

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC
Held on Saturday, 16 September, 2017
in the Mount Wilson Village Hall, The Avenue, Mount Wilson**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The meeting opened at 5.35 pm. Thank you to everyone for coming...perhaps so many gathered together will help the capricious rain gods to do their thing and make sure we all get wet going back to the car.

I'd like to remind the community of what the Mount Wilson Progress Association does for residents even if not a member. The Association produces the local phone book, which has been updated this year. Extra copies are available for \$5 from the secretary. The development and hosting costs of the web site are shared with the Mount Irvine/Mount Wilson RFB and the Historical Society. The whole community benefits from this. The MWPA represent the community to the Blue Mountains City Council and other institutions and government bodies as needed. Occasionally the MWPA raises which is used for additional task such as the rejuvenation of walking tracks. To this end we are printing out a copy of a guide to the first 4 tracks and this will be on sale at the spring blossom festival for a gold coin donation. Eventually there will be a booklet with information on the many tracks around Mount Wilson. The MWPA also produces and distributes The Mounts newsletter.

2. ATTENDANCE

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

Other members: Peter Anderson, Lorraine & Tony Barrett, Deb Griffin, Alex Halliday, Mary Holt, Susie Hope, David & Sarah Howell, Marilyn Laving, Robyn & John Leonard, Janet McDonald, Peter McDonald, Robert Nicol, Keith Ralston, Beth Raines, Alan Rose, Bill Ryan, Alice Simpson, Beverly & Graham Thompson, Steve Woolfenden

Visitors: Allen Hyde, Bruce Kerridge, Andrew Mitchell

Apologies:

Invited guests: Susan Templeman Federal MP, Trish Doyle State MLA, Dan Long BMCC

Committee member: Nancy Fox

Other members: Martin Barge, Richard & Loretta Beattie, Robert Chesney, Anne de Salis, Helen & Barry Freeman, Joe & Diana Landsberg, Peter Laving, Elizabeth & Joe

Montano, Michael & Gillian Pembroke, Duncan Peppercorn, peter & Linda Raines, Mary Reynolds, Maureen Ryan, Graham & Judy Tribe, Lesley & Raoul Wilson

3. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2016

Proposer: Alex Halliday

Seconder: David Howell

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Minutes of the General Meeting March 2017

Proposer: Robbie Feyder

Seconder: Libby Raines

The minutes were approved unanimously.

There were no matters arising from either meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Acting President thanked Richard England for his review which was read to the meeting.

In her introduction to the report the treasurer thanked Richard England for his review and Robbie Feyder for preparing the report on a spreadsheet.

Robbie Feyder presented the report.

He noted it is divided into two sections. As the MWPA subcontracts for BMCC we keep a separate set of books. We get 10% administration fee which goes into our revenue.

There was no active fund raising in the last financial year.

Matters Arising

David Howell asked why we made a donation to the Colong Foundation. The Acting President responded that the donation was approved at the last AGM. Mary Holt asked what happened to the funds raised at the 2016 Autumn Festival and the suggestion for a new kitchen for the village hall. The money has not been spent and is evident in our total assets. There will be no work on the Village Hall until the Neighbourhood Safer Place process is finalised as there may be work done as part of this program.

Motion of Acceptance

Proposer: Susie Hope

Seconder: Graham Thompson

The report was accepted unanimously.

Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc
Statement of Accounts 1-07-16 to 30-06-17

MWPA Income & Expenditure

RECEIPTS:

Membership		480.00
Website	Payment for Usage	1,785.00
New Website Development	RFS & Historical Society Contribution	5,203.00
Grant from BMCC		750.00
Raffle	Christmas Party	153.50
Donations		593.27
ATO	GST Refund	1,827.00
Interest		1,483.56
TOTAL RECEIPTS		12,275.33

PAYMENTS:

Jimmy Web	New Website	5,938.10
Oley Media	Website Hosting	302.50
CW Print	Printing & Copying	556.04
Ash Phillips	Sound System for Hall	3,250.00
Ash Phillips	Website Training	750.00
Secretary		261.24
RFS	1/2 Traffic Mngt Training	1,917.00
ATO	GST Payments	657.00
Village Hall Rent	Meetings & Functions	548.00
Remembrance Day Service		475.00
Lettering on the War Memorial		100.00
Department of Fair Training	Annual Fee	44.00
Drinks for Functions		812.38
Toilet Cleaning	2016 Autumn Festival - BMCC	400.00
Donation	Colong Foundation	500.00
Bank Fee		128.50
TOTAL PAYMENTS		16,639.76

