

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

**held on Saturday, 27th August, 2005
at 4.00 p.m. in the Mount Wilson Village Hall.**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The meeting commenced at 4.10 p.m. The President, Graham Tribe, welcomed members. He explained that the order of the agenda would be altered so that routine business could be dealt with quickly, leaving more time for discussion.

2. PRESENT

Committee: Graham Tribe (President), Bill Ryan Vice President), Libby Raines, (Treasurer) Robert Chesney, Diana Landsberg, Maurice May, Moira Green (Secretary).

Other Members: Ron Green, Timothy Stirling-Levis, Julie Townend, Milba Mewburn, Jane Beeby, Barry Freeman, Florence Smart, Arthur Delbridge, Robert Nichol, Peter Anderson, John and Robyn Leonard, Sarah and David Howell, Mary Reynolds, Brian Abrahams, Wendy Holland, Graham and Beverley Thompson, Elizabeth Raines, Peter Raines, Mary and John Holt, Margaret Dean, Patrice and Frank Fletcher, Carol Haitzler, Susie Hope, Owen Haviland, Richard and Loretta Beattie, Sarah Hope, Maureen Ryan.

Apologies: Alison Halliday, Helen Freeman, Noelle McLean, Suzanne and Denis Daly, Kim and Tim Gow, Judy Tribe, Wendy Smart, Philip Beeby, Stephen Dean, Helena May. Mayor Jim Angel, Councillor Terri Hamilton.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Barry Freeman moved, seconded, David Howell that the minutes of the previous meetings, i.e. Annual General Meeting on 28th August, 2004 and Special General Meeting on 11th June, 2005, be confirmed. It was resolved that these minutes be accepted as a true record with a correction of wording of the treasurer's report in the AGM minutes..

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Libby Raines presented the following report.

**Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc. Statement of Accounts 1-7-04 to 30-6-05
Working Account**

Receipts:-

BMCC -	Maintenance of Reserves	19,535.00
Membership		2,112.00
A.T.O. -	GST Refund	
1,629.00		

Rabbit Control Programme -	Refunds	164.98
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Rate Payers' Association - closed down	505.00
Booklets - sold at Mountain Goat Deli and Merry Garth	125.00
Donations - Harding Party	756.99
Davidson's Nursery - overpaid account (refund)	70.56
Interest	873.66
Total Receipts:	\$ 25,772.19
Carried Forward:	\$19,499.65

Expenditure:-

Maintenance of Reserves - Alan Gunn	9,981.40	
Insurance	1,660.99	
Walking Tracks (Village Walk)	8,896.21	
A.T.O. G.S.T. payments		843.00
C.W. Printing - Newsletters, phonebook, meetings etc.	613.76	
Secretary - postage etc.		296.28
Internet Provider	199.00	
Healey's at Hartley - Rabbait	215.00	
Library supplies and cupboard	2,458.85	
Signs for Cathedral Reserve including painting	3,269.54	
Weed Eradication Programme including spray	1,214.13	
Service at War Memorial	267.25	
Rural Fire Service - culvert on northern fire trail	5,500.00	
Florist Floral tributes (Albert Mewburn, Amy Gunn)	100.00	
Village Hall - meetings and Christmas party	82.50	
Christmas Party and drinks after meeting		268.06
Party for Tom and Liz Harding	661.00	
Plaque and book for Hardings	600.00	
Davidson's Nursery - tree for The Avenue		
18.35		
Bank Fees	157.00	
Total Expenditure:	\$37,302.32	

Bank Balance on 1-7-05 \$7,969.52

Fixed Term Deposits: \$20,000.00
Total in all Accounts: \$27,969.52
Funds are earmarked for weeds programme (\$1,786.00),
village shed, village block and Waterfall Reserve

Audited and found correct, signed L. E. Avery B.Com. on 12th August, 2005

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

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.

This was moved by Ron Green, seconded by Susie Hope and was passed.

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5. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2005/6

Since all Committee members for 2004/5 chose to stand for re-election, and since nominations

are less than the number of positions on the Committee, an election was not necessary.

The Committee for 2005/6 will comprise:

President	Graham Tribe
Vice President	Bill Ryan
Treasurer	Libby Raines
Secretary	Moir Green
Committee Members	Robert Chesney, Diana Landsberg, Maurice May

The Committee aims to fill the one casual vacancy at a later time.

