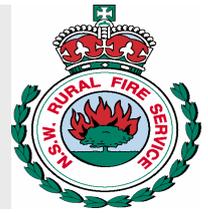




The Mounts

The Community Newsletter of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine



December 2010

Welcome

Well, another year has almost gone.....

The recent downpours, interspersed with alternate periods of warm sun and gentle Hibernian mizzle, have longer term residents talking with wistful nostalgia of the return of past weather patterns. Regardless, it is wonderful to see the gardens in deep, deep shade and the moist soil a rich chocolate red-brown.

In this edition, Judy Tribe has written a very interesting piece, documenting the impressive use the Mt Wilson Village Hall has seen this year. The RFS brigade, at a time where it seems impossible for the bush to ignite, has also chronicled a log of significant activity.

The Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society recently held their AGM, accompanied by a fascinating collection of local memorabilia. Far be it for me to comment on the activities of recalcitrant schoolboys, but I was much taken with the meticulous detail captured in the Mt Wilson School's Punishment Book.

The Mt Wilson website mtwilson.com.au is currently undergoing a serious and long overdue makeover. An important aspect of this project is that it is broadening its horizons to encompass the activities of the Mt Irvine community, the local RFS Brigade and the Historical Society. Graham Tribe explains elsewhere how the moving parts fit together.

Mark Bancroft has written with eloquence and reflection about Alison Halliday and Joanne Hambrett's recently published and widely acclaimed book **A Passion for Place**. Peter Richey continues matters horticultural with an intriguing announcement of the upcoming Dahlia exhibition.

Much feedback has been received about the wisdom or otherwise of emailing newsletters. Most were overwhelmingly positive, but for some, it must be said, the National Broadband Network can't come quickly enough. Please feel free to send me any comments or concerns if you have not already done so.

May I take this opportunity to wish all a very enjoyable and relaxed Christmas and trust the New Year brings continued happiness and health.

Tim Gow Tel. 4756 2031 or 0412 133 559

e-mail: seftoncottage@gmail.com

Community Calendar

December	Fri 10th Bushcare Group Wynne Reserve	Sun 12th Mt Wilson Church Service 3.00 pm	Fri 17th Bushwalking Group—Jinki Ridge Lunch at Merry Garth afterwards	Sat 18th Mt Wilson Carol Service 7.30 pm Supper in Mt Wilson Village Hall afterwards
January	Sun 2nd Mt Wilson/ Mt Irvine RFS Training 9.00 am	Sun 9th Mt Wilson Church Service 3.00 pm	Fri 21st Bushwalking Group Mt Wilson Village Wander	(No Bush Care session in January)
February	Sun 6th Mt Wilson/ Mt Irvine RFS Training 9.00 am	Fri 11th Bushcare Group Sloan Reserve	Sat 12th Mt Wilson Village Hall Meeting 10.00 am	Sun 13th Mt Wilson Church Service with Vestry Meeting afterwards 3.00 pm

Village Hall Jottings

The Melbourne Cup lunch was lots of fun. The hall had a wonderful spring feel thanks to Beth's deft touch with vases of bright yellow pultenaea. There was lots of chatting over a chicken and salad lunch with an array of pavlova, chocolate cake, strawberries and peach crumble for dessert thanks to Helen, Moira and Judy. There were lots of happy sweeps winners, the most successful being Beth who had both American (1st) and So You Think (3rd). The 'hat with the best story' was Helen Freeman and the 'bow tie' John Cardy and the lucky raffle winner was Elly Gunn. As well as having a good time we added \$534 to our Village Hall renovation fund.



We are happy to see the Village Hall being used more and for a variety of purposes. The wireless connection to the Fire Station has enabled training sessions and discussions to connect to broadband and the AV system means we have a big screen to enjoy the Melbourne Cup, Power Point presentations and the Yulefest quiz. This year all our village organisations have held meetings there plus the library opens every Saturday morning. Special events have included the Historical Society's Market Weekend and History Day, Blue Mountains RFS Village Firefighter training weekend and assessment, and a local Street Coordinators meeting.

Sefton Cottage and the Aftercare group have found it a good lunch spot as did the Bushwalking Group for their 20th anniversary lunch and slide show. The hall was also the venue for the most enjoyable book launch of 'A Passion for Place', saved the day for Tom & Rachel Breen when the rain poured down for their 'Breenhold Music Festival' and was just a short walk from the War Memorial on Remembrance Day to hear Alison Halliday make two more people on the memorial more than just names. A canyoning group hires the hall for their slide night and a bushwalking group for their Christmas function. This year the hall was also used as a polling booth for two elections.

