



# **The Mounts**

## **The Community Newsletter of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine**



**October 2016**

### **Welcome**

Congratulations are most certainly in order for the organising team and large army of resident volunteers who made the recent Spring Blossom Festival such a spectacular success. Lessons have obviously been learnt - and applied - from the logistic challenges for both hosts and visitors alike that reared their head in the Autumn Festival earlier this year. Now in its fifth year, the Photography and Art exhibition has matured in both quality and quantity, and is attracting new exhibitors from far afield.

Sad news that a large, but rotten, black wattle on the west side of the Mt Wilson church succumbed to the shocking winds on Friday 30th September. Miraculously, it did little damage to the church itself - a chunk out of one of the fibro buttresses and a few damaged tiles; someone must have been looking out for the wonderful old building. Less fortunately, five very old tree ferns were brought down. It always seems to me that the destruction of a mature and ancient tree fern is like the death of an elephant.

For those looking for something physical to do, or some further inspiration, the latest travel adventures of Vic Zhukov will almost certainly amaze, impress or bewilder, possibly in equal proportion. Vic's recent trip - a lazy 1200 kilometre walk, a large part across what can be best described as desert - was quite extraordinary and deserving of our attention and full admiration.

**Tim Gow** Tel. 0412 133 559

e-mail: [timsgow@gmail.com](mailto:timsgow@gmail.com)

### **Community Calendar**

<b>October</b>	<b>Sun 9th 3.00 pm Mt Wilson Church Service</b>	<b>Fri 14th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care— Meet outside <i>Hollyridge</i>, Queens Ave</b>	<b>Fri 21st Bushwalking Group — Mt Hay &amp; Butterbox, Leura</b>	<b>November</b>
<b>Sun 6th 9.00 am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed</b>	<b>Fri 11th 10.45 am Mt Wilson Remembrance Day Service</b>	<b>Sun 13th 3.00 pm Mt Wilson Church Service</b>	<b>Fri 18th Bushwalking Group — Leura Cascades to Katoomba Falls</b>	<b>December</b>
<b>Sat 3rd 6.30pm Christmas Party, Mt Wilson Hall</b>	<b>Sun 4th 9.00 am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed</b>	<b>Fri 9th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care— Wynnes Reserve</b>	<b>Sun 11th 3.00 pm Mt Wilson Church Service</b>	<b>Sat 17th 7.30 pm Carol Service, St Georges Church</b>

## Spring Blossom Festival

Thank you to everyone from the Spring Blossom Festival team, Bev and Phil, Judy, Susie, Lesley, David, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Linda, for helping to make the Spring Blossom Festival, such a success. Special thanks to all the wonderful volunteers at the café, on the sausage sizzle, baking cakes, on garden gates, at the gift shop, directing traffic, driving the bus, staffing the information booths, setting up and taking down.

It was a wonderful weekend, raising funds for our Fire Brigade. Although the final figures are not quite finalised, a profit of about \$35,000 has been raised for the Fire Station buildings at Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine.

For the first time prizes were awarded at the exhibition. Congratulations to the winners:

**Photography:** Judged by Jan Mann from Bathurst

### Gardens & Byways

**Winner:** Sourav Dasgupta "Winter's Touch" Donated by Iris Property

**Highly Commended:** David Wimble "Breenhold Steps" and Kelly Woldhuis "Dandelion of Mt Wilson"

### Wilderness & Adventure

**Winner:** Lewis Fogerty "Symbiosis 2" Donated by Summit Gear Katoomba

**Highly Commended:** Alan Daniel "Misty Greens" and Lewis Fogerty "Ab11 Kanangra Main"

**Painting:** Judged by Vince Day from Day Fine Art Blackheath

### Gardens & Byways

**Winner:** Libby Raines "Maple Leaves"

**Highly Commended:** Monika Scheffler "A Quiet Corner" and Derryn Hahn "Perrier's Blooming"

### Wilderness & Adventure

**Winner:** Anne Mayall "Landscape"

**Highly Commended:** Penny Oates "Firestorm" and Leanne Jones "Terra Firma"

### People's Choice

Lewis Fogerty "Symbiosis 2" Donated by 'The Gallery' at Mt Victoria

The six open gardens, *Bisley, Breenhold, Merry Garth, Nooroo, Sefton Cottage* and *Withycombe* were looking splendid and much enjoyed.

This email came on Monday morning after the Spring Blossom Festival

*Well done and thank you for a fantastic weekend of open gardens. We visited on Saturday and had a great time, our children ran around and we all soaked in the beautiful gardens and tranquil surrounds.*

*We'll definitely be back next year!*

The delicious food at the Hall and the sausage sizzle at the Fire Station, enjoyed by all.



