Visit Wynstay gardens and Wynne Prize Centenary Exhibition to be held in the Turkish Bath. Gardens and bath house open 10am – 4pm every weekend from Sept 27th – Nov 5th. Entry $5. Devonshire Teas $5. All funds go towards ongoing restoration of the Bath House as a museum of local community heritage and history.

This 1st ed. of the Mt Wilson Historical Society newsletter is complimentary to all members, local residents and those visitors who have specifically requested a copy. However, following editions will only be sent to members of the Society. We invite you to fill out the enclosed membership form and warmly welcome your support no matter how near or far you may be from the mountain.

A Tour of the Turkish Bath

This first newsletter for the Mt Wilson Historical Society offers greetings to all readers, including those already acquainted with the Society’s affiliation with the Turkish Bath on the Wynstay estate and to our many new friends hearing from us for the first time.

The Turkish Bath [c.1892], a delightful architectural gem, set on the curve of the carriageway as one approaches the Wynstay homestead from the stables, continues to be a source of pleasure to the eye and conjecture as to the purpose for which it was built. Once considered to be a folly, contrasting obviously with its ‘English garden’ setting, it is now believed that the bath house had a significant raison d’être. Richard Wynne’s son, Henry, suffered from Bright’s disease and at that time the effects of a Turkish Bath were considered to be beneficial for that malady and it was therefore built as a set of treatment rooms.

Wynstay itself is a 19th century garden classified by the National Trust. Its special interest lies in its heritage buildings and rare old trees, some of which were planted by Richard now over 100 years ago.

It was in 1994 that the late Jane Reynolds and her husband Bill, and many local residents, preliminary plans were formulated to achieve this goal. With strong support from Jane and local residents, preliminary plans were formulated to achieve this goal. [continued on page 2]

Hot Air from the Turkish Bath

This permanent segment of the newsletter is to outline the actual physical work involved in restoration of the Turkish Bath. We also aim to keep you up to date on the particular changes that are occurring around the time the newsletter is released. [continued on page 4]

Autumn as it Oughta

The ‘old time’ jazz concert held on Easter Saturday for which The Bloweys performed, led by Bill Boldiston, proved to be a great success. With the band set up on the verandah of Wynstay,.... [continued on page 6]
A Tour of the Turkish Bath [cont. from pg 1]

However, being such an enormous undertaking, unexpected difficulties arose over the years and although most of these were overcome, progress was slow. In 1997 a new beginning emerged with the formation of the Mount Wilson Historical Society Inc. This non-profit organisation, open to all those interested in the preservation of our past history, has taken on the responsibility of restoring the Turkish Bath as a museum of local history.

A meeting held on the 15th March 1997 inviting membership and for the purpose of discussion on future plans was well attended. The highlight of this meeting, the significance of which was only fully appreciated in retrospect, was a presentation to the Society by Bill Smart. It entailed a camphor wood box, previously a gift from Jane, containing a second box holding a silver plaque on which was inscribed in fine lettering:

"This represents the annual rent to be paid for the use of the Wynstay Turkish Bath House. Presented to the Mount Wilson Historical Society by the Wynne family, Richard Wynne, Henry Wynne, Richard Owen Wynne, Jane Smart. 18th January 1997."

Above this inscription, etched in delicate outline, is an illustration of the Turkish Bath, and below this, embedded in circular indents in the plaque, two shining one dollar coins representing the full annual payment to be presented each year for 50 years for rent. Bordering the plaque, another inscription states:


This plaque has been beautifully crafted and boxed by Helen Teulon, a professional jeweller and daughter of long-standing members of the Mount Wilson community, John and Judy Teulon.

Accompanying the plaque is a leather bound book of receipts, elegantly crafted by Bennett’s Printing of Katoomba, bearing Richard Wynne’s crest of a heraldic wolf’s head and the motto “non sibi sed toti” ['not for self but for all'] [see illustration on the opposite page].

Bill has chosen to include in the design of the plaque and receipt book symbolic representations of the legacy which Jane inherited, both as a memorial to the Wynne family and a gesture to ensure the Turkish Bath’s use as a historic centre for the community. His deep appreciation of the history of this old property now in his care was most obvious in his presentation of this unique and generous gift to the Society’s Chairman Raoul Wilson. In his own words, the box was being given “on behalf of Richard Wynne, Henry Wynne, Richard Owen Wynne, Jane Smart”.

