

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.
held on Saturday, 11th June, 2005
at 10.00 a.m. in the Mount Wilson Village Hall.**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The meeting commenced at 10.10 p.m. The President, Graham Tribe, welcomed members. He commented that it was good to see Ron Green well after a recent illness and explained that Libby Raines was absent due to an arthroscopy on her knee.

2. PRESENT

Committee: Graham Tribe, Bill Ryan, Diana Landsberg, Moira Green.

Other Members: Ron Green, Judy Tribe, Julie Townend, Philip and Jane Beeby, Barry and Helen Freeman, Mary Reynolds, Brian Abrahams, George Mayne, Wendy Holland, Graham and Beverley Thompson, Elizabeth Raines, Suzzane Daly, Patrice and Frank Fletcher, Alison Halliday.

Apologies: Timothy Stirling-Levis, Libby and Keith Raines, Maurice May, Robert Chesney, John and Mary Holt, Elizabeth and Joe Montano, Florence Smart, Arthur Delbridge, Kathleen Oakes, Peter Dempsey, Helen Banks, Ted Avery, John and Robyn Leonard, Milba Mewburn, Susie Hope, Owen Haviland, Noelle McLean, Mike McLean, Denis Daly, Maureen Ryan, Joe Landsberg, John and Judy Teulon, Jane Mayne, Alison Turtle.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Corrections were made to the minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 26th February, 2005 at the Village Hall i.e. Suzzane Daly and Graham Thompson were added to the list of those present and Beverley Thompson to apologies. It was resolved that these minutes be accepted as a true record.

4. COMMITTEE'S REPORT

4.1 Announcements

- Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Committee - Saturday 18th June 10.00 am
- Yulefest Dinner – 6.00pm Saturday 2nd July, 2005 - Tickets available from Ron, Milba & Beth. Donations for Raffle Hamper would be appreciated. Contact Mary Reynolds.
- MWPA AGM – 4.00pm Saturday 27th August, Village Hall
- Remembrance Day 11.00am 11th November

4.2 Cathedral Reserve

Work has been completed on the revised log placement providing increased parking space for campers so that camper vans and vehicles with tents attached can use the space. The cost is part of Council's agreement to spend \$10,000 to upgrade the Reserve. Logs have been pinned to the

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ground to make it more difficult to move them and concrete plinths have been used where

possible. Grass re-growth has occurred where it is protected from traffic. Entrance to top area from road into Bisley has still to be blocked off. The plan to relocate some BBQs is still to be completed.

4.3 Public Toilet Facilities

Council is reconsidering its policy on public toilets in the Blue Mountains. Some acceleration of replacement toilets in Cathedral Reserve may be possible, dependent on a Council meeting on 21st June. Portaloos may still be used for temporary toilet facilities during peak visitor seasons. Traffic data has been collected and shows a very high peak load especially in Cathedral Reserve where people camp. Historic data (from 1994-7) and new data shows a high growth in traffic. Signs are still to be erected to show locations of toilets at the Fire Station and Libby's sign at Posthouse is to be updated.

4.4 "Marcus Clark Reserve"

Both remaining trustees, the Clark family and BMCC are in support of the transfer of land to MWPA. Advice from Senior Counsel has been sought and the advice is:

- The trustees are the legal owners of the land
- The trust has failed and has no validity
- Dept of Education letter absolves us of the risk of fraud
- Trustees can act and we should deal with the trustees directly
- Sees little risk to either the trustees or MWPA and if the trustees wanted some protection MWPA could indemnify them since claims are unlikely and would be limited to the value of the land.

Maurice May has kindly assisted with land transfer documents and his office has located the original title. A submission has been made for exemption from stamp & vendor duty with the Office of State Revenue. Bob Debus is in contact with the OSR to support our case. Our case does not neatly fit the State Government guidelines and the OSR will need to take an in principle view for us to be successful. If they apply their guidelines literally, it is unlikely we will succeed. If we fail we have developed another approach to minimise any duty. Subject to agreement on an exemption from stamp & vendor duty we are close to finalising the transfer.

4.5 Mt Wilson Leisure Library

The committee comprises Moira Green, Robert Chesney & Judy Tribe. The decision to start this originated from Village survey. Nearly 1000 books have been donated, about 75% fiction other categories include, science, history, biography, etc. A cupboard for storage is in place in the Hall. Council permission has been sought and obtained by the Village Hall Committee. The plan is to open the library one afternoon a week and Saturday morning, subject to the hall being otherwise hired. We are seeking volunteers to man the library. Cataloguing should be finished and the library open some time in July.

