



# the MOUNTS

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THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF MT WILSON AND MT IRVINE

June  
2017



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The column formerly known as "Ask the Neighbours"

This month's cover photo was taken by Ash Phillips of a cloudy sunset in late May, north of the Mounts. If you would like to send in a cover photo for the June Edition please send it through to us at [themounts2786@gmail.com](mailto:themounts2786@gmail.com)

### JUNE 2017



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*Photos: Winter sunrise over  
Packwood and the Avenue  
on an early Autumn morning*

Another busy season has come to pass, with plenty of visitors coming to see the gardens and the autumn leaves, and they certainly didn't disappoint. Sunny days with little to no wind kept the Autumn colour primed throughout April and May and the extra toilet facilities provided by the council combined with excellent parking management kept both locals and visitors happy.

As the season dies down and the tourists head home there is still plenty happening around the villages.

The Mount Irvine village hall has a got a brand new kitchen (p.22) and the RFS held its AGM in early June(p.18). It was announced that Kathleen Oakes will step down as Community Engagement Officer for the Brigade and I would like to thank her for all her amazing work in her 11 years in the role.

We also have the Yulefest dinner coming up in July, a great way to get together with the neighbours and enjoy some fabulous fare while raising money for the Hall.

Libby Raines has written about her memories of Merry Garth and gardening over the winter season (p.25) and Robbie Feyder takes us on the Sunday Walk Spur, an excellent way to warm up on a chilly winter morning (p.23)

Once again I'd like to say thankyou to everyone who provided content or sent in photos – keep it coming. I'd also like to thank Sarah Howell for her help with editing, allowing me to focus on the content and layout.

I hope you enjoy the June edition

*Jess Delbridge*

## AROUND THE MOUNTS

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
Friday 9th Bushcare 9:00-12:00 Hay Lane	Sunday 9th Church Service St Georges 3:00pm	Friday 11th Bushcare 9:00-12:00 Hay Lane
Sunday 11th Church Service St Georges 3:00pm	Friday 14th Bushcare 9:00-12:00 Hay Lane	Sunday 13th Church Service St Georges 3:00pm
Friday 16th Bushwalk Mt Irvine	Friday 21st Bushwalk Blackheath Pulpit Rock to Horseshoe Falls	Friday 18th Bushwalk
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### BIN CALENDAR

8 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE
15 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE
22 <sup>ND</sup> JUNE
29 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE
6 <sup>TH</sup> JULY
13 <sup>TH</sup> JULY
20 <sup>TH</sup> JULY
27 <sup>TH</sup> JULY
3 <sup>RD</sup> AUGUST



Recycling



Green Waste



*Make up a table or come along and join with others*

*RSVP by 30th June*

*Adults - \$40, Children up to 14 - \$10*

*BYO drinks*

*Tickets available from Milba Kirk 4756 2120 or email:  
milbakirk@gmail.com*

*Please make cheques payable to Blue Mountains City Council*

*To make a donation of goods for the raffle please call Helen  
Freeman 4756 2053 before 2nd July*

*Looking forward to seeing you there*

## AROUND THE MOUNTS

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### JOHN HARRISON VALDER, 21.09.1931 - 09.05.2017

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It is with regret that we announce that John Valder passed away on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2017. With him goes a large part of Mount Wilson history. We offer our deepest condolences to his immediate family and his brother Peter.



### LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER DIANNE ENGLISH TAKES OUT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

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Dianne English, known by many residents, together with husband Ian, for supporting our Spring Garden Festival by leading and tutoring photographic groups around Mount Wilson gardens, has once again achieved international acclaim.

The Royal Horticultural Society, U.K. has just awarded her Overall Winner of their "Spring" competition for her photograph of a "Veronica Oxford Blue" which will be on show at this year's Chelsea Flower Show.

Once again, well done, Dianne!

- Judith Teulon

### DRONE FREE ZONE?

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Over the Autumn season many locals noticed drones being flown in the area, often over property or roads taking photos and video.

Can any of the legal eagles in Mt Wilson / Mt Irvine tell us what rights we have as property owners?

Can we blow them out of the sky in our (private property) airspace?

But in all seriousness, do visitors have the right to fly them over and through private property even though they pose potential safety risks and invade privacy?

It was announced recently that the Lithgow area is a drone free zone with all drone flight in the area prohibited but what does that mean for the Mounts?



### THE IMPOSSIBLE RESCUE

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The floating excavator had been submerged in the middle of a lake in Stanthorpe, Queensland, for a week. Replacement value was \$500,000 but the insurance company would only give the owner \$250,000. It had been sitting in the mud and would have been totally damaged. It normally sat on the surface of the water and removed weeds, but had gone up on rocks, overbalanced and toppled on its side.

Probably a total write off everybody thought, and the manager, Ron Horner unhappily knew he would lose \$250,000. The HEKING floating excavator was the only one in Australia, so extremely valuable.

However, he had another thought. He knew a young man called Corey Gurney from Lithgow Mechanical, and if anyone could fix it, Corey could.

Ron has a connection with Lithgow, as he went to school in Lithgow and later owned the Lithgow Hotel. He was also a pioneer in the earthmoving game in Australia, specialising in excavators.

Ron told the insurance company that he knew of someone that could fix it but they had to pay for him to fly up to Stanthorpe in Queensland and back to Lithgow and must cover all his expenses.

The insurance company was very sceptical but eventually said they would give him a go.

So Corey came and got to work.

They employed divers to go down and attach inflatable balloons to the machine so it floated to the surface. Then they got several tractors to drag it out of the lake.

Corey, a bit of a genius with mechanical problems, cleaned all the mud out, removed the fish that had become entangled, washed and decontaminated every part of the machine, changed the oils and cleaned the electric circuit boards that everyone said would never work again. All this took four days.

Imagine the look on the owners face when the engine of this machine, which everyone had thought irretrievable, roared into life. There was a grand celebration in the pub's little village of 6,000 people. It could be heard all around the town, for the total cost of restoration turned out to be only \$50,000 and saved the owner a quarter of a million dollars.

"What a freak you are, Corey... what a hero!" said Ron, the owner of the machinery rental business exclaimed and the amazed insurance company could only agree!

- Ann Pigott

### TURKISH BATH FEATURED IN WEEKEND NOTES

The Turkish Bath was featured in the online travel blog Weekend Notes on the 7th May. The article discussed the Bath's history and architecture and included details regarding the museum's location, displays and entry. The full article can be viewed at [www.weekendnotes.com/turkish-bath-museum/](http://www.weekendnotes.com/turkish-bath-museum/)





### BOWENS CREEK FIRE TRAIL UPDATE

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THIS IS AN UPDATE BY ELIZABETH MONTANO ON BEHALF OF THE MT WILSON/ MT IRVINE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE AS LEAD COMMUNITY ORGANISATION ON THIS ISSUE.

As foreshadowed in our last update the Mayors of Blue Mountains City Council and Hawkesbury City Council and Susan Templeman our Federal MP met last month to further work on having Bowens Creek Rd and Mt Irvine Rd, being the route between Bilpin and Mt Irvine which is now closed due to poor condition, re-established as a fire trail for use by emergency services vehicles.

