

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

**held on Saturday, 18th September, 2010
at 5.30 p.m. in the Mount Wilson Village Hall.**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The meeting commenced at 5.36 p.m. The President, Bill Ryan, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. PRESENT

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

Other Members: Ron Green, Marilyn Laving, Maurice May, Tim Gow, Martin Barge, Anne De Salis, Robyn and John Leonard, Owen Haviland, Susie Hope, Florence Smart, Arthur Delbridge, Wendy Holland, Mary and John Holt, Beverley & Graham Thompson, Robert Nichol, Peter Anderson, Margaret and Stephen Dean, Barry Freeman, Loretta Beattie, Maureen Ryan, Elizabeth and Joe Montano, Beth Raines, Jane and Philip Beeby, Nancy Fox, Bruce Arnold.

Invited Guests: Peter Mann, Program Leader for Sustainable Towns and Villages, BMCC

Apologies: Councillor Terri Hamilton, Jane and George Mayne, John and Judy Teulon, Robert Chesney, Judy and Graham Tribe, Mary and Ellis Reynolds, Peter Laving, Peter Richey, Helen Freeman, Alan Rose, Sarah Hope, Alex Halliday, Michael Sweeney.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was moved, Florence Smart, seconded Nancy Fox, that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 19th September, 2009 and the previous General Meeting, held on 20th March, 2010 be confirmed as true records of those meetings. It was accepted.

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.

**Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc. Statement of Accounts 1-7-09 to 30-6-10
Working Account**

Receipts:-

Last Year

18,614

B.M.C.C.

Maintenance (More payment to come)

This Year

17,600.00

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4,880	Membership	3,660.00
	Booklets	27.50
10	Rabbait Refunds	176.00
	Extra phone books	51.00
264	A.T.O. - G.S.T. refunds	1,379.00
	Transfer from Fixed Term Deposits	2,000.00
1,420	Interest	852.79
26,124	<u>Total Receipts:</u>	<u>\$ 25,746.29</u>

Expenditure:-

(Maintenance	Alan Gunn (11,429.00 from previous year)	23,425.50
7,221	(Micah Fink Tree trimming	2,250.00
(Peter Raines Slashing	570.00
		Total – 26,245	
2,230	Insurance		2,395.00
1,158	A.T.O. G.S.T.		160.00
777	C.W. Printing Photocopying, printing		858.79
	Rabbait		112.00
45	Department of Fair Trading Annual fee		47.00
	Blaze Aid Victorian Bushfire Appeal		2,000.00
	Mudgee Tafe. Fire places for reserve		2,060.00
584	Secretary Stamps, stationary, provisions		212.50
	Mount Wilson Brochure		1,166.40
126	Village Hall - meetings and functions		261.00
	Weed spray		213.40
185	Service at War Memorial		229.79
	Groceries and wine		599.52
150	Bank Fees		172.77
16,942	<u>Total Expenditure:</u>		<u>\$38,933.67</u>

Total receipts 25,746.29

- Total Expenditure 38,933.67

= (13,187.38)

+ Carried forward 15,233.13

Total = 2,045.75

15,233 Bank Balance on 1-7-2010 \$2,045.75

Fixed Term Deposits: \$18,000.00

\$2,000 transferred to working account

Money held for weed control \$976.00

Money paid in advance for membership \$2,400.00

Audited and signed by Richard A. England, Chartered Accountant, Auditor on 3-9-2010

A question was asked regarding the nature of the insurance and the cost of it. There are two policies, Voluntary Workers and Public Liability. Council requires we have them and payment is included in the Council maintenance payment.

It was moved by Barry Freeman, seconded Susie Hope that the Treasurer's report be accepted. It was passed.

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 Barry Freeman, seconded Susie Hope, that the resolution be accepted. All members were in agreement.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bowens Creek Road and Bridge

As advised at the March 2010 General Meeting the Hawkesbury City Council proposed to seek the transfer the Bilpin section of Bowens Creek road to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service for use as a fire trail. If that proposal was rejected, the HCC would vest the relevant land in Council as operational land and approach the relevant Authority to designate it a fire trail and to provide the necessary funding to upgrade the road/fire trail to a level of service acceptable to the Rural Fire Service. The BMCC indicated that it would pursue a similar course of action in concert with the HCC. No advice that these proposals are moving forward has been received.

The Giant Tree

As many members are aware, the Giant Tree was struck by lightning more than a year ago and is dead. Despite this, many tourists still visit the Tree and are exposing themselves unwittingly to the increasing risk of falling branches. Although the BMCC agreed early this year to organize contractors to prune the Tree as soon as possible, this has yet to occur despite a number of representations to Council.

