



# Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society

Newsletter N° 30

February 2015

## Membership

A vibrant and active Society relies on its members.

To continue receiving this newsletter, please renew your membership – we need you!

Please contact the President, Zaharah Braybrooke

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## President's Annual Report for 2014

At the November 2013 Annual General meeting, John and Zaharah Braybrooke, Pauline Michell, Mary Reynolds and myself put our names down to join the Society's Management Committee for 2014, and we were assisted throughout the year by Tim Gow, Florence Smart and Alison Halliday. The Management Committee met three times, in January, May and September.

This small group kept the Society going as best we could, and our main goals were to run the Turkish Bath Museum on the weekend, produce the newsletter, respond to external enquiries, ensure that the Society's finances continued to remain in a healthy state, and to take mid-week historical tours through the Museum and along The Avenue. The Society hosted visits from the Kurrajong Heights Garden Club in May, and the Sydney Bike Training Group, Hawks Nest and District Probus Club and the National Trust of New South Wales during September and October; with each tour comprising 35 and 40 visitors. The Museum was opened on ten Sundays throughout the year (we closed during the winter months).

The Sunday opening of the Museum was our core activity, with attendance varying from three to over thirty at any one time. The Patrick White exhibition continues to draw a large number of enquiries from all over the place, and this shows that the Society's web page has proven to be a very useful tool. One aspect of the exhibition that has been mentioned to me throughout the year is that the DVD is unavailable, as we have sold all of the copies, so the Society needs to have more copies produced to avoid disappointment. Early in the year, the Society received advice from the Federal Department of the Environment (the department that provided the grant for the Patrick White exhibition) that we had underspent on some of our allowable expenses in terms of the grant and that this amount would need to be reimbursed to the Department. We underspent \$1730.14. The Society repaid the Department in July.

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Members will recall that in 2012, the Society provided a \$5000 scholarship to Georgina Loveridge and Lorraine Burdett, PhD students at the universities of Sydney and New South Wales respectively, both of whom were well advanced in the preparation of their theses on Patrick White. News recently received indicates that Georgina will finish in March next year. Unfortunately, Lorraine has had to withdraw from her study due to illness. There is an offer to refund half the scholarship (\$2500), however the Management Committee has decided that this would not be necessary as our finances are in a good shape and that the money would still be available if Lorraine returns to her studies once she has recovered from her illness.

As you can see from the audited accounts, the Society's financial status is sound. There are no major outstanding payments to be made, however membership fees for 2015 are now due and with the visitor entrance fees to the Museum these fees are the main sources of the Society's income. In May, we received a very generous donation of \$1000 from Dot Smart, who lives in California. I wrote to thank her for the donation and provided news on the Society and our latest activities.

We produced only one newsletter (No. 29) this year, in February, and not one in August, as has been the case for many years. Hopefully, next year the Society will return to two editions per year. All of our *Newsletters* (No.1 - No. 29, August 1997-February 2014) and the *Historical Papers* (No. 1- No.14, from February 2001) are now available on the Society's web page. Local historian Andy Macqueen has submitted an article entitled 'Wollangambe: The River that's Really a Mountain', for consideration as a publication in our *Historical Papers* series.

The Society was approached by the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations (BMACHO) with a request to join a new program called The Heritage Trail. The idea is that various historical societies and heritage groups within the Mountains participate in Common Open Days throughout the year (the first Saturday in January, April, July and October) and there would be tours, which would be organised and publicised by BMACHO, to look at the place of interest offered by participant members of the heritage trail. In our case it would be the Turkish Bath Museum. I have informed BMACHO that the Society will join this program at a fee of \$50 and that our Common Open Days would be the first Saturday in April and October.

Ellis Reynolds and Emeritus Professor Arthur Delbridge AO, foundation and Honorary Life members of the Society and long-term residents of Mt Wilson, passed away in July and October, respectively. Ellis and Arthur gave outstanding service to the Society and to the Mounts community generally. I presented eulogies on behalf of the Society at the funeral services for both men. The Society extends its sympathy to Elly Gunn on the passing of Alan. Alan was a long-term resident of Mt Irvine. A memorial service for Alan was held in the Mt Wilson church on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

I have been wearing the President's hat now for six years and I've been a member of the Management Committee for the same length of time. But it's time for me to step away from both roles, effective from the conclusion of this AGM. I shall, however, continue as a member of the Society, take tours through the Museum and hopefully write more articles for our publications (as I hope all of you will!). We have a first-class historical society, now in its eighteenth year, and I would like to see it grow and prosper well into the future. It has been a pleasure to play a role in the Society. My fellow Management Committee Members, who have served the Society during my time as President, have taught me well and I thank them all for their commitment to the Society.

Throughout the year, the Society has received assistance from many people in addition to the members of the Management Committee and associates mentioned at the beginning of this report. Wendy Holland, Margaret Dean, Milba Kirk, and Suzanne Bassett, provided so much valuable help in many ways. To those who have helped with today's Annual General Meeting, thank you, and if I haven't mentioned anyone specifically, but should have, thank you too.

## Research Report 2014

Strictly speaking this report, which will be brief, is unofficial as last year I resigned from that position. However circumstances are such that to assist I felt that a report was needed to maintain the status of the Society and hopefully to encourage local people to join the committee for 2015.

You would appreciate that this year has not been an easy one. The loss of my beloved Ellis in July has left a wide gap in my life. He was my strength and guide for 62 years.

May I express my gratitude to all those who sent messages to me and the family, or attended the funeral. Those thoughts made it possible for me to carry on as Ellis would have wanted.

In a curious and fragmented way I have been involved in research on various fronts. Naturally it has been rather erratic. Not long after I moved to Wentworth Falls in January 2014 leaving behind our precious home of Donna Buang in Church lane Mt Wilson I was contacted to assist people who were involved in research connected in some way with Mt Wilson or Mt Irvine.

Among those was Dr Peter Rickwood, with whom I have had a long and close association. Peter spends many hours in the Mitchell library and the Sate Library and is an endless source of information especially about any discoveries related to Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine. For example he put together the list of ratepayers in Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine over the many years going back decades. Now that invaluable list is in our archives.

More recently he discovered that a lady known as Elizabeth Knight Brown had been a Guest house proprietor in Blackheath. You would be aware that Peter produced an excellent history of Blackheath some years ago. Bessie Knight Brown, as she was called, came from Mt Irvine. She was known as a delightful personality, an active lady and a gracious human being. While I was not able to provide her background prior to joining her brother Basil at Mt Irvine, I was able to give Peter the names of relatives he could contact and consult. Now with Peter's meticulous research there is a fine article about Bessie Knight Brown awaiting publication in our next newsletter. [This will be published as an Occasional Paper later in 2015 – Ed.]

