



The Mounts

The Community Newsletter of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine



June 2015

Welcome

The Mt Wilson Autumn Fair now seems a distant memory but it is indeed worth celebrating what a tremendously successful event it was. The weather gods, whoever they are, certainly treated the village with uncharacteristic generosity; an extraordinarily active marketing push saw a very large number of visitors descend on the Village Hall and surrounding open gardens. Was it really possible to serve that quantity of scones from what seems like a two square metre kitchen? An event like this is only feasible if there are multiple people doing extensive pre-planning and organization. The Organizing Committee need to be praised for having the vision (and the stamina) to steer an initial idea through to a spectacular conclusion. This small group of course can't do it by themselves; in the proud traditions of the village, a multitude of residents cheerfully stepped up and actively supported the cause in a myriad of ways. Congratulations to all involved! The reports from the recent AGMs of the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine RFS brigade and the Mt Wilson Progress Association both highlight a year of great progress and exciting initiatives, albeit not without some respective challenges ahead. Add the newly commenced works on some major blackspots on Bells Line of Road, the presence and energy of many new residents, and a burgeoning presence on Facebook thanks to the efforts of Linda Raines, the villages appear to be in an upward trajectory. And that warms the heart as much as any winter log fire.

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Community Calendar

June	Sat 6th 4.00 pm Mt W/Mt I RFS AGM, Mt Irvine Hall	Fri 12th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care— Hay Lane	Sun 14th 3.00 pm Mt Wilson Church Service	Fri 19th Bushwalking Group— Golden Stairs & Ruined Castle, Katoomba
July	Sun 5th 9.00 am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed	Fri 10th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care— The Avenue outside Fernhill	Sun 12th 3.00 pm Mt Wilson Church Service	Fri 17th Bushwalking Group— Mermaid Cave & Mystery Holes, Blackheath
August	Sun 2nd 9.00 am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed	Sun 9th 3.00 pm Mt Wilson Church Service	Fri 14th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care— Founders Corner	Fri 21st Bushwalking Group— Waterfall Circuit, Woodford to Hazelbrook

MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Coming Events

- Annual General Meeting – Saturday, 19 September 2015 at 5.30 p.m. at the Village Hall

The Autumn Festival

A typical Mount Wilson autumn day – no rain but overcast, cool, with heavy rain in the days before and heavier the days after saw the Mount Wilson Progress Association's Autumn Festival luck on ideal conditions for the Festival. It was enjoyed by many hundreds of visitors and locals on 18 April and was a big success as described by Festival Coordinator Nancy Fox on page 4.

General meetings

The well attended Association Special General Meeting on 11 April saw the unanimous adoption of a new constitution for the MWPA replacing the 2001 document.

Key changes agreed to include:

- bringing our governance arrangements up-to-date;
- allowing members who have left the mountain to choose to continue their membership and involvement with the community;
- accepting sons and daughters of members aged 18 and over may join as members;
- allowing meeting notices to be sent by email rather than in the post;
- providing for the use of email and phone contact for committee meetings.

At the General Meeting held just before the Special General Meeting, we were very pleased to have Sarah Shrubb, our newly elected ward councillor attend along with Councillor Don McGregor, now a long-time supporter of the Mounts.

Among issues addressed at the meeting:

- the increased focus by the committee on our responsibilities for Marcus Clark Reserve, land owned by the MWPA;
- an update on the federal government's Mobile Blackspot Programme (which is expected to see sites for new mobile phone and data towers announced this month);
- the serious problem in Mount Irvine Road down from Davies Lane where Endeavour Energy's contractor Asplundh has disfigured the golden elms;

MW/MI RFS President David Howell gave an update on lobbying to have the road from Bilpin to Mount Irvine made good for emergency response authority vehicle use.

The most poignant part of the meeting was mention of the long-term and much community involved residents Moira and Ron Green leaving Mount Wilson:

"Moira and Ron are moving to Springwood leaving an indelible imprint on Mount Wilson. The many, many hours and days Moira and Ron have given to community service in Mount Wilson has been extraordinarily generous. Ron for a good number of years was the chairman of the Village Hall Committee after the hall resumed its place in the community following being closed down for an extended period and repaired by council in the early 2000s. Where would we have been if it was not for Ron stepping in to conduct Remembrance Day services when the minister was unavailable? Moira has been the most wonderful, diligent, thorough and reliable secretary of the Progress Association. We are very lucky to have had Moira provide such a secure foundation for the Progress Association for such a long period – 13 years since 2002.

