

Minutes of Committee Meeting of Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc.

15th August 2014, at Noonameena, Queens Avenue Mount Wilson

Opening remarks by Chairman	<p>The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>Bill Ryan's resignation last week brings to an end an extensive term of service to the community and the Association as a member and as our president for five years. I thank Bill very much for his contribution and wish him all the best for the future. Welcome to Nancy Fox who has agreed to join the Committee.</p> <p>Alison has agreed to pass on the task of liaison with the BMCC to Peter who as a local resident has recently shouldered the job of working with council to have the gutter drain properly outside the Village Hall. Alison remains our Vice President.</p> <p>Generally mild winter days and a very quiet time about the village have characterised the period since the last meeting. But there has been significant Progress Association work under way including the perpetual Bowens Creek and Mt Irvine roads access issue, the hall gutter imbroglio, and on the bins and toilets in the public areas.</p> <p>The passing of Ellis Reynolds who died aged 89 on July 23 and his funeral at Leura was mentioned. Ellis was for many years one of the many extraordinary characters of Mt Wilson. He was secretary of the Progress Association from 1994 to 1998 and worked for the Historical Society and the Village Hall Committee. He will be much missed.</p> <p>Kathleen Oaks learnt yesterday that the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine RFB Community Engagement Plan has been awarded joint first prize (shared with a Red Cross project in the Hunter Valley) in the not-for-profit section of the NSW Resilient Australia Awards. It's a great achievement for Kathleen in her Community Coordinator role and everyone in the Brigade involved with the development and application of the plan during the October fires. There will be an award ceremony at Parliament House on 16 October – coincidentally the anniversary of the start of the State Mine Fire.</p>										
Present / apologies	<p><u>Present</u> – Richard Beattie (President), Alison Halliday (Vice President), Libby Raines (Treasurer), Moira Green (Secretary), Brian Abrahams, Nancy Fox, Ted Griffin, Peter Laving.</p>										
Confirmation of minutes	<p>Minutes of the meeting of 13th June, 2014 at Kirk's Corner, Hillcrest Lane were confirmed as a true record.</p>										
Treasurer's Report	<p>Libby Raines presented the following report:</p> <p><u>Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc.</u> <u>Statement of Accounts 1-6-14 to 31-7-14</u> <u>Working Account</u> <u>Receipts:-</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>BMCC maintenance</td><td>5,500.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Membership</td><td>1,920.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Website payments for usage</td><td>950.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bay Tree Nursery donation</td><td>75.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rabbait payment for usage</td><td>52.00</td></tr> </table>	BMCC maintenance	5,500.00	Membership	1,920.00	Website payments for usage	950.00	Bay Tree Nursery donation	75.00	Rabbait payment for usage	52.00
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	<u>Total Receipts:-</u> <u>\$8,700.63</u>	
	<u>Expenditure:-</u>	
	Alan Gunn maintenance	797.50
	Website annual fee + extra gigabytes	774.00
	Metalart Garden – new bolt at Silva Plana	60.00
	CW Print newsletters	52.25
	ATO GST payments	653.00
	Bank fees	35.50
	<u>Total Expenditure:-</u>	<u>\$2,372.25</u>
	Total receipts	8,700.63
	Total expenditure	- 2,372.25
		= 6,328.38
Correspondence	+ Carried forward	+ <u>6,168.98</u>
		= <u>\$12,497.36</u>
	<u>Bank balance 1-8-14</u>	<u>\$12,497.36</u>
	<u>Fixed Term Deposits</u>	<u>\$20,000.00</u>
	In	
	July-14	Roza Sage to MWPA Secretary – Community Building Partnership programme
	29-7-14	Mobile Black Spot Programme Team to MWPA President – invitation to make a black spot nomination
	28-7-14	Clr Paul Rasmussen to MWPA President – support for action on Bowens Creek Road
	6-8-14	Bill Ryan to MWPA Secretary – resignation from MWPA Committee
	6-8-14	MWPA President to MWPA Committee – notification of resignation of Bill Ryan and appointment of Nancy Fox
	13-8-14	Patricia Lane Gonzalez to MWPA President – green beeches purchased for The Avenue
	Out	
	18-6-14	MWPA Secretary to Stephen Dean – thanks for assistance re. hall gutter
	20-6-14	MWPA Secretary to Matt Mason – invitation to join MWPA
	20-6-14	MWPA Secretary to Ben Shepherd & Anton Smith – invitation to join MWPA
	2-7-14	MWPA Secretary to Ben Shepherd & Anton Smith – acceptance of MWPA membership
	14-7-14	MWPA President to L. Morgan, BMCC – invitation to Mt Wilson to discuss issues of toilets and garbage bins
	21- 7-14	Peter Laving to Greg Stewart, BMCC – pooling in gutter outside hall
	26-7-14	MWPA Secretary to MWPA Members – nomination for Committee forms
	28-7-14	MWPA President to MPs, Andrew Stoner, BMCC, Councillors (BMCC, Hawkesbury), RFS 10-7-14 MWPA President to Philippa McDonald, ABC – Bowens Road issue & its history (Mt. W/Mt. I, Bilpin, Hawkesbury) – ABC TV News & Hawkesbury Council's refusal to maintain Mt. Irvine Road
	28-7-14	MWPA MWPA Secretary to Daniel Milford – invitation to join MWPA
	12-8-14	MWPA President to BMCC – report on meeting re. bins and toilets

