

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC  
Held on Saturday, 14 September, 2019  
in the Mount Wilson Village Hall, The Avenue, Mount Wilson**

**1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

The meeting opened at 5.35pm.

Welcome to new residents, you are very welcome.

Thanks to everyone for coming...Some of you may not be members of the Progress Association and you are still very welcome. But I would urge you to belong – not only do we need your annual subscription but we also provide important services to the whole community.

Once again I would like to give a special thank you to all members of the committee: Sue as secretary, Robbie who is treasurer and thus is constantly talking to BMCC, Nancy who always puts up her hand to help on any sub-committee, more on that later, and in many other roles, Janet McDonald who has survived her first year with us and undertaken a couple of quasi legal bits of research for us, Peter Raines who has now served with us for a year, and Ted who in serving here and on the Village Hall committee keeps us in touch with that organisation.

**What the MWPA does for the whole community:**

I always like to mention these 'hidden' activities because I know that people new to the mountain must wonder just what is our purpose.

- Publication and distribution of the local phone book...extra copies from Sue, \$5 each
- Web site costs are shared with the Rural Fire Brigade and the Historical Society; the whole community benefits from the website.
- Represent the community to the BMCC and other institutions or government bodies as needed.
- Occasionally raise money which is used for additional community benefits. We have continued to add more local walking track guides to the web site and I urge all of you to make use of these tracks. The existence of these tracks needs to lodge in our collective memory and the tracks only survive when they are walked on!

Membership: We currently have 129 members of whom 78 are financial and 51 overdue. Of those overdue 28 have paid until June 2019, 10 have paid to June 2018 and 13 are more than 2 years overdue.

Membership fees collected were \$4,0000 with some members having paid 5 years in advance.

We encourage new memberships and if you are overdue please send in your membership fees.

## **2. ATTENDANCE**

**Committee:** Alison Halliday (President), Robbie Feyder (Treasurer), Sue Woolfenden (Secretary), Nancy Fox & Ted Griffin

**Other members:** Bruce Arnold, Lorraine & Tony Barrett, Richard Beattie, Jennifer Carey, Helen & Barry Freeman, Deb Griffin, Tim & Kim Gow, Owen Havilland, Mary Holt, Susie Hope, Maria Johnson, Bob & Angela Korogiannis, Diana & Joe Landsberg, Stephen List, Peter McDonald, Matt Mason, Joe & Elizabeth Montano, Robert Nicol, Keith Ralston, Mary Reynolds, Alice Simpson, James & Linda Sterling-Levis, Graham & Judy Tribe, Rosie Walsh, Steve Woolfenden

**Visitors:** Kevin Schreiber, Mark Bancroft, Michael Carey, Robert Green, Tony & Jane Hutt, Nicole & Ian Lourenco, Malcolm Reynolds, Robyn Scrivener

### **Apologies:**

#### **Committee members:**

Janet McDonald & Peter Raines

#### **Other members:**

Loretta Beattie, Margaret & Stephen Dean, Richard and Harriet England, Frances & Peter Griffiths, Alex Halliday, David & Sarah Howell, Katherine & Alexander Montano, Beth Raines, Linda Raines, Bill & Maureen Ryan, Lesley & Raoul Wilson, Michael & Deidre Wren

#### **Visitors:**

Kerry Brown BMCC councillor, Trish Doyle MP, Susan Templeman MP, Heidi & Sean Irwin.

## **3. Confirmation of Minutes**

### **Minutes of the AGM 2018**

No matters arising.

Proposer: Barry Freeman

Seconder: Joe Landsberg

The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Minutes of the General Meeting March 2019**

No matters arising.

Proposer: Graham Tribe

Seconder: Susan Woolfenden

The minutes were approved unanimously.

# Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc

## Statement of Accounts 1-07-18 to 30-06-19

Note: Consolidated Accounts

### MWPA Income & Expenditure

#### RECEIPTS

Blue Mountains City Council	10,166.89
Membership	4,155.00
150th (Tickets)	6,150.00
Phone Book	5.00
Information Centre (Income)	195.00
Website	Payment for Usage 2,305.00
GST Refund	91.00
Bank Fees Refund	3.66
Interest	1,457.17
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>24,528.72</b>

#### PAYMENTS

Mount Wilson Rural Contracting	4,808.00
Micah Fink	680.00
Insurance	Public Liability/Voluntary Workers 1,080.00
150th (Payments)	8,990.58
Old School House Contribution	5,000.00
Secretary	260.45
Printing	66.00
Hall Hire	180.00
Information Centre Costs (Hire, Printing, Water bottles)	1,174.45
Traffic Counter Repairs/Service	173.80
Website	1,876.84
NSW Fair Trading	46.00
GST Payments	786.00
Bank Fee	130.00
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>25,252.12</b>

