**A PROPOSAL FOR ENHANCING THE MT. WILSON REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY**

The proposal is for the November 11th Remembrance Day ceremony at the War Memorial to become a joint event co-sponsored by the *Mt Wilson Progress Association* and the Historical Society. To make the ceremony more specific to the community, two names will be taken each year from those listed on the Memorial and a short talk about the lives of those two, possibly by a family member, will be included as part of the ceremony. This year it was Vivian Clarence and John Kirk and Percy Pedder Scrivener.

In addition, the proposal includes the future development of a Book of Remembrance to contain information about the people whose names are on the Memorial. This might be a ‘work in progress’, and could be exhibited in the Village Hall, open at a different page from time to time.

*Arthur Delbridge*

---

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

*Sunday 28th November 2004 — Louisa Atkinson Day at Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens. Supported by ‘The Friends of the Gardens’

Walk in the morning $15; Picnic Lunch $10 supplied by Friends; Talk in the afternoon $5. Bookings: (02) 4567 301**
FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the president has been away on leave, there will be no contribution from him in this issue of the newsletter.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Our May 2004 report covered the disastrous house fires which destroyed ‘Applecote’ and ‘Ywynshe’, the wonderful ceremony when three historical documents were unveiled in November 2003; the excellent Jazz Concert in March 2004, which raised over $25,000, and the successful opening of the Turkish Bath Museum. The report ended with news of events as at 30 June, including the opening of a couple of exhibits on Saturdays as well as Sundays, raising over $1,000 in April and $700 in May. During the autumn there were two tours from Historical Societies – The Kuringai Historical Society and the Blue Mountains Historical Society, which raised $800. The use of the Village Hall for lunch was a great plus for the first tour and a useful money raiser. Other issues presented at the May meeting were concerns such as Exhibitions; Heritage Protection; The National Trust and ‘Ywynshe’; The Pioneer Register; the Mt Wilson Study Centre Vestibule; Our Permanent Signs; Remembrance Day, and research. Below is a summary of events since May.

Some of these will refer back to items already listed above.

The Special General Meeting held on 27th May 2004 was an important step for the Society as the guest speaker was Wayne Brennan, a consultant Archaeologist, who, with Paul Bacon (Australian Museum Principal Research Scientist in Anthropology), was co-ordinator of the 2003 expedition to Eagle’s Reach in the Wollemi National Park that led to discoveries of previously unknown outstanding examples of Aboriginal rock art. Some 50 people attended our meeting and were inspired by Wayne’s passion and enthusiasm for his topic: Aboriginal Rock Art of the Blue Mountains”, illustrated by wonderful slides. Significant for the Society, as well, was Wayne’s knowledge of time and the Mt Wilson, which surely will, in time, shed light on the occupation of this district by indigenous people. We hope to have a tour of some of these nearby sites in the near future. Present at the May meeting were Harry Lewis, Bob Readford (Secretary), Shaan Hooper, World Heritage Support Officer of the Aboriginal Co-Management Project for the National Parks and Wildlife Service, who displayed interesting artifacts, many made by him in the traditional way, and answered many queries.

The Pioneer Register: True to its promise, the Society wrote to the descendants of six families associated with this district before 1920, asking if they would agree to their members being listed in a Blue Mountains Pioneer Register. While there were some minor difficulties in the early stages, it is pleasing to announce that the work undertaken was successful and the Society now has a copy of the ‘Blue Mountains Pioneer Register – 1825 Volume 7’ produced by the Blue Mountains Family History Society, in which the following families are listed: Kirk, Gregson and Wynne (Mt Wilton), and Knight, Bewan, Morley and Scriver in Wilton. Copies can be obtained from the BMFHS, P.O. Box 97 Springwood 2777.

