

THE MOUNTS

Community newsletter of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine
2019-2020 Special Fire Edition Part Two

14 DECEMBER 2019



Briefing at Bilpin, Ted Griffin



Ted Griffin



David Howell



Ted Griffin



The following five images were taken by Lesley Wilson, Rosie Walsh and Alex Halliday from inside the Brigade's twin cab utility on their way along the five mile to Lithgow on a catering crew shopping expedition at 12.20pm.







David Howell



From Bells Line of Road at 3.40pm, Alex Halliday



View from the Fire Station at 4pm looking towards the Hall, Sarah Howell



Outside fire station 5pm, Sarah Howell



Surrounding fire station with foam as fire approached, 5.30pm, Ted Griffin



Deb Griffin with truck from Blaxland Ridge in background, 5.50pm

The following three images were taken by Lesley Wilson, Rosie Walsh and Alex Halliday from inside the Brigade's twin cab utility on their way back along the five mile from Lithgow at 7pm, escorted by a truck from Bell Brigade (the shopping was left in the cool room at Bell Station).





From the RFS: If fire retardant has landed on your roof and as a result of hosing your roof or rain run into your tank, do not drink the water. High levels of ammonia and sulphate in water will make it smell terrible and taste salty. It will not be suitable as drinking water for humans and animals.

Peter Raines, Community Email, 20 December



Rosie Walsh



The shot is a still taken from a short video shot on Saturday 14 December.

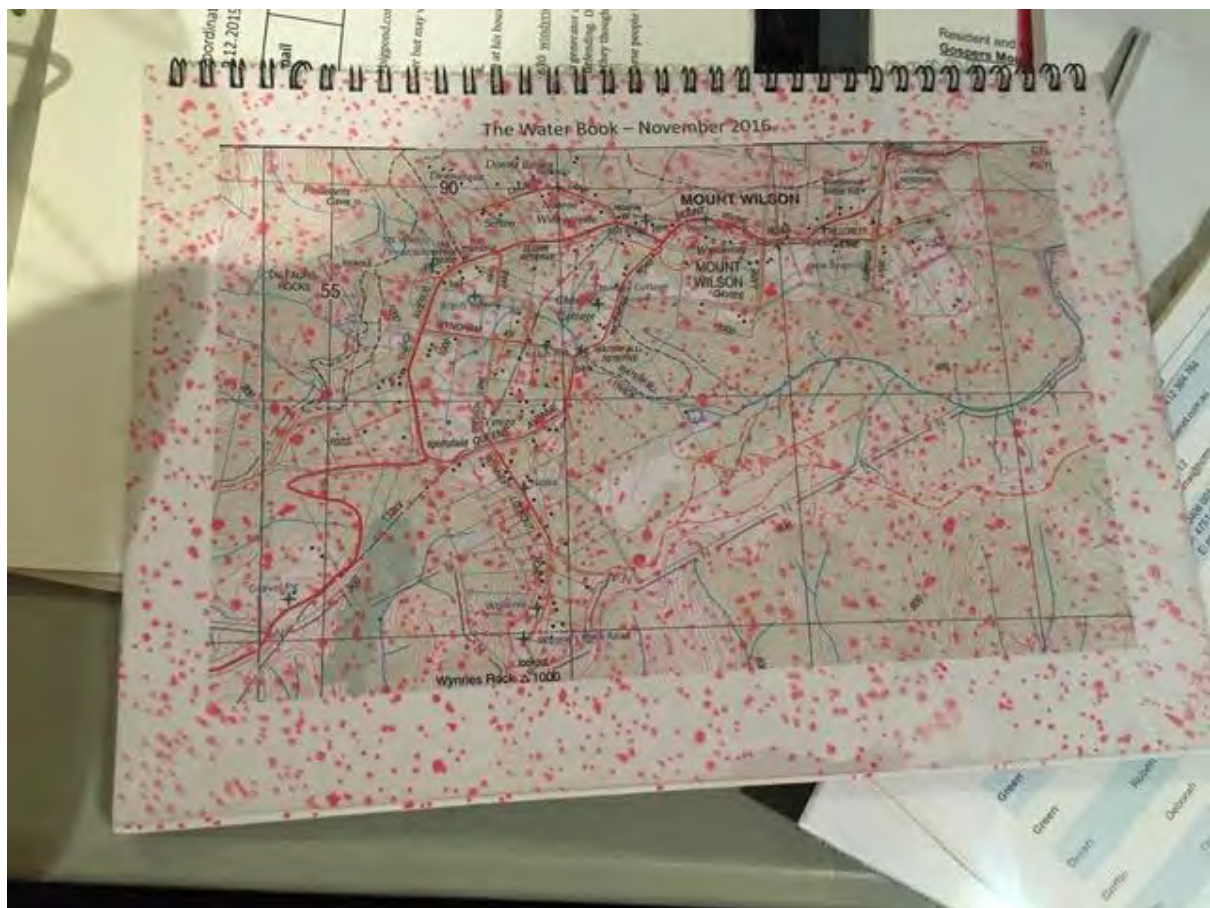
The context was that the fire had burnt through Killaloo and crossed over at the Mt Wilson sign. The smoke plume (visible in the edge of the shot) was approaching so we arranged our pumps and hoses in readiness for its arrival and were keeping a close eye on it.