<b>MWPA NET INCOME</b>	<b>-723.40</b>
------------------------	----------------

#### 2018/19 Receipts/(Payments) not included in Accounts

GST Refund from ATO	170.00
<b>ACCRUALS</b>	<b>170.00</b>
<b>MWPA 2018/19 NET INCOME</b>	<b>-553.40</b>

## Current Account Cash Flow

Opening Bank Balance 1 July 2018	19,457.05
Less 2017/18 Accruals	-1,561.14
- GST Payment (GST Payment for Apr-Jun 2018)	1,018.00
- Micah Fink (Work for June 2018)	340.00
- Secretary	203.14
Plus 2018/19 Accruals	-170.00
- GST Refund (GST Refund for Apr-Jun 2019)	-170.00
MWPA Net Income	-553.40
<b>Bank Balance 30/06/2019</b>	<b>17,172.51</b>

## MWPA Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2019

### ASSETS

Current Account (39398600)		17,172.51
Fixed Term Deposit (347895763)	2.05% pa Matures 23/06/20	50,000.00
Fixed Term Deposit (393188103)	2.45% pa Matures 05/02/20	5,000.00
Fixed Term Deposit (394110965)	2.45% pa Matures 03/12/19	10,000.00
Accruals		170.00
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>82,342.51</b>

### EQUITY

<b>MWPA</b>	Opening Balance (1 Jul 18)	82,895.91
Net Income		-553.40
	<b>Closing Balance (30 Jun 19)</b>	<b>82,342.51</b>

**Richard England**  
FCA, MA I C D

Suite 602, Level 6  
15 Castlereagh Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Tel 02 9236 0320  
Fax 02 9236 0399  
Mob 0419 806 674

GPO Box 4824  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

11 September 2019

The Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc  
MOUNT WILSON NSW 2786

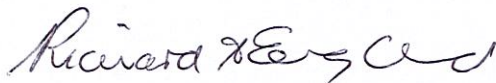
Dear Sir/Madam

**REPORT to THE MEMBERS OF THE MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC ("The Association")**

I have reviewed the accompanying Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2019. The statements have not been audited as this is not required for a Tier 2 Association under The Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

I have however performed sufficient testing and made enquiries of the relevant officers to be satisfied that the Financial Statements give a true and fair view of the Associations financial position at 30 June 2019 and of its operations of the year ended on that date

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019



Richard A.F England F.C.A

Liability Limited by Scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The Chairman thanked MWPA member Richard England for his accountant's review of the accounts.

The Treasurer presented his report.

Our income is less than in recent as we are no longer agent for the Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC). Richard England reviews the accounts. They have not been audited as this is not necessary. Richard is moving interstate and no longer available to do the review. Hence, we need to find a new auditor.

Alison thanked Robbie for his hard work as treasurer.

Proposer: Susie Hope

Seconder: Helen Freeman

The report was accepted unanimously.

#### **5. President's Report**

##### **Condolences and welcomes**

Welcome to our BMCC representatives, and to any visitors. We only have two meetings a year and they are very important to find out what is going on in the village.

The community has had three significant people pass away in the last year. We lost Keith Raines who I am sure has joined Libby in gardening in another place; Ruth Scrivener, who with Bill, was not only a vital force at Mt Irvine but the two of them always participated in activities for both mounts; and Milba Mewburn who you may have known as Milba Kirk. Milba was the last member of the Kirk family to be living on Mt Wilson until she moved to Portland a little while ago. She too put on many different hats over a long period of time. She was very proud of her family and its association with Mt Wilson since it was first settled...have a look at the stone seat at Founders Corner. She will be missed and it is sad that no longer are any Kirk's living on the mountain.

I note that last year I mentioned that we were not inundated in autumn but this became a reminder of be careful what you wish for or comment on, for there was a flood of visitors in autumn this year, especially at the campground. More on this in general business.

**Work on behalf of BMCC** has been largely carried out by Peter Raines with help from Micah Fink, especially during the period that Pete has been away; so thank you Micah. Once again thanks to both these people for keeping our mountain looking spruce. If you see any trees down or damage to the local tracks while walking please contact me or Sue. Recently Micah cleaned up a tree that had fallen across the fence and the track behind Wynstay.

**The Mounts.** I hope you have been enjoying the Mounts which now comes out quarterly. Please send me an email if you have not been receiving it. We are now sending it out using mail-chimp which should keep us up to date with your email address changes. Matilda has done a wonderful job in not only the design of the last 4 editions but also in being very patient with me. Just a reminder that it is only as good as the material you send in so thank you to all our regular contributors; and if you see anything

interesting or unusual tell us about it, as Richard did with the gathering of the Kombie vans a few weeks ago.

