

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**  
**MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC**  
**Held on Saturday, 7 May 2016**  
**in the Mount Wilson Village Hall, The Avenue, Mount Wilson**

**1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

The meeting opened at 5 pm when the Chairman welcomed everyone. As a result of the Village Hall renovations celebration, scheduled for 6 pm the aim was to have the meeting conclude by then.

The committee was recognised, Vice President Alison Halliday, Treasurer Libby Raines, Secretary Sue Woolfenden and Committee members Nancy Fox, Ted Griffin and Peter Laving. Committee member Lorraine Barrett sent her apologies.

James Stein Jnr was welcomed as a new member of the Association. Paul Hunyor, Anna Ciliberto, Oliver Watts and Lisa George, the new owners of Lane's End, were welcomed to the village.

The President continued with his introduction: "We will never forget the thanks due to our volunteer First Responders and members of the RFS who give extraordinary service. As always – thanks to them all!

"I am very pleased our local councillors, Sarah Shrub and Don McGregor, are able to join us today. A very warm welcome to you. The president of the Mount Irvine Progress Association, Allen Hyde, is another very welcome guest. The two communities are bound together – the one road in and one road out is a common issue."

**2. ATTENDANCE**

**Committee:** Richard Beattie (President), Alison Halliday (Vice President), Libby Raines (Treasurer), Sue Woolfenden (Secretary), Nancy Fox, Ted Griffin and Peter Laving.

**Other members:** Graham Tribe, Steve Woolfenden, Phillip Beeby, Barbara Harry, Keith Ralston, David Howell, Susie Hope, Owen Haviland, Graham and Beverly Thompson, Mary Holt, Rosie Walsh, Marilyn Laving, Robbie Feydor, Joe, Elizabeth, Katherine and Alexander Montano, Robert Chesney, Anne Piggott, Peter Anderson. Margaret and Stephen Dean, Joe Landsberg, Barry and Helen Freeman, Peter McDonald, Wendy Holland, Alice Simpson, Matt Mason, Deb Griffin, Stephen List, Bill Ryan, Duncan Peppercorn, Sarah Howell. Judy Tribe (not signed in) Peter Raines (not signed in).

**Visitors:** Cr Sarah Shrub, Cr Don McGregor, Allen Hyde, Bob and Angela Karogiannis, Pauline Michelle, Paul Hunyor, Anna Ciliberto, Oliver Watts, Robert Allcul, Lisa George, Edward Sage, former NSW Blue Mountains MP Roza Sage, Peter Kerstens (not signed in) and Ian Wamijo (not signed in)

**Apologies:** Louise Markus (Federal MP), Trish Doyle (NSW MP), Mark Greenhill (BMCC Mayor), Robert Greenwood (BMCC General Manager), Bruce Kerridge (secretary MIPA), members Ron and Moira Green, George and Jayne Mayne, Janet McDonald, Martin Barge,

Anne De Salis, Tim and Kim Gow, Mary Reynolds, Sonya and Colin Cornick, James Stein Jnr, Thom and Johanna Rhenton, Maureen Ryan, Michael Sweeney, Peter Piggot, Jane Beeby, Beth Raines, Bruce Arnold, Alex Halliday, Robyn and John Leonard, Loretta Beattie and Diana Landsberg.

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Libby Raines presented the following report:

**MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC**  
**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1.9.15 – 1.4.16**  
**WORKING ACCOUNT**

RECEIPTS:-

Blue Mountains City Council - maintenance	35,200.00
Membership	1,400.00
Website – payments for listing and hosting	1,375.00
ATO – GST refunds	298.00
Autumn Festival	1,625.00
Interest	<u>444.20</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS:-</b>	<b><u>\$40,342.20</u></b>

EXPENDITURE:-

Mount Wilson Rural Contracting – maintenance	12,309.00
Micah Fink – maintenance	1,920.00
Tim Gow – maintenance	400.00
Crawford's Earthmoving – log barriers, Cathedral, road edges	14,880.00
Andrew Clark – repainting of signs	3,389.00
Insurance – Broadform and Voluntary Workers	2,367.87
Seat in War Memorial Reserve (installation)	2,570.25
CW Print – copying, brochure	853.31
Service War Memorial	380.00
Christmas Party – drinks	821.52
Secretary – stamps etc.	132.20
Website – payments to providers	2,009.70
Probate Research into Marcus Clark Reserve	175.00
Vehicle Counter	596.86
Autumn Festival – payments	2,149.37
Bank Fees	<u>84.50</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE:-</b>	<b><u>\$45,038.58</u></b>

Total receipts	40,342.20
Total expenditure	45,038.58
=	(4,696.38)
+ carried forward	19,522.82
=	<b><u>\$14,826.44</u></b>

BANK BALANCE 1.4.16      \$14,826.44

FIXED TERM DEPOSITS      \$25,000.00

I have not been able to get a firm figure for April yet.

