

Mount Stuart News

August 2009

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MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE

These photos were taken in Mumbai (formerly Bombay) library by Clare Lansdowne, the daughter of well-known local resident, Marj Wall.

Mountstuart Elphinstone, the fourth son of the



eleventh Lord Elphinstone, was born in 1779 and died in 1859. He had a distinguished career in India between 1795 and 1829, rising to become Governor of Bombay.

Mountstuart Elphinstone never actually visited Hobart but oral history attributes the naming of the suburb and roads to the visit of the ship of that name in 1836. In

1826, as Governor of Bombay, Mount-stuart Elphinstone had launched a vessel of the same name which was used as a troop ship and convict carrier. There is some conjecture about why his name was used in our suburb, but local historian,

David Metcalfe's *A History of Mount Stuart*, cites some grounds.

One of these suggests that the ship Mount-stuart Elphinstone arrived in Hobart in 1836 bringing

instructions from the British Colonial Secretary, Lord Glenelg, for the immediate recall to London of Lieutenant-Governor, George Arthur, who had become extremely unpopular with free settlers, so the news of his recall was cause for immediate celebrations.



After Mountstuart Elphinstone's return to England, he declined the role of Governor-General of India and spent his time writing, including his *History of India*.

CONGRATULATIONS



Well done to Mount Stuart resident, Carolyn Frohmader, on being inducted into the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women, for service to human rights.

Carolyn has been executive director of *Women With Disabilities Australia* since 1997. This organisation, which has been recognised internationally, is the peak body for women with all types of disability.

It is great to see recognition of outstanding service to the community.

SCHOOL NEWS

Things certainly do not remain still at the local primary school. After last year's major redevelopment, more building is proposed as part of the Federal Government's schools development program.

At the moment the Secret Garden on Clift Street is being redeveloped. As part of the brief of being an AuSSI school, which extends the ethic of sustainability into the playground, the treated pine screens, asphalt and some of the invasive trees have been removed. The new garden will maximise biodiversity. It is good to see that students have been involved in designing plans for it and in learning what are the most suitable plants for the area.



OLDEST RESIDENT?

That's not what we meant to say, but we were wondering who has lived in Mount Stuart for the longest time? We know a few residents who have been here over 50 years, but we are sure there would be others who have been here longer. Let us know if you have been here more than 50 years.

50+ years?

Need help with any local government concerns or issues?

Contact

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Deputy Lord Mayor

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

Fax: **6239 1738**

E-mail: eva@ruzicka.id.au

Authorised by E. Ruzicka,

699 Huon Rd. Fern Tree

WATER AND SEWERAGE FORUM

The Lord Mayor, Alderman Rob Valentine, Aldermen Darlene Haigh and Elise Archer were good enough to attend our Mount Stuart forum on Sunday 28 June 2009.

Unfortunately our timing was all wrong; we could not get any experts to speak as the new corporation, Southern Water did not come into official existence until Tuesday 1 July!

Lord Mayor Rob Valentine, ably backed up by Aldermen Haigh and Archer, was able to answer many of our questions.

One of our main concerns was that land owners in Hobart would have to subsidise those areas without sewerage and water infrastructure, but we have since received a letter from the Tasmanian Treasurer, Michael Aird, advising: *"The Government is not seeking to make property owners with infrastructure face the costs of the development of infrastructure for new properties. The key piece of regulatory legislation developed through the reform, **The Water and Sewerage Industry Act 2006**, is based on a user pays philosophy.*

In practice, this means that over the next one to two years the Government will need to develop the detailed regulatory arrangements needed to ensure that

- *Prices across Tasmania will move to a two-part structure where customers will pay a fixed charge, that relates to the cost of the infrastructure and a variable charge that reflects how much water they use; and*
- *Consistent headworks policies will be developed by the three new regional water and sewerage corporations under which it is intended that new customers will make a reasonable financial contribution to the costs of adding them to existing or new networks.*

Other points clarified at the meeting were:

