



# The Mounts

## The Community Newsletter of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine



**October 2011**

### Welcome

Spring is making a very welcome appearance this year after a demanding Winter.

Just when it appeared that all the major clearing up had been completed in the public areas after the wind storm of 5th and 6th July, a recent burst of typically seasonal wind caused even more damage to trees weakened in the earlier event. The most significant incident was a very large gum at Cathedral of Ferns bringing down the power lines to Mt Irvine, resulting in an extended blackout that lasted for 20 hours for some residents.

This time of year typically brings a flurry of community events. In this edition are details of the Melbourne Cup Day lunch, November 11th Remembrance Day Service, the Historical Society's Annual General Meeting and—especially tempting— the Village Hall exhibition of Meg Fromel's lino cut prints that have been brought to life again by the energy and vision of Nancy Fox after far too many decades of inattention. It is interesting to note that these scenes captured so well by Meg have changed very little —and in many cases, not at all—over the years.

This may lead some to think nothing changes at all in the villages. Not so; the exciting news is the installation of the very first street light in the village, located outside the Mt Wilson Fire Station. It is, however, worth noting that the electric street light was first developed in 1875 by the Russian Pavel Yablochkov at the same time that Mt Wilson was first being settled.

Early reports indicate that the light is functioning very well and illuminates the puddles outside the Village Hall perfectly.

**Tim Gow** Tel. 4756 2031 or 0412 133 559

e-mail: [seftoncottage@gmail.com](mailto:seftoncottage@gmail.com)

### INVITATION TO MEG FROMEL EXHIBITION October 22, 2011 at 4:30

Join us and celebrate the launch of an exhibition of former long time resident and local artist, Meg Fromel's print work. The extravaganza will be held on October 22, 2011 at the Mt Wilson Village Hall beginning at 4:30pm through to 6.30pm

The linocuts have been restored and printed by renowned graphic artist, Roslyn Kean, and have been successfully sold through the Turkish Bath Museum Gift Shop and the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine website. Ms. Fromel has kindly donated the linocuts to the Historical Society and all proceeds go to the work of the Society.

Printed on Japanese paper (*washi*) from Meg Fromel's original linocuts, these images capture the magic of our villages' natural beauty. A short talk by John Valder will introduce the work and it is hoped that Ms. Fromel will attend.

Wine and nibbles will be served as you browse the artworks.

Original prints and notecards depicting copies of the works will be for sale on the day at the Hall or through the website ([www.mtwilson.com.au](http://www.mtwilson.com.au)).

Come and celebrate the work of one of our own artists.

Please RSVP by Wednesday 19th October to Tim Gow at [seftoncottage@gmail.com](mailto:seftoncottage@gmail.com) (or phone 0412 133 559) for catering purposes if you will attend.

**Nancy Fox**

Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc.

ABN: 22 842 754 931



### **Notice of Annual General Meeting 2011**

A warm invitation is extended to all members and friends to the Society's 15th Annual General Meeting with guest speaker Alan Croker

**Saturday, 5 November 2011 at 10.30am**

at the

**Mt Wilson Village Hall,  
The Avenue, Mt Wilson**

#### **PROGRAM:**

10.30am Morning tea

11.00am **Annual General meeting** with reports, election of management committee for 2011 - 2012 and an update on the Society's ongoing projects and activities. We have a number of exciting new projects to share with you this year!

12.00noon **Guest speaker** Alan Croker, managing architect since 1995 for the Turkish Bath and for the Wynstay estate. Alan's illustrated talk will show us conservation works undertaken at the Turkish Bath and *Wynstay*, and also a major conservation project at Exeter Farm, in north west Sydney, which won this year's National Trust Heritage Award for Corporate / Government conservation of built heritage under \$1m.

**Join us for a warming lunch after the presentation.**

There will be a gold coin donation at the door to cover costs.

