Minutes of Committee Meeting Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc 12 February 2016, at Kirk's Corner, Hillcrest Lane, Mount Wilson

Action items highlighted

Chairman's opening remarks	Mount Wilson looks as lush and green for mid-February as anyone seems to remember. Trees, shrubs and annuals are bursting with growth. The grass and the weeds seem to be winning every effort to keep them under control. And this summer was to be "potentially the strongest El Nino on record" with the threat of "devastating bushfires, droughts and heatwaves". We've been very lucky the climate has changed in our favour!				
Present /	Present – Richard Beattie (President), Alison Halliday (Vice President), Libby Raines				
apologies	(Treasurer), Sue Woolfenden (Secretary), Nancy Fox and Lorraine Barrett.				
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	Apologies – Ted Griffin and Peter Laving.				
Confirmation of	The minutes of the Committee Meeting of 13 November 2015, at Wedgewood,				
minutes	Smiths Road, were approved.				
Treasurer's	Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc				
report	Statement of Accounts 1-11-15 to 31-1-16				
Тероге	Working Account				
	Receipts:				
	BMCC Maintenance	17,600.00			
	ATO GST refund	264.00			
	Website Repayment for usage	150.00			
	Interest	177 <u>.94</u>			
	Total receipts:	\$18,191.94			
	Expenditure:				
	Mount Wilson Rural Contracting	7,854.00			
	Micah Fink: maintenance	960.00			
	Crawfords Earth Moving	8,940.00			
	Tim Gow: mowing part of Wynne's Reserve	400.00			
	Andrew Clark: painting signs	2,889.00			
	CW Print: newsletters, brochure	820.80			
	PC Brokers: broadform insurance	1,307.87			
	Monolith Constructions: installing seat	1,014.25			
	Insurance for Autumn Festival 2015	1,106.87			
	Probate research	175.00			
	Drinks for Christmas party	821.52			
	Printing for Remembrance Day Service	330.00			
	Bank Fees	32.00			
	Total expenditure:	\$26,651.31			
	Total receipts:	18,191.94			
		<u>8,459.37</u>			
	Carried forward	<u>19,113.58</u>			
	Total	= <u>\$ 10,654.21</u>			

Bank Balance 1-02-16 \$10,654.21

\$25,000.00 Fixed Term Deposits:

Tim Gow will be reimbursed for mowing part of Wynne's Reserve on a regular basis. He has been doing this in a voluntary capacity, when mowing the grounds of St George's Church.

The committee discussed the proposition that we develop a formal budget for each year, which could also act as an annual report and an extended work plan. Libby made the point that as BMCC reimburses MWPA for the work done, a plan is not necessary. She outlined the history of the development of the process by herself and Susie Hope when working with Alan Gunn. At present, BMCC has agreed to an amount of \$40,000 per annum, for work completed by Mt Wilson Rural Contracting. This is paid in four instalments, upon receipt of an itemised account of work completed by Mt Wilson Rural Contracting. The next instalment is due in May. The funds are not forwarded by BMCC unless a claim is sent by MWPA. We are the only village in the Blue Mountains who have this arrangement with BMCC.

Richard stated that the additional funds from the Autumn Festival enable us to do more work around the village. These projects are on a longer time frame and require planning.

The Autumn Festival committee has a budget detailing outgoings and projected income. In 2015 the insurance bill came in after the event. Nancy asked if the Treasurer's report could itemise receipts and expenditure in two sections – BMCC and Autumn Festival. This would make it easier to reconcile the Festival budget and the Treasurer's report.

As a start, Nancy proposed that the Treasurer's report lists reimbursables from BMCC separately. Richard stated his preference for an income and expenditure document. The issue will be further discussed.

