



The Mounts

The Community Newsletter of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine



December 2011

Welcome

The then Australian Treasurer Peter Costello's famous 2004 plea to boost Australia's population growth - "have one for Mum, one for Dad and one for the country" - fell on remarkably deaf ears in Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine for many years. That is until October 1st, 2011.

On that day, Sunny Dennis-John Daly, became the first child to be born of parents permanently based in the villages since—and here I am treading extraordinarily carefully—Beth Raines was born some three decades ago. To Ricananda and Suzzane Daly, we extend our great joy and happiness at this wonderful news.

Another birth of sorts was the very recent publication of a charming and beautifully produced book by Wendy Holland on the pottery crafted by Fred Mann in Mt Wilson in the 1920s and 30s. For those who may not be aware of Mann, or of his pottery, this work will delight and surprise. Those who are familiar with his work will be very pleased that, at long last, a permanent and loving record of his output has been produced after a gestation period of two and a half years.

A very different book—*Still Walking*— by Bill Moss was also published in early December. A fascinating insight into the both the world of business and the impact of a physical disability, this book, and the two charities to which all proceeds go, demands our full attention.

To cap off a newsletter of artistic focus, Tom Bassett has enthusiastically documented the local filming of *The Great Gatsby* and Robyn Scrivener has profiled Wendy Holland the artist.

All the best for the festive season. I am sure a quiet break at the tail end of a year that many would characterize as very demanding will be very welcome.

On my part, on behalf of the community, I would like to thank the many contributors to the newsletter this year. This document would simply not exist without your efforts that without fail informed, amused or enlightened.

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Ricananda, Suzzane and Sunny Daly



MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Coming Events

Saturday, 17th March, 2012 at 5.30 p.m. – MWPA General Meeting

Saturday, 22nd September, 2012 at 5.30 p.m. – MWPA Annual General Meeting

Community Christmas Party

This was an enjoyable social occasion once again, when many residents of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine gathered together to celebrate the start of the Christmas season. Many people appreciate the opportunity to mingle and chat. The occasion provided an opportunity for the launch of a new beautifully photographed book on the pottery of Fred Mann, compiled by Wendy Holland. Congratulations to all those involved in the publication. It was wonderful to meet the newest and youngest member of the community, 9 week old Sunny Daly. Congratulations to Suzzane and Ricananda on his birth.

Our thanks to all who helped on the night by providing platters of delicious food, to Diana Landsberg for playing the piano for the Christmas carols, to Beth Raines for her inspired decorations and to all those helped clean up afterwards. A small glass bowl was left behind - please contact me if you are missing it.

Remembrance Day Service

A group of about thirty people gathered at the Mount Wilson war memorial on Remembrance Day, 11th November. An excellent service of remembrance was led by Reverend John Gaunt, minister of St. George's Anglican Church. The bugler for the occasion was Christopher Carey, Milba Mewburn did flag duty, Richard Prentice and Jock Lumsden laid a wreath. A small choir led by Beverley Thompson sang an item. In the Village Hall, Alison Halliday presented a most interesting talk about two men listed on the memorial. A delicious morning tea followed. Thank you to all who helped to provide this. In 2012 Remembrance Day will be on a Sunday, a great opportunity for those who are here only at weekends to experience a wonderful occasion of remembrance of those who have served and still serve our country.

Tree Ferns

As part of the Village Maintenance Programme, the committee is organising the removal of young tree ferns which are growing in the gutters beside the roads and will cause traffic hazards in the future.

These tree ferns are mostly being dug out, potted up and cared for at Merry Garth. Some tree ferns have already been planted in Sloan and Wynne Reserves by the Bush Care Group and we will continue to do this.

The tree ferns will also be sold to the village community for a small fee to cover the cost of removing them. The proceeds will go into the Progress Association funds.

If anyone would like some small tree ferns, please contact Libby Raines.

Wild Dogs

Following the AGM motion, a letter was written to Council informing it of the increased sightings of dingoes and wild dogs. A response from Council said that it is aware of the situation and has discussed the matter with National Parks and Wildlife Service, but NPWS has no current programs or plans to deal with dogs in this area, and without Parks input it would only be a very short term solution. Council is happy to assist in the removal of these dogs. However, they need to understand the dogs' patterns in the area and would also like NPWS to be involved. In order to build up data to enable Council to better determine the future management direction of the issue it would be useful for residents to contact Council by phone, 47805000, when a sighting is made with the following information;

- Description of the dog
- Where the dog was sighted
- How often it has been sighted (once a week / fortnight / month)

Residents can also use legal trapping methods to protect livestock as long as they comply with all current rules and legislation such as the Companion Animals Act and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

Join the Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc.