4.6 Broadband Internet Access

There are two practical approaches to making broadband available at Mount Wilson:

- ADSL via telephone line
- Satellite

Telstra requires at least 30 people to express interest in ADSL before it applies to the government for a regional grant to cover the costs of modifying the exchange. Following our campaign we have been told 26 people have registered although the Telstra website shows four.

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We encourage anyone who has an interest even a long time in the future to register your interest on the Telstra Bigpond website. Contact Joe Landsberg if you have any questions or need assistance

4.7 **Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Roads**

MWPA & MtW & MtI RFS met with Council officers on 20th May to discuss the danger of large vehicles on the two roads. The large Cat 1 Fire truck and tourist coaches have problems with overhead clearance, effective road width and visibility around bends. Council is working on a proposal to improve overhead clearance along the roads, improve visibility around corners and reduce the vegetation right beside the Mt Irvine Rd. Once available the plan will be discussed between all community organisations before Council implements the plan. This could be divisive because of the need to cut back rain forest, but there is a safety issue involved.

Council will reseal about 4km of the Mt Wilson Rd surface from its intersection with Bells Line of Rd towards Mt Wilson in the 2005/06 financial year.

Re-growth of vegetation to the western and northern side of the intersection has reduced the sightlines for vehicles exiting Mt Wilson Rd. We have asked Council to contact the RTA to remove the vegetation. Currently there is no plan from RTA for this work

4.8 **Other Outstanding Issues**

- Mount Wilson/Mount Irvine Ratepayers Association has been dissolved. Bank accounts have been closed and sums equally shared between the Mt Irvine and Mt Wilson Progress Associations.
- Extension of responsibilities for MWPA as Council's maintenance agent. There is no change since last General Meeting. The plan is to have MWPA oversee cleaning of gutters and culverts. We will only clean those gutters and culverts Council normally cleans plus several locations where neglect has caused problems. BMCC has agreed to consider this once a specific proposal has been presented. MWPA will contract Alan Gunn for two days work so accurate costs can be developed then put a proposal to BMCC.
- Assessment of suitability of *calici* virus for rabbit control at Mt Wilson. Delayed due to low rabbit population – no change from last meeting. George Mayne has maintained contact with people who have experienced problems and the current count is five rabbits in Mt Wilson. George has some *rabbait* available if anyone has a problem with rabbits. We will continue to monitor the rabbit population.
- New Mt Wilson brochure is nearly complete.
- Clearing of public road reservations to permit emergency access and provide local walking tracks.
- Fire Station additions to provide storage shed for MWPA
- Continuance of Integral Energy bundled cabling programme
- Tree assessment and maintenance in The Avenue
- Blue Mountains Lands Rationalisation – waiting NPWS draft proposal.

5. **QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION ARISING FROM THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

5.1 **Cathedral Reserve** - Alison Halliday asked about the previous fenced area. It was reported that regrowth has occurred and that the barrier has been removed.

5.2 **Traffic Counters** - Barry Freeman commented that while coaches count as 1 vehicle, the

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number of passengers put greater pressure on the facilities. BMCC has noted this fact.

Suggestion was made that BMCC be persuaded to do follow up counts.

5.3 **Library** - It was suggested that DVDs and talking books be included. Any donations will be accepted.

5.4 **ADSL** - Suzzane Daly has experience with satellite and it is possible to get a subsidy

individually. Barry Freeman noted that he has had advice that trees need to be removed to locate the direction of the satellite effectively.

It is unlikely that ADSL would be suitable for Mount Irvine because of its distance from the exchange. The only choice there would be satellite.

Ron Green proposed that because of the political nature of the sale of Telstra, Kerry Bartlett and Bob Debus should be asked to support our application. He also commented that Integral is working on introducing broadband through electricity cables. This will be a long term project. Philip Beeby mentioned that there is the option of putting broadband through cable TV.

5.5 **Roads** - Elizabeth Raines asked whether the road near the church is to be repaired. The Chairman commented that this and several other areas have been brought to Council's attention.

5.6 **Rate Payers' Association** - it was suggested and agreed that a card be sent to Margaret and Ern Morgan.

5.7 **Rabbits** - It was reported that there were large numbers of rabbits around 'Bisley' and 'Tolimount Cottage'.

