



The Mounts

The Community Newsletter of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine



February 2011

Welcome

This edition contains a mixture of both sad and uplifting news—a loss of Hugh Fraser, a very loyal friend and active supporter of the mountain - and the richly deserving national recognition of Mary Reynolds, one of the stalwarts of the many passionately committed community members within our two small villages. The latter raises an interesting question: there is a statistically significant number of recipients of national community service honours from within our small population. Do such people gravitate towards the villages by a process unknown, or does residence somehow engender a desire and willingness to devote substantial - no, extraordinary - time and effort for the betterment of our community as a whole? Regardless, we all reap the benefits of their efforts and, indisputably, the villages are a more complete place for their selflessness and drive.

Graham Tribe outlines some exciting news about the complete redesign of the existing website www.mtwilson.com.au. Subject to the fickleness of the IT gods, the new website should be up and functioning in a relatively well-behaved fashion by the time this newsletter is published.

Robyn Scrivener tried unsuccessfully to coax some quiet reflection from Ray Harrington about his recent election as a Fellow of the of the Royal Art Society of New South Wales. Characteristically, he preferred to talk about the people who find great fulfilment and peace at the regular Tuesday morning painting classes held in his studio. Robyn has kindly undertaken to look in closer detail to the many artists and craftspeople on the mountain in a series of future articles.

The recent bout of wet weather briefly threatened to derail the planned Dahlia and Flower Exhibition, but Peter Richey confirms the show will definitely proceed on Sunday 13th March at the Village Hall. Details are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

On Saturday April 2nd, the Village Hall will host Nikki Hunter's (formerly Nikki Selles) presentation of the findings of her recent local wombat study; Chris Ephraums will join her with a talk on the egg-laying habits of Costa Rican sea-turtles. This sounds far more exciting than staying at home to watch 'The Bill'.

Tim Gow Tel. 4756 2031 or 0412 133 559

e-mail: seftoncottage@gmail.com

Community Calendar

February	Sun 13th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service	Fri 18th Bushwalking Group—The Grand Canyon at Blackheath	Sun 27th 9.00am RFS Welcome Back Training	March
Sun 6th 9.00am RFS Training plus Clean Up Australia Day	Friday 11th 9.00am Bush Care Wynne Reserve	Sun 13th 9.30am—4.00pm Dahlia and Flower Exhibition Mt Wilson Village Hall	Sun 13th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service	Fri 18th Bushwalking Group - Goochs Crater, Newnes
Sat 19th 10.00am Village Hall AGM 5.30pm MWPA General M'ting	April	Sat 2nd 4.00pm Ecology projects talk —Wombats & Sea Turtles	Sun 3rd 9.00am RFS Training	Sun 10th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service

Village Hall Jottings

Please join us at the Village Hall on **Saturday 2nd April at 4pm** to hear two animal science students who have a focus on ecology, talk about their respective projects, both generously sponsored by John and Mary Holt.

Nikki Hunter will talk about her wombat project in Mt Wilson. Nikki interviewed many of us about wombats on our properties; this is a chance to find out what she learnt.

Chris Ephraums had the good fortune to be able to stay and work in Costa Rica to monitor sea turtles.

There will be an opportunity to ask both Nikki and Chris questions and to chat with them over wine and cheese at the conclusion of the session.

Tickets \$10, at the door

The Annual General Meeting for the Village Hall Committee will be held at the Mt Wilson Village Hall on Saturday March 19th at 10am. This is the same day as the Mt Wilson Progress Association General Meeting.

Judy Tribe

Did you know that:

- The pouch of a wombat is backward facing to avoid it being filled up with dirt.
- Wombats have the largest brain to body size ratio of any marsupial and their intelligence has been likened to that of a dog.
- Wombats prefer temperatures around 24 degrees Celsius as this is generally the temperature inside the burrow. When the outside temperature differs greatly, the wombat will slowly move toward the tunnel entrance, pausing as their bodies acclimatise to the outside temperature
- Wombats don't generally like to get wet however they love to dig after rain.
- About a month after mating, female gives birth to a bean-sized young weighing one gram.
- A wombat's territory can be as large as 25 hectares.