**For catering purposes, please let us know if you are coming**

**Mary Reynolds: 4756 2006 or Helen Cardy: 9871 3661 or**

**Florence Smart: 9416 1957**

**Email: [westring@bigpond.com](mailto:westring@bigpond.com)**

### **Mt Wilson Progress Association Committee News**

#### **Coming Events**

- Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> November, 10.45 a.m. – Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial and afterwards in the hall. We ask residents to bring something for morning tea if possible.
- Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Community Christmas party

#### **Annual General Meeting**

This was well attended. Thank you to all who came. The minutes will soon be posted on the website and financial members will be able to log in and read them. The Committee for 2011/2012 remains the same as the previous year as there were no other nominations. Members are Bill Ryan (President), Richard Beattie (Vice-President), Libby Raines (Treasurer), Moira Green (Secretary), Brian Abrahams, Kim Gow, Ted Griffin and Alison Halliday.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Moira Green**

Secretary

### **Village Hall Jottings**

You are all invited to join us for the  
Melbourne Cup Lunch  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 12.30pm  
In the Mount Wilson Village Hall  
Tickets \$25

Please RSVP by 24<sup>th</sup> October to Judy Tribe 47562096 or [jtribe@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jtribe@ozemail.com.au)

#### **A note from the makers of the new Baz Luhrmann film:**

Dear Resident,

I'm taking the opportunity in this newsletter to let you know that Bazmark Film III Pty Ltd will be filming in Mt. Wilson for *The Great Gatsby* in the week beginning Monday 21st November 2011 until Friday 25th November. In Mt. Wilson, we will be aiming to replicate locations on Long Island in the State of New York. We will be filming for the majority of the 5 days on private property, but there will be travelling shots along roads within the township requiring intermittent traffic control. We are currently finalising our schedule and talking with Council, so closer to filming we will get a detailed information sheet to you.

*The Great Gatsby* is an important film for NSW and will be keenly anticipated around the world. Any assistance you can give our production will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Roope

Location Manager

02 8353 3638

## **Mt Wilson / Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade**

We are coming up to the next fire season and we have been fortunate the weather conditions during the last weeks of August and the first few weeks of September gave us warm, low humidity weather with low winds, ideal for hazard reductions.

### **Hazard Reductions**

The Blue Mountains Rural Fire Service, National Parks and Wildlife Service and NSW Fire and Rescue took advantage of the good weather window to conduct many hazard reductions across the Blue Mountains, and the Mt Wilson/ Mt Irvine Brigade participated in several of these.

The Mt Wilson/ Mt Irvine RF Brigade participated in the following major hazard reductions and follow up actions:

**Megalong Valley** – 6<sup>th</sup> September, 12 hours duration, crew of three

**Wild Dogs Ranges** (south of Katoomba) – 18<sup>th</sup> September, 14 hours duration, crew of five

**Remote area fire fighting** – Leura and Hawkesbury – 19 & 20 September, 24 hours duration, crew of one

**Bell** – 21<sup>st</sup> September, eight hours duration, crew of four

**Bogey Holes** (Mt Wilson road) – 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 11 hour's duration, crew of eight, followed by patrols the next day for a further three hours.

We were sorry to have the **Waterfall Creek** hazard reduction planned for 23<sup>rd</sup> September cancelled. This was to the south east of the Mt Wilson Village. It was cancelled mainly because the RFS could not muster enough volunteer resources. In addition, the weather was not as favourable as it had been the day before.

We are grateful for the volunteers who participated in the various hazard reductions. These were Suzanne Bassett (1), Tom Bassett (3), Stephen Dean (4), Peter Dempsey (2), Ian Docker (1), Stuart Donaldson (2), Barry Freeman (2), David Howell (2), Luke O'Hearn (1), Beth Raines (5), Peter Raines (1), Graham Tribe (3), Vic Zhukov (6).

### **The Coming Fire Season**

The fire season started on the 1<sup>st</sup> October and it is the months of November through to February which normally give us the most fire activity. The current forecast is for a normal summer with an equal chance of a drier or wetter than normal period.