- The local water and sewerage authority, Southern Water, is owned by the 12 councils, but they have limited control.
- Each council's share is based on their respective contributions towards the existing infrastructure. Hobart owned a large share of Hobart Water and should be entitled to a large share of any dividends.
- However, Councils may not get a dividend for some time, as the Authority has not been given any money. (It must be operating on a big overdraft at present!)
- Hobart City Council's bottom line may be affected if it does not receive a dividend as it did in the past, which will mean higher rates.
- Hobart City Council has reduced rates, as they are no longer responsible for water and sewerage services, but residents' rates have also been affected by revised valuations.
- We think landlords will be required to pay water and sewerage levies this financial year, but next year they will be billed direct to tenants. (We are not sure how this will work, as unlike electricity and gas, many units do not have separate water connections)
- The first water and sewerage demands are due out this month, but they will be issued by Councils on behalf of Onstream, the billing authority for the 3 state water authorities. Right now, we have no idea what we will be paying.
- Treasurer Aird wanted Councils to pick up the tab for water and sewerage concessional rebates, but Councils resisted this, as they had not made provision for this when setting their budgets. (If Councils were required to pay for this, our rates would increase, which could mean that pensioners paid more rates to subsidise their water and sewerage concessions!)

Fortunately, as we go to press, sanity has prevailed and the Government will pick up the rebates tab, as it does for rates.

We note Treasurer Aird's comment about user pays, but wonder how that will work in Hobart, when we do not have water meters. Installing them will be very expensive.

We do not believe the changeover has been well handled by the Government. There were a number of hiccups in the changeover and there are still too many unanswered questions.

In hindsight, it would have been better to delay the introduction for 12 months.





The Sharehood: A Neighbourhood Community Building Infrastructure



The Sharehood is all about sharing resources, such as sewing machines, cars, tools, books or washing machines within a neighbourhood. Skills too are meant to be share: gardening help, handiwork, bike repairs and so on.

The Sharehood website, www.thesharehood.org allows neighbours to put up a profile of the goods they are willing to lend, the produce they create, and the skills they are willing to share. Logged-in neighbours can browse or search these profiles. They can also have forums for car-pooling, sharing of goods, freebies, wanted items, and a social forum.

If you would like to set up a 'hood' in your local neighbourhood, get in touch through the website and a 'hood' can be set up on the website for you.

Contact Maria Pinferi on 0407 232 147 for more information.

CITY OF HOBART PLANNING SCHEME

The HCC has just completed a series of public information sessions presenting its new draft planning scheme. The local meeting in the Mount Stuart Hall, attended by interested residents and several aldermen, provided an opportunity to put questions to the presenters and provoked some interesting discussion.



The plan, which replaces the 1991 City of Hobart Planning Scheme, is designed to complement HCC's 2025 vision and its Strategic Plan 2008-2013. There are major changes in zoning and in residential provisions.

A DVD outlining the changes is available at www.hobartcity.com.au/newplanning_scheme or can be obtained at a cost of \$2 from the Hobart City Council on the corner of Elizabeth and Davey Streets. You can also download the whole scheme from the website or obtain a hard copy for \$35. At nearly 500 pages, it is a very large document, so not easy for reading in bed.

The council is seeking your opinions and suggestions. Submissions can be made in writing to the General Manager, GPO Box 503, Hobart 7001 or by email to hcc@hobartcity.com.au and marked "Submissions - Draft City of Hobart Planning Scheme 2009" by September 22nd.

FROM THE MEETINGS

Progress Association:

- A letter has been written to the Principal of the Mount Stuart Primary School requesting an interview to discuss the future of the former Mount Stuart Kindergarten building, in particular its possible use as a Community Coffee Shop.

- The Mount Stuart Residents' Traffic Sub-Committee, which includes Alderman Darlene Haigh and HCC staff, met. There were discussions on several issues listed in the last newsletter. Residents are asked to phone HCC to report potholes when they occur.
- Concerns about changes in property valuations were discussed. The Council has published a very good explanation of the effect of the changes to valuations on your rates.
- The Council of Hobart Community Associations is suggesting *Meet the Candidates* evenings prior to forthcoming council elections.
- The persistent and heavy rains have caused some damage to the tracks on Knocklofty, but generally the new tracks have stood up well. Parts of the older tracks on the flat became very boggy and need some attention.
- The Mount Stuart Neighbourhood Watch is to become a sub-committee of the Progress Association.

