

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

**held on Saturday, 24th February, 2007
at 10.00 a.m. in the Mount Wilson Village Hall.**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The meeting commenced at 10.10 a.m. when the President, Bill Ryan, welcomed members. He explained that although there were two short of the required quorum of 29 members, an informal meeting would continue with no motions or resolutions being passed. Four new members were welcomed to the Association, Deborah and Ted Griffin, Nancy Fox and Bruce Arnold.

Since the last meeting it is regretted that two members have passed away, Jim Prentice of 'Cherry Cottage' and Dr. Hirou Inoue of 'Timbertop'.

Members will also notice a new innovation. Name badges have been supplied for all financial members. These are to be returned at the conclusion of meetings.

2. PRESENT

Committee: Bill Ryan (President), Libby Raines, (Treasurer) Robert Chesney, Maurice May, Moira Green (Secretary).

Other Members: Ron Green, Helen Freeman, Judy and Graham Tribe, George and Jane Mayne, Florence Smart, Arthur Delbridge, Susie Hope, Owen Haviland, Robert Nichol, Alison Halliday, Beverley and Graham Thompson, Elizabeth Raines, Robin and John Leonard, John Holt, Mary Reynolds, Maureen Ryan, Anne Pigott, Tony Barrett.

Apologies: Councillor Terri Hamilton, Mayor Jim Angel, Peter Anderson, Elizabeth and Joe Montano, Sarah Hope, Diana and Joe Landsberg, Sarah and David Howell, Kathleen Oakes, Peter Dempsey, Milba Mewburn, Julie Townend, Margaret and Peter Richey, Timothy Sterling-Levis, Nancy Fox, Bruce Arnold, Margaret Morris, Frank and Patrice Fletcher, Judith and John Teulon, Helena May, Wendy Smart, Alex Halliday, Noellie McLean, Mary Holt, Peter Pigott.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Libby Raines presented the following report.

**Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc. Statement of Accounts 1-7-06 to 31-1-07
Working Account**

Receipts:-

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| BMCC - Maintenance | 13,200.00 | |
| Membership and donations | 2,244.00 | |
| Booklets | | 50.00 |
| | | 2. |
| Rabbait - Rabbit control programme | 121.00 | |

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|---|---------------------|
| A.T.O. - GST refunds | 171.00 |
| Extra phone book | 2.00 |
| Department of Veteran Affairs - lettering on War Memorial | 1,320.00 |
| Dept. of Families & Community Affairs - Grant for A/V equipment | 1,698.40 |
| Donations at Christmas party for A/V equipment | 500.00 |
| Interest | 416.27 |
| Total Receipts: | \$ 19,722.67 |

Carried Forward: \$8,776.55

Expenditure:-

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Maintenance of Reserves - Alan Gunn | 2,894.10 |
| Doug Wood - Clearing gutters, tree trimming | 3,275.00 |
| Marcus Clark Reserve - Stamp duty, valuation, survey & other fees | 7,205.35 |
| Willis Copy Design- photocopying & printing | 294.95 |
| Secretary - stamps | |
| 90.00 | |
| Australian Tax Office G.S.T. payments | 726.00 |
| Owen Havilland - renewal of glass in notice board | 60.00 |
| Department of Fair Trading - annual fee | 43.00 |
| Village Hall - meetings \$55 & money held from Bisley function for Hall garden | 748.00 |
| Food for Christmas party | 513.02 |
| Gravel for Bowens Creek Road (working bee) | 572.00 |
| Finsure Insurance | 1,025.00 |
| Service at War Memorial | 186.00 |
| Davidson's Nursery - spray for weeds | |
| 258.24 | |
| Bank Fees | 103.00 |
| Total Expenditure: | \$17,993.66 |
| <u>Bank Statement on 1-2-07</u> | <u>\$10,505.56</u> |
| Half that money is made up of money we have been given for: | |
| sound equipment for Village Hall | \$2,198.40 |
| lettering on War Memorial | \$1,320.00 |
| weeds programme | <u>\$1,527.76</u> |
| Total | <u>\$5,046.16</u> |
| Village shed | \$5,000.00 approx. |
| Fixed Term Deposits: | \$20,000.00 |

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

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

4.1 November/December 2006 Fires

Our thanks to the Mt. Wilson/Mt. Irvine Rural Fire Brigade (plus the forty odd other Brigades) for their dedicated efforts over many days and nights which prevented the Lawson Long Alley/ Grose Valley fires jumping Bells Line of Road to threaten Mount Wilson.

