

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

**held on Saturday, 22nd September, 2007
at 5.30 p.m. in the Mount Wilson Village Hall.**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The meeting commenced at 5.35 p.m. The President, Bill Ryan, welcomed members and invited guests, Councillor Terri Hamilton and Ray Harrington, President of the Mount Irvine Progress Association. He apologised for the change of date for the AGM and explained that General Meetings from now on would be held in September and March.

It was announced that there is a new member since the last meeting, Martin Barge, and that four members or past members had died, Avis Bills, Jim Prentice, Ern Morgan and Neville Waller.

2. PRESENT

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

Other Members: Ron Green, Timothy Stirling-Levis, Jane and George Mayne, Joe Landsberg, Alan Rose, Mary Reynolds, Barry and Helen Freeman, Florence Smart, Arthur Delbridge, Richard and Loretta Beattie, Maureen Ryan, David Howell, Elizabeth Raines, Robert Nichol, Peter Anderson, Suzzane and Ricananda Daly, Judy and Graham Tribe, Robyn and John Leonard.

Invited Guests: Councillor Terri Hamilton, Ray Harrington

Apologies: Martin Barge, Susie Hope, Owen Havilland, Alison Halliday, Noelie and Mike McLean, Sarah Howell, Peter Dempsey, Kathleen Oakes, Margaret Wickins, Bruce Knott, Graeme and Kerry Keirghery, Graham and Beverley Thompson, Margaret and Peter Richey, John and Mary Holt, Milba Mewburn, Julie Townend, Peter Raines, Brian Abrahams.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Barry Freeman moved, seconded, Graham Tribe, that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting on 19th August, 2006, be confirmed. Graham Tribe moved, seconded Barry Freeman that the minutes of the previous Special General meeting held on 24th February, 2007 be confirmed. It was resolved that these minutes be accepted as accurate records.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

This will be covered in the President's report and general business.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Libby Raines presented the following report.

Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc. Statement of Accounts 1-7-06 to 31-6-07
Working Account

Receipts:-

Blue Mountains City Council - Maintenance of Reserves	17,600.00
Membership	2,259.00
Department of Veteran Affairs - Restoration of lettering on War Memorial	1,320.00
Sound Equipment in Village Hall - BMCC, Dept. Families & Community, RFS, collection	4,332.90
Booklets sold at Merry Garth	50.00
Refunds:- Rabbait	132.00
Phone books	4.00
Flowers in memory J. Prentice -RFS & Hist. Soc.	80.00
RFS Christmas Party	114.32
A.T.O. - GST	171.00
Interest	869.95
Total Receipts:	\$ 26,933.17

Expenditure:-

Alan Gunn - maintenance	5,505.50
Doug Wood - gutters and tree trimming	3,275.00
Insurance	2,080.57
Gravel - Bowens Creek	572.00
Owen Havilland - glass for notice board	60.00
Village shed - concrete floor	525.20
Fern grove - trees for Village Hall	450.00
Village Block - Stamp Duty, valuation, survey	7,205.35
Sound Equipment for Village Hall	7,822.40
A.T.O. G.S.T.	748.00
Department of Fair Trading annual fee	43.00
Village Hall - meetings and money held for garden	793.00
Food for functions	589.92
Willis Copy & Design- Photocopying, printing	845.15
Secretary - stamps, stationary etc.	321.19
Flowers for Jim Prentice	120.00
Service at War Memorial	186.00
Davidsons Nursery - spray for weeds	258.24
Bank Fees	168.00
Total Expenditure:	\$31,568.52

Total receipts	26,933.17
Total Expenditure	31,568.52
=	- (4,635.35)
+ Carried forward	8,776.55

Bank Balance on 1-7-07 \$4,141.20 =

4,141.20

Fixed Term Deposits: \$20,000.00

Money held for weed eradication \$1,527.76

3.

Money earmarked for Village Shed approx. \$7,000.00

Money earmarked for Village Block approx. \$6,000.00

Audited and signed by Richard A. England, Chartered Accountant, Auditor on 13-9-07

It was moved by Ron Green that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded Helen Freeman. All members present were in agreement.