And there is much else she did whether it was RFB catering or on so many Saturdays opening the hall for the all-too-few people who would wish to borrow or return books to the library. Moira's will be a hard act to follow."

There was a rousing round of applause for Moira and Ron.

Brian Abrahams' retirement and new committee members

Lorraine Barrett has joined the Committee following the resignation of Brian Abrahams whose retirement brings to an end an extensive term of service with the Association where he was particularly responsible for organising the Remembrance Day events and our annual Clean Up Australia Day rubbish collection.

Sue Woolfenden has also joined the committee and agreed to take on the job of secretary.

BMCC work

Council workers have recently been busy around the village making improvements to street drainage by building road-side mounded barriers to keep storm water moving towards culverts or other drainage and away from flooding onto private property. The dangerous deep dip on the side of The Avenue near the approach to Church Lane has also been filled – a long-time request by the MWPA for the work to be done. Thank you Council!

There has been a positive response to the MWPA submission to BMCC for additional funds to better maintain the standard, as agents for council, of the public areas, the street verges, reserves, walking tracks and the putting out each week of the bins for use by the public. We expect confirmation of the increase in funding soon following council's decision on June 2 to increase rates as allowed by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

The rate increase in the council's general income over the next four financial years will be about 36 percent and the final year rate will become the permanent council rate base. The new rates include funding for environmental programs previously funded by the environmental level. The increases will be 2.4 plus 6.6 cent or 9 per cent in 2015-16 and a further 9.6 percent in each of the following financial years to 2018-19. The coming year increase comprises the government rate peg increase plus the IPART increase.

Asset Protection Zone proposed for Marcus Clark Reserve

The RFS authorities in Glendenning have written to the MWPA as owners of the Marcus Clarke Reserve property requesting support for partial clearing of the land with a view to making the Village Hall a Neighbourhood Safer Place. We have written back to the RFS requesting they engage a flora and fauna consultant to evaluate and report on the property prior to our considering the proposed clearing.

New members welcome

All residents and property owners and their sons and daughters 18 and over are eligible to join the Association. Please contact the Secretary, Sue Woolfenden on 4756 2046 or at secretarymwpa@gmail.com if you are not a member and wish to become a member. The more members we have the better we can represent the community.

Richard Beattie President MWPA

Mount Wilson Autumn Festival

The rain held off and the crowds came by the carful to the Mount Wilson Autumn Festival on April 18, 2015.

The gardens proved to be the draw for the day with the “leaf peepers” out in full force to marvel at the autumn colours. Four gardens rarely opened to the public – *Jalscene*, *Wildenstein*, *Wollemi* and *Carmarthen* – were flooded with visitors. The well known and much loved gardens of *Nooroo*, *Merry Garth* and *Bisley* were busy as well. All of these gardens kindly donated their gate proceeds to the Festival.

Visitors to the Village Market bought plants from several mountain nurseries including Bay Tree Nursery, Carroll’s Gardens of Mt Tomah, Clover Hill Rare Plants and Windyridge Gardens. Others had a wonderful time shopping for tools with Paul Kirkpatrick of Estate Gardening, garden sculptures with Scott Leonard of Metalartgarden, and crafts at local artisans’ stalls. The bistro food was so good that we ran out!



The Speakers Forum was a new initiative and we had an opportunity to use the Study Centre at the Mt Wilson School House. Topics ranged from garden design to native bees to “place making” and were well attended.

And it wouldn’t be a Festival without a Raffle. We raised \$1,000. Thank you to everyone who donated items and bought tickets.

The Mount Wilson Progress Association raised \$19,000 in total to be used to maintain the beauty of the Village.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers on the day including the traffic coordinators, folks manning the garden gates and the garden owners, raffle ticket sellers, our speakers, our market stall keepers, all those who donated food and time and even our toilet-cleaning and trash patrollers.