Thank you everyone!

**Judy Tribe**

## **MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE NEWS**

### **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc was held on Saturday, 17 September. The meeting was well attended by members. Our State member, Trish Doyle and our newly elected Federal member, Susan Templeman attended the meeting. Another guest was Ian Wright from the University of Western Sydney, who presented an update on pollution of the Wollangambe River.

### **Retiring Committee members**

There have been changes to the Committee for the coming year. Richard Beattie, Peter Laving and Lorraine Barrett decided not to stand for re election. We would like to thank them for their hard work on the committee and their commitment to the village. Alison Halliday proposed a vote of thanks to Richard Beattie for his tireless efforts as President from 2009, which was followed by warm applause from the meeting.

### **Current Committee**

The committee are delighted to have Robbie Feyder as a new committee member. Robbie joins the committee members who stood for re election – Alison Halliday, Libby Raines, Sue Woolfenden, Nancy Fox and Ted Griffin. In the absence of nominations for the role of president or ordinary committee member then the constitution provides that the committee may fill those positions as casual vacancies. The new committee would like to thank our Vice President, Alison Halliday, for accepting the invitation to assume the role of Acting President.

Should you have ideas or comments for the MWPA the committee members are always pleased to hear from you.

#### ***Alison Halliday, Acting President, Vice President***

Email: [alisonhalliday@gmail.com](mailto:alisonhalliday@gmail.com)

Phone: 9389 1848 4756 2060

#### ***Libby Raines, Treasurer***

Email: [merry.garth.r@gmail.com](mailto:merry.garth.r@gmail.com)

Phone: 4756 2121 (After 7 p.m.)

#### ***Sue Woolfenden, Secretary***

Email: [secretarymwpa@gmail.com](mailto:secretarymwpa@gmail.com)

Phone: 4756 2046 M: 0435 359 628

#### ***Robbie Feyder***

Email: [Robbie.feyder@gmail.com](mailto:Robbie.feyder@gmail.com)

Phone: 9958 8810 4756 2003 M: 0414 580 108

**Nancy Fox**

Email: [nancysfox@gmail.com](mailto:nancysfox@gmail.com)

Phone: 9960 2969 4756 2106 M: 0411 251 743

**Ted Griffin**

Email: [tedgriff@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tedgriff@bigpond.net.au)

Phone: 9300 6628 47562102 M: 0417 088 879

**Blue Mountains City Council Election Result**

The NSW Local Government elections were held on Saturday, 10 September 2016. The elected councillors for the term 2016 -2020 for Ward 1 are Don McGregor (ALP), Kerry Brown (GRN), Kevin Schreiber (LP). We congratulate them on their election and look forward to working with them. We would like to thank former councillors Sarah Shrubbs and Michael Begg for the work they have done for the Mount Wilson community.

**Sue Woolfenden, Secretary**

**Remembrance Day Service**

**10.45 am Friday 11th November, Mt Wilson War Memorial**

The annual service will be conducted as usual with a short ceremony at the War Memorial, followed by morning tea at the Village Hall.

Alison Halliday will give another interesting talk on two more of the names of the fallen locals listed on the War Memorial.

This moving tradition was started by the late Arthur Delbridge in 2004. Arthur gave a total of five annual Remembrance Day talks through to 2008. From 2009 onwards, Alison has kept the tradition alive.

Always fascinating and painstakingly researched, and often extraordinarily moving, the full transcripts of the life stories of the youth of the Mounts who elected to serve in an unconscionable war can be found on:

