

was comparatively brief in terms of a lifetime, its impact was far-reaching on those who were their friends in Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine and the many visitors who came to Lindfield Park.

Cec was born in Wilberforce in 1924, commencing his working life as a poultry farmer and orchardist. He came to local government in 1965 as an alderman after establishing with his brothers a tractor and farm dealership. In 1968 he was elected unopposed as mayor; a position he held until 1977. among his many achievements was the creation of the Windsor Civic Centre and the South Windsor swimming pool (at the time its placement was the cause of some controversy which he overcame), the tennis centre at Richmond, and childcare and community facilities for outer areas. He was able to carry through the amalgamation of the Colo Shire Council with the Windsor Municipal Council in 1981, becoming the Shire President and a skilled peacemaker for both sides.

Even after retiring from local government after eighteen years of service, he remained active in local issues and with his business until devoting his total attention to Lindfield Park.

In an interview with the Hawkesbury Independent in March 2004, Cec said: "I'm a fairly easygoing character. And you know we really didn't have politics in those days. You put up because you were a citizen, not a member of a party. I worked out that in the local scene you are there for the good of the people, not for a party.

Mary Reynolds

Details of Cec's local government career were derived from the *Hawkesbury Independent* (March 2004) and *Hawkesbury Gazette* (4 May 2005).

#### Objectives of the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc

*Membership is open to all who accept and support these objectives.*

1. To make a substantial contribution to the account of Australian history by promoting the study of aspects of the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine districts and their communities, especially in terms of their:
  - cultural history
  - exploration history
  - settlement history
  - Aboriginal history
  - industrial history including agriculture, horticulture, the timber industry, mining and tourism.
2. To conserve, preserve and protect the heritage and heritage values of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine.
3. To set up and maintain a museum in the Turkish Bath building to house the collection and to serve as a centre for its public display and for the Society's educational programs and research.
4. To maintain close links with other societies and associations in the local communities and beyond by way of meetings, functions, newsletters and occasional historical papers.
5. To lend support to like-minded societies or associations, where possible.

*For all information and bookings contact Mary Reynolds ('Donna Buang', Church Lane, Mt Wilson, NSW, 2786) on tel: (02) 4756 2006, fax: (02) 4756 2176 or email: mary\_reynolds@bigpond.com.*



# Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society

Newsletter N° 12

July 2005

## No Ordinary Mann

*A brief account of the life and times of Fredrick Farrell Mann (1894-1962)*

Very few residents of Mt Wilson or Mt Irvine today would remember or indeed know of Frederick F Mann. Yet in the memories of long-time resident, Noellie McLean (née Clark) of El Southee (Farrer Road West) and of former residents John and Peter Valder (formerly of Nooroo) and Helen Warliker (nee Gregson) of Wyndham, Chimney Cottage and Applecot, Fred Mann remains a much admired and loved human being of their childhood days in the 1930s and 1940s in Mt Wilson.

Fred was a member of the Mann family, who first arrived in Mt Wilson around the end of the nineteenth century and was to become a well-established family in the community. James Elliot Mann and Flora Helena Augusta Mann (née O'Farrell), Fred's parents, purchased Dennarque in c. 1894 following the death of Edward C Merewether, the founder of that property. Flora Mann came from a wealthy family of merchants and business people.

There was already, by that stage, an established tradition in Mt Wilson of residents contributing to the community and this practice was continued by Flora Mann and her family. In 1919, she agreed to part of Dennarque becoming community land under a Trust for the purpose of a war memorial, and the memorial occupies that

piece of land today. After Flora Mann's death in 1921, her children jointly carried out her wishes and graciously gave the piece of land now known as Silva Plana to the community for recreational purposes.



Frederick was the youngest son and the sixth of seven children of James and Flora Mann. Two of their seven children did not survive beyond infancy. Fred was born on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1894 at Esmeyville, Avoca Street, Randwick. Baptised at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Randwick, he was later educated at St Aloysius' College, Milsons Point and

St Ignatius' College, Riverview. After leaving school, Fred worked for a short time at Dalton Brothers, merchants and importers. In 1915 he sailed to England with his good school friend Gilbert Hughes and his older brother Alfred on the *Orontes*. There they enlisted in the British Army and the Royal Navy Air Service. His other brother, James Furneaux, also enlisted. Fred was in the Royal Field Artillery, serving in Salonika, Egypt and Northern Italy. While Fred and James survived, Alfred, who was in the Royal Navy Air Service, was killed on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1916 in France. The war memorial in Mt Wilson had special poignancy for Flora and for Fred Mann and their family, hence the donation of Dennarque land for its purpose. (cont. p 15)

## New Members

This year we have gained six new members:

**Des Barrett  
(Leura)**

\*

**Esther & David  
Chesterman  
(Mt Irvine)**

\*

**Kathie Herbert  
(Katoomba)**

\*

**Maisie Wilkinson  
(Wentworth Falls)**

\*

**Irene Wynne  
(Bingara)**

A very warm welcome is extended to each of these individuals.

## Queen of the Clean

Dr Susan Aykut, who was the guest speaker at this year's AGM, refers to herself as the *Queen of the Clean* having completed a study on the baths of the Ottoman Turks for her doctorate. She is currently researching the virtually unexplored history of Turkish baths in Australia and it was this intriguing material that she used as the basis for her talk entitled *Australia - A View from the Turkish Bath*.

Susan Aykut is Deputy Director of the Institute for Public History at Monash University and lectures regularly on Orientalist art and Ottoman history. Her great enthusiasm, humour, knowledge and skill combined to create a fascinating perspective on Turkish baths

and a highly entertaining presentation. The talk was accompanied by an amazing collection of images of Turkish baths of the past in Ireland, England and in Australia in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, including our own Turkish bath in Mt Wilson.

Dr Aykut's work, which revealed the extent of the popularity of Turkish baths in Australia's history, will be published in the near future. The fact that most of these baths have not survived makes the conservation of our Turkish bath of even greater significance.

The Society has an excellent record of fine speakers at its meetings and this occasion - on a glorious autumn day - was certainly no exception.

