

Mount Stuart News

DECEMBER 2006

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GREETINGS

We extend a special welcome to all new residents of Hobart's premier suburb and hope you enjoy your time in Mount Stuart.



We wish all our readers, wherever you are, a safe and enjoyable time over the Christmas- New Year holiday period.

FIONA ALLAN: 1952-1978

We frequently hear people talking about the Fiona Allan walking track on Knocklofty, but who was Fiona Allan?

Fiona Allan (Fi) was a wonderfully level-headed, direct and adventurous young girl who was a natural leader. Her mother, Margaret, was an ardent botanist who, besides collecting specimens of most of the plants on Knocklofty, helped Dr. Winifred Curtis gather many of the plants for Dr Curtis's book on Tasmania's native plants. Fiona loved the outdoors.

An outstanding student who attended Mount Stuart Primary School, Fiona put herself wholeheartedly into whatever she undertook and was one of the youngest to complete her Masters in Psychology at the University of Tasmania. She then took a year off and went overseas before starting her Doctorate. On her way home to Tasmania in 1978, she and a friend were on a walking trip in Nepal where she developed mountain sickness and disappeared. Despite extensive searches and enquiries, her fate remains unknown.

As an eight year old, Fiona joined Mount Stuart Brownie Pack and quickly became a leader of her group of Brownies. She moved through Guides and Rangers, gaining Queen's Guide award and the highest possible award as a Ranger Guide. She gained the highest

award possible, one of very few ever to complete the three specialised Ranger tests.

Fi helped run the Guide Company for a time and led the Mount Stuart Senior Guides for a year contributing in many ways to the development of the girls in her Unit.

Fiona's loss was felt very deeply by all who had known her, made worse by the uncertainty of her fate.



WHY WAS THE TRACK NAMED AFTER FIONA?

As the leader of her Ranger Guide Unit, Fiona had approached the Hobart City Council in 1968 and requested a walking track be built up Mount Knocklofty, to connect with other tracks on Mount Wellington. Alderman Tony Haigh was impressed and supervised "Work Order" men, building the zigzag track up the face of the Mount Stuart end of Knocklofty. However, a gorse invasion made the track inaccessible.

The Mount Stuart Guides, under the leadership of Linley Grant, had begun to clear the track of gorse during 1976-77 when a fire went through and burnt the whole area. Hobart City Council granted permission to put in steps and re-plant the walkway with native plants to keep the small birds in the area and to have it dedicated and named after Fiona. This occurred in 1978. The guides went on for 20 years to keep the track open, to replant it after another fire and to maintain the Walkway until the Guide Unit closed in 2004.

In 1988 a community working bee established the 98 Bicentennial steps up from the turning circle above the Lookout, to ease the pressure on the Fiona Allan Walkway and keep it as a pleasant, bushwalking track for all ages. Since then the HCC has maintained it.



DOUG PARKINSON MLC

Leader of the Government
Labour Member for Wellington
Member of State Cabinet



**Wishes fellow Mt Stuart Residents
A Merry Christmas and a Happy New
Year**

For assistance phone: 6233 3069

Email: doug.parkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au

Web: www.dougparkinson.net

Your Local Member

In the Parliament of Tasmania



FIRE PREVENTION

We have already seen the seriousness of the fire situation in Hobart and summer is just beginning. Hobart City Council has begun inspecting the area for potential fire hazards and urges everyone to minimise bushfire risks.

If you require any advice on the removal of fire hazards, do not hesitate to contact Bushland Fire Officer, Stephen Bresnehan, on 6238 2139.

FREE BUSHFIRE EDUCATION DVD

The Tasmania Fire Service has distributed a free DVD, *Bushfire – Prepare to Survive*, to home owners throughout the State whose properties are at risk from bushfire.

Chief Officer John Gledhill said the DVD featured important information about how to prepare your home to survive a bushfire, how bushfires behave and advice on whether to stay and defend your property or relocate.

He said the decision to stay and defend a property or to relocate to a safe location was for the property owner to make but they encourage those who are unwell, or unsure of their capacity to cope in the bushfire, to leave.

