



The Mounts

The Community Newsletter of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine



February 2013

Welcome

Welcome to the New Year and be fully reassured that our hottest day ever recorded on January 18th was only 98 days after the abnormally late and record-breaking October 12th snowfall. No doubt several residents mulled over the peculiar weather patterns in front of an open fire during the coldest February weekend recorded in 19 years.

Regardless, the recent rain has been wonderful and has thankfully ensured that serious bushfires are now unlikely this season. In light of the recent fire events at Coonabarabran and elsewhere, many were naturally concerned about the possibility of a local incident.

To their credit, the RFS has put in a tremendous amount of effort in providing resource material to help people determine their personal strategy (a Bushfire Survival Plan) during a major fire event. As detailed in this newsletter, our local Brigade conducted the first in a series of workshops which will help residents determine the best approach that suits their individual needs. Expertly facilitated by Kathleen Oakes, these sessions will be invaluable; attendance is highly recommended. Further details of upcoming sessions will be announced later.

Tim Gow Tel. 4756 2032 or 0412 133 559

e-mail: seftoncottage@gmail.com

Community Calendar

February	Fri 8th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care— Ferny Corner	Sun 10th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service	Fri 15th Bushwalk Group— Wentworth Falls	
March	Sun 3rd 9.00am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed	Fri 8th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care— Ferny Corner	Sat 9th MWPA General Meeting Mt Wilson Village Hall, 5.30 pm	Sun 10th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service
March	Fri 15th Bushwalking Group— Nellies Glen & Devils Hole	Fri 29th 9.00 am Good Friday Church Service	Sunday 31st 3.00 pm Easter Day Church Service	
April	Sun 7th 9.00am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed	Fri 8th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care— Galwey Lane— meet outside <i>Jalscene</i>	Sun 14th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service	Fri 15th Bushwalking Group— Glow Worm Cave & Pagoda Track

Village Hall Jottings

The Mt Wilson Village Hall is a wonderful community resource, which we sometimes take for granted. It serves as a general community hall and meeting place together with an emergency support and relief centre for residents, volunteers, and fire fighters during bushfires and other emergencies.

The idea for a Village Hall in Mt Wilson for community functions started with Mariamne Wynne of *Wynstay* in the 1930s, who initiated the formation of the Mt Wilson Village Hall Committee. As early as September 1936, specifications for a 'hall' had been drawn up. Money was raised from garden openings and sports gatherings but it became evident that there was little chance of raising the required sum in a short time. It was not until 1947, 18 months after World War II had ended, that the Trustees felt ready to undertake the Hall project. Building materials were in very short supply and all were government controlled. Finally consent was granted on 3rd September 1948 by the Department of Building Materials to construct a Village Hall, comprising the main hall, pantry and terrace. The cost was to be £1,850, which contrasted greatly from the 1936 estimate. Lack of funds was to be the cause of prolonged delay. After much fundraising, a bequest from Nellie Gregson of £500 and substantial donations the funds available were well over £1,000.

Tom Kirk, being a man of timber, provided an absorbing record of where the trees came from for the actual construction of the Hall: "with the exception of the flooring, all timber was cut by himself and his employee, Harry Twaddle. Bearers and floor joists came from a white gum from the post office block...the frame came from stringy bark cut from "Lambs Hill", weatherboards from Mountain Ash, also from "Lambs Hill". Timber was cut in Tom Kirk's mill (near the Cathedral of Ferns). There the Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus Oreades*) was cut into planks, carted to Syd and Albert Kirk's mill on Owen Wynne's property, dressed with the planer, and then returned to Tom's mill to be splayed into weatherboards.

On 8th August 1952 the Hall was registered as a Public Hall and was granted a license to show 16mm films.

In November 1952 Owen Wynne, secretary of the Hall Committee, wrote to the BMCC stating that the Hall had been recently completed and that the committee was to consider the future ownership and control of the Hall. So began a long period of protracted debate with the BMCC over transferring the ownership of the land and the Hall from the Trustees to the Council. Eventually Owen Wynne wrote "Our committee has decided to ask Council to take over the Hall under Section 527 of the Local Government Act and to delegate the power of control and management to a local committee approved by Council". The Memorandum of Transfer was forwarded on 29th April 1957 for signing by the Hall trustees and on 19th August 1957 the first Committee was appointed under Section 530A of the Local Government Act. The members of that first Committee were Richard Owen Wynne, Duncan M McCallum, Eric (Peter) Kirk, R. H. Thorpe, K. Thomas and Ruth Scrivener.

