

NEWSLETTER



Working together for a better community

July 2006

EDITOR'S NOTES

While yet another ugly war flares in Lebanon and the news from Iraq gets no better, we go about our business in Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine, concerned with matters of great moment such as whether the Blue Mountains City Council is going to find the funds to build new toilets in Cathedral Reserve, the water levels in our tanks and when the trees will be trimmed along the Avenue.

Concerning those matters, the good news is that the Council will be building the new toilets: it has allocated \$25,000 for the job, so they ought to be of good standard. We can't, of course, say what effects the letters written by residents had, but it's a good bet they helped, so many thanks to those who wrote to the Council about the matter.

With regard to the trees, Peter Raines has organised with the person who runs the tree surgery course at Ryde Agricultural College that students will come up here, starting in November, trim the dangerous branches from the big elms in the Avenue (since many of them overhang our fence, and periodically fall on to it, we will be pleased to have that done), 'lift' the branches of the horse chestnut and plane trees further up so they don't beat up buses and trucks, and do various other tree control jobs. Peter has agreed a program with Ryde that, I believe, stretches over several years. The students are apparently well-supervised, properly insured etc.

Doug' Woods is doing a good job on the road up from the Zig Zag—clearing the drain and cutting back vegetation—he is certainly improving things along that stretch. I understand that Doug' is contracted to extend the work down to the bottom bend, near the Mt Wilson sign. Apparently it is producing many loads of ready-made partly rotted mulch, which is dumped in the cleared space just up from the sign, so anyone who has a use for that, please help yourself.

Rain: long-term averages for Mt Wilson for January to July (inclusive) are 145, 156, 149, 99, 93, 97 and 68 mm. At Withycombe, for the corresponding months to June of this year we have had 209, 66, 62, 10, 24 and 52 mm. I can't guarantee that January figure—we had been away—but it was a big rain. Up to the 28th July we have had 87 mm. So, although rain from February through June was rather low, this year hasn't been too bad.

We are pleased to have a contribution from our Mt Irvine friends in this newsletter. We'll probably make that a permanent feature, if they would like to.

Please note the community diary on the back page. And please note the **AGM on Saturday August 19** at 5 pm. Roll up, one and all.

Joe Landsberg

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COMMUNITY MATTERS

A Big Morning Tea

During May, Margaret Richey of 'Gowan Ross Cottage', entertained a number of ladies of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine at a morning tea in support of the Cancer Council of N.S.W. Her table was laden with "good" things to eat. It was a very pleasant morning and \$240 was raised for cancer research. Thank you and congratulations, Margaret.

Community Lunch

An invitation is extended to anyone at Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine to a Community Lunch held at the Community Centre at Blackheath each Wednesday from 11.30 to 1.00. A three course meal is served, costing \$6.00. You can enjoy a nice meal and very friendly atmosphere. Ring Isobel Evans to make enquiries on 4787 7805 if you would like to join them.

MWPA COMMITTEE NEWS

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 19th August, 2006 at 5.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. The time has been set an hour later to allow people to spend more of the daylight hours doing outdoor chores that are so enjoyable or so abundant here. There will be hot finger food, snacks and drinks after the meeting, so come along and take the opportunity to meet and socialise with neighbours. This will be Graham Tribe's last meeting as President of the Association. Graham has given graciously of his time, energy and enthusiasm for five years. His leadership has been greatly appreciated and much has been achieved in this time. For information on the most recent activities of the Committee come to the meeting and hear all the news.

New Members

Welcome to two new members of the Progress Association, Nancy Fox and Bruce Arnold who own land on Smith's Hill.

Rural Fire Service Information

With this edition of the Newsletter is a supplement from the RFS with information about contact numbers in case of bushfire, including numbers of

field and administration officers of our local Brigade. Please put this in the front of your Mount Wilson / Mount Irvine Phone Book. This will be incorporated into the next phone book to be published in 2007.

Thanks from the Hardings

A letter was received from Tom Harding expressing his thanks and sincere appreciation for the gift from the Mount Wilson Progress Association. The gift, given as a farewell from Mount Wilson, is a book, "Blue Mountains World Heritage". Tom passes on his best wishes to the Village and the Association.

Website

The Committee is taking steps to change the management and update information contained in our website. This has not been updated since Helen Banks handed over its management when leaving Mount Wilson. This has taken some time but we hope that all will be organised before too long. In anticipation of an updated site, a new site has been set up at the address www.mtwilson.com.au. This will be maintained and updated on a regular basis and it is planned to put the newsletter on it in future.

Leisure Library

On Saturday, 22nd July, morning tea was provided in the Hall by the Library Committee. Many people had an enjoyable time as they browsed the displays of books and chatted. Many conversations about books read and enjoyed, were overheard. If you missed this morning tea keep listening for the next one and come along to the library in the meanwhile, on Thursday afternoons, 3.00 to 4.00 p.m. and Saturday mornings, 10.00 to 11.00 a.m. More books are being donated so come and enjoy!

Condolences

On behalf of the Members of the Progress Association the Committee would like to express its condolences to Luigi Strano and family on the death of his sister Katerina Colaguri, of 'Koonawarra', Church Lane. She has been in a nursing home in recent months and her absence from her garden, which she loved so much, has been noted by many residents.

