

Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Community Newsletter

Working together for a better
community



May 2010

EDITOR'S NOTES

This is rather a short newsletter—at least by recent standards, when we have been running out to ten pages, partly because it's a quiet time of the year, when many members of our community go away on holiday, and partly because I have been caught short. I have been very busy recently, racing to meet the publisher's deadline on a text book I have just finished: it has the eye-glazing title—for those who are not physiological ecologists, which is nearly everybody—of "Physiological Ecology of Forest Production: Principles, Processes and Models". I have a co-author in Tasmania and since we did almost all our work together by e-mail, the internet has been running hot. It will be published, in a couple of months, by Elsevier, Amsterdam. I also went away outback for almost a week (literally back o' Bourke—we went up to a property on the Darling, beyond Louth) with one of my sons-in-law.

I have now been producing and editing this newsletter for more than six years—my first edition came out in October 2004—and I am beginning to think it's time that someone else took over. So, situation (pending) vacant: would someone volunteer to take over the editing and production of this newsletter? Presumably a new editor will have a different style, and may change things a bit; nothing is set in stone. My plan is to produce two more issues after this one— in August and (about) November—and then retire. I will, obviously, be happy to discuss what's involved and offer help if it's required. Whoever takes this on will need to have Microsoft Publisher in their MS Office software suite. I have the 2003 version; but I believe the new Microsoft package (Windows 2008) includes it. It's excellent for manipulating blocks of text, to get spacing and formatting right—much easier than MS Word, which is hopeless for that kind of thing. You will also need the software that translates the finished product into a pdf (you can get it off the internet), as that's the form that is easiest for the printer (CW Print, in Lithgow; they will work from an e-mail attachment).

There's a report on p.3 about the Bushwalking group, started by Libby Raines and Mary Reynolds 20 years ago. I am sure I can speak for everyone who has enjoyed walking with that group—which includes many people who are not 'locals' —in thanking Libby and Mary for starting something that has brought great pleasure to many. Libby has led hundreds of walks over those 20 years; the group relies heavily on her considerable knowledge of, and long experience in, the Blue Mountains.

Moira, in her MWPA notes, has offered the sympathy of the community to Maurice May, for the death of Helena. There will be an obituary for Helena in the next issue.

Nikki Selles, from the University of Western Sydney, has started her study on wombats in the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine area. She received an enthusiastic response to her request for collaboration; unfortunately she can't possibly study wombats at every location offered, but hopefully she will get some interesting information from her questionnaire, and from the movement-activated cameras she is setting up selected sites. I am not sure if she plans to do spotlighting surveys. Later in the year she will make a presentation in the Mt Wilson Village Hall, at which she will tell us about her results and conclusions.

The exotic deciduous trees in Mt Wilson gardens have put on a superb display this autumn. I am inclined to think it has been very good, and long-lasting, because the weather has been dry and we have had very little wind, but that's just speculation. Whatever the reason, the trees have been beautiful.

Joe Landsberg

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MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE NEWS

MWPA Annual General Meeting will be held on 18th September, 2010, at 5.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Please put it in your diary now.

Condolences

We were saddened to hear of the death of Helena May, of Wollartukkee and a member of the Association since 2003. We express our condolences to Maurice and all Helena's family and friends.

Village Maintenance and BMCC

Richard Beattie continues to communicate with Blue Mountains City Council regarding roads, dangerous trees and reserves. A section of The Avenue has been resurfaced and potholes filled again. Repairs have been made to guttering and pipes feeding into water tanks in Waterfall Reserve and Founders Corner. Guide posts on Mt. Wilson Road are scheduled for repair or replacement. We have, as yet, had no satisfactory response to requests for improvement to the verge outside the Village Hall and improvements to the safety of Farrer Road West.

Environmental Levy

We asked, back in 2006, that some of the environmental levy we pay in our rates be used to repair water drainage damage to the council section of the Wollangambe walking track. Some work was done earlier this year but Council acknowledges that further work is required and it will endeavour to do more work there before summer this year.

Picnic Furniture

Most of the picnic furniture around the village has been fitted with PVC discs to the feet and placed on granite tiles to prevent further deterioration of the timber. These will be monitored to determine their effectiveness.

