

Melbourne Mechanics' Institution Minute Book 1839 – 1840

Transcription notes:

The minutes are transcribed as written and may have incorrect spelling, particularly of names.

- *Minutes have not been recorded in Minute Book in chronological order e.g. Page 3 has April 2nd 1840, but Page 5 has March 17th, then March 17th is repeated on Page 15.*
- *Page numbers of Minute Book have been included.*
- *Careful research shows that brothers D.G. (Don Gordon) Macarthur, who signed himself with this spelling, and David Charteris McArthur both served on the Committee of Management.*

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Minutes

Of the proceedings of adjourned Meeting (public) held in the Scots School House on

[12 Nov 1839]

Captain Lonsdale in the chair

1st Resolution.

Moved by Mr J.J. Peers seconded by Mr Jn.[John] Sutherland.

That the following gentlemen be requested to act as officers – being ex-officio members of the Committee.

(Patron C.J. La Trobe Esq.)

President Captain Lonsdale PM??

Vice Presidents

H.F. Gisborne Esq.

F. McCrae M.D.

H. Yaldwyn Esq. J.P.

Thomas Wills Esq. J.P.

Captain Smyth J.P.

George Porter Esq.

A. Thomson Esq.

Revd J. Clow

Treasurer Mr John Gardiner Esq.

Auditors William Highett Esq.

D.G. McArthur Esq.

Secretary Revd J. Forbes

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Asst Sec Mr W. Morrisson
Curators Drs Holland & Wilkie
Librarian Mr Thomas Burns

Carried unanimously

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2nd Resolution.

Proposed by Mr J. Coulstock seconded by Mr G. Say.

That the following gentlemen form the Committee for the ensuing year

Messrs	Joseph Anderson	Messrs	Hurlstone
"	G. Beaver	"	Peers
	Best		Rankin
"	Brewster	"	Rattenbury
"	Bodecin	"	Reeves
"	Brown	"	Rucker
"	Burns	"	Rushton
"	Caulfield	"	Russell
"	Craig	"	Sims
"	Dinwoodie	"	Stevenson
"	Graham	"	Strode
"	Kibble	"	Sutherland
"	Mayne	"	Welsh
"	Murphy	"	Williams
"	(D.G.) Macarthur	"	Wintle
"	Robertson	"	Paterson
	Best		Rankin

Carried unanimously

3rd Resolution.

Moved by Mr Jn.Sutherland seconded by Mr. Bodecin.

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That the payment of an annual subscription of one pound with an entrance fee of one pound shall constitute a member and shall confer all the privileges of membership.

That a donation of £25 shall constitute a member for life without annual subscription.

Carried unanimously

4th Resolution.

Moved by Mr Rushton seconded by Mr. Anderson.

That the committee shall exclude all such works from the Library as contain polemical divinity or other matter which they may deem objectionable.

Amendment moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Dr Wilkie.

That it be left to the committee to decide what works should be excluded from the Library.

Amendment lost.

Original motion carried

Moved by Mr Arden seconded by Mr Thurlow.

That the Revd Messrs Grylles, Waterfield & Geoghegan do form a committee for the management of the Library.

Not carried

5th Resolution.

Moved by Mr Bodecin seconded by Mr Russell.

That the committee now appointed do draw up a code of laws for the government of the Institution subject to the approbation of a General Meeting of members on an early day – and that ten form a quorum.

Amendment moved by Mr Peers seconded by Mr Robertson.

That 5 form a quorum.

Amendment carried

William Morrisson, Assistant Secretary

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26th Nov 1839

This day the committee met having been duly summoned by circular.

Captain Smyth J.P. in the chair

It was moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Reeves.

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That the Committee do now adjourn to morrow evening at 7 o'clock.

Carried ... adjourned accordingly

W. Morrisson, Assistant Secretary

[Separate sheet]

26th November 1839

This day the Committee met in the small room of the Scots School House.

Present Revd James Clow in the chair, Dr McCrae, Captain Smyth, Mr Reeves, Mr Macarthur, Mr Reeves, Mr Rushton, Mr Strode, Mr Bodecin, Mr Wintle, William Main [Mayne], Mr Burns, Mr Rankin, Revd James Forbes Secretary.

The Committee proceeded to prepare a draft of laws for the regulation of the Institution. A copy of the laws of the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, as sanctioned in 1837 was produced, read over by the Secretary for the information and guidance of the Committee, who then after full discussion and deliberation agreed on the first eleven Regulations in the accompanying draft.

Adjourned until Monday Evening the 2nd December at 7 o'clock.

27th Nov 1839

This day the committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present Revd J.S. Clow in the chair, Dr McCrae, Captain Smythe, Messrs Reeves, McArthur, Peers, Rushton, Strode, Bodecin, Wintle, Mayne, Burns, Rankin & Revd J.S. Forbes.

The Committee then proceeded to adopt or frame a code of laws for the government of the Institution as follows –

Resolutions as afterwards adapted as the Code of Laws were then unanimously adopted, after which the motion – *see opposite page [extra paragraph written on the opposite page which said:*

It was afterwards moved by the Rev J. Forbes seconded by Mr Arden:

That the affairs of the Society shall be regulated by the Laws now approved of from and after this date, that the present office-bearers be requested to continue in office

until the first Monday in June 1840 with the exception of the Rev J. Forbes whose resignation of the office of Secretary is accepted. That Andrew McCrae Esq. be requested to accept the office of Secretary.

Capt. W. Lonsdale Chairman

April 2nd 1840

Present Mr McArthur in the chair, Messrs Graham, Peers, Sutherland, Beaver, Anderson, Murphy, Caulfield, and Strode. In the absence of the Secretary, the chairman read a letter from the Rev Mr Osborne acceding to the request of the Committee to deliver an Introductory Lecture, also one from the Rev Mr Geoghegan expressing his willingness to deliver a lecture. Other letters had been received, one from Captain Smith who declined, and from Mr Arden stating that he would be happy to advance the interests of the Institute in any way he could employ his abilities.

Proposed by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Peers that Dr. Cussens name be added to the list of Lecturers, and that the Secretary be requested to write to him soliciting a Lecture.

Proposed by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Strode that Mr Barry be admitted a member of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution – carried unanimously.

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Proposed by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Anderson that Mr Sewell be admitted a member – carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr Sutherland seconded by Mr Beaver, that the Secretary be requested to return the thanks of the Committee to the Rev Mr Osborne for the prompt manner he has come forward to deliver a lecture on “the advantages of Mechanics' Institutions”.

Proposed by Mr Murphy seconded by Mr Graham that the Secretary be requested to solicit the Rev Mr Forbes to use his influence with the Trustees to procure for the Committee the use of the Scots School for the delivery of the opening and other lectures.

Proposed by Mr Sutherland seconded by Mr Beaver, that the Secretary be requested to return the thanks of the Committee to the Rev Mr Geoghegan and accept with pleasure his offer to deliver a lecture on the Existence of the Deity proved and illustrated by Nature and Reason Solely.

Proposed by Mr Sutherland seconded by Mr Murphy that the lecture be delivered on Thursday next the 9th April.

Proposed by Mr Murphy seconded by Mr Sutherland, that Mr Robinson, Chief Protector, be solicited to deliver a lecture on the Manners and Customs of the Aborigines; and also to Mr Arden for his kind offer of a lecture.

Don Gordon Macarthur

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March 17th 1840

Present Mr Murphy in the chair, Messrs McArthur, Strode, Peers, Mayne, Morrisson. State of the funds about to [be] considered.

Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Mayne that the Laws be printed forthwith – carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr Mayne seconded by Mr Strode that the Revd J. Clow be requested to give the Introductory Lecture – carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Peers that a communication be made to each of the following gentlemen requesting them to lecture and that an answer be obtained from each viz. Messrs Brewster, Revd W. Waterfield, Forbes, Geoghegan, Dr McCrae, Dr Wilkie, Gisborne, Messrs Dean, Barry, Croke, Thomas, Arden, Thomson and a Stranger (Osborne).

April 13th 1840

Present Mr Murphy in the chair, Messrs Anderson, McArthur, J.J. Peers, Sutherland and Sim.

Letter from Rev. J. Forbes granting permission for opening Lecture being delivered on Thursday next.

Letter from Mr Kemp, Secretary of the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, enclosing Report of the Mechanics' Institution of Sydney for the year 1839 and requesting Copy of any Report or other Document published by the Melbourne Institution may be sent to Sydney Institution – Thanks to the Institution noted.

Moved by Mr Peers seconded by Mr Sutherland and unanimously carried that Mr John Miller be admitted a Member.

Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Sutherland that Dr A.C.G. Arnold be admitted a Member – unanimously carried.

A letter from Mr Croke having been read consenting to deliver a Lecture if possible – it was

Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Sutherland and unanimously carried that Mr Croke be admitted a Member. Thanks noted for his kind offer of a Lecture.

Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Sutherland and unanimously carried that Dr Sproat be admitted a Member.

Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Peers and unanimously carried that His Honor Charles Joseph La Trobe and Captain Lonsdale be written to intimating first Lecture on Thursday next and inviting their presence.

Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Sim and unanimously carried that Messrs Murphy and Peers wait upon His Honor and Captain Lonsdale with the said letters – and that Messrs Peers, Sutherland and Anderson make the necessary preparations for Lecture. Thanks were then voted to Mr Peers for use of Methodist Chapel as a Committee Room – and also for his present to the Library of ???

I.R. Murphy

16th April 1840

Present Mr McArthur in the chair, Messrs Reeves, Sim, Murphy, Sutherland, Peers and Anderson.

A letter from Mr Forbes having been read acceding to request to deliver a Lecture and intimating the subject Colonization. It was -

1st Moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Mr Sim and unanimously carried that Mr Forbes be requested to deliver a Lecture on Colonization.

2nd Moved by Mr Sutherland seconded by Mr Anderson and unanimously carried that Mr Osborne be requested to act as Secretary at a Salary of £52 per annum.

3rd Moved by Mr Murphy seconded by Mr Peers and unanimously carried that Mr William Watkins be admitted a Member.

4th Moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Mr Murphy and unanimously carried that Mr Horsefall be admitted a Member.

Don Gordon Macarthur

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23rd April 1840

Present Mr D.G. Macarthur in the chair, Messrs Beaver, Strode, Sim, Sutherland & Peers.

A Letter from Mr I.H. Osborne, having been read accepting the Office of Secretary, it was –

1st Moved by Mr Sutherland seconded by Mr Beaver and unanimously carried that Mr Osborne be admitted to all the privileges of the other Members of Committee.

2nd Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Strode that Mr Howard be admitted a Member of the Institution.

3rd Moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Mr Strode and carried unanimously that the Secretary write to Mr Barry requesting that he would favour the Institution with a Lecture on Agriculture on the 1st proximo.

4th Moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Mr Strode that the Secretary write to the Rev Mr Forbes requesting that he would favour the Institution with a Lecture on Colonization on the 15th proximo.

5th Moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Mr Strode and unanimously carried that the Lectures be open to the Public until the first General Meeting in June next.

6th Moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Mr Peers and unanimously carried that Notice of the Lectures be published in each of the three Melbourne Newspapers.

7th Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Sutherland and unanimously carried that the Secretary be authorized to purchase Stationary for the use of the Institution to the amount of Five Pounds.

Don Gordon Macarthur

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30th April 1840

Present Mr Peers in the chair, Messrs McArthur, Strode, Beaver, Anderson, Caulfield and the Secretary. Minutes of Previous Meeting being read, it was –

1st Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Anderson and unanimously carried that the Secretary on the next evening of Lecture answer in the negative the question put by some person on the evening of the first Lecture whether after each any discussion should take place. It was at the same time suggested that the Secretary should draw the attention of the Meeting to the 28th Regulation of the Institution's "Code of Laws" by which provision is made for a Debating or any similar Class in connexion with the Institution.

2nd Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Sutherland and unanimously carried that Mr Yaldwyn be admitted a Member of the Institution.

3rd Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Osborne and unanimously carried that Mr Muston be admitted a Member of the Institution.

4th Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Strode that Mr O'Cock be admitted a Member of the Institution – unanimously carried.

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5th Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Beaver that Captain Roach be admitted a Member of the Institution – unanimously carried.

6th Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Strode and unanimously carried that Mr McKillop be admitted a Member of the Institution.

7th Moved by Mr Osborne seconded by Mr McArthur and unanimously carried that Mr Harrington be admitted a Member of the Institution.

8th Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Anderson and unanimously carried that a Collector be appointed to receive the Subscriptions of the Members of the Institution.

9th Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Sutherland and unanimously carried that Mr Baskerville be requested to accept the Office of Collector at 5 per cent Commission – and that the Receipt of the Secretary be a sufficient acknowledgement of payment.

10th Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Anderson and unanimously carried that Two Hundred (200) Receipt Forms be printed.

11th Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Anderson and unanimously carried that a Deputation be appointed to wait upon His Honor The Superintendent respecting assistance from Government in aid of the Institution.

12th Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Sutherland and unanimously carried that Messrs Strode, Murphy, Reeves, Peers and Osborne compose the Deputation – unanimously carried.

T.H. Osborne, Secretary

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7th May 1840

Present Mr Strode in the chair, Messrs McArthur, Peers, Beaver, Caulfield and Osborne.

Mr Strode having stated that Mr Baskerville would accept the Office of Collector, it was –

1st Moved by Mr Caulfield seconded by Mr Beaver and unanimously carried that all those persons who have joined the Institution previous to the 1st April 1840 be called upon immediately by the Collector to pay their entrance and Subscription up to the 31st May 1840 – viz Ten Shillings entrance and Ten Shillings for Six Months Subscription, and that all who have been admitted since the 1st April 1840 be called upon immediately by the Collector to pay their Entrance and Subscription Money to the 31st May 1841 viz Ten Shillings Entrance Money and One Pound as one year's Subscription.

The Secretary having reported the favourable reception of the Deputation appointed to wait upon His Honor The Superintendent – it was

2nd Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Beaver and unanimously carried that a Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs Strode, Peers and Osborne be appointed to write and forward with the least possible delay, a Letter to His Honor The Superintendent reporting for the information of His Excellency the present state of the Institution and requesting Government aid.

3rd Moved by Mr Caulfield seconded by Mr Beaver and unanimously carried that Mr Chidgy ? be admitted a Member.

4th Moved by Mr Beaver seconded by Mr Caulfield and unanimously carried that Mr George Stevens be admitted a Member.

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5th Moved by Mr Peers seconded by Mr Beaver and unanimously carried that Mr Henry Caulfield be admitted a Member.

6th Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Osborne and unanimously carried that Mr Michell be admitted a Member.

7th Moved by Mr Osborne seconded by Mr Peers and unanimously carried that Mr John Levieu ?? be admitted a Member.

8th Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Peers and unanimously carried that the thanks of the Committee be returned to Mr Barry for his able and eloquent Lecture upon Agriculture on the 1st inst.