Grant Success: 2004 has been a year of considerable success for the Society in this area. It has applied for three separate grants and has been fortunate in having these acknowledged and granted-in part, in two Co-Management Projects for the Blue Mountains: $5000 to the National Trust and $2000 to the Friends of the Blue Mountains. While there were some minor difficulties with these projects, the following year-a reduction of $96.80. Our congratulations go to Mari Metzke, Outreach Officer for the Royal Australian Historical Society, whose tireless efforts on behalf of those covered by the RAHS Insurance Scheme, have always resulted in the best available policy outcomes.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LITHGOW MERCURY: The Society is particularly indebted to the Lithgow Mercury and its Editor, Len Ashworth, for the wonderful publicity given to the Jazz Concert. In addition to the paid advertisement, there were three articles published, one on the front page with a photo of a section of the audience taken by Len on the day. The accompanying article was overflowing with praise, and greatly appreciated by the Society. Naturally, the Mercury has been thanked both personally, and by letter, from the Secretary.


THE EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY TOOK PLACE ON SATURDAY 6th NOVEMBER about 3.30 pm in the Mt Wilson Village Hall. Foundation members Bruce and Sue Galley were presented with a framed gift by Ellis Reynolds, the Treasurer. [See page 4 for a Tribute to Bruce and Sue.]

Secretary’s Report continued on page 4

FROM THE TREASURER

NOTES ON THE JAZZ CONCERT

As for last year, the weather on the day was near perfect; this despite the preceding days which were wet and unpleasant. The following day, rain fell, and the day after was as cold as charity.

Raffle: Bill Boldiston drew the raffle, publicly, on the day. This year three prizes were awarded. Brian Taylor won the First Prize, which was for two days and nights free accommodation at ‘Blueberry Lodge’, Winston Readford and Elizabeth Planner won the Second Prize, or $900, for some remarkable,us.

COMPARISON OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

FOR THE JAZZ CONCERTS HELD IN THE TURKISH BATH PRECINCT ON SATURDAYS: 5TH APRIL 2003 & 20TH MARCH 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Profit/Loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th April</td>
<td>$345.10</td>
<td>$271.30</td>
<td>$73.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th March</td>
<td>$297.10</td>
<td>$218.30</td>
<td>$78.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year three prizes were awarded. Brian Taylor won the First Prize, which was for two days and nights free accommodation at ‘Blueberry Lodge’, Winston Readford and Elizabeth Planner won the Second Prize, or $900, for some remarkable discoveries of previously unknown outstanding examples of Aboriginal spotted.

Comparisons of expenditure and income

FOR THE JAZZ CONCERTS HELD IN THE TURKISH BATH PRECINCT ON SATURDAYS: 5TH APRIL 2003 & 20TH MARCH 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Profit/Loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th April</td>
<td>$345.10</td>
<td>$271.30</td>
<td>$73.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th March</td>
<td>$297.10</td>
<td>$218.30</td>
<td>$78.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year three prizes were awarded. Brian Taylor won the First Prize, which was for two days and nights free accommodation at ‘Blueberry Lodge’, Winston Readford and Elizabeth Planner won the Second Prize, or $900, for some remarkable discoveries of previously unknown outstanding examples of Aboriginal spotted.

Comparisons of expenditure and income

FINAL ACCOUNT FOR THE JAZZ CONCERTS HELD IN THE TURKISH BATH PRECINCT ON SATURDAYS: 5TH APRIL 2003 & 20TH MARCH 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Profit/Loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th April</td>
<td>$345.10</td>
<td>$271.30</td>
<td>$73.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th March</td>
<td>$297.10</td>
<td>$218.30</td>
<td>$78.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year three prizes were awarded. Brian Taylor won the First Prize, which was for two days and nights free accommodation at ‘Blueberry Lodge’, Winston Readford and Elizabeth Planner won the Second Prize, or $900, for some remarkable discoveries of previously unknown outstanding examples of Aboriginal spotted.

Comparisons of expenditure and income

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FROM 01/07/2003 TO 30/06/2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Profit/Loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th April</td>
<td>$345.10</td>
<td>$271.30</td>
<td>$73.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th March</td>
<td>$297.10</td>
<td>$218.30</td>
<td>$78.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year three prizes were awarded. Brian Taylor won the First Prize, which was for two days and nights free accommodation at ‘Blueberry Lodge’, Winston Readford and Elizabeth Planner won the Second Prize, or $900, for some remarkable discoveries of previously unknown outstanding examples of Aboriginal spotted.

