

# THE MOUNTS

## Community newsletter of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine      Dec 2020 Summer

Seven years ago was the last cicada summer, the drumming was measured as being louder than a 747 plane, that too was the summer after the last big bush fire as we experienced the State Mine fire. And now this summer completes a cicada cycle with their deafening song, produced by the males only. Of course, there are usually cicadas every year but a boom year creates another about seven years later. In the intervening years their amazing life cycle occurs. The cicada lays her eggs under a furred back piece of bark on a small branch. I remember Libby Raines picking up a stick covered in these little lifted pieces of bark and explaining their cause. These eggs hatch into nymphs which fall to the ground where they burrow beneath the surface. They live on root sap and grow, discarding their skin as they do so. They emerge cased in a shell, with specialised digging legs, six or seven years later and then climb onto a tree trunk, gate post or telegraph pole – whatever is nearest. They climb out of this last nymph 'skin' and emerge as a fully winged adult, ready to begin the whole cycle again. The adult lives for only a few weeks.



David Emery/ABC

This year they seem to be mainly orange. They are the sound of an Australian summer.

More information on the current cicada boom can be found here:  
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-12-01/cicada-boom-in-nsw-has-ears-ringing/12934490>.

Alison Halliday

## LETTER FROM PRESIDENT OF THE MWPA

This is my first letter for the Mounts and there is so much to share.

First of all, a heartfelt thank you from the community to Alison Halliday for all of her years of service on the MWPA and her commitment and pride in our community. Alison was always the 'reluctant president' of the committee but she managed to lead the MWPA through several changes, most importantly our shifting relationship with the Blue Mountains City Council.

Secondly, a thank you to Ted Griffin for his many years on the MWPA and acting as the resident authority of all things with a legal angle. Both Alison and Ted will be missed but we know where to find you.

We have been very fortunate to welcome two new members to the MWPA this year in spite of COVID-19. James Douglas of Seton Hall and Bruce Downton of Stonehaven have filled our two open positions. They both bring new skills to the committee which will be very valuable. Given the recent home sales in the village, we also have several new members joining the MWPA. A morning tea was held on October 3 with various representatives of the many community groups to help the new members become familiar with all the community has to offer. The initiative was started due to COVID-19 but went over so well we will be holding it once a year for any new residents.

While we haven't been able to meet in person until recently, the committee has met virtually to continue the work of the MWPA. We are applying for a series of grants provided by government through the Bushfire Community Resilience and Recovery Fund. We will keep you posted if we are successful.

Much of our efforts are directed at working with BMCC to keep our village beautiful and well-tended. Given the increasing number of visitors, seeking ways to alleviate the impact on the residents and our infrastructure is a key focus.

In conjunction with the RFS and the Mt Irvine Progress Association, we are holding our Christmas Picnic on Saturday December 5 and hope to see you all there. The Red Cross is providing support to ensure we have a COVID-19 safe function. BMCC is also providing some financial support to assist with the festivities. It will be wonderful to see everyone after such a long time staying at home. Rumour has it, Santa Claus might even be there so bring the kids!

Many thanks for all of your support and let's hope 2021 is a happier and healthier year.

Nancy Fox



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

Invite everyone to a Community Christmas Picnic Celebration

AT: Silva Plana Sportsfield, The Avenue, Mt Wilson

ON: Saturday 5 December commencing at 12 noon

BYO: Food, drinks, utensils, picnic blanket and/or chairs

If you wish to barbeque there will be a barbecue available for you to cook your own. There will be fun and games for the children and adults.

As we are in a bushfire affected area Blue Mountains City Council can apply for a dispensation on our behalf to have a community gathering. A COVID safe plan will be in place.

Please RSVP to [secretarymwpa@gmail.com](mailto:secretarymwpa@gmail.com) (Santa's elves would especially like to know how many children are coming).

In the event of rain or wet conditions we may have to cancel or move the event. We will email if there are any changes.

Prior to the community picnic at 11 am there will be a presentation of RFS citations to recognise the efforts of those involved in the 2019/2020 bushfires. You are most welcome to come to this event.

We look forward to celebrating together.

