

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING  
MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC  
Held on Saturday, 18th March, 2017  
in the Mount Wilson Village Hall, The Avenue, Mount Wilson**

**1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

The meeting opened at 5.40 p.m. when the Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance, especially given the heavy rain. The committee members were recognised and new committee member Robbie Feyder was welcomed. The committee is small but organised and has appointed informal deputies to support the Acting President, Treasurer and Secretary. The work of the RFB and the community first responders was recognised as invaluable service to the community. This meeting follows the Village Hall Meeting, which is indicative of groups in the community working harmoniously. The Chairman thanked Jess Delbridge for her first edition as editor of *The Mounts* which has generated much positive feedback.

Lyn Mitchell, Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC), was welcomed.

Susan Templeman, Federal MP, was welcomed.

**2. ATTENDANCE**

**Committee:** Alison Halliday (Vice President, Acting President), Libby Raines (Treasurer), Sue Woolfenden (Secretary), Robbie Feyder, Nancy Fox and Ted Griffin.

**Other members:** Martin Barge, Phillip Beeby, Jess Delbridge, Anne De Salis, Helen Freeman, Diana and Joe Landsberg, Peter and Marilyn Laving, Janet McDonald, Peter McDonald, George and Jayne Mayne, Elizabeth and Joe Montano, Michael Morgan, Ashley Phillips, Beth Raines, Peter Raines, Keith Ralston, Bill and Maureen Ryan, Alice Simpson, Judy and Graham Tribe, Steve Woolfenden

**Visitors:** Lyn Mitchell BMCC, Susan Templeman Federal MP.

**Apologies:** Trish Doyle (State MP), Kerry Brown (BMCC) members Bruce Arnold, Loretta Beattie, Jane Beeby, Robert Chesney, Barry Freeman, Ron and Moira Green, Deborah Griffin, Alex Halliday, Owen Havilland, Mary Holy, Sarah Hope, Susie Hope, Robyn and John Leonard, Katherine and Alexander Montano, Anne and Peter Piggott, Thom and Johanna Rhenton, John and Judy Teulon.

### **3. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Libby Raines was warmly welcomed and especially thanked for her attendance given her recent ill health. Robbie Feyder presented the report in a new format which breaks the finances into two sections - MWPA and Maintenance Account.

It was proposed by Bill Ryan and seconded by Helen Freeman that the report be approved. It was approved.

### **4. ACTING PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

4.1 Maintenance: Nancy Fox is liaising with Mount Wilson Rural Contracting. We are fortunate to have Peter Raines on the mountain. Peter and Beth were out today, on the roads, clearing trees which fell in the heavy rain. A contractor from elsewhere would have difficulty responding to these issues in a timely and safe manner. The Acting President proposed a vote of thanks to Beth and Peter. This was followed by applause from the meeting.

Peter Raines is currently upgrading the walking tracks. Eventually there will be ten tracks, clearly signposted for community and visitor use. As each track is completed it will be listed on the website and the community notified. Many tracks are loop tracks. The tracks will be listed on a notice board near the Wollangambe board. These walks will provide alternative walks for families and visitors for whom the canyon walks are unsuitable. Sunday Walk spur and the Old Zigzag are complete and marked with blue arrows.

A meeting was held with Nancy, Robbie, Libby and Dan Long (BMCC) regarding the Maintenance payments. The community do not want to lose Peter as our contractor. Dan Long is very supportive and understands how the community works. He is not sure when and if the situation will change. He is appreciative of the work done by Peter and Micah Fink. He also appreciates how important it is to have the contractor living on the mountain.

4.2 Neighbourhood Safer Place: Ted Griffin outlined recent developments in the Asset Protection Zone (APZ) needed for a Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP).

This impacts the RFB, MWPA, Study Centre and the Village Hall. The Village Hall has been designated as a NSP by the Rural Fire Service, as distinct from the local RFB. The RFS is currently funding environmental reports. It seems that this will proceed along with one at Mount Irvine and another at Bell. There will be much clearing of small shrubs and some trees, however, not all trees will need to be removed. The Village Hall Committee is in favour of this proceeding. It was noted that the building is a timber structure which may not be the safest in a fire. MWPA will not do any work on Marcus Clarke Reserve until the NSP is finalised.

4.3 Website Update: Graham Tribe presented an update on the new website.

It is planned to go live on Monday, 20 March, 2017. It is a more modern layout and there is a desktop and mobile version. So it will work better on mobile devices, which are the way of the future. There are big differences in layout, but the features of the current website are all in the new website. During the next few months we will be condensing many of the pages to reduce the size and simplify the menu, but the functionality will remain the same. To obtain access to all the community specific information you will need to login. The MWPA is planning some website training in the next few months and I'd encourage all to come along to those sessions.

The sessions have been funded by a community grant from Blue Mountains City Council. Using this grant the MWPA have been able to engage the services of Ash Phillips to design and deliver the sessions.

The Acting President thanked Graham for his hard work.