6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Announcements

- Remembrance Day at 11.00 a.m. on 11th November
- To report defects to Council, for example, potholes, drainage, etc., contact Council directly on 4780 5000

2004/5 Projects

- **Roads** Repairs have been made to The Avenue and cats eyes located at the top of the Zig Zag. The Zig Zag Bank stabilisation has been completed. Farrer Road West, Wynnes Rocks Road, Applecot Lane and Hillcrest Lane have been regraded.
- **Mt Wilson Village Walk** is completed. Walkers can now walk from Breenhold to Cathedral Reserve off the road.
- **Integral Energy.** Bundled cabling along Farrer Rd is completed. Wyndham Ave and Cathedral Reserve are next.
- **Weed Programme.** Weed removal and spraying has been done during last Spring and Autumn.
- **Steps at Founders Corner** have been erected by Tim Gowon a voluntary basis . Our thanks to him for this.
- **Signs** at Bells Line of Road. 'No Through Road to Bowens Creek' sign has been changed for better clarification.
- **Council tip** at bottom of Zig Zag. Some cleaning work has been done by Council
- **The Mount Wilson Leisure Library** is now open, Thursday 3.00-4.00 pm and Saturday 10.00-11.00 a.m. Over 1000 books are now catalogued and on the shelves, fiction about 75%, the rest non-fiction, including art, science, history, biography and Blue Mountains.

The organising Committee is Moira Green, Robert Chesney & Judy Tribe. It is manned by volunteers, Moira Green, Judy Tribe, Suzanne Daly, Diana Landsberg and Richard Prentice. It was reported that it is not well used at this stage and that if opening times were a problem for returns, books could be left with Moira at any time. As requested at the last SGM a copy of C. H. Currey's "Mount Wilson" has been purchased.

- **Cathedral Reserve.** Log barriers are fixed and camping areas extended. The walkway to the Cathedral of Ferns is completed. Cathedral of Ferns walking trail has been mulched and repaired.

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2004/5 Projects Ongoing

- **Roads.** Clearing of Mt Irvine Road and Mt Wilson Rd (The Five Mile) to improve safety, particularly for large vehicles, including fire trucks. There will be community consultation once Council has plans developed.
- **Toilets** at Cathedral Reserve. Portaloos will return for spring. New toilets are in Council

2006/7 capital budget.

- **Marcus Clark Reserve.** Stamp duty exemption is the only remaining issue. Maurice May reported that duty could be approximately \$10,000 so it is worth persevering with the exemption application but not for too long because of the ages of the remaining Trustees.
- **Mt Wilson Website** is currently being renewed with help from Rod Hutching.
- **Broadband at Mt Wilson.** 25 people have registered interest in ADSL with Joe Landsberg although only 4 are recognised on the Telstra website. We will be in contact with the local Telstra area manager to review alternatives.
- **Trees.** On Hillcrest Lane, dead eucalypts are to be removed and copper beeches to be planted. On Church Lane, dead trees are to be removed. On The Avenue outside Withycombe, branches are to be trimmed
- **Rabbit eradication.** The number of rabbits are currently low and below levels needed for calici virus to be used.
- **Sign Outside Fire Station.** This is planned to show facilities and roads at Mt Wilson, to provide visitor information and reduce number of queries at Fire Station. Hopefully, visitors will be encouraged to use several locations.

Issue of Concern from John Holt.

In the last Newsletter, John Holt wrote an opinion piece about the number of visitors to the mountain and the impact on the community and environment. It was felt that the matter was important and should be discussed at this meeting. The Mt Wilson Progress Association Committee is bound to follow the wishes of the majority of the Community. There are issues for consideration, of course, not just the negative effects but also those who benefit from visitors and whether we can do much about it. I believe the question is where we strike the balance between accommodating visitors and discouraging them

The issues your committee has attempted to deal with and balance are:

What can we do to discourage visitors when most advertising for visitors is in gardening or bushwalking shows and publications?

We see our role as trying to provide information so visitors are informed and don't come expecting facilities. i.e. the right type of visitor, e.g. brochure and website.

We see public toilets as a public health issue.

How would The Historical Society maintain The Turkish Bath without visitors?

We believe some small economic activity provides jobs in the community. We agree large visitor numbers are a nuisance, but this happens on certain days for short periods

So in our opinion, it is an issue of where we strike the balance.