Now is the time to prepare your property for the fire season. It means the normal activities of clearing around you buildings, removing leaves from gutters and keeping vegetation and grass low. For preparation that is more detailed have a look at the community website under **Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade> Community Engagement> Being Firewise, and Preparing for summer.**

Please prepare your survival plan and make sure you have a refuge unless you plan to leave really early, which probably means the day before any serious fire threat. The most dangerous activity is to be in a car travelling through a potential or actual fire zone, even short stretches between properties. Please also have a look at the website pages under **Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade>Mitigation>Bushfire Survival Information.**

### **Other Brigade Activities**

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, the leadership of the Brigade held a planning workshop to delineate all the tasks the brigade needs to undertake to be prepared for emergencies. The participants included the captain, senior deputy captain, deputy captains, the executive and the key role people. In broad terms, the various tasks were broken down into thirteen categories, these being administration, catering, community engagement, equipment, hazard reduction, OH & S, special events, fire stations, station officer, succession & strategic planning, trails, training and water.

Training has continued with regular training on the first Sunday of each month.

We held a special training session on 14<sup>th</sup> August where an all day training session was conducted by one of the subject specialists in the Blue Mountains, Andrew Barrington-Smith from Hazelbrook on proper use of the pumps on the trucks and the skills needed to move water from one truck to another.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> September, the Combined West Sector Exercise was held. About half the brigade was away at the Wild Dogs hazard reduction, but the remaining members combined with crews from all the brigades from Medlow Bath around to Mt Tomah to take part in a series of activities designed to increase the various skills needed for the types of incidents to which we respond.

### **You May Be Able to Help the Brigade**

The brigade is seeking volunteers to act as firefighters and station officers. The brigade has many roles available some of which are as active fire fighters, but there are many roles which are support roles where you may be able to help. We really need a large number of volunteers to enable us to provide the support the community expects.

Fire fighters are trained to fight fires with safety and to respond to other types of incidents. There is a great sense of camaraderie and satisfaction from being involved with a team of people responding to the various incidents to which we get called. Please contact Beth Raines or David Howell if you are interested in joining the brigade as a firefighter.

Station Officer is a support role we have been developing over the last couple of years and we are hoping to encourage people in the community who have an interest in the brigade to become station officers. The role does not involve riding in trucks or fighting fires.

The station officer role is to man the station during an incident and provide support to crews in the field. In effect, to keep the fire station running while crews are at an incident. We always aim to have two station officers in the station at any one time, if it is possible to do that.

The role should interest anyone with good administration skills, experience in management, or who has had experience in the brigade. We particularly need some people who live in the villages, or are here a large part of the time.

The main components of the station officer role is to monitor the incident via radio to keep up to date with status of the incident, maintain contact with Fire Control in Katoomba and from time to time to pass messages, organise replacement crews if it is an extended incident, keep the log book up to date, maintain station supplies, and keep in contact with the catering and community engagement teams.

The next Station Officer training session is the morning of Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at the same time as regular firefighter training, starting with a breakfast BBQ at 8.00am.

If you are willing to assist and be trained as a station officer, please contact Tom Bassett on 4756 2030 or 0412 575 579.

**Sarah Howell and Graham Tribe**

**The Mounts website**

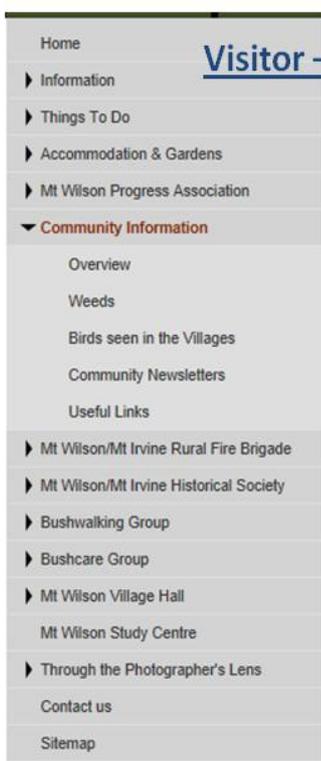
The Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Community Website continues to grow and add more value to residents of the local villages. An information session was held at the Mt Wilson Progress Association AGM and the Mt Irvine Progress Association AGM.

The website is for the total community and it has a great deal of content which needs to be explored.

