



The Mounts

The Community Newsletter of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine



June 2014

Welcome

It is very timely that in a month where the short-term weather predictions of a mild and dry winter due to the impact of an El Nino event seems remarkably prescient coincides with the announcement of an imminent publication of a book co-authored by Joe Landsberg which outlines the impact of a changing climate on the natural environment. We wish Joe well with his latest work.

The local RFS brigade is, as usual, very active in training and educating the local community about the necessity of preparing for the challenges of warmer months ahead in an area that is noted for the severity and frequency of its bushfires. The recent October fires have obviously highlighted awareness and dispelled complacency. It is pleasing to see many activities and events undertaken or scheduled to assist residents in their preparation for the upcoming season. Kathleen Oakes heroically explores the link between bushfire survival plans and marital harmony (Tip: the video is well worth watching. Read on.)

Tim Gow Tel. 0412 133 559

e-mail: seftoncottage@gmail.com

Community Calendar

June	Sat 7th 4.00 pm RFS AGM Village Hall	Sun 8th 3.00 pm Mt Wilson Church Service	Fri 13th 9.00–12.00 Bush Care— Silva Plana	Fri 20th Bushwalking Group— Radiata Plateau - Katoomba
July	Sat 5th 6.30 pm Yulefest, Mt Wilson Village Hall	Sun 6th 9.00am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed	Fri 11th 9.00–12.00 Bush Care— Silva Plana	Sun 13th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service
	Fri 16th Bushwalking Group— Red Hand Caves - Glenbrook			
August	Sun 3rd 9.00am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed	Fri 8th 9.00–12.00 Bush Care— Silva Plana	Sun 10th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service	Fri 20th Bushwalking Group— Popes Glen to Evans Head L/O Blackheath

You are invited to

*The fabulous
Mount Wilson Yulefest
at the Village Hall*

On Saturday 5th July 2014 at 6.30pm

Make up a table
or come along and join with others

RSVP by 30th June

Adults - \$40, Children up to 14 - \$10

BYO drinks

Tickets available from Milba Kirk:

4756 2120 or email: milbakirk@gmail.com

please make cheques payable to Blue Mountains City Council

To make a donation of goods for the raffle please call

Ron and Moira Green 4756 2162

before 30th June

Looking forward to seeing you there

MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Autumn in Mount Wilson

Autumn was certainly a beautiful and busy time for the village. Apart from the two very successful fundraising weekends, Easter for the RFS and Anzac weekend for the Village Hall, there appeared to be great numbers of visitors viewing autumn colours at most other times. While it is wonderful to see so many people enjoying and admiring our beautiful environment it does present some problems that the MWPA Committee is trying to address.

The problems of toilets and rubbish have always been a problem and we are continually trying to improve the situation. Requests were made to Council for additional rubbish bins and additional toilet cleaning service during the public holiday weekends. Some bins were provided but all facilities were strained to the utmost. We would appreciate feedback regarding these and any other problems observed.

Village Maintenance

Thanks to Alan Gunn, soil has been spread around the War Memorial and seeded and the posts restored to block vehicular access. The area should be looking good in spring in good time for the Remembrance Day service.

It is hard to miss the bright newly painted white lines along Mount Wilson Road and Zigzag. Thank you Blue Mountains City Council! Unfortunately they do stop at the top of the mountain and highlights the need for painting the next section of road.

Contact Information

It is important that updated contact information for residents is kept. The website is certainly helping with this. If your information has changed please alter the details on the website or contact Moira Green with the changes required. The website data base enables those with a resident access code to view the phone book on line. It cannot be printed and is unavailable to the general public. A new printed version of the phone book should be available before too long.

New Members

All residents and property owners are eligible to join the Association. Please contact me on 4756 2162 or rm.green@bigpond if you are not members and wish to become members. The more members we have the better we can represent the community.

Moira Green

(Secretary)

Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade News

AGM Reminder

The Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade AGM will be held at 4.00pm in the Mt Wilson Village Hall on Saturday 7th June. Please join us after the meeting for wine and cheese. Also note that your annual subscription of \$20 per person is now due.