The Hall has had its ups and downs since the opening in 1952. For several years it was considered by Council to be unsafe and was closed, re-opening in September 2003, after Council did major 'make safe' works.

After the re-opening the Hall continued to be managed by a local Management Committee, now under Section 377 of the Local Government Act. Ron Green chaired this new committee and, thanks to his hard work, the Hall has become a pleasant and comfortable place for the various functions and meetings held there, and it can also be used in emergencies. After 10 years on the Committee, mostly at the helm, Ron has announced his decision to retire from the committee. He has transformed the Hall from being cold in winter, poorly lit with uncomfortable chairs, old tables and a dingy appearance into a welcoming, comfortable place to hold meetings and social functions and to handle most emergencies. Step by step with many projects, some small, some large he has made the Hall and surrounding grounds what it is to-day. We thank him for his vision, hard work and perseverance with Council.

The role of the committee is:

- To carry out the care and management of the Hall
- To hire out the Hall
- To advise Council on the operation, maintenance and improvement of the Hall

We have four meetings a year to discuss and plan projects, hold two fund raising events—the Yulefest in July and the Melbourne Cup lunch— carry out garden maintenance projects and some improvement projects not funded by Council e.g. installing the picture hanging system and of course liaise with Council for both regular maintenance and larger maintenance projects such as the new roof and pergola. Our current major project is the Stage 2 extension of a new toilet and storage block and improved entrance and foyer.

While we sometimes have our differences with Council we need to acknowledge the community benefit from the funds Council provides for maintenance and improvement projects. The revenue raised from Hall bookings goes nowhere covering all Council's costs.

Each year in March we are required by Council to have an Annual General Meeting and the year following Council elections nominees are recommended to Council for appointment as the Committee for the ensuing four years.

If you would like to be part of this committee please contact me either by phone: 4756 2096 or email: judithtribe@gmail.com

Judy Tribe

Mount Wilson Village Hall Management Committee

invites you to attend the

Annual General Meeting

to be held on

Saturday 2nd March at 5pm

in the Mount Wilson Village Hall

Business will include consideration of reports from the committee

and election of a Committee for the ensuing four years for formal appointment by Council

Please join us after the meeting for wine and cheese

MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Coming Events

- **Clean Up Australia Day** – Sunday, 3rd March, 9.00 a.m. to 12 p.m. Your help would be greatly appreciated for some time during the morning to ensure our villages are kept clean.
- **MWPA General Meeting** – 9th March, 5.30 p.m.

Silva Plana

Finally Silva Plana is green again after seeding. The levelling and drainage work has improved the reserve to a standard that is better than the pre-filming days of 14 months ago. Bazmark and the MWPA (using a donation from Bazmark) financed the restoration work.

Telephone Book

Please correct in your book Annemie and James Stein's phone number. It is 4756 2197.

Please let me know of errors and changes to contact details and note them on the website if you have access to this. Additional phone books are available for \$3.00 a copy.

Condolences

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of Marian Waller, of *Lunaria*, Church Lane. She died last July after a long battle with cancer.

Wanted, New Members

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. Membership fees make an important contribution to the work of maintaining our village and providing contact with residents through the production of such things as newsletters, the phone book and the website. The more members there are, the more we can do for you.

Mount Wilson Leisure Library

The library is open every Saturday morning from 10.00 to 11.00 unless the hall is booked for a function, so do drop in for a browse through the bookshelves. It is a small but varied collection covering such categories as fiction, biography, history, travel, horticulture. Unfortunately the library has been closed some Saturdays recently because there are insufficient people to open it. If anyone would like to assist in looking after the library for one hour a month on a Saturday morning please contact me; we would appreciate your help.

Moira Green (Secretary)

Found!!

