



The Mounts

The Community Newsletter of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine



October 2013

Welcome

Spring is always a very busy time—look at the calendar below for the flurry of post-winter activity. Alas, this spring has already been and gone to a large extent, courtesy of some unseasonably mild weather.

Of particular interest is the Historical AGM on 9th November, where the extraordinary achievements, efforts and energy of Mary Reynolds, who has recently “retired” from her formal connections with the Society, will be publicly acknowledged and celebrated.

On a personal note, many thanks to all those who expressed their sympathies at the recent death of Paul Gow. Your thoughts and words were a great comfort to Lis and all the family. It is planned to hold an afternoon tea at *Sefton Cottage* later in October or early November. Details will be announced at a later date. It goes without saying all are very welcome.

Tim Gow Tel. 4756 2032 or 0412 133 559

e-mail: seftoncottage@gmail.com

Community Calendar

Oct	Fri 11th 9.00–12.00 Bush Care— Silva Plana	Sun 13th 3.00 pm Mt Wilson Church Service	Fri 18th Bushwalk Group— Blue Gum Forest & Govetts Leap	Sat 26th and Sun 27th Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Photography & Art Exhibition
Nov	Sat 2nd Welcome Day Mt Wilson Fire Station 1.00–5.00 pm	Sun 3rd 9.00 am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed	Tues 5th Melbourne Cup Luncheon, Mt Wilson Village Hall	Fri 8th 9.00–12.00 Bush Care— Founders Corner
Sat 9th 10.30–12.30 Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Historical Society AGM	Sun 10th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service	Mon 11th 10.45 am Remembrance Day, War Memorial	Fri 15th Bushwalk Group— Fortress Ridge, Leura	Sat 30th 6.30 pm Community Christmas Party
Dec	Sun 1st 9.00 am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed	Fri 6th Bushwalk Group— Mt Wilson Walk & lunch at Merry Garth	Sun 8th 3.00 pm Mt Wilson Church Service	Fri 13th 9.00–12.00 Bush Care— Hay Lane

Village Hall Jottings

The Village Hall Anniversary Appeal raised \$32,000, a wonderful result and a big thank you for your generous support for the Hall upgrade. This money is being held in our Mt Wilson Village Hall Fundraising Account and can only be used for our Hall and with the agreement of the Mt Wilson Village Hall Management Committee. With funds already in this account raised from many Yulefests and Melbourne Cup lunches, our community is able to contribute \$60,000 towards the Hall upgrade.

BMCC has allocated \$70,000 towards the project, some of which has been spent on the design work and Development Application.

BMCC has also lodged a grant application with the State Government Building Community Partnerships scheme .

Now we just have to wait, with our fingers crossed, until the successful grant applications are announced in December.

Hoping to see you at the Melbourne Cup Lunch on Tuesday 5th November!

Judy Tribe

Cicadas

It has been a disastrous year for cicadas. This year is one of their 'big' years when their singing – when the sun is out – is quite deafening.

Due to the warm days in early September, they emerged from the ground far earlier than normal. However, the nights and early mornings have still been quite cold.

Thousands of cicadas have come out of the ground and climbed the nearby trees. Many have not been able to get out of their shells quickly enough and many of those who did have damaged wings as they did not open up and dry properly.

The few that have survived have done a little singing on the warm days.

Libby Raines



Tuesday 5th November is Melbourne Cup Day 2013

**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**

This is a fund raising activity of the Village Hall Committee to raise funds to improve our Village Hall amenities

MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Coming Events

- Remembrance Day Service – 11th November, 2013 at 10.45 at the War Memorial and afterwards in the hall for morning tea and a talk by Alison Halliday about more of those from the villages who did military service
- Community Christmas party – 30th November, 2013 at 6.30 p.m. at the Mount Wilson Village Hall.

Annual General Meeting

This was held on 21st September with a good attendance of 34 members. The meeting was presented with a most informative President's report by Richard Beattie with a power point presentation.

The new Committee for 2013/2014 is Richard Beattie (President), Alison Halliday (Vice-President), Libby Raines (Treasurer), Moira Green (Secretary) and Committee members Brian Abrahams, Ted Griffin, Peter Laving and Bill Ryan. Kim Gow decided not to nominate for re-election and we thank her very much for the contribution she has made as member for the last four years. We are happy to welcome Peter Laving into the vacant position.

