

# Mount Stuart News

December 2012

Postal Address: PO Box 116, North Hobart 7002

E-mail: [secretary@mountstuarttas.org.au](mailto:secretary@mountstuarttas.org.au)  
Editors: Marilyn Pinkard Ph 6228 5743  
Malcolm Grant Ph 6234 6672

Web [www.mountstuarttas.org.au](http://www.mountstuarttas.org.au)  
Jennifer Dunbabin Ph 6231 6626  
Lynden Howells Ph 6234 1024

## MERRY CHRISTMAS



It's nearly here again! We wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and all the best for the holiday season and for 2013. A special welcome to all new residents in Mount Stuart and we hope you enjoy your time here. As well, a special thankyou to all those people who deliver the newsletter for us.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

A social function was organised recently at the Mount Stuart Hall to thank Lois Allison for the many years she has served as booking officer and caretaker at the hall. It was attended by local residents and others who have been hall users over many years as well as by committee members. Lois was thanked by the president of the Mount Stuart Community Service Association,



Lynden Howells, who awarded her Life Membership of the Association. Lois is the second life member of the Association, the first being Keith White. The Progress Association has seven life members: G.W. Richardson, who donated the land for the hall and kindergarten, F.R. Loughlin, E.J. Donnellan, L.R. Wall, M.A. Jensen, K.C. White and D.H. Metcalfe.

***This newsletter has been printed by the office of the Hon. Rob Valentine MLC as a community service. Our thanks to Rob for organising this.***

## CHECK IT OUT!

Have you visited the community and cultural centre of Mount Stuart yet? Perhaps you pass it each day without realising that, at the corner of Raymont Terrace and Byard Street, there

are several different sized rooms and – yes – these beautiful rooms are available to hire for all sorts of events. In the last month there have been conferences, exhibitions, an evening of tango dancing with two international stars, a famous puppet theatre has carried out its rehearsals there and, on a more intimate level, some family celebrations. And the list continues...

Why don't you think about coming to see us? We are always ready to help you and to advise you. The Mount Stuart Hall is our second home.

For more information contact Aviva on 0478 983 624 or 6278 8526 or send an email to [hallbookings@mountstuart.org.au](mailto:hallbookings@mountstuart.org.au)

## MOUNT STUART GROWERS:



– meet once a month to talk about gardening in Mount Stuart, community, sustainability and to share produce, seeds and tips!

To find out more, just go to: <http://www.mountstuartgrowers.org/> or call Tamsin on 0438 427 456.

*I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, fruitful and safe New Year and look forward to continuing to work with you in my new role as the Member for Hobart in the Legislative Council.*



**Rob Valentine MLC**  
**Independent Member for Hobart**



*A safe and happy Christmas season and  
thank you for all your support in 2012.*

*Kindest regards*

*Alderman Eva Ruzicka and family*

Phone: **6239 1317** or **0407 391 317**

Fax: **6239 1738**

E-mail: [eva@ruzicka.id.au](mailto:eva@ruzicka.id.au)

Authorised by E. Ruzicka,  
699 Huon Rd. Fern Tree



### **A LOCAL LEGEND**

Reg McDougall is looking forward to the Christmas season. It will be his 53<sup>rd</sup> on Mount Stuart, and one he enjoys sharing with the expanding generations of McDougall

descendants, and his neighbours in the eight houses of Paraclete Avenue and two on the corner of Mount Stuart Road. Each year the neighbours alternate for a street Christmas party and this year, on December 16, it is Reg's turn. "I'd better make the most of it because I don't think I'll see the next one," said 87-year-old Reg. He'll be 94 when his turn comes around again.



The gathering, he explains, epitomises the spirit of the Mount Stuart community he has come to know, where neighbours have become good friends. Among them are his daughter Janne and his granddaughter Anna, who now lives elsewhere on Mount Stuart. Paracletians they are called – a term generated by a former resident of the street, Fred Frampton. And if they have as many stories to tell as Reg, it will be quite a gathering.

His own story carries with it the spirit of the bush, of the sea, of travelling in Tasmania and to his beloved Scotland, freemasonry, fishing and business.

