



Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Community Newsletter

Working together for a better
community

October 2008



EDITOR'S NOTES

You will (perhaps) note the new title, agreed to by the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Progress Associations. The fact that this now incorporates the RFS newsletter is indicated by their logo. So that's it—no more changes; at least not on my watch.

Since I have been editing and producing this newsletter (from Feb. 2005) I have aimed at four issues per year; these have come out—more or less—in February, May, August and October. The PA committee has asked me to commit myself to those dates so that people who might like to send in an item will know when to send it to me. The first week of those months provides a very approximate deadline, although any time is fine. I am happy to get any item you think might be of interest, as long as you don't mind me doing a bit of editing, since I sometimes have to juggle space. Photos are fine too (in digital form please) but they won't be printed in colour—far too expensive—so the contrast should be good. Contributions are always welcome and I appreciate correspondents like John Holt, who has provided several pieces at various times, as well as regulars like Libby. This issue has a nice little story from Richard Prentice. And keep the 'funnies' coming; I won't be able to use them all, but they're fun to get. (I am sometimes tempted to do a special issue devoted to entirely to 'funnies'.)

First Responders have had a number of call-outs and the general view seems to be that they do a great job and provide a valuable community service. One of the call-outs—to an accident on Bells-Line-Road—occurred when they were having a training session with the ambulance people, so off they all went, together. That one turned out to be particularly nasty (a motor-cyclist was killed) so our FRs were happy that they didn't have to deal with the incident on their own.

A couple of reminders: one is about house/street numbers—see the note from Barry Freeman in the August newsletter—it will be helpful to emergency services (as well as to lost delivery people) if houses have clear numbers as well as the house name. The other is post boxes: a long time ago I put in a request from postie Dave Birrell, that people obtain well-designed post boxes and put them in positions that are reasonably accessible from a car window. It is borne in on me, every time I deliver this newsletter, that in many cases there is room for GREAT improvement in this matter.

Please **note the community diary** on p. 6, particularly as there are events this coming weekend.

If I may be permitted a little advertising: Diana and I have a website landsberg.org.au—where, if you're interested, you will find links (you click on them) to a couple of books we've written. The books are downloadable free, or can be read on-line (you need broadband). If any of your friends might be interested we would appreciate help with some modest publicity.

Joe Landsberg

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MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Newsletter

We welcome the inclusion of the Mount Irvine Progress Association and the Rural Fire Service in this newsletter to make it a truly "Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine Community Newsletter". The Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc. will continue to finance it. We greatly appreciate the fact that Joe Landsberg continues as editor. It is a great commitment and he does a wonderful job.

Coming Events

- **Annual General Meeting.** The postponed meeting will be held on Saturday, **1st November in the Village Hall at 5.30 p.m.** The meeting will be followed by drinks, cheese and biscuits, so come along, support your committee and socialise with friends and neighbours. For those who don't yet know neighbours, this is an excellent opportunity to meet them.
- **Remembrance Day Service.** This is on Tuesday, **11th November, at 10.45 a.m.** at the War Memorial in The Avenue. The service will be followed in the Village Hall by Arthur Delbridge's talk on local men who have served in war and morning tea. Please bring something for morning tea.
- **Christmas Party.** The community Christmas Party will be held in the Mount Wilson Village Hall on Saturday, **6th December, at 7.00 p.m.**

Please note these in your diary now.

Village Maintenance

We all groan as our cars nearly disappear into the numerous potholes around the village. Repairs seem to disintegrate whenever it rains. However, don't despair! Diana Landsberg has finally convinced Blue Mountains City Council that road resurfacing is required. Hopefully this will be done along The Avenue before the end of the year.

The maintenance of gutters and drains has been included in the BMCC works schedule to be done twice a year.

Hearing Aid Loop

As it was agreed at the last General Meeting, arrangements to have this installed in the hall are in place. This is to assist those wearing hearing aids to hear better when the sound system is operating. A quote has been accepted and it is hoped that it will be installed early in November.

Marcus Clark Reserve

Plant identification signs are now in the process of being manufactured as well as a sign to be positioned at the entrance of the reserve, explaining a little about it. When these are available they will be installed and the reserve tidied up. We thank Alison Halliday and Libby Raines for their efforts in this project.

Join the MWPA

If you own land or reside in Mount Wilson and you wish to join the Mount Wilson Progress Association Inc. contact me at 4756 2156 or email rm.green@bigpond.com

Moira Green

Open Burning Notifications

Supt Tom Shirt (*Manager Blue Mountains District NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE*) has asked that all brigade members be advised that 24 hours notice of intention to burn should come via the RFS District Office during working hours (0900hrs-1700hrs) and not the BMCC. This was in response to an e-mail from Peter Belshaw of BMCC, who deals with burning policy etc.