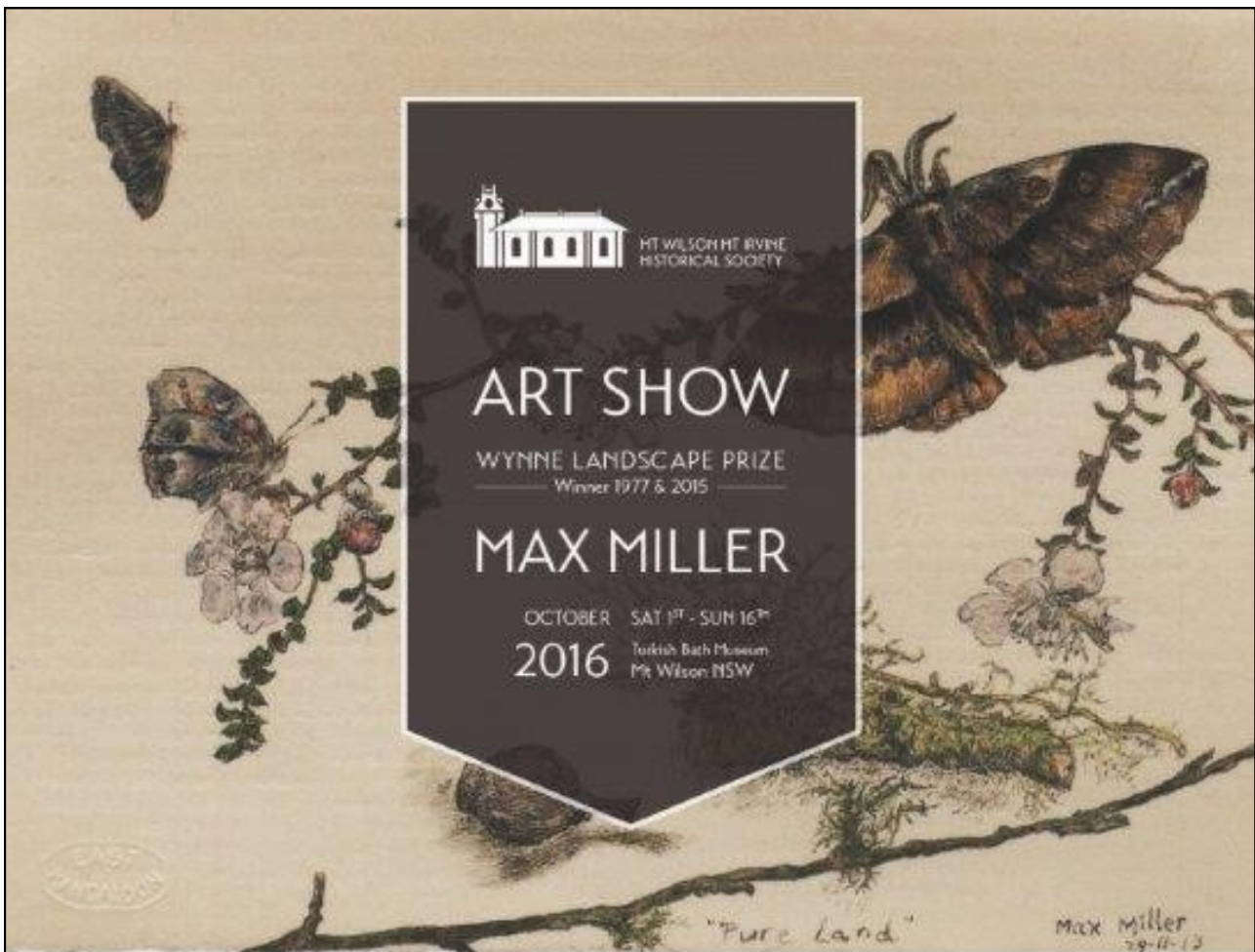
<http://www.mtwilson.com.au/index.php/mt-wilsonmt-irvine-historical-society/miscellaneous-articles.html>

The history of the War Memorial, collated by the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society, can also be found at the same web page.



Mt Wilson War Memorial, c 1919





## OFFICIAL OPENING

BY RICHARD WYNNE DESCENDANTS

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 5.00<sup>pm</sup> to 6.30<sup>pm</sup>  
Donation \$15 (Drinks and Finger Food)

Richard Wynne (1822-1895), the founder of the Wynstay estate in Mt Wilson, established a bequest at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in 1897 "for the best landscape painting of Australian scenery in oils or watercolours, or for the best example of figure sculpture by Australian artists".



## MEET THE ARTIST

MORNING TEA

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 10.30<sup>am</sup> to 12.00<sup>pm</sup>  
Donation \$10

Max Miller studied in Sydney, Florence and London and has exhibited his work since 1970. His principal subject is the Australian landscape; his closely observed drawings of flora and fauna inform his more abstract work. He is also a distinguished master printer who has worked with many artists.



## OPEN EXHIBITION

ENTRY: \$10.00 (Children Free)

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> of October  
11.00<sup>am</sup> to 3.00<sup>pm</sup> Refreshments Available  
Paintings, fine art prints, cards for sale.

### LOCATION:

Turkish Bath Museum  
'Wynstay', 6B - 76 The Avenue  
Mount Wilson NSW 2786



*The Mount Wilson/Mount Irvine  
Community Christmas Party  
Will be held on  
Saturday 3rd December 2016 at 6.30pm  
At The Mount Wilson Village Hall*

*Everyone is warmly invited*

*Finger food and drinks provided*

*RSVP by 26<sup>th</sup> November to either:*

- Sue Woolfenden: [secretarymwpa@gmail.com](mailto:secretarymwpa@gmail.com)*
- Bruce Kerridge: [bdkerridge@gmail.com](mailto:bdkerridge@gmail.com)*
- Judy Tribe: [judithtribe@gmail.com](mailto:judithtribe@gmail.com)*

*Mt Wilson Progress Association  
Mt Irvine Progress Association  
Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine RFB*



### **Imaginarium IT Spring Clean Special**

Summer is just around the corner and with temperatures warming up it its time to think about giving your PC a spring clean and health check.

