



NEWSLETTER

Working together for a better community

February 2008

EDITOR'S NOTES

I am rather embarrassed by the fact that I missed two items in the last newsletter (October '07), both of which I had accepted and undertaken to include. One was for the Historical Society AGM (Nov. 24, '07); the other was an item about Chimney Cottage. I can only plead being in a rush—the newsletter was produced a few days before Diana and I took off to visit our daughter and grandchildren in Bermuda. Sorry about that, folks. I can't do anything about the Historical Society AGM, but the items on Chimney Cottage are in this newsletter.

The eastern part of the Australia is certainly living up to Dorothea Mackellar's description of it as a land of droughts and flooding rains. If the rain of the last few months keeps up it will be interesting to see the effects on autumn colours; my guess is they won't be so good this year. The wet weather is clearly to the liking of the leeches, which are radiating from the rainforest into gardens, and some quite surprising places: we found one in Diana's bed! The wet conditions also seem to suit the blackberries—among a lot of other plants, of course—but pests always seem to be exceptionally opportunistic. That's why they're pests, in many cases. Anyway, the blackberries are doing just fine.

It's worth noting the up-to-date rainfall figures. In '04, '05 and '06 we got 781, 1108 and 785 mm at Mt Wilson. Last year we got 1743 mm (68 inches, for those who are still more comfortable with that measure): by no means extraordinary, but high—only 16 of the previous 80 years had more than 1500 mm. We had more than 190 mm in January (1/4 of the '06 rainfall), so if that keeps up it might give the record year (2511 mm in 1950) a bit of a nudge.

There are a couple of items I'd like to bring to your attention in this issue. The first is John Holt's little article about wombats. I hope wombats aren't being killed and that the apparent drop in numbers is due to some natural cause. Our (human) tendency to destroy anything that causes us minor inconvenience is objectionable (horrible might not be too strong) and, if it's happening in this case, unjustifiable. As an example, I have seen shocking 'photos of dozens of wedgetail eagles, and hundreds of ravens, shot in pastoral areas because of the perception that they killed lambs. For the occasional lamb killed by an eagle the response was utterly disproportionate, and there is no evidence that crows and ravens kill lambs. (The website of the Australian Museum says that 147,237 eagles were killed in Western Australia between 1928-1968 and 162,430 in Queensland between 1951-1966. I wonder how they got to such precise figures; but give or take a few, they aren't pretty!)

The second item to note is on p.6, ('...of energy and CO₂ and a changing world'). It was stimulated by Ron Green and floats the idea of getting together a 'working group' to think about ways our communities (Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine) might become more energy efficient and develop strategies to make us more resilient and adaptable to the changes that are certainly coming. We're looking for some response to that.

Joe Landsberg

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MWPA COMMITTEE NEWS

Special General Meeting

The next General Meeting of the Progress Association will be held on Saturday, 5th April, in the Village Hall at 5.30 p.m. The issue of a quorum is always a problem so do make a note of the date in your diary and come along. It is an opportunity to have your say in matters relating to the village and to meet and socialize afterwards with other residents.

Silva Plana

You may have noticed the addition of a boom gate and bollards positioned on Silva Plana. This was considered necessary to restrict access for vehicles onto the sports field. There has been damage caused to the grounds by cars doing "wheelies" and campers lighting fires. There is adequate parking outside the gate, under the trees for those wishing to have a picnic and the Rural Fire Service and Progress Association have keys to the gate for access for training exercises and other approved activities.

Hearing Aid Loop for the Hall

The Village Hall Committee has requested that the Progress Association might further develop the audio-visual equipment by installing a loop that can assist those using hearing aids to better hear the public address system. However, before committing to such an expenditure, we would appreciate feed back from those who use them about the relative merit of such an installation. Please let any of the committee members know your opinion.