9th Moved by Mr Beaver seconded by Mr Caulfield and unanimously carried that a Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs McArthur, Peers, Murphy and Osborne be appointed to draw up the Annual Report to be laid before the General Meeting in June next.

10th Moved by Mr Caulfield seconded by Mr Beaver and unanimously carried that 200 Copies of Forms for proposing Members be printed.

T.H. Osborne, Secretary

Thomas Strode

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14th May 1840

Present Mr Peers in the chair, Messrs Beaver, Bodecin, Caulfield, McArthur, Osborne and Strode.

The Minutes of last Meeting having been read by the Secretary, it was –

1st Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Strode and unanimously carried that Mr James Montgomery be admitted a Member. Entrance Fee 10/- paid.

Mr Peers having handed in the Annual Subscription of Mr Gisborne for the Session ending 31st May 1841, and also having stated that he was authorised by Mr Gisborne to tender a number of Books belonging to him for the Library of the Institution until his return from Europe, it was –

2nd Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Strode and unanimously carried that the thanks of this Committee be returned to Mr Gisborne for his handsome offer, which they

gratefully accept, and that he be requested to hand over the Books to Mr Peers, who has kindly consented to take charge until a Press for the Library of the Institution be procured.

3rd Moved by Mr Beaver seconded by Mr McArthur that Mr F.E. Beaver be admitted a Junior Member – unanimously carried. Entrance fee 5/- paid.

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4th Moved by Mr Caulfield seconded by Mr Strode that Mr Adam Anderson be admitted a Junior Member – unanimously carried. Entrance fee 5/- paid.

5th Moved by Mr Bodecin seconded by Mr Strode that Mr Mark H. Bodecin be admitted a Junior Member – unanimously carried. Entrance fee 5/- paid.

6th Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Anderson that Mr David C. McArthur be admitted a Member – unanimously carried. Entrance fee 10/- paid.

7th Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Beaver that Mr George Arden be requested to deliver a Lecture on the 29th Inst on the Mechanical agency of the Press in the dissemination of general Knowledge – unanimously carried.

T.H. Osborne, Secretary

21st May 1840

Present Mr Anderson in the chair, Messrs Beaver, McArthur, Osborne and Strode.

1st Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Strode and unanimously carried that Mr G.S. Brodie be admitted a Member – entrance fee 10/- paid.

Mr Beaver having presented to the Institution from Mr Rushton “an Analytical Table of Mechanical Movements” with “a Key” to the same, it was –

2nd Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr McArthur and unanimously carried that the thanks of the Committee be given to Mr Rushton for his appropriate present.

3rd Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr McArthur that the Revd Mr Geoghegan be requested to favour the Institution with a Lecture on Friday the 12th prox. and that Mr Croke be solicited for a similar favour on the 26th prox. on the subjects respectively named by these gentlemen.

4th Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Beaver that Drs Greeves and Baylie be requested to favour the Institutions with Lectures.

T.H. Osborne, Secretary

J. Anderson

25th May 1840

Present Mr Mayne in the chair, Messrs Arden, Anderson, Caulfield, McArthur, Osborne and Strode.

1st Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Strode and unanimously carried that a Subscription be now commenced for the erection of a Mechanics' School of Arts.

2nd Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Anderson that the Committee of Management recommend that the 14th Regulation of the 'Code of Laws' be altered so as to admit of all Office Bearers having a vote in the Committee and that their intention be forthwith notified in the Public Papers – carried unanimously.

The Draft of the Report to be laid before the Annual General Meeting on the 1st June having been read the Committee adjourned until the regular day of meeting 28th May.
(see page 17)

T.H. Osborne, Secretary

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Note that this is a repeat of meeting of March 17th 1840 with some differences in wording. It is possibly a sub-committee reporting and the General Committee repeated it.

Tuesday Evening Mar 17 1840.

Scots School House Committee Meeting pursuant to advertisement.

Present Messrs Murphy, Macarthur, Strode, Peers, Mayne.

Mr Murphy in the Chair.

Moved by Mr Macarthur seconded by Mr Mayne that the Laws be printed forthwith – Carried.

Moved by Mr Peers seconded by Mr Macarthur that 200 copies be printed and that Members be furnished at 1/- per Copy – carried.

Moved by Mr Mayne seconded by Mr ? Strode that the Revd J. Clow be requested to give an Introductory Lecture – carried.

Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Peers that a communication be made to each of the following gentlemen requesting them to deliver lectures and that an answer be obtained from each –. Messrs Brewster, Revd W. Waterfield, Forbes Geoghegan, Dr McCrae, Dr Wilkie, Messrs Gisborne, Dean, Barry, Croke, Thomas, Arden, Thomson, Osborne.

Adjourned to Mar 24 1840

W. Morrisson, Sec

Committee Meeting 24 Mar 1840. Wesleyan Chapel

Present Messrs Murphy, Macarthur, Peers, Beaver, Caulfield, Sutherland.

Mr Murphy in the chair

Moved by Mr Macarthur seconded by Mr Peers that the printing of the rules be balloted for. Agreed – result, to be printed at the Gazette office.

Moved by Mr Macarthur seconded by Mr Beaver that a Subcommittee to revise the Rules be now appointed. Carried.

Moved by Mr Peers seconded by Mr Sutherland that Messrs Murphy, Macarthur and Secretary do form the Subcommittee. Carried.

Moved by Mr Caulfield seconded by Mr Peers that Revd Mr Wilson be requested to deliver a Lecture. Carried

Moved by Mr Macarthur seconded by Mr Sutherland that Captain H Smith [Smyth] be requested to deliver a Lecture. Carried.

Moved by Mr Macarthur seconded by Mr Sutherland that Religion or Politics do not form subjects for Lectures. Carried.

Meeting adjourned until Thursday evening next at the Wesleyan Chapel.

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28th May 1840

Present Mr Sutherland in the chair, Messrs Anderson, McArthur, Osborne, Peers and Strode.

1st Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Strode that Mr J.M. MacLaurin be admitted a Member – carried unanimously.

2nd Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Strode that Mr George Pain be admitted a Member – carried unanimously.

3rd Moved by Mr Osborne seconded by Mr Peers that Mr Overton be admitted a Member – Entrance fee 10/- paid – carried unanimously.

4th Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Peers that Dr Greeves be admitted a Member – carried unanimously.

5th Moved by Mr Peers seconded by Mr Anderson that Messrs McArthur and Osborne be appointed as a Sub Committee to make any verbal alterations they may deem necessary in the Report, now read, to be laid before the Annual General Meeting on the 1st June – carried unanimously.

6th Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Anderson that Messrs Peers and Osborne be appointed a Deputation to wait upon His Honor C.J. LaTrobe and Captain Lonsdale to solicit Subscriptions towards the erection of the proposed School of Arts and to solicit either of them to take the chair at the Annual General Meeting on the 1st June – carried unanimously.

T.H. Osborne, Secretary

John Sutherland

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29th May 1840

Present Mr Peers in the chair, Messrs Anderson, Beaver, McArthur, Osborne and Strode.

1st Moved by Mr Osborne seconded by Mr McArthur that Dr Patterson be admitted a Member – carried unanimously.

2nd Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Anderson that Mr W.W. Darke ? be admitted a Member – carried unanimously.

3rd Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Anderson that Mr Hugh Walker be admitted a Member – carried unanimously.

T.H. Osborne, Secretary

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1st June 1840

Present Mr Sutherland in the chair, Messrs Anderson, Beaver, McArthur, Osborne, Strode and Reeves.

