

MT WILSON & MT IRVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Minutes of the Mid-Year General Meeting of the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc. held on Saturday, 31st July 2010 at the Mt Wilson Village Hall

Welcome

Des Barrett, President of the Society, warmly welcomed members and friends to the meeting. 34 people were in attendance. A record of the names is held in the Society's files.

Apologies

Loretta & Richard Beattie, Zaharah Braybrooke, Carol & Brian Carrigan, Robert Chesney, Leith Conybeare, Bob Debus, Kim & Tim Gow, Alison & Alex Halliday, Kathy & Ray Harrington, Susie Hope, Carole & Tom Hughes, Jan Koperberg, Milba Mewburn, Libby Raines, Steve Rawlings, Barrie Reynolds, Ellis Reynolds, Ruth Scrivener, The Mayor Cr. Adam Searle, Joan Smith BMHS, Judy & Graham Tribe, Julie Townend, Suzanne Vidler, Louise & Paul Weingott, Irene & Mike Wynne, Janne Yardy.

President's Report

The President Des Barrett gave highlights from the Management Committee's work and the Society's activities over the last six months:

Guidelines for Life and Honorary Life Membership to the Society

The Committee has reviewed these two important and significant categories of membership in the Society. Des summarised the guidelines for each category: Life Membership (LM) is granted to those individuals who generously pay a \$500 LM fee to the Society. The Society has a number of members who have chosen this option. Life members are exempt from the annual membership subscription, however a Life Member may choose to donate funds to the Society from time-to-time.

Honorary Life Membership (HLM), the Society's highest award, is awarded for meritorious service to the Society. What constitutes 'meritorious service' may include Museum exhibition development, published research, fundraising activities, or a significant donation(s) to the Society's archives/Museum. More than one of these or other relevant criteria would apply before HLM would be considered by the Committee.

Honorary Life Members receive a framed certificate. The presentation of certificates will occur at either the Mid-Year or Annual General meeting. The Chairman announced that two HLM awards would be presented at today's meeting.

Collection Policy

A new Collections Policy has been drafted and approved by the Management Committee and copies were available for members at the meeting. The Collection Policy is a guide to what and how the Society will acquire, reject, and dispose of material either on offer or held by the Society. The Chairman explained that in revising the Collection Policy, the Committee was mindful of the responsibilities of the Society, which are: to collect and preserve historical material of relevance to Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine; arrange and describe these materials according to archival principles; provide adequate and appropriate conditions for the storage, protection, and preservation of historical material; provide a reference service to researchers who are interested in the holdings of the Society; provide material for exhibition, either on loan to another organisation, or at the Turkish Bath Museum.

About ninety percent of the Society's present collection is archival in nature, and includes drawings and pictures, maps, manuscripts and photographs, and could/does include audiovisual and electronically stored items. Large three-dimensional items will, in general, not be acquired by the Society, as we do not have proper storage facilities. The Society will acquire material from individuals, businesses and organizations, as well as reference material relating to the history and heritage of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine.

The Management Committee will act as the Acquisitions Committee. The Society will accept materials either by donation, purchase, or loan. Donations are accepted in accordance with the Collection Policy, where the donor has full legal title to the material, and where the owner is willing to transfer ownership of the donated material to the Society, once the item is acquired. The Society will only *purchase* material of outstanding significance to the history and heritage of the Community, subject to the agreement of the Management Committee and restrictions of the Society's finances.

Potential donors should approach a member(s) of the Management Committee to discuss their donation/purchase in the first instance. A report will be prepared by the relevant member of the committee and then brought to a meeting of the Management Committee. The Management Committee will either accept or reject the acquisition and inform the donor of its decision.

The Chairman also summarised the procedure whereby material may be de-accessioned by the Society. Copies of the Society's policies are available on request. It is also recommended that the Collections Policy be reviewed every five years.