APRIL 1<sup>st</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>

<u>INCOME:-</u>	\$68,108.78
<u>EXPENDITURE:-</u>	5,380.46
	= 62,728.32
	+ carried forward 14,826.44
	\$77,554.76
TOTAL AMOUNT IN WORKING ACCOUNT	\$77,554.76

Susie Hope queried the amount for the painting of signs. Libby explained that there were many signs repainted and all were removed, sanded, repainted and reinstalled involving a lot of work, which was well done.

It was moved by Susie Hope, seconded by Helen Freeman that the report be approved. It was approved.

#### 4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### **MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC**

### **GENERAL MEETING 7 MAY 2016**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

January saw frequent dark grey clouds come in and the sky open up with nearly 300 mm of rain falling. Interspersed with the wet were bright sunny days and extraordinary growth of everything in the ground: grass, shrubs, trees and – all too vigorously – weeds! Then February turned the tables with a very dry spell – only about 20 mm, March was a little better, then dry weeks in April and only 27 mm.

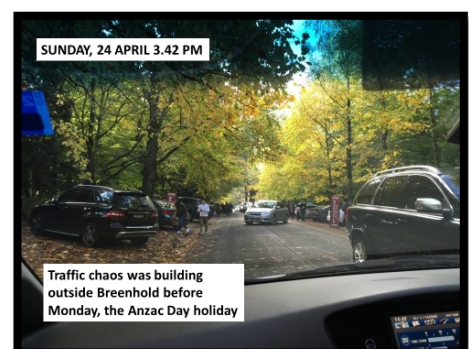
It was also too hot for too long in April to bring on many of Mount Wilson's most glorious big tree colour displays but we can't complain.

Saturday, April 16 was a perfect day for the Autumn Festival – our most successful ever!

The traffic was well controlled if a bit overwhelming at times but it did keep moving all day.

The following Anzac Day weekend was also huge for Mount Wilson with more than 5,000 vehicles arriving and leaving and at least 15,000 people here to see gardens and trees with their spectacular colours.

Traffic chaos was building on the Sunday before Anzac Day.





Road safety awareness is a problem! It is one of the things we are looking at addressing.

I hope you will have seen the email I sent to the community on Tuesday after the Anzac Monday traffic chaos.

The scale of the problem and the follow-up actions to be put in place were in the note. BMCC general manager Robert Greenwood has asked two of his directors to meet with us on the problems we've experienced and that meeting is to take place here in Mount Wilson soon.

Improvements to and additional toilets are also council matters to be addressed with the highest priority. We have already put in a substantial submission to council last year requesting quick action on the long-standing public toilet problem.

This was the picture in the same section of The Avenue last Saturday as I showed earlier. It now remains to be seen if council will place temporary No Parking signage to prevent traffic chaos. Tom Breen's opening up of parking on his property will make a huge improvement in the absence of enough public parking in the village.

Being realistic we have to expect increasing numbers of visitors especially in the peak periods. Everywhere in the Upper Mountains from Mount Tomah to Katoomba there was traffic chaos over the Anzac Day weekend. The demand for seeing the autumn colours is increasing exponentially. On Anzac Day itself in the early evening Katoomba railway station had people six deep the full length of the platform waiting for the Sydney train. Traffic there was also chaotic.

The new traffic counter the MWPA purchased and installed on Mt Wilson Road, just this side of the council dump, recorded at least 2,300 vehicles coming to and leaving the village on the day of the festival. We estimated an average of at least three people per vehicle meaning 6,600 or more visitors, friends and residents came here that day. A big thank you is due to the residents who put up with the crowds and traffic on the day.