Moved by Mr McArthur seconded by Mr Peers that Mr F. Pittman be admitted a Member – unanimously carried.

John Sutherland

Transcribed from Minute Book by Norma Gates

Date: 2 Oct 2009 / compared to the printed version and edited.

Annual General Meeting

1 June 1840

Captn Lonsdale, President, in the chair

Report of Committee for Session ending 31st May 1840.

In meeting with the members of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution, at their first Annual General Meeting, the Committee of Management, as is usual upon such occasions, beg respectfully to submit to the Society a Report of their proceedings during the period they have held office.

Owing to many unexpected as well as anticipated difficulties, the Lectures were much later in being commenced than your Committee could have wished; and, as from the Inauguration lecture may be properly dated the commencement of the Session, few occurrences have taken place within the short period which has since elapsed of such moments as to authorise your Committee in occupying much of your time or attention by their either general or particular details. It is certainly true that many things of importance have occurred, previous to the date of the first Lecture, which might be brought forward upon the present occasion, but being so generally known to the Body, their narration would be in a great degree superfluous.

At the establishment of every similar Institution it almost invariably happens that little incidents occur calculated to mar the harmony which each person interested may have resolved to maintain, and that the grand object which all desired to promote is for a time lost sight of amongst the number of different opinions advanced and in the warmth of debate to which they give rise. Anxious, therefore, to draw a veil over the unpleasant past, your Committee have the pleasure of announcing that the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution is at present in a most flourishing state, and that there are the most cheering prospects to encourage its friends to future exertion. At every meeting of Committee since the opening of the Session several new members have been admitted, and the entire number is at present

114.

A circular requesting Lectures was forwarded to different literary gentlemen, in Melbourne and its vicinity, who were known to be friendly disposed to the Institution and were likely to comply with the wishes of the Committee, and all the answers yet received are of the most satisfactory nature. Several have consented to lecture upon subjects which they have named, the favours of a few have already been received, and others have been arranged for the ensuing Session. To all these gentleman your Committee feel deeply indebted, and would desire thus publicly to state that in making arrangements for the particular evenings of their respective Lectures they have been guided by several circumstances, all of which, having, totally unconnected with a desire to give a preference to any one by priority of call.

As Sectarianism, in its most unlimited acceptation, is by a fundamental regulation excluded from the Society, your Committee have endeavoured to avoid even the suspicion of its influence, and have been guided solely by a desire to promote to the utmost of their abilities the professed and real object of its formation, – “the Diffusion of Scientific and other Useful Knowledge.”

The Gentlemen who have already favoured the Institution with Lectures with their respective subjects, are as follows: –

Rev'd T.H. Osborne - On the advantages of Mechanics Institutions

Redmond Barry, Esq – On Agriculture

Rev'd James Forbes – on Colonization

George Arden Esq – on the Mechanical Agency of the Press in the Dissemination of General Knowledge

On account of the Institution not having a suitable place for the delivery of Lectures, your Committee were under the necessity of applying to the Managers of the Scots' School House for the use of their Building for the purpose and in the most handsome manner has their request been granted. They were under the necessity also of applying to the Trustees of the Wesleyan Chapel of the use of their place of Worship for the Committee Meetings and their application has by these Gentlemen also been met with a ready assent in the politest terms.

As however, your Committee could only expect and solicit these favours for a short time, while they could erect suitable accommodations for themselves, a Deputation was appointed to wait upon His Honor the Superintendent, to request that he would kindly bring under the favourable consideration of His Excellency Sir George Gipps, the claims of the Institution to Government aid.

By His Honor the Deputation was graciously received, and every exertion promised that was likely to forward the wishes of the Society. A letter has since been forwarded to His Excellency requesting a grant of ground, upon which to erect a Mechanics School of Arts, a gratuity to assist in its commencement, and an annuity to enable the Society to carry into effect the ultimate object of its formation. An answer could not yet have been received, but your Committee, judging from the warm feeling His Honor has manifested in their favour, are fully satisfied it has been strongly recommended. The Committee for the ensuing Session may, therefore, anticipate an early and a favourable reply, and may calculate upon the pleasure of having it in their power to embody in their Report to the next Annual General Meeting, that what has been commenced by the present Committee has through their exertion been crowned with success. So soon as an favourable answer from His Excellency shall have been received, Your Committee have no doubt that their successes in office will adopt the best means of giving effect to the decision, and it is with pleasure they have to congratulate them upon their favourable auspices under which they will be enabled to enter upon the duties, owing to the liberality of a number of gentlemen who have so honourably come forward to patronise by their name and influence the first literary and scientific Institution of the rising capital of our adopted country, and who have given the strongest proof of sincerity of professions by already contributing so handsomely towards the erection of the proposed Building, to which we may look forward as an endorsement to our town, and creditable to this Community at large.

In addition to the gentlemen who have already subscribed there are known to be many others ready to come forward to assist by their contributions, as soon as the answer of the government shall intimate that their co-operation is needed. As a general call upon the public in aid of the Institution has not yet been made, and as, therefore, many gentlemen

may be ignorant of the necessity of their pecuniary assistance in the erection of the contemplated Mechanics School of Arts it cannot be expected that the amount already subscribed can be so great as your Committee are satisfied that mere publication of the wishes of the Institution will ensure. The favourable answers of the government, however, being all but certain, your Committee would beg respectfully to urge upon the Members and through them upon the public generally, the necessity of present exertion in securing funds in order to avoid delay when the time for building shall arrive. Although much is expected from the government, still yet much is requisite from ourselves; government will assist, but the duty of effecting our own object must remain with ourselves. Many may not be able to subscribe largely to the erection of the building, but there's scarcely any one who may not contribute something, and, although money be wanting, there and will be opportunities for all to manifest their disposition in one way or another. Besides pecuniary resources upon which this Institution must have to draw, there are also literary resources of no less moment – there is a literary as well as a money fund upon which it must rely, and upon which also its stability and success must depend.

Upon the want of suitable accommodations also is consequent another great disadvantage. Several gentlemen have already contributed to the establishment of a Library in connect with the Society, and others have intimated their intention of encouraging similar donations, but there is not yet a place belonging to the Institution for their reception.

To the gentlemen of whose kindness this Institution is thus indebted for the nucleus of a library, the Committee in its name would tender their grateful acknowledgements, and would at the same time intimate that although they have not a suitable place belonging to their Institution in which to deposit books for a Library specimens in the various departments of Nature and Art for a Museum, models and requisites for a Laboratory, apparatus for experiments in the illustrations of Lectures, and other addenda of the Mechanics' Institution, yet they are prepared to take possession of donations of any of these, the kindness of different gentlemen having ensured their safe custody. The public, therefore, are requested to bear the Institution in mind, and when opportunities offer to secure for its advantage any article they may deem appropriate for any of its departments. In a new

Colony like this there are many things which their present abundance may render common, and therefore, comparatively of little interest, but which to the antiquarian of future generations, or even to the curious of different countries at the present time would be highly appreciated.

As at the formation of such an Institution considerable correspondence, and other clerical duties are absolutely necessary, and as in this country time is so valuable that it cannot be expected that sufficient would be devoted to perform them satisfactorily without some pecuniary emolument, it was considered indispensable to engage a Secretary whom they have, agreed to pay at the rate of fifty two pounds per annum, from the 20th April to the present time. In their official offer to the present Secretary, when they understood he would accept the Office, your Committee "pledged themselves to recommend his reappointment to the general meeting with such increase of salary as the funds would admit." This pledge, therefore, your Committee beg at present to redeem.