**November 11 – Remembrance day.** It is 80 years since the beginning of WWII – there is always a significant time with Remembrance Day – so please join us on Monday 11 November for this community service and morning tea and a brief talk about one or two whose names are on the War Memorial. It is 100 years since the War Memorial was unveiled in November 1919. Lettering on the WW1 lettering was renewed about 10 years ago. I am in the process of applying for a grant to re-gild the letters of the WWII people, plus renewing the boundary fence at the back of the Memorial reserve. I would like to thank those in Susan Templeman's office for being very helpful in this, and many other ways.

**Other money matters.** We have been advised by Trish Doyle's office that applications for community grants are now available and need to be submitted by the 27 September. I lean towards asking for contributions towards the renovation and repair of Gregson reserve. This is one of the old sites and reserves precincts and it now looks pretty shabby with weeds – monstrous rhododendrons, an overgrown and washed out path, and erosion on the slope. Of course we would also like any other suggestions, just tell a committee member. Let us know what you think.

There was verbal support from the floor for Gregson Reserve regeneration.

**Communication and the Mt Tomah tower.** We have been informed that apparently the use of a Mt Tomah tower for mobile service coverage will not go ahead despite a tower already being in situ. This whole scenario seems to be from a Monty Python movie... Graham Tribe, Elizabeth Montano & Barry Freeman are liaising with the Rural Fire Service RFS to see if they can be of assistance. There are low cost technologies available rather than a blackspot tower.

**Drones.** The rules governing the use of drones come under CASA (civil aviation safety authority) The general rules are attached to the Minutes. Basically you can only fly one at a time, and you must be able to see it at all times. It must be no closer than 30 metres to any person and not over private property or where it is a danger or hazard to property, animals or people. It must not go higher than 120 metres.

**Drone users must get approval before launching, landing or operating a drone from within (or over) a national park in NSW.**

The question was raised as to whether we can have an exclusion zone for Mt Wilson. Graham Tribe has a contact in Mt Victoria with whom he can put Janet in touch.

**Water.** There has been less than 50% of the rainfall than 2 years ago. Plants are suffering. Legally water must be used for people first then agriculture and stock. Gardens are a lesser priority. Please don't use excessive water for gardens. Water is precious so be careful with water.

**Coffee cart.** Some of you may have noticed the coffee van around last autumn. While I appreciate that he is trying to make a living, he does need to be licensed by BMCC. I think the cups often ended up as dropped rubbish...Notify BMCC if you see him; ring BMCC and they will send rangers.

**Areas of special interest.** Robbie reported on a meeting with BMCC. Sue and Robbie met with Matt Chambers. BMCC have plans for Cathedral to be a paid campground. This would involve a need for rangers to police the areas. There is a need for an upgrade of toilets. A proposal to use Silva Plana for overflow camping was vetoed. Matt Chambers advised that the best way to get funding for projects is to develop a master plan.

Cr Kevin Schreiber suggested speaking to Gary Parsons (BMCC) regarding master plans and other issues. Kevin has asked Gary to put in an application to the minister for funding for toilets and self-cleaning toilets.

**Artists in Residence Program.** Congratulations to Judy and all involved with setting up the artist in residence program – it has got off to a flying start.

Judy reported that there were 29 applicants and 6 were chosen. They receive one month of subsidised accommodation. The artist must have a community engagement event.

The first artist will have a work shop and open studio.

Joe Montano spoke about the Old School House.

**Visitor Information Centre.** Nancy reported on the visitor information centre in the old school house. This was a pilot program. MWPA leased the school house on weekends from April 6 to May 12. There were 17 volunteers and between 40 to 100 visitors each day. Over 700 visitors sought information at the centre. In the peak period we had over 32,000 visitors as measured by the vehicle counter. The information centre was a valuable service but did not make sufficient income to cover costs and as such MWPA would have to subsidise it and rely on volunteers. The committee do not feel this is a good use of our funds so will not run the centre again. It was suggested we apply for a grant for an information board to assist visitors.

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** Whilst the catering was paid for many young people did volunteer as wait staff and wine was donated. Thank you to all the volunteers and for the donations. Alison thank Nancy and the committee for the 150<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Bill and Lata Moss for donating Dennarque as a venue. An application has been made to BMCC to install a stone cairn in recognition of the event.

**Village Hall.** Ted reported on Village Hall matters. The combined General Meetings in March 6 was a success so we will consider doing it again. A new green water tank has been plumbed in It is accessible by RFS tankers. The next project is a new kitchen.