Integral Energy Generator

The installation of the emergency generator at Mount Irvine appears to be stalled due to activities by some disaffected Mount Irvine residents. These residents seem to have spawned an activist group called "Community Energy Forums". The group's message is that there are available non-polluting sources of electrical power able to satisfy the needs of Mount Wilson/Mount Irvine during power outages. Advertising 'blurb' distributed to residents/property owners of Mount Wilson/Mount Irvine (optimistically described as "supporters") is long on rhetoric and short on facts.

Fireplaces/Barbecues

The final six barbecues manufactured by metal fabrication students at Mudgee TAFE together with eight barbecues manufactured by Lithgow Valley Engineering to a modified Canadian Parks Service design, have been installed at Cathedral Reserve .

Picnic Tables

All but three of the 24 picnic tables have had "plastic" feet fitted and granite tiles placed under the "feet" to provide stability.

Parking Logs—Cathedral Reserve

Integral Energy has given a number of wooden power poles to the MWPA and the BMCC have supplied 24 concrete plinths. This will allow a number of badly deteriorated parking logs to be replaced ensuring that the integrity of the regeneration and picnic areas is maintained.

Postal Service Complaints

The quality of our postal service is of concern to a number of residents particularly as Australia Post insists that we should receive the same level of service as metropolitan customers.

However, there is a need to ensure letter boxes are large enough to receive reasonably sized parcels and is placed so that the postie/contractor can deliver mail and remain in the vehicle. Multiple complaints cannot be made by a community organization and must be made individually and personally to Australia Post either by mail or phone.

Mount Wilson Website

Some residents may have become aware that the website is in dire need of maintenance with links to a number of other websites inoperative. The current website is managed by an external

webmaster and our Website Committee, established early this year, proposes to bring the webmaster function in-house.

Street Trees—The Avenue

In an effort to improve the street-scape, ten ‘Nyssa Sylvatica’ trees have been planted on the verge in front of the Marcus Clark Reserve. The site is particularly difficult with very poor drainage and despite a love of a moist site the trees face a challenge.

Earth Bank Stability—Zigzag

The steep earth bank above the zigzag is becoming populated by eucalypts which will become a source of instability as they grow larger. This will lead, ultimately, to a collapse of the bank and a probable closure of the road as well as a risk to public safety. The BMCC has been made aware of this risk on a number of occasions but is yet to take any action.

Intruding Vegetation—Mount Irvine Road

The BMCC has yet to remove vegetation intruding on the road surface between Hillcrest Lane and Cathedral Reserve.

Picnic Shelters

Detailed information has been provided to the BMCC on the areas to be painted and the colours to be used. The Council has agreed to have the painting completed before the end of Spring (2010).

Unmade Roads (1)

Work has continued clearing exotic vegetation and rubbish from the Walford Road/Applecot Lane area. Adjoining residents have been encouraged to keep the thoroughfare mown and clear of obstruction. A pedestrian-way across the creek has been established.

Unmade Roads (2)

Locks provided by Integral Energy have been placed on “Breenhold” gates across unmade roads on The Avenue and Queens Avenue. Integral Energy has been informed that this is contrary to Department of Lands Regulations.

Coal Trucks ex Clarence Colliery

Representations were made to the RTA and the BMCC to have the weight restrictions placed on Harley Street, Mount Victoria rescinded. Happily, this has occurred and we have avoided the prospect of a B-double loaded with domestic-use coal trundling down the Bells Line of Road every six minutes!

War Memorial

Thanks to the efforts of Tim and Kim Gow the area around the War Memorial has been tidied-up in preparation for the Service on 11th November. In addition the flagpole has had its tangled wire halyard replaced allowing trouble-free raising of the flag.

Joe Landsberg and the Newsletter

The MWPA owes Joe a tremendous debt of gratitude for his editorial efforts during the last six years transforming what had become a slightly tired publication into a journal that one looked for in anticipation every quarter. We hope that the Historical Society has a complete set of Joe’s newsletters in their archive as they will be a valuable source of information on life in Mount Wilson in the first decade of the 21st century.

But life goes on and we are delighted that the new Editor, Tim Gow, has accepted the challenge to take the Newsletter forward into the second decade.

7. DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS ARISING FROM PRESIDENT’S REPORT

7.1 War Memorial. Everyone acknowledged that the area around the War memorial looks great.

7.2 Zigzag. It was mentioned that the section of the road where a nearby tree was removed appears to be collapsing. The road has not been reinforced and the attempt to fill the subsidence was unsuccessful.

7.3 Integral and Emergency Generator. Concern was expressed that the title of the

forums being set up by those opposing the generator implies community support and representation should be made to Integral that it doesn't represent the majority of the community's view. The Chairman indicated that such representation had already been made.

Motion: "Integral be informed that the installation should proceed as planned, as soon as possible".

Moved, Maurice May, seconded, Robert Nichol. The motion was passed unanimously. Integral will be notified of the decision.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Chain on Council Storage Site. Mary Holt asked if this is to be restored. It is to be.