If you are a property owner or reside in Mount Wilson you are eligible to be a member of the Association. If you are not a member and wish to join please contact me. Membership fees make an important contribution to the work of maintaining our village and providing contact with residents through the production of such things as newsletters, the phone book and the website. The more members there are, the more we can do for you.

Mount Wilson Leisure Library

The library is open every Saturday morning from 10.00 to 11.00 unless the hall is booked for a function, so do drop in for a browse through the bookshelves. If you wish to come at another time or have books delivered, please contact me on 4756 2162 and this can be arranged. If anyone would like to assist in looking after the library for one hour a month on a Saturday morning please contact me.

ENDEAVOUR ENERGY AND THE PROPOSED EMERGENCY GENERATOR

Libby Raines and Moira Green from the Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc. and Mark Bancroft and Brian Carrigan from the Mount Irvine Progress Association by invitation met with four representatives of the Strategic Assets Management Department of Endeavour Energy on 23rd November, 2011.

The purpose of the meeting was a briefing of the company's decision to indefinitely defer the installation of the proposed emergency generator at Mount Irvine and the steps already undertaken and those planned to improve the power supply to the Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine communities.

Reasons for Deferment

- The use of an emergency generator is in an experimental stage. The trial use of one at Colo which is still not on line is believed to be unsuited in the Mounts' situation. The location of the generator is a dilemma because of the dispersed settlement over the two mounts. Colo is a single contained centre.
- It is believed that a generator would be of advantage in only about 50% of the circumstances, depending on the nature and location of the problem causing the outage. There would not be an automatic or immediate start of the generator when power is disrupted. There is still the need to locate the fault prior to it being turned on and in many circumstances, the fault could be rectified and power restored within a reasonable time period of the generator going on anyway.
- Given these limitations, it is considered that the expense of installing an emergency generator, estimated to cost in excess of a million dollars, is not the most effective or responsible way of dealing with the problems of power outages.
- Focus on preventative work is considered to be the most effective approach. Identification of the causes of outages has determined that 90% of outages in our area are caused by wind and falling trees and branches in contrast to 75% in most other areas. Therefore, work has been done to replace poles (concrete ones are being used in fire prone areas) and a more aggressive approach is being taken to clear vegetation from around lines. Covered conductors eliminate some potential stoppages with the result that only momentary interruptions are experienced. Studies made in sections where these preventative measures have been undertaken indicate that there is a marked decrease in the number of outages, reinforcing the conclusion that this is the preferred approach.

Plans for the Future

- The work already underway, pole replacement, clearing of lines and insulation of lines will continue.
- Spurs with exposure to falling branches have been identified and lines will be insulated in those locations. Wynnes Rocks Road was identified as an example and some surveyed public access roads where there is restricted access for Endeavour trucks. They are continuing to look at options to facilitate this access.
- Fuses on one way spurs will be installed to contain the area of fault.

- A separate feeder from the Bell sub-station going south is to be installed. This will isolate Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine from problems originating south of the sub-station.
- Remote control switches are being installed to isolate sections of lines

These measures are planned to be completed within 12 to 18 months at a cost of \$2,000,000. The need to keep regular and ongoing lines of communication between Endeavour and the Progress Associations was recognised and Endeavour representatives assured us that this would happen. Endeavour will continue to monitor the supply situation and if the current works prove unsuccessful an alternate site for a generator could be considered. One suggestion made was a location between the two villages which may maintain supply to at least one village should the power lines to the other village be damaged.

Endeavour Energy representatives were informed of residents dependent on power for life support equipment and elderly and disabled residents who find difficulty coping with power disruptions. It was requested that those with life support equipment notify Endeavour Energy for inclusion in its database.

Moira Green
Secretary,
Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc.

Village Hall Jottings

With many thanks to the Mt Wilson Progress Association for their response and lobbying on our behalf, and to Ron Green for addressing the Blue Mountains City Council meeting on 22nd November, a motion was unanimously carried to transfer to the Village Hall the significant pool of funding put aside for proposed Stage II toilets in Cathedral Reserve, as these are not needed. It is amazing and most exciting to be discussing with Council the best way to use this money. We will keep you updated on progress.

The Melbourne Cup lunch on Tuesday 1st November was the biggest we have had, raising just over \$1,000 towards the kitchen upgrade. Thanks for all their help goes to Tim, Ron, Moira, Beth and Ted. There were many happy sweep winners and Margaret Dean won the raffle prize. The table of bits and pieces to make your own fascinator reaped some absolutely fabulous creations. Who would have known we have designer milliners in our midst? I promise to chat less next year and take some photos to publish in the Newsletter!

So mark Tuesday 6th November 2012 in your diary and join us for the Melbourne Cup lunch.

Best wishes to everyone for a happy Christmas and good times in 2012

Judy Tribe

Peter Richey

As most of you are aware, Peter Richey has been out of action for more than a month following a very nasty accident with a hydraulic log splitter which left the thumb of his left hand badly damaged.

