



Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Community Newsletter

Working together for a better
community

May 2009



EDITOR'S NOTES

We had a rather abrupt 'descent' into winter conditions a week or so ago, but that large cold system which blew in from the south has passed and right now the weather is wonderful and the trees beautiful. I am pleased for all the usual reasons and because Diana was complaining that there hadn't been much summer.

I know the economic downturn and all its implications are important, but the remorseless focus of the news media on economics and government policy in relation to them can get very tedious. For anyone whose pension or investments are seriously affected, (and I hope there are not too many in our community in that position), it may well be compelling stuff—deficits, declining GDP, reduced profits, share prices over a cliff, recession, job losses... We'll all be rooned, sed Hanrahan! But life does go on and, if you look at the swarms of people who drive up to Mt Wilson in good cars on the weekends for a little 'leaf peeping', it's clear that there are many in the general community who are not in trouble. And the success of the Autumn Market (see Florence Smart's report on p. 4) indicates that there's a bit of spare money around.

The awful Victorian fires in February are receding into history, except for the many people directly affected by them. The ABC's 4 Corners program last Monday (27th) provided a vivid reminder of how bad they were. A point which emerged from that program, and earlier interviews and reports, was the naivety and lack of knowledge of many of the people caught up in those fires. Certainly, they were outside the range of anyone's experience in terms of the speed they moved and the intensity of the fire fronts; no-one could have predicted any of that, but the experienced people, aware of the fuel loads in the forests, on a very hot day with high winds, would have been uneasy. Just think about Ash Wednesday, in 1983, and the Canberra fires in 2003. Yet 'ordinary' people in Marysville went about their business, ignoring massive, billowing smoke clouds through the afternoon, that should have frightened them in those conditions. Nothing much happened until they were in serious trouble.

People talked about the need for warning systems (sirens, the radio—although 'phone lines and radio communications were clogged and chaotic), about the 'get out early or stay and fight' policy, about the future organisation of evacuation policies, and so on. And no doubt the Royal Commission will consider all these things and there will be recommendations about them and about building standards, and reiteration of old recommendations about how to prepare and defend houses. As part of all that, I wonder if they will be considering the question of public education about fires which, it seems to me, must be essential. You can't manage, or respond rationally, to things you don't understand. It would be fairly simple to put together a package that could be distributed on DVD giving information about fire behaviour in all sorts of conditions—from mild weather with low fuel loads, on up to the big, dangerous fires. A huge range of experience is available nationally, which could be harnessed to produce a very informative package. It will be interesting to see how that aspect is dealt with. (After I wrote this John Holt sent me a copy of a very good article about public education and planning for bushfires by Alan Catford in National Parks Journal; April-May 2009).

'Beth Raines, our RFS Captain, with others from the Brigade, went to Victoria to help fight those fires and tells us about that deployment on p.4.

The second of John Holt's profiles of local identities is about Milba Mewburn (p.7)

Please note the **Bushfire Forum** sponsored by the MWPA, to be held here in Mt Wilson on **Saturday September 26**. A date for your diary—it should be an interesting day.

Michael Pembroke clearly received quite a bit of feedback on his lists of birds and animals seen in Mt Wilson, and has provided revised versions, which appear on p. 6.

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MWPA COMMITTEE NEWS**New Committee Member**

We are pleased to announce that Richard Beattie has agreed to fill the casual vacancy on the Committee. All positions are now occupied, so that the committee is Bill Ryan (President), Diana Landsberg (Vice President), Libby Raines (Treasurer), Moira Green (Secretary), Robert Chesney, Brian Abrahams, Alison Halliday and Richard Beattie.

Mount Wilson/Mount Irvine Phone Book

The phone book will be updated within the next month. Included in the book are contact details of all residents and property owners, their local number, a Sydney number, mobile phone, fax and email if they are applicable. Most important is the contact numbers for emergency communication as the book is used by the RFS. It is also planned to include house numbers as well as property names as a means of assisting Emergency Services. Email is a useful means of communication so it would be appreciated if this could be included. If you do not wish this to be published please indicate this and it will be kept for MWPA Committee and RFS use only. Please contact me on 4756 2162 or email rm.green@bigpond.com if there are changes to your contact details or additional information since the last issue of the book.

