



the MOUNTS

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF MT WILSON AND MT IRVINE

Nov
2018



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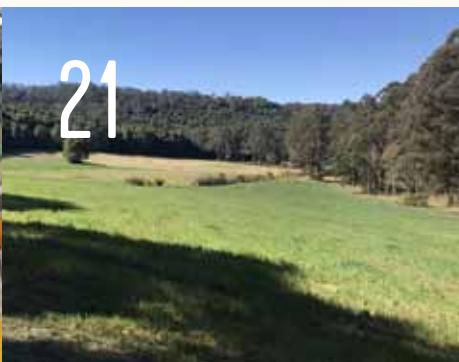
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The column formerly known as "Ask the Neighbours"

This months cover photo was provided by Robbie Feyder of Wynnes Rocks Lookout.
If you would like to send in a cover photo for the next edition please send it through to us at themounts2786@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 2018



Spring has sprung, and hasn't it been glorious? The combination of the soaking rains and warm sun has got everything looking beautiful and lush around the villages.

We've been loving it and so have our artichokes, this is the first year we've got a substantial crop off them. It's been hard to decide whether to eat them or let the beautiful purple flowers go to full bloom.

The weekend of the 24/25th November is set to be a busy one with lots going on to celebrate the naming and surveying of Mount Wilson, from gardens rambles, to special church services and cocktail parties it sure to be a time of celebration for the community.

If anyone takes any happy snaps during the celebrations please forward them through to us, they would make great accompaniments to the short edition of The Mounts which is planned for December.

The December edition will also be my last as editor. Unfortunately, due to work commitments I'm finding it difficult to give the publication the time I feel it deserves and will be handing over the reins to Alison Halliday. I will still try to make contributions as frequently as I can. I want to thank all of you for your support and kind feedback during my time as editor.

All the best

Jess Delbridge



Our happy artichokes, ready to eat... or maybe to flower?

AROUND THE MOUNTS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DEC
---	Friday 9th Bushcare Meet at Wynne Reserve	Sunday 8th Church Service 3:00pm St Georges
---	Sunday 10th Church Service 3:00pm St Georges	Friday 14th Bushcare Meet at Wynne Reserve
---	Friday 16th Bushwalk	Friday 21st Bushwalk
---	---	---

BIN CALENDAR

8 TH NOV
15 TH NOV
22 ND NOV
29 TH NOV
6 TH DEC
13 TH DEC
20 TH DEC
27 TH DEC
3 RD JAN



Recycling



Green Waste

KINDNESS IS 1000 DAFFODILS

Recently Robbie Buck & Wendy Harmer on ABS 702 put out a call for good news stories. A Beverley (our Beverley Thompson!) rang in about a friend's 100th Birthday lunch they went to on Sunday and they took 1,000 daffodils that they had picked from their garden to decorate the tables at Pennant Hills golf club for the occasion.



RESTORATION AND REPURPOSING OF OLD MT WILSON SCHOOL

I am pleased to confirm that the application by the Study Centre for a Heritage Near Me grant has been successful.

The result is that the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage will provide us with the sum of \$100,000 to allow us to effect necessary structural repairs to the school buildings and to adapt them to the new uses which have been proposed.

I understand that a total of 33 of these grants were provided to applicants across the State for varying amounts and that about 150 applications had been made.

Our success in obtaining this grant was only achieved because so many members of our community became involved. That involvement ranged from providing suggestions and comments as to what should be done with these buildings, providing letters or other materials in support of our grant application, canvassing support from suitable 'off mountain' bodies and obtaining written expressions of that support, designing and costing the necessary works, preparing our formal submission for the grant and generally providing much appreciated moral support.

I would like to acknowledge in particular Sarah Howell, Judy Tribe, Stephen Dean and Owen Havilland, as well as Alison Halliday and Nancy Fox (representing the Mt Wilson Progress Association), Des Barrett (representing the Historical Society), Allen Hyde (representing the Mt Irvine Progress Association), David Howell (representing the Fire Brigade) and the members of the Study Centre Council.

We are fortunate to have a strong Council. Current members are Alice Simpson, Margaret Dean, Robyn

Scrivener and Ann Pigott, as well as Sarah, Stephen and me. I am happy to be able to report that Judy Tribe has also agreed to come on board.

Building work has now commenced and we expect that it will be completed in the first half of next year.

Getting that work completed within budget, as well as attending to all the necessary preparatory work to implement the new uses of the buildings, will be our main priorities in the coming months.

Those uses will be:

1. An artists-in-residence programme which will be administered by the Study Centre Council. The idea is to bring artists of all disciplines to work within our community and to involve the community in what they are doing via exhibitions, demonstrations, talks, performances or whatever else may be suitable.
2. A Community Centre and Visitor Information Centre which will be operated by the Mt Wilson Progress Association in a space within the buildings provided by the Study Centre Council.
3. An archive and research facility which will be operated by the Historical Society, also in space provided within the buildings by the Study Centre Council.

Thought has also been given to using the school grounds to provide an educational venue for scouting and school groups. We are proposing to explore that further once the initial uses are in place.

- Joe Montano, Chair, Mt Wilson Study Centre

AROUND THE MOUNTS

LIKE READING THE WEEKEND NEWSPAPERS?

Members of a small group in Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine share the role of collecting and delivering weekend newspaper orders each week from the Blackheath newsagency. If anyone else in our villages would like to have the convenience of the papers each Saturday morning you will be welcome to join and expand the group. The more members we have the less frequent will be the pick-up and delivery role.

What's involved: you need to have an arrangement with Doug Forsyth at the newsagency (4787 8449 or email doug.c.forsyth@hotmail.com) for either paying him directly or having a subscription for the papers. In addition to paid paper orders, copies of the free Blue Mountains Gazette are provided. There are currently 10 members of the group rostered for the pick-up/deliveries once every ten weeks. If anyone is unable to fulfil a rostered date it is easy to swap with another member.