Mary Reynolds

## Speaker for the Next AGM

Andy Macqueen, Blue Mountains bushwalker, conservationist and author on early explorers of the Grose Valley, the northern Blue Mountains (including Mt Wilson) and the mountains' Aboriginal past, will be the speaker for this year's AGM on the afternoon of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

## The Way We Were

**These quotations appear in *Fauna of the Blue Mountains* by Judy and Peter Smith (1990, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst).**

*Killed a large kangaroo this day...killed two small kangaroos.*  
Gregory Blaxland, 1813

*Shot one pheasant (Superb Lyrebird), with tail complete; shot two others without tail. It appears to be too early in the season for them, as their tails are just shooting, and others are not at full length.*

William Cox, 1814

*A few years since, the country abounded with wild animals; but now the emu is banished a long distance, and the kangaroo is becoming scarce; to both the English Greyhound is utterly destructive. It may be long before the animals are altogether exterminated, but their doom is fixed.*

Charles Darwin, 1836

*A pleasant day's outing can be had by following the Caves track as far as Cox's River, a distance of about 10 miles from Katoomba, and good shooting is often to be obtained, the game being rabbits, hares, wallabies and different kinds of birds.*

Katoomba and Leura Tourist Association, 1905

*About 1890 when high prices were being given for all marsupial skins, large scrub wallaby skins fetched as high as 2s 6d each.*

Sid Bellingham, 1899

*The only wallaby I have seen here [Swamp Wallaby]. I saw it several times in the Jamison Valley, and only one or two together. This with other species have been thinned out tremendously in the last 30 years. The fox and the dingo must be responsible for many deaths, although the gun has been responsible for most.*

E C Chisholm, 1923

survived a couple of serious bush fires and then, in the early 1980s, bought Balangara, a 24 acre block (part of the former El Southee) on Farrer Road when they were now both in their early seventies.

Bill improved the steep vehicle track from the front gate, created a small earth dam on the block at the top of Zircon Creek, felled dead trees for firewood, cleared the blackberries, manoeuvred bush stone for their wonderful cottage garden and shifted mountains of earth to prepare the site for the house. After living in temporary quarters (referred to by the family as the 'blockhouse' or the 'cabin'), they had a modest cottage built where they spent their retirement years enjoying the beauty, quiet and solitude of the area.

Bill was a creative and practical person. He designed a fog warning device for vessels on Sydney Harbour, used a large winch to quarry sandstone rock on his block in Cheltenham and made some pieces of attractive wrought iron outdoor furniture. He built a characteristic stone 'shed' on their first Mt Wilson block on Wynne's Rocks Road, designed and built Antares, their first home in Mt Wilson, and made a unique walnut shell piercer still used by some Mt Wilson residents for the pickling of walnuts. He carved a lovely sandstone Japanese lantern for the garden at Balangara and, well into his later years, continued with major physical work on that property, whizzing around the block on his favourite old grey tractor.

In 2000, with increasing problems with access and mobility, the Bells moved to Canberra where they lived in a daughter's former home. Bill's wife tragically died in September 2001 and in 2002 he went to live with another family member in Canberra. Sadly, Bill's failing sight and declining mobility were enormously frustrating to him during his final years but he continued his interest in engineering, Gothic architecture and operatic music until the end of his life.

Bill Bell is buried at Lithgow Cemetery, where his wife also rests. He is sadly missed by his four children and three grandchildren.

Susan Vidler (née Bell)  
May 2005

## Cec Sullivan (1924-2005)

Those who have been associated with Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine during the past twenty years or more would have been familiar with Lindfield Park, halfway between Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine, and would probably know it as a garden of wonder and great beauty.

On 18<sup>th</sup> April 2005, Cec Sullivan, who had nurtured and loved that garden since the early 1980s, passed away after suffering from the effects of a stroke in August 2004. Cec and his wife, Rita, had sold Lindfield Park with regret in 2003 when the physical demands of the garden became too much for Cec. Both had been loyal members of our Society, always ready to assist whenever they could.

Our memories of Cec were forged most strongly in the environment of the garden of Lindfield Park. He loved giving a guided tour. His tall, slightly bent figure would be there moving along the many narrow winding paths which gave access to the terraced slopes and divided the spectacular array of cool climate shrubs, trees and dainty plants all with their own stories which he knew in complete and precise detail. Those stories revealed the sense of devotion and joy the garden gave to Cec, and listeners would acquire much enthusiasm for the art of gardening.

Long before Cec and Rita purchased Lindfield Park, he had spent many years with Rita and his family working for the community of the Hawkesbury. While he and Rita's time in Mt Wilson

## Obituaries

### Herbert Basil (Bill) Knight-Brown (1914-2005)

Bill Knight-Brown lived his life at Painui, Mt Irvine, until his late 80s when he spent his last few years in nursing homes at Portland and Lithgow. He died in February this year at Tanderra in Lithgow in his 91<sup>st</sup> year.

Bill was the oldest of three children born to Basil Frederick Knight-Brown and Julia Holden, who married in January 1913 and lived at Painui until Julia died in 1947. Basil Knight-Brown, Harold Morley and Charles Scrivener were the three original settlers at Mt Irvine. After having been students together at Hawkesbury Agricultural College, they each took up a large section of the land at Mt Irvine and began farming. Basil's brother, Norman Knight-Brown, joined him in establishing a dairy and apple orchard and their mother, Lucy, was the first woman to make her home at Mt Irvine when she came to 'look after' her two sons, their father Edward and sister Bess. Two substantial homes were built of local timber: Painui and Cooinda.

Bill and his father Basil ran the dairy together until Basil retired to Narrabeen. They kept a very productive jersey herd and a fine, fearsome-looking pedigreed bull with the impressive name of Richmond Dawson Slocumb III. The milk was separated on site and every Thursday Bill would drive over the Bowens Creek Road in his grey A40 Utility with several large cans of cream to be processed at the Hawkesbury College. In 1948, Bill married Rosalie Smart of Carisbrook at Mt Irvine. Their children were Julia (b. 1949), Richard (b. 1951) and Susan (b. 1953). Rosalie died in 1974. Throughout his long life, Bill was very active in his community. He attended the monthly church services conducted by Harold Morley and held office in the Mt Irvine Progress Association and the local Fire Brigade. He was a keen tennis player, using the community court every Sunday throughout the 40s and 50s.

Bill leaves behind his three children, three granddaughters and two great-grandchildren: Julia and her husband, Peter Reynolds, their daughter, Mandy, her husband Mal Smith and daughter Tara; Richard and his wife Jane, and Susan, her daughters Hollie and Rosalie, and Hollie's husband Karl Le Muth and son Lachlan.

Florence Smart

### William (Bill) Thomas Bell (6 April 1912 – 22 March 2005)

William (Bill) Thomas Bell, who died in Canberra recently at the age of 92, was born in Sydney, the son of a master carpenter from the Borders, Scotland. He attended Cleveland Street Boys High and then graduated as a mechanical engineer. Much of his professional career was with the Maritime Service Board of NSW, finally retiring from his position as Principal Design Engineer in 1972. He was admitted to the Institute of Engineers in 1944 and maintained his membership of the Institution until well into his retirement.

Bill Bell married Enid Lawson in 1937 and for some years they lived in Beecroft, Sydney where their children Suzanne, Helen, Eugénie and Fergus were born. In the early fifties, Bill was a successful bidder in a Crown ballot for a large bush block in Cheltenham. He cleared the road to the site, then designed and built the family home there.