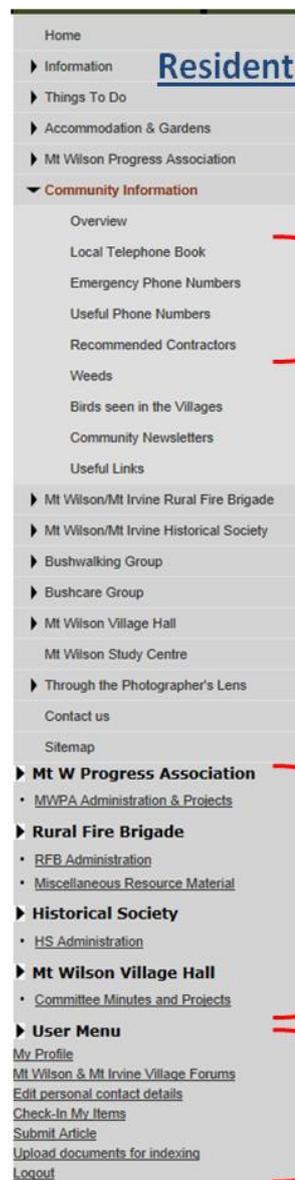
You will obtain more value from it if you login. It is becoming a channel for communication and news. This will become more important in the future e.g. storm, hazard reductions, newsletters, etc.

We suggest you always login and tick the '**Remember Me**' box, frequently check **Latest News** for updates and check the **Calendar** for upcoming events. You can login on the Home page of the website. If you do not have a username and password, please contact Graham Tribe or Tim Gow and we will send your login details.

You gain access to a great deal more content when you login. Here is how the menu changes when you login. The changes will depend on the organisations to which you belong.



Visitor – not logged in



Resident - logged in

Community menu items which appear once you login

Members only access to local organisation papers once you login

Personal details and access which you get when you login

So if you login to the website here are some examples of the information you can access:

**Contractors.** All local contractors are listed in **Useful Phone Numbers**. Often you would like to know which outside contractors will come to the Mounts and are they reliable. These are listed under **Recommended Contractors**.

**Meeting Minutes.** What did the minutes of the last meeting say?

**Local Telephone Book.** Very useful when I don't have my local phone book with me and I want to call.... The website version will be continually maintained and be more up to date than the printed version.

**Village Forums.** Some residents are interested in particular local issues they want to follow and to add information. At this stage, there is a forum on local birds and bird sightings, and local animals. You can access this by **User Menu> Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Village Forums**

**Your contact and property details.** Currently we have more than five names and address files maintained by the organisations in the villages. The website gives us one online contact database which avoids maintaining multiple names and address files for each organisation. The information is also available for emergencies. You can alter your names and addresses, but not other details. Please login and check your details are correct, and if not correct advise the secretary of the relevant organisation. You can check all your personal data including property information by **User Menu> My Profile**. You can edit your personal details by **User Menu> Edit personal contact details**.

In a few months, we plan to have live real time weather information coming from the weather station on the Mt Wilson Fire Station tower. This is part of a stage 2 upgrade to the website currently going through the approval process. Then you will be able to login and obtain the actual current weather details covering temperatures, wind, humidity, rain and barometric pressure.

The website now has a sitemap, which is useful as a type of index to the main items on the website. It does not list every page, only those connected to the main menu. We suggest if you are looking for particular information, that firstly you try the search box just to the right of the top menu, or secondly go to the sitemap which is at the bottom of the main menu. You can look through the sitemap for the likely page which might have the information you want.

The website is administered by the following people who can edit and maintain their section of the website as needed.

**Mt Wilson Progress Association**

Moira Green  
Alison Halliday

**Mt Wilson/ Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade**

Judy Tribe  
Kim Gow

**Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society**

Alice Simpson  
Florence Smart

**Website Administrators**

Stephen Dean  
Tim Gow  
Michael Hitz  
Graham Tribe

We welcome any suggestions for added subjects, information or improvements which you would like to have included on the website.

**Graham Tribe**

**Carole Kivinen Lilja**

Again, it is time to focus on one of 'the mounts' talented artists; no such discussion would be complete without the inclusion of Carole Haitzler whose works are exhibited under her Finnish maiden name Kivinen Lilja.