The 2019 schedule is due for distributing late November so now is the time to join the group should you wish.

Please contact me if you wish to join the group or have any queries.

landrbeattie@bigpond.com

- Richard Beattie

FUR AND FEATHER RESIDENTS OF THE MOUNTS : JASPER THE MOUNTAIN DOG

My name is Jasper and I spend a lot of time like this - sitting in my mom, Nancy's, car going back and forth to Mt Wilson. I also take a terrible picture because I am all black!

I am a schnauzer and my favourite activities are chasing wombats and rounding up Pete Raines' cows who sometimes come and visit. The best boys in my neighbourhood of Smith Hill in the eastern suburbs of Mt Wilson are Bill and Jack Raines as they come and play with me sometimes. They have dogs too who like to swim in my ponds.

My mother is getting concerned though as I have started placing my droppings very strategically on logs and elevated things like the wombats. It is very difficult to do but I have watched lot of wombats and am now getting very good at this. My mother does not find it amusing.

- Nancy Fox



BOWENS CREEK EMERGENCY VEHICLES ACCESS ROUTE UPDATE

THIS IS AN UPDATE ON BEHALF OF THE MT WILSON/ MT IRVINE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE AS LEAD COMMUNITY ORGANISATION ON THIS ISSUE.

You will recall from our last update that HCC has engaged a consultant to undertake the feasibility study to identify the technical and engineering requirements to restore the whole of the route between Mt Irvine and Bilpin route to fire trail standard for use by emergency services vehicles and then to provide a general costing.

To assist the consultants to understand the needs of emergency services we have continued to liaise with them, HCC and emergency services. We have stressed in our contacts with the consultants and HCC that the Brigade is looking for a 'fit for purpose' solution - 'a Holden not a Rolls Royce' - so that the estimated costs and the complexity of the construction project are kept as low and simple as possible.

We understand from HCC that the draft study has been completed, BMCC is being consulted and then it will be made available for stakeholder consultation.

Following this most recent advice, we have continued to brief and engage with BMCC and HCC Councillors, Trish Doyle, the State MP for the Blue Mountains, and Susan Templeman, the Federal MP for Macquarie (which spans both BMCC and HCC local government areas). Trish Doyle has advised us that she will put a motion to the NSW Parliament to bring this issue to the attention of the Parliament again.

The next phase of the campaign is to seek Federal and State funding for the restoration works themselves. We will be looking for opportunities in the next Federal and State election campaigns.

- Elizabeth Montano
Executive Committee Member
Mt Wilson/ Mt Irvine RF Brigade

WHATS ON NOV / DEC

Cinema under the Stars

Relax under the stars while our big screen revisits a selection of contemporary classics.

Starting at sundown we will screen Baz Luhrmann's 1996 rendition of Romeo and Juliet (rated M15+). Don't forget to BYO chair, cushions and / or a rug!

Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Parke Street,
Katoomba, Fri 09 Nov 2018

\$8 / \$5 Insight Members

The Christmas Twilight Markets

The Christmas Twilight Markets are an annual event at East Kurrajong School of Arts. Stalls with collectables, vintage advertising, china and glassware, crafts, stamps, coins, hand made jewellery, clothing, books, plants, candles, soaps, skincare, bloke stuff and more.

East Kurrajong School of Arts Hall, 1090 East
Kurrajong Road, East Kurrajong

Sat 24 Nov 2018 4pm to 8pm

SEARCH SELL AND SHARE

APPEAL FOR UNWANTED BENCHES

My name is Steve Gracie and I'm new to the Mount Wilson area having bought Holmwood on Farrer road West late last year, but am only just now getting involved in the property.

I am looking to buy a number of garden benches of any reasonable condition for our property as we are going to rework the gardens. So if anyone has any excess benches they can contact me on 0412364764 or email sjgracie@optusnet.com.au.

LOOKING FOR ITS OWNER

A device was found on Monday 13 August on Mt Irvine Road. It is a GPS for bicycles, known as a Byron Rider 10. Please contact by email: Julian@ludo.com.au

ESSENTIAL FOR ALL THE GARDENERS – FOR SALE

Rayco commercial stump grinder RG1265A

A walk beside grinder (no pulling or pushing)

Used stump grinder with new Kohler 23.5HP

Motor in good working condition. Has happily chewed moderately sized stumps and grinds approx 70cm below surface level. Handbooks included.

Price \$7000.00

Call John Lee . 0418224773

A bonus is that John will pay a \$200 sellers fee to an appropriate charity on the mountains



MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Committee News



As I write this it is raining – so wonderful to see and hear. Everything seems to be greener, almost instantly.

The AGM for the MWPA was held on 18 September. I pointed out that every resident was welcome at the meeting even if they were not members; and I also hope that some non-members feel persuaded to join up. The Progress association does many things for everyone on the mountain, not just its members: The Mounts, the phone book, the website and representations to the BMCC.

It did seem that many of our usual attendees were away – I hope they were all having wonderful holidays. The minutes of previous meetings were passed without discussion and then, a brief presentation on life on the mountain, including condolences for the families of Libby Raines, Helen Naylor, John Leonard and Robert Chesney, Jess's great work with The Mounts, the current status of our association with BMCC, and thanks to Peter Raines for all his work. People were urged to come along on Remembrance Day, 11 November which this year is on a Sunday.

I asked various people to present the state of play of the organisations that they represented. Nancy

spoke about the 150th celebration, Elizabeth Montano gave an update on the long-running saga of the Bowens Creek Road, Joe Montano told us the pleasing news about the grant to restore the school house and teacher's cottage, and Beth gave us an update on the coming fire season – it is as dry as can be.

In general business Rosie Walsh talked about how the platypuses in Waterfall Creek are very vulnerable due to fluctuations on water level and flow. She suggested that committee appoint an environmental officer. Of course in such a drought it is very important that we all save water wherever and however we can.

Finally we are delighted to welcome two new committee members, Peter Raines and Janet McDonald; the rest of the committee remains the same.

- Alison Halliday



MOUNT WILSON AND MOUNT IRVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Recent Events and Comments

At present the Society is in the process of sending out its one newsletter No. 33 for 2018 to its members. A letter leads that newsletter. It is thought helpful that the community should be aware of the contents of that letter.

Below is a copy of that letter:

Dear Members,

It is that time of the year again to send out membership renewal notices for the 2018 to 2019 year and to extend our thanks for your continued support of the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society.

We must apologise for the delay in sending out the renewals. This task has been approached with a little trepidation this year as the society is facing some daunting challenges.

One of these challenges was the ongoing preservation of the society's historical archive material.

You may be aware that the Historical Society archives are being housed in a small space in the Mt Wilson Study Centre (formerly the public school

). Late last year, this building, together with the adjacent principal's cottage, was condemned due to termite infestation which caused severe structural damage to the building. This placed the society in a dilemma as there were no alternative storage locations for the archive material at either Mt Wilson or Mt Irvine and it seemed unlikely at the time, that the buildings could be repaired in the foreseeable future. The NSW Department of Education who owns both buildings was completely disinterested in assisting. The Mt Wilson Study Centre Council responsible for the management of these buildings, in consultation with the various other stakeholder groups including the MW & MI Progress Association, the MW& MI Rural Fire Brigade and the MW& MI Historical Society prepared and submitted a heritage grant application for urgent funding to carry out the needed repairs. The outcome of this grant was due to be known by July but has only recently been announced last week.

These grants are highly competitive but miraculously it was successful and funds of \$100,000 will be available to have the two buildings repaired. The society, mainly thanks to the travails of one of our

MOUNT WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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committee, Des Barrett, negotiated beforehand with the Study Centre Committee, that once the necessary repairs were completed, that the archives be moved into the adjacent principal's cottage which will ultimately afford a larger and more suitable storage space than was previously available.

The restoration of the two buildings and the rehousing of the archival material now all appears to be on track to our great relief.

Of greater concern, however, is the current state of the society and its future.

It has become increasingly clear that society membership is falling. This is understandable to an extent as many Mt Wilson & Irvine residents have now moved away from the area and some have very sadly passed on.

The majority of our current membership appears to be members who do not reside at either Mt Wilson or Mt Irvine and for this continued support we extend our deepest appreciation. Ideally, we need to garner more support from the local community so that a 'new generation' of members can assist in taking on the mantle of carrying the work of the Society forward. At the last Annual General Meeting which was modestly attended in November 2017, there were no nominations received for membership of the committee positions. Also the ability to enlist volunteers needed to open the Museum each Sunday through spring and autumn is increasingly becoming a challenge to the extent that we are unable to open. Currently we are carrying on as best we can with an interim committee who primarily comprise the available museum roster workforce.

We are writing this letter to keep you apprised of the current state of the Society. But more importantly we would very much welcome your thoughts and ideas as to how we might strengthen the society the society and allow it to continue its important

work. We are also acutely aware we are unable to offer much in the way of tangible benefit to your membership due to lack of resources and we would very much like to change this.

We are all very committed to preserving and promoting the history of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine and truly believe that a committed and active society is integral in achieving this.

Thank you again for your continued and unwavering support.

Kind Regards

Malcolm Reynolds, Acting Chairman Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society

2018 has been a sad year for Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine. In May we lost Libby Raines, a loss that will be felt for years to come as she was the centre of strength in the community and for the Society a founding member ever loyal and a wonderful contributor. In April we lost Robert Chesney another founding member who gave much of his time and energy to the Society. In June we lost John Leonard who was always most generous and again a founding member who with Robin made possible for the Society to acquire a table now lodged in the Turkish Bath, a table with strong historical value. In August we lost Helen Naylor of Mt Irvine, a devoted foundation member of the Society and always concerned about the Society and its survival.

- Mary Reynolds

RFS NEWS:

Your brigade is ready for fire season - are you?



FIRE PUMP

Serviced and operating properly, fitted with correct fittings Storz 25 x 38mm



GUTTERS / ROOF

Clear of all combustible material

FIRE HOSES

Suitable for purpose with correct fittings & able to reach all parts of the house



RADIO / PHONE

Battery operated radio and phone that needs no power



WATER

20,000 litres available for fire fighting, preferred outlets are 65mm Storz



AROUND HOUSE

Clear of all rubbish and combustible material

BUCKETS

Available for filling with water for spot fires



SURVIVAL PLAN

Have a plan so you can act quickly in an emergency



PREPARING FOR FIRE

Detailed information to assist you in preparing for a fire will be placed in every letter box mid - September. In the meantime please feel free to contact me if you require any information or assistance.

Peter Laving (Community Engagement Officer)
peter.laving@kumahira.com.au 4756 2004 0417 478 250

KEEPING INFORMED DURING A FIRE EMERGENCY

IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION

- A fire emergency is declared when there is a fire somewhere in the vicinity of Mt Wilson / Mt Irvine that could pose a threat.
- As soon as an emergency is declared an email will be sent to all residents with the first Situation Report and requesting them to make contact with their street coordinator to advise their whereabouts and movements.
- The Community Engagement Officer will be advised and he will immediately contact the Street Coordinators.

FIRE INFORMATION FROM SOURCES ON THE MOUNTAIN

From this point onwards residents have access to Information in a number of ways:

- Contacting your Street Coordinator
- Phoning Mt Wilson Fire Station (recorded message) 4756 2040
- At the Mt Wilson Village Hall FIRE INFORMATION CENTRE.
- From the FIRE INFORMATION notice boards around the mountain – see list below.

Please do not phone or visit the Fire Station during the emergency unless it is absolutely essential except on the recorded message line 4756 2040.

FIRE INFORMATION NOTICE BOARD LOCATIONS

- Mt Irvine Village Hall
- Cnr Mt Irvine Road And Bowens Creek Rd
- Cnr Farrer Rd West And Mt Irvine Rd
- Cathedral Reserve
- Cnr Church Rd And The Avenue
- Mt Wilson Village Hall
- Cnr Queens Ave And Wynnes Rocks Rd

FIRE INFORMATION FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES

- RFS Bush Fire Information Line 1800 679 737
- NSW Rural Fire Service — rfs.nsw.gov.au
- Fire Danger Ratings — rfs.nsw.gov.au/fdr
- "Fires Near Me" — Free smartphone app
- facebook.com/nswrfs
- twitter.com/nswrfs
- Local radio / emergency broadcaster frequency / TV.

STREET COORDINATORS

- Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine has been divided into seven areas each of which has one or two Street Coordinators who cover all the residents in their area. Their task is to assist the Brigade by checking on who is on the mountains during an emergency and to answer calls from residents.
- Before the start of the fire season all residents will be provided with contact details for their Street Coordinator.

IN THE CASE OF POWER AND TELEPHONE LINE FAILURE AT MT WILSON / MT IRVINE

Obtain information from:

- Fire Information Centre at Mt Wilson Village Hall
- Fire information notice boards
- Bushfire Information Line 1800 679737 if you have mobile reception
- Local radio if you have a battery operated radio.

VOLUNTEERS

- Any residents wishing to volunteer their service for non fire fighting duties should report to the FIRE INFORMATION CENTRE at the Mt Wilson Village Hall for registration and assignment .

Please do not call or visit the Fire Station during the emergency unless it is absolutely essential.



STREET COORDINATORS



AREA	TITLE	COVERAGE	STREET COORDINATOR
1A	Mt Irvine West	Bowens Creek Rd, Danes Way, western side of Mt Irvine Rd except Cooinda, Irvinholme, Bungleboorie, Booralee and Panui.	brianandcarolc@yahoo.com.au 4756 2143 0418 294 968 9953 3253
1B	Mt Irvine East	Eastern side of Mt Irvine Rd from Chalumeau to Chestermans plus Cooinda, Irvinholme Bungleboorie, Booralee and Panui.	bdkerridge@gmail.com 4756 2131 0412 979 649
2	Mt Wilson South	Mill Rd, Wynnes Rocks Rd, Hollyridge, Noonameena, Killaloo.	asimpson7@bigpond.com 4756 2110 0414 425 511 9958 8810
			peter.laving@kumahira.com.au 4756 2004 0417 478 250
3	Mt Wilson Central	Hay Lane, Queens Ave, Wyndham Ave, Waterfall Rd, Wynstay, Breenhold, Maple Lodge, Milparra, Applecot Lane.	annpigott@gmail.com 4756 2002 0428 281 236
4	Mt Wilson North	Church Lane, Bebeah, Applebury, Fernhill, Ashridge, Salkierie.	anderson.sefton@bigpond.com 4756 2103 0427 169 716
			robertnicol@bigpond.com 4756 2103 0417 861 983
5	Mt Wilson East	Beowang Rd, Davies Lane, Galwey Lane, Hillcrest Lane, Shadforth Rd, Lambs Hill and Mt Irvine Rd from Wollartukkee to The Old Mill.	landrbeattie@bigpond.com 4756 2070 0400 190 909 9252 6440
			alex.halliday@bigpond.com 4756 2060 0412 204 953 9389 1848
6	Farrer Rd/Smith Rd	Farrer Rd East and West, Smiths Rd, Field selection.	judithtribe@gmail.com 4756 2096 0410 632 096

DENMARQUE'S STORY



Dennarque's history begins with the Merewether family.

Edward Christopher Merewether arrived in NSW in 1838 with 'impeccable credentials' (from CH Currey). It was not long before he was the civil Aide-de-Camp of the Governor, Sir George Gipps and then Sir Charles Fitzroy, 1842-46. After 1847 he was a Commissioner for Crown Lands beyond the boundaries of location in the lower Darling, the Macleay and New England. In 1856 he held the important position of Clerk of the Executive Council. During 1858 he was in England negotiating postal Communications for NSW and was approached about filling the position of General Superintendant of the Australian Agricultural Company.

When he returned to NSW he became private secretary to William Denison, the Governor.

In 1860 he married Augusta Maria Scott, the elder daughter of Dr James Mitchell who had extensive interests in Newcastle. Augusta's brother was David Scott Mitchell who was instrumental in establishing the Mitchell Library in Sydney.

In June 1861 Edward Merewether was offered the position of General Superintendant of the Australian Agricultural Company for seven years. As one of the conditions of his appointment Edward and Augusta had moved to Newcastle where they lived in a house called The Ridge now in the suburb of Merewether. It was the Burwood Estate which carried rich coal measures in which his father-in-law had invested. In 1869 Dr Mitchell died. Edward Merewether and

his son, David, became Trustees of the Estate and financially secure.