5.8 **Integral Energy** - Frank Fletcher asked if it was possible to put cables underground. (It was noted that since cables were bundled, electricity stoppages had been reduced but the cables are unsightly where they are not masked by trees.) This had previously been raised with Integral but was not acceptable because of the great cost involved and because the required cutting through roots would lead to loss of trees.

5.9 **Marcus Clark Reserve** - Beverley Thompson asked the value of the block. Valuer General's price - about \$200,000 and market value \$300,000 - \$350,000

5.10 **Silva Plana** - Beverley Thompson asked why people were not encouraged to use Silva Plana to relieve pressure on Cathedral Reserve. Comments were made that it is used but toilet facilities would not enable heavy usage there.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Moir Green presented the following report prepared by Libby Raines:

Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc. Statement of Accounts 1-1-05 to 30-4-05

Receipts:-

BMCC	Maintenance	8,800.00	
A.T.O.	GST Refund		867.00
Membership		65.00	
Rate Payers' Association		505.00	
Booklets - sold at Mountain Goat Deli and Merry Garth		125.00	
Interest		403.08	
	Total Receipts:	\$ 10,765.08	
	Carried Forward:	\$5,774.487	

Expenditure:-

Maintenance of Reserves	- Alan Gunn	3,929.20
Insurance	- Voluntary workers	730.00
Signs for Cathedral Reserve including painting		3,269.54

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C.W. Printing	Copying	106.30
Davidsons Nursery	Sprays	387.00
Secretary	Stamps etc.	

81.95

Internet Provider		199.00
Florist	Floral tribute (Amy Gunn)	50.00
Rural Fire Service	Half Christmas party expenses	227.00

Weed Eradication Programme	485.00
Deposit for Library bookcase in Village Hall	500.00
Colong Foundation Book for Hardings	50.00
Bank Fees	43.00
Total Expenditure:	\$10,049.67

Bank Balance at 1-5-05 \$6,489.89

Fixed Term Deposits: \$20,000.00

Total in all Accounts: \$26,489.89

\$2,000.00 of this total is to be used for weed eradication.

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

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Financial support for Rural Fire Service

The Chairman reported to the meeting that in 2004, the Progress Association had lent \$5,000 to the RFS to rebuild the collapsed culvert on the Northern Fire Trail, on the understanding that the RFS apply for funding and repay the Progress Association if this was granted. Barry Freeman reported that \$16,000 was being reimbursed by Council. He proposed that the Association leave the money with RFS to enable them to purchase 4 portable fire pumps. The Committee of the MWPA had two different views on the matter, firstly that the two organisations had clear roles and each one funded its own responsibilities, secondly that it was the role of MWPA to look after the community and so to assist the RFS. Therefore guidance from the members was sought. The issue was discussed and various suggestions made, namely that:

- MWPA had sufficient funds to pay for the fire pumps
- The loan could be extended for a period
- There is one community with 3 organisations each with its roles and objectives, MWPA needs to develop further projects necessary for our role. Some projects requiring funds are in hand, e.g. Marcus Clark Reserve and tree planting. Another project was suggested i.e. that money be put aside on a regular basis to put electricity cables underground
- Another example was given where total community involvement may be needed in future, i.e. St Georges Church, an important heritage item was in financial difficulty. The Historical Society couldn't carry the load alone.

A show of hands indicated that members wanted the money repaid to MWPA.

A **motion** was presented,

that if the Fire Brigade cannot raise \$5,000 for the fire pumps before the next fire season, the Mount Wilson Progress Association would donate the money to the RFS.

The motion was carried.

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7.2 Historical Society's Land Title Search

Mary Reynolds reported that a Land Title Search was being undertaken of all original 62 portions. Although a \$1,000 grant had been received this is inadequate to cover the costs involved. So far about \$2000 has been spent and the project is only half way. She indicated that any property owner interested in contributing financially would be appreciated. The research results will be made available.

The Progress Association supports this request and will encourage members to support the project. An article about the work will appear in the next newsletter.

7.3 **Library**

Beverley Thompson suggested a copy of C. H. Currey's "History of Mount Wilson" be acquired for the library. Alison Halliday proposed that a copy of a thesis on "Historical Buildings of Mount Wilson" also be acquired. These proposals will be followed up.

7.4 **Old Saw Mill**

Graham Thompson inquired whether the mill is heritage listed and what is the plan for it. Barry Freeman reported that the new owner is keen to preserve it.

8. **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

The meeting closed at 11.45 a.m.

Signed as a true record

Graham Tribe
Chairman