Your Committee would also beg to recommend that all the Office Bearers of the Institution have a vote in the Committee of Management.

As a Collector has been only recently appointed, all the regular fees, and subscriptions of Members have not yet been received, and therefore the Treasurers' balance sheet, now submitted for inspection, is not so perfect as your Committee could have wished, and as they have no doubt it will be in a short time.

Your Committee cannot omit mentioning that they have received a very friendly letter from the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, accompanied with a copy of the Report of that Institution for the last year. In that Report occurs the following paragraph which is extracted, as an example and proof of the Sympathy which is thereby felt in the exertions of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution, to obtain for the country of their adoption a place and a name amongst the other civilised countries of the earth.

"Since the last Annual Meeting your Committee perceive by the public papers that two other Institutions of a similar nature has have been formed – one at Maitland

Hunter's River, and another at Melbourne, the capital of the southern districts of the Colony; and although no communication has yet been received from the officers of either of these bodies, they understand that there is no doubt of their being successfully and firmly established. This intelligence the Committee received with much satisfaction for they feel that the formation of these Institutions in the interior must have the effect of improving the condition of the mechanical portion of the inhabitants".

Report Sydney School of Arts 1839.

This Communication has been answered by a return of thanks for the courtesy and friendship which it manifests, and a pledge given of a reciprocal feeling, which it is hoped, both for the interests of Science generally and our respective Institutions in particular, will long continue. From the well known literary and liberal character of the Hobarton Mechanics' your Committee anticipate from that quarter also the encouragement derived from an expression of a sympathetic feeling.

Your Committee deem it almost unnecessary to allude at the present day to the advantages of Mechanics' Institutions. The number and respectability of the audience on each evening of Lecture prove incontestably that our fellow colonists know and fully appreciate these advantages. If the unanimity which at present exists amongst its Members and the deep interest felt in its prosperity by the public generally, continue uninterrupted the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution will at no distant date stand upon an equality, whether as regards numbers in comparison with our colonial population, respectability, or usefulness, with any other similar Society of the mother country or the oldest of her Colonies. Firmness, however, is still required to enable its supporters to withstand difficulties, and exertions must be continued by its friends to mature the plans already formed, and affect its permanent establishment and real usefulness.

The foregoing reports having been read by the Secretary the following Resolutions were then passed unanimously.

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1st Moved by the Mr Michell seconded by Mr McKillop that the Report now read together with the Treasurer's accounts lie approved and printed for general information.

2 Moved by Mr Were seconded by Mr Michell that the thanks of this meeting be given to His Honor Charles Joseph La Trobe, Patron of the Institution, for the warm interest he has evinced in its favour.

3 Moved by Mr Barry seconded by Mr Reeves that the thanks of this meeting be given to the Catpn Lonsdale, President of the Institution, for his exertions in that office during the year.

4 Moved by Mr Yaldwyn seconded by Mr Sutherland that the thanks of this meeting be given to those gentlemen who have favored the Institution with Lectures

5 Moved by Mr Arden seconded by Mr. McKillop that the thanks of this meeting be given to the Vice Presents, the Committee of Management and other Office Bearers for their zealous and successful exertions in the establishment of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution.

6 Moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Mr Newton that the thanks of this meeting be given to the Managers of the Scots' School Room and the Trustees of the Wesleyan Chapel for the use of their respective buildings for the delivery of Lectures and the meetings of Committee

7 Moved by Mr Arnold seconded by Mr Sutherland that the thanks of this meeting be given to the Melbourne Press of the kind manner in which it has advocated the interests of this Institution.

8 Moved by Mr Newton seconded by Mr. Beaver that all Office Bearers of the Institution have a vote in the Committee of Management

9 Moved by Mr McKillop seconded by Mr. Bodecin that the salary of the Secretary for the ensuing Session be £55 per annum

Amendment moved by Mr. Reeves seconded by Mr. D.G. McArthur, that the Salary of the Secretary for the next Session be £78.

This Amendment was subsequently withdrawn and the original Motion carried unanimously with the addition that the sum specified should be increased to whatever amount the Committee of Management might consider the funds would admit.

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10 Moved by Mr D E Patterson seconded by Mr. Arnold that the following gentlemen be the Office Bearers of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution for the ensuing session-

Patron – His Honor C.J. La Trobe

President – Captn Lonsdale

Vice Presidents – Revd J. Clow & Farquar McCrae M.D.

Treasurer – Mr Wm Highett

Secretary – Rev T.H. Osborne

Curator of Museum – D. Wilkie

Committee of Management

Mr. Joseph Anderson

“ Andrew McCrae

“ Redmond Barry

“ Alex McKillop

“ George Beaver

“ J.J. Peers

“ John Caulfield

“ Robert Reeves

“ J. M. Chisholm

“ Thomas Strode

“ Jas. Crake

“ John Sutherland

“ Patrick Mayne

“ A. Thomson

“ J. R. Murphy

Auditors

Mr. John Carey & D. G. McArthur

Librarian - Mr Thomas Burns

Collector - John Baskerville

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Capt Lonsdale having vacated and Mr. Yaldwyn having been called to the chair, the thanks of the meeting were unanimously noted to Captn Lonsdale for his gentlemanly conduct in the chair

Transcribed from Minute Book by Emily Hylard

Date: 12 Sept 2007 / compared to the printed version and edited 20 July 2008.

[Transcription notes:

- Page numbers of Minute Book have been shown.
- Correct names e.g. McArthur or Macarthur, etc]

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4th June 12 1840

Meeting of Committee

Present Mr Andrew McCrae in the chair, Messrs Anderson, Beaver, Chisholm, Murphy, Osborne and Strode.

1st Moved by Mr Murphy seconded by Mr Chisholm that Count Stelewski be admitted an Honorary Member of the Institution – carried unanimously.

2nd Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Chisholm that Dr Nicholson, Dr Wallace, Major Mitchell and Mr Hawden be admitted Honorary Members of the Institution – carried unanimously.

3rd Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Mayne that a subscription be immediately commenced in aid of the Funds of the Institution, and that Messrs Chisholm and McCrae be requested to solicit pecuniary assistance from the Public for that purpose – carried unanimously.

4th Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Mayne that Messrs Fletcher and Adamson be requested to favour the Institution with Lectures.

5th Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Chisholm that all the Lecturers at the Institution during the present session have the privilege of admitting their friends gratis on the evenings of their respective Lectures; that all Ladies be admitted gratis; that all the bona fide members of the family of which the Head or Representative is a Member be also admitted gratis; gentlemen not Members of the Institution to be admitted upon payment of One Shilling each; boys under 15 years of age half price – carried unanimously.

6th Moved by Mr Mayne seconded by Mr Anderson that all the Funds of the Institution be deposited in the Union Bank in the name of the Institution and drawn by cheques signed by the Secretary and countersigned by Messrs Chisholm and McCrae – carried unanimously.

Andrew McCrae

Chairman

11th June 1840

Present Mr Chisholm in the Chair, Messrs Anderson, Beaver, Caulfield, McArthur [Macarthur], McCrae, Osborne, Reeves and Strode.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read by the Secretary, Mr McCrae in reference to the 3rd Resolution handed in a Subscription List amounting to £208-19-0.

The Secretary then read a letter from Dr McCrae thanking the Members of the Institution for the honor of having been unanimously elected one of the Vice Presidents for the current session and intimating his Subscription to the Funds £10-10-00 and £20 towards the erection of the proposed Mechanics' School of Arts.