Pictured on the right is Reg, the famous wombat who resides at *Culverden*. Reg is widely regarded as the Harry Triguboff of the Mt Wilson wombat community.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY



SUNDAY, 6th MARCH, 2010

9.00am—12.00 noon

Your assistance for part or all of that time would be greatly appreciated. As is traditional, meet at the Mount Wilson Village Hall to decide areas of preference.

You will need to bring gloves, screen and a hat.

Collection bags will be provided and a large rubbish skip will be located at the Hall.

This year's clean up is being coordinated by Brian Abrahams. Please contact him on 4756 2119 for further information is required.

Brian has kindly offered to lead this event as Robert Chesney has relinquished that role which he undertook with great efficiency and good humour for many years. We thank Robert for his tireless efforts and enthusiasm.

Mt Wilson Progress Association Committee News

Coming Events

Clean Up Australia Day, Sunday, 6th March, 2011

MWPA General Meeting, Saturday, 19th March, 2011, 5.30pm

MWPA Annual General Meeting, Saturday, 17th September, 2011

Community Christmas Party

The Christmas party last December was once again a happy occasion, despite the inclement weather. There was an abundance of food, drink and good company. The merry chatter and happy singing made a good introduction to the festive season. The closed auction of ten plants kindly donated by the Thompsons raised \$650 for the Rural Fire Service and the Progress Association.

Village Maintenance

Residents and regular visitors will have noticed that Blue Mountains City Council has been busy recently resurfacing sections of The Avenue and Mount Irvine Road and filling potholes elsewhere. The subsidence on the Zigzag has also been filled once again. A much smoother drive around the village is the result.

The Committee is continuing the care and maintenance of street trees. This policy is governed by the need to ensure safety for pedestrians and vehicles on the roads while maintaining the beauty of the street scape. Soon a dying blackwood in Mount Irvine Road, outside 'Sylvan Close' and two sick dogwoods at the corner of Stephen Lane and Hillcrest Avenue will be removed.

A new flag has been supplied by the new Federal Member for Macquarie, Louise Markus, to replace the old tattered one at Founders' Corner.

Also, an additional box to hold the Mount Wilson brochures has been donated and attached to a wall of the Fire Station by Owen Haviland. This seems to have been a good addition as the brochures are being taken from there.

Rubbish Bins

While we encourage the use of private rubbish bins for which we pay rates, it is recognised that some people make use of the public bins. However, it is important that these are not over filled. The lids must be firmly closed to ensure that birds, foxes and dogs are not attracted to them, knock them over and scatter the rubbish. If the ones at Happy Valley are full, please continue on and place your rubbish in the ones at Cathedral Reserve.

Website

The Website Committee of Graham Tribe, Tim Gow, Stephen Dean and Michael Hitz have been working hard to set up the website and include a great deal of information for both visitors and the community. The goal is to replace the current website on 11th February. The Mount Wilson Progress Association recognises and appreciates the commitment and time spent by this committee in providing what will be a great service to our community and our visitors.

Speeding in the Village

It has been noticed that many people drive through the village at excess speed. The narrow roads, reduced visibility due to overhanging trees and occasional mist and the number of walkers along the edges of the roads (in some places on the roads where there is no access off road) make this a dangerous practice. Please drive within the recommended speed limit of 50 kms. per hour to improve the safety for all.

Mount Wilson Leisure Library

The library list has been updated. If you would like a hard copy or an emailed version please contact Judy Tribe on 4756 2096 or jtribe@ozemail.co.au.

Don't forget, the library is open every Saturday morning from 10.00 to 11.00 so do drop in for a browse through the bookshelves. If you wish to come at another time, please contact Moira on 4756 2162 and it can be arranged. There have been very few visitors to the library recently so please utilise this fine collection of books to enable the library to continue.

Join the Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc.

If you are a property owner or reside in Mount Wilson you are eligible to be a member of the Association. If you are not a member and wish to join please contact me.

