

THE MOUNTS

Community Newsletter of Mt Wilson and
Mt Irvine December 2021 Summer



Maria Johnson's groodle, Friday, watching a spectacular sunrise at Wollangambe. See article on next page for stories of more lockdown companions.

EDITORIAL

I have always thought that there is no such thing as too much rain, especially when we live on a mountain top. This late spring has tried to prove me wrong as plants droop with the weight of water, the ground is boggy and firewood suddenly needed in a cold spell is soaking wet. I guess by the end of February we might think that rain would be welcome – watch this space.

Many thanks to all our contributors, especially those who sent in photos and stories to celebrate their animal friends. Many of these creatures have just loved the rain – note to Labradors: if you are wet and muddy inside the house if off limits!

Judging by the number of tradie trucks we have all decided to do repairs or major renovations, so please ask people working at your place to drive slowly, they never know who (or what) else is on the road.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR NON-HUMAN LOCKDOWN COMPANIONS

In the last issue we asked for photos and stories about the non-human companions we have all valued so much during lockdown. Our thanks to all who sent in contributions.

Peter and Yare Dougan of Bungleboori sent in these lovely photos of their Plymouth Rock roosters and their livestock guardian dog Maia (a Mareema). Their 20 month old daughter Ella is pictured on a morning walk with Maia and Romulus the rooster. Also shown is Ella's grandfather Don Dougan who Maia has a soft spot for.



Mary Holt reports that life for 15 year old Rosie has not changed much with lockdown – she loves to sleep with her electric blanket while recovering from radiation therapy to treat hyperthyroidism.





Bruce Arnold has shared these great pics of a spotted quoll – a less domestic lockdown companion.



Rosie Walsh was joined in lockdown by ducklings and the ever-present Kev the kookaburra who keeps the snails at bay while Rosie is gardening.



Andrew Mitchell has provided details about how Frankie coped with country lockdown.

Frankie, a miniature Dachshund, is definitely a North Shore dog. But she grew to love being locked down in Mt Wilson. Twice daily walks and as much garden time as she wanted. Which wasn't much in rainy weather. The five of us were crowded around the dining table with headphones on during work/school/uni hours, so any excuse to get out was welcome, and enthusiastically encouraged by Frankie. The highlight of the week was Saturday morning. Not being able to go down to Lithgow for our routine 5k Parkrun, we made our own route around the village. Handicaps were set and we set off at intervals down The Avenue, Davies Lane, Waterfall Rd, Queens Ave and back along The Avenue. Frankie barked and squealed continuously for the first five minutes, spurring us all along. But her main role was to administer cuddles, a job she excels at. Although one evening she planted herself out of reach under the table – enough!



Toby Howell was a new member of the family during COVID – he has made himself right at home.





Joanne Keep has also shared her furry and feathered friends. Horse Freya has spent time with baby Finch. Lucky the rooster was rescued from Farrer Road West, he was dumped with others but was the only one to escape the foxes, he is now a friend for Lucy the hen. Last but absolutely not least is the cat Estella.



All Halliday animals enjoyed lockdown, Labradors Curly (black) and Waldo (yellow) played while Billy the cat mainly slept.



George, Saffron and wombat (housemates of Alice Simpson and Robbie Feyder) relax in the afternoon sun.

THE ALPACAS OF JULES PARK, MT IRVINE

Everyone recognises that the peak of coronavirus in NSW was devastating, some of these effects were working from home and not getting to see family and friends. In this time of crisis, some of our only consistent friends were pets. In my case, the alpacas. These alpacas were Hershey (small and cute), Kansas (feisty), Hilcox (large and gentle), Garfield (always hungry) and Bradford (the leader). Coming outside every morning and evening and feeding these tall lumbering friends eventually became a routine for me and my family. In that period having a routine was vital so that you didn't while away time.

My favourite alpaca is Bradford, seeing the way he guards his friends and watches over them while they rest shows just how much of a leader he is. My first encounter with Bradford was when we were feeding the alpacas for the first time. At that time, the previous owners had advised us if the alpacas started feeding from the scoop you were holding, that means they would truly be your friend. At that time, we knew Bradford was the leader so we decided if we made friends with the leader, the whole herd would come along. Alas, this plan didn't work as Garfield kept taking all the food. We tried this for another few days until Bradford finally strolled up to me and ate from my scoop. My heart was racing, after days of trying we had finally succeeded, we had made friends with all the alpacas! So next time a deadly pandemic comes around, I urge you to remember about your pets. I hope we don't see one anytime soon!!!!

Vidyuth Kumar, 10-year-old member of the Kumar Family



VALE LIS GOW

Lis Gow, formerly of Sefton Cottage, Church Lane, Mt Wilson died after a long battle with Alzheimer's in the early morning of Sunday 12th September in the Norfolk Island Community Hospital.

Lis was born in 1932 in Vienna, Austria. At the age of six, together with her sister Monika (three years old), her parents – Johnnie, an Austrian national and his wife Fritz, a Czechoslovakian, were forced to flee their country as the Nazis annexed Austria in 1938. After a long search for refugee status, the family finally settled in Sydney.

Lis studied art at the Julian Ashton School in The Rocks. After the war, she returned to Vienna to complete her training. We have a newspaper clipping at home where William Dobell is quoted as saying that Lis was considered a very gifted young female painter. After her return to Sydney, and a subsequent move to Tamworth after her marriage, she obtained a degree in Physical Education and commenced a lifelong career of teaching. At some stage, she decided to change course and studied Mathematics which she taught at both public and private schools in Sydney for thirty years.



In 1967, she and her husband Paul purchased the five-acre subdivision of Sefton Hall and restored a crumbling gardener's cottage and set about establishing a new garden in what is now known as Sefton Cottage. In 1975, an additional five-acres to the west was purchased. Paul died in September 2013; Lis was already succumbing to dementia, exacerbated in part by the trauma of the Christmas 2013 fires. She permanently left Mt Wilson in January 2014 under the care of my brother Trevor on Norfolk Island. Within several months, she was moved to full-time care at the Norfolk Island Hospital.

The last eight years of her life was very sad for such an energetic and free-spirited person: she had permanently lost the ability to move or talk. Her death was a welcome relief to both her and her immediate family. She will be buried in the beautiful cemetery on Norfolk Island, at the foot of beautiful rolling green hills, in full sunshine and looking out on the wide expanse of the Pacific Ocean, a small plaque will be placed in the Mt Wilson Cemetery to mark her links to Mt Wilson, a place which she truly loved.

Now that the original owners of Sefton Cottage have both died, I would like to take the opportunity to express our delight with the ongoing vision and redesign of Sefton Cottage by Matt Mason and its gardener of twenty years, Richard Campbell. My parents would be thrilled to know that their initial work is being carried on with great style, sensitivity, and care.

Tim Gow

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Lisbeth Gow or Lis as she was known to all her many friends was born in 1932 in Vienna Austria. Along with her sister Monika and her parents Johnnie and Fritz the family were forced to flee their home and lives after Nazi Germany annexed Austria in 1938. After a long sea journey, the family settled in the eastern suburbs of Sydney and quickly settled into life in Australia.