Many people don't realise that computers can become clogged with dust and debris which is sucked in through the internal computer fan. This can be especially common during the winter months when devices are used more frequently and people and animals spend more time indoors with the heating running.

Coming into warmer temperatures internal fans work harder to keep computers cool, however if a computer is clogged with dust and debris this can stress the fans and cause overheating. This overheating can lead to hardware malfunction, data loss and even potentially fire hazards.

These risks are further enhanced if a computer's components are over worked and under strain from issues such as over committed storage, substandard virus protection, malware infections and incomplete software updates. The symptoms of these issues include sluggish response times, difficulty starting up and completing tasks as well as noisy fans / operating noises and devices being warm to the touch.

Ash Phillips from Imaginarium IT, our local IT service here on the Mounts, is offering a residents only Spring Clean Special for \$110 which includes:

- A full PC Health Check and burn test
- Basic Malware / Virus scan
- Start up and basic running optimisation
- A full internal and external clean.

You can contact Ash on 4756 2063 or [info@imaginarium-it.com.au](mailto:info@imaginarium-it.com.au) to book a PC service or make an enquiry.





## Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade

### Bushfire Season is Here

In spite of all the news at the moment about floods throughout Australia, it is actually now the bushfire season. You can still do pile burns but the bureaucratic procedure now operates under different and more onerous rules (forms to fill, inspections etc). If you need to do a pile burn contact the Blue Mountains District Office on 4784 7444. At least we now have our green bins to help with clearing vegetation although I find it does not take much to fill them up.

### Bushfire Season Outlook

The Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC and the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) have released their Southern Australia Seasonal Bushfire Outlook 2016. With above average rainfall over winter we are likely to see a delayed start to the bushfire season. In the Blue Mountains, as conditions shift to those more typical of summer, we will see fuel availability coinciding with the peak of summer, and the prediction is that we will then have normal bushfire potential.

In the central and western parts of the state, the significantly higher rainfall received over winter will result in prolific grass growth over spring. This grass growth, combined with a drying phase and summer conditions, could lead to above normal fire potential.

### Street Coordinators

Do you know your street coordinators? They are some of your neighbours who have kindly volunteered to help out in emergencies. With their assistance we know that everyone is safe and we know if anyone needs some help. Street coordinators look after between 20 and 30 properties so it is not feasible for them to ring everyone individually when a disaster threatens. If you receive a message or learn that Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine are threatened please contact your street coordinator to advise your situation and intentions.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Street Coordinator</b>
<i>Mt Irvine</i>	Brian Carrigan, Bruce Kerridge
<i>Mt Wilson South:</i> Wynns Rocks Road; Mill Road; Mt Wilson Rd; 4-10 Queens Ave	Alice Simpson, Peter Laving
<i>Central Mt Wilson:</i> 11, 31, 36, 68 The Avenue; Hay Lane, Queens Ave; Wyndham Ave; Waterfall Road; Applecot Lane	Anne Piggot
<i>Mt Wilson North:</i> Church Lane; 50, 60, 64, 77, 79 The Avenue	Robert Nichols, Peter Anderson
<i>Mt Wilson East:</i> Beowang Rd; Davies Lane; Galwey Lane; Hillcrest Lane; Lamb's Hill; Shadforth Rd; 85-117 Mt Irvine Rd	Richard Beattie, Alex Halliday
<i>Farrer Rd; Smith Rd; Field Selection</i>	Judy Tribe, Wendy Holland

### Brigade Welcome Day

Graham Tribe and Joe Montano are planning a brigade Welcome Day for Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November (assuming there are no fires). Welcome Days are for people who want to learn about the Brigade, or are new to the brigade, may have an interest in joining or we haven't seen for a while. It is a friendly way to become familiar with the brigade and the way we work. It will help you to get to know some of the people in the Brigade.

For those of you who might wish to join the Mt Wilson/ Mt Irvine Brigade it is an opportunity to join and to complete the safety induction required by NSW Rural Fire Service. Otherwise it is a chance to learn about the brigade, catch up with the latest and become more familiar with how the Brigade operates.



