

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

**held on Saturday, 19th September, 2009
at 5.30 p.m. in the Mount Wilson Village Hall.**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The meeting commenced at 5.40 p.m. The President, Bill Ryan, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that the membership of the Association had changed since last meeting; two new members, Luke O'Hearn and Glenn Murcutt were welcomed, three members have resigned after the sale of their properties, Sheila Simpson-Lee, Margaret and Warren Cleary and we are saddened by the deaths of Luigi Strano and Anne Ross.

2. PRESENT

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

Other Members: Ron Green, Joe Landsberg, Loretta Beattie, Martin Barge, Helen & Barry Freeman, Mary Reynolds, Robyn and John Leonard, Florence Smart, Arthur Delbridge, Jane and George Mayne, Michael Sweeney, Mary & John Holt, David Howell, Helena & Maurice May, Beverley & Graham Thompson, Robert Nichol, Peter Anderson, Deborah Griffin, Margaret & Stephen Dean, Nancy Fox, Maureen Ryan, Judy & John Teulon, Jane Beeby.

Non-Members: Anne De Salis

Apologies: Councillor Terri Hamilton, Judy & Graham Tribe, Susie & Sarah Hope, Owen Havilland, Ted Griffin, Kim & Tim Gow, Gregory Lloyd, Philip Beeby, Sarah Howell, Alex Halliday, Beth Raines, Peter Raines.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was moved Ron Green, seconded David Howell, that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 1st November, 2008 and the previous General Meeting, held on 21st March, 2009 be confirmed as true records of those meetings. It was accepted.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

John Holt questioned the fact that the financial report had not been sent out with the previous minutes. Although this has not been usual procedure, it was agreed that in future it will be made available along with the auditor's report prior to the meeting.

Libby Raines presented the following report and thanked Richard England for auditing the

accounts.

Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc. Statement of Accounts 1-7-08 to 30-6-09

Working Account

Receipts:-

Blue Mountains City Council - Maintenance of Reserves	18,614.53
Membership	4,880.00
A.T.O. - G.S.T. reimbursement	266.00
Donations	42.00
Reimbursement for hire of Village Hall- J. Lee	30.00
Rabbait	10.00
Auction - Christmas decorations - divided 3 ways	852.00
Interest	1,429.76
Total Receipts:	\$ 26,124.29

Expenditure:-

Maintenance - Alan Gunn, Peter Raines, Micak Fink, Tim Gow	7,221.30
Insurance	2,230.00
Secretary - stationary, provisions	584.39
Willis Copy & Design - printing	777.25
Dodo Internet	199.00
A.T.O. G.S.T.	1,158.00
Lands Department	71.20
Department of Fair Trading annual fee	45.00
Village Hall - meetings and functions	126.00
Village Hall - Hearing loop and sound system	1,638.00
Service at War Memorial	185.00
Rural Fire Service & Mt. Irvine Progress - proceeds of auction	568.00
Labels and signs for reserves	1,989.35
Bank Fees	150.00
Total Expenditure:	\$16,942.49

Total receipts	26,124.29
- Total Expenditure	16,942.49
	= 9,181.80
+ Carried forward	6,051.33
Total	15,233.13

Bank Balance on 1-7-09 \$15,233.13

Fixed Term Deposits: \$20,000.00

Money is earmarked for village shed and tree maintenance.

Money held for weed control - \$1,199.00

Audited and signed by Richard A. England, F.C.A; MAICD on 14-9-09

Thanks were expressed to Mr. England for auditing the books.

John Holt questioned the need to hold \$20,000 in fixed term deposit when money could be spent in the village and in particular in the village hall. It was explained that it was necessary to keep an emergency fund and that some fees were paid five years in advance so there would be less income in the next few years. It was suggested that only \$10,000 should be kept in reserve also that the treasurer dissect the amount of fees that are pre-paid.

It was moved by Barry Freeman that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded David Howell. All were in agreement.

A resolution was presented that two members of the incoming committee, who are in attendance at this A.G.M., be authorized to certify for the Department of Fair Trading that this Committee submitted the financial statement in accordance with Section 26(6) of the Act, to members at this A.G.M.

It was moved by Ron Green that the resolution be accepted, seconded Helen Freeman. All members were in agreement.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bowens Creek Road and Bridge

Representatives of both local Progress Associations, the Rural Fire Service and the Bilpin Rural Fire Service met with our Federal member the Hon. Bob Debus in late June to express our concern with the restricted access for fire fighting equipment on Bowens Creek Road and the bridge in particular. He agreed with our concern and has arranged a meeting with the above representatives and the Mayors of the Blue Mountains City Council and the Hawkesbury City Council. The meeting is scheduled to occur in early October.