Since the fires, trees leaning over the Darling Causeway have been severely pruned. Trees or parts thereof leaning over Mt. Wilson Road between the Village and Bells Line of Road have the potential for road blockage in the event of serious fire. Remedial action is the responsibility of BMCC. MWPA will take action to get Council to act but individuals are also encouraged to write to Council.

4.2 Marcus Clark Reserve

Title has been transferred to MWPA. Office of State Revenue denied exemption from Stamp Duty (\$5,494) as MWPA lacks charitable status.

The Reserve is to be developed as a Native Plant Sanctuary with particular emphasis on plants of local provenance. The survey of the block has been completed (0.8083 hectares). The verge between the road and the front alignment has been cleared of vegetation, including exotics. The next steps are to remove a barbed wire fence bisecting the block, establish a pathway loop to allow easier access, selective thinning to improve sight-lines and planting of appropriate vegetation.

BMCC has verbally indicated that the Reserve will not be rated. The attitude of the Land Tax Office is as yet unknown.

4.3 Removal of Dead Street Trees

BMCC approved the removal of dead trees in Hillcrest Lane almost a year ago but claimed that no funds were available for removal. In the interest of safety MWPA has removed the trees at its cost. Copper beeches are to be planted in the space created.

4.4 New Toilets Cathedral Reserve

BMCC allocated \$25,000 in 2006/7 Capital Budget for two new toilets in Cathedral Reserve. Construction was to commence January 2007 so they would be ready for use in Autumn 2007. As of 23rd February no construction has started. The latest report is that an order will be placed with an Inverell company next week for two accessible toilets to be installed within 10 weeks at a cost of \$34,000. These will be pump out toilets and the site will be shielded by trees.

4.5 Branch Pruning Street Trees in The Avenue

Following the fall of a large limb from a mature elm tree in front of 'Withycombe', BMCC agreed preventative maintenance of the trees was required. Although it is BMCC responsibility, it is claimed no money is available. Ryde TAFE has agreed to provide forestry students in June '07 to prune suspect limbs as a supervised training exercise. MWPA has agreed to underwrite the cost of a "cherry picker" (\$1,700 per day) and chipping (\$500)

4.6 War Memorial

Following application to Department of Veteran Affairs, MWPA received a grant of \$1,320 for

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renewal of gold lettering on the War Memorial. Work is scheduled for completion in February 2007.

4.7 Village Hall Audio/Visual Equipment

A grant of \$1,698 received from the Department of Family and Community Affairs for equipment to facilitate the activities of MWPA has been combined with funds raised by the Village Hall Committee to purchase audio/visual equipment for the Village Hall. To enable early installation, MWPA Committee agreed to bridge the funds gap with a grant of \$3,986 and will assume ownership of the equipment. MWPA will be responsible for insurance and maintenance.

4.8 Bowens Creek Road Maintenance.

BMCC acknowledged at its meeting on 12th December, 2006 the need for another serviceable exit for Mt. Wilson/Mt. Irvine residents during emergencies and endorsed the restoration of the unsealed section of road to Bowens Creek Bridge. A report in preparation by BMCC advisers is addressing the scale of works required, cost estimates, options to address funding and the possible scheduling of proposed work. It is unlikely any progress will occur unless Hawkesbury Council acts in concert with BMCC and upgrades their section of road.

4.9 Anniversary Walk

BMCC is being pressured for urgent repairs on Anniversary Walk below 'Wynstay' following the collapse of the embankment. The problem is currently with BMCC providers design group who are "fast-tracking" as much as possible. Pedestrians have no alternative to walk along a dangerous section of road. BMCC has undertaken to place "DANGER-PEDESTRIAN" signs on the road on 26th February.

4.10 "Give-Way" Sign - Intersection Waterfall Road/The Avenue

Following comments from a number of residents who have narrowly avoided collisions with vehicles emerging from Waterfall Road, MWPA made representation to BMCC for erection of a "give way" sign in Waterfall Road. BMCC examined the intersection and concluded that no sign was warranted. Residents who have had "near misses" at the intersection are encouraged to write directly to The General Manager, BMCC with a copy to the Secretary, MWPA

4.11 Picnic Tables - Leg Rot

The one-piece picnic table/benches in the various reserves, although in good general condition show signs of deterioration where legs contact the ground. A number of suitable remedies are being tested for implementation prior to Winter 2007.

4.12 Roads

BMCC have been active with re-surfacing/repairs but we are still awaiting replacement of "cat's eyes" in the Church Lane/Founders Corner section. There is concern with road subsidence evident at Ferny Corner and sections of Mt. Irvine Road beyond Farrer Road West. BMCC is

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aware but likely to adopt only a "band-aid" solution.

4.13 Overhanging/Intruding Vegetation Along Roads

Vegetation obstructing sight-lines, damaging high vehicles or forcing traffic towards the centre of the road has been removed by BMCC along Mt. Irvine Road. Intruding tree ferns and blocked

gutters have been cleared on the upper section of the Zig-Zag by MWPA contractor, Doug Wood. Work will commence on the lower section when time allows.

4.14 Barbecues

All barbecues were removed from all the Reserves at the start of the fire season. At the conclusion of the fire season, a reduced number will be placed in open areas only of Cathedral Reserve and perhaps Silva Plana. Waterfall Reserve given its proximity to the escarpment will be “sign-posted” - NO FIRES-NO CAMPING

4.15 MWPA Internet Website

The Mount Wilson website has been brought up-to-date and MWPA is grateful to Graham Tribe for undertaking this task in addition to maintaining a watching brief.

5. DISCUSSION ARISING FROM THE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

5.1 Toilets. The existing toilets will remain in place. The toilets will be provided with water from tanks. It is uncertain at this time who will be responsible for filling them when there is insufficient rain, possibly Alan Gunn.

The accessible toilet at the Fire Station has been locked. Keys are now provided to RFS and will be given to MWPA as well. We will endeavour to keep it open during busy periods.

5.2 Branch Pruning. It was pointed out that some low branches on plane trees opposite the Post House needed pruning. It is hoped that these will be done at the same time by Ryde TAFE.

5.3 Picnic Tables. Owen Haviland is of the view that tables should be concreted in place.

5.4 Expenditure. Bill Ryan pointed out that as a Committee we are spending money on many things so the question of membership fees may need to be assessed.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Resolution.

We believe that the current requirement of the Blue Mountains City Council for Land Use

Applications before the installation of rain water tanks is inappropriate in areas such as Mount Wilson and we request that the BMCC waive such a requirement in future.

Because there was not a quorum for the meeting the motion was not voted on but was discussed informally.

The view of the meeting was that we need to pursue the issue to remove restrictions on quantity of water and number of tanks but some guidelines with respect to boundaries and neighbours need to be established. The Committee will take on board the opinions of the meeting and will meet with Council to discuss the Mount Wilson situation.

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6.2 Waterfall Creek. Alison Halliday pointed out that Waterfall Creek is dry (prior to recent rain). Below the bridge there are two weirs where people have pumping rights. However, one of these has been raised by 30cms. in the last year. She stated that this was unauthorised work and it is not private land.

The President stated that this would be considered at the next Committee Meeting and would endeavour to find answers.

6.2 Community Shed. Owen Haviland announced that a D.A. has been lodged for the shed and communication mast at the Fire Station.

6.3 Clean Up Australia Day. This will be on Sunday 4th March from 9.00 a.m. Meet at the Hall.

7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 11.20 a.m.

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on 25th August, 2007 at 5.00 p.m. Drinks and finger food will served.

Signed as a true record

Bill Ryan
Chairman