<p>Business arising from minutes & matters requiring ongoing attention</p>	<p><u>MWPA/BMCC current issues report and responses</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alison reported that she had registered the required CSRs but had no response from Council. Items covered by CSRs are dump at bottom of Zigzag, road edge washaways on The Avenue down from Church Lane, cleaning gutters on Zigzag, saplings on Zigzag, verges on Mt. Wilson Road. 2. Asphalt gutter outside hall – Peter reported that Council’s funding crisis would prevent action. He will seek permission from Paul Creelman for the Committee to carry out remedial measures. He will ask Peter Raines for a quote to construct a grated pit and a pipe to the culvert. Concern was raised about the danger arising from a pit. 3. Beech trees for The Avenue. Council will order 12 trees in the next week, in 90lt containers, 2.5m high. They will be planted by BMCC in September. MWPA has agreed to maintain them. <p><u>Mt Irvine/Bowens Creek Road and bridge</u> – Richard reported that active lobbying is underway for repair and long term maintenance. Following Elizabeth Montano’s initiative for the item on ABC TV news on 26-7-14, a meeting has been arranged between Louise Markus MP, other local community representatives and Elizabeth on 21st August. Peter Laving has agreed to represent MWPA.</p> <p><u>Bins and toilets</u> – there was a meeting on 8 August with BMCC Acting Director Andy Taylor (standing in for Steve Corbett) and Waste and Support Services Manager Ken Phillips, Richard & Libby. The report of the meeting is as follows: Council clearly understands the toilet cleaning problem in Mt Wilson and the unique circumstances where there are no commercial alternatives like cafes, restaurants, tourist centres or railway stations. Ken Phillips agreed additional toilets will be considered in the 2018 master plan for Cathedral Reserve but meantime despite an EPA regulation requiring filling in the two unmaintained drop toilets when they are filled they will be opened and maintained during the peak periods (while unfilled) and boarded up the rest of the year. Alcohol-based foaming hand sanitizer dispensers will be installed in the council toilets to help overcome the use of toilet paper for people washing their hands. The toilet cleaning contractors will be advised of the need for increased cleaning (two times a week) during peak periods. Council will look at toilet signage with graphics and multiple language information. We can put signage in, pending council developing its own. A CSR would help ensure this initiative is actioned.</p> <p>The issue of shortage of garbage bins should be resolved with Ken Phillips agreeing to install a locked gate fenced compound on the Fire Shed slab to hold as many “spare” bins as we might require.</p> <p>Ken and Andy agreed many of the Cathedral Reserve vehicle barrier logs need replacing. Council no longer uses copper/arsenic treated logs and may be able to replace the existing logs with large rocks that are recovered from other projects. We need to develop a CSR with Ken to define this opportunity as a non-MWPA cost project.</p> <p>Andy’s report Cathy Dolan is BMCC event co-ordinator who can assist with communications to police and ambulance about events, traffic control, council preparations and post-event clean ups such as those in autumn.</p> <p><u>War memorial booklet</u> – Alison reported that the revision is 90% completed. The introduction will be sent to Richard. It will be 8-20 pages, to be printed by CW</p>
