

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

**held on Saturday, 25th February, 2006
at 10.00 a.m. in the Mount Wilson Village Hall.**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The meeting commenced at 10.17 a.m. The President, Graham Tribe, welcomed members, including Anne Mellady, a new member and invited guest, Kathy Harrington, representing the Mount Irvine Progress Association. He apologised for the delayed start caused by failure to achieve the required quorum of 29. (Two more members arrived later to meet the quorum)

2. PRESENT

Committee: Graham Tribe (President), Bill Ryan Vice President), Libby Raines, (Treasurer) Robert Chesney, Diana Landsberg, Moira Green (Secretary).

Other Members: Judy Tribe, Milba Mewburn, Julie Townend, Luigi Strano, Alison Halliday, Beverley and Graham Thompson, Elizabeth Raines, Timothy Sterling-Levis, Judith and John Teulon, Mary Reynolds, Peter Dempsey, Brian Abrahams, Wendy Holland, Anne Mellady, Helen and Barry Freeman, Patrice and Frank Fletcher, Maureen Ryan, Margaret and Stephen Dean.

Apologies: Councillor Terri Hamilton, Peter Anderson, Robert Nichol, Florence Smart, Arthur Delbridge, Maurice May, Elizabeth and Joe Montano, Kerry and Graeme Keighery, Susie Hope, Owen Haviland, Sarah Hope, Ron Green, Jane and George Mayne, Joe Landsberg, Sarah and David Howell, Vic Zuckhov, Alison Turtle, Wai and Rodger Davidson, Kathleen Oakes.

Proxy Votes :

Beverley Thompson: Susie Hope, Sarah Hope

Graham Thompson: Owen Haviland

John Teulon: Wai and Rodger Davidson

Bill Ryan: Loretta and Richard Beattie

Diana Landsberg: Joe Landsberg, Maurice May, Sarah and David Howell

Robert Chesney: Duncan Lumsden

Mary Reynolds: Barbara Harry, Hiroo Inoue

Graham Tribe: Alan Heap, Peter Anderson, Robert Nichol, John Davies, Jill Hoskin

Ron Green: George Mayne, Graeme Keighery, Florence Smart

Moira Green: Elizabeth and Joe Montano, Arthur Delbridge, Kerry Keighery, Jane Mayne

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Libby Raines presented the following report.

Working Account

Receipts:-

	Membership	2,246.00
	Rural Fire Service - Repayment for culvert, fire trail	5,500.00
407.00	A.T.O. - GST Refund	
	Repayment of leaflets	420.00
	Refunds from Rabbait sales	77.00
	Interest	591.17
	Total Receipts:	\$ 9,241.17
	Carried Forward:	\$7,968.52

Expenditure:-

	Maintenance of Reserves - Alan Gunn	4,710.20
	C.W. Printing - Printing of newsletters, meetings	361.15
	Finsure Insurance	1,003.00
	A.T.O. G.S.T.	1,078.00
	Service at War Memorial	182.05
	Secretary - stamps, stationary, groceries	415.11
	Davidson's Nursery - Beech trees (Hillcrest), fertilizer	688.95
	Tim Gow materials for steps at Founders' Corner	636.43
	Department of Fair Trading - annual fee	41.00
	Raeco International - Library supplies	93.85
	Village Hall - Hire for meetings and Christmas party	109.25
	Internet Provider	310.00
	Berkalow Books - Dr. Curry's book for library	62.50
	Bank Fees	103.00
	Total Expenditure:	\$10,870.89

Total receipts:- \$9,241.17

Total expenditure:- \$10,870.89

- 1,629.72

+ Carried forward \$7,969.52

Bank Statement on 31-1-06 \$6,339.80

Fixed Term Deposits: \$20,000.00

Total in all Accounts: \$26,339.80

Funds are earmarked for weeds programme, Waterfall Reserve, shed behind Fire Station. We are also holding \$693.00 from the film night at 'Bisley' for some landscaping work at the Village Hall.

It was moved by Barry Freeman that the report be accepted, seconded Mary Reynolds . It was passed unanimously.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

4.1 Announcements

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- **Clean Up Australia Day** - 5th March. Meet outside the Village Hall.
- **Reporting of maintenance defects to Council.**

We encourage residents to report general maintenance directly to Council, for example, potholes, drainage, etc., on 4780 5000 and ask for a reference number when doing so.

4.2 ADSL Broadband Internet

- Mount Wilson exchange is now enabled for **ADSL Broadband**. Some residents are already connected. Thanks to all residents who registered following Joe Landsberg's newsletter campaign and to Mount Irvine Progress Association, Bill Moss, Barry Freeman and Kerry Bartlett for lobbying Telstra.
- **Advantages of using broadband** are that you are connected to the internet whenever the computer is on, a monthly fee is charged, not the time spent connected, the phone can be used at the same time as it is connected to the internet, the connection is more than six times faster, it is easier to pay bills, emails arrive automatically and it is easier to order online or download big files.
- **Distance from the exchange.** Normally ADSL reaches 4.5 km. from the exchange (covering residents up to Cathedral Reserve). However, Telstra is testing whether they can extend ADSL to 8 km., which would reach to the end of Farrer Road. Also trials have commenced of a line booster which will extend the reach to 20 km. (to reach Mt. Irvine). This booster might cost \$150 to \$200 extra. All Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine residents could be covered within a few months.
- **How to get Telstra BigPond ADSL Broadband.** You can call Telstra on 131 282 or join online and order a Self Install Kit, arrange a professional Installation or choose the BYO modem option. This can also be done at Telstra shops, Harvey Norman, Dick Smith, Tandy and Retravisio. You can also purchase a self-install kit from any of the above shops then sign up for your BigPond account at www.join.bigpond.com. You can also register through Optus or your internet service provided.