Thank you to the organizing committee of Lorraine Barrett, Alison Halliday, Peter Laving, Elizabeth Montana, Linda Raines, Lesley Young and Rosie Walsh. It was a wonderful community effort.

Nancy Fox

BMCC Press Release: Council to implement rate variation for resourcing our future

5 June 2015,

Blue Mountains City Council will implement the special rate variation approved by the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), to improve services, facilities and infrastructure across the City. Council was one of 22 councils across NSW with IPART approval to vary the income they receive from rates.

Mayor, Cr Mark Greenhill, said, "IPART's decision gave the Council the green light to consider varying its rates to stop the decline in the City's \$1billion worth of built assets spread over 100km and 27 towns and villages, and have greater capacity to fund renewal and maintenance.

The decision to implement Option 1 special rate variation was made with the best interests of the City in mind, in line with our Six Strategies for Financial Sustainability, and the majority community support (80%) for the Council to seek a special rate variation."

The effective increase in the Council's income from rates over the four years from 2015/16 to 2018/19 will be around 24% above the rate peg.

The Mayor said, "A special rate variation means we can achieve better and safer roads, improve town centres and footpaths, walking track, and drains, improve emergency preparedness and response, improve community facilities such as playing fields, leisure centres, and libraries, and continue our environmental programs.

The basis of our decision to increase the income Council receives from rates sits firmly with our responsibility for Resourcing our Future and to maintain and improve services, facilities and infrastructure across the City."

The annual increases that have been approved are 6.6% in 2015/16 to continue the environmental programs previously funded by the Environment Levy followed by a 9.6% increase for three consecutive years to 2018/19. These increases include the rate peg and continuation of the existing Environment Levy. The special rate variation would then remain permanently in the Council's rate base. For the average residential ratepayer, the increase in rates each year, over four years will be \$2.18 per week, including rate peg and the current Environment Levy.

"Taking this step is important for the long-term sustainability of the City of Blue Mountains and will significantly enhance the Council's ability to meet NSW Government *Fit for the Future* criteria, which we need to demonstrate by 30 June 2015", said the Mayor.

"IPART's determination clearly recognised the quality of Council's application in demonstrating the need for additional revenue, that our community has been appropriately engaged and that the Council is well managed and has taken steps to improve productivity and contain costs and will continue to do so. IPART also assessed the council's long-term financial plan, and the impact of the rate variation on affected ratepayers, as being sustainable."

"Despite the ongoing and increasing pressures on this, and many other councils in NSW, your Council has proven success in balancing its budget, living within its means and improving its financial performance. However, the pressure from State and Federal governments for local councils to do more with less, is just too great", the Mayor said.

The special rate variation income will be spent in accordance with the 10 year program of works submitted to IPART. In 2015-16 the rate variation commences with a continuation of the programs similar to those funded under the expiring Environment Levy with \$1.67M funding of natural environment and nature based activities. In following years, areas of emergency management and preparedness, maintaining asset and improving community services will be addressed with an emphasis on risk and community needs.

The Council's Hardship Relief Policy provides for ratepayers to seek assistance for circumstances of genuine hardship. The Hardship Relief Policy is currently being reviewed in line with the decision to implement the special rate variation.

Information on Council's Special Rate Variation application and community engagement process is available to view and download at www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/yourcouncil/specialratesvariation. Information on the IPART assessment and determination of Council's application is available at www.ipart.nsw.gov.au.

Adrienne Murphy | Program Leader Corporate Communications & Marketing , BMCC

[This Council communication has been published in full for those who may have missed it.]

Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade

2015 AGM

Approximately 40 invited guests, including Councillors Sarah Shrub and Don McGregor and State Member Hon. Trish Doyle, attended the Brigade AGM at the Mt Irvine Hall. Both the President, David Howell and the Captain, Beth Raines, acknowledged the great loss to the Brigade of important long time member, Alan Gunn, and one of our newer members, Sebastian St Vincent-Welsh.

