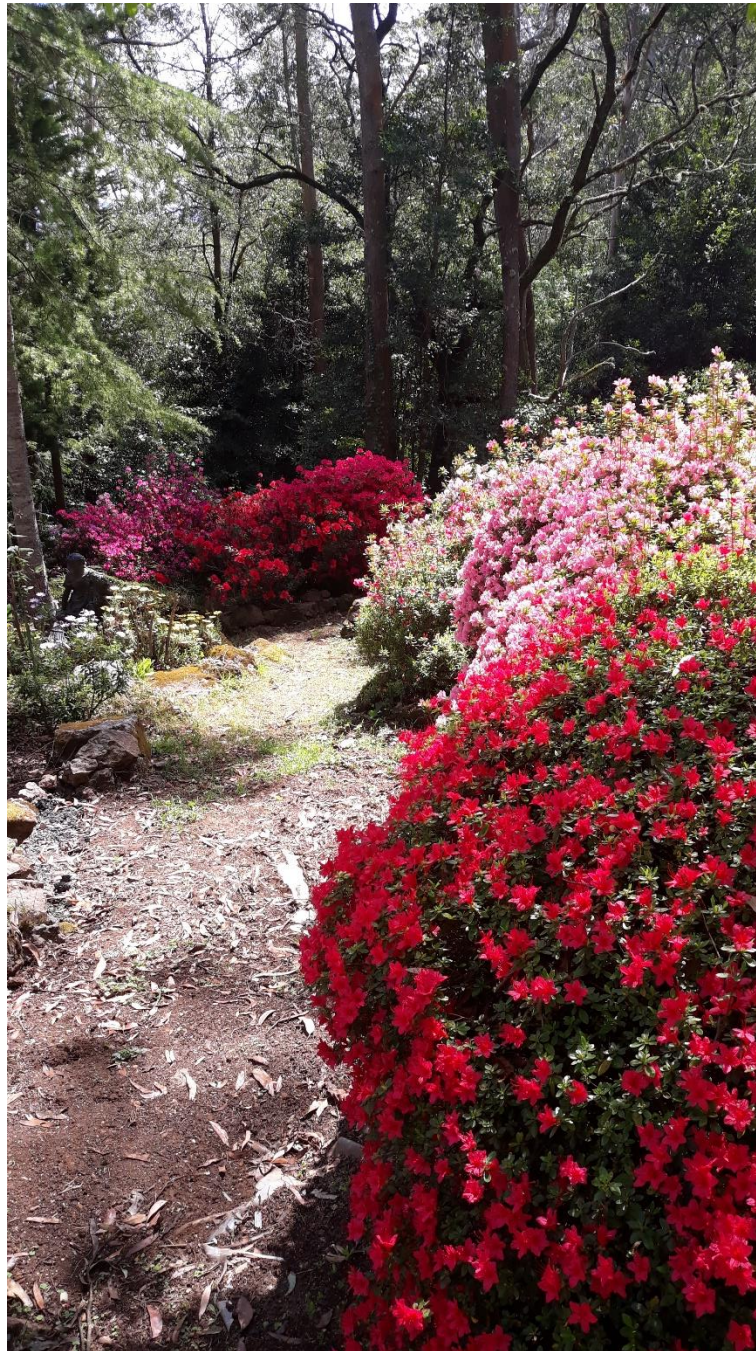


# THE MOUNTS

Community newsletter of Mt Wilson and Mt  
Irvine 2019-2020 Special Fire Edition Part Six

**NIOKA, IMAGES HELEN FREEMAN**







Note the statue on the left-hand side, also in first image.













The king parrots returned almost immediately after the fire and for the first time sat on the windowsill and tapped the glass wanting some food

## **A PERSONAL NOTE AFTER THE FIRES**

### **BARBARA HARRY**

On 25 January 2020 I drove to Mt Irvine, Danes Way and Farrer Road and was shocked, surprised and most impressed with what I saw. I was shocked at the extent of the damage, from a totally ravaged and blackened bushland to badly singed brownish sections and even very tiny areas still greenish and barely touched.

However, whatever the degree of burnt, the ashen blackness miraculously stopped at every property boundary. This though was NOT a miracle, but the brilliance of the fine fire-fighting firies who seemingly managed to save almost all the properties. Very small pockets of green strangely glowing in the blackened surrounds.

Last there were uplifting signs of life and hope as fresh lime green tree fern fronds uncurled from blackened trunks and small clusters of pinkish and green eucalypt sprouts dotted the charred wood.

At least in the flora department new life is on the way. A different story I fear for the fauna.



## LETTERS OF THANKS

Dear Firefighters,

The students in Kindy and  
Year 1 at Tates Ave P.S.  
wanted to send you letters  
to Thank You for your  
hard work and efforts the  
past few months with the  
current fires.

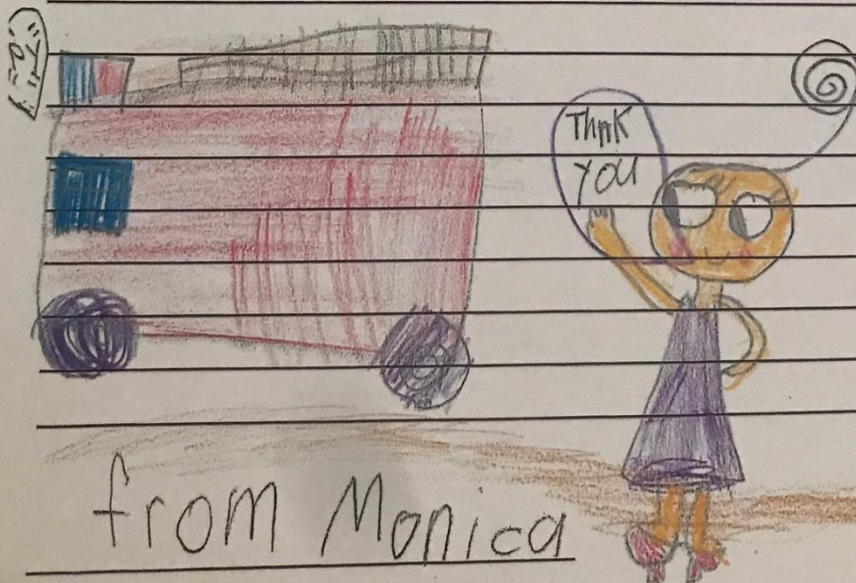
From

Kimberly Walter

Kimberly.Walter@det.nsw.edu.au

Dear Firefighter,

My name is Monica and I  
am in year 1. I hope you are  
safe because the fire fighters  
are putting the fires out and  
rescuing the adults or children.  
I know the fire fighters are doing  
really hard jobs. I want to say thank  
you to you I think you really  
want to rest but you keep rescuing.  
I am really proud of you.  
Monica



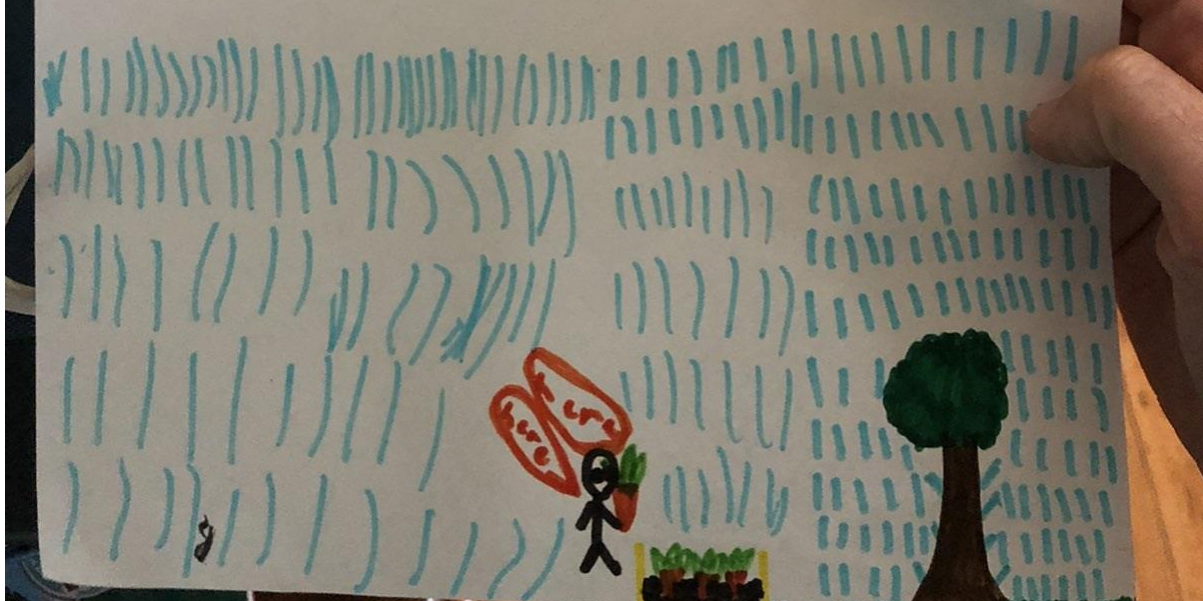


Dear Alex and the other firemen,  
Thank you for your bravery, courage and endurance in  
fighting the fires across Australia.