Our planning for the use of the Village Hall as an emergency and information centre was put to the test with good effect last November when a section 44 was declared.

To finish this year the hall will be the venue for the community Christmas Party organized by the Mt Wilson Progress Association, Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine RFS Brigade and the Mt Irvine Progress Association.

When you are next in the hall have a look at the lovely new screen print 'Eastern Rosellas' by Lars Knudsen that has been kindly donated by Mary and John Holt.

Lastly I would like to report that we had a most productive meeting with Terry Cameron (Community Facilities Administrator) and Dan Long (Program Leader of City Assets Services) from BMCC about our roof, which will hopefully be replaced soon.

Judy Tribe

Found/Lost?

Does anyone know who owns the three gentle peahens that have now made their home at Mount Irvine? They frequent the Dane's Way—Mount Irvine Road area and can be found at Willowbank at about 3:30pm each day. Any enquiries—phone Elly on 4756 2135



STOP THE PRESSES! Some very exciting news has just been announced in that Ray Harrington has been elevated to Fellow of the prestigious Royal Art Society of NSW at that group's October Council meeting. Hearty congratulations from all – it is difficult to imagine a more worthy recipient. Further details to follow in the next newsletter.

Mt Wilson Progress Association Committee News

Remembrance Day Service

Once again, the service held at the War Memorial in The Avenue was a memorable occasion, well attended by about forty people. The service was conducted by the Reverend John Gaunt, minister of St. George's Anglican Church, himself a veteran of the Vietnam War. Christopher Carey, Year 10 student of Knox College, resplendent in kilt, played the trumpet (in lieu of a bugle). This is the third year he has performed this duty and we are very grateful for this, and to Robert Chesney for introducing such a talented grandson to us. A small choir ably trained and led by Beverley Thompson provided musical accompaniment to the proceedings. Thanks to Milba Mewburn, for flag duties and to Richard Prentice, for laying the wreath.

After the service, everyone adjointed to the Hall where Alison Halliday gave a most interesting talk about two people named on the Memorial, Margaret Gunn and John Michael James Joshua. It was good to welcome some of their family members to the function: Margaret Gunn's sons, Bill and Chris and Jack Joshua's granddaughter, Virginia Armstrong and her husband, Alan.

We thank Robert Chesney once again for his efficient organisation of the occasion.

Village Maintenance

Richard Beattie continues to liaise with Blue Mountains City Council regarding a number of issues that we have asked Council attend to. Despite the fact that it has committed to the require maintenance, nothing has been done. The issues in question include road subsidence on the Zigzag, guttering outside the Hall, clearing of gutters along roadsides, removal of dangerous and fallen trees, painting of picnic shelters, removal of overhanging vegetation that obstructs roads in some areas and improvements to Farrer Road West. The Committee is concerned about the safety of some issues and will continue to pursue them. Meanwhile concrete plinths have been supplied by Council and these and the power poles no longer used by Integral will be used to replace decaying barriers in Cathedral Reserve.

Mount Wilson Leisure Library

We are grateful to Alex Halliday for his donation of the book **A Passion for Place** by Alison Halliday and Joanne Hambrett. Those who have had the opportunity to read it will appreciate what a valuable asset it is to our library; those who haven't yet seen it do come and borrow it and any of the other fine books on the shelves.

The library list has been updated. If you would like a hard copy or an emailed version please contact Judy Tribe on 4756 2096 or jtribe@ozemail.co.au.

Don't forget, the library is open every Saturday morning from 10.00 to 11.00 so do drop in for a browse through the bookshelves. If you wish to come at another time, please contact Moira on 4756 2162 and it can be arranged.

Moira Green

Another month, another book...

Joe Landsberg has just had published **Physiological ecology of Forest Production Volume 4: Principles, Processes and Models**. This weighty tome is the successor to one of the same title (minus the sub-title) that he wrote 25 years ago; the recently released book represents an update of that earlier publication.

Jointly written via email with a co-author residing in Tasmania, the publication was further proof—if it is required—that globalization is now a firmly entrenched operating model: the Amsterdam-based publishers commissioned the typesetting in India for printing in the US. The book is available via electronic download or in hardcopy format.