8.2 Dingoes. Beverley Thompson reported the siting of two dingoes on 'Bisley' and the drowning of wallabies that were chased by the dingoes into the dam. Other reports of wild dogs were made. Dingoes are protected animals but wild dogs are not.

8.3 Newsletter. Kim Gow reported on plans for the Newsletter under the editorship of Tim Gow. She firstly publicly recognized the efforts of Joe Landsberg as editor for the last six years. The Progress Association has set up a Sub-committee (Alison Halliday and Kim Gow) as a conduit between the Association, newsletter and community. A working group of regular contributors has already met with Tim. As a result it was decided that:

- the title will be "The Mounts – the Community Newsletter of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine." Robyn Scrivener has accepted the role of providing regular focus on, and reporting of, the Mount Irvine community.
- the newsletter will be published six times per year
- each issue will contain contributions from all village organizations
- some issues will contain John Holt's profiles of villagers
- contributions from any members of the villages of general interest articles will be welcome

The Sub-committee and working group will continue to consult with the community about options of distribution. Due consultation will be made before changes are made.

Motion: "Appreciation of the Mount Wilson Progress Association be expressed for Joe Landsberg and his success as editor of the community newsletter for the last six years."

Moved, Ron Green, seconded Kim Gow. The motion was passed by acclamation.

8.4 Website. Stephen Dean and Tim Gow reported that a Sub-committee of the Progress Association, had met a number of times in the last 18 months to update and improve the workings of the website. It had been set up for visitors but the plan is to make it a more useful mechanism for locals, including such things as a community diary, notice board, minutes of meetings, RFS information with a link to its planned weather station and a community forum. For operating sustainability, the model needs to change. The committee recommends and seeks approval to employ a professional website designer to design, host and provide future functionality to the site. It proposes to tender for quotes, based on required parameters. Quotes would be brought back to the meeting before proceeding. It was suggested that costs could be recouped in 2 to 3 years and annual expenditure through advertising.

Discussion indicated that consultation could be taken with other nonprofit organizations, the host could be changed if necessary and that there would be private accessibility to some sections.

Motion: It was moved by Barry Freeman, seconded by Florence Smart, that the Committee be permitted to go ahead and get a tender. It was passed unanimously.

8.5 Weeds. Libby Raines spoke about three prominent weeds in Mount Wilson, *sycamore* and *acer negunda*, both of which form thickets in the rainforest through airborne seeds.

Treatment for these is to cut and poison the stump immediately (within seconds) or to kill the tree by drilling holes low around the stump and filling them with neat Round-Up (or generic Glyphosate herbicide). *Vinca* or periwinkle is a ground spreading perennial, which forms dense

6.

mats, smothering everything. It can be dug out getting the crown and root or spray with very strong Round-Up with pulse.

Libby thanked the Bushcare Group, also new property owners who have been working so well to remove weeds and the Council Bushcare Team who have been working with the community in removing weeds since the 1990s.

8.6 BMCC and MWPA. Peter Mann, Program Leader for Sustainable Towns and Villages in BMCC, addressed the meeting. He recognized that Council was slow in its response to questions raised and requests made, due in part to manpower and financial restraints. However, Council is moving forward as it is setting up a new program with a more strategic view for all townships and villages. The aim is to improve mapping of assets and planning, to document all assets to ensure all towns have the appropriate assets.

In response to some specific requests, he indicated that the drainage outside the hall would be given priority and there is some money available for it. While working on this, the poor patching on the Zigzag would be examined. Fallen and dangerous trees have been referred to the person responsible for trees. Sealing of Farrer Road West is not of high priority as there is no funding for it in the short term.

8.7 Bowens Creek Bridge. The issue of access and escape routes in case of fires was raised. Council should be aware that if something happens, there will be a verdict of negligence against them.

9. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2010/11

The Chairman thanked the 2009/10 Committee for its efforts during the year. Robert Chesney, who is not re-nominating was thanked for his eight years of service. Since there were no other nominations other than those of the Committee standing down and nominations are less than the number of positions on the Committee for 2009/10, an election is not necessary.

The Committee for 2010/11 will comprise:

President	Bill Ryan
Vice President	Richard Beattie
Treasurer	Libby Raines
Secretary	Moir Green
Committee Members	Brian Abrahams, Kim Gow, Alison Halliday,

Motion: It was moved, Robyn Leonard, seconded Florence Smart, that thanks be expressed to Robert Chesney for his service for the past eight years. It was passed by acclamation.

There is one casual vacancy and the Committee has asked Ted Griffin to fill it. He has agreed and it will be confirmed at the next General Meeting.

9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The next General Meeting will be held on 19th March, 2011.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 17th September, 2011.

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.

Signed as a true record,

Bill Ryan

Chairman