I hope you get to see your families soon.  
For Christmas I asked Santa Claus for the drought to go  
away. I hope the drought ends soon.  
We have been recycling our bath water to help  
grow your vegetables. Here is a picture to make you  
smile.

Love From Archie

New growth after the rain!!!!



Archie is Alex Halliday's great nephew. He wrote this letter and presented it to Alex on Christmas day along with a bag of lollies and pack of bottled water, asking Alex to deliver it for him. The lollies and water were purchased from his own 'giving money' saved over 2019 from his pocket money. Archie will be turning seven later in February 2020.







## FROM STEPHEN LIST

What I have to convey is more about the heart than the intellect and putting your body on the line. The grief and despair for our lost colleagues, including our American crew on Thursday, is palpably different from what I deal with day to day. I feel it in my throat and chest. I am used to telling people what to do, particularly in my past life as an anaesthetist running an ICU. I also expected people to do it...after all the patient's life was in my hands, not theirs. Their lives were also not at risk. Role reversal this past month or so, and I am just a burned out buggered 69-year-old volunteer firefighter who has finally started to weep for all the loss. I would like to think that I did my best as did others, under extraordinary circumstances...ordinary people demonstrating such extraordinary courage, some carrying quietly unspoken medical disorders nonetheless and no complaints. I came to this community some number of years ago and I knew I had come home, but I did not expect, as has occurred, to develop such affection for you all. More than that, such huge respect for not least the way we have been led with such care and competence by our crew leaders and captains who in turn have chosen to carry such a huge responsibility for us and have done so selflessly and so well. Thank you to all of you. I feel privileged.

[This was read to the community by Alison Halliday at the gathering on 25 January 2020 on behalf of Stephen who was unable to attend.]





Satellite image of Mt Wilson after the fire courtesy of Tom Riddell



## WHAT NEXT?

While fires continue to burn near the mounts and further away, members of our community are starting to move onto the recovery stage. For some this will be a short journey, for many it will be much longer. Below are details of some support resources that may be of assistance.

Service NSW has a range of financial and other support services available, details can be found here: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/bushfire-customer-care-service>.

Blue Mountains City Council has various services available for resident and rate payers as detailed here: <https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/recovery>.

NSW Land Registry Services (land titles office) are offering title searches and plan images free of charge. These may assist with insurance claims and development applications. Details here: <https://www.nswlrs.com.au/About/About/Announcements/63>

The Australian Government's Department of Human Services offers free counselling and additional mental health support for individuals, families and emergency services workers affected by the bushfires, details can be found here: <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/subjects/how-get-mental-health-support>.

Beyond Blue has developed a dedicated information page about mental health and bushfires which can be found here: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/bushfires-and-mental-health>. It contains practical advice about dealing with the emotional impact of bushfire, info about the signs and symptoms of emotional distress, and links to several useful websites.

## PHOTOS IN THIS EDITION

Many thanks to everyone who contributed photos to this edition of The Mounts. We were overwhelmed by your generosity but were not able to use them all. We have made every effort to credit photographers; this was hard at times as often the same images were provided by multiple people.

We apologise if any photos appear in the wrong groupings.

We understand that there will be interest in this edition of The Mounts beyond those who will receive it directly. You are welcome to forward this newsletter to those family and friends who might be interested but please respect the photographers by **not sharing** their images outside of this newsletter. Please contact the credited photographer or the editors of The Mounts ([themounts2786@gmail.com](mailto:themounts2786@gmail.com)) if you want to have or use an image.



A copy of all images received has been given to the MWMIRFB and MWPA for historical record purposes.

## FEEDBACK AND AUTUMN EDITION

Your feedback and comments are always welcome, please send to [themounts2786@gmail.com](mailto:themounts2786@gmail.com).

The closing date for the Autumn edition of The Mounts is **21 February 2020**. Please send submissions in Word format to [themounts2786@gmail.com](mailto:themounts2786@gmail.com). Images of local events, wildlife and flora are also welcome.

Contributions from members of the community are always welcomed – this is *your* newsletter. The email address for queries and contributions is [themounts2786@gmail.com](mailto:themounts2786@gmail.com).