Moira Green

Secretary

The Art Group at *Chalumeau*

A "Stop the Presses" announcement in the December 2010 Newsletter issued hearty congratulations to Ray Harrington upon his invitation to become a Fellow of the Royal Art Society of New South Wales, with a promise of further details to follow in the next newsletter. Ray and Kathy graciously accepted my invitation to discuss the 'further detail' over morning tea. Their idea to broaden the topic and focus upon the artistic talents of many who live on the Mounts was indeed an appropriate way to acknowledge and celebrate the remarkable creativity which exists amongst us.

The Art Group at *Chalumeau* is a perfect place to begin our focus. Back in 1998 Kathleen Howard-Smith suggested to Ray that he host an art group when she first visited his light filled studio. That idea began the formation of a small dedicated group who now meets regularly, united by their love of art and of the mountains to refine their respective skills of watercolour, acrylic or oil. One member refers to their participation in the group and concentration on their medium as essential therapy. In an article about the group Ray remarks "landscapes emerge with faltering confidence, a botanical specimen is portrayed in intricate detail...questions are asked, help is needed, 'How do I get this colour?' 'Does this look right to you?' 'My blue isn't the same as Monet's!' Good humoured joshing as each observes the progress of others."

This group produces not only beautiful individual pieces, but also the remarkable comradeship and mutual support of its members.

Back to 'further details'; the Art Group at *Chalumeau* is by no means the sole source of artistic endeavour in our community. Thanks to both the Harringtons for their inspiration to focus on such a varied and talented group. My hope is that this is just the start and that more light will be shed on local artists and craftspeople in future newsletters.

Robyn Scrivener

For rent

Do you know anyone who may be interested in a long term rental in Mt Wilson? *Westring* has 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, views to the north and will be available late March.

Contact: Nick Delbridge 4757 3930

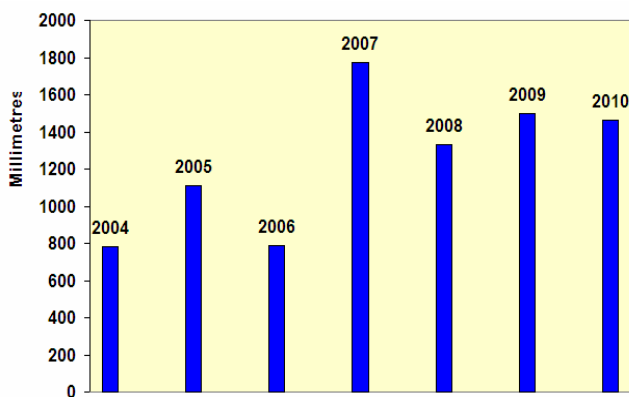
2010 Rainfall

Joe Landsberg (*Withycombe*), Richard Prentice (*Clarine/Cherry Cottage*) and Peter Richey (*Gowan Ross*) have recorded rainfall readings at Mount Wilson for many years now.

The total rainfall for 2010 recorded by these three was 1462mm at *Withycombe*, 1490mm at *Clarine/Cherry Cottage* and 1644mm at *Gowan Ross*. Historically, *Gowan Ross* has always recorded higher rainfall than the centre of Mt Wilson.

The overwhelming impression of 2010 was one of heavy rain; however, it is interesting to note all three stations recorded a higher annual rainfall in 2009 than 2010.

The average rainfall at *Withycombe* over the last six full years is 1248.5mm (see the graph of *Withycombe* annual rainfall below).



By way of comparison, the average annual rainfall at Observatory Hill in Sydney is 1217mm.

For the last six years, Richard Prentice has been completing a monthly rain record for the Bureau of Meteorology. This is sent through to the Bureau each month. What the Bureau does with this information is a bit vague; presumably, it is re-entered into a rainfall database. However, the official Mt Wilson rainfall (as dutifully captured, recorded and submitted by Richard) is not immediately visible to the public.

Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc

The Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Management Committee met in January for the first time after their AGM. Highlights of the meeting were:

- With Florence Smart leaving for life in Sydney the most important task was to dismantle her empire and distribute the multitudinous tasks she has carried out to various committee members (no one person could have taken her place). Fortunately, Florence will continue to look after membership and the newsletters. Alice Simpson kindly offered to be Minute Secretary and Mary Reynolds (Researcher/Public Officer), Kathleen Oakes (Archivist) and Tim Gow (Treasurer) will look after the mail.
- New committee members Zaharah and John Braybrooke have taken on the role of Museum Curators for the Turkish Bath Museum and Des Barrett and Darrel Conybeare will continue in the roles of President and Vice President, respectively.
- Florence Smart will also assist Tim Gow with management of the website which will be up and running soon.
- This year the Society will investigate further the technology used to heat the Turkish Bath and John and Zaharah Braybrooke will create some new exhibitions.
- Membership of the Fundraising Committee is Florence Smart, Nancy Fox, Helen Cardy, Robyn Leonard and Louise Weingott. The Committee will look at developing merchandise with the Turkish Bath brand, possibly for sale at the Museum or on the website.
- Group tours have already been booked for dates in March, April and October. This involves a tour of the museum, sometimes a tour of the village and lunch at the Village Hall.
- A Working Group will be formed to take on the task of monitoring the availability of grants, to take advantage of any opportunity for project funding.
- The next issue of the newsletter will feature an article by Fiona Carruthers on the history of horses at Mt Irvine.
- Mary Reynolds reported that some historic photographs have been received from the Joshua family, early residents of Campanella.
- The Society will embark on a project of archival scanning of the photographic collection. Darrel Connybeare has offered the assistance of his Graphics Department. This project will help protect the collection as well as make it more widely available.

Kathleen Oakes

Help wanted!

The grounds around the Mt Wilson Fire Station are in need of some tender loving care. If you are willing to give half a day, or are willing to sponsor your gardener for half a day, once every three months, for some gardening and ground maintenance around our Fire Station, please contact Beth on 0428 316 231.

The Bilpin 7th Collectors' Plant Fair - 16 & 17 April, 2011

The annual Collectors' Plant Fair attracts a great deal of interest amongst the serious gardeners at Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine. Several of the local aficionados – you know who you are— line up at the gates well before the scheduled opening time in order to be the best position to seek out one of the many botanical gems that are seldom seen or available for sale.

The organizers always manage to secure the services of eclectic guest speakers: Robyn Brader, Costa Georgiadis and Myles Baldwin are included in this year's program. The last speaker's "Designing for Architecture: Gardens for Houses with History" presentation on Saturday morning seems particularly interesting. Bookings for the talks are essential.

A wide range of rare, or unusual plants will be offered for sale by fifty growers - fourteen of whom are displaying for the first time at the fair.

Something for everyone, and, without fail, a fascinating way to spend a few hours.

www.collectorsplantfair.com

The new Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine website

The new website is now live at www.mtwilson.com.au It replaces a website that has been running for the last six years which was created by Rod Hutchings, Barry & Helen Freeman's son in law. We are most grateful for the effort Rod made all those years ago. It has provided visitors with much information about the villages, the accommodation contact details and gardens which are open. Anecdotal evidence is local B&Bs and gardens have all gained patronage due to the website.

The most significant change in the new website is the added content for residents of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine. We are now close to 170 pages of information for residents and visitors. If we all use the new website as it is hoped everyone will, the website will become an important source of information for all residents of the two villages.