Mount Wilson Leisure Library

Thanks to the Historical Society Market Weekend we have had another clean out of the library shelves and have added new books to the selection. Thanks to Fiona Carruthers, daughter of Ken Carruthers of Mount Irvine, who has donated a copy of her book, "The Horse in Australia". This is a history of the horse in Australia and has some local references. (See the book review further on in the newsletter) Library borrowing time is 10.00 to 11.00 a.m. on Saturdays so please come and view the latest additions.

Tree Trimming

The Committee has decided to employ a local horticulturalist, Micah Fink, one day a month to care for the street trees. He has already in stalled the plant identification signs in Marcus Clark Reserve and will do similar ones in Cathedral Reserve.

Clean Up Australia Day

Our thanks go to Robert Chesney and all who joined him in cleaning the village last Clean Up Australia Day. 23 people including 8 representatives of the RFS were involved. They were appreciated with their truck in clearing dumped building material on the corner of Bells Line of Road and Mount Wilson Road. Another dumped car was reported to Council.

Speed Limit on Bells Line of Road

Richard Beattie followed up with RTA the inquiry made at the AGM last November about the change in speed limit along Bells Line of Road. Apparently the State Government requires the RTA to review speed limits every ten years. A decision is based on the mechanics of the road and crash history. In the period 2001-2007 12 people were killed and 192 injured on the road. RTA was informed that although it had claimed to consult widely, there was no consultation with our community, and there is no apparent rationale for the fact that there is no change in speed limit west of Mount Wilson. Suggestion was made at the March General Meeting that the resident wombats were the successful lobbyists in retaining the 100km speed limit. Beware! Police have been observed patrolling the road.

Join the Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc.

If you are a property owner or reside in Mount Wilson you are eligible to be a member of the Association. If you are not a member and wish to join please contact me.

Moira Green
Secretary

FROM YOUR COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Reminder about health diaries (see the February newsletter): Don't forget you can get these from me at Withycombe. They could be very helpful to you if you fall ill.

Diana Landsberg

STOP PRESS FROM THE RFS**BRIGADE DEPUTY CAPTAIN HONOURED**

Deputy Captain Barry Freeman has been honoured by the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service in an Awards Ceremony held at State Headquarters on the Feast Day of St Florian, Patron Saint of Firefighters (4 May). Barry received the Commissioner's Certificate of Commendation in recognition of his service, particularly relating to his role in the development of a strategic water supply program for the brigade area, and the development and implementation of the Ambulance First Responder Program. The Mt Wilson-Mt Irvine Brigade became the State's inaugural First Responder Rural Fire Brigade. Our warmest congratulations to Barry.

Sarah Howell

VILLAGE HALL JOTTINGS

Something for everyone to note. This year the Yulefest is on Saturday 4th July so, before you go on to the next paragraph, please put that date in your diary. You will be receiving further information about this event next month.

At the Annual General Meeting of 21st March, 2009, the Committee membership stood down and all positions came up for election.

Since the Committee was first elected members of the community have donated over \$25,000 for work on and equipment for the Hall. That does not include amounts spent by the Progress Association on the Audio/Visual equipment, a grant of \$16,100 from the Commonwealth Government for emergency equipment, donations in kind or the many large expenses met by Council. With these significant funds the outgoing Committee has been able to achieve much in upgrading the Hall and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the many donors for their generosity

and support. Council has proved to be a most generous and helpful partner in everything we have been able to achieve.

Subject to Council's approval, the new Committee members will be Ron Green (Chair), Judy Tribe (Deputy Chair), Beth Raines (Secretary), Milba Mewburn (Booking Officer) Darrel Conybeare and Helen Freeman. The Chairman expressed the Committee's thanks for the work done by Alan Gunn who did not offer himself for re-election.

Over the coming years the Committee will be concentrating on Stage 2 of the renovations to the Hall and improving the kitchen facilities. Doubtless there will be many other items which will need to be attended to. We look forward to your further support in the years ahead.

**Ron Green
Chairman**

RFS MATTERS

**Notice of Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine RFS Brigade
Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Brigade will be held on **Saturday 6 June 2009 at 10.30 am in the Mt Irvine Village Hall**. Morning tea will be served from 10am.

If you have been issued with yellows, could you please wear them to the meeting. In order to vote at the AGM, all members must be financial. You will be able to renew your annual subscription (\$10 including GST) at the Hall before the start of the meeting. The annual subscriptions are not enough to pay for the day to day running of the Brigade so donations are vital. Please consider donating generously.