The traffic count statistics for April we have between 1994



From: Richard Beattie  
[mailto:landrbeattie@bigpond.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, 26 April 2016 7:07 PM  
Subject: A perfect storm of traffic chaos occurred at Mount Wilson yesterday  
Dear People of Mount Wilson and subscribers to The Mounts  
A perfect storm of traffic chaos occurred on a perfect day to visit to see the autumn colours of Mount Wilson yesterday. As many of you know, traffic at times was backed up on Mt Wilson Road to the Bells Line of Road. Cars were queued on the Bells Line waiting to turn both right (travelling from Sydney) and left (travelling from Bell) into Mt Wilson Road. Police were helping traffic



and 1997 and 2005 show the average vehicle count of vehicles arriving and leaving increased by 62 per cent to 8,855 – that is for the whole month ten years ago! This year with 2,650 vehicles on the festival weekend and 5,175 over the three days of the Anzac weekend, that means over those five days alone there were 7,825 vehicles in and out of Mount Wilson for a total of 15,650 movements. With an average of three people per vehicle, and not increasing the number for the busses, that is 23,475 people over the five days. We don't have the numbers for the few weeks earlier when the Mount Irvine nut season was at its busiest.

### Committee matters

For the members of the Committee, those who helped with the organisation of the Autumn Festival and the months-long preparations, and for those who opened their gardens, an enormous amount of time and effort went in to getting ready for the festival that made many, many people happy visitors.

PLEASE HOLD YOUR ACCLAMATION UNTIL  
I GET THROUGH WHAT IS A LONG LIST

The organising committee comprised **Lorraine Barrett** on gardens; **Alison** and **Matilda Halliday** the information booth and raffle; **Linda Raines** Facebook and social media; **James Stein Jr** with support from **Keegan** on brochure, maps, catering and the maple leaf decorations in the hall; **Rosie Walsh** PR, marketing and media . . .

and led by the indefatigable **Nancy Fox**. They were hugely assisted by **Ted Griffin** and **Joe Montano** on much time consuming and complex legal and insurance matters; **Peter Laving** on signage and traffic management; **Sue Woolfenden**, the Queen of the Iris real estate sponsored tea room in the hall . . .

### EXPONENTIAL INCREASE IN VISITOR NUMBERS MAY CONTINUE

The vehicle count

APRIL 1994	APRIL 1997	AVERAGE	2005	% INCREASE
5,783	4,905	5,473	8,855	62

FESTIVAL WEEKEND (2 DAYS)	2,650
ANZAC WEEKEND (3 DAYS)	5,175
Total	7,825
Total arrivals and departures	15,650
People at 3 per vehicle	23,475



very ably assisted by **Helen Freeman** and the whole of the catering team; **Stephen Dean** who worked on the preparation of the school facilities and organised the sausage sizzle with his team;

**Beverly Raines** who worked everywhere tidying Mount Wilson and especially the study centre; **Ann Piggott** who organised the Plein Air painting and generously donated the prize money; **Ray Harrington** who judged it; **David Howell** who picked up and returned the RFS bus and drove a shift and **Vic Zhukov** and **Ted Griffin** who drove a shift each; and **Stephen List** who arranged for the music by the boys from St Augustine's College in Brookvale.

The garden owners whose beautiful and so carefully prepared grounds were the big attraction were **Tony and Lorraine Barrett, Tom and Rachael Breen, Merrick and Barbara Howes, Matt Mason, Richard Prentice, Keith and Libby Raines, James and Annemie Stein, Graham and Beverley Thomson** and **John and Judy Teulon**.

And there are more – too many to name – but on the day we had traffic controllers, ticket sellers, gate monitors, coffee baristas, scone, soup and sandwich makers, cake sellers, toilet cleaners, washer-up-ers and more volunteers again.

A big thank you also goes to Judy Tribe and the Village Hall Management Committee for working with the council to have the extensions completed and the grounds tidied up in the nick of time.

Finally there was the market with over 20 stalls supporting our local businesses not forgetting the Bilpin Cider tastings and the Ploughman's Lunch!

A huge vote of thanks is due to everyone who made the day the great success it was.

The open gardens, market stalls, food sales and the sponsored iRIS Tea Room (the Festival name for the Village Hall) raised for the Progress Association and the community after expenses over \$65,000. A fantastic achievement!

Among the suggestions emerging for new projects to be undertaken by the MWPA are:

- A temporary traffic mirror at the corner of Davies and Galwey lanes to avoid head-on incidents there.
- A new kitchen for the village hall.
- Improvements to the Association's Marcus Clarke Reserve property.
- Stone or log barriers outside Breenhold on the west



Helen Freeman was one of the team in the iRIS Tearoom with its maple leaf decorations, coffee, scones, cakes and sandwiches



Owen Haviland on onions with Peter Raines and Alex Halliday



Anne Mayall takes an order in the iRIS Tearoom as Kate Tribe waits to collect the payment



The school grounds had over 20 stalls

Volanda Beattie sells Ploughman's lunches





with a path inside the barriers to the fire shed creating a safe, stroller-friendly, car free stretch.