Prior to their retirement, Bill and Enid Bell purchased land on Wynne's Rocks Road then, later, another property with a scenic view to the north of the Wollangambe Wilderness on the Mt Wilson-Mt Irvine Road. This they called Antares and it was there Bill built their first retirement home. His wife established a lovely garden that spilled down the steeply sloping site. They

## The Gregson Exhibition

The most recent Exhibition to be held in the Turkish Bath Museum, the Gregson Exhibition, reveals the extent and depth of the influence of this family in the shaping of Mt Wilson from 1878 to the late twentieth century. It follows on the series of articles in our newsletter No 11 devoted to that family.

We must thank Alison Halliday and Robin Leonard for its fine creation and for the excellent selection of photographic material and text. Each of the five boards tells a story of a house, and the garden and people associated with it: Yengo founded by Jesse Gregson in 1878-1880; Windyridge founded by Jesse's daughter, Helen (Nellie) Gregson, in 1921-

1922; Wyndham founded by Jesse's younger son, Edward J Gregson, and Edward's wife, Margaret Gregson, in 1922; Chimney Cottage first created by Margaret Gregson's father, Charles W Jefferson, as a tearoom, with the help of the Kirk brothers; and Applecot which was first an apple shed but later, in the 1940s, became a residence and the last home of Edward J Gregson and his three daughters Helen, Meg and

## Elizabeth Raines OAM

Our warmest congratulations to foundation member of the Society and long-time supporter of all our projects, Libby Raines, who was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours. Her citation sums up the achievement: 'For service to the community of Mt Wilson, particularly through a range of environmental, horticultural, civic and church activities'.

the 1920s, by Fred Mann into a pottery studio which he called Cherry Tree Cottage. Also included are more recent photos of



Amne Hughan & Meg Fromel at the Exhibition.

residences now occupying what was Gregson land, such as Hawthorn.

The exhibition is further enhanced with examples of Fred Mann's attractive pottery. A number of Meg Fromel's original linocuts are also displayed, depicting familiar scenes, including the Avenue, the Church and several other historic buildings. Meg's painting of her grandfather, Jesse Gregson, amid the familiar Mt Wilson bushland is hung above the mantelpiece, on loan from the artist.

Mary Reynolds

## How's the Weather Been?

Earlier this year, Barry Freeman, captain of the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade, asked the Historical Society if it was holding any records relating to rainfall at Mt Wilson. We were pleased to provide him with 130 years worth of records - a complete set - showing monthly falls from 1875, the first year of settlement, until the time of inquiry. Barry was most impressed and thanked the Society for the ever-willing help it has given to the Brigade.

Ellis Reynolds

Troath. Tragically, Applecot and Wyndham were gutted by fire in April 2004 and May 2004, respectively; a devastating loss. It is heartening to know that both houses will be rebuilt by their present owners.

Included in the Exhibition is Cherry Cottage, originally the stables of Yengo. As described in the article 'No Ordinary Mann' (pp 1, 15-17), this was converted, in

## President's Report June 2005

The Society has been active on many fronts since our last newsletter was published in November 2004, led by a very hard-working Management Committee. On the historical front, some progress has been made, notably on the archives and their systematic filing and storage, with a 2-day working bee with Mary Reynolds, Helen and John Cardy, Robin Leonard and Florence Smart. We need a few more of these efforts to keep on top of our ever-growing collection of valuable historic material. Special praise also to Robin Leonard and Alison Halliday, who prepared a splendid photographic display with historical notes on the six Mt Wilson homes and cottages built by three generations of the Gregson family. These include Yengo, Wyndham, Windyridge, Cherry Cottage, Applecot and Chimney Cottage. This exhibition was mounted in the Turkish Bath Museum especially for this year's Jazz Concert held on the Saturday of the Anzac weekend, and we encourage all members to view the exhibition over the coming months. Our warm thanks to Robin and Alison, and to Avis Bills and Mary Reynolds for seeing the display hung in the Museum.

As to the Jazz Concert, it was even better than last year, which we had all thought then was pretty good. The weather was beautiful, the gate takings were about \$1000 higher than they've ever been and the music was greatly enjoyed. There were two good bands - Bill Boldiston's Bloweys and Jeanne Hope's Jazz - quite different in style but with some of the same players taking a role in each group. Our thanks go to all the band members and their leaders. This was the 9<sup>th</sup> concert we've had with these players and their popularity keeps growing. The wonderful thing is that all of them are content to come here, every time, without any fee, and for love of the Turkish Bath and its precinct. They have our thanks.

On the day you could have been impressed by the calm atmosphere of the concert -everything just seemed to happen smoothly and without fuss. But in fact this was the result of months of hard work by members of the fundraising committee. There were the visits to the courthouse to renew our annual liquor licence, visits to the Council to persuade them not to charge us for holding the event, ordering the port-a-loo and organising a bigger and better marquee to match the extended stage constructed by Darrel Conybeare and others. Weeks of widespread publicity efforts, picking up the cow droppings the day before, jams to make, cakes to cook, thousands of things, all in nervous hopes of not being washed out by rain on the day. So we certainly owe earnest thanks to the fundraising committee and to the many members who volunteered their services on the day.

The Anzac weekend was rounded out with our opening of the Wynstay garden on the Sunday and Monday as a special fund-raiser for the preservation of the stable buildings, which are suffering badly from age and water damage. These two days were also extremely well attended. In his report, the treasurer will tell you how successful it all was.

Recently you will all have received Historical Paper No 5, which carries the text of a popular lecture given to the Society by Father Eugene Stockton on the archaeological evidence for the life of Aboriginal people here in our region. Not long before that, a nice fat Newsletter was distributed. Our warm thanks go to Leith Conybeare who has edited and produced all our publications over the last three years. Our membership numbers are standing well, and although there are always more things to be done than we can easily manage, I believe the Society is in very good standing, here and in the wider community, and on behalf of the management committee I wish to thank all members for their continuing support.

Arthur Delbridge

## We Need a Hand

All of the work of the Society is carried out by volunteers and in order to avoid a select group of members developing stiff necks & headaches from overdoing it in the name of history, it would be great if each member could give some of their time during the year - even just a couple of hours - to help spread the work out. There are plenty of jobs to choose from depending on your idea of a good time, such as cataloguing archival material and photos or holding fort at the door of the Turkish Bath during exhibitions. There are many options, so just contact Helen Cardy on (02) 9871 3661 or Mary Reynolds on (02) 4756 2006 to find out what you can do to help.

become Lady Lloyd Jones). The list suggests a wide range of contacts and interests in Fred's life. One of the many charming anecdotal episodes about Fred comes from Michael:

*A guest of Uncle Fred's was Archbishop Panico, Apostolic Delegate in Canberra. Upon being introduced to Mrs Foley, Fred's housekeeper at the time he said 'Ah! Les Folies Bergeres!'*\*

With the outbreak of World War II, Fred turned his attention and energies to serving his country once again. This time it was to be with the army and the Red Cross. Holding the rank of Lieutenant, he began by serving in the Ingleburn Army Camp. In 1941 he served on the hospital ship *Manunda* between Brisbane and Port Moresby. At the same time he was involved in fundraising for the Free French forces supported by people such as Lady Lloyd Jones.