Joe hopes that the book will be taken up as a recommended text for universities, and that it remains a essential part of a physiological ecologist's toolkit for predictive arboreal growth models.

It is obviously aimed at a niche market—I assume that I am the not the only one who is unfamiliar with the various phenomenological models of stomatal conductance or the Penman-Montieth canopy transpiration equation, but without doubt it is a valuable contribution to the body of scientific literature that helps optimise plantation and reforestation efforts.

We wish Joe all the best success for the book's sales.

Tim Gow

Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society AGM & Community History Day

Approximately 40 members of the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society gathered on Saturday 20 November 2010 to admire the treasures from the Society's collection, hear reports on activities for 2010 and welcome a new Management Committee for 2011.

On the big screen was a continuing display of photographs both old and not so old of personalities and properties of the two villages. It was amazing the changes that time had wrought and it became a guessing game of at whom or at what home we were looking. The display included several more albums of historic photos, school memorabilia and iconic blue singlets of champion axemen. According to the school 'Punishment Book' you received 2 extra strokes for 'carelessness'. Kathleen Oakes spoke of the role of archivist and appealed to the various groups in the two villages to document their activities and to all gardeners to document their gardens; John Cardy explained the systems by which our collection is controlled and accessed; Mary Reynolds, in her inimitable style, described her accidental voyage from mere resident to history of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine guru. The School House and Study Centre (which contains the Archives) were also open for inspection.

At the AGM, Des Barrett gave the Presidents Report and noted the new roof on the Turkish Bath, the visit from conservators from the Powerhouse Museum and progress on the Society's involvement in the new Mt Wilson website. Two committee members retired this year – Anne Mayall and Kathy Harrington – and Des thanked them both for their contribution as well as thanking all the volunteers and the Management Committee for their efforts. Thanks to Kathy's ministrations the Society's current assets are a very healthy \$49,787.65.

A new Management Committee was confirmed for 2011. The members are Des Barrett, John Braybooke, Zaharah Braybrooke, Helen Cardy, Darryl Conybeare, Tim Gow, Kathleen Oakes, Alice Simpson, Florence Smart and Mary Reynolds (ex officio, Public Officer). The first meeting of the new Management Committee will be in January 2011.

Kathleen Oakes

A new website for Mount Wilson and Mt Irvine

The Mt Wilson Progress Association, the Mt Wilson/ Mt Irvine RFS Brigade and the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society have jointly agreed to fund the development of a new website which will be based on the current domain name www.mtwilson.com.au

The website has traditionally catered mainly to visitors, providing them with information about Mt Wilson and services available. The new website will do this as well for both Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine, but in addition will have a large section devoted to information and services for local residents and members of local organisations, MWPA, the RFS and the Historical Society.

The possibilities for services and support for the local community are quite exciting. The new website will be able to provide much more local support, have much more information available to all residents and make it easier to find information. Some of the website will be behind a secure login for local residents and members of local organisations so that we can provide information which we don't want to be public. Websites like this are becoming quite common amongst small communities in Australia and overseas.

We are planning for the website to provide a local calendar covering events, meetings and RFS training; a document storage area so documents can be shared amongst committee members, store historical information, a photo gallery, and a newsletter area where current and back copies of newsletters will be available, and information for members of each of the local organisations. A link to a local weather station which is installed at the Mt Wilson Fire Station will provide real time weather information.

A large project will be a secure centralised database which will list the names, addresses and contact details of all residents of the community and members of each of the organisations, and people will be able to login and update their own details. This will make producing the local telephone list much easier. It will mean we won't need to have each member's details on the various computers used by the committees of each of the local organisations with all the errors and updating effort needed maintaining multiple systems.

In an emergency, the website and the name and address database will facilitate communications with residents about the status of fires and help us do a better job of responding the various incidents. We will have paper back up in case of power outages.

The plan is to install the new website in stages commencing with the replacement of the current website catering to visitors. This should be done during next January, followed by community information, real time weather, newsletter distribution and document storage early in 2011. The name and address database will be installed later during next year.

A website design company has been appointed to develop new website page templates and to integrate the various software packages into the website. Community representatives will be responsible for entering and maintaining all the information content and managing the name and address database.

The Mt Wilson Progress Association Website Committee, comprising Tim Gow, Stephen Dean, Michael Hitz and Graham Tribe, is overseeing the project on behalf of the community. The committees of the Mt Wilson Progress Association, the RFS Brigade and the Historical Society are all engaged in the process and will take part in entering the content of the website.