Some weeks ago, the Blue Mountains Conservation Society advertised two lectures to be held in the Wentworth School of Arts. The first was about the History and Geography of the Wollangambe River to be presented by Andy Macqueen and the second about the Pollution of the Wollangambe by Dr Ian Wright from the University of West Sydney. We are fortunate to have Dr Wright with us today. Naturally my interest was aroused as the Wollangambe is an integral part of the history of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine.

I attended both lectures along with my good friends Helen and John Cardy. The hall was packed. The lectures were excellent and aroused much interest and concern too for the protection of the Wollangambe. Andy Macqueen had come to see me prior to the lectures to show me how his research had found that the word Wollangambe had indeed been used not for the river but for the mountain now known as Mt Irvine on an earlier survey map by a surveyor Ogilvie.

It is very pleasing that Andy has offered his paper to the Society to be published as an Occasional Paper. [This was published on the Mt Wilson community website – Ed.] We invited him to speak at our AGM but unfortunately he is in Tasmania. Nevertheless, we are very grateful to Dr Ian Wright for his presence here today along with his student.

Finally, in spite of many difficulties, I have been working on the stories behind the Mt Wilson Progress Association in 1960s and 1970s and also the challenges for the community in those decades. Included too is the Parents and Citizens Association which indirectly tells the story of the Mt Wilson School.

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In 1968 the centenary of the settlement of Mt Wilson was held. Included in those festivities was a truly magnificent display, and exhibition in the village hall, of flowers and antique furniture largely created by the residents of that time. Ellis took many photos, copies of which are in our collection.

What about the garden openings in those days? Did they take place as they do today? Was it very different? Towards the end of the 60s I have a vivid memory. Ellis and I arrived in 1966. We passed the home of Mrs Kirk senior (Mary). She was standing at her gate .She curtsied! What does that tell us of those times and the values held?

I do hope you will continue to support the Society. It has achieved so much since the 1990s. Do not let us forget the Turkish Bath Museum, a valuable and special part of this community.

A special thank you to Des Barrett for his strong leadership over the past six years and his guidance and expertise and endless patience.

Mary B. Reynolds

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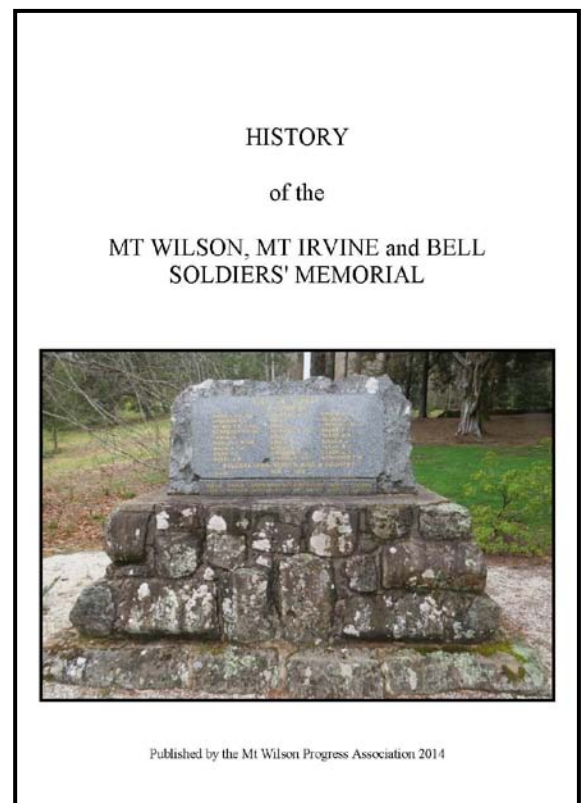
## War Memorial Booklet

A revised edition of the booklet exploring the history of the War Memorial, originally published by the Historical Society, was distributed to all resident of Mt Irvine, Mt Wilson and bell to honour the centenary of the outbreak of WWI.

If you would like a copy, (or a second copy) please contact Alison Halliday, 9389 1848, or by email to [alisonhalliday@gmail.com](mailto:alisonhalliday@gmail.com).



Wreath laid at the memorial during the 2014 Remembrance Day service



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## It is Not as Clean as You Think

The Society's guest speaker at the AGM in 2014 was Dr Ian Wright from the School of Natural Sciences at the University of Western Sydney who gave a fascinating and illuminating talk focusing on the types and amount of pollution from the Clarence coal mine which flows into the seemingly pristine waters of the Wollangambe River. This is, unfortunately, a mainly negative story

Dr Wright touched on his previous explorations such as that of the Wentworth Falls sewerage plant which had to be fixed in order to get World Heritage listing. The big picture is not entirely negative as it has been shown in other creeks in the Blue Mountains that pollution damage can be reversed in only a few years, due mainly to the amount of flow down these watercourses, and to the surrounding bushland which gives a ready supply of plant seed material. However the sewerage from the Blackheath works which flowed into Hat Hill Creek and then into the Grose River, along with the pollutants from the 'Canyon' coal mine, show a still-active plume of zinc and nickel pollution though closed in 1997. About 50% of the flow of the Grose River comes from drainage from the coal mine.



Dr Wright went on to look more closely at the state of the Wollangambe River. Everything that he said was closely supported by thoroughly supported facts. He commented that such scientific rigour was essential if mine owners and management were to change their policy. He also reinforced that much of current practice was legal under current legislation, so criteria should be made far more rigorous. And in the case of the Wollangambe River some polluting minerals were not even on the EPA approval licence.

The Clarence coal mine is very poorly regulated, and is, as we know, in a most sensitive area. The Wollangambe River, with its headwaters rising near Gooch's Crater river must protected and celebrated. It is a wild river, flowing freely down to the Colo River once below the coal mine. Above the mine it is merely a trickle but below the mine the flow is substantially increased; most of what we see flows from the mine. The Clarence coal mine is underground so it produces a lot of waste water, and it is in this water that the residual polluting metals are to be found.

The main pollutants are temperature, the mine contributes at least 4 degrees C., salinity, nickel and zinc. Pollutants are also leached from the surrounding geology by sulphuric acid from the mine. Essentially all these radically alter the total environment of the river system, flora disappears or is restricted in growth and density; and fauna disappears. This is seen in the river food chain from caddis and may fly larva, which are extremely sensitive to any alteration from the norm above the mine, to larger animals such as lizards, snakes, frogs and platypus. The river is struggling – a position that is not acceptable. Nevertheless it is reversible and some changes may be possible through tighter regulations.

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## Ellis Reynolds and the Historical Society

The following is an extract from a recollection of Ellis Reynolds' life at Mt Wilson. The editor thanks Mary Reynolds for allowing it to be published.