The following gentlemen were then unanimously elected Members of the Institution having been regularly nominated at the last Meeting in accordance with the 2nd Regulation of the "Code of Laws" – Messrs David Chisholm, G.F. Read, John Grey, G. Urquhart, E.F. Newton, James Dodds, Samuel Crook.

1st Moved by Mr McCrae seconded by Mr Beaver that Major Barney, Roger Therry Esq. and the Messrs A'Beckett be admitted Honorary Members of the Institution – carried unanimously.

2nd Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Anderson that the Rev. – Carmichael and Richard Windyer Junior be admitted Honorary Members of the Institution – carried unanimously.

3rd Moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Mr Anderson that 300 Tickets of Admission of Members be immediately printed – carried unanimously.

4th Moved by Mr McCrae seconded by Mr Reeves that Messrs Arden and Strode be the Printers for the Institution – carried unanimously.

5th Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Caulfield that Messrs Anderson and Beaver be requested to act at the next Lecture in the admission of the audience and thus give effect to the 5th Resolution of the last Meeting; and that the other Members of Committee take the office in alphabetical order – carried unanimously.

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6th Moved by Mr McCrae seconded by Mr Strode that the Secretary furnish to the next Meeting of Committee a list of the Members of the Institution, and that the Treasurer for the last session be requested to hand in a Balance Sheet, in the usual form, of the state of the Funds at the date of his retirement from Office – carried unanimously.

7th Moved by Mr McCrae seconded by Mr Reeves that a Sub-committee be appointed to request persons of all classes to become Members of the Institution – carried unanimously.

8th Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Beaver that Messrs Barry, McKillop and Peers be appointed a Sub-committee to carry into effect the foregoing Resolution and that they commence immediately and report proceedings to the next meeting of Committee on the 25th inst.

9th Moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Mr Strode that the Secretary after each Lecture announce that all persons desirous of becoming Members of the Institution will be proposed in the regular manner by giving in their names and addresses to the Secretary – carried unanimously.

I.M. Chisholm

Chairman

25th June 1840

Present Mr Reeves in the Chair, Messrs Beaver, Chisholm, McKillop and Osborne.

1st Moved by Mr Chisholm seconded by Mr McKillop that Dr Thomas be written to requesting him to lecture on the 24th July – carried unanimously.

2nd Moved by Mr Beaver seconded by Mr Osborne that Messrs Chisholm, McKillop and Reeves be requested to procure Rooms for the Library and Museum and the Meetings of Committee – carried unanimously.

The following gentlemen were admitted Members of the Institution having been proposed in the regular manner at the previous Meeting of Committee – viz. Messrs David Aitken, Henry Ward Mason, James Clarke, James Osborne & William Erskine.

Robt Reeves

9th July 1840

Present Mr A. McCrae in the Chair, Messrs Chisholm, Beaver, Main [Mayne] and McArthur [Macarthur].

Messrs Chisholm and McCrae handed in an account of the Institution. By Mr Chisholm's account, it appeared that he had collected the sum of Twelve Pounds and Six Shillings, of which he paid into the Union Bank Six Pounds and Five Shillings, and the Balance Six Pounds and Five Shillings was then handed in to the Committee who requested Mr Main [Mayne] to deposit the same in the Union Bank. By Mr McCrae's account it appeared that he had collected Forty One Pounds, Nine Shillings and Six Pence, of which he paid into the Union Bank Forty Pounds, Three Shillings and Six Pence and the balance One Pound and Six Shillings was then handed in to the Committee who requested Mr Main [Mayne] to deposit the same in the Union Bank.

Messrs McCrae and Chisholm also handed in a List of Subscribers who had not then paid, and which List it was ordered should be placed in the hands of the Collector, the sum being One Hundred and Eighty Pounds and Fourteen Shillings added to that collected made a Total of Two Hundred and Thirty Six Pounds, Nine Shillings and Six Pence. It was then moved by Mr Main [Mayne] and seconded by Mr Beaver that the warm thanks of the Meeting be given to Messrs McCrae and Chisholm for their zealous exertions on behalf of the Institution – carried unanimously.

Andrew McCrae

Chairman

20th June 1840

Special Meeting

Present Mr D.G. McArthur [Macarthur] in the Chair, Messrs Beaver, Chisholm, Caulfield, Osborne, Peers, Reeves, Strode and Sutherland.

The second Resolution of the Meeting on the 25th June having been read by the Secretary, it was:

1st Moved by Mr Caulfield seconded by Mr Strode and unanimously carried, that the House in Bourke St at present in the occupation of Captain McLachlan be taken for the use of

the Institution, at a Rent of (£100) One Hundred Pounds per Annum, to be paid Quarterly, the Sub-Committee appointed on the 25th for procuring a House, having reported that the one now mentioned was the one in their opinion, most suitable that they could find for the purpose – the same to be taken for Six Months from the date of Captain McLachlan giving up possession, three months notice to be given by the Committee in case of wishing to leave at the expiration of the said Six Months or any future Six Months; and the like notice to be received by the Committee from the Owner or Agent Mr J.M. Chisholm in case he may wish the Committee to give up Possession at the expiration of the said or any future Six Months.

2nd Moved by Mr Caulfield seconded by Mr Chisholm that Mr Osborne, the Secretary, be requested to occupy the House, without the payment of Rent – carried unanimously.

3rd Moved by Mr Sutherland seconded by Mr Peers, that the Secretary be requested and authorised to purchase for the Library and Museum and use of the Committee (12) Twelve Chairs and a Table, and that he get proper shelving for the Books of the Library, the cash of the whole not to exceed (£20) Twenty Pounds.

A Letter bearing date 4th July 1840 having been read, from His Honor C.J. LaTrobe, intimating that His Excellency Sir George Gipps could not grant the application of the Committee for an Allotment of Ground upon which to erect a Mechanics' School of Arts, but that after a Building had been commenced and the Committee procuring a Certificate of their probable usefulness, that His Excellency would give a gratuity of (£300) Three Hundred Pounds, it was:

4th Moved by Mr Peers and seconded by Mr Strode that the Secretary be instructed to write to Sir George Gipps declining his offer of £300 – carried unanimously.

An account for stationary from Mr Kerr having been handed in amounting to Three Pounds and Three Shillings, which stationary the Secretary stated had been received by him for the use of the Institution, the Secretary was instructed to see the same paid as early as convenient.

The following gentlemen were admitted Members of the Institution having been proposed in the regular manner the preceding evening of Meeting of Committee – viz. Isaac Eburn, James Lue Lake, Isaac Hind, Alex. Andrew, Fredrick Manton, D.S. Campbell, G.C. Ingleton, W.V. Cropper, Stephen Henry Harris, Robert Hoddle, J.B. Were, G. Were, Revd R.B. Grange, Benjamin Heape, Michael McNamara, --- Beale, William McCarter, William

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Hawkey, James Shannon, Henry Townsend, J.G. Taylor, --- Euscae, Peter Robertson, Lewsi Robertson, ---Roe, Oliver Gourley, James Malcolm, William Harper, John McColl, --- Orr, Archibald Maclachlan, Alex. Broadfoot, William Locke, Revd M. Walsh, William McNabb, Alex. McKinley, William Langhorne, Arthur Kemmiss, Ronald Fletcher.

Don Gordon Macarthur

23rd July 1840

Present Mr Strode in the Chair, Messrs Anderson, Beaver, Chisholm, Main [Mayne] and Osborne.