We look forward to seeing as many members as possible.

**Judy Tribe
Secretary**

Brigade to run street meetings

The Brigade will conduct street meetings during the winter to inform residents of each street in Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine of the particular risks and strategies relating to a potential bushfire affecting them.

Senior Deputies and Street Wardens will advise on such matters as likely direction a bushfire would come from and property protection measures. You are encouraged to raise issues relating to your particular property to ensure that you are informed and prepared for any potential fire. Experienced Brigade members will be available to conduct individual property inspections if you would like them to advise you.

Flyers will be distributed to letter boxes advising when and where your particular street meeting will take place.

Mt Wilson to Bilpin Bush Run Saturday 22 August 2009

As many of you will know, the annual Mt Wilson to Bilpin Bush Run – known widely as the Willy to Billy – is the major fund-raising event for the Mt Wilson-Mt Irvine Rural Fire Service. Over 300 super-fit runners meet in Silva Plana in Mt Wilson for breakfast and the start, and then run 36kms through the bush to Bilpin. The event is organised jointly by the Mt Wilson-Mt Irvine and Bilpin brigades and the proceeds are split between the two brigades. Registration has opened and already we have a good number of runners who have signed on for the race.

Nearer the time, I will be calling for volunteers to help at the breakfast and drink stations so mark the date in your diary now.

Sarah Howell

Victorian Deployment – February 2009

The Mt Wilson-Mt Irvine Brigade was asked on Saturday 14th February to provide our Cat 9 (a Landcruiser) plus a day and night crew for a RRG (Rapid Response Group) deployment to Victoria to leave the next morning. Day and night crew was Vic Zhukov and David Hyde with their crew leaders being a Deputy Captain from Mt Tomah and from the lower Mountains. Day shift drove the vehicle down to Victoria while the night shift were flown down. They made up part of Strike Team 13 Alpha consisting of a Command vehicle and three Cat 7's from Chifley (Marangaroo 7A and 7B and Wallerawang 7) and two Cat 9's from the Blue Mountains (Glenbrook 9 and Mt Wilson 9). The crew deployment was 72 hours plus a day either side for travel. I was sent down as part of 13 Bravo to replace the Alpha crew – destination Healesville. A base camp was set up on the show-ground accommodating up to 400 people, mostly RFS but also NSW Ambulance, NPWS, NSW Forests, NSW Fire Brigades and SES.

Our main task was to support the Department of Sustainability and Environment as they conducted backburning operations. To get to the hills above Healesville where we were working reminded me of the drive from Megalong Valley up to Blackheath: steep, windy roads, once thick with huge trees and tree ferns now all looking like giant toothpicks, some still

standing, some fallen, all on a bed of bare white ash. We went through the little town of Narbethong where very few of the buildings remained. Only about three houses out of 15 visible from the road were still standing.

Further back in the unburnt areas we soon had a new appreciation of how fast fire ran up the huge trees and threatened to spot over into unburnt bush. The two Landcruisers proved their worth as quick response vehicles, being sent down newly made bulldozer trails to black out spot fires or trail edges. These vehicles only carry 600L so being economical with water is essential. We had to travel down steep trails to creeks or back up to the bigger tankers to refill with water. A number of the trails were suitable only for these small tankers.

I returned to Mt Wilson on the 22nd February whilst our vehicle remained in the Healesville area and was then deployed to Wilson's Promontory. All up over 24 people from Mt Wilson/ Mt Irvine and other Blue Mountain Brigades, Gosford, Northern Rivers, Far West and the Hunter District crewed our vehicle during the 20 day deployment. During the campaign some 5,000 people were deployed to Victoria from the NSW Emergency Services with an average of 25 flights into the area per day.

There are a few photos of the trip to Victoria on the noticeboard at the Mt Wilson station for anyone interested.

Beth Raines

MEGA-SUCCESSFUL MARKET WEEKEND

Over the weekend of April 25 – 26 the Historical Society organised a 2nd annual market weekend in the Mt Wilson Village Hall. Tables were hired out to the local RFS, the Meditation Centre and several individuals, with additional tables also rented by craftspeople from Lithgow, Wentworth Falls and Mt Victoria. A very tempting array of new and second hand goods were on sale – definitely something for everyone. Hundreds of books and videos, DVDs and CDs were sold at irresistibly low prices. Again this year the Leisure Library generously donated boxes of surplus books, and these were supplemented by dozens more from the neighbourhood. The books are a very popular item, and it's great to see them recycled rather than thrown out. Our few 'remainders' are on their way to the Lifeline depot for their next sale.

