

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

**Held on Saturday, 19th March, 2011
in the Mount Wilson Village Hall, The Avenue, Mount Wilson.**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The meeting opened at 5.35 p.m. when the Chairman welcomed everyone.

2. ATTENDANCE

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

Other Members: Alex Halliday, Mary Reynolds, Susie Hope, Tim Gow, Robert Nicol, Peter Richey, Judy Tribe, John Leonard, Robert Chesney, Maurice May, Jane and George Mayne, Wendy Holland

Apologies: Ron and Moira Green, Eleanor Gibbs, Martin Barge, Anne de Salis, Peter Laving, Deb Griffin, Graham Tribe, Milba Mewburn, Ellis Reynolds, John and Judy Tulon, Joe and Elizabeth Montano, Diana Landsberg, Maureen Ryan, Loretta Beattie, Elizabeth Raines, Peter Raines, Sarah and David Howell, Brian Carrigan, John and Mary Holt

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Libby Raines presented the following report:

Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc.

Statement of Accounts 1-7-10 to 1-3-2011

Working Account

Receipts:-

B.M.C.C. Maintenance of reserves and parks	22,463.51
Membership	1,100.00
A.T.O. G.S.T. refund	55.00
Refunds for website from RFS and Historical Soc.	1,957.84
Refunds for Rabbait	79.20
Silent auction held at Christmas party	650.00
Interest	<u>558.00</u>
Total Receipts:-	\$26,863.55

Expenditure:-

Maintenance - Alan Gunn	7,965.10
Maintenance - Micah Fink	2,030.00
Finsure Insurance - broadform	1,360.00
Olley Media Group – website	4,559.00

Fireplaces for Cathedral Reserve	4,176.00
Hartley Nursery for Nyssa trees	232.00
Secretary - Office supplies	245.58
Service at War Memorial	192.99
Department of Fair Trading	48.00
Village Hall - meetings and gatherings	52.50
Rural Fire Service – shared takings of Xmas silent auction	325.00
Rabbait	134.95
A.T.O.- GST payment	685.00
Drinks @ Christmas Party	88.00
Bank Fees	<u>92.00</u>

<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>\$22,871.23</u>
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Total receipts	26,863.55
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- Total expenditure	22,871.23
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=	(3,992.32)
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+ Carried forward	<u>2,045.75</u>
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<u>\$ 6,038.07</u>

Bank Balance 1/3/2011 \$6,038.07

Fixed Term Deposits \$18,000.00

Money held for membership:- \$2,600.00

Weed control:- \$976.00

G. Thompson questioned the expenditure of maintenance being much greater than the income. It was explained that it was because of the timing of the submission of accounts. It will even out during the year.

It was moved, Alex Halliday, seconded Ted Griffin that the report be approved. It was approved.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Integral Energy

Installation of the emergency generator at Mt Irvine has been delayed while testing of an identical one at Colo is carried out. There has been some opposition to the installation of the generator which is not seen as valid; and the Village community supported the installation at the AGM

Bowens Creek Road and Bridge

There has been no change in the situation but the potential new member (after the State election) Roza Sage has been fully briefed.

Picnic Tables

These are still awaiting painting in all Reserves pending available funds at the BMCC. There was a suggestion that voluntary locals may care to carry out the work. It was pointed out that this was not possible.

Bells Line of Road/RTA 'expressway' information session

Brian Abrahams attended this briefing and reported that he found it to be of little use. A useful web link is: <http://www.bleg.com.au>

Clean-Up Australia Day

For the first time it was organised by Committee member, Brian Abrahams, and he was assisted by willing helpers from the community. Over half a large skip of rubbish was collected; and all involved deserve a special vote of thanks for their hard work.

Remembrance Day 11 November 2010

This was well attended and smoothly organised. A short presentation was given by Alison Halliday on two people on the memorial. Brian Abrahams has taken over organising this event for 2011

'The Mounts' - Community Newsletter of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine

Many thanks to Joe Landsberg for setting such a high standard and now to Tim Gow for taking over the editorship. It continues to be an outstanding success. The newsletter is being electronically distributed to those who can receive it in this manner.

Mount Wilson/Mount Irvine website

Phase one has been a brilliant achievement by the whole 'team' (Tim, Graham, Luke and Michael). Tim Gow reported that it has become a large website with over 190 pages, including 132 images by professional photographers. In February there were 851 separate hits, with each visitor reading many of the pages and downloading information. The second phase of building will focus on the secure area of the site. The third stage will be some general sessions for the whole community. The team were thanked by general applause.