“If you are caring for elderly people, children or other dependents, you should consider re-locating them to safety, even if you plan to stay yourself.”

Leaving early means leaving many hours before the bushfire reaches your property.

Many Tasmanians leave it until the last minute, which is extremely dangerous.

There is overwhelming evidence that well prepared homes protect people who stay to defend them.

The threat of bushfire is a very real concern in Tasmania this year. It is unusual to need to declare fire permit periods in October. The record period of dry conditions combined with predicted lower than average rainfall and higher temperatures over the next few months, point to periods of very high fire danger.



Tasmania's 1967 bushfires claimed the lives of 62 people, destroyed 1,400 homes and devastated 260,000 hectares of land in just five hours.

The risk of bushfire sweeping through our suburban areas is even greater today than in past decades because today's average garden features native plants that are much more combustible than the smaller, English style garden of the 1960s. As a consequence, if a bushfire starts and gets hold, the native vegetation may carry it deep into the suburbs.

“The DVD features a checklist to follow for preparing your home, explains what a defensible space is and how to prepare it, what you should do during a bushfire and what to expect as the bushfire approaches and when it arrives,” he said.

The educational DVD will be posted to households in bushfire prone urban fringe and rural areas. Free copies will also be available from the Tasmania Fire Service, after the 15th November, by freecalling 1800 000 699 or on loan from the State Library service. Further information is available from the Tasmania Fire Service web site at www.fire.tas.gov.au.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

In recent months we've all noticed that the number of traffic light failures has reached epidemic levels. Every intersection has been suffering the failure of one bulb after another and it seems that the bulb that is fixed today will fail again tomorrow, together with its twin.

It is causing traffic hazards and driver frustration. What to do? RING the people whose job it is to fix them - 1300 139 933.



PARKING AT 'YOUR PLACE'

This item from the Traffic Committee is worth noting: Is it legal to park your car in front of your own entrance?



NO. It used to be allowed but this was changed by legislation enacted in 1999.

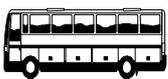
MONTAGU STREET

The study of Mount Stuart traffic problems continues and our Residents' Traffic committee, which meets regularly with the Traffic Engineering staff of the HCC, reports that the speed and volume of through traffic using Montagu Street is causing concern and the various means by which the disturbance and risk to residents could be alleviated are under current investigation.

BUS SERVICES

Our Traffic Committee and the staff at Metro are looking for feed-back on the revised Metro bus routes and new timetables, details of which are available from the Metro website <http://www.metrotas.com.au> or the Metro shop in the GPO.

Peak services particularly up to Mount Stuart between 3:45pm and 6:15pm have been doubled. A fifteen minute service now operates at this time. At all other times, services operate half hourly during weekdays and Saturdays and hourly during late evenings. All Mount Stuart services, including the new weekend services, are



timetabled to allow customers to transfer easily to buses travelling south to Sandy Bay shops or north to Glenorchy via North Hobart.

Mount Stuart residents have been responding magnificently to the new service. On the first Sunday of operation, Metro customers used the service to go shopping in Sandy Bay as well as visit friends they would not normally see on a Sunday. On Saturday 18th, many people used the service to come down and see the Christmas pageant.

Considerable effort has been made to obtain these changes to the service level and it is hoped that the variation in route and the increase in frequency will meet with greater patronage and more user satisfaction.

Do YOU have a comment? If so, please contact Peter Kruup on **6233 4243**.

PARKS UPDATE

The Parks committee has prepared a detailed submission to the City Council for development of the Providence Valley Reserve on the Mount Stuart and West Hobart border.



Some suggestions for the area include further clearing, improving pathways, new plantings and establishing a picnic area and play areas, while maintaining the calm glade atmosphere in the valley.

Watch for more information in the next newsletter.

A Peaceful Christmas and Holiday season to All of You!

Alderman Eva Ruzicka
Deputy Lord Mayor

Phone: 6239 1317 or 0407 391 317

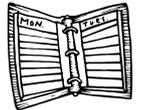
Fax: 6239 1738

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Authorised by E. Ruzicka 699 Huon Rd. Fern Tree

CAN YOU HELP?

