

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC
Held on Saturday, 30 March, 2019
in the Mount Wilson Village Hall, The Avenue, Mount Wilson**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The meeting opened at 5.09 pm.

Thank you for coming out.

This is a joint meeting of the Mount Wilson Progress Association and the Village Hall. We thought that we could combine the two meetings and so give you an update on much that is going on in the community; and only drag you out once – so welcome to all of you. Welcome to Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) councillor Kevin Schreiber and Allen Hyde from MIPA.

2. ATTENDANCE

Committee: Alison Halliday (President), Robbie Feyder (Treasurer), Sue Woolfenden (Secretary), Nancy Fox, Janet McDonald.

Other members: Peter Anderson, Bruce Arnold, Lorraine Barrett, Phillip & Jane Beeby, Bruce Dowton, Welly Firmento, Tim & Kim Gow, Mary Holt, Bob Korogiannis, Marilyn Laving, Andrew Mitchell, Elizabeth & Joe Montano, Robert Nicol, Beth Raines, Tom Riddell, Maureen & Bill Ryan, Alice Simpson, Linda & James Sterling-Levis, Beverly & Graham Thompson, Graham & Judy Tribe, Neville Whan, Megan Wood, Steve Woolfenden.

Visitors: Kerry Brown, Allen Hyde, Angela Korogiannis, Kevin & Adrienne Schreiber, Miles, Matthew & Daniel Sterling-Levis.

Apologies:

Committee Members: Ted Griffin, Peter Raines.

Other members: Martin Barge, Loretta & Richard Beattie, Anne de Salis, Richard & Harriet England, Helen & Barry Freeman, Deb Griffin, Alex Halliday, Barbara Harry, Owen Havilland, Susie Hope, David & Sarah Howell, Peter Laving, Stephen List, George & Jane Mayne, Peter McDonald, Alexander & Katherine Montano, Gillian & Michael Pembroke, Keith Ralston, Alan Rose, Rosie Walsh.

Visitors: Trish Doyle, Bruce Kerridge, Sarah Richards, Robyn Scrivener.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented his report.

Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc

Statement of Accounts 1-07-18 to 28-03-19

Note: Includes separation of MWPA Account & BMCC Maintenance Account

Maintenance Account Income & Expenditure

RECEIPTS

Blue Mountains City Council	10,166.89
TOTAL RECEIPTS	10,166.89

PAYMENTS (Work Done)

MWPA Administration Fee	826.08
Mount Wilson Rural Contracting	4,808.00
Micah Fink	680.00
Insurance	Public Liability/Voluntary Workers 1,080.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	7,394.08
Maintenance Account Movement (Current Year)	2,772.81

MWPA Income & Expenditure

RECEIPTS

Membership	3,730.00
MWPA Administration Fee	826.08
150th (Tickets)	6,100.00
Phone Book	5.00
Website	Payment for Usage 2,105.00
Interest	231.60
TOTAL RECEIPTS	12,997.68

PAYMENTS

150th (Payments)	8,990.58
Old School House Contribution	5,000.00
Secretary	206.00
Printing	66.00
Hall Hire	180.00
Website	40.92
NSW Fair Trading	46.00
GST Payments	786.00
Bank Fee	86.34
TOTAL PAYMENTS	15,401.84
MWPA NET INCOME	-2,404.16

Current Account Cash Flow

Opening Bank Balance 1 July 2018	19,457.05
Less 2017/18 Accruals	-1,561.14
- GST Payment (GST Payment for Apr-Jun 2018)	1,018.00
- Micah Fink (Work for June 2018)	340.00
- Secretary	203.14
Plus Invoices not paid	1,190.00
Maintenance Account Movement (current year)	2,772.81
MWPA Net Income	-2,404.16
Bank Balance 8/02/19	19,454.56

MWPA Balance Sheet at 28 Mar 2019

ASSETS

Current Account (39398600)	19,454.56
Term Deposits	65,000.00
Total Assets	84,454.56

EQUITY

MWPA	Opening Balance (1 Jul 18)	82,895.91
Net Income		-2,404.16
	Closing Balance (28 Mar 19)	80,491.75
BMCC Maintenance Account		2,772.81
Total Equity		83,264.56

150th Accounts

RECEIPTS

150th (Tickets)	6,100.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	6,100.00

PAYMENTS

Expenses	480.58
Plated Group (Paid June 2017)	2,250.00
Plated Group (Paid this year)	6,750.00
Waiters	500.00
Musicians	600.00
Williams Liquid Waste	660.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	11,240.58
NET	-5,140.58

There is still some money from Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC). The work for council is being directly contracted through BMCC. There will be some costs later in the year for the website. MWPA contributed \$5140 to the 150th Anniversary celebration. The current contract doesn't cover all areas that will need attention.

Proposer: Bill Ryan

Seconder: Mary Holt

The report was accepted unanimously.

4. President's Report

Welcome to new members of the Association, members of the fire brigade and community first responders.

The flag is flying at Founders Corner again.

It is a General Meeting of the MWPA and I am now going to give a brief report. I would like to thank all the committee who have continued to work hard and still with enthusiasm.

