



The Mounts

The Community Newsletter of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine



April 2013

Welcome

In a small village, loss in its many forms is deeply felt. The recent past has sadly seen the passing of Lynn Whan and Ron Smart, two remarkable people with deep connections with our community.

A loss of another kind has been Bowens Creek Road, a victim to years of neglect and a series of extreme rain events. The distant memories of Mt Irvine families of yesteryear repairing the road themselves by pounding up sandstone to fill any developing ruts has gone the way of button-up boots. A concerted campaign directed to the Blue Mountains City Council seems the best way to begin the process of trying to restore a vital piece of public infrastructure. Full details of how this can be executed are included in this edition; residents are urged to be politely assertive and vocal.

The centenary of the death of Henry Marcus Clark, the creator of *Balangara* and *Sefton Hall*, and the person who inspired the building of the St Georges Church, was held on 16th March. The day was one of those sublime autumnal days that make living in this part of the world such a pleasure and saw a large gathering of the extended family. Energetically co-ordinated by Christopher Clark, attendees travelled from many parts of the country; many had not met before. The group gathered in the Village Hall for lunch following a morning service at St Georges.

The cycle does continue.

Tim Gow Tel. 4756 2032 or 0412 133 559

e-mail: seftoncottage@gmail.com

Community Calendar

| | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|--|
| April | Fri 12th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care— Hay Lane | Sun 14th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service | Fri 19th Bushwalk Group— Glow Worm Tunnel & Pagoda Track | |
| May | Sun 5th 9.00am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed | Fri 10th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care— Wynne Reserve | Sun 12th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service | Fri 17th Bushwalk Group—Lunch Rock, Bell |
| June | Sun 2nd 9.00am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed | Sun 9th 3.00pm Mt Wilson Church Service | Fri 14th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care— Waterfall Reserve | Fri 21st Bushwalk Group—Victory Track, Springwood |

Village Hall Jottings

The AGM for the Mt Wilson Village Hall Management Committee was held on Saturday March 2nd March. This is a summary of the report given at the AGM.

2012 was the year of the new roof. After many years of alerting Council to the mould on the kitchen ceiling and leaks into the Hall, this much needed maintenance work was carried out in early 2012. The old style Wunderlich pressed metal roof tiles are no longer available and the cost of repairing them was prohibitive, so the roof was replaced with Colorbond roofing. The detailing has been sympathetically finished and importantly we have no more leaks.

At the same time Council replaced the pergola. I think the new pergola looks great, it fits the style of the Hall and there has been no more water overflowing into the Hall. The well covered outdoor space has been much appreciated.

A big thank you to Council for the work done on these projects in 2012.

This year we also installed the hanging system, providing a professional and orderly system for displaying our pictures.

Our big challenge for 2013 is the funding for the Stage 2 upgrade. As you know, Council transferred the \$70,000 available for extra toilets in Cathedral Reserve when it was decided they were unnecessary to the Stage 2 Hall works. This money has allowed the project to progress, as there were now funds to develop the design to Development Application stage. Council has contracted with architectural firm Integrated Designs to work on the concept plan that Darrel Conybeare had prepared.

The DA was submitted in November 2012 and was approved in March!

The Stage 2 upgrade can be divided into two separated projects:

- The toilet block and storeroom: our priority is to get this completed first
 - Estimated cost \$160,000
 - Current funds available \$60,000
 - Grant application to be made by BMCC \$50,000
 - Leaving a shortfall of \$50,000
- The new entrance and pergola:
 - Estimated cost \$50,000

We have been informed that Council has no extra budget for capital works projects and that for the project to go ahead we will have to raise the funding shortfall – a very challenging task!

We welcome any suggestions and help for this and any fund raising ideas you have.

It has been wonderful to see the variety of events the Hall has been used for in 2012. As well as the usual community meetings and our Village Hall fund raisers, the Yulefest and the Melbourne Cup Lunch, the hall has been hired for weddings, Council elections and Fire Brigade training sessions. The highlights were the opening of the Patrick White exhibition 'The Red Admiral' by the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Marie Bashir in June and the 'Photography and Art Exhibition' in October, raising funds for the local Fire Brigade.