Do you have in your cupboards any early reading books – those with few words and lots of pictures – which kids start to learn to read with?



Or have you recently upgraded your computer and are looking for a home for the old one?

In her work with refugee families through the Swan St Uniting Church, Chris Bennett is in contact with a number of families who are learning English. The easy-to-read books encourage parents to read to their kids and help them to learn at the same time while the computers, especially if they have modems, are a great assistance for students doing homework. They also love to listen to Burundi radio, etc. on the Internet.



If you can help with books or with working computers, contact:

Chris Bennett, 17 Altna-craig Ave
Phone 6228 0632 Mobile 0408 280 632.

Chris can organise to pick up anything you have or you can leave it at her address.

CONGRATULATIONS



Mount Stuart Scout Group Leader, Hannah Richardson was recently awarded the Silver Arrowhead for service above and beyond to Scouting. Hannah has played a large part in establishing the Joey section for 6 to 8 year olds. Well done, Hannah!

MORE STREET NAMES



We know how most of the streets in Mount Stuart got their names, although we are a little unsure about some of the earliest named streets, such as Elphinstone Road and Mount Stuart Road. There are two we know even less about, Weerona Avenue and Dewrang Place. We know they were named by the Council at the time of the subdivision development, from a list of names chosen by someone in the Council. Recently we have been asked to undertake more research on 'Dewrang', and have found a computer search to be the most productive. The name 'Dewrang' occurs frequently on the mainland, in Victoria, New South Wales, and in Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. The aboriginal meaning is 'High or lofty'. By chance, 'Dewrang' is also a surname, apparently of Scandinavian origin, although the computer lists one spelling of the surname as 'deWrang' (which might be more French than Scandinavian).

CHRISTMAS TREES

The Lenah Valley Volunteer Fire Brigade will be selling Christmas trees between 9am and 4pm on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th Dec.

Trees will be priced from \$6 and available from the Lenah Valley Fire Station at the top of Kalang Avenue, next to the Roy Fagan Centre. Free delivery is available to residents of Mount Stuart. For enquiries or advance orders, please contact Kevin on 0427 287 671.

COMMUNITY BBQ

Mount Stuart Neighbourhood Watch will be holding its end-of-year BYO BBQ at Mount Stuart Park on Friday, 15th December, from 6.00 pm onwards.



It's a good opportunity for members of the community to meet one another in an informal way, and to talk about local issues and concerns to members of the Mount Stuart

Progress Association and Neighbourhood Watch.

In the event of wet or inclement weather, the gathering will take place in the Supper Room at the Hall.

MOUNT STUART NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CRIME REPORT

5/10/06 – 15/11/06

5th October: Approximately \$1000 damage was caused to a private motor vehicle parked on Fordham St. Numerous panels were damaged, possibly with a key or screwdriver. **(Police report No. 289138)**

Between 25th & 26th October: A council Wheelie bin was stolen from in front of a private residence in Mortimer Ave. Value \$60. **(Police report No. 288754)**



Between 3rd & 4th November: A Yamaha motor cycle was stolen from the rear yard of a private residence in Raymont St. The bike was valued at approx \$5000. **(Police report No. 289500)**

5th November: Extensive damage was caused to a Holden vehicle parked in car park in Montagu St. All panels were scratched with approximately \$2000 repair cost. **(Police report No. 289596)**

Between 7th & 8th November: Burglary and stealing from a motor vehicle parked in a driveway in Mount Stuart Rd. \$100 damage was caused to gain entry. An Apple Ipod, Sony digital camera and other items valued at approx \$1070 were stolen. **(Police report No. 289840)**

Between 7th & 8th November: An attempt was made to gain entry to a red Holden sedan parked in Mount Stuart Rd. \$200 damage was caused in the process. **(Police report No. 289839)**

For more information about these crimes, please phone the NHW Area Co-ordinator for Mount Stuart, Malcolm Grant on 6234 6672

RELIEF!

The long awaited toilet next to Mount Stuart Park is progressing well, with the slab poured and the walls up. Not long now!

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