Here is the text of the joint media release made following that meeting.

*Susan Templeman  
Federal Member for Macquarie*

*Mary Lyons-Buckett  
Mayor, Hawkesbury City Council*

*Mark Greenhill  
Mayor, Blue Mountains City Council*

***Federal Member for Macquarie Susan Templeman and Mayors of the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains, Mary Lyons-Buckett and Mark Greenhill, have met to pledge their continued support for the funding of a feasibility study into the Bowens Creek Fire Trail.***

***We acknowledge the Federal Government's \$100,000 funding commitment, announced in June 2016.***

***Our agreed view is that the study seek input from Councils, relevant emergency services agencies including the Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service, as well as the NSW Police Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury Local Area Commands and other community stakeholders in order to assess the future use of the Fire Trail.***

***The feasibility study should also provide an estimate of project costs and capacity.***

**TUESDAY, 9 MAY 2017**

This is a good step forward in re-establishing the route. As we all know, our RF Brigade does more than firefighting and hazard reduction. We clear fallen trees, assist in bushwalker and canyons rescues, assist in traffic control and clean-up after motor vehicles accidents and, of course, our Brigade is the home of the first NSW Ambulance First Responders unit which assist the Ambulance Service provide emergency assistance to injured and sick people in our remote area.

It's therefore really encouraging to see that the feasibility study to be undertaken on restoring the route (funded through the Federal Government's \$100,000 grant announced last year and now available to the two Councils) will look at the whole range of emergency services which will benefit from the restoration of the route.

Your RF Brigade looks forward to participating in this work. As you know we do need you to continue to show your support for the route and the significance of this important piece of local emergency infrastructure to both our community and the thousands of visitors who come to our mountains every year.

So, please let our Mayor Mark Greenhill and our MP Susan Templeman know your views and please copy that to Mayor Mary Lyons Buckett from HCC. We're very pleased that HCC is now working with BMCC on this.

There have been several people instrumental in promoting the meeting between the two Mayors – our Ward One BMCC Councillors – Don McGregor (who has had a long term interest in this) and our two (now, not so new) Councillors, Kerry Brown and Kevin Schreiber. Please let them know your views too.

*- Elizabeth Montano  
Member of the Executive  
Mt Wilson/ Mt Irvine RF Brigade*



## AROUND THE MOUNTS

### ASBESTOS DUMPED IN BUSH

Many locals would have noticed the building rubble which has been dumped along the Mount Wilson Road. Further to my anger at finding the rubbish, I discovered that the rubbish contained asbestos.

On the afternoon of May 20th I contacted BMCC and spoke to a person there who agreed that the presence of asbestos was definitely an emergency issue and that it would be removed that afternoon.

Last Monday I noticed that there had been no action so called BMCC and was put through to the ranger. Then the ranger told me that if the asbestos had been dumped on a suburban street it would have been removed but as it was located in the "bush" in the back blocks it would be put on his "to do" list with 101 other issues.

So that is what BMCC think of asbestos! I would encourage any other locals dissatisfied with this response to contact BMCC.

- Mary Holt



### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! SPRING BLOSSOM FESTIVAL



The Spring Blossom Festival which will be the RFS' major fundraiser for the year will take place on the weekend of 23rd and 24th September 2017.

Please Save the Date in order to support this important local fundraiser either as a volunteer or as a patron.

For more info please contact Sarah Howell  
sarahhowell@ozemail.com.au

### FUR AND FEATHER RESIDENTS OF THE MOUNTS : A DOG NAMED DASH

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Well, here we go with another dog story (not a shaggy dog). But our editor tells me that people like them, so why not.

It's a long time since we had a dog. Back in the dark ages, almost 50 years ago when we and our kids were young, we owned (for a short time) two rather unsuccessful, rambunctious, overly-energetic pups who chased and bit the African people who worked on the sugar experimental farm where we were living. The Africans retaliated, reasonably enough, by swinging at the dogs with their machetes. They occasionally connected so, as you can imagine, a good time was had by all!

The little bloke we have now came to us from a South African couple who had got him from a rescue home, so we know very little about his background and history. His owners were leaving this country and he needed a home, so we took him on.

He's called Dash because he's a cross between a dachshund and a kelpie — not a very imaginative name, but it serves. Kelpie head and tail, rather long body and somewhat challenged as to length of leg; he's a cheerful character eager to please. It's a wonder his enthusiastic tail-wagging doesn't result in injury. If he's near hard furniture, or doors or whatever, he just keep swinging — whack, whack, whack — with no apparent ill-effects. But he has what our daughter Barbara calls 'ISSUES', particularly in relation to other dogs. He does not like to be barked at and flees from Dean and Roger's pug when it charges ferociously up and down the fence as we go past — a self-confident little ball with a Churchillian face and squat body. It's smaller than Dash, but that doesn't seem to matter. The same applies to Argie's poodle when she's in residence at Campanella. But Dash



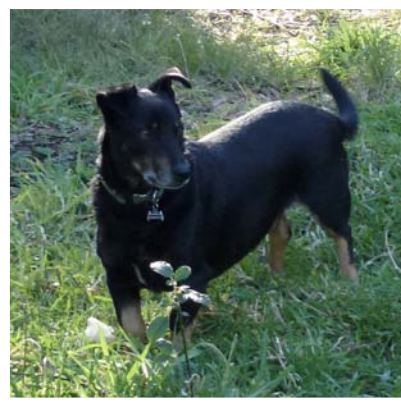
*You mean I have to stay here?*

is OK when he's on his lead; I guess he feels we're looking after him, and he's quite brave on his home territory. Who knows what traumas in some crowded dog-pound lie behind these behaviours?

Giving Dash a home was a good decision; we've had him for about 18 months and he has become an important part of our daily lives. He's Diana's faithful shadow, (I'm his friend too, but definitely second on his preference list) and friend of all the family and anyone who's a regular visitor at Withycombe; also of Suzanne and Tom Bassett, who kindly look after him when we go away. Taking him for a daily walk around Mt Wilson means we cover a lot of territory, so we have got to know the paths and the fire trails well. It's also good for our health and was almost certainly a major factor in Diana's excellent recovery from knee surgery last year (two new knees: they look very impressive on the x-rays!)

It's interesting to watch dog behaviour. Everyone is well aware that dogs are smart (although if you're a non-objective dog lover you may be disappointed to find that they're rated between 6th and 10th on lists of animal intelligence. The apes and monkeys are way ahead and so, on some ratings, are crows and some parrots). But dogs have been associated with humans

for thousands of years and the relationship is close. It's generally accepted that they understand voice tones and respond to the facial expressions of their owners. They also respond (when it suits them) to voice commands and hand



*Walk, anybody?*

gestures. Dash ticks all those boxes. He likes to ride in the car, so when we head for the garage, he's all enthusiasm scampering ahead, ears up, tail wagging. The change of expression and body language when he's told "No; you stay!" accompanied by a stern look and wagging finger, is nothing short of comical. It's as clear as words: "You mean I'm not coming with you? You must be kidding!". Head and ears down he heads for his bed. Dogs do astonished disbelief very well.