The Secretary after reading the 4th Resolution of the previous Meeting having produced the Draft of a Letter to His Excellency it was:

Moved by Mr Mayne seconded by Mr Beaver that said Draft be approved and that the Secretary be requested to forward the Letter to His Excellency through His Honor The Superintendent with the least possible delay – carried unanimously.

(See Letter Book page 14)

Thomas Strode

6th August 1840

Special Meeting

Present Mr Murphy in the Chair, Messrs Beaver, Chisholm, McKillop, Osborne and Sutherland.

Moved by Mr Chisholm seconded by Mr Sutherland, that the Secretary be requested to endeavour to purchase Lots 2 and 3, Block XI at the ensuing Government Sale for the use of the Institution, and that he be authorised to bid as high as £250 for each – carried unanimously.

E.R. Murphy

Chairman

31st August 1840

Special Meeting

Present Mr McCrae in the chair, Messrs Beaver, Anderson, Chisholm, Caulfield, Barry, McKillop, Murphy, Osborne, Reeves and Strode.

The Minutes of the 6th August having been read by the Secretary it was:

1st Moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Mr Barry and unanimously carried that Messrs Chisholm, McCrae and McKillop be appointed Provisional Trustees to receive on the part of, and for the benefit of, the Mechanics Institution of Melbourne all Conveyances of Land, and on Sales to grant Conveyances, to borrow on the real property of the Institution and otherwise to act on the part of the Institution in buying and selling real property.

A Draft Plan subdividing the allotments purchased for the benefit of the Institution having been laid before the meeting, and approved of:

2nd Moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Mr Beaver and unanimously carried –

That the Trustees for the Institution be authorised to sell the same or such portion thereof as may be considered advisable and until such sale or sales can be effected to borrow from the Melbourne Auction Company or from any Auctioneer in Melbourne such sum or sums as the Company or such Auctioneer, or Auctioneers, may be inclined to advance on the security of the Allotments for the benefit of the Institution.

3rd Moved by Mr Barry seconded by Mr McCrae and unanimously carried that Captain Sturt be elected an Honorary Member of the Institution.

4th Moved by Mr McCrae seconded by Mr Chisholm and unanimously carried that Rupert Kirk Esq. be elected an Honorary Member.

5th Moved by Mr McCrae seconded by Mr Barry and unanimously carried that the Revd Mr McKenzie be elected an Honorary Member.

6th Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Chisholm and unanimously carried that the Revd John Saunders be elected an Honorary Member.

The following gentlemen were then unanimously elected Members of the Institution Messrs James Murphy, George Button Hailes, Michael Heron, Henry Candell, John Frizzell, Robert Campbell, John McLure, John A. Manton, Dr Baylie, John Thomson, James Webster, William Roadknight and Henry Roadknight.

Andrew McCrae

Chairman

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3rd Sept 1840

Present Mr Reeves in the chair, Messrs Anderson, Beaver, Chisholm, McArthur [Macarthur], Osborne and Strode.

Moved by Mr McArthur [Macarthur], seconded by Mr Chisholm and unanimously carried that a printed Notice be sent to each person upon being admitted a Member of this Institution.

Mr John Stephen was unanimously admitted a Member having been regularly proposed the previous evening of meeting.

Rob Reeves

17th Sept 1840

Present Mr McCrae in the chair, Messrs Anderson, Chisholm, Caulfield, Main [Mayne], McArthur [Macarthur], McKillop [MacKillop], Osborne and Sutherland.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read by the Secretary, the following gentlemen were admitted Members having been proposed in the usual manner on the previous evening of meeting, viz. Messrs Wm Bowman, Wm Empson, T.S. Townsend and Captain Cains.

1st Moved by Mr Sutherland seconded by Mr Anderson, that the thanks of this meeting be presented to Mr Robert Russell, Surveyor, for his having executed ? Plan without cost to the Institution, of the Allotments purchased for its benefit and for his having marked off these on the portions proposed to be sold by public Auction – carried unanimously.

The Secretary having presented two accounts for furniture procured for the use of the Institution amounting to Seventeen pounds Ten shillings and Two pence it was –

2nd Moved by Mr Sutherland seconded by Mr McArthur [Macarthur], that he be authorised to extend the amount of his purchases for the benefit of the Institution, from the maximum of £20, as sanctioned by the 3rd Resolution of the 20th July page 37, to a Sum not exceeding Twenty Five pounds, and that the accounts now presented be approved, and that the Secretary have them paid as soon as convenient – carried unanimously.

Thanks were given to Mr Caulfield for a reduction of Twenty Shillings from his account in favour of the Institution, and also to Mr Anderson for having framed, without charge, three Phrenological Diagrams for the illustration of a Lecture delivered on the 4th inst on Phrenology.

Memorandum

I the undersigned, in the name and for the use of the "Melbourne Mechanics' Institution", obtained on the 16th Inst from Mr Chisholm possession of the House in Bourke Street lately occupied by Captain Charles McLachlan and rented on the 20th July last for a Temporary Library and Museum and Meetings of the Committee of the Institution vide 1st Resolution of 20th July 1840 page 36.

18th Sept 1840

T.H. Osborne

Secretary

Inventory

Of Furniture etc the Property of the Institution

Articles	No.	Articles	No.
Chairs	12	Window Blinds	2
Candlesticks	2	Snuffers (and Tray)	1 pr
Shelving for Books	2 sets		
Tables: 1 square, 1 long & 1 small	3		

T.H. Osborne

Secretary

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October 1st 1840

Present Mr Reeves in the chair, Messrs Anderson, Beaver, Chisholm, McKillop [MacKillop], Osborne and Sutherland.

The following gentlemen were duly elected Members of the Institution having been regularly proposed on the previous evening of meeting, viz. Messrs William Donald and James Ryrie, Sayers, Baskerville, John Price, Robins, McLachlan, J.P. Smith, John and Joseph Hawdon, Purves, Hugh Jamieson, John Hunter, F.A. Powlett, George James, William Carroll, F. Hitchins, Benjamin Baxter, Captain Cole, Messrs T.U. Marshall, James Simpson, Charles Fowler and F. Nadin.

The following Bills were ordered to be paid as early as convenient having after examination been approved –

Patriot Office	for	Printing advertisements	£1-2-6
Herald Office	“	“	15-6
Mr Kerr		Paper	13-0
Mr Crook		Table and Cover	4-19-0
Mr Osborne		Table purchased for Instn	<u>2- 0 -0</u>
			£9-10-0

1st Moved by Mr Chisholm seconded by Mr Anderson and unanimously carried that the Auditors be requested to audit the accounts of the Institution as early as possibly convenient.

2nd Moved by Mr Sutherland seconded by Mr Beaver and unanimously carried that as soon as the Auditors have reported the state of the Subscription List, Messrs McKillop [MacKillop] and Osborne be requested to endeavour to obtain the amount of the Donations still remaining unpaid, and also from the Members their respective Subscriptions and fees which may be in arrears.

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3rd Moved by Mr McKillop [MacKillop] seconded by Mr Chisholm that the thanks of this meeting be returned on behalf of the Institution to the Proprietors of the Melbourne Gazette “Herald” and Patriot for having forwarded to the Library of the Institution a Copy of each of their publications since the 21st Inst and for their promise to continue these favours. Also to Mr Douglas, Surveyor for his donation of geological specimens to the Museum and to Mr Harvey for a French Treatise on Algebra.

Rob Reeves

15th Oct 1840

Present Mr Anderson in the chair, Messrs Beaver, Caulfield, Chisholm and Osborne.