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	<p>Printing and distributed to all letter boxes including Bell prior to November 11th.</p> <p><u>Remembrance Day Service organisation</u> – Brian is waiting for a response from the bugler, Christopher Carey. Hall is booked. Libby and Moira will discuss an approach to the new rector. It was suggested that an invitation to attend be sent to John Gaunt.</p> <p><u>Tree issues opposite War Memorial</u> – Peter Laving reported that Peter Raines has quoted \$1,500 to remove the acacia growing in the conifer and the nearby dead eucalypt opposite the War Memorial and to clean up the area from the hall to Milparra and the school house to the memorial, removing saplings and levelling the ground. The meeting was generally in favour of removing all trees, but it was decided that the quote be accepted and the issue of large tree removal be put on the agenda for 2015 for consideration after the initial clearing can be observed.</p> <p><u>Weed eradication</u> – Libby reported that Bushcare has been working in Silva Plana and Sloan Reserve. Dave Simmonds of BMCC has been inspecting properties for noxious and environmental weeds.</p> <p><u>Signs repainting</u> – Libby reported that Bruce McClintock has us on his schedule and that we should persevere with him.</p> <p><u>New Signs</u> – Libby hasn't ordered them yet but is ensuring that all required signs are determined – 2 “no fires” for Wynnes Rocks Lookout and Happy Valley and 6 walking signs for Boronia Point walk at this stage.</p> <p><u>Waterfall Road mulch</u> – This has been done by Peter Raines.</p> <p><u>Waterfall Reserve</u> – the picnic tables have not yet been moved.</p> <p><u>Cathedral Reserve Maintenance</u> – Richard inspected the vehicle barriers in Cathedral Reserve with Alan Gunn and determined the objective of having substantial, difficult to move log barriers in place to replace the missing and rotted old barriers in a much bigger job than previously envisaged. In view of BMCC's Ken Philips suggestion council might be able to replace the logs with large rocks it is proposed a plan diagram for the barrier layout be prepared and discussed with Ken on how to best get his suggestion adopted by council. Meantime, Alan will be asked to place the existing available logs where most needed.</p> <p>Concern was expressed at the possible untidy look of the use of rocks. It was suggested that the community and contractors be informed that there is a need for suitable logs. Nancy will take on this responsibility.</p> <p><u>Power pole barriers at Silva Plana</u> – Availability of old power poles for vehicle barriers, especially in The Avenue. These are on Peter Raines' list.</p> <p><u>Silva Plana Maintenance</u> – Richard reported that there is still the small pile of old timber around an old tree stump yet to be burned. Alan is to be reminded. The gate padlock has been installed. The grass is all right but the ground is rough. It was suggested that it will be left until the grass has seeded in spring.</p> <p><u>Rabbits</u>– Alison has advised Council on the issue of the elimination of rabbits in Cathedral Reserve with no response. Graham Thompson has purchased Rabbait to use on Bisley.</p> <p><u>Communications: Website & The Mounts</u> – It was agreed that a letter be written to Tim Gow confirming our desire that he continue as editor despite no longer being a member of MWPA. It was suggested that a trading post section be</p>
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	<p>included in the newsletter for community use. Nancy will follow up with Tim.</p> <p><u>Visitor numbers research/marketing/attracting new residents</u> – Peter is continuing to develop this proposal for consideration next year. He presented a paper outlining the strategy and proposal for a two minute video to be put on the website as part of the marketing proposal. After a divided discussion, it was decided to accept the quote of \$13,000 from Emma Leslie. Nancy has agreed to assist Peter in developing a marketing plan for presentation to the community.</p> <p><u>Mobile Coverage Programme and Mt Wilson</u> – Richard reported that the federal government issued its first update on the Mobile Coverage Programme on 29 July. There are more than 4,000 nominated locations thereby making it impractical for MWPA to consider individual lobbying of the three telcos to argue for priority for Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine. However, the working party of Richard Beattie, Graham Tribe and Henric Nicholas have agreed we should lobby (1) Louise Markus especially to emphasise the safety critical element of our claim because of the bushfire threat, (2) BMCC which has supported our claim and might be able to do something further, and possibly (3) Paul Fletcher, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Communications (Turnbull) who has been delegated by Turnbull to manage the issue.