Logging, sawmilling, saws and sharpening were already in the blood when Reg was born at Taranna in 1925. The first McDougall to arrive in Tasmania was William Parker McDougall, who landed as a seaman in the

1840s. There were successful family sawmills down on the Peninsula, and at Catamaran, and for five years a three-masted schooner built by Wilson Bros, the *Annie McDougall*, carted timber to

Adelaide and around the Tasmanian coast until she hit a reef near Hell's Gates at the entrance to Macquarie Harbour in 1900 and could not be saved, although her crew



were. In the 1930s his father, Sydney McDougall, was a regular around the streets of Hobart, at a time when saw-sharpening was a trade in demand; sharpening, setting and grinding for many businesses, particularly with butchers and their knives and saws.

When war broke out in 1939, Reg was just 14 and too young to go to war, unlike his three older brothers who all joined up and went away. Reg's chance to make a contribution came in the merchant navy, which he joined in 1942 as a fireman, working his way up to be a greaser on vessels sailing between Canada and the UK, and surviving when the merchant navy had a high attrition rate from German U-boats. Returning to Tasmania, he continued at sea on vessels trading in and out of Hobart, mainly the *Coranui* and the *Lanena*, working as a fireman and serving as the union rep. He 'retired' from the sea in 1947, and joined the State Government; initially as a driver-clerk on the mobile x-ray

unit when there was a campaign to detect tuberculosis. That took him all around the state, to most centres and workplaces and schools, before he transferred to the Premier's Department to become a chauffeur, driving Fords and Chevrolets, premiers and visiting dignitaries.

Reg's working life headed in another direction when he opened a saw-sharpening business at 115 Harrington St, not far from where his brother had a similar business in Brisbane St. He'd been to Melbourne to learn the saw doctoring business and was ready for work. Logging and forestry were important industries and wood fires still heated Hobart homes. There was no shortage of work, and eventually he bought into his brother's Brisbane St business where the name McDougall remains opposite Tilford Motors, now run by his grandson Leith, the third generation of McDougalls to do so after Reg's son, Cam, and the fourth in the saw doctoring business after Syd.

"I'm still on the books there but mostly these days as the letter boy and I go in two to three days a week," an indication of an active man who doesn't like sitting still, although a fall in the backyard and a resulting broken leg four years ago, and more recently a bite from a white-tail spider were setbacks.



Naturally, in fifty-three years on Mount Stuart there have been many changes in people, and places. Improvements to roads and guttering have had a positive effect on the feel of the suburb, but changes to the bus routes have had an impact on him and other older residents used to doing business in North Hobart, and now required to walk down and up from the top of Newdegate St.

Apart from his merchant marine service, travel has figured prominently throughout his life, and there have been 15 journeys to England and Scotland, and trips to the Isle of Lewis have always been highlights. A disappointment, despite a number of attempts, has been his inability to reach the island of Saint Kilda, evacuated in the 1930s.

But back to the Paracletians. One recent example of the strong bonds in the street was a fund-raising venture by the residents to help send a local child to the United States for a special medical operation. With stalls on the 'island' in Paraclete Avenue and donations, they raised \$6,000; a very creditable effort that re-affirmed the street spirit.

There's another reason, a very special reason, Reg is looking forward to the Christmas season, apart from sharing it with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He and his wife Yvonne will have been married 65 years on January 3!

*Our thanks to Craig Macaulay for interviewing Reg and writing this article.*

### **Christmas Trees**

**Lenah Valley Volunteer Fire Brigade will be selling Christmas Trees on Sat 8<sup>th</sup>, Sun 9<sup>th</sup>, Sat 15<sup>th</sup> and Sun 16<sup>th</sup> December from 9am to 5pm from the station in Kalang Avenue, Lenah Valley (next to the Roy Fagan Centre). Funds raised go towards buying equipment for the brigade**

#### **COMMUNITY FUTURE**

At recent meetings we have discussed ways to make the Progress Association more relevant to the whole community. Malcolm Grant's letter in the September newsletter elicited responses, both negative and affirmative. How do we involve more people in a very time-poor world? There were some

suggestions for community events: a walking tour of Mount Stuart, pointing out its historical sites, a progressive dinner, an Open Day at the hall, an art show. Do we need a Facebook site? Your views would be very much appreciated.