There are many roles at the brigade and we do not expect everyone will want to climb in and out of trucks. The goal is to increase interest in the Brigade and to make it easier for people to decide whether to be involved. We also want to make these days easy and friendly so we cater for people who have some experience as well as those who are new or junior members.

The day will start at 9.00am at the Mt Wilson Fire Station and end by 12.00pm or earlier.

If you would like to come along please let Graham ([gttribe@bigpond.com](mailto:gttribe@bigpond.com)) or Joe ([joemontano@bigpond.com](mailto:joemontano@bigpond.com)) know.

**Kathleen Oakes**  
**Community Engagement Officer**

### **Australian Pollinator Week celebrations**

I would like to invite you and your community to take part in the Australian Pollinator Week celebrations this November. While Pollinator Week has been celebrated in the Northern hemisphere since June 2007, the seasonal differences in the south has restricted bilateral celebrations. Last year saw the launch of the first ever Australian Pollinator Week, with plans for it to become an annual event.

Pollinators drive the world's biodiversity, and over 75% of the world's flowering plants rely on insect pollinators to reproduce. Pollinators provide these important ecosystem services in the natural landscapes as well as within agricultural/horticultural and urban environments, including school gardens.

The world is suffering from major pollinator declines, but through education and events such as Pollinator Week we can bring these usually-unnoticed insects to the forefront of peoples' minds, with the goal of supporting and protecting their populations.

Join us for Australian Pollinator Week, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November (20 – 27<sup>th</sup> this year), to celebrate these important creatures. Some of the activities include building an insect habitat, planting a pollinator habitat garden, making seed balls, catch and identify insects in the garden, the 'wild pollinator count', pollinator-inspired art projects and puzzles.

Please visit my website at [www.beesbusiness.com.au](http://www.beesbusiness.com.au) for information and ideas on how you can get involved and help support our pollinators at <http://beesbusiness.com.au/pollweekmain.html>

There is a link to register an event. This information will be used to produce a map of event locations/ dates so people can 'find an event near you'.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone who may be interested. If you have any suggestions or feedback, please don't hesitate to contact me [megan@beesbusiness.com.au](mailto:megan@beesbusiness.com.au)

### **Megan Halcroft (PhD)**

Landline - 02) 63 59 3118 (most reliable)

Mobile - 0414 283 941

Conservation Education, specialising in native bees

Trying to *bee* more aware of our environment

[megan@beesbusiness.com.au](mailto:megan@beesbusiness.com.au)

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

[www.facebook.com/BeesBusiness](https://www.facebook.com/BeesBusiness)

[www.facebook.com/groups/beeawareofournativebees](https://www.facebook.com/groups/beeawareofournativebees)

## Vic Zhukov completes the Hans Heysen Trail

Vic Zhukov's annual walking adventure this year was an astounding unsupported solo completion of South Australia's famous 1200 kilometre Hans Heysen Trail (see the map on the next page).

Vic's extraordinary effort was documented in the Spring 2016 edition of the *Trailwalker* magazine, the handsome quarterly publication produced by The Friends of the Heysen Trail.

This article is reproduced below, with the initial introduction by one of the volunteers inspecting the huts and trail conditions in the Parachilna area of northern South Australia:

*One of the tasks assigned to me was to check the log books located at each hut. I was interested to read several entries by Vic Zhukov, a walker from NSW, who had visited the furthest north huts just a few days earlier.*

*A week or so later, the Office received a short email from Vic advising us that he had completed the Heysen Trail. We treated this as a request for an End to End award and in the course of subsequent correspondence, I asked him if he'd like to share his thoughts on the trail and his walk. I'm delighted to have received this response:*

.....  
The trail is generally excellent, only the route that "traverses a scrub-filled gully" (Northern Guide, i.e., from F to G on p. 114) needing more or clearer markers.

I tried to do the south to north End to End last year, but had to pull out with a stress fracture to one of my legs a couple of days north of Burra.

This year, after a regime of calcium and vitamin D, I managed it to the end, between 4 May and 12 July: 69 days in toto.

I could have done it quicker, but said to myself what's the hurry, enjoy the event!

Two things that may be considered vaguely special are:

1. I'm 75 (and a half) years old, and
2. I did not take a drop of water with me, finding what I needed on the way: creeks, dams, bores, puddles on tracks, an old car tyre on one occasion.

Since I never missed a cooked breakfast, cooked dinner and a large brew at lunch that required collecting about four litres a day. No problem. The boiling sorted out the bugs, and the stews and porridge I concocted overcame any salinity or other untoward taste.

Cooking was done, rain or shine, on unobtrusive camp fires. The gas stove was strictly for emergencies and I brought home the same cylinder I started out with.

