



MOUNT HELENA RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS PROGRESS ASSOC (INC)
MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at the
CWA Rooms, Mt Helena on MONDAY the 30th MAY 2011

Meeting opened by President Gwyn Dean at 7.35pm.

Present: Members – Gwyn Dean, Valerie Jenner, Hazel Williams, Jenny & Mike Mackintosh, Eileen Elton, Tony Simpson MLA, Bob Henfrey, Irene Clarke, Myles Harmer, Alison Bunker, and Hannah Dyer.

Apologies: Sharon Davies, Bob Page, Malcolm Miller, Anne & Danny, Lynch, Nick Elton, Mary Bennett, Megan Evans and Mark Hauswirth.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 17th May 2010 were confirmed as read from email distribution on the motion of Jenny Mackintosh and seconded by Mike Mackintosh. CARRIED

Business Arising

There was no business arising. All issues have been dealt with by General meetings throughout the year.

President's Report

Our small group has once again had an active year representing the people of Mount Helena. We can only lobby on behalf of those who seek our intervention so many issues are not explored and perhaps opportunities to improve the village are lost. A larger group, more representative of the local demography, would probably have more power, particularly if the Ratepayers could call upon the untapped expertise of the community in more specialised areas.

That said, we have been involved in several campaigns – talking, listening and letter writing. On many issues we are quite well informed and have had our communal voice heard. Not everyone in the group has agreed with every decision to pursue a particular path, but a spirit of consensus has prevailed, (pity that the rest of the world doesn't always see the righteousness of our causes!).

One of the several issues with which we concerned ourselves, is the matter of the East Metropolitan Regional Council's waste management proposals. We are all concerned about incinerators being considered, no matter how they are presented as a solution to our rubbish disposal problems. The reluctance of State and Federal governments when it comes to introducing recycling measures and enacting legislation to put the onus on manufacturers for the recovery of resources is a large reason for our problems. We should keep up the pressure at all levels, from *Clean up Australia* to lobbying the Premier, even when we are so often discouraged.

The campaign to have the proposed Waste Water Treatment Plant at the Mundaring Weir Village moved to another site has occupied some members more than others, is still going on and is not without contention.

The fairly divisive issue of building a shelter over the playground in the park has been resolved for the time being with a decision to plant more trees. It did have the positive effect of engaging the whole village in the opportunity to respond to our questionnaire – at least the community knows that we are here.

Trail bikes exercise an extraordinary influence on our lives in the Hills and we are grateful to our local member, Tony Simpson, for the work he has put into the State Trail Bike Strategy, (shelved for another year) and for the good work of the DEC officers who contend with the damage they often cause. We are hopeful that some intelligent measures that accommodate the responsible riders, the long-suffering public and the environment will be taken soon.

We are still awaiting the Mundaring Shire's decision on our request for Dirt Bike Jumps to be built. This submission did involve the wider community, particularly the young people of the area, and was an example of how any community can work together. We are optimistic of a favourable outcome which will most probably involve us in fund raising activities – another challenge.

Comments on the Town Planning Scheme Number 4 Draft have been submitted to the Mundaring Shire. We would have wished to be involved at the drafting stage when our opinions may have carried more weight. Maintaining an environmentally sound ecosystem as well as servicing a growing population is often a mutually exclusive exercise, but it is a balance we must pursue.

2011 is Whim Festival year again. Much of the energy of those of our members who are involved has been directed toward organising and fundraising for the event – our sausage sizzle skills have soared! The opportunity for local stall holders to sell their produce will broaden the appeal of the Whim.

Maybe small victories as a result of our efforts are realistically all that we can hope for, and we do have these from time-to-time particularly when it comes to assistance from the Shire. I wish to record my appreciation of the various Shire officers who respond quickly and effectively when small problems occur with practical measures or good advice. We are also grateful for the considerable time and energy that the East Ward Councillors extend on behalf of the community and their willingness to take up our issues with the Shire Council.

We all contribute to the health and vibrancy of the community just by being members of groups such as this and I would strike a medal for those who work so hard to make Mount Helena a better place. Special medals (with ribbon) should go to Valerie and Malcolm for their dedication and professional approach to the administrative tasks of our organisation during the last year.

We look forward to another year with old issues to be resolved and new challenges to be tackled.

Gwyneth Dean
May 30th 2011

Valerie proposed a sincere thanks to Gwyn for her dedication and hard work – without which little would be achieved. Resoundingly and unanimously supported.

Financial Report

In the absence of Treasurer Malcolm, President Gwyn presented the Audited Financial Report for the period 1 May 2010 to 31 March 2011 with closing Funds on Hand of \$2597.79 – copy attached.

Election of Officers

All positions were declared vacant and the Chair was passed to Alison Bunker for the election of officers. The following were elected unanimously and unopposed.

President – Gwyn Dean nominated by Valerie Jenner seconded Bob Henfrey
Vice President – Jenny Mackintosh nominated by Valerie Jenner seconded by Eileen Elton
Secretary – Valerie Jenner nominated by Gwyn Dean seconded Myles Harmer
Treasurer – Mike Mackintosh nominated by Gwyn Dean seconded by Irene Clarke
Auditor – G Dustan nominated by Valerie Jenner seconded by Hannah Dyer
Committee – Irene Clarke and Bob Henfrey nominated by Eileen Elton seconded by Valerie Jenner.

Alison vacated the chair in favour of incoming President, Gwyn.

Other Business

The current Membership Fees of \$7 a single or \$10 a couple remain. UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED
MOTION: In accordance with the constitution cheque signing and Internet banking is authorised for any two of the President GWYN DEAN, Vice President JENNY MACKINTOSH, Treasurer MIKE MACKINTOSH or Secretary VALERIE JENNER but NOT Jenny and Mike together.

Moved Bob Henfrey seconded Irene Clarke CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The purchase – at \$20.00 - of a second Banking Token from Bendigo Bank for the secure operation of Internet banking by President, Secretary and Treasurer. UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED

Delegation of Authority to members of the Executive to be renewed. UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED

A rose plant to be purchased and given to G Dunstan – he does not drink wine.

Meeting dates: July 18th; Sept 19th; Nov 21st 2011; Jan 16th 2012; March 19th & May 21st AGM & General.

Whim Festival committee meetings as necessary

Meeting closed at 8.15pm