Ellis was closely involved with the formation of the Historical Society and becoming its treasurer for many years from 1997 until well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Historical Society began as a subcommittee of the Progress Association in 1994. With the generosity of Bill and Jane Smart and the regular opening of Wynstay's gardens and the Turkish Bath in the Autumn and Spring from 1995 until 1999 an independent Historical Society was formed in 1996-7. Again this did not occur without opposition. The Historical Society can look back on some notable achievements in the past 17 years not least the establishment of the Turkish Bath Museum and many fine exhibitions, the most recent being the Patrick White Exhibition in 2012 opened by the Governor of NSW Dame Marie Bashir, and its 11 years of Happy Jazz Concerts held first in Wynstay and then in the Turkish Bath Precinct. Arthur Delbridge and Florence Smart [sister of Bill] were vital role players in those years.

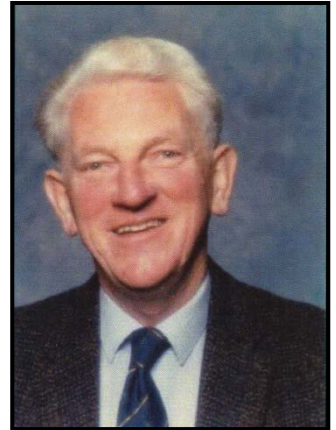
Mary Reynolds

## Ellis George Reynolds

The following eulogy for Ellis Reynolds is a slightly edited version of that written by his son, John Ellis Reynolds, and delivered at the funeral service for Ellis on 1 August 2014.

**Ellis George Reynolds** was born in 1925 in Drummoyne, to Adrienne Mercedes and George Reynolds. His only sibling Nea was then almost three. Not long after they moved to Broadway, renting the top floor of the National Bank in Broadway. His father worked at Grace Bros behind the counter and later as a caretaker. Dad would tell me how his father was asked once by a customer to gift-wrap a rocking horse.

He attended Glebe Primary (there were often 60 pupils in the class) and was one of only four in his year to do well enough in the Finals to attend High School. In those days there was a Primary Final exam in 6<sup>th</sup> Class. Things have certainly changed there. He did well at North Newtown Intermediate High becoming Dux in 1940 which meant he could complete his final two years of High School at Fort St High where again he did well. He particularly loved history but (nearly) always came second to Neville Wran, much to his annoyance. On the other hand he showed no aptitude for manual arts and was banned from woodworking for 'wasting government materials'.



He was head of the ISCF (Inter School Christian Fellowship) at Fort St continuing a lifelong interest in the Bible and religion. As most of you know Ellis had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Bible which he could produce at the drop of a hat. He attributed this to being sent to his room to read the Bible by his mother whenever he was a bad boy. I don't think this can be the full story unless he was a very bad boy indeed.

When he was about 10 he was diagnosed with pneumonia and on doctors' advice his parents bought a cottage in Leura. It became known in the family as The Cabin. They all travelled by steam train as often as they could to Leura. The Cabin established Dad's strong connection with Leura and the Blue Mountains.

He sat for the Leaving Certificate in 1942, the year that the midget submarines attacked Sydney harbour, badly impacting house prices along the Harbour. He matriculated but didn't pass Latin, which he needed for Sydney University Arts degree, so had to work like a Trojan over the Christmas break to pass the Matric Exam in February. He was nothing if not tenacious and dedicated.

Enrolled for Arts at Sydney Uni in 1943, he was called up shortly afterwards. He applied to be a pilot but failed the medical and was drafted into the Army, joining the 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF. The Army decided to train him as Radar Mechanic, operating and maintaining coastal radar down the East Coast. The training took him to Wallangarra on the Queensland border which was as far north as he got. He also served at Fort Scratchley (Newcastle) but to his chagrin (relief) was on leave when it was shelled. In the Army he served with diverse mixture of provocative and intelligent comrades who transformed and radicalised his view of the world.

Demobbed as Lance Sergeant in 1947 he enrolled for a Science Degree at Sydney University, switching to Arts the next year to combine maths and history. In 1950 he completed a Dip.Ed. at Sydney Teachers College. He loved university life and was an active student; serving on the Student Council, active in the Sydney Labour Club and music critic for *Honi Soit* (University Paper). It was at Sydney University that he met Mary and after a couple of years dilly-dallying finally proposed to her in 1951. Mary says that in those days she felt overwhelmed by the presence of all the ex-fighting personnel with sadness and loss in their eyes, a barrier which was hard to reach across.

Embarking on his chosen career as a teacher in 1951 Ellis took his first prac., being told by one supervisor that his efforts on the black board had destroyed forever any ability his students had for writing clearly. A family trait! His first teaching appointment was at Wyong, under Principal Bill Gollan, a noted radical and great character. The teachers knew their place in those days and drank with the timber workers, Mary notes.

After a term at Wyong he was suddenly moved to Cooma as a science teacher, just as the Snowy Scheme was starting. He liked to tell a story of how the ink froze in the ink wells. This may be apocryphal but if you needed any water for science experiments you had to remember to fill the bucket the evening before. Dad collected many great stories about teaching over the years. He transferred to Forbes Intermediate High in 1952 to be at the same school as Mary who had agreed to marry him. Neither enjoyed the experience greatly with accommodation in separate boarding houses but one of the problems. This was also a year of a big flood and Dad told me how he had to carry Mary across the flooded road bridge over the Lachlan River with wriggling brown snakes floating past. Travelling back and forth to Forbes they managed to get married in Lindfield and they also managed to get pregnant with Susan despite the inconvenient accommodation arrangements.

In term 3 he was transferred to Parramatta Junior Boys High, which later became Macquarie Boys High. He spent seven very happy years there as a maths teacher, again under the inspiring leadership of Bill Gollan. Ellis recalled one particularly heated staff meeting had reached an impasse when Bill suddenly rose to his feet and invited everyone to a round of drinks at the pub. From 1956 he began lecturing in the evenings at Granville Tech to mechanical and electrical engineering students many of whom had shown little interest in maths at school.

In 1960 he moved to Fort St High where he coached the First 15. Another of his favourite stories was of a departing teacher Edgar Ford, who in his farewell speech advised the principal to get some backbone and stand behind his staff, and not to be spineless. This is the sort of 'stand up and be counted' directness Dad loved. By this time Mary and he had another two children- me and my sister Jane.

In 1962 Ellis was promoted to Asquith Boys High as Maths master, where he remained for 18 years. Over this time he continued to get involved in a broad range of activities becoming a member of the School Certificate Syllabus Committee, and was an examiner. With the advent of the HSC in 1967 he was in charge of setting and marking the Level 3 HSC Maths exams for the next seven years. He enjoyed his work on these committees and the lively debates with reps from the Universities and the private and Catholic school systems. At a special meeting called by the famous Dr Wyndham, Professor Blatt from UNSW told those gathered that the Wyndham Scheme had been a complete disaster and then sat down. This was one of Ellis's favourite 'tell it like it is' stories.

