



# The Mounts

## The Community Newsletter of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine



**December 2014**

### Welcome

It goes without saying that the recent deaths of Alan Gunn and Arthur Delbridge have deeply saddened the community. Alan and Arthur were, in many ways, polar opposites yet they were united by a common love of, and for, our villages. The community is indisputably richer for their efforts and wisdom over many years.

The recently released promotional video *Mt Wilson - Discover the Beauty* has now been completed and can be viewed from the community website. Follow the well-trodden advice of aged pop-show hosts and do yourself a favour by having a look. For mine, it is a stunningly beautiful and evocative celebration of all that is alluring in our area. The video was the brainchild of Peter Laving; he deserves lavish praise for his vision and execution of a complex project.

The Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade received a national accolade when, on 24th November at the Canberra War Memorial, Beth, Kathleen and Kim accepted on behalf of the community the 2014 National Resilient Australia award (jointly shared with the Australian Red Cross) for the Not for Profit Sector. Given the quality of other entrants, this was simply an extraordinary accomplishment and honour for both the brigade and the community.

And before you know it, 2014 has almost ended - well, where did that go? A year of sadness - we lost far too many good people, often in cruelly tragic circumstances - contrasting sharply with the same year of joy and celebration and rebirth and achievement.

Thank you to the many people who have contributed to this newsletter and to all those who have provided feedback or invaluable suggestions; this publication could not exist without your efforts. As they say in the prefaces of far weightier tomes than this, any errors, omissions or unintended offence were solely mine.

Wishing you all a very peaceful Christmas and a New Year of great happiness.

**Tim Gow** Tel. 0412 133 559

e-mail: [timsgow@gmail.com](mailto:timsgow@gmail.com)

### Community Calendar

<b>December</b>	<b>Sun 7th 9.00 am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed</b>	<b>Fri 12th 9.00—12.00 Bush Care— Wynne Reserve</b>	<b>Sun 14th 3.00 pm Mt Wilson Church Service</b>	<b>Fri 19th Bushwalking Group— Boronia Point &amp; Christmas Party</b>
<b>Sat 20th 7.30 pm Carol Service, St Georges Church</b>				
<b>January</b>	<b>Sun 4th 9.00 am RFS Training Mt Wilson Shed</b>	<b>Sun 11th 3.00 pm Mt Wilson Church Service</b>	<b>Fri 16th Bushwalking Group— Tessellated Pavements</b>	

## **MOUNT WILSON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE NEWS**

### **Christmas Party**

Once again, the Community Christmas Party of the Mount Wilson Progress Association, Mount Irvine Progress Association and the Rural Fire Service, held on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> November, was a most enjoyable evening. It was a pleasant, relaxed occasion for those who attended to chat and catch up with other community members. Many thanks to all who helped organise the event and to everyone who contributed such delicious food.

### **Brian Abrahams**

With Remembrance Day organisation once again completed flawlessly, Brian Abrahams last month retired from the Progress Association Committee after many years of service. Over the years, Brian made arrangements for both November 11<sup>th</sup> and Clean Up Australia Day events and always added suggestions and knowledgeable advice at committee meetings. He will be missed and was warmly acknowledged for his service at last month's committee meeting. Lorraine Barrett has kindly accepted an invitation to fill the casual vacancy following Brian's retirement.

### **History of the Mt Wilson, Mt Irvine and Bell Soldiers' Memorial**

Our great appreciation goes to Alison Halliday for the revision and reprinting of the booklet of the above title in time for Remembrance Day to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. This is an important document in the records of the history of our communities. It was delivered to all properties in Mount Irvine, Mount Wilson and Bell by Alison and Alex. If anyone did not receive one, additional copies are held by Moira Green.

### **Bowens Creek Road and Bridge**

Our thanks to Elizabeth Montano and her initiative in arranging a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December with our federal member, Louise Markus, the NSW minister for finance, and the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains state MPs and mayors. Representative of MWPA, MIPA and RFS will also attend. We hope that there will progress made towards the start of making the road and bridge usable once again.

### **Green Beeches in The Avenue**

During November, Blue Mountains City Council planted green beeches in The Avenue outside *Withycombe* and *Nooroo* to replace the elms that had been removed either by storm or council because of their dangerous condition. The care of these until they are established is being provided by David Gunn.

### **Council By-Election**

Following the resignation of Councillor Robert Stock, there was a by-election for the Ward 1 electorate. As a result, Sarah Shrubbs was elected, joining Michael Begg and Don McGregor as our councillors

### **New Members**

All residents and property owners are eligible to join the Association. Please contact me on 4756 2162 or [rm.green@bigpond](mailto:rm.green@bigpond) if you are not members and wish to become members. The more members we have the better we can represent the community.

**Moira Green**  
**Secretary**

### Mt Wilson – Discover the Beauty

Snow on the ground, broken branches down everywhere and shivering cold was the sort of day in October the new mini-film on Mt Wilson was due to be shot and had to be delayed. By the weekend the sky had cleared, sagging plants, flowers and trees had recovered their spring step and were showing off the best of their seasonal colours and garden excitement. Shooting was under way that has led to the making of *Mt Wilson – Discover the Beauty*, a two minute 40 second video clip of local gardens and a young family enjoying their visit.

