy to Billy" fun run this year.

Damage to Village Fabric – "The Road to Recovery"

The lack of favorable weather conditions has delayed the completion of remedial work on Silva Plana and the elimination of deep rutting on the road verges. The MWPA arranged at our cost for John Shaw to do additional grading and ground works to improve the drainage of Silva Plana. The arrival of warm weather, re-seeding followed by adequate rain should rapidly transform Silva Plana's desolate appearance.

Village hall Gutter – Rain Water Ponding

The BMCC engineers and MWPA Committee members have met on site and it is now agreed what needs to be done is to fix the problem. The BMCC will include in its longer term capital works budget, a pit near the turnstile and a drainage pipe under The Avenue to Du Fours Rocks Road. However, in the short term a re-shaping of the gutter profile using hotmix to divert water away from the turnstile area is to be scheduled as part of the BMCC current capital works programme.

Garden Trail – Blue Mountains

The MWPA has agreed to participate, for a modest fee, in the production of a "flyer", (initiated by the Mount Tomah Gardens) promoting the various places of interest, including Mount Wilson, to garden lovers on both the Great Western Highway and the Bells Line of Road sides of the mountains between Richmond and Lithgow.

Endeavour Energy – Tree Pruning

Following representations to Endeavour/Integral Energy protesting the unsympathetic pruning of Mount Wilson street trees by careless contractors, we have been heartened by the appointment by Asplundh (the new contractor) of a qualified arborist to supervise pruning of visually sensitive trees in Mount Wilson. Endeavour Energy have indicated that they intend to install "bundled cables" in the area of The Avenue/ Mount Irvine Road populated by the Golden Elms which should help to minimise, but not eliminate, the adverse visual consequences of pruning.

Rural Lands Planning Study

The MWPA was disappointed with the second Community Consultation meeting held 29th August. The convenor, a Strategic Planning Specialist, lacked meeting management skills and

allowed sectional interests from Megalong Valley to dominate proceedings. The interim presentation revealed incomplete knowledge of the current range of land uses in Mount Wilson/Mount Irvine. In addition, the advice given to the convenor at the first consultation to broaden the list of invitees to better represent interested parties appears to have been ignored.

Insurance

Ted Griffin is currently studying the insurance policies of interest to MWPA and its members. At first glance there appears to be no issues of concern.

Du Faurs Lookout

Given the removal of the Trig Station at the lookout, the MWPA is investigating the possibility of having a distance/geographic identification plate installed. Permission would be required from the BMCC and/or MPWS.

Replacement of Power Poles – 5 hour road closure

Endeavour Energy has advised there is a need to replace two power poles at “Wollartukkee”. This will require the use of a large crane necessitating the closure of The Avenue/Mount Irvine Road for an estimated five hours. No date has yet been set but adequate warning will be given.

Rabbits

Sightings have been reported and given the availability of grazing a rabbit plague is possible. Residents are reminded that small quantities of “Rabbait” for use on their property can be purchased from George Mayne and this action should be taken without delay.

Relocation of Australia Post Box

The relocation has been completed and no adverse comments have been received from residents.

Vegetation Encroachment – Mt. Wilson/Mt. Irvine Roads

The BMCC has scheduled a contractor to use a “tritter” machine to trim the encroaching vegetation on both sides of the road from below the Zigzag through to the end of Mount Irvine Road. Work is to commence in a few weeks.

Mount Wilson Road/ “Five Miler” – Verge Marker Posts

Marker posts still obscured by vegetation have been drawn to BMCC attention. Initial attempts to use a ride-on slasher were unsuccessful given the slasher could not get closer than a metre to the posts. The Council has advised that a contractor will spray the vegetation remaining around the posts with a herbicide as soon as possible.

Saplings Above the ZigZag

We have been assured by the BMCC that it is regularly monitoring the eucalypt saplings growing on the earth bank above the Zigzag. Whilst it is true they are helping to stabilize the bank at this time, determining the point when the risks outweigh the benefits will present a challenge to Council.

The Mounts – Community Newsletter

Our thanks to Tim Gow for his efforts in maintaining an eagerly awaited local news service which has helped us all feel closer to the community even when we are absent.

Website

Our continuing gratitude to Graham Tribe and his team who without fanfare, work tirelessly keeping our website up-to-date. We are a very fortunate community to have such people among

us.

Business Arising from the President's Report

6.1 Bowen's Creek Bridge – Beth Raines reported that BMCC has now closed it.

6.2 Endeavour Energy – Tree Pruning – Endeavour has not committed to bundled cabling through the golden elms. Options are still being considered. If anyone wants woodchip from this pruning exercise delivered to their property, notify Moira Green who will communicate with the contractors.

6.3 Councillors. The Councillors were invited to address the meeting. Robert Stock said that it was good to hear about issues particular to Mount Wilson. Michael Begg thanked those who had voted for him and said that Beth Raines had familiarised him with the Bowens Creek issue. Both said that they would be happy to be contacted by us when assistance is required.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Resolution: that membership fees of the Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc. be increased to \$25 per annum and \$12 concession from 1st July, 2013.

Moved by Diana Landsberg, seconded Susie Hope. The resolution was passed.

7.2 The Elms in The Avenue. Libby Raines reported that BMCC had commissioned an arborist consultant to do a risk assessment and management plan on the 15 130 year old elms, following the loss of 5 trees in the last 3 years. This is the first time Council has been involved with street trees and MWPA was consulted in the process. He submitted a very detailed report which recommended the removal of trees between those lost and Church Lane. While the loss will be devastating for this generation, it is important to plan for the next generation. He recommended green beeches be used as replacement trees but should be grown up before being planted out.

Discussion followed. Joe Landsberg pointed out that elms in Church Lane are of the same age and condition and Ian McKendry of BMCC recommends they be considered for removal. This will be passed on to Council.

The use of beeches as replacement trees was questioned. The possibility of Dutch elm disease being introduced into Australia could be a problem and it was noted that the beeches in Galwey Lane planted about 30 years ago are now magnificent. Robyn Leonard commented that elms developed in USA are not subject to Dutch elm disease and have now been imported into England.

Kathleen Oakes suggested that the timber be used for street furniture.

7.3 War Memorial. Graham Thompson requested that some landscaping be done to tidy the area and to cut out the poor view at the back. Camellias and rosemary could be considered.

7.4 Remembrance Day Service. Beverley Thompson invited people to sing in the choir. The first practice is 13th October at 5.00 p.m.

7.5 Pit at bottom of Zigzag. Owen Havilland noted a new sign "No dumping of rubbish". This was erected by BMCC as the first stage in securing the site. Peter Raines had brought rubbish from the rear to block off the entrance.

7.6 Concrete block outside "Nooroo". Beth Raines pointed out that it had been designed for a seat and asked that MWPA acquire one for it.

7.7 Alison Halliday thanked Bill Ryan for being a great and generous chairman over the last few years.

9. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2012/13

The Chairman thanked the 2011/12 Committee for its efforts during the year and said that he is delighted to welcome Richard Beattie as President and Alison Halliday as Vice President. Since

all the members re-nominated and there were no other nominations, there was no need for elections.

The Committee for 2012/13 will comprise:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| President | Richard Beattie |
| Vice President | Alison Halliday |
| Treasurer | Libby Raines |
| Secretary | Moira Green |
| Committee Members | Brian Abrahams, Kim Gow, Ted Griffin, Bill Ryan |

9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 6.30 p.m.

Signed as a true record,

Chairman