So on that pleasant March morning with the life of the village going on around us - the bushwalkers assembling for their trek to the Wollangambe; along The Avenue guests arriving at Sefton Hall for the wedding of Danika Mayne, the third generation of a family associated with the mountain - the Mount Wilson Historical Society was recognised as an entity in its own right. Sadly, Jane did not live to see this day, and her mortal remains rest in the little village churchyard. However, it is Bill’s wish that their shared vision of many years should reach its fulfilment, and to that end his total commitment is assured.

"I will lift mine eyes unto the hills" says the psalmist. Let us who live in and share our many visitors these misted blue mountains, treasure our heritage and honour those men and women of vision who have gone before us.

"NOT FOR SELF BUT FOR ALL"

written by Wilga Smart

Mount Wilson Historical Society
Membership Application

Please indicate your requirements

Annual Membership
Individual ( ) @ $15.00
Concession ( ) @ $10.00
Household ( ) @ $25.00

Total Enclosed $

Please Print

Name _____________________________
Address _____________________________
Phone: [hm] __________ [wk] _______

Additional Members

Name _____________________________
Address _____________________________
Phone: [hm] __________ [wk] _______

Name _____________________________
Address _____________________________
Phone: [hm] __________ [wk] _______

Please send to:
Mount Wilson Historical Society
c/- ‘Donna Buang’, Church Lane
Mount Wilson NSW 2786

$
President’s Perspective

The occasion of the first publication of the Mt Wilson Historical Society newsletter seems a fitting time to thank all those people who have individually and collectively contributed to the success of the Society. It is now eight months since the Society was incorporated and our membership stands at 128. We have attracted wide community support.

The first stage of the restoration of the Turkish Bath is complete and the Museum is to be opened on 27th September 1997 by our local member Mr Bob Debas MP.

At the inaugural Annual General Meeting on 26th July 1997 Professor Arthur Delbridge was elected vice-president; Mr Ellis Reynolds as treasurer; Mrs Helen Raphael as secretary; Mrs Mary Reynolds as public officer and Mr Graham Whale, Mrs Robyn Leonard and Ms Florence Smart as committee members. The program achieved in the last eight months foretells for a successful year.

Raoul Wilson
President

Little Treasures

Selected entries from the Friends of the Turkish Bath visitors’ book:

Have wanted to see for 30 years - not disappointed!

$5 each - a rip off! Spend the money cleaning up the mess! [Well, in fact we are - perhaps you may even like to leave your full name and address next time so we can update you on the progress of this - Ed]

A good place to hide - Ned Kelly, Glen Rowan VIC

Overheard as a lively 83 year old wandered around the gardens of Wynstay: It’s like a wonderful journey of discovery.

A Word from the Editor

Since the recent formation of the Mount Wilson Historical Society Inc., there has been a need to both create a means of correspondence with society members and encourage interest in the Society by the general public. The group’s current project is the restoration of the Turkish Bath at Wynstay and we hope this newsletter will help you to tap into what’s running in terms of the bath house - its triumphs, its bubbles - and let you know, to coin a phrase of the 90s, what hot and what’s not. We strongly encourage your support, which also includes your financial support, for although the bath house is priceless it is unfortunately not cost free and we ask you to partake in the activities the society organises, to which all are invited.

Please feel free to offer your own contribution to the newsletter, including positive or negative feedback. All relevant correspondence to be sent to myself, the editor and producer of the Mount Wilson Historical Society Inc. newsletter, at 186 Georges River Road, Kently, NSW, 2560.

Special thanks to Wilga for putting so much time into writing for this first edition, and without whose help it would just simply not have been done.

Elspeth Collender

Visitors and Inquirers

Following the meeting on 15th March 1997, we enjoyed a visit from Mrs Kate Childlow, Conservation Outreach Officer from Museums Australia Inc. During 1996 we were privileged to receive other guests from Heritage organisations. These included Mr Jack Mundey, Chairman of the Historic Houses Trust; Mr Barry O’Keefe, President of the National Trust, who returned again this year accompanied by his wife; and Ms Rosalind Strong, the Acting Director of the Heritage Office who was representing the Minister for Planning. All of these guests offered encouragement and support, and extracts from Mrs Childlow’s recent letter to the committee follow:

Thank you so much for your hospitality when I visited the Turkish Bath House. It was such a beautiful day and such a beautiful setting and you made me feel so welcome that it didn’t feel like work at all.

I think your enthusiasm for the project is wonderful and I know that you will get it off the ground... The Turkish Bath House is a great story, a great piece of history, so I congratulate you in your initiative to turn it into a museum and wish you every success with it.

An enormous amount of enthusiasm is needed to set up a museum and then maintain it. When people approach us about starting up a museum, we try and point out how much work is involved in maintaining a museum after it is open, as a lot of people don’t realise how time consuming and energy draining they can be. In your case, I don’t doubt that your committee has that enthusiasm to set up and maintain a museum and you are in a great position to do this. I think that having visitors concentrated in two seasons a year is a great bonus to you as well. Having natural nulls in the year will be beneficial in allowing you to rest, take stock and reflect on matters, plan for upcoming events and change exhibitions over, which always takes longer than you think.

I was struck by the cohesive and harmonious nature of the committee. The members have brought together interesting and diverse skills and it seems that you have worked out what each person’s role will be, which is great. Having thought about it a little more, I advise you to put some kind of strategic plan in place so that you will all have a very clear picture of the direction and form the museum will take in its first year and also in the first five years of existence. Strategic plans are not written in stone and you will no doubt rework it, but it is a useful tool to use if disputes and criticisms arise in matters of managing the museum...

Kate Childlow
Restoration Team

When the decision was made to restore the Turkish Bath, the names of several architects experienced in conservation work were recommended. After tenders were submitted from these parties, Mr Peter Todd Bsc (Arch) BArch was the architect chosen. Peter comes from Design 5 Architects and has worked for the leading conservation architect, Clive Lucas. Peter recalls how, as a young student of architecture he was taken to Mt Wilson and was fascinated by the Turkish Bath glimpsed above the curve of the road. He has expressed his great delight in being chosen as architect for its restoration all these years later.

Mr Stan Hellyer is the builder and is highly skilled in conservation and heritage building. He is also working on other projects including Fern Hill at Bowensfell. Arnold Thomas is the assistant, John Mack the plumber and David Molen the electrician. We are fortunate in this selection of tradesmen as they are familiar with the problems of heritage building and take the greatest care to maintain the heritage fabric of this structure.

Design 5 Architects created a Conservation Analysis and Conservation Policy document in March 1996. The document contains detailed descriptions not only of physical aspects of the bath house, but also its cultural significance and place in Australian history. On page two of the document, the historical significance of the Turkish Bath is outlined as follows:

Primary Significance

The Turkish Bath, Wynstays, is a rare example of a purpose-built private Turkish Bath in Australia, and survives substantially intact. The evidence of its operation is of high technological significance and is extremely rare in Australia, possibly unique.

The building is an unusually fine example of late Victorian boom style architecture with polychrome brickwork and Italianate details.

The Wynstay estate is a significant landscape in the romantic style. The Turkish Bath and its setting are significant and contributory elements in the aesthetic of this landscape and are highly significant on a local and regional level.

The Turkish bath was built by Richard Wynne, a prosperous merchant who became a prominent citizen of Sydney. Wynne was a pioneer settler of Mount Wilson and the founder of the Wynne Prize for Landscape Painting and Sculpture at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. As evidence of Wynne’s occupation of the site and his personal vision of an ideal landscape, the Turkish Bath is of local, regional and national significance.

Secondary Significance

Evidence of adaptation of the Turkish Bath as accommodation for the stonemasons, who constructed the present Wynstay in the 1920s, is of local significance. It may also have greater significance in its relationship to important and influential events in the Wynne family history.

Regarding the actual physical restoration of the bath house, page three of the document, under the heading of Constraints, Issues, and Opportunities, states that:

Despite alterations and additions, and the removal of some significant fabric, the building survives with most of its major spaces substantially intact and in fair condition.

Much of the deterioration is water penetration. External repairs are urgently required. However, with the exception of window joinery and leadwork, the amount of fabric replacement is minimal.

The building is well suited to its proposed use as a museum and archive of the history of Mount Wilson.

The M. Wilson Historical Society is certainly preoccupied with the restoration of the Turkish Bath at this time. However, the society, as its name indicates, is dedicated to recognising and preserving historical aspects of the area. The Turkish Bath will assist as a museum of local heritage and history. Therefore, we aspire to inform you of some aspect of historical significance to M. Wilson in each newsletter, so with a cup of coffee and sufficient supply of chocolate biscuits, sit back and we hope you enjoy the story of Frederick Eccleston Du Faur.

