

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

**held on Saturday, 1st November, 2008
at 5.30 p.m. in the Mount Wilson Village Hall.**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The meeting commenced at 5.35 p.m. The President, Bill Ryan, welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologized for the postponement. As the purpose of the meeting was to approve the financial statement it was therefore important to have the Treasurer present. He was delighted to see Libby back from hospital in the community again.

Terri Hamilton was welcomed and congratulated on her election to her fifth term as Councillor.

2. PRESENT

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

Other Members: Ron Green, Timothy Stirling-Levis, Robyn and John Leonard, Florence Smart, Arthur Delbridge, Mary Reynolds, Joe Landsberg, Alex Halliday, Jane and George Mayne, Wendy Holland, Michael Sweeney, Mary & John Holt, Beverley & Graham Thompson, Robert Nichol, Peter Anderson, Margaret & Stephen Dean, Frank Fletcher, Alan Rose, Helen Freeman, Sarah & David Howell, Richard and Loretta Beattie, Maureen Ryan, Beth Raines.

Invited Guests: Councillor Terri Hamilton, Ray Harrington, Kathy Harrington

Apologies: Councillor Janet Mays, Susie Hope, Owen Havilland, Margaret Wickins, Bruce Knott, Graeme and Kerry Keirghery, Margaret Richey, Deb & Ted Griffin, Marilyn & Peter Laving, Barry Freeman, Judith & John Teulon, Helena & Maurice May, Elizabeth & Joe Montano.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was confirmed that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 22nd September, 2007 and the previous General Meeting, held on 5th April, 2008 were true records of those meetings.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

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Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc. Statement of Accounts 1-7-07 to 31-6-08
Working Account

Receipts:-

Blue Mountains City Council - Maintenance of Reserves	22,000.00
Membership	1,868.00
Donations	113.00
A.T.O. - G.S.T. refunds	1,548.00
Extra phone books	20.00
Interest	1,114.99
Total Receipts:	\$ 26,663.99
Carried forward:-	4,141.00

Expenditure:-

Alan Gunn - maintenance	12,779.70
BMCC - Silva Plana gates & bollards	3,943.50
BMCC - Signs	495.20
Phil Heaton - Hire of cherry picker for Avenue trees	990.00
Insurance	2,200.00
Adams Shed - Weed killer	310.00
Globe Memorial - Lettering on War Memorial	1,320.00
Willis Copy & Design - Photocopying, printing	463.60
Secretary - stamps, stationary etc.	353.36
A.T.O. G.S.T.	432.00
Service at War Memorial	84.95
Department of Fair Trading annual fee	44.00
Flowers - Ern Morgan	42.00
Village Hall - meetings and functions	191.50
Catering for functions	952.05
Bank Fees	152.00
Total Expenditure:	\$24,753.86

Total receipts	26,663.99
- Total Expenditure	24,753.86
	= 1,919.13
+ Carried forward	4,141.20
Total	6,051.33

Bank Balance on 1-7-08 \$6,051.33

Fixed Term Deposits: \$20,000.00

Audited and signed by Richard A. England, Chartered Accountant, Auditor on 25-9-08

It was moved by Graham Thompson that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded Joe Landsberg. All members present were in agreement.

A resolution was presented that two members of the incoming committee, who are in attendance at this A.G.M., be authorised 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 Diana Landsberg that the resolution be accepted, seconded Alex Halliday. All members were in agreement.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mount Wilson Road Verge Clearance

We are grateful to the BMCC for the clearance of the verge from Bells Line of Road to the village. Some unavoidable destruction of tree ferns occurred on the Zig-Zag section of road but the majority of these were growing in the gutters and will be removed when a contractor is available.

Storm Damage of Trees

Several weeks ago two large eucalypts came down at the halfway point of the Zig-Zag totally blocking the road to all traffic. Dedicated work by our Mount Wilson rural fire brigade partially opened the road in a few hours followed by BMCC workers who completed the task. However, there are many trees along the Zig-Zag and along Mount Wilson Road to Bells Line of Road that have a dangerous lean and the potential to block the road in a future storm. The attention of BMCC has been drawn to these risks.