People in the community who don't have access to the internet will still have their local information delivered in paper form.

Other community organisations who wish to join the website and use its facilities will be welcome once the website is functioning.

Graham Tribe

Places of Passion

An Overview by Mark Bancroft

In June this year Robyn Scrivener and I had the good fortune to move to Robyn's family property 'Kookootonga' at Mt Irvine. As most readers will know, 'Kookootonga' is a working property growing chestnuts and walnuts as well as running a few hundred wool producers. Against this backdrop, and in contrast to it, is the garden which Ruth and Bill Scrivener have nurtured and grown into a beautiful retreat from the hard work of the farm enterprise.

The garden is just one of twenty eight 'magic oases', as Peter Watts describes them in his foreword, represented in a new book by Alison Halliday and Joanne Hambrett. **A Passion for Place: Gardens of the Blue Mountains** was launched at the Mount Wilson Village Hall on 16th October by author and journalist Fiona Carruthers.

Between its covers are chronicled the history, descriptions, horticultural diversity and, of course, passion that have gone into the growth of these magnificent gardens at Mt Tomah, Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine. The text is richly illustrated by the beautiful and carefully composed photographs of Ian Brown, himself a resident of the Blue Mountains.

As one gets absorbed in the pages of this book it becomes apparent that each of these gardens is

very much an individual within the broader collective. From controlled formality, beautifully crafted with an eye to geometry and precision, to the more 'organic' gardens which just seem to have grown for their own pleasure, each and every garden reveals its horticultural history and the passion which successive owners have injected into making them. As Alison Halliday and Joanne Hambrett remark in their introduction:

One of the real pleasures of our research was the opportunity to spend time, over many months, talking with the gardeners, in their gardens. Their voices appear in the book, honestly and eloquently explaining their work, philosophies and inspirations; their passion shines brightly, a glittering thread woven tightly into the fabric of their lives, their gardens and the mountains.

The book is organised in three major sections covering the three mounts (Wilson, Tomah and Irvine) whose gardens are represented. An introduction to the history and heritage of each mount whets the appetite for the details of each garden that follows. The foreword by Peter Watts provides a good overview of the context in which these gardens have developed and flourished. Peter Valder, a native of Mount Wilson, provides a prologue imbued with personal experience and dedication to the cause of these wonderful gardens. His concluding words encapsulate the spirit and worth of this book:

Finally, particularly since I have been privileged to have been brought up in one of these gardens and to have had much of the responsibility for its care and further development later in my life, I am delighted that the authors have brought together descriptions of so many of them in the one volume, a feat which records and draws well-deserved attention to the extraordinary horticultural richness of this fascinating part of our country.

I began this brief review with personal reference to 'Kookootonga'. In concluding I note that Ruth Scrivener is quoted as follows: 'The garden is special to me because it has many plants and trees that remind me of the people who gave them to me.' In like manner this book will ignite many new friendships for the gardens and gardeners that inhabit its pages.

Mark Bancroft

Looking for a Christmas present?

Environmental consultant and photographer Ian Brown—he of **A Passion for Place: Gardens of the Blue Mountains** fame—is producing a new calendar of the Blue Mountains for 2011.

The calendar is of large format (300mm wide by 385mm high), portrait format and wire bound. Only 500 copies of the 2011 edition have been produced containing fourteen wonderful and diverse photographs of the Blue Mountains, near and far, landscapes, forests, rivers and wildflowers, all new and never before published. The images are accompanied by informative captions and dates of important conservation events in the Blue Mountains.

Wholly produced in Australia, the calendar is printed to the highest standards with soy-based ink on chlorine free heavy art paper that is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

The price is \$35.00 each, with discounts for multiple copies.

You can order by email ianbrown@lisp.com.au (payment on delivery) or phone (4787 1420) or send a cheque or money order to Ian Brown, Windy Cliff Press, PO Box 30, Mount Victoria, 2786.

Highly recommended!

Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigades

Additions to Mt Wilson Shed

Plans for the proposed addition to the Mt Wilson Fireshed have been approved by Blue Mountains Fire Control and will now be lodged with Council for a Development Application.

Bowens Creek Bridge

Local MP for the federal seat of Macquarie, Mrs Louise Markus has accepted an invitation to visit Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine and to see the state of Bowens Creek Bridge. Captain Beth Raines and President David Howell will meet with Mrs Markus at a date still to be determined to discuss the need for urgent repairs to the bridge to ensure the safety of residents during a bushfire.