Comparisons of expenditure and income

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT FOR PERIOD FROM 01/07/2003 TO 30/06/2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Profit/Loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th April</td>
<td>$345.10</td>
<td>$271.30</td>
<td>$73.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th March</td>
<td>$297.10</td>
<td>$218.30</td>
<td>$78.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year three prizes were awarded. Brian Taylor won the First Prize, which was for two days and nights free accommodation at ‘Blueberry Lodge’, Winston Readford and Elizabeth Planner won the Second Prize, or $900, for some remarkable discoveries of previously unknown outstanding examples of Aboriginal spotted.

Comparisons of expenditure and income

TERM DEPOSIT HELD WITH CBA BLACKBETH

This account was renewed on 15/06/2004 with an investment of $10,358.86 at compound interest of 5.300%, having accrued the sum of $451.67 in interest for the full financial year. It matures on 15th November 2004.

SOME GOOD NEWS

At a time when public liability insurance premiums have gone through the roof, we have been advised that the cost of coverage for the ensuing year, on a policy of $10 million, will be $533.50, compared with $630.39 last year—a reduction of $96.80. Our congratulations go to Mari Metzke, Outreach Officer for the Royal Australian Historical Society, whose tireless efforts on behalf of those covered by the RAHS Insurance Scheme, have always resulted in the best available policy outcomes.

Comparisons of expenditure and income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Profit/Loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th April</td>
<td>$345.10</td>
<td>$271.30</td>
<td>$73.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th March</td>
<td>$297.10</td>
<td>$218.30</td>
<td>$78.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year three prizes were awarded. Brian Taylor won the First Prize, which was for two days and nights free accommodation at ‘Blueberry Lodge’, Winston Readford and Elizabeth Planner won the Second Prize, or $900, for some remarkable discoveries of previously unknown outstanding examples of Aboriginal spotted.

Comparisons of expenditure and income

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LITHGOW MERCURY: The Society is particularly indebted to the Lithgow Mercury and its Editor, Len Ashworth, for the wonderful publicity given to the Jazz Concert. In addition to the paid advertisement, there were three articles published, one on the front page with a photo of a section of the audience taken by Len on the day. The accompanying article was overflowing with praise, and greatly appreciated by the Society. Naturally, the Mercury has been thanked both personally, and by letter, from the Secretary.

Comparisons of expenditure and income

All accounts have been closed.
MEMORIES OF MY LIFE AT MT. IRVINE BY BETTY CLARKE

lived on Mt. Irvine for sixty-eight years. In May 1919, we came to Mt. Irvine from Alison, seven miles beyond Dungog, NSW.

My parents had sold their dairy farm. Father was a chartered accountant and had worked with the Orient Shipping Company. Mother was a triple certificated army nurse. Rather than return to Sydney with three small children, when pneumococcal influenza was raging, they decided to accept Mr. C. P. Scrivener’s offer to sell them a forty-two-acre block of rugged, virgin land. A friend, Mr. Robins, drove us here by car. We arrived in pouring rain and were met by Mr. Scrivener in his typical wet weather gear: a shark bag around him as a skirt, another as a peaked hat and cape (Mr. Scrivener and father had been friends since they were together at Sydney High School).

We had been offered the use of a small, two-storied cottage, but this was not ready, as it had yet to be moved half a mile to the owner’s property. We stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Scrivener and their six children for six weeks. Then we moved to the two-storied cottage and my father worked to clear an acre of his land to build our home. The only tools used in clearing land were the mattock, axe, hand jack and jellygum. When the framework, roof and weatherboards of our house were completed, we were asked to vacate the small cottage, as Mr. Scrivener wanted it so that he could empoy someone to work on his farm. Again, we had to move, but this time into a ‘shack’. By using a ladder or a ‘slide’, Father moved our few possessions—a bath and double-even fuel stove—and after setting these in place, we had ample hot water always. In the evenings and in the wet weather my father sailed down the floor and put up the partitions of chaff sacks pasted over with newspaper, so that our living and sleeping quarters were separated. Later they were calcimined.