**Mount Stuart Presbyterian Church invites the community to a celebration of Christmas in story and song at the Mount Stuart Primary School on Sunday December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4.00 pm.**

#### **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

*In response to the letter to the editor from Mr. Malcolm Grant (Mount Stuart News Sept. 2012), I write as one of the several hundred residents of Mount. Stuart who his letter refers to as having appalling apathy for not attending the recent meeting regarding wood heater emissions, and not attending progress association meetings, working on bushcare groups or serving on progress association committees.*

*There are many Mount Stuart residents who keep themselves fully informed on issues such as emission reductions. There are also many community members who make significant contributions to the community and devote their time on a voluntary basis as charity workers, sports coaches and the like. They do not seek to denigrate and offend the large percentage of residents that don't participate in their particular work and would take offence at being referred to as appallingly apathetic.*

*While we all benefit from and acknowledge the work done by the Progress Association, I feel that Mr Grant's critical comments do little to foster community spirit. If he is seeking to attract new members to the Mount Stuart Progress Association then I would regard his remarks as, at the best, unhelpful.*

**Brian Bennett, Mount Stuart**

**Scott Bacon MP**

Address: 353 Main Road Glenorchy  
Ph: 6233 8874

Email: [scott.bacon@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:scott.bacon@parliament.tas.gov.au)

**"Here to Help."**





## The Art Society of Tasmania What's On

**Dec:** *"Squared" artworks – That's right!  
Everything's square.*

*Gallery closed Xmas Eve, reopens Jan 5<sup>th</sup>*

**Jan:** *"Workshopped" opens Jan 19<sup>th</sup>*

*Unframed & framed works produced  
in our amazing workshops.*

*11am- trade table, sausage sizzle*

**Feb:** *Life Members including Max Angus,  
Patricia Giles, Terry Gough.*

*"Waterways": our exhibition*

*at the Wooden Boat Festival 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>*

### LADY FRANKLIN GALLERY

**Open 11am - 4pm Saturdays & Sundays**

**268 Lenah Valley Rd [www.artstas.com.au](http://www.artstas.com.au)**

#### MORE ART SOCIETY NEWS

The Art Society wrote to Hobart City Council inviting them to use our involvement in the Heritage Festival 2013 as a platform for continuing the community interest in Ancanthe Park and Lady Franklin Gallery. We were pleased to receive a letter advising that a proposal to develop a Management Plan for Ancanthe Park is likely, and community consultations should follow.

*Maggie Nettleship, Secretary*

#### FLASHING ADVERTISING SIGN

*Mount Stuart residents with a view facing east will be very aware of the flashing advertising sign at the corner of Elizabeth and Federal Streets. Many individuals have approached the Hobart City Council and the owners of the sign to try to have it at least turned off at night, but so far without success. In fact in recent times the sign has been upgraded and is now even brighter than it was originally, thereby causing further distress to residents.*

*The Progress Association has decided to take up this issue with the authorities. It seems extraordinary that such visual pollution of a residential area should be permitted and we plan to explore available options.*

*It would be helpful in making our case to get a fuller understanding of local concerns and the history of attempts by individuals to deal*



*with the issue. We would appreciate feedback, preferably by email to*

*[secretary@mountstuarttas.org.au](mailto:secretary@mountstuarttas.org.au) or by post to Mount Stuart Progress Association Inc., PO Box 116, North Hobart, Tasmania 7002.*

**Bill Godfrey, Mount Stuart**

#### MOUNT STUART SCOUT GROUP NEWS

Mount Stuart Scout Group would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mount Stuart community and the Community Service Association for their support throughout the year. We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you again in 2013!

Our latest news is now available on the web:

[www.mtstuartscouts.org](http://www.mtstuartscouts.org)

*Suze Schulz Group Leader*

#### HALL UPGRADE

An HCC architect attended a recent meeting to report on progress for upgrading toilet facilities, including the installation of a toilet for the disabled and a unisex toilet downstairs. Plans have been approved and the present plan is to begin work in February and to have it completed by the end of June. Disabled access and car parking will also be provided, so this is quite significant work and will make the facility even more attractive.

#### MOUNT STUART NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CRIME REPORT

**1<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012**

**Mount Stuart Road:** On 11/11/12 a securely locked vehicle was stolen. It was recovered, burnt out in New Town.

**(455085)**

**Raymont Terrace:** On 16/11/2012 a locked vehicle was stolen and recovered in New Town. This is still under investigation.

**(455305)**

**Mount Stuart Road:** On 19/11/2012 the headlight protector on a car, parked in the driveway, was smashed. **(455565)**

**Police phone numbers: Non urgent 131444**

**Crime Stoppers 1 800 333 000**

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