Animal Welfare

Two households have complained about anonymous information left in their letterboxes or mailed to them. In each case the material refers to treatment of animals, goats and horses. I do not know all the facts in each of these cases and do not intend to have the Progress Association

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involved. I just want to raise how we should respond in situations such as this. There is always two sides to each debate. We need to know the facts. I prefer people either talk or write to the other party about concerns so the facts on both sides get aired. Rumour and scare campaigns hurt the community, create suspicion and make it difficult for the community to function. I encourage people to be open and approach the residents involved and get to understand their side of the situation.

7. DISCUSSION ARISING FROM THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Visitor Numbers.

The traffic count which showed a large increase in numbers in the last 10 years was discussed. Reasons for the increase were suggested as being more building activity, more residents, and during March/April, the Mount Irvine nut harvest. More special events resulted in increased visitor numbers. However, generally there were less visitors in some gardens, perhaps because there were more gardens open elsewhere. Visitors to the Turkish Baths have declined in the last two years.

The following comments were made:

- Large numbers of trucks arrive during the week, relating to construction and delivery.
- Many people living here came originally as tourists so they should not try to stop tourists now.
- Mount Wilson is unique but its beauty is being whittled away by over sign posting and placement of logs in reserves.
- The Association should maintain what we have now, not embark on new projects.
- The camping area while not being an official camping area presents a problem of noise and trash.
- If the camping area was closed people would camp in the bush but if it was made official, even more people would use it. People will camp and it is better to have them all in the one area.
- Some residents close to the camp site do not hear the noise, some do.
- Fouling in the bush is a very serious problem in Kosciuszko National Park
- If the numbers are increasing but not in the gardens or Turkish Baths, then visitors are on public land. Therefore, we have no right to discourage them. For our own health and safety, we can't have people going off into the bush.
- People have the right to visit the area and need adequate facilities but we need to manage the influx.
- Camping facilities could be provided below the Zig Zag. Groups such as schools, scouts, army could be made pay.
- If people are charged to camp we have the obligation to deliver services.
- No doubt some visitors are unpleasant but the minor problems they present are compensated by good aspects of seeing people appreciating and enjoying the environment.

In summary it was decided that there is a conflict in the number of visitors, that the committee be careful to avoid taking on new projects and that it look into the matter of camping below Zig Zag and payment.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 As a response to a request from members, the Committee had decided that members

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could have the option of paying fees annually or for a five year period from now on.

8.2 Beverley Thompson inquired about the size of postage for delivery. Many articles are being left at the Post Office. It was advised that contact be made at Mount Victoria Post Office.

8.3 Graham Thompson requested that while Council will be resurfacing 4km. of Mount Wilson Road, perhaps the Avenue could be done instead of part of this.

8.4 Carol Haitzler has requested that the Committee pressure Council to bitumen Hillcrest and Stephen Lanes because of the dust raised. BMCC's present policy is not to resurface gravel roads but to maintain them.

8.5 Mary Reynolds expressed appreciation to members for their generous donations for the Historical Society's Land Title search. \$5000 has been received and will make a large difference.

8.6 Ron Green explained that the Hall Committee is considering holding a New Year's Eve function and requested an indication of those interested. Only a small number showed interest.

8.7 Barry Freeman thanked those who helped with the bush run organisation. There were 190 runners and it was sponsored by Macquarie Bank, thanks to Bill Moss. Impressed by such good reports, the Bank proposes to sponsor it again next year.

The RFS now has a defibrillator and 11 people are now trained in its use. Arrangements are being made with Emergency Services to co-ordinate calls for its use.

Bowen Creek Road east of the creek is now drivable by 4WD vehicles due to work done by Bilpin R.F.S. It is proposed that gates will be locked at the start of the fire season until a more permanent solution is found for maintaining the road.

Thanks to Mrs Clark for giving access to her water supply to R.F.S. for use in Farrer Road West and thanks to those people who followed regulations during hazard reduction burns.

Fire season is due to start 1st October, but may be brought forward. Reduction burns will not be permitted after that date.

8.8 Peter Raines explained that vegetation is thicker now than in the last 100 years and advised that property owners check that it is where it should be on properties and remove seedlings before they grow too big.

9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 5.20 p.m.

Drinks were available for those wishing to remain.

Signed as a true record

Graham Tribe
Chairman