



NEWSLETTER

Working together for a better community

August 2007

EDITOR'S NOTES

The storm on June 8 brought down massive trees over the boundary of Withycombe, and across Wyndham Avenue from Windy Ridge (well named, it seems). Various smaller ones came down across the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine road. Those who responded to the RFS call for some help in road clearing the next day took one look at the Wyndham Avenue tree—which was also across power lines— and decided it was beyond our capacity. The Council cut up the elm across our boundary and, after some haggling, agreed to pay for the damage to fence, shrubbery etc. Integral—we assume—dealt with the one that fell over Wyndham Avenue.

Ironically, the Ryde TAFE tree-surgery team was to have come last November to prune the elms along the Avenue, but couldn't because of the Grosse Valley fire. Arrangements were then made for them to come in early June and— wouldn't you know it—they arrived a few days after the big storm. Of course we can't say with any certainty that the elm would not have fallen had it been 'balanced' before the storm, but it's chances would have to have been better. Murphy's Law strikes again!

After excellent rain in June (about 350 mm), July and August were very dry until we got about 100 mm on starting Sunday 19th. With masses of sticks and branches down because of wind and drought, winter work on the properties (if ours is anything to go by) has consisted largely of leaf-raking and cleaning up. There has been a repetition of the pile-burning saga and it looked, at one time, as if it was going to be very difficult get rid of all that stuff. However, a rational policy has now been developed; read all about it in the 'Pile burning' section.

Things have been quiet over the winter; various people head off overseas, the Sydneysiders come up less often in winter (can't blame them, when the temperature here struggles to hit 6°C and there's a persistent wind roaring through the trees) and there are very few visitors. The Village Hall committee livened things up with the Yulefest (see Village Hall Jottings) and several members of the community became 'First Responders', trained to save us if we get into strife caused by accident or illness (see the piece on that).

Joe Landsberg

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PEASE SUPPORT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Saturday October 6. Garden Day at Merrygarth to raise funds for St Georges church

St Georges Church **Monthly services** on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 3 pm

Bush walks 3rd Friday of every month

Bush Care 2nd Friday of every month

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MOUNT WILSON VILLAGE HALL JOTTINGS.

The Yulefest seems to be more successful each year. The most rewarding result is the positive feedback we have been getting from those who appreciated it as a great social event for the village. Secondly, it was a real financial success as a net figure of approx \$2,700 was raised and that will go a long way to improving the facilities of the Hall. The only sad thing about the evening was that we had to turn some people away as they would have taken us well over our licensed figure for the Hall (100). For the wonderful planning of the evening we must thank Judy Tribe and her many helpers. The list of those who contributed to the evening is long and I won't name them all but you know who you are and that we greatly appreciate your contribution. We have some interesting thoughts for next year's event but Judy will always welcome your suggestions.

We have now taken up the issue of legal capacity with Council so that we know whether the new planned toilet block will increase that capacity. Capacity is, we believe, set by assessing the area of the Hall, its exit points and toilet facilities. Darrel Conybeare has prepared variations on Design 5's sketch plans for Stage 2 of the Redevelopment of the Hall. Those variations have taken into account the suggestions made at the public meeting held on 19/5/07.

The Committee has approved the revised plan in principle and, when a few small alterations are made, another Public Meeting will be called to consider them.

Council is supplying us with new light-weight tables and a trolley and we are awaiting delivery. Council has also supplied a secure lock and window screen for the storeroom. Thanks to Maureen Ryan the kitchen now contains a microwave. We are also working on outside lighting as we recognise that the surrounding grounds are uneven and the present lighting is inadequate.

We are moving towards the next part of our landscaping and the planting-out of the eastern garden (i.e. the left side of the driveway on entering the driveway gate). We have fixed a work party for Saturday 22nd September starting at 10.30am. "Why 10.30?" I can hear you screaming!

Two reasons.

The first is that we are having a one hour Committee meeting before the work party and the second is that we will be having a barbecue at 1pm for the workers (BYO Medication). We do need some help for this work party and if you feel you would like to start earlier we will not be turning you away BUT- Remember the date.

Ron Green

Moira is away at the moment, so no report on MWPA activities. We'll hear about them next newsletter.

FIRST RESPONDERS

Over the last few months eight of our Fire Service members undertook training to become Community First Responders. The purpose of First Responders is to attend emergencies in remote areas until an ambulance crew can take over. When the ambulance station gets a 000 call from a remote area they page the First Responders who pick up their gear and attend to the patient, keep the ambulance crew informed of what treatment they are carrying out and direct the crew, if necessary, to the correct address.

Barry Freeman was largely responsible for getting the course going and it was organised by the Ambulance Service and the Rural Fire Service. Our group was the first Rural Fire Service group in the Western Districts to do the training so we felt a fair amount of pressure to succeed. Warren Mannion, from Bathurst, conducted the course over three full weekends. We brushed up on our first aid, learned to

use a defibrillator, to administer oxygen under various conditions, to administer pain relief and an awful lot of other stuff! Liz Gow fed us wonderful lunches and we learned to work as a cohesive team.

On Saturday August 11th the seven graduates, Suzanne Daley, Barry Freeman, Diana Landsberg, Kathleen Oakes and Beth, Libby and Peter Raines were presented with their certificates in a ceremony attended by what seemed like an enormous number of august Ambulance Officers, Fire Officers and politicians.

We become available for service from the 1st September but our training is ongoing, with monthly revision sessions and the opportunity to do shifts with the Ambulance Service in Lithgow. We hope we will not be called on too often!

Diana Landsberg

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

The Church Wardens of St George's Church would like to thank the many members of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine who generously gave donations in response to our recent appeal to help pay for the painting of the church. The response was wonderful and we have raised over half of the \$16,500 needed. St George's will be able to complete the payment as we have been saving up for the painting for some years.

It has been very encouraging to receive such great support from so many and we are very grateful. The painting is now under way, as you will have noticed as you pass by the Church. The painter, Mr Wolfe von Obersteiner, and his team are doing an excellent job.

At the moment church is going along well. Between 10 and 16 attend our monthly services, and we always enjoy a cup of tea and fellowship together after the service. We are always pleased to welcome new members or visitors to our congregation.

Financially we are also managing (with help from the Village Church Appeal held in 2003) to pay our monthly fee of \$580 to the parish of

Blackheath. Again we are grateful to those who have contributed in this way.

A new rector will be appointed shortly by the Archbishop to take over the parish of Blackheath.

We would also like to mention the generous, welcome and useful gift of a lovely piano from Graham and Beverley Thomson. It is already in use. Thank you Graham and Beverley.

Each year we hold a garden day at Merrygarth to raise funds for the Church. This year it will be held on Saturday 6th October from 10.00 am until 5 pm. We serve teas and light lunches in the garden and have a stall with cakes and jams. We would love your support; do to come on the day.

We also need offers of help for a few hours on the day, or with baking or making goods for the stall. We will be grateful for any support to help make the day a success. Please contact Libby on 47562121.

**Libby Raines, Jenny Benjamin
Ken Carruthers**

OBITUARY: ERN' MORGAN

Ern' Morgan and his charming wife, Margaret were an institution in Mt Wilson for many years. When health problems caught up with them a couple of years ago they went to Sydney to be closer to their wonderful family of 6 children and many grandchildren. Ern passed on on 29th July 2007 after a very active life for all those 93 years.

Ern' and Margaret arrived in Mt Wilson about 1973 when they purchased land in Farrer Road from Jan Hurley, a granddaughter of Henry Marcus Clark of Sefton Hall. Mt Wilson. They called their property Goonong. Ern' was always involved in various aspects of community life in Mt Wilson. He will be remembered especially for his formation of the Ratepayers Association along with Alan Wyborn of Nioka, Wynnes Rocks Road Mt Wilson. This organization remained active for many years dealing with the Blue Mountains City Council on the sometimes vexed issue of rates in the district. It also was involved in arguments about subdivision, another question that has caused concern in Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine. All those who remember Ern' will recall his tenacity, persistence and some would call it stubbornness, when he wanted to pursue a particular campaign. He never retreated.

The local Bushwalking Group, of which he was a member for almost 10 years, paid tribute to him in its recent newsletter. He and Margaret were members of the Historical Society and in 2003 they assisted it in establishing a plaque beside an old fencing stump on the boundary of Goonong facing Farrer Road. This stump carried a blaze from the original survey of Mt Wilson in 1868-1870 and is now a heritage listed item.

With Ern's fighting spirit was the gentle, wise counsel of Margaret who was always there to help and to soften the sharper edges of Ern's determination. They were both very proud of their World War 2 service and will not be forgotten by those of us in Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine who knew them as good friends.

We extend to Margaret and her great family our warmest sympathy and continued friendship.

Mary and Ellis Reynolds

PILE BURNING

After some confusion and to-ing and fro-ing about burning licences during the winter we may now burn dead and dry vegetative matter whenever we choose SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS until the beginning of the bushfire danger period (1 October).

The conditions that apply are specified in detail in a BMCC bulletin entitled 'Approval to a class of person to light and maintain an open fire'. They are the standard ones about size of pile, surrounding cleared area, supervision etc. If you are in any doubt about them Peter Raines or I will supply you by e-mail with a copy of the bulletin. An important point is that 'At least 48 hours notice of the location, purpose, period and time of the proposed fire to be lit has been given to:

- a. The owners or occupiers of all land contiguous to, or that is separated by a road, laneway or waterway from the land on which the fire is to be lit;
- b. Any other property owner or occupier who may be inconvenienced by the fire;
- c. The Rural Fire Service Fire Control Officer for the Blue Mountains District; and
- d. The National Parks and Wildlife Service if the proposed fire is located within eight kilometres of a National Park.'

Peter says that 'RFS & BMCC are working on putting together an email list for the 48 hour notice, (email one address & it will get passed on to the people who need to know.) ... until then you will need to ring Fire control on 4782 2159 & BMCC on 4780 5000. The NPWS service have said that they need not be notified, if they require any info the will contact fire control.'

Ed'.

FUNNIES

From a book called Disorder in the American Courts; these are things people actually said.

ATTORNEY: Are you sexually active? **WITNESS:** No, I just lie there.

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning? **WITNESS:** Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?
WITNESS: All my autopsies are performed on dead people. Would you like to re-phrase that?

ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body? **WITNESS:** The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m. **ATTORNEY:** And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?
WITNESS: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy on him!

ATTORNEY: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th? **WITNESS:** Yes.
ATTORNEY: And what were you doing at that time? **WITNESS:** Uh.... I was gett'in laid!

ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken? **WITNESS:** Are you s**** me?

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated? **WITNESS:** By death.
ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?
WITNESS: Now whose death do you suppose terminated it?

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right? **WITNESS:** Yes. **ATTORNEY:** How many were boys?
WITNESS: None. **ATTORNEY:** Were there any girls?
WITNESS: Are you s**** me? Your Honor, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?
WITNESS: No **ATTORNEY:** Did you check for blood pressure? **WITNESS:** No.
ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing? **WITNESS:** No.
ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?
WITNESS: No. **ATTORNEY:** How can you be so sure, Doctor?
WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.
ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?
WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.