Carole and John moved from Sydney and settled in Mount Wilson in the 1980s. On their property, *Jamine*, they have established their home, garden and Carole's studio.

Carole's art career began with her studies at the National Art School Sydney and the Julian Ashton Art School. She has a Diploma of Arts and Book Illustration from the National Art School. She has travelled extensively and lived throughout Europe and in Africa. Whilst living in Munich and Hanover she continued to study and work as an artist. This experience is reflected in the classical allusions in many of her works. Her subjects include abstracts, landscapes, still lifes, nudes, abstracts and portraits.

Her work in portraiture has been acknowledged in 1998 as a finalist and in 2000 as the winner of the viewers' choice in the Portia Geach Memorial Award. This annual award is recognized as one of the most important celebrations of the talents and creativity of Australian female portrait painters. Carole has also participated in workshops at Laurel Street, Ku-ring-gai portrait study group and the Royal Art Society of New South Wales. She is an active member of the Blackheath Art Society, where her works have also won prizes in landscape and portrait.

Blackheath Art Society site <http://www.blackheathart.com/galleryonline/lilja/lilja.htm> shows examples of Carole's work. Carole's artist statement on that site is that for her art and music are "the essence of life".

My visit to her studio and introduction to her work which hangs in proliferation throughout her home is testimony to that statement.

Carole welcomes viewings of her works by appointment. She also accepts commissions and is available for private tuition. Contact on 47 562 156 (phone/fax).

**Robyn Scrivener**



***Femina Cerulea (1998)***



***Penelope's Night Work (2004)***

**ASK THE NEIGHBOURS**

Dear Readers,

With the exception of Libby Raines, who has yet again shown she knows many things, I have a question to ask YOU: Where are you? I know you're out there. Just so you know, the chainsaws are a dead giveaway. But, I suppose you've been busy. So, you're excused for now.

In our last column, a number of questions were posed. Lucky for us all that nature and Libby Raines have provided the answers .

In answer to the question, what trees and shrubs will take the recent damage in their stride and move onwards and upwards (not in a scary Triffid kind of way, but in a good, fresh new growth kind of way) , some trees and shrubs in our garden, notably the camellias, rhodos, maples and dogwoods seem to have taken the view that a No. 1 haircut wouldn't hold them back and they've started Spring most enthusiastically. Others are still sitting there – thinking about it all, I suppose. Well, at least I hope they're thinking, rather than communing directly with their maker. We'll soon know. Libby Raines has kindly advised:

*"With the trees and storm damage most shrubs will come back when cut back and often are better for a cut back from time to time. Prune off the broken branches.*

*Deciduous trees will need careful pruning after the storm damage but should also come back, putting on new growth and slowly the bare areas will be filled with leafy new growth.*

*Conifers are a bit different - most will not come back if cut or pruned severely. If they are badly damaged it is better to remove them.*

As for my question as to how to attract ducks back onto our dam? In our last column I noted (in a modest kind of way), that a response rate of three in a community of our size made our readership proportionately bigger than Miranda Devine's. Well, folks – we now need to add to the human readership of this august<sup>1</sup> publication some obviously literate and discerning ducks. A family of ducks set up residence near the dam just a week or so after the August<sup>2</sup> edition's publication. Coincidence you say? Good karma and excellent reading taste and skills on the part of those ducks is my preferred interpretation.

I also asked whether anyone had some clever survival tips to pass on regarding those character building four days without power. Libby wrote:

*A generator is very handy in a long blackout, and if one's stove is electric, it is a good idea to have a small gas bottle stove or of course the BBQ comes in very handy.*

*The old small tank on a stand or on a high spot on the property is still a good idea for gravity fed water.*

Thanks Libby: all good advice. When we were first renovating our Mt Wilson house, we asked around about how people coped with blackouts- at the time we seemed to have quite a lot of them. We were advised that it was wise to have a gas stove or BBQ, so at least cooking was possible. Red wine and chocolate were also mentioned as blackout essential supplies . And that's why we always have a big supply of both on hand. Honest – just in case there's a blackout. I can't think of any more questions to ask to fill up this column – except for two obvious ones - please send in some questions you'd like to ask of your neighbours. And, please have a go at answering some questions too. The placement of "Ask the Neighbours" AFTER all the serious and worthy stuff on community goings on says it all. Column Eight isn't called "Column Eight " for nothing you know. It's "Column Eight" because it is, or was in the days of typesetting, really column eight on the FRONT PAGE.