A pair of spectacles were left behind at the Melbourne Cup lunch at the Village Hall last November.

Judy is looking for the owner of the pair of metal framed glasses found underneath a moderate pile of empty champagne flutes.

Please contact Judy Tribe 4756 2096 or judithtribe@gmail.com



Clean Up Australia Day

Sunday, 3rd March, 2013

9.00 a.m. till 12.00 noon.

Your assistance for all or part of this time would be appreciated.

Meet at the Mount Wilson Village Hall to decide areas of preference.

You will need gloves, sun screen and hat

Collection bags will be provided and
a rubbish skip will be located at the Fire Station.

For further information please phone Brian Abrahams on 4756 2119.

This is an activity of the Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc.

Small `quakes and vomiting babies—a book review

For several years part of the end of year book buying has been the editions of 'best of', celebrating poems, essays and short stories. To this we can now add the best science writing. In 2012 *The Best Australian Science Writing*, edited by Elizabeth Finkel (published by Newsouth) explores ideas, issues and some very peculiar aspects of the science world; covering all the realms of science and gathered from a variety of sources, from the highly esteemed *Nature* journal to various online blogs and magazines. Science writers come in two types: the professional journalist with a keen eye for the curious and a real skill at presenting science in an often personal and cogent manner; or the professional scientist who has mastered the craft of writing about complex ideas for the lay reader.

These short essays range from investigating why cockroaches will outlast us all; why Australia has so many earthquakes, most of which we do not feel; explorations of the 2009 influenza outbreak, and reflux in babies (shaped largely by fashion) by deeply involved physicians; from the cosmos to the forest; from population growth to the songs of goldfinches. There is also the 11 year old boy who investigates the problem of weeing in public swimming pools! These essays will delight you, provide lots of material for dinner time discussions and reveal fascinating details about subjects you have heard too much about, or ones of which you are utterly ignorant. The world of science underpins our very existence on this planet so see how the best writers reflect on their own particular view of the universe.

If you find science intriguing you can investigate further with the wonderful science show on Radio National, under the guiding hand of Robyn Williams, or the Naked Scientist online from Cambridge University.

Alison Halliday



Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade

Mt Wilson Survey and the RFS

The survey commissioned by the Mt Wilson Progress Association late last year sought the views of residents on several aspects of life in the village, including the roles of the various organisations which are part of our community. Of particular interest to the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Brigade were the responses to the three questions relating to the community's perceptions of its role and responsibilities.

In analysing the results of the survey, overall the Brigade was pleased to find that for the most part the residents report being happy with the support, dedication and preparedness of their local brigade. As with all research, however, the results were not unanimous, revealing a need for greater clarity and insight into the day to day workings of the Brigade and its place in the community.

It is planned to utilise this newsletter to publish occasional articles to focus on and increase understanding of the various activities the RFS undertakes as a vital part of our community. Misconceptions can occur, particularly among those members of the community who are not members of the Brigade, but nevertheless are affected by its work. Education is the key to greater understanding, and in future editions, we plan to cover the following topics:

- How the management of public land works around the villages and the inter-related roles of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC), and the Rural Fire Service (RFS)
- The purpose and method of hazard reduction (HR) burns in fire mitigation
- The science behind the frequency of HR burns and the recent history of burns around the villages
- The role of the community in fire mitigation and prevention, especially your responsibility for preparing your property
- The many functions performed by the Brigade in addition to fire-fighting
- The wide range of roles within the Brigade which provide opportunities for every member of the community to contribute

We plan to start these discussion papers in the next newsletter and welcome your feedback. If there are any other topics of interest to you, please don't hesitate to let Beth, Tim, Sarah or me know and we will try to address your issues.

David Howell
President

Tax Deductions for Donations to the RFS

New ATO rules concerning the tax deductibility of donations to volunteer fire brigades came into force on 1 January 2013. To maintain their tax deductibility, all volunteer brigades around the country have been given a special set of rules to comply with. Brigade Treasurer Susie Hope, and Secretary Judy Tribe have wrangled mountains of red tape to ensure that donations over \$2 to the Brigade continue to be tax deductible.