Christmas Party

The Christmas party organized last December by the R.F.S., Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine Progress Associations was once again a great success. Approximately 70 attended, fewer than in previous years, but it was a very wet night. However, everyone enjoyed the occasion and the catering was declared to be excellent. Many thanks to all those who helped with catering, hall decorations and cleaning up afterwards.

Mount Wilson Leisure Library

Don't forget that the library opens on Thursdays, 3.00 to 4.00 p.m. and Saturdays, 10.00 to 11.00 p.m. If these times are inconvenient I am happy to open it up at a suitable time. Call me on 4756 2162 to make arrangements. Books are always being donated, so do come along some time to borrow or browse. The librarian on duty would welcome your visit.

Welcome

We welcome Anne Mayall to the village and the Progress Association. She now resides at 22 Wynnes Rocks Road. Her phone number, 4756 2087, may be added to your Mt. Wilson/Mt. Irvine Phone Book.

Moira Green

VILLAGE HALL JOT...

I did not have the gall to write "jottings" as there is not much to report. Since the Melbourne Cup Luncheon the only real function has been the Christmas Party which was a wonderful evening, run by the RFS and the Progress Associations.

At the end of the calendar year the Hall Fundraising account rests at some \$7,200. Whilst no decision has been made about the expenditure of those funds, one of our priorities is the replacement of the chairs to match the new tables provided by Council. Those tables are so nice in the Hall and so light compared with the old tables that we appreciate Council's provid-

ing them as they add so much to the amenity of the building.

Our plans are to have another Yulefest on the first Saturday in July and a repeat of our Melbourne Cup luncheon, so put those dates in your diary now. Don't count on those events being the only ones during 2008!

The hall grounds to the west of the pergola and seating have been seeded but we will have to see whether it has taken.

That's all for now,

Ron Green

Golf can best be defined as an endless series of tragedies obscured by the occasional miracle, followed by a good bottle of beer.

I can certainly relate to that! Ed.

ICE— In Case of Emergency

The NSW Ambulance service suggests that we all put into the 'phone book/contact list of our mobile 'phones, under the pseudonym ICE, the number of the person we would want contacted in the event of accident or disabling illness. The ambos say that they quite frequently have to deal with people who are in a condition in which they can't speak, who are carrying mobiles with no indication of the best number to call in those circumstances. We all hope we don't get into that condition, but it does no harm to be prepared (like boy scouts!).

WHERE HAVE ALL THE WOMBATS GONE?

One of our great pleasures, living in Mt Wilson, has been the occasional sighting at night of a lumbering wombat on a roadside verge. Always we would stop and be greeted by a puzzled stare, then it would either continue grazing or nonchalantly cross the road to continue its determined wanderings.

Unfortunately, for many months now, we have not seen any of these beautiful creatures, which the National Parks and Wildlife Service categorically state are protected animals. Where have they gone?

We hear stories of certain local people trapping wombats and it appears that some are taken away and shot.

Yes, we know that wombats dig burrows under fences and sometimes on properties. And yes, we know they sometimes eat vegetation in some of the multi-acre gardens, but does this justify dislocation of their lives and the use of extreme methods to 'control' them? After all, we are the ones who have invaded their territories.

For thirty years we have been life patrons of the National History Society of South Australia, whose main pursuit has been the acquisition of thousands of acres of ruined sheep station, which are being regenerated to provide sanctuary for hairy-nosed wombats. It is ironic that, while this is happening far from here, destruction of the brothers of these wonderful creatures is occurring on our doorstep.

Perhaps, next time, those involved will rethink what they are doing.

John and Mary Holt

Sayings of the Jewish Buddhist:

The Torah says, Love your neighbor as yourself. The Buddha says, There is no self. So, maybe we're off the hook

.
If there is no self, whose arthritis is this?

Drink tea and nourish life; with the first sip, joy; with the second sip, satisfaction; with the third sip, peace; with the fourth, a Danish.

Breathe in. Breathe out. Breathe in. Breathe out. Forget this and attaining Enlightenment will be the least of your problems.