**Bowens Creek road.** Elizabeth Montano presented an update on Bowens Creek road.

**Rural Fire Brigade.** Barry Freeman spoke on behalf of Beth Raines. He emphasised the unusually dry conditions and the need to prepare your property more than in the past. The MT Wilson/Mt Irvine RFB made representation to the coronial inquiry about State Mine Fire. We made agreement with the RFS about how we are informed when fires cross from another district into our area.

### **Business Arising from the Report**

There were no other matters arising from the report.



## 6. General Business

### **Rubbish and toilets during peak seasons**

This item was added to the Agenda to give residents an opportunity to discuss the issues.

We can't stop people coming and the whole Blue Mountains is inundated during peak times. Extra toilets are provided by BMCC each year.

We are looking for ideas for managing this without using volunteers. Temporary signage during autumn is one option. The discussion was opened to the floor.

- Susie Hope - Limit the height of buses entering the village as double decker tourist buses damage the street trees. A height bar could be installed.
- Mary Holt – Gardener owners could be asked to advise tourist operators that double decker buses are not suitable.
- Joe Montano - formal traffic restrictions could be imposed due to the size of vehicles. The roads are owned by BMCC and they could put restrictions in place.
- Speed of traffic on the five mile – should be 60 mph. Please remind tradesmen working on your property.
- Ted Griffin has been putting a spare wheelie bin on the street and thus there is now less rubbish on the street near his home.
- A major issue is bush toileting, nappies and tissues in the bush. Signage to be considered.
- Graham Tribe – There are 2 major issues: toilets and traffic. The lack of toilets is about funding - how can residents support MWPA to push BMCC. We don't want to encourage more visitors but can't lock the gate.
- Stephen List – This is essentially a safety issue and a health hazard. We need to talk to the BMCC about safety and not any more traffic.
- Talk to Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens about not redirecting visitors here in peak times.
- Elizabeth Montano- There are not many voters here for Federal and State elections. All property owners can vote in BMCC council elections. Council elections are next September. If all residents voted in council elections this would support the MWPA in their dealing with BMCC
- Richard Beattie – Advertising draws people in here. Can we speak to those who advertise and say you are having an impact. The community desire is to minimize visitors. *Alison responded that the MWPA would not be willing to do this.*
- Barry Freeman - Facts and data could build a business case to BMCC. We could ask the RFS to add risk management. We should work with council to say this is untenable how can we manage the issues?
- Deb Griffin suggested we look at Marcus Clarke Reserve and consider adding some maples, picnic tables and toilets. This would give the visitors a central area in which to picnic.

Alison suggested forming a sub-committee of the Progress Association with five members: a chair from the MWPA, Barry Freeman, Graham Tribe, a representative from the RFS and a garden owner. The sub-committee would gather the facts, discuss with National Parks, and then write a detailed letter to BMCC.

Kevin Schreiber suggested writing to Gary Parsons from BMCC and also Minister Matt Kean re the National Parks. He asked to be cc'd into correspondence.

The motion to form a sub-committee was proposed by Barry Freeman; seconded by Bob Korogiannis.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society.** Malcolm Reynolds - Interim president of Historical Society spoke about the difficulties the society is facing. Membership has dwindled to the point that it isn't functioning. One option is that the MWPA takes on the Historical Society so that it can continue. The society has an obligation to maintain the Turkish Bath museum. Legally it is possible to amalgamate. The two presidents will engage in discussions to find a workable solution.

**Richard Beattie:** Richard expressed regret that we are not responsible for getting work done ourselves but need to put in DA's to BMCC for work. Looking after ourselves binds a community.

## **7. Management Committee 2017 /2018**

The committee remains as you see in front of you, and I outlined our various duties at the beginning of this meeting. Everyone has agreed to remain on the committee in our present capacities. As the number of nominations for the respective positions does not exceed the positions to be filled a ballot will not be held and in accordance with CI 15(4) of our constitution I declare them to have been duly elected to their respective positions with effect from the conclusion of this meeting.

There remain two further positions available on the Committee namely Vice President (usually chosen from an existing committee member) and 1 Ordinary Committee member. As we are still one short of a full house of 8, Pursuant to Clause 15 (2) of the constitution I ask the meeting if there is any one member who would like to stand and if so will there be two proposers who would like to support the nominations?

There were no nominations from the floor.

## **8. Closure of the Meeting**

The new Committee will decide on the date for the General Meeting next year. The meeting closed at 7.35 pm. Everyone was invited to stay for drinks, cheese and biscuits.

Elizabeth Montano thanked the committee.

Signed as a true record

**Alison Halliday**