Minutes of the meeting can be accessed by financial members of the Association on the website. Go to the MWPA administration section.

Condolences

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Paul Gow, a long standing and active member of the community and a member of the Association, since 1997. Our sympathy goes to Lis, Tim and Kim and other family and friends.

New Members

Welcome to new members of the community and of the MWPA, Peter McDonald and Keith Ralston, owners of *Coolangatta* and Johanna and Thom Renton new owners of *Timbertop*, both properties in Wynnes Rocks Road.

Linda Raines has also become a member of the Association and a hearty congratulations to both Linda and Peter on the birth of William (Bill), the very newest and youngest member of the Mount Wilson community.

Don't forget, 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.

Local dirt roads to be sealed

Council is preparing to seal the dirt roads. At the time of writing, mounds of gravel can be seen at the end of Cathedral Reserve so work should start soon.

Endeavour Energy

A report from Endeavour Energy about the Mount Wilson upgrade that has been undertaken over the last three years is included elsewhere in this newsletter. The company is interested in keeping the community informed.

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. It is a small but varied collection covering such categories as fiction, biography, history, travel, horticulture.

Anyone who would like to assist in looking after the library for one hour a month on a Saturday morning would be most welcome.

Moira Green (Secretary)

Mount Wilson Upgrade

Fact sheet



MOUNT WILSON UPGRADES

Endeavour Energy is pleased to provide the Mt Wilson Progress Association with an update of the capital works that have been undertaken in the area to improve the safety, reliability and sustainability of the supply to the area.

The Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine communities are on a long radial spur line, making it susceptible to frequent outages caused by weather events, tree branches falling onto conductors and damage caused by native fauna.

Being a spur line there is no alternative source of supply to the area when these events occur and this has, at times, delayed restoration times beyond what Endeavour Energy considers acceptable.

The current investment program is upgrading the network to make it more tolerant to incidents and weather events and thus providing a much improved supply.

PROJECT SCOPE

Over a period of 3 years, upgrades have been completed to 18 kilometres of conductor including an upgrade in many sections to Arial Bundled Cable and covered conductors in order to minimise the impact that we have on the natural vegetation in the area.

Over 100 poles have been replaced to make the network stronger and damage tolerant. We have also installed new devices in the area that will assist us to quickly identify and respond to events as they occur,

decreasing the time required for us to restore supply to customers.

GENERATOR USE

Endeavour Energy had previously considered and consulted with the Progress Association regarding the use of a local generator. With the work that has now been completed, this option is not currently considered a necessary investment to provide a quality supply to the area and has been indefinitely deferred.

NOTIFYING STAKEHOLDERS

Endeavour Energy appreciates that during the capital works there has been a number of planned interruptions to the community and appreciates that this is often inconvenient for residents.

We have tried to ensure that whenever an interruption is required that all residents are informed so that they can make any arrangements necessary during the outage period. We have paid particular attention to those residents that may be particularly vulnerable to outages to ensure their welfare during these periods.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Endeavour Energy would like to thank the local communities of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine for their continued support during the upgrade works and look forward to providing an improved supply into the future.

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

**Mt Wilson Village Hall
Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th October 2013
10 am to 4 pm
Gold Coin Entry**

Planning is well under way for the second annual photography and art exhibition. Last year's event was a resounding success and featured a mix of art and photography from many locals and artists throughout the Blue Mountains stretching further afield to Melbourne and even to New York. For a first time event it was wonderful to see the number of people who attended the two days and the support that was provided in feedback and purchases. Like last year artists will be donating a percentage of their sales to the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Fire Brigade.

It's important that each year an attempt is made to make the exhibition different to the previous year and artists are encouraged to submit new work this year. Again the theme is of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine and it's wonderful to see how each artist interprets their vision. Artists are lucky in that the area is versatile from its natural bush to its manicured gardens, its waterfalls and fountains, native plants, cultivated flowers, blossoms and magnificent trees that stand proud in spring and in autumn create a spectacular display of golden glory. The cultural and historic nature of the villages should not be ignored in how they impact on artistic impression.

This year to add more interest an invitation has been extended to include hand made jewellery and metal art sculptors. New art display boards are in the process of being built to better display the artwork and add that different look to the event.

Two photo walks have been planned on the Saturday with well known husband and wife photographers, Ian and Dianne English who will be hosting a group of keen photographers within the gardens of *Bisley* and *Merry Garth* to pass on their techniques in taking 'that perfect garden photo'. For \$20 visitors will be able to visit the three open gardens of *Bisley*, *Merry Garth* and *Nooroo* and tag along on the photo walks.

Promotion of the event is under way and it is requested that all who read this article help in their own way to promote and support this wonderful community project.

It's not too late to enter so please feel free to email me at bevwoodman46@gmail.com

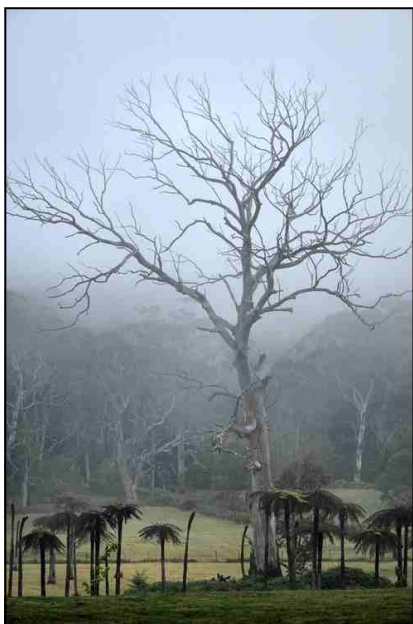
It's a great opportunity to join in the fun of the exhibition while taking in the beautiful gardens and bush surrounds – maybe enjoy the home cooked refreshments at the Village Hall and catch up with friends and family while admiring the beautiful work on display.

Everyone is warmly invited to join in the official opening on the Saturday evening from 5 pm (\$5 entry) and enjoy a chat, a glass of wine and cheese.

Most work will be for sale – a perfect time to start that Christmas shopping while also aiding a wonderful cause – the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Fire Brigade.

Why not follow us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/MtWilsonMtIrvinePhotographyArtExhibition>



Ask the Neighbours

This is your in the field columnist calling, Tim. And when I say "in the field" I really mean it. It's tough out here gathering intelligence on behalf of the Rural Anti Antechinus Service (or RAATS as our uniform badges proudly declare). While my extensive intelligence analysis is still to come, Tim, I can report that preliminary intelligence suggests that our two enemies are attempting to join forces – yes, that's right. The Leeches and the Antechinus are forming an alliance. You know how it goes- "my enemy's enemy is my friend". Well, unfortunately it seems the Ls and the As have both been using their winter breaks to read up on great military campaigns. My team of field operatives (those finches are amazing at blending in – and they work for chicken feed) believe that talks have taken place on neutral ground. Yes- Silva Plana. Invaded by Baz one year, taken over for peace talks the next.

It's going to be an itchy scratchy season. As always, Tim – we Ask The Neighbours to be vigilant and to report all sightings of congregations of Ls and As to RAATS HQ.

Elizabeth Montano

Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade**ARE YOU AND YOUR PROPERTY PREPARED TO SURVIVE A MAJOR BUSHFIRE?**

Now is the time to prepare your property to survive a major bushfire. The fire season got off to an early start with the recent Winmalee fire causing the declaration of a Section 44 emergency on 10 September. Hot, dry and windy weather reminds us all of the risk of bushfire to our community.

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 **safer areas** which 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.

Preparation is the key to keeping your property safe. You have days, weeks, and years to do this, but 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 move on to a more defendable property.

Traditionally the fires that impact us the most start to the north west. While the fire is in that area, we get 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 defendable 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.

How to prepare your property:

- Create and maintain a defendable space around buildings
- Check the condition of external walls and cladding and seal any gaps
- Check the condition of your roof and replace any damaged or missing tiles
- Clean leaves from roof, gutters and downpipes and fit quality metal leaf guards
- Install metal flywire or solid screens to all outside windows, doors, vents and weepholes
- Store wood piles well away from buildings and keep covered
- Enclose underfloor areas and below decks or verandahs
- Make sure the pressure relief valves on gas cylinders face outwards (and not towards the building)
- Have a non combustible door mat (or remove door mat when not in residence)
- Cut back any overhanging trees or shrubs and dispose of cuttings appropriately
- Remove and store any flammable items away from the house
- Ensure you have fire fighting hoses that are long enough to reach every part of the building

- Make sure you have a dedicated fire fighting water supply with a petrol or diesel fire fighting pump. Check your pump still works, and ensure every member of your household knows how to operate it.

Please prepare your survival plan and make sure you have a refuge unless you plan to leave really early, which probably means the day before any serious fire threat. The most dangerous activity is to be in a car travelling through a potential or actual fire zone, even short stretches between properties.

Peter Raines
Senior Deputy Captain

BRIGADE TRAINING UPDATE

The brigade now boasts seven newly qualified members trained to Bushfire Fighter (BF) level during 2013— congratulations to Elizabeth Montano, Joe Montano, Katherine Montano, Alexander Montano, Hugh Nicholas, Emmy Nicholas and Mitchell Woofenden.

It is vital to the brigade to be constantly building its skill base involving as many members of the community as possible. New members of the brigade are always needed to increase the pool of members who can respond to any of the incidents we are called to.

Whether you live in Sydney or on the mounts, new volunteers' contribution is highly valued. Volunteers who live locally, or people approaching retirement who plan to live locally can make a big contribution by adding to our capability to respond to incidents during the week.

Junior members are particularly welcome to learn the ropes from the age of 12 and to grow with the brigade. Consider involving your children and grandchildren in the community.

Membership of the brigade offers opportunities to gain knowledge with a wide application in other areas such as chain sawing, driving heavy vehicles, First Aid, property protection from bushfires, radio communications and large scale catering. And in addition you get to know the members of your community and your area including fire trails and bush walks.

Welcome Days are an obligation-free opportunity to show people how the brigade works and how they can become involved. It takes half a day and aims to find residents who are interested in joining and participating in the brigade.

The next Welcome Day will take place on 2 November 1.00—5.00 pm. If you would like to learn more about your brigade and attend the Welcome Day, please contact Graham Tribe or Michael Sweeney.

Graham Tribe
Training Officer

HAZARD REDUCTIONS – POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS EXPLAINED FURTHER

The newsletter of June 2013 featured an article addressing the popular misconception: "So long as the Brigade does lots of hazard reduction prescribed burning in the National Park around the villages, we will be safe from bush fires."

In this follow-up article, Dr Joe Landsberg examines the effect of hazard reduction burns on the forest ecology from his position as an internationally acknowledged forestry research expert.

Fuel reduction burns have 'side effects': how bad and do they matter?

In the June newsletter David Howell identified the popular misconception: 'So long as the Brigade does lots of hazard reduction prescribed burning in the National Park around the villages we will be safe from bush fires... So (because of the possibility of ember attack setting houses on fire) it is very important to • Keep doing hazard reductions AND • Prepare all properties for a bush fire which may jump the fuel reduced areas on a windy day.'

Fundamental to the environment around the Mounts, there is the matter of the effects of relatively frequent hazard reduction burns on the forest vegetation. Will it be damaged, radically changed, or only mildly affected?

That question is a bit like 'how long is a piece of string?' There are no simple answers to it — or, for that matter, to the question: "How frequently should we do hazard reduction burns to reduce fire threats to very low levels?" The main point that emerges from the literature on fire effects on vegetation is that they depend on all sorts of things, such as: "What sort of fire?" This will vary, depending on the type and state of the vegetation (how much fuel; how dry is it?), how frequently has an area been burnt (how long since the last time), and was the last fire very intense, or quite mild? At what season was the burn done (what was the state of the vegetation at the time? When was the last rain?) And so on...

Having said all that, let's look at a couple of limits. If fire is excluded from a forested area for a long time it is likely that fuel will build up and will, eventually, burn, probably at the height of summer. When it does so, the fire is likely to be intense and dangerous, possibly killing large trees. It takes forested land a long time to recover from that sort of fire, which may induce quite extensive changes to the vegetation. Some species (like Mountain Ash and Alpine Ash), which require high temperatures to trigger seed germination, may produce masses of seedlings. If the forest is open because much of the canopy has been killed, the result could be dense stands of saplings of these species.

On the other hand, if the forests are burned whenever possible, say every few years, some understorey species may be virtually eliminated, so that the character of the lower layers is changed. Seedlings of the main tree species are also likely to be killed, so if the practice is continued long enough, the character of the forest will change, since there won't be much replacement of the trees that die. The forest would also become nutrient-poor - a very bad result on the already poor sandstone soils - increasing the chances of erosion.

So we get back to the rather obvious 'commonsense' approach. The dry sclerophyll areas near enough to the Mounts to pose some sort of danger from embers should be burned frequently enough to prevent the accumulation of high fuel loads. The recommended upper limit is about 10 tons per hectare. If that translates to a hazard reduction burn of any particular area about once every 10-15 years, it is unlikely that we will do long-term damage to the vegetation and will ensure the continuation of what the ecologists call 'species richness'.

Assuming that the changing climate causes an increase in drought frequency, and the occurrence of extreme fire weather, the chances of high intensity fires must increase. We are not going to counter that by greatly increasing the frequency of hazard reduction burning. At the Bushfire

Forum we held here in September 2009, Professor Ross Bradstock said that there are no simple answers to the question "How frequently should we carry out hazard reduction burns?" or guarantees that hazard reductions will prevent fire threats. The main problem is ember attack (David's point that I started with). Any particular area judgments come down to local knowledge and fire records, extending to the vegetation. One of the most valuable things we could do would be to make long-term observations on the vegetation in our area.

On rainforests, I have no idea when those in this area last burned. They would have to be abnormally dry to sustain a fire, and if they did it would be very patchy. The high moisture content of the woody debris on the floor of the rainforest areas would make hazard reduction burns in them almost impossible, and fuel does not accumulate because it rots down fairly quickly. Rainforests shouldn't burn.

Joe Landsberg

Withycombe

RFS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NEWS

The bushfire season commenced on 1 October 2013 and will continue until 31 March 2014, unless the Fire Commissioner decides otherwise.

PREPARING FOR THE BUSHFIRE SEASON

Attached to this article is a checklist of things for you to do to prepare yourself, your family and your property for the bushfire season. The two most important ways you can protect your family and your property are to:

1. Write a Bushfire Survival Plan
2. Prepare Your Property

If you require any information or assistance with these activities please contact Kathleen Oakes or any active bushfire member. The NSW RFS website, www.rfs.nsw.gov.au, is packed with relevant information to assist you to keep safe from bushfires.

STREET COORDINATORS

Community engagement for most brigades means assisting residents with information and advice on bushfire safety for their families and their property. We have gone one step further in Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine because we feel that, in our isolated location, residents and the brigade will require the most up to date information on what is happening during a bushfire (or any emergency), where everyone is and how they are faring. Consequently, we have divided the 2 villages into 6 areas and residents from each area have kindly volunteered to act as Street Coordinators.

The role of Street Coordinators is to provide residents with the latest information on what is happening in Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine during a bushfire. In addition, if the worst happens and fire hits the villages, the Street Coordinators will already have advised the brigade (and other RFS crews) on everyone's situation, enabling crews to prioritise their efforts.

To this end, we would ask all residents, if Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine are threatened by bushfire, to contact their Street Coordinators to learn the latest information on the fires progress and to advise the Street Coordinators of their situation and their plans. The Street Coordinators and their areas are shown on the next page.

The contact details for Street Coordinators are to be found in the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Phone Book (page 3).

Our experience during the windstorm showed us that the brigade and street coordinators have an emergency role beyond that of dealing with bushfires. It reminded us that we need to take our community engagement activity for emergencies another step forward so that after an event we know that everyone is accounted for and that everyone knows what has happened. Our Street Coordinators will play a role here as well so don't forget to contact your Street Coordinator after

the emergency has ended so that you know what the impact has been, what the implications are and so that they know that you are safe and (if absent) when you will return to Mt Wilson or Mt Irvine.

Area	Street Coordinators
Mt Irvine	Ray Harrington, Brian Carrigan
Wynnes Rocks Rd,' Holly Ridge', 'Noonameena', Mill Rd	Peter Laving, Ron Green
Queens Ave, Wyndham Ave, Queens Ave to Hay Lane, Hay Lane, Applecot Lane	Anne Pigott
Church Lane, Waterfall Rd, The Avenue from Fern Hill to Mt Irvine Rd	Peter Anderson, Robert Nicol, Suzanne Bassett
Mt Irvine Rd to Lambs Hill, Galway Lane, Davies Lane, Hillcrest lane, Shadforth Lane, Stephen Lane, Beowang Rd	Richard Beattie, George Mayne
Farrer Road, Smiths Road, 'Fields Selection'	Judy Tribe, Wendy Holland

CHECKLISTS FOR THE BUSHFIRE SEASON

Planning	Property Preparation
Review your Bushfire Survival Plan for this season and discuss it with all members of your household	Remove wood piles from near house and trim branches overhanging house and shrubs below windows
Practise your plan and your backup plan	Insulate gas tanks, pipes and relief valve
Home Preparation	Maintain access to water supply
Have a prominent house number	Clear around and under house
Put wire/metal screens or shutters on all openings including under the house	Clear vegetation, ground litter and light mulch, mow regularly
Prepare emergency food packs	Clear roof and gutters of leaf debris
Repair flaking paint on window sills and door frames	Clear around fences, gates, sheds, garages, carports and under power lines
Equipment Preparation	Provide access for fire fighters
Prepare your Protective Clothing Kit* (for all family)	Keep fuel and chemicals in appropriate storage containers
Prepare your Fire Fighting Kit*	Insurance and Possessions Preparations
Have torches in known locations in the house and spare batteries	Make an inventory and photographic record of household possessions and buildings
Maintain your fire fighting pump, fuel, hoses and nozzles	Store favourite photos and vital information electronically
Maintain sprinkler system (on roof and garden)	Take precious possessions to a safe place
Communication Preparation	Prepare your Relocation Kit*
Have battery operated radio and spare batteries	Check Insurance Cover
Prepare an Emergency Contacts List	Children and Pets
Know where you will get information	Allocate tasks for children or prepare activity bag
Identify your Street Coordinator	Have emergency pet food

*Protective Clothing Kit	*Fire Fighting Kit
Jeans or cotton drill trousers/overalls	Drinking water, first aid kit (incl. artificial tears)
Long sleeved shirt (heavy duty natural fibres)	Wet towels /blankets to seal gaps under doors
Leather shoes or boots without elastic sides	Fire extinguishers
Wool socks	Torches and spare batteries
Goggles or glasses to protect against embers/ash	Cotton mops (to put out embers)
Smoke mask or non-synthetic cloth to protect face	Hoses long enough to reach all parts of the house, connectors , nozzles
Cotton underwear	Mobile phone
Hat/cotton scarf/woollen cap	Ladder
Strong leather gloves	Metal buckets and dippers
Long sleeved wool jumper	Pump and fuel
Wool coat for dog/cat	Metal rake/rakehoe and shovel
RFS yellows	Knapsack, indoor plant sprayer
*Relocation Kit	
Protective clothing for the whole family	Bottled water
Battery operated radio and spare batteries	Handbag/wallet/money/credit cards
Clothing (2 sets), toiletries, sanitary supplies	Emergency Personal Contact List
Mobile phone, charger, car charger	Items of high importance or sentimental value
Woollen blankets (one for each person and pet)	Eye glasses, walking stick
Identity information (passports, birth certificates, medicare card, health insurance)	For your pets: basket/lead/cage, dish for water, food, drinking water
Spare keys	Road directory
Medication and prescriptions	Laptop, USB, CDs
Torches and spare batteries	Favourite item for children

DID YOU KNOW?

A hundred years ago it was mainly men who died in a bushfire. The percentage of men dying in bushfires has decreased whereas, since the 1950s, the percentage of women dying in bushfires has doubled.

Men mainly choose to stay and defend their property during a bushfire and, if overcome by fire, that is where they die. Women mainly choose to leave early and, if they die, die on the road, having left too late, or die sheltering passively at home.

The moral of the story: Leave **EARLY** is the safest option and all women should know how to actively defend their homes. What's in your Bushfire Survival Plan?

Kathleen Oakes
Community Engagement Officer

On Wednesday 25th September, there was a small private family ceremony at Emu Plains to marking the passing of Paul Gow.

Richard Prentice, a very close friend, spoke at that event—his talk is reproduced below.

Vale: Paul Gow 1929 - 2013

I would like to say just a few words in appreciation of my long friendship with Paul and Liz.

To paraphrase Shakespeare, he wrote that the good men do not live after them. This certainly does not apply to Paul. The good he has done is there for all men to see.

It was in distant 1967 that he and Liz took over the neglected back blocks of *Sefton Hall* and in just a few short years had turned them into a flourishing garden: and that was not all, when opportunity presented itself, more bare acres were added and in those too arose a new garden.

My own friendship with the Gows began around the early seventies when, as part of large Christmas gathering at *Sefton Cottage*, we enjoyed good company and Liz' fantastic catering.

On New Years' day, it was also the custom to picnic at the hottest, most uncomfortable place we could find. A notable exception was 1984 at Hill End we picnicked miserably in the car as 8 millimeters of rain tumbled down.

Paul's devotion to his garden was unceasing and it became ever more beautiful.

His last years were shadowed by ill health but he persevered and on my last visit only a few days ago I noticed new maples awaiting planting - Paul was particularly fond of them.

The Roman poet Horace said of his work "...have raised a monument more lasting than brass".

This applies equally well applies to Paul.

Paul, our friend, we will miss you but you have left something which always reminds us of you.

Richard Prentice

Beautiful Wellington Farm Lamb!

Jill Hoskin advises that residents may be interested in knowing that deliveries of prime quality Saltbush lamb to Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine can be easily arranged.

Jill highly recommends this lamb.

The owner, Tim Woods from Wellington Farm Lamb, is willing to deliver as he passes the Mt Wilson turn-off on his regular Sydney deliveries.

Their web address is <http://www.wellingtonlamb.com.au> Their approach to organic farming is very interesting.

Notice of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society's Annual General Meeting 2012 - 2013



A WARM INVITATION IS EXTENDED TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
TO THE SOCIETY'S 17TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WITH GUEST SPEAKER PROF. IAN JACK

Saturday, 9th November 2013 at 11.00am

at the

**Mt Wilson Village Hall,
The Avenue, Mt Wilson**

PROGRAM:

10.30am Morning tea

11.00am **Annual General meeting** with reports, election of management committee for 2014 and an update on the Society's ongoing projects and activities.

Guest speaker Professor Ian Jack will talk about the importance of researching and recording local history highlighting the invaluable contribution Mary Reynolds has made to the work of the Society and to the community as a whole.

JOIN US FOR A LIGHT LUNCH AFTER THE PRESENTATION.



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

FOR CATERING PURPOSES, PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING
HELEN CARDY: 9871 3661 / TIM GOW: 4756 2032 / FLORENCE SMART: 9416 1957
EMAIL: westring@bigpond.com

The Song Company is Australia's leading *a cappella* ensemble. The group's repertoire covers vocal music from the 10th century to the present day and is unique in its stylistic diversity.

After an absence of two years, Artistic Director Roland Peelman and the ensemble are celebrating their return to Blue Mountains performances with a Christmas concert in Blackheath.

Of Birds and Angels is a quintessential Song Company program that blends the best of pagan and Christian traditions from Australia and around the world with carols in Catalan, Ukrainian and Spanish, as well as beautiful pieces by Australian composers Ross Edwards and Christopher Willcock, and William G James' Australian classic *Carol of the Birds*.

Since its formation in 1984 The Song Company has developed as one of the most vibrant and extraordinary vocal ensembles in the world. Under the leadership of Roland Peelman, Artistic Director since 1990, the six-voice ensemble has developed its style by successfully integrating serious scholarship, tonal clarity, vocal daring and unbridled performance dynamics.

Through a longstanding commitment to education, an annual concert series, as well as many recordings and broadcasts, The Song Company has built up an impressive following throughout Australia and around the world.

**Blue Mountains Uniting Church
Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath
Sunday 24 November 2013 at 3pm
Tickets \$25 - \$45. Includes afternoon tea.**

**Tickets are available from www.trybooking.com/DGDD
or by contacting The Song Company on 02 8272 9500**



Suggestions, comments or contributions warmly welcomed!