The only obvious difference to everyone who generously supports us financially will be that all receipts for donations received from 1 January 2013 will be issued in the name of *'Mount Wilson Mount Irvine RFB Fire and Emergency Public Fund'*. This is the correct name of the account to which donations can be made.

Brigade Training Activity

The Blue Mountains RFS training program is about to start with the first course of the year, a first aid course, to be held at Mt Wilson on 23 and 24 February. The extensive training program offers around 30 different courses, most of which will be run three or four times during the year in various locations throughout the Blue Mountains.

These courses are run by experienced volunteers from throughout the Blue Mountains area and are a significant added work load for them on top of their existing brigade responsibilities. Each class usually has 15 to 20 people and require one to three weekends to complete.

Twelve people have signed up for the first aid course, four for advanced fire fighter, and we hope for more, five for chainsaw training, and a small number doing several other courses. We are constantly assessing the balance of skills within our ranks, and have identified a number of training courses which are a high priority for us. In particular we need people to sit their medium rigid drivers licence so we have more drivers of fire trucks, more advanced fire fighters, and more new crew leaders to ensure the Brigade is always fully staffed into the future.

Be sure to check for details of future training events on the Mt Wilson website and keep your skills up to date both for your own benefit and for that of your Brigade.

Graham Tribe
Training Officer

Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Residents' Bushfire Survival Plan

The Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade decided to dedicate one of their regular training sessions to a workshop on writing a Bushfire Survival Plan. Active fire fighters, station officers, street coordinators and their partners were invited and 37 residents, representing 27 households, spent the morning discussing what they would do if, in the event of bushfire, they decided to 'leave early', 'stay and actively defend' or 'wait and see'. Everyone wrote plan for all options and many ended up with a 'to do' list of actions to take now so that they would be ready. However, some couples needed to complete their plans at home after a proper argument about what needed to be done and who was responsible.

Participants sat at tables for their area so that neighbours could discuss their options together. Apart from the benefit of sharing ideas and finding the best place to purchase relevant items, neighbours realised ways in which they could help each other in the event of a fire and that no one need face a fire alone. The benefit of this collaborative approach was further revealed by the Tribes who announced that the best place for them to shelter in their home during a fire was the wine cellar, thus sparking renewed interest amongst participants in properties for sale in Farrer Road.

As usual a delicious morning tea of homemade goodies enabled participants to have a break and catch up with local news. Although it is planned to have the template we used posted on the Mt Wilson community website, the group agreed that it was more useful (and enjoyable) to discuss their plans in a group, especially with neighbours. We will plan some more community workshops so others will have the opportunity to discuss and write a Bushfire Survival Plan.

In the meantime, if any group of neighbours would like to get together to write their plans please do not hesitate to contact me.

For further information, contact Kathleen Oakes on 4756 2199 or k.oakes@bigpond.com.



(Above) Participants in the recent Bushfire Survival Plan workshop at the Village Hall.

Bowens Creek Search and Rescue

Monday 28th January saw the substantial breaking of our recent run of dry weather with a 115 mm deluge.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported the following story on Wednesday 30th under the headline "Danger warnings go unheeded: SES"

Stormy weather did not deter one man from canyoning in the Blue Mountains on Monday night. After a search-and-rescue mission, the 26-year-old was found on Tuesday morning near Bowens Creek and treated for mild hypothermia and dehydration. He set off a personal locator beacon in the Mount Wilson area just before 7pm on Monday.

Whilst the good news was that the adventurer carried a personal locator beacon, perhaps in hindsight, canyoning alone in torrential rain in a remote area of steep gorges wasn't a great idea.

Peter Raines, Beth Raines, Graham Tribe and Stephen Dean worked throughout the night and through to Tuesday morning in assisting with the rescue operation and deserve our full praise and appreciation for their tireless efforts.

Ask the Neighbours

An (almost) brand New Year, Tim. Full of promise, hopes, dreams – all that stuff. And whilst I'm not a big one for New Year's resolutions (in fact, my regular New Year's resolution is not to make any), I do have one or two for 2013. There is a flaw however, in that, usually, New Year's resolutions are largely within the control of the resolution-maker. In this age of interactive media, Tim, the twist in these resolutions is that their realisation is totally within the power of our Dear Readers, the noble folk of Mts W & I.