Lis attended Sydney Girls High and graduated high school in 1948. She was a highly intelligent and vibrant girl, known to all as Lis. Talented artistically Lis studied art at the Julia Ashton school in the Rocks in Sydney and returned to Vienna after the war to complete her art training. A famous Australian artist William Dobell in a newspaper cutting we have describes Lis as an extremely gifted young female painter.

On returning to Australia in the early 50s Lis met and married Paul Gow. Tim was born in Tamworth where Lis and Paul had moved in 1955 and Trevor their 2nd son was born in 1959.

Lis trained and graduated with a degree in Physical Education while in Tamworth and commenced a lifelong career in teaching in the mid-50s. Upon returning to Sydney while teaching at Asquith Boys High she shifted her attention to Mathematics in which excelled as a teacher in both public and private schools in Sydney for well over 30 years. She was respected wherever she worked as being hardworking, conscientious, reliable, and probably most of all, great fun

The family first settled in Epping before moving to West Pennant Hills in the late 50s. Lis' best mate for life Celia Dunstan typically was met while shopping in a conservative post war Epping where Lis and Celia were the only 2 ladies who went shopping not wearing a hat and gloves. Lis had so many interests in life she could not be contained. From early on she involved herself in charitable organisations, had a deep love of the arts, found an absolute passion in gardening, later on cooking and entertaining. 24 hours in a day were hardly enough for her to pursue whatever consumed her interest on any given day.

Nobody was a favourite to Lis; everybody was an equal and of interest to her. She loved her boys and following their careers and endeavours but still had room for absolutely anybody who possibly needed some help. Lis in the absolutely any circumstance was upbeat and optimistic and totally selfless.



After the passing of Paul her husband in 1983 Lis moved from the family home in Mt Wilson to take up residence with Trev in Norfolk Island. Already suffering early stages of dementia Lis sadly only lived with Trev for around six months before she required full time care at the Norfolk Island Hospital. Typically, though Lis was losing her ability to talk, she managed to find friends, her spirit still shining through, uncomplaining in any circumstance. For such an energetic and free-spirited person, life had become a challenge; however, she found love and friendship at the hospital and the family will be eternally grateful she was able to live out her last years in the calm and peaceful environment that is the randah on Norfolk Island. She even found herself a new name, Lizzie as her spirit attached itself to so many of the nurses and staff of the hospital.

Lis and Trevor on Norfolk Island



From my brother Tim, his wife Kim, son Toby, Trev and Justine, Tara, Jaimie, Kelly, Nicole, Kyra, and Storm, all their partners, Jenny and all her family and Lis' many, many friends we would like to thank everybody here on Norfolk for helping make mum's passing easier.

From the people who sent cards and messages, the driver today, the team leader and gravediggers, Shane for giving to mum such a beautiful spot, David for taking the service, Trent for leading the singing, Robyn and Dids for the flowers, the Council of Elders, Tim, and members of the bowling club. Thank you so much.

Especially we would like to thank all at the hospital for the loving attention mum was afforded in their care. It will not be forgotten by Lis' family.

Trevor Gow, eulogy read at Lis' Service

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Lis and Paul were exceptional gardeners. When they bought Sefton Cottage in the sixties, there were blackberries growing inside. Together they transformed the cottage and began to create their magnificent garden on the sloping five acre site.



In the mid seventies, it was my good fortune that the Gows bought the adjoining terrace house to mine in Balmain. Lis and I were teachers and as we became good friends, I spent many parts of school holidays with her at Sefton. This friendship led to my buying a cottage and enjoying Mt Wilson for 35 years.

Paul and Lis under the conifers at Sefton Cottage during one of her Christmas lunches

Paul was known as a 'plantsman' as his aim was to have every known cold climate tree, shrub, and plant in the garden. Whereas the small exotic and often rare small plants and bulbs were Lis' speciality. When Lis arrived at night, she would inspect the garden by torchlight for the delight of spotting what might have bloomed during the past week. They later acquired the adjoining 5 acres which had been a horse paddock. This was also developed into a superb tree covered garden with dry stone walls and even a very large pond. They both often worked in the garden in all weather from early morning till dark. At the end of a weekend, especially a wet one there was a large bag of dirty garden gear. Lis left too early for school on Monday to drop it at the cleaners, so would leave it in my car (never locked) to drop off for her. She would collect it that evening.

Lis was an exceptional high school maths teacher. She transferred from Barker, an all boys high school to Kambala, all girls, and lifted the standard to levels not previously reached.

After retirement Sefton became a permanent home. This gave Lis more time to become enterprising with her gift for food preparation and entertaining. Many tour groups visited the garden and were treated to morning teas or lunch in the glorious surrounds, at times as many as 30 or 40 people. This she did with great ease, energy, and pleasure. Always gregarious and friendly she loved a chat and to listen, readily open to new ideas and garden talk.

Many friends too stayed at Sefton enjoying her very generous hospitality and excellent cooking.

I felt enriched by my friendship with Lis, her intelligence and wide interests. We spent many hours around the fire covering diverse topics. I'm sure many others will remember Lis with very warm affection.

Barbara Harry, Lis and Paul's neighbour for over 30 years

MESSAGE FROM MWPA PRESIDENT

What a wet and windy spring it has been thus far! At least it keeps the fire risk down.

We held the MWPA Annual General Meeting on October 9th and held the election of officers for the MWPA. Your representatives on the MWPA are:

President- Nancy Fox AM

Vice President - James Douglas

Treasurer - Robbie Feyder

Secretary - Sue Woolfenden

Ordinary Committee Members - Matt Mason, Janet MacDonald, Bruce Dowton and Peter Raines.

Congratulations and a heartfelt thanks from me. We are lucky to have such a motivated group of members to look after our interests in Mt Wilson.

A morning tea was held for new residents on November 20th and was well attended by residents who moved on to the mountain, many during COVID. We were joined by representatives of the many groups in Mt Wilson to explain the activities that are happening in the village and encourage newcomers to get involved, especially now that we can leave our homes and meet face-to-face.

The Remembrance Day ceremony was also held on November 11th and we thank Alison, Alex, and Matilda Halliday for their work in pulling this together and not letting us forget the sacrifices made by many.

Lastly, just a reminder that the Mt Wilson-Mt Irvine Holiday Picnic will be held on December 4th at Sylva Plana. Please bring your own food and drinks and enjoy this community day! Rumour has it Santa Claus might even make an appearance on a fire truck if the kids are good this year.

I look forward to celebrating the holidays with you at the picnic.

Nancy Fox

MESSAGE FROM MIPA PRESIDENT

Mount Irvine Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP)

The last step in the work at the Mount Irvine Public Hall in relation to it becoming an NSP is the placement of two sign to this effect in the front section of the reserve. The Land Manager Board has been persistent in their efforts to make this happen. We thank them for this and particularly Carol Carrigan who has spearheaded their efforts.

Thanks are also due to Ray Harrington for his willing involvement in this project from its inception and to the Rural Fire Service who funded the work, including the extensive ground works in the area below the tennis court.

If you have not already done so, the following web site has useful information concerning NSP's: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/neighbourhood-safer-places>

Blue Mountains Planetary Health Initiative

As stated on the Blue Mountains City Council website:

‘As one of only two cities in the world located within a UNESCO declared World Heritage Area, the Council recognises its stewardship responsibility in managing the City of Blue Mountains sustainably within a landscape of global biodiversity and ecosystem significance.