I'm attaching a couple of photos my wife took at Cape Jervis, where she dropped me off last year for my first attempt. I look like a proper dag, a state not at all improved by the time I reached Parachilna Gorge this second go.

I thought to send those pics, rather than something more contemporary (which I don't have) because the sight of my pack brings on the following train of thought:

I met people on three occasions recently who commented on that pack as being "somewhat small". My response has been that it actually weighs 20-22 kgs (*Ed: i.e. similar in weight to a standard dry-mix concrete bag*) when fully loaded, and also I can afford to travel a bit lighter, firstly because of the aforementioned eschewal of water (but I make that up to some extent by added food and a pair of thick woollen bedsocks) and secondly due to the nature of my tentage.

I use an army hooch and a lightweight hammock, both to be hung between the same two trees or

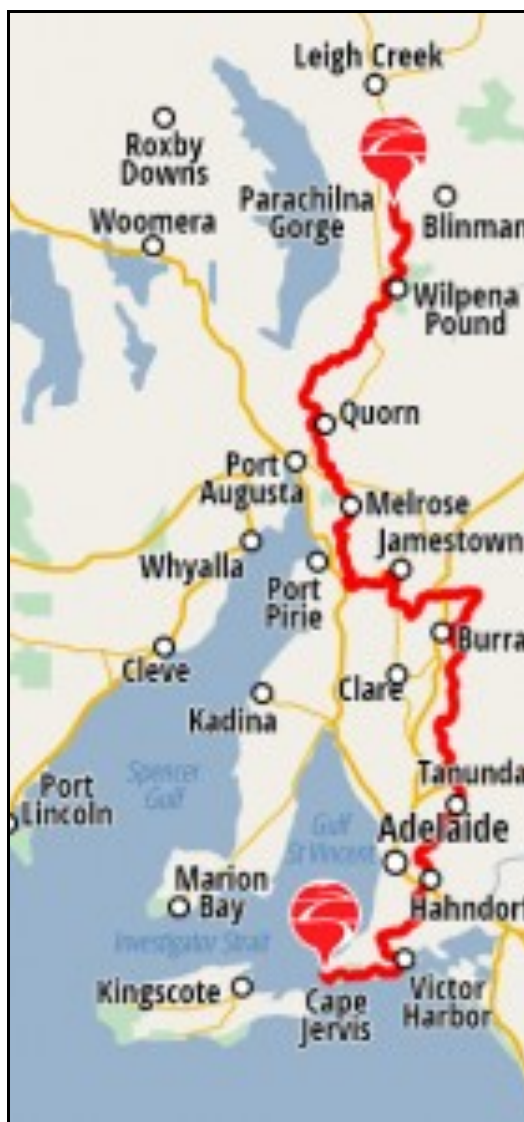
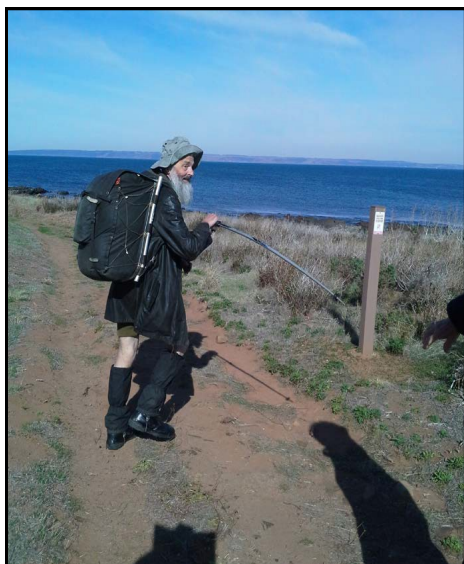
fence posts or equivalent. Those two items fit, with room to spare, in the pocket that you can see on the back of the pack.

The hammock is insulated by a half-Thermarest and then there's the usual sleeping bag. It's a combination that has served me well for decades in snow and the tropics. In fact the basics came from Vietnam, where Diggers in my generation found the locals there slept that way: above dampness, uneven or sloping ground, insects and leeches. Many of us copied them, using captured hammocks (or, on later Southeast Asian postings, having them sewn up locally.)

When I returned from the war I thought it was a system that would revolutionise camping, but people to this day still prefer a bulky tent, with all its pegs and poles, condensation and cramped space. My system has three layers: the roof, the bed, and the "ground floor" beneath, where items of gear are lined up and firewood and kindling for the morrow are collected in case it rains during the night.

The hammock makes a comfortable and clean seat on which to eat, do repairs, write, etc, both in camp and on the march, whenever there's a need to stop for more than half an hour. I've hung it inside the more Spartan huts as well.