Bowens Creek Road and Bridge

The physical deterioration of the Bowens Creek Bridge is such that it can only safely support a 5 tonne limit which precludes the passage of virtually all RFS fire trucks. Significant repairs are required to the bridge abutments. The BMCC in partnership with the Hawkesbury Council is developing a management strategy for the bridge and a draft of which will be presented to Council in February 2009. As the Hawkesbury Council has in the past shown little enthusiasm for spending money on the Bowens Creek Road or bridge it is important to raise the level of awareness of this matter with Hawkesbury Council residents in the Bilpin area. A working bee for Mount Wilson/Mount Irvine volunteers has been scheduled for Saturday 22nd November, to repair erosion and clear road culverts. The Progress is contributing \$1,500 to purchase suitable road base.

Marcus Clark Reserve

Signs providing information on the history of the Reserve together with plant identification signs are currently being manufactured and will be placed by the end of the year.

Integral Energy Generator

It is understood that Integral Energy are currently negotiating with a landowner at the far end of Mount Irvine for a parcel of land to be the site of the remotely operated emergency generator to supply both Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine in the event of prolonged outages. It is expected that the generator will be commissioned in early 2009.

Road Centre-line Reflectors – The Avenue

The BMCC have advised that centre-line reflectors will be installed in The Avenue between St. George's Church and Waterfall Road on completion of hot-mix re-surfacing of the road scheduled within the next six months.

House/Street Numbers

Emergency Services are strongly suggesting that residents/property owners display prominently their street numbers in addition to their property name. This provides invaluable assistance to emergency personnel unfamiliar with the area particularly when trying to locate a property in adverse weather conditions or darkness.

Remembrance Day Service

A Service will be conducted at the War Memorial at 11.00 a.m., 11th November. At the

conclusion of the Service refreshments will be served in the Village Hall followed by an address by Arthur Delbridge.

New BMCC recycling System

The new wheely bins are regarded as a significant improvement on the previous tub system according to the vast majority of residents.

Bells Line of Road/Mount Wilson Road Intersection

This intersection can be difficult to see in dark misty conditions and approaches to the RTA and Integral Energy to install a high intensity street light similar to that at Mount Tomah have not met with success. The major problem is the absence of easily accessible power. The cost of a connection to the nearest power line according to Integral Energy would be \$60,000.

Lands Department Advice – Unmade Roads Advice

Attached to this report is a copy of the advice received on the status of some unmade roads in Mount Wilson. No enclosure permits have been issued and a single permissive occupancy exists. Crown public roads should be accessible to the public at all times. The Department does not permit any gates to be locked. A copy of this advice will be provided to all residents/property owners in Mount Wilson.

New Community Newsletter

The first edition of the new Newsletter incorporating news items from the communities of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine as well as the Mount Wilson/Mount Irvine rural fire brigade has been issued under the continuing Editorship of Joe Landsberg. We are grateful for the time and effort Joe puts into making the Newsletter such an informative and frequently humorous read.

7. DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS ARISING FROM PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- **Recycle Bins.** M. Holt drew attention to the fact that bins aren't always positioned facing the correct direction.
R. Green pointed out that these bins are not issued to public buildings and he has been unable to get one for the Village Hall. However, J. Mayne stated that she had successfully applied for one for the Study Centre.
- **Intersection Bells Line of Road.** R. Nichols said that this was a dangerous road and that \$60,000 was not too much to pay for greater safety. The issue of lighting should be pursued further.
- **Bowens Creek Bridge.** F. Smart explained that there is a display of the history of the bridge and road in the Turkish Baths, open during spring and autumn. It has been well received so far. W. Ryan suggested that awareness could be raised by publishing an article about the history in the Blue Mountains and the Hawkesbury *Gazette*.
D. Howell said that residents of Bilpin are well aware of the problem. At a recent meeting in Katoomba with BMCC and Hawkesbury Council, Bilpin RFS were pressuring the councils to repair the bridge. If the road is designated as a fire trail it could be funded by RFS but will be very expensive, \$120,000 to \$150,000.
Terri Hamilton said that a report would be presented to Council in early 2009. She feels that Hawkesbury Council doesn't want to spend the money and BMCC doesn't have the money. She suggests that overtures by Council be made to Phil Koperberg and Bob Debus, i.e. State and Federal Governments.
- **Clearing of verges on the Zig Zag.** R. Leonard said that although the clearing of the Mount Wilson Road is acceptable, she is horrified at the destruction of the tree ferns on the Zig Zag.