Du Faur Rocks Road and Du Faur Rocks

Eccleston Du Faur’s name is closely linked with the Blue Mountains, in the 1870s, through his involvement with the 1874 Transit of Venus observations at Woodford, and The Blue Mountains Cruise - a venture which led to the collection of materials such as photographs and sketches, for the Philadelphia Exhibition at that time. However, he became closely associated with Mt Wilson and its early settlement, in a rather different and quite curious way. The Flame Expedition had been set up by Eccleston Du Faur at his own expense to search for relics of the explorer, Leichhardt. The lone survivor of that expedition was Lewis Thompson. He became the first full-time caretaker at Mt Wilson, occupying a shack on land purchased by Du Faur in 1875 (lot 63). At that time, Du Faur was the Chief Draughtsman in the NSW Lands Department, a position he obtained in 1863 after his return to NSW from England. He had first arrived in Australia in 1859 and travelled mainly in Victoria for five years before returning to England to attend to family affairs after the death of his father. Eccleston Du Faur was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Geographical Society for his contribution to the Flame Expedition.

Lewis Thompson spent two years in Mt Wilson providing an extremely important element of support for the first land-holders, who contributed to his wages in return. Not only did he bring in supplies but he acted as a ranger, and maintained fences and roads. In addition to these activities he kept quite detailed records. Thompson is to be finally, rather belatedly, recognised for his part in the settling of the mount. The trail running from Du Faur’s Rocks (south) along the western side of Mt Wilson is to be called Thompson’s Road. Lewis Thompson also assisted Du Faur with the organisation of expeditions into the Grose Valley. The photographer, Bischoff, and the artist, W. Pigment, were entertained in the shack at Mt Wilson, and both contributed material for the Philadelphia Exhibition.

Art and Eccleston Du Faur

Eccleston Du Faur was the president of the National Art Gallery from 1892 up until his death in 1915. However, before that he had participated in the foundation of the NSW Academy of Art in 1871 and was its Honorary Secretary and Treasurer until 1881. In 1876 he was one of the Board of five Trustees appointed to the National Art Gallery and apparently took an interest in the work of great artists and was considered one of the best judges in the state.

It seems not to be stretching probabilities too far that when Richard Wynne, founder of Wynstay at Mt Wilson, left a bequest of £1,000 in his will in 1899 to the Art Gallery of NSW for the Wynne Prize for Landscape Painting and Sculpture, Du Faur could have exercised some influence in the offering of that bequest. Both Richard Wynne and Eccleston Du Faur were holding land in Mt Wilson from 1875, the year Lewis Thompson’s shack was built, and the year the original cottage was built on the Wynstay estate, which still stands. Both men possessed great vision and creativity.

Kuring-gai Chase

After moving to Eastern Road around 1888 he spent many hours walking in the bushland and saw the need to save this rough but extraordinary country and proceeded to pressure the NSW Government on this issue. When the decision was made to create the Kuring-gai Chase National Park in May 1894, Du Faur was appointed the Managing Trustee and was almost solely responsible for the day to day care and supervision of work in those years to 1904. He died in Turramurra (his name for that suburb) on April 24th, 1915.

Historian H. Macleod Morgan wrote in the journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society in 1997 of Eccleston Du Faur “and we of a subsequent generation should be proud to partake of the benefits which have flowed from his endeavours as we dally by the Humboldt waters near Kuring-gai, marvel at man’s artistic aspirations in the Domain at Sydney, or gaze, awe-inspired, over the serried ranges westward from Du Faur’s Rocks at Mount Wilson”.

Du Faur and his perseverance, commitment, ability and vision are reflected in this story.

Mary Reynolds, Public Officer
1997 is the centenary year of the Wynne Prize for Landscape Painting and Sculpture Award founded by Richard Wynne. To celebrate this event, the Mount Wilson Historical Society is planning an exhibition to be held in the Turkish Bath Museum at Wynstal. The exhibition will run over the six weekends from 27th September to 2nd November 1997, and will be open from 10am to 4pm.

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Although Richard Wynne's original bequest also included figure sculpture, over the years the Wynne Prize has determined itself in the public eye as principally a landscape prize. As such, this perennial exhibition has perpetuated the 'landscape as nation' metaphor which has endured in the popular imagination and the academy. Among its long list of winners are some of this country's pre-eminent artists, and it has encouraged some of the finest Australian paintings ever produced.

To mark the occasion of this inaugural exhibition, at the Turkish Bath Museum, a catalogue will be produced with some biographical details and reproductions of works on show. All works will be for sale and the exhibition will no doubt be both an important cultural event and a significant fund raiser for the Turkish Bath Museum restoration program.

by Graham Whale, Exhibition Co-ordinator

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**Map of the Mountain**

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**Iron Air from the Turkish Bath**

- **Coloured Glass Windows**

One particular element of interest, of which even visitors to the Turkish Bath may not yet be aware, is the existence of decorated glass windows that were originally part of the Turkish Bath. They have been in storage since the building was adapted as living quarters during the building of Wynstal. The photograph shows one of the six mahogany-framed windows that are still in existence. Very little is known about these windows but it is now believed that they are English designed and made. Although each one is completely different from the other (even in the border designs) they are all most probably from the same source, perhaps randomly chosen from a catalogue. The name of both the artist and maker, can be found on one of the windows. The windows are not, as they may appear to be, stained glass. They are in fact a mixture of hand painted glass and glass given a coloured effect through a 'transfer' method. Between 1880 and 1920, the French Normandy process of applying a transfer to glass and firing it, moved across and became popular in England, but only for this short period. This was the time in which these windows were made. The windows were originally set in the Turkish Bath as part of a double-glazed effect with clear glass on the exterior of the walls, and these coloured windows as the inside layer. The windows will be returned to their original position in the Turkish Bath as part of the restoration plan.

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**Restoration Progress Report**

With $42,000 in hand, work on the Turkish Bath commenced on 17th March 1997 with repairs to the main roof, to render it watertight, and dismantling of the cast iron creasing on the roof which is now at the foundry being restored by foundry experts. All outer window sashes have been repaired and rehung. Redundant plumbing has been removed. The turret has been fully repaired. Every piece of lead was carefully removed, the damaged pieces cut out and the lead sheeting restored. The floor tiles in two rooms have been lifted, cleaned and replaced while a third room awaits replacement tiles before it can be completed. While this has been carried out, all with a careful eye on the original structure, work has been going forward outside the building with the stabilisation and restructuring of the stone retaining wall and collapsed sections of the stone and rubble wall. All this and more has been achieved.
fun Raising

We are grateful to the Heritage Office and the Heritage Council of NSW for their valued help towards the funding of our project. In 1995/6, through the Heritage Assistance program, administered by the Department of Planning, we received $3,500 for the drawing up of the conservation plans for the Turkish Bath. In 1996/7 $15,000 was received from the Heritage Council of NSW and newly formed Heritage Office on a dollar for dollar basis.

There have also been some very generous personal donations, particularly that of Professor Delbridge and his family, from the Jean Delbridge exhibition. Our grateful thanks also to many local residents and ex-residents for their generous donations and support.

This year’s autumn open days at Wynstay netted $13,787.87 after $3,198.43 was deducted for necessary expenditure, mainly port-a-loos, printing and promotion. The success of this opening was greatly assisted by an Easter Saturday concert on the verandah of Wynstay by the jazz band, The Bloweys, who kindly donated their services for the evening.

We thank our many visitors who have shown interest in this on-going restoration work of real community value. If you wish, there are many ways in which you can support the project: donations, ideas for fund raising, publicity and, in particular, help on Wynstay open days. If you would like to help in any way please contact Mrs Mary Reynolds on: (047) 562002 or at: ‘Donna Buang’, Church Lane Mount Wilson NSW 2786

flowers for Jane Raffle

A beautiful quilt (Flowers for Jane) made by Wendy Holland with some assistance from Susanna Gailey and Kathleen Howard-Smith, was displayed for raffle for some months, both at Wynstay on open days and at Ribbons and Rainbows in Blackheath.

The latter venue was responsible for over $400 of the entire net takings of $1600 raised in raffle ticket sales. Our grateful thanks to Wendy, whose expertise in the field of creative textile design is well known, and to Ribbons and Rainbows.

On Anzac Sunday a small (yet honest) gathering of committee members and friends of the Society witnessed the ticket drawing ceremony performed by artist Peter Kingston (some of you may have seen his entry at the Art Gallery of NSW in the recent Dobell drawing competition). “One has hold of my hand and won’t ‘let go” said Peter as he drew the winning ticket from the basket held high above his head. Brian and Linda Buggy, part of the syndicate who very generously bought fifty tickets, were the winners. Our congratulations were toasted to them, in absentia, with champagne!

Autumn as it Oughta’ [cont. from page 1]...
guests made themselves comfortable on the lawn on rugs and chairs, chicken sandwiches with the crusts cut off in one hand, champagne in the other and a sausage in a roll balanced precariously on each knee. As the autumn day drew to a close, flares were lit around the lawn and the smoke!... guests made themselves comfortable on the lawn on rugs and chairs, chicken sandwiches with the crusts cut off in one hand, champagne in the other and a sausage in a roll balanced precariously on each knee. As the autumn day drew to a close, flares were lit around the lawn and the smoke!

Aspects of the afternoon were described by teacher, poet and writer Helen Raphael, in a personal account of the event, extracts of which follow:

Deepening red red fluttered softly on slate and sandstone, a few clouds merging with easy rhythms drifting from the verandah, happy chatter, clinking glasses and sausage smoke!

Children were creating their own (“too scary”) playgrounds in the cavernous darkness of the Cypress Lawsoniana, playing hide-and-seek through vanishing tree-tunnels beside the haunting magic of Old Wynstay, sitting up in wonderful trees just made for climbing, and demolishing sausage buns dripping with tomato sauce.

[continued from page 6] Rosellas swept music out of red leaves and across the roof in dusk-lit patterns of wing and colours, augmenting a rhythmic thread of happiness which I truly wish I could paint for you!

After the main picnic... it was back to the music with bird enthusiast/poet Graham Alcorn and partner dancing softly under the glow of the verandah as brass shore beside them like muted gold lights. While nobody else seemed quite brave enough to join the dancers, there was still a general flow of body rhythm waving across the lawn, an impulsive immersion in the music which painted a beautiful scene in the falling dusk.

With the fading sounds of “After You’ve Gone”, Florence [Smart] gave The Bloweys, who had donated their services for the evening, a special vote of thanks... Almost unnoticed, however, a skulking grey had moved across the sky, but it was not really until people were leaving that light drops of rain really began to fall - magnanimous timing?!

Bill Boldiston had visited Wynstay on a previous occasion and his interest had been aroused in the restoration project. In a ‘thank you’ letter we asked Bill for the names of his players and the instruments they played, some of which looked most intriguing. Wilga Smart thought we would enjoy his reply:

Thank you for your kind letter and request. Believe me, we really enjoyed playing in such a beautiful setting to such pleasant people. The band consists of:-

Dick Bradstock: Bb tenor horn, trombone, flute, and 12.5 inches of copper water pipe
Roy Longman: soprano saxophone
Alan Saunders: washboard and things to hit
Peter Clayton: guitar and very loud vocals
Myself: clarinet, saxophone, banjo, tin-whistle, kazoo and not so loud vocals

Wishing you all and the Bath House every success - Bill Boldiston

Graham Turner

Graham is pictured here painting Wynstay and its nearby trees last Anzac weekend. Right up to the time of his recent sad death he was an enthusiastic and cheerful painter of Mt Wilson scenes. He and his wife Elaine have been among the strongest supporters of the Mt Wilson Historical Society. He will be sadly missed by his many friends in Mount Wilson.

Elaine has made a wonderful folio of his paintings using a laser colour photo-copier process, so his water colour record of Mount Wilson places and faces will remain as a testimony of this talent, enthusiasm and his place in the life of Mount Wilson.
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the Turkish Bath as part of the restoration plan.

Restoration Progress Report

With $42,000 in hand, work on the Turkish Bath commenced on 17th March 1997 with repairs to the main roof, to render it watertight, and dismantling of the cast iron creasing on the roof which is now at the foundry being restored. The floor tiles in two rooms have been lifted, cleaned and replaced while a third room awaits replacement tiles before it can be completed. While this has been carried out, all with a careful eye on the original structure, work has been going forward outside the building with the stabilisation and restructuring of the stone retaining wall and collapsed sections of the stone and rubble wall. All this and more has been achieved.

Map of the Mountain
The building is an unusually fine example of the late Victorian boom style architecture with polychrome brickwork and Italianate details.