In 1944, Fred was sent to England by the Red Cross to direct and organise the furnishing of houses for the returning Australian prisoners of war. One of these was in Sloane Street in London, the other at Gowrie House in Eastbourne. There is a painting of Gowrie House (1945) by Australian artist, Stella Bowen, who was the official Australian war artist in England at that time, and the warmth and humanity in that painting is almost certainly a reflection of Fred Mann's capacity and skill to create a welcoming, sympathetic and understanding environment for those returning POWs.

When Fred returned to Mt Wilson after World War II he did not take up his pottery interests again. But it was in those years from 1947 to 1951 that the final stages of achieving a village hall were played out. He, along with others such as Helen (Nellie) Gregson, who left 500 pounds specifically for the construction of the roof of the Village Hall in her will in 1949, gave generously and the local committee was able

to carry out the actual construction of the Mt Wilson Village Hall in 1951.

In that same year, Fred's long-standing friend Gilbert Hughes came to an agreement with him to, in effect, 'swap' houses and Stone Lodge became the home of the Hughes family, while Fred moved to Wentworth Road, Vacluse. Later, in 1955, he moved to Elizabeth Bay. In 1962, Fred became ill and died in Lewisham Hospital in December at the age of 69. A requiem mass was held at St Canice's, Elizabeth Bay, and he was interred in the family vault at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Randwick.

Mary Reynolds (Research Officer)

\* *Les Folies Bergeres* was a famous theatre in Paris c. 1869 and was well known for its musicals, including its dancing girls. For the Archbishop to refer to it in this context was a touch of satire. No doubt Mrs Foley was a most sedate and proper lady and a far cry from the rather daring girls of *Les Folies Bergeres*. It may also not have been expected that the Archbishop would be familiar with the world of theatre.

(My gratitude goes to the members of the Mann family who have been most helpful in providing information and details about Fred Mann. These people include Michael Mann, who, as far back as 1994, gave considerable anecdotal material. More recently, Fleur Herscovitch, whose mother was the daughter of Esme Mann (Fred's sister), has provided photos and letters associated with her grandmother, aunts and uncles. Tom Hughes, the son of Gilbert Hughes, has lent photos of Fred Mann, Fred's sisters and brother, Alfred, and Gilbert Hughes. These have been copied by the Society. Megan Martin, the librarian for the Historic Houses Trust has provided the Society with documents relating to Fred's architectural changes at Yengo and his pottery achievements. She recently contributed to a book on Australian ceramics and art and was kind enough to pass on to the Society some of the information she discovered through her research).



while some pots featured bands of modelled floral sprigs and occasionally used clay ribbons to form the pattern. Locally in Mt Wilson, Fred sold his pottery through the tearoom at Chimney Cottage, which was run by Margaret Gregson, Edward's wife, with assistance from her family. In Sydney it was sold through Margaret Jaye's craft shop in Rowe Street.

For a brief time during the 1930s, a small school was organised in Old Wynstay. Originally known as Yarrowa, this house was built by Richard Wynne (c. 1880). Richard Owen Wynne, Richard Wynne's grandson, inherited Yarrowa and after the First World War took possession of the whole property. Bringing his new wife, Mariamne Wynne, from England, they built the new stone residence of Wynstay (1921-1923). The school in Old Wynstay, under the guidance of the Wynne governess Dollie Moore, was for the benefit of the three Wynne children: Jane, Mervyn and Ron, but Peter Valder and the three Gregson girls were invited to join them. Dorothy Moore developed an innovative and broad curriculum for these children, inviting Fred Mann to give pottery lessons in Cherry Cottage. Their memories of these lessons are rich in colour, warmth and fun. Fred is remembered as a gentle, kindly, knowledgeable and cultured person. In 1938, he demonstrated his wider interests in music to the local community when he invited the visiting Russian Ballet to stay at Stone Lodge, creating a considerable stir of excitement among the locals.

In *A Mt Wilson Childhood*, Helen Warliker also writes:

*A bachelor, Mr Mann lived here with his housekeeper Mrs Foley. He was a kindly, friendly man and a genial host of cultivated tastes who loved entertaining and we and other families on the mountain were frequent recipients of his hospitality.*

Noellie McLean confirms this memory of him, especially the parties he held for the children, including the delicious food he

served and the wonderful experience of visiting the pottery workshop.

John Valder, in an entertaining and enlightening talk given to the Society in 1997, spoke of Fred in the following terms:

*Another great character was Fred Mann who owned Yengo (then Stone Lodge). Fred Mann was best known really for making pottery and we were all very proud of our pieces, which I managed to hang onto. He did some lovely distinctive work from, I think, local clays.*

*However, my memories of Fred Mann are also for his parties for children and grown ups. I can remember him hanging Chinese lanterns up around the garden and it all looking very glamorous. Fred Mann wasn't married but he had a nephew called Michael Mann, who was a highly accomplished pianist, even as a schoolboy and would visit for holidays. So Fred Mann thought he ought to put on a bit of entertainment for his nephew and invite the rest of the children over to stay at Stone Lodge to play games – such as boules. He was a lovely, warm generous cheerful friendly man.*

It is interesting to note that Michael Mann was the younger son of James Furneaux Mann and of Marie Elizabeth Mann (née Ponsolle), who was French. They and their two sons, Pierre and Michael (Pierre was born in Sydney in 1923 and Michael was born in 1929 in France), spent many years in France but when it was occupied by the Nazis during the Second World War, they fled and escaped to

Australia. Michael Mann records briefly some of the visitors his parents met at Stone Lodge between 1923 and 1926. They included William H Holman (Premier of NSW 1913-1920), Frederick Jordan KC (later Chief Justice of NSW), John Quin (librarian, Mitchell Library), Charles and Louise Lloyd Jones and their daughter 'Mary Pumpkin' and the nursemaid Hannah Jones (later to



## Remembrance Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2004

*On Remembrance Day last year, a new format was adopted for the annual celebration of this event, jointly organised and sponsored by the Historical Society and the Mt Wilson Progress Association. Following the traditional service of Remembrance at the War Memorial conducted by the Reverend Ian Meares of Blackheath and the playing of the Last Post by a gifted young musician, everyone walked to the Village Hall where Robert Chesney and Arthur Delbridge spoke about the contribution of two of the soldiers from World War I whose names appear on the War Memorial: Vivian Clarence Lancelot Kirk and Percy Pedder Scrivener. Few present would have known the background of these two persons who belonged to our communities so long ago. It was especially gratifying to have Margaret Scrivener, Pedder Scrivener's daughter-in-law, and Milba Mewburn, representing the Kirk family, present. It is intended that this pattern be followed at future gatherings for Remembrance Day and, where possible, the contribution of each person named on the Memorial be recorded in a special book to be kept in the Village Hall.*