By day, he cleared the land and planted vegetables and fruit trees. We had brought two cows and two draught horses from Alison. These came by train to Bell and were then let loose. Then they had to be found and driven to Mt. Irvine, a distance of about 16-20 miles. My sister and I soon all three of us would ride one of the draught horses. Before the copper and tubs were set, all laundry was done outside, involving boiling the clothes in water in a kerosene tin and rinsing them in a tub on a stump.

Once our house could be called livable, father went to work at whatever was offering—on the road, at the sawmill, or whatever work in which he was best trained. The local mill was just above our place and we would play with the employees’ children. We were advised to raise pigs: that was a failure. Then we turned to poultry, under cover which was more successful, but the cost of feed for the distance swallowed up our profits.

At first our meat was home-killed, and shared with our neighbors. It was hung under the house in mosquito nets; some was canned. Groceries came in bulk twice-yearly from Monan & Coty in Sydney. With the order nearest to Christmas, the firm always included a box of taffy for the children. Flour came in 150-pound sacks; sugar in 70-pound bags. The Sydney Morning Herald came by the ‘paper train’ and library books once a month. Not until we could buy our own car did we go to the movies. Then it was occasionally to Kuringi, Richmond or Blackheath.

We had very few visitors in the early days. An Aunt might come for a holiday, but it took nearly a day to travel from Sydney. After the evening meal we would usually read, knit or play games, such as Rumny, Table Croquet, and Snakes and Ladders. At the weekend, Father often took us for bushwalks, looking for wildflowers, while Mother cooked the Sunday dinner. Sometimes we would all go in the picnic car to an open area in the bush, to play cricket after lunch.

While we were still at primary school, my father and a friend, teacher, built a tennis court on our only area of flat land. This was fenced on by some of the locals who said we would play tennis and not attend their Church on Sundays. Christmas and Easter celebrations were always elaborate, even if there was only a plain cake for the latter. We always hung up our stockings at Christmas and had our small tree on the dining table, often only a single rose. The evens were always decorated with ferns and tinsel. There was the traditional baked dinner—home grown—palm pudding with treacupes, sweets and nuts in it.

Community Activities: A Progress Association was formed, meeting...
Secretary’s Report continued from page 2

The President and the Management Committee invited members and their friends to celebrate the close of another successful year with refreshments, wine and nibbles in the garden at Robin and John Leonard’s home, Sylvan Close, 103 The Avenue, Mt Wilson.

Remembrance Day 11th November 2006: Cooperation with the Mt Wilson Progress Association continues with this project. At the morning tea in the Mt Wilson Village Hall, following the Remembrance Day ceremony at 11.00 am, Professor Arthur Delbridge spoke about two wonderful friends and have been devoted workers and supporters of Bruce and Susanna Gailey:

The names selected were: Vivian Clarence & Lancelot Kirk, and Percv Pedder Scrivener.

Members: Two of our members have recently had serious illnesses. We send David Howell and Avri Bills of Mt Wilson our very good wishes for a return to good health in the very near future.

Bruce and Susanna Gailey: The imminent departure from Mt Irvine of Bruce and Sue Gailey will be devastating for us all. They are truly wonderful friends and have been devoted workers and supporters of our Society since its foundation, and even long before that. There has never been a time when they have not been there to help when needed. When ‘Bingsay’ was open between 1995 and 1999; Bruce and Sue were there, arméd with the right equipment, and no matter how enormous the task, would stay until all was sorted. The roster for the Turkish Bath is another part of their valuable contribution. Many a time they have come in from Mt Irvine to fill a gap, quite apart from those times when they were listed for duty. Sue has been a constant supplier of food for every function we have held. Everyone loves those delicious lemon cheese tarts she produces, not to mention the supply of jams and craft. Bruce’s contribution has been enormous on the technical side. His erection of the lighting in the Mt Irvine Community Hall for the Scrivener Exhibition in 2004 will never be forgotten by those involved. Then, there was the Craft Exhibition in the Turkish Bath Museum when Sue was a major contributor, with her magnificent skill with wool, and her gentle art, and Bruce was there, too, always ready to fix, or deal with, any problem.