So, what are these long thought through resolutions? The first is really obvious – no more Leech Wars (except for a final skirmish to be reported later in this column). That's it – finito, the end. Our hot summer denied them opportunities to rise up and invade our socks. Like shock jocks and past-it-celebrities the best way to deal with them is to give them no attention, no moisture. There! I feel better already, Tim. Now, all we have to do is discourage any mention of them by anyone, anywhere, anytime. Over to you on that one, folks.

My second resolution came to me in a flash whilst attending one of the heady round of social engagements which Christmas and the New Year offered in our little part of Paradise. For every person who sympathised about L---chs, there was another who bemoaned the Antechinus. There it is – the new War Front we've been looking for, Tim. This will finally get some more formal audience participation going. I'm sure of it, Tim. No more informal, side comments at social engagements. We'll have proper, scholarly reader responses. Some might even cite the species, genus, family, order, etc. of our new archrival. On the basis that it is best to know your enemy I've researched them. But, can any readers advise?

Like the Chinese we will have a new focus for every year – so, with the power invested in me as your comic relief correspondent, I declare 2013 the Year of the Antechinus Wars. No creepy L---chs for us this year. They only get you in the garden. Oh no, our new foe is far more inventive, athletic and, frankly, worthy. They practise their Broadway show tunes tap-dancing in the ceiling at 3 in the morning. By regularly including electrical wiring in their diets, they promote close and financially rewarding relationships with one's electrician (at least from the electrician's perspective). They feast on the tastiest morsels in the vegetable garden. Worst of all Tim, if you see them they look pretty cute. They have little mousey ears, snappy tails and big big eyes which look at you so innocently. They wipe the floor attractiveness –wise with those L---chs, who have appearances only their mothers could love.

So, as hope springs eternal forget answering the question in my last column, folks (as if you hadn't already). I bet they don't even recall what it was, Tim. Tim, don't you remember either?? The question about what plants are coping better in the heat? Now we've had rain and the whole garden is looking perky, it's irrelevant. The new, up to date, modern, burning issue of the day and the year must be –

What techniques are people using to stop the Antechinus getting into their roofs, vegetable gardens and other assorted places which should be antechinus free zones?

I hope you have a lot of spare gigs, rams or whatever else it is you need Tim for the veritable avalanche of responses you're going to get on this one. We can devote whole editions of the Newsletter to this Tim. No more relegations to the last page for me – oh, no, it's newsletter domination. A change in the title of this newsletter. We could run a competition for the snappiest title using the name "Antechinus"..... "The Antechinus Annals" sounds good to me.

But before we move into this exciting new era, here's a final nail in the L---ch coffin. Many of us know Alice Simpson. A lovely, gentle woman with a terrific smile. What a charmer we all say. But, appearances can be quite deceptive, can't they, Tim? Alice has upped the ante on the L---ch wars in its final days – a L---ch poem AND a website where one can obtain L---ch proof socks. No fishnets under the lederhosen for her Tim (let's see who remembers last year's columns to appreciate that reference, Tim).

So, here are Alice's contributions:

*Leech
(Hirundo medicinalis)
Little lug of blood. An extra toe in wet socks.
A red blister growing unseen, unfelt
In crevices and creases. It fills like a balloon
Like a haemorrhoid. A swollen berry
Once carried by the dozen in doctors' bags.*

*It moves like a cartoon, a mobile tap
Ready to plumb a vein. Sated it sits like a slug.
Until the host discovers this drunken parasite,
Shoots salt and words and disgorges the squatter.
Eternally unloved, all a leech wants is a warm home.
Jude Aquilina*

And that leech sock website is –
www.mosquitohammock.com

Enjoy!

Elizabeth Montano

Volunteer Guides at Mt Tomah Botanic Garden

Are you interested in plants, conservation and people? Do you have a few hours to spare? Why not become a volunteer guide at Mt Tomah Botanic Garden? The views are stunning, the garden is interesting at all times of the year and you meet people from all over the world. You do not have to be an expert on all plants as training is provided. A two day training course will be held at the Garden on 26 and 27 February 2013.