4.4 Wollangambe River and Centennial Coal: ABC News on 27 February reported on the damage to the river and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) decision to tighten up requirements to reduce the the amounts of metal and salts that the mine can discharge in the water. The EPA has been working with the company, along with Dr Ian Wright and other community groups to address the issue.

4.5 Bowen's Creek Firetrail Update: Elizabeth Montano provided an update.

This is an update on behalf of the Mt Wilson/ Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade as lead community organisation on this issue.

The community may recall that after several years of campaigning by the RF Brigade, MWPA and MIPA, in the July 2016 Federal Election the Federal Government committed to providing Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) and Hawkesbury City Council (HCC) with \$100,000 to fund work towards the restoration of Bowens Creek Rd, Bowens Creek Bridge and Mt Irvine Rd, being the route between Mt Irvine and Bilpin, as a fire trail for emergency vehicles access. The Labor candidate and now Member for the Federal electorate of Macquarie, Susan Templeman also pledged this sum for this purpose.

As the route is owned by BMCC and HCC, the agreement of both councils is needed to undertake this project. BMCC resolved in October 2015 to work with HCC to make a joint bid for funding and to proceed with the fire trail work. Whilst this was very welcome news, to date HCC has not resolved to work with BMCC on this and so the project has not progressed.

Following the September 2016 Council elections for both BMCC and HCC, the Brigade has been working to encourage this project to go forward. On 4 February, Beth Raines, David Howell and I briefed new BMCC Ward One Councillors Kerry Brown and Kevin Schreiber on the background to the route, work to date and why it is important for both Mounts residents and the many thousands of visitors to the area that this alternate route for emergency services vehicles be established and maintained. We also took the Councillors on a site visit through the BMCC owned section of the route and onto the Bridge. As you know, Councillor Don McGregor, our third Ward One Councillor who was re-elected in the September 2016 election, has shown strong support for this work and continues to do so.

I have recently been in contact with Trish Doyle our State MP asking her to continue her efforts to draw the attention of relevant State Ministers, including Minister Perrottet, to the significance of this route for both the Blue Mountains and the Hawkesbury. Minister Perrottet is the Member for Hawkesbury. We also continue to encourage the RFS Blue Mountains District to pursue this with Hawkesbury RFS District.

Following the site visit by Kerry Brown and Kevin Schreiber, Kerry Brown lodged a Notice of Motion – to be considered by BMCC on 28 March which, if passed, will re-energise BMCC's work on this.

I have also been advised that the General Manager of BMCC has written to his HCC

counterpart to start the process for a joint bid.

I have been in contact with both Minister Fletcher (who has verbally confirmed that the funds are still available) and subsequently met with his Office and briefed them on the matter in general terms. Minister Fletcher's office is contacting the Department of Infrastructure to obtain greater clarity on the process for obtaining the funds. Preliminary advice is that this requires a short high level proposal. For relatively small sums such as this, the process is not onerous.

I have also confirmed that following the reallocation of Federal Ministerial responsibilities following the last federal Election, Minister Fiona Nash, Minister for regional government, local government and territories is now responsible for Federal involvement in matters such as this.

The Brigade is still seeking to engage with both Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury RF Districts to get a more strategic perspective on the route.

In past updates we have asked residents, our visitors and all interested parties to write to BMCC, HCC, State and Federal Ministers and local Members to urge them to cut through any cross jurisdictional impediments and restore the route as a fire trail for emergency vehicles. New contact details will shortly be posted on the Mt Wilson website and we would again urge you to write to or email our representatives to let them know that you think this is an important public safety issue.

Elizabeth Montano

Member of the Executive

Mt Wilson/ Mt Irvine RF Brigade

4.6 Badgery's Creek Airport: There is nothing more that the MWPA can do at the moment. Updates on the airport can be found on the BMCC website.

4.7 Mobile Blackspot Program: There are no further updates.

4.8 Autumn Visitors and Traffic: During autumn it may be helpful to remember that people are coming to see the beauty of Mount Wilson and appreciate the gardens.

Alison Halliday and David Howell met with a sergeant from Springwood Police last year. They were advised that no one is allowed to direct the traffic. The process in cases of traffic congestion is if the traffic is not moving the RFB can ring Katoomba. Katoomba then rings the police who will give permission to Katoomba who will pass this back to the local RFB. The community is not allowed to make Wyndham and Queens Avenues one way. Satellite Navigation Systems continue to direct vehicles via Bowen's Creek Road. The MWPA have organised for two temporary signs to be erected this autumn saying No Through Road to Bilpin. One will be at Cathedral Reserve and another further towards Mt Irvine in a position allowing for safe turnaround. Simultaneously we have applied for new DA approved signage on The Five Mile close to Bell's Line of Road. Beth Raines requested the community write to GPS providers.

Peter Kerstens at Breenhold will provide off street parking in 3 paddocks on the right hand side of The Avenue, keeping the area on the left free for the use of helicopters. Only one side of the road is available for parking to avoid collisions.

Sharon encourages visitors to walk to other gardens. Residents were requested to ask tradesmen working on their properties to drive to the speed limit.