Peter reports that the subsequent medical treatment, which involved temporarily grafting his thumb to his forefinger to aid the skin regeneration process, was completely successful. He is currently undergoing post-operative physiotherapy to strengthen and toughen the thumb before his planned return to work early in January.

Peter has expressed sincere thanks to all the many people who wished him well, and to Beth Raines in particular who, as part of the local Community First Responders, was responsible for applying the initial First Aid treatment.

www.mtwilson.com.au—The Mounts Website

We have continued to add items to the Community Website which we hope are interesting and of value to community members and visitors.

Current Local weather at Mt Wilson. You can now obtain current weather conditions for Mt Wilson on the website which come from the weather station on the Mt Wilson Fire Station tower. Weather conditions are provided in a simplified form and in a more detailed form. Both these images are shown on the right. It is hoped that weekenders and those visiting The Mounts will find this useful.

To access the weather information follow the live weather link on the home page or go to 'Weather' in the top menu and follow the live weather link.

The new weather pages give exact current weather conditions at the Mt Wilson Fire Station. Normally Mt Irvine will be a little warmer.



Mt Wilson Fire Station					
Current Conditions as of 10:37 Friday, December 6, 2011					
Station Summary	Current	Today's Highs		Today's Lows	
Outside Temp	16.3 C	16.4 C	12:53	9.3 C	06:02
Outside Humidity	75%	99%	00:00	72%	11:55
Inside Temp	15.4 C	15.4 C	12:47	14.9 C	06:25
Inside Humidity	59%	59%	00:53	58%	00:00
Heat Index	16.1 C	16.1 C	12:48	9.4 C	06:23
Wind Chill	16.1 C	12.8 C	12:48	9.4 C	00:58
Exposure Point	11.7 C				
Barometer	1025.8hPa	1021.2hPa	10:52	1018.9hPa	00:15
Bar Trend	Steady				
Wind Speed	Calm	13 km/h	12:44		
Wind Direction	ENE (0°)				
12 Hour Forecast	Partially Cloudy				
Wind					
	2 Minute	10 Minute			
Average Wind Speed	0.5 km/h	1.6 km/h			
Wind Gust Speed	0.5 km/h	6.4 km/h			
Rain					
	Rate	Day	Storm	Month	Year
Rain	0.0mm/hour	0.2mm	17.0mm	23.4mm	1290.2mm
Last Hour Rain	0.0mm				

Check out the new content which continues to be added.

- More content has been added covering local artists. To see this just go to '**Things To Do> Have a look at local art**'
- Fred Mann's Pottery Book has been added to the Historical Society section of the website. You can purchase a copy of the book from the site. Please go to '**Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Historical Society> Fred Mann 's Mt Wilson Pottery Book**'
- A list of properties which are for sale has been added to the public section of the website. This will assist people who wish to sell their properties and hopefully attract new owners who have an interest in the Mounts. To see this go to '**Accommodation, Gardens, and local Property for Sale> Properties for sale in the villages**'.
- The Mt Wilson/ Mt Irvine Brigade is steadily adding and improving resource and mapping information which will assist the Brigade respond in an emergency. To view this information you will need to login to the website. If you are a brigade member, a menu will appear lower on the left which will give you direct access to this section of the website. Go to '**Rural Fire Brigade> Miscellaneous Resource Material**'.
- Many photographs have been added in the last few months. These can be seen either in the Photo Gallery on the top menu or at '**Through the Photographer's Lens**' on the lower portion of the left menu.

We welcome any suggestions you might have for subjects you would like to see included on the website. Just let Tim Gow, Stephen Dean or myself know.

As always, we encourage you to login to the website and explore the content. If you can take the time, we believe you will find interesting and useful information.

If you don't have a username and password, please contact Tim or myself.

Graham Tribe

Filming of 'The Great Gatsby'

No doubt everyone on the Mounts is aware of the film crew that has recently arrived to film part of the seventh cinematic version of F. Scott Fitzgerald's most famous novel. How could you miss it? Up to four hundred people – yes, that is right, four hundred, plus all of the associated vehicles.

More on the vehicles later...



Let's start with a background of the author. Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was born 24th September 1896 and died 21st December 1940. He is widely regarded as one of the great American writers of the twentieth century. He completed four novels – *This Side of Paradise* (1920), *The Beautiful and the Damned* (1922), *Tender is the Night* (1934), and, his most famous, *The Great Gatsby* (1925). *The Last Tycoon* was published posthumously in 1941. He also wrote many short stories.

Scott – as he was generally referred to – married Zelda Sayre (1900 – 1948) in 1920, the year *This Side of Paradise* became one of the most popular books of that year. A staunch Roman Catholic, Scott married in St Patrick's Cathedral in New York. In 1921, their only child Frances Scott "Scottie" Fitzgerald was born; she died in 1986.

