

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

**Held on Saturday, 20th March, 2010
in the Mount Wilson Village Hall, The Avenue, Mount Wilson.**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The meeting opened at 5.35 p.m. when the Chairman welcomed everyone.

2. ATTENDANCE

Committee: Bill Ryan (President), Richard Beattie (Vice President) Libby Raines, (Treasurer), Moira Green (Secretary), Brian Abrahams, Robert Chesney, Kim Gow, Alison Halliday.

Other Members: Ron Green, John and Mary Holt, Mary Reynolds, Florence Smart, Arthur Delbridge, Alex Halliday, Wendy Holland, Loretta Beattie, Marilyn Laving, Michael Sweeney, Judy Tribe, Robin and John Leonard, Ted and Deborah Griffin, Maureen Ryan, Beth Raines, Susie Hope, Owen Haviland, Tim Gow, Diana and Joe Landsberg.

Visitors: Patrice and Frank Fletcher

Apologies: Peter Richey, Helen and Barry Freeman, Beverley Thompson, Gregory Lloyd, Kathleen Oakes, Peter Dempsey, Sarah Hope, Graham Tribe

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Libby Raines presented the following report:

Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc.

Statement of Accounts 1-7-09 to 1-1-10

Working Account

Receipts:-

B.M.C.C. Maintenance of reserves and parks	8,800.00
Membership	2,890.00
A.T.O. G.S.T. refund	483.00
Booklets - sold at Mount Tomah	27.50
Rabbait	77.00
Extra Phone Books	33.00
Interest	<u>338.95</u>
Total Receipts:-	<u>\$12,649.45</u>

Expenditure:-

Maintenance - Alan Gunn and Micah Fink	14,147.20
Finsure Insurance	1,435.00
C.W. Printing - Printing and copying	869.53

Blaze Aid - Victorian Bushfire Appeal	2,000.00
Secretary - Office supplies, groceries	212.50
Groceries and drinks - social gatherings	599.52
A.T.O. G.S.T. payment	160.00
Service at War Memorial	192.99
Department of Fair Trading	47.00
Village Hall - meetings and gatherings	87.00
Mudgee Tafe - B.B.Q.s for Cathedral Reserve	660.00
Rabbait	112.00
Adam's Shed - Spray (Round Up, pulse)	213.40
Bank Fees	<u>83.50</u>

Total Expenditure	\$20,819.64
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Total receipts	12,649.45
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- Total expenditure	20,819.64
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=	(8,170.19)
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+ Carried forward	<u>15,233.13</u>
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	<u>\$ 7,062.94</u>
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Bank Balance 1-1-10 \$7,062.94

Fixed Term Deposits \$20,000.00

Money held for membership:- \$2,400.00

Weed control:- \$986.00

G. Thompson questioned the expenditure of maintenance being much greater than the income. It was explained that it was because of the timing of the submission of accounts. It will even out during the year.

It was moved, Ron Green, seconded Alex Halliday that the report be approved. It was approved.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bowens Creek Road and Bridge

Subsequent to a meeting of representatives of the local Progress Associations, Mount Wilson/Mount Irvine RFS, Bilpin RFS, Blue Mountains City Council, Hawkesbury City Council and the Hon. Bob Debus to discuss the access constraints of the above, the HCC has formally resolved to close that section of Mount Irvine Road, Bilpin from a point past the entrance to the last property from Bells Line of Road, to Bowens Creek. The HCC proposes to seek the transfer of the section of road to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service for use as a fire trail. If that proposal is rejected, the HCC will vest the land in Council as operational land and approach the relevant Authority to create a fire trail and provide the necessary funding to bring the fire trail to a level of service acceptable to the RFS.

Zigzag Road Subsidence – Leaning Tree

The acutely leaning tree close to the halfway point on the zigzag has been removed by BMCC contractors with little observable damage to the surrounding bush. Although the depression in the road is still there it is not expected to worsen in the short to medium term and will be

inspected periodically by the BMCC together with other areas exhibiting subsidence viz “Ferny Corner” and Mount Irvine Road.

The Giant Tree

As many members are aware, the Giant Tree was struck by lightning more than a year ago and is now dead. Despite this, many visitors still visit the tree and are exposing themselves unwittingly to the increasing risk of falling branches. The BMCC have now agreed to arrange contractors to prune the tree as soon as possible and provide new signage.

Integral Energy

Integral Energy has replaced many power poles in the Mount Wilson/Mount Irvine area and between Mount Wilson and Bells Line of Road in recent months. The BMCC has promised that when Integral has finished their pole replacement programme they will remove all the dumped material from the storage area below the Zigzag and secure the area with robust locked gates to prevent unauthorized dumping.

It is understood that a complaint from a local resident has delayed the installation of the remotely operated Integral Energy generator at Mount Irvine.

Fire Places/Barbecues

Two barbecues, manufactured by metal fabrication students at Mudgee TAFE, were installed in Cathedral Reserve last November. They have proved popular with day-trippers/campers during the summer and another six units have been ordered for delivery this year. The Committee is investigating another type of fireplace/barbecue of US/Canadian design which could be manufactured locally by say, Lithgow Valley Engineering. It is desirable to have at least 16-20 fireplaces in various locations in Cathedral Reserve if the goal is to deter the willy-nilly lighting of fires on the grassed areas.