Fundraising

Once again, the Society's major fundraising event for the year was the Community Market Weekend, which was held at the Village Hall precinct over the weekend of the 24th and 25th of April. There was a huge variety of things for sale and volunteers serving refreshments were kept busy cooking sausages, making scones and cakes, and pouring cups of coffee and tea, all of which was accomplished with much conviviality, and with a profit of just on \$4000.

Projects at the Turkish Bath Museum

The Management Committee is looking at developing a new exhibition that interprets the function of the Boiler Room. The aim is to encourage more visitors to look at this section of the Museum and to appreciate its function. The Chairman commented that suggestions for appropriate exhibitions are always welcome and invited ideas from the membership.

The new roof is the major Museum project for this year and is scheduled to commence on Friday 6 August. It should be completed in two or three weeks.

Finally Des thanked members of the Management Committee for their work and commitment to individual projects, members who worked as volunteer guides at the Museum during this half year, and everyone who sold items, made delicious food, or served it during the Market Weekend. He pointed out that the Society has had another successful half year.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy Harrington was unable to be present. Florence Smart presented the following details on her behalf:

Financial position for half year to July 31 2010:

Balance in Operating account:	\$28,900
Term deposit:	\$21,334
Fundraising account:	\$1,918

TOTAL \$52,118

However \$16,000 is committed for the Turkish Bath roof and tower repairs leaving a balance of approximately \$36,000.

Florence then gave further comments on the Market weekend:

With a gross income of \$4500 and expenses \$600, (around 13.5%) the enterprise was cost effective but a lot of work for the organisers. 23 tables were rented out, and this possibly could be increased to 35 in the future. Food sales and other income came out about even.

Easter and Anzac Day falling on the same weekend in April 2011 presents a challenge. The fundraising subcommittee will meet to consider alternatives. Some ideas already put forward include: share food services with RFS and split the profit; hire out more tables; expand further and try for greater diversity - recruit stall holders from other markets. Fresh ideas are always welcome. Florence added her thanks to all those who helped.

There have been 250 visitors so far in 2010 to the Turkish Bath Museum. Florence commented that special thanks were due to Julia Reynolds who organises the roster for Museum guides, and added that new people were always welcome to join the roster for three hours once or twice per year.

Research and Historical Report

Mary Reynolds distributed a comprehensive illustrated report with details of her ongoing work in researching and recording details of the history of the area. A few highlights are recorded here:

The First Computer for the Society:

Mary expressed her appreciation to the Society for the purchase recently of a Dell Studio XPS 16 Laptop plus accessories including multi-function printer. This essential equipment has been provided for Mary's use, as she has for years used her own for endless hours of research and writing. The total cost for all components was \$2866.20 which was fully covered by two grants totalling \$3000 from the Federal Government.

Archival Material and Cataloguing:

Since 2009 our Archivist Kathleen Oakes has been transferring all the Society's accessioning records to a computer file. This work is ongoing. Kathleen also produced an updated Collection policy and Donor Agreement form. Copies of all policies are available from the secretary.

Image Collection:

Some photos from 2008 and those from 2009 await accessioning. Our expectations of help from the Power House Museum have not so far been realised.

Library:

Mary reported that in February this year Ellis and she attended Glenbrook Historical Society's launching of the book 'A History of Glenbrook and District' by Nell Aston. John Low was the guest speaker and provided much insight into the years of research which made this book a reality. A copy of the book is now in our library.

Research:

This aspect of Mary's work is ongoing. She gave several fascinating accounts of the kinds of inquiries she receives which inevitably lead to her discovering more knowledge of the past. Mary noted the passing of Reg Baumgarten in February 2010, who lived at *Touri* in the 1950s.