He became Deputy at Asquith in 1974 and somewhat reluctantly stood down from his work in Syllabus and Exams committees to give someone else a turn. Unfortunately later that same year he collapsed at School and was diagnosed with a brain tumour. With characteristic tenacity and courage of his convictions he recovered from the major surgery and made a successful return to work and was able to gain List 4 meaning he was eligible to become a principal. In 1979 Ellis had a heart attack from which again he determined to recover walking many kilometres each morning.

In 1980 he applied for and accepted the position as Principal at Leeton High in the Riverina. I know he enjoyed his four years as principal in Leeton, putting into practice all the experience he had gained from his role models throughout his career. In the community of Leeton he and Mary made friends who remain loyal and devoted as they were in those days.

In 1984 he and Mary decided to call it quits and retire to their holiday cottage at Mt Wilson, which they had bought when Mum and Dad fell accidentally in love with it on a casual Sunday afternoon drive in Easter 1966. Mary had to return to work to pay for it but we got great value

from it as the family spent just about every weekend there for many years. Both Ellis and Mary pursued active roles in the Mt Wilson community for the next quarter of a century, serving in the Progress Association, the Bush fire Brigade and helping to found the Historical Society among others. This culminated in one of Ellis's proudest moments when in 2011 at Government House Marie Bashir presented Mary an OAM for services to the Community.

At Mt Wilson Dad was able to pursue his lifelong interest in music and reading, and became part of a CSIRO bird-banding programme, fulfilling a long held interest in birds and wildlife. Penning finely crafted but blunt letters to various authorities also took up a portion of his retirement. After 27 years in his dream home he was forced reluctantly to accept full-time care in a nursing home, where he was for two years.

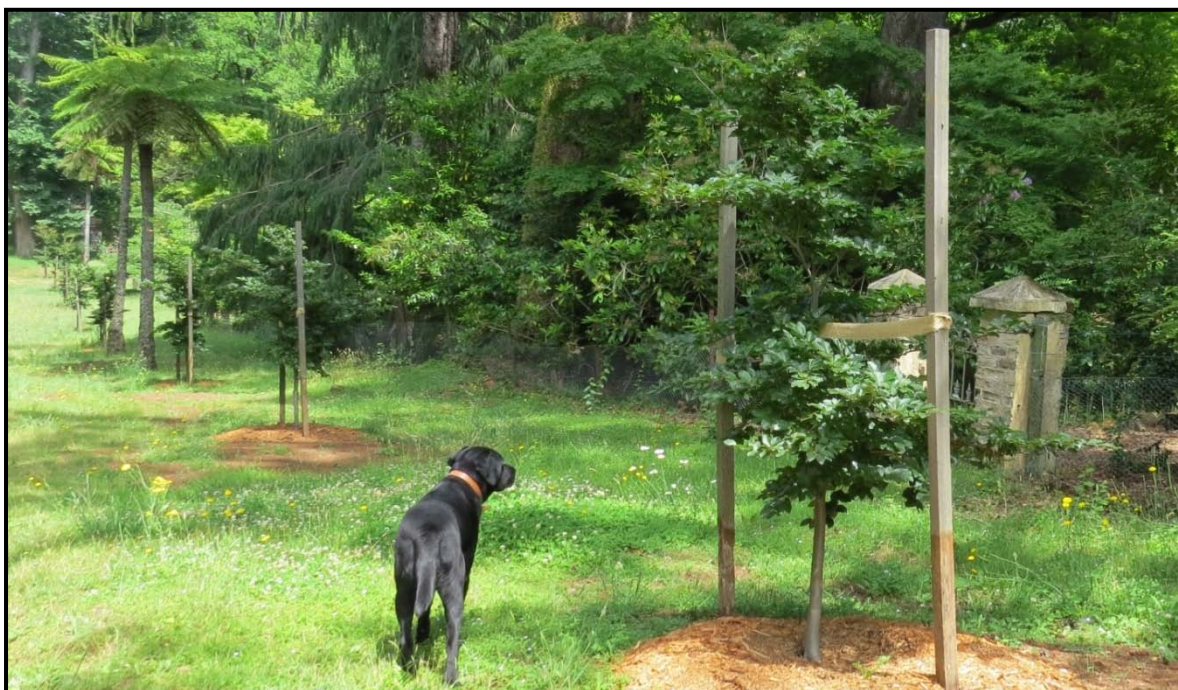
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## Trees in The Avenue

In late spring 2014, 11 new beech trees were planted in The Avenue, on the north side from the corner of Church Lane down the hill to the bottom of the dip. The wind storm in 2011, which saw the destruction of some of the original trees, plus senescence and the effects of lightning strikes meant that the general condition of this group of trees was not good. They formed part of the original planting of trees in The Avenue carried out in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The group of founding families who organised The Avenue desired not only to make the mountain more beautiful but realised that they were planting for the future. For over 100 years the trees grew to be a significant feature of the village.



The decision to remove them was not taken lightly; but it was inevitable that it would be necessary at some stage. Blue Mountains City Council organised an arborist's report which confirmed that many were at the end of their life. It was decided that green beech trees were the most suitable replacement and so sturdy young trees were sourced and planted last year. Our lovely new beeches will grow to give pleasure to many future generations of residents and visitors. This too is a moment in history.



The newly planted beech trees on The Avenue (Curly the labrador for scale)

## Emeritus Professor Arthur Delbridge AO (1921-2014)

The following eulogy was delivered by Des Barrett on the occasion of the funeral service for Emeritus Professor Arthur Delbridge AO, at Leura on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2014.

I first met Arthur when I joined the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society in 2005, but well before then I knew of him, at least by name, through a wide range of publications of which the best known is, of course, the *Macquarie Dictionary* – as founding editor and as Emeritus Professor of Linguistics at Macquarie University. Apart from the *Dictionary*, my first brush with Arthur's published work was when I stumbled across an article I was reading on Patrick White at the time of his passing in 1990 in the journal *Quadrant*. In an earlier issue of the same year, there was an article by Arthur called 'Usage and Style', a witty and erudite piece in which he said, among other things: 'Naturally I worried about which should come first in my chicken-and-egg title: usage then style? Or style then usage? And I worried about the risks of exposing my own style, on such a subject, to the glee of carping readers. Though as to that, perhaps the Editor will already have taken me to the laundry, to remove the spots, iron out the wrinkles, mend the tears, even sanitise the whole piece' and, in a short article 'Naming Places and Placing Names', which appeared in the November 2004 edition of the *Newsletter* of the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society, he raised a further chuckle by saying: 'Some of you will undoubtedly remember the recent formal change made to the old name Farrer Road, to the anguish of some Farrer Road residents. Those with longer memories know about the dispute over the name *Hillcrest Lane*. That was, and still is, the official name, with an official-looking sign post *in situ*. But one resident wanted a different name. So under cover of the dark someone pulled down the sign post and put up the other name. Next night, someone else put the old name back. How long this interchange went on for I don't remember, but the two incidents show how deeply people can feel about place names'. Local sign post intrigues were not the only matters over which Arthur cast a keen and critical eye, for horses too got a look in, when he reviewed local author Fiona Carruther's book *The Horse in Australia*. Arthur's scholarship was laced with charm, grace and wit, which were characteristic features of the man.