### Introduction by Arthur Delbridge

'The service we have just come from at the Soldier's Memorial is one of thousands like it held today around Australia. The one thing that's special to us in our service is that we are remembering people of our own community. Their names are there on the granite face in front of us. So who really were they, those men and women from the families of Mt Wilson, Mt Irvine and Bell who served in World War I, World War II and Vietnam? What did it mean to them and their families that they enlisted for three or four or five years of their lives, went away to distant lands, learnt to cope with the rigours and disciplines of service life, most of them in deadly conflict with the enemy? Their names are like a roll call of the early settlers in our communities: Gregson, Mann, Morley, Scrivener, Kirk, Valder, Gunn, Wynne, Knight-Brown. Three of them have a star against their names on the stone. They made the supreme sacrifice, they did not come back, and as we say in the Hymn: 'We will remember them'. And indeed, we remember them all, the starred and the un-starred on our memorial. Those who came back were indeed glad to be back. But I think it may safely be said that, for better or for worse, no-one can escape from the influence or the memory of years spent in service with the armed forces of Australia.

At the end of last year's service Kevin Gunn came away from the stone saying "I guess I'm just about the only one still alive". That made me think: I know him but what about all the others? Shouldn't we know a bit more.

So now I'll read a short citation of the wartime life of two of them. These are based on official war records, and what we have been told kindly by family members. Taking two or three names each year we could make a full account, and perhaps record them eventually in a Memorial Book - hand written by a calligrapher - perhaps to be kept here in our Hall for all to see.

### Percy Pedder Scrivener

Pedder Scrivener was the son of Charles Robert Scrivener of Taihoa, Mt Irvine. Born in 1890, he enlisted for service in WWI in April 1915, aged twenty-five. At the time of enlisting he was an accountant in the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney. He was single. Like all recruits he had first to be approved as fit for service. In one of the standard questions he was asked: 'Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?' He answered yes, rather defiantly, and gave the

details: 'At Cootamundra NSW, in 1906, fined 2/6d for riding a bicycle without a light on a moonlight night'. The army didn't



actually hold this against him and his enlistment was approved. Within a very short time he embarked for France where he served in the First Field Artillery Brigade until the end of the war.

Clearly he was a very good soldier and fairly quickly became a commissioned officer. In 1918 he was awarded the Military Cross 'for gallantry and devotion to duty'. This was for his bravery in two critical days of fighting, when he was in his forward observation post under heavy enemy fire. His job was to direct fire from the battery's guns, probably some hundreds of yards behind him, in support of an infantry advance. During this engagement his telephone lines to the battery became the only line of communication still working for the whole 'stunt', to use his word for it.

When his telephone broke down, he repaired it, though still under fire. His gallant actions turned the whole operation - infantry, artillery and all - into a successful military achievement.

We're greatly indebted to his daughter-in-law Margaret Scrivener, who is here with us today, for access to the diary Pedder Scrivener kept with daily accounts of his war service in France. They give us a vivid account of the truly awful conditions under which intense military action was maintained.

*January 28<sup>th</sup> 1917: The dugouts and gun pits are very crude. My dugout had fallen in but repairs are difficult with everything frozen and snow still on the ground. Everywhere tins of bully beef are frozen and even bread glistens all through with ice. We are shooting at almost extreme ranges.*

*January 29<sup>th</sup>: Fired 156 rounds tonight between 10pm and 5am.*

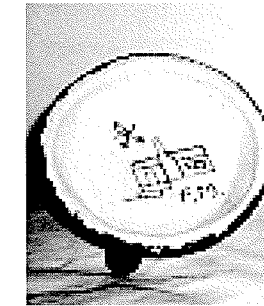
*January 30<sup>th</sup>: The remainder of the battery came up and took over tonight. Been snowing today; the roads are like glass and horses must go warily. I think ice must be feet and not inches deep. Everything has been freezing for weeks.*

*May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1918: A couple of days or so ago the 1<sup>st</sup> Battery had a bad day. Major Randall was wounded and Major Stewart killed. Shortly afterwards Short was killed, Coleman seriously wounded and died the same night, and Captain Shepherd wounded.*

By February 1919, the war being over and transport being available, Pedder Scrivener was sent to London and in March embarked on the journey back to Sydney. As for his civilian life after the war was over, the National Archives Australia show that from 1947 to 1955 Pedder was Clerk of the Shire of Blue Mountains and as at March 1972 he owned and ran a plant nursery in Springwood. He died on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1974.

## No Ordinary Mann (continued from p 1)

Fred spent many holidays at Dennarque and on the death of his mother in 1921 he inherited an income that made it possible for him to be a person of independent means. When Edward J Gregson, the owner of Yengo, decided to sell the original home established by his father, Jesse Gregson, Fred purchased it in 1923. He changed the name to Stone Lodge. With the help of his friend, architect John Moore, Fred substantially altered Yengo, developing a grassed courtyard with a fishpond and fountain and a wide flagged stone terrace planted on two sides with rock plants.



In *A Mount Wilson Childhood*, Helen Warliker records with clarity of detail her memories of 'Mr Mann' and those days in Mt Wilson: 'When we were small we liked to play in the court yard in the centre of the house because it had a little pond filled with fish and waterlilies'. Inside the cottage was filled with: '[the] loveliest old furniture, pewter and china while the whole garden was planted and replanted with English cottage flowers and shrubs' (*Sydney Morning Herald Women's Supplement*, October, 1934). According to his nephew, Michael Mann, Fred made a special trip overseas in 1924 to purchase these furnishings for Stone Lodge. Stone Lodge was featured in an article in *Home* in 1927 and later in April 1941.

It was during the years from 1925 until the Second World War that Fred's personality and influence were experienced in all their varying shades of charm and warmth by those living in Mt Wilson. Already in 1922 he, along with others, had contributed financially to the establishment of the Post Office on the Avenue when a private trust was set up and shares were bought to finance the cost of the building. John Moore was

employed to design the building. In the 1930s, when Mariamne Wynne commenced the long campaign to establish a community hall (later to become the Mt Wilson Village Hall), Fred was a generous contributor and a member of the Trust established to organise the raising of funds and the construction of the hall.

It was in 1925 that Fred commenced his dedication to the creation of pottery in what had been the stables of Yengo. Under his artistic direction, the stables became Cherry Tree Cottage: Fred's workshop. Over the next 15 years, Fred produced a wide range of simple and elegant domestic pieces - vases, candle stick holders, egg cups, mugs, jam pots, jugs, soup bowls, cheese dishes and book ends - using white Australian clay or the biscuit-coloured Mt Wilson clay.