Moira Green

VILLAGE HALL JOTTINGS

The Yulefest held on the 1st July seems to have been a great success. A good number of people said they thought it the best yet and the food came in for special mention. It was served very hot and there was plenty of it. The choice and quality of the food was appreciated by most if not all. After last year's Yulefest the Committee considered it necessary to look for other caterers and we will certainly be staying with the new firm.

Financially the night was a real success with a net profit just short of \$,2000. However the real suc

cess of the night was that so many commented on it being a most enjoyable and friendly social evening.

So many people worked hard to make the night a success that I do not think I could thank everyone without running the risk of leaving someone out. That said, I feel our thanks must be expressed to Milba who continued to organize the event whilst far from well. Many thanks Milba.

Ron Green.

NOTES FROM MT IRVINE

The MIPA would like to thank all the 'stakeholders' involved in negotiating with BMCC on making Mt Irvine Rd safe - a great example of community consultation. Also, BMCC has promised to resurface the Mt Irvine Village section of road in Jan/Feb 2007, and provide a simple, black-on-white 'MOUNT IRVINE' sign on the crest of 'Scriveners Pass'.

And thank you to all those participants in the Bowens Creek Road Working Bee. Not only will the road works benefit the upcoming fun runners, but they also provide Mt Irvine and Mt Wilson residents with a more useable emergency-access/fire-fighting road.

Lastly, a reminder to all Mt Irvine Residents and Ratepayers that memberships are now due and our next General Meeting will be held in mid September. Hope to see you all then.

Shane Jeffery
President MIPA

COMMUNITY DIARY

August

Friday 11:	Bushcare	Sloan Reserve	9 am-12
Sunday 13	Church	St Georges	3 pm
Saturday 19	MWPA AGM	Village Hall	5 pm
Friday 18	Bushwalk	Bob Turner's track to Cold River	8 am

September

Friday 8	Bushcare	The Avenue	9 am-12
Sunday 19	Church`	St Georges	3 pm
Friday 15	Bushwalk	Kanangara Walls	8 am

October

Sunday 8	Church`	St Georges	3 pm
Friday 13	Bushcare	The Avenue	9 am-12
Saturday 14	Garden day at Merry Garth to raise funds for St Georges Church		10 am-5 pm
Friday 20	Bushwalk	Bush run track, Mt Irvine	9 am

November

Friday 10	Bushcare	Silva Plana	9 am - 12
Saturday 11	Memorial Service	War Memorial	10.45
Sunday 12	Church`	St Georges	3 pm
Friday 17	Bushwalk	Mt Hay	8.30

OBITUARY

‘Midst the daily media diet of death and destruction I must add the words: ‘And there’s another one gone’.

I refer to a long term Mt Wilson resident, Miss **Alison Margaret Turtle**, who died in a Sydney nursing home on 26 April, 2006.

Forthright and fearless, Alison was the archetypal ‘Blue Stocking’ academic but, despite the fact that the writer hails from the opposite side of the spectrum—bootneck Royal Marine— I was invited to spend convivial hours at her residence in Farrer Road. By fax or telephone she would command ‘Morning tea at eleven’ or ‘Afternoon at three’ and I would obediently present myself at Boikunumba where her native garden shamed my own at Stonehaven. Served with herbal tea, I could look longingly across the room at the unopened bottle of good Scotch as our discussions ranged over international affairs, women’s liberation, social issues and literature, but seldom local gossip.

Childless Alison lavished love and care on a collection of dogs and cats that she rescued from city neglect. Her home, here, was also a magnet for a

circle of Australian and overseas friends. Zealous about the attractions of this area, she advocated preservation.

On the day following her lung cancer diagnosis I was saddened to be informed of it, but over the next fourteen months she bore the trials of chemo’ and radio therapy with pragmatic fortitude. Being hirsute-deprived myself, I was filled with envy when, one morning, Alison emerged on her verandah looking positively radiant in a gorgeous wig. That image deserved a camera but remained constant in my mind.

Optimistic during the course of the year, Alison had a long planned hip operation to allow participation on ship cruise to the Scottish islands. I promised to farewell the group from my home city of Aberdeen on July 1st. That was not to be. Re-admitted to hospital after a spell at her Sydney home she contacted a kindly local to visit me and inquire about the downturn in my own welfare.

As the autumn leaves fell in our Mt Wilson retreat Alison Turtle slipped quietly into her last sleep. Like many others I shall miss her.

Jock Lumsden

ALISON TURTLE DEDICATION

The dedication of the memorial to Alison will take place on **Saturday September 2 at 12 noon** in the grounds of St George’s church, Mt Wilson.

After the dedication we are hoping you will join us for a light luncheon at her home, ‘Boikunumba’, Farrer Rd West, followed by a wander through the ferns.

For catering purposes we would be grateful if you could let us know if you will be coming, either by telephone (9908 1145) or by e-mail (joturtle@mail.usyd.edu.au). If replying by e-mail please make sure you do put something in the subject heading—we have had many spam messages recently.

We look forward to seeing you

John Turtle and family