If you are interested please call Louise Clifton on 4567 3014 or email her at
louise.clifton@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

www.mtwilson.com.au—The Mounts Website

Organise and stay in touch wherever you are! The Community Website makes it easy for residents who are away from home to contact local friends or find contractors. iPads, smart phones or laptops can be used to access the local telephone book or to download the list of contractors from the website.

So while on the go people can still contact their friends and make arrangements for contractors to work on their properties.

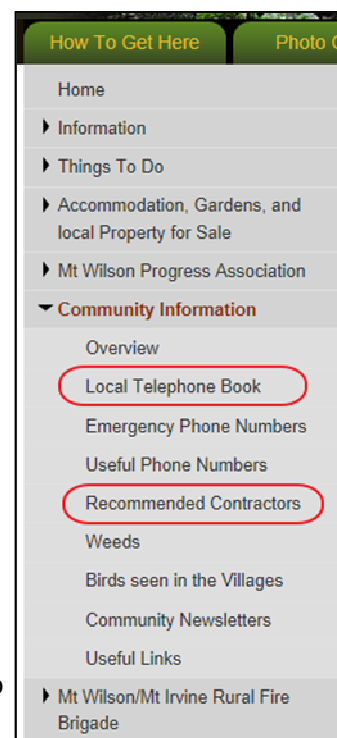
It's easy! Just go to the website on your iPad, tablet, smartphone or computer, login using the username and password which has been given to you sometime in the past, (make sure you tick the Remember Me box just below the login panel to make future log-ins much quicker and easier). Once logged in, you can access all the community and other information available for residents on the website that remain unseen to non-resident.

After you login, the local telephone book can be found by going to **Community Information** in the left hand main menu, click on **Community Information** and then on **Local Telephone Book**. You will need to wait a few seconds while the program on the website runs to produce the latest phone book. Then you will have it and you can look up residents' contact details, phone numbers, and email addresses just as you would in the printed version of the phone book, only the website version is more up to date.

Similarly to get a list of recommended contractors, go to **Community Information** just as above, click on **Recommended Contractors**, and then on the link which says '**list of recommended contractors**' and then wait while the list downloads. Then open it using Adobe Reader. You can then find the type of contractor you need based on the recommendations of other local residents.

If you don't know or can't remember your login details, please contact Graham Tribe (gtribe@bigpond.com) or Tim Gow (seftoncottage@gmail.com) and we can get them to you

Graham Tribe



BMCC Kerbside Chipping

The saga continues.

BMCC advised Brian Carrigan that the mulching service to Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine areas would start the week of 18th February. This date has since been amended in the Blue Mountains Gazette to the week starting the week of 4th February. No, seriously.

A reminder that the stated volume limit of the pile is 3 cubic metres. And do not put the green waste out on the footpath for too long before the chipper arrives.

CABIN FOR RENT – Farrer Road West, Mt Wilson

Fully self-contained recently refurbished cabin for rent in quiet secluded garden.

If you know of someone reliable who is looking for permanent accommodation in the area please call 4756 2122, Di on 0409 332 647 or Mike on 0419 212 444

Cimiez—a haiku

There is a villa
In Cimiez, Southern France.
I got lost there.

I lost myself in
Cimiez. I ventured through
Ruins and tall pines.

A glowing villa.
Firefly red, sanctuary
Holding for Matisse.

Drifting through the rooms
Of elegance, to see the
Artists' pool of work

His paintings and his
Sculpture; cutouts that blaze and
Cover all the walls.

I floated out of
Cimiez — Cemenelum
Ancient Roman name.

A perfect site for
Dazzling patterns of colour
And dramatic shapes.

Oh Cimiez, oh
Wondrous place, I lost myself
There, and then found peace.

Ann Pigott



The Musée Matisse in Nice is a national museum devoted to the work of French painter Henri Matisse. It gathers one of the world's largest collections of his works, tracing his artistic beginnings and his evolution through his last works. The museum, which opened in 1963, is located in the Villa des Arènes, a seventeenth-century villa in the neighbourhood of Cimiez.



Suggestions, comments or contributions warmly welcomed!