Mt Wilson Heritage Sites:

In May 2010 the BMCC made contact asking for the identification of five sites which were recommended for adding to the LEP 1991, in the Heritage Review carried out by Professor Ian Jack and his colleagues in 2003-4. These sites are as follows: 1) The Blazed Stump in Farrer Road West on the boundary of Goonong [the Morgan property] 2) the War Memorial in the Avenue and the small obelisk close by 3) the Early Quarry on the north side of Mt Wilson Road above the ZigZag. 4) Wyndham's Zig Zag approx. 200 metres east of the present Zig Zag. A 5th site, the location of Robert Kirk's camp was not

so easily identified. BMCC staff have promised to provide copies of maps to the Society when their records are amended.

A Passion for Place:

Mary reported her heavy involvement in assisting Alison Halliday and Jo Hambrett with their production of a garden History of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine by answering a variety of queries, checking carefully Land Title documents and anecdotal memories and events of the past plus the provision of images. On Alison Halliday's request Mary passed on the following: *"The book, 'A Passion for Place' is at the printers with an estimated time of arrival in early October. Jo and I are so appreciative of the help that Mary has given us over many years of research, and seemingly endless questions. We would like to thank the whole Society for their ongoing support for this project. It just would not have been possible without this support and invaluable help. May we take this opportunity of extending a warm invitation to all members to the launch on Saturday 16th October at the Mt Wilson Village Hall at 5.00p.m."*

The Story of Irvineholme by Harold Bolton Morley 1950

A copy of this valuable document was handed to the Society in the recent months by Harold Morley's daughters, Helen Naylor and Judith McMahon. It is a rich source of memories as Harold was one of the 3 original settlers in Mt Irvine. There are many colourful descriptions of life as it was in the first decade of the 20th Century in Mt Irvine and Mt Wilson.

The Turkish Textile Company, a wholesaler of fine Turkish textile products.

Following a visit to the Turkish Bath Museum in February 2010 these visitors sent us samples of traditional Turkish towels '*peshtemals*' and were most appreciative of the Museum. So began a correspondence with Gulay Pelin ,the Creative Director and an offer to place our Turkish Bath on their website and other helpful support.

The raffle organised by the Society for the Yulefest Dinner raised over \$700.00 for the Village Hall. Due first to the generous gifts from our members and second to the remarkable decorative skills of Anne Mayall and Suzanne Basset creating so many prizes from these gifts.

Mary concluded her report with a special word of appreciation to Florence, Des, Kathy, and all members of the Management Committee for their sterling work in a variety of areas too many to list.

Presentation of Honorary Life Memberships

Two Honorary Life Memberships (HLM) were awarded: Mary Reynolds read out the citation for Bruce Wright who unfortunately was unable to be present. Pauline Michell spoke warmly of Bruce's interest in and dedication to the Society where he spent a number of years on archaeological research and overall support for the restoration of the Turkish Bath. Bruce's handsome framed award will be forwarded to him by mail. Darrel Conybeare read out the citation for Arthur Delbridge's HLM and Arthur expressed his appreciation to all.

General Business

Members Boz Brooks and Bluey Quilty spoke about their planned meeting aimed at raising awareness about alternative ways of storing electricity which might reduce the community's need for an Integral generator. More information will be distributed by them.

Guest Speaker Professor Ian Jack

Florence Smart introduced Ian Jack, emphasising his ongoing support for the Society and also his interest over many years in the history and heritage of Mt Irvine & Mt Wilson.

Professor Jack has been President of the Royal Australian Historical Society since 2003, and Vice President of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Historical Societies since that group was formed in 2006. He is a prolific researcher and writer of all things historical, and he was warmly welcomed to this meeting.

Professor Jack gave a fascinating and informative illustrated address about the historic property *Fernmount*, at Kurrajong, first settled in 1860 by William Scott. Ian Jack described Scott as 'the very interesting Government Astronomer, Warden of St Paul's College and maverick clergyman.' Ian's presentation, with many slides of historic interest, was enjoyed by all present and we hope to publish this in the future.

Chairman Des Barrett led the vote of thanks for Professor Jack.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.45pm. Next meeting will be the AGM 20th November 2010.

Florence Smart
Secretary