Sue Woolfenden MWPA  
Allen Hyde MIPA  
David Howell RFB

## VALE WILLIAM RYAN

We are sad to convey the news of Bill's passing on Friday 26 November. Bill has been a quietly active member of the community for over 20 years including many years as President of the MWPA and will be greatly missed. A service for Bill will take place on Wednesday 9 December commencing at 10am in the Magnolia Chapel at Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium, cnr Plassey and Delhi Roads, North Ryde. Our thoughts are with his wife Maureen, their daughters and his extended family.

## WEED OF THE MONTH – OCTOBER – JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE

Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) is a vigorous creeper with distinctive cream and yellow flowers and impacts very heavily in the rainforest. More information can be seen in this link to [Weeds of the Blue Mountains](#), and this link to [The Libby Raines weed booklet](#) on the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine website.

A native of China and Japan, Japanese Honeysuckle is a vigorous climber with soft green leaves and pale yellow, sweetly scented flowers which self layers and quickly grows up and over shrubs and small trees, smothering them. The black berries are carried by the birds. Japanese Honeysuckle is a vigorous, fast growing scrambling and climbing shrub with distinctive pinkish new stems. Old stems can become thick and gnarly.



Spring is a good time to identify Japanese Honeysuckle, a creeper with its distinctive small yellow cream to white flowers with a pink tube. Flowers occur in pairs and mostly in spring to autumn. Flowers are fragrant and nectar filled.





Small shiny black berries 6–10 mm long occur in autumn.



### **Impact on bushland**

Japanese Honeysuckle grows rapidly and forms a dense shade over shrubs and low canopy trees, blocking the light, breaking branches and causing loss of biodiversity.

### **Control**

Japanese Honeysuckle twines in and around other plants, making it difficult to control.

Vines climbing up shrubs or trees:

- Scrape each stem as far as possible and paint; suspended vines can then be cut and left in place.
- Suspended vines are easily identified as they look like gnarly paperbark vines.
- Cut and paint large crowns and scrape and paint as many roots as possible.



Vines growing on the ground:

- Pull out by hand, making sure all root and stem parts are removed. Cut material can be spread out off the ground. Once dead, it will decompose in place.
- Where the foliage is dense, treat with herbicide if there are no native plants or water nearby.

Berries are spread by birds, so treat plants before they fruit. Do not pull dead or alive vines out of trees as this may damage the tree and it may be habitat for microbats and other small animals.

If you want to share any successes you have had or want to suggest weeds for another month then please email [weeds@mtwilson.com.au](mailto:weeds@mtwilson.com.au).

## NEWS FROM THE OLD SCHOOL MT WILSON

### Artist in Residence Program

The Teacher's Cottage and Schoolhouse have been busy with both artists in residence and short-term holiday makers keen to get out of the city and into the Blue Mountains. Writer Lynne Ainsworth was in residence during August sponsored by Michael Pembroke and put the time to good use polishing her fascinating memoir of her time living and working in China in the lead up to the 2009 Global Financial Crisis. Lynne's community engagement comprised a couple of writing workshops which were enthusiastically supported by locals and writers from elsewhere in the Mountains.

September saw harpist Emily Granger and her partner, composer Tristan Coelho take up residence and embrace all that the mountains offered. Sponsored by Tom Breen, their time was wonderfully productive, culminating in a memorable recital in St George's Church presented under strict COVID-safe guidelines. Emily and Tristan have left an enduring legacy in the form of a permanent Music Soundscape Walk inspired by various sites in the local environment. After downloading the Echoes app to your phone, you can walk around Mt Wilson while listening to their beautiful music on your headphones. Details are contained in this article which Tristan wrote for the Australian Music Centre describing his and Emily's residency at The Old School.

<https://www.australianmusiccentre.com.au/article/our-residency-in-mount-wilson>.

Because of their performance commitments, Tristan and Emily were unable to spend their entire month at The Old School and will return for one week in early January 2021 when they will present another recital for the community.