Home	
▶ Information	The main menu on the left, shows the range of topics covered including information for visitors, residents of the villages, members of the community organisations, committee members of the organisations, active and support members of the Brigade and people looking for information about the villages.
▶ Things To Do	
▶ Accommodation & Gardens	
Turkish Bath Museum	The vast majority of the website can and should be available to the public. All of the information for visitors and most of the pages devoted to local organisations will be public. Several local organisations are also part of larger groups who will want to read about their activities. For example, other RFS brigades have an interest in our brigade, similarly for the Historical Society.
▶ Mt Wilson Progress Association	
▶ Community Information	
▶ Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade	So there will be public and secure areas of the website, so that local residents can login and have access to information we don't want the whole world to see. The login process and the secure sections are not available just yet, since we want to fully develop and test before they are up and live on the website. We also need to assign and distribute usernames and passwords to all residents so they can access the secure sections. It will take us a couple of months to get this all working.
▶ Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Historical Society	
▶ Bushwalking Group	
▶ Bushcare Group	We are setting in place a number of people from local organisations who will be content managers to keep the website up to date so it is the place you choose to go to find just what is happening in the villages.
▶ Mt Wilson Village Hall	
Mt Wilson Study Centre	
Photography	
Contact us	
Privacy	

It is the Website Committee's intention to keep developing the website over the next year so it has all the capability we need.

The Mt Wilson Progress Association Website Committee, comprising Tim Gow, Stephen Dean, Michael Hitz and Graham Tribe, is overseeing the project on behalf of the community. The committees of the Mt Wilson Progress Association, the RFS Brigade and the Historical Society are all engaged in the process. The Website Committee hopes that all the other villages' community organisations will participate on the website over time.

For the first few months, only the information which can be public will be available on the website. During this period, the sort of information you might seek on the website is:

- General information about Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine for visitors and residents.
- Information which can be public about the organisations to which you belong, much of which we think you will find interesting.
- When events and activities are scheduled.
- Current and past community newsletters.

- Past Bushwalking newsletters are a valuable source for interesting walks.
- There are maps of the villages which you can print for friends who are visiting. At present, the maps are from the old website or historical ones and they are a bit old and only cover Mt Wilson properly, but we will improve this over time.
- Information about weeds and what you should either not plant, or remove, from your property.
- Brigade operations including call out statistics and number of people involved.
- You will find Brigade training schedules and meetings.
- Information about Community First Responders and their activities.
- The Historical Society's papers on past events which are part of the character and culture of the Mounts.

Once the secure section is operating, there will be more information available for residents. You will be able to find:

- The local phone book so you can look up numbers whether you are on the Mounts or somewhere else.
- A list of recommended contractors who other residents have found competent and willing to come to the villages.
- Minutes of general meetings of the organisations to which you belong.
- If you are a committee member, you will also be able access committee meeting minutes and other documents.
- Ultimately there will be a secure full name and address section, including information about the location and bushfire facilities on your property and, if you are an active firefighter, your training competencies and certification. All of this information will aid the preparation of the local phone book and greatly assist the Brigade in an emergency. It will mean we won't need to have each member's details on the various computers used by the committees of each of the local organisations with all the errors and updating effort needed maintaining multiple systems.



The menu across the top of the webpage will look like this and provides further access to visitor and resident information.

From this menu, there is direct access to the community calendar, a photo gallery, latest news on the villages and the local weather. In time, we hope to have real time weather condition information from the weather station mounted on the tower behind the Mt Wilson Fire Station, and then if you are in Sydney you will be able to find the village weather conditions.

So the Website Committee hopes you will learn to use the website and gain a great deal of benefit. It is your website and the Committee welcomes suggestions about improving the website and providing information which the community finds valuable. The site contains many beautiful photographs; we would welcome any contributions that would be of interest to others.

We plan meetings later in the year to launch the website and help you to become familiar with the benefits to you. These will occur once the website is fully functional.

Graham Tribe

Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigades

Communications Tower Progress

The communications tower has now had a range of aerals installed by NSW Ambulance to improve communications in our area. Once they have been tested in the next few weeks, the tower will be operational.

Brigade Training Update

The 2011 training calendar for the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Brigade is up on the notice board in the Mt Wilson Fire Station. Check the list for topics which will be covered during the usual monthly training session held at 9am on the first Sunday of every month.

The Blue Mountains District Training Calendar will be published soon outlining all the courses which are available during 2011.