With this in mind, and with a philosophy of “think globally, act locally”, the Council has established the Blue Mountains Planetary Health Advisory Committee to advise and guide the Council on the establishment and implementation of the Planetary Health Initiative (PHI) that will include a Planetary Health centre in Katoomba and a local action program with the aim of providing local, regional, national, and international benefits.’

Earlier this year one of our residents, Allen Hyde, was selected by Council to join the Advisory Committee of the Blue Mountains Planetary Health Initiative.

Again, quoting the Council’s website:

‘The Blue Mountains Planetary Health Initiative has emerged from Council’s vision to grow Planetary Health for the whole City, for all life, and for future generations. Planetary Health links the things we do, with the health of people and the health of the planet, and for all life.

Its aim is to provide a framework for us to reassess and adapt human practices to better support a healthy planet for current and future generations.

It also includes learning from sustainable resource management practices that have been used by traditional peoples from around the world for millennia.

The new Blue Mountains Planetary Health Initiative inspires us to look at ourselves and our planet, from a different perspective.’

Allen has attended several Advisory Committee Zoom meetings and looks forward to being able to obtain the community’s input.

Sugar Glider and Micro Bat Boxes

Cheryl Dubois recently applied for and was successful in obtaining a grant to provide Sugar Glider and Micro Bat boxes at Mt Irvine. Currently these boxes are being assembled and painted by residents. The next step is determining where best to locate them!

Thank you, Cheryl, for taking this initiative.

Weeds

This remains an ongoing project with Council funded weeders present on Mount Irvine during the last month, Council has been very proactive in their support of our endeavours to rid Mount Irvine of weeds such as Banana Passionfruit, Blackberry, Holly, Japanese Honeysuckle, Sycamore, and other exotics. We will continue to work with Council and Local Land Services to undertake further weed control on Mt Irvine, as necessary.

If you would like to highlight any area needing attention, please contact Allen Hyde for follow up.

Roads

Mt Irvine Road remains in a bad state. We continue to hold discussions with Council on this matter.

RFS

Street Co-ordinator change

After many years as a Street Co-ordinator, Brian Carrigan has retired from the role and Cheryl Dubois has kindly offered to take it on. Our thanks go to Brian for his efforts over many years in the role and Cheryl for her kind offer to take the role on.

New Mt Irvine Fire Station

Discussions between the parties involved in this matter are continuing. The site selection process should be finalised in the first quarter of next year, including consultation with the community. This will conclude many years of consultation with the community and discussions with the RFS. We understand that the RFS has funding in the current fiscal year that will allow a start on the new station.

I take this opportunity to wish you a safe, pleasant, and relaxing Christmas with your family and friends and a healthy and prosperous 2022.

Allen Hyde

BUSHCARE NEWS

Great news! Bushcare has resumed following the lifting of COVID restrictions.

The Mt Wilson Bushcare Group spend a few hours together each month helping to reverse the damage done to the environment by invasive weeds in bushland in Mt Wilson. During this time we carefully remove weeds and encourage native plants to grow, using the principles of bush regeneration to guide our work.

Volunteers will be briefed on following COVID safety protocols. BMCC provides all equipment, including gloves, secateurs, spade, herbicide, kneeling pads etc. It is now necessary to bring your own morning tea. Those interested should check the calendar on the Mt Wilson Mt Irvine community website to determine the location each month.

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

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, hope you can join us!

Enquiries:

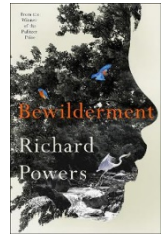
Mt Wilson contact: Alice Simpson (0414 425 511 or 4756 2110)

Council contact: Tracy Abbas (0428 777 141)

Alice Simpson

BOOK REVIEW

One of my favourite books of the last few years was *Overstory* by Richard Powers so I was delighted to be able to read his new book *Bewilderment*. This book carries a similar ecological message but the title not only reflects the feelings of the two main characters but also my state of mind when finishing this novel.



It is set in a near future of Earth where ecological disasters are accumulating, and no one seems to really care nor be able to act. Theo is an astrobiologist and connects to his disturbed and volatile young son. Robin, by imagining and then creating a full picture of potential life on another planet. Both father and son are struggling with the loss of their wife and mother, Alyssa.

A scientific colleague offers to try an experiment with Robin which may allow drugs not to be used for Robin's increasingly violent anger. The explanation for some sort of neurological transfer and identification with the mind of Alyssa becomes urgent as child welfare become interested in Robin's behaviour.

As we move inside the mind of Robin it expands in many directions reacting most strongly to the role of living creatures and the increasing threat from neglect, abuse and misuse by politicians and 'experts'. At the same time, we move out into the myriad of galaxies and other potential life forms. The idea of many worlds, and of many types, underpins much of the book, working in implicit comparisons.

The descriptions of Robin and Theo, the mountain place in which they seek solace and the self-destructing world around them are all beautifully done. The ending is shocking. Novels do not have to offer solutions to the world's problems and this one packs in a lot of ideas. It is not a perfect novel but well worth reading.

Alison Halliday

WEED OF THE MONTH – *IRIS FOETIDISSIMA*



Flowering now on The Mounts is *Iris foetidissima* also known as "Stinking Iris" or "Roast Beef Plant" after its rather unpleasant fragrance when cut or bruised.

It is a clump-forming evergreen herb to 100 cm, with tough rhizomes immediately below the soil surface.

The flowers are 5–7cm in diameter and are dull purplish-grey tinged with yellow. More common in Australia is the yellow flowered variant that is often naturalised. You will find both varieties flowering in Mt Wilson currently.

At maturity each seed capsule splits into three, each with two rows of round orange seeds of 5mm diameter, these can persist for several months.

Despite the Royal Horticultural Society giving *Iris foetidissima* their prestigious Award of Garden Merit, the plant is clearly becoming a problem in Mt Wilson, most notably in and around Church Lane. Each plant grows rapidly and seeds readily and is dispersed by birds. Mature stands will easily smother a garden bed and become extremely difficult to remove.



There are three options to manage this plant:

1. If you wish to retain any plants, systematically remove any seed capsules before the seeds emerge.
2. To remove the plants, the most effective way is to mattock out the rhizomes (juvenile plants can usually be removed by hand).
3. *Iris foetidissima* will respond to Glyphosate (Roundup™) but the leaves will need to be soaked and secondary spraying may be required.

James Douglas

The weed section on the website has been updated and includes details on all the “Weeds of the Month” <https://www.mtwilson.com.au/community-information/weeds>. Spring/summer is the best time to identify and control these weeds.

MT WILSON MEMORIES

After the Spring edition was distributed, we were contacted by Tom Hughes, former resident of what is now known as Yengo. Tom has kindly provided the below collection of reminiscences and photos; **please do not reproduce it without his permission**. We encourage all current and former residents (and visitors) to provide similar articles to us.

Some rambling childhood memories 1952 ~ 1956

My earliest memory of Mount Wilson is (at age 5) of staying in a small, one room cabin adjoining Wyndam [would this have been the original Applecot? Ed.]. I recall asking Mum what the bits were in the air highlighted in a ray of sunlight and Mum said sunbeams. I have no idea where Dad was, and we were there for a week in late 1949. I believe that this cabin/shed still exists! I identified it in 2015.