Mt Irvine Community Protection Plan

On Easter Sunday Beth Raines, Peter Raines and Kathleen Oakes met with the Mt Irvine Community to discuss progress with the Community Protection Plan and the State Mine Fire. Although the previous evening had been the big Easter Barbecue at the Mt Irvine Hall and many residents were entertaining friends and family, 36 residents attended the meeting. Not surprisingly, most had a very good idea of the high bushfire risk their properties faced. Discussion centred around what had happened during the fire, the importance of property maintenance and what we should now be doing at Mt Irvine to improve the ability of brigades to respond to any fire threat on any part of Mt Irvine. Thank you to all those who attended.

Basic Firefighter Course

The brigade is thrilled that 11 residents have signed up for the Basic Firefighter Course. They have joined another 5 from Mt Tomah and 2 from Bell (courses are now run locally by brigades) to spend a weekend covering theory and then another weekend practising what they have learned. Their course covers subjects such as safety, hazards and precautions, fire principles, firefighting agents, bushfire behaviour, bushfire development and firefighting, equipment, hoses and small tools, water supply and pumps, bushfire fighting techniques, hazard reduction, emergency care, teamwork, radio communications, and the structure of the RFS. After some more practice they will have their assessment on 23 August. Our Training Officer, Graham Tribe, considers that we have some very good new recruits who will add significantly to our brigade's capability. Welcome and thank you to our new recruits.

Dennarque Open Garden Weekend Results

Our Treasurer, Susie Hope, reports that thanks to:

- Bill & Lata Moss and Tony & Lorraine Barrett opening their beautiful gardens for the RFS,
- Judy Tribe's amazing publicity efforts,
- Lesley Wilson & her wonderful catering team (including Deb Griffin who got the ball rolling & instigated the very successful Sunday evening locals 'Do'),
- All those people in yellows that saved Church Lane from becoming a total traffic nightmare (and the happy bus drivers!),
- All those volunteers that sat at gates and sizzled sausages and poured coffee and patrolled Dennarque,
- All the locals and their friends and families (plus all the visitors from farther afield) taking advantage of the beautiful weather to view the garden,

your brigade has netted an astonishing \$23,000. A huge thank you to you all.

Bushfire Survival Planning and Marital Harmony

There have been significant changes for women over the last couple of decades but one area where the traditional roles still prevail is in bushfire survival planning and firefighting. Women are generally not choosing to learn how to fight a bushfire threatening their home and their first concern is for looking after the children whereas fighting fires and defending the home is seen as the responsibility of men. Generally, women choose to 'leave early' and men choose to 'stay and defend'. With so many women training as firefighters (4 out of our 11 new recruits) and with a

female Captain of our brigade we might look at things slightly differently at Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine.

Unfortunately, research shows that one of the reasons that families do not write Bushfire Survival Plans is that they cannot agree on a course of action and, when faced with a bushfire, time is wasted discussing what to do. This can cost lives. Do you and your partner agree on what to do in a fire event? Do you have a written Bushfire Survival Plan?

For a humorous look at this problem check the web page <http://warrandyte.org.au/be-ready/video-living-with-bushfire-risk/> run by the Warrandyte Community Association. This Association was set up after the 2009 Victorian fires which came within 10 minutes of impacting on Warrandyte (the wind changed at the last minute – just what happened to us in the State Mine Fire).

All the community organisations and authorities joined together to form an Association to raise awareness of bushfire risk and encourage residents to prepare for the worst. The video on their website was written by a local and acted by the Warrandyte Theatre Company. The Association particularly likes to use humour in their work so have also put on their website (thanks to another local) an item called 'It's a Great Place to Live' starring Sylvester the Silverfish. If you have/had teenagers or are not quite sure what Fire Danger Ratings mean you must look at this. It will make you laugh.