The gardens and sites included Barry Byrne's *Bebeah*, the Thompson's *Bisley*, the Breens' *Breenhold*, Wendy Smart's Turkish Bath House at *Wynstay* along with shots of The Avenue outside the church and the Valder Bridge at Ferny Corner.

The family that gave their time for the many hours of shooting has local connections: Natasha Laving, her partner Philip Smith and their children Arabella and Max. The film was produced and directed by not-many-years out of film school graduate Emma Leslie with her small crew for the Mt Wilson Progress Association. It is now available on the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine website home page for all to see and will be linked to other sites to promote our area.

"The little film is an advertisement for Mt Wilson keeping us contemporary and relevant in a digital age where the internet has become the prime source for information about locations, tourism opportunities, real estate and special events like open gardens, festivals and exhibitions," said Progress Association President Richard Beattie. "This is our first step in response to the community questionnaire that was the basis of a submission to the Blue Mountains City Council last year. The community had said 'Yes' to these questions: Should we try to increase visitor numbers (73%), Would you like to see more B&Bs (73%), Should we promote garden visits (79%). Our aim is to target people who fit into the demographic that would have the resources and lifestyle outlook to be predisposed to living here and to be able to improve the ambience and facilities at Mt Wilson in order to provide a better experience for the community and visitors."



**Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Brigade News****State Mine Fire – one year on**

Psychologists tell us that the one year anniversary of a disaster can seriously affect those who experienced that disaster. I sincerely hope that those who were here during the State Mine Fire came through the anniversary with as much equanimity as possible. As a community, however, we have found much to celebrate on this anniversary.

The **Photography and Art Exhibition** was held on the anniversary weekend and, thanks to those who bought (food and art), who donated, who attended the Saturday night function and who visited the gardens, we raised a net profit of \$6,584.58. We give a huge thank you to the artists, the cooks, the helpers and the garden owners; and we give a special thank you to Bev Woodman for her exceptional organisation of this event.

At the Saturday night function, Bruce Kerridge entertained us with a talk on photography illustrated with wonderful photographs of the State Mine Fire. At this distance we are better able to appreciate the beauty of its destructive force. Personally, I have found the changing vegetation fascinating – starting with the charred and ashen landscape revealing features I did not know were there, the new lime green growth of fern fronds, then the fuzz of new growth up the eucalypts and now the flowering of the grass trees on the Five Mile. The Australian bush is truly extraordinary. Also on Saturday night we were able to admire our new trophy – the NSW Resilient Australia Award.

But there's more! Beth Raines, Kim Gow and I went down to Canberra to collect another award (another trophy). We did not know what we had won till we got there and it turns out that we had won the **National Resilient Australia Award** for the Not for Profit sector! The judges liked the fact that we had a plan, that our response to the State Mine Fire was a whole of community response and that afterwards we evaluated our performance and asked the community what they thought as well. A large number of the awards given went to projects that were based on collaboration. We can't prevent natural disasters happening but if we understand the risk, prepare for it, work together and help each other we have a much better chance of bouncing back or being able to adapt to changed circumstances. Congratulations everyone, again!

Details of the award and photos of the ceremony are at <https://www.emknowledge.gov.au/connect/resilient-australia-awards>

The Awards booklet can be downloaded from [www.em.gov.au/DisasterResilientAustralia/Documents/2014ResilientAustraliaAwardsBooklet.pdf](http://www.em.gov.au/DisasterResilientAustralia/Documents/2014ResilientAustraliaAwardsBooklet.pdf)



Beth, Kathleen and Kim being presented the award by Michael Keenan, Minister for Justice, at the Canberra War Memorial.



Mark Bancroft, Beth, David Howell & Richard Beattie with the award on home territory at the Christmas Party.

When you drive past the brigade station you, of course, always check the Fire Danger Meter, don't you? Then you will now notice some new signage. In our last Newsletter I mentioned that Mt Wilson had won a **Blue Mountains Flexible Community Grant** for signage and that has now arrived. In addition to some regularly changing messages on our Fire Danger Meter Sign we also received funds for some temporary signage for locations that become important during major incidents. We will put some up straight away so that you can familiarise yourselves with locations that you may not have been acquainted with but which we all should know in case of an emergency. Our thanks go to Richard Beattie and the Mt Wilson Progress Association for assistance with this grant.



### **Mt Irvine Community Protection Plan**

The draft of the Mt Irvine Community Protection Plan was revealed to the Mt Irvine community at a meeting held in the Mt Irvine Village Hall. Cameron Lowndes and John Norris from NSW RFS ran the session and explained how the plan, consisting of three maps, worked. Those who attended were asked to rate their risk of bushfire and, not surprisingly, they were very accurate in their assessment. Hopefully, the final Plan will be available early next year. Thanks to Ross and Maria Kelly, Brian Carrigan and Beth Raines for their work on this project.

### **Brigade Photo**

Di English, who ran the very successful photography garden tours on the weekend of the Photography and Art Exhibition, would like to take a photo of the brigade. We have never had our photo taken together and we think this is a great opportunity. The date will be 9 January 2015 which coincides with our Maintenance Night. We would like as many brigade members to attend as possible – wearing yellows, of course! We will confirm this event closer to the date.

