

NEWSLETTER



Working together for a better community

October 2006

EDITOR'S NOTES

In the spring newsletter from last year I said 'The rainfall situation has improved in recent weeks and the mountain is looking beautiful: the grass is green (and needs mowing) and the display of spring flowers has been spectacular ...'. This year the first part of that applies—the flowers are again spectacular—but the rainfall situation is fairly dire, so the grass in the paddock is not growing, (in fact some of it looks as if it's dying) and it does not need mowing. I would be happy to mow! I suppose it's a 'throwback' to my upbringing on a farm that makes me particularly sensitive to drought, but I sympathise strongly with the people on the land. It must be very hard to keep your spirits up when you're confronted, day after day, with blue skies and dust across land that should be productive, and your prospects of an income wither with the wheat. From our point of view the main concerns are the potential for a dangerous fire season, and of course the (relatively minor) inconvenience, for those who don't have a groundwater supply, of having to buy water.

One of the things I don't like about spring and summer in this area is the flies. The little black bush flies I can cope with (just): they can be infuriating outdoors, and do nothing for my enjoyment of golf, but at least they don't come inside. The blowies are another matter! The ones that pester us here are native Brown Blowflies (if I have got that right, off a website). George Mayne tells me they breed in damp rotting vegetation—so even in drought Mt Wilson suits them just fine; lots of that. They also breed in carrion and the website says they prefer cooler conditions, but 'occur in large numbers in spring and autumn'. Indeed they do. Blowflies are repulsive and pervasive, with constant streams of the damn' things coming inside, buzzing round the rooms and beating themselves to death against the windows. The more dead the better, except they have to be swept up, and anyway, the heaps of corpses, as well as the numbers we trap in the ingenious baited traps I got from farm supply people, seem to make little impact on the populations.

That all comes across as a bit negative (Drought and blowies—we'll all be rooned, sed Hanrahan) but isn't really intended to be. Christmas is coming, the gardens are gorgeous, and presumably it will rain sometime. Enjoy the holiday season.

At the MWPA AGM in August Graham Tribe stepped down as President after a 5 year term. He did a tremendous job for the community. Thanks Graham.

Please note a number of forthcoming events advertised in more detail later in this newsletter. They are the Garden Day at MerryGarth (Saturday Oct.14), the Breenhold Springfest concert (Oct.29), Remembrance Day service (Nov. 11) and the Historical Society AGM (Nov. 18)

Joe Landsberg

Tel. 4756 2167

e-mail: jlandsberg@netspeed.com.au

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MWPA COMMITTEE NEWS

2006 Annual General Meeting.

We are pleased to report that measures taken to increase the attendance at the August A.G.M. proved to be successful. 38 people attended, an increase of about 10 on previous occasions. The reduction of general meetings from three to two per year, the later start of 5.00 p.m. and the social gathering with drinks and food afterward seemed popular. We are always pleased to hear of further suggestions to improve the occasion.

The New Committee.

The new committee consists of:

- President - Bill Ryan
- Vice President - Diana Landsberg
- Treasurer - Libby Raines
- Secretary - Moira Green
- Ordinary Committee Members - Robert Chesney, Maurice May, Frank Fletcher

There is one casual vacancy which can be filled by appointment by the Committee. If anyone is interested in joining the Committee, please contact one of the members. We meet approximately six times a year on a Friday evening.

Marcus Clark Reserve.

Finally, the Progress Association owns the Marcus Clark Reserve, on behalf of the community. We now have the Certificate of Title

and we thank Maurice May and Graham Tribe

for the work they have done in achieving this, although they are only the most recent in a list of people involved in the process. Our thanks go to them all. The Reserve has been surveyed and plans are in place to start constructing walkways through it.

Remembrance Day Service.

Plans are being finalised for this service to be held on Saturday, 11th November, commencing at 10.45 a.m. at the War Memorial in The Avenue. After the service, a talk about two of the servicemen listed on the memorial will be given by Arthur Delbridge in the Village Hall, followed by morning tea. This will be an opportunity for weekend residents to experience the occasion here in Mount Wilson. Those attending are asked to contribute food for morning tea.

Condolences.

Our condolences go to Timothy Sterling-Levis on the recent death of his mother. Mrs. Meryl Reed came to Mount Wilson in 1938 where she worked as companion to Mrs Wynne and her daughter Jane. She loved Mount Wilson and in 1940 she took up an offer to purchase land for 25 pounds and had a small house built which was later replaced by Timothy in 1971. The property, now owned by Timothy, is 'Cleaves', in Applecot Lane.

Obituary

Another of the Kirk family, whose names are so strongly associated with the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine area, died recently. Donald John Kirk, the fourth child of Herbert (Bert) and Mary Kirk, was born on 17 July, 1930. Bert Kirk was caretaker of Bebeah for Miss Sloan and Don worked with Cecil Kirk until he moved to West Wyalong in 1953. He won the World Championship Underhand Woodchop at Coffs Harbour in 1954. Don and his wife Margaret had three children: Terry, Greg and Donna. Donald Kirk died on September 8, 2006 in Albury, aged 76.