Zelda, Scott's wife, was herself an American novelist of some notoriety and fame. She wrote *Save Me the Waltz* (1932), as well as short stories and magazine articles. Their marriage was a tempestuous affair, mainly due to Scott's alcoholism. Scott was furious that Zelda had used material from their lives together in her semi-autobiographical novel, though Scott would do the same in *Tender is the Night*. The two novels provided contrasting portrayals of their failing marriage. Scott used their relationship as material even going as far as lifting snippets from Zelda's private diaries and assigning them to fictional heroines.

The Fitzgeralds moved to Great Neck, Long Island in October, 1922, appropriating the setting for *The Great Gatsby*. Great Neck, on the shores of Long Island Sound, sat across a bay from Manhasset Neck, and was home to many of New York's wealthiest established families. In *The Great Gatsby*, Great Neck became the 'new-money' peninsula of 'West Egg' and Manhasset Neck the 'old money' peninsula of 'East Egg'. Oheka Castle on the Gold Coast of Long Island was the partial inspiration for Gatsby's estate.

The novel is set against the background when American society enjoyed prosperity during the 'roaring' 1920's as the economy soared following the First World War. As the same time, Prohibition, the ban on the sale and manufacture of alcohol, made millionaires out of bootleggers. Progress on the novel was slow and in May 1923, the Fitzgeralds moved to the French Riviera where the novel was finished, although it was not till February 1925, and a few revisions later, that Fitzgerald returned the final batch of revised galley proofs.

The first film of the book was made in 1926, one year after the novel's release. It was a silent movie of the stage adaption, starring Warner Baxter, Lois Wilson and William Powell. Unfortunately, this film no longer exists other than a short trailer in the American National Archives.

During the first week of filming in Mt Wilson starting Monday 21st November, the rain came down and the film crew decamped to Sydney till things dried out. Logistically, it was a nightmare as 263 people were involved in the film prior to the rain. Despite the weather, the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Fire Brigade was employed by the film company to supply 45,000 litres of potable water for a rain scene. The water was pumped from *Breenhold* dam in Wyndham Avenue into tankers for delivery to the set where a special rainmaking system was set up. Some say the Brigade Captain saw the star of the show during this exercise; however, it was only a shoulder.

Every available bed on the mountains has been booked by the film crew, even to the point of an office being vacated to make way for a driver.



Silva Plana was badly cut up due to the volume of traffic and persistent rain, and is currently in a terrible mess, so much so that the film crew has had to move to *Cathedral Reserve*. Full restoration of all areas affected by the filming is to be made by the film company and the Blue Mountains City Council, with input provided by local residents.

This version of *The Great Gatsby* is directed by Baz Lurhmann and stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Carey Milligan and Joel Edgerton. The budget is \$120 million.

The filming at Mt Wilson involved many and varied vehicles.

The main car – or to be more precise, cars, as there are two identical cars in case one breaks down – is a Duesenberg built by two self-taught German engineering brothers.

The story goes they were purchased in America by one of our local lads especially for this film, and, on arrival in Australia, were painted several times to get the colour just right.

The company Duesenberg Automobile and Motor Company Inc. was founded in 1913 before collapsing in 1937. Although the Duesenberg brothers were first class engineers, they were neither good businessmen nor administrators. In spite of this, they manufactured the first mass-produced 'straight 8' in America. Their cars also featured overhead camshafts, four valves per cylinder and the first four wheel hydraulic brakes offered in a passenger car in the US.

It is no wonder that whoever could afford it had to have one! Tom Mix, Rudolph Valentino, Clark Gable, Gary Cooper, Greta Garbo, Mae West, the Duke of Windsor, Alfonso XIII of Spain, and, more recently, talk show host Jay Leno, who found one in a barn in 2005, are amongst the celebrities who have owned a 'Dusey'.

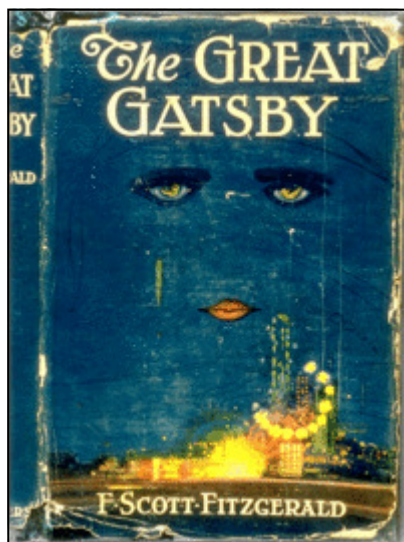
Another vehicular star of the film was the Rolls Royce that runs over Myrtle Wilson near her husband's garage. This car used was once owned by the silent film actress Norma Talmadge. Other vehicles used in the filming at Mt Wilson included a 1924 Willys-Overland Utility, a 1928 Chevrolet and a 1926 T-Model Ford.