Bushfire Survival Plans and What We Learnt from the State Mine Fire Workshop

Save the date Saturday (morning) 13th September in your diaries for a workshop at the Village Hall on writing a Bushfire Survival Plan and what we learnt from the State Mine Fire. That date is the NSW Rural Fire Service 'Open Day'. Traditionally, brigade stations are open across the State for residents to visit. We are very proud of our station (some brigades are amazed at its contemporary look and size) but in a village with so many beautiful homes and gardens it is hardly a major attraction and we have rarely participated.

However, our experiences last year have given us many insights into bushfire survival planning and a number of our residents have some experiences and new ways of doing things that we think are important to share. Consequently, we will be holding a workshop for all residents. We will have more details in the next Newsletter.

Kathleen Oakes, Community Engagement Officer

2014 Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Photography and Art Exhibition

The 2014 Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Photography and Art Exhibition will be held on Saturday 18th October (10 am – 4.00 pm) and Sunday 19th October 2014 (10 am – 3.30 pm) at the Mt Wilson Village Hall.

After some debate, it has been decided that all works for this year's exhibition will follow the theme of the previous two exhibitions in that the works must depict aspects of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine.

More details will be announced shortly; in the meantime, Entry Forms and Conditions of Entry are available from the Mt Wilson website for those who wish to submit works.

All net proceeds from the event will be donated by contributing artists to the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade.

Letter of Appreciation to the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Community

After the delightful account under the heading of 'Fond Farewell' in the February 2014 edition of The Mount, Ellis and I felt that the least we could do was to express our warmest gratitude to both the communities of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine. Our years at Mt Wilson have been richly rewarding. They will be treasured by us and our four children and grandchildren. Those years, as mentioned in the 'Fond Farewell', are filled with so many memories, very special to us in spite of the background of ill-health gradually overtaking Ellis in more recent decades. We always enjoyed the lively company of our many friends in the community and we do hope we will not lose contact with them in the future.

It would be remiss if we did not express appreciation for the very generous tribute paid to us by Richard Beattie, President of the Mt Wilson Progress Association at the March meeting in 2014. I had hoped to attend that meeting but did not make it. Thank you so much Richard and all those who attended. I have to say that any effort we injected into the community was ably supported by many others.

A community as small as Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine needs participation at a high level to function well and survive successfully. It has been a very positive outcome in that regard. Let us hope it continues along what has become a well worn path for the current organisations within the community.

Our decision to settle in Mt Wilson permanently in 1986 after adding to the original quaint little circa 1940 cottage was not taken lightly. We knew it would mean making sacrifices both for the family as well as financially but we loved the diverse bushland around us, not least the Eucalypts and the ever mysterious rainforest; the magical atmosphere created by the seasonal changes as we moved from the deep glow of autumn to the starkness of winter and the joyous spring bursting into life. Above it all was the constant delight of the bird life visiting each day the bath outside our wide kitchen window - the small birds entertained us every day. The wombats and the ever present lyrebirds should not be forgotten .

Being the people we are our participation in the community was not without its challenges over the years, especially during the 90s when Ellis became Secretary/Treasurer of the then Bushfire Brigade and when confronted with the Progress Association lacking a secretary agreed to take that responsibility as well. Those were the days!

Meanwhile with my interest in and concern for the history of this small community, somehow I was caught up with the 125th Anniversary of The Surveying of Mt Wilson in 1993. From this baptism I graduated to the Turkish Bath. With the loyal support of Bill and Jane Smart of *Wynstay* eventually emerged the Mt Wilson Historical Society, though not without some fiery debate in 1996-7. Sadly Jane Smart had passed away in June 1995. In 2001 Mt Irvine was added to the title of the Society when the remarkable Kirk Exhibition and the Scrivener Exhibition were staged, the former in the Turkish Bath Museum and at *Wynstay*; the latter in the Mt Irvine Village Hall.

Between 1995 and 1999 with the dedication of Bill Smart and his family we managed to find enough volunteers to open *Wynstay* gardens in the Autumn and Spring and to sell the ever popular Devonshire Teas, raising the necessary funds to finance the restoration and repairs of the Turkish Bath Museum. It was opened in 1997 by Hazel Hawke. There followed the amazing Jazz Concerts led by Bill Boldiston held every year first at *Wynstay* then in the Turkish Bath Precinct after the sad loss of Bill Smart in 1999. The work associated with these concerts was horrendous but so rewarding. It went on for years!