- Repair and remediation of Founder's Corner and the adjacent eroded areas in The Avenue.
- Upgrade of the Cathedral of Ferns walk.
- Replacement of the antiquated audio visual equipment in the Village Hall along with improved WiFi internet links to the fire shed for use in emergencies.
- Construction of an all-weather road across the back of Marcus Clarke Reserve to allow emergency access to the helipad.
- A larger electricity generator for the village hall to handle demand during emergencies.

We welcome your suggestions.

As has been achieved with the Village Hall improvements, our projects can win grant support – ideally 50/50, a dollar for a dollar, or better. Winning grants requires first class submissions for truly worthy projects and takes time. This community of Mount Wilson has been here for a long time so to get the most benefit for the money raised it may take quite a while for any major projects to get under way. Smaller good improvements can be made quickly.

**WITH THESE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION, JOE MONTANO, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL, WILL GIVE US AN INSIGHT INTO THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY TO USE THE SCHOOL PROPERTY. WE SAY THANK YOU TO JOE FOR CREATING THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK WHICH ALLOWED THE SCHOOL TO BE USED FOR THE FESTIVAL NOTWITHSTANDING THE CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S GUIDELINES.**

SEE PAGE 10 FOR DETAILS OF THE PRESENTATION BY JOE.

The Committee has a long agenda with many issues continuing to be worked actively – many frustratingly – but with no material developments. Rather than details, here are some of the issues that might lead to questions later:

- Reconstruction of the Bilpin to Mount Irvine route for use by emergency authorities.
- Construction of the new mobile tower at Mount Tomah to improve mobile phone and data services to Mount Wilson.
- The proposed establishment of the new Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys's Creek and the impact of increased flights over the Blue Mountains.
- The excessive pruning of the golden elms and copper



**MWPA Committee has a long agenda with many issues including . . .**

- Reconstruction of the Bilpin to Mount Irvine route for emergency authorities
- Construction of the new mobile tower at Mount Tomah to improve mobile phone and data services
- The new Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys's Creek and impact of flights over the Blue Mountains
- The excessive pruning of the golden elms and copper beech tree avenue in Mt Irvine Road
- Keeping Mount Wilson trimmed, tidy and terrific!

beech tree avenue in Mt Irvine Road.

- Keeping Mount Wilson trimmed, tidy and terrific! I'd like to acknowledge Peter Raines and David Gunn for the work done keeping the village tidy.

Project Puddle, one of Peter Laving's many projects working with council, paid for by the Progress Association, has seen pooling water at the Village Hall entrance now flowing away allowing mud-free access. Although we would like more work to be done, in the meantime we have a workable solution.

#### COAL WASTE DISCHARGE INTO THE WOLLANGAMBE RIVER

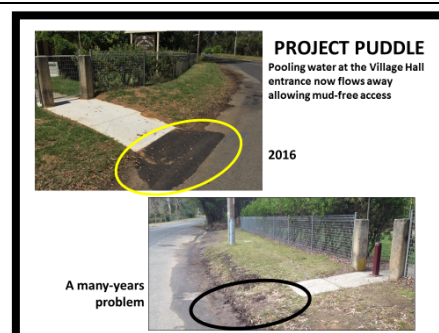
THE SPILL OF COAL WASTE FROM THE CLARENCE COLLIERY NEAR LITHGOW INTO THE WOLLANGAMBE RIVER HAS BEEN INVESTIGATED BY ALISON HALLIDAY. ALISON, IN GENERAL BUSINESS, WILL GIVE US AN UPDATE SO WE MIGHT DISCUSS WHETHER THERE COULD BE ANY USEFUL ROLE FOR THE MWPA ADVOCATING FOR STEPS TO BEST MAINTAIN THE WATER QUALITY OF THE RIVER THAT FLOWS BELOW THE VILLAGE.

In what was the second anniversary year of the First World War, we had a successful Remembrance Day service with fine singing at the War Memorial and fascinating talks by Irene Wynne and Alison Halliday on two of the men whose names appear on the memorial, Mervin Owen Wynn and Colin Smith.

The Christmas party held last year in the fire shed was a big success – hearty singing, excellent food and wine and much conviviality.

