

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

**held on Saturday, 5th April, 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. when the President, Bill Ryan, welcomed members. He announced that there was one new member of the Association, Anne Mayall, but twelve members were lost as they were not financial.

2. PRESENT

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

Other Members: Ron Green, Richard Prentice, Timothy Sterling-Levis, Joe Landsberg, Ann and Peter Pigott, Wendy Holland, Marilyn and Peter Laving, Elizabeth Montano, Julie Townend, Edward Griffin, Margaret and Peter Richey, Anne Mellady, Neville Whan, Michael Sweeney, Greg Lloyd, Judy and Graham Tribe, George and Jane Mayne, Susie Hope, Owen Haviland, Beverley and Graham Thompson, Robin and John Leonard, Sarah Howell, Robert Nichol, Peter Anderson, Mary and John Holt, Mary Reynolds, Maureen Ryan, Maurice May, Carol Haitzler, Elizabeth Raines.

Visitors: Tanya Marquard, Jim Bailey

Apologies: Councillor Terri Hamilton, Ray Harrington (MIPA), Florence Smart, Arthur Delbridge, Robert Chesney, Margaret Wickins, Bruce Knott, Nancy Fox, Bruce Arnold, Sarah Hope, Milba Mewburn, Julie Townend, Helena May, David Howell, Peter Raines, Deborah Griffin, Alex Halliday.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Libby Raines presented the following report.

**Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc. Statement of Accounts 1-7-07 to 1-3-08
Working Account**

Receipts:-

BMCC - Maintenance	13,200.00
Membership	1,772.00
A.T.O. - GST refund	1,548.00
Donations	85.00
Interest	1,114.83
<u>Total Receipts:</u>	<u>\$ 17,719.93</u>
<u>Carried Forward:</u>	<u>\$4141.20</u>

Expenditure:-

Alan Gunn Maintenance	9,003.40
Bollards – Silva Plana	2,145.40
Phil Heaton - Tree trimming of elms in The Avenue	990.00
Finsure Insurance	1,397.00
Willis Copy Design- photocopying & printing	335.00
Secretary - stationary, stamps	170.00
Christmas Party and supper after meetings	916.62
Village Hall - meetings and functions	88.00
Department of Fair Trading - annual fee	43.00
Globe Memorial – lettering on War Memorial	1,320.00
Flowers in memory of Ern Morgan	42.00
Australian Tax Office G.S.T. payments	211.00
Service at War Memorial	84.85
Spray for weed eradication	310.00
Bank Fees	109.00

	<u>Total Expenditure:</u>	\$17,166.23
-	Total Receipts	\$17,116.23
		= 553.60
+	Carried forward	<u>\$4,141.20</u>
		= \$4,694.20

Bank Balance on 1-3-08 \$4,694.80

Fixed Term Deposits: \$20,000.00

Money is still earmarked for village shed and Marcus Clark Reserve

Money still held for weed eradication \$1,199.00

Thanks were expressed to Peter Raines for organizing the pruning of The Avenue trees by Ryde Horticultural School.

It was moved by Mary Reynolds that the report be accepted, seconded Susie Hope. It was passed unanimously.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

4.1 New Toilets – Cathedral Reserve

The Pureblue “Country Style” twin toilet block was installed and commissioned at the end of October 2007. Both toilets provide wheelchair access. We are grateful that Council was able to “find” the substantial additional funds required to complete installation (approximately \$20,000 in addition to the original estimate of \$25,000). There is reason to believe that the pre-existing pit toilets will be able to be brought back into service in the near future.

4.2 Anniversary Walk

Repairs to the collapsed embankment on The Avenue/Mount Irvine Road have been satisfactorily completed by Council and the Anniversary Walk has been re-opened to pedestrian traffic. This has removed the serious risks to walkers compelled to use the roadway.

4.3 Silva Plana Playing Field

As noted at previous meetings, unknown motor vehicles have been abusing the grassed surface

and to prevent this a locked boom gate and bollards have been installed to restrict access to authorized vehicles only. Keys are held by the Council, RFS and Progress Association. The full cost of these barriers was met by the Progress Association.

4.4 Integral Energy – Remotely Controlled Auxiliary Generator

We have been informed that Integral Energy has made provision in its 2009 budget for the installation of a remotely controlled auxiliary generator at Mount Irvine. It will have a design capacity adequate to supply the present and future needs of Mount Irvine and Mount Wilson thus reducing the number of service interruptions that have inconvenienced both communities in the past. No decision has been made as to the precise location and it is Integral Energy's intent to engage in community consultation in the coming months.

4.5 Integral Energy – Powerline Corridor Clearing

Clearing of powerline corridors to the end of Mount Irvine has been completed. Although, to some, this appears unsightly, it has the added benefit of providing a firebreak and easier access to bushfires in the vicinity.

4.6 Marcus Clark Reserve

The Valuer General has placed a value of \$340,000 on the land. The Blue Mountains City Council has undertaken not to rate the land and to date we have not received an assessment for Land Tax.

A low-key sign is being prepared for placement at the entrance to the Reserve, back from the front alignment. The sign will identify the Reserve and provide a short summary of its historical evolution.

Progress is being made in the identification of plants and determining the best way of providing this information, by way of tags, to the wider public.

4.7 Clean Up Australia Day

Clean Up Australia Day was observed on 2nd March. Organised by our Committee Member, Robert Chesney, fifteen volunteers did a good job collecting rubbish around the village and in particular along Mount Wilson road where two burnt out cars were located. They have been reported to Council who will arrange removal.