Ron Gavin, Inspector NSW Ambulance, commended the Brigade for its resilience in the face of local tragedy, for the ongoing commitment of the Community First Responders and for making Mt Wilson a 'home away from home' for all those involved in rescues. Paul McGrath, on behalf of the District Manager, David Jones, recognised the commitment of the Brigade and the value of its contribution to the social capital of the community. He presented the Brigade with a copy of the Commissioner's Certificate of Commendation made to the District in recognition of their efforts during the October 2013 fires. Hon Trish Doyle encouraged the community to advise her of any issues or concerns and she would be happy to raise them at local, state or federal level.

Beth Raines reported on brigade activity for the year (19 motor vehicle accidents, 10 community first responder calls, 4 fires, 6 rescues and 2 snow/storm damage events). The brigade has won state and national Resilience awards, received grants, held a community workshop and participated in bushfire related research. We have trained 9 new members, participated in West sector training as well as courses presented by TAFE and Red Cross. The brigade is currently involved in a RFS Mobile Mapping Trial (the only brigade involved in the Blue Mountains). Not nearly so exciting is the continuing frustration with government bureaucracy over the Mt Wilson Station extension and Bowens Creek. The Photography and Art Exhibition is back on this year, 10th and 11th October.

Susie Hope, Treasurer, gave a detailed account of our finances which are extremely healthy but desperate to be spent on our Station extension. Elizabeth Montano gave an update on progress (grinding) on Bowens Creek, an extraordinary example of collaborative action involving not only many of our community groups but also every level of government. Fortunately, Elizabeth is on top of it all and is working extremely hard with others in our community to keep it moving forward. David Howell reported on the progress on recommendations from our After Action Review from the State Mine Fire. Of 69 projects, 8 have been deemed no longer relevant, 32 completed, 9 ongoing and only 20 left still to start.

The RFS has advised that it is considering the Mt Wilson Village Hall and the Mt Irvine Hall as Neighbourhood Safer Places (please note, 'safer' not 'safe') in the event of bushfire. Surrounding landowners have been contacted seeking their approval for clearing vegetation to enhance the compliance of these structures with NSP guidelines. Due to delays in finalising an extension for the Mt Wilson Station (due to a native titles claim) the Executive has turned its attention to replacing the Mt Irvine Station. This will still be some time to come but in the meantime the Mt Irvine community has been asked to decide the location of the new Station.

Peter Raines noted that, two years on from the State Mine Fire, fuel loads were increasing and now was a good time to clear vegetation on properties, ensure a water supply and provide access for fire trucks. Beth Raines advised that 12-13th September is RFS 'Get Ready Weekend' and the Brigade encourages residents to be present that weekend to prepare their properties for the bushfire season. More details will be available in Newsletters closer to the event.

Start a conversation.....

It seems to be the fashion now 'to have a conversation' about any sort of issue. Every night on TV news some politician is telling us that 'we need to have a conversation with the community'. None of them have spoken to me yet but I am in no rush. However, I would not wish to seem out of step with contemporary thinking so it is now my turn to encourage a conversation.

Writing a bushfire survival plan can be a long and arduous process. The easy bits are making the initial decision to stay or go (going is obviously the safest choice) and writing a list of things to do to prepare the house, what to take (if leaving) and what you need to defend (if staying).

Yes, I know that these lists all take time but they are largely common sense and there is lots of information around about what you include (after the State Mine Fire I can strongly recommend lists as a way of staying focused and keeping the panic under control). The difficult bit in a plan is dealing with the 'what ifs?'

- What if the road is blocked? What if there is no time to leave?
- What if one of you is in Sydney and one in the Mounts? What if you're in Sydney but the kids are in the Mounts?
- What if you are ill? What if you need to travel daily for medical treatment?
- What if you have visitors? What if the visitors are children, elderly, incapacitated?
- What if you go shopping and another fire breaks out and you can't get back? And your mobile phone runs out of charge? And the dog is home alone?
- What if it is a weekday? What if it is a weekend?
- What if the pump/generator stops working? What if you don't have enough water?
- What if you are on holidays? What if you are overseas?

I could go on but how can you make a decision yet alone write it down when there are so many variables to consider?

Fortunately, research now tells us that even just talking about the possibilities can help in later moments of crisis. Apparently, these issues you discuss remain lodged in the brain and return at critical moments to help with decision making. So go ahead – have a conversation with your partner, family and friends about all the things that could derail your rational, well ordered and logical way of life. What have you got to lose? Just your life.