Applications opened in June 2020 for the next batch of residencies running from November 2020 to June 2021. From 27 high quality applications, residencies were offered to three visual artists and one writer. Still life artist, Jane Guthleben took up her residency during November and has produced some exquisite work in the style of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Dutch still life painters reimagined in an Australian context. Examples of her work can be explored on her [web site](#), [Instagram](#), and [Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Facebook](#).

Multi-disciplinary visual artist, Jody Graham is December's Artist in Residence and will present an exhibition of her work during that time at a date to be announced. Artist Leah Bullen, and writer Julie Thorndyke will take up their residencies during 2021.

### **Improvements to The Old School**

Following a successful grant application by Joe Montano, a new tank has been installed in the School grounds which will provide a more secure water supply to the school while also contributing towards the community's firefighting ability. The Teacher's Cottage now sports a jaunty red gate, designed, constructed, and installed by Stephen Dean.

### **Support for the activities of The Old School**

Now that The Old School has been awarded DGR status, a Public Fund has been established and donations can be received through the Mt Wilson website by clicking the Donate button on the homepage. All donations are tax deductible and go towards supporting the activities of the rejuvenated Old School while offering priceless opportunities to a range of artists to develop their practice.

Check out the Mt Wilson community Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MtWilsonMtIrvine> for updates and further news of The Old School.

Sarah Howell

## **BUSHCARE**

Bushcare continues in the nature reserves of Mt Wilson. In September we were joined by Alex Montano and thirteen of his colleagues from KPMG. This enthusiastic team of volunteers helped with planting some rescued plants into the rainforest edge of Sloan Reserve. This was followed by a guided nature tour by Nathan Summers from BMCC. As we walked from the fire station to Du Fours lookout and then onto Chinaman's Hat, Nathan provided a fascinating commentary of the features of the local flora and geology and insights into the aboriginal history of the area.

The Bushcare team also welcomed Sonia Walker, new resident at Tolimount and her daughter True and friend Nikki in October. The two twelve year olds worked diligently dealing with weeds in Wynne Reserve as part of a school community service project.

Bushcare is held on the second Friday of each month, between 9am and 12 midday. It is an enjoyable morning and a great way to learn more about the local native flora including beautiful rainforest trees, shrubs, vines and flowers.

If you would like to join us, please check the calendar on the Mt Wilson Mt Irvine community website to determine the location each month. Volunteers will be briefed on following COVID-19 safety protocols. It is now necessary to bring your own morning tea.

For residents who are wanting to identify and control weeds in their gardens, the booklet *Bushland Weeds of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine* can be found in the Bushcare section of the community website. The booklet is also available from the MWPA, if residents would like a free copy please contact Sue Woolfenden on 4756 2046. Everyone is welcome at Bushcare, hope you can join us!

Enquiries:

Mt Wilson contact: Alice Simpson (0414 425 511 or 4756 2110)

Council contact: Tracy Abbas (0428 777 141)

Alice Simpson



## KOALA SIGHTING ON DANES WAY

Very exciting news with a koala being sighted on Danes Way. On the afternoon of Saturday 10 October, Sam Greenwood the 13-year-old grandson of Henric and Minnie Nicholas came across a furry friend. He said:

*I was jogging along Danes Way (Mt Irvine) when I saw a koala. It was on the ground but climbed up a tree when it noticed me. Especially with the bushfires, I was so excited to see a koala where they have hardly ever been seen before, if ever.*

Sam's mum, Grace, passed on this wonderful photo and advised of this project: [scienceforwildlife.org/iconic-koalas-blue-mountains-project/](https://scienceforwildlife.org/iconic-koalas-blue-mountains-project/). There is information about signs of a growing population of koalas in the area, and if anyone spots a koala, they should report it here.



## PARMA WALLABY COVERAGE

An article in the Sydney Morning Herald on 9 November provides some interesting history of Peter Pigott's work with the Parma Wallabies and work being planned with Taronga Zoo. You can read the article here:

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/we-ve-got-to-bring-those-wallabies-back-how-a-species-was-saved-20201103-p56b1t.html>.

## MOUNT IRVINE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION (MIPA)

### Mount Irvine Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP)

Work will commence the middle of the week of 23/11/2020 on the final phase of the Mt Irvine Public Hall NSP works. The builder has advised that new sliding windows and aluminium framing has been delivered to site in preparation for the works.