Mount Wilson Website Committee

An ad hoc Committee comprising Graham tribe, Stephen Dean and Vivienne Eggers has been established by the Progress Association with the ongoing task of maintaining the integrity of the Mount Wilson website. The Progress Association has contacted all residents and/or property owners who currently use or who have in the past used the website to advise them of the new arrangement.

Waterfall Creek Walk

The path from the bottom of Waterfall Road to the bridge across Waterfall Creek has been restored by the Progress Association under the supervision of Libby Raines. This section of the popular walk suffered severe erosion due to its steep grade and the restored reinforced path should resist the elements for years. Repairs to other sections of the walk will be undertaken when funds become available.

Unmade Roads - Department of Lands

As required in the Department's letter to the Association of 22nd October, 2008, the presence of locks on gates across unmade roads in Mount Wilson has been reported to the Department.

Unmade Roads – Walford Road

The clearing of Walford Road by Integral Energy which required the removal of some large trees impeding access of the larger Integral trucks has been completed. Integral replaced existing gates with new gates but without locks. Walford Road is now fully accessible to Rural Fire Service trucks.

Removal of Telstra Payphone

The Association has made widespread representations protesting the removal of the payphone which was near to the Fire Service shed. The removal by Telstra of this vital communication link without prior consultation or advice has caused deep community concern. The recently announced Federal Government intentions relating to Telstra which specifically addresses the removal of payphones may assist our efforts to have it replaced.

Zig Zag Road Subsidence – Leaning Tree

The acutely leaning tree and associated road subsidence in the ZigZag has been reported to the BMCC. It is understood that the Council is contracting the removal of the tree but no advice has been received of a commencement date. There is a measure of community disquiet that should this tree fall the displacement of the root-ball could render the road impassable.

Replacement of Guttering – Founder's Corner Toilet Block

After a number of delays the guttering has been replaced allowing rainwater to enter the storage tank and provide water for hand washing.

Painting of Picnic Shelters

The Council has placed on its works schedule the painting of picnic shelters in the various Mount Wilson reserves. It is a number of years since these were last painted and the exposure of bare wood risks deterioration and decay.

Rabbits

After a prolonged lull, rabbits are re-appearing in parts of Mount Wilson. Whilst some find them appealing creatures they can be destructive in gardens. Members are reminded that George Mayne holds a small stock of *Rabbait* on behalf of the Association which is available to residents for a small charge.

Fireplaces/Barbecues – Cathedral Reserve

As advised at the March General Meeting, six National Parks designed fireplaces manufactured by the Mudgee TAFE College have been ordered. Delivery was promised “in Spring” but no confirmation of a delivery date has been received. Random fires continue to be lit in the grassed playing area by picnickers and school groups who frequent to reserve.

Weed Eradication

The BMCC has a new noxious weeds officer who has already spoken to a few residents about weed infestations present on their property. Particular attention is being given to the presence of blackberry and *montbretia*.

Bushcare Group – 10th Anniversary

The Bushcare Group is a dedicated group of people who painstakingly remove weeds and invasive plants in the native bush and adjacent areas around Mount Wilson. If left unchecked these weeds and plants would rapidly degrade the natural environment and it is a timely reminder with the approach of Spring to take a close look at our own properties.

In recognition of the work of our Bushcare Group Councillor Terri Hamilton, representing the Mayor, attended the Group's last meeting and presented a Certificate expressing the gratitude of the BMCC for the Group's efforts.

Restoration of Access Roads – Cathedral Reserve/Silva Plana

The BMCC has restored the access roads of both areas to a high standard. Efforts have been made to divert rainwater which caused the previous erosion and the MWPA will advise council promptly if corrective action is required.

Trimming of Street Trees

The Association has retained a horticulturalist/arborist, Micah Fink, to maintain the health and safety of the street trees except in situations where a “cherry picker” is required. Tree trimming has been completed in Stephens Lane, Hillcrest Lane and The Avenue.

Integral Energy

The clearance of all high voltage line access routes from Bells Line of Road to the end of Mount Irvine have been completed adding an additional element of safety in the coming bushfire season. Unfortunately, the Mount Irvine generator planned by Integral to be installed/commissioned in the second half of this calendar year seems unlikely to become a reality given there are no signs of construction being imminent. The planned privatization of elements of the NSW electricity industry may be a factor in the delay.

Parking Control Lags – Cathedral Reserve

Badly decayed logs being cannibalized for campfires have been replaced by good quality logs harvested from the replaced power poles gifted by Integral Energy. In addition, steel gated access has been provided for Integral Energy to service/repair the transformer located in the grassed play area.

