

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

Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting  
held at the Mt Wilson Village Hall, on  
20th November 2010 commencing at 11.00am

## **Welcome**

The Society's President and Chairperson Des Barrett welcomed all members and friends. Thirty two people attended the meeting; a record of the names is kept on file.

## **Apologies**

Jan Allen, Richard and Loretta Beatty, Jane and Philip Beeby, Zaharah Braybrooke, Pam Cave, Christopher Clark, Barry Freeman, Deborah and Ted Griffin, Wendy Holland, Mary Holt, Ellis Reynolds, Malcolm Reynolds, Libby Raines, Judith and John Teulon, Elaine Turnidge, Louise and Paul Weingott, Margaret Wickins and Bruce Knott.

## **Minutes**

It was moved by Robin Leonard and seconded by John Cardy that the Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting held on 14th November 2009 and Mid Year Meeting held 31st July 2010 be accepted as previously circulated. Carried unanimously.

## **Chairperson's Report**

The Chairman Des Barrett gave an overview of the day and a summary of the Society's activities over the last year:

He explained that today's meeting was planned as a combination of Annual reports and business meeting and a special Community History Day, aimed at raising awareness of the Society's archives, and through them, to provide members with an appreciation of their role in fostering the idea of history and heritage within the communities of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine.

A display had been set up showing just a fraction of the Society's archives which take many forms – from written documents, illustrative material, and oral histories.

Des explained that the archives are stored in the Study Centre, in less than ideal conditions, however, through the on-going and committed work of John and Helen Cardy, Kathleen Oakes, Mary Reynolds and others, the Society is putting the archives in order, so that they may be utilised by researchers from a variety of backgrounds to tell their stories about Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine, from the earliest times to today.

Des invited questions and general discussion from those present. Then went on to cover highlights from the past year.

## **Turkish Bath Museum**

Lester Salter and Greg Brown from the Sydney Restoration Company, the firm that recently installed the new roof on the Turkish Bath Museum, have agreed to make an annual visit to check the gutters and advise on maintenance requirements generally at the Turkish Bath Museum. At this stage, the most pressing maintenance issue, they suggest, is that the exterior paint work will require attention as soon as possible.

## **Preservation and Conservation at the Museum and Archives**

Conservators from the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney visited Mt Wilson in September 2010 and met with some members of the Management Committee. The purpose of the visit was to look at our archives and Museum, and to recommended preservation and other preventive measures for the long-term safe keeping of the items in our collection.

It was a useful meeting. The consultants were generally pleased with the Society's conservation programs, and also put forward a number of recommendations including: upgrading our environmental monitoring equipment; the use of acid-free archive boxes; special coatings for storage shelves; advice about scanning and copying old images; and the use of proper photographic equipment when scanning various types of images.

## **The Society and the Mt Wilson website**

The Management Committee has agreed to be registered and involved in the development of the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine website. The Management Committee has had ongoing dialogue with Graham Tribe and Tim Gow, two of the three member team working to ensure that the website is available for public access as soon as possible. The start up or initial design fees (\$2000), and yearly maintenance costs are very reasonable and affordable, as are the fees required when changes are required to our site. The next step will be for us to contribute detailed information about our Society, for example, our aims and objectives, a history of the Society, our structure, what and how we collect material, the Turkish Bath Museum, and archives, to name a few of the possible items.

## **Retirement of Anne Mayall and Kathy Harrington**

Des recognised Anne Mayall on her retirement from the Management Committee and her role as Museum curator, with warm thanks for her commitment and contribution to committee.

Kathy Harrington became the Society's Treasurer in 2008. At that time, the Society had lost its accountant of many years, so one of Kathy's first tasks was to find a new accountant, familiarise herself with the operational aspects of the Society's financial system, and to review the Society's financial status before presenting the accounts for professional scrutiny. She did all of these things with skill and grace, thus assuring the Management Committee that our finances were, and continue to be, 'healthy'.

Des noted that the Society has a variety of income sources and expenditure commitments. The income is derived from Government grants, membership fees, publication sales,

Museum entrance fees, donations, market sales, exhibition sale (the Scrivener exhibition) and special tours, while expenditure also covers a number of items such as postage, maintenance of the Museum, exhibition equipment and printing. Paying our bills across diverse fields is time consuming and requires an eagle eye on what has to be paid, to whom, and when. Kathy was warmly thanked for undertaking all these tasks with ease, and for her humour and wise counsel on matters concerning our finances and for her contributions to the work of the Management Committee.

Finally, as this will be our last meeting for the year, Des thanked all our volunteers and the Management Committee for their extraordinary efforts throughout 2010. It has been another rewarding year for our Society.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Annual financial statements for the year ending 30/06/2010 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 \$55,763.14. Kathy Harrington presented summaries of income and expenses to the meeting and asked for questions.

It was moved by Tim Gow, seconded by Graham Tribe and carried that the financial reports be accepted as circulated.

### **Confirmation of Management Committee 2010 - 2011**

As 9 nominations had been received for 9 positions, the management committee for 2010-2011 was confirmed as: Des Barrett, John Braybrooke, Zaharah Braybrooke, Helen Cardy, Fiona Carruthers, Darrel Conybeare, Kathleen Oakes, Alice Simpson and Florence Smart, with Mary Reynolds continuing ex-officio as Research and Public Officer.

As is usual practice the Committee will appoint members to executive positions at the first committee meeting.

The business meeting was then closed and Des Barrett invited members to sit back and enjoy the presentations and displays assembled as a celebration of Community History Day.

Kathleen Oakes gave a short information session covering the Society's Collections Policy and the standard Donor Agreement policy developed to ensure the Society's ownership when items are given or loaned for the Society's use.

John Cardy then gave an overview of what categories of items are retained in the Society's archive, and how they are conserved, catalogued and maintained in an appropriate environment.

The Chairman then introduced Mary Reynolds, the Society's researcher and historian, and Mary gave her usual informative and entertaining presentation which she entitled: Researching, Sorting, Filing and Perhaps Writing, and Dealing with Requests.

Mary explained how she first became involved and interested in researching and writing the history of the local community, and where this interest had taken her over the last

eighteen or so years. Mary's paper is of great interest and is available as a separate document, on request.

Following Mary's talk and some lengthy discussion the Chairman invited those present to enjoy lunch together and browse the displays. The entire program was very well received and continued into the afternoon.

Florence Smart  
Secretary