An article from the *Sydney Morning Herald Women's Supplement* (October, 1934) provides quite a vivid picture of Cherry Tree Cottage:

*Down the garden path we come to Cherry Tree Cottage, a little white wooden building with a huge stone chimney, against which grows the double pink Japanese cherry tree of its name. Bright blue window frames and woodwork and red sun blinds rival in colour the pottery within; up the steps and round the door stand pots of primroses and cowslips, forget-me-nots and pansies, and endless other sweetnesses to whet our appetite for colour.*

*Within, all is almost too neat and charming for a workshop! Dressers, cupboards and chairs are painted white or faint green with painted decorations of tiny fruit and flowers, an old oak chest stands in the window with a great bowl of primroses and forget-me-nots catching the afternoon rays of sun.*

The pottery produced at Cherry Tree Cottage was sold under that name and, as described by Megan Martin, relied upon clear glazed painted decoration often combining geometric, floral and arabesque elements,

<i>Income (\$)</i>	<i>05/04/03</i>	<i>20/03/04</i>	<i>23/04/05</i>
Admission at gate	2,293.00	2,648.00	3,578.00
Raffle (all prizes fully donated)	600.00	717.00	854.00
Prepaid membership of winner	25.00	25.00	30.00
Donations	69.60	28.40	70.40
Sale of hot food	62.00	309.00	344.00
Sale of cakes	237.00	250.00	439.00
Sale of jams	244.00	200.00	387.50
Sale of drinks	333.00	182.00	195.00
(All food and drinks offered for sale were fully donated, and tea and coffee was free of charge)			
<b>Total (Gross) Income</b>	<b>3,863.60</b>	<b>4,359.40</b>	<b>5,898.20</b>
<i>Expenditure (\$)</i>	<i>05/04/03</i>	<i>20/03/04</i>	<i>23/04/05</i>
Printing and distribution of brochures	440.00	677.80	250.00
Hire of port-a-loo	Donated	165.00	66.00
Hire & erection of marquee	250.00	250.00	310.00
Advertising	349.98	378.02	164.00
gst	150.00	122.00	210.00
Public notification of raffle winner	17.25	44.69	25.30
Compulsory TAFE course (for serving alcohol)		110.00	
Renewal of liquor licence		50.00	50.00
Materials for stage area			63.80
Maintenance of precinct			257.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,207.23</b>	<b>1,807.51</b>	<b>1,396.30</b>
<b>Total Profit on the Day</b>	<b>2,656.37</b>	<b>2,551.89</b>	<b>4,501.90</b>

**Income and Expenditure for Wynstay Garden Openings  
held 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

<i>Income (\$)</i>	<i>24/04/05 - 25/04/05</i>
Donations at the gate	3,080.00
Other donations	102.00
<b>Total (Gross) income</b>	<b>3,182.00</b>
<i>Expenditure (\$)</i>	<i>24/04/05 - 25/04/05</i>
Advertising	164.00
Printing and distribution of brochures	250.00
Hire of port-a-loo	132.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>546.00</b>
<b>Total Profit</b>	<b>2,636.00</b>

**Vivian Clarence Lancelot Kirk**

Of the seven Kirk brothers of Mt Wilson, Sid, Bert and Viv served in WWI and Tom in WWII. Today I'll give some details of Viv Kirk's war service. He enlisted in Lithgow in February 1916, not yet turned 20 so it had to be with the consent of his parents. He went to Bathurst for training for a short two months only before being posted as a reinforcement to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Battalion within the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. In April 1916 he embarked in Sydney on the *SS Ceramic* and joined his battalion in France at the end of August. He went into the battle of Fromelles. In this one engagement all the senior officers of his battalion were killed or wounded. Viv later told his family that he was the only one to survive out of his platoon of 30 men. The casualty rate in the Division was so high (more than 5000 killed and wounded in this battle) that the Division was out of defensive action for many months. But in March 1917 it was back in the battle of Bullecourt on the Somme. In this battle, Viv served also as a stretcher bearer. At this time he contracted severe trench fever and was admitted to a field hospital but as his condition deteriorated he was sent off to a military hospital in England. It took him a year there to recover.

Then back to France and into the battle of Amiens. In this engagement he was a sniper, but he himself was wounded by a bullet from an enemy sniper. As a result he spent four months in hospital. The surgeon's report reads: "Extensive injury to median nerve fibres causing paralysis of index and middle fingers of the left hand – the bullet passing through arm, entered the chest and is still there" (Dr H G Marsh, Captain).

Family records show that the officer who wanted to recommend Viv for an award for

bravery was killed in action before he could do it. Viv had rescued a wounded soldier out on the enemy wire and carried him back to safety in the face of enemy gunfire, saving his life. When the war was over, Viv returned to Australia in May 1919 and was discharged in September of that year, almost 4 years after enlisting.

Back in Mt Wilson, in spite of his war



wounds, Viv took up again the occupations of his earlier life as timbergetter, firefighter, horseman and landowner; all the things that the Kirk men did so famously for so long. He married Olga Mahoney and they had, as Lesley Wynne tells us in her memoirs, "four beautiful daughters". He died here in Mt Wilson with his bullet still in his chest, too close to his heart to have ever been removed.'

## Could The Haycock Now Just be a Load of Rubbish?

More place names around the local area, provided by Peter Rickwood.

*In the November 2004 Newsletter, we asked if any members might be able to help us find the story behind some local place names whose origin is not known to us. We heard recently from Peter Rickwood, a long-time friend to Mt Wilson, who forwarded us the following information. Peter is Map Curator for the Blue Mountains Historical Society and a Visiting Senior Research Fellow, School of Biological, Earth & Environment Sciences (BEES) at the University of New South Wales.*

ARKINSTALL HILL is an alternative name for CALEYS HAYCOCK (8930-1-N Mount Wilson<sup>1</sup> AMG 584902) 33\_30'S, 150\_24'E.

The name Caley's Haycock (no apostrophe) was gazetted<sup>2</sup> as item 964 on 24th July 1970, and is after George Caley, explorer and botanist, who reached and ascended Mount Banks in 1804, from which site (on November 4th 1804) he sketched the outlines of the hills and labelled this one The Haycock<sup>3</sup>. This name was lost in the literature for many years and when a track was constructed around the hill in 1868 the feature became locally known as Arkinstall Hill after the person who cut the track<sup>4</sup>. More recently some local residents have called it Rubbish Tip Hill after the purpose to which they put the track<sup>5</sup>.

FIELD SELECTION (8930-1-N Mount Wilson AMG 604894) 33\_31'S, 150\_25'E.