So, please Dear Readers and neighbours, don't let this column die. Send in some questions – send in both questions and their answers, if you'd like.

**Elizabeth Montano**

1 "august" as in "of extreme dignity or grandeur"

2 this time I did mean August, as in the month

### 17th Annual Willy to Billy Bush Run

305 runners gathered at Silva Plana on Saturday 27th August to start the 17th year of the Willy to Billy Bush Run, the 34.4 km run between Mt Wilson and the Bilpin Community Hall.

The race was won by Andrew Tuckey in 2:18:27 minutes. The first woman across the line was Beth Cardelli in 2:40:30 minutes. The race record of 2:07:31 minutes set in 2004 still stands.

One of the runners this year was Ross Bill, the former Mt Wilson resident and bush runner, who first proposed and organised the event. Ross, (pictured below in the lower left photo) in his training runs, mapped the course and after 12 months of persistence, in mid 1995, convinced the Bilpin and Mt Wilson Rural Fire Brigades to organise the event. The first run was organised in just 3 months with 66 starters, with Andrew Lloyd the winner.

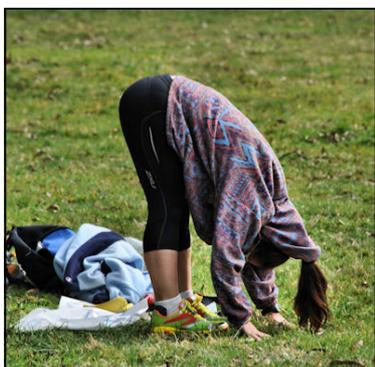
The event continues to grow and is now a very well established event on the Australian running calendar.

Many thanks to all the volunteers—over 100 this year—who willingly contributed to making the day such a success; the event simply could not happen without the generous help provided.

The amount raised for the two Brigades is still being calculated, but the sum raised represents a significant source of revenue to fund much-needed equipment purchases.

### Kim Gow

Photos provided by Bev and Phil Woodman.



It is with great sadness that we learnt of the recent death after a very short fight with pancreatic cancer of David Iori, the talented Sydney-based photographer who generously provided many of the fine images in our website. It was David who first inspired the concept of incorporating fresh and stunning visual works within the website that reflect our unique environment. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family. David was a great photographer and will be missed by many.



### Community Calendar

<b>October</b>	<b>Sun 9th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service</b>	<b>Fri 14th 9.00–12.00 Bush Care— Sloane Reserve</b>	<b>Fri 21st 9.00am Bushwalking Group— Asgard Swamp, Mt Victoria</b>	<b>Sat 22nd 4.30–6.30pm Meg Fromel Print Exhibition Village Hall</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Tues 1st 12.30pm Melbourne Cup Lunch, Village Hall</b>	<b>Sat 5th 10.30am Historical Society AGM Village Hall</b>	<b>Sun 6th 9.00am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed</b>	<b>Fri 11th 9.00–12.00 Bush Care— Wynne Reserve</b>
<b>Fri 11th 10.45am Remembrance Service, War Memorial</b>	<b>Sun 13th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service</b>	<b>Fri 18th Bushwalking Group— Mt Hay and Butterbox</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>Sun 3rd Community Christmas Party Details TBA</b>
<b>Sun 4th 8.00am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed</b>	<b>Fri 9th 9.00–12.00 Bush Care— Wynne Reserve</b>	<b>Fri 16th Bushwalking Group—Rigby Hill plus Christmas Lunch (12.30pm)</b>	<b>Sat 17th 7.30pm Mt Wilson Carol Service, St Georges Church</b>	

Suggestions, comments or contributions warmly welcomed!