A small incident almost persuaded me he can think. On a Monday when Diana was doing CFR training we walked together down Waterfall Road, across the footbridge, up Wyndham Ave and past the fire station. Diana peeled off at the station and Dash was instructed to go with me – which he did, apparently reasonably happily. When we got home I went about my business, not taking much notice of where he was. But when Diana walked home at about 12.30 she was accompanied by Dash, very pleased with himself. Not long after we got back he had sneaked off, through the hole in the fence thoughtfully provided by a wombat, and gone back to the fire station to join Diana. The point really is: how much of that little episode was consciously thought through? He didn't try to go back immediately to the fire station — where he knew Diana was — but waited around at home until I was occupied elsewhere, and then off he went. Wouldn't get him into Mensa, but it is interesting.

And so most dog owners can go on. We own millions of them as pets; working dogs lead the blind, find bombs and IED's, find survivors under the rubble of disasters, herd sheep, pull sleds in the polar regions (perhaps less than they used to), guard all sorts of places....little Dash ranks low in the hierarchy of serious dogs, but he's a lot of fun and good for us.

- Joe Landsberg

## SEARCH, SELL AND SHARE

Looking for basalt stone - wanting to build a memorial garden and pond on the old site of The Lodge (Jock Lumsden's art studio) for Ian Lumsden who died last year.

The Lumsden Family would like to be part of it. Need stone for wall and pond surround.

Phone 47562022

- Rosemary Walsh

Looking for a new home - Heavy duty white fabric bird mesh which previously was used to protect our raspberries. It covers about 18 metre x six metre area. No charge.

Phone Jane or George Mayne 47562035 at Campanella Cottage Davies Lane Mt Wilson.

- Jane Mayne

We have a fold up cot free to any one who has the need - 47562030

- Susan Bassett

Seeking - Left over / scrap timber for amateur woodworking projects. Happy to pick up - thanks!

Phone 47562063

- Ash Phillips

Send your listings for Search, Sell and Share to themounts2786@gmail.com



### WHAT'S ON JUNE / JULY 2017

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#### WINTER MAGIC FESTIVAL JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup>

Come and enjoy the highlight of the 2017 Winter Magic Festival ~ the Grand Parade! Experience the atmosphere of this great Winter spectacle, starting at 11:30am, travelling along Katoomba Street and Main Street.

Grab a bite to eat and take time out at one of the many festival food stalls and delight in the taste sensations from around the globe. Experience the Magic of Winter with the amazing fireworks display from the rooftop of the Carrington Hotel at 6:30pm.

Sat June 24th 9am – 9pm Location: Katoomba Main St



#### NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT PRIZE 2017

Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Katoomba is the first venue in The National Photographic Portrait Prize 2017 tour.

The exhibition is selected from a national field of entries, reflecting the distinctive vision of Australia's aspiring and professional portrait photographers and the unique nature of their subjects. Open from July 1st - 13th August 2017.



#### THE MET WINTER CONCERT 2017 SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY

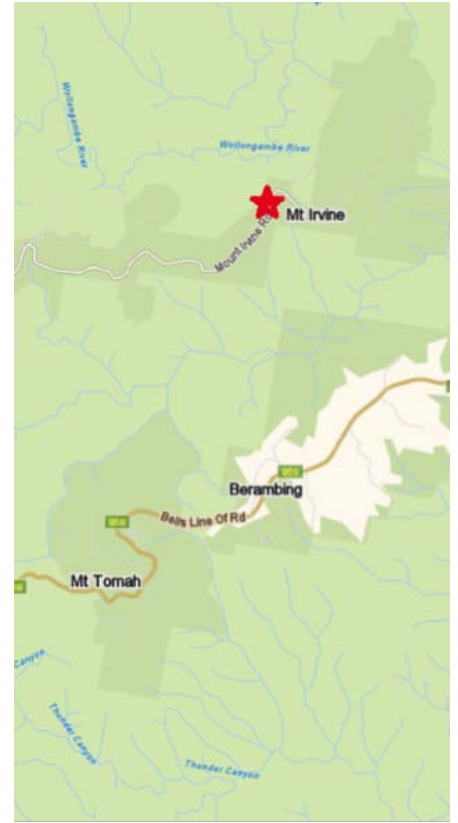
The Hydro brings back the Majestic sounds of the Sydney MET Orchestra for an dinner & concert package. A sumptuous 3-course dinner will be paired with some of the best known string classics led by Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Sarah-Grace Williams. The Met Orchestra will take the audience on a journey of luscious depth and emotion within the stunning surrounds of the iconic Hydro Majestic Ballroom in the Blue Mountains on this chilly winter night.

Tickets and more info:

[www.hydomajestic.com.au/events/majestic-concerts](http://www.hydomajestic.com.au/events/majestic-concerts)







## FEATURE ARTICLE

# COUNCIL THREAT TO DEMOLISH HISTORIC MOUNT IRVINE LANDMARK

Painui is an original Blue Mountains settler's cottage built in Mt Irvine in 1901 by Basil Knight Brown. It is the subject of a demolition Development Application currently under consideration by the Blue Mountains Council.

Painui operated as the local school from around 1913 and is one of only two original settler's buildings that remain in the area. The cottage incorporates original building materials and timber milled from the local rainforest. The original fireplace was made of 'ant bed', which is mud from the white ant nests found in the bush. Over time, the cottage has been neglected and has fallen into disrepair but it is a significant piece of local history and worthy of preservation.

In 1897, Knight Brown lived in a cave near Bowens Creek Road until he and fellow settlers, Harold Morley and Charles Scrivener were granted conditional purchases of approximately 1000 acres by the Lands Board. In the years that followed, they began the daunting task of clearing the land and building a road to Mt Wilson.

## History of the early settlers at Mt Irvine

In 1912, there were only three houses on Mt. Irvine: Painui, Kookootonga (built by Charles Scrivener and burned down in 1957) and Irvineholme still occupied by descendants of Harold Morley.

Knight Brown studied agriculture at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College (now part of the University of



Western Sydney) with Harold Morley and Charles Scrivener. Scrivener was the son of the Charles P Scrivener, the Australian Surveyor General, who surveyed the land that is now Canberra. In 1913 Scrivener senior retired to Mt Irvine, where he built Taihoa, a beautiful idiosyncratic house at 221 Mt Irvine Road constructed from local timber.

### Early settler building practices

The following passage by one of the original settlers, Harold Morley provides an interesting insight into early building practices:

"After planting the apples, we cleared spaces on our separate land to build our first houses. The grandfather of C. P. Scrivener got hold of a man near Liverpool named Field and built C. P. Scrivener a four-roomed slab house with a huge chimney made of blocks of basalt and a nice wide verandah. The roof was of wooden shingles split out with a palling knife.

Field was very good with bush timber and the house was a credit to him for the excellent material and workmanship. He did the whole job for £100. He was an amazing snorer, but every morning would swear he had not had a wink of sleep.