MWPA NET INCOME	-4,364.43
------------------------	------------------

Maintenance Account Income & Expenditure

INVOICING

Blue Mountains City Council	40,950.27
TOTAL RECEIPTS	40,950.27

PAYMENTS (Work Done)

Mount Wilson Rural Contracting incl: David Gunn, Soil, Gravel	36,655.30
Micah Fink	3,627.00
Babylon Tree and Garden Services	127.60
Insurance Broad Form	2,420.00
Lithgow Landscapes Spray and Fertilizers	106.50
Bay Tree Nursery Nyssa and Maples	334.80
TOTAL PAYMENTS	43,271.20

Maintenance Account Movement (Current Year)	-2,320.93
--	------------------

Current Account Cash Flow

Opening Bank Balance 1 July 2016	25,161.45
MWPA Net Income	-4,364.43
Maintenance Account Movement (current year)	-2,320.93
Bank Balance 30 June 2017	18,476.09

MWPA Balance Sheet at 30 June 2017

Assets	Current Account	18,476.09
	Fixed Term Deposits	65,000.00
	Total Cash	83,476.09
Total Assets		83,476.09
Equity	MWPA	
	Opening Balance (1/07/16)	90,161.45
	Net Income	-4,364.43
	Closing Balance (30/06/17)	85,797.02
	BMCC Maintenance	
	Opening Balance (1/07/16)	0.00
	Maintenance Account Movement (current year)	-2,320.93
	Closing Balance (30/06/17)	-2,320.93
Total Equity		83,476.09

5. Acting President's Report

Volunteering

*Everyone does it, and we need everyone to be involved, in ways that suit them at any one time. It does make for a friendly and resilient community; and it is one of the unique characteristics of Mt Wilson. I want to make **special mention of the Raines family** in the light of the importance of volunteering; they are a wonderful example, and they are not alone. I think this family knows more about Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine than the rest of us put together. We know how much Libby, Beth and Peter do...and while Keith has hung up his volunteering hat he too has contributed in many ways over many years. Please join the MWPA if you are not a member and encourage your neighbours and adult children to join up. More people involved means less work for everyone.*

Condolences and welcomes.

I would like to offer our sympathy to the Scrivener family on the death of Bill, and to Barry and Helen Freeman on the death of Doug and to the family and friends of Judy Wardell. It is a bit odd perhaps to do it here but I would also like to welcome the new members of our community. Connie and Nino Pulice (Milparra), Warren Riddell (Eastcote) Lidija & Cane Tavelaska (Wynne's Rocks Road) Ricky & Coral de Losa (Wynne's Rocks Road) They each get a welcome package from MWPA.

As I have done previously I am going to ask those on the committee who have focused their attention on particular areas to talk about these but I wish to make a few comments to begin with.

I'd like to recognise the loss of Milba Kirk...the last Kirk from Mt Wilson has moved to Portland. This marks an important historical moment. We have lost the last member of the Kirk family on the mountain, a family which has been here since 1875. They have made many contributions to the community.

Success of the spring festival 2016

We wonderful paintings, mountain memorabilia, open gardens, a cafe and of course a sausage sizzle. Thanks to all responsible for the organisation, and all those who helped. I know the traffic was a headache for some of you but it mostly flowed well and the atmosphere in the village was tremendous. A lot of money was raised! Thank you for your hard work and patience with our visitors.

And please come along next weekend and do it all over again...

Sarah Howell was asked to speak about the Spring Blossom Festival 2017. The committee has been working since February; thanks to the committee and to the owners of open gardens. Even though officially the RFB benefits the whole community gains from the fundraising. The RFB needs an annual injection of funds to extend the shed and Mount Irvine needs a whole new shed. We don't have enough volunteers. We still need helpers for garden gates, the sausage sizzle and the café. Please come and see Sarah after the meeting. Three hours would be helpful.

We had **temporary signs concerning no through road to Bilpin** along Bowens Creek road which seemed to keep some from unnecessary to-ing and fro-ing; and a BMCC sign has been installed near the campground on Mt Irvine Road.

Work on behalf of BMCC has been largely carried out by Peter Raines with help from Micah Fink and Ian Wamijo. To see what has been done in a couple of areas, Peter gave a few of us from the committee a guided tour through the remedial work he has carried out in the whole campground area and in The Avenue. It really made us aware of just what is involved and we hope to repeat this exercise every 6 months or so. The Council has deferred taking over full control of the maintenance work to at least the middle of 2018, and we shall just have to wait and see what happens then and how it will be structured in the detail.