She suggested that in future a better way should be used.

M. Green pointed out that information received from Council indicated that their plan was to dig up the tree ferns for relocation but this was not carried out by the contractor as intended, apparently a breakdown in communication between Council and contractor.

W. Ryan suggested that if the gutters had been cleared in previous years, the ferns would not have grown so there would have been no need to remove them. He said that Alan Gunn has been asked to remove the dead stumps.

There was support from many in the meeting for R. Leonard's request that a formal letter of complaint be sent to BMCC from the Progress Association pointing out that the community is unhappy with the way the clearing was done. A letter will be written.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Pile Burning. Brian Abrahams explained that small pile burning in summer is allowable with a permit from Katoomba Fire Control. Conditions apply.

8.2 Waterfall Creek. Alison Halliday explained that at the last AGM she raised the issue of the domestic use of water from Waterfall Creek. In the meantime she has made inquiries of BMCC of the legal position relating to this. She was informed that there are no current licences to pump water from Waterfall Creek and none will be issued.

8.3 Raffle for St. George's Church. Libby Raines explained that raffle tickets for a painting were available for sale after the meeting. This is to raise money for the church.

8.4 Library. M. Green explained that the library was not being well used. Catalogues of books were made available by Judy Tribe for people to use. People are invited to order books by phone and these would be delivered to letterboxes if they are unable to come to the library, or they can arrange a suitable time for borrowing with Moira.

8.5 Speed Limit on Bells Line of Road. A. Rose asked whether anyone knew the reason for the reduction of the speed limit and whether there had been any community consultation.

J. Leonard said that he was aware that the police are not responsible and they are in fact unhappy about it but the RTA is responsible.

G. Thompson said that he had read a report in *The Hawkesbury Gazette* that the limit of 80 k.p.h. was set after community consultation.

Comment was made that it is a great opportunity to view the scenery, another that there is danger in drivers varying their speed.

W. Ryan recommended that those who wish to should write to RTA as soon as possible.

8.6 Rabbits. The only report of rabbits being sighted was on the Merry Garth side of Wynstay and in Merry Garth. Arrangements would be made to supply *rabbait*.

8.7 R.F.S. Beth Raines reported that weather conditions, hot days, storms followed by cold periods were not too bad for the summer fire season, unless there is a long dry period. There was a total fire ban last Friday. There was one recent call out when only three people reported. Since a crew leader and a driver are required, an adequate response by the RFS cannot always be guaranteed. Residents must be responsible for their own property by checking gutters, pumps, fuel hoses, water supply. The First Responder programme is going well and there is a new vehicle. Property numbers are important in helping locate a property. It was reported that there are some difficulties in numbering with discrepancies between Police reports and Council rate identification. An up to date map needs to be acquired.

8. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2008/9

The Chairman thanked the 2007/8 Committee for its efforts during the year and also the members of the Association for their apparent confidence in the Committee. Since there were no other nominations other than those of the Committee standing down and nominations are less

than the number of positions on the Committee for 2008/9, an election is not necessary.

The Committee for 2008/9 will comprise:

President	Bill Ryan
Vice President	Diana Landsberg
Treasurer	Libby Raines
Secretary	Moir Green
Committee Members	Brian Abrahams, Robert Chesney, Alison Halliday,

9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The next General Meeting will be held on 21st March, 2009.

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on 19th September, 2009.

The meeting closed at 6.35 p.m.

Signed as a true record

Bill Ryan
Chairman