Milba Mewburn

**‘THANK YOU’ FROM THE MT IRVINE
PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**

The Bowens Creek work weekend: July 29-30.

To all those people from Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine and Bilpin, whether in the Fire Brigade or not, members of the Progress Associations or not, who gave their time and energy to come and help on the Bowens Creek Road Working Bee, the Mt Irvine Progress Association would like to say ‘Thank you very much indeed’. And to those who could not come, but sent donations to the Fire Brigade and/or Progress Association, or helped in other ways, ‘Thank you’ to you too. The organisation and effort were extraordinary, and testament to the importance that Bowens Creek Road has for both communities, and the willingness of the two communities to work together.

Mere words cannot express the atmosphere of co-operation and well-being that infused the two days effort, as people cleared drains and filled potholes, whether by hand or by bobcat or truck. Many people had not been on the road for many years and had forgotten how beautiful it is. The weather was perfect and the place chosen for lunch, off the first hairpin bend on the Hawkesbury side, has sun all day long. The sausage sizzle lunch was provided by Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine RFS and augmented by cakes and biscuits from absent well-wishers. Milba Mewburn organised the food and the workers

seemed to appreciate every morsel. There were more than 30 people on both Saturday and Sunday. Thank you to the catering helpers too.

While the Fire Service provided its vehicles and expertise, Peter Raines brought along his truck and tractor and Darrel Conybeare his bobcat and truck. Special mention has to be made of the contribution of Michael Bates, who provided three workers, a bobcat, two trucks and a ditch-digger for both days. Peter Raines had done extensive preliminary drain clearing in the muddy bits, during the week, and Ross Kelly, Barry Freeman and Doug’ Woods had numbered the culverts for identification and clearing the previous weekend. And then along came everyone else, with his or her shovel and preparedness to work.

‘Inspiring’ is a good word to describe the event.

Lastly, to the Councils and RTA who helped with the provision of material for filling the holes; heartfelt Thanks to you too.

The question being asked was: When are we doing it again?

**Leith Conybeare
Secretary, MWPA**

COMMUNITY DIARY

October

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
Sunday 29	Breenhold Springfest Concert Breenhold	12 for 12.30 pm

November

Friday 10	Bushcare	Silva Plana	9 am - 12
Saturday 11	Memorial Service	War Memorial	10.45
Saturday 18	Historical Society AM	Village Hall	4 pm
Sunday 12	Church`	St Georges	3 pm
Friday 17	Bushwalk	Mt Hay	8.30

December

Friday 8	Bushcare	Davies Lane rainforest	9 am—12
Saturday 9	Christmas Party	Village Hall	
Sunday 10	Church	St Georges	3 pm
Friday 15	Walk	Local area	3 pm
Sunday 17	Carol Concert	St Georges	7.30 pm

**Garden Day at MerryGarth: Saturday October 14
to raise funds for St Georges Church**

**Breenhold Springfest concert—picnic day
Sunday 29 October**

This Spring, the 6th Annual SpringFest Concert– Picnic day at *Breenhold*, Tom Breen and Rachel Kohn are delighted to be able to present an afternoon recital of wide ranging music by internationally renowned musicians

Marshall McGuire (harp) and Jane Rutter (flute)

Recitals commence 12.30 pm. Bring lunch and come early

For details see the website: www.breenhold.com.au

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day will be celebrated on **11 November** starting at **10.45am** at the **War-Memorial** and afterwards at the **Village Hall**.

Being a weekend this year, a special feature will be participation by the Village Choir. As usual, Prof. Arthur Delbridge will speaking about two of the veterans whose names appear on the War Memorial. August this year, 90 years ago, was a particularly deadly time for Australian troops at Pozieres when almost as many men were killed as at Gallipoli.

Morning tea less than half an hour afterwards in the Village Hall.
Please come along.

Robert Chesney

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Big Day.

On Saturday **November 18** the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society will be holding its 10th Annual General Meeting in the Mt Wilson Village Hall at 4pm. We have decided on an unusual format for the meeting, to give it a theme: "Village Life". We want to celebrate the life of the Society in company with the other associations active in the community life of our two villages. So invitations are being sent not only to our own members but to members of the MWPA, MIPA, St George's Church and the local Fire Brigade, in fact to all residents, as well as a number of official guests.

Formal AGM reports will be kept to a minimum, to allow time for a brief highlight account of the Society's first 10 years. The Presidents of the other associations are being invited to talk about their group's role and involvement in "Village Life". Interspersed will be special events, like a presentation on the archive storage facility newly housed in the Study Centre, Luigi Strano's library, the ceremony of paying the Society's annual rent, and (the most spectacular) the unveiling of the new Historical Map to be on permanent display on an exterior wall at the Village Hall. All this to be followed by a light supper of champagne, other drinks and food.