</p> <p><u>Pavements Walk</u> – Libby reported at the June meeting work needs to be done following the October 2013 bushfire. She will consult with MIPA and go ahead without consulting NPWS (it may close the track rather than repairing it).</p> <p><u>Public Address in Hall</u> – Beth Raines has requested that lapel mikes be provided for the MWPA audio system in the Village Hall. While there are such mikes in the hall there is a problem of sound interference so they are not used possibly because the quality is inadequate. Alison will follow this up with Barry Freeman.</p> <p><u>Phone book</u> – The updated version is complete and has been delivered. It was agreed that additional copies be sold for \$5 each.</p>
General Business	<p><u>Blue Mountains Flexible Community Grants</u> – Kathleen Oakes has made an application to the Government of NSW for a grant of \$8,246.00 for bushfire preparation, risk awareness and emergency location signage. This application was made in the name of MWPA.</p> <p><u>10/50 m legislation on tree & vegetation clearance around homes for bushfire threat reduction and pile burns</u>– The following notification was made in response of Richard’s request for clarification of the issue of pile burns in relation to the new regulations:</p> <p>In relation to the issue raised about pile burning, I can advise the following:</p> <p>The introduction of the 10/50 vegetation clearing entitlement provides an exemption for clearing and does not provide an exemption for burning.</p> <p>Therefore, while the vegetation clearing entitlement does not in itself provide for an approval to undertake pile burning, existing arrangements and approvals should still apply. The existing permissions in Mt Tomah and Mt Irvine, will therefore not be changed by the 10/50 vegetation clearing entitlement. We do note however, that councils (deemed approval process for pile burns) does not explicitly provide for material that does not arise from the maintenance of APZ. If people are undertaking new clearing, then they may not be covered under the councils deemed approval. This is a matter for council to determine, however the NSW RFS would support council in amending the deemed approval to provide for burning of material derived from the 10/50 clearing.</p> <p>I hope this clarifies.</p>

	<p>Corey Shackleton A/ Group Manager Operational & Mitigation Support Services Operational Services NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE</p> <p><u>BMCC rates “What are you willing to pay for?”</u> – the outcome of council’s rate increase survey has the potential to be significant for the funds council will have to spend in Mt Wilson. Explanation of this was sent to all rate payers. Richard recommended that everyone opt for the choice of increased rates and services.</p> <p><u>MWPA membership and the constitution</u> – Moira reported that Tim and Kim Gow and Mary Reynolds have requested to continue MWPA membership after moving from the village. This is not allowable under the present constitution. It was decided that it would be unfortunate to lose the interest and support of such long standing members. Continuing membership as an associate for up to five years after leaving the mountain is to be considered. Ted suggested the old model rules could be replaced with new model rules. This will be mentioned at the AGM and Ted will draft a new constitution for consideration in 2015.</p> <p><u>20 September AGM organisation</u> – It was agreed that Moira will set up the hall and Alison will purchase drinks and nibbles.</p>
Date/location next meeting	Fri 14 November 2014 at 7.30 p.m. at Maple Lodge, The Avenue
Close	The meeting closed at 10.20 p.m. and Moira was thanked for hosting the meeting.

Signed as a true record

Date _____

Richard Beattie (Chairman)