Now in 2014 the Society can reflect on some amazing achievements, led first by Raoul Wilson of *Wyndham* then Professor Arthur Delbridge and Florence Smart plus other loyal members of the Smart family, the Raines family, Helen and John Cardy, Robin and John Leonard, the Scriveners and so many others, and more recently, Des Barrett and Tim Gow.

While some have moved away, the spirit remains.

Ellis and I ask you, especially current members of the Society, to consider volunteering to help the Committee which is lacking sufficient members to operate fully. It is vital to keep the Turkish Bath Museum open as often as practicable. It is a gem of a building and defines in some respects the essence of Mt Wilson. It is a miracle that it is with us today preserved and partially restored.

Please give it your serious consideration. What is required are 2-3 members who are either residents or are here often and/or are actively part of the community. The Society needs you.

We thank everyone for their friendship and support over the many memorable years we have spent in Mt Wilson which is a rare part of the world. We were so fortunate to spend a major part of our life surrounded by its magical beauty.

Mary Reynolds and for Ellis Reynolds

Mt Wilson loses its oldest citizen

Sally Davidson, aged 102, passed away peacefully on April 11th 2014 with her family by her side. Sally was able, with the support of Rodger and Wai, to enjoy living her latter years at *Windy Ridge* with its beautiful garden.

Many of us remember Sally always sitting in the garden with the poodle Precious by her side, often collecting the entrance fees. We also remember sharing her 100th birthday celebration on a beautiful March day, down in the BBQ / gazebo area. On that day Sally reminisced about her early childhood in Greenwich and participating in the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Despite her very poor vision and progressive frailty, Sally enjoyed visitors, and joining in conversations and social events during her years in Rodger and Wai's wonderful care.

Our thoughts are with the Davidson family following their loss, but know they can be proud of the life and love they gave to Sally whilst she lived in Mt Wilson.

Rodger & Wai would also like to express their heartfelt thanks to the First Responders and to the villagers of Mt Wilson for their kindness over recent weeks.

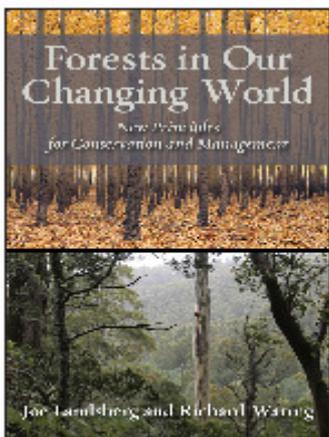
Jane Mayne





**FORESTS IN OUR CHANGING WORLD:
NEW PRINCIPLES FOR CONSERVATION
AND MANAGEMENT**

JOE LANDSBERG AND RICHARD WARING



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New thinking on the forests of today for students who will manage the forests of tomorrow.

Scientists tell us that climate change is upon us and the physical world is changing quickly with serious implications for biodiversity and human well-being. Forests cover vast regions of the globe and serve as a first line of defense against the worst effects of climate change, but only if we keep them healthy and resilient.

Forests in Our Changing World tells us how to do that. Authors Joe Landsberg and Richard Waring present an overview of forests around the globe, describing basic precepts of forest ecology and physiology and how forests will change as earth's climate warms. In easy-to-understand terms, they describe the ecosystem services forests provide, such as clean water and wildlife habitat, present economic concepts important to the management and policy decisions that affect forests, and introduce the use of growth-and-yield models and remote-sensing technology that provide the data behind those decisions.

About the authors

Joe Landsberg is a forest scientist and consultant with a long history of active international scientific collaboration studying the role of climate and weather on global forests. During his illustrious career, he has served as chief of the CSIRO Division of Forest Research and worked for NASA in its Terrestrial Ecology Program.

Richard Waring is emeritus distinguished professor of forest science at Oregon State University. In his long career, he has held guest and visiting professorships at leading institutions around the world.