I have a history of lone, unsupported treks. Just one example: I couple of years ago I went around Australia on a cheap pushbike carrying homemade panniers with camping gear. That took four and a half months; 13,200 kms; average 94 kms/day. That's the beauty of being a pensioner: one suddenly becomes so fabulously rich in time...



**Jess Delbridge to take on the role of The Mounts editor in 2017**

As many of you are aware, Tim Gow will be retiring from his position as Editor of The Mounts at the end of the year with December being his final issue.

Tim's dedication during his time as editor has been unwavering; his continued efforts have produced a newsletter which is a much loved vital source of information for people living here on the Mounts. Enough cannot be said for Tim and his accomplishments in the role as editor, and although he is leaving big shoes to fill, I am very much looking forward to taking up the position as the new Editor of The Mounts.

I feel that we have an excellent opportunity to use this transitional period as a time for reflection and to go back to the community and ask what you would like to see included in our bimonthly newsletter. We have so much to enjoy on the Mounts, from our gorgeous gardens and landscapes to our diverse and tight knit community, I would like to celebrate these aspects and further incorporate them into the newsletter.

Some great ideas have already been proposed by residents such as a regular gardening column and a neighbourhood news section but I am actively seeking more submissions for subject matter. They can be as creative as you like -let's think big and create a highly diverse range of content.

If you do have an idea for new subject matter I would also ask you to consider being the contributor for this content, writing a short piece bi-monthly for the publication. The more contributors we have the more subject matter we can cover; adding new sections to our longstanding columns and covering more areas of interest so there is something for everybody. The bi-monthly submissions don't need to be huge, a few succinct paragraphs on the chosen subject matter will be plenty. If you don't feel that you have the necessary resources to write on the suggested subject matter perhaps there is a member of the community who you feel would be ideal for the role and we can approach them privately about being a contributor.

All submissions, ideas and questions can be sent through to me at [themounts2786@gmail.com](mailto:themounts2786@gmail.com) or you can call 4756 2063 to discuss your ideas. I'm also wanting to gather some information on how you read the Mounts, whether its sent out to you via email or you download it from the website, if you view it on a device (computer / phone/ tablet) or print it out at home to read.

Once I receive and collate the submissions I'll write an update for the December edition of The Mounts discussing what we are working towards for the February issue.

I'm very much looking forward to receiving your ideas and would like to thank the community in advance for its continued interest and support of The Mounts.

**Jess Delbridge**



**Book Review**

Sleeping Tiger...

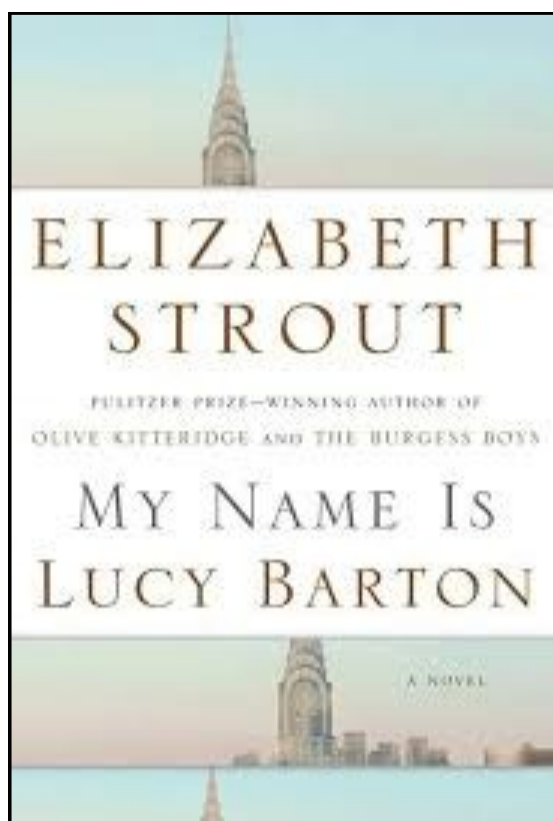
*My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout is like a half-wild cat. I approached it warily; I had enjoyed her earlier novel *Olive Kitteridge* very much but the character of Olive was often unlikeable and one got to know her rather reluctantly. The title, *My Name is Lucy Barton*, is bland, self-effacing, almost a disguise, like its owner. Lucy is in hospital, enduring an unknown and serious illness. Suddenly her mother appears at the end of the bed; they talk, ask gentle questions and avoid confrontation. The wild cat lies in their silences and in what they are avoiding.