Toilets. It would not be a meeting without mentioning public toilets and I want to repeat our heartfelt thanks to BMCC and Dan Long for providing us with such necessary items over the Easter-autumn period.

David Howell confirmed extra toilets have been hired for the Spring Festival. Flushing toilets in the Hall and Fire station will be locked, forcing visitors to use portaloos.

Telecommunications

- (1) Mt Tomah tower is still meant to be installed in the 2018 period and it will be active 'on air' soon after it is built.
- (2) David Howell drew my attention to the effects of the NBN roll out and this is what I have been told by Mark Andrews from the office of Susan Templeman when I spoke to him, emphasising our special circumstances:

NBN has confirmed that the current plan is to service those premises by the Sky Muster satellite.

*Those in the Satellite & Fixed wireless footprint have the option to taking up a service, and can keep their existing services as well. For example, I'd imagine the mobile reception isn't great up there, so may wish to take up an **nbn**Sky Muster service for satellite and keep their existing copper phone lines.*

The office of Susan Templeman, our Federal Member will be given more information closer to the time. Mark added that *Telstra said the information on their website is the most up to date.*

David Howell reported he had spoken to NBN and was told we would be cut off. We have satellite available, after 18 months the copper wire will be cut off unless we make a case for special circumstances. There was consensus from the meeting for Alison to write a letter making a case for special circumstances. Allen Hyde will collaborate with Alison on a letter as this is an issue for both villages. The community was encouraged to write individual letters along with letters from the local Rural Fire Brigade.

Wollangambe River. *Clarence Colliery, a subsidiary of Centennial Coal, has been fined \$1.05 million for the damages caused to the Wollangambe River; they have spent more than \$2 million in remediation*

The court has ordered Centennial Coal, the parent company of the colliery, to fund five programs that will benefit the environment surrounding Lithgow and the Blue Mountains.

Two of the projects are located in the Lithgow region: the weed control and native re-vegetation of Farmers Creek, and the rehabilitation of bush-walking tracks that traverse the Glow Worm Tunnel, Deep Pass and Mt Wilson area. Each project will receive \$210,000 in funding from the penalty.

The EPA prosecuted Clarence with a Tier 1 (the most serious) offence that involves proving the defendant negligently caused a substance to escape in a manner that harms or is likely to harm the environment.

Justice Robson said that the colliery had caused harm to the surrounding environment.

"I find that Clarence Colliery's conduct caused both substantial actual harm and likely environmental harm and that the areas adversely affected were areas of high environmental and conservation value which were specifically preserved and clearly intended to be relatively free of pollution," he said.

However, in his judgement he said that he took into account the colliery's "contrition". Centennial Coal spent \$2 million cleaning up the coal fines over a year.

"I accept that Clarence Colliery has demonstrated contrition and remorse concerning the offences and has, by its conduct, taken responsibility for its actions and acknowledged the environmental harm caused," he said.

The Mounts. *Jess has continued to do an excellent job and we are most grateful to her for her desire to perfection! This newsletter is dependent on all of us making contributions so please don't think that someone else is doing it – send in your contributions please.*

November 11 – Remembrance Day. *Please come as this year it is on a Saturday. It is a special community event where we remember all those who fought and participated in far too many wars, there is a short service and then we recall the life of one or two listed on the War Memorial, and then morning tea! It is yet another example of a way this community comes together, and this one is shared with the Mt Irvine community. Beverly Thompson asked for choristers. There will be 2 practices and one song.*

Areas of concern that members of the committee have focused on:

Robbie Feyder *has been the chief liaison person in dealing with all matters to do with BMCC...*

*I would like to ask **Ted** to briefly talk about the NSP and the safety zone, and activities of the Village Hall committee.*

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the committee for their hard work, especially Sue who we all depend on, and their great common sense in their care for the mountain, and help to me.

Robbie Feyder reported on BMCC issues. The MWPA committee have invited representatives from BMCC to the first committee meeting after the AGM so we have a shared vision and build relationships. In Cathedral Reserve concrete bases have been put in for picnic tables. Logs have been placed to stop cars getting into some areas in order to encourage growth of vegetation. Graham Thompson asked about bollards at Cathedral Reserve that have been removed. Libby will get Misha Fink to replace them.