4.3 Visitor Sign Outside Fire Station

This has been erected and provides visitor information about the facilities and roads of Mount Wilson. It has reduced the number of queries at the Fire Station and hopefully it will encourage visitors to use several toilet locations.

Libby Raines has also updated the sign at the post box and will do so on a regular basis.

4.4 Marcus Clark Reserve

We are now just waiting on the stamp duty waiver from the State Government. Contracts are ready for exchange of ownership from the two trustees. Exemption from Stamp Duty is holding up the transfer. Last year the Office of State Revenue declined our application to have stamp duty waived but after correspondence and a meeting with Bob Debus, in January he made a further submission. If application fails, MWPA Committee has decided to pay the duty to acquire the land. This could be \$6,000 to \$12,000 depending on land value.

4.5 Mount Wilson Leisure Library

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Opening hours are Thursday, 3.00-4.00 p.m., Saturday, 10.00-11.00 a.m. Over 1000 books are now catalogued and are on the shelves. It is manned by volunteers, Moira Green, Judy Tribe, Robert Chesney, Richard Prentice, Florence Smart, Joe Landsberg and Suzzane Daly. Residents are starting to use the library so please come and borrow books.

4.6 Ongoing Projects

Roads. Council has been approached to do some clearing on Mount Irvine Road and Mount Wilson Road to improve safety. The community will be consulted once Council has developed plans.

- **Toilets at Cathedral Reserve.** The Portaloos remain. New toilets are in Council's 2006/7 budget, one year earlier than previously. However, as this is a draft budget, we have to keep up the pressure. This will be on exhibition in April and we will organise a letter writing campaign then. Individually worded letters are preferable as form letters are counted as one.

5. DISCUSSION ARISING FROM THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- **ADSL.** The information provided will be put into the Newsletter. Judy Teulon recommended that wireless modems be considered because the area is prone to lightening strikes. Power board protection is also recommended.
- **Marcus Clark Reserve.** In answer to the question asked by Graham Thompson, the Reserve will not be subject to rates or land tax.
- **Library.** Luigi Strano has offered to use of his library to the community. This includes books on history, philosophy and linguistics. People who wish to borrow books may do so Friday to Sunday and record your name in a book.
- **Road counter.** Graham Thompson asked whether this would be returned in Spring. It was decided that it wouldn't be since we have got the data we need i.e. that visitor numbers have increased during definite peak periods and also during Christmas and January. This data will be given to people writing letters about the toilets.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Special Resolution.

To reduce the number of people required for a quorum at general meetings. In PART IV, GENERAL MEETINGS, PROCEDURE, Section 27 of the constitution,

Replace:

- (2) Twenty percent of members present in person (being members entitled under these rules to vote at a general meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the general meeting.

with:

- (2) Ten percent of members present in person (being members entitled under these rules to vote at a general meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the general meeting.

Discussion of the Resolution:

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- Wendy Holland asked why 10% not 15%. The Committee was looking to the long view as membership increases.
- Beverley Thompson read a letter from Susie Hope, speaking against the resolution. While she recognised the good intentions and efforts of the Committee, she felt 10% quorum was too small a number to determine important decisions for the whole community. (She also asked the Committee to consider the threat to remove public telephones and protect our phone. This phone is not on the list for removal but it was decided that the Committee look into it.)

- Alison questioned the number for a quorum if the Committee is included. This has been addressed in the past.
- Graham Thompson supported the reduction of general meetings from 3 to 2. This may encourage attendance and suggested we see if this solves the quorum problem.
- Barry Freeman asked whether the Committee had considered the proportion of weekenders to full time residents. Newer residents tend to be weekenders and this has been part of the planning in recommending a smaller quorum.
- Bill Ryan asked whether Saturday is the most appropriate day for meetings and suggested that they could be combined with a social activity either Friday or Saturday night. It was noted that the alternating times of day, morning and afternoon did not change the number of people attending.
- Beverley Thompson suggested that those who attend should encourage others to attend.
- Mary Reynolds stated that we need to take Susie's principal of involvement of the whole community into the consultation process. The Committee must at all times be aware of its responsibility to the community.
- Diana Landsberg suggested that if the quorum was smaller, members might be more aware of the importance of their vote so would be more prepared to attend meetings.

The resolution was moved by Brian Abrahams, seconded, Bill Ryan.

Apart from proxies which were a little under the required 75% in favour, only 9 members voted in favour of the motion. **The motion failed.**

The issue of reaching a quorum still remains. The general feeling of the meeting was that other times and options be considered. It was suggested that the AGM be rescheduled from 19th August which is the day of the RFS Bush Run and be held before the Pig and Horn evening. The RFS Committee would have to be approached .

6.2 New flag for Founders Corner has been donated by Kerry Bartlett.

6.3 RFS Update. Barry Freeman presented this on Peter Raines' behalf.

- The Brigade has recently been called out for 6 motor vehicle accidents, 2 deliberately lit fires on Bells Line of Road and 1 truck and crew were sent to the Victorian fires.
- The Fire Station is being considered as a Divisional Command Centre i.e. the station will be wired with a mast to the top of the shed for communication purposes. The RFS Committee will contribute to a higher mast to provide better quality communications. It is interested in the views of the community of having a larger mast at the back end of the shed with a view to the historical and aesthetic qualities.
- A \$40,000 grant has been approved for 2 tanks.
- The upgrading of the Mount Irvine shed is being planned. The land on which it is situated

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must be rezoned. The Council is in the process of doing this but will take at least 2 years.

- Ross Kelly has included the MWPA storage shed on the site plan of the RFS precinct.

7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 11.25 a.m.

Signed as a true record

Graham Tribe
Chairman