The works are expected to take about a month and be completed by Christmas. The aim of these works is to ember proof and mitigate smoke entry into the building. Additional sealing will be applied to existing windows, doors, and eaves.

The extensive ground works that are currently being undertaken adjacent to the Hall will conclude by the end of November. These works have reduced the level of fuel in the forest understory and segregated the canopy. This essential work has resulted in a significant asset protection zone (APZ) being created around the Hall.

### **Blue Mountains City Council Weeds**

As probably most of our residents know, there is a significant weed problem on Mt Irvine. It is pleasing to be able to report that Council has commenced a weed management program which initially will focus on Mt Irvine Road. Current funding will limit their progress but at least a start has been made.

Of significance is that Council has also allocated funds to undertake a project to eliminate, as far as possible, banana passionfruit from Painui Gully. Funding obtained under the Regional Land Partnerships Program by a local resident, together with Council funding will be used to employ a contractor to undertake this work. The contractor will work on both Council managed land and privately owned land.

We envisage that this private/Council partnership will be a forerunner to similar projects whereby significant weed infestations on Mt Irvine can be eliminated. We look forward to working with other members of the community in this way.

### **Roads**

We reported to Council that Mt Irvine Road is in a bad condition, with many potholes and general deterioration and breaking up of the road surface. During a recent visit by Council staff we had the opportunity to show them first-hand the deplorable state of the road.

Whilst no commitment has yet been made regarding a significant upgrade to the road, the Council has recently filled the larger potholes which is much appreciated.

During their site visit we also requested that the verge be regularly maintained to stop the roadside vegetation encroaching onto the carriage way and soil build-up on the road surface reducing the effective width of the road.

Council staff at the meeting committed to take these matters back to the Council for further investigation.

### **New Mount Irvine Fire Station**

Our local RFS Brigade has requested that the Council prepare a Land Use Advice regarding four possible sites for the new Mount Irvine Fire Station. These sites are:

- Between the Mt Irvine Public Hall and the tennis court,
- Immediately south of the tennis court,
- At the current shed site, and
- On the NW corner of Mt Irvine and Bowen's Creek Road.

This report will provide written advice regarding the planning and building considerations relevant to each site, including

- Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan standards
- State policies that may be applicable
- Referrals to external authorities required
- Bushfire construction and asset protection standards
- Any specific matters discussed at the site meeting
- Any major issues that would need to be resolved prior to lodging a development application.
- An indication of Council support for the development
- A list of plans and documentation that would need to be submitted with a development application.

Following receipt of this report and consideration by the Brigade, input from landowners and/or managers, as well as the community will be initiated.

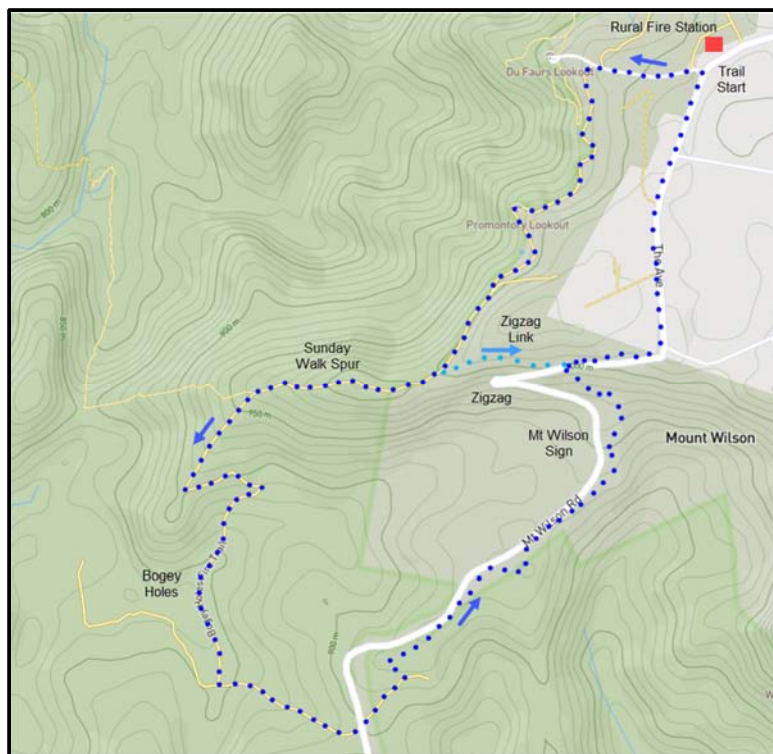
On behalf of the MIPA Committee, I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas period and a return to normality in 2021.