'Our call centre manager has informed me that residents are being told by the RFS that they also need to notify BMCC of their intention to undertake pile burning. The advice I have been given does not indicate whether this may have been done by district staff or volunteers. I wish to clarify that the March 2008 approval to a class of person only requires that notice is

given to neighbouring properties and the relevant fire service (which we have agreed is the RFS). There is no requirement for a resident who wants to burn to notify BMCC.

Feedback from residents during the 2007-08 policy review indicated that a streamlined notifications process should form part of any revised policy. As such, no requirement to notify BMCC was included in the revised 2008 open burning policy.

In order to avoid confusion and to provide residents with a simplified system for notification, it is important that the correct information is disseminated to the community.'

(The approval, as adopted by Council, can be obtained from **Sarah Howell**)

'Thank you for sending me a copy of your book. I'll waste no time reading it' (Moses Hadas)

VILLAGE HALL JOTTINGS

The work carried out under the Federal Government's "Working Together to Manage Emergencies" is now complete with the installation of the new generator. It has been connected to the Hall electrical system and Council wishes to hold a meeting with those who would like to know how to operate it. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

Would all leaders of the various Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine organizations please contact me ASAP, but certainly within the next week, with a list of representatives from their organizations who will be available for instruction. I will discuss with Council officers the most appropriate time for the meeting.

Courtesy of the Mount Wilson Progress Association a quote has now been accepted for the installation of a hearing loop in the Hall as an accessory to the audio/visual equipment and it is hoped that it will be installed shortly.

There are two Hall fundraising activities coming up shortly.

The Reluctant Consort will be performing at 7pm on Saturday 25th October. This wind ensemble describes itself as a serious amateur group but its performance is nothing short of professional and truly delightful. The Consort regularly visits Mount Wilson for its workshops and twice before has given freely of its time and talents for the benefit of the Hall and the community. Please give this concert your support and remember to bring the program recently distributed via the letterbox. Drinks and light snacks will follow the concert.

The second event is the Melbourne Cup chicken & champagne luncheon on 4th November at 12.30pm. We first held this luncheon in the Hall last year and it was a great success for those who attended. Remember, for catering purposes we have set the RSVP date at 23rd October. If you have not already done so please contact Moira or Ron (p: 4756 2162, e: rm.green@bigpond.com) or, if you can't contact us, ring Elizabeth Raines on 0428 316 231.

Ron Green

The Wandering Dog (Raines to the rescue)

One morning a few weeks ago I tied my dog Kaj up with a stiff new collar and a sturdy metal chain. Soon afterwards I discovered he had broken a link to an older chain and had disappeared, dragging about a metre of chain. As he had not returned two days later I started to search the bush near Waterfall Creek, but without result.

Fortunately my temporary neighbour from Switzerland, Heinz Kreuger, thought of going to Wynn's Rocks lookout and heard Kaj barking somewhere in the wilderness below. I went down Mill Road and tried to go through the bush in that direction but was unable to make progress and had to turn back.

Fiona Farquhar thought of contacting Peter

Raines because of his known experience and expertise in the bush. Peter was able to come about 4pm and, with his dog, Jedda, went down the rough track beside the cliff. Unfortunately, Kaj had stopped barking and was not answering calls. After about an hour Peter reported by radio that he had not found the dog and was returning. By now Beth Raines had turned up and went a short way down the track.

Peter was on his way up when heard a bark and was able to get a rough fix on where it came from. He went back and Jedda soon located Kaj who was, as suspected, trapped by the chain he was dragging. So Peter had saved him from a slow and cruel death and deserves high praise for his effort, adding one more instance of community service by this family.

Richard Prentice

MOUNT WILSON LEISURE LIBRARY

Opening Times: Thursday 3.00 – 4.00 p.m.
Saturday 10.00 – 11.00 a.m.

If these times do not suit you please contact Moira Green (4756 2162) to arrange a convenient time to borrow books. Copies of the catalogue are available to borrow and books can be ordered by phone and dropped off in your letter box.

Book Reviews

The following are two of many interesting books in the library:

"The Cloud Garden" by Tom Hart Dyke and Paul Winder.

A true story of adventure, survival and extreme horticulture in an almost impenetrable strip of swamp, jungle and cloud forest between North and South America. In 2000 Tom Hart Dyke, a botanist, set off to Central America to find rare species of orchids. By chance he met Paul Winder, a banker of London, who was back

packing in the area at the time and they set off together into the Darien Gap to find orchids and adventure. After six days they were ambushed by FARC guerrillas who held them hostage for the next nine months. Their survival was a matter of extraordinary endurance, incredible ingenuity and good luck.

'The Hours' by Michael Cunningham

Winner of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize this novel intertwines the stories of three unforgettable women across the decades. In 1920s London, Virginia Woolf is trying to make a start on her new novel. Laura, a young wife and mother in 1940s Los Angeles yearns to escape and read her precious copy of *Mrs Dalloway*. Clarissa Vaughan in 1990s New York hosts a party for a dying friend. The author explores ideas of duty, sexuality, aesthetic creativity and the fluid boundaries of physical and mental health through the lives of these three women in a single day.

Moira Green

Willy to Billy Bush Run

The final tally from the Willy to Billy Bush Run has been made and divided between the Bilpin RFS and Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine RFS. After deducting expenses, the event raised a magnificent \$4,423 for our local brigade. Many thanks to all the volunteers who turned up so willingly and worked so hard to make the day the success it was.

Just to show you how much the runners love this race, below are some comments posted on the CoolRunning Australia website after the race:

"many thanks to the organisers this is still one of my favourite races."

".... wanted to put in a huge thumbs up for this run. What a stunner!"

"I was impressed with the well organised start, plenty of delicious breakfast and then came the friendly, well placed aid stations topped off with breathtaking scenery. It was like the best bits of all my favourite runs had been strung together. No idea of my time but it felt like no time at all."

"I love this run! thanks for some great organisation, great scones, great support from the Firies. Just great all round...will be back next year."

"W2B is a fantastic event. Thanks to all who contributed to its success. Hope we raised lots of \$ for local RFS."

"Great to see the W2B is still one of the best organized and run races going with a lot of work making the track more runnable."

It couldn't happen without the support of our community. Thank you all and we look forward to seeing you for next year's Willy to Billy on Saturday 22 August 2009.

Sarah Howell

'He's simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up' (Paul Keating)

THE RHODODENDRON –MADDENI SERIES

In spring, when visitors wander round Merry Garth, a beautiful fragrance fills the air. This comes from the rhododendrons of the Maddeni series. Their home in the wild is Nepal, Sikkim, Burma, Assam and Tibet. A few come from Thailand, Vietnam and Laos.

The main feature of the species is the flowers: large, tubular and funnel-shaped and beautifully fragrant. They sometimes live on trees as epiphytes. Many are frost-tender and, in England, cannot be grown outside but have to be housed in glasshouses. Here in Mt Wilson we are fortunate to be able to grow them in our gardens. I will describe a few of these beautiful shrubs.

Carneum is a dense, rounded shrub with peeling orange bark; the many flowers are fragrant, white and quite open with very wavy petals and a soft yellow blotch in the centre. It's a native of north Burma and grows on open grassy hillsides.

Cili calyx is an upright shrub with lovely orange, peeling bark, rather loose in habit. The flowers are large and glistening white, very fragrant and wide funnel-shaped. The leaves are slightly rounded and shiny bright green. It makes a fine display and is one of our favourites. It was discovered in Yunnan by Abbé Delaway in 1884, growing on rocky hillsides and in woods.

Dendricola is a broad, dense, rounded shrub, often epiphytic, with brown, peeling bark. The flowers are open, creamy white and fragrant with a soft orange blotch. The plant, growing in forests and on the edge of open thickets, was collected by Frank Kingdom-Ward in 1914.

Vietchianum is an upright, spreading shrub with many white fragrant flowers. The petals are deeply cleft and very wavy. It was found in the evergreen forests of lower Burma and Thailand by Thomas Lobb for Mr Veitch in 1857. It is one of the finest species in cultivation.

Dalhousiae is a straggly open shrub, often epiphytic, with large, fragrant, narrow tubular greenish flowers, which turn creamy white with age. It is tender and the flowers are of exquisite beauty. It was discovered growing in forests, on steep dry hillsides and on rocks and boulders by J.D. Hooker in Sikkim in 1848.

Lindleyii is a straggly, upright shrub, often epiphytic, with glistening, large tubular flowers. The wonderful fragrance is slightly lemony and very strong. It is an exceptionally fine plant and we often cut it back quite hard to make it bushy as its habit is very loose. J.D. Hooker first discovered this plant in Sikkim in 1848, growing in mixed forests, rain forest and on rocks.

Nuttallii is a large, upright bushy shrub or tree with large rough leaves and peeling orange bark. The flowers are also large, widely flaring and tubular. They are highly fragrant, cream with a yellow centre. This is a striking, handsome plant, often regarded as one of the best of the series. In its native habitat it grows on swampy ground, in mossy wet places on boulders, rocky slopes and on the edges of forests in Assam. It is also found in Bhutan, Tibet upper Burma and Yunnan. It was first introduced by T.J. Booth in 1852.

Peter Valder, whose home was Nooroo, did a lot of crossing of rhododendrons. One of his finest crosses is *Rhododendron lindleyii* x *R.nuttallii*. This wonderful plant is a vigorous, compact shrub with large rough leaves, peeling orange bark and huge flaring flowers with a yellow centre. It is very, very fragrant. Other crosses of the same two species have been made over the years, one in Melbourne called 'Kallister' and another in New Zealand called 'Southern Cloud'. Most of these lovely rhododendrons are available at Merry Garth, but they always sell very quickly when they are in flower.

Libby Raines

Church news

As we were not able to hold the Open Day at Merry Garth we have asked the PA committee if we can bring the tickets for the raffle to the AGM to try to raise some money to keep the church going. The raffle is a painting of fuschia, which I have donated. The Carruthers donated the frame.

The **Carol Service** this year will be held on Saturday 20th December at 730, with supper in the Village Hall afterwards. Do try to join us.

Libby Raines

'There's nothing wrong with you that re-incarnation won't cure' (Jack E. Leonard)
'His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork' (Mae West)

COMMUNITY DIARY

The **Reluctant Consort Wind Ensemble**, Village Hall; Saturday October 25th, 7 pm.

Historical Society AGM, Saturday October 25th, 10.30 for 11 am.
 Speaker Professor Arthur Delbridge AO: "Our words: the history of an enterprise"
 (Arthur was instrumental in the development and publication of the Macquarie Dictionary)

Progress Association AGM, November 1st, 12.30.

Melbourne Cup Lunch, November 4th, 12.30. RSVP immediately to Ron or Moira Green

Remembrance Day Service, November 11th, 10.45 am, at the War Memorial

Christmas Party, Saturday December 6th, 7pm

Note **Bushcare** every 2nd Friday of the month, **Bushwalk** every 3rd Friday

Services in **St Georges Church** every 2nd Sunday at 3pm (August 12, Sept. 9; Oct. 12, Nov. 9)

BREENHOLD

8th Annual Springfest Concert and Picnic day
 Sunday 26th October, 2008

The Grainger Quartet playing works by Haydn, Mozart, Puccini and Verdi
 Recitals start at 1230, but come earlier with your picnic lunch, rugs etc.
 Adults \$35. Children over 12 \$10

Gallows humour provoked by the international financial crisis:

- CEO: chief embezzlement officer
- Bull market: a random market movement causing investors to mistake themselves for financial geniuses
- Bear market: a six to 18 month period when the kids get no allowance, the wife gets no jewellery and the husband gets no sex (..we love this one)
- Financial planner: a guy whose `phone has been disconnected

(Thanks to John and Carole Haitzler)

Update on Banking crisis... news from Japan

Following the problems in the sub-prime lending market in America and the run on HBOS in the UK, uncertainty has now hit Japan:

In the last 7 hours **Origami Bank** has folded, **Sumo Bank** has gone belly up and **Bonsai Bank** announced plans to cut some of its branches. Yesterday, it was announced that **Karaoke Bank** is up for sale and will likely go for a song, while today shares in **Kamikaze Bank** were suspended after they nose-dived. **Samurai Bank** is soldiering on following sharp cutbacks, **Ninja Bank** is reported to have taken a hit, but they remain in the black. Furthermore, 500 staff at **Karate Bank** got the chop and analysts report that there is something fishy going on at **Sushi Bank** where it is feared that staff may get a raw deal.

(Thanks to our daughter Sue (Moorhen), in Melbourne. I also got this from Graham Tribe)

When Insults had class, before so much of the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words, not mention waving middle fingers.

- 'He had delusions of adequacy' (Walter Kerr)
- 'I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure' (Clarence Darrow)
- 'I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here' (Stephen Bishop)
- 'I've just learned about his illness. Lets' hope it's nothing trivial' (Irvin S. Cobb)
- 'Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go' (Oscar Wilde)
- 'I've had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it' (Groucho Marx)
- 'He's a self-made man and worships his creator' (John Bright)
- 'I didn't attend the funeral but sent a nice letter saying I approved of it' (Mark Twain)

Thanks to George Mayne, for these and the others splattered around)