Community Service Association:

- There was a problem with the underlay of the new floor in the Annexe bubbling, which has now been fixed.
- A number of chairs are being refurbished and a working bee will be held to paint window frames and internal stairs.
- We are having some problems at the Hall with graffiti and broken windows - 5 broken on Saturday 8th - Sunday August 9th. If you know who is responsible, please contact the police on 131444.

DOUG PARKINSON MLC

B Ec (Hons); LL.B

Leader of the Government, Member of Cabinet

Always available to assist fellow Mount Stuart residents

Telephone: 6233 3069

Website: www.dougparkinson.net

Email:

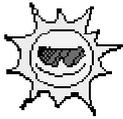
doug.parkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au

FUTURE STARS

Congratulations to Mount Stuart Primary School students, Benji Austin and Oliver Smith, on being selected in the state under-13 boys' hockey team. They are playing in the national School Exchange in Newcastle, August 9th - 15th.



SUMMER IS COMING



At the moment it may not seem like it, but the hot weather is not far away. The Tasmanian Fire Service is urging landowners to clear land early so that the lush grass and undergrowth stimulated by all the recent rains does not get the chance to become a major fire hazard. And don't forget about trimming back the hedges, plants and trees overhanging and intruding onto footpaths. The next HCC garden waste collection is in early November.

Community Friendship Programme

Do you have time to share a phone conversation, a weekly coffee or a family BBQ?

The Community Friendship Programme assists students who are new to UTAS to make connections with people from the local community to enhance their overall experience of UTAS and Tasmania.



Benefits for volunteers include:

- ▶ Learning about intercultural awareness
- ▶ Chance to help a new UTAS student settle
- ▶ Support from dedicated University Staff
- ▶ Making friends for life
- ▶ Your family can meet with people from other backgrounds
- ▶ Joining in University and local community events

Contact UTAS now for more information:

Phone: 6226 2548

Email: Community.Friendship@utas.edu.au

Web: www.utas.edu.au

(Click on International Students, and then on Community Friendship Programme)

SOLAR POWER

With the rising cost of electricity, now is an excellent time to think about a solar hot water system.

With a \$1600 Federal Rebate, the HCC \$500 rate rebate, and Renewable Energy Certificates, you can get up to \$3000 back on your purchase. In addition, Eco Tasmania is still offering all Mount Stuart residents 5% off its retail prices on Apricus evacuated tube systems. Contact Mark Rickards - 0403 565 782 or mark@ecotasmania.com for further details.

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

BUSHCARE NEWS

The small band of hard workers of the Valley Street Bushcare Group has done some wonderful planting and staking of grasses and small shrubs in the upper left hand corner of the Bushcare area (below the blackberries on the main track) and removal of small gorse plants and has started mulching around the new plants with bark, leaves etc found under the gums. Once the understorey is growing, the gorse will be removed slowly, thus enabling the wallabies to still have some protective cover. Come along and join us, 2:00 to 4:00 pm followed by a cuppa and cake on the fourth Sunday of each month. Contact the convenor, Vicki Martin, on 6228 3228.



The Friends of Knocklofty have had a profitable deal with Aurora to clear the wayleave areas under the powerlines, keeping them free from tall trees and introduced weeds. They plan to allocate the almost \$9000 earned to other projects in the area and hope that the contract can continue.

Friends of Knocklofty meet on the first Thursday morning of the month and the third Sunday afternoon. Contact the convenor, Astrid Wright, on 6234 2127 for more information.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



You may have noted the decision that the local Neighbourhood Watch is to become a sub-committee of the Progress Association. We ask that residents continue to keep a look out for any suspicious activity and to report it to police. Incidents such as the recent broken windows at the hall are frustrating to all concerned - caretakers and users.

Police Phone numbers: Non urgent **131444**.

Crime Stoppers **1 800 333 000**.

Mount Stuart News is composed, printed and published on a voluntary basis as a community service. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that information contained herein is accurate, no warranty as to such accuracy can be given and any reader who relies on such information for any purpose whatsoever does so at his or her own risk absolutely.

SCOUTS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Just a reminder, the Mount Stuart Scouts are celebrating their 50th birthday at the Mount Stuart Hall from 12 midday to 4:00pm on Sunday August 30. For more information, go to <http://au.geocities.com/mtstuartscouts>.