Mr B. K. Brown was, and is, a good builder and built his house on his own. I put in the foundations for my four-roomed house with verandah. I cut all the plates, studs, rafters etc ready to go up, and a friend (Mr Morgan) came for a week. Together we nearly finished the place, with wire netting and ruberoid roof, and hessian ceilings and walls.

The timber was all cut by hand by an excellent pit sawyer named Hill Smith, or Small, or Jackson depending on which wife he happened to be with! He and his bottom sawyer, named Tommy John, built sawpits in the most convenient places to the standing timber and the job.

They were artists at manhandling huge logs on to the pits, as well as on the pit when quartering etc. The usual way was to run two or three heavy skids up on to the top of the pit frame. The log was then rolled with long levers on to the skids, across a beam laid across the skids to act as a fulcrum for the long levers, and as the log was levered up, chocks were put behind it and the glut or fulcrum moved ahead for another lift. These two sawyers cut first class timber (weatherboards, scantling) for 13/- per hundred super feet and were quite satisfied."

### Preserve Painui

Painui is an important part of the early history of the Blue Mountains. The settler's cottage should be preserved so that future generations may have the opportunity to appreciate the hard work and endeavour that helped build early Australia. I encourage anyone concerned about the preservation of local history to lodge an objection to the demolition application currently under consideration by the Blue Mountains Council.

(The person at BMCC who is managing the application to demolish this property is Gemma Bennett 02 4780 5000.)

- Julian Ludowici

# MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

## Committee News

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Some predicted that autumn might fizzle out but it became a season of mild temperatures, wonderful colour and little wind. All this did attract many visitors but our community showed good humour and patience in coping. Of course there were some visitors who were totally unprepared for the experience expecting all the amenities of big city life: footpaths, cafes and service stations. Most were delighted with the whole experience and some were still coming to the end of May. The RFS sausage sizzle was a great success and as is usual with such fundraisers a small group of people did a wonderful job at cooking and serving for the masses. Those helping also acted as guides (lookouts, toilets, best gardens, picnic spots and walking tracks) and weather forecasters.

Parking is a perennial problem but everyone coped, in most cases with common sense. The police had made it very clear that no-one could direct traffic without consent, and the process of getting this is a little complicated and can only start with traffic at a complete standstill for about 10 minutes. Fortunately this was not necessary. It was very pleasing to see more people deciding to walk through the village. I must again thank those on the committee and the generosity of BMCC for organising public toilets, which were cleaned on a regular basis. It was

a great improvement on last year. If any visitors complain about the state of the public toilets please urge them to contact the BMCC.

If your driver's licence does not have a Mt Wilson or Mt Irvine address on it, I strongly suggest that you carry in the car a rates notice or something similar that identifies you as a property owner on the mounts. This means that in the event of an emergency you can show that you should be allowed access to your property.

I hope that you all enjoy a quiet winter, and remember to follow all the given procedures for pile burning. If you are uncertain contact our Fire Captain Beth Raines.

Please note that the MWPA AGM will be held on 16th of September, 5.30 pm at the Village Hall.

Committee member Robbie Feyder has been busy with the BMCC (thank you Robbie) and the following is his report, including more on toilets:

### BMCC Initiatives

The BMCC has been very proactive lately in responding to issues at Mt Wilson.





## Toilets during Autumn

During a meeting with Dan Long from the BMCC, Nancy Fox raised the issues of a lack of toilets over the Autumn and Spring periods. This was supported by councillors Kerry Brown and Don McGregor. The BMCC then decided to spend \$11,000 to locate 8 toilets in Mt Wilson for the month of April. Dan Long came up to Mt Wilson on Saturday 29th April and commented as follows:

“Following a visit to Mt Wilson on Saturday I have arranged to extend this period for another 2 weeks and for the toilets to be collected on the 16 May.

I was completely blown-away by the number of tourists in the area and with good weather predicted for the next 2 weeks and the Autumn colour still very much prevalent I felt this was the best solution to manage the toilet issue this year.”

The toilets were by all accounts well used over this period.

## Dilapidated state of Picnic Tables

Following discussions with Peter Raines the BMCC will also be putting in Concrete Plinths for the Picnic tables in The Cathedral of Ferns and Waterfall Reserve. They will also be looking to clean up the existing tables and may sacrifice one table to repair the others. There is a possibility of replacing some of the tables in the future.

## Northern Fire Trail Clearing

The Northern Fire Trail to the West of the path down to the Wollangambe Canyon was getting quite overgrown. This was communicated to the BMCC as they are responsible for this section down to Du Fours Rocks Road. BMCC have just done a major cleanup of the Northern Fire Trail as shown in pictures below. A number of burnt trees from the October 2013 fires have been cleared up as well. There has been some major clearing done of this trail and this should provide a good base to ward off any fires from this direction.

- Alison Halliday





MT WILSON MT IRVINE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# MOUNT WILSON AND MOUNT IRVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Recent Events and Comments

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As a result of the generosity of a handful of members the Society has managed to have the Turkish Bath Museum open from March each Sunday until the long weekend in June. In that period we have had about 112 visitors plus a bus group from Rylestone. Curiously Anzac Day which in the past has been a popular visiting day proved to be disappointing. Although there were many visitors in Mt Wilson on that day none ventured into the Museum. We will not be opening the Museum after 12th June and during July and August.

At a recent committee meeting Lynn Collins, the Museum Advisor for the Blue Mountains and beyond attended providing very helpful advice and guidance for the present and the immediate future. The current committee will endeavour to implement step by step the programme Lynn is proposing.

Below are some of these first steps:

Engaging Alan Crocker from Design 5 Architects  
[this firm was the original Firm of Heritage

Architects for the Turkish Bath Museum] to assess the condition of the building and surrounds; to document maintenance works required; prepare a periodic preventative schedule to assist the Society with its planning; to develop a Management Plan to embrace access to the site; disability access; emergency procedures and volunteers responsibilities. These are the preliminary objectives.

### PROTECTING OUR HISTORY AND HERITAGE:

While much of the collection in the vestibule of the Study Centre is catalogued, there remain quite a substantial number of items and documents that require listing and labelling at least so that they can be readily identified and located. As the Study Centre council has kindly agreed for the Society to use additional storage space, we are holding a working bee on the weekend of 15th -16th July 2017 at the Study Centre from about 10.00am to about 4.00pm on both days.

We would be very grateful if any members could spare an hour or two on either of those days to undertake listing and /or filing documentary material including labels. We hope to have the use of the large room adjacent to the vestibule in the Study Centre. We will provide paper, folders, archival material, pens, labels etc. plus cups of tea or coffee and scones. If any member or friend has expertise in creating spreadsheets please contact us it would be deeply appreciated.

Please contact either Mary Reynolds by email [mary\\_reynolds@internode.on.net](mailto:mary_reynolds@internode.on.net) or Tel: 4782 9882 or Milba Kirk at 4756 2120 or email [milbakirk@gmail.com](mailto:milbakirk@gmail.com) telling us what day and/or time you can spare on that weekend. We do hope you can join us.

- Mary B. Reynolds  
Vice President

# RFS NEWS:

## All the latest news from the brigade

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**By Kathleen Oakes, Beth Raines, Peter Raines**

The Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine RFB AGM was held on Saturday 3rd June 2017 at the Mt Irvine Hall. Those attending included both our local State and Federal members, Susan Templeman and Trish Doyle, Councillor Don McGregor and David Jones, RFS District Manager. Our Captain, Beth Raines, gave the following report on brigade activities over the last year:

"Welcome to all our Guests, Brigade members and community members

We have attended 20 incidents this past 12 months: 4 Motor Vehicle accidents (significantly lower than usual due to the substantial upgrades to Bells Line of Road between Pierces Pass and Bell)

- 5 Community First Responder Calls
- 5 fires or respond to smoke ( incl car fires)
- 4 search and rescues
- 2 storm damage / trees down

We welcome Paul Hunyor and Lisa George from Lanes End, Sonya and Colin Cornick from Noonameena and Ash Phillips from Westring as new Brigade Members.

Training-wise we have Elizabeth Montano, Patrick Buckle, Bruce Arnold, Keith Ralston, Keith Waters, Steve Woolfenden, Duncan Peppercorn and Mike Pearse in the process of completing the seemingly never-ending modules of Advanced Firefighter.

Joe Montano has also just completed the Crew Leader Course and is awaiting assessment. Allen Hyde has completed the Rural Fire Driver course driving the big fire trucks up and down the steepest hills and practising stall recovery.

As always, the Brigade is very appreciative of all the volunteers outside this Brigade that assist in training – the Group Officers, the Training Officers, mentors, instructors and evidence-gatherers. I would also like to thank Graham Tribe and Joe Montano for the tremendous role they do in the Brigade training department.

We are currently allocating members into the RFS volunteer categories of Operational, Operational Support, Administration or Reserve. If we haven't seen you in a while then you are being allocated to the Reserve bench. This is also a good reminder for members to turn out to training, maintenance or fundraising events and to update their details on myRFS \* (Log on to myRFS with your Fire Zone Number\* and Brigade name Mt Wilson/ Mt Irvine).

\*Number allocated to you when you first joined or email Graham or myself if you are unsure

Our Community First Responders continue to train and attend incidents. We are very appreciative of Ron Gavin, Mick Garvey and the staff from Lithgow Station who come up and conduct the monthly training. The online training continues to pose challenges especially with such poor internet connection to the community but the face-to-face training is as informative and practical as always. Three new members - Robyn and Allen Hyde and Linda Raines - have completed all their training and are now operational Community First Responders. Mount Irvine is now better resourced with two resident Community First Responders and dedicated gear. We as a group need to thank all three for all the training and time they have put in so far and for all their work and commitment into the future.

It is a great loss to the CFR Unit to have Kathleen Oakes and Libby Raines retire from the group – I hope that all of you will show your appreciation to them for all they have done for the community in providing pre-hospital care and support to residents and visitors alike for 10 years.

I'm sure a lot of you are eagerly awaiting the publication of The Mounts Topographic map. We have a copy here, which we hope will be the final draft. We are awaiting a few additional names from some of our longer-term land holders especially in relation to Bowens Creek Road and Mount Irvine Road. We want to capture some of the names used from way back before they are lost. Please have a look at it and mark any changes or additions. Pete has spent hours and hours up at Bathurst with the mapping people and will be going up for the final time next week. A message from Pete – speak now or forever hold your peace – it is going to the printers!!

Which means all of you will soon be able to purchase copies!

Kathleen Oakes who unfortunately is not here

today has been our most dedicated Community Engagement Officer. She wrote a note to all the Street Co-ordinators and I hope she will forgive me for reading it out today -

"I will be standing down from the position of Community Engagement Officer. After 11 years in the role, both as a paid employee of RFS and as a volunteer, I have decided it is time for someone else with some new ideas to have a go. Fortunately, Peter Laving has kindly offered to take up the challenge. I am sure he will find it as interesting and rewarding as I have.

I would like to thank you all for your support and assistance over the years. I think our great moment was how we managed the State Mine Fire in 2013, looking after ourselves and each other, and the award we won for our work was very much deserved. No other community before or since has managed this type of response to a major fire.

However, let there be no resting on laurels! Fire will always be with us and we still need to have a plan and prepare our properties (and encourage our neighbours to do so as well). Thanks for everything, all the best and hope to catch up at some other more benign community event."

It is hard to capture and express all that Kathleen has done in the role over the years, her dedication, the research and reading and her articulation of what works, doesn't work and why were right to the point. The amount of information that was generated from the Canberra and Victorian fires about how Community Engagement could be improved was all read, related back, adapted and implemented for this little community. What a tremendous amount of work she has done to inform us on how to stay safe. Please join me in thanking her.

Kathleen often worked with study groups and the University of Wollongong in particular on various studies and surveys. Some of the answers to survey questions however make me stop and think – we can't get our big fire trucks to about one third of

properties in the area. That means in the event of a house fire your house is un-saveable. That also means that when we are setting up in the event of a bushfire your property is unlikely to have any resources allocated to it. That might sound brutal and unforgiving but it is nothing compared to a bushfire coming at you.

Another year passes and there has not been much progress with the Neighbourhood Safer Places or at least nothing that the Brigade has been informed about.

This year we note with sadness the passing of Tom Harding formerly of Tolimount Cottage who served as Brigade President. We also farewelled Elly Gunn as she moved to Lithgow and celebrated the tremendous contribution that the Gunn Family have made to both villages over a long period of time. As people leave and others move in I hope new residents will join the brigade and equip themselves with the knowledge, practical experience and tools to survive the inevitable bush fire, wind storm, snow storm etc. This year Judy Tribe has also decided not to stand again as Secretary. We thank her for the enormous contribution that she has made over many years. Very little seems to ruffle Judy but the work load of Brigade Secretary plus Village Hall President has taken up precious time and energy. Thank you Judy.

Thanks again to the great Exec and others – David, Henric and Owen, especially with Station developments and plans, Susie our most efficient Treasurer, Graham and his team of trainers, Pete, Lesley and all the catering people who help with events, training days, maintenance nights, to Stephen and the maintenance crews, and Elizabeth for the ongoing Bowens Creek Rd campaign. “

Senior Deputy, Peter Raines, was not able to attend but sent the following report:

“As the next fire season approaches, October marks four years since the State Mine Fire caused so much damage to our Mountains particularly in Mt Irvine. The regrowth since then has been incredible, particularly on the fertile basalt soils and we are again reaching fuel levels where fires from the North-West danger area could again have a devastating effect on us. Work has been underway both at Mt Irvine and Mt Wilson by the local brigade, Blue Mountains Council and National Parks to improve and maintain our trail network as a defence to this threat and this work will continue. We must also remember that our southern side from Mt Wilson Road to Mt Tomah has still not burnt since 1994. We as property owners need to make preparations around our homes and other assets to enable them to survive or be defended in a bushfire. Give some thought now to fire breaks, asset protection zones, fuel free zones, water supplies, access for trucks, firefighting equipment and most importantly a fire plan that can be actioned whether you are home or not, and whether you have two hours' notice or two days' notice.

For those who put in the time and effort attending the many and varied emergencies that we attend often in difficult and threatening conditions, please remember to remain situationally aware and be careful not to put yourself or others into dangerous situations. A couple of areas to think about:

- Attending incidents on our roads particularly Bells Line of Road, can become very dangerous if not managed correctly. Ensure plenty of traffic warning signs go out both sides to slow traffic down, use personnel suitably situated in safe area to slow traffic down, park defensively and don't move or stand between the truck and oncoming traffic. When turning around at an incident scene, travel on to a safe turn around area even if it may be a few km up the road and other emergency services are turning at





the incident scene. It is much better to drive to Mt Banks or Pierces Pass to turn safely than have to appear in court after someone has run into a truck you are driving. On the roads a few seconds in the wrong spot at the wrong time can get you or someone else killed very quickly.

- While firefighting remember the term "Fight from the black or keep one foot in the black". If possible try to remain with the fire edge so that you can retreat into the burnt country if things go bad. If the fire you are fighting calls for you to work or traverse through unburnt country, be very aware of the conditions and any changes. Be sure to have a safe area to pull back into quickly that is guaranteed to be accessible when needed and offer the protection required. All crew members need to think about where you are and where the fire is and what is in between. If there are any concerns discuss as a crew and move to a safe place.

We need more people to step up into Crew Leader and driver roles and welcome any of the newer property owners to become involved with the brigade, whether as a firefighter or in a support role. It is wonderful as an incident starts knowing we have capable reserves coming in helping us crew the trucks in the coming days.

Thanks Peter Raines."

The following members were elected to the Brigade executive and other management positions:

*President	David Howell
*Vice President	Henric Nicholas
*Treasurer	Susie Hope
*Secretary	Robyn Scrivener
*Captain	Beth Raines
*Senior Deputy Captain	Peter Raines
Deputy Captain (1)	Barry Freeman
Deputy Captain (2)	David Howell
Deputy Captain (3)	Peter Dempsey
*Catering Team Leader	Lesley Wilson
Community Engagement Officer	Peter Laving
Equipment Officer	Stephen Dean
Fire Trails Coordinator	Peter Dempsey
*Training Coordinator	Graham Tribe
*Executive Committee Member	Elizabeth Montano Alan Hyde

Those marked with \* will form the Executive Committee.

# COMMUNITY EFFORT PRODUCES NEW KITCHEN FOR MT IRVINE HALL

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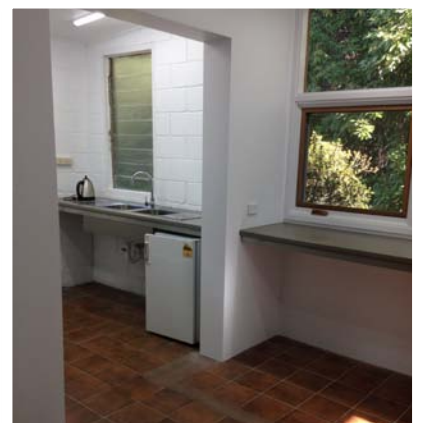
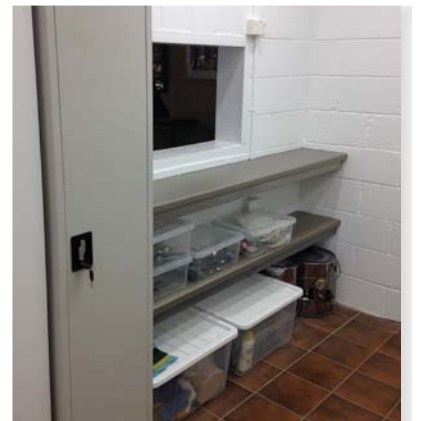
Traditionally the Mt Irvine community gathers on Easter Saturday at the Mt Irvine Public Hall to celebrate together and feast on delicious fare from the BBQ and home cooked contributions brought along to share. This event is the major community fundraising activity each year towards the maintenance and upgrading of our hall.

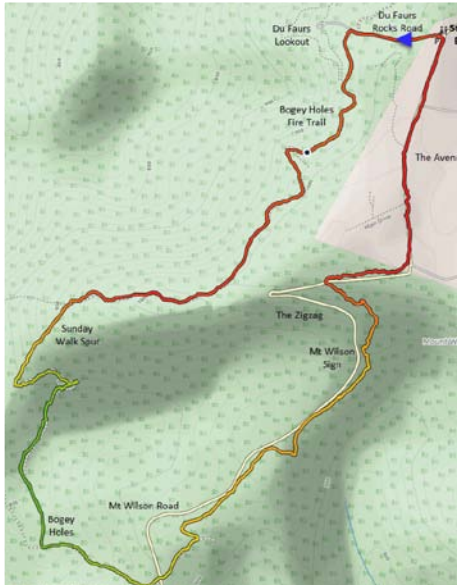
This year was no different to the many years that have gone before EXCEPT... WE HAVE A NEW KITCHEN! And by all accounts, it worked a treat.

The architectural design was done by Mt Irvine resident and architect Louise Nettleton and we are deeply grateful to Louise for the donation of her time and expertise. A committee of Hall Trust members and residents guided the fit-out design to meet the needs of our community, now and into the future. Many residents have generously assisted with fundraising over the years with the Mt Irvine Progress Association contributing \$5,000 towards the project. Finally, a \$25,000 grant received through the state government Department of Industry Public Reserves Management Fund Program delivered much needed funding for the project to go ahead.

You may notice in the photo that there is an empty space below the sink. This space is reserved for a small commercial dishwasher. A challenge and opportunity for fundraising at the Mount Irvine BBQ 2018.

- Carol Carrigan  
Trustee - Grants  
Mt Irvine Public Hall Trust





# THE WALKS OF MOUNT WILSON

## Sunday Walk Spur

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One of Mt Wilson's iconic walks, the Sunday Walk Spur, has recently been extended into a circuit walk. Previously the walk stopped at the entrance to the Bogey Holes Fire Trail on Mt Wilson Road. The return section of the circuit which has been cleared and restored by Peter Raines, combines a number of existing fire trails and tracks running next to Mt Wilson Road and the Zigzag back to The Avenue.



*Photos this page: The Sunday Walk Spur map and the start of walk down Du Fours Rocks Road*

### The Waterfall Walk

WALK SIGNAGE COLOUR: Blue

LENGTH: 6.9 km (circuit)

ELEVATION CHANGE: 200 m

TIME: 2 ½ hours

GRADE: Moderate

### Starting point:

Corner of Du Fours Rocks Road and The Avenue, opposite the Rural Fire Station.

### Walking conditions:

- Well-formed track
- Some slippery sections when wet
- Keep an eye out for the blue arrows

### Highlights:

- Views
- Good circuit walk
- Lovely rainforest near the Zigzag



## THE WALKS OF MOUNT WILSON

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Start at the top of Du Faur's Rocks Road at the corner of The Avenue opposite the Rural Fire Station. Cars can be left in the car park at the start of the track. The track starts by walking down Du Faur's Rocks Road. After about 300m take the turn off to the Bogey Holes Fire Trail on the left. If time permits take a detour to Du Faur's Rocks Lookout (200 m return) at the end of Du Faur's Rocks Road.

Bogey Holes Fire Trail is well-formed and has lovely views to the west and north. There are some great rocks just off the trail for lunch or afternoon tea. Take care as these rocks can be slippery when wet.

After about 2 km the fire trail starts to head down the Sunday Walk Spur. At the bottom of the Sunday Walk Spur the vegetation opens up and becomes heath-like. After 3½ km you will reach the area known as the Bogey Holes. You can explore along the track going off to the right (NW direction).

The track now starts rising quite steeply up to Mt Wilson Road crossing after 4km. It is possible to leave a car at this point for the return trip, but the walk back to the start of the walk is pleasant and recommended.



After crossing over Mt Wilson Road, the track follows the fire trail. Watch out for the blue sign as the track turns left from the fire trail after about 200m (just after a short uphill section). The track now runs parallel to Mt Wilson Road and briefly joins the road for about 50 m. There are several fire trails crossing the track so keep an eye out for the blue trail signs. Just near the Mt Wilson sign the track starts heading up into the lovely rainforest that can be seen as you drive up the Zigzag into Mt Wilson.

The track then crosses over Mt Wilson Road again - be very careful crossing here as the road is very narrow. Just after you cross the road the track turns sharply to the right and runs parallel to the road. After 300m this comes out at the start of The Avenue. There is then just 900m left to the start of the walk.

- Robbie Feyder

*Photos this page: Views from Bogey Holes Fire Trail and the rainforest near the Zigzag*





# IN MY GARDEN: Merry Garth

## A garden for all seasons

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### Local residents talk about what they are growing and offer advice for gardening on the Mounts

My parents, Denys and Elizabeth Hake rented the tiny workman's cottage on part of the Wynstay Estate in 1940 when the cottage became vacant during the war. Over the years we spent the school holidays here and adored the place, sleeping in large tents in the summer and cooking and eating many meals outdoors. Cattle, which roamed the village, kept the grass short and my father scythed bracken and cut up fallen trees for firewood using a large crosscut saw.

In 1960 my parents bought the cottage and five acres of land. They planted 6 trees, added a back verandah and room to the cottage, and fenced a little more of the clearing.

In 1978, Keith and I moved from Coppins (the cottage which Keith built, on Wynnes Rocks Road) to Merry Garth, with Peter, Robert, and Beth, who was just one. We lived in the cottage and built around it and we started to make the garden.

Tom and Peter Kirk helped us clear away the dead, dangerous and fallen Eucalyptus, leaving most of the rainforest and tree ferns which gives the garden a very natural look. We planted choice trees and shrubs, placing them carefully into garden beds where they grow better than scattered about in the grass. This created the open lawn areas with paths, some quite wide leading one on from another area to another. The plumber, when digging the trenches, unearthed massive rocks, which we could never

## IN MY GARDEN

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move so we created the rock garden around the rocks. We made a lovely walk through the temperate rainforest at the bottom of the garden.

We always use the winter months for construction, planting and moving plants, and trimming up trees and pruning. Summer is mostly maintenance time. When planting or moving plants, give them a good big hole with compost and food and water well until the plants roots are established in the new soil, especially if the spring becomes dry and hot. We always use mulch and fallen leaves on the beds which keeps the weeds down, the moisture in and feeds the soil.

Bulbs from all around the world feature at Merry Garth. Autumn brings the nerines, cyclamen and autumn crocus and we always say June is the month with the least flowering in the garden. Beneath the soil the bulbs are starting move. The true snowdrops (*Galanthus*) are the first to appear. *Galanthus elwesii* is starting to flower and many different species will push their way through the soil all through the winter months giving great delight. We have a large collection of these dainty winter flowering bulbs for the eager gardener. The Cyclamen come with their pretty rounded leaves, the jonquils, winter flowering crocus, early narcissus, and the bright yellow winter aconites brighten up the winter months. The helleborus are starting to bud up now and one can cut off the leaves so the flowers are more obvious. The *Daphne Odora* and the large shrub, *Luculia* send their beautiful perfume wafting around the garden during the winter months.

Winter is also a time to enjoy the openness of the garden, look around and marvel at the beautiful tapestry of the bare branches beneath the blue sky, the trunks of the trees with their interesting bark, lichen, moss, felt fern and orchids. Enjoy the many birds, especially the yellow robins and the tiny wrens who are our constant companions in the winter garden.



We are always looking for submissions so if you would like to write a short piece about what you're growing in your garden your please send us an email - [themounts2786@gmail.com](mailto:themounts2786@gmail.com)





# WILDLIFE AND WILDERNESS

## Photos from around the Mounts

*Photos by Alice Simpson  
(Spoonbills), David Howell  
(landscapes) and Tom Bassett  
(Bowerbird nest and Kookaburra)*





## THE PATCH

# THE PATCH

## Meyer Lemon Curd

For the June issue we were planning on having a warm and hearty vegetable recipe, perhaps spinach and ricotta quiche or a beetroot borscht, however our three chickens executed a magnificent break in, gorging themselves on our seedlings and digging heartily for grubs.

With the patch looking bare after the chicken's raid we decided to include a recipe created from things which we have in abundance at the moment: eggs and lemons.

Our Meyer lemon tree produces large juicy fruit which are decidedly more sweet than tart, perfect for this recipe, and which keep really well on the tree throughout the season.

The tree is planted in a sunny north facing position and we feed it with citrus food once during summer after pruning and just as fruiting begins.

This lemon curd recipe is adapted from a book called 'Like Grandma used to make' and will keep well in the fridge for a number of weeks, but it never lasts that long in our house.

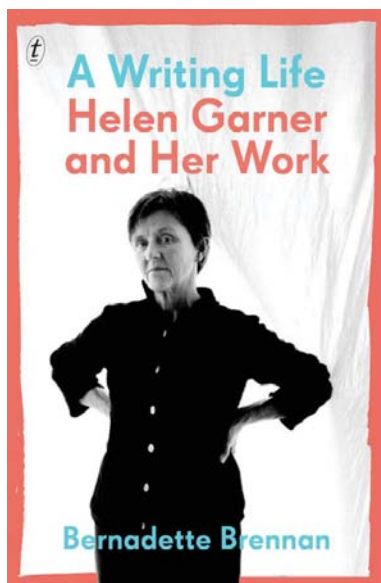
- Ash Phillips and Jess Delbridge

## INGREDIENTS

- Finely grated rind and strained juice from 2 large lemons
- 90g unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
- 1 ¼ cups caster sugar
- 3 eggs, beaten

## METHOD

1. Put the rind and the juice into a double boiler or heatproof bowl set over gently simmering water, taking care not to let the bottom of the bowl touch the water.
2. Add the butter and the sugar, and strain the beaten eggs through a nylon sieve to remove any white threads.
3. Stirring continuously, cook over medium heat for 20-25 minutes, until the mix is thick enough to coat the back of a spoon. Do not let it boil or it will curdle.
4. Remove the pan from the heat and immediately pour the fruit butter through a fine sieve into a sterilised jar, and only place in the refrigerator once completely cold.



# A WRITING LIFE: HELEN GARNER AND HER WORK

## by Bernadette Brennan

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Scribble, scribble, scribble

So was Edward Gibbon, author of *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* chastised. He could have retorted by asking how else would this huge work have been written without constant writing and research. Similar comments, but without the derogatory overtones, are made by Bernadette Brennan in her impressive biography of Helen Garner; the title says it all - *A Writing Life: Helen Garner and Her Work*.

Helen Garner is responsible for a large body of work: essays, film reviews, scripts, novels and long non-fiction. While these are accepted labels for descriptive purposes, Garner has spent much of her writing time breaking down the boundaries between the genres and categories. This is most clearly seen in her long works, often written from a first person perspective where many readers assume the narrator is Garner herself, but as Brennan points out, Garner creates a persona that may be like her but has a literary purpose – to adopt a position which allows for objectivity and a rather naïve worldliness.

Brennan organises the biography through the various main works, beginning with the radical fiction of *Monkey Grip* and ending with *This House of Grief*. Garner's most recent work is *Everywhere I Look* - a marvellous collection of essays reflecting on matters from the familial and personal to the state of politics. It touches on those themes which are an integral part of her work: gender issues, the role of fathers, nurturing and independence and the continual struggle to understand the lives of ordinary people.

Brennan does not write a simple book in praise of Garner though it is obvious that she hugely respects her work. She is critical of some of the decisions Garner has made in her writing and some of the opinions she has expressed. Brennan was given access by Garner to all her papers – and she is a constant journal and diary writer. She has unearthed hitherto unpublished work and combines a large mass of material into this careful and appreciative biography.

*A Writing Life* is not only for those who enjoy Garner's writing but for anyone who is interested in the challenges, compromises and pain of a hard-working and dedicated life of letters, and how a woman may live in the modern world.

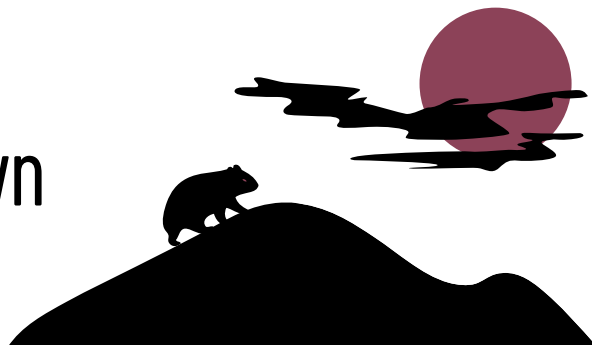
- Alison Halliday



# ATN\*

## The column formerly known as “Ask the Neighbours”

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Despite all our best endeavours to keep Murderous Mounts:ATN a clean family show with only as much violence, blood and gore as the average eight year old can take (not a low bar, Jess), our real-life inspired scriptwriters have gone a bit too dark in my opinion.

And worse, they've ventured into the realms of science fiction. Spooky. As real crime Editor, I've had to exercise some editorial muscle to insist on a few re-writes of the next episode.

I mean, come on! Who would believe that in our little backwater there's a gang of vandals who come into gardens, dig up the lawns, overturn rocks and uproot plants? And then disappear into the mist. And another which undermines houses, ruins fencing, digs up central heating ducting and then - wait for it - leave their “calling cards” everywhere (and I don't mean the Hallmark variety).

I told the scriptwriters that MM:ATN had to rise above the tawdry level of all those other crime shows and forge its own path (preferably not through those calling cards) to reach the heights of great TV

drama. We've got to seek our inspiration from the real life heroes out there who bravely go forth to patch those lawns, replant those shrubs and reinstall property boundary integrity (I find steel mesh and a few rocks very effective myself).

Yes, Jess. It's time for a little MM:ATN/RAATS cross promotion. I knew we'd get to it eventually. I thought we'd be in Series 3 with disappointing ratings and the network breathing down our necks insisting on some bizarre new plot twist to bring those faithless audiences back. Either that or a celebrity detective brought into MM:ATN HQ to shake the team's faith in both their Captain and the whole dang shebang. But here it is – audiences these days have the concentration powers of a ....What was I saying? Oh yes: time to introduce a disruptive group of local volunteers into the stereotypical lives of the ATN Squad.

Scene One: ATN Squad HQ:

The phone rings (it's still the “Mexican Jumping Bean” song):

Captain: “I thought I told you guys to change the ring tone to the Flintstones theme. But I've changed my mind. We should go for something punchy and tough. Something which tells the world who we are. Something...”

## ASK THE NEIGHBOURS

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Deputy Captain (still angling for top billing and a fruit basket in his trailer): "Will someone just get that phone? Do I have to demonstrate my obvious leadership potential every episode ...err...I mean every day? We have a crime wave out there. All those mangled lawns and undermined water tanks. We should be out there racing through the streets, securing crime scenes and using our new forensic tools to analyse the culprits' DNA."

Captain: sensing a little power play here –"Listen Dep. We all know you're keen to use that new pooper scooper you bought on special at (hardware store brand placement opportunity) but we have to plan the deployment of leading edge technology very carefully. I still think our old shovel does the job. Let's workshop the latest crime scene visit."

The new guy in the ATN Squad answers the phone. He was so excited when I let him do that, Jess. He's been hanging around for two episodes so far just eating his way through the props. I had to either give him a few lines or increase the catering budget. Who knew that recreating authentic 1960s New York stale donuts and bad coffee could be so expensive?

New Guy: "Boss, that was Central on the phone...."

Captain: "Wow! We're finally getting some public transport on the Mounts?"

New Guy: "Funny, Boss. Not that Central. They were ringing to let us know that they're sending reinforcements to help with the latest outbreak of property outbreaking and inbreaking by those restless natives."

Just then, the door opens with a bang. In the doorway backed by the rising sun (yes, Jess. I know the ATN HQ doorway faces south. We'll get some really big spotlights) is a swaggering figure

resplendent in khaki safari suit with short pants and very attractive knee high socks.

Our audience immediately knows who they are. It's the RAATS Squad (intro their theme music). They've come into town and they mean business....

Now, Jess. You see what clever media strategies we've employed? Let's list them:

- cross promotion between two successful productions to which we own all media rights
- tensions between cast members which will keep their demands for new trailers and exotic catering in check
- uppity writers put back in their place
- another lucrative product promotion fee
- finally, two new audience participation opportunities. See below.

To our newly re-engaged and, for now anyway, loyal audience:

What do you think the ATN HQ's phone ringtone should be? What tune would best capture the ATN Squad's quirky and endearing brand of crime fighting humour and yet still impart those essential qualities of gravitas and pomposity?

And, given that we never did get around to giving RAATS a theme...what should its theme be?

The best replies will win a guest appearance on the next episode of Murderous Mounts:ATN

- Elizabeth M  
"Real Crime" Editor

\* ATN Productions, still a Subsidiary of Bread and Circuses (Cayman Islands) Limited.