So tell me, what is your plan?

2014 Resilient Australia Award winners advertisement

The NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet have just produced a video on the NSW winners of the 2014 Resilient Australia Awards. This advertisement, designed for publicising the 2015 Awards, features in part the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Brigades which, as you will recall, were the NSW and joint Australian winners of the Not for Profit sector of the awards.

The video can be seen at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/David-Elliott-MP/175682245838025?fref=nf> or on the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MtWilsonMtIrvine>

Kathleen Oakes
Community Engagement Officer

Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Facebook Page

Since February of this year, Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine has its own Facebook page. The page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/MtWilsonMtIrvine>

The site has had a relatively low profile early in its life but is, under the energetic guiding hand of Linda Raines, now building up a sizeable following from residents, visitors and like-minded groups.

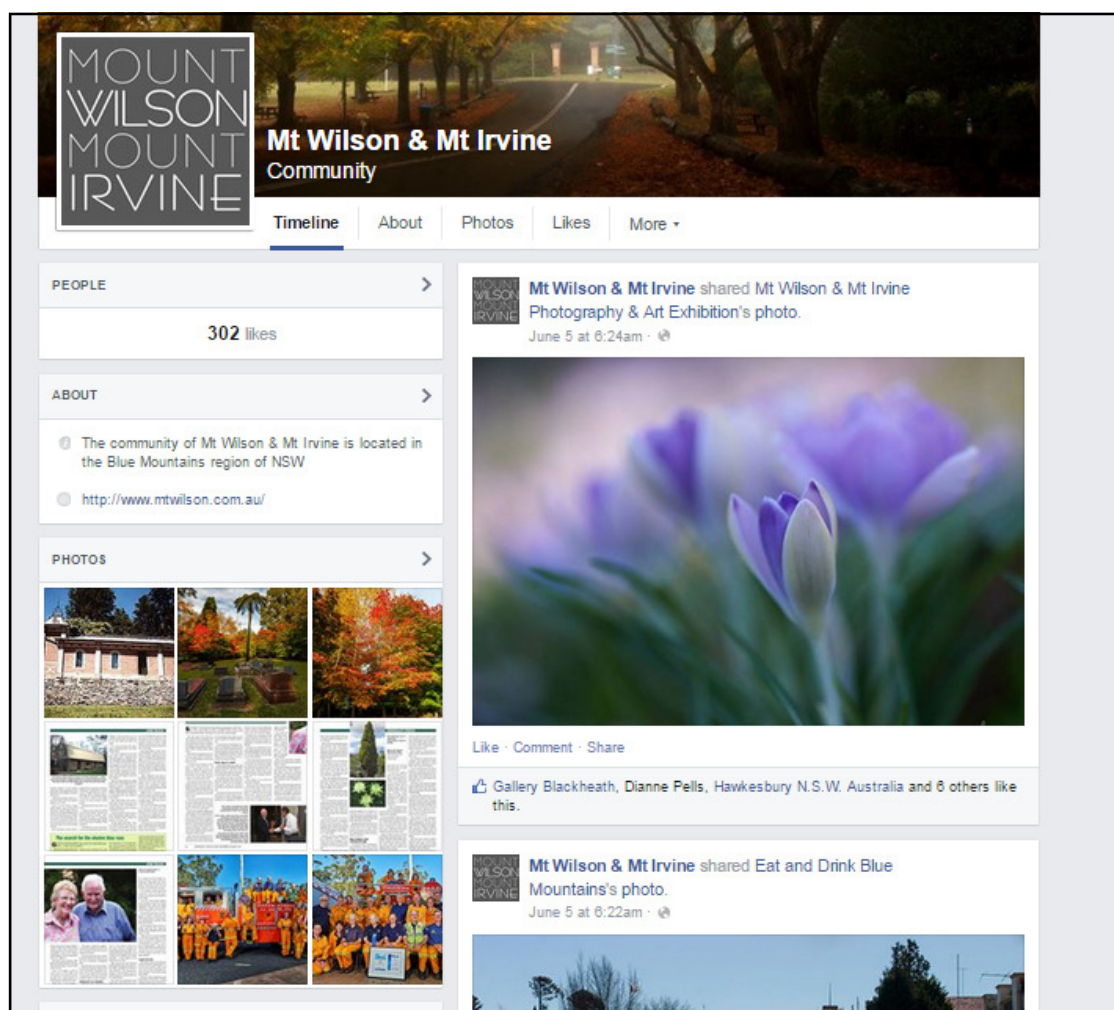
The site is now overflowing with information and news about happenings in the community and adjoining areas. Linda can be contacted on email at lmjack75@gmail.com if you would like to publicise an event, information or news to a wider audience; she will be only too happy to post items on your behalf. It is proving to be a fantastic tool for local groups to share latest happenings.

You do not need to be signed up as a member of Facebook to access the site, though you will need to have a Facebook login if you wish to add comments to any postings.

A dedicated Facebook page for the Spring Photography and Art Exhibition, set up and maintained by Bev Woodman, can also be viewed at

<https://www.facebook.com/MtWilsonMtIrvinePhotographyArtExhibition>

Both Facebook and Twitter proved to be invaluable in publicising the April Autumn Festival and their increased use, even in our remote community, will only increase over time.



Bells Line of Road upgrade

Roads and Maritimes Services has formally announced a timeline for six crash cluster sites along Bells Line of Road, between Lithgow and Kurrajong Heights.

Crash clusters are locations with a high concentration of crashes identified along the Bells Line of Road corridor.

To improve safety at crash cluster sites, work includes high friction surfaces and road widening to accommodate a central median and shoulders on both sides of the road. Three sites have been identified so far.

In a very encouraging development, the RMS has started major work on two of the three crash sites in the immediate vicinity of the Mounts. The two sites - Site 9, the section of road just east of Watertrough Hill and Site 10, the notorious section of road outside Holly Lodge - are now the focus of significant construction activity.



Work on the third site - Site 8, at Noel's Corner, just before the Mt Wilson turn-off approaching from the east - is scheduled to start in mid-2016.

Significant improvements to these sections of the roads will surely be most welcomed by the broader community in general, and by the local RFS brigades in particular, who far too frequently freely give of their spare time to attend accidents in these locations, often in the most appalling of weathers.

Newly discovered species of marsupial known for suicidal sex under threat, Queensland researchers say

by Elise Worthington, ABC News, 30 May 2015,

Special thanks to Sarah Howell for alerting us to the Queensland researchers who have discovered two new species of a rare Australian marsupial known for its deadly mating habits.

The antechinus, a mouse-like marsupial, has stolen headlines over the years for its bizarre mating frenzies that are so intense, the males die soon afterwards.

Now, two new species of the mammal have been discovered living in Australia's south-east.

Researchers are applying to both the Queensland and Tasmanian Governments to have several species of antechinus listed as endangered, before the populations disappear.

QUT mammalogist Dr Andrew Baker said for a few weeks a year, the testosterone-fuelled male antechinus competed ferociously with one another to have sex with as many females as possible, in marathon sessions lasting up to 14 hours at a time.

Dr Baker likened the antechinus' behaviour to that exhibited by characters on US television show Game of Thrones.

"It's just this absolutely primal urge," he said. "There's orgies of violence and sex and, in antechinus, it happens every year."

After a few weeks of copulation, the rise in stress hormones causes the male's immune system to collapse, with the result far from a happy ending.

"They'll bleed internally, they have ulcers, their fur falls off in patches, sometimes they're stumbling around blind and still trying to mate," Dr Baker said.

The annual deaths of the males essentially halves the antechinus population, presenting a challenge for researchers like PhD student Thomas Mutton, who are trying to conserve the species.

"You kind of get to know some of them and then the males don't even get to live a year, they only live about 11 months before they all die," Mr Mutton said. "It's kind of sad. I think their sex life is quite interesting to humans, it's certainly a bit different to how we do it."

Dr Baker said two new species discovered were the Tasman Peninsula dusky antechinus (*Antechinus vandycki*), found near Port Arthur in Tasmania, and the mainland dusky antechinus (*Antechinus swainsonii mimetes*), found throughout south-eastern Australia.

He said the Tasman Peninsula dusky antechinus was at risk of losing its habitat.

"I suspect it's been isolated on the Tasman Peninsula for perhaps millions of years and this rare species is just sitting down there as we speak, in the middle of a small state forest that's being logged," he said. "Its precious old-growth forest habitat is rapidly being removed."

QUT scientists now believe five of the 15 known species of antechinus are under threat of extinction from climate change, feral pests and habitat loss.

"It rings alarm bells because while it's exciting we're finding new mammal species, at the same time we might lose some of them almost as soon as they are discovered," Dr Baker said.

"Who knows how many species we are losing right now that we will never discover."

The researchers are applying to the Tasmanian and Queensland Governments to have several of the new species listed as threatened, including the new Tasman Peninsula dusky antechinus.

"The priority here is that they get listed at state level, then we can apply for federal listing, and when we get federal listing the process of protection is much more stringent," Dr Baker said. "The people involved in this process are working really hard but there's so much government red tape. These hold ups mean the listing process takes years."

He said some of the new species face the threat of being wiped out by a fire or land clearing before they are listed for protection.

"The risk is that these animals may disappear very rapidly," he said. "For the rarest species, there may only be hundreds of individuals or less."

Mr Mutton said it was critical the antechinus was protected.

"It's very possible some of these beautiful species could go extinct," he said. "There are many species at risk in Australia and it's really something I think as a society we need to think about more deeply."

The team's latest discoveries have been published in the peer-reviewed journal *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum - Nature*.

The researchers are seeking extra funding to conduct more critical research on the threatened species and prioritise measures that could help protect them.



The mainland dusky antechinus is found in south-eastern Australia.

Ask the Neighbours

I just don't understand it, Tim. How could the RAATS' entry form to the Sydney Fighters' Festival have gone astray? We left plenty of time for it to arrive before the due date and you posted it Express Post, didn't you, Tim? Didn't you?

It's so disappointing. It would have been yet another RAATS triumph. Our nominated subject of "DIY home renovations with trained European Wasps" would have caused a real buzz. It was so clever of Faithful RAATS Members, Mr and Mrs M....*, to have trained their wasps to excavate a new mezzanine above their lounge room. The latest in European design one might say.

But at least the RAATS AGM went off well this year, Tim. You modelled the finalists' designs in our new uniform contest with such aplomb, Tim. Everyone said so. And when you revealed the winning design - such applause. No Tim, it was applause - really it was. You looked amazing in that unisex leopard print safari suit jacket, the form fitting shorts and those fetching leech proof knee high socks. I told you your knees wouldn't look big in them.

One thing though - can you please return the Carla Z outfit? You know the one. The flowing Grecian style ensemble. I know it was your favourite, but it has to go back.

And wasn't it wonderful when that disgraceful motion from the floor to amalgamate RAATS with our rival, BRATS (the Blackheath Rural Antechinus Togetherness Society) was so definitively defeated? Such a shock to be so cruelly ambushed. Makes one want to leave the hurly burly of local politics for the dignity and calm of the wider political stage. I hear they have a real problem with unruly pests in Canberra these days. Perhaps there's a place for RAATS. Of course, it would have to be called "Elizabeth's RAATS" ; just to comply with current naming conventions, you understand.

So, the question to all our faithful readers and RAATS members this time is - do you support RAATS going national? And, who will volunteer so that we can run candidates in every State and Federal electorate and all upper Houses, State and Federal? No unrepresentative swill, mind you Tim.

I think you should run for a Senate seat, Tim. In addition to being your Dear Leader, I'll be your campaign manager, Chief of Staff and Chief Whip (no, Tim - you can't be your own Chief Whip but you can hold it sometimes).

Elizabeth Montano

*Names have been redacted to protect against falling property prices

Woodchip available!

Eleanor Herriott has kindly offered woodchip to any residents of the Mounts.

The mountains of woodchip has been created from extensive restoration efforts at *Carisbrook* following the devastating 2013 State Mine fire.

Please contact Eleanor or John Lee first prior to collection from *Carisbrook*.

Suggestions, comments or contributions warmly welcomed!