Deep inside you are ten thousand flowers. Each flower blossoms ten thousand times. Each blossom has ten thousand petals. You might want to see a specialist

Wherever you go, there you are. Your luggage is another story.

Thanks to Florence Smart and Arthur Delbridge for these

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society is organising an Autumn Market Weekend: April 25,26,27 at the Village Hall.

Contact Florence Smart (4756 2063; e-mail westring@bigpond.com) for information

BIBLE STUDY

On Sunday 16th March at 4pm Moira & Ron Green will be holding an open house at Noonameena to start a series of studies prepared by Anthony H. Nichols called 'Jesus in all the Scriptures'.

This booklet is the basis of other study groups in the Anglican Parish of Blackheath and it is our present intention to hold the studies at 4pm on each Sunday except for the second Sunday of each month when services are held at St. George's Church Mount Wilson. Each study will go for one hour.

Please consider coming along and let us know beforehand so that we know what to expect (p. 4756 2162 or e. rm.green@bidpond.com).

Milba Mewburn suggested that we publish this poem in the newsletter. It was written by a friend of hers, .

Mt. Wilson

Mt. Wilson is an oasis
Hidden in the bush,
It's very close to heaven-----
if, you give a little push.

It's full of natural beauty,
The flora is renowned:-
Complimented by the fauna,
Of varieties, there's no bound

"

The scenic views are fabulous,
The skies are mostly clear.
The total of the populace,
Say, "We all love it here

Of course, you must agree with them,
far away from maddening crowds.
For the quiet and peace, the solitude,
the breezes, whispering the boughs.

The gardens are tremendous,
The welcomes are supreme,
On a sunny autumn day
It's like - "entering a dream"

Mt Wilson is a haven,
It's appeal will never wane,
May, It's allure and grandeur last -
Always to remain

William Staines 2008

PILE BURNING

The BMCC review of the Open Burning Policy is nearing completion. The results of their research and consultation will be presented to Council at their meeting on February 19 and the revised policy will be implemented from April 1. The proposed policy approach (is said to) represent a simplified and more inclusive system to define where burning is permissible, as well as a move to State-wide standards for how burning is to be undertaken...

You can find the details at www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/yourcouncil/councilmeetings/2008meetings/19february2008/. It's item 3—very long-winded but it looks ok at first glance. Brian Abrahams and Joe Landsberg will go to the meeting to represent local views in case of (expected) problems from the anti-burning brigade. Anyone else who can come along; please do so.

CHIMNEY COTTAGE**The Café**

From February 2006, when the Tulip Tree Tea-room* closed, until 20 April 2007, when the restored Chimney Cottage Heritage Café opened, Mt Wilson had no such facility for tourists.

The opening of the Chimney Cottage Cafe was a notable event in several ways. Apart from providing an important service to the community:

- each of the proprietors, seventy years apart, is a Margaret
- the restoration by Margaret Wickins and Bruce Knott is a masterpiece of good taste and simplicity. It is charming and eloquent and in a picturesque setting, with views over part of their beautiful garden and the surrounding landscape.
- The staff, consisting of Helen Freeman and Margaret Richey, with back-up from Moira Green and Beth Raines, are all local residents and most attentive and efficient.

We wish the enterprise every success.

Mary Reynolds

**It was renamed the Mountain Goat Deli in its most recent incarnation, Mary. Ed.*

Margaret writes:

We feel extremely privileged to be running the Café in the original room of Chimney Cottage; used so many years ago. It is a tranquil area and the wonderful outlook over the rear garden has pleased so many of our visitors. The new front veranda also blends well with the existing front garden and allows easy access for the disabled.

From a shaky, very busy start in late April we have now become much better organised and are enjoying meeting many of the Mount Wilson visitors as well as the faithful "locals" who have supported us over the last seven months.