The Brigade will offer a free barbeque breakfast before training days on alternate months. The next breakfast will take place at the Mt Wilson Fireshed at 8am on Sunday 3 April. The Brigade joins with local brigades from Bell and Mt Tomah on the months when there is no breakfast. Have you done your Basic training but not been able to come to training since? We will welcome back anyone who has not been involved with the Brigade for a while despite joining some time ago. Mark **Sunday 27 February 9.00am** at Mt Wilson shed in your diary now for a chance to reacquaint yourself with the Brigade without feeling you might not know what to do on a regular training day.

New Signage on Fire Trails to Wollangambe

National Parks and Wildlife Service have recently installed small and discreet signs on the fire trains marking the track heads on the Wollangambe entrance and exit tracks. This is in response to recent rescues where the need for clear signage became apparent. There is also a discreet sign in the canyon marking the Wollangambe Exit.

Call Out Log

The Brigade was called out 11 times during December 2010 and January 2011 to two rescues, five road accidents, two medical emergencies, and two incidents involving trees down over the road.

Our thanks go to Brigade members who responded (listed by number of calls attended): **Beth Raines (10), Libby Raines (7), Peter Dempsey (6), Vic Zhukov (5), Stephen Dean (4), Graham Tribe (4), Barry Freeman (3), Diana Landsberg (3), Kim Gow (2), Peter Raines, (2), Helen Freeman (1), Tim Gow (1), Moira Green (1), David Howell (1), Ross Kelly (1), and Kathleen Oakes (1).**

Sarah Howell

Community Engagement

This month Australians have experienced several devastating weather events from North to South of the continent, from floods to cyclones to bushfires. Can this big brown land throw anything more at us?

Despite more information, more sophisticated weather modelling and advanced warnings we are still sometimes caught unawares.

However, what comes out of these situations is the importance of thoughtful preparation.

We may not see a cyclone in Mt Wilson or Mt Irvine but we can take the example of the North Queenslanders and think about our properties and families - how we would prepare and how we would cope in an unpredictable emergency.

Many thanks to those who have returned the Property Information questionnaires that have been sent out recently.

Please take the time to fill yours in if you haven't done so already, and return them to your Street Coordinators or to me.

If you have not received a questionnaire, please let us know and we can forward one to you.

Kim Gow

Mary Reynolds Recognised in the Australia Day Honours List

Mary Reynolds has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours List. The citation reads: "Service to the community through a range of historical, environmental and charitable organisations".

Mary's major service to the community has certainly been via the Historical Society though it most certainly has not been limited to that enterprise.

The concept of establishing a museum of local history in the Turkish Bath building was the joint brainchild of Mary and of the late Jane and Bill Smart of *Wynstay*. Following the untimely death of Jane Smart, Mary took on the task of ensuring that Jane's wishes regarding the museum came to fruition.

The Mt Wilson Historical Society (later to become the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc) was incorporated in December 1996. Its origins arose from the History Group established in February 1994, with Mary Reynolds as founding Chairman, as a sub-committee of the Mt Wilson Progress Association Inc. Mary was Project Director of this sub-committee in November 1996 and subsequently of the new Historical Society until January 1998. This was a very busy period during which Mary oversaw major conservation work being carried out on the Turkish Bath building leading to its official opening in September 1997.

She has continually held positions in the Society since its inception, including that of Project Officer, Secretary, Research Officer and Public Officer, often filling more than one position at a time. At present she holds the position of Research and Public Officer.

The amount of time and effort Mary has contributed to the establishment and smooth running of the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc and the Turkish Bath Museum would overwhelm we mere mortals yet that has been only a small part of Mary's involvement. The research Mary has undertaken into the history of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine has been formidable including Aboriginal connections with the area, early European exploration, pioneer settlers and later personalities who have contributed to the establishment of these rather unique villages. This research has led to Mary writing many articles for inclusion in Society Newsletters and Historical Papers. She has also written several small publications including: *Mt Wilson's Early European History*, *A Tour Along The Avenue - Mt Wilson and Beyond*, *A Glimpse into Mt Wilson's Past*, *Mt Wilson's History - Along its Gracious Avenues and Rustic Lanes*, *Silva Plana*, *Queens Avenue and Wyndham Avenue - Their Stories*. She has also written "A History of the Turkish Bath at Mount Wilson (NSW)" which was published in *Margin - Life and Letters of Early Australia* (No 66).

Mary is at present in the course of writing an extensive history of Mt Wilson, committing to print the incredible store of information she has accumulated during her diligent research activities over many years. This work has been, and will continue well into the future to be, of immense value to anyone seeking information relating to Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine.

Mary has been personally responsible for mounting several exhibitions in the Turkish Bath Museum and has also played a significant part in organising and producing two major exhibitions. The first was on the life of Charles Robert Scrivener for the Centenary of Federation 2001 celebrations. The second major exhibition organised by Mary was on Louisa Atkinson the first woman journalist in Australia, author, artist and world-recognised botanist. This exhibition was first mounted in the Turkish Bath Museum and later taken to Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens for the Louisa Atkinson Day in 2004. Mary presented a talk on the life of Louisa Atkinson at this function.

Mary devotes an enormous amount of her time and energy to matters relating to the Historical Society. This may be in the form of research, recording, archiving, attending seminars and study courses, conducting village tours and manning the museum, answering queries from members of the public and other historical societies, attending to queries from the local council and tourism organisations, etc. It would be a very rare day when Mary does not carry out some function on behalf of the Historical Society or the community.

Mary has also been a passionate advocate for the preservation of the local environment; both the built and the natural. Mary was an enthusiastic supporter for the creation of a Bushcare Group in early 1999 and has been an active participant at regular activities by this group.

In May 1990 Mary was a co-founder with Libby Raines of the Mt Wilson Mt Irvine Bushwalking Group. One of the aims of this group was to introduce residents of the villages to the beauty and wonders of the natural bush which surrounds the area with the anticipation that promoting a love drawn from wider quarters and more than two hundred and fifty individuals have walked with this

group over the past twenty years. Mary edited and produced the monthly newsletter for this group up until January 2009, a period of almost nineteen years; she also wrote umpteen walk reports for this publication for fourteen of those years. Mary walked with this group up until 2005 and remains a passive member to this day.

Given the amount of time Mary has spent on Historical Society and more formal community activities she could be excused for not getting involved in other matters. However over the years Mary has been one of the first to volunteer when the call went out for a helping hand for other community activities involving the Progress Association, Rural Fire Service, Village Hall Committee, etc. She has also actively supported local fund raising activities for charities such as the Red Cross and Multiple Sclerosis Society and assisted with the local activities of the Clean Up Australia campaign. She is also active in organising the monthly Friendship Day which helps to maintain a spirit of community among the ladies of the two villages.

Mary's voluntary contribution to the community, particularly but not limited to, the establishment and ongoing operation of the Turkish Bath Museum and to the Historical Society, stands above what would normally be expected of any volunteer. Her love for this unique place and community translates into an extraordinary willingness to give of her time to help others.

Mary Boswell Reynolds OAM - our heartiest congratulations to you!

John Cardy

Hugh Fraser (1946—2010)

Carol and Brian Carrigan advised of some very sad news: Hugh Fraser, well known architect and author, who had a long standing connection with Mt Wilson, died on Wednesday 29th December, aged 64.

Hugh wrote his university thesis on the history and architecture of Mt Wilson along with Alexis Mack and Bruce James.; a copy of that research is held by the Historical Society. The architectural drawing displayed on Mt Irvine Rd out the front of the Bath House, was done by Hugh.



He has had an ongoing connection with Mt Wilson mainly through Peter and Anne Pigott at *Yengo* (Peter mentions Hugh in the new publication *A Passion for Place*), the Valders and the Barretts at *Nooroo* and the Carrigans.

One of his most well known architectural works is the summer house at *Nooroo* which has appeared in many gardening books, calendars and as the subject of an Australia Post stamp. (Holly Kerr Forsyth in her seminal work *The Constant Gardener* wrote "the pristine, white-painted, filigreed summer house, off-set at the top of winding flight of stone steps, was afforded what is surely the ultimate honour— that of gracing a postage stamp").