The Hall was also welcome emergency accommodation for a group of Barker College students in the October snow storm.

I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work during the year: Ted Griffin as Deputy Chair and treasurer, Helen Freeman as secretary, Mib Kirk as booking officer and Ron Green, Beth Raines, Tim Gow and Darrel Conybeare as committee members.

After many years on the committee, two of our members have decided to step off the committee, a big thank you to them both:

- Darrel Conybeare—we are very grateful for all his work on the concept plans for Stage 2
- Ron Green who has been on the committee since the Hall reopening in 2003, most as chairman. His vision, hard work and perseverance with Council has gradually transformed the Hall from being cold in winter, poorly lit, with uncomfortable chairs, old tables and a dingy appearance into a welcoming, comfortable place to hold meetings and social functions and to handle most emergencies.

Lastly I would like to thank the communities of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine for their support and increasing use of the Hall.

Judy Tribe

The Post House Takeaway Food and Drinks

As most of you are aware, Margaret Wickins has recently started a venture to sell takeaway picnic hampers and drinks from The Post House.

In the recent December community survey, 90.7% of respondents welcomed the idea of a local cafe. Initial response from visitors during the Easter weekend has proved particularly encouraging. We wish her well with her efforts.

The Post House Takeaway Food and Drinks

Takeaway Food, Picnics, Scones
Nespresso Coffee, Tea, Cold Drinks

Available weekends/public holidays

Saturday March 23 - Monday 10th June (Queen's Birthday) 2013
and

Saturday 31st August - Sunday 17th November 2013
10.00 am to 4.00 pm

The Post House
77 The Avenue, Mt Wilson
(immediately after the churchyard on your left when entering the village)

Tel 47 562 100
margaret@theposthouse.com.au



MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Village Maintenance

Many might have noticed the tidying up of the area around the War Memorial. Work will continue to improve the area as the ground around it will be contoured and seeded. Our thanks go to Alan Gunn for this work.

The Marcus Clark Reserve is also being cleaned up as some of the fallen timber from the wind storm nearly two years ago is being cleared.

Although much maintenance work has been done around the village by Blue Mountains City Council, there is still much on the list of outstanding work we have requested, especially with the heavy rain we have had this year, resulting in fallen timber and a land slippage on Anniversary Walk. Please write to Council pointing out the importance of repairing the walkway to provide a safe passage for walkers. The Mount Irvine Road has no provision for walkers to get off the road at this section. The more correspondence Council receives, the more likely it will be that it takes action before there is a serious accident.

Richard Beattie is trying to organise a meeting with the General Manager to discuss such issues and the results of the survey done at the end of 2012 of the villagers' perceptions of the nature and needs of our village. A meeting with the Councillors will follow.

Rates

Blue Mountains City Council has issued a news release that it has submitted an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal to continue a special variation to rates. This will continue the existing rate variation past its expiry date of 30 June 2013 so rates will rise in 2013/2014 only by 3.4% as set by the Tribunal to allow for inflation.

If approved, the money raised in this way will be spent on maintenance works on built assets. Apparently this was supported by the Blue Mountains community in recent consultation taken by Council.

Speed Signs

Following a discussion raised by members at a General Meeting some time ago, and enquiries by the Committee, Roads and Maritime Services have informed us of the following action to be taken:

"RMS will signpost an 80 km/h speed limit on Mt. Wilson Road between Bells Line of Road and one kilometre south west of Queens Avenue ... 50 km/h speed limit signs will be installed within the town centre to ensure the urban speed limit is apparent to motorists... Variable Message Signs will be in place on Mt. Wilson Road one week prior to notify motorists of the change."

This should happen from 18th April, weather permitting.

Brochure

A new updated Mount Wilson brochure has been produced. The intention of this is to provide visitors with information about accommodation, gardens, walks and facilities and a map. It is placed in boxes at the notice board and at the Rural Fire Station. Our thanks go the Jess Delbridge for the production of this.

Condolences

We offer our sympathy to Neville Whan, his family and friends on the sudden death of his wife Lynne. Lynne was a full time resident of *Nooroo Cottage* since 2000 and a member of the Progress Association since 2002. Lynne will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

New Member

Welcome to the newest member of the MWPA, John Cuningham, of *Eastcote*, Queens Avenue.