Picnic Tables

Two of the 24 picnic tables throughout Mount Wilson and adjoining areas have been fitted with plastic “feet” and the performance of this modification observed for six months. Where the surface is well compacted the “feet” keep the wooden legs clear of the surface and hence moisture ingress; where the surface is friable the “feet” sink to an extent that could allow surface/leg contact. Granite tiles 90x90 mm have been obtained to place under the feet and is expected that all tables will be modified by mid-year.

Overhanging Branches/Trees

Members are reminded of their responsibility to ensure that vegetation on their property that has the potential to cause injury to others, damage to property or inhibit the passage of pedestrian and /or vehicular traffic must be removed or trimmed at their cost. This is of particular relevance in narrower streets e.g. Church Lane, Stephen Lane where the RFS CAT1 and BMCC trucks can experience difficulty negotiating passage without incurring damage. Location of garbage and recycling bins also needs to be considered in the context of lifting height and obstruction by overhanging branches.

Clean-Up Australia Day

Organized by Committee member, Robert Chesney, and assisted by 18 willing helpers from the community, a large amount of rubbish, including discarded carpet, heaters, general building materials, plastic food wrappers was collected along Mount Wilson Road and Bells Line of Road. It was a miserable day weather-wise and all involved deserve a special vote of thanks for their perseverance.

New Mount Wilson Brochure

An up-to-date brochure has been printed and is available from Moira Green. This map guide to attractions and accommodations, gardens, parks and walks is very popular to visitors to the area.

Rabbits

The good rains since the beginning of the year appear to have been favourable for breeding and there appears to be increased activity in a number of areas of Mount Wilson. Members are reminded that George Mayne holds a stock of “Rabbait” on behalf of MWPA and will advise on methods of use.

Road Name Clarification

That section of road between Founders’ Corner and Hillcrest Lane has been described in various official documents as both The Avenue and Mount Irvine Road. The BMCC has finally agreed that the latter descriptor will be the designation used in all future Council communications.

Dangerous Road Edges

The recent heavy rains have washed fallen leaves to the road edges where they collected and started to decay which, combined with soil, has created a slush 150mm. or more in depth off the edges of bitumen. This is particularly prevalent around “Ferry Corner” and on various bends on Mount Irvine Road. Extra care needs to be taken when driving in these areas. The attention of BMCC has been drawn to this hazard.

Road Conditions – Farrer Road West

Representations have been made to BMCC drawing attention to the poor and dangerous condition of Farrer Road West. Narrow, steep and/or tortuous and frequently a combination of all three, traffic flow on this road will increase as house building along Smith Road progresses. Without significant improvements to Farrer Road West there will be an increasing potential for serious accidents.

Pot-holes/Road Surfaces

The BMCC appear to have solved the pot-hole problem on the Zigzag but not on the Avenue. Recent resurfacing of The Avenue between the top of the Zigzag and the Village Hall is unsatisfactory as it appears to have done little to eliminate the rough patches and pot-holes. This work was carried out by contractors and it is understood that Council is also unhappy with the standard of work.

Gutter and Culverts

The BMCC has agreed to include the cleaning of gutters and culverts in Mount Wilson on a twice yearly cycle. This will help prevent the growth of native but nevertheless rogue vegetation in what are intended as watercourses and reduce the flooding on roads during periods of heavy

rain. As part of this service Council will also trim vegetation along the verges and the high-side section between Hillcrest Lane and Cathedral Reserve. This is scheduled to be done shortly.

Road Drainage

A number of areas along the western side of The Avenue between the Zigzag and the Village Hall are little better than quagmires because of lack of drainage. The driveway area in front of the Village Hall becomes a pond during heavy rain because there is no drainage. These and other drainage matters are being pursued with the BMCC.

Business Arising from the Report

Overhanging Branches - Joe Landsberg spoke about the aggressive letter from Council to Church Lane residents. He commented that there is a problem with an elm on Council land that residents are not allowed to touch but Council will not because of the expense involved. He also mentioned that truck drivers who complain about overhanging branches need to drive more carefully.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 R. Leonard asked if there was any plan to plant trees in front of the Marcus Clark Reserve. It was explained that there was no such plan but that it would be considered.

5.2 J. Holt commented that the roadside markers on the Mount Wilson Road needed attention. Some are obscured by vegetation others have lost the reflectors. This will be taken up with BMCC.

5.3 G. Thompson suggested that a street light in front of the Hall was necessary. The Village Hall Committee is already planning to install a sensor light at the gateway and should be done in the earlier half of the year. It was suggested that more substantial lighting on the corner is required.

5.4 E. Griffin informed the meeting that Council is imposing a Section 94 development levy of 1% on all developments. This was imposed despite the fact that no extra infrastructure was required by his development.

5.6 R. Beattie has organised a list of contractors and suppliers for use of property owners. There was little response to his invitation to add to the list. Anyone wishing to do so should contact him.

6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 6.15 p.m.

Signed as a true record

Bill Ryan, President