As many of you would know, until recently we managed funds given to us by the BMCC, which were used to pay contractors (Peter Raines and Micah Fink, and sometimes others) to keep the mountain mown, tidy and clean as well as occasionally undertake specific special works. This has all changed. We now have a contractor, still Peter Raines, who will continue to do an excellent job so far as the terms of contract and the funds allow. Rather more problematic is the fact that to do anything more than this on any public land is strictly not permitted. We are happy to put in customer service requests for any residents. Make your request as detailed as possible. You can ring 000 if it's an emergency. So for National Park areas we liaise with national parks, pretty much as before. But for any extra or special tasks on public, that is land controlled by BMCC, from working on village walking tracks, to maintaining reserve areas we have to talk to BMCC, find the appropriate officer, put in a request for service, and the work may then be done, at some stage. This system is clumsy, time-consuming and relies to some extent on those who may have little local knowledge. If we are lucky this extra work may be handed over to Pete Raines to do but this is by no means certain. Then there is the whole issue of how it is paid for. The BMCC may pick up the costs but they are much more likely to approve of work if it is partially funded by us, perhaps on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

The Progress Association does have funds but we do have to be very careful about how the money is used. Our main source of income is now the annual subs – not a lot! And interest from our investment accounts – not a lot! As any of you who have done building or extensive gardening work will know our reserves could be eaten up very quickly. We do have the capacity to raise money, as we have done in the past, but I am very conscious of the fact that this imposes a great deal on volunteers and community good will; so it is not something we would rush into. My feeling is that if it becomes necessary it would be for a particular purpose.

Given all of this I would ask for your patience if we seem to be moving very slowly on some matters. The 'fence' behind the War Memorial is a good example of a seemingly never-ending task. The fence was demolished in 2011 after the wind storm. BMCC have done a heritage assessment. And dare I mention toilets? Extra toilets will be coming on April 9th until after ANZAC Day. Easter is the middle weekend of the school holidays and ANZAC Day a few days later.

We will continue to provide various services to the whole community:

- a printed phone book – please make sure your details on our web site are accurate as this is the source of our information
- the community website
- the local newsletter – The Mounts – now coming out 4 times a year.

At all times we are happy to talk to the Council about issues that you raise. The most recent example is the leaning elm in The Avenue being held up by ropes and roped to trees in Withycombe.

Rejuvenation of Founders Corner has been done. We'll decide on the next project and keep you informed.

I would ask you all to go beyond your own boundaries in two ways – it is a great help if you mow your own verges and obviously this saves money which we can use for other jobs. I would also ask you, when going for a walk, to take a bag and collect any small items of rubbish.

At this point I would particularly like to thank Tracey Abbas from BMCC, and all the bush care volunteers who work quietly and tirelessly to keep back the flood of weeds. We can all help with this by trying to keep our own places as free as possible from many of the usual culprits: holly, ivy, honeysuckle, blackberry, sycamore and gorse among others. These have all loved the warm wet summer. There is information about weeds on the website and I ask you to please read it and do what you can.

Anniversary Walk – we are adding another plaque to celebrate the 150th which will match the one celebrating the 125th Anniversary.

My introduction was sounding rather gloomy so it is time to mention at least one positive story: our role in the rejuvenated school house. As previously I am going to ask others to comment on what their focus has been so here is **Nancy** to talk about the Information Centre.

A trail is running for 6 weekends which aims to assist visitors so they enjoy their stay.

We will provide information about The Mounts and the surrounding areas.

If you have information please send it to Nancy. If anyone wants to volunteer please see Nancy.

We all wear multiple hats here so perhaps Judy could don a different hat and fill us in on another aspect of the Old School House project. Artist in Residence Program.

Judy provided information on the Artist in Residence Program.

Joe Montano briefly updated on the school house. He thanked Judy for her work on the ARP. He thanked the community for the support given. 35 people turned up for the working bee. Community donations were appreciated. The fence will be replaced thanks to Tim and Kim Gow.

Robbie has continued to do excellent work in writing up walking tracks in and around the village after the hard work has been done by Pete Raines. These are all up on the web site for you to read and download if you wish. The best maintenance for any track is for it to be walked along – so please continue to do so.

Pete will signpost the old runners track.

Pete Raines will be having a well-earned break with Linda and the boys for a few months.

National Parks are very concerned about weeds. They have money to upgrade the Wollangambe track and Du Fours track. Alison officially thanked Peter for liaising with National Parks. We wish them well on their well earned travels.

Bowens Creek Road: Elizabeth Montano presented an update.

Rural Fire Brigade: Beth Raines reminded residents of the procedures for pile burning.

Black Spot Tower at Mount Tomah – Alison has been pursuing the Tomah Tower issue with the office of MP Susan Templeman. Elizabeth Montano is also pursuing this issue for the fire brigade.

Business Arising from the Report

There were no other matters arising from the report.

I am now going to vacate the chair to make way for the Village Hall committee to have their AGM.

5. General Business

Beverly Thompson asked about a memorial for Libby Raines suggesting a hedge around the War Memorial.

Beverly asked if we could use the microphone and hearing loop at meetings.

A letter from Trish Doyle was read to the meeting.

A history of the Fire Brigade has been printed - contact Susie Hope for copies.

Beth Raines addressed the BMCC councillors and expresses her disappointment that areas are not being maintained. Effort and love for twenty years has been put in by the community and these areas will disintegrate without ongoing maintenance.

6. Closure of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm. Everyone was invited to stay for drinks, cheese and biscuits.

Signed as a true record

Alison Halliday