Communications Tower now operational

The communications tower behind the Mt Wilson Fireshed is now home to a sophisticated weather station. The new equipment provides constant information on rainfall, wind, temperature and humidity. It is planned to stream this information to the Mt Wilson website. The weather station reveals a sense of humour with a message that it is "Raining Cats and Dogs" during a heavy downpour.

Brigade Fleet Grows

The Brigade has recently taken delivery of a new Category 11 Pumper. On delivery, Captain **Beth Raines, Helen Freeman, Graham Tribe** and **Vic Zhukov** kitted it out with all the equipment it needs and it is now fully operational in pride of place in the Fireshed.

A Cat 11 Pumper is designed specifically for Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVAs) and structural fires – the majority of incidents for our brigade. Compared to our largest fire truck, the Cat 1, the Pumper has superior storage and lockers, and is capable of pumping 2000 litres per minute. It is also easier to get on board being a bit closer to the ground!

Brigade Training Update

Three members of the brigade have recently successfully completed their assessment for Village Firefighting. **Allen Hyde, Robyn Hyde** and **Luke O'Hearn** were assessed as competent after each putting in an outstanding effort during the rigorous assessment involving 15 trainees and four fully-crewed trucks. Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine hosted the assessment providing two of the trucks, helpers and assessors, as well as setting up three different scenarios and catering for all those involved.

Candidates were required to attend an oil spill fire at the Council gravel heap below the Zig Zag, safely open and ventilate a smoke-filled building set up behind the Mt Wilson fire station, and attend a simulated motor vehicle fire with casualties at Cathedral Reserve. Additionally they sat a theory paper and demonstrated their ability with ladders and ropes. Congratulations to Allen, Robyn and Luke!

Peter Dempsey, Peter Raines, and **Vic Zhukov** have recently completed their RAFT (Remote Area Firefighting Team) Arduous Pack Test. Each of them heroically covered 4.83km in 45 minutes carrying a 20.4kg pack and is now qualified to take part in helicopter winching exercises during firefighting events. Well done Peter, Pete and Vic.

Graham Tribe co-ordinated an extremely valuable training session for 13 Station Officers on 17 October. The session discussed the role of Station Officer supporting the Captain, Senior Deputy, and Deputies during both operational and non-operational periods. **Maria Kelly** and **Minnie Nicholas** gave useful first-hand accounts of their experiences acting as Station Officers during bushfire incidents, and trial scenarios were enacted to demonstrate what needs to be done during an actual incident. Thank you Graham for pulling it all together and providing comprehensive notes for all attendees.

Any member of the brigade who has completed their BF training is eligible to act as Station Officer. Please contact Graham Tribe if you are interested in learning more about this vital brigade role.

Call Out Log

The brigade was called out ten times during October and November 2010 to seven MVAs, one Wollangambe rescue, one medical incident, and trees felled by storm activity in Mt Wilson. Our thanks go to Brigade members who responded: **Barry Freeman, Beth Raines, Kathleen Oakes, Libby Raines, Peter Dempsey, Peter Raines, Stephen Dean, Suzzane Daly** and **Vic Zhukov**.

What happens during a call out?

When Fire Control in Katoomba receives a call for assistance in Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine's area, they activate the beepers of all brigade members who have them. If possible, they then go immediately to the Fire Station to get into uniform and join a crew assembled by Beth Raines or a Deputy Captain.

The majority of calls received by our brigade are for Motor Vehicle Accidents on the Bells Line of Road between Bell and Mt Tomah. By the time a crew from our brigade arrives at the scene, the police, ambulance and NSW Fire Brigade are usually in attendance. The primary role of the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Brigade is to provide fire cover for the affected vehicle, but more commonly crew members are used to re-direct traffic for the extent of the incident.

For medical emergencies, the Community First Responders in the brigade attend to the incident while the NSW ambulance is on its way.

Rescues in the Wollangambe are quicker and more successful if walkers are carrying an EPIRB beacon which can be activated enabling the Brigade to pinpoint their location and arrange for helicopter transport out of the gorge.

Your Brigade needs You!

New members of the brigade are always needed to increase the pool of members who can be called on for any of the incidents we are called to. In particular, junior members are particularly welcome to learn the ropes from the age of 12 and to grow with the brigade. Consider involving your children and grandchildren in the community.

Membership of the brigade offers opportunities to gain knowledge with a wide application in other areas such as chain sawing, driving heavy vehicles, First Aid, property protection from bushfires, radio communications and large scale catering. And in addition you get to know the members of your community and your area including fire trails and bush walks while gaining experience of teamwork. For further information contact Beth Raines.

Bush Firewise Family Action Planner

By now you and your family should have prepared your Bushfire Survival Plan. Review the Bush Firewise Family Action Planner delivered to you with the October edition of this newsletter and make your plans well in advance of a fire emergency. For further copies of the Planner, contact Beth Raines.

New Catering Officer

Many thanks to **Moira Green** who has stepped into the role of Catering Officer for the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Brigade. Moira will be ably assisted by **Helen Freeman** co-ordinating volunteers to keep supplies on the trucks and provide meals for firefighters during incidents.

Sarah Howell

2010 Mt Wilson & Mount Irvine Street Coordinators

Following the Victorian fires, the threat of bush fires has come again into the spotlight as we head into another summer. As a result of this, many residents are focussing their attention on planning and preparation for their own safety and the protection of their property.

The Mount Wilson/Mount Irvine Rural Fire Brigade has a dedicated network of Street Coordinators who are prepared to assist both the Brigade and local Residents/Property Owners in the event of a significant fire threat.

As part of a preparation strategy it is proposed that they contact and alert their residents of the

regional conditions and current status.

Each Property Owner will have different and complex issues in deciding what to do in an emergency, for example whether to 'Leave Early' or to 'Stay and Defend'.

The Street Coordinators are on hand to give people as much local information as possible to help them make their decisions.

In addition, the Coordinators will update the Brigade on the whereabouts and intentions of people in their area and the conditions at their properties, in order for the Fire Services to make their operational plans.

On November 21st there was a meeting of current street Coordinators to exchange ideas and make plans for the 2010 Fire Season. Although it is a very wet period with more rain forecast, we will still continue preparations.

The Mount Wilson & Mount Irvine Street Coordinators are as follows:

Area 1	Mt Irvine	Ray Harrington & Roger Howard Smith
Area 2	Wynnes Rocks Rd	Ron Green & Peter Laving
Area 3	The Avenue, Queens Ave, Wyndham Ave	Tanya Marquadt
Area 4	Church Lane, The Avenue, Waterfall Rd	Robert Nicol, Peter Anderson & Suzanne Bassett
Area 5	Mt Wilson East	George Mayne & Richard Beattie
Area 6	Farrer Rd, Smith Rd	Wendy Holland & Judy Tribe

We are in need of another Street Coordinator in the vicinity of the Avenue, Queens Ave & Wyndham Avenue.

If you are in regular residence at your property during the fire season and would like to assist, please contact me.

Kim Gow

Community Liaison, Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine RFS Brigade.

Dahlia and Flower Arrangement Exhibition—Sunday 13th March

On Sunday 13th March, The Central West Dahlia Society will hold a dahlia exhibition and floral display at the Mt Wilson Village Hall. The event will be hosted by the Central West Dahlia Society and Australian Dahlia Council members Peter Richey and Rob Slarke of Lithgow.

Many members of the Dahlia Society from Sydney, Wollongong and the Central West will be exhibiting their own flowers from a genus of extraordinary beauty and diversity.

Additionally, local residents are invited and encouraged to participate by arranging floral displays of their best flowers at that time of year — these displays need not be restricted to dahlias. For these arrangements, Peter ask that you supply your own vases.

Entry fee is by a modest gold coin donation. A sausage sizzle and tea and coffee will be provided by the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine RFS.

Some of the plants will be for sale and a fantastic raffle will be conducted: all proceeds of the day will go to the local RFS brigade and the Village Hall.

Anyone wanting to display should contact Peter Richey for further details on 4756 2049.

I am sure this exhibition will generate a lot of local and regional interest — it deserves our full support.



A small sample of the astonishing range of dahlias: some beautiful dahlias are grown in Mt Wilson and environs



Mount Irvine Garden neighbour watch

Sadly, a resident has recently experienced the wilful pulling out of new Sassafras plantings on their property. Please be on the lookout for any person who appear to be trespassing on any Mount Irvine property. Any sightings should be reported to Katoomba police on 4782 8199.



A beautiful photo provided by Florence Smart looking north to the Wollemi National Park

Suggestions, comments or contributions warmly welcomed!