Allen Hyde

## **WALKS OF MT WILSON AND MT IRVINE – SUNDAY WALK SPUR – ZIGZAG LINK TRAIL**

This walk is well worth doing especially with the new Zigzag link Trail.

Peter Raines has reinstating the Zigzag link trail which now gives a great new easy 1-hour loop walk from the fire station. The walk goes along the top part of Bogey Holes Fire Trail from Du Faurs Lookout to the Southern end of Breenhold, then along the new Zigzag Link trail to the top of the Zigzag, finally returning to the fire station along The Avenue.



Start at the top of Du Faurs Rocks Road at the corner of The Avenue opposite the Rural Fire Station. Cars can be left in the car park at the start of the track. The track starts by walking down Du Faurs Rocks Road. After about 300m see the turn off to the Bogey Holes Fire Trail on the left. If time permits take a detour to Du Faurs Rocks Lookout (200 m return).

Bogey Holes Fire Trail is well formed and has lovely views to the West and North. There are some great rocks just off the trail for lunch or afternoon tea. Take care as these rocks can be slippery when wet.

After about 2 km the Fire Trail reaches a junction at the top of Sunday Walk Spur. There is a blue Track sign and fence line at this junction. The full circuit can be done by turning right at the junction and heading down the trail with the fence on your left hand sign. (Turn left at this junction for the Zigzag Link trail).

To follow the Zigzag Link turn left at the junction and walk up the trail with the fence on your right hand side (you will see an older tall disused fence on your left hand side and a newer fence on your right hand side). After about 80m the trail turns to the right. After another 30 m there is a path heading to the left. Follow this path and soon you will see Mt Wilson Road running below this path.

Following the main trail with Mt Wilson Road below you and to the right. After 300m this comes out at the start of The Avenue. Continue along The Avenue (being aware of cars) for about 900m to the start of the walk.

For the full Sunday Walk Spur Track please visit this site:

[https://www.mtwilson.com.au/images/MW\\_Walks/Sunday\\_Walk\\_Spur\\_01.pdf](https://www.mtwilson.com.au/images/MW_Walks/Sunday_Walk_Spur_01.pdf)

Robbie Feyder

## **MOUNT WILSON/MOUNT IRVINE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE**

Your Brigade has been very busy during the cooler months. We've had members doing more courses including several doing the crew leader course and 17 (yes-that's right 17!) people qualify as Bush Firefighters.

Having such a large number of people doing their training and assessment was a huge effort from both our new BFers and the Brigade members who assisted.

We're also anticipating another ten or so getting their BF qualifications next year. We've also got a number of people stepping forward to get their Village Firefighter qualifications. So, watch this space for more updates next year.

In addition to bolstering our operational numbers we've also been giving some new owners and residents a taste of what it's like to join the Brigade. Apart from helping the community and ourselves to be ready for fires and other natural disasters, joining the Brigade is a great way to integrate into the community. Apart from training on the first Sunday morning of the month for operational members and Station Officers, the Brigade holds two Friday maintenance nights – on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. While we get a lot done making sure the Sheds and trucks are all in order, we also have a lot of fun with time for a chat and refreshments afterwards. We're a very friendly bunch.





Being part of the Brigade does not mean you have to be an active firefighter or be a Station Officer – there are so many really important jobs to do- from equipment officers to general maintenance, our (almost) world famous catering group, uniform officers through to our street coordinators/community liaison officers. There's something for everyone.

At the time of writing, since our last report in The Mounts we've had seven callouts to incidents including one callout on a lightning strike, two Community First Responder incidents (thank you to our great CRFers!) , a callout on a leaking gas bottle, a truck rollover and investigating unattended camp fires.