We hope you will stay for the Village Hall celebration drinks and cheese.

But now to business arising from the President's Report.



### **Joe Montano presented the following talk on the Mount Wilson Study Centre**

The Autumn Festival highlighted the existence of the Study Centre and questions have arisen about its use by the community. We are able to do more than in the past, however, any use requires dealing with the Department of Education.

The Headmaster's Cottage has three bedrooms and the schoolhouse has two bedrooms and can seat up to 50 people. The school toilet block is functional.

The playground comprises land that slopes down to the Wollangambe.

The school was built in 1862 and reached its zenith in 1957 with 25 pupils. It was closed in 1983.

The buildings are on the heritage register. The entry on the register notes that the school forms part of a community precinct with the village hall.

In 1988, as a bicentennial project, it was refitted for the purposes of adult education and an incorporated body was formed. The Minister provided the buildings for use for educational purposes. Many people in the community have given time to the Study Centre including Libby Raines, Michael and Gillian Pembroke, George and Jayne Mayne and the late Alan Gunn who was a past pupil. The current Council members are Stephen and Margaret Dean, Milba Kirk, Alice Simpson and Joe Montano.

Educational groups originally used the cottages; this is now not often the case. The Department of Education has acknowledged that we can use the centre for small scale lettings to provide funds to maintain the buildings. There is always maintenance to be done on buildings of this age. Currently the schoolhouse and the grounds are underused. The Principal's house is often used for accommodation. This is a community asset from which we currently get little use.

The Study Centre Council approached the MWPA to see if there is a practical use and to determine if there is a need for another facility close to the Hall. The Department of Education has agreed to the centre being used for purposes other than education through Community Use Agreements. This gives us more flexibility although the practical reality is it may be only occasional use as part of a community precinct. If you have ideas please speak to Joe Montano or Stephen Dean.

#### **Questions arising:**

Beverly Thompson asked why did the community not have more use of the old school property given the school was built by the community on department land.

Joe clarified the land area – 12 acres extending to the Fire Shed. The restrictions required by the Department of Education for the use of the Study Centre are the same for both the buildings and the grounds.

## **5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Owen Haviland asked if the new toilets in the Village Hall could be used when the Hall is not open. Response: This may be possible if the Hall can be locked and thus not accessible. Judy Tribe will pursue the issue with BMCC.

Elizabeth Montano raised the issue of the toilets at the Fire Station. Visitors approached her and asked about the condition of the toilets. More regular cleaning of the external toilets is required. She asked if MWPA could raise the issue with BMCC.

Richard responded: he is meeting with representatives of the council and will raise the issue. Of the two old closed drop toilets at Cathedral Reserve the Council had agreed they would be reopened and pumped out for the 2015 festival. Instead both were filled in and the enclosures taken away leaving only the two newer toilets. On the day of the Autumn Festival, a cleaner was employed. Susie Hope queried if the toilets were actually cleaned. Peter Laving and Nancy Fox supported the cleaner who was hampered by the traffic and number of visitors. It was suggested that portable toilets are hired in the future.

Sarah Howell asked if the increase in visitor numbers was due to increased advertising for the Festival.

Richard responded: the huge numbers of visitors on Anzac Day were all through the upper Blue Mountains.

David Howell asked how we would deal with the huge number of visitors in autumn and spring. Parking and toilets are the main issues.

Richard responded: limited public parking is available. Private parking is possible. Peter Kerstens has done work outside Breenhold to ameliorate the parking problem. Tom Breen has agreed there will be parking on Breenhold on busy weekends. Peter Kerstens explained the possible movement of traffic.

Duncan Peppercorn thanked Breenhold for the response to the issue. He proposed MWPA have stronger views on parking. He stated that the organisers of *Hidden Garden Festival* spoke to MWPA and were told no specific planning was required. Duncan proposed MWPA have an explicit policy about public and private events to ensure everyone can enjoy the area.

Richard responded: parking on Silva Plana would cause damage to the grounds, which were extensively rejuvenated at considerable cost following the filming of *The Great Gatsby*.

Ann Piggott asked could we improve the walk from Nooroo to the War Memorial, so it can be used for strollers. This was added to the list of projects for consideration.

Barry Freeman commented that regardless of events the number of visitors is going to continue to grow and we need to focus on the solutions with BMCC.