Gradually we learn of a childhood of poverty, of difficult love, of possible abuse. Against this we see Lucy's respect for her doctor, her life as it is, not as it was, and her love for her children. Her everyday life, outside the hospital, is hinted at and approached elliptically. The past has bled into the present but we also see Lucy making quiet decisions about her future. The cat is tamed and while it may not crawl into her lap and purr, it is recognised and accepted.

So too the best thing about this book creeps up on the reader – it is Lucy herself: her gleaming intelligence and her quiet voice of acceptance and determination; of love and fear for (and of) her family past and present, her bleak honesty about herself and how she has changed and what she may want for herself and her future. The revelations are not sensational but heart-wrenching, her self-knowledge something to be admired and respected. In the end it does all come down to who she is: my name is Lucy Barton, and what she does to re-shape her world and her role in it.

This is a wonderful book, to be savoured and considered rather than gulped down.

**Alison Halliday**



# **ATN\***

The column formerly known as "Ask the Neighbours"

Cross promotion, Tim. No, I'm not angry. Cross-promotion is the newest craze amongst us hip creative types toiling away in the lifestyle media genre. What's that? It's not so new? Maybe, but here at ATN, as always, we're taking it to a new level.

Cross to promo No.1, Tim. For those readers without active imaginations, let us set the scene and provide the actors' notes:

It's a cool clear day in the Mountains. Pan pipes play. The mist is rolling gently away to reveal...

Tim strolling across the landscape with our newest Product Partner... a handsome and self-assured Lyrebird. Due to the wonders of lipsynching (that's lipsynching for the lyrebird, not you Tim), they engage in the following naturalistic and entirely unscripted dialogue:

*LB- (warm, comforting and confidential tone): "Tim, do you find more and more of our gardening friends are tired of those boring garden designs? Are they regretting those tens of hours and hundreds of dollars wasted on garden beds which fail to deliver that natural look?"*

*Tim (usual sense of wide eyed wonder and innocence): "Why, yes, LB – you've read my mind. But, what can they do?"*

*LB (voice of authority): "Luckily, the solution is at hand. Or, should I say, at claw, Tim (loud guffaw). Here at LB Landscapes, we offer a wide range of garden saving services. From lawn aeration using our exclusive patented Sharp Claw technology through to our selective plant removal and destruction service, we can revitalise your gardens literally overnight".*

*Tim (enthusiastic tone): "Sounds great, LB, and you take the gardener with you throughout the process? Assisting them to deliver their individual garden visions?"*

*LB (condescending superiority): "We deliver what their garden visions should be, Tim. We help them see past all that grassy shrubby nonsense and towards the true essence of mountain gardening."*

*Tim (dubious): "sounds expensive and hard to achieve overnight, LB."*

*LB (voice of even greater authority): "That's where you're wrong, Tim. Through our strategic alliance with fellow mountain contractor, Wot the %\$# Excavations, we can move mountains overnight! Well (forced chuckle), it won't ALL happen overnight, but it will happen (camera zooms in on toss of LB's plumage)."*

*Tim (reassured): "I've never heard of Wot the %\$# Excavations, LB. Who are they? Are they new to the Mountains?"*

*LB (confident): "They're not new, Tim. They've been redesigning landscapes in the Mountains for generations. OK, Tim (forced jocularity), I'll let you and your readers into a little secret. Wot the %\$# Excavations is the latest creditor evading venture of that group of crusty yet lovable garden favourites, the Vombatus ursinus – wombats. We've teamed up for a winning combination, Tim with a product few can resist having in their gardens"*

*The camera pans out to reveal a night's work by LB Landscapes and Wot the %\$# Excavations. Tim is visibly moved (by emotion). The pan pipes swell. The 24 hours phone line and website details roll up.*

THE END And Tim, best of all – for ATN and our shareholders back in the Caymans - there's a tasty, if complicated, profit sharing arrangement. It's literally, a win win win.

What do you think, Tim? I knew you'd like it. No? You think it flies in the face of RAATS\*\*' core beliefs to promote LB and Wombats? That we've sold out for filthy lucre? Well, yes. But, that's the new ATN for you, Tim. Ever flexible.

And now that we've got those pesky moral qualms out of the way, Tim - the next chapter in the campaign is even better. We'll have scientific boffins (obligatory beards, shorts and knee high socks) revealing the shock results of their research - "LB's landscaping techniques proven aids in bush fire hazard reduction". Actually, that part's true, Tim. There's nothing like an advertising campaign which mingles truth, puffery and lies.

## **Elizabeth M**

Lifestyle Editor and RAATS President

\*ATN Productions, a Subsidiary of Bread and Circuses (Cayman Islands) Limited.

\*\*RAATS - The Rural Anti Antechinus Training Service

**Suggestions, comments or contributions warmly welcomed!**