Blue Mountains City Council

We have been told that there is a \$7 million funds shortfall which is impacting on the works programme. Richard Beattie, having met with senior management, spoke about some of the issues to illustrate the lack of action, a situation which apparently will not be changing. He mentioned the following examples of inaction: the road gutter outside the Village Hall (especially relevant today as it was raining), the dumping ground at the base of the zig-zag, the trimming of the giant tree, fallen trees in several places in the Village.

He reported that the Council have repaired Farrer Road West, which had become unusable after heavy rain. The Council have also slashed the verge bank on Mt Irvine Road between Hillcrest Lane and the Cathedral Reserve. **Please see business arising for the ensuing discussion.**

Integral Energy

A request was put in for underground cabling on Mt Irvine road to reduce the impact of pruning on the golden elms. This was refused. **Please see business arising for the ensuing discussion.**

Proposed Federal Government Laws Banning Propagation/sale of Selected Native (and exotic) Plants.

This proposed legislation was brought to the attention of the meeting. It has been reported in Sydney newspapers.

Street Trees in Mount Wilson – policy & guidelines

A document was available to all present. Alison Halliday spoke briefly to this, pointing out that the BMCC ceded responsibility for maintenance of the trees to the MWPA; and that the information given covered the responsibility for the trees, and a short history of the various species and where they had been planted.

MWPA future funding

The President presented some possible options, including the possibility of broadening the member base. **Please see business arising for the ensuing discussion**

Roads – deteriorating condition.

Various options were presented including the use of local contractors, and BMCC funding. The safety of unsealed roads was also raised.

Postal Service Complaints

Individuals should write to Ms. Amanda Gibson, National Resolutions, Australia Post, GPO box 9911, Brisbane, QLD 4001

Business Arising from the Report

(a) There was strong discussion about the state of the Village Hall road gutter and the lack of Council responsibility and action.

The following motion was put: That the MWPA seek Council approval to immediately fix the inadequate drainage of the existing gutter on both the pedestrian and car access points. If this is not done by Council itself then the MWPA should seek alternatives ways of fixing the problem. Proposed: Graham Thompson, seconded Anne Pigott. Passed unanimously.

The following discussion raised additional points: it may be useful to write individual letters of complaint; the situation is a health and safety hazard, the possibility of some monetary contribution to total costs by MWPA, the importance of talking to the general manager of BMCC and informing the Council's legal officer.

(b) The Committee was asked to approach Integral energy about the possibility of bundle cabling the wires that run through the golden elm street trees.

(c) Some questions were asked about the role of the street tree committee but since Libby Raines had left the meeting due to an emergency rescue these could not be answered.

(d) It was felt that the Membership of the MWPA should continue to be restricted to residents and landholders; and that any future fund raising should be by means other than increasing memberships to those outside the existing criteria.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Libby Raines talked about the invasive weed honeysuckle. Please see attached copy of her notes.

5.2 The community was reminded about the ecological talks to be given on Saturday 2 April. The research for the wombat investigation was sponsored by John Holt.

5.3 Mary Reynolds said that there was much useful information about the street trees in the archives.

6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.

Signed as a true record

Bill Ryan.

President

HONEYSUCKLE – Japanese

Report on this weed by Libby Raines

A vigorous fast growing climber from China and Japan producing a tangle of twining woody stems. It is found everywhere on the Mountain: in gardens, roadsides, bush, rainforest and in the grass.

The leaves are oval in shape and in opposite pairs along the stems. The flowers are tube-like and fragrant, ranging from white to yellow in the summer. In autumn shiny black seeds form and these are spread around the Mountain by birds.

If a seed roots near a tree the shoots will quickly spread up the tree or shrub forming a blanket over the canopy and eventually smothering the plant. The seeds will also germinate in the grass and you can see how quickly it can spread by rooting along the stems in all directions away from the original plant.

When removing honeysuckle from a tree cut the stem as near to the ground as you can and then paint the stem quickly with neat Roundup or glyphosate; or you can scrape the stem with a sharp knife and paint the wound. Leave the honeysuckle in the tree to die as you may damage the host plant if you try to pull it down.

Honeysuckle is very hard to remove from the ground as it can travel so quickly beneath the grass or ferns and root again and again. Try to dig it all out, gathering all the long stems and roots as you go. You can cut or scrape and paint the stems. Sometimes you have to resort to spraying but remember if you use glyphosate or roundup you will also kill all the grass or any other plant which receives the spray.

As with any work on removing weeds remember the follow up work months or years later is always necessary.

Don't forget our Bushcare group meets every second Friday of the month from 9-12 at different locations around the Village. I would love you to join us in this essential work.