Beyond all those examples of their generosity of time, knowledge, experience and energy are their deep concern and kindness for their fellow human beings, their compassion, tolerance and their belief in the protection of the environment, their love of the natural bushland and their total gentleness of spirit and dedication to the struggle to make this world a better place for ordinary people.

We know that more recently, health difficulties have plagued them and we will miss them very much. But we understand their reasons for leaving, but there will be an awful gap for those left behind. Our hearts and friendship go with them.

Mary Reynolds

‘Applecot’ story continued from page 12

Nellie was deeply concerned about recognition of the sacrifice made in the First World War by the local community. Before ‘Wingsay’ was built, she was one of three Trustees in charge of having the War Memorial built, in 1919, and carried the burden of the secretarial work involved ably assisted by Charles Robert Scrivener from Mt Irvine.

When Mariamne Wynne of ‘Wingsay’ initiated the committee to establish a Village Hall in the mid 1930s, Nellie again was a very active person in assisting that project. As we now know, it was not until after WWII that the Village Hall materialized, but it was the bequest of £500 in Nellie’s will, following her death in 1949, that changed the pace of achievement for the Hall and the balance of the money was found to build it in 1951.

The present generation of Gregsors, although no longer members of this community, is still following in the traditions established by Edward and Nellie and their father. They are wonderful contributors to this Society, having lent many photos for copying, and provided much in the way of documentation of their life on this mountain. Helen Warliker and Meg Fromel continue their devotion to the conservation of our native vegetation by participating, where they live on the Central Coast, in organizations with those objectives, and working for National Parks. Meg, a fine artist, has a wonderful record of this mountain.

Sufficient to say that the above stories could not have been related without the complete cooperation of the present generation of the Gregson family.

We express our deep appreciation for their total support.
Peppermint gums...
Two babies were born at our house. Our nearest doctor was at mother Victoria for over thirty years. He would travel regularly by train to Bell. burning was carried out. This lapsed for a while for various reasons but from Religion housework or helping at the Mt Wilson Tea Rooms. About the late our education, staying with friends or relatives. I had to leave when just 'Paper Train', which departed from Central Station at 'Entrance to High School' exam. Later, we went to Sydney to continue parcels from the railway station and any passengers traveling by the

Transport: At first, as we had no transport, we walked everywhere. We rode on a bottle-topped wagon, to and from school, and the roads were so bad, often taking hours, as the roads were so bad. I remember well its construction in the early 1930s. While the local

Electricity came to Mt Irvine in 1962. Sewerage never came. nor did the plumbing was minimal and a kerosene tin collected the water from the

There was no school here when we arrived. In

At first, as we had no transport, we walked everywhere. We rode on a bottle-topped wagon, to and from school, and the roads were so bad, often taking hours, as the roads were so bad. I remember well its construction in the early 1930s. While the local

Electricity came to Mt Irvine in 1962. Sewerage never came. nor did The worst fire I remember well its construction in the early 1930s. While the local

There was no school here when we arrived. In 1929, our father retired, in 1945, and lived there for ten years until his death in 1955. His father gave us a good sense of values, that they could be recorded and retained in our archives, and presented in a future newsletter. From an interview with Helen and Meg at Kilcare.

WHAT OF 'BYWANDAH'? ‘Bywanda’ was commenced in mid 1922 and was close to completion by December 1922. Helen Gregson was born on 25th January 1919, and our memories of those times so that they could be recorded and retained in our archives, and presented in a future newsletter. From an interview with Helen and Meg at Kilcare.

The kitchen—hows one of picture blocks 60 and a piece of Princess Elizabeth. The box was infield with local timber, and the pictures were of the Royal Easter Show.

At the end of sixth class we traveled to Blackheath to sit for the ‘Entrance to High School’ exam. Later, we went to Sydney to continue parcels from the railway station and any passengers traveling by the

essoil became a part of the

I.K. Halsey, in her book Mount Wilson and Damian Keanes. Itself, there is a little repetition in the above account as we try to clarify issues in the story, especially for those who are unfamiliar with this period of William Gregson’s history. It would be quite marvelous if any of our members when back-burning got out of

Incidentally, one of the later tenants asked if it was haunted, as

According to Helen, who built ‘Windridge’, had a large bush garden devoted to native plants, an indication that she was well ahead of her time in the 1930s. That interest has been passed on, as a deep love for the

My father was a very young lad. The new doctor had taught in England and had a practice in Lithgow. He was happy with his wife for some time. Then she came to board with us. Six to eight subjects were taught, including woodwork for the boys and sewing for the girls. I recall when our brother

We walked three-quarters of a mile to school in all weathers. Our first teacher was a very young lady. The new doctor had taught in England and had a practice in Lithgow. He was happy with his wife for some time. Then she came to board with us. Six to eight subjects were taught, including woodwork for the boys and sewing for the girls. I recall when our brother

That idea had been received favourably and a grant of £22,000 had

The worst fire I remember well its construction in the early 1930s. While the local

There was no school here when we arrived. In

At first, as we had no transport, we walked everywhere. We rode on a bottle-topped wagon, to and from school, and the roads were so bad, often taking hours, as the roads were so bad. I remember well its construction in the early 1930s. While the local

Electricity came to Mt Irvine in 1962. Sewerage never came. nor did ofkerosine pervaded the whole house in those days before electricity. We used the local depot—the house at the Alkira, the house at the

The smell of kerosine pervaded the whole house in those days before electricity. We used the local depot—the house at the Alkira, the house at the

The smell of kerosine pervaded the whole house in those days before electricity. We used the local depot—the house at the Alkira, the house at the

The Kitchen—hows one of picture blocks 60 and a piece of Princess Elizabeth. The box was infield with local timber, and the pictures were of the Royal Easter Show.

At the end of sixth class we traveled to Blackheath to sit for the ‘Entrance to High School’ exam. Later, we went to Sydney to continue parcels from the railway station and any passengers traveling by the

essoil became a part of the

I.K. Halsey, in her book Mount Wilson and Damian Keanes. Itself, there is a little repetition in the above account as we try to clarify issues in the story, especially for those who are unfamiliar with this period of William Gregson’s history. It would be quite marvelous if any of our members when back-burning got out of

Incidentally, one of the later tenants asked if it was haunted, as

According to Helen, who built ‘Windridge’, had a large bush garden devoted to native plants, an indication that she was well ahead of her time in the 1930s. That interest has been passed on, as a deep love for the

My father was a very young lad. The new doctor had taught in England and had a practice in Lithgow. He was happy with his wife for some time. Then she came to board with us. Six to eight subjects were taught, including woodwork for the boys and sewing for the girls. I recall when our brother

That idea had been received favourably and a grant of £22,000 had

The worst fire I remember well its construction in the early 1930s. While the local

There was no school here when we arrived. In

At first, as we had no transport, we walked everywhere. We rode on a bottle-topped wagon, to and from school, and the roads were so bad, often taking hours, as the roads were so bad. I remember well its construction in the early 1930s. While the local

Electricity came to Mt Irvine in 1962. Sewerage never came. nor did

The worst fire I remember well its construction in the early 1930s. While the local

There was no school here when we arrived. In

At first, as we had no transport, we walked everywhere. We rode on a bottle-topped wagon, to and from school, and the roads were so bad, often taking hours, as the roads were so bad. I remember well its construction in the early 1930s. While the local

Electricity came to Mt Irvine in 1962. Sewerage never came. nor did

The worst fire I remember well its construction in the early 1930s. While the local

There was no school here when we arrived. In

At first, as we had no transport, we walked everywhere. We rode on a bottle-topped wagon, to and from school, and the roads were so bad, often taking hours, as the roads were so bad. I remember well its construction in the early 1930s. While the local

Electricity came to Mt Irvine in 1962. Sewerage never came. nor did

The worst fire I remember well its construction in the early 1930s. While the local

There was no school here when we arrived. In

At first, as we had no transport, we walked everywhere. We rode on a bottle-topped wagon, to and from school, and the roads were so bad, often taking hours, as the roads were so bad. I remember well its construction in the early 1930s. While the local

Electricity came to Mt Irvine in 1962. Sewerage never came. nor did

The worst fire I remember well its construction in the early 1930s. While the local

There was no school here when we arrived. In

At first, as we had no transport, we walked everywhere. We rode on a bottle-topped wagon, to and from school, and the roads were so bad, often taking hours, as the roads were so bad. I remember well its construction in the early 1930s. While the local

Electricity came to Mt Irvine in 1962. Sewerage never came. nor did
Betty Clarke’s Story, continued from page 6
down trees and branches in both the bush and gardens. It delayed the
week-ends return to the city.
I remember attending a meeting at Mt Wilson to form a branch of the
A.F.A. (All For Australia) in ‘Ol’ Hightways’, where Mr P. Scrivener, who
was the Shire Clerk for the Blue Mountains, at Lawson, for a number of
years.

To earn pocket money, my sister and I used to milk a neighbour’s two
or three cows, feed the chooks and fill the wood boxes morning
and evening seven days a week, in all weathers, for two or three shippings per
week between us. From after school until 5.00pm, and all day Saturday,
we would pick or pack apples during the season for one penny a case,
walking half a mile each way to work. When we finished school, we
undertook any work available and were generally quite happy with
conditions, for it was the time of the Great Depression. We were never
asked to join a union and I don’t remember any problems or disputes.
I still keep in touch with the folk for whom I worked.

The Depression was grim—poverty and hard work is how my brother
described it—yet life had a brighter side. We formed a ‘Younger Set’
on Mt Irvine, meeting at different homes for social evenings and playing
games such as ‘Up Genkins’. Then, by arranging a number of working
bees, and with the loan of a horse and scoop, we built a tennis court. To
help raise the money to buy the netting, we baked little cakes and sold
them for one penny each to the men working on the Bowen Creek Road.

From 1916 to 1940 my sister and I ran a small guesthouse and made
many life-long friends. This was ‘Tahua’, which was leased from Miss
Dora Scrivener. Our Aunt helped us out for the first year. Among the
guests were: a cousin of the Duchess of York, a Mr Bertram Stephens,
and his daughter (although they stayed also at
’trees’). Blue
Mountains, from the Earl of Cavan saying that the Duchess of York
accepted for Princess Elizabeth, a gift of picture blocks made by Mr
Clarke, of Australian woods grown on the mountains. When the royal
party visited Jenolan Caves the school children of Mt Irwin [sic] were
waiting on the route but owing to the altered arrangements the Royal
party did not travel that road. Mr R. Clarke wrote to the Earl of Cavan
telling him of the children’s disappointment, and a letter was received
saying that the Duke and Duchess regretted having missed seeing them,
and asking that a holiday be granted them. Later Mr Clarke made the
picture blocks of Australian woods and pictures from the ‘Sydney Mail’
of the Royal Tour. They were enclosed in a box bearing on its lid a
seven-pointed star and the little princess’s initials. The Earl of Cavan
has written saying how pleased the Duchess was with the gift.

I cannot remember any local person standing, but Mr P P Scrivener,
sometimes at the Sawmill, in the days
saying that the Duke and Duchess regretted having missed seeing them.
Later Mr Clarke made the
teacher of Australian woods and pictures from the ‘Sydney Mail’
of the Royal Tour. They were enclosed in a box bearing on its lid a
seven-pointed star and the little princess’s initials. The Earl of Cavan
has written saying how pleased the Duchess was with the gift.

Front of ‘Wynnside’ completed 1924

Roar of ‘Wynnside’, 1927

Gwen Silvey Obituary

On 3rd June 2004, Gwen Silvey, one of our Foundation members,
passed away in Springwood after a long struggle with cancer. In 2001
Gwen received the Order of Australia for her outstanding services to
history and the protection of heritage in the Blue Mountains. This
award recognized Gwen’s extensive work as the research officer for the
Blue Mountains Historical Society; her involvement with the
preservation of ‘Lilacville’ at Echo Point and the saving and
restoration of the ‘Woodford Academy’ at Woodford. In 1998 the
National Trust awarded Gwen its Commendation Medal for her
achievements at ‘Woodford Academy’. Gwen also planned the
building of the Hobby’s Reach History Research Centre in Blaxland
Road Wentworth Falls. She was Local History Adviser to the NSW
Heritage Officer and the National Trust of Australia (NSW) and liaison
officer with the Royal Australian Historical Society. In 1994 she set
up the Heritage Advisory Committee for the Blue Mountains City
Council. In between, she produced a fine publication, Happy Days,
Blue Mountains Guest Houses Remembered, a wonderful source of
information.

In 1998, Gwen was our Guest Speaker at our Second Annual General
Meeting when she spoke about those very Guest Houses. She was
always happy to help us in our early days of functioning as a Society
and was very helpful with material worn, in 1993, we put up a display
in the Village Hall for the 125th Anniversary of the Surveying of Mt
Wilson. For Ellis and me, Gwen was a dear friend, with warmth,
understanding and wise advice on many topics, and an inspiration
for those seeking to save our heritage. We extend to her sister Shirley
and family, and to Roig Bougreville, her devoted partner, our warmest
sympathy and understanding.

Jan Kennedy Obituary

Jan passed away on 1st July 2004. Jan built and lived in ‘Rolands’,
Wynns Rocks Road, during the 1990s, and in that time was a very
loyal supporter of our Society. Quiet, gentle and self-effacing, Jan
remained devoted to the Society’s aims.

She and her family of four children had a long association with Mt
Wilson, going back to the 1970s when they frequently stayed at
‘Appleco’. It was in that era that Ellis and I first met her. At that time
she was deeply shocked by the sudden loss of her husband, George,
from a heart attack, and had found her life almost shattered. It took
many years for her to come to terms with that loss. However, she
did succeed, eventually, and had some happy years at Mt Wilson.
To all her family, we extend our warmest sympathy and gratitude that
we were her friends.

Mary Reynolds
POEM
By Meg Frontel, 1990

Old houses breathe of people’s lives once lived
Softened by gardens, flowers and trees
That whispers secrets to rustling leaves

Built of fibre, wood and iron
They sit on rugged blocks of stone
And watch o’er mountain tops and seas

Like birds when resting in tall trees

Before a fire of cozy warmth
When mountain mists and frosty days
Give people time to think upon
Life’s rocky path of changing ways

Summer nights of scented air
Stir one to thoughts and times elsewhere
We cannot help but to remember
When families gathered in December

SPRING GARDEN OPENINGS AT ‘WYNSTAY’

For the first time in five years, the gardens at ‘Wynstay’ were opened to the public on the last two weekends in September this year. Thanks to absolutely wonderful weather and a successful publicity campaign, several hundred people came to enjoy the peaceful grandeur of these majestic gardens and historic buildings, which were established more than 120 years ago.

Visitors were enchanted by the meandering pathways, stone walls and buildings, towering trees and many unusual ornamental shrubs and perennials, which added colour and perfume along the way. Many people told us that they had visited ‘Wynstay’ many years ago and were delighted to have the opportunity of a return visit, and to find the gardens just as appealing as in their original form.

The Turkish Bath Museum was a very popular attraction, with an excellent new exhibition of early days in Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine, including many scenes of ‘Wynstay’ and its residents from years ago. Lunches and teas were available at the Mt Wilson Village Hall, as well as local art for sale, hand-made jewellery, jams, daffodils, and a raffle, all of which added to the festive atmosphere and overall success of the event.

The four days proved to be a great financial success as well, with gross takings in excess of $10,000. Sunday September 19 was designated ‘Golden Retriever Day’ with proceeds from entry to the garden going to ‘Golden Retriever Rescue’, a non-profit organisation set up to save dogs that are abandoned, neglected or abused. The remaining profit goes to support the work of the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society.

The Society is very grateful indeed to Wendy Smart and Anne Hughan for making the ‘Wynstay’ property available. Many members and friends gave their time, energy and skills to planning and preparation and to ensuring that the Open Days ran smoothly. Dozens of people were involved, and the Society thanks them all, with special mention of just a few who gave particular contributions: Helen and John Cardy for organizing the excellent food service at the Village Hall; Lawrence Cryer for preparation of the grounds; Zeny Edwards and a working party from the National Trust; Wendy Smart and Shane Jeffery for production of the grounds and gardens at ‘Wynstay’.

Florence Smart