An added attraction for visitors who came for the autumn colours was the busy kitchen service with scones made on the spot, sausages, soup & toasted sandwiches and all those slices and cookies made and donated for sale. We are quite convinced that food served at the hall is an important service for visitors to the gardens at these peak times of the year.

The Society is very grateful indeed to all those who donated hundreds of dollars worth of goods for sale, plus all the cooking and the help with setting up, selling, serving food and clearing up after. We were quite blown away by all the offers of help of all kinds. It made the whole event a tremendous success.

Information was provided about local gardens, walks and other attractions. We do believe that everyone in the community benefits from such a united effort. The organisation gets easier with practice – we have already booked the hall for April 2010!

Florence Smart

BUSHFIRE FORUM

A discussion forum, organised by the Blue Mountains World heritage Institute* (BMWHI) will be held in the Mt Wilson Village Hall on **Saturday Sept 26 (1030 am–1230 pm)**. The forum is sponsored by the Mt Wilson Progress Association, which is covering the costs of invited speakers and Institute administration.

The aims are to provide information about

- the bushfire risk management planning process e.g. fuel reduction burning
- bushfire policy and its implementation by the agencies
- ecological knowledge underlying bushfire management
- climate change implications and how they are being addressed

To share information about, and discuss, the challenge of fire management in ways that integrate the values of World Heritage protection as well as human life and property.

Please note: **this is not intended to provide a forum for discussion of local issues**. That is a matter for the RFS, and the local brigade will be organising street meetings for that purpose (see p. 3). This forum is aimed at providing information about the research advice available to government agencies, and background on official thinking at that level.

Format

Two speakers will make presentations of 20-30 mins, after which there will be open discussion and a Q & A session with a panel consisting of the speakers and (we hope) a representative of the BMCC.

Presentations:

- Opening statement by Dr Rosalie Chapple, Executive Director of BMWHI, including mention of Grose Valley forum report action plan
- Prof Ross Bradstock University of New South Wales - fire ecologist
- Geoff Luscombe¹ DEC, on govt policy and heritage protection

Panel discussion

Lunch.

The meeting will be chaired by Dr Joe Landsberg²

¹ formerly Chief, CSIRO Division of Forest Research; in that position in 1983, after the Ash Wednesday fires, I was instrumental in setting up the National Bushfire Research Unit

BOOK REVIEW

The Horse in Australia is a book of 350 pages by Fiona Carruthers of Nutwood Farm, Mt Irvine, published by Knopf in 2008. You don't need to be a rider to get particular pleasure from this well-written and fascinating account. Although the horse is not native to Australia it is familiar to most everyone, and loved by many. The 350 pages are never dull, always informative, and make a really good read.

As the title suggests, the approach is broadly historical. In 1787 the First Fleet called in at South Africa's Cape of Good Hope, and took on stock and supplies, including 500 animals of which seven were horses – a stallion, three mares and three 6-month old foals, and perhaps a few more privately purchased by officers along the way. Some hay was loaded to feed the horses as the fleet moved towards Van Diemens Land. But by journey's end the animals were quite out of proper food, half starved, and suffering from rough seas. Not a good start, for 'the horse in Australia'!

The text is accompanied by photographs both coloured and black-&-white, many of them quite dra-

matic – buckjumping, polo playing, ploughing, bush ranging. At the end of each chapter a set of notes identifies the sources used, usually with quotations and page references. Important books on related themes are carefully listed and acknowledged. For the chapter called *Walers at War* the end note identifies the author's principal source, Sandy Yarwood's *Walers: Australian Horses Abroad*. Melbourne University Press, 1989. The late Sandy Yarwood, formerly Professor of History at Sydney University, was a keen horseman and his characteristic limp was the result of a riding accident.

Each chapter in *The Horse in Australia* gives a rich account of horse related activity: the horse in war, the Melbourne Cup, picnic races, bush polo, pony clubs, camp drafting, polocrosse, trotting and pacing, to mention only a few of the subjects which, along with the many illustrations, make this a quite absorbing book, even to those of us who see horses only in other people's paddocks, or watch an old Hollywood movie about cowboys and Indians. A thoroughly good read, it can be recommended with no reservations.

Arthur Delbridge

Revised lists:**THE BIRDS OF MT WILSON***

<u>Australian Wood Duck</u>	Ibis, Straw-necked	<u>White</u>
<u>Bell Miner</u>	Kingfisher, Azure	Treecreeper
Blackbird	Kookaburra, Laughing	Red-browed
<u>Black Faced Cuckoo Shrike</u>	Lapwing, Masked (<u>plover</u>)	White-throated
Bowerbird, Satin	Lorikeet, Rainbow	Turkey, Brush
Bronzewing	Lyrebird, Superb	Wattlebird
Brush	Magpie, Australian	<u>Little</u>
Common	Martin	Red
Bulbul, Red-whiskered	Fairy	Yellow
Butcherbird	Tree	Whippbird, Eastern
Grey	<u>Mistletoe Bird</u>	Whistler, Golden
Pied	Owl	
Chough, White-winged	Barn	
Cockatoo	Powerful	NATIVE ANIMALS OF MT WILSON*
Yellow-tailed Black	<u>Sooty</u>	
<u>Gang Gang</u>	Southern Boobook	Brown Swamp Wallaby
<u>Common Blackbird</u>	Pardalote, Spotted	Wombat
<u>Crested Shrike - Tit</u>	Parrot, King	Grey Kangaroo
Cuckoo	Pigeon	Brush Tailed Possum
Channel-billed	Crested	Ring Tailed Possum
Fan-tailed	White-headed	Glider
Horsfields Bronze	Wonga	Tiny Possum
Currawong	Pilotbird	Antichinus
Grey	Quail, Brown	Echidna
Pied	Raven, Australian	Bandicoot
Cuckoo-Dove, Brown	Robin	Dingo
Duck, Australian Maned (Wood)	Eastern Yellow	Quoll <u>or Tiger Quoll</u>
Eagle, Wedge-tailed	Flame	Red Bellied Black Snake
<u>Fairywren</u>	<u>Red Capped</u>	Brown Snake
<u>Superb</u>	Rose	Diamond Snake
<u>Variegated</u>	Scarlet	Adder
Fantail	<u>Rock Warbler</u>	Python
Grey	Rosella	Tiger Snake
Rufous	Crimson	Blue Tongue Lizard
Finch, Red-browed	Eastern	Skink
Frogmouth, Tawny	Scrubwren	Water Dragon
<u>Galah</u>	Yellow-throated	<u>Micro Bat</u>
Gerygone, Brown	White-browed	
Goshawk	<u>Large-billed</u>	
Brown	Silvereve	
Grey	Songlark	
Grebe, Australasian	Rufous	
Honeyeater	Brown	
Crescent	Spinebill, Eastern (<u>honeyeater</u>)	
Lewins	Starling, Common	
New Holland	Swallow, Welcome	
<u>Tawny Crowned</u>	Thornbill, Striated	
<u>White Eared Honeyeater</u>	<u>Brown</u>	
<u>White Naped Honeyeater</u>	<u>Thrush</u>	
<u>Yellow Eared Honeyeater</u>	<u>Bassiam</u>	
Yellow-tailed	<u>Grey Shrike</u>	

Michael Pembroke

* **Underlined species are those added as a result of helpful contributions from the community, for which I am very grateful.** MP

IN MEMORIAM: LUIGI STRANO

Luigi Strano died on April 27, 2009; he was buried in Mt Wilson's village cemetery on Monday May 4. Born April 4th, 1913 at Castellace, Italy, he bought his house "Churinca" at Mt Wilson in the 1960s and came to live here in the 1980s. A gentle, scholarly man—a poet—he was sometimes to be seen trundling round the village on his little electric scooter.

Perhaps a good memorial to Luigi is a poem of his about a local feature, Zircon Creek. (provided by Florence Smart and Arthur Delbridge). It's on the next page.

MILBA MEWBURN

"If you make the best mousetraps in the world, even if you hide yourself in the middle of a forest, the world will beat a pathway to your door." So it is for Milba and her Xmas puddings: auctioning these creations is one of the star events at the Association's Christmas party.