BMCC cleared the Northern Fire trail. There has been discussion about drainage on the road. There are ongoing discussions with the RFS about how it can be remediated.

Walking trails: Signs are being placed to promote four trails - the Waterfall walk, Boronia Point, Chinaman's Hut and Pheasant Cave and the Sunday Spur walk.

The Boronia is out in October on the Boronia Point walk.

Janet McDonald did the Sunday Spur walk after reading the description in The Mounts and recommended it to the meeting.

Libby mentioned that at the end of October, there is a beautiful patch of Boronia if walking the fire trail to Field Selection. She noted there is Private Property at the gate.

Ted Griffin reported on the Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP) There has been a dearth of information. The process is being run by RFS at Lidcomb. The NSP will involve the RFB, the Village Hall, MWPA as owners of MCR, the Mount Wilson Study Centre and private property owners. Environmental reports are being prepared and submitted. Contractors have been sent to quote on the work but not yet officially approved. Bill Ryan asked about the location. Ted referred to the map he showed at the last meeting. He reported that a large area would be cleared. If the Village Hall is designated a NSP there is a possibility of additional funding from Government and the BMCC. Robyn Leonard asked what will happen to Marcus Clarke Reserve. Ted responded that trees and undergrowth would be cleared.

David Howell asked if MWPA had had input. The RFS has been speaking to landowners but not to community groups in Mount Wilson.

6. Business Arising from the Report

There was no further business arising from the Acting President's Report.

7. General Business

Community Assistance Grant from BMCC

Sue Woolfenden reported on the success of an application for a Community Assistance Grant from BMCC which will be used to increase community use and awareness of the community website. Ash Phillips has been engaged to run information sessions which will cater to all levels of expertise. The times and dates will be advertised in The Mounts.

Bowens creek update

Elizabeth Montano was not able to attend the meeting. Her report in the latest issue of The Mounts, page 8 is current. Alison thanked her on behalf of the community for her continued slog concerning all of this.

150th anniversary of the surveying of Mount Wilson occurs in 2018. Graham Thompson raised the issue and reported on the successful celebrations for the 125th anniversary. There was unanimous approval from the floor to have a function. The suggested time was November. MWPA will establish a sub-committee.

Beverly Thompson asked about fire pumps servicing - she was directed to contact Peter Laving who is organizing this as Community Engagement Officer.

David Howell provided an update about the rubbish on the Five Mile. This was a National Parks issue not a BMCC issue. David Howell rang once a week until the rubbish was removed.

Beth Raines reported on a pre-fires season briefing she had recently attended. The fire season has been brought forward to September meaning pile burns are no longer allowed.

There have been warmer maximum temperatures and drier conditions for 3 months which will predispose the bush to burning. Seasonal rainfall has been less. The soil is much drier. She showed live fuel maps. In summary: Last time it was this dry was in 2002. There is only an average chance of average rainfall. In general, we are 3 months ahead of 2013 with regard to the fire season. Already there has been a callout to a bush fire when fallen power lines caused a fire along Bell's Line of Road. Residents were advised to get out pumps and hoses and test them and to work out a family fire plan. Properties should be prepared and the information from Peter Laving should be read. It is important to check water levels in tanks and consider then need to conserve or buy water.

1. Management Committee 2017 /2018

Nominations have been received from our Acting President, Alison Halliday for the position of President, from our Treasurer Libby Raines for the position of Treasurer, from our Secretary Sue Woolfenden for the position of Secretary and from our Ordinary

Committee members Robbie Feyder, Nancy Fox and Ted Griffin, for the positions of Ordinary Committee. Two positions are currently vacant - vice president and committee member.

As the number of nominations for the respective positions does not exceed the positions to be filled a ballot will not be held and in accordance with CI 15(4) of our constitution I declare them to have been duly elected to their respective positions with effect from the conclusion of this meeting.

As there remain two further positions available on the Committee namely Vice - President and an Ordinary Committee member. Pursuant to Clause 15 (2) of the constitution I ask the meeting if there is any one or more members who would like to stand and if so will there be two proposers who would like to support the nominations?

In the event there are no nominations for the role of Vice President or Ordinary Committee member then the constitution provides that the Committee may fill those positions as casual vacancies.

2. Closure of the Meeting

The new Committee will decide on the date for the General Meeting next year. The meeting closed at 7pm. Everyone was invited to stay for drinks, cheese and biscuits.

Signed as a true record

Alison Halliday