This is a local name for Portions 73 and 90, which form a prominent basalt-capped hill, and was probably derived from JR Field, grantee of Portion 73<sup>6</sup>. The name was reported to me by Mrs Lynne Muir (née Kirk) who was born, and grew up, in Mount Wilson and whose relative VCL Kirk acquired Portion 90<sup>7</sup>.

LAMBS HILL (8931-2-S Wollangambe<sup>8</sup> AMG 575903) 33\_30'S, 150\_23'E.

This hill comprises Portions 51, 52, 53 and 54 and is named Lamb's Hill on a map, and in the text, published by Currey<sup>9</sup>. The name probably relates to Walter Lamb, one of the early residents in 1878<sup>10</sup>.

### References

<sup>1</sup> CMA (1982) 8930-1N Mount Wilson Topographical & Orthophoto Map 1:25 000. 2nd Edition. Land Information Centre, Bathurst.

<sup>2</sup> NSW Government Gazette, 1970, p. 2913.

<sup>3</sup> King, P.G. (2nd. November 1805) Extracts from Mr Cayley's observations on his journey to the Carmarthen Mountains and his observations respecting the practicability of passing the mountains in that direction. pp. 725-727 in Bladen, F.M., Editor. (1897) Historical Records of New South Wales. Volume V - King. 1803, 1804, 1805. Government Printer, Sydney. 866pp (See p. 726).

Caley, G. (1804) An account of the journey to Mount Banks in Nov. 1804 (Mitchell Library microfilm FM4/2568) (See p. 76).

<sup>4</sup> Herbert, A.R.T. (1970) Caley's Haycock (2nd June 1970). A typewritten report in the file 'Katoomba 8930-N' of the Geographical Names Board, Department of Lands. The illustrations which formerly accompanied the report, and prove the present location of the feature, are in the Gazetteer for Katoomba in the same office.

<sup>5</sup> see Reference 3.

<sup>6</sup> Map of the Parish of Irvine, County of Cook (1893) (State Records Map 20766).

<sup>7</sup> Map of the Parish of Irvine, County of Cook (1970) Department of Lands.

<sup>8</sup> CMA (1976) 8931-2S Wollangambe Topographical & Orthophoto Map 1:25 000. First Edition. Land Information Centre, Bathurst.

<sup>9</sup> Currey, C.H. (1968) Mount Wilson, New South Wales. Its location, settlement and development. Angus and Robertson Ltd., Sydney. 101pp (See pp. 32, 36, 59).

<sup>10</sup> See reference 7, p. 59.

Sadly, two of our foundation members died this year: Mt Wilson residents Bill Bell in March and Cec Sullivan in April. Also, Bill Knight-Brown, a life-long resident of Mt Irvine, died in February 2005. Bill's three children are all foundation members. The members present at the General Meeting in May stood for a short silence in memory of these three men.

### State of Finances

As part of his report to the meeting, the Treasurer issued statements of income and expenditures for two recently held events: the Jazz Concert in the Turkish Bath Precinct on 24<sup>th</sup> April and the opening of Wynstay Gardens on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April. Both events were outstandingly successful. As at 21<sup>st</sup> May 2005, the Society's credit balance stands at \$26,493.69. However, almost half of this amount is committed. A grant of \$11,000 was made by the NSW Ministry of the Arts for the manufacture and placement of two permanent signs, which are described in more detail in the Public Officer's Report. In addition, a grant of \$1000 has been allocated by the NSW Ministry for the Arts (through the Royal Australian Historical Society) for the publication of a booklet, *Mt Wilson's History along its Avenues and Lanes*, and \$200 of a total of \$1000 has been allocated by the RAHS for Land Title Research. The profit from the Wynstay Garden opening in April has been put towards the preservation of the Stables, one of five Wynstay buildings listed on the State Heritage Register and the one most urgently in need of restoration.

### Term Deposit

The Society holds a Term Deposit of \$10,589.00 presently invested with the Blackheath branch of the Commonwealth Bank. This Term Deposit is regularly re-invested at the most advantageous rate available at the time.

### The Turkish Bath Museum as a Fundraiser

This financial year, up until 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2005, the Museum has raised \$1,406.00 from guided tours and donations and remains the best overall source of income that we have, while at the same time it is the one requiring the least forward-planning and effort on the day. This year we have found it of considerable merit to open on Saturdays as well as Sundays during the peak visitor times in autumn and spring, and yet it is difficult to find the one or two volunteers needed each weekend that the Museum is open. We do ask that each member who is able to be here for a day or two each year contact Helen Cardy on (02) 9871 3661 and join the roster. Orientation and support are provided.

Ellis Reynolds

Honorary Treasurer

### Income and Expenditure for the Jazz Concert held in the Turkish Bath Precinct on Sat 23 April 2005 & Comparisons with those held in 2003 & 2004

The jazz concert of 2005 was the most successful the Society has had, in every way. Not only was the weather perfect but our profit on the day was equal or close to sixty per cent greater than those in the previous two years.

Our sincere thanks go to our tireless band of workers on the day and the generosity of those who, by donating money, services, the goods offered for sale and the raffle prizes, personally participated in making it the great success that it was. To name them individually would be both difficult and unnecessary. At any rate, thank you to all who helped.



absorbing stories of moments in Mt Wilson's past. We were most fortunate that they could be with us.

The Scrivener Exhibition is to be shown in the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum in Bathurst from October 2005 to January 2006. Negotiations are still continuing to get the Scrivener Exhibition to Canberra.

### Research and Writing

Work is proceeding towards publishing a modest production entitled *Mt Wilson's History along its Avenues and Lanes* for which we received a \$1000 grant late in 2004 from the Royal Australian Historical Society's Local History Grants.

Irene Wynne is well advanced in producing a history of the Wynne Family. She often consults with Mary and with the Society's archives, as do Alison Halliday and her co-writer, Jo Hambrett, who are producing a *History of the Gardens of Mt Wilson*. Earlier this year the Society was contacted by US resident Louise Scrivener, a distant relative of Charles Robert Scrivener, who provided a most interesting background and details of facets of Charles' life previously unknown to the Society. We hope to hear more from her.

Mrs D (Tood) Kirk, the widow of Tom Kirk, recently gave the Society an old trunk filled with papers, which are sure to shed much light on the past. We are most grateful for her gift and wish her well when she moves to Harden.

### Donations

As well as the donations for Land Title Research, generous donations for general use by the Society have also been recently received from Troath Gregson (UK), Alison Vaughan (Sydney) and John and Kay Valder (Sydney) for which the Society are most grateful.