4.8 Give Way Sign – Waterfall Road

We are delighted that a give way sign has been erected at the intersection of Waterfall Road and The Avenue. This had become a particularly dangerous intersection since the re-opening of the Chimney Cottage Heritage Café. Our thanks to Councillor Terri Hamilton who vigorously pursued this matter on our behalf with the Regional Traffic Management Committee.

4.9 Picnic Tables

Plans to fit high density polyethylene discs to the legs of the 24 picnic tables in Mount Wilson were frustrated by unusually frequent wet days and the unavailability, when required, of the necessary lifting equipment. It is hoped that the arrival of more settled weather will allow this task to be completed.

4.10 Open Pile Burning

Following wide public consultation by way of community meetings and the consideration of a significant number of written submissions the Council has adopted a revised open burning policy. The policy simplifies the process for advising the relevant authorities and although a number of strict conditions apply, residents of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine will be able to undertake responsible property maintenance without unnecessary bureaucratic frustration. The policy description can be found on the BMCC website.

4.11 Maintenance of Unsealed Roads

Whilst it is hoped that Council might, in the future, revisit its policy of not adding to its asset base by not sealing unsealed roads, we are pleased that Council has re-graded and improved Farrer Road West and substantially improved the unsealed surface of Hillcrest Lane by the use of recycled tarmac.

5. DISCUSSION ARISING FROM THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

5.1 Silva Plana. Joe Landsberg asked how effective the bollards are and suggested that cars could still be driven down the banks. Bill Ryan commented that they are effective, that if driven down the banks it would be difficult to get back up.

5.2 Land Tax. Ted Griffin and Susie Hope commented that it was not necessary to notify the Tax Office if the land valuation was below the threshold. The value of Marcus Clark Reserve is below it.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Increase of Membership Fees.

John Holt moved, seconded Susie Hope a motion that:

Annual membership fees of the Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc. be increased from \$15 to \$20 and concession from \$6 to \$10.

Carol Haitzler spoke against the motion. According to the Treasurer's report, expenditure is less than income. The previous increase was made to cover GST. However, this expense was not as much as predicted. She also suggested a better return on interest could be achieved by changing banks.

Bill Ryan said that we are faced with having to take responsibility for things that Council can't pay for e.g. work in Silva Plana, pruning and replacing aging heritage trees. The motion was passed.

6.2 Option of Payment of Fees.

Life membership and five year payment were offered. Graham Tribe moved, seconded Ron Green a motion that:

An option of five year payment of Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc. membership fees be available.

The motion was passed.

6.3 Designated Unmade Roads.

Bill Ryan explained that there are two problems associated with these roads:

1. There are gates blocking entrances to the roads and locks are on some gates. Integral men have been observed climbing over the gates to get access to electricity lines for repairs.
2. Some roads are extremely overgrown preventing RFS access.

A letter written by Peter Raines was read. He recommended they be slashed yearly, weeds be controlled and fences be removed and gates and bollards be fitted to keep vehicles out. This would provide access for Integral to work in lines, for RFS during bushfire and a network of walking trails.

Neville Whan asked who owned the land and if neighbouring property owners rented the unmade roads. Bill Ryan explained that the land is owned by the Department of Lands and he had received information regarding the regulation of its use. Enclosure permits were granted for a fee but the public has the right of access.

Beverley Thompson asked who maintains them. The road next to 'Bisley' has trees blocking vehicle access.

Libby Raines said that the main problem is Walford Road. Integral needs access. Recently Integral had to enter private property to repair power lines and caused damage to that property. This would be avoided if Walford Road is clear. Integral will put in three gates to allow them access.

Mary Reynolds supported making roads more accessible. The issue had been taken up some years ago but there was considerable opposition to any proposed resolution.

Carol Haitzler raised the issue of opening up the roads in 2003 but nobody supported it then. She claims that some trees have been deliberately planted to deny access and has been told she was trespassing on one occasion when walking in Walford Lane.

Robyn Leonard said that roads are designated in plans as a definite width – 10.4 meters.

Libby Raines said that some are wider than others after subdivision was made.

Ted Griffin commented that the issue of access to unmade roads is a state wide problem.

Peter Pigott set up an endangered wildlife reserve and closed Kirks Lane forty years ago. He was issued with permanent occupancy of the land. He has issued keys to Integral Energy and the RFS..

Ron Green stated that if enclosure permits do not exclude public access, people could be sued if access is prohibited.

He proposed a motion that:

The Progress Association enter into discussion with owners affected by dedicated unmade roads to see if a mutually acceptable agreement can be made.

Moved Ron Green, seconded George Mayne.

The motion was carried.

6.4 Weed Eradication.

Libby Raines reported on the weed situation in and around the village, the nature of weeds, the main areas of infestation and action taken by Council on the Zig Zag and Bushcare group to help eliminate them. The problem is very serious and more people are encouraged to join Bushcare and continue to work in their own properties to prevent the spread of weeds.

Questions were asked about products to kill weeds. It was decided that the report and methods of treatment of weeds be placed in the next newsletter.

6.5 Hearing Aid Loop for the Village Hall

A motion was proposed that:

The Mount Wilson Progress Association provide money for the cost of providing a loop for the hall.

6.

Mary Reynolds spoke in support of its installation as deafness cuts one off from people and community activities. The one in the Mount Victoria picture theatre works well and assists those with hearing aids.

The motion was carried.

7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 6.55 p.m.

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on 20th September, 2008.

Signed as a true record

Bill Ryan
Chairman