Mount Wilson Brochure

An updated version of the brochure is now available for use of visitors to the village. It provides a map of the village, lists of open gardens, accommodation and other attractions and essential information. This is placed in the box at the notice board in The Avenue and in some gardens and accommodation venues. Supplies are readily available from Moira Green if they are needed.

Mount Wilson/Mount Irvine Phone Book

Please note the following correction to the phone book:

Evelyn Egan – 4756 2086

Please keep me informed of corrections and changes.

Mount Wilson Leisure Library

Some new additions to the library include fairly recent publications. They include the Miles Franklin Award winner for 2003, Alex Miller, *Journey to the Stone Country* and also by Miller, *Landscape of Farewell*. Others are A. S. Byatt, *The Matisse Stories*, Helen Garner, *Joe Cinque's Consolation*, David Malouf, *Dream Stuff*, Tim Winton, *Breath*, Michael Wood, *The Story of India* and David Marr, *Patrick White, A Life*. Don't forget that the library is open every Saturday morning from 10.00 to 11.00. If you wish to come at another time, please contact Moira on 4756 2162 and it can be arranged.

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.

Moira Green
Secretary

VILLAGE HALL JOTTINGS

On 10th April a small but enthusiastic group met at the Hall and did some pruning, not exactly describable as "light", to the rhododendrons outside the kitchen. We have cut them back to allow more light into the kitchen, open up the outdoor area and remove the refuse which had built up under them over the years. This will allow the grass to grow where light could not penetrate in the past. On previous days other members of the Committee had pruned the front bottlebrush hedge and mowed the lawns. I would like to express our thanks to all who gave of their time and energy to keeping the Hall grounds presentable.

There will be another work party in late Winter or Spring during which more work will be done to the grounds. More about that later.

The calico covers for the chairs are being made by volunteers and many have been completed. The covers are to be used when fire fighters/workers etc. are in the Hall wearing their working clothes.

At the last AGM the Committee was given authority (subject to Council approval) to break up Stage 2 of the Hall Restoration into smaller projects and get the work done, hopefully with fund raising and community contributions. This will allow us to raise the quality of the building for our use and enjoyment rather than waiting for Council to provide all the funds necessary at some unknown time in the future. Please note that we are not assuming responsibility for the major items which need to be done to make the building comply with current legislation ie. upgrading the toilets and providing wheelchair access. We are still waiting for the kitchen roof to be repaired so that our kitchen upgrade can proceed.

In closing I would like to remind you of two important dates so that you can put them in your diaries and cancel overseas trips and holidays if they conflict with the Yulefest on Saturday 3rd July or the Melbourne Cup Luncheon on Tuesday 2nd November. Information on the Yulefest will be distributed shortly.

Ron Green.

THE MOUNT WILSON BUSH-WALKING GROUP

Mary Reynolds and I founded the Mount Wilson Bush Walking Group in 1990. On the 17th May of that year 17 members of the local community set off on its first walk, to the Pavements at Mount Irvine. On Friday 21st May this year the Group celebrated its 20th anniversary and on a cool, sunny morning the walk was repeated by 23 walkers.

Afterwards we were joined by more than 30 others, for a cup of tea and 'get together' in the Village Hall, to enjoy the large anniversary cake (and lots of other goodies), see some glorious photos of past walks and hear a few words from past and present members.

It was great to be able to welcome back a number of walkers from the early years of the group, many of whom are now "arm chair walkers" who enjoy reading the excellent, imaginative and descriptive newsletter, written by John Cardy, each month.

John and Helen Cardy had put together photos of past walks which were shown on the screen and these were wonderful reminders of the places we had visited over the past 20 years. We saw the Pavements, with the view of endless tree clad ranges and deep, twisting gorges; Boronia Point with its awesome cliffs and the winding river far below; the majesty of the Blue Gum Forest with the great white-trunked trees glowing in the soft light; the water worn cliffs and beauty of the Grand Canyon and the Valley of the Waters with its dripping ferns and moss covered rocks.

We were also treated to pictures of adventurers with lilos and wet suits, exploring the Wollangambe River; of Deep Pass and Googes Crater with their hidden surprises and Kanangra Walls with glowing cliffs. More recent photos showed the fabulous view from the lookout on the pipeline track above the Wolgan River, surrounded by a beautiful natural garden of wind flowers. And they showed us sharing the bushwalking cake with a French tourist on the top of the ruined castle: what a glorious place for lunch!

All these beautiful places and the memories of many more were intertwined with the people who were there, people from all walks of life, who shared the challenge of the walks, the spectacular views and the enjoyment of the bush which surrounded them.

All those gathered were all thanked for their support and friendship over the years and we hope there will be many more great walks and beautiful places to visit.

Libby Raines

Historical Society says thank you!

The annual Community Market Weekend held on 24 & 25 April was again a great success. Hundreds of visitors flocked to the village for this peak Autumn weekend and it seems that the annual market in the Village Hall has gained a reputation for food-on-the-run, hot bargains and high spirits. Many return bargain hunters were spotted among the early birds. We're pleased that the open gardens, Chimney Cottage Heritage Cafe and the Turkish Bath Museum also benefitted from the annual influx - truly a community event.

The Society is very grateful to everyone in the community who helped with donations of goods, hiring of tables, setting up, serving food, buying and selling goods and, of course, clearing up afterwards. This was our most profitable weekend event so far and we're taking a deep breath as we look forward to bigger and better; same time next year.

Florence Smart

These are famous (presumably not apocryphal) exchanges:

A member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease."
"That depends, Sir," said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."
(Relevant to any of our politicians?)

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend.... if you have one." - George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second.... if there is one." - Winston Churchill, in response.

And a couple of beauties from the US:

'I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body,' --*Winston Bennett, University of Kentucky basketball forward* .

'That lowdown scoundrel deserves to be kicked to death by a jackass, and I'm just the one to do it,'
--*A congressional candidate in Texas* (Yes, Sir—I bet you are!)

'Traditionally, most of Australia 's imports come from overseas.' well done Keppel Enderberry (whoever he is)



PETER PIGOTT A.M. - his pursuit of a magnificent obsession-

In 1968 the Premier of N.S.W., Tom Lewis, formed the N.S.W National Parks and Wildlife Service. A Foundation was established to buy up some of the first national parks, with Peter as chairman, investigating what properties could possibly be acquired by public donations. Peter managed to raise over three million dollars and so the first parks in the west—Sturt, Mallee Cliffs, Mungo, Wilandra, Mutawindji, and Nombinee—were created .

The extinction of the Parma wallaby on the mainland was of great concern to him. A colleague, Professor David Ride, had completed a PhD on this wallaby and had found skins of the animal in the Natural History museums of London and Paris. Evidence revealed that Governor Sir George Grey had taken wallabies to Kawau Island off the coast of New Zealand. Two naturalists were sent over and trapped some Parma wallabies.

In 1970 Peter went to Kawau and arranged the trapping of 18 animals, which were brought back to Australia. At Yengo he had constructed an eight foot high fence around a ten acre reserve which was to be their home, but soon found that foxes could climb such a structure. So the fence was

electrified, which solved that problem. Over the years he bred and donated over 300 Parma wallabies to zoos in Australia, the U.S.A and Japan. An attempt to release them into the wild was fraught with problems. In 1988, 48 were released at the Illawarra Escarpment where Gould had sighted them in 1830, but they were all killed by foxes.

Peter was subsequently involved in a project on Lord Howe Island to save the Island Woodhen.

In 1973 he was asked to head up a committee to overview Museums and Natural collections in Australia. From this was produced the "Pigott Report". Among a number of important recommendations was the one to establish the National Museum in Canberra.

Peter and his wife Anne have lived at Yengo for over 40 years and under their stewardship the development of one of Australia's great gardens has continued.

An extraordinarily full life.

John Holt

Why some men have dogs rather than wives:

The later you are, the more excited your dogs are to see you.

Dogs don't notice if you call them by another dog's name.

Dogs like it if you leave a lot of things on the floor.

A dog's parents never visit.

Dogs agree that you have to raise your voice to get your point across.

A dog will not wake you up at night to ask: 'If I die, would you get another dog?'

If a dog has babies you can put an ad' in the newspaper and give them away.

Dogs find it amusing when you are drunk.

Dogs like to go hunting and fishing.

You never have to wait for a dog; they are ready to go 24 hours a day.

If a dog smells another dog on you they don't get mad; they just think its interesting.

Having a bad day—things could be worse!

Iraqi terrorist Khay Rahnajet didn't pay enough postage on a letter bomb.. It came back with 'Return to Sender' stamped on it. Forgetting it was the bomb; he opened it and was blown to bits. God is Good!