I had a stepbrother of a similar age, Gilbert Ross (Hughes) known then as Ross, now lives in Canberra and is known as Gilbert. I have consulted with him on this story. We believe that we were extraordinarily lucky to have had the years that we did in such a happy place.

When we came back after 2 years away overseas, Dad bought Stone Lodge from his old school friend Fred Mann, in late 1951. Dad (Gilbert Noel Hughes) had been at school at Riverview in 1905-1914 with Fred Mann before they went off to World War 1 (on the same ship) and in those years, had stayed as a guest at Dennarque in school holidays. There was a story that on one occasion they had included the Irish housekeeper in a trek to the Wollongambe, she had fainted on the climb back out and had been revived several times with water from a billy with crayfish. Dad also told of tin canoes down on the river.



On our arrival about the New Year 1952 at Stone Lodge I recall when I saw the big deodar, saying 'Yes I remember this place'. Dad quickly renamed it St Basil's (the only saint's name he could think of that was not a hospital!) Now of course it is again called Yengo.

Tom can just be seen at the centre back of this photo from 1954 under the deodar.

We had a Renault 750 which the locals quickly nicknamed 'the Wallaby' as it had coil springs and bounced on the gravel road. We were only there about a week and a serious bushfire developed coming from the Lithgow area. It ended up ringing the mountain with fire. The men were out for 10 days with trucks loaded with water tanks, but water was in short supply. Cecil Kirk had a 5 ton Chevrolet tip truck then known as the 'Blue Terror' from c 1924 which did sterling service. The end of January came and school started for I think 12 pupils and a brand new teacher, a young Alan Noakes (I think just out of teachers college). Let's see if I can remember who else was there: John Kirk (son of Cecil, Alan, Fay, Ron, and Geoff Gunn, Lynn and Milba Kirk, (Peter Kirk's) Ken, son of Tom Kirk, and Gai, Kath and Loris (Albert Kirk's daughters) plus Ross and Tom Hughes. I think there was one or two in each year from 1 to 6 so that was a real challenge for the teacher! That November the whole school listened to the Melbourne Cup, won as I remember by Rising Fast. An addition to the school library was 10 volumes of the Arthur Mee Children's Encyclopedia. Of course, everyone listened to all the school broadcasts regardless of class or subject. On occasions recess extended till late lunch playing rounders (variant of softball). At that time I don't remember the teacher but we spent some afternoons with all the children labouring to build a dam to hold enough water to swim in below the school where two creeks ran together. It disappeared overnight with heavy rain. The school flagpole fell without warning one day, fortunately missing everyone. There were several occasions where we all lined up for a visiting doctor to inoculate us for whooping cough and polio.

St Basil's at this time adjoined Crummer's on one side (now a part of Yengo) but back then Cecil Kirk ran an old cow called Limewater who produced fair milk but little cream from Queens Ave to where it joined Robin Hill. Across the bottom of the cow paddock was Windyridge (the Huber's) so we had all of what is now the separate Cherry Cottage.

For the Coronation in 1952 the school put on a re-creation of the event where Gai Kirk was the young Queen and I think that I carried the sceptre. There was a Coronation bonfire, the pile created as Peter Kirk was clearing the hillside behind the War Memorial and it was somewhat bigger than a house - it burned for a week! There was no lack of fireworks and a skyrocket cost two pounds. There was also a Black and White Minstrel show; the black faces were a mixture of soot and Vaseline! Not easy to get off.

Dad started making some changes to the house, by dividing the central hollow square diagonally so that he could let half as a flat. He built a new bathroom and toilet near the kitchen and extending what had been a scullery outward into the courtyard and along the passage. What had been the dining room became the main bedroom, and he chose to paint the big black beam pink! The lounge room remained as was, Ross had as a bedroom the ante room off the main bedroom and I had the room next to the lounge room.



Gilbert Hughes, Tom's stepfather c1954

There was an old fuel stove (early Kooka) in the large kitchen which created some challenges for Mum! It was in due course replaced with a Glow Worm slow combustion model that also heated the water. We also discovered a cellar. Dad got some cast iron columns and a large kitchen table from a house, Merioola, being demolished at Woollahra; the columns are now at the front of Cherry Cottage. The wrought iron work at the front door came from Merioola also and my initials can be found in cement at their base. We got our milk from the Huber's and then bought one of their Jersey cows (Heidi), Mum and I shared the milking. Later Heidi had a male calf called Ferdinand. The bull was in Miss Sloan's paddock. The calf caused me some grief, when we had friends visit with children, as I was accused of not supervising them adequately when the tank ran dry, but later Dad saw Ferdinand sucking on a tap through the fence. Dad was keen on poultry so we had chooks, pigeons, ducks, Chinese geese and guinea fowl and a couple of turkeys.

With my brother Ross we had duties to help around the house: in summer mowing the grass each weekend (nearly an acre) with an old Qualcast roller mower, I was congratulated the first time and given 2 shillings, but this much was not forthcoming ever again. Later a Grasshopper rotary mower was added. On one occasion a large tiger snake reared up in front of Ross who nearly trod on it. It was after some goslings in a wire frame on the front lawn. In autumn there was about a km. of driveway to be raked of fallen leaves (weekly). Then, on a daily basis, there were chooks to feed, the cow to be milked, kindling and fuel to be organised: the glow worm stove burned coal, the central heating boiler liked coke and the open fire in the sitting room burned wood. About once a year I was allowed to light a fire in the fireplace in my bedroom. There was an old (dry) well at the top of the orchard adjoining the rose garden which was used for dumping rubbish. Our water was pumped up from a dam in Waterfall Creek to feed a 2000 gallon tank on a 10 metre high stand, by an unreliable petrol pump started on request by Tom or Cecil Kirk, and eventually replaced with an electric one on a timer. Ross was given an air rifle with a view to help protect the fruit trees from birds; and he was shown how to shoot a .22 rifle by Mr Edward Gregson. I was given a Meccano set (still a hobby to this day.)

Mr Syd Kirk used to cut our hair for 1/- sitting on a stump in his back yard. I bought about 13 garden stakes for Mum and Dad for three shillings and nine pence for a Christmas present and picked them up from the mill. I remember the 3 cylinder Southern Cross diesel; I could just turn it over (decompressed) and vaguely remember the steam engine and boiler. Cecil Kirk had a caterpillar tractor at Mt Irvine for logging, Peter Kirk had one too, but he had added a blade for clearing at Dennarque. He also had a Ford Blitz (truck) with small dual back wheels whereas his brother Tom had a Chev Blitz with big wheels with 'bulletproof' tyres, both had centre mounted

winches. Tom's mill was on the corner near the Cathedral of Ferns, but later moved back up the hill.



Dad modified the flagged terrace at the front of the house and added a front porch. In the garden, Alan Gunn was employed, with draught horse Sally and plough, to rip up a large bed of English Ivy under the big deodar, which became lawn. Another tale about Sally saw 5 children on her back with me last, perhaps after one of Eric Joliffe's comics. Dad also changed the driveway so that instead of a turning circle around a big bay laurel, the driveway carried on to a second gate. While establishing that second entrance he found there was a bit of basalt rock protruding a

couple of inches in the middle just outside the gate – it proved to be roughly spherical and a metre in diameter. Outside the kitchen door there was a gap under the roof of the extended garage roof about three metres square which Dad described as a meat safe.