With a large family of 10 children he took them to the Blue Mountains in the summer, staying at Wilson's Blue Mountains Inn. (now known as Lawson). Sometime after 1875 on one of those trips to the mountains, he wrote to his agent and cousin, Robert Scott that he and two of his boys were 'going to a place styled Mt Wilson' (Merewether Holograph, 9th January 1880). He was thinking of buying a block of land and building 'a small cottage'. On his first trip he recorded that he walked most of the distance, over 10 miles from the Mt Wilson Platform (now Bell) as he felt the horse and buggy could not cope with the load. (Holograph of Merewether to Robert Scott 15th January 1876). When Merewether reached Mt Wilson he met Lewis Thompson, Du Faur's caretaker who told him that 'in winter the snow lies there nearly all day at times'. He examined four lots all about 10 acres 'but the one I mean to buy...belongs to one of Captain Brownrigg's sons. Captain Brownrigg was Superintendant of the Australian Agricultural Company before Merewether from 1852 to 1856. (The Settlement of Mt Wilson 1969). The price was 100 pounds. He was told it would cost 'from 15 pounds to 20 pounds to clear it of timber and undergrowth, leaving all the tree ferns'.

James Inglis arrived in NSW in 1877 from India with a commission to write on the Australian Colonies. He produced 'Our Australian Cousins' in which he writes in glowing terms of Mt Wilson. In 1880 he visited Merewether, describing the scene as he reached the 10 acre block which today is at the top of the ZigZag.

DENNARQUE'S STORY

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"On the brow of the hill we come to a clearing of some 10 acres belonging to my friend, on which has been erected a neat weatherboard cottage. All the tall timber has been cut down, but the tree ferns have been left. Can you imagine ten acres of magnificent tree ferns? Nothing else to be seen! They are as plentiful as cabbages in a garden bed. The sight was to me as rare as it was surpassingly beautiful."

A larger house was to be erected on what was called the 'Big Lot'. This was Portion 27 of 18 acres on the crest of another hill on Mt Wilson which had been purchased by Alexander Dean, a well known builder in Sydney who represented the ward of Bourke in the City Council for 21 years. A stone residence was to be constructed, the first in Mt Wilson. There was good building stone available from a quarry. The basalt layer on the north and north western side of Mt Wilson is much thinner but below it lies good sandstone.

James Inglis described this stone residence, Dennarque:

"a magnificent mansion of hewn stone with every convenience...costing over 5,000.00 pounds. Other nice houses, though chiefly of wood are being put up on various parts of the mountain...this beautiful retreat promises to become a favourite summer resort for the elite of Sydney."

According to Merewether, Dennarque was an Aboriginal name for a tree fern. After considerable research from Dr Jim Smith and Dr Peter Rickwood (see the newsletter No. 26 August 2012) Dr Smith states that Dennarque is not a word for a tree fern. This impressive stone house was designed by Ferdinand H. Reuss jnr. who carried out work for Merewether. James Nutman was the builder; his name is carved on a cupboard in a room in the eastern wing on the first floor of Dennarque.

By December 1879 the family had moved into their summer retreat. Dennarque's position high (3,506 feet) above the Avenue (at the top of Church Lane) allowed a magnificent view from the balcony on the



DENNARQUE'S STORY

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south side through pines and tree ferns to Mt Victoria in the distance. The impressive facade was seen by the visitor who passed below to reach the front door over which was the inscription, 'The Ornament of this House is the Guest who Doth Adorn It'. The driveway from the Avenue twisted its way through the tree ferns and eucalypts.

When studying the land title documents relating to Dennarque, which was on Portion 27 of Wyndham's survey, I found that Portion 26 below Portion 27 and portion 28 to the north also became part of Dennarque but in later years. The extensive driveway from the Avenue is on Portion 26. It was originally bought by Ernest Farish Stephen, the 8th son of Sir Alfred Stephen and the 3rd son of Sir Alfred's second wife Eleanor nee Bedford. It covered eight acres. In 1876 Ernest sold it to Mary June Paling, the wife of William Henry Paling, the founder of Palings Music Store. William Paling was much more than a merchant. He was a gifted musician born in the Netherlands in 1825 and sailed for Sydney in 1853. Here he taught music, founded a warehouse for music, composed a waltz to commemorate the Sydney to Parramatta Railway in 1855, set up an Academy of Music, founded the Sydney Choral Society and, in the decade of 1850s, became increasingly affluent with the sales of pianos and raising funds for philanthropic causes. His first wife Mary died and in 1878 the land in Mt Wilson was transferred to his second wife, Anne. In May 1890 Edward Merewether bought Portion 26 from her. The long driveway from the Avenue came well after Dennarque was built. Portion 28, consisting of 19 acres originally bought by William Hay of Mulwalla in 1875, was bought by Walter Lamb in 1879. In late 1880 Edward Merewether purchased it and it remained part of Dennarque until 1925.

Edward Merewether entertained frequently at Dennarque. Many important people of those times were introduced to Mt Wilson. In 1882 he reported that John Rae, a Scottish lawyer and later the Commissioner for Railways, and Mr William Hay had dined with him. Another guest was Dr Andrew Garran,

the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald (Merewether Holograph- C.H. Currey).

From Dennarque in the summer months, and Castlefield in Bondi in the winter months Merewether directed his interests in his Newcastle properties. In 1885 the new suburb of Merewether was proclaimed in Newcastle in recognition of his contribution, while in Mt Wilson he played a role in the establishment of the tiny public school in 1891.

On 30th October 1893 he died at Castlefield aged 73 years. His widow and sons inherited the property but did not retain it for long. In 1894 they sold Dennarque to Flora Mann (nee Farrell) whose family owned the well-known Petty's Hotel in Sydney. The property was, according to the land titlement document, for Flora's special use (see Portion 27 in Historical archives archives). James Elliot Mann, her husband, while mentioned in the title, spent years in London. Later Flora's family who inherited the property on her death in 1921 first leased it to the postmaster in Mt Wilson Mr Moran, to be used as guest house in 1920s. Later, about 1930, it was leased to Rose Edwards and her daughter Mary Edwards, a talented artist and it became known as Wildflower Hall; a guest house again where distinguished visitors stayed including the Governor of NSW at the time Sir Philip Game and Lady Game, and Sir Bertram Stephens the Premier of NSW in 1930s. Two stone plaques in the garden of Dennarque commemorate their stay there so many years ago. (In newsletter No.20 2009 'Wildflower Hall' is featured.)

Inevitably there have been a number of owners of Dennarque since the Mann Family. Dr Teece followed the Manns; then later Sir John Austin; when some subdivision was carried out; followed by

Ron and Sandra Milne; and the current owners are Lata Krishan and William Moss. All have brought different perspectives to the heritage of Dennarque.

- Mary B. Reynolds

MOUNT IRVINE PUBLIC HALL REPORT

Recent News



On Wednesday 5th September, the Mt Irvine and Mt Wilson communities gathered to honour and celebrate the life of Helen Naylor, a much loved and admired Mt Irvine community elder. Following a moving service at St Georges Church, family and community members met at the Mt Irvine Public Hall and shared memories and stories about Helen's life. Helen will be sadly missed and always remembered.

Over the past three years, the Mt Irvine Hall Trust (now renamed the Mt Irvine Public Hall Reserve Land Manager) has undertaken significant maintenance and upgrading of the hall to meet current standards. State Government grants have enabled us to undertake major works whilst respecting the hall's architectural merit and history.

On the 31 August, 2018, the Hon. Paul Toole MP, Minister for Lands and Forestry advised that a further grant application has been fully funded for \$27,060. This funding allows for wheelchair accessible

facilities and improved safety for elderly hall users. Minister Toole states in his letter that the funds will be used '.....towards the construction of wheelchair accessible facilities, the replacement of BBQ's and installation of external signage at the Mt Irvine Public Hall Reserve.' In addition, a handrail and safety wires will be installed on part of the outdoor covered area and the fencing and gates at the entry to the hall grounds will be replaced.

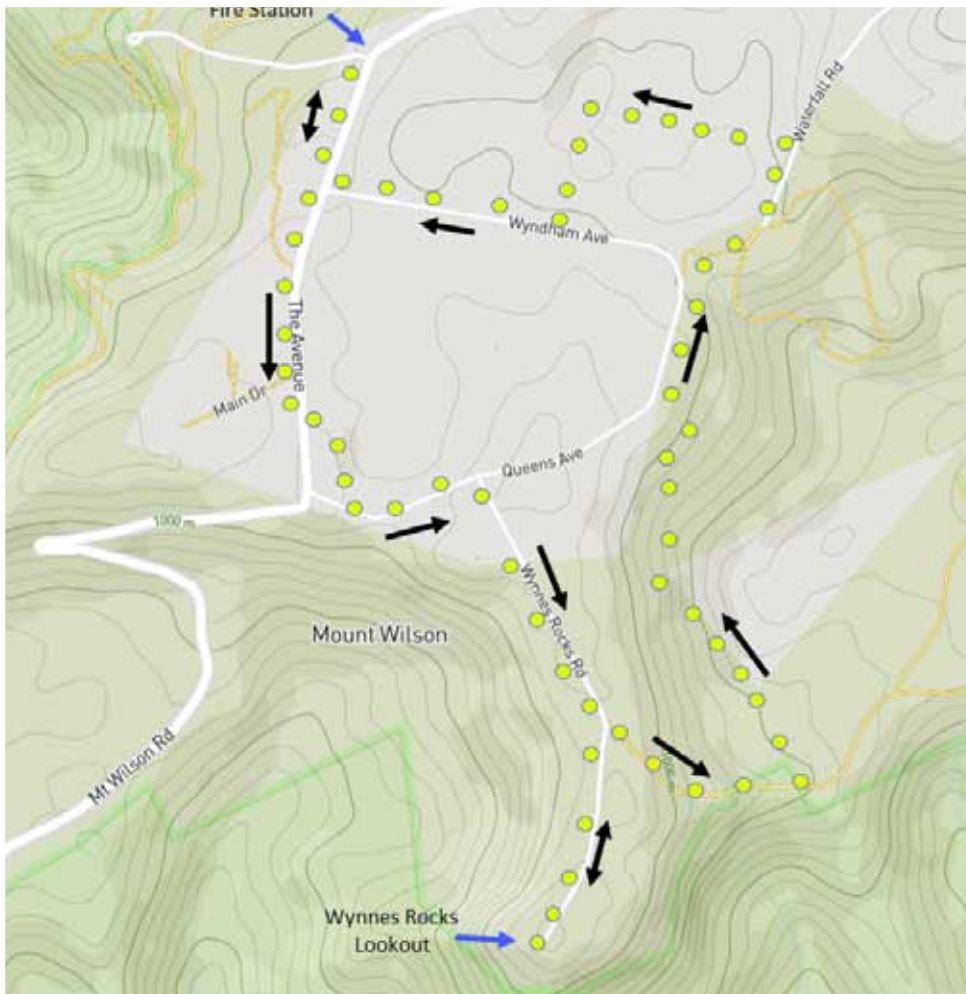
The members of the Reserve Land Manager are most appreciative of this funding so we can continue the work of providing our community with a first class community facility now and into the future.

- Carol Carrigan, Reserve Land Manager - Grants

The photos above were taken at the hall following Helen Naylor's remembrance service in Mt Wilson Church. The photo of the stone sculpture in the hall grounds is in recognition of Helen's connection to the families who settled Mt Irvine in the late 19th century.

THE WALKS OF MOUNT WILSON

Wynnes Rocks Lookout and Daintree Lane



Walk Signage Colour: Yellow

Length: 6.6km circuit

Elevation Change: 120 m

Time: 2 hours

Grade: Medium /Easy

Starting point: Corner of Du Fours Rocks Road and The Avenue, opposite the Rural Fire Station

Walking conditions:

- Road
- Well formed track.
- Portions of bush track

Highlights:

- Wynnes Rocks Lookout with spectacular views
- Little known lanes
- Lovely rainforest section

THE WALKS OF MOUNT WILSON



This walk starts and ends from the corner of the Avenue and Du Faur's Rocks Road opposite the Mt Wilson Rural Fire Station. There are yellow signs along most parts of this walk, but the directions need to be followed as there are some areas where the signs may not be in place. As part of this walk is along some of the roads in village be aware of traffic and avoid walking on the road wherever possible.

From the Fire Station head south down the Avenue and past the entrance to Breenhold. Just after Breenhold turn left into Silva Plana and walk across the Silva Plana field to Queens Avenue and turn left into Queens Avenue. Then turn right into Wynnes Rocks Road and walk to the end of Wynnes Rocks Road to Wynnes Rocks Lookout. Wynnes Rocks Road runs along the ridgeline and there are great views from the road.

Wynnes Rocks Lookout offers spectacular 270 degree views and is worth returning for the sunset. This is a great spot for morning tea or lunch.

Walk back along Wynnes Rocks Road and turn right onto Mill Road (also known as the Southern Fire Trail). There is a gate at the junction of the road and you can walk around the gate. Walk down the Southern Fire trail and after 400 metres there is a trail heading

to the left from the Southern Fire Trail. Turn left at this junction. This is known as Daintree Lane. If you reach the next gate along the Southern Fire trail then you have gone too far and need to backtrack a short distance to get to Daintree Lane.

Daintree Lane runs between the old mill and the bottom of properties that border on Wynnes Rocks Road. The old mill was located next to the dam at the bottom of the paddocks. Follow along the fence line and be careful that you don't fall into one of the many quite large wombat holes that you encounter along this track.

After the track runs uphill you get to a serene section of rainforest as the track heads to the right. This is quite a well formed track and is one of the highlights of this walk as there are some lovely treeferns in this area. Take time to soak up the beauty of this special place (and clear some sticks from the track to help in its maintenance).

As the track starts to narrow the path heads uphill to the left past some fallen logs. Be careful at this section to make sure that you follow the track to the left at this point. The track is more indistinct for a short period and is then again rather well formed. The track runs up the hill and intersects with a path that

THE WALKS OF MOUNT WILSON



runs just under Queens Avenue. Turn right at this path and follow this path down to Jefferson bridge that crosses Waterfall Creek between the bottom of Queens Avenue and Waterfall Road.

Turn right at Jefferson Bridge and follow the path up to the bottom of Waterfall Road and then start walking up Waterfall Road. After about 200 m from the bottom of Waterfall Road there is an open gate on the Left Hand side. Go through this open gate and the path then heads along the fence line with the Chimney Cottage blueberry orchard on the left. A spectacular woodpile is a feature on this path.

Pass through another gate (please make sure you close the gate as you pass through this gate) and then continue all the way down the path to the next fence line. Turn left at this fence and follow the path up to Wyndham Avenue.

Turn right at Wyndham Avenue and follow the road back to the Avenue. There is a Parma Wallaby Reserve on the left hand side as you walk up the hill towards the Avenue and if you look closely you can normally see some wallabies.

The Parma wallaby (*Macropus parma*) was first described by British naturalist John Gould in about



1840. A shy cryptic creature of the wet sclerophyll forests of northern New South Wales, it was never commonly encountered and, even before the end of the 19th century, it was believed to be extinct.

In 1965 workers on Kawau Island (near Auckland, New Zealand) discovered a miraculously surviving population of Parma wallabies—a species long thought extinct. Many wallabies were captured and sent to institutions in Australia and around the world (including Mt Wilson) in the hope that they would breed in captivity and could eventually be reintroduced to their native habitat.

These wallabies are being supported by the benefaction of Peter and Anne Piggott from Yengo and visits to their gardens help in the Parma Wallaby Program.

At the top of Wyndham Avenue turn right onto the Avenue and head back to the Fire Station

.- Robbie Feyder

THE PATCH

Boiled artichoke with vinaigrette dressing

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What we call a globe artichoke is actually an unopened bud of a thistle family member and, if left to mature, the bud will expand into a rich, purple, thistle-like flowerhead. The leaves and stems are a delightful silvery grey. The plants can reach up to more than a metre tall and, because of their striking good looks, are often grown as ornamentals.

Globe artichokes can be started from suckers taken from established plants or by growing them from seed. Green Globe is found in many seed packet ranges, and spring is the ideal time to sow the seeds. Start by preparing the garden bed with some organic compost and some Dynamic Lifter pellets. If soil is acidic, it can be helpful to mix in a small amount of Lime before planting.

Sow seeds direct where they are to grow, cover lightly with Seed Raising Mix, firm down and keep moist. Thin seedlings to 60cm apart once established.

Artichokes grow slowly and usually take more than a year to get to cropping stage. As they grow, thin out the shoots to leave only the three or four strongest. If you don't do this, you'll end up with a myriad of weak, small heads.

Pick the heads while they are firm but well before they open, the leaves should be well clustered and the heads heavy.

- Jess Delbridge

INGREDIENTS

- 4 artichokes (globe or french)
- 1 lemon
- 1 tsp dijon mustard
- 2 tbs olive oil
- 2 tbs white wine vinegar
- pinch of salt and of pepper

METHOD

Fill a large pot with water and bring to a boil. Quarter lemon and add to the pot of boiling water.

Cut the stems off the artichoke and cut the top inch off from the leaves (optional). You can also use scissors to cut the pointed tips off the leaves if you desire.

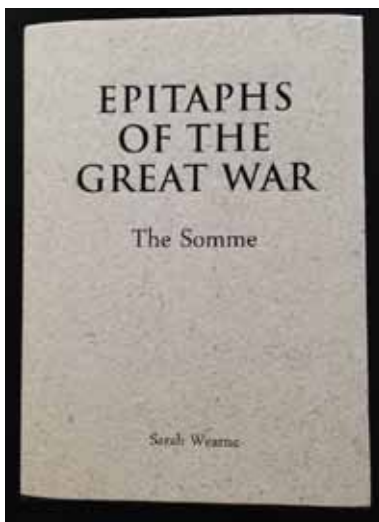
Boil the artichokes for 25-30 minutes or until you can easily pull away one of the lower leaves.

In the meantime place remaining ingredients in jar and shake well to combine into dressing. Place dressing in a ramekin.

To eat: pull the leaves off the artichoke, dip in dressing, and scrape the meat off the leaf with your teeth. Once you are out of leaves use a spoon to scrape out the "hair" of the artichoke and then eat the heart of the artichoke by dipping in the dressing.

EPITAPHS OF THE GREAT WAR

by Sarah Wearne



Epitaphs of the Great War by Sarah Wearne is the third book in her series examining epitaphs of those who died in WWI. This volume takes one epitaph for each of the last 100 days of fighting, from 8 August 1918 to 11 November 1918. As Wearne says 'there are in fact only 96 days in this period... nevertheless this is how the last campaign of the war is known.'

Each page of this sturdy little book begins with the epitaph, then the details of the combatant, including name, details of service, date of death and his burial place. The rest of the page is taken up with an explanation of the chosen epitaph, details of his last moments and his family background. The book also has some melancholy photos of various cemeteries.

The epitaphs were chosen by the nearest relatives and they were limited to 66 characters although it seems that there was some occasional variation. The headstones were (and are) the responsibility of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and people were encouraged to use religious texts or words from a prayer. Although the Commission had the right of refusal in fact they gave considerable scope for a variety of inscriptions. The ones chosen by Wearne focus on, as she says, insight... into the way people at the time thought.

Of course they reflect the understanding of the war and the social culture of the time; so one that says 'A white man and true friend sadly missed', referring to Sapper Vincent O'Sullivan, would be understood today in a very different way. This was chosen by a 'friend and partner' and we are told that he was a business partner. The use of 'white man' does not refer to his skin colour but implies that he was a 'good bloke'.

Some of the inscriptions suggest an unusual story as in 'Died to save an enemy' with reference to Private Samuel Brew, while others carry a weight of simple grief: 'He loved to do a kind action'. Others are more cryptic, Private Robert Illtyd French is remembered by the simple 'As yesterday'. In all cases Wearne digs into the origin, the meaning and the possible reasons for the choice.

The epitaphs were allowed to criticise war but could not condemn the fighters on either side. Some of them are in Latin, such as the last in the book from 11 November 1918 for Captain Duncan Ronald Gordon Mackay with 'Ad finem fidelis (faithful to the end) and some have a reference which echoes that past time such as the simple 'Kismet' for Second Lieutenant Archibald Hunter.

Many of the stories are full of profound sadness and many reflect amazing courage and determination, but they are all reminders of the death of so many young men; indeed a generation lost.

- Alison Halliday

ATN*

The column formerly known as “Ask the Neighbours”

MURDEROUS MOUNTS: ATN – A SPACE EPIC'

Life can be tough for us creative souls, Jess. Or (noting recent editorial changes), Jess and Alison. Although, I can't keep writing “Jess and Alison” or “Alison and Jess”. It ruins the rhythm. Mmm – you need a catchy and edgy collective descriptor. One which captures your essential combination of editorial talents. AlJess it is

Well, as I was saying AlJess, the events of the last few months have been extremely dramatic for us here at MM:ATN – A Space Epic. The ingratitude has been extraordinary. There we were piloting our little program through the perils and pitfalls of streaming entertainment when lo and behold our Salsa dancing Captain and Dear Leader of the Galactic Lyrebird jumped ship. Literally. Falling for the oldest trick in the drama book, he took his method acting lessons far too seriously and deserted us for another Show.

Well AlJess (I'm getting to like that), our Captain was poached (more soft boiled really) to be a contestant

on the newest Celebrity-with-attention-deficit-disorder show called “ Dancing in the Cosmos”. Yes, now they're space walking, dancing, jiving, waltzing off a communications satellite.

Well, I suppose the NBN, Telstra and co had to make some use of their satellites given that they don't seem to fulfil core functional requirements very often. But space dancing, really? And our Captain? You wouldn't believe how many times his dance double had to come in for those tricky Salsa moves or the number of physio visits the Show paid for when his back went out.

But not to worry AlJess. We'll do just fine without the little turncoat. Like all good producers I have an alternate plot line up my sleeve. With a little help from those scenes previously left on the cutting room floor and some CGI, the Captain - still on his spacewalk to save the Ship from that radiation emitting space leech - will fall dramatically to his death. Swallowed by the space leech in one gulp (followed by a polite burp).

A devastated crew will turn to the Science Officer who will rise nobly to the challenge, defeat the space leech with his new salt encrusted missile and lead the crew off on their next glorious mission. The fade out scene will find him sitting in the Captain's

ASK THE NEIGHBOURS

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Chair adjusting his glasses jauntily on the edge of his nose saying his brand new signature line "OK guys. I suppose we should engage warp drive or something.." (Still got to work on that)

What's that AlJess? You remember him. Introduced in Episode 3. Nerdy yet brilliant science geek. Has a thing for blueberry muffins (the actor, not the character). Well, yes. In the last column I did toy with the idea that he might have a dreadfully painful demise towards the end of the season if he didn't stop scoffing all the muffins. But, this IS showbiz.

- Elizabeth M

"Real SPACE Crime" Editor

** ATN Productions, still a Subsidiary of
Bread and Circuses (Cayman Islands)
Limited*