Graham Thompson suggested the committee consider the area at Cathedral Reserve that has been blocked off for regeneration. He suggested that it could be opened for 3 or 4 weekends after slashing. This was added to the list for consideration. Visitors are not always aware of parking available at Cathedral Reserve. Better maps and signage are needed.

Elizabeth Montano asked if MWPA could establish a set of protocols for garden owners and residents. Safety is a concern. On Anzac Day if there had been an accident or someone had had to be evacuated, there could have been a death or serious injury. More liaising with BMCC was suggested. Stephen List asked if this could be perused to support the Bowen's Creek emergency vehicle access issue and the response was affirmative.

Susie Hope commented on her experience at the Breenhold Garden gate during the Festival. Toilets, traffic and rubbish were concerns. She suggested an information booth where visitors park rather than at the Village Hall. Multicultural signage was suggested.

Richard responded: We have already approached BMCC for signage for the toilets. On the day of the Festival Peter Raines had put out all available garbage bins.

Peter Kerstens acknowledged that visitors stopping at Breenhold are causing congestion. Each weekend Breenhold staff clean up rubbish from the surrounding area. Breenhold plan to improve their visitor toilets before the next season.

Ian Wamijo raised the issue of cars parking on the inner corner of the zigzag. He asked if No Parking signs could be placed on the zigzag.

Stephen Dean commented that numbers could double again next year. Given the fact that we have a long skinny village the solutions are limited. He proposed a special meeting to discuss the issue.

Richard responded that a meeting could be called after gathering information.

Councillor Don McGregor will take a motion to BMCC to address the major issues of parking, garbage and traffic. Council needs to address the issues on a global scale as it affects all tourist villages in the Blue Mountains.

Councillors McGregor and Shrubbs were thanked for their assistance with the hall renovations and the matters arising from the meeting. The councillors then had to leave the meeting for another engagement.

David Howell commented that with \$65,000 raised, it behooves us to improve the tourist experience even though additional toilets etc. may add to the event expenses.

Elizabeth Montano commented that we should exhaust all funding options from other responsible bodies before allocating community funds.

Deb Griffin asked if we wanted to be a “tourist town”. The meeting response was negative.

Richard responded: There are businesses in the village that need tourists. We need to follow up on suggestions to make it an easier place for visitors and optimise our opportunities.

Peter Raines commented that this is not the first time this has happened. In the 1980s a similar event occurred. If Anzac Day falls on a weekend and the weather is fine then it draws more visitors. Recently the Mount Irvine nut season visitor numbers have increased and this impacts on Cathedral Reserve. Signs asking visitors to take their rubbish home have been placed on the bins.

Allen Hyde commented on the impact of the Autumn Festival and Anzac weekend on the Mount Irvine community. Visitors thought they could leave using Bowen’s Creek Road. Some visitors claimed that people in Mount Wilson told them that this was possible. There was general disbelief from the meeting that a resident would say this. Some GPS systems were showing this as a route. Allen will raise the issue with the companies and try to have it corrected. He suggested we have another No Through Road sign at Cathedral Reserve. There was sustained traffic all day. Mount Irvine road has become very narrow and BMCC needs to improve this. He proposed that owners of properties should provide toilet facilities, as he does when Scouts visit his property, and absorb the costs as part of the business.

Joe Montano commented that he did not want to live in a tourist town. We should not be increasing attention to the village. He reiterated the proposal for a community consultation meeting, as further ideas will develop.

Richard responded that he would prefer to have substantive information before calling a meeting.

Stephen Dean suggested we could charge for parking in busy periods apart from festivals.

Rosie Walsh raised the issue of private owners dumping garden refuse in council bins.

David Howell asked if there was any information on the availability of the NBN’s high speed satellite service. The response was negative. He asked MWPA to follow up and make enquiries.



There was no other business arising from the President's report.

## **6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Alison Halliday presented an update on the waste spill from Clarence Colliery into the Wollangambe River.**

It is a myth that the Wollangambe is a clean river. The coalmine at Clarence meets the present legislative requirements but these are not preventing continuing pollution. A spill in July 2015 resulted in coal fines entering the Wollangambe River. The EPA is closely monitoring the effects of the spillage and the effectiveness of the cleanup methods, which they have imposed. It is difficult to remove the fines and still protect the environment. Alison asked the membership if they would like Dr Ian Wright to speak about the issue at the AGM in September. The response was affirmative. Mary Holt suggested the MWPA should support the Total Environment Centre.

The meeting concluded at 6.30 pm

The next scheduled meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, September 17, at 5.30 pm