At the meeting with Dan Long additional toilets for autumn crowds were requested. An ongoing issue over many years has been the demolition of toilets which are not replaced. There are two issues with the toilets: temporary ones for busy periods and the replacement of permanent toilets at Cathedral Reserve. Sharon Kerstens has asked that Silva Plana toilets be open as they are currently locked. Dan Long BMCC may buy a bank of portable toilets to be located in the village during busy periods. Visitors generally do not want to use portaloos and will queue to avoid using them. The MWPA will have the existing toilets pumped out. The MWPA will purchase portable toilets if requested by the membership. The general consensus from the floor was not to buy toilets.

## **5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

5.1 Graham Tribe acknowledged the website committee - Tim Gow, Robbie Feyder and Steve Woolfenden.

5.2 Libby Raines thanked Alexander Montano for organising a group from KPMG to come to Mount Wilson for Community Service. In March, Alex and eleven colleagues helped clear ivy from Merewether Lane with the Bushcare group.

5.3 Susan Templeman MP spoke on a number of issues:

Wollangambe River: Confirmation that the EPA has ordered a cleanup of the river.

Badgerys Creek Airport: Paul Fletcher, Minister for Urban Infrastructure has invited applications from MPs to become members of the Forum On Western Sydney Airport (FOWSA). Other members will include representatives from Residents Against Western Sydney Airport and the Conservation Society. FOWSA will consult with the community about flight paths. Membership of FOWSA will be announced soon and will meet before the end of the year.

Bowen's Creek Firetrail: Elizabeth Montano was congratulated on her efforts as it is extraordinary to have an outcome in only eight months, however, there is still a long way to go.

NBN: Mount Wilson can get satellite NBN. Please provide feedback to Susan Templeman's office if you notice changes to NBN coverage. The Blue Mountains have a high rate of Telstra complaints. Please contact Susan's office if you have ongoing problems.

5.4 Alison acknowledged that the community appreciates the efforts and achievements of Elizabeth Montano in pursuing the Bowen's Creek Firetrail issue.

5.5 Lyn Mitchell, Liaison Officer, Recreation and Community Facilities BMCC, was introduced and spoke to the meeting. Lynn suggested Dan Long be invited to the General Meeting. She advised that Wendy Dolan is the BMCC liaison regarding autumn problems.

## **6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

The meeting closed at 6.50 pm. Everyone was invited to stay for wine and cheese.

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 16 September at the Mount Wilson Village Hall at 5.30 pm.

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**Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc**  
**Statement of Accounts 1-07-16 to 1-03-17**

**MWPA Income & Expenditure**

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	
Membership	480.00
Website - Payment for Usage	1,560.00
Grant from BMCC	750.00
Raffle - Christmas Party	153.50
Donations	293.27
Interest	832.63
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>4,069.40</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>	
Department of Fair Training	44.00
CW Print	323.04
Secretary	113.24
ATO GST	657.00
Toilet Cleaning - Autumn Festival	400.00
Oley Media - Hosting Website	302.50
Village Hall Rent	548.00
Drinks for Functions	812.38
Lettering on the War Memorial	100.00
Services at the War Memorial	475.00
Ash Phillips – Sound System for Hall	3,250.00
Bank Fee	85.50
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>7,110.66</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-3,041.26</b>

**Maintenance Account Income & Expenditure**

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	
Blue Mountains City Council	20,000.00
	<b>20,000.00</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>	
Mount Wilson Rural Contracting	17,768.30
Micah Fink	2,307.00
Babylon Tree and Garden Services	127.60
Insurance - Broad Form	1,320.00
Lithgow Landscapes – Spray and Fertilizers	106.50
Bay Tree Nursery - Nyssa and Maples	334.80
	<b>21,964.20</b>
<b>Maintenance Account Closing balance</b>	<b>-1,964.20</b>
<b>Note:</b> Awaiting \$10,000 payment from BMCC This is shown in debtors Discussed with BMCC, payment pending	

**Current Account Cash Flow**

Opening Bank Balance 1.07.16	25,161.45
MWPA Net Income	-3,041.26
Maintenance Account Balance	-1,964.20
Debtors - BMCC	-10,000.00
<b>Bank Balance 1.03.17</b>	<b>10,155.99</b>

**MWPA Balance Sheet at 1 Mar 17**

<b>Assets</b>	Current Account		10,155.99
	Fixed Term Deposits		65,000.00
	Total Cash		75,155.99
	Debtors - BMCC		10,000.00
	<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>85,155.99</b>
<b>Equity</b>	MWPA	O/B	90,161.45
		Net Income	-3,041.26
		C/B	87,120.19
	BM Maintenance	O/B	0.00
		Net Income	-1,964.20
		C/B	-1,964.20
	<b>Total equity</b>		<b>85,155.99</b>

**Note:** Not shown is a recent invoice paid for the website development  
Jimmy Web (New Website) 5,938.19  
MWPA has paid the invoice and is re-invoicing 1/3 to each of:  
- Mt Wilson Mt Irvine RFB  
- The Historical Society