1st Moved by Mr Chisholm seconded by Mr Caulfield that Mr Peers be requested to act, in place of Mr McKillop [MacKillop], with Mr Osborne in endeavouring to obtain the Donations and Fees yet unpaid to the Institution – carried unanimously.

2nd A Letter from Mr Robinson, Chief Protector, having been read 5 spears and a waddie to the Museum of the Institution it was moved by Mr Chisholm seconded by Mr Beaver and unanimously carried that thanks be returned to Mr Robinson for his appropriate presents.

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3rd Moved by Mr Chisholm seconded by Mr Caulfield that Books, of such description as may be considered most suitable to the present circumstances of the Institution, to the Amount of One Hundred pounds be procured from England, and that Messrs Chisholm, McCrae and Osborne be requested to carry this Resolution into effect – carried unanimously.

Dr Wilmot was unanimously elected a Member having been regularly proposed on the previous evening of meeting.

A Bill amounting the Thirteen pounds Seven shillings and Nine pence for printing performed at the Gazette Office having been put in was ordered to be paid.

James Anderson

29th Oct 1840

Present Mr Reeves in the chair, Messrs Anderson, Beaver, Chisholm, Murphy, McArthur [Macarthur], Osborne and Sutherland.

It having been reported by the Secretary that Mr Baskerville, the Collector, had resigned, it was –

1st Moved by Mr McArthur [Macarthur] seconded by Mr Anderson and unanimously carried that Mr Smith be elected his Successor.

It having been reported by the Secretary that James Croke Esq. had resigned as Member of the Managing Committee it was –

2nd Moved by Mr Chisholm seconded by Mr McArthur [Macarthur] and unanimously carried that P.W. Welsh Esq. be elected his Successor.

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A Letter having been read from B.J. Berthelsen enclosing Eleven pounds and Eleven shillings being the Amount received by that gentleman when at Sydney as a donation to the Institution from the following gentlemen viz.

Thomas Rider Esq.	£5- 5- 0
Charles Nicholson M.D.	5- 5- 0
J.B. Darvall Esq.	<u>1- 1- 0</u>
	£11-11-0

it was –

3rd Moved by Mr Sutherland seconded by Mr Beaver that the thanks of the Meeting be presented to Mr Berthelsen for the trouble he has taken and to the above named gentlemen for their respective donations – carried unanimously.

4th Moved by Mr Murphy seconded by Mr McArthur [Macarthur] and unanimously carried, that any Member wishing to make at any Meeting of Committee any Motion, except motions of course, shall give intimation of such intention to the Secretary, at least Fourteen days previous to the said Meeting.

Rob Reeves

12th Nov 1840

Present N.W. Welsh in the chair, Messrs Anderson, Chisholm, McArthur [Macarthur], McCrae, Osborne, Reeves and Sutherland.

Mr George D. Smyth was unanimously admitted a Member, having been regularly proposed at the previous evening of meeting.

1st Moved by Mr Chisholm seconded by Mr McArthur [Macarthur] and unanimously carried that the Secretary be requested to procure a Collector.

2nd Moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Mr Sutherland that the meetings of Committee be held on Tuesdays instead of Thursdays and that the next meeting be on the 24th inst.

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3rd Moved by Mr Osborne seconded by Mr McCrae, that Sir John Franklin R.N., Captains Maconachie, Moriarty and Cheyne be elected Honorary Members of the Institution – carried unanimously.

4th Moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Mr Chisholm and unanimously carried, that the Allotments as marked on the plan of the Ground purchased for the benefit of the Institution, be sold on Monday the 14th December next, and the purchase money be paid by Bills of equal amounts at 3 and 6 months, guaranteed by the Auction Company.

5th Moved by Mr Sutherland seconded by Mr McArthur [Macarthur] and unanimously carried that Plans and specifications be immediately invited for the erection of a "Mechanics' Institution", which name is still to be retained – and that Twenty Guineas (£21-0-0) are to be offered as a prize for those considered first in merit, Ten Guineas (£10-10-0) for the second, and Five Guineas (£5-5-0) for the third; and that the Plans and Specifications be received by the Secretary, who is hereby instructed to mention to Candidates that the "maximum" cost of the Building must not exceed Two Thousand Pounds (£2000).

6th Moved by Mr Chisholm seconded by Mr Anderson and unanimously carried the Messrs McArthur [Macarthur], McCrae and Welsh be appointed a Sub-committee to decide generally upon the dimensions, accommodations, etc of the proposed Building.

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8th Dec 1840

Present Mr McKillop [MacKillop] in the chair, Messrs Anderson, Beaver, Chisholm, Caulfield, Murphy, Osborne, Reeves, Strode and Sutherland.

It having been intimated by the Secretary that Dr Thomson, on account of inability to attend the meetings of Committee, had resigned, it was –

1st Moved by Mr Chisholm seconded by Mr Sutherland and unanimously carried, that Dr Thomson's resignation be received.

Notice was then given by Mr Murphy, that on the next evening of meeting he intended to move that D.G. McArthur [Macarthur] be elected as Dr Thomson's successor.

A Letter having been read by the Secretary from Captain Sturt returning thanks for having been elected an honorary Member, conveying some highly interesting information and signifying his intention of continuing his correspondence, it was –

2nd Moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Mr Chisholm and unanimously carried, that thanks be returned to Captain Sturt for his friendly and valuable communication, and for the promise of the continuance of his favour.

3rd Moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Mr Sutherland and unanimously carried, that the Secretary's publication of Captain Sturt's Letter be approved.

4th Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Osborne and unanimously carried, that all letters shall be submitted to the Committee either at a regular or special meeting and their publication approved, previous to appearing in the Newspapers.

A Letter having been read from Mr Rushton forwarding Copy of "a Course of Lectures on the steam Engine", an historical table of the several improvements thereon, together with "a Compendium of Mechanics", it was –

5th Moved by Mr Strode seconded by Mr Beaver and unanimously carried, that thanks be returned to Mr Rushton for his valuable present and for the friendly feeling he has ever evinced towards the Mechanics' Institution.

6th Moved by Mr Caulfield seconded by Mr Anderson and unanimously carried, that a Lunch be provided at the sale of the Allotments of the Institution on Monday next the 14th inst.

A. MacKillop

Chairman

22nd Dec 1840

Present Dr McCrae in the Chair, Messrs Anderson, Chisholm, Murphy, McCrae, McKillop [MacKillop], Osborne, Reeves and Sutherland.

1st Moved by Mr Murphy seconded by Mr Sutherland and unanimously carried, that D.G. Macarthur Esq. be elected a Member of Committee vice Dr Thomson, resigned owing to inability to attend the meetings, he residing in the Geelong District.

2nd Moved by Mr Chisholm seconded by Mr Reeve, that the thanks of the Committee be presented to J.W. Thurlan Esq. Solicitor for his valuable present of the Artist's Portfolio to the Library of the Institution – carried unanimously.

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3rd Moved by Mr Reeves seconded by Mr Chisholm and unanimously carried, that on the next evening of meeting each Member bring a list containing at least five subjects, to be submitted to the consideration of the Committee, as the subjects of the Lectures of the ensuing Season.

4th Moved by Mr Sutherland seconded by Mr Anderson and unanimously carried, that the Revd P.B. Geoghegan be requested to open the Session of 1841 by an Introductory Lecture, and that the wish of the Committee be at the same time expressed that such Lecture should be upon "the advantages of the Study of the Sciences".

F. McCrae

V.P. Chairman