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 Diana Landsberg that the resolution be accepted, seconded Ron Green. All members were in agreement.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

New Toilets for Cathedral Reserve

The building site has been identified and fenced. Excavation for an underground tank will commence soon. A pre-assembled Pureblue "Country Style" toilet block is scheduled for delivery and commissioning during the second week in October. The actual cost exceeded the \$25,000 budget - our thanks to BMCC for finding the additional funds.

Collapsed embankment on Anniversary Walk

Repairs are in progress. The restoration of the Walk will eliminate a serious pedestrian hazard. Our thanks to BMCC for providing emergency finance for this restoration. MWPA will investigate how the probability of further collapses can be reduced.

Silva Plana Playing Field

Unknown motor vehicles have been damaging the grass and playing surfaces. Open fires, unauthorised camping and damage to trees have occurred, so it has been decided that there is a need to establish a defined parking area and restrict the vehicular access to the playing area. Discussions will be held with BMCC on 24th September to place logs on concrete plinths as in Cathedral Reserve and a locked boom-gate to be accessed only by BMCC and RFS.

Integral Energy - Powerline Corridor Clearing

Clearing has commenced and will be complete to the end of Mt. Irvine before the fire season starts. It has been stated that Mt. Wilson/Mt. Irvine has the highest incidence of service disruption in the Integral Energy area. Integral has the intention to install a large remotely operated generator at the end of Mt. Irvine to supply both communities in an emergency.

Pile Burning Restrictions

Meetings are to be set up between community representatives and BMCC after the start of the fire season to discuss and agree on future protocol. The concerns and wider responsibilities of BMCC are understood but there is a need for direct and close involvement of both communities to ensure all observe protocol.

Street Trees

4.

BMCC lacks the resources, as do other Councils, to maintain street trees other than those planted by Council. Local communities must accept responsibility or suffer the consequences. We have a duty of care so need to take action if a dangerous situation is perceived. MWPA will review the condition of exotic street trees as well as native species with hazard potential. Expert opinion will be sought when appropriate and remedial action will be taken when and where required.

Mount Wilson Road (“Five Miler”)

Prior to 1994, BMCC maintained five metres cleared verge from the bitumen to improve visibility on bends and reduce the risk of road blockage from fallen trees. It also provided a more effective fire break and less hazardous escape route. Possible funding sources to re-establish this are to be investigated.

Marcus Clark Reserve

The Avenue frontage has been cleared and the bisecting fence removed. A pathway loop (currently one metre wide) has been cleared through the Reserve. The identification of and labelling of plants has commenced. Planting of unrepresented suitable plants of local provenance is to be considered and appropriate internal signage to be designed.

Waterfall Road/The Avenue T-Intersection

Near-accidents continue to occur as traffic in Waterfall Road has right-of-way. While locals are aware of the hazard, visitors are not. BMCC has declined our request to install a give-way sign as the traffic volume is considered insufficient. However, the traffic volume has increased since the re-opening of Chimney Cottage café. Local data written to council will help our case.

First Responder Programme

Our thanks to the Mt. Wilson/ Mt. Irvine RFS in conjunction with the NSW Ambulance Service for establishing the inaugural Community First Responder Programme in NSW. Seven graduates, Suzzane Daly, Barry Freeman, Diana Landsberg, Kathleen Oakes, Libby Raines, Beth Raines and Peter Raines, have the expertise and equipment to provide emergency medical response until an ambulance arrives.

Road Subsidence

This is occurring in various locations, particularly on bends, on Mt. Irvine Road and The Avenue. A permanent solution requires major and costly road reconstruction. A short term solution is to seal with liquid bitumen the cracks that allow rainwater to enter, speeding subsidence. BMCC has been informed.

Tree Planting

Additional Copper Beech trees have been planted in Hillcrest lane to extend the existing line of identical trees on Mt. Irvine Road. A long term plan is being developed to prepare trees to replace the aging exotics during the next ten to twenty years and beyond. There is the need to re-plant trees having the desired appearance as well as appropriate longevity.

MWPA Newsletter

Out thanks to Joe Landsberg for his unstinting efforts to create four issues a year with a delightful mix of community news and humour.

5.

7. DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS ARISING FROM PRESIDENT’S REPORT

- **Street Trees.** Comment was made that if the community is responsible for trees it has planted, then council should not prosecute if trees are pruned on council land.
- **Marcus Clark Reserve.** Favourable responses were made from the floor with respect to work done.
- **Councillor Terri Hamilton** was invited to respond. She has followed up both the toilets and

Anniversary Walk with the appropriate people in council. She will follow up Silva Plana but advised that we may need to make a submission to lock into the four year Capital Works Programme. She wishes to be kept informed on this. She will keep a close watch on the pile burn situation. Terri suggested we write to the General Manager asking exemption from restrictions in pruning street trees and send copies of correspondence to her. Submission of a plan of management for clearing verges of Mt. Wilson Road should be made to BMCC. With regard to Waterfall Road it was suggested a letter be sent to the General Manager requesting the issue be put on the agenda for the next local traffic committee meeting and a copy be sent to Terri. A letter should be sent to the General Manager about the road subsidence - it may need to be included in the Capital Works Programme.

- **Subsidence on Zig Zag.** This was mentioned as an additional area that should be monitored.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Bushcare. Libby Raines reported that the community has come far in the last twenty years. Blackberry and holly has gone from the Reserves. Private property owners must be encouraged to keep the whole environment in mind and eliminate holly, ivy and other weeds from their property. Bushcare Group has made a great change in Sloan Reserve, Waterfall Reserve and Silva Plana. It is currently working on Wynne Reserve where periwinkle is a big problem. Council plays a big part in bush care by financing the local Bushcare Group and by sending its own bush care officers into difficult places. Barry Freeman commented on the free service provided by Linda Thomas of BMCC who will visit and advise people on the vegetation on their properties.

8.2 Membership Fees. It was proposed by the Committee that the current fee of \$15 be increased to \$20 per annum since this is the only income of the Association. No objection was made.

8.3 Access to Unmade Roads.

- What is the problem? Electricity wires run down designated unmade roads, some of which are so overgrown that Integral Energy cannot access them. Some owners have become proprietorial about them and have fenced them off and locked gates over them. There is a large amount of combustible fuel on some of them making them a fire hazard.
- Whose responsibility are the unmade roads. Terri Hamilton said that it was Council's policy to do nothing because of lack of funds. Integral has been approached but would not intervene in Council property. Mary Reynolds explained that the roads are marked on the lands titles so are the responsibility of the Department of Lands and that Ellis Reynolds when he was secretary of MWPA had contact with the lands Department to clarify ownership.
- Florence Smart commented that in the best interest of the community as a whole, roads deemed necessary by MWPA and RFS should be cleared.
- Barry Freeman suggested that as it was the general will of those present to keep them open

6.

perhaps those deemed necessary be publicised and follow up with the Lands Department.

- It was decided that the Committee look at all the roads, publicise them on a map and refer back to the next SGM.

8.4 Quorum. The previous attempt to reduce the quorum for general meetings from 20% to 10% was not passed. A suggestion of 15% or a fixed number of 20 or 25 members or a combination of the two, 15% or a number, whichever is lower, was received with a fair degree of support. This will be considered and brought before the next SGM.

8.5 Proxies. The question was raised as to the need for proxies. Comment was made by the secretary that the restriction of the number a member could hold (5) caused inconvenience in

reassigning them. Ron Green commented that any amendment to motions caused the proxy to be made null and void. There was general agreement that they may not be necessary. This will be followed up at the next meeting.

8. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2007/8

The Chairman explained that two Committee Members, Maurice May and Frank Fletcher had not nominated for re-election. There was one vacancy on the Committee of 2006/7. Since nominations are less than the number of positions on the Committee for 2007/8, an election was not necessary.

The Committee for 2007/8 will comprise:

President	Bill Ryan
Vice President	Diana Landsberg
Treasurer	Libby Raines
Secretary	Moir Green
Committee Members	Brian Abrahams, Robert Chesney, Alison Halliday, Milba Mewburn

9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The next Special General Meeting will be held on 22nd March, 2008 at 5.30 p.m.

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on 22nd September, 2008 at 5.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.

Drinks and hot food were available for those who remained after the meeting.

Signed as a true record

Bill Ryan
Chairman