

MT WILSON & MT IRVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Minutes of the 11th Annual General Meeting
held at the Village Hall, Mt Irvine, on
24th November 2007 commencing at 11.00am

Welcome

The Chairperson and President of the Society, Florence Smart, welcomed all members and friends, as well as Cr. Terri Hamilton (who has joined the society), Margaret Laving, Carole Haitzler (a new member) and our guest speaker today, Professor Ian Jack. Florence noted that the attendance was most pleasing, given the weather and the Federal Election today.

Apologies

Blue Mountains Historical Society (Peter Rickwood & Joan Smith), BMCC Mayor Jim Angel, Jane & Philip Beeby, Helen & John Cardy, Darrel & Leith Conybeare, Helen & Barry Freeman, Moira & Ron Green, Deborah & Edward Griffin, Kathy Herbert, Maria & Ross Kelly, John & Nanette Leary, John Low, Lata Krishan & Bill Moss, Anne Mellady & Vic Zhukov, Helen Naylor, Beth Raines, Maureen & Bill Ryan, Julia & Peter Reynolds, Barrie & Ena Reynolds, John Reynolds & Anne Brown, Malcolm & Cathy Reynolds, Timothy Sterling Levis, Ron & Dot Smart, Wilga Smart, Charlotte Smith, Suzanne Vidler, Lesley & Raoul Wilson

Minutes

The Minutes of the 10th Annual General Meeting held on 18th November 2006 were accepted at the general meeting held on 28th July 2007. The minutes of that meeting will be put before the next general meeting.

Chairperson's Remarks (including matters arising from the minutes)

Florence asked members to consider nominating for two vacancies on the management committee.

The Turkish Bath Museum provides the society with the bulk of its funds. It was open for 10 days in spring when 15 volunteer guides welcomed 65 visitors. Three tours brought a further 65 visitors. For inexplicable reasons numbers have decreased markedly from last autumn when 300 people visited the Turkish Bath. Helen Cardy and Kathy Harrington provided lunch for 43 members of the Historic Houses Tour. Florence thanked all the volunteer guides, Helen, Kathy and the catering staff, and Mary Reynolds who looked after the tour groups.

Barrie Reynolds (BMACHO) organised a meeting with BMCC General Manager, Phil Pinyon, on 25th September. Our last general meeting discussed the need for such a meeting

to deal with heritage issues in the mountains. The meeting with Mr Pinyon was cordial but only confirmed that the Council has no Heritage Officer, no Heritage Advisor, no Heritage Advisory Committee, and no immediate plans to fill these positions. Terri Hamilton told the meeting that the Council faced two problems in this regard. There is a serious shortage of staff with heritage training or experience and the Council had no money to employ them in any event.

Treasurer's Report

Ellis Reynolds reported that the Department of Fair Trading requires two Committee members to certify that the financial reports as circulated are the same as those sent to the Department. Arthur Delbridge and Des Barrett have agreed to so certify.

Ellis asked if there were any questions or comments relating to the financial report and statement. He noted that he has never had a query in all the time he has been treasurer, and today was no different. He moved that the meeting accept both the financial statement and financial report. Seconded by Libby Raines and carried unanimously.

Ellis advised that he was stepping down as treasurer because of ill health and family considerations. He strongly recommended that Kathy Harrington who, as assistant Treasurer, had given him a great deal of support for at least a year, succeed him.

Florence proposed a vote of thanks to acknowledge Ellis' 11 years of service to the Society, not only as treasurer but in its many endeavours. The meeting responded with prolonged applause.

Turkish Bath Rental Ceremony

Every year at the AGM the Society pays the owners of Wynstay a rent of \$2.00 for the Turkish Bath and precinct. The two \$1.00 coins, the presentation box to receive them and the rent receipt book adorned with the Wynstay motto were provided by Bill Smart for this purpose. This year Ellis paid the rent to Wendy Smart who accepted on behalf of her sister Anne Hughs and herself and, in accordance with custom, returned the coins as a gift to the Society.

Projects at the Turkish Bath

The venerable old chestnut tree in the Turkish Bath precinct died over the winter. It will be watched and taken care of in due course.

The water tank has been delivered. The support structure is being fabricated in Brisbane and will be delivered this month. A plumber, Craig Pakulski, is to inspect the site to quote on installation which, hopefully, will be completed by Christmas.

Two roof plumbers have been asked to quote on repairs to the Turkish Bath roof. Neither has yet done so.

Des Barrett and Bruce Wright have undertaken the task of researching the original heating technology in the Turkish Bath. Des told the meeting that they have looked at the building in some depth, assessing pipes, the basement, grooves in the wall etc., all with view to understanding how the heating worked and how it was modified over the years as the use of the building changed. They hope to meet with Design 5 (the heritage architects for the restoration of the Turkish Bath) and an industrial archaeologist. Most visitors to the Turkish Bath ask about the original purpose of the building and how it worked. Des and Bruce hope that their research will lead to a permanent display in the building.

Research Officer's Report

Mary presented the meeting with a beautifully prepared leaflet highlighting all the research activities for the year. A copy is held with the minutes in the Society's archives. She told the meeting about the \$4000 grant received during the year to help cover administrative costs, the Wollemi Pine now thriving in the Turkish Bath precinct, the Kirk drawings by Lesley Wynne which are with the Mt Wilson Village Hall Committee for display and the three old wooden signs found in the village which are now being restored, Two of the signs relate to *Wildflower Hall* (now *Dennarque*) and the third to *Cherry Cottage* when it was a pottery studio.

General Business

Tour to Mudgee: Florence invited Robin Leonard to speak about the society's enjoyable 2-day tour in August. The general theme of the tour was the White and Cox families who settled in both Mt Wilson and Mudgee. John Broadley, President of the Mudgee Historical Society, hosted 13 visitors at four historic homes, built by the above families, as well as at the Historical Museum in Mudgee. Special thanks go to John Broadley, the owners of the properties who gave access to the group and Helen & John Cardy who organised the tour for the Society.

Heritage Sites Project: The Society has been supplied with an excellent digital camera by BMACHO. The Society has started using the camera to record events such painting the church, the replacement of the lettering on the Soldiers Memorial, land clearing under the power lines below the Zig Zag where they happen to follow the route of the original survey done by William Cox, the construction of the new house at *Wyndham* and the restoration works under way at *Wynstay* stables.

Newsletter: The next newsletter is due in February. Any material is welcome and should be in before mid-January.

Occasional Historical Paper: The latest issue has just been released. It features a presentation on the Turkish Bath by Susan Aykut in 2005.

Confirmation of Management Committee 2007-2008

Seven members of the Committee for the past year are continuing: Arthur Delbridge, Des Barrett, Darrel Conybeare, Kathy Harrington, Florence Smart, Louise Weingott and Bruce Wright. Mary Reynolds is also continuing ex-officio as Research and Publicity Officer. As

already noted Ellis Reynolds is retiring as is the secretary, Patrice Fletcher. There were no further nominations and so an election was not required. The Committee will appoint members to executive positions at the first committee meeting.

Presentation by Guest Speaker, Professor Ian Jack

Florence introduced Professor Jack who is Professor of History at Sydney University, President of the Royal Australian Historical Society and, in 2004, headed the last heritage review of the entire Blue Mountains. He is a great friend of Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society. His talk today is entitled *Why the heritage of Mount Wilson and Mt Irvine is distinct from the other 900 heritage items in the Blue Mountains*.

Professor Jack's knowledge and understanding of the Blue Mountains, and our area in particular, was most evident. The history of our settlements as primarily 'hill top' stations sets us apart from elsewhere. The combination of landscape and human settlement, specific to the area, was acknowledged as worthy of protection, both now and into the future. A copy of Professor Jack's paper is held with the minutes in the Society's archives.

Professor Jack graciously answered questions from members after the presentation.

Mary Reynolds thanked Professor Jack for his enlightening, informative and carefully chosen words about the special qualities of Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine and the need to defend those qualities whilst allowing appropriate growth and change. It is with affection and respect that we should be working together, and talks, such as Professor Jack's, serve to remind us of just how important our duty is.

Florence asked the meeting to thank Professor Jack in the usual manner and presented him with a gift in appreciation.

Meeting Closed

There was no further business and so Florence closed the meeting at 12.40pm with thanks to everyone who attended and an invitation to stay for a light lunch.

Confirmed

Chairman