Mary Reynolds, Public Officer

*The Society is extremely fortunate to have Mary Reynolds as its Research Officer and we are greatly indebted to her for the time, interest and skill that she brings to this as well as to many other tasks. Much of Mary's time is taken up with answering queries, talking to people about past history and communicating and negotiating with groups and associations such as the local Council, the NSW Heritage Office, Australian Historical Society and the Museums and Galleries Foundation.*

## Extracts from the Treasurer's Report to the Members Meeting May 2005

### Membership

The Society's financial membership over the eight years since incorporation peaked at two hundred and four and presently stands at one hundred and ninety-five. Please find a membership renewal form enclosed along with this newsletter. We look forward to receiving your renewal over the next few weeks.

Two of our highly valued and hard-working foundation members, Bruce and Susanna Gailey, have moved away from Mt Irvine to South West Rocks and we wish them all the best in their new location.

## Society Activities

### Permanent Signs

As was reported in the last newsletter, the Society has received funding from the NSW Ministry for the Arts for two permanent signs. One of the signs, for the entrance to the Turkish Bath Museum precinct, will contain a description of the building as well as opening times and contact details. A second sign, showing a historical map of the heritage listed buildings and sites around the village, will be erected at the Mt Wilson Village Hall. Work is progressing on both of these structures and we hope they will be in place before the end of this year.

### Cultural Heritage

It is of concern to our Society, as it is to others within the Blue Mountains region, that the Blue Mountains City Council does not have a Cultural Heritage Policy, does not have funding available in its present budget for heritage matters and does not employ anyone in the position of Heritage advisor. Professor Barrie Reynolds, an experienced international consultant in museums and heritage matters, actively took up this issue and approached all organisations in our area with an interest in history and heritage with the suggestion they contact the Council to encourage a collective meeting aimed at bringing about a proper awareness of heritage within the Council.

This Society, amongst others, wrote to the Council in support of Professor Reynolds' proposals and on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2005 a meeting took place at the Council, chaired by the Council Recreation Officer, Jan Yardy. Taking the form of a workshop, the gathering was designed to generate input into the development of a Cultural Heritage Strategy for the Blue Mountains.

In attendance from this Society were Mary Reynolds and Florence Smart and they were joined by representatives from many historical societies in the region, as well as Mr John Low, Library Manger from the Local Studies Centre at Springwood, Prof Ian Jack, Head of the Heritage Review Panel, Ms Pam Hubert, a Conservation Architect and member of the Heritage Review Panel and Dr Peter Stanbury, a museum specialist. Also present was Mr Elton Menday, a Council Strategic Planner responsible for heritage for the Blue Mountains City Council.

Although there was considerable emphasis placed on what could be achieved in the next five or ten years, there was not so much discussion about the problems we face now. However, there was agreement that an organisation should be formed, which would represent all those present, with the aim of strengthening our negotiating position with the Council. Minutes from this meeting will be produced and we will be kept informed. We are heartened that at least the problem is finally being dealt with publicly.

### Land Title Research and Grant

A great deal of time and energy continues to be given to researching the Land Titles for the original 62 portions surveyed in 1868. This project is partially funded by a grant of \$1000 from the Archival Grants of the Royal Australian Historical Society. Last year 6 portions were researched and this year another 12 portions have been documented. The costs to the Society far exceed the amount of the grant; however, this work has already proved invaluable in our historical research. We now know with far greater accuracy where Du Faur's shack was likely to have been; probably not far from the Tulip Tree Tea Room. Shasta Lodge was certainly owned by William Holman but he had nothing to do with the building of Eastcote nor did his

### Opening Times of the Turkish Bath

The Turkish Bath Museum is open to the public from 12noon to 3:00pm on the third Sunday of every month throughout the year, plus every Saturday and Sunday during the spring and autumn. Group tours are welcome, by arrangement, and can include an informative walking tour along the Avenue. Light lunches and teas can also be provided by arrangement. Contact Mary Reynolds for information and bookings.



colleague David Hall. It is fascinating to discover land was purchased by Henry Marcus Clark when he first arrived in Mt Wilson in about 1910. Another interesting feature is the existence of so many lanes in the original survey which today appear to have vanished. There remains some confusion over the early ownership of property in Queens Avenue particularly affecting Portions 11 and 12. If any member of the Society and/or owner of property would be interested in having copies of the titles relevant to their property we would be happy to provide these for a negotiated fee.

All donations towards the costs of this important work are most welcome and the recent generous donations from Mt Wilson residents Bill and Maureen Ryan and Helen and Barry Freeman were greatly appreciated.

#### **Draft Heritage Review of Mount Wilson - Report to the Blue Mountains City Council**

The Blue Mountains City Council has circulated a Draft Heritage Review of Mt Wilson for comment from interested parties. Considerable time was spent at the beginning of this year reviewing this document and making corrections where required. These corrections were submitted to the Council in February 2005. As yet there has been no indication of when these recommendations (and others) will be dealt with by the Council. Meanwhile the LEP (Local Environment Plan) 1991 continues to be the current legal document for Environmental Heritage Conservation.

It is worthwhile noting that the hair-pin bend section of the road when entering Mt Wilson is part of the Mt Wilson Conservation Precinct; a fact which the Council appeared to overlook when it reconstructed the bank on that part of the road earlier this year.

#### **Turkish Bath Museum**

This autumn has been another successful time for opening our Museum regularly on weekends, together with the wonderful success of the Jazz Concert and the opening of the Wynstay Gardens over the Anzac weekend. Special thanks go to Darrel and Leith Conybeare, Helen and John Cardy and to Arthur Delbridge and Florence Smart for work on the Precinct prior to the concert. The stage is now just as we want it and is most impressive.

On 15<sup>th</sup> May we welcomed 22 members of the Horbury Hunt Club to a tour of the Turkish Bath and the Avenue and we provided lunch in the Village Hall. Our guests were delighted with the experience and were warm in their praise. The Society received about \$470 for this event, which demonstrates the value of group tours. In the spring we have 2 bookings for 14<sup>th</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2005.

A very important part of our income is keeping the Turkish Bath Museum open to the public. Helen Cardy continues to organise the roster for its opening and it would be greatly appreciated if members could volunteer to help with staffing the open days to lighten the load for others. The Museum opening hours are 12:00pm to 3:00pm on the designated days and a clear orientation is provided for those not familiar with the building.

#### **Exhibitions**

There is a fine exhibition on the Gregson family, created by Alison Halliday and Robin Leonard, now on display in the Turkish Bath Museum. The Society is also very grateful to Alison for her purchase from the Mitchell Library of a copy of the Diary of Jesse Gregson and for her generosity in giving it to the Society. It is a very valuable document and we have been hoping to obtain it for years. Equally significant was the presence in the Turkish Bath on the Anzac weekend of Emma Winn, the youngest daughter of Troath Winn (née Gregson), who lives in the UK and Meg Fromel (née Gregson) from Killcare (NSW). Both gave a defining new dimension to the Gregson Exhibition, providing the many visitors with colourful background and