I knew too, and this goes way back, that Arthur had joined Alex Mitchell, the McCaughey Professor of Early English Literature and Language and Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of Sydney. Arthur was, in the 1950s, a Lecturer in the Department of English at Sydney, and prior to that they had published, with Angus and Robertson in 1946, *The Pronunciation of English in Australia*. Both men were interested in Australian speech and in the late 1950s and early 1960s they recorded the speech of many thousands of final year secondary school students with the aim of arriving at a classification of speech differences in Australia based upon speech type and the social and economic background of the students. This was a massive and original investigation, the first of its kind in Australia certainly and, I seem to recall, the study used the University's SILLIAC computer, then one of the world's first major computers that was designed for the storage and quick retrieval of large chunks of data. The study revealed that there were several varieties of spoken English, distinguishable by differences in the vowels used by the students.

After Sydney, Arthur moved to Macquarie in 1967 when the University opened its doors, and there he attained the rank of Emeritus Professor, was the Founding Director of the Dictionary Research Centre and the first Chair of the original Editorial Committee, and for about 28 years held the post of Editor-in-Chief of the *Dictionary*, the first edition of which appeared in 1981. Along the way, his other books included: *The Speech of Australian Adolescents: A Survey* and *The Pronunciation of English* (both with Alex Mitchell, 1965); *Introduction to Linguistics: An Australian Perspective* (with J. Bernard, 1980); *Aussie Talk: The Macquarie Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms* (1984); *The International Dictionary for all Australians* (1986), and *The Macquarie Encyclopedic Dictionary: The National Dictionary* (1990). On top of all this, in 1986 Arthur chaired the ABC's Standing Committee on Spoken English, reviewed books, wrote journal articles, gave lectures and delivered conference papers. He retired from his full time work in 1985. Arthur received the Order of Australia in 1988.

Far away from the demands of university life, Arthur came to Mt Wilson in 1967 and eventually built a holiday cottage known as Westring. He was deeply embedded in community life and gave much of his time and resources to the Mt Wilson Community History Group, as it was called when established in late 1996. By the time I became a Historical Society member, and was formally introduced to Arthur, I was to learn that right at the Society's beginning he had organised and curated an exhibition of paintings by the late Jean Delbridge. The paintings were sold and the proceeds of \$10,000 were donated to the Mt Wilson Community History Group – an extraordinary gesture. Before Arthur retired from the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society in 2009 and in recognition of his many outstanding local achievements he accepted the rare award of Honorary Life Membership of the Society in 2010.

There were other activities that, for me, showed Arthur at his very best in the Mounts community and to name three; his annual Remembrance Day talks and publications, his engagement with the late Luigi Strano of Mt Wilson, and his talk in the Village Hall to a packed audience on the making of the *Macquarie Dictionary*. After the traditional service of Remembrance on the 11<sup>th</sup> November of each year at the Mt Wilson War Memorial, those attending would walk the short distance to the Village Hall and listen to Arthur and others talk about the people from the Mounts and Bell who had served in World War 1, World War 11 and Vietnam; and for those he couldn't attend Arthur would then write an article for the Historical Society on the service and wartime life behind the names that appeared on the Memorial. Between 2005 and 2009, he wrote on many of the 36 lives of those men and women from the community - what it meant to them and their families when they went to distant lands to fight and die in those appalling conflicts. It was, as Arthur said, a roll call, in large measure, of the early settlers: Gregson; Mann; Morley; Scrivener; Kirk; Valder; Gunn; Wynne; and Knight-Brown.

There were his shared interests with the Italian poet and writer Luigi Strano (1913-2009) - two scholars with widely different life histories who found their way to Mt. Wilson. Strano came to Australia in 1929 and was one of a prominent group of the first generation of Italian-Australian poets. Publishing about twenty volumes of poetry from the late 1950s to the early 2000s, and being able to converse in English, Latin, Greek, German and Spanish, he had also amassed a huge library of Italian and English literature covering the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, which, Arthur told me, held about 4000 books. Luigi Strano purchased a property in Mt Wilson in 1971, wrote poems about the place, and lived there with his sister Elvira. Arthur wrote an article on Strano in 2006, and fittingly it was published in the Society's *Newsletter*.



'Our Words, the History of an Enterprise', was Arthur's last major contribution to the Society and the Mounts community. In October 2008, he told a story of how he began his long journey with the *Macquarie Dictionary*, its aims, how he put together the research team, and the personal and professional challenges that consumed him for a quarter of a century. It was a fascinating and engaging account of how a type of book, Australia's own dictionary, was created.

I spoke with Arthur a few years ago at a Market Day weekend in the Village Hall at Mt Wilson. It was to be our last engagement. He was thumbing through a book of poems by the Australian poet Robert Gray, which he had picked out from a pile of old and neglected books on the table. After noting that Gray had received the 1990 Patrick White Award, I mentioned that his own published article, 'Usage and Style', had appeared in the same year as Gray's award, and White's passing. Thus by a strange co-incidence of time we shared our last words on three events that had brought us together, if indirectly, so many years ago.

To Florence, family and relatives, on behalf of the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society, I extend our sympathies on Arthur's passing.

## 11 November 2014



Ruth and Bill Scrivener, Helen Naylor and Mary Reynolds during Alison Halliday's 2014 Remembrance Day talk

### Introduction

As we all know 2014 marks 100 years since the start of World War I. I wish to talk numbers for a bit:

- Australian population 1914–18: approximately 4.9 million
- Australia officially entered the war 4 August 1914, when Britain declared war against Germany.
- The monetary reserves in the whole of the Commonwealth amounted to approximately £45,000,000<sup>1</sup>.
- By 1918 there were 22 allied nations and four enemy nations<sup>2</sup>.
- Around 420,000 Australians enlisted for service in the First World War, representing 38.7 per cent of the male population aged between 18 and 44.
- About 136,000 horses left Australia, only one returned. Sandy belonged to Major General Sir William Bridges, who was killed at Gallipoli.
- During the period 4 August 1914 to 11 November 1918 there were 59,357 deaths; more died before discharge from the AIF – formally disbanded on 31 March 1921<sup>3</sup>.
- 5,533 Australians fell in the first 24 hours of the attack at Fromelles, it was the worst day of fighting in the war for the Australians.
- On average, 38 members of the Australian armed forces died per day during the 1,560 days of the war.
- 63 Victoria Crosses were awarded to members of the Australian armed forces in World War I.
- As best I can estimate there may have been over 100 adults living at Bell, Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine in 1914. There are 27 names listed on the War Memorial for WWI, 3 people died.
- Three men were awarded the Military Cross and one was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (one of only 8,981 awarded throughout the Empire)<sup>4</sup>.