Rumour has it, if you when the film is released, you may recognise some familiar faces in the crowd scenes.

By the time this article goes to print, the activity will be winding down. However, a lot of people on the Mounts will have many and varied memories of the time *The Great Gatsby* came to town.

Special thanks are due to the film crew for providing the lifting equipment to extend the fire hose drying pole at the Mt Wilson station.

Tom Bassett



Opposite page left: 1937 photo of Scott Fitzgerald

Opposite page right: the 17 year old Zelda Sayre

Left: Cover of the first edition, 1925

Below: an extremely rare 1923 Duesenberg 8 Rubay Tourer. Yours for a lazy million or thereabouts (US dollars)!



Wendy Holland

Many of us living on the Mounts have a close connection to Wendy's work as we have popped it on our heads and been kept warm by it, or simply admired it hanging in our homes.

Amongst drawing, painting, knitting, screen printing, Wendy is acknowledged as an important Australian quilt artist who has had numerous works exhibited. She prefers her quilts to evolve rather than be carefully planned. She finds that limiting herself to 'a bunch of scraps' forces her to play around for the best solution. Examples of her quilts are kept in the Powerhouse Museum. Never one to rest on her laurels, Wendy now aims to concentrate her creative energies on drawing and, in particular, painting.

This work evolves from a broad education in the visual arts. She began that education at East Sydney Technical College, concentrating on fine arts, specialising in painting and two years after that a Diploma of Education at Sydney Teachers College.

While training, she became attracted to decorative pattern and design in the applied arts. She was particularly fascinated by Japanese surface design and vintage and ethnic textiles. She has worked in theatre wardrobe as well as teaching. It was not until 1992 that she made the move from Sydney to Mount Wilson, and since then has developed her much loved home and garden *Wollangambe*.



Throughout

Wendy has kept body and soul together by producing printed t-shirts, patchwork hand bags, creating unique knitted garments and making quilts.

During my conversation about her work Wendy emphasised 'it is my drawing and painting that I want to concentrate on'. Many of these works feature horses, sheep, native wildlife and birds, clearly demonstrating a special connection between artist and subject. She continues to develop her technical skills in painting and keep finding time for life drawing classes. The examples here only provide a glimpse of her many works both on paper and canvas.

Recently Wendy has been involved in creating a book on Fred Mann which has had to take temporary precedence over her art. I feel sure that the brushes, paints, easels and canvases sitting in her home will not remain idle for long.

Viewings of Wendy's work can be arranged by appointment, phone: 47562094.

Robyn Scrivener



Newspaper deliveries to Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine

Following a breakdown in negotiations between the Fairfax Media and the Mt Victoria Post Office about the home delivery charges to the Mt Victoria area, that publisher has suspended the supply of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Australian Financial Review* to the Post Office from Wednesday 6th December. Accordingly, these publications will no longer be delivered with the mail to the villages, nor will they be available for the rostered Saturday pickup, or for sale over the counter, by the group of residents who crave their weekend fix of hardcopy news.

In a further blow, it is understood that the Post Office owners have decided that, at the end of January, they will no longer carry any newspapers at all (including *The Australian* and the *Daily Telegraph*) and that therefore there will be no home delivery or newspapers sales from that location.

At this early stage, it is very unclear how the daily and weekend delivery of papers to the villages can continue or whether the recent decision will be reviewed. Several avenues are currently being explored.

It is obviously hoped that a solution acceptable to all parties can be found soon.

The existing postal delivery arrangements are not affected.

Bill Moss releases book about succeeding in business with a disability

Still Walking, the memoirs of Macquarie Bank's former head of real estate and banking, Bill Moss AM, and a local Mt Wilson resident, was officially launched by former Australian Prime Minister, Paul Keating, and former Macquarie Group CEO, Allan Moss, in Sydney on 1 December 2011.



Raised in a fibro house in a working class suburb of Western Sydney, Bill Moss details his journey assisting Macquarie Bank with its expansion around the world until he was forced to retire for health reasons in early 2007, leaving as one of Australia's highest paid and most successful businessmen.

In *Still Walking*, Moss recounts with startling frankness his private battle against the ever-encroaching impacts of the painful and degenerative muscle-wasting disease FSHD, one of the world's most common forms of muscular dystrophy – which occurred throughout much of his 23 years at Macquarie.

Weaving stories about his meetings with world leaders alongside anecdotes regarding his encounters with other famous businessmen, international sports stars, politicians, bureaucrats, journalists and even one notorious conman, these memoirs above all else recount Moss' personal journey towards acknowledging and coming to terms with having a disability.