**Kathleen Oakes**  
**Community Engagement Officer**

# Not-for-Profit Sector Joint Winner



## Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade

### Community Engagement Plan



© Tim Vollmer

The 2011 windstorm proved to be a decisive moment for the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade, who felt that communication with the community was insufficient and left people feeling alienated. Communication for an isolated, largely part time community is vital. A Community Engagement Plan was developed following the piloting of the Rural Fire Service's Community Protection Plan. It involved neighbours working together in survival planning and asked the community to assist in response to an emergency and recovery. A Response Plan and Recovery Plan have also been developed.

The Community Engagement Plan builds on and reflects the connectedness of its community. The Brigade runs workshops on planning for bushfire and provides further information on bushfire preparation via the community newsletter and community website, jointly funded by the Brigade, Mt Wilson Progress Association and the Historical Society. The website, [www.mtwilson.com.au](http://www.mtwilson.com.au), lists The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Bushfire Survival Planning (including a history of major fires compiled from interviews with longer term residents) and is a locally designed source of information specific to the local circumstances.

The 2013 State Mine Fire tested the plan with 63% of residents present contributing to the response. A week later there was a record attendance at the Brigade's Melbourne Cup lunch. After the fire, the Brigade held an 'After Action Review', all residents were surveyed for their opinions of the Brigade's efforts and participants in a 'Writing a Bushfire Survival Plan Workshop' held earlier in the year were also surveyed. Most replies gave the highest scores to the Brigade's performance but also identified individual weaknesses, such as survival plans being short on detail and not enough property preparation. Community resilience requires continuing engagement so these findings were incorporated in revised Community Engagement Plan actions and bushfire preparation workshop content. Eleven residents joined the brigade, the most ever in one intake.

Disaster can fracture relationships but also build new ones based on community pride and belonging.



2014 RESILIENT  
AUSTRALIA  
AWARDS

### Snow in October (again)

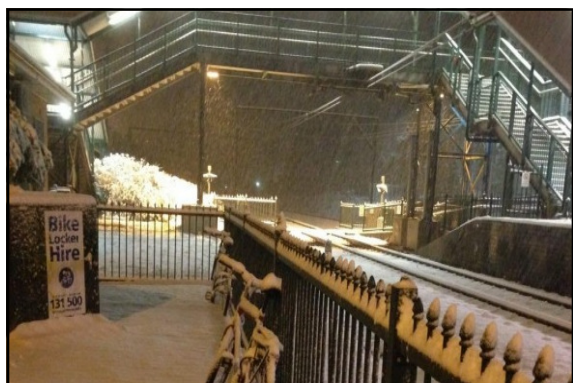
October has an unenviable reputation for being a roller-coaster month for the sharemarket. That month seems to be developing the same stature in meteorological terms, if events of the recent past are any guide.

Friday 12th October 2012 saw an extremely unseasonal snow fall of 125 mm.

Thursday 17th October 2013 was the start of State Mine Fire, an event that isolated the villages for eleven days and caused unprecedented damage .

Tuesday 14th October 2014 saw snow of up to 30 centimetres deep that closed both the Great Western Highway and the Bells Line of Road for almost 10 hours. As described by the *Sydney Morning Herald*, "The storm that tore through Sydney on Tuesday night was caused by a perfect combination of conditions that has the Bureau of Meteorology describing the intensity for some parts of the city as a once-in-a-century event".

Whilst the mountains were spared the wild gusts of wind, flash flooding and lightning strikes that pounded the coast, snow caused significant damage in Mt Wilson, especially to the older gardens. *Nooroo* in particular suffered major damage and the sound of chain saws and chippers could be heard for the next couple of weeks. Mature trees in full Spring bloom, and with full leaf cover, and a heavy fall of snow, are not good bedfellows.



Blackheath Railway Station  
Photo: Louise Rossiter



It's October in Lithgow!  
Photo: Laura Tinling



But at least the beer was cold in Hartley  
Photo: Kyle Johnson

Bowens Creek Road has had a long tradition of controversy and public debate. Henric Nicolas has kindly sent for consideration two historical items of interest on the aforementioned road.

**MT WILSON AND MT IRVINE ROADS SEVERANCE**

**(To the editor)**

Dear Sir, - In your esteemed journal of date 12th January, you give a concise account of Colo Shire's views upon the above severance. There is naturally a difference of opinion between the Colo Shire and the Blue Mountains Shire. Cr. Anderson, who evidently understands the fine art of damning with faint praise, is nevertheless far out of his depth and should swim out. He instances the fine qualities of the Mt Wilson people in putting their hands into their own pockets to make their own roads (more anon), as also the admirable qualities of a large property owner on Mt Wilson as being opposed very strongly to the severance. Of course, he is well known as being the man opposed to motors being brought on to our roads. Cr. Anderson possibly knows that little item, and also that Mt Irvine residents are not very delighted with any exterior traffic on their roads. Cr. Anderson also remarks about the Browns being indifferent about the severance, although three of the Brown family signed the petition of the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine people for the severance. Cr. Stuart, who is resigning, has kindly expressed his agreement with his supporters, and we thank him. Upon his recent visit to Mt Wilson, Cr. Anderson discovered a mare's nest, and in consequence has effectually put back the completion of the severance. But that cock won't fight. -  
Yours,  
A RATEPAYER.

**(Windsor & Richmond Gazette, Friday 26th January, 1917)**

**Mt Irvine - Bilpin**

**Deputation to Minister**

At the meeting of the Shire Council, President Wilson submitted a minute on the subject of an interview held with the Minister for Local Government on the question of a grant towards the construction of a road from Mt Irvine to Bilpin, via Bowen's (sic) Creek; also a grant for supply of metal on the Mt Wilson to Mt Irvine (sic),  
The report set forth :- "As regards the road to Bilpin, the Minister gave no encouragement for its immediate construction, but possible our deputation may have the effect of bringing the matter a little nearer finality (sic) at a later date. With regard to metal for the Mt Wilson to Mt Irvine road, the Minister considered the request a reasonable one, as the settlers of Mt Irvine - numbering about 50 - were at a great disadvantage in getting their produce to the nearest railway station; also that there is a modern sawmill turning out some of the finest variation of timber within this State. The deputation asked for £600. Although the Minister informed us we were hardly likely to get the full amount, still he promised us a substantial contribution."

**(Blue Mountains Echo, Friday 3rd October, 1924)**

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Yours,  
A RATEPAYER.



### 2015 Autumn Village Market

The Mount Wilson Progress Association is hosting the Autumn Village Market on April 18, 2015. Please save the date.

The focus will be local arts and crafts, local plants, garden tools and ornaments, bird houses and more. We are also hoping to have speakers during the day on garden design, landscape architecture, famous gardens and the like.

Planning has just begun with a committee from the MWPA. We will also be working with garden owners so many of them can be open on the day.

Any interested vendors, garden owners and speakers, should contact Nancy Fox on [nancysfox@gmail.com](mailto:nancysfox@gmail.com) or 0411 251 743.

### Jack Mathie Raines

On 11th November, at the remarkably civilised time of 12.02pm, Jack Mathie Raines made his entrance to the Mater Hospital and to this world, the second son of Peter and Linda.

Weighing in at 4.04 kilograms and 54 centimetres long, Jack is bouncingly healthy, and by all reports, being very quickly accepted by his brother Bill.

Jack's middle name is in honour of Flo and Mattie "Mathie" Davies, who lived in *Woodstock*, Davies Lane, when Peter was a young boy; they treated him as though he was their own son. It is fitting that their place in Mt Wilson history is further cemented through the next generation.

The entire community sends their heartiest congratulations to Peter, Linda and Bill, as well as to Libby and Keith, who are becoming old hands at this grand-parenting caper.



### The community remembers

Remembrance Day 2014, marking the centenary of the armistice that brought an end to the First World War, was celebrated in Mt Wilson at the War Memorial as light drizzle and mist made more sombre the service for the gathering of about 50 people.

Ron Green delivered the address and conducted the service. Robert Chesney's grandson, Chris Carey, played the Last Post and Reveille with faultless precision, Milba Kirk raised the Australian flag, and the choir's enthusiasm and voices were in no way diminished by the damp weather. In the Village Hall after the service Alison Halliday continued the tradition of presenting biographies of two of those soldiers whose names appear on the War Memorial: Herbert Kirk and Edward Gregson.

Among those witnessing the occasion were four generations of Kirks!

Alison also revised, arranged the printing and with Alex distributed a new edition of the *Mt Wilson War Memorial History* that was delivered to all households in Bell, Mt Irvine and Mt Wilson along with an invitation to attend the service.

### Richard Beattie



In the mist at the Remembrance Day service at the Mt Wilson War Memorial Richard Prentice pauses in respect of those who served and died in war after laying the wreath. Ron Green standing forward behind Richard delivered a moving address and conducted the service. The choir from left: Rosie Walsh and Moira Green (obscured), Marilyn Laving, Beverley Thompson, Libby Raines, Elly Gunn, Anne Piggott, Michael Sweeney (obscured) and Ted Griffin in the beret.

The full text of the 2014 Remembrance Day talks by Alison will be published in due course on [www.mtwilson.com.au](http://www.mtwilson.com.au) via the menu path **Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Historical Society > Miscellaneous Articles**

All Remembrance Day talks, commencing with the first by Arthur Delbridge in 2004, can be found here. They represent a very moving link to the villages' past and a labour of love by Arthur and Alison.

It is hoped that the complete set of talks will be published as a book in future.

### Remembrance Day 2014 Address

Once again we come together to remember the armistice of 96 years ago which ended the first world war between Germany and its allies on the one hand and Britain and its allies on the other. Once again we reflect on the Great War which commenced 100 years ago this year.

Once again we remember those who paid the terrible price of that war which took 8.5 million lives with another 21 million wounded.

Once again we remember the 60,000 Australians who never returned but gave their lives mostly in foreign lands.

Once again we remember our service men and women who are presently overseas in combat.

Once again we can reflect on the words "The war to end all wars" and, with the benefit of hindsight, recognise it for what it is - an empty cliché.

In the short time available I would like to reflect on the two great wars that have shattered the peace of the world in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. What is the root cause of war? One would think that with the League of Nations and, more recently, the United Nations and the countless millions spent on diplomacy, we should be able to avoid warfare and settle disputes in a peaceful manner.

The real problem is that the affairs of governments and countries rest in the hands of fallible mankind. As the apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans (Ch.3: v23) '...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'.

When a person or a group of people gains power without being restrained by a sense of morality or a vigilant society the worst can and has happened in those great wars. Wars don't start themselves; they are started by those with false philosophies, greed for power over peoples or their lands, anger at slights, real or imagined, hatred or any of the other of the base emotions which inflict humanity. It is no accident that all the great and free democracies, with all their faults, have their origin in the Judeo-Christian ethics set down in the old and new testaments of the Bible.

In closing, I know we all give tribute to the many thousands of Australian men and women who served in the Great War and, for that matter, those who served in the subsequent military campaigns our peoples have seen fit to participate in. We give thanks for those who returned, many of whom were damaged in mind, body or both. We give thanks for those who made the supreme sacrifice and whose bodies lay in battlefields all over the world.

It is fitting to close with another quote from the scriptures and I am sure that this quote will be used in many services all over the world just like this one. The quote comes from the Gospel according to the apostle John in chapter 15: v23 and is in these words: "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends". Jesus said this as part of a much larger quote which deserves our attention but, taken alone, the meaning is clear. Jesus knew all about sacrifice as he came to earth as a living sacrifice to atone for the sins of all those who place their trust in him. Thus he reconciled those who believe in him with our creator God.

When applying this quote to those who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War and subsequent ones I would suggest two levels of approach.

The first is the individual one. The accounts of wars have numerous examples where individuals have given their lives to save their mates.

The second is the corporate one. I am sure that there were many different motives behind the thousands who served overseas. Perhaps the most dominant one would be a sense of duty. Many Australians would not use that term but may have felt the need "to do their bit". However, one thing is sure and that is that those who served made great sacrifices to protect our country, their friends and loved ones and helped preserve the freedoms and institutions we have to-day. We have built our society and the freedoms we have on the foundations of those who served and died that we might live in peace and a free country.

**Ron Green**

**Vale Alan Gunn**

Tuesday the 14th of October is a date engraved in our minds forever.

Something doesn't seem right!

No phone calls from Alan to say, I'll be a bit late for dinner.

It is also getting dark, raining and cold.

To make a phone call for help still hounds me, and the phone calls to family members. Our local brigade is then put in a position where no one wants to be.

Something doesn't seem right!

Since that fateful night, we as a family have received so much support and love, just extraordinary.

Stewart, David, myself and family wish to express our sincere thanks to so many with much needed help, cards and letters.

To quote from one of many letters:

*"To me Alan always meant Mount Wilson*

*The two could not be segregated.*

*He was always there to help in the most practical way".*

**Elly, Stewart, David Gunn and Family**

I met Alan Gunn when I attended Mount Wilson School 1949. Soon I found we had a common form of outdoor activities.

I was staying in cottage belonging to *Sefton Hall* with my cousin Dawne and her parents Les and Isobel Le Messurier. Les was the caretaker and gardener for the Clarke family at *Sefton Hall*. From those school days Alan became a special and when I return to my home at Cardiff we kept in touch through our letters.

When I was 15 I spent part of the school holidays at *Cooiwoo* in Mount Wilson with the Gunn family which was a warm and wonderful experience. Alan was never short of big smiles and matching laughs. I found with special quality to be so natural with Alan.

I treasure my old black-and-white photos taken with Alan and his brothers on the back of the Blitz Wagon truck, another of a grinning Alan sitting on the back of a big spotted pig while it was eating a meal and one of me as his pupil learning how to milk the family cow.

Another fond memory is the time when Alan put me on horse (for the first time ever) and with some other teenage riders we descended the bush track to the Wollangambe River where a fire was lit, a billy-can produced, and yabbies were caught by hand and called for lunch.

In 1966 Alan and Elly attended my wedding to Pam at New Lambton and the following year we attended theirs at Lithgow. At this stage Alan was well established as a very skilful worker who could successfully apply to sell to almost any task for his livelihood.

In the years that followed I would return to Mount Wilson with others to camp, bushwalk, or float down the river. Each time my first stop was at *Cooinoo* to greet Alan's parents and to get an update on Alan who was nearly always working around either mountain. Sometimes Alan would arrive at the campground and we all had a chat and a cold drink.

In April 2014 when Pam and I arrived for a stay in Mount Wilson School cottage, we were delighted to discover that the man quietly working near the War Memorial was Alan. The following afternoon with a nice time talking and listening with Alan and Elly at their home. It was a delightful catch-up time. During my stroll with him I learned that in his younger days he won a major wood-chopping event and that he served on the volunteer bushfire brigade.

Alan's tragic death came as a shock to Pam and me, and there is little that we can say that could ease the grief being experienced by Elly and extended family.

Alan touched our lives in many ways and made a difference being who he was. In our hearts we will always remember him with fondness and respect. He was truly a man for the two mountains and their people.

**John Le Messurier**  
**Redhead, NSW.**

#### **Alan Gunn Memorial Service : Wednesday, 22 October 2014**

It is hard to believe we are here this afternoon to celebrate Alan Gunn's life.

His loss is a terrible tragedy for Elle, his whole family and the community of Mt Irvine and Mt Wilson.

Alan was part of the essence of the life of Mt Irvine and Mt Wilson.

As Elly said to me, "The community is what Alan lived for".

I met Alan shortly after Loretta and I bought our home in Mt Wilson 18 years ago. He and the boys were doing a hazard reduction burn below and alongside our common fence with Tom Kirk and his property *The Mill*.

Men emerging from the bush with fire lighting drip torches setting the place ablaze was a new and immediately worrying experience. But not for long. We quickly understood the invaluable service and safety barrier that was to prove effective for years. All done just by the three Gunns!

So I met Alan a few weeks after moving here and came to know an extraordinary icon of the area who did so much for the Mt Wilson Progress Association acting as the agent of the Blue Mountains City Council to maintain the appearance of the village.

Alan maintained and mowed street verges. After storms he cleared countless fallen trees and branches from the roads. He cleaned up mess left by picnickers and campers in Cathedral Reserve and other places. Week-in, week-out he put out the blue top council bins in the public areas. He constantly came up with good ideas for how to improve the area. He and Stewart and David did work for so many of us – fencing, earthmoving, tree clearing and much more.

There is stonework in the public areas Alan built, often with help: the Mount Wilson sign at the bottom of the Zig Zag, the beautiful little bridge in Slone Reserve, the flagging base for the flag pole at Founder's Corner, the seat in Wynne Reserve, the clearing then installation of the big rocks that mark the corner of Hillcrest Lane.

Then there was the tree planting: the liquidambars along the north side Mt Irvine Road up from Cathedral Reserve, the pears in The Avenue opposite *Breenhold*, the waratahs now looking magnificent on the embankment below *Wynstay* and Anniversary Walk, and many more.

In the autumn just past, Alan did the last of his major non-routine jobs for the Progress Association. He re-contoured the land behind the War Memorial, seeded, watered and restored the area as we planned for the service next month that will mark the centenary of the start of the First World War. As you pass and notice the beautiful emerald green of the grass there, think of Alan. It was all his work. It was done with the typical enthusiasm and dedication Alan gave to us and helped make the area the attractive and cohesive community that is Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine.

**Richard Beattie's eulogy on behalf of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine residents at Alan's memorial service**



**Above: Stewart, David and Alan at work on the *Bisley* gates, 2003.**

### **Vale Emeritus Professor Arthur Delbridge AO**

Arthur was born on 28th January 1921 in Sydney, the third of four children to Richard Delbridge and Evelyn Graham.

At the age of ten Arthur taught himself to play the harmonica, and subsequently made broadcast performances on the ABC's children's session. It appears that this made a sufficient impression on one listener to arrange for him to have piano lessons. At the same time he became a choir boy at St Albans Lindfield and went on to sing solos with the full choir. The church organist taught Arthur to play the organ and he continued this for many years.

Arthur attended Lindfield Public School then Chatswood Intermediate School, going on to North Sydney Boys High. While not really enjoying school, he achieved a good enough pass in the Leaving Certificate to get a teachers college scholarship which took him to an Arts Degree at Sydney University. Arthur graduated from his first degree in English (1938-41) with first class honours and the University medal.

Only two days after graduation in 1941 Arthur joined the Sydney University Regiment for basic training. On practically the first day in Ingleburn Camp the Japanese came into WW2, and Arthur was sent to officer training school, coming out as a Lieutenant. Arthur spent the rest of the war in the Second Medium Artillery Regiment.

On returning to Australia in 1946 Arthur took up his old Teacher's College scholarship and went to Sydney Teachers College to do a Dip. Ed., winning the Jones medal on graduation. In 1947 as an employee of the Department of Education he was sent to Cootamundra to teach high school where he remained for twelve months.

At the end of this year he applied for a lecturing job at Armidale Teachers College, and with this post in 1948 came a role as live-in warden of the male students' hostel, located in an old pub. Appointed that same year was a lecturer in music - Jean Smith with whom he rapidly found an enduring mutual interest in many things, including music, literature, language, the arts and travel. By the end of that year they married, and moved into a flat near the college.

In 1950 Arthur won the Lever-Hulme scholarship and an Imperial Relations Trust Fellowship which allowed he and his wife to travel to Britain where he spent two years at London University to complete a Master of Arts degree.

In 1952 they returned to Australia and to Armidale Teachers College, and in 1953 Arthur was appointed to lecture at Sydney Teachers College. They moved back to Sydney and found a flat in Coogee. In 1953 came the birth of their son Nicholas.

Arthur's job at Sydney Teachers College went on for five or more years but more and more he found himself teaching in the English Dept. at Sydney University. Eventually Arthur applied for a full time university post and in 1955 got one at the University of Technology (now the University of NSW). After two years he then moved back to Sydney University with a permanent full time appointment in the English Department.

At the University of Sydney, Arthur's interest in the linguistics of English strengthened with increasing research and teaching responsibilities in this area. These were principally in phonetics, phonology, lexicography, language variation, and stylistics, with a particular focus on Australian English. During the 1960s he undertook with colleague Professor Alex Mitchell a ground-breaking study of the Australian accent and its distribution among 7000 high school students in all states. It remains the largest research study of its kind, and its data outstanding in its quality, so that it could be digitised in the 1990s and is now incorporated in the Australian National Corpus. This research on the speech of Australian adolescents was remarkable also in relating socioeconomic data to the students' recordings, and identifying the differences between typical city and country

accents. It thus laid the foundations for sociolinguistic research in Australia.

1965 saw Arthur's first period of academic leave, with time spent working in a number of centres including the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, London University, and the University of Chicago.

Following their return to Australia, in 1966 Arthur was appointed as the foundation Professor of English (language and linguistics) at the newly established Macquarie University, where he developed major courses of study in English linguistics. He appointed new staff to teach in areas such as phonetics, English grammar and discourse, historical linguistics, and Australian field linguistics (in Aboriginal languages). He added audiology and speech pathology as postgraduate offerings, and established the Speech and Language Research Centre, later the Speech, Hearing and Language Research Centre, which has remained the focus of innovative speech technology, and research on Australian phonetics and phonology.

Before joining Macquarie, Arthur's name had become well known in the context of many aspects of language study. He was a regular and popular broadcaster for the ABC on points of usage. His work in the training of speech therapists was warmly appreciated. Arthur was instrumental in the foundation of the Phonetics Laboratory at the University of Sydney and this can be said to mark the beginning of experimental phonetics in this country, and over the next three decades it was actively used by both researchers and students.

While at Macquarie, in 1979, Arthur founded the Macquarie Baroque Players who performed more than four concerts annually at the university, with Arthur as harpsichordist and director. These recitals were recorded and broadcast over 2MBS.

Around 1967 Arthur and Jean bought a block of land at Mt Wilson and built a house where many happy weekends and holidays were spent by the family and many of their friends.

In 1974 Arthur and Jean again travelled to France and England with Arthur lecturing on Phonetics in Cambridge for the year.

In 1981 the first ever dictionary of Australian English was published - the Macquarie Dictionary with Arthur as the instigator of the project and editor-in-chief.

The publication of the dictionary was widely applauded and in 1987 Arthur was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO). In 1988 Macquarie University honoured Arthur with an honorary Doctor of Letters (honoris causa).

Arthur always prized tolerance and harmonious personal relationships, having a personal temperament which was always quietly good-humoured, and he studiously avoided needless confrontations. The result at Macquarie was a linguistics group in which personal rivalries were notably absent, and were marked by a happy working atmosphere which was very much a reflection of his personal style. Perhaps best of all, he treated his staff as personal friends. Arthur and Jean were very hospitable, and frequently entertained at their Wahroonga home and beautiful garden.

Arthur's granddaughter Jessica was born in 1986 to son Nick and his partner Ann, and grandson Thomas followed in 1990. Arthur was extremely fond of his grandchildren.

In 1995 while staying at Mt Wilson Jean died suddenly and tragically from a suspected heart attack. In the same year, Arthur followed through with a planned show and sale of Jean's paintings as a fund-raiser for the newly emerging Mt Wilson Historical Society and donated the full proceeds of \$9,000 to get the Society established. Florence Smart helped Arthur with the exhibition and they later became close friends.



In 2002 they sold the Wahroonga house and bought a flat in Lindfield, but continued to spend a lot of their time at Mt Wilson, happily involved with the local community. Arthur became President and an Honorary Life Member of the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society. They also travelled widely in Europe and North America with three trips to Canada where Florence had previously spent almost thirty years of her working life.

In 2010 Arthur was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and gradually became unable to live independently without Florence's continuing care. In August 2013 following a worsening of the condition, he was admitted to full time residential care in Leighton Lodge at North Turramurra. After a further deterioration in health he passed away in the early hours of 3rd October 2014 with Florence at his bedside.

**Edited text of the celebration of Arthur's life given by his nephew, Reverend Stephen Delbridge, at Laura Memorial Gardens, 9th October 2014**



**What can be happier than a life made beautiful with friendship and love and completed  
in honour**

**Conan Doyle**

### RURAL SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

The recent fatality of Alan Gunn was most distressing and that it followed so closely to another accident, that of Sebastian St Vincent-Welch, only compounds the workplace safety issue that is unfortunately often neglected in rural situations.

Thirteen of the 50 reported farm deaths (26%) were children aged 14 years and under.

- Quad bike related deaths (10) were reported most frequently, followed by tractor incidents (9).
- There were an additional seven non-farm quad bike fatalities reported in print media for this period, plus a further case where the location could not be determined. The total number of on- and off-farm deaths involving quad bikes was 18. There were an additional 87 non-fatal on-farm injury events reported in the Australian print media for 2012.
- Twelve of the 87 injured persons (14%) were children aged 14 years and under.
- Quad bike related injury (38) was most frequently reported, followed by tractor (7) and cattle (7) related incidents.

There were also 29 quad bike related injuries that occurred off-farm, with a further 11 events where the location of the incident could not be determined.

Over the eight years from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2011, 356 workers died while working on a farming property. This is 17% of all worker fatalities. Nearly one-third of the worker fatalities on farms were workers aged 65 years or over.

Incidents involving vehicles accounted for 71% of fatalities on farms. Tractors were involved in 93 (26%) farm deaths, aircraft were involved in 48 (13%), light vehicles were involved in 28 (8%) and quad bikes were involved in 27 (8%). Of the incidents that did not involve a vehicle the most common involved being hit or bitten by an animal (18) and falling from a horse (11). There were also 9 fatal shootings while workers were attempting to remove vermin from around properties or destroying farm animals.

Some of you may be aware that in the business community the issue of workplace safety is of prime importance. In industrial business lost time injury rates and associated measures are always the first matters a Company's board will consider, indeed the focus on the safety of employees and proactive harm prevention is paramount.

Unfortunately accidents do occur and will always happen despite the best intentions and efforts of those involved, nevertheless through proper practice we can all help to mitigate the risk.

By offering advice and trying to ensure good practice we can all help to ensure that the people we work with and employ go home to their families at night.

The need to be better educated as regards the safety of the people engaged to perform work is just as important in rural situations as in factories. That many people are engaged as 'contractors' may give the feeling that the need to be concerned about worker safety is at an end. This is not the case.

Safe work practices start with matters as simple as walking down stairs: hold the rail; Wear eye protection when chain sawing; use ear protection in noisy situations.

Consider the need to work safely and consider what you are doing before you do it? Is it safe to walk next to a moving vehicle?

Most people believe they do work safely; however the number of accidents would belie this. Workers often resent being told to wear gloves, safety boots and proper clothing, especially when it is hot.

Workers Compensation Insurance is cheap, I pay \$175 per annum (CGU); at least the family of an injured person will be taken care of.

But ensuring proper practice is more important.

All equipment comes with instruction manuals giving safety advice which should be followed (It is usually ignored).

**The safety of the people we engage to mow, cut, dig etc. is all of our responsibility.**

A Farm Safety Starter Guide can be located at the link below:

[http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Documents/farm\\_safety\\_starter\\_guide\\_1349.pdf](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Documents/farm_safety_starter_guide_1349.pdf)

**Julian Ludowici**

**For the spare room  
Pick up if you can use it**  
Fujitsu 42" 1070 mm TV  
With Bose speakers & stands  
New set top box  
Mounting bracket, Manuals  
2004 model needs amp for sound  
Richard Beattie 4757 2070  
[landrbeattie@bigpond.com](mailto:landrbeattie@bigpond.com)

### **Blue Mountains City Council First Ward By-Election Result**

Following the recent by-election held on Saturday 15th November, Sarah Shrubbs (ALP) was elected as the third councillor to represent First Ward on the BMCC.

The First Ward covers the villages of Mount Tomah, Mount Wilson, Mount Irvine, Bell, and the area from Mount Victoria through to Leura.

Across the Ward, 31.5% voted ALP, 27.9% Greens, 21.3% Liberal, 12.6% for one Independent, 6.8% for a second independent with 4.7% voting informal.

For the record, 58 people voted at the Mt Wilson Hall: 9 voted Liberal, 10 voted ALP, 19 voted Greens, 15 voted for one independent, 2 for the second Independent and there were 3 informal votes.

Full details of the result can be found on the Electoral Commission NSW website.

The Mounts congratulates Ms Shrubbs on her election and we look forward to working with her in the near future.

### Ask the Neighbours

Simple Pleasures, Tim. It's the time of year for winding down, deep contemplation and smelling the roses. Literally for some. Alas, not for us. Garden invaders who EAT the tender little rose leaves as they delicately unfold; the promise of flowers to come etched in every little bud; their potential shattered by those unfeeling Brutes\* as they rip them from the life giving earth.... Errrr. Sorry Tim. What was I saying? Oh yes – Simple Pleasures.

That's the theme for this edition's column. Like the thrill of pulling the first crop of garlic (don't you just love gardener geek talk, Tim). What's that, Tim? You're asking me: what's the difference between the Boss and me pulling garlic and those brutes pulling out roses? Well, there are lots of differences.

Firstly, we pull the garlic so we can eat it. Well, yes Tim. I do understand that the Brutes are also eating what they dig up. But, we're different I tell you. We're also tidying up the old leaves and returning them to nature as compost. What? They're tidying up too? Pruning and rearranging the garden according to their sense of aesthetics? Ploughing the spent leaves back into the earth. Bah Humbug. Just whose side are you on, Tim?

OK then, - here's another of life's Simple Pleasures. The RFS going through its paces at Maintenance Night or Training on a Sunday morning. Our Yellows glinting through the bush as we clear a fire trail of ground fuel. Or, the Cat 1 emitting its soulful cry as it races to an emergency. Another interruption, Tim? You think what? That, there are obvious similarities between us and the Brutes with their colourful Personal Protective Equipment, their careful clearing of the ground of all recently planted hedging and their cacophony of squawks in the night? Hummph.

Well then, what about those ducks, Tim? Watching them outsmart our dogs is most definitely one of life's Simple Pleasures. Each year, the ducks turn the dam in our paddock into a nursery. They raise their lovely babies there. And each year, we watch our dogs carefully stockpile oranges on the house side of the fence hoping for a way to get into the paddock. While we know the dogs are no match for the ducks, we carefully keep the gates closed to stop the dogs getting anywhere near them. And, when the chicks have learnt to fly, they're gone and the fence gate is left open. The dogs can roam the paddock again, sniffing out those tempting duck aromas whilst eating their oranges sans duck. It's so much fun to see the natives outsmart the newcomers, isn't it, Tim? What did you say; – it's just like the native Brutes and us the outsiders?

Well, I suppose it is. Tim, you've made me see the light. To quote your namesake, young Tiny Tim: "God bless us, every one!" - even the Brutes!

### Elizabeth Montano

\* In the interests of avoiding further vexatious litigation, no particular species have been named in this column. We know who they are.

### ABC's On-line news reporting of the anniversary of the Blue Mountains bushfires

The ABC ran an on-line article on 17th October that publicised the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Photography and Art Exhibition, and its role in documenting, at least in part, both the effects of the 2013 bushfire and the subsequent regeneration of the natural environment.

Two contributors to the exhibition, photographer Ian English and artist Gabrielle Jones, were interviewed by reporter Nic MacBean.

The full article can be found at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-10-17/blue-mountains-bushfire-anniversary-art-exhibition-mount-wilson/5818688>

The time lapse sequence of Ian's photos of Scrivener's Pass is particularly fascinating.

**Suggestions, comments or contributions warmly welcomed!**