Beth Raines turned up with Karl Whitehead just as the plane appeared and started its run, causing us all to scatter. Karl was further away and was quick enough to capture it.

Text from Joe Montano, image from Karl Whitehead.



Anne de Salis



Retardant on The Water Book, Nancy Fox

15 DECEMBER 2019



Karl Whitehead Coming off Nightshift, Ted Griffin



Peter Raines



Lesley Wilson



Screen Shot 7 News Sydney (above and all of following page)





On the Five Mile, Alex Halliday (above and following four images)







Chimney Cottage, Rosie Walsh



From Wynnes Rocks Lookout, Ted Griffin (above and following page) and David Howell (below)







Anne de Salis



Wynnes Rocks Road (above) and Coppins (below), both Peter Raines





Maple Lodge above, Deb Griffin with Kurrajong East crew below, Ted Griffin





Ted Griffin



Lesley Wilson



Graham Tribe



Ted Griffin

WHERE HAS THE POWER GONE?

It is always possible Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine will be cut off for a time should fire cross Mt Wilson Road. Electricity, the phone and internet have been lost for extended periods in the past. Should that happen are you prepared with drinking water, packaged and canned food including long-life milk, LPG for BBQ cooking without electricity, and fuel for generators?

Peter Raines, Community Email, 9 December



Alex Halliday (above and below)



At this stage there is no definite time on the restoration of electricity to the villages. If you have the Endeavour Energy App on your phone you may be able to access the work schedule, however an assessor is currently in the village checking the situation. He has assessed the damage from the five mile to the Cathedral of Ferns initially, and reports that poles and wires and their accessories will need to be replaced up to the zig zag. Once crews start, the work is expected to take 2 or 3 days to restore power to Mt Wilson. Then when fire activity clears, damage assessment will continue past that point.

Beth Raines, Community Email, 17 December



Katherine Montano



Peter Raines



New pole and box, old box abandoned on the ground, Alex Halliday



Generators, Peter Raines

The local Endeavour Energy area manager Graeme Browne advised the Mt Wilson Fire Station that 8 new concrete poles for electricity cables are planned to be installed today with cables installed tomorrow. There is a crew of 40 personnel on that work today. Electricity is hoped to be available by Friday 20 December at night and at the latest by Sunday 22 December.

Beth Raines, Community Email, 19 December

The Endeavour Energy website advises tonight power is expected to be returned to Mount Wilson by 4.00 pm on Monday, December 23, 2019. The site says the same thing for Mount Irvine, however, reports to the brigade suggest the damage to the electricity supply network there appears much more extensive than from the Bells Line of Road to Mt Wilson.

Beth Raines, Community Email, 21 December



Power restored - new pole with wires up, Steve Woolfenden

The 2019-2020 Special Fire Edition of The Mounts continues in Part Three.