The Kirk family—Sid, Viv', Bert, Albert, Cecil, Peter and Tom were famous timber cutters and Tom and Peter competed regularly at the Royal Easter Show. Peter Kirk at the age of 7 was driving bullock teams and within four years owned his own team of six bullocks. In those days cattle regularly roamed the roads of Mt Wilson, which gave the district a real rural touch. Young Peter and Tom were often given a box of matches, at the right time of the year, to go into the bush and burn off. Imagine that now! Peter Kirk, was the son of Sid and Mary, who were the caretakers of Yengo. He married Johnnie and in July 1942 Milba was born. She was to remain involved with Mt Wilson for the next 67 years.

Milba attended the Mt Wilson school and went on to Presbyterian Ladies College at Orange. Being a contractor clearing land for the Jenolan state forest Peter could afford the school fees. When she left school Milba commenced a roller-coaster of a life. She did a dress-making course for a year then, in 1959, started nursing at the Royal North Shore hospital. She married in 1965, had a son, Scott, and began a life-long involvement with Julie, a ward of the state who she took under her wing when she was a baby.

After Milba's husband died in 1975 she was involved in a variety of occupations—she was a motel manager, a garden shop proprietor and even ran a car brake business from her home. For something different she bought a 40 ton capacity tipper truck which she used to haul coal and gravel from Lithgow to Sydney. At that time there was strong prejudice against women truck drivers and Milba was once stopped at the gates of a factory and denied entry. That problem was soon resolved when she refused to move until, with a growing line of trucks waiting to get in, she was begrudgingly allowed to enter. (She still possesses a HR licence that allows her to drive a fire tanker.)

Following these adventures Milba returned to Mt Wilson in 1996 to look after her aged parents at Milparra on The Avenue. They eventually died—Peter aged 94 and Johnnie 92. In 2003 she married the affable Albert Mewburn, who had been a MP (military policeman) in World War II and had spent a lot of time on the Kokoda trail. Unfortunately he died the following year.

Since 1997 Milba has been a devoted communications officer at the Blue Mountains Group Support at Ka-toomba, and a member of the Mt Wilson brigade of the RFS. She is actively involved in Legacy and is secretary/ treasurer of Lithgow Legacy Widows Club. She is a tower of strength in community affairs; always approachable and helpful. We look forward to December's batch of puddings!

John Holt

In memory of **Luigi Strano**, his poem **Zircon Creek**, published in a collection titled *Fifty Years Ago*, Sydney 1999. One of seven slim volumes of poetry, mostly in Italian, published between 1976 and 2000.

To stay sane
I must feel
The rugged bushland beneath my feet
See a wallaby or two,
The lyre bird
And quench my thirst
At Zircon Creek...

English Signs from Around the World

In a Bangkok temple:

It is forbidden to enter a woman, even a foreigner, if dressed as a man.

Cocktail lounge, Norway:

Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.

Doctors office, Rome:

Specialist in women and other diseases.

Dry cleaners, Bangkok:

Drop your trousers here for the best results.

In a Nairobi restaurant:

Customers who find our waitresses rude ought to see the manager.

On the main road to Mombassa, leaving Nairobi:

Notice: when this sign is under water, this road is impassable.

On a poster at Kencom:

Are you an adult that cannot read? if so we can help.

In a City restaurant:

Open seven days a week and weekends.

In a cemetery:

Persons are prohibited from picking flowers from any but their own graves.

Tokyo hotel's rules and regulations:

Guests are requested not to smoke or do other disgusting behaviours in bed.

On the menu of a Swiss restaurant:

Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.

In a Tokyo bar:

Special cocktails for the ladies with nuts.

Hotel, Yugoslavia:

The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid.

Hotel, Japan:

You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

In the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from a Russian Orthodox monastery:

You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists and writers are buried daily except Thursday.

A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest:

It is strictly forbidden on our black forest camping site that people of different sex, For instance, men and women, live together in one tent unless they are married with each other for this purpose.

Hotel, Zurich:

Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.

Advertisement for donkey rides, Thailand:

Would you like to ride on your own ass?

Airline ticket office, Copenhagen:

We take your bags and send them in all directions.

Lexophiles (Lovers of words)

A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.

A will is a dead giveaway.

Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.

A backward poet writes inverse.

In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.

A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.

With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.

Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you A-flat miner...

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.

A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France resulted in Linoleum Blownapart.

You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia : The LAN down under.

He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

A calendar's days are numbered.

A lot of money is tainted: 'Taint yours, and 'taint mine.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

A plateau is a high form of flattery.

The short fortuneteller who escaped from prison: a small medium at large..

Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall.

If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.

When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

Acupuncture: a jab well done.

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering