



# The Mounts

## The Community Newsletter of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine



**October 2012**

### Welcome

Spring at Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine has always been spectacular, bringing great joy and pride to the residents and an influx of visitors to absorb the annual display. This year, a Photography and Art Exhibition will celebrate the area's renowned natural wonders. The wide variety of works from a multitude of exhibitors is a 'must-see': it is amazing how talented photographers and artists can capture and present even a well-known vista in an entirely new light. This event also represents a significant fund-raising opportunity for our RFS brigade. Ten residents or close family artists are submitting twenty-seven works. We hope you and your friends and family will find time to attend and support the local community—full details of the event are listed elsewhere.

Against this backdrop, it is somehow fitting that a truly uplifting tidbit of new news has arrived: Stephen List has reported a recent sighting of a platypus in Waterfall Creek behind *Chimney Cottage*. In an increasingly grim world of despondent environmental news, it is so heartening to see that the ongoing fight to preserve our local ecosystem has, at least on this occasion, an optimistic outcome.

**Tim Gow** Tel. 4756 2032 or 0412 133 559

e-mail: [seftoncottage@gmail.com](mailto:seftoncottage@gmail.com)

### Community Calendar

<b>October</b>	<b>Fri 12th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care— Silva Plana</b>	<b>Sun 14th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service</b>	<b>Fri 19th Bushwalking Group— Dunns Swamp</b>	<b>Sat 27th, Sun 28th Mt Wilson &amp; Mt Irvine Photography &amp; Art Exhibition</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Sun 4th 9.00am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed</b>	<b>Tues 6th 12.30pm Melbourne Cup Day luncheon Village Hall</b>	<b>Fri 9th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care— Ferny Corner</b>	<b>Sat 10th 10.30—1.00 Mt Wilson &amp; Mt Irvine Historical Society AGM, Village Hall</b>
<b>Sun 11th 10.45am War Memorial Service</b>	<b>Sun 11th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service</b>	<b>Fri 16th Bushwalking Group— Lockleys Pylon</b>	<b>Sat 24th Community Christmas Party, Village Hall</b>	
<b>December</b>	<b>Sun 2nd 9.00am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed</b>	<b>Sun 9th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service</b>	<b>Fri 14th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care— The Avenue</b>	<b>Mon 17th Bushwalking Group— Local Walk followed by lunch at <i>Merry Garth</i></b>

# **Tuesday 6th November is Melbourne Cup Day 2012**

**please join us for a chicken and champagne lunch  
at 12.30pm in the Mount Wilson Village Hall**



**Draw a horse in the sweep  
and watch the race on the BIG screen**

**Tickets \$25  
RSVP by 29th October  
to Judy Tribe:  
4756 2096 or email: [judithtribe@gmail.com](mailto:judithtribe@gmail.com)**

## **MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE NEWS**

### **Coming Events**

- Remembrance Day Service on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> November at 10.45 a.m. at the War Memorial and afterwards a talk about local servicemen and morning tea in the village hall. Please assist by bring a contribution to this.
- Community Christmas Party on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Annual General Meeting**

This was held on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September and was well attended. It was great to meet two of the three new Councillors for Ward 1, Michael Begg and Robert Stock, who assured the meeting that they would be happy to hear from us and assist us in any way they could. They appreciated hearing about the issues concerning our community.

The proposal that membership fees increase to \$25 per annum (\$12 concession) was passed. This will be the first increase in five years.

### **Endeavour Energy and Tree Pruning**

Endeavour Energy has made a new contract with Asplundh to prune the trees around the power lines. This will be done during October. Meetings have been held with representatives of both Endeavour and Asplundh and MWPA. While we hate to see the disfigurement of our beautiful street trees it is necessary to provide a more reliable power supply and safety. Endeavour has specific guidelines regarding the distance to be cleared around the lines with an additional safety clearance in bushfire prone areas. The contractor is required to follow these to the letter. An arborist with Asplundt has looked at the village and noted our areas of concern. She has committed to supervise the pruning of these areas, specifically the Golden Elms on Mount Irvine Road. We are still negotiating with Endeavour to have bundled cables installed in this area. It will be too late for this year but hopefully it will limit the devastation in future.

Meanwhile work is being done on poles and wires in Wynnes Rocks Road. Poles will be replaced at *Wollatukkee* before too long. This will require road closure for approximately five hours. Residents will be notified when this is to happen.

### **Elms in The Avenue**

Blue Mountains City Council hired a Consulting Arboriculturist to form a risk assessment and management plan for the 15 elms that are part of The Avenue. This was deemed necessary following the loss of five elms in the last three years and was done in consultation with MWPA. The report recommended managing the trees as an avenue not as individuals. Nine trees that are now declining and structurally poor, pose a high level of risk so should be removed. Others that are less exposed should be pruned and cabled. It is recommended that they be replaced as a block, not individually. The preferred replacement tree is the Green Beech and it is recommended that these be grown locally prior to planting in The Avenue. While this will be difficult for us to accept today, we could consider the vision of those who planted the elms over a hundred years ago, and like them, we too should plan for enjoyment of the next generation.

### **Telephone Book**

A new hardcopy phone book will be printed within the next few months. This will be taken directly from the website so please ensure that your contact information is correct. If you do not have access to the website please let me know of any changes required so that I can update the contact details.

### **Rabbits**

Sightings have been reported. Residents are reminded that small quantities of *Rabbait* for use on their property can be purchased from George Mayne. Take action now before they reach plague proportion.

### Roadside Vegetation

BMCC has scheduled a contractor to trim the encroaching vegetation from both sides of the road from below the ZigZag through to the end of Mount Irvine Road. This work is currently underway.

### Wanted, New Members

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. Membership fees make an important contribution to the work of maintaining our village and providing contact with residents through the production of such things as newsletters, the phone book and the website. The more members there are, the more we can do for you.

### Mount Wilson Leisure Library

The library is open every Saturday morning from 10.00 to 11.00 unless the hall is booked for a function, so do drop in for a browse through the bookshelves. If you wish to come at another time or have books delivered, please contact me on 4756 2162 and this can be arranged. If anyone would like to assist in looking after the library for one hour a month on a Saturday morning please contact me, we would appreciate your help.

### 2012/2013 Committee

Following the AGM on 22nd September, the MWPA committee for 2012/2013 is:

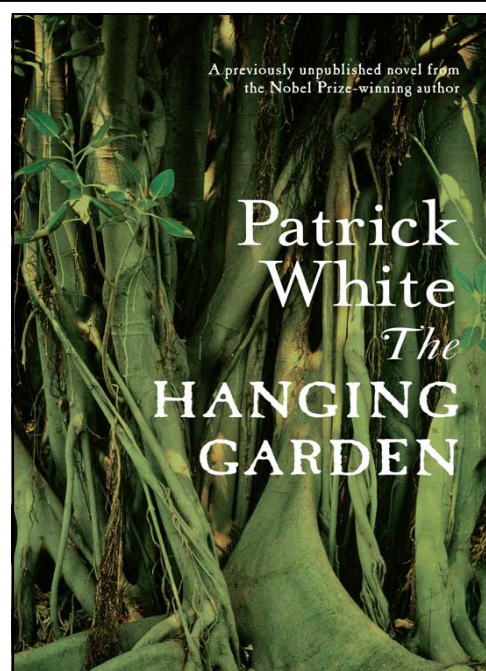
<b>President</b>	Richard Beattie
<b>Vice President</b>	Alison Halliday
<b>Treasurer</b>	Libby Raines
<b>Secretary</b>	Moira Green
<b>Committee Members</b>	Bill Ryan
	Brian Abrahams
	Kim Gow
	Ted Griffin

**Moira Green** (Secretary)

David Howell has kindly donated to the library a copy of the previously unpublished novel by Patrick White 'The Hanging Garden'.

This novel was put aside in 1981 when he was lured away to write once again for the theatre. It is the story of two children brought to Sydney to shelter from the Second World War. 'The Hanging Garden' ends as the news reaches Sydney of victory in Europe.

The unfinished work was found among his papers after his death in September 1990, how he planned to finish it remains a mystery.



### Website Information for the coming Fire Season

We have all heard the discussion about the coming fire season, the ending of El Niña and the start of a dry hot period, and it's possible we may have quite severe fires given the amount of rain over last summer and the amount of vegetation giving us resulting high fuel loads. In particular, most concern is for the grasslands to the west of us, but if we experience hot dry weather, we could find bushfires close to us.

The website has some very useful information to guide residents preparing for the fire season. There are two sections on the website which provide advice on bushfires and mitigation. They are both under the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade section of the website. These are the Community Engagement and Mitigation sections of the Brigade area of the website.

We suggest residents read the sections about being ready and preparing for summer. These can be found on the website at:

**Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade > Community Engagement > Being Firewise**  
**Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade> Community Engagement > Preparing for Summer.**

Useful information can also be found at:

**Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade > Community Engagement > Bushfires**

Having a plan for your actions during a bushfire, and a second plan if the first one can't be implemented, is vital to your safety. The section of our website which assists this process is **Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade > Mitigation for Residents> Bushfire Survival Information**

Let's hope we do not have a bad fire season this summer but we do need to be prepared since you never know when we will have a bad one.

**Graham Tribe**

### Recommended Contractors List

The Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine website has an invaluable listing of those contractors who have been recommended by local residents. This section of the website—**Community Information > Recommended Contractors**—is only accessible (and indeed is only visible as a menu item) to local residents once they have logged into the website with their username and password.

The listing is maintained by Richard Beattie. It now covers a wide range of services and products—it lists 52 categories and 96 tradespeople or companies. Most services list multiple contractors so there is an easily accessible list of options available.

The listing is not advertising—the only way for a contractor to be on the list is through a personal recommendation of a local resident. The name of the person who made the recommendation is shown against each listing.

If you want to recommend a contractor, simply contact Richard.

Asphalt laying			
Darryl Bowen Biters	0416 183 177 4576 0521	185(b) Weatherboard Road Kurrajong	Richard Beattie
Blinds and Awnings			
Bligh Window Fashions	4571 1900	Unit 1/ 3 Terrace Rd Nth Richmond www.blighwindowfashions.com.au	Graham Tribe
Builders			
Mark O'Carrigan Hatters Hideout	6355 2777	213 Chifley Road Bell 2786 Comment: Mark built the Big Top	Nancy Fox/Bruce Arnold

## Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc.



### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

A WARM INVITATION IS EXTENDED TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS  
TO THE SOCIETY'S 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
WITH THE GUEST SPEAKER JOHN LOW OAM

**SATURDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012 AT 10:30 am**  
**in the**  
**MT WILSON VILLAGE HALL,**  
**THE AVENUE, MT WILSON**

#### Program

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 10:30 am   | <b>Morning tea</b>   |
| 11:00 am   | <b>Annual General Meeting</b> with reports, election of Management Committee for 2013  |
| 12.00 noon | <b>Guest speaker - John Low OAM.</b> In March 1982, John was employed by the Blue Mountains City Library as a local history librarian. His task was to establish a local history collection. In September 1983, John secured a permanent post with the Council and stayed for the next 24 years providing a range of services to historians in the Mountains and beyond. John, in the words of Professor Ian Jack, has "his own effortless mastery of so many unfamiliar corners of Mountains history, [which has] given him a special place in the affections of all right-minded scholars".<br>John will present a talk titled "1813: Some Reflections on Blaxland's Blue Mountains Expedition". |

There will be a gold coin donation at the door to cover costs.



### Jefferson Bridge—A Close Call

The evening of Thursday 16th August saw a typical August howling gale. The morning shed light on a remarkably close escape for the Jefferson Bridge that spans Waterfall Creek at Gregson Park.

Alan Gunn was one of the first to see the extraordinary scene—that the bridge avoided any damage beyond the most superficial clipping on the end of one of its handrails is difficult to believe, given the fallen tree's weight, height and girth.

Alan has since removed the smaller branches and greenery so that the bridge is now again comfortably passable. It is now up to the Blue Mountains City Council to decide whether to remove the main trunk, or leave it as is. It is interesting to note that MWPA flagged to the Council the dangerous nature of this tree and urged its removal in July 2011.

Despite Council's reluctance to act expeditiously, and assuming that there are no innocent walkers passing by at an inopportune moment, this episode has once again served as a reminder as to how often surprisingly little collateral damage is inflicted when trees fall of their own accord.



### **The Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine 2012 Photography and Art Exhibition**

The inaugural Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Photography and Art Exhibition will be held at the Mt Wilson Village Hall on Saturday 27th October (10am—6.30pm) and Sunday 28th October (10am—4.00pm).

The exhibition is the brainchild of Bev and Phil Woodman who are regular photographers to the Mt Wilson area over many years. They belong to a large photography group called Red Bubble; it was their enthusiasm and love of the area that soon inspired many of their colleagues to contribute works.

Bev approached the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine RFS to provide logistic and administrative support for the exhibition.

Most of the works on display will be offered for sale. 25% of the sale price will be donated to the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade. Additionally, the RFS will be selling food and drink throughout the weekend from the Village Hall; all proceeds will go to the Brigade.

This is a unique exhibition in that the subject of all photographs or artwork must be of Mt Wilson or Mt Irvine.

General entry to the exhibition will be by gold coin donation.

On 4.30—6.30pm Saturday afternoon, there will be an informal opening of the exhibition, with nibbles and refreshments on hand. All residents and visitors are warmly invited to attend either this opening or indeed at anytime over the weekend.

Entry to this opening is \$5.00 head —ridiculously cheap for a glass or more of wine, some nibbles and the chance to look at a wonderful exhibition.

The wine has been generously provided by Dryridge Estate, Megalong Valley for the occasion.

To date, 40 photographers and artists have contributed 80 works. There are many local contributors as well as people from a wide geographic spread across NSW.

The weekend will promise a wonderful opportunity to see an extraordinary array of art capturing the beauty and atmosphere of our part of the world.

In the absence of the cancelled Willy to Billy Fun Run, the exhibition will be the major fund-raising activity for the RFS this year. By purchasing works, not only are you supporting the local RFS brigade, but also securing a piece of art that will grace your home—or friends' homes – for many years.

### **Volunteers required!**

Volunteers for the preparation and sale of take-a-way food for the weekend would be much appreciated. If you can you help in any way please contact Judy Tribe: 4756 2096 or [judithtribe@gmail.com](mailto:judithtribe@gmail.com)

- Help with setting up
- Making cakes/slices/cupcakes to sell
- Shifts over the weekend selling food 10am to 1pm and 1pm to 4pm Saturday and Sunday
- Helping with food preparation over the weekend
- Distributing publicity flyers at your local Sydney shops





A small sample of some of the images that will be displayed at the Photography and Art Exhibition.



## **Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade**

### **RAFT Exercise**

On the weekend of 15-16<sup>th</sup> September we hosted the annual Blue Mountains District Remote Area Fire-fighter Team (RAFT) practical exercise at the Study Centre. This is where newer team members from the District learn and gain experience with the assistance of mentors and instructors. Teams are given a list of map coordinates, a list of tasks to complete and an end time to be picked up. Teams navigate to the drop off point on a fire trail and then find an existing dormant trail through observations such as old blazes, tape, old windrows, a vague clearing along a line or the evidence of past fires on one side but not the other. Teams then have to navigate by compass, map and GPS to the next set of map coordinates, and so on.

Groups complete tasks such as recutting a rake hoe line, chain sawing fallen timber off the track, setting a portable pump up in a creek, establishing a camp for an overnight stay, locating and dealing with two 'spot fires' and dealing with a medical emergency in a remote area. Teams also complete a night time exercise where they have to locate a series of coordinates. The evening ended with tales around a campfire as team members recalled being dropped off by helicopter into the bush to deal with lightning strikes and small fires, and calling in helicopters to water bomb hot spots.

### **Hazard Reductions**

The Brigade successfully completed two small prescribed burns to the east of Mt Irvine Road, Mount Irvine on Sunday 16th September with the assistance of Medlow Bath Brigade and Blackheath /Mt Victoria Brigade. These HR's have been planned for a long, long time so it was gratifying to have them completed.

Other spring burns that we hope to complete include the remainder of last year's Waterfall Creek burn off the Southern Fire Trail, and the area from under the Church through to Cathedral Reserve which can be split up into smaller compartments depending on resources and weather conditions.

### **Beth Raines Captain**

### **ARE YOU AND YOUR PROPERTY PREPARED TO SURVIVE A MAJOR BUSHFIRE?**

Now is the time to prepare your property to survive a major bushfire. We have just come out of three of the wettest years in Australia's recorded history which has resulted in vigorous growth and a build up of fuel loads in the surrounding bush.

### **WHAT WILL SAVE YOUR PROPERTY.**

- 50% is in the preparation. Building design, closing in underfloor areas, eaves, and vents all contribute to keeping your property safe. Keeping your property well maintained, and a fuel free area around the buildings, fuel reduced areas between bushland and buildings, and fire breaks around fences or garden all help to prepare for a bushfire.
- 30% is down to conditions on the day which nobody can control.
- 10% is down to areas that can be used to strategic advantage. Check areas that have been hazard reduced and areas of moister vegetation as these can be used as a refuge.
- 10% is down to the resources at hand to defend property including fire trucks and their crews.

I hope this highlights how important it is to prepare your property. You have days, weeks, and years to do this, but the fire-fighters don't have the luxury of time to prepare your property for fire impact. They may only have a matter of hours or minutes before the fire front hits. If there is any risk to crew safety while protecting a property they will withdraw to safety, or to something that

they are confident they can defend.

Traditionally the fires that impact us the most start to the north west. While the fire is in that area, we get a lot of help from other crews, but often fires then cross Bells Line of Road into the Grose Valley. At that point, much of our help disappears back to the other side of the mountains to defend the mountain towns to the south of the Grose. We are left with the local crews and some out of area crews if we are lucky. The best way to secure these limited resources is to ensure properties are defensible by one truck protecting two or three houses without putting crews at risk.

**We will get a bushfire though Mt Wilson / Mt Irvine in the next couple of years and if we fail to prepare properties we will lose houses. Is your property prepared?**

**Do it Now - Prepare your Property – Don't put yourself and fire-fighters at risk.**

**Peter Raines**  
**Senior Deputy Captain**

PS. Linda and I would like to thank all who wished us well for our wedding in June. We have returned from five weeks exploring Europe where we visited Switzerland, Italy (Lake Como, Dolomites, Cinque Terre), and France (Loire Valley, Verdun Gorge, Tour de France) We look forward to spending more time at Mt Wilson and plan to start building out at Smiths in the near future.

### **Ellis Reynolds**

Approximately 2 months ago Ellis Reynolds suffered a fall at his home at Mt Wilson. He thus embarked on a journey through the Australian health system via Lithgow Hospital (fail), Nepean Hospital (high distinction) and Katoomba Hospital (high distinction).

Fortunately, Mary and Ellis have a strong family and their four children and spouses have provided great support, although a concerned phone call from daughters, Jane and Sue, from a railway station in Mongolia (they were travelling on the Trans-Siberian railway) was one of the more outlandish episodes during this period.

Mary has visited Ellis every day and the diligence and tenacity with which she researches the history of Mt Wilson is now applied to searching out the relevant nurses, doctors, specialists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and social workers so as to keep abreast of Ellis's condition and options.

Ellis is currently undergoing rehabilitation at Katoomba Hospital at the end of which an assessment will be made on his ability to return to Mt Wilson. We wish Ellis an improvement in his health and the mobility he so desires and hope that Mary also retains her health and strength to assist them through this time of great concern and uncertainty.

### **Kathleen Oakes**

Several people have flagged a piece in a recent *Blue Mountains Gazette* edition that reported the Echoes Restaurant at Katoomba was a joint winner at the Australian Hotels Association National Awards held in Hobart on September 5th.

Wendy Smart was highlighted as a key part of the team that conjures the culinary delights that secured the prestigious national award.

Congratulations to Wendy—we are delighted that her skills and attention to detail has been recognised.



### Libby Raines

It is not a surprise that Libby Raines should choose botanical specimens as the subject of her art; *Merry Garth* is living testament to her enduring love of gardens, plants and flowers.

When Ray Harrington began his art group in 1998 Libby was amongst those who arrived at his first class. Ray started his students with drawing still life and landscapes, and under his tutelage Libby began to hone the requisite skills of an artist. For years she had studied the blooms in her garden, often thinking "I'd love to draw you". She arrived at *Chalumeau* one Tuesday morning with a snow-drop in hand, and the work produced that day became the first of her prolific body of work. Apparently white flowers are the most difficult of subjects, but as it was July even *Merry Garth's* choice of blooms was limited. Tuesday mornings at Ray's art group remains the time Libby uses to produce her art; it is precious time set aside from her other occupation, *Merry Garth*.

The Botanical Art Society of Australia describes botanical art as a 'liaison between the disciplines of art and science'. The artist's aim is to capture the essence of the plant in its form, and its growth habits. Libby's drawings are detailed and meticulous; their main purpose is to create a record of the plants in her garden, and to show others what she sees when viewing a specimen. Each drawing takes several hours and then the process of painting water colours, carefully matching those colours to the petal or leaf, hours more. This record reflects her extensive botanical knowledge and her passion for her carefully chosen subjects. Most of the works are in water colour, and she also does pencil drawings.

Libby's work has been exhibited at Blackheath Rhododendron Festivals, Portland Art Shows and at Botanica, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Her pencil drawings feature in Michael Pembroke's book *Trees of History and Romance. Essays from a Mount Wilson garden*, published in 2009.

Libby's works, and greeting cards featuring both paintings and drawings, are available at *Merry Garth* during the garden's opening hours, or by appointment on 47562121.



### Robyn Scrivener



**ASK THE NEIGHBOURS**

Hello All,

Asking neighbours for their comments and answers to life's burning questions in previous editions of this august publication did not lead to the torrent of replies we hoped for Tim. However, I'm having another go - due to intense public demand (OK, actually, it was one suggestion made by a prominent member of the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine community after a glass or two of red at a very nice party; followed by some mildly encouraging comments by readers that they had quite enjoyed the "leech trials" as they are now affectionately known).

Before resuming my quest for answers to said burning questions, Tim, I must set the record straight. There is absolutely NO truth to the rumour that my sojourn to Europe in May was, in reality, a stay at an exclusive Swiss sanatorium to undertake intensive leechphobia treatment. Rather, as it was for many of our community (I'm told that the UK was so full of Mt Wilson-ites in May that they all ran into each other and had a jolly good time), it was a journey of discovery visiting lovely places, including some very nice gardens.

And like trips before, our trip this year provided inspiration for planting ideas at *Hollyridge*. Why am I telling you all this you ask? (just be grateful I haven't brought out the slides)

Well, it has made me wonder : what gardens have inspired others in our community to bring an idea back and see how it flies here? I'll start us off, shall I? When the Boss and I were in Lucca in Italy four or so years ago, we saw some wonderful gardens – some shabby (all the more charming for it) and some beautifully maintained. Many used *buxus*, not in traditional hedging but in regimented balls to separate garden beds and lawns, lawns and paths. We brought the idea back with us and now have some (if I do say so myself) pretty little examples of this design approach. It suits both formal and informal planting areas and for those with more enthusiasm than skill (such as me) it's an easy gardening idea.

We saw this approach on a much grander scale in May this year at the gardens of Marqueyssac in the Dordogne in France: acres of fabulous *buxus* in hedges, mounds and playful tongue in cheek references to abstract painting. A garden devoted to this plant and approach may not be everyone's cup of tea but it was a joy to wander through and it inspired a few small homages to it around our garden. And isn't that one of the joys of gardening? Seeing a beautiful thing, adapting the idea and building a little slice of it at home.

So, the first question for this edition of "Ask the Neighbours" is – what gardens and styles have inspired you? What has taken your breath away in travels far and wide and how have you brought them home and interpreted them in your garden? It may not be inspiration from the other side of the world. It might have come from the place down the road. Wherever it's come from – we'd all like to know. Pictures would be most welcome too!!

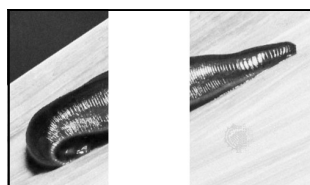
And the second piece of homework for this edition, dear Readers: if you aren't a native of these parts, when did you first discover Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine? For us, it was about 25 years ago – a day trip which left us in awe and amazed at this treasure so close to Sydney. That was followed by more such trips and then an Easter Long Weekend spent at Yengo Cottage 18 years ago. Peter Pigott heard we'd spent an afternoon looking at properties, knew that the wonderful Tom and Tood Kirk were thinking of selling their place in Queens Avenue and the rest is history. We were suddenly brand new owners of Mt Wilson real estate with a new passion in life.

So, dear Readers, sit back, do some reminiscing and then let us all know the answers to these questions. And, of course, if you have anything you're desperate to ask the neighbours, you know where to write. \*

**Elizabeth Montano**

\*See Tim. I CAN write a column without the "L--ch" word in it. Darn! My Swiss doctor did tell me I could have minor relapses.

Picture of a big L--ch





## New Gate at the Turkish Bath Museum

Ever since the opening of the Turkish Bath Museum as the exhibition and display venue for the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society in 1995, access to the building has been via a large farm gate and rough laneway.

Whilst there was a certain charm to this arrangement, it was a difficult trip for people with reduced mobility. Additionally, there was always the constant worry that the gate would be left open, allowing an easy access to the outside world for Wendy Smart's prized Devon cattle.

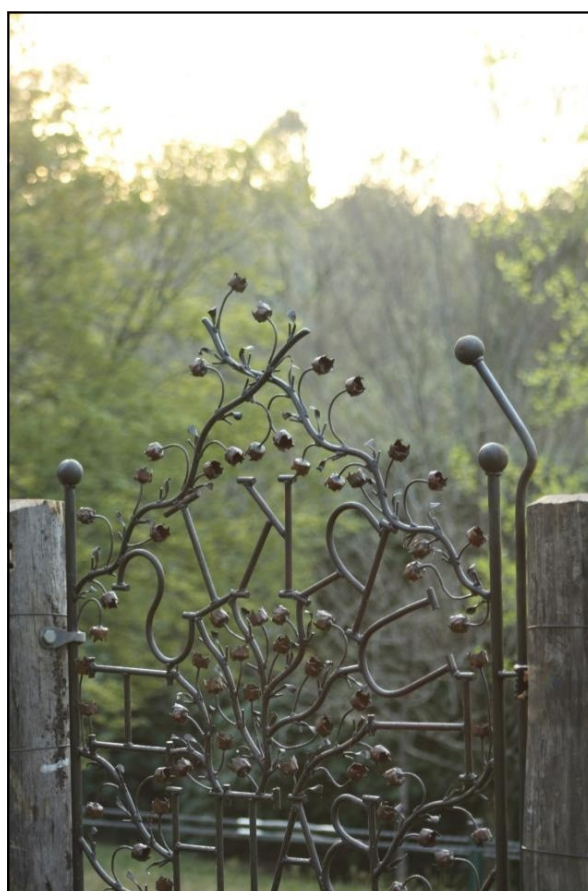
The Society has been working with Lynn Collins, the Blue Mountains City Council's Museum consultant who proposed a redesign of the approach to the Baths.

The concept of a newly relocated pedestrian gate was readily agreed. Scott Leonard of *Sylvan Close*, a talented metal worker, was originally approached to see if he could restore an original, but badly damaged, pedestrian gate from *Wynstay*. Unfortunately, that gate, which had been run over by a large truck or tractor in the past, could not be repaired.

Scott then designed and built a bespoke gate of extraordinary detail and technical skill. Working with Bruce Knott, the local fencing guru, who hung the gate and renovated the stock fence that runs parallel to Mt Irvine Road, the new gate acts as a truly unique entranceway.

Over the coming months, work will continue on the construction of a new pathway from the gate to the Museum.

Many thanks to Wendy, Lynn, Scott and Bruce for their unstinting efforts in completely re-engineering the approach to the Museum precinct.



**Suggestions, comments or contributions warmly welcomed!**