In *Still Walking*, Moss reveals many insights into the creation and success of Macquarie Bank including the history of Macquarie's property funds management business.

Bill Moss takes readers on a journey around the world, with fascinating observations and insights into both the high flying world of business and how different cultures and societies respond to physical disability.

All proceeds from the sale of *Still Walking* will go to the FSHD Global Research Foundation, of which Bill is Chairman, and Fighting Chance Australia.

FSHD Global Research Foundation

FSHD Global Research Foundation was set up by Bill Moss AM in 2007 to find a treatment and cure for Fascioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy. It is one of the most common forms of muscular dystrophy with a prevalence of 1 in 7,000. FSHD is an inheritable muscle disease characterised by the progressive weakening and loss of skeletal muscles. There is no known cure or treatment for FSHD.

Today the Foundation has committed funding for 13 research programs in 6 countries; Australia, USA, Netherlands, Belgium, France and Italy. Prior to the establishment of the FSHD Global Research Foundation, no research into FSHD had been undertaken in Australia, nor any government funding been provided for research.

For further details and updates on research programs please visit www.fshdglobal.org.



Fighting Chance

Fighting Chance Australia provides services to young adult Australians with a physical disability.



Fighting Chance provides meaningful employment opportunities, locate the best services and organisations around Australia who can provide fulfilling life experiences, and advocate for better accommodation.

There are 2.6million Australians with a physical disability and almost 1 million with a severe physical disability.

Only 50% of those Australians with a physical disability are employed, and this drops to 15% for those with a profound physical disability.

Fewer than 5% of Australians with a profound disability receive any form of government funded accommodation support.

For further details please visit www.fightingchance.org.au

Computer support required?

Imaginarium I.T. is a local I.T. business run by Ashley Phillips who recently moved to Mt Wilson with his partner Jessica Delbridge. **Imaginarium I.T.** will come to you and offers dedicated local support and the following services :

- Computer repairs and support.
- Computer sales and PCs built for your specific needs.
- Computer tutoring and training.
- Networking as well as internet, wireless router and printer setups.
- Website creation, development and maintenance.
- Programming services and development of software.

Jessica Delbridge is a qualified freelance graphic designer and Mac professional. Jess has worked with a wide range of clientele from large national and international corporations to smaller local businesses looking for creative solutions. If you require branding, stationery, logo design, website design, book or pamphlet creation, or would like to discuss a project, please feel free to contact Jess for a quote.

Jess and Ash also both offer tutorial support for IMac, Ipod, Iphone and Ipad.

They are available week days and weekends (by appointment only).

Please feel free to contact them on 4756 2063, or

Ashley: imaginarium.it@gmail.com or 0406 750 744

Jess: jessdelbridgedesigns@gmail.com or 0403 863 005

Fred Mann's Mount Wilson Pottery Book

The Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society has overseen the publication of an important new book that celebrates the life and creative output of an outstanding Mt Wilson figure of yesteryear.

Fred Mann's Mount Wilson Pottery was the primarily the result of the efforts of two well-known local residents. The book was the brainchild of Wendy Holland who has driven the project with extraordinary passion, energy and vision over the last two and a half years. In close collaboration with Roger Howard-Smith, who shot most of the photographs in the book and who most generously covered the initial printing costs, the end result is a fitting tribute to the talents of an extraordinary man.

To quote from the opening paragraphs of the book:

"The pottery of Fred Mann evokes Mt Wilson in the period between the 1st and 2nd World Wars: a place of English cottage gardens in an Australian rainforest setting – forget-me-nots amongst the tree ferns.

It is not known what inspired Fred Mann to begin creating his colourful pieces – perhaps he learnt pottery in one of the 'crafts as occupational therapy' facilities set up for returned soldiers by the Red Cross after the 1st World War.

The 1920s were a time when the Arts and Craft societies flourished; when 'art' or 'studio' pottery became a popular activity. The English magazine 'The Studio', a much revered arbiter of taste, was widely available, while colourful artworks by artists such as Margaret Preston and Thea Proctor graced the covers of 'The Home' and 'Art in Australia', reflecting great interest in the arts generally, both English and Australian.

Whether or not he received any formal training, it would seem Fred Mann found an affinity with the medium of clay and coloured underglaze decoration as a means of fulfilling a desire for personal expression.

His pottery reflects the style and images of popular taste at the time, combined with a sense of joyful individual creativity embodied in his output of a dozen or so years from about 1925 until his involvement with the Red Cross in 1940 or 1941 during the 2nd World War".

The book was a truly local community effort celebrating the pottery that emerged from the white clay from diggings at Yengo.

Jess Delbridge, the grand-daughter of Arthur Delbridge, the talented graphics designer who now resides at Mt Wilson, was responsible for the technical layout of the book and for preparing it for printing.

Many local or past residents of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine graciously offered their much loved pieces for inclusion in the book; another dozen residents offered assistance to the project in other different, but equally important, ways.

CW Printing at Lithgow ensured the final product was of exceptionally high quality such that it can comfortably grace any bookcase with pride.

The book, if the published quote of John Valder can be paraphrased, like his pottery, 'remains a cherished reminder of a generous, cheerful, friendly man'.

The book can be ordered directly from Wendy Holland (4756 2094), Florence Smart (02 9416 1957) or Tim Gow (4756 2031), or via the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society's section of the www.mtwilson.com.au website.

The book is very reasonably priced at \$20.00. All proceeds of the sale of this book are used by the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society to underwrite future projects that reflect the aims and goals of the group.

It is planned that the book will be available for sale at local retail outlets and from pottery shops throughout Australia.



A small sample of the diverse range of pottery produced by Fred Mann, taken from the recently published book.



Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade**Latest Climate Outlook**

It looks like being a wet summer. The latest National Seasonal Rainfall Outlook issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) for December 2011 to February 2012 indicates that southeast Queensland and eastern NSW are likely to have a wetter season than average. La Niña conditions are slowly building in the tropical Pacific which experts predict will cause current patterns and trends to continue, forecast to peak towards the end of 2011, and persist into early 2012.

Whilst these trends are showing a cooler and wetter summer than average for some areas, it also means more prolific fuel growth especially in grassland areas of the state. Meteorologists caution against associating such conditions with fewer bushfires. A lengthy dry spell with some warmth will be sufficient to dry out bush and grass. A day or two of strong winds could lead to a far more significant fire danger once areas dry out. These conditions are typical of the La Niña weather pattern.

Hollywood comes to the RFS

The continuing wet weather has caused headaches and delays for the production team shooting several scenes of Baz Luhrmann's *The Great Gatsby* in Mt Wilson. Ironically, the day before the genuine article set in, members of the Brigade were employed to use the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine pumper to transfer water from Breen's Dam into three tankers to create rain. Once filled by the RFS, the movie company's trucks drove to the set on *Breenhold* where special noiseless pumps transferred the water to the top of a huge crane where a vast spinning nozzle rained authentically over Leonardo DiCaprio who plays Jay Gatsby.

The Mt Wilson fire shed did not escape the glamour of Hollywood, acquiring a carpet of Astroturf over its roof. The building is being used for filming close-up dialogue scenes with actors and the cars in the station during wet weather. The Astroturf provides a blackout inside the building so the crews can light it as they need, but also provides effective sound insulation against the rain on the roof during filming. The green carpet will be left up until filming finishes and will then be removed and made available to local residents.

Property Preparation

Winter storms have brought down more branches and trees than usual which all add up to an increased fuel load on the ground. Make sure to clear your property of all debris which could endanger your house in the event of a fire.

Brigade Training Update

Training has continued on the morning of the first Sunday of each month. December's training day on Sunday 4th was enthusiastically supported by 18 members who split into two groups to walk all Mt Irvine fire trails with a GPS. This was a valuable exercise for everyone to familiarise themselves with the local area and to map water sources and turn around points.

Station Officer training sessions are now also held on regular training Sundays when training is at Mt Wilson or Mt Irvine, separately but at the same time. This gives Station Officers familiarity with regular firefighters and their training.

The next Station Officer training sessions will be held on Sunday 5th February 2012, Sunday 1st April 2012, and Sunday 3rd June 2012.

Congratulations to the most recently qualified members of the brigade. **Robbie Feyder, Robyn Scrivener** and **Mark Bancroft** successfully completed their Basic Firefighting (BF) course, and **Graham Tribe, Kathleen Oakes, Bruce Arnold, Robyn Hyde and Allen Hyde** are now qualified at Advanced Firefighter (AF) level. Congratulations also to **Peter Dempsey** who has successfully qualified as a Crew Leader.

On the second and fourth Fridays of each month, between 4.00pm and 8.00pm there are regular maintenance sessions held at the Mt Wilson Fire Station and some at Mt Irvine followed by a barbecue for volunteers. Most of the work required will be maintenance of fire fighting and support equipment, but also for tidying up and admin jobs in the office areas. The next session will be on

Friday 13 January 2012 where the focus will be on hand tools and small mechanical tools. If you have any questions, please ask Stephen Dean on 4756 2020 or s-mdean@bigpond.com.

Your Brigade needs You!

We really need new volunteers. Whether you live in Sydney or on the mounts, new volunteers' contribution is highly valued. Volunteers who live locally, or people approaching retirement who plan to live locally can make a big contribution by adding to our capability to respond to incidents during the week.

New members of the brigade are always needed to increase the pool of members who can respond to any of the incidents we are called to. 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 (available from Beth Raines) and make your plans well in advance of a fire emergency.

STOP PRESS: The long-awaited fire hose drying rack, incorporating a pulley system, has just been installed on the pole outside the Mt Wilson Fire Station! Many thanks to Peter Raines.

Sarah Howell

RFS Community Engagement

This year RFS Community Engagement activities had been gathering pace, with 'street walks' planned in each area. The first one held in Mt Wilson East went very well and plans were under way for further meetings, when the July storms hit and our plans were suspended.

Delayed, but undeterred, we are planning to resume our walks in 2012. Please check this column for more information.

This time last year, the weather promised to be cool and wet through the Summer season and we were fortunate not to have any major fires in the village. It appears that we may be heading into a similar weather pattern this Christmas and hopefully we won't experience any extreme weather events.

However, please do not forget the regular preparations for the summer season, including clearing gutters and checking pumps.

As our property surveys continue to come in the details are entered into the local website. Next year we are planning to create reports that can be given to visiting crews, should there be an incident. Please remember you can enter or change your own property data at any time if you log into the members' section of the site.

Thank you to our Area/Street Co-ordinators for their continuing support to the residents of the two villages. Their names appear inside the front cover of the phone book

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and good health for 2012.

Kim Gow

Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society AGM

The Historical Society's 15th Annual General Meeting was held on 5th November 2011. 30 or so members and friends enjoyed a relaxed and informative gathering at the Mt Wilson village hall. Annual reports from the chairman Des Barrett, treasurer Tim Gow, and public officer and researcher Mary Reynolds looked back on a busy and productive year for the Society, with several tour groups, a number of acquisitions for the permanent archive, ongoing work accessioning documents and photographs all taking many hours of volunteer time and effort. Apart from the visiting groups, 240 visitors came to the Turkish Bath with the vast majority commenting positively on the building itself and the historical exhibitions inside.

State member Roza Sage attended the meeting and spoke warmly of her interest in the heritage aspects of the region. She expressed her appreciation for the work of our local Society and offered support should it be needed.

Nine nominations were received for the 2011 - 2012 management committee, so an election process was not needed. The incoming committee includes Des Barrett, John Braybrooke, Zaharah Braybrooke, Fiona Carruthers, Darrel Conybeare, Tim Gow, Kathleen Oakes, Alice Simpson, Florence Smart, with Mary Reynolds continuing as research officer and public officer. A special vote of thanks was recorded for Helen Cardy, retiring from the committee after several years of involvement. We are pleased to report that Helen and her husband John will both be continuing their involvement on several fronts: helping with the Society's many activities as well as the Bush-walking Group and other community functions where we look forward to seeing them often. Following on from the business meeting we were treated to a most interesting and informative illustrated talk by Alan Croker, founder and principal of Design 5 Architects, a Sydney firm specialising in conservation, adaptive re-use and related new work. Alan spoke about the restoration and conservation works at the Turkish Bath, Wynstay stables and the original 1875 cottage over the last 5 years. He had graphic 'before' and 'after' photos illustrating how the buildings have been carefully restored, always with the guiding principles of *'doing as much as necessary but as little as possible'*. As supervising architect on these projects Alan has worked closely with the team of builders at the Sydney Restoration Company, who share his passion for adhering to the Burra Charter and re-using materials wherever possible while ensuring that these buildings which date from 1875 - 1890 are good for another century. Alan also showed images and spoke about a recent conservation project where the homestead at Exeter Farm, at Bella Vista in north western Sydney was brought back from ruin. This project won the National Trust 2011 Heritage Award for conservation of Built Heritage under \$1 million.

Alan Croker's presentation rounded out a most enjoyable day, and everyone lingered to share lunch and conversation to celebrate another successful year.

Florence Smart

Left: work proceeding on replacing the roof on the Turkish Bath, carefully leaving the iron grillwork and lead capping intact, August 2010

Right: Alan Croker, with builder Lester Salter, following conservation work at the 1875 Wynstay cottage, May 2009



Photos of the Exeter Farm restoration, taken from www.sydneyrestoration.com.au

Community Calendar

December	Fri 16th Bushwalking Group—Rigby Hill plus Christmas Lunch (12.30pm)	Sat 17th 7.30pm Mt Wilson Carol Service, St Georges Church. Supper in Village Hall afterwards		
January	Sun 1st 9.00am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed	Sun 8th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service	Fri 13th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care—Sloan Reserve	Fri 20th Bushwalking Group—Happy Valley or Boronia Point (depending on weather)
February	Sun 5th 9.00am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed	Fri 10th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care—Sloan Reserve	Sun 12th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service	Fri 17th Bushwalking Group— details TBA

Suggestions, comments or contributions warmly welcomed!