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

Unfortunately the library has been closed some Saturdays recently because there are insufficient people to open it. 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.

Moir Green (Secretary)

Ask the Neighbours

Testing ...testing... Are you sure the last edition of the Newsletter got through, Tim?

It can't have. Otherwise, there is no doubt you would have been inundated with all those anti-Antechinus tales (tails?) in response to last edition's question: "What techniques are people using to stop the Antechinus getting into their roofs, vegetable gardens and other assorted places which should be antechinus free zones?"

So far, apart from a few lame attempts by some to resurrect those L---ch jokes over Easter, all we've had is the following from Jane Mayne:

"By the way, talking of antechinus, we recently bought two ultrasonic rodent preventers from Magnamail, with the hope of preventing these monsters from invading our house. This was after one crawled on my neck when I was in bed!!! Beverley Thompson recommended them to us, so we shall see!!"

Thank you, Jane. What a traumatic experience, and how brave of you to share it with us. We await with great interest your advice on the success or otherwise of these ultrasonic rodent protectors. And Beverley, would you care to share with the class your Antechinus experiences? Our roving intelligence network (that's Tim) also advises that Judy Teulon has dabbled in this. As in group therapy, it's important to talk about these horrors, folks.

Jane, you'll be pleased to know that NO correspondence will be entered into about the location in which you encountered said Antechinus: tempting as it might be to start up a whole new front of jokes. We wouldn't do that to you, George.

Of course, having undertaken an intensive analysis of our new Enemy Number One and their talent for counter-intelligence tactics, we must remain on the look-out for any or all of the following:

- Antechinus with ear plugs
- Antechinus with electronic jamming equipment
- Antechinus launching spam attacks and/or nibbling on cables to prevent the anti-Antechinus message getting out via the Newsletter.

I wouldn't put anything past them, Tim. Like Dark Chocolate-coated Scorched Almonds, Antechinus are the work of the Devil. And must be resisted at all cost. Oh, we know how it all starts! "One can't hurt, can it? It's only one little sweet looking little thing". Next thing you know you've either got to buy bigger pants or invest in ASIO's latest gear.

Elizabeth Montano

Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade

BOWENS CREEK ROAD UPDATE

Following intense rainfall in early March, Bowens Creek Road at Mount Irvine has been extensively damaged by water. Sections of the track about half way down are impassable with washouts nearly a metre deep in places. The track at this location sits atop a sheer 30m drop, and stability of the track edges cannot be guaranteed.

The road on the Bilpin side has been effectively destroyed with at least two sections of the terraced road having collapsed all the way down to the creek. As the cliff is vertical in these sections, there is nowhere suitable to build up the road any more. Hawkesbury Council which has responsibility for this part of the road will be unable to make it usable.

The Bowens Creek bridge is in a much poorer state of repair due to the enormous volume of water and the debris washed over and under it during the deluge. It is possibly repairable with sufficient funds.

The RFS believes it is important to encourage the Blue Mountains City Council to repair the part of the road for which they have responsibility, i.e. from Mt Irvine to the bridge, for the following reasons:

- Fire fighting access
- Access for rescues in Bowens Creek
- Heritage road
- Recreation – people use the creek for swimming and picnics

Our side is still salvageable, but work needs to start now to prevent it suffering the same permanent fate as the Bilpin side.

Members of the Brigade executive are speaking to Council and encourage residents to contact the Mayor and our local councillor to communicate the extent of community concerns about this matter.

Cr Daniel Myles
Mayor
Blue Mountains City Council
Locked Bag 1005
KATOOMBA NSW 2780
Mobile: 0414 418 161
Email: dmyles@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Michael Begg
Blue Mountains City Council
Locked Bag 1005
KATOOMBA NSW 2780
Mobile: 0431 501 981
Email: mbegg@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Closure of the Bowens Creek Road now means that Mt Irvine Road is the only way in and out of Mt Irvine. It is imperative that this road is upgraded, especially the removal of trees which overhang the road and could come down in a storm and block the only access road. Please mention this in your letters, emails and calls to Council.

CANCELLATION OF 2013 WILLY TO BILLY

It is with sincere regret that we announce the cancellation of the 2013 Willy to Billy. This is not as

a result of the Hawkesbury Council (who have been working with us to overcome last year's issues), but rather Mother Nature, who has battered our region with extraordinarily heavy rain in the last two months. Several sections of Bowens Creek Road have been washed away and the Bowens Creek bridge was severely damaged.

The future of this important community bush run from Mt Wilson to Bilpin hangs in the balance as alternatives are sought. Disappointment is shared not only by the many runners who congregated on Silva Plana every August but also the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Brigade. The 36km run was the major annual fundraiser for the brigade and an opportunity for the entire community to get involved.

So now it remains to come up with an alternative route for the Willy to Billy. Suggestions on a post card please!

With the demise of the Willy to Billy, attention now shifts to the annual **Photography and Art Exhibition** as an event to raise much needed funds for the RFS. The Exhibition takes place in the Mt Wilson Hall over the weekend of **26 and 27 October** 2013. Mark your calendars now and start encouraging your friends to enjoy a spring weekend in the mountains and go home with some art. All profits from the weekend go towards the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Brigade.

WYNNES ROCKS HAZARD REDUCTION

After a long time in the planning, a very successful Hazard Reduction (HR) burn was carried out on Wednesday 27 March by National Parks and Wildlife Service and NSW RFS. The burn took place below properties from the Mill Road to the east of Wynnes Rocks Road, around the lookout and then below the properties to the west of the road to between the properties *Oreades* and *Rolands*. The last time this area was burnt was in the 1994 wildfire and, before that, in the 1979 wildfire. This area has been on the books to be burnt for around eight years, but had to be postponed year after year due to the very limited opportunities to burn. Unfavourable weather conditions (temperature, fuel moisture, wind, excessive dew etc) and the fact that it was scheduled as an autumn-only burn meant that attempts to put in the burn were repeatedly called off.

After seeing how HRs lower in the Mountains were going, Peter and Beth Raines decided to do a small test burn on the Monday and found that the leaf litter would be dry enough to hold fire. With a great weather report for the next two or three days, contact was made with RFS District Office for approval to schedule the burn for Wednesday. Initially District Office was reluctant to approve another burn as some very large HRs were being undertaken at Woodford and Linden at the same time. Further requests both to District Office and to NPWS finally resulted in approval to make the most of this rare opportunity to burn.

Nine crew members from Medlow Bath and South Katoomba, and eight NPWS crew joined Beth Raines, Peter Raines, Barry Freeman, Stephen Dean, Graham Tribe and Vic Zhukov at the fire station on Wednesday morning. Barry acted as RFS Commander, and Peter and Beth Raines were Sector Leaders.

The successfully executed plan of ignition was to start the back burn at the lookout and take it both east and west from rake hoe lines under the properties, whilst NPWS started at the corner under *Oreades* and progressed the fire under the properties and down the Wynnes Rocks dozer line towards the creek. Once this fire had trickled down the hill sufficiently, a helicopter was used to drop incendiaries under the cliff lines and on the ridge tops, and later further down the slopes towards the creek lines. Later in the day crews were assisted by Libby Raines, Michael Sweeney and Tim Gow. The day after the burn saw brigade members David Howell, Vic Zhukov, Graham Tribe, Anne Mayall, Michael Sweeney, Peter Laving and Marilyn Laving blacking out and patrolling the burn. Volunteers also checked the perimeter a couple of times each day over the Easter period.

It is a great relief to have this hazard reduction completed and this area safer after such a long wait. The fire burned slowly and gently, within prescription, and the crews all did a fantastic job to make sure it had such a successful outcome. Make sure you make the time to thank them.

Beth Raines
Captain

PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT - HOW DOES IT WORK?

The survey commissioned by the Mt Wilson Progress Association late last year sought the views of residents on several aspects of life in the village, including the roles of the various organisations which are part of our community. Of particular interest to the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Brigade were the responses to the three questions relating to the community's perceptions of its role and responsibilities.

Results of the survey revealed that for the most part residents report being happy with the support, dedication and preparedness of their local brigade. As with all research, however, there was a divergence of views, revealing a need for greater clarity and insight into the day to day workings of the Brigade and its place in the community.

As part of a series of articles designed to increase community understanding of the RFS, this edition deals with the issue of Public Land Management, and the inter-related roles of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC), and the Rural Fire Service (RFS).

In and near our villages there are three managers of Public Land:

- **Private residents** – each owner of private property is responsible for managing their own land, including elimination of weeds, dumping and fire mitigation. It is not the role of the RFS to control vegetation or hazards on private property.
- **NPWS** – This entity manages 9% of the land in NSW and 25% of the area prone to fires. It is responsible for fire mitigation in National Parks and thus is responsible for hazard reduction burns among other activities in the Wollangambe and Bowens Creek areas, and all other areas which are parts of Blue Mountains National Park.
- **BMCC** -Council is responsible for land management of areas it owns, and is responsible for other State owned areas for which it has taken responsibility. Interactive maps on the BMCC website (www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au) and follow the links to "Interactive Maps") show land in the village which is neither privately owned nor National Park. This land is termed either:
 - **Crown Land** – Includes a large area to the west and north west of Church Lane. BMCC is the land manager for most of the Crown land around the villages, but not all of it.
 - **Council Operational Land** – virtually none in Mt Wilson
 - **Council Community Land** – The area containing the Fire Station at Mt Wilson is an example of this.
 - **Council Unclassified Land**

While BMCC does not have the ability or resources to plan and conduct HRs, they do have the obligation to keep fire trials open, and conduct fire inspections. More information about the role of BMCC in Emergency Management is on the following website: www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/sustainableliving/bushfireandemergencies

Under an agreement between the RFS and BMCC, the RFS has the role of instigating Hazard Reduction (HRs) on BMCC managed land. The RFS however must depend on NPWS to run

boundaries of BMCC, NPWS and private land and all parties must be consulted and be willing to devote resources to successfully and safely completing a HR burn.

For further information or clarification, contact David Howell (howelldj@ozemail.com.au).

Vale—Dr Ron Smart 1927 - 2013

The Smart family first came to Mt Irvine in 1939. Hubert Smart senior bought 22 acres of uncleared woodland and rainforest on Danes Way with the intention of developing a nursery specialising in cold climate trees and shrubs. The success of that dream can be seen today in the gardens at *Carisbrook*.

Ron left school as a young teenager to help his father and older brother Bill with clearing the land and setting up the farm, and in the 1940s he enjoyed the very active social life organised by the dozen or so young people between Mt Irvine and Mt Wilson. They called themselves the 'Younger Set' and held regular dances, tennis every Sunday afternoon, picnics, riding out together, hiking to the Pavements; all the families helped each other and contributed to an active community life.

Ron decided that farming was not to be his life, and he returned to his studies with a strong interest in mathematics and electronics. He graduated in Electrical Engineering in 1953—54 from the University of NSW with first class honours and the University Medal. Ron married Catherine Hargreaves, a school friend of Judith McMahon (nee Morley) and they sailed together to UK where Ron learned about digital computers.

On his return Ron was responsible for building and operating Utecom at UNSW, one of Australia's first four computer centres all established about 1956.

In the early 1960s Ron had moved to the multi-national world of computer businesses. He started Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) in Australia in 1964 and went on to become that company's international business manager starting operations in more than a dozen countries. He played a leading role in the phenomenal growth of DEC during more than 25 years with the company.

Even though he lived much of his life overseas Ron returned home often and always maintained a passionate love for the Australian landscape and particularly the mountains. He studied all the peaks that could be seen from Mt Wilson to the north and visited many of them. He took great delight in providing detailed sketches with all the hills named for visitors at *Wynstay* and for the neighbours.

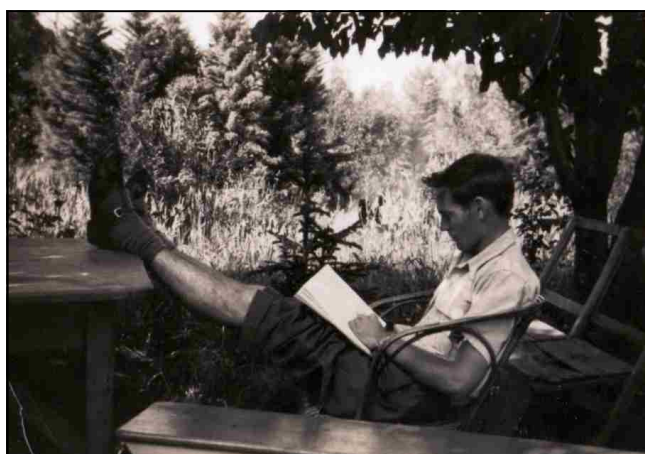
He enjoyed reading the Bushwalking newsletters with their vivid descriptions of the country he knew so well. Ron was a life member of the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society.

Ron spent his last five years quietly in California in the care of his second wife Dot and her family. His Australian family visited, and we all kept in close touch. Ron died peacefully on 10th February 2013.

Many of his friends and colleagues will join the family in Sydney on 13th April to celebrate his life.

Florence Smart

(r) Ron at *Carisbrook* studying for University exams in the 1950s.



Vale—Lynne Whan 1947—2013

Lynne Whan died suddenly on 20th February at her home *Nooroo Cottage* not long after her 45th wedding anniversary with Neville.

Those close to her noted her health had deteriorated markedly in recent months, though Lynne, as she had done for many years, *never* showed any bitterness or resentment. Though she may have been confined to a wheelchair, her world was seemingly unconstrained. A brilliant mind, a wicked sense of humour, fiercely independent and courageous, insatiably curious and compassionate, Lynne kept in close touch with the daily rhythms and events of life at Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine through her long and deep association with the Friendship Group.

There was a certain sad irony that her health problems prevented her— a born socialiser—from meeting many of the local residents.

Suffice to say, all that had the great pleasure and privilege of knowing Lynne simply adored and loved her.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Neville and her family.

Lynne's ashes will be placed at *Nooroo Cottage* in a small, private ceremony on the morning of 20th April.



Bushfire Research

Vegetation, weather and topography all ensure that fire returns to the same place. But if no part of Australia is exactly the same as another then no fire can be the same. If protecting lives and property is so important then what role do residents play in the impact of fire? Bushfire research mainly concentrates on fire behaviour in the hope of producing national solutions. We need more local research in collaboration with the local community to provide local solutions.

I recently spent a day with Dr Nicholas Gill and Olivia Dunn from the University of Wollongong. They are working on a project titled 'Co-existing with Fire: Managing Risk and Amenity' which is funded by the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre, an initiative of the Australian Government. The overall purpose of the project is to investigate what residents and landowners value in the landscape and the relationship of these values with bushfire risk. The biological aspect of the project is headed by Professor Bradstock of the University of Wollongong whereas Nick and Olivia are working on the social science component (together with colleagues Dr Chris Brennan-Horley and Dr Christine Eriksen), hoping to talk to residents of Mt Wilson, Bilpin and possibly Bowen Mountain.

We spent the day looking at areas of Mt Wilson where houses directly adjoin the bush. Naturally, this covers most of Mt Wilson but, as they were particularly interested in those areas which face the highest bushfire risk, we narrowed it down to Wynnes Rocks Road, Church Lane, Mt Irvine Road, Farrer Road and Smiths Road. Nick and Olivia would like to conduct in-depth interviews with residents of these streets.

As this is the 21st century this requires not only pen and paper but also the use of an iPad. Nick showed me the results of a pilot project in Wollongong where, using an iPad with an aerial view of their property and surrounds, a resident had coloured in those areas they liked and those areas of concern. This was done on the iPad using a special pen and the ability to turn on different colours (and a rubber!). It is a curious combination that appeals both to the techno-savvy adult and the inner child. Nick was concerned that Mt Wilson residents may be reluctant to use current technology but I hastened to assure him that the opposite was the case. With a large population of weekenders and part time residents we understand only too well the value of technology in communicating with each other, not to mention communicating (and keeping up with) children and grandchildren.

Several agencies have expressed interest in the results of the project as a way of managing bushfire risk while at the same time meeting community concerns and expectations. Nick and Olivia have appealed for assistance from residents of relevant streets for their project and I hope that some of you will have the time and inclination to volunteer. I am sure you will find the project interesting and ultimately of use to the community and the agencies with which we deal.

Kathleen Oakes
Community Engagement Officer

Can you help Dave the postman?

Dave has gently requested that residents take greater care when placing their garbage bins out for collection so that they do not inadvertently block his access to a letterbox.

It is fully understandable that to get out of the car to move garbage bins every Friday morning in order to deliver letters is a very tedious process.

He appreciates your help in this matter.



UNIVERSITY OF
WOLLONGONG



**LOCAL RESIDENTS NEEDED FOR STUDY:
'CO-EXISTING WITH FIRE: MANAGING RISK AND AMENITY'**

This is an invitation to participate in a study conducted by researchers of the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER) at the University of Wollongong with project funding from the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre. The overall purpose of this study is twofold:

- To investigate what residents and landowners value in the landscape
- To examine the relationship of these values with bushfire risk in areas bordering or containing significant areas of native vegetation

We are interested in interviewing adult members of households located along:

- **Wynnes Rocks Road**
- **Church Lane**
- **The Avenue and Mount Irvine Road between Church Lane and Cathedral Reserve**
- **Farrer Road West and Smith Road**

If you agree to participate in the study, it will involve:

- a short pre-interview questionnaire,
- an interview with you at your property at a time of your convenience, and
- an optional feedback session as part of a subsequent community focus group discussion.

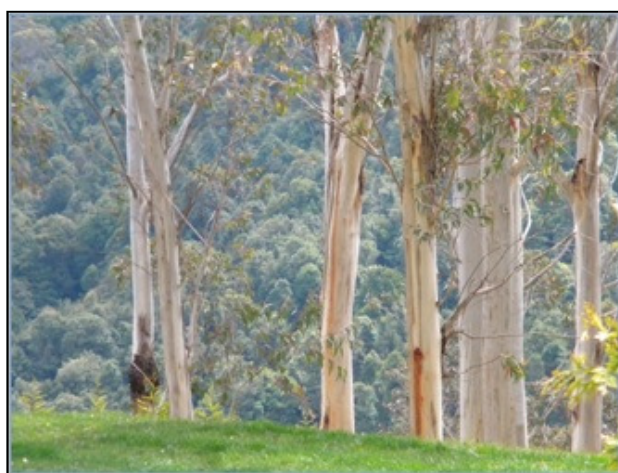
If you are interested in participating in this study, we will be in Mt Wilson during July 2013 to conduct the research. Please contact the project research assistant, **Olivia Dun**, via e-mail (odun@uow.edu.au) or telephone (**0497 361 836** or **(02) 4221 4165**) indicating your interest or to obtain further information.

Information about AUSCCER and this project available at:

<https://www.uow.edu.au/science/eesc/ausccer/index.html>



Dr Nick Gill, Geographer and Senior Lecturer at the University of Wollongong, will lead the research in Mt Wilson.



What is it that you value in the Mt Wilson landscape?

Storm damage following the heavy rain of late February & early March rain

The two consecutive weekends of 23rd and 24th February, and 2nd and 3rd March, saw torrential downpours that decisively ended an extended period of well below average rainfall.

The rain was a result of a deep low pressure system moving down the NSW coast from Queensland.

The ground soon became dully saturated with serious consequences.

A significant land slippage blocked Mt Irvine Road for a short period of time as a section of Anniversary Walk below *Wynstay* slumped dramatically.



Anniversary Walk is now impassable, forcing pedestrians to walk along the narrow section of road near a blind corner.

There was also a landslide at Waterfall Creek between the two waterfalls. A large landslip—50 metres long, 10 metres wide and 3 or 4 metres deep—has taken out both the main track and the smaller track down to the grotto at the base of the lower falls, making this area impassable.

Peter Raines and David Gunn are currently working on the track, putting seventeen new steps, a small bridge and cutting in a new path above the old track. At present, you are able to walk the track from either end to the area of the land slip, but please return the way you came and venture on to the new track until it is completed and the Danger tape removed.



As noted elsewhere, a far more serious event occurred at Bowens Creek. Residents may have already seen pictures of the profound damage in that area Beth Raines distributed by e-mail recently; for those who haven't, the following graphically shows the major damage incurred.



Suggestions, comments or contributions warmly welcomed!