Correspondence

In

09-01-16

22-11-15	Graham Tribe to Secretary re Renewable Energy Co-Op
26-11-15	Anita Kazis, BMCC, to Secretary expressing thanks for donation to Community Christmas Giving Tree
26-11-15	Cameron Lownds, RFS, to Peter Laving, MWPA re funding of Marcus Clark Reserve environmental assessment
07-12-15	Peter Piggott to President re Western Sydney Airport EIS submission
09-12-15	Dominic Perrottet MP to Tim Gow with copy of Jeff Organ, HCC, letter re HCC resolution to work with BMCC to Bilpin to Mount Irvine fire trail.
14-12-15	Brett Simpson to President re personal WSA EIS submission

Graham Tribe to President asking for MWPA agreement to seek quotes

	for website upgrade
10-01-16	Graham Tribe to President expressing thanks for agreement to contribute to website upgrade
11-01-16	Judy Tribe, MWVH, to President seeking funding of Pergola Shading Project at the Village Hall
18-01-16	Judy Tribe, MWVH, to President discussing an alternative pergola
19-01-16	Brad Moon, Monolith Constructions, to Secretary acknowledging letter of thanks
01-02-16	Peter Piggott to Secretary regarding outstanding fees
01-02-16	Judy Tribe to President, regarding the outcome of the meeting re shading at the MWVH
07-02-16	Mount Wilson Rural Contracting confirming David Gunn will work with Peter Raines on work for the MWPA and is covered by insurance
07-02-16	Tim Gow to President, forwarding correspondence from Dominic Perrottet, MP, Member for Hawkesbury regarding Bowen Creek fire trail
Out	
22-11-15	Secretary to MWPA Committee re BM Youth Council request for a Christmas charity donation
26-11-15	Secretary to Kiralee Roscoe-Bynon & Anita Kaziz, BMCC, pledging a donation to the Community Christmas Giving Tree
26-11-15	Secretary to Keith Ralston finalising documentation for Toyota Community Grant
26-11-15	Secretary to Milba Kirk, MWVH booking dates for 2016 meetings
04-12-15	President to BMCC seeking clarification of new bin sizes
07-12-15	President to Peter Piggott re MWPA WSA EIS submission
11-12-15	Secretary to CW Print re brochure order
14-12-15	President to Brett Simpson re Western Sydney Airport EIS submission
17-12-15	President to Western Sydney Airport EIS submission
10-01-16	President to Graham Tribe agreeing to contribute to website upgrade,
	querying MIPA contribution and possible involvement of Ashley Phillips
11-01-16	President to Graham Tribe re MIPA contribution and possible involvement of Ashley Phillips
11-01-16	President to MWPA Committee re funding of Pergola Shading Project at the Village Hall
14-01-16	President to Judy Tribe, MWVH confirming MWPA will pay for the Village Hall Pergola Project
14-01-16	Secretary to Milba Kirk, MWVH seeking confirmation of meeting dates

15-01-16	Secretary to Brad Moon, Monolith Constructions expressing thanks for his work
01-02-16	Secretary to non-financial members reminding of outstanding fees
01-02-16	Secretary to Piggott, Waters, Fletcher and Pembroke regarding overdue payments for website
02-02-16	President to Judy Tribe supporting the proposed solution for shading at MWVH

Business arising from minutes of the meeting held on 13.11.15

1. Bilpin to Mt Irvine fire trail

Tim Gow received a letter from Dominic Perrottet MP confirming HCC Director for Infrastructure Services, Jeff Organ, saying the council is continuing discussions with BMCC "to carry out the necessary steps to enable grant funding to be sought." Elizabeth Montano is continually following up this issue. Richard will follow up the letters we have sent. The emergency services minister needs to address this.

2. Mobile phone and data service in Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine

There have been no further developments with the Mount Tomah tower.

3. Western Sydney Airport noise issue

Our submission to Air Services Australia on the Western Sydney Airport noise issue was lodged on 17 December and subsequently acknowledged by the authority. Brett Simpson lodged a personal submission. Henric Nicholas was appreciative and commended Brett on his submission. The MWPA's submission was based on advice from Ted and Peter Piggott. We did not want a change that would be worse for us.

An article on WSA for The Mounts December issue encouraged community members to add their voices by way of personal submissions to ASA on the WSA flight path recommendations in the Environmental Impact Statement.

A BMCC Mayoral Reference Group of eight members is to be established with eight community representatives to be selected. A decision was made not to send a representative to this group.

4. Coal waste discharge into the Wollangambe River

Alison's report on research into coal waste discharge into the Wollangambe River was discussed and she outlined the following issues.

The Wollangambe is now a significantly polluted river. Spillage from the Centennial Coal Clarence Colliery last July has further complicated matters. The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is the state government body with responsibility for the issue. The EPA website http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au contains media releases which provides up to date information. Canyoners and bushwalkers have provided information to the EPA regarding the state of the river. Centennial Coal (an overseas company) currently meets legislative requirements but this is not preventing further pollution. One current risk is if the remediation cost is too great Centennial Coal may close the mine as nonprofitable and vacate the site without complete remediation. If the mine was to be closed and remediation put in place the river would recover quickly. Legislation to tighten the standards on allowable pollution is proceeding. Alison has spoken to Louise Markus MP and she is investigating the status of legislative change with the state member Trisha Doyle. Alison will contact Trisha Doyle for a response to the issue.

Alison believes MWPA should pursue the issue. Ian Wright, Colong Foundation and the Blue Mountains Conservation Society, believes the communities of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine should be involved in the issue. Ian Wright is willing to address a meeting of the Progress Association. Alison will present a report at the GM and the community will be asked if they would like Ian to speak at the AGM. Alison will contact Ian.

5. MWPA/BMCC current issues report and responses

Peter L emailed his report to Richard on 2/2/16 & 3/2/16

- Traffic counter purchase and installation It will provide data that can
 be used to count visitors during the Autumn and Spring Festivals and
 inform submissions regarding Bowens Creek. Maintenance needs to be
 considered as previously they have broken so we need to ensure there is
 a warranty. Ash Phillips will be asked to work with Peter L re installation
 and maintenance.
- Reclaiming Tony Crawford's costs from BMCC Peter L will get a representative from BMCC to observe the work completed and then ask to whom the bill should be sent:
- A claim will be made for work completed by Tony Crawford when the areas that he worked on are cleaned up and photographed.
- A request was made for quotes from Tony Crawford.
- Project Swamp shale and clay soil are in this area. Further
 consideration need to be given as to whether we do something about
 this in the future. Lorraine asked if the nyssas could be moved and
 replaced with taxodiums. The branches from the cypress pines are
 inhibiting the growth of the taxodiums. The dead nyssa will be replaced
 with a taxodium and the performance observed.
- Project Culverts requiring a record/spreadsheet of all culverts to be made by Richard and Peter has yet to be given substantial consideration, however, Peter has obtained CSN 218972 requiring the culverts to be cleared as soon as possible. Near Silva Plana, the pipes have a considerable amount of soil and would need high pressure water to clean them. Libby has a map of all the culverts.
- A request has been made to BMCC re zig zag gutter clean up Peter L to advise further. A CSN 218970 has been issued.

6. Marcus Clarke Reserve RFS APZ clearing proposal update

Following BMCC's Program Leader Bushfire & Emergency Management Peter Belshaw writing saying Neighbourhood Safer Places "present some challenges"

there has been no further formal communications on the proposal. However, the project continues to look unlikely for funding.

Peter L contacted RFS's Cameron Lounds again re the payment of \$2,859 for the MCR environmental report and received an unsatisfactory response. In view of the implicit approval from Cameron Lounds for us to go ahead to obtain the report, and the then fears of a disastrous El Nino dry summer approaching we need to decide on whether to take further action. The RFS manager, Nika Fomin, would most likely simply reiterate the Lounds email which she no doubt approved. The committee considered the options of approaching Trish Doyle MP, first confirming with David Howell whether pursuing the claim would nor be an issue for our local RFS, or discontinuing with a formal letter of disappointment about how MWPA had proceeded in the best of good faith. The decision was made for Richard will write to Trish Doyle MP, with appropriate documentation and ask her to intervene.

7. Toilets

There has been little response to the letter sent to BMCC for the same standard of toilets as the rest of the mountains. An exception has been contact with Peter L about the Silva Plana toilets saying they are now accessible but still need a repair of the door latch. A cleaner will be at Mount Wilson to clean the toilets on the Autumn Festival day at a cost to the Festival budget (\$250). Richard will write to the General Manager expressing our disappointment and asking for further action.

Additional toilets for the Festival are very expensive; Nancy is pursuing this

8. Proposal for MWPA, MWMIRFB, VH meeting

Richard has spoken with Joe Montano (School Council) about the proposal. There is no present need for a meeting of the organisations about suggestions for improvements in the MCR, VH, fire shed and War Memorial area because of the uncertainty of the RFS NSP proposal.

Richard has not requested all the Mount Wilson organisations for information to publish an annual calendar in *The Mounts* with the dates of their major public events. This needs to be followed up including the calendar for the Mount Wilson Bush Care Group for which Libby has provided a schedule. The secretaries of the organisations to liaise and update the website.

9. MWPA work for BMCC

The report on the extensive work done during the last quarter by Peter Raines' Mount Wilson Rural Contracting was detailed. Peter advises David Gunn is now employed by MWRC and is covered on the company's workers' compensation policy and will also be covered by its public liability policy while working on MWPA jobs. The plan is to do MWPA work most Wednesdays with Peter doing a half - day and Dave doing a full day. This should help move the jobs along and allow some of the jobs that have been on the list for a while to be done. Peter is now working at Clarence five days a week on an afternoon shift rather than 12 hour night shifts Friday to Sunday.

The MWPA work planned for this year:

AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Clear APZ at back of school Additional parking in DuFaurs Rocks Road & below Fire Station Improve walking tracks on either side of Ferny Corner Tidy up School yard for markets

ONGOING WORK

Clearing / trimming Silva Plana – to allow vision under trees from top of zig zag Silva Plana – Clean-up & pile burn fallen tree & stumps Fence line of Milparra – towards Hay Lane Sloan Reserve - Clear low branches

TREE TRIMMING

Liquidambars at Cathedral Tulip Trees in Queens Avenue **Founders Corner** Lindens on Waterfall Rd Tulip Trees in The Avenue outside Breen's Placing additional log barriers at Cathedral Reserve Removal of surface rock (primarily Waterfall Reserve) Finish cleaning fire pits Levelling & fixing picnic tables Wood chipping around trees (ongoing) Weed removal & spraying (ongoing) Top dressing over exposed roots (The Avenue & Founders Corner) Need soil?

WALKING TRACKS

Upgrade & re mark DuFaurs Rocks walking track Mark & complete Sunday walk spur / old zig zag walking track

Clear area under cherries opposite Windyridge Clear area opposite Cathedral Reserve from old Mill to Northern Fire Trail Slash Walford Road

DRAINAGE

Clean out and re-contour drains in The Avenue Opposite Maple Lodge At Silva Plana entry

A community member has suggested Silva Plana be mowed more frequently. In growing season the grass and weed flowers quickly make it unplayable. The suggestion was made for it to be cut in season and whenever necessary every two weeks to maintain it in playing condition. The committee felt the growth this year has been unusual so the schedule will remain at 8 cuts a season. Before Easter, the ash in the fireplaces needs to be cleaned out. Richard to send Peter R a note and ask him to do this.

Peter R has sent Richard a list of other suggested significant work, which they will discuss further, before bringing the ideas to the Committee.

10. Marcus Clark Reserve – surrounds and street trees

Plans for the trees bought for planting in autumn were considered. The maples

for the street are coming in March. Libby, Alison and Lorraine will consider what should happen with the silver birches and the strip at the top of the zigzag. Rosemary for the war memorial and a small horse chestnut where there is a gap in The Avenue are to be planted. Two old conifers need to be removed from the War Memorial and the new trees planted. Libby will discuss with Peter R as to the optimal time to plant.

There has been adverse comment about the rock cairn. The committee decided to wait until the maples are planted and review the appearance.

There is further clearing of underbrush to be done at the corner of The Avenue and Queens Avenue so the vista of Silva Plana is clearly seen. It would be preferable if this could be done before Easter. Richard and Peter R have agreed on the work still to be done. The aim is to have Silva Plana used more to take the pressure off Cathedral Reserve. The other aim is to improve the vista as you come into the village. Peter R will finish the work and then the committee will reconsider the area after the autumn festival.

Confirmation is needed that MWRC has removed the dead eucalypt at Milparra. Libby will poison the ivy growing up the trees, with Milba's consent, when Peter works there.

Tom Breen has agreed to pay half the cost of Peter Raines' quote for clearing inside and outside Breenhold in The Avenue and all of the cost of replacing the street fence. He has bought a cherry picker that can be used without the need to hire climbers. Peter R is to discuss the process with Peter Kerstens.

On the Festival Day, the new grass needs to be protected. If possible, avoid parking here, due to the money that has recently been spent.

11. Mt Irvine Road golden elm and copper beech lopping.

Ted proposed we ask a private contractor to give a quote on what could be done - Richard to follow up. Richard proposed a community representative be on site when the trees are pruned. Both items are yet to be actioned.

12. Weed eradication

Micah has been successful eliminating weeds on the fenceline at Yengo and Coolangatta and along Wyndham Avenue. The ivy growing up the trees has yet to be done. He has had success removing agapanthus using Grazon. The Bushcare group had a bird watching morning. Carol Probus presented a wonderful morning, identifying birds in Cathedral Reserve. Koochinup Park owns the land below Wynnstay and there is a big problem with weeds, particularly holly. BMCC will follow up with the Estate of the property. Lorraine will speak to Barry Byrne and give the solicitor's name to Libby as he comes regularly to manage and there are workers who come each week to maintain the property.

13. Signs repainting

With the clearing of the underbrush at Silva Plana at the corner of The Avenue and Queens Avenue, it's proposed the SILVA PLANA sign at the ground entrance be moved to the street corner and a new, smaller sign with an arrow be placed at the driveway entrance: SILVA PLANA PICNIC AREA PLAYING FIELD TOILETS

14. Proposal of Barry Byrne for pole removal outside Bebeah

Barry spoke with Lorraine and Richard before Christmas reiterating his wishes and saying no one else in the community had logs placed halfway along their street fence with picnic tables. He wants them removed. During the committee discussion these points were made.

- The tables have been there for 70 years.
- The committee's previous decision was the poles need to be moved back and one table moved across the road.
- There was division on the discussion, regarding streetscape, aesthetics of the poles, parking & the history of the area.
- A decision was made that the issue would be held over until the next meeting after the Festival.
- A recommendation was made that the issue be taken to the community.

15. Report on Mount Wilson Festival preparations for 16 April 2016

Nancy provided this update. The Community Website and Facebook page are advertising the event. The Facebook page has had many hits. The Market will be at the Study Centre. Iris Property will provide \$750 as sponsorship for the tearoom which will be in the Village Hall. The signage will be subtle. Friends of the Botanic Gardens will be here. Seven nurseries have confirmed their presence. Greener Nursery may also attend. Nancy is liaising with artisans. Sean from Bilpin Cider will have a stall providing tastings. The RFS will help organise a bus to do a circuit. There are already a number of bookings through Tribooking. Kuringai Horticulture Society has a group of 45 people that will go to Bisley and Wildenstein.. Lorraine is organising a "thank you" barbeque for volunteers for Sunday lunch. The Festival Committee has spent more money on investments this year but still will make a profit.

The Festival Committee has an expanded group to cover the sizeable workload. Stephen Dean will manage the sausage sizzle, Sue Woolfenden the tearoom at the village hall & Ann Piggott the "en plein air" painters. Steve Woolfenden will be asked to take photos on the day, which can be used for follow up on the Facebook page and for advertising in 2017. Nancy has spoke to Allen Hyde re the involvement of Mt Irvine. The nut-collecting season may be finished by 16 April. The Historical Society has agreed to open the Turkish Bath. Nancy has been coordinating with Judy Tribe (RFS) to support the Spring Festival. The Festival this year may make less money than 2015, however, there will be more investment in the community.

16. Offer of donation of John Holt plaque to Historical Society

This issue has been happily concluded with Mary Holt at the Society's invitation being very pleased to have addressed a Society meeting on John's life and the story behind his award of the Olympic team membership recognition.

17. New brochures for spring

The treasurer has not yet received an invoice for the brochure production. Sue to follow up, along with a letter of thanks to Jess Delbridge on behalf of the committee.

The committee discussed whether the brochure Walks of Mount Wilson by

Libby Raines should be reprinted. The brochure needs revision before publication. The brochure could be available at the Mount Wilson stall for the Autumn Festival 2017, with proceeds going to The Study Centre.

18. Communications and December issue of The Mounts

The website team of Graham Tribe, Tim Gow, Stephen Dean and Steve Woolfenden have reviewed our contract with the web site supplier and decided to change from the now Melbourne-based Oley to the Katoomba firm iVent. Both provided similar quotes for the re-design and maintenance work but iVent uses Joomla for its core processing while Oley is moving to other software and for our site Joomla is the preferred package.

We have their invoice for \$7,488 and now need to pay a 25% deposit to start work on the website upgrade - \$1872.20. The other local organisations, The Historical Society and the Fire Brigade have agreed to share the costs 1/3 each.

As we will need Oley's support during the 8-10 week development of the new website, and this is includes the Autumn Festival period, the team's plan is to delay advising Oley for a few weeks and to keep this decision confidential.

Alison and Richard provided the input for the MWPA contribution for the December issue of *The Mounts* with an expanded column including more details reporting on and promoting the work of the MWPA. There was a general statement about contacting the members of the committee with ideas, issue, or concerns, and at the Christmas party I invited approaches to the committee.

The MWPA contribution to the February edition of The Mounts had minimal copy and no pictures. We need to contribute more to encourage the community to engage and support the work we are doing.

Next issue of the Mounts: Libby was asked to include some information on weed eradication and the Bushcare group's bird watching morning.

19. MWPA MWMIRFB Christmas party arrangements

The Christmas party arrangements were reviewed and the evening was deemed to be successful. The venue worked well, food and wine were excellent and the atmosphere was festive. There are 18 bottles of wine left, still being stored at the Woolfenden's. This year we need to clarify who is leading the carols.

General Business

20. MWPA interest in MWMIRFB shed extension

Richard has spoken with David Howell and requested MWPA be involved with two interests in the shed extension – two additional toilets for use during peak visitor periods and the Association's storage facility for spare bins, fertiliser and equipment. The RFS will not pay for "community use" toilets - BMCC or MWPA would have to pay for them. There are some funds available for the storage facility. The MWPA has made a commitment to making payment to the RFS. The committee discussed whether we should make representation to David Howell that we will ask that BMCC make additional funds available for third and fourth toilets. The decision was made that additional toilets are needed at Cathedral Reserve rather than in the village centre as we have new toilets in the village hall. Richard to ring Peter R and inform him of the decision.

	21. Village Hall Committee request for MWPA to pay for pergola extension Judy has requested we consider allowing the VHC AGM immediately after the MWPA AGM. Further action on the pergola extension is awaiting the decision of BMCC as to whether a DA is needed. The committee decided the decision should be left to the MWVH committee. As Ted is on both committees he is able to liaise and provide feedback to the committees.
	22. Signage for the Turkish Bath Museum Milba Kirk had asked for advice about how the Historical Society could have a brown tourist sign, directing visitors to the Turkish Bath Museum, installed at the zigzag. Sue to email Milba advising that The Historical Society can contact BMCC directly. Dates when the Turkish Bath is opened should be on the calendar on the website.
Date/location next meeting	Committee Meeting: Friday, 8 April 2016 at Nooroo, Church Lane.
Close	The meeting closed at 11.10 pm. Allison was thanked for hosting the meeting.