

# **MT WILSON & MT IRVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.**

Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
held at the Mt Wilson Village Hall, on  
25<sup>th</sup> October 2008 commencing at 11.00am

## **Welcome**

Des Barrett, the Society's President and Chairperson, welcomed all members and friends, as well as guests including Professor Ian Jack, President of the Royal Australian Historical Society and Mrs. Jan Barkley Jack. Thirty five people attended the meeting; a record of the attendance is held in the Society's files.

## **Apologies**

Robert Chesney, Suzzane and Ricananda Daly, Patrice and Frank Fletcher, Tom and Carol Hughes, Airdrie Martin (Kurrajong Comleroy Historical Society), Libby Raines, John Leary and Prof. Barrie Reynolds (BMACHO) Peter Rickwood (Blue Mountains Historical Society), Pauline Michel and Bruce Wright.

## **Minutes**

The Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2007 and the mid-year general meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> May 2008 were accepted as previously circulated.

## **Chairperson's Remarks**

Des Barrett gave an overview of the Society's activities over the past year. The following are excerpts and précis of some of his remarks:

At the Turkish Bath Museum the long-awaited water tank has been installed and connected to the roof gutters. An external tap is in place and the tank is full of rainwater available for use.

A new exhibition entitled *The Bowen's Creek Road: 32 Years in the Making – a Photographic Exploration* has been installed in the centre room and is attracting interest and commentary from visitors. The exhibit utilizes three of the recently purchased exhibition panels to display black and white, colour, historical and contemporary photographs of the road and bridge, with supporting documents from as early as 1924, and images of the first settlers involved in the development of the road. Des commented that this small exhibition emphasizes the importance of the road and bridge to the communities of Mt Irvine and Mt Wilson.

The Autumn Market Weekend held 25 – 27 April 2008 proved to be very successful as the Society's major fund raising event for the year. The organising committee plans to make

this an annual event. The Society was pleased to support the MS Research Australia fundraiser in May by guiding walking tours of the Museum and the Wynstay garden.

The Society is continuing to negotiate with the Canberra Division of the Institution of Surveyors to have the 2001 Scrivener exhibition displayed there in conjunction with the centenaries of the start of the ACT-NSW border survey and the survey of Canberra itself.

Des commented that a number of publications were completed this year including two substantial newsletters in February and August 2008 as well as a new illustrated brochure *A Walk Along the Avenue* to be used as a handout with guided tours. Two Occasional Historical Papers were published this year: Number 7 contained a transcript of Prof. Ian Jack's talk at the last AGM: *The Distinguishing Features of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine* and Number 8, Irene Wynne's paper: *Mervyn Owen Wynne: A Life on the Land*.

The chairman then concluded by naming and thanking the members of the outgoing Management Committee, saying that as a first-time President he had appreciated their wise counsel throughout the year.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Annual financial statements for the year ending 30/06/2008 including the Auditor's statement had been circulated with the business papers prior to the meeting. At year end the Society had a credit balance of \$42,966.49. Kathy Harrington presented summaries of income and expenses to the meeting and asked for questions. It was moved by Ellis Reynolds, seconded by John Cardy and carried that the financial reports be accepted as circulated.

### **Turkish Bath Rental Ceremony**

Ellis Reynolds gave an interesting overview of how the annual rent-paying ceremony came into being, reflecting on the contributions of the owners of Wynstay to the development of the Society and the restoration of the Turkish Bath building. Ellis then passed the specially mounted two dollar coins over to Wendy Smart and Wendy handed the coins back to the Society as a donation. The official receipt was then signed.

### **Research Officer's Report**

Mary presented the meeting with an illustrated report covering research and historical matters for the period from May to October 2008.

Key points include: The passing of two founding members and strong supporters of the Society. Mervyn Owen Wynne, great grandson of the founder of *Wynstay* and the last surviving member of that generation of the Wynne family. Mervyn died in May 2009 at 82, and his ashes were interred in the St Georges churchyard cemetery on 4<sup>th</sup> October. Wilga Smart was 85 when she died on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2008 and her funeral was held at St George's on 11<sup>th</sup> August. Wilga and the Smart family came to Carisbrook, Mt Irvine in 1939 and she is buried, as she wished, in the Mt Irvine cemetery.

Mary was assisted by Helen and John Cardy with two large tour groups who walked along the Avenue and visited the Turkish Bath. Mary noted that these tour groups are lucrative for the Society; these two brought in \$440.

A number of requests for historical information have come in over the last six months and Mary summarised these. She spends a considerable amount of time answering requests and providing copies of documents. Mary has also been diligent in submitting information and making corrections to previous entries in the Blue Mountains Pioneer Register, produced by the Blue Mountains Family History Society. A second volume of this is about to be published. Copies are held in the Society's library and may be viewed by arrangement.

The 1920s gramophone used by the Workers Club which met at *Old Wynstay* in that era is now on display in the Museum. Mary Reynolds and Bruce Wright attended a book launch at Springwood of *Remembrance: Springwood District Honour Roll 1914 – 1919*. Mary also was guest speaker at the Lower Mountains Garden Club in October.

Work continues on documents and photographs being accessioned into the archives. This all takes place under Mary's supervision and is an ongoing task. Mary finished her report by welcoming new members nominating for the committee and everyone for their support.

### **Confirmation of Management Committee 2008-2009**

As there were 9 nominations for 9 positions the management committee for 2008 – 2009 was confirmed as: Des Barrett, Helen Cardy, Darrel Conybeare, Arthur Delbridge, Kathy Harrington, Anne Mayall, Kathleen Oakes, Florence Smart, and Bruce Wright. Mary Reynolds is also continuing ex-officio as Research and Publicity Officer. Des thanked retiring member Louise Weingott and welcomed new members Helen Cardy, Anne Mayall and Kathleen Oakes. As is usual practice the Committee will appoint members to executive positions at the first committee meeting.

### **Special Presentation by Professor Ian Jack**

Ian Jack had requested in advance time on the agenda to make a special presentation of material to Mary Reynolds, historian and public officer. Professor Jack is Associate 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 announced that since the Mt Wilson Public School had closed in 1982 he had been holding a number of record books and documents in safe keeping until an appropriate home for them could be found. Prof. Jack had decided that this was the time to hand this extremely valuable collection over to the Society. This came as a complete surprise and Mary was quite over whelmed. The package contained the following: **1.** Observation Book Mt Wilson 6<sup>th</sup> December 1924, the first entry; **2.** The Visitors' Book 1936---1983; **3.** Half Yearly Examinations of Pupils Public School Mount Wilson 1936—1953; **4.** Official History of Mt Wilson Public School 1890-1940 NSW Dept. of Education; **5.** Book of Tests 1950; **6.** Letter dated 1979 from the Mt Wilson Parents & Citizens' Association with an urgent request to keep the school open, signed by Heather Kinney; **7.** Mt Wilson School magazine *Thinker* October 1968; **8.** Poems by students: 3 pages; **9.** The Register of

Admission from 1936-1982; **10**. Two Photos one with date 1978 but no names. Teacher is probably Mr G. Kinney. Professor Jack was warmly thanked for this unexpected and generous gift, a truly valuable contribution to the social history of the villages.

### **Guest Speaker Emeritus Professor Arthur Delbridge**

Mary Reynolds introduced Arthur Delbridge, mentioning his distinguished career as a linguist, Foundation Professor of Linguistics at Macquarie University and also two times President of the Society and tireless volunteer on many projects.

Arthur's titled his presentation *Our words: The history of an enterprise*. He gave a very engaging account of the development and success of the Macquarie Dictionary from when it was first proposed in 1969, just two years after Macquarie University was first established at Ryde, until the fourth edition came out in 2005. Arthur related the challenges of finding funding and a publisher, and of selling the concept of Australian English as being distinct from other forms of the English language used around the world. He spoke of collecting and writing the text before the days of computers and all the steps involved in bringing out the first edition in 1981. The full text of Arthur's presentation is held in the Society's records.

Des Barrett proposed a vote of thanks for Arthur, and the question time continued through an enjoyable luncheon break.

### **Meeting Closed**

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

Confirmed

Chairman