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Copies of Joe's book can be ordered directly from NewSouth Books at the following email address:

joanne.anderton@newsouthbooks.com.au

The Picnic Tables at Mt Wilson

There are currently 25 picnic tables scattered about the Village in the Reserves and in the various streets and lanes.

In 1992, the Mt Wilson Progress Association asked Blue Mountains City Council to purchase the timber for the tables for their Reserves and the Association undertook to construct and place them.

The timber, all cut to size, duly arrived on a large truck and was taken to *Wynstay*.

Members of the Progress Association gathered one weekend and worked hard, drilling holes and fixing the bolts. The tables were then picked up with Bill Smart's tractor and taken, one by one, to the various Reserves and roadsides where they were carefully placed.

The photo below shows the tables put together and awaiting transport.

In 2000, more tables were purchased by the Progress Association to augment the earlier hand-made ones.

Libby Raines



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Ask the Neighbours

It was thrilling, Tim... simply thrilling. There's nothing like it. The spotlight; the make-up and the smell of the crowd. And that was just the pre-event RAATS training! The Sydney Fighters' Festival¹ didn't disappoint, either Tim.

Didn't see you there, Tim. As a loyal member of RAATS you should have received complimentary tickets to the Festival. They must have got lost in the mail. Pity that. The Saturday night crowd could have done with a dose of reality... "Antechinus are cute", indeed! That audience member completely missed the point of the Session – "The Antechinus Wars". I soon got them sorted. The autograph hunters were out in force afterwards – although it did seem odd that they wanted me to sign cheque books instead of autograph booksdon't they know that PINs are the thing these days?

Anyway, the RAATS contingent at the Festival was extremely well received. We participated in all the important sessions – in addition to *moi's* appearance in the Saturday night Panel Session, we saw RAATS Members lead workshops on "Staring them down - don't let their sweet little brown eyes fool you" and "Feeding the inner Antechinus – encouraging them to find better food in Bilpin".

RAATS would have been completely covered in glory if we'd been able to hold our "A hundred and one things to do with dead Antechinus" workshop. If it hadn't been for the Publishers of "A hundred and one things to do with dead cats" winning that injunction, we'd have won First Place in the "Best Minor Interest Voluntary Organisation" Class for sure.

We consoled ourselves afterwards by marching through the streets of the Sydney CBD with all the other anti-wildlife groups at the Livid Festival². "We'll reclaim the Night (and our roof spaces)" we chanted. It's so encouraging to see the City working on its motion triggered sensor lights to such an extent. Who knew the Opera House had Antechinus Issues? And to top it all off, that nice young Police Officer drove us all home in one of their amazingly comfortable padded vans. It's good to know our taxes are hard at work doing important things, Tim.

Buoyed by our success at the Fighters' Festival, we've secured the RAATS Exhibitor's Tent for several Field Days next month. So, we need to Ask the Neighbours for suggestions on how we might "showcase" RAATS' activities. Any ideas?

Elizabeth Montano

¹ With apologies to the brilliant folk of the Sydney Writers' Festival.

² With apologies to the brilliant folk at Vivid.

The Mitchell Conservatorium Omega Ensemble with special guest Paul Meyer will present symphonic chamber music repertoire in their most comprehensive collaboration to date – touring the central west and starting on Tuesday 27 May 2014, 7.30pm in Hoskins Church, Lithgow. The Omega Ensemble is David Rowden clarinet, Tobias Breider viola and Maria Raspopova piano to be joined by internationally renowned French clarinetist Paul Meyer for an intimate concert of superb chamber music.

Their Clarinet Concordia program includes works by Mendelssohn, Debussy and Mozart and a new work by New Zealand born composer Ben Hoadley. Classical chamber music to excite and delight.

Tickets: Adults \$30, concession and U3A \$20, Family of Four \$80, MitCon students FREE
Enquiries 6331 6622

www.mitchellconservatorium.edu.au

7.30pm Tuesday 27 May
Hoskins Church, Lithgow

7.30pm Wednesday 28 May
Abercrombie House, Bathurst

7.30pm Thursday 29 May
ORC, Orange

Suggestions, comments or contributions warmly welcomed!