Medals awarded to Denys Hake OBE (father of Libby Raines) for his service in the British Army in WWI



Terrible as these figures are, it is only when we place names to these numbers that the true enormity of Australia's participation is realised. But, now we are 100 years since these events, we need more than names; we need to bring these people away from statistics and out of the silence.

The first of the 11 November ceremonies of remembrance at Mt Wilson was held in 2001, but it was 10 years ago in 2004 that Arthur Delbridge began our young tradition of talking about and remembering those whose names are listed on the War Memorial. Arthur died this year, so I think it is

appropriate for us all to remember his first question: who are all these people on the War Memorial? I will also remember him every time I use my Macquarie dictionary for which he was the editor-in-chief while Professor of Linguistics and Director of the Speech and Language Research Centre at Macquarie University. It was published in 1981.

As is the custom, I have chosen two names from the War Memorial, both from our group of first settlers<sup>5</sup> and both fought in WWI.



The Mt Wilson choir performing at the 2014 Remembrance Day service

**Edward Jesse Gregson** was born 26 April 1882<sup>6</sup>, at Newcastle where his father was the manager of the A.A. Company. (Note that his WWII record gives a date of birth as 26 April 1891). He was usually known as 'Greg.', but to avoid confusion I am going to refer to him as Edward. His father, Jesse Gregson, had built Yengo, on Queens Avenue as a summer holiday home for the family between 1878 and 1880. His mother was Catherine 'Katie' Maclean. Jesse Gregson, commented that 'we never missed a summer at Yengo, generally going there in early December and remaining till April. Yengo was to me, and to all the children, a home we were always glad to come to and sorry to leave'<sup>7</sup>.

The boys, Edward and his older brother William, were sent to school at All Saints College at Bathurst. The mother's diary notes that 'both my boys owe almost everything of their reverence for all that is good to the teaching they received and the example they saw at All Saints'. Both in turn served as head boys at this school and went on to Sydney University. Edward, graduated as Bachelor of Arts in 1903 and, like his older brother, went on to do engineering<sup>8</sup>. The Gregson family travelled widely and war broke out while Edward was in Canada where he was working as a draughtsman<sup>9</sup>; and he enlisted in the Canadian forces He describes himself in his attestation paper as an engineer<sup>10</sup>.

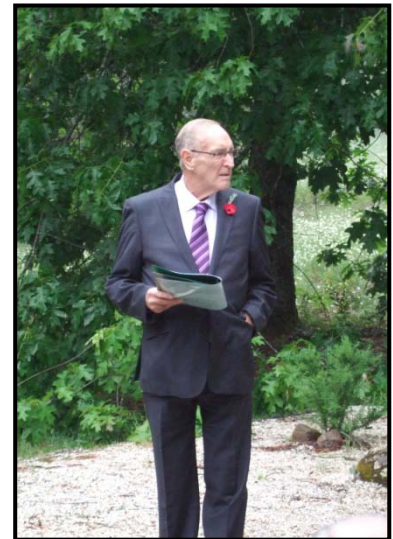
On enlisting he was 32 years and 7 months old and 6 feet 1 1/2 inches tall. He is described as having a 'swarthy' complexion, blue eyes and brown hair, His religion is given as Church of

England and he was already vaccinated (left arm). He was declared 'fit' for the overseas Canadian Expeditionary Force on 3 September 1914. A pencilled note on his record suggests that he joined the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade<sup>11</sup>. There were approximately 500 to 800 soldiers in a battalion, and three to five battalions made up a brigade (1500 to 4000 soldiers).

Unfortunately his full service record is not yet available. The Canadian government are digitalising their records as part of this year's centenary of the outbreak of WWI<sup>12</sup>. He served until 1918.

After the war Edward returned to Canada. There, in Schenectady, New York State, he worked in a mica factory, Mica Insulating Co. owned by Charles Wilkin Jefferson, for about eight years where he met Margaret, Jefferson's daughter. I do not know if he had been working there before WWI<sup>13</sup>. In 1920 they returned to Australia, married, and came immediately to live at Yengo. Edward and his wife Margaret lived there for three years (Jesse Gregson died in 1919) and then Yengo was sold to Fred Mann (1923). Edward and his wife then moved to the newly built Wyndham, named after the original surveyor of Mt. Wilson. It was built on land that was part of the original holdings of Yengo, but not sold with Yengo.

Edward and Margaret had three daughters, Helen, Meg and Troath. In the 1920s and 1930s he introduced his children to the delights of the bush around Mt Wilson, walking and picnicking. Helen describes them: 'the billy was boiled and sometimes chops grilled. Then there were the Bogey Holes, a series of dark waterholes overshadowed by rocks – there surely must be a bunyip'<sup>14</sup>.



Ron Green conducting the  
2014 Remembrance Day Service

At Wyndham Edward set up an apple orchard, mainly on the other side of the road, behind Yengo. As part of this business a packing shed was built adjacent to Wyndham; and later extended to become the cottage, Applecot. Like apple orchards elsewhere on the mountain it was unprofitable by the mid-1930s. I am deeply indebted to Helen Warliker's memoir *A Mount Wilson Childhood* for much of the following information. Who better to tell about the character and life of Edward Jesse Gregson than his daughter.

She wrote:

Dad's room was full of notebooks recording rain, and trees and plants identified in the bush, matters relating to the farm, and so on. He also kept a daily diary right up to the time of his death. The smell of paper, old and new, pervaded this room stuffed full of books and maps. Maps were one of his obsessions and some were his own work. Adjoining this room was his own shower with a hand pump and a kerosene tin for hot water. The mysterious workings of this shower were known only to dad, which was used exclusively by him.

Life in the Depression was hard and Helen comments that

Dad took us there [to the swamp below Ferny Corner] to help him collect sphagnum moss which he sold to nurseries and florists during the Depression. Today he would have been a 'Greenie' and frowned on such activity but there were 'bread and butter' issues to be confronted in those hard times.

There were small events that were typical of life on Mt Wilson in earlier days. For example:

The Gregson family pumped water from a dam on the creek (above from where the spring from Bebeah joined it) and she comments that the pump had 'a will of its own and there was a love/hate relationship between it and my father'.

There was the 'periodic' event in which [the] children participated, 'accompanying Dad on Sunday morning sometimes to Syd's house and sometimes to the mill. At Syd's house the hair cut took place on the verandah...The other hair cutting venue was at the mill when on a Sunday the machinery would be at a standstill.'

It was during the Depression and after the failure of the apple orchard that Edward's wife opened the tearoom at Chimney Cottage, helped by her father 'Daddo' and Emma Ashdown. Helen comments that:

Dad was often the chief washer-upper assisted by us children from time to time when we were not at school. He hated the job but had no choice as the orchard and farm no longer occupied him full time. However he performed these new duties stoically. My mother always said he was not cut out to be a farmer either, that he should have been a surveyor and she was probably right. His first love was the bush, and he might have found a career in this field also.

Edward continued his father's passionate interest in the botany of the indigenous plants with a focus on eucalypts, one of which bears his name: *Eucalyptus gregsoniana*<sup>15</sup>.

Edward was fully involved in community life. He was one of the three original trustees for the Post Office, he was an active member of the local church, ensuring that the services were continued; and he was a founding member of the Mount Wilson Group of the Blue Mountains Site Reserves, protecting various pieces of crown land around the mountain. He was the President of this group from the meeting in 1930 through to 1935, and he still maintained an active interest in the group, and the wider Mt Wilson community, for many years after he stepped down. He was also an active participant in the Progress Association.



Christopher Carey (grandson of Robert Chesney) playing The Last Post during the 2014 Remembrance Day service

In memory of his father and family on 7th June 1940, Edward gifted 3 roods of the Chimney Cottage property to His Majesty King George VI; this parcel of land in effect then became Crown Land and then Gregson Park.

On 13 March 1941 he enlisted in the army in WWII, becoming one of a group who served in both world wars. He gave his age then as 50 years and 11 months. Helen Warliker notes that he deliberately put his age back (by nine years!) in order to enlist<sup>16</sup>. It is recorded that he then had only two children (Helen and Meg). He gives his occupation as orchardist, despite the failure of the apple crops. He was 'taken on strength' and promoted to corporal. He served for 2 years and 135 days<sup>17</sup>, in a 'pen-pushing job in Sydney'<sup>18</sup>. On 27 July 1943 he was discharged for 'services no longer required [SNLR] for other than disciplinary reasons'<sup>19</sup>. A research officer at the Australian War Memorial told me that 'in 1943, the Army was downsizing and people who were from essential occupations were being discharged to go back into food production, in particular as they needed to support the Americans in the Pacific'<sup>20</sup>. His discharge papers note that the colour of his hair is grey. He may well have been discharged for compassionate reasons as his wife died

in 1943 and the third daughter, Troath was only young. For a brief period he then worked in 'his old profession as an engineer in the Department of Munitions before retiring'<sup>21</sup>.

Edward Gregson retreated to Applecot, having sold Wyndham in 1946, and it became his last mountain home, living there until 1955 when he died.

**Herbert Kirk's** middle names were Charles Leslie, and he was always called 'Bert'. He was born in 1894. He grew into a big man who was fond of animals and, by all accounts, had a quiet demeanour. Herbert (or Bert) was the fourth child, and the second eldest of the seven Kirk brothers, sons of Sydney William Kirk and Mary Marceau, who have now all passed on yet in much of the last century they played a constant and vital role in this community<sup>22</sup>. On his enlistment document he gives his occupation as gardener, which is the only evidence we have of his occupation before WWI.

Bert enlisted on 8 January 1916 when he was 21 years and 2 months. He is described as being just over 5 feet 9 inches, with light brown hair and hazel eyes. He has a small scar on his face and on his right hand as well as vaccination scars. His next of kin is his father, Sydney William George Kirk. He took his oath at Lithgow and was part of the second reinforcement for the 45th Battalion. His service number was 1707A (due to duplication of number) and he held the rank of Private.

He left Australia on 14 April on HMAT 'Ceramic'. By 31 September 1916 he had arrived in France and two weeks later he was 'in the field'. In June 1917 he suffered a gunshot wound to his right forearm, described as 'mild'. He was taken to Ilford Emergency Hospital in England, his father was informed by telegram received from Base Records on 21 June and by mail on 14 July 1917.



Herbert Kirks's WWI medals

On 9 February he re-joined his unit but in September he suffered a hernia, eventually being transferred to England. On 16 February 1918 he re-joined his battalion in the field. In April 1918 he was wounded for a second time, in his right thigh; again his father was advised, on 20 April 1918, simply that he had been 'wounded, 2<sup>nd</sup> occasion'. On 18 April he was discharged 'to AIBD' Australian Infantry Base Depot, and re-joined his unit on 17 May. On 5 November 1918 he was still with the battalion and was then granted leave to the UK on 18 January 1919<sup>23</sup>. He was lucky!

He set off back to Australia 12 May 1919 on the 'Port Napier', to be discharged on the 19 September 1919<sup>24</sup>.

During the war Bert made a money allocation to his mother, deducted from his army pay. It seems as though he was always a kind and thoughtful person<sup>25</sup>.

Herbert's name has recently been placed on the Garden of Remembrance Wall in Woden, ACT. This is a remembrance site for returned service men and women who died not on active service, but as a result of his service. It is a means of acknowledging their war service. Bert's name is placed with that of his older brother Syd<sup>26</sup>.

Bert married Mary Robb in 1925, she had been working as a house maid for Miss Sloan at Bebeah and had come from the western NSW town of Ungarie, the Sloans came from Cowra. Coincidentally, Bert's daughter-in-law Margaret's mother and Mary's mother were step sisters. It was a small world in country NSW in those days. Mary tragically died in the 1930s, she was only in her early 40s and had thyroid problems<sup>27</sup>. She is buried in the Mt Victoria Cemetery. He was left with five young children, in order they were Edith, Betty, Norma, Donald and Roma Kirk. All have now died. This seems to be the right place to offer my deepest thanks to Don's wife Margaret for her generosity to me in talking about Don, Bert and the family. I would also like to warmly welcome members of Bert's family who have joined us today.



Members of Herbert Kirk's family after the 2014 Remembrance Day talk with Milba Kirk, Peter Kirk's daughter (2<sup>nd</sup> from right)

After the war Bert found work in Little Hartley before moving back to Mt Wilson to live and work there. First for his brother Syd at the mill, photographs shows him with the bullock team and loading timber onto the bullock wagon but it is said that he preferred horses as bullocks were 'too slow'<sup>28</sup>. He also worked for many others in the community such as Edward Gregson at Wyndham, for Helen Gregson at Windy Ridge where a photo shows him scything the grass in the 1920s, George Valder at Nooroo and Dr. Currey but his main work was for Miss Marjorie Sloan as caretaker and as the 'much valued' gardener<sup>29</sup>. Helen Warliker recalls that at Bebeah there was 'the big vegetable garden, beautifully kept by Bert Kirk'<sup>30</sup>. Helen also recalls the 'beauty of the garden'<sup>31</sup> at Bebeah for which Bert was also responsible. He began work as caretaker at Bebeah in the late 1920s when more diversified employment was necessary<sup>32</sup>. Alison Vaughan, a niece of Miss Marjory Sloan, remembers growing a plant from 'a cutting from the hedges on the side of the path leading to Bert's Cottage'<sup>33</sup> (Bert's Cottage is, today, Bebeah cottage).

Miss Sloan had a cottage in Sydney and she allowed Bert and his family to go there for holidays. He would drive to the outskirts of Sydney and then get the NRMA to drive him through the suburbs and city<sup>34</sup>.

In 1943 he married Mabel Cooper, the local Post Mistress, and both were respected and admired for their help and support in the community<sup>35</sup>. They are remembered by Helen Warliker as 'a kindly couple who would always come to our rescue if help was needed, as it sometimes was when Dad [Edward Gregson] joined the army during the war [WWII]<sup>36</sup>. After this marriage Don stayed on with Bert and Mabel but the girls left.

Margaret married Don and has warm memories of Bert. She says that Bert was 'absolutely wonderful' and welcomed her into the family, taking on her own two boys as his own grandsons. Margaret called Mabel 'Ma', and remembers that after a visit they were always given a packet of adora cream wafers, as well as nuts and a nut cracker for the drive home. Margaret remembers Bert as being like his brothers but she feels that he had less opportunity, perhaps because he was less outgoing<sup>37</sup>.

Like Edward Jesse Gregson, Bert was fully involved with community life at Mt Wilson. When the two communities of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine united in 1957 after the devastating fires of that year to form the local Bush Fire Brigade Bert became the Captain for a number of years. In 1936 Bert was the school caretaker, a time when three of his children, Don, Betty and Norma were pupils at the school. I suspect he held this role for some time, not just the one year!

During his life on the mountain he was the person who shod the horses, and I remember him still doing this in the 1950s. He charged 'one shilling per shoe'. He also played the accordion, with his brothers, travelling around the mountain at Christmas time with a piano on the back of a truck. Also he must have been a capable builder for he built Tom's first home in Queens Avenue<sup>38</sup>.

Margaret says that Bert never changed. When she and Don went to stay with him and Mabel he would always bring them a cup of tea first thing in the morning, at 5am! He took one to Mabel every day of their married life.

In the last years of his life Bert went to live, first to Tom and Tood after Mabel died in 1970<sup>39</sup> and then with Don and Margaret in West Wyalong. He 'filled up with fluid' despite injections to get rid of it. Margaret remembers that he was 'very easy to look after'<sup>40</sup>. He had made arrangements with his youngest brother Tom to be buried at Mt Wilson.

On his grave stone, in the church yard of St Georges here at Mt Wilson it says, simply, 'In loving memory of our dear father Herbert C H Kirk died 31 July 1974 aged 79 years'. Mary Reynolds remembers his son Don Kirk as a 'gentle, quiet, modest man'<sup>41</sup> and it seems he was very much his father's son. His name has been placed on Bert's grave. Margaret said to me that Bert was one of the nicest people and if the world was full of Bert Kirks it would be a better place<sup>42</sup>.

Two photographs in the Historical Society archive show the connections between Edward Gregson and Bert Kirk. The first shows EJ Gregson and Bert Kirk culling trees in July 1922. The second photo shows Bert Kirk with two bullock teams hitched together to haul a load of bricks for Wyndham in October 1922. We are told that the lead bullock is called Pilot. Such connections, as we have seen through the lives of those on the War Memorial, are not uncommon in this community. Long may they continue.



Richard Prentice pauses after laying the wreath at the 2014 Remembrance Day service

## References and Notes

Warliker, Helen *A Mount Wilson Childhood* 1990

Wynne, Lesley *Seven Good Men* 2000 Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.theherald.com.au/story/2447518/wwi-in-the-herald-august-6-1914/?cs=305>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.anzacday.org.au/history/ww1/anecdotes/stats01.html>

<sup>3</sup> [www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/enlistment/ww1](http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/enlistment/ww1)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.firstworldwar.com/atoz/dso.htm>

<sup>5</sup> See plaque on stone seat at Founders Corner

<sup>6</sup> Army Enlistment record. Helen Warliker's memoir

<sup>7</sup> from Jesse Gregson's memoir, held in the Mitchell library

<sup>8</sup> 2008 Remembrance Day transcript of talk by Arthur Delbridge in Historical Society newsletter

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/pages/item.aspx?idnumber=430712>

<sup>11</sup> Ibid

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

<sup>13</sup> Speech given by Mary B. Reynolds at the opening of the new bridge over Waterfall Creek.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> Commonly known as the Wolgan or Mallee Snow Gum, it is distinguishable by its mallee habit. This main attribute makes it a unique member of the snow gums.

<sup>16</sup> Warliker, Helen *A Mount Wilson Childhood*

<sup>17</sup> Official Australian Army records for WWII

<sup>18</sup> Warliker, Helen *A Mount Wilson Childhood*

<sup>19</sup> Official Australian Army records for WWII

<sup>20</sup> Email in 2014 from: Reference officer, Information Service Section [info@awm.gov.au](mailto:info@awm.gov.au)

<sup>21</sup> Warliker, Helen *A Mount Wilson Childhood*

<sup>22</sup> Mary Reynolds in No 15 Historical Society Newsletter Feb 2007 pp14/15

<sup>23</sup> From official army records

<sup>24</sup> Official war service record, held in national archives, Australia

<sup>25</sup> Reminiscences of Margaret Kirk as told to Alison Halliday, October 2014

<sup>26</sup> From Milba Kirk

<sup>27</sup> Reminiscences of Margaret Kirk as told to Alison Halliday, October 2014

<sup>28</sup> Wynne, Lesley *Seven Good Men*

<sup>29</sup> Mary Reynolds email, 2014

<sup>30</sup> Warliker, Helen *A Mount Wilson Childhood*

<sup>31</sup> Ibid

<sup>32</sup> Mary Reynolds email, 2014

<sup>33</sup> Newsletter No 17 Historical Society Newsletter February 2008

<sup>34</sup> Reminiscences of Margaret Kirk as told to Alison Halliday, October 2014

<sup>35</sup> Mary Reynolds email, 2014

<sup>36</sup> Warliker, Helen *A Mount Wilson Childhood*

<sup>37</sup> Reminiscences of Margaret Kirk as told to Alison Halliday, October 2014

<sup>38</sup> Wynne, Lesley *Seven Good Men*

<sup>39</sup> NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

<sup>40</sup> Reminiscences of Margaret Kirk as told to Alison Halliday, October 2014

<sup>41</sup> Mary Reynolds email, 2014

<sup>42</sup> Reminiscences of Margaret Kirk as told to Alison Halliday, October 2014

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## Management committee for 2015

President: Zaharah Braybrooke; secretary: John Braybrooke; treasurer: Milba Kirk; vice president: Mary Reynolds. Des Barrett and Pauline Michell are looking after tours, the web site and the Turkish Bath.

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At the committee meeting following the 2014 AGM it was decided to publish one newsletter and at least one occasional paper each year.

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### **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.

[www.mtwilson.com.au](http://www.mtwilson.com.au)

For further information contact the Historical Society by email to  
[historicalsociety@mtwilson.com.au](mailto:historicalsociety@mtwilson.com.au)

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