The Brigade has also got two project groups working on, respectively, an extension to the Mt Wilson Shed and, either a new Shed or works on the existing Shed at Mt Irvine. A Development Application has been approved for the extension to the Mt Wilson Shed with funding discussions underway, builders being engaged to quote, detailed plans being drawn up and all the other things needed to get the extension done now underway. The extension will give the Brigade much needed additional space for training, operational briefings, two additional truck bays and generally helping us to be better equipped and prepared to support and protect our communities.

We've also been engaging with the new Blue Mountains District Manager of the RFS to familiarise him with our local issues and with our plans for the two sheds.

Our work following from our debrief of the December 2019/January 2020 fire goes on with equipment being replaced, new water tanks being planned or installed and, as already noted, a major boost to our operational membership being undertaken.

In recognition of the amazing effort put in by the Brigade during the fire, like other RFS Brigades around the State, our Brigade members who worked during the fire will be recognized with citations from the NSW Government prior to the combined community Christmas Party on 5 December. Citation recipients should have been contacted already to advise them of the award and inviting them to attend the ceremony. The citations will be presented by the RFS District Manager.

At time of writing, we are also still exploring how/when to hold our Annual General Meeting. These are usually held in June but this year's AGM was deferred due to

COVID-19 restrictions. We'll be in touch with members on that when we have clearer picture on that.

Well, that's the round-up for this edition of The Mounts. We hope to see many community members at the Christmas Party.

And if we don't see you there – from your Brigade:

It's a very Merry Christmas and a Happy FIRE FREE New Year to all.

Elizabeth Montano

## **RFSA = RURAL FIRE SERVICE ASSOCIATION...ARE YOU A REGISTERED MEMBER?**

All MWMI Brigade members who have a Firezone number, and are actively engaged in either frontline Fire Fighting and/or Brigade Support Areas, are eligible to be a registered member of the RFSA.

Today's NSW Rural Fire Service Association (RFSA) was born in 1996 out of collaboration between the former NSW Fire Control Officers' Association (FCOA) and senior Rural Fire Service (RFS) Volunteers. The FCOA was an effective means of communicating the views of Fire Control Officers (FCOs) and their deputies to the then Department of Bush Fire Services.

Volunteers, however, were unrepresented and were without a say on issues that both directly or indirectly affected them.

Both groups saw an opportunity for one truly united representative body of all Members to lobby the NSW RFS and Government in relation to such issues as funding, the structure of the Service, personnel and equipment.

The RFSA represents all Members of the Service. It:

- is a professional entity with its own resources and staff to support its Membership.
- has a set of clear objectives:
  - to provide a forum to consolidate and represent the views of all its Members to the NSW RFS
  - to ensure that the views of all Members are taken into account in the decision-making process of the Service
  - to be the focal point, a single voice in assisting the government and the senior management team in the development of the Service and to provide tangible benefits to all Members.

Details on the benefits of being a registered member, as well as how the RFSA works can be found on the website at <https://www.rfsa.org.au/about-us>.

The RFSA also operate a Shop where additional clothing and PPE can be purchased at discounted rates for registered members.

All Brigade members are encouraged to become a registered member, so that the RFSA can keep you abreast of RFS developments and keep you informed on how

your thoughts, concerns and issues are being represented/negotiated. See <https://www.rfsa.org.au/members>

If you have any questions, please call or email Barry Freeman, Deputy Captain, on 0429 429 401 or [barryonfreeman@outlook.com](mailto:barryonfreeman@outlook.com).

## TWO NEW RESIDENTS FOR MT WILSON

It is with great excitement that Jess and myself would like to introduce Mt Wilson's newest permanent resident, Finch Ralph Milford.

Born 2:02am October 27th in Lithgow hospital weighing 3.63kg (8lb), 51cm long.

Both Jess and Finch are doing well and are happy, healthy, and at home.

We are both very excited for Finch to be able to grow up in Mt Wilson.

Daniel Milford, Balangara



Hi, my name is Joanne Keep and I recently moved to Mt Wilson from the city.

I'm living on Farrer Rd, taking care of Mike McLean's beautiful property and his lovely old horse Freya. The other reason I'm here is I've just become a grandmother to Finch, Jess and Daniel's new baby and luckily they happen to live next door!

I'm looking for some casual work around the area and available 7 days a week. I'm a keen gardener, housekeeper and I've many years working with horses, and nannying for busy families. I've also owned and run my own Airbnb for 4 years.

I'm also in need of some wood chip for Freya's day yard so if anyone has some they want to off load I would be very grateful.

I can be contacted by email [joannekeep@gmail.com](mailto:joannekeep@gmail.com). Looking forward to meeting more of my neighbours here in Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine!

## MT WILSON & MT IRVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Well if nothing else, it certainly has been a unique year. Amnesiacs would be struggling to forget this one.



Buoyed by a good attendance at the society's last AGM in November 2019, and enthused by many good ideas from our members to promote and invigorate the society, along comes the global pandemic which unfortunately forced many of these ideas, not to mention our normal activities, to be placed on hold this year. Though it must be said, our very small concerns pale into insignificance compared with the effects this health crisis has inflicted on so many people in Australia and internationally.

The Turkish Bath museum was closed during the autumn due to restrictions placed on museum openings. However we did manage, thanks mainly to the stalwart efforts of Des Barrett, to open the museum on some days during spring. This with the addition of a few organised tour groups, allowed the society to show more visitors this unique and wonderful historical treasure and obtain some very welcome income for the society.

Of interest was a request by a theatre group in October called the Three Sisters Youth Theatre Group to film some sequences at the museum for a two-day period. These will form part of a film about youth in the Blue Mountains due to be released next year entitled Ninth Order. This has not been the first time filmmakers have been interested in the Turkish Bath House as a film location and hopefully not the last.

Due to modest society membership and participation, it is always a challenge to keep the Turkish Bath museum building and the precinct grounds in order. I recall times when it was not unusual for 20 people to turn up for a working bee when required. Many thanks must go to Wendy Smart and other members who have undertaken much needed routine maintenance of the building and grounds this year.

The society is contemplating holding an annual general meeting on Saturday 12 December 2020 from 10.30am to 12noon. The precise venue at Mt Wilson has yet to be confirmed. Formal invitations will be emailed or posted in by the end of November. We would be very pleased to see you at our meeting.

I extend my many thanks to all the society committee members for all their help, support and wise counsel during the year.

Malcolm Reynolds

## **WEED OF THE MONTH – NOVEMBER – HIMALAYAN HONEYSUCKLE**

Himalayan Honeysuckle (*Leycesteria formosa*) invades sensitive moist bushland such as Blue Mountains swamps where it forms thickets and dense shade, displacing native vegetation. More information can be seen in this link to [Weeds of the Blue Mountains](#), and this link to [The Libby Raines weed booklet on the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine website](#).

A deciduous multi-stemmed shrub to 3m high. Stems are erect, hollow and bamboo-like. A native of the Himalayas. *Leycesteria* is a vigorous arching shrub with large, soft green leaves and drooping panicles of white flowers which are followed by

clusters of shining dark purple berries spread in December and January by the birds. These plants grow well in the semi-shade of the rainforest.



Fruits are ovoid fleshy berries, dark crimson when ripe. Each fruit contains more than 100 small seeds.

**Control**

- The plant should be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed
- Dig out or cut off and poison every stem
- Spray large areas November to March

**BOOK REVIEW – OR NOT**

Apologies that there is no book review in this edition, it will be back in Spring 2021. I urge you to support your local bookshop as part of your festive season shopping.



## 11 NOVEMBER 2020

Due to COVID-19 there was no talk but members of the community still gathered at the Memorial for a short service conducted by Tim McIver.



Elizabeth Montano



Celia Kearin playing  
the Last Post on the  
cornet.

Alex Halliday



Richard Prentice and Vic Zhukov after the service, many thanks to Richard for laying the wreath

Alex Halliday



## FEEDBACK AND SPRING 2021 EDITION

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

The closing date for the spring 2021 edition of The Mounts is **Friday 19 February 2021**. 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).