Everybody will be welcome. How many of these Associations are you are member of?

Arthur Delbridge

IN THE GARDEN IN SPRING

What a wonderful spring it is! Starting in August the early flowering of the charming Galanthus (Snowdrops) and the beautiful Hellebore, was followed by daffodils, camellias, magnolias and cherries. Now we have the fresh bright green leaves of the trees and shrubs, with the azaleas and rhododendrons, crabapples and dogwoods all flowering very well despite the dry conditions.

Paeonies are becoming very popular with their large scented and very showy flowers. The Paeony family (Paeoniceae) is one of the world's most ancient flowering plant groups, grown in China for centuries. The Lactiflora cultivars became very popular in Europe when they were first introduced in from China 1784. Tree Paeonies are very expensive but worth the cost as they grow larger and produce more flowers each year. They are heavy feeders and should be fed in autumn and again in spring. In the autumn also add at least two good handfuls of garden lime or dolomite. Paeonies prefer a sunny position in the garden, sheltered from the strong winds as their stems are brittle, especially when burdened with large flowers. The herbaceous Paeonies should also be grown in sunny positions, limed and fed in autumn. When planting do not plant too deep; the eyes or new shoots should be just below the surface. These plants will give you much joy over the years.

Another plant which is not well known in this country but grows very well in our soft climate at Mt Wilson is the Trillium. These beautiful woodland plants grow in the forests of North America, where they are also called 'Wake Robins'. Originally Trilliums were placed in the lily family (Liliaceae) but as a in a separate family, Trilliaceae. The handsome flowers can be white, purple, maroon, yellow, rose pink or streaked with maroon. They have three coloured petals, three green sepals and three green leaves to each flower. Some flowers are borne on a stalk or pedicel. Others are sessile or borne directly from the leaves. The leaves can be quite large and attractive and often have mottled markings. Trilliums flower here at Mt Wilson in late September, October and into November, holding onto their flowers for some weeks. The leaves die away during summer for their long dormancy.

Keith and I have been growing Trilliums at MerryGarth for many years, from seed from the Alpine Garden societies of England, Scotland, New Zealand and America. They grow very well in our rich soil and are now setting seed so we can sell a number of varieties to the keen gardeners who seek out such lovely rare plants. Do try these lovely woodland plants.

Libby Raines

I had problem with space allocation in this newsletter (we need an even number of pages), so here are some fillers. These definitions apparently come from a word game run by the Washington Post.

Intoxication: euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realise it was your money to start with.

Bozone: the substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.

Glibido: all talk and no action.

And a stray thought: if God had meant me to touch my toes he would have put them on my knees.

Ed.

History wars

The Prime Minister is worried about the way history is taught In Australia. Well, perhaps the following extracts from Year 7 (or 8) history tests will make him feel better:

Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies and they all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert. The climate of the Sarah is such that all the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.

Solomon had three hundred wives and 700 porcupines.

The Greeks were a highly sculptured people, and without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks also had myths. A myth is a female moth.

Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock. After his death, his career suffered a dramatic decline.

In the Olympic games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled biscuits, and threw the Java.

Joan of Arc was burnt to a steak and was canonized by Bernard Shaw.

Queen Elizabeth was the "Virgin Queen." As a queen she was a success. When she exposed herself before her troops they all shouted "hurrah."

It was an age of great inventions and discoveries. Gutenberg invented removable type and the Bible. Another important invention was the circulation of blood. Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes and started smoking.

Sir Francis Drake circumsized the world with a 100 foot clipper.

The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespeare. He was born in the year 1564, supposedly on his birthday. He never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He wrote tragedies, comedies, and hysterectomies, all in Islamic pentameter. Romeo and Juliet are an example of a heroic couple. Romeo's last wish was to be laid by Juliet

Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin discovered electricity by rubbing two cats backward and declared, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand." Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.

Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest Precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands. Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves by signing the Emasculation Proclamation. On the night of April 14, 1865, Lincoln went to the theater and got shot in his seat by one of the actors in a moving picture show. They believe the assassin was John Wilkes Booth, a supposedly insane actor. This ruined Booth's career.

Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between he practiced on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Bach was the most famous composer in the world and so was Handel. Handel was half German, half Italian, and half English. He was very large.

Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.

18. The nineteenth century was a time of a great many thoughts and inventions. People stopped reproducing by hand and started reproducing by machine. The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers to spring up. Cyrus McCormick invented the McCormick raper, which did the work of a hundred men. Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabbits. Charles Darwin was a naturalist who wrote the Organ of the Species. Madman Curie discovered the radio. Karl Marx became one of the Marx Brothers.