The Wynn estate is a significant landscape in the romantic style. The Turkish Bath and its setting are significant and contributory elements in the aesthetic of this landscape, and are highly significant on a local and regional level.

The Turkish bath was built by Richard Wynne, a prosperous merchant who became a prominent citizen of Sydney. Wynne was a pioneer settler of Mount Wilson and the founder of the Wynn Prize for Landscape Painting and Sculpture at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. As evidence of Wynne’s occupation of the site and his personal vision of an ideal landscape, the Turkish Bath is of local, regional and national significance.

Secondary Significance
Evidence of adaptation of the Turkish Bath as accommodation for the stonemasons, who constructed the present Wynn estate in the 1920s, is of local significance. It may also have greater significance in its relationship to important and influential events in the Wynn family history.

Regarding the actual physical restoration of the bath house, page three of the document, under the heading of Constraints, Issues, and Opportunities, states that:

Despite alterations and additions, and the removal of some significant fabric, the building survives with most of its major spaces substantially intact and in fair condition.

Much of the deterioration is water penetration. External repairs are urgently required. However, with the exception of window joinery and leadwork, the amount of fabric replacement is minimal.

The building is well suited to its proposed use as a museum and archive of the history of Mount Wilson...
President’s Perspective

The occasion of the first publication of the Mt Wilson Historical Society newsletter seems a fitting time to thank all those people who have individually and collectively contributed to the success of the Society.

It is now eight months since the Society was incorporated and our membership stands at 128. We have attracted wide community support.

The first stage of the restoration of the Turkish Bath is complete and the Museum is to be opened on 27th September 1997 by our local member Mr Bob Debas MP.

At the inaugural Annual General Meeting on 26th July 1997 Professor Arthur Delbridge was elected vice-president; Mr Ellis Reynolds as treasurer; Mrs Helen Raphael as secretary; Mrs Mary Reynolds as public officer and Mr Graham Whale, Mrs Robin Leonard and Mrs Florence Smart as committee members. The program achieved in the last eight months forebodes for a successful year.

Raoul Wilson
President

Little Treasures

Selected entries from the Friends of the Turkish Bath visitor’s book:

After looking from a distance for so long it’s so nice to get to know the old place.

Have wanted to see for 30 years - not disappointed!

$5 each - a rip off! Spend the money cleaning up the mess! [Well, in fact we are - perhaps you may even like to leave your full name and address next time so we can update you on the progress of this - Ed]

A good place to hide - Ned Kelly, Glen Rowan VIC

Overheard as a lively 83 year old wandered around the gardens of Wynstay: It’s like a wonderful journey of discovery.

A Word from the Editor

Since the recent formation of the Mount Wilson Historical Society Inc., there has been a need to both create a means of correspondence with society members and encourage interest in the Society by the general public. The group’s current project is the restoration of the Turkish Bath at Wynstay and we hope this newsletter will help you to tap into what’s running in terms of the bath house - its triumphs, its bubbles - and let you know, to coin a phrase of the 90s, what hot and what’s not. We strongly encourage your support, which also includes your financial support, for although the bath house is priceless it is unfortunately not cost free and we ask you to partake in the activities the society organises, to which all are invited.

Please feel free to offer your own contribution to the newsletter, including positive or negative feedback. All relevant correspondence to be sent to myself, the editor and producer of the Mount Wilson Historical Society Inc. newsletter, at 186 Georges River Road, Kently, NSW, 2560.

Special thanks to Wilga for putting so much time into writing for this first edition, and without whose help it would just simply not have been done.

Elspeth Callender

Visitors and Inquirers

Following the meeting on 15th March 1997, we enjoyed a visit from Mrs Kate Childlow, Conservation Outreach Officer from Museums Australia Inc. During 1996 we were privileged to receive other guests from Heritage organisations. These included Mr Jack Mundey, Chairman of the Historic Houses Trust; Mr Barry O’Keefe, President of the National Trust, who returned again this year accompanied by his wife; and Ms Rosalind Strong, the Acting Director of the Heritage Office who was representing the Minister for Planning. All of these guests offered encouragement and support, and extracts from Mrs Childlow’s recent letter to the committee follow:

Thank you so much for your hospitality when I visited the Turkish Bath House. It was such a beautiful day and such a beautiful setting and you made me feel so welcome that it didn’t feel like work at all.

I think your enthusiasm for the project is wonderful and I know that you will get it off the ground... The Turkish Bath House is a great story, a great piece of history, so I congratulate you in your initiative to turn it into a museum and wish you every success with it.

Kate Childlow

An enormous amount of enthusiasm is needed to set up a museum and then maintain it. When people approach us about starting up a museum, we try and point out how much work is involved in maintaining a museum after it is open, as a lot of people don’t realize how time consuming and energy draining they can be. In your case, I don’t doubt that your committee has that enthusiasm to set up and maintain a museum and you are in a great position to do this. I think that having visitors concentrated in two seasons a year is a great bonus to you as well. Having natural nulls in the year will be beneficial in allowing you to rest, take stock and reflect on matters, plan for upcoming events and change exhibitions over, which always takes longer than you think.

I was struck by the cohesive and harmonious nature of the committee. The members have brought together interesting and diverse skills and it seems that you have worked out what each person’s role will be, which is great. Having thought about it a little more, I advise you to put some kind of strategic plan in place so that you will all have a very clear picture of the direction and form the museum will take in its first year and also in the first five years of existence. Strategic plans are not written in stone and you will no doubt rework it, but it is a useful tool to use if disputes and criticisms arise in matters of managing the museum...

Kate Childlow
A Tour of the Turkish Bath [cont. from pg 1]  

However, being such an enormous undertaking, unexpected difficulties arose over the years and although most of these were overcome, progress was slow. In 1997 a new beginning emerged with the formation of the Mount Wilson Historical Society Inc. This non-profit organisation, open to all those interested in the preservation of our past history, has taken on the responsibility of restoring the Turkish Bath as a museum of local history.

A meeting held on the 15th March 1997 inviting membership and for the purpose of discussion on future plans was well attended. The highlight of this meeting, the significance of which was only fully appreciated in retrospect, was a presentation to the Society by Bill Smart. It entailed a camphor wood box, previously a gift from Jane, containing a second box holding a silver plaque on which was inscribed in fine lettering:

This represents the annual rent to be paid for the use of the Wynstay Turkish Bath House. Presented to the Mount Wilson Historical Society by the Wynne family, Richard Wynne, Henry Wynne, Richard Owen Wynne, Jane Smart. 18th January 1997.

Above this inscription, etched in delicate outline, is an illustration of the Turkish Bath, and below this, embedded in circular indents in the plaque, two shining one dollar coins representing the full annual payment to be presented each year for 50 years for rent. Bordering the plaque, another inscription states:


This plaque has been beautifully crafted and boxed by Helen Teulon, a professional jeweller and daughter of long-standing members of the Mount Wilson community, John and Judy Teulon.

Accompanying the plaque is a leather bound book of receipts, elegantly crafted by Bennett's Printing of Katoomba, bearing Richard Wynne's crest of a heraldic wolf's head and the motto "non sibi sed toti" ["not for self but for all"] [see illustration on the opposite page].

Bill has chosen to include in the design of the plaque and receipt book symbolic representations of the legacy which Jane inherited, both as a memorial to the Wynne family and a gesture to ensure the Turkish Bath's use as a historic centre for the community. His deep appreciation of the history of this old property now in his care was most obvious in his presentation of this unique and generous gift to the Society's Chairman Raoul Wilson. In his own words, the box was being given "on behalf of Richard Wynne, Henry Wynne, Richard Owen Wynne, Jane Smart".

So on that pleasant March morning with the life of the village going on around us - the bushwalkers assembling for their trek to the Wollangambe; along The Avenue guests arriving at Sefton Hall for the wedding of Danika Mayne, the third generation of a family associated with the mountain - the Mount Wilson Historical Society was recognised as an entity in its own right. Sadly, Jane did not live to see this day, and her mortal remains rest in the little village churchyard. However, it is Bill's wish that their shared vision of many years should reach its fulfilment, and to that end his total commitment is assured.

"I will lift mine eyes unto the hills" says the psalmist. Let us who live in and share with our many visitors these misted blue mountains, treasure our heritage and honour those men and women of vision who have gone before us.

written by Wilga Smart

Mount Wilson Historical Society

Membership Application

Please indicate your requirements

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Please Print

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
Phone: [hm] ________ [wk] ________

Additional Members

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
Phone: [hm] ________ [wk] ________

Please send to: Mount Wilson Historical Society
 c/- 'Donna Buang', Church Lane
 Mount Wilson NSW 2786