New Mount Wilson Brochure

A new up-to-date brochure is being prepared by the Association and all residents/property owners who had ads in the previous brochure have been contacted to ascertain their continuing interest and/or to provide new material. Although provided primarily for the benefit of visitors, it's worth remembering visitors often become new residents/property owners.

Hazardous Trees

The Association is pleased to see the removal of the potentially hazardous tree overhanging The Avenue close to "Ferny Corner". Our thanks to Robert Nichol for having this tree removed so promptly. We should all remind ourselves that we have an absolute legal responsibility to ensure that trees or other structures on our property that potentially threaten the public or neighbouring property are removed.

Remembrance Day – 11th November, 2009

The MWPA Committee through Robert Chesney has organized the Remembrance Day Service again this year. The luncheon Address, which provides an historical perspective on residents of Mount Wilson/Mount Irvine who served and/or died in the wars of the 20th century will on this occasion be given by our Committee member, Alison Halliday.

House/Street Numbers

A reminder of the request from Emergency Services for resident/property owners to display prominently their street numbers in addition to their property name. The life you save may well be your own.

Mount Wilson/Mount Irvine Community Newsletter

The consensus is that the new Community Newsletter is achieving its objectives and the bumper eight page August Issue illustrates the breadth of topics able to be covered. Thanks to all those who contributed to the Newsletter this year and in particular to our indefatigable Editor, contributing Editor, Foreign Correspondent and Scientific Advisor – Joe Landsberg. Thank you Joe, your efforts are truly appreciated.

Mount Wilson Community Fire Forum

As advised at the March 2009 General Meeting, the MWPA has provided a \$2000 support grant to the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute which has arranged this forum. As many may be aware, the Institute conducted a Forum to examine the destructive Grose Valley fire of late 2007. The published report made a number of recommendations which are intended to be of benefit in

the future. The Victorian fires early this year which were unbelievably devastating in human terms have heightened community concern to a level not experienced in recent years and the Forum to be held next Saturday, 26th September, 10.30 am to 12.20 pm is an event not to be missed.

7. DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS ARISING FROM PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- **House/Street Numbers.** A question was asked relating to the use of the rural numbering system discussed at an earlier meeting. This is being trialed in the Megalong Valley and it was suggested that BMCC be contacted to find out the present position. John Leonard mentioned the use made by Police, Ambulance and Town Fire Service of an incorrect map. Correspondence has also been sent to BMCC regarding the confusion of the address of properties between Founder's Corner and Hillcrest Lane, on rate notices, "The Avenue" but marked by a sign "Mt. Irvine Road" at Founder's Corner.
- **Newsletter.** Joe Landsberg commented that the suggestion of the newsletter being included on the website and being sent by email has produced only one comment so far.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Fire Station Shed. Barry Freeman asked why there was a continuing delay in construction. It was confirmed that approval had been granted by Council. Owen Haviland is organizing construction.

8.2 Road Maintenance. Graham Thompson commented on the poor condition of the road from 'Breenhold' to the hall, Stephen Dean on the road at the corner of Wynnes Rocks Road. They have been marked with yellow paint for resurfacing and have been scheduled. The work will be done when a BMCC maintenance crew is available for this area. Priority is given to more populated areas in the mountains.

8.3 Tree across Mt. Irvine Road. David Howell reported that he has reported the fallen tree to BMCC.

8.4 Library. There is a new library catalogue available with a number of newly donated book available for borrowing.

8.5 New Phone Books. Additional books are available for a cost of \$3 dollars.

8.6 Village Hall Upgrades. Ron Green as Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee reported that BMCC had put new security locks on the front door and the entry door into the toilets. These need to be locked with the key on leaving the hall. 100 new chairs and 2 trolleys have been provided by Council at a cost of \$17,000. They have all been "Scotch Garded".

9. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2009/10

The Chairman thanked Diana Landsberg, who is not standing for election again, for her participation and contribution for the last five years.

Since there were less nominations than the number of positions on the Committee for 2009/10, an election is not necessary. There is one vacancy to be filled.

The Committee for 2009/10 will comprise:

President	Bill Ryan
Vice President	Richard Beattie
Treasurer	Libby Raines

Secretary
Committee Members

Moira Green
Brian Abrahams, Robert Chesney, Alison Halliday,

David Howell moved a vote of thanks to the Committee for its work for the past year. This was passed by acclamation.

10. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The next General Meeting will be held on 20th March, 2010.

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on 18th September, 2010.

The meeting closed at 6.30 p.m.

Signed as a true record

Bill Ryan
Chairman