Hugh is well known for his work in conserving the built environment and identifying, defining and promoting the intrinsic value of Australian Federation architecture. He was also the architect for the new Mosman Art gallery.

Hugh was a good friend of Mt Wilson over a long period of time and made a significant contribution to its broad recognition and conservation. Brian and Carol delivered the eulogy at his funeral on 10th January. They have written a full dedication to Hugh in the February edition of the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society newsletter.



Dahlia and Flower Arrangement Exhibition—Sunday 13th March 9.30am—4.00pm

On Sunday 13th March, the Central West Dahlia Society will hold a dahlia exhibition and floral display at the Mt Wilson Village Hall. The event will be hosted by the Central West Dahlia Society and Australian Dahlia Council members Peter Richey and Rob Slarke of Lithgow.

Many members of the Dahlia Society from Sydney, Wollongong and the Central West will be exhibiting their own flowers from a genus of extraordinary beauty and diversity.

Additionally, local residents are invited and encouraged to participate by arranging floral displays of their best flowers at that time of year — these displays need not be restricted to dahlias. For these arrangements, Peter ask that you supply your own vases.

Entry fee is by a modest gold coin donation. A sausage sizzle and tea and coffee will be provided by the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine RFS.



Some of the plants will be for sale and a fantastic raffle will be conducted: all proceeds of the day will go to the local RFS brigade and the Village Hall.

Anyone wanting to display should contact Peter Richey for further details on 4756 2049.

Electronic Distribution of the Newsletter

Based on overwhelmingly positive feedback from a large number of readers, the Friday 28th January meeting of the Mt Wilson Progress Association endorsed the move to distribute this newsletter via email wherever possible. The current email distribution list is 150 (and growing); printed copies will be continue to be physically distributed or mailed to 46 households.

The move to email distribution will significantly reduce - but not eliminate - both printing costs and distribution effort.

Sincere thanks for all of those who provided feedback on the trial scheme. Many of your suggestions have been incorporated into the newsletter format.

On the new mtwilson.com.au website, people outside the villages will be able to subscribe to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter by simply recording the name and email address. This service is provided without charge, but subscribers are encouraged to join the Mt Wilson Progress Association to help us to maintain and improve the public facilities of the two villages

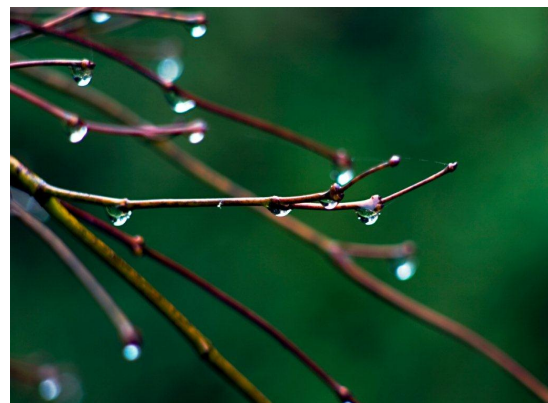
**Mt Wilson Village Hall Management Committee
Annual General Meeting
will be held at the Mt Wilson Village Hall
on Saturday March 19th at 10am
All welcome**

The new website www.mtwilson.com.au has been particularly fortunate that two brilliant photographers have kindly allowed the Mount Wilson Progress Association to use a small sample of their photographs.

David Iori (www.davidiori.com) has two fine examples of his work - the Waterfall and The Avenue streetscape - incorporated into the website's main banner.

Scott Moorhen (www.scottmoorhenphotography.com) captured the four small vignettes representing the distinct seasons of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine that are shown on the Home page. Both photographers have a standalone album of further examples of their work of Mount Wilson and its environs in the Photo Gallery section of the website.

Numerous residents have generously submitted their photographs for display on the website; their interest in, and enthusiasm for, capturing the essence of their local environment is self-evident. Additional contributions will always be gratefully received!



Suggestions, comments or contributions warmly welcomed!