

**Minutes of the 10th Special General Meeting
of the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc.
held on Saturday, 28th July 2007, at the Village Hall, Mt Wilson**

Welcome

Florence Smart, President of the Society, warmly welcomed members and friends, noting that after the fires surrounding our AGM last November, and the cancellation of this meeting in June due to severe weather conditions, it was nice to be here on a lovely winter's day.

Florence especially welcomed our guest speaker, Joe Landsberg; Deputy Mayor of BMCC, Councillor Terri Hamilton; and Professor Barrie Reynolds, Secretary of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations, and Mrs Ena Reynolds.

Apologies

Jenny & Peter Benjamin, Robert Chesney, Alison & Alex Halliday, Mary & John Holt, Helen & Barry Freeman, Milba Mewburn, Ruth & Bill Schrivener, Suzanne Vidler, Margaret Wickins & Bruce Knott, Bruce Wright & Pauline Michel, Bill & Maureen Ryan, John Leonard, Ellis Reynolds, Paul Weingott.

Confirmation of Minutes of 10th AGM held on 18th November 2006

Florence noted three corrections to the minutes: two people were incorrectly listed as present, and the annual rent for the Turkish Bath is \$2, not \$1 as stated in the President's Report. Mary Reynolds moved the acceptance of the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Libby Raines. Carried unanimously.

President's Report

Jazz Concert: The 11th annual concert, held earlier this year, was a success but it has been decided, by agreement between the committee and the musicians, that it was the last. Although the Society made over \$2000, increasing expenses (see the Treasurer's report) and the risk of bad weather have always been of great concern. The concert was our major fundraiser every year, thanks to a great deal of support behind the scenes and on the day itself, but the time has come to find a replacement event. Special thanks go to Margaret Wickins and Bruce Knott for their generosity towards the raffle over the last few years.

Turkish Bath Museum: Thanks to our volunteers, the openings in autumn this year were very successful with approximately 300 visitors. Julia Reynolds and Mary Reynolds undertook the thankless task of organising the roster. We currently have approximately 30 volunteers but we need more to support this vital activity in order to limit the number of duties for each volunteer to two a year.

Tour Groups: The Society has hosted five this year - around 200 people. These occasions also require volunteers and are very rewarding.

Newsletter: The latest issue has just been published and, as always, highlights important research into our communities' history. Special thanks go to our editor who is currently living in Sierra Leone.

Matters arising from the Minutes

The Management Committee for 2006-2007 was elected at the AGM and the office-holders were decided at the committee meeting on 13th January 2006.

President/Chairperson: Florence Smart

Vice Presidents: Darrel Conybeare, Louise Weingott, Bruce Wright

Treasurer: Ellis Reynolds, Kathy Harrington (Assistant)

Secretaries: Patrice Fletcher, Louise Weingott

Members: Des Barrett, Arthur Delbridge

Non-Committee Officer: Mary Reynolds, Public Officer and Research Officer

Treasurer's Report

Florence presented the report in the absence of Ellis Reynolds who was ill.

Ellis' detailed report of the Jazz Concert is listed on a separate sheet. Whilst we raised very necessary funds from the day, costs have risen over the last three years and so the profit was significantly down.

In July we received a grant of \$4000 from the Federal Department for the Environment to help with administrative costs. This, whilst very welcome, represents less than 50% of our total administrative costs. The Museum is our best fundraiser and it would assist the Society if more members volunteered for the roster.

The Society's current balance is \$13,057.20 in the operating account as well as two term deposits. Ellis always welcomes inspection of the accounts by prior arrangement.

Ron Green moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Seconded by Helen Cardy. Carried unanimously.

Projects Report

Darrel Conybeare presented his report.

Turkish Bath roof repairs: A suitable plumber was contacted for the special task of pin holing the roof but declined to proceed due to work elsewhere. The work is now 'in limbo' until a suitable tradesman is found.

Turkish Bath water tank: there has been a considerable delay in the arrival of the tank but it is now ready for installation.

Research Report

Mary Reynolds presented the following review.

The newsletter, which represents many hours of work behind the scenes, is an important vehicle to pass on research about our communities.

The position of Research Officer has its rewards including receiving letters from people who have had contact with Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine over the years. Mary read such a letter from a lady in Hobart who heard an ABC radio programme about the area and, in particular, the Turkish Bath. She had many memories to relate, all of which added to our knowledge of the past.

Land Title searches for Mt Irvine are about to begin, and Mary called for help in this time-consuming but extremely worthwhile task. Helen Naylor and Bill Scrivener have already been very helpful.

It is wonderful to see the Chimney Cottage Tea Room being used again as a tea room as it was in 1930s. Tea rooms are important to the history of Mt Wilson.

The current newsletter has an 'introductory chapter' on Aboriginal Settlement which is a relatively little known part of the mountains' history. We know of aboriginal sites in the area but much more research needs to be done.

General Business

Welcome to new members, Kevin Judd, Deborah and Edward Griffin and Jenny Dean. The society now has 200 members.

Terri Hamilton thanked the Society for her invitation to the meeting. She noted the ongoing enthusiasm of local groups in the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine area and hoped to continue attending as many meetings as possible.

The Society's tour of Mudgee, with local historian John Broadley, has been organised for 8th & 9th August 2007. The intention is to visit local properties, some of which have family connections with properties in Mt Wilson.

Des Barrett presented a discussion paper on the heating technology of the Turkish Bath and noted that further investigation was required. The meeting unanimously supported the Society's intention to proceed with research in this area. Mary Reynolds mentioned that she already has information on the topic of dry heat as used in the Turkish Bath.

Florence noted the role of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations (of which the Society is a member, with Florence as our representative) in identifying, preserving and protecting heritage sites in the area as part of the Heritage Sites

Project. Florence is undertaking a pilot project in Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine and pointed out that it's aim is not to intrude on private activities but to record any changes as part of the ongoing record of the community. The intention is for the BMCC to hold all the information gathered to date and to develop a strategic plan for the future but it has yet to make any commitment on this account. In fact, there was a problem transferring current information to the Council. Terri Hamilton spoke of staff difficulties at the Council. It was decided that Professor Barrie Reynolds and Florence should meet with the Council's new general manager to discuss the issue.

Jan Allen from Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens reminded the meeting that the Garden was the first Bicentennial Project to be completed and is now 20 years old. She called for help with any history, photographs etc.

The AGM has been set down for Saturday, 24th November 2007, at 11am in the Mt Irvine Village Hall. Ian Jack will speak on Heritage Aspects of the Blue Mountains.

Guest Speaker

Florence introduced our guest speaker, Dr Joe Landsberg, a resident of Mt Wilson who spoke on 'Winds of change through Africa: Perspectives of a white African'. Joe was born and brought up in Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. A copy of his talk will be held in our records.

Professor Barrie Reynolds proposed the vote of thanks.

Florence closed the meeting at midday, with thanks to everyone who attended and invited all to stay for a light lunch.

Confirmed