He planted a couple of trees including a Ginkgo Biloba in the courtyard, also a newly discovered Dawn Redwood (*metasequoia glyptastroboides*) which I believe he obtained from Kew Gardens (London) Dad was very keen on the vegetable garden so there was a profusion of fresh vegetables plus fruit from the orchard. I was helping Mum prune several of the apple trees one day and it was heard from one of the many passing tourist coaches 'over there you will see one of the peasants pruning a tree'. From the bus we also heard Wynstay regularly described as having 23 bedrooms and a Turkish bath.

Mum became a staunch member of the CWA and, I recall Dad being in some serious discussions as to whether the village hall should have a liquor licence. He was a retired architect but not a heavy drinker. There was an annual flower show at the hall plus dances with the music provided by Cecil Kirk with an accordion - he was pretty good too. 1953 also saw a new teacher for the school – Albert Foggett. He married Janet (Albert Kirks eldest daughter) and then a year later another teacher, Norm Gilchrist, slightly older married with 2 daughters came from Temora. We stopped him in his tracks one morning though, as he approached the school front door carrying an armful of books with an inkbottle balanced on top, there was a neatly coiled black snake on the front step. His hair stood on end! Ron Gunn had killed it on his way to school.

At Easter 1953 Ross and I were taken to Katoomba and came home with push bikes and we could now ride to school! It was so much better than walking, neither bike had gears, his had a fixed wheel and I had a back pedal brake, it had cost me 9 pounds.

Coming home from a trip to Blackheath one morning in the Renault, after a visit to the dentist, a problem developed with the steering and Mum rolled the car on the dirt road, a couple of miles from the mountain. Fortunately, we were only going slowly and no one was hurt. The only sealed road on the mountain was the hill at the back of Nooroo going up to the back of Dennarque and Sefton Hall. Dad next bought a 1938 dark green Chev ute to – boys loose in the back, no seats, seatbelts unheard-of – sometimes a wild ride! He called it the Brontosaurus. When we left it was sold to Jack Gunn for 300 pounds (cash). I had never seen so much money!

The telephone in those days was manual. To make a call you wound the crank to alert the postmaster who then asked who you wanted, and then connected you. We were Mt Wilson 9 but for locals you asked for them by name. Groceries were ordered by phone on Tuesdays to be delivered on Thursday from the Lithgow Co-op. Peter Kirk also had a petrol tank and pump; one would manually pump the petrol up into a clear elevated measuring glass, 5 gallons at a time, then allow it to run by gravity down the hose into your tank.

In summer we made various treks to the Wollangambe to splash around in the water and catch a few crayfish. Once we were caught on the way back by a big thunderstorm and managed to shelter in a cave to watch the lightning and dodge the hail. Guy Fawkes Night (5th Nov.) was observed with bonfires and plenty of fireworks.

Dad used the Mt Irvine -Bilpin Rd occasionally, Mum hated it because she remembered it from about 1920 when she stayed with school friends at Mt Irvine and there was NO safety fence. I find it interesting that both our parents had early, but very separate connections to the area. I liked the road; I have used it on occasions until it was closed. I strongly support its reopening.

Silva Plana was the venue for annual community sports days and picnics – of course wood chopping was a feature. Sir Charles Moses (Chair of the ABC) had friends at the mountain, so a picture of the picnic day 5th Nov 1956 was included in the news on the first night that the ABC broadcast news on TV!

Sadly in 1956 Dad was diagnosed with lung cancer and realised that we would have to sell and move back to Sydney. Eventually he sold to Ken Thomas of Thomas Nationwide Transport.

Mt Wilson has always remained a very special place to me and although I ended up working on the water most of my adult life, I have been back many times. It was a special pleasure to introduce my wife to the mountain and later my children.

Mum's ashes are scattered under a beech tree at Yengo, where she said that she had heard children playing. I look forward to visiting again when this lockdown is lifted. I would love to visit the mill again too.

Tom Hughes

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Paul Hunyor and Lisa George, of 32 Church Lane, welcomed a baby girl to their family on June 8. Lilla Leonie Hunyor joins big brother Benji and is now the apple of everyone's eye. We look forward to introducing her to the delights of the Mt Wilson community in the coming months.



MYSTERY OBJECT – CAN YOU HELP?

If you know what this is please let us know via email to themounts2786@gmail.com.



UPDATE FROM YOUR RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

It may have been winter but the Brigade has been very busy since we last reported to you.

On the operations side, we've attended a number of callouts for rescues and motor vehicle accidents. At rescues (usually involving canyoneers and bushwalkers) we support NSW Police Rescue, the NSW Ambulance Service and the people involved in rescue incidents including families and friends at the scene or who come to support others during rescue events. At motor vehicle accidents we also support NSW Police and Police Rescue and the Ambulance Service by providing fire cover, traffic management and Community First Responders and First Aid assistance when requested. Our Community First Responders have also been called out to several incidents around the Villages. We've also participated in a Hazard Reduction exercise at Blaxland. We've also dealt with a dangerous tree which fell across The Avenue, as well as Members undertaking other minor clearings of roads after smaller trees/branches have affected our roads.

The 'quieter' months operations-wise are also when we undertake most of our training with our regular monthly training recently recommencing following the easing of COVID 19 restrictions. Our Friday Maintenance Nights are also back on but with no social events afterwards – again

due to COVID 19 restrictions. We've also had a group of our members doing a Village Firefighters Course over the year. Graham Tribe, our Training Officer, has more detail on that in a separate piece in this Edition.

This has also been a time of intense work on improving our fire-fighting infrastructure – our stations and water storage. As we've reported in previous editions of The Mounts, we've been working on an extension of the Mt Wilson Station this year. The extension will provide two additional truck bays, a large incident control/training room with kitchen facilities as well as additional office space and storage. Unlike the usual process involved in getting a new station or extension – where the RFS and BMCC undertake the work, we are running this project ourselves but working closely with the RFS and BMCC. We have almost everything in place for that – development approval, funding (via Brigade funds - thanks for all those donations! - and through a grant from the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Grant Program) and a builder ready to go. It's taken us a bit longer to get to this point than we'd advised in an earlier edition of The Mounts but as this is written, we're waiting for the final Council construction certificate and then we'll be off and running with a planned start time of January 2022.

We're also working with RFS District Office to have a new station built at Mt Irvine within the next few years. We're working with the RFS and BMCC on site selection and, while the RFS and BMCC will run their respective parts of the funding, design, and build, we'll be there to provide local support and guidance. We'll also undertake some of the fit out and extras which the RFS and BMCC don't cover.

Driving and walking around the Villages you may also have seen some new water tanks springing up. These have been funded from various grants and the RFS District Office. These will really help us make sure we have much more water available when we need it most.

On the community engagement front, we're re-engaging with our Street Coordinators and arranging new ones where former Coordinators have left the Villages. We're in planning to get out to the community on things we can all do to help prepare for bushfires. We have a particular focus on getting to know our newer residents and property owners.

So, stay tuned- we'll be in touch.

Elizabeth Montano, Member of the Executive

OUR MT WILSON/MT IRVINE BRIGADE'S SUCCESS

Recently 12 members of our brigade have successfully completed a Village Firefighter (VF) course, which is the next level of skill up from the initial Bushfire Fighter (BF) course. It covers dealing with building fires, motor vehicle accidents and hazardous materials.

There was a total of 33 candidates from 6 brigades doing the course and we had the largest contingent.

The VF course was originally started in March 2021 but interrupted by heavy rain and subsequent flooding in nearby rivers diverting experienced trainers to help with the emergency. This meant it had to be cancelled and restarted in July. Then came lockdown which meant changing to an online theory course to be completed by face-to-face practical training once restrictions eased. The online course ran each Monday evening for 7 sessions as we worked through the VF training manual from late September to end October, and then practical training in November.

Final assessment was on the weekend of 20th and 21st November and all those from the 6 brigades doing the course passed including our 12 candidates.

Congratulations to all our members who are now VF qualified, Andrew Mitchell, Sally Banfield, Matt Mason, Geoff Hull, Elizabeth Montano, Keith Waters, Robert Green, Keith Ralston, Mitchell Woolfenden, Andrew Woolfenden, Nick Pembroke, and Kate Montano.

Thanks to all our trainers, Beth Raines, David Howell, Joe Montano, Robbie Feyder, Allen Hyde, and Steve Woolfenden. Also, to the various support personnel for helping to achieve this great result for our brigade and the safety of our community.



Our Brigade is currently seeking new recruits to add to the new members who have already joined for a planned Bushfire Fighter course in February. If you are interested in joining, please contact Graham Tribe, Beth Raines, Joe Montano or David Howell and we will describe the process for joining the RFS and commencing training.

Graham Tribe

A MESSAGE FROM THE PAST

Maria Johnson of Wollangambe has provided this insight into the past, the text reads:



There is peace to be found in the world.

A heart that is humble might hope for it here.

To L.S. Clark from his Grandchildren,
Judy, Jill, John and Jeremy
15.6.1949

BUSHWALKING GROUP

End of an era for trailblazing bushwalkers, but new era beckons

On 17 December 2021 the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Bushwalking group in its present incarnation will have its last walk. The group has been going for 31 years and was started by Libby Raines and Mary Reynolds (with John Cardy taking over the leadership in later years) to allow some of the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine residents an opportunity to get out and explore some of the walking tracks around the area. A lot of the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine property owners at the time had never ventured out to explore the area around the mounts and there were a lot of new residents that wanted to explore and learn about the area. Over the years the group has changed and now is made up of mainly non-Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine people and doing walks all over the mountains. The leaders have now aged or passed away and there is no longer anyone in the current group that is willing to take on the running of the group. So, on 17 December 2021 it will set out for the last time, with its current leader John Cardy, joined by Peter Raines, to do the Waterfall Walk with extensions to the logging trails, the old mill, and the Throne. Anyone who would like to join the walk is welcome, but please let John Cardy know you will be attending by emailing him at jhcardy@gmail.com. Meet at the Waterfall Reserve carpark at 9am on Friday 17 December 2021. The group will be having a Christmas and farewell lunch on the lawn at Merry Garth after the walk, meeting non-walking guests there at 1.30pm. Bring your own lunch, refreshments, folding chairs, etc, cake will be provided and served. In the event of rain, lunch will take place at the Village Hall. Again, please advise John Cardy if you propose to attend the lunch.

Saddened at the thought the bushwalking group will be no more, and conscious of the fact that there are once again many new residents who may wish to explore and learn about the area, Peter Raines, Andrew Mitchell, and Janet McDonald propose to continue the tradition if possible. At present the proposal is to form an informal 'subgroup' of the [Upper Blue Mountains Bushwalking Club](#). UBMBC does not have formal subgroups, so the Mounts group could operate simply as a mailing list. Walk leaders need to be approved by the club and follow club safety and other protocols. Walks are publicised and conducted under the auspices (and the insurance coverage) of the Club.

UBMBC fees are \$25 p.a. and members joining after October get the remainder of the current membership year (March to February) for free. It is proposed that the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Bushwalking Group continue to operate as a mailing list, administered by Janet McDonald, with walks arranged and lead by Peter Raines, Andrew Mitchell, and anyone else with the skill and desire, through UBMBC. Walks would be scheduled once a month, just as the current group has done, with a Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine walk every second month and a local area walk - Newnes, Bells Line of Road, Colo area - on the alternate months. The Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine group walks would slot into the Club's walks program meaning 'outsiders' could attend, but they will be organised and run by locals. The walks would take into account the fitness levels of all and the degree of difficulty of the particular walk will be advised in advance, this being a requirement of the Club.

Peter, Andrew, and Janet would like to get an idea of how much interest there is in their idea and whether it is worthwhile getting it established. If you are interested please send Janet an email at jmcdonald@level22.com.au and let her know how often you might attend a walk, how hard (or not) you would like the walks to be and whether you might be interested in planning and leading a walk from time to time.

WEBSITE UPDATE

The Mt Wilson Mt Irvine Website is managed by the Mt Wilson Progress Association and a website team comprising Robbie Feyder, Graham Tribe, Tim Gow, James Douglass, and Stephen Woolfenden has been set up under the auspices of the MWPA to manage the website. This team was set up as a need was identified to move the website to a new hosting company and to update the website user Interface.

The website www.mtwilson.com.au has been moved to a new hosting company, BizzDesigns. The reason for the move is that the previous hosting company, JimmyWeb, no longer supports websites written on the Joomla platform. JimmyWeb have been an excellent hosting company for a number of years and had given us fair warning and helped unreservedly in the transition to the new hosting company.

The website has now been updated to all the latest versions and security patches. Unfortunately, there are still a few teething problems and the website occasionally goes into "Error" and this is the message that the user sees when they try and log into the website.

Please email webmaster@mtwilson.com.au if you get this error. We are working to get this resolved but unfortunately it has taken some time.

There have been some changes to the menus and user interface and one of the first pages to be reviewed was the list of birds in the Villages. There is a lot of information here and this can be accessed from the "Things to do" menu item: <https://www.mtwilson.com.au/things-to-do/birds-on-the-mounts>

We also plan to approach the community on any suggestions for improvement to the website.

If anyone has any website expertise or interest then please do not hesitate to contact anyone on the website team if you want to be involved in the ongoing website development.

Robbie Feyder, Website Team

PRESERVING THE RICH HISTORY OF THE MOUNTS

One of the joys of living on the mountain are the many and varied village walks that wind and meander their way in and around our picturesque streetscapes, offering glimpses of the beautiful gardens and snapshots of the pristine bushland and escarpments beyond. But it has been interesting for me to note that many new residents (and those not so new) have only a scant awareness of the rich and fascinating historical stories that lie behind every set of garden gates.

Of course, a detailed history of the early years of Mt Wilson's pioneering community is available to all of us if we take the time to peruse past copies of the Historical Society's newsletters (on the community website). And there are the boxes and boxes of hardcopy documents and images in the Society's archives in the Teacher's Cottage. I, myself, have lost a couple of my weekends in the boxed files that relate to our property, prompting me to delve deeper into records kept at the State Library and even finding for sale a rare copy of Marcia Clark's limited run biography that recounts the life of her father, Henry Marcus Clark, and the founding of Sefton Hall.

This increasing interest in the early years of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine, a review of the Village Walk maps (that again can be found on the community website), alongside a concern for the deteriorating hardcopy historical files (with only a small portion having been digitised), prompted my recall of the fabulous digital audio-guided walks and tours both here and abroad. Imagine, I thought, being able to give our community, friends, and family easy and engaging access to the story of the establishment of our mountain community, while at the same time establishing a digital repository for those hardcopy historical files in danger of fading away or simply gathering dust?

This tiny spark of an idea gathered momentum and before long I floated my thoughts with Des Barrett from the Society, noted a potential grant that seemed appropriate to funding a project like this one, and gathered the candid thoughts and feedback of Rosie from Chimney Cottage and Janet from Farcry. A small project team was formed and the four of us took morning tea in the drawing room of Sefton on a chilly winter's day mid last year. The MWPA were particularly excited about our project, lending their enthusiastic support and guidance. It was during one project update at a Progress Association meeting late last year that digital bright-spark, Robbie Feyder, steered us in the direction of New Zealand-based outfit STQRY as the go-to digital platform for such GPS-led walks.

Most recently, as a sanity check and as measurement-based evidence for our pitch for the \$10k grant, we ran an email-based survey among the community to gauge and understand the level of support for this little idea that had seemingly taken on a life of its own. Imagine how proud I was to write down the figure of "95% community support" for the project in the grant submission form.

Without giving too much away at this early stage, this GPS-led historical story that unfolds as one wanders from place to place will feature a recorded narrative retold by the 'best speaking voice on the mountain' – Sarah Howell. Also, former artists-in-residence, Emily Granger & Tristan Coelho, have generously allowed us to feature their bespoke 'Mount Wilson' soundscape as atmospheric musical interlude and punctuation. At this stage we have earmarked 22 sites of historical storytelling interest around the mountain. With such a rich and diverse historical resource to draw from, this, believe it or not, was the shortlist!

So, over a cup of tea this morning with fingers and toes tightly crossed, I nervously pressed 'submit' on my laptop, sending the grant submission form through the ether to the Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal. They will announce successful grant applicants in late March 2022. Needless to say, I will update you all when the (hopefully positive) news is released and project production can then begin in earnest.

Peter Resanceff

HAPPY ENDINGS

Back in April before we were all locked down again, a young family came up from Sydney for the day to enjoy Mt Wilson's autumn colours. Along with five-year old twins, Gabriel and Camille was an important member of the family – 'le lion'. Having been born in Paris like his family, le lion was a much-adored stuffed toy and went everywhere with them all, particularly with Gabriel who had a particular love for his lion who had been by his side since he was born.

At some stage during their day in the mountains, Gabriel discovered to his great distress that le lion was missing. Tracks were retraced, every inch of the village was scoured but all to no avail. As the family sadly admitted defeat, it was getting dark and they reluctantly left without le lion.

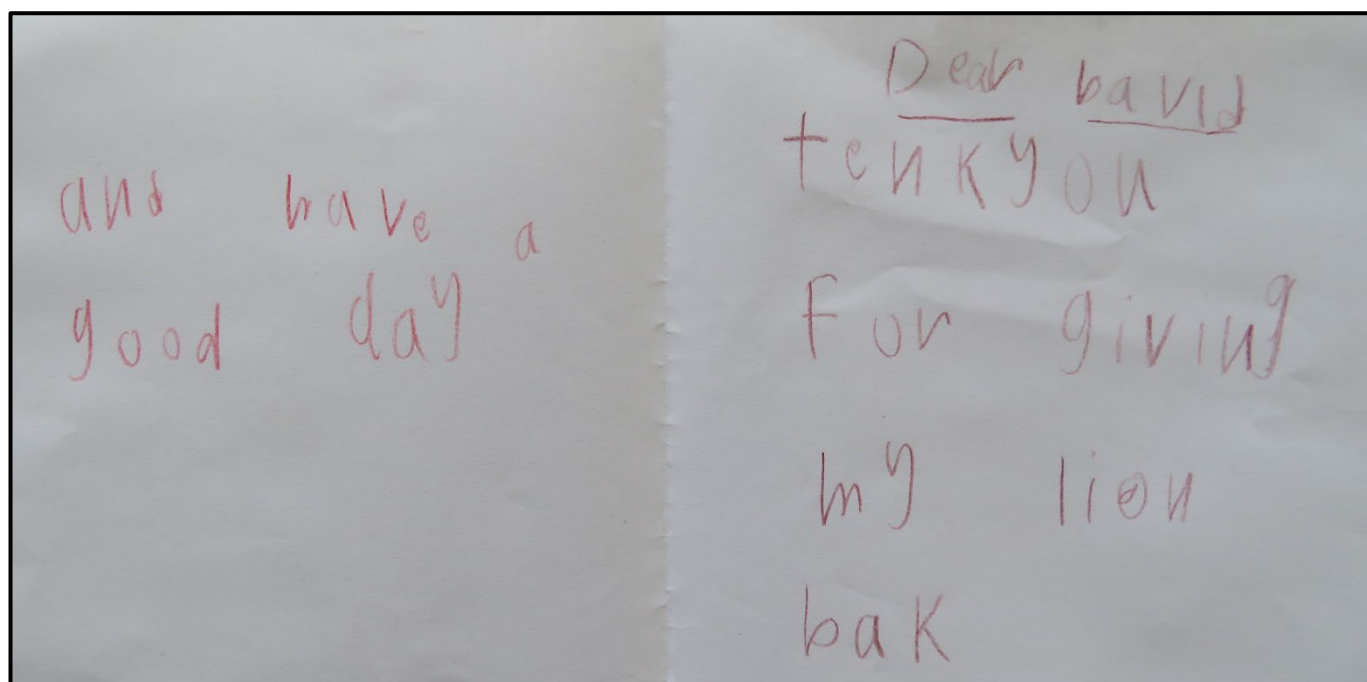
Poor Gabriel was inconsolable, unable to sleep without his lion and worrying about what had become of his friend. His resourceful mother, Nathalie, wrote an email to the Mt Wilson website asking if anyone had found the toy and explaining the circumstances. Graham Tribe printed out the email and stuck it on to the noticeboard at the Fire Station where everyone could see it.

Six long months later, a group of volunteers were giving the grounds of The Old School a spruce-up in preparation for the first of this year's Artist Residencies. Normally, the Teacher's Cottage would have been filled with holiday guests during the winter months, but the lockdown meant that the grounds had been undisturbed for longer than usual. While raking up mountains of leaves in the yard, Sarah Howell noticed a piece of fabric. Further raking revealed le lion! He was in a very sorry state, sodden through and very dirty, but otherwise intact. She remembered Nathalie's email and the happy news of the lion's recovery was conveyed to her and Gabriel.

Nathalie revealed that far from forgetting the lion, Gabriel had asked about him every night during the winter, wondering how he was doing during the long cold nights, or if a possum was using him to sleep with. Every time it snowed in the Blue Mountains, Gabriel's concern for his lion grew.

A happy transfer of le lion took place in Sydney and Nathalie has shared a photo of Gabriel and Camille welcoming him home. They were so excited to be reunited that they couldn't wait for le lion to be cleaned. On his own initiative, Gabriel wrote a thank you letter to David Howell who delivered the toy to Nathalie.

As Nathalie said, "I never knew that a stuffed animal could mean so much. This would never have happened in Paris, where anything you lose tends to be gone forever".



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE AT THE OLD SCHOOL

Since the artist residency started in October 2019 there have been ten artists come and work on their residency project at The Old School, a mix of visual artists, musicians/composers, and writers. They have all found their time here so rewarding for their creative projects and as you can see from the comments below loved the space, environment, and our supportive community.

- It's an awesome experience in a spectacular location to focus solely on making work.
LeeAnne Vincent, Visual Artist, October 2019
- The studio was great, very versatile, good acoustics and loads of natural light
Amelia Besseny and Cooper Bowman, Singer/Composer, February 2020
- Thank you again for everything during our time as Artists in Residence – it was an unforgettable experience
Tristan Coelho, Composer, September 2020
- Host program was terrific, the studio space was awesome
Jane Guthleben, Visual Artist, November 2020
- This program is a wonderful initiative and gift to the chosen artist. The Old Schoolhouse was most interesting to me as a historical resource/setting for my novel.
Julie Thorndyke, Writer, June 2021

As part of their residency each artist gives us an insight into their work. We have had workshops on making cyanotype prints, drawing birds with charcoal and making monoprints, talks on an Australian interpretation of Dutch 17th century painting and wonderful concerts, how can we forget Emily Granger playing her harp in St Georges Church. For our community Christmas party in 2019 the Mt Wilson Village Hall was hung with an exhibition of local landscape paintings completed by our November 2019 artist Leisl Mott. On Saturday 20th November we were treated to our recent artist Cady Bell's film 'The Rainbow Passage' made for Screen Australia and Chanel 10 and a reading from her memoir 'The All of it: a Bogan Rhapsody', to be released in August 2022 by Penguin Random House, followed by a very interesting question time. It was a fascinating and entertaining evening; Cady spoke with honesty and heart-warming humour about her experiences and life.

As one resident said to me 'coming to these events is such a delight, each one is a surprise and they are all so different'.

Brad Gill, a composer and musician, is our December artist. Watch for information about Brad and his residency activities.

Jody Graham will be exhibiting work that emerged from her residencies at The Old School in December 2020 and at Bilpin in January 2021. 'Getting Pinked' draws on the human and emotional toll as much as the natural and environmental impact of the Black Summer Fires.

Lost Bear Gallery 4th December 2021 – 16th January 2022

<https://lostbeargallery.com.au/jody-graham-getting-pinked-exhibition/>

If you would like to know more about the residency program please contact me:

judithtribe@gmail.com, you can also check the Facebook page for photos and news about the Artist in Residence at The Old School: <https://www.facebook.com/MtWilsonMtlrvine>.

Judy Tribe, Artist in Residence committee coordinator, The Old School Mt Wilson

MT WILSON VILLAGE HALL

After our long lockdown the Mt Wilson Village Hall is open again for bookings.

Under the Public Health Orders, you must have a COVID-19 Safety Plan to help you keep your attendees safe. This plan is to be made available to Council if requested. To access a guide and template go to www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/industry-guidelines/community-centres-and-halls

- The 2 person/square metre rule is still in place, so the maximum number allowed is 54 people in the hall, 3 in the foyer and 3 in the kitchen
- Facemasks are to be worn
- Everyone must be fully vaccinated
- Your event must have a QR code or keep a record of all attendees

As well as the QR code for your event, Council has provided a QR code for our hall, to check into the hall. There is a copy on the entrance door, the door into the hall and another on the entrance table.

For more information or to make a hall booking contact Judy Tribe: judithtribe@gmail.com

Work on the design and related issues for the extensions to the Hall is continuing. The works include a new kitchen, adjacent covered outdoor area, re-sited pedestrian entrance and landscaping. The Council sought a Land Use Assessment report in which the Council assessors provide preliminary advice on the major issues which will have to be considered in the assessment of the DA. The Hall is listed on the Council's Heritage register and consequently any extensions must comply with heritage requirements. The good news is that the LUA report supported the major elements of one design option. However, your Committee is seeking a modification of that design to improve the outdoor amenity and other matters.

Barbara Landsberg kindly offered to work with Council in preparing a landscaping plan for the whole of the site. Council accepted her offer and is considering her plan which she developed with the Committee. Council has commissioned a detailed survey of the site and an arborist report on the two rhododendrons which are near the new works. The Council design team will then work with the Committee to finalise the plans which will be made available to the community for comment.

Ted Griffin, Chair, Mount Wilson Village Hall Advisory Committee

THE JOLLY WOMBAT

Myself and my daughters Jessica and Lauren are very excited to be bringing a coffee van to Mt Wilson, 'The Jolly Wombat'. We are currently perfecting our bakery goods and barista skills. We are hoping to be up and running for the Christmas holidays. We are looking for a perfect location along The Avenue and want to avoid using a generator. Any offers of power to connect to the van in exchange for a fee would be an ideal outcome for us, nearby neighbours and visitors. We have some exciting ideas for the future of our coffee van with getting the community involved. If you can help Joanne Keep on 0405027185.



CAROL SERVICE



Come and Join

***Carols By Candlelight
St Georges Church
The Avenue, Mount Wilson NSW***

***Saturday 18th December 2021
7.00pm***

Everyone Welcome

***Supper in the Church afterwards
A small plate for supper would be appreciated***

COMMUNITY YOGA WITH CATHERINE SHERLOCK

**Saturdays 4 December – 30 April (excluding Christmas Day & New Year's Day), 8.30am,
Mt Wilson Village Hall**

Come along to connect with others and more intimately with yourself in a wholistic yoga practice. We will use yoga movement to keep energy moving around the body, to stretch, strengthen and reconnect body and mind to feel a greater sense of wholeness and wellbeing. Together we will learn some practical yoga philosophy to apply in life, how the breath is a powerful intervention in regulating our systems and how meditation is easy and accessible. Everyone is welcome, there is no need to have done yoga before and injuries and chronic conditions can be safely catered for.

Catherine is a yoga therapist and mindfulness educator who has been teaching yoga for over ten years. She is passionate about yoga's positive and supportive benefits to health and wellbeing. Catherine's classes are inclusive and tailored to those present.

Bring your own yoga mat (if you don't have one, there will be some available), a cushion and a rug or throw. Stay afterwards for coffee and cake.

COVID Restrictions:

1. Require that you be fully vaccinated
2. Do not attend if you have cold/flu like symptoms
3. Scan the QR code
4. Wear a mask indoors before and after exercising.

This activity has been funded by Wentworth Healthcare, provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network, as part of the Australian Government's response to the 2019/20 bushfires.

FEEDBACK AND AUTUMN EDITION

The Mounts is edited and compiled by Alison Halliday and Matilda Halliday. Your feedback and comments are always welcome, please send to themounts2786@gmail.com.

The closing date for the Autumn edition of The Mounts is **Friday 18 February 2022**. Please send submissions in Word format to 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.