With the capable assistance of Helen Freeman and Margaret Richey we are doing our best to fulfil our stated aim of "filling a need in the village for fresh home-cooked food in relaxing congenial surroundings".

Margaret Wickins and Bruce Knott

CPR* FOR YOURSELF

*(Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation)

What can you do if you have a heart attack when you are alone? Well, apparently the Johnson City Medical Center, in the US, has studied this procedure – called 'cough CPR' –and found that it does work.

Suppose you suddenly start experiencing severe chest pain, that radiates up into your arm and jaw. Even if your heart is beating properly, if you start feeling faint you have only about 10 seconds before you lose consciousness. However, it seems you can help yourself by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. A breath and cough must be repeated about every two seconds, without letup until help arrives or until the heart is beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. I hope no-one has to try this, but it's difficult to see that it can do any harm, and may indeed be a life-saver.

From a note contributed by John Holt

COMMUNITY DIARY

2nd Friday of each month: Bush Care (this is coming down to a few reliable stalwarts)

3rd Friday: Bushwalking group. (Details from Libby Raiines)

Sat. 5 April. Special General Meeting of the MWPA. Village Hall, 5.30 pm.

April 25, 26, 27. Autumn Market, organised by the Historical Society. Village Hall.

...OF ENERGY AND CO₂ AND A CHANGING WORLD

Ron Green's attention was attracted recently by an article in a local newspaper (I'm not sure which one) about the village of Kangaroo Valley, where many of the residents have signed up to be part of a campaign for the community to become carbon neutral. That means that the aim is to reach the point where the NET amount of carbon dioxide emitted from the township is zero. People undertake to buy 'green energy' (the problem is apparently one of supply), plant trees to absorb CO₂ and investigate and invest in windmills, solar heating and solar powered electricity, where those options are feasible. House insulation is a high priority. They also, through their tourist association, lobby government (presumably local and state) to take actions that will contribute to making the area carbon neutral. Reducing the use of plastic bags is another objective - they're serious pollutants and are made from hydrocarbons (oil).

First reactions to ideas like this in our area tend to be negative. It's (assumed to be) too cloudy for solar energy to be a viable proposition; wind power is impractical - too expensive and unreliable... etc. etc. And, of course, we have plenty of trees here. True. However, before we dismiss the whole idea as cloud-cuckoo land, it would be good if a group of interested people would be prepared to get together and look at the options and possibilities. We can't make a significant impact even on Australian CO₂ emissions, never mind global, but perhaps we should try to do our little bit. It's analogous to the Clean up Australia campaign.

An idea not mentioned in the newspaper article must be the possibility of moving over to biodiesel, as well as more fuel efficient vehicles. From all the evidence and data I have seen (and I have been interested in this), peak oil* is not a myth, it's a reality. There's nothing governments will be able to do about fuel prices, which are almost certainly set to keep rising, possibly very fast, into the (quite near) future. If you think about the implications of global oil shortages you will realise that the comfortable assumption that most people make - that life as we now live it will continue more or less unchanged - is probably wrong. We have no option but to live with the consequences of global energy supplies, but we can take steps to ensure, as far as possible, that we are buffered against impending change. We need to be resilient, which means we need to have the capacity to recover from major disruption of our lives and lifestyle—to bounce back. Biodiesel, in the short term, offers all sorts of interesting possibilities: the chance to keep your fuel prices (a long way) down, with an environmentally friendly fuel made from vegetable oils (cotton seed, canola...) or animal fats, or both. There is already a functioning biodiesel plant in this area, so initial advice and demonstration of the possibilities would be available.

Would anyone who is interested in pursuing these ideas for Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine please contact **Ron Green** on 47562162 (e-mail rmgreen@bigpond.com) or me.

Editor

**If anyone is sceptical about peak oil I am prepared to provide supporting arguments - at tedious length!*

Church bulletins

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

This evening at 7 pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing: "Break Forth Into Joy."

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours"