



# the MOUNTS

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF MT WILSON AND MT IRVINE

April  
2018





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## IN APRIL'S ISSUE

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## ATN\*

The column formerly known as "Ask the Neighbours"

This months cover photo was taken by David Howell of the cows in the paddock at Wynstay.  
If you would like to send in a cover photo for the next Edition please send it through to us at [themounts2786@gmail.com](mailto:themounts2786@gmail.com)

### APRIL 2018



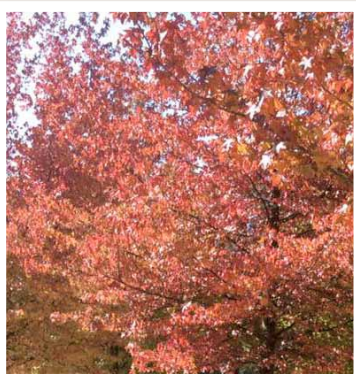
Firstly, I would like to extend my condolences to the family and friends of the late Robert Chesney. He was a lovely man who will be sorely missed.

The start to the autumn season has felt unseasonably warm, and it was strange to have a sunny rain-free Easter. Visitor numbers seem lower than the last few years (and so says the traffic counter) however that may change as the colours continue to develop over the season. I'm sure the fact that Easter was so early this year also impacted on visitor numbers.

For the visitors that have been here a number of regular gardens and nut farms have opened their gates as has the Turkish Bath Museum. Camping has also been a popular option with Cathedral Reserve well used by day trippers and those staying overnight.

I hope everyone is enjoying what has so far been a quieter autumn season. I've been making the most of the finer weather and enjoying an afternoon bike ride to take in the sights around the village and wonderful autumnal sunsets.

*Jess Delbridge*



*The trees changing at  
Westring and the  
wonderful colour at  
Cathedral Reserve*

## AROUND THE MOUNTS

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY	JUNE	JULY
Friday 11th Bushcare 9:00-12:00 Planting in Sloan Reserve	Friday 8th Bushcare 9:00-12:00 Sloan Reserve	Sunday 8th Church Service 3:00pm St Georges
Sunday 13th Church Service 3:00pm St Georges	Sunday 10th Church Service 3:00pm St Georges	Friday 13th Bushcare
Friday 18th Bushwalk: Darwins Walk and Kings Tableland Track	Friday 15th Bushwalk: Asgard Swamp and Thor Head Mt Victoria	Friday 20th Bushwalk
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### BIN CALENDAR

26 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL
3 <sup>RD</sup> MAY
10 <sup>TH</sup> MAY
17 <sup>TH</sup> MAY
24 <sup>TH</sup> MAY
31 <sup>ST</sup> MAY
7 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE
14 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE
21 <sup>ST</sup> JUNE

Recycling
  Green Waste

### WHATS ON MAY / JUNE

#### LEURA HARVEST FESTIVAL SUN MAY 6TH

Hosted by the Leura Village Association, this popular event features stalls exhibiting sustainable, organic and locally grown food and produce, clean energy, local food-supply networks, micro-farming, beekeeping and food-preserving demonstrations and sales, and eco-friendly kitchenalia and regional wine & beer tastings For more information, please visit [www.leuravillage.com.au/fairs](http://www.leuravillage.com.au/fairs)





### IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT GEORGE CHESNEY

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My father, Robert George Chesney was born in Waikerie South Australia in 1932 on a sheep farm called Yarra Glen, on the Murray River. He was the youngest of three children born of George Alexander Chesney of Ballymena Northern Ireland and Christina Atkinson of South Australia. (George had emigrated to South Australia in 1910 at the age of 21, enlisted at the start of the Great War and sailed to Gallipoli in 1915. At the end of the war he bought the farm) My father had a happy albeit isolated childhood on the farm, with his sister Elizabeth and brother David, playing and helping on the farm.

In Robert's own words "Life on the farm was very happy. Some of my lasting memories of life on an isolated property include meals at the big kitchen table, my father always saying Grace; kerosene lamps as there was no electricity or phone; ice on the water troughs as drought mornings could be bitterly cold; sheep mustering on horseback in the vast outback mallee scrub; blinding dust storms and the occasional welcome rain; the grey-green Murray river, wide and menacing at times; the intense silence and loneliness of the farm after holidays in Adelaide and at the beach."

In 1947 due to his father's health - he had been badly wounded in Pozieres in France in 1916 - they sold the property and moved to Adelaide. Robert attended Adelaide High School and later the University of Adelaide where he studied Pharmacy.

In my father's own words....."By 1955 I was a qualified pharmacist and I embarked on what was the most important part of my life thus far. On 6th June 1955, my friend Jim Follett and I boarded the P&O ship Strathaird bound for Tilbury, London. I remember having a quiet weep after saying farewell to my

mother. I was starting a big adventure. I enjoyed life on board for the next 5 weeks with the 1350 passengers, many of whom were young. After a couple of weeks I was introduced to Mary Attiwill of Melbourne - she was charming, good-looking, warm and had a beautiful smile. We saw each other almost every day until we reached England. After some clever manoeuvring on my part, I secured a seat in the same train carriage as Mary and her friend, on the way to St Pancras. I later found out that this bold move impressed Mary as well as my assistance with her extensive luggage."

My parents had a happy courtship discovering London, together and with their friends. Theatres, museums, dances, cricket matches and car trips - as my father said " It may seem strange for our present times, but we stayed in separate rooms on all of our overnight trips."

In the summer of 1956 they joined 5 friends, including his life long friend Eileen Ablett, to tour around Europe in a Bedford Dormobile and staying in youth hostels.

Mary accepted Robert's proposal of marriage but wanted him to meet her parents in Melbourne, so they travelled back to Australia in December 1956, in separate cabins of course.

They were married in Melbourne on 4th February 1958 and settled in Adelaide where Robert worked at Fauldings as a Development Chemist. They promptly produced 3 daughters, Jennifer, Frances and Rosemary. Mary was kept very busy with 3 babies under 4, and enjoyed the support of her mother's extensive Muecke family who were very good to her as her parents were so far away. We also saw a lot of Gran, Roberts mother who lived in Adelaide.

### IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT GEORGE CHESNEY cont.

By 1967 Robert had completed a part-time science degree which prompted him to look around career-wise. After a 3 month trial at their plant in Bombay, India, he was offered a position in Basel, Switzerland, at Sandoz, a Swiss pharmaceutical company. I remember being told the news that we would be moving to Switzerland, during our annual beach holiday at Victor Harbour - as an avid reader I immediately had a mental picture of myself frolicking in the Alps like Heidi - so I was slightly taken aback when we arrived in Reinach, in suburban Basel. My sisters and I were sent to the local school as there was no International school, and we quickly picked up German and the local dialect Baslerdeutsch. Rose, aged 4, made the famous remark on her first day at kindergarten 'why are we the only ones what talk proper?' Luckily we all picked up German quite quickly.

Some highlights in Roberts own words

"Our first Christmas was magical - the first snow came on Christmas Eve as it was getting dark. Sounds became muffled and gradually the streets and trees, gently and silently, were covered in white.

Sunday's were much more formal than we were used to. The girls went to Sunday School at the English church in Basel in the mornings and in the afternoons, families would wear their Sunday clothes and walk in the park. Mowing the lawn or even gardening was forbidden on Sundays."

I remember ....We had wonderful holidays during this time - 2 overnight road trips in our big Opel station wagon to England where we stayed at my Aunt Judy's country house at Ashmansworth in Hampshire. Also long summer holidays where my parents would rent a chalet for a month in the Swiss mountains, at Gsteig and Zuoz. This started for us three girls a life

time love of walking as we did some serious Alpine hiking at quite a young age. I remember following my father's straight back and steady pace up and down those alpine paths surrounded by towering peaks as we looked out for marmots and mountain goats and on rare occasions we found an Edelweiss.

We also had various skiing trips, notably to Wengen.

Daddy was a loving kind father with very high standards. Good manners were expected from a very young age. Grace was said before every meal and attending to our schoolwork was always insisted upon. We went to Sunday school and church every week. He absolutely adored my mother and they were very happy together. As he said 'she was the love of my life'. It can't have been easy raising three little girls in a foreign country with no family around but my parents gave us the gift of a happy carefree childhood. As a young expat couple they were not wealthy but there were always holidays, theatre, concerts and books. They made many life-long Swiss and international friends during this time.

I remember many visits from family and friends who would stay with us in Basel. We girls always loved this - a break in routine plus lots more outings as we took them out to see all the sights. On those occasions my sisters and I would be relegated to the very back of the station wagon, which we loved as we would roll around, no seatbelts of course. I was always reading and was constantly told to "put that book down and look at the view!" So I would reluctantly gaze at yet another stunning vista of mountains and lakes, and then get straight back to Enid Blyton.

After almost 5 years Robert was invited back to Australia for the establishment of a new plant at North Ryde in Sydney. It was a difficult choice for them to make as we were all happily in our Swiss life.

### IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT GEORGE CHESNEY cont.

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I remember us all being so sad to leave our friends, but then we became excited by the big trip home. We went via England where we stayed with my aunt and cousins again, then on to Bombay where we spent a few weeks while Daddy worked there, then on to Hong Kong then Melbourne where we stayed with my Uncle Peter Attiwill and family, finally to Sydney where our first home was a very glamorous apartment on the 20th floor at McMahons Point right opposite the Harbour Bridge.

My parents then bought a house at Wahroonga and my sisters and I attended Ravenswood at Gordon.

Robert worked at Sandoz as Plant Manager - there were continued opportunities to travel, mostly for business and sometimes Mary was able to accompany him.

Then, with his retirement in 1994, there began a wonderful time of travel for my parents. They visited Michael and I and our boys in Moorestown New Jersey several times, and also Frances and Peter and their children in Malta several times, in 1996 they had a 'gap year and a half' travelling in Europe and America, visiting their many friends and family. A highlight of this year was a month we all spent together at a villa in Gubbio, an Italian hilltown in Umbria. Then after Rose met Thomas, and moved to Gothenburg in Sweden, my parents visited and came to love Sweden as well, made many friends and also became close with Thomas' parents. Their final big trip was to India in December 2000 for the week long wedding of the son of a dear friend.

Also during this time they built Sage Cottage at Mount Wilson which was a dream of theirs. My parents, and in the last 17 years my father, became a big part of the community there, and it has become a special place for all our family.

Then on 8th October 2001 we were all devastated by my mother's sudden death of a heart attack, just 3 weeks after her 70th birthday. Despite his intense grief, he bore his sadness with a quiet dignity and compassion for his daughters, grandchildren and her many friends. His faith kept him going and his steadfastness was an example to us all.

In the 17 years since Mary's death, Robert came out of his great sadness to lead an extremely rich and full life. He has so many friends and was so good about keeping up with everyone - his annual Christmas card writing was never neglected. A life characterised by service, faith, love and compassion. He was a regular churchgoer at the Wahroonga Presbyterian Church and at St George's at Mt Wilson, and a great volunteer at both. He helped out with the garden at the church in Wahroonga and he and his great friend Russell Lander recently painted the church hall. As Russell said 'the average age of the painting crew is 79'. It's a remarkably fine job too!

After first saying he didn't think he would travel again, Daddy came to Hawaii with our family in 2002, and also to Europe with us in 2004. He made several other trips to England for family wedding, and to Switzerland. He also made two more trips to India - one with Frances and I, and another time with Frances, where we were hosted by his great friend Pritam of Mumbai.

His old family friend Eileen Ablett from the trip around Europe in 1955 came back into his life and they would go regularly to operas, concerts and theatre. They made a memorable trip to Russia together in 2006. She has become close and dear to all our family.

He made regular trips to see his brother David in Melbourne and sister Elizabeth and her husband



### IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT GEORGE CHESNEY cont.

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Nick in Tanunda. He became very close to both of them in his later years. He loved making the overnight road trip to Adelaide, most recently in September for my Aunt Elizabeth's 90th Birthday. We tried to dissuade him from the long drives but he could be very stubborn in his own quiet polite way!

He was a member of Rotary and later Probus, particularly enjoying the walking trips. He was the master of the 'sausage sizzle' and even after he retired from Rotary would continue to help out.

The Mount Wilson community has continued to be a big part of his life - he was very involved in all aspects of life there including the Rural Fire Service, the Historical Society, the Progress Association and the Bushwalking Club. He only retired from the bushwalking club last year. His kindness of his dear friends there continue to support us.

In the last few years he made a wonderful group of new friends through his new friend Marsden Hordern. The Rivenhall Discussion Group was very important to him and he loved regular lunches and dinners at Marsden's with this tight knit group of dear friends. I had the privilege of attending one of the luncheons a couple of weeks ago. He was always very punctual so when he failed to arrive at Marsden's

Birthday luncheon last Monday, his friends soon became alarmed and went around to his house. He was found, in his sunroom, by his dear friends Lisbie and Joan.

Lisbie and Joan, thank you so much for being there. As distressing as it was for you, it gives great comfort to my sisters and me to know that Daddy was found by you.

Throughout his busy life Robert has been the most wonderful loving father, grandfather and father-in-law. He delighted in his 8 grandchildren and was so proud of every one of them. He has followed every stage of his their lives with keen interest and unfailing support, offering advice and always challenging them to do their very best. He regularly communicated with Alexander in New York, and Eliza in Trinity Beach, and delighted in their visits.

As for Frances, Rose and I - we will miss that darling, charming, lovable, humorous and humble man more than we can ever say. How fortunate and proud we are to be his daughters.

Goodbye, our dearest Daddy - "Goodnight, sweet prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest"

- Jennifer Carey

### BUSH CARE GROUP WORKING TO RESTORE SLOAN RESERVE

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The mountain was very fortunate to have another morning of help with Bush Care by Alex Montano and some of his work colleagues. Thank you Alex and your team who spent the morning pulling and digging out ivy and honeysuckle in Mereweather Lane, and planting a few natives to go the in bare spaces.

Sloan Reserve, the lovely small reserve below Ferny Corner, used to be all rainforest. It was cleared when Bebeah was cleared. Miss Sloan, who owned Bebeah for many years gave a small portion of her land on either side of the creek below Ferny Corner as a reserve. The reserve was fenced, thus preventing the cattle which roamed around the

### BUSH CARE GROUP WORKING TO RESTORE SLOAN RESERVE cont.

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village at that time from keeping it tidy by eating the grass and young weeds. Holly seedlings became large prickly trees, ivy carpeted the ground and blackberries, honeysuckle and laurel became well established in the ideal conditions.

In the early 1990s, after the cattle had been removed from the roadsides and reserves, the Mount Wilson Progress Association realised that these areas would need mowing and the village needed to be better maintained. This is when the Blue Mountains Council became involved and the maintenance of the reserves with a local contractor doing the work was set up.

The neglected Sloan Reserve was included. The huge holly trees were felled and burnt, mounds of blackberries removed. Bill Smart grew some coachwood and these were planted on the eastern side of the creek. When the Valder family left the mountain they gave a generous donation to the village so it was decided to build a charming small stone bridge across the creek and a pathway through the reserve. The bridge was built by Alan Gunn, and his sons Stewart and David.

A few years later in August 2000, a village working bee planted an area of rainforest to recognise that John Holt had represented the country in rifle shooting at the Olympic Games. This project was sponsored by Land Care.

Sloan Reserve was the first place the Bush Care group decided to work when it was formed in March 1999. Ivy was growing up the trees and tree ferns and carpeting the ground, holly, honeysuckle and laurel seedlings abounded. We extended the rain forest a little on the western side of the stream. Now when the Bush Care group return to Sloan Reserve there are a few small seedlings of holly and laurel and a few

patches of ivy and honeysuckle.

We have decided to return most of the reserve to rainforest over time. The coachwood on the eastern side of the creek and the rainforest plantings are growing well.

Last year the group planted some sassafras and tree ferns and during April we planted over 30 coachwood seedlings and a few black woods (to act as 'nurse' trees). Next month we will plant more coachwood and tree ferns and sassafras and work our way up the slope on the western side of the creek. One day most of the reserve will be a beautiful rainforest again.

We do encourage you to join the Bush Care group on the second Friday of each month for three hours to help keep our reserves free of weeds. Since 1999 much has been achieved, and I thank all those who have helped us over the years.

- Libby Raines. Photos: Working Bee Sloan Reserve Aug 2000



### FUR AND FEATHER RESIDENTS OF THE MOUNTS : THE VELCRO DOGS

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Henry and Abbie, who deign to reside with us, are Hungarian Vizslas. They are called Velcro dogs because they really stick to you. They are loving, loyal and energetic companions. They are also beautiful dogs: midsize hounds with short russet coloured fur. As they age, their faces and paws go grey but they otherwise retain their lustrous coats.

Being someone who often works from home, Henry and Abbie have taken it upon themselves to assist me by undertaking a range of duties in the office. They are diligent security officers - with couriers being particularly likely to get an up close and careful check of their credentials. They are also workplace health and safety officers who ensure that workers take regular breaks - usually, to get them treats or to play with them.

Less desirable is their habit of desk surfing. Like counter surfing (if you don't know what that is there are lots of Youtube videos of Vizslas counter surfing), desk surfing involves a close examination of every article on the desk followed by a careful selection of the one scrap of paper with an important note on it. Forget shredders with multiple blades which can reduce a document to tiny ribbons. I defy anyone to reconstitute a piece of paper which has received the Vizsla treatment. They'll cheerfully open their mouths for the retrieval of said paper comfortable in the knowledge that you have Buckley's of working out what was on it. ASIO could employ our dogs for all their sensitive document disposal work.

And then there are the numerous tasks around the garden which Henry and Abbie perform tirelessly – and often thanklessly. It is a well-known fact that any plot of earth upon which a human is inserting a hole requires intensive Vizsla supervision. Henry is a



particularly vigilant hole inspector who will check a hole's depth and breadth in between shovel loads.

And then there's the "severe talking to" which must be given to each handful of weeds thrown into the wheelbarrow. Henry will carefully position himself between the garden bed and the wheelbarrow ready to launch himself skywards catching the weeds in mid-air, shaking them about before throwing them down - just missing the wheelbarrow. "that will teach those weeds to grow there!" is clearly the message.

For many gardeners, an essential part of the planting process is to settle a plant in by carefully firming the earth around the new plant. Henry's approach is to lie down on a new plant thus ensuring it is well and truly planted. In this case, it's "that salvia's going nowhere."

And what about Abbie you ask? Well, Abbie is a little bit of a princess. She bosses Henry around dreadfully despite being three years younger and several kilos



## AROUND THE MOUNTS

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### FUR AND FEATHER RESIDENTS OF THE MOUNTS : THE VELCRO DOGS cont.

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lighter. They are half siblings – same Dad but their mothers were sisters. Not sure if it's Abbie's "daddy issues" but she certainly knows who's the boss dog in our family. And she can be very picky. Not one to relish getting her paws wet and muddy, when required to exit the house on a rainy day to undertake her toilette she will carefully walk along the gravel drive's brick edging, balancing like a tightrope walker to avoid both the wet grass and the mucky gravel. Once her task is done she will gracefully sashay back inside the same way.

She's also quite the attention seeker. If she steals a slipper or tissue or anything else she knows she's not supposed to have, she will make sure you know about it by adopting a particular wiggle as she swishes her head back and forth showing you her ill-gotten gain, then retreating and then showing you again. Once properly acknowledged, she will then allow you to catch her and retrieve the proceeds of her crime without further ado. Mission accomplished on her part.

By now you have deduced – correctly – that Henry and Abbie are essential members of our family. Like any family members worth their salt: they make us laugh, they make us cry but we wouldn't swap them for quids.

- Elizabeth Montano

### SEARCH SELL AND SHARE

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Newcomers to Mt Wilson may like to know that free trees are available at Cherry Cottage 21 Queen's Ave. These include flowering cherries, maples of various kinds, conifers and a few others trees may be dug from May to June. Contact Richard Prentice 47562067 OR email [richard.prentice@bigpond.com](mailto:richard.prentice@bigpond.com)

### BRIGADE STATS

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Ever wondered how those motor vehicle accidents you pass get cleaned up? How those trees blocking roads get cut up and moved off roads?

In what will be a regular feature in The Mounts, here are the stats. Between 11 February and 7 April, our RF Brigade members attended 9 callouts.

#### We assisted at :



- 2 motor vehicles accidents



- 2 Community First Responder calls



- Investigated 1 smoke sighting,



- Assisted in 2 rescue missions



- Removed two trees blocking roads around the two villages.

A number of these callouts occurred in one 48 hour period. And it's often the same people who attend callouts.

Busy? Oh yeah.

- Elizabeth Montano, on behalf of Mt Wilson/ Mt Irvine RF Brigade

### BOWENS CREEK FIRE TRAIL UPDATE

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

You will recall from our last update, that the failure to maintain the BMCC side of the route adversely affected NSW Police Search and Rescue efforts (in which our Brigade assisted) in a search and rescue late 2017/early 2018.

Following recent representations made to the BMCC Mayor, Mark Greenhill and Ward One Councillors, Don McGregor, Kerry Brown and Kevin Schreiber, on the poor condition of the BMCC owned part of the route (between Mt Irvine and Bowens Creek), BMCC has undertaken some vegetation removal work to address encroachments on the route. While not as much vegetation as we consider necessary for safe access has been removed, it is a step in the right direction. We await advice on the other maintenance work required to get this part of the route back into a reasonable condition. Thank you to Mayor Greenhill for his prompt response to my advice of the condition of the route and his direction to BMCC Staff to undertake remedial actions. I did not receive any response from Ward One Councillors to that request.

In bringing the current state of the route to their attention, we have expressed to the Mayor and Ward One Councillors, our concerns that the BMCC side of the route has been neglected in recent times – which is in contrast to the history of the BMCC side of the route. We have emphasized that the maintenance of the BMCC side of the route for search and rescue as well as fire hazard reduction work is a matter of concern to our community and is independent of the wide issue of the restoration of the whole route between Mt Irvine and Bilpin.

You will also recall previous advice that we have

been unable to establish regular communications with Hawkesbury City Council on the progress of the feasibility study despite repeated requests to be kept informed and consulted closely as a major stakeholder in the restoration of the route.

Our Federal Member of Parliament, Susan Templeman, whose electorate of Macquarie takes in both HCC and BMCC local government areas, has continued to pursue this issue for us. She has recently advised of a meeting with the HCC General Manager where she has emphasized the importance of the route as an emergency vehicles access route for all emergency services, not only as a fire trail for the RFS and that the feasibility study reflect this in its Terms of Reference and conduct. We are grateful for her continuing support.

Following Ms Templeman's meeting with the HCC General Manager we have been contacted by a HCC staff member advising that we will be contacted shortly. No further advice as yet.

While it is understandable that the HCC is the lead council on the feasibility study (as agreed between HCC And BMCC) because the majority of the restoration work will have to be undertaken in the HCC Area, we remain concerned that our interests are not being considered to a sufficient degree. We continue to ask BMCC to ensure that we are properly acknowledged and consulted during the feasibility study and then in efforts to obtain longer term funding for the route's restoration. While that funding is most likely to come from the Commonwealth government under one of its regional infrastructure programs, we will also keep pursuing State funding sources and look to our State Member of Parliament, Trish Doyle, to advocate for us.

To engage with HCC directly, David Howell and I met with Sarah Richards and Nathan Zamprogno, two

### BOWENS CREEK FIRE TRAIL UPDATE cont.

HCC Councillors and Senator Marise Payne on 4th April on the Bilpin side of the route. We briefed them on the importance of this route to our community and to encourage them to both take a more strategic perspective and to recognise the benefits to the communities of Bilpin, Berambing and other close parts of The Hawkesbury in getting this emergency route restored.

At the conclusion of that meeting Sarah Richards and Nathan Zamprogno undertook to take this up directly at the next HCC Council meeting and to advocate for HCC to have the feasibility study completed quickly, that the Terms of Reference of the study cover access for all emergency services not only for RFS use as a fire trail and that our Brigade be closely consulted and kept informed as a major stakeholder.

This is a very good development and the first time that we have been able to engage so directly and positively with HCC Councillors. We also noted in the meeting the role which the former Member for Macquarie, Louise Markus, played in the awarding of the Commonwealth funding of \$100,000 for the feasibility study to be undertaken. Without that funding for the feasibility study, it would not be possible to go on to pursue funding for the restoration works to be undertaken.

As we have observed many times during this campaign, the recognition of our community's needs and vulnerabilities is being severely hampered because of local government and State Government electoral boundaries and RFS boundaries. In simple terms, our safety is not a priority for HCC or the State Member for The Hawkesbury. What we are calling for is a more strategic approach – where adjoining local government areas and State Government Members of Parliament look after each other's communities. Emergencies do not respect government boundaries



*Briefing Senator Marise Payne and HCC Councillor Sarah Richards.  
Photo courtesy of Senator Payne's office*

and governments should be sophisticated enough to deal with this. They have a much publicised Regional Strategic Alliance between BMCC, HCC and Penrith City Council. This is surely a "Poster child" project for this Alliance.

As you all know, the more a community and its individual members show they care about an issue by writing and otherwise communicating with their Councillors and MPs, the more likely it is that our concerns will be understood and that the extent of our concerns will be appreciated. So please, if you do think that an emergency vehicles access route between Mt Irvine and Bilpin will help reduce the risks of isolation from emergency services for our community and visitors, then make your feelings known. Help us keep the momentum going. Thank you to those who have recently done this. You have played a part in getting this thing done.

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





### 150TH ANNIVERSARY: MORE DETAILS OF THOSE TIMES IN 1868 cont.

The Surveyor-General invited John Whitton to consider "the desirability of a platform in the vicinity of the proposed bridge in case the traffic should at any time warrant it."

"A platform near the bridge" replied the Engineer –in- Chief on 23rd March 1869, "can be erected if considered necessary." P 30 C.H.Currey.

Six years later the message must have eventually had the necessary impact for on 5th May 1875a platform had been constructed and was opened on that date, being named Mt Wilson Platform.

The Presence of the platform appears to have carried considerable weight. When studying the Land Titles in 2004-5, many Portions of the 62 surveyed were granted from June to August 1875 and into 1876. There seems little doubt that the Railway Platform was significant in those far off days. {It is noteworthy to know that in 1889 the Mt Wilson Railway Platform was re named Bell at the

suggestion of Henry George Cox of 'Beowang' after Archibald Bell, the explorer who with Indigenous help found a way through from Kurrajong to Hartley in 1823.} Bell Railway Station was moved to its present position in 1910.

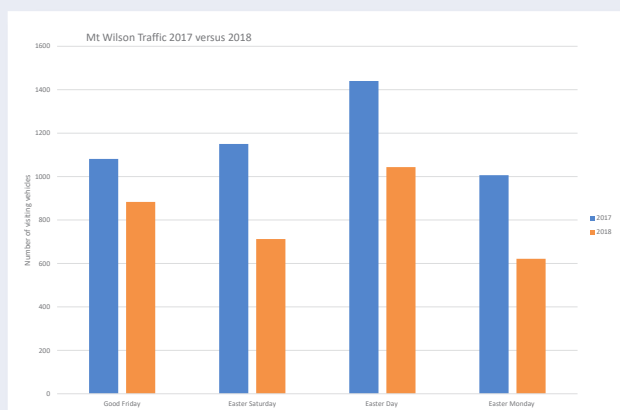
Who were the grantees in 1875-6 ? Research revealed that some were linked with the NSW Lands Department including the Surveyor- General; others with the NSW Treasury; members of the NSW Parliament; The Chief Justice of NSW Alfred Stephen along with his three sons; pastoralists; merchants; and academics including Charles Badham from Sydney University. Curiously only eight of the 33, paying one Pound to two Pounds per acre built homes in the first decade.

The story of those eight should be told in another chapter.

- Mary B. Reynolds

Photo: Plan of the 62 PORTIONS

### SURPRISE, SURPRISE.... THIS EASTER WAS NOT AS BUSY AS LAST



As you all know MWPA has installed a traffic counter at the bottom of the Zig-Zag. During the Spring and Autumn "rushes" you can find me at 7am (sometimes in my pyjamas) taking the readings.

Above is a graph of the comparison between Easter traffic of 2017 and 2018.

Traffic this year was about 70% of last year – mainly I am thinking due to Easter being two weeks earlier this year and there being no colours yet in the trees and because this Easter didn't fall in the midst of the school holiday this time

- David Howell

### UPDATE ON PROGRESS WITH SCHOOL RESTORATION



At the last Mt Wilson Progress Association meeting, Alison kindly asked me to provide an update on progress with the restoration of the old school buildings.

At the time, I reported that the community consultation we had undertaken had produced a range of interesting ideas for the future use of the buildings, and that we were incorporating as many of those ideas as possible in the application we were preparing for the necessary grant funding. The idea was that grant funds would, if the application were successful, allow us to both repair the buildings and to make minor alterations to them to facilitate the suggested uses.

The grant we are seeking is from the Office of Environment & Heritage and the main uses that we are proposing are an artists in residence programme (visual arts, music and literature) with associated exhibitions and performances, a community centre, a visitor information centre and a research and archival facility for the Historical Society. We have

also flagged a second stage possibility of the use of the school grounds as an outdoor education facility for school and scout groups.

The preparation of the grant application has been no small task but I am pleased to advise that it has been completed and the application has now been lodged. That could not have been achieved without the hard work of all involved. While many made a contribution, I would particularly like to acknowledge Sarah Howell, Judy Tribe, Stephen Dean and Owen Haviland. I am also grateful for the support we received from both Progress Associations, the Brigade and the Historical Society.

There is now nothing to be done but to await the outcome of the application. We expect to hear something in about 3 months.

Here's hoping ...

- Joe Montano  
Chair, Mount Wilson Study Centre



# MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION Committee News

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Autumn sees the arrival of cooler days, beautiful colour and the nut harvest, but this year it was all out of kilter. The nut harvest coincided with Easter and the BMCC supplied a number of extra portable toilets which we placed at the fire station and on the camping ground. They were well used! However the influx of campers meant that these were not sufficient. There also seems to be a preference for using other more permanent toilets. All were regularly cleaned. The BMCC is fully aware of the issues and may trial a different form of portable toilets in the future. Similarly there were big problems with rubbish. Campers tried to do the right thing but the bins filled up over night. Unfortunately the wild life get into the bags that are left near the bins and rubbish is spread around. The problem is compounded by locals putting their rubbish in the public bins. During the year this may not make a big difference but it is critical in autumn. Please either get a bin and pay the rates or take it home with you!

We were not alone as there were similar rubbish and toilet problems all over the mountains. Perhaps we should be grateful that the autumn colour crowds were not here at the same time.

We are still waiting on the final contract with BMCC which will see a big change in how the public areas



are managed and the work paid. Various members of the community continue to follow up on the Bowen's Creek access issue. It was concerning that a number of campers with trail bikes used and abused the area next to the creek over Easter. The breakdowns in phone access are also being addressed. This is of great importance on the Mounts where communication is both limited and unreliable

Peter Raines has been busy across the mountain. Have a look at how Founders Corner has been rejuvenated with the rhododendrons cut back to reveal the long vanished path, the toilets are now visible and the ground re seeded and top dressed. There is even a neatly prepared place for the garbage bins.

- Alison Halliday



**“ What makes this event so important to the community is the broad range of participation including community elders, children and grandchildren and new community members. ”**

## MOUNT IRVINE EASTER BBQ 2018

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Every year, on the Saturday evening of Easter, the community of Mt Irvine gathers at the hall to enjoy the company of neighbours and friends and to feast on wood fired BBQ fare and a plethora of home prepared dishes brought along to share. This annual function is the only fundraising event held by the Mt Irvine Public Hall Trust.

What makes this event so important to the community is the broad range of participation including community elders, children and grandchildren and new community members.

The evening began outdoors on our new covered terrace with finger food and drinks. Children became best of friends and enjoyed playing together on the grass and helping with selling lots of tickets for our 'famous' Easter raffle where everyone is a winner.

This year, as the sun set on a beautiful autumn day, we moved inside to a sit down dinner in banquet style table arrangement, poetry recitals, drawing of the raffle prizes and art auction. A fun evening was had by all with all funds raised going to the maintenance and upkeep of the hall.

The Hall Trust is very grateful for the many tireless workers who have assisted with the running and organisation of the BBQ over many years. A particular thank you to the current Chair of the BBQ committee, Mike Pearce and the many helpers who made this year's BBQ another winner for our hall and community.

We are already planning towards the Easter BBQ 2019 and look forward to doing it all once again!

- Carol Carrigan, Trustee  
Mt Irvine Public Hall Trust

# RFS NEWS:

## Community Engagement Report

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A number of initiatives were taken prior to the start of the recent fire season ;

- Articles in the Mounts encouraging residents to prepare their properties, have a practical and well rehearsed Survival Plan and how best to keep informed in a fire emergency.
- The Mounts also featured a detailed explanation of the Neighbourhood Safer Place facilities for Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine.
- A letter box drop was made to all properties which provided a hard copy guide to how to prepare and act in a fire emergency.
- With the cooperation of Lithgow Fire Protection a fire pump maintenance service was organized for all residents who wished to avail themselves of this special offer. Over twenty five people had pumps serviced.
- Operational procedures for Street Coordinators were reviewed at a coordinators meeting held in the Village Hall.

- Plans were formulated for the establishment of a Fire Information Centre at the Mt Wilson Village Hall which would also act as the registration point for non fire fighting volunteers in a fire emergency.

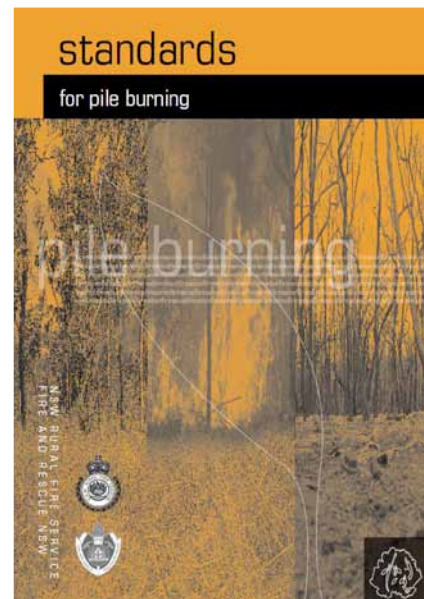
### STREET COORDINATORS

I would like to thank our team of Street Coordinators for volunteering to assist in the event of a fire emergency. This is a vitally important role that provides a means of communicating with residents in an emergency and advising the Brigade of who is on the mountain.

Our Team of Street Coordinators are:

Alice Simpson / Ann Piggott / Peter Anderson / Robert Nicol / Alex Halliday / Richard Beattie / Wendy Holland / Judy Tribe / Brian Carrigan / Bruce Kerridge.





### PILE BURN PROCEDURE

The bushfire season is now over and we have the opportunity, in the cooler months, to maintain our properties and dispose of dead vegetation through pile burns.

After community consultation, the BMCC has granted certain outlying areas (including Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine) approval to conduct pile burns as long as certain conditions are met. Oversight of this process has been handed to the Blue Mountains District Office of the NSW Rural Fire Service in Katoomba. It is vitally important that these conditions are abided by as failure to do so could see the withdrawal of the concession. During the non-bushfire period (usually 1 April to 30 September) the process, in brief, is as follows:

1. Give your neighbours and District Office (4784 7444) at least 24 hours' notice of your intention to light up. District Office hours are 9-5, Monday to Friday. Please remember this if you plan to burn at the weekend. You can advise the District Office of up to a week of days if you are unsure of exactly which day will be the most suitable for a pile burn.
2. On the day of the burn, advise District Office that you are lighting up and when you have put out the pile burn (do not burn overnight). These calls can be made at weekends as volunteers staff the phones at this time. There is a requirement for a responsible adult to be present at all times, an adequate water supply to be available and the pile must be 20m from the nearest residential building.
3. Ensure that your pile burn abides by the document *Standards for Pile Burning*, available from the RFS website, [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au), District Office or your Brigade Community Engagement Officer. In brief, material must only be vegetation from your property, the pile should be no greater than 2m in length or width and must be no greater than 1.5m high, material must be dead and dry and there should be no logs over 150mm in diameter.

- Peter Laving  
Community Engagement Officer



# MOUNT WILSON AND MOUNT IRVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Recent Events and Comments

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Recently the Interim Management Committee of the above Society met to discuss important issues including " how we might continue with the Society, as best we can!" (in the words of Des Barrett).

The Society has no Executive. Its local members in the community are unable to undertake any formal positions of management due to the demands of other local organisations in Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine.

Where to next?

Following information provided by Des Barrett,[the representative from the Society on the Committee for the Heritage Grant application to restore the Study Centre and Cottage] it was determined that the Interim Management Committee would await the result of the Heritage Grant Application before taking any further action re the Society and its current situation. Des made clear that the Department of Education, the owners of the Study Centre and cottage and grounds, have insisted that the these buildings and grounds must become useful to the Community in a positive way for the grant to be successful. That will be up to the current committee now chaired by Joe Montano.

It was agreed at our meeting that should the Heritage Grant be unsuccessful that our valuable archival collection would be offered to the State Library for safe keeping and accessibility.

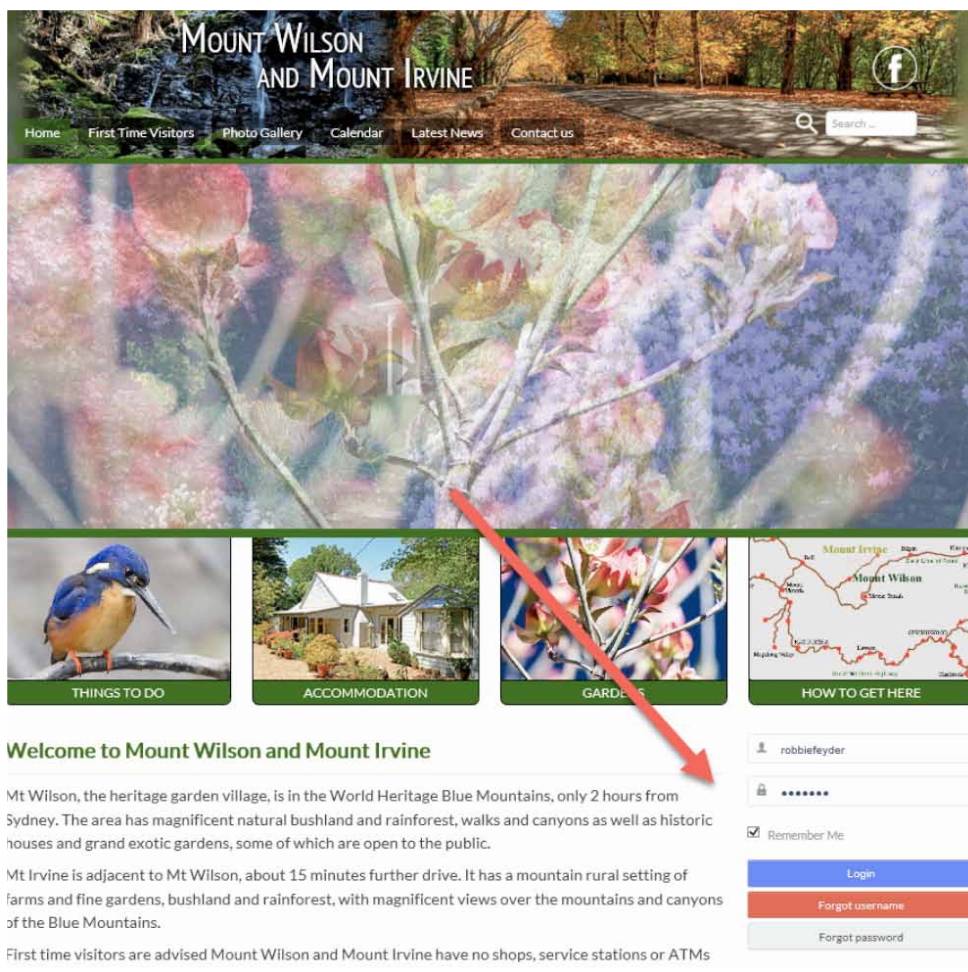
Regardless of the above the Turkish Bath Museum requires maintenance and repairs for which the Society is responsible. We are seeking quotes for painting and the cleaning of the gutters.

The Turkish Bath Museum will be opened only on days when volunteers are available. To date it was opened on 25th March; Easter Saturday 31st March and 1st April Easter Sunday. It will be manned on 15th April, 6th May and 27th May.

Quite clearly there will be need for further discussions in the coming months but we will await the result of the Heritage Grant application before those take place.

*- Mary Reynolds on behalf of the Interim Management Committee.*

# COMMUNITY WEBSITE Local Phone Book and New Search Functionality



The Mt Wilson Website has the most up to date version of the local phone book and this now also includes new search functionality to more quickly find contact details.

First you need to log into the website:

[www.mtwilson.com.au](http://www.mtwilson.com.au)

Enter you user name and password.

If you have forgotten your user name or password then follow the prompts below your logon details, or email [info@mtwilson.com.au](mailto:info@mtwilson.com.au)



Click on the main menu and navigate to:

--> Community Information

----> Local Telephone Book

This brings up the telephone book listing.

Give this a while to load depending on your internet speed. Details for each person are hidden and clicking on the "eye" icon next to the name will display the details. This has been done for security purposes.

There is also a new Search Feature.

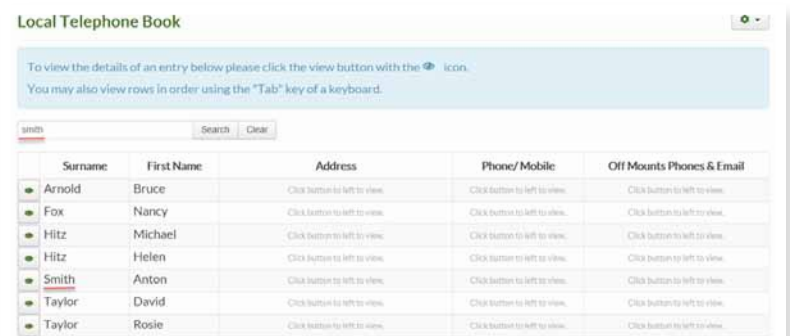
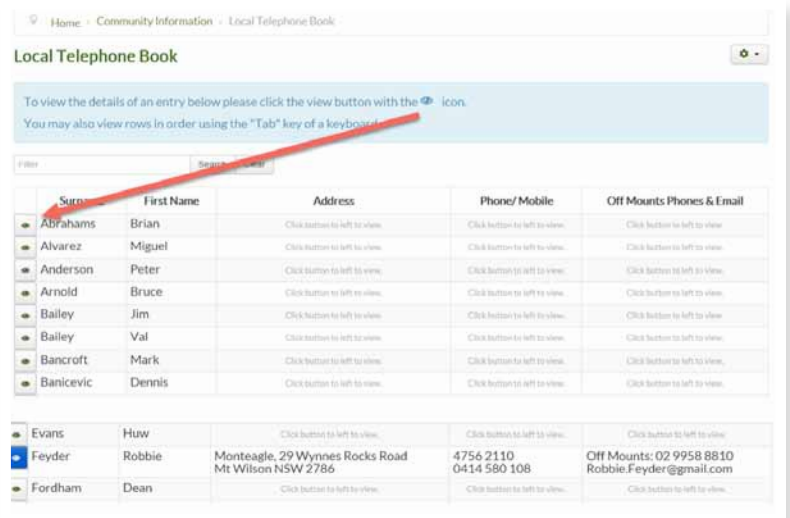
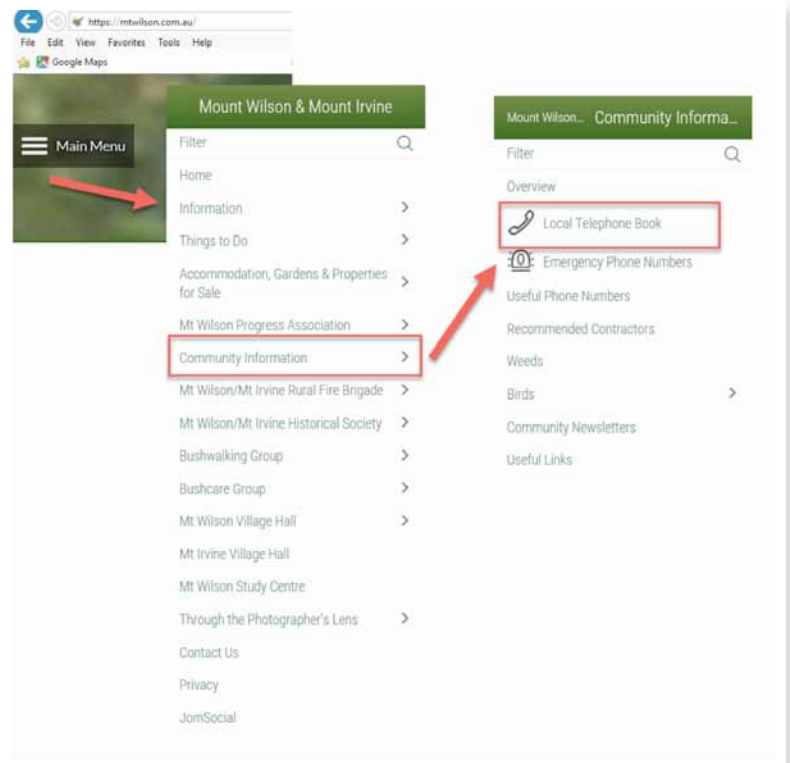
This searches on all the data shown:

- Surname
- First name
- Address
- Phone/Mobile
- Off Mounts Phone & Email

For example say there was a need to contact all residents in Smiths Road, then can enter the street name and quickly get the list. This search returned the search based on any match to Smith, and this included the surname Smith as well as all people who live in Smiths Road.

Try a simple search, maybe find yourself by searching for your phone number.

- Robbie Feyder



## IN MY GARDEN:

# Bisley, Mt Wilson

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Bisley is named in honour of my grandfather O. E. Boyd, who represented Australia in 1910 at Bisley in Surrey, which is where the Commonwealth Rifle Championships takes place. Strangely enough, in our small village, two other former residents have also represented Australia at Bisley, namely Colonel Owen Wynne and Dr John Holt, who was also an Olympian.

Bisley was purchased in December 1982 by Beverley and Graham Thompson, the current owners, as an undeveloped block of land, but it had been logged earlier by the Kirks.

Before planning the garden, Graham and Beverley went to Summer Schools at Oxford University to study courses on the English Garden style. Our aim was to create a garden with sweeping lawns and water features, and plantings of cold climate trees and shrubs. Many conifers were also planted representing various countries.

Of particular interest in the garden is the Alberta Spruce Allee. When viewed through the moon gate, this provides a wonderful photographic opportunity.

Two lakes feature fountains which provide a peaceful atmosphere and wonderful reflections of the surrounding trees, particularly in Autumn. The smaller lake is home to our precious coy carp and is surrounded by beautiful Japanese cherries (New





## IN MY GARDEN

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Red) which, in the Spring, spread their petals like confetti on the surface of the lake.

Many people have admired the beautiful sandstone sculpture created by Tom Coley, named Motherhood, which we commissioned as a tribute to our 10 grandchildren.

Bisley is a garden for all seasons and autumn is probably the most beautiful, when the maples, tulip trees, liquid ambers, cherries and nyssa sylvatica display their glorious colours.

Bisley has been described as a peaceful and tranquil garden where you are able to walk or sit on the many seats, forget the worries of the day and take in the beauty of nature.

- Beverley and Graham Thompson







# SNAPSHOTS AROUND THE AREA

## Photos taken by residents

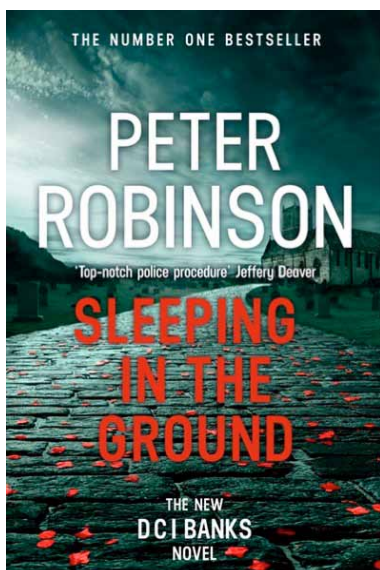
*Photos: Visitors enjoying Cathedral Reserve over the Easter weekend by Elizabeth Montano*



# SLEEPING IN THE GROUND

## by Peter Robinson

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**“There is a satisfying mix of red herrings, whiskey, technical detail about firearms, ambivalent feelings about profiling and steady police investigation. Robinson makes writing detective novels look easy, and the real pleasure in reading them reinforces his expertise.”**

Peter Robinson has written over twenty Inspector Banks novels and in all of them he has not had a single focus. There is always a careful balance between the slow and sometimes ambiguous development of his leading characters, dedicated to police work but sometimes messy and confused in their personal lives; and the resolution of intricate but entirely credible plots.

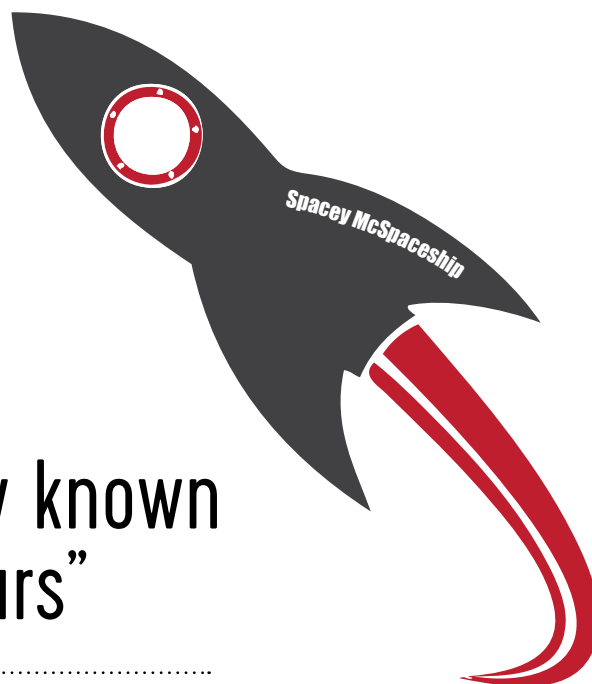
*Sleeping in the Ground* is his most recent work. It opens with two parallel events: there is a shocking multiple murder of a wedding party outside the church, and Alan Banks is returning from the funeral of his first real love, grieving for the present loss and for the death of that long ago romance. The novel carefully unfolds the associated ideas of the intersection of the past and the present, love with all its delights and regrets, the importance of family and a long held desire for retribution. Behind all these are the Yorkshire dales with their rugged topography and sometimes violent weather.

From the past comes a forensic pathologist who reignites an attraction by Banks, Annie Cabot, his second-in-command is coping with the unexpected arrival of her father and pushing her into revealing her unusual and rather bohemian childhood and there is a wide cast of retired and still working detectives. They investigate, upset and dismay the circle of suspects while all wait for the sniper to attack again.

There is a satisfying mix of red herrings, whiskey, technical detail about firearms, ambivalent feelings about profiling and steady police investigation. Banks continues to listen to an eclectic range of music, eat erratically and enjoy the rare solitary moments. Robinson plays fair with a few but vital clues but it will be a rare reader who is able to go beyond suspicion – a bit like most of the detectives themselves.

Robinson makes writing detective novels look easy, and the real pleasure in reading them reinforces his expertise.

- Alison Halliday



ATN\*

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

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Hey, Jess. Just a few lines this column. I am up to my spaceboots auditioning cast members and finishing the script for the pilot episode.

Here's a snippet:

“Captain to the Bridge. Captain to the Bridge. Code One. Code One.”

“Captain here. What is it, Murphy? I've told you not to interrupt me in the middle of my salsa lesson. Those turns and twists are tricky enough without worrying about an eight trillion dollar state of the art, last hope for Humankind spacecraft running into a little turbulence in the Gamma quadrant.”

“But, Captain. After seven months travelling through space without an encounter with any form of intelligent life, our long range sensors have detected a new life form. There's so much interference on the line that we're not sure what it is, but...”

“Captain here. Didn't I tell you not to install those sensors from the iBNB? Didn't I tell you they'd never deliver the promised performance levels?”

“We don't have time to debate the inadequacies of international space communications infrastructure

here, Captain. It looks like....a... (gulp).... space leech!”

“Well, what are you waiting for? Get the RAATS Technical Officer to my ready room. Sit Rep in five minutes. No, make that ten. I really need to nail that last Salsa turn.”

What do you think about that for an opening scene, Jess?

Did you see what we've done, Jess? In the tradition of all good Streaming Service Sci Fi drama, we've established the long term mission for our brave crew. Should be good for four seasons at least. We've introduced our strategically brilliant, yet rhythmically challenged, Captain. And, we've hinted at the major technical difficulties which will end up leading to near disaster in Episode 13 of the First Season.

And this is where our Dear Readers come in. Unless someone comes up with a name for our spaceship which will forever put it in the Sci Fi annals along with The Enterprise and the Millennium Falcon, we'll have to name it “Spacy McSpaceship”. And no-one wants that, do we?

- Elizabeth M

“Real SPACE Crime” Editor

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