

Mount Stuart News

December 2011

Postal Address: PO Box 116, North Hobart 7002

E-mail: secretary@mountstuarttas.org.au
Editors: Marilyn Pinkard Ph 6228 5743
Malcolm Grant Ph 6234 667

Web www.mountstuarttas.org.au
Margaret Payne Ph 6231 1852
Lynden Howells Ph 6234 1024

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Whatever happened to 2011? We wish all old and new residents of Mount Stuart a happy and peaceful Christmas season and all the best for 2012.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Congratulations to the newly elected Lord Mayor, Damon Thomas and Deputy Mayor, Ron Christie. Congratulations also to Leo Foley on his election as an alderman. It is good to see a representative of the northern suburbs on the HCC.

We wish Rob Valentine well in his future career. Rob has always been a great supporter of the Mount Stuart Progress and Community Service Associations.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CELEBRATIONS

At the recent 25th anniversary celebrations of the organisation, held at Deloraine in October, Progress Association president, Malcolm Grant, was awarded Life Membership. Malcolm's contributions have included being a member of the State Committee, state president from 1995 until 2000 and editor of the state magazine for about seven years.

A magnificent contribution and a very well deserved award!

MT STUART RESIDENT HONOURED WITH CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations to Mark Colegrave who has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship for 2011. Mark has been Exhibitions Officer at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery for 16 years and will spend time in New York, London, Paris and Dusseldorf improving his knowledge of lighting techniques in heritage exhibition spaces as well as contemporary galleries. Efficiency, aesthetics and conservation of objects being exhibited are key

issues that Mark will be studying. The knowledge Mark gains will be an important asset in the redevelopment at TMAG over the next two years.

Mark is a man of many talents, having been a highly regarded pace bowler in first grade cricket and a premiership player with Clarence Football Club. He has worked on lighting in many Hobart theatre productions and enjoys cruising in his classic Ford Falcon.



*Thank you all for your support this year
A safe and happy Christmas to you all
and a peaceful 2012*

Alderman Eva Ruzicka

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

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Mount Stuart Primary School is to be congratulated on establishing a community garden, with advice from Tino Carnevale and Costa from Garden Odyssey. These gardens have proved very successful in other places in developing an interest in growing fresh food and even re-educating young taste buds.



HALL HIRE

Don't forget that the Mount Stuart Hall is available for hire. It might be ideal for your Christmas party. For information about booking the hall, contact Lois Allison on 6228 5133.

STOP PRESS

The Raymont Terrace kindergarten has been sold so it will be interesting to see how the site is used.



A MAGNIFICENT CONTRIBUTION



The recent death of Alderman Darlene Haigh was the end of the very long association of the Haigh family with Mount Stuart and with local government in Hobart.

The family lived in Weerona Avenue and Tony joined the Progress Association in the early 70s. He was also secretary of the Progress Association and was elected as an HCC alderman in 1974. He brought many Mount Stuart issues, such as Byard Street traffic, before the council. (There was even talk of a toilet off the supper room of the hall at that time.) He was also at the heart of the annual Mount Stuart Fair that was held until about 1990. Around 1968, he was responsible for getting Work Order men to help build the original track onto Knocklofty, in order to provide public access to other walking tracks onto Mt Wellington. As well, he always ensured that the land behind the Weerona Ave homes was mowed regularly to prevent the spread of fire wiping out the houses as it had in 1967.

Darlene joined the Progress Association after Tony's untimely death in 1986 and was elected as an alderman to the HCC in 1988 to continue to support her local community. She quickly gained a reputation as someone who would fight for a cause. In 2009 she was presented with a Certificate of Recognition that acknowledged her achievement as the longest serving female alderman in the history of the council. She was passionate about many causes; particularly the restoration of the Hobart heritage trams. She was also a strong advocate of equal rights for women but was supportive of all HCC employees. As a member of the Mount Stuart Residents' Traffic Committee she represented both the HCC and Mount Stuart residents and was active in these until shortly before her death.

Darlene carried on the work that Tony started, representing and supporting all members of the community and will be sorely missed. Both of them have contributed greatly to Mount Stuart and will not be quickly forgotten.

NB. There is a memorial for Tony in the centre of the Mount Stuart roundabout, near their old residence as well as the Tony Haigh Walk with its quirky trompe-l'œil murals in North Hobart. At the November Progress Association meeting it was proposed to add a plaque commemorating Darlene's life, next to Tony's on the roundabout memorial.

NEWS FROM MOUNT STUART PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We have now settled very comfortably into our new venue at the Primary School, where our main meeting is at 10am on Sunday mornings. The meetings are quite informal and child friendly.

There is a Sunday school and crèche which runs during the meeting. To check us out online before committing yourself, you can find us at mspc.org.au We exist primarily to bring the message of Jesus to the people of Hobart and we do this by opening up the Bible and trying to understand what it has to say to us today. This has had a profound effect on many people and has turned their lives right around.

We are looking at ways to serve the community and have a parents' and toddlers' play group and a men's shed type group as well as a refugee support group. For more information check out the website or contact the minister, David Jones on 0400 134 701.

SUPPER ROOM TOILET

Les Burbury and Kimbra Parker of the HCC attended the November meeting of the Progress Association with amended plans for the long awaited toilet downstairs at the hall. The new plans involve a toilet downstairs and new toilets, including one for the disabled, upstairs. The problem now is finance. The HCC has had money set aside but it is not sufficient. So, for the moment, it's a matter of waiting for more finance and looking for available grants.



THE CHRISTMAS STAR

At this time of year it seems almost traditional for stargazers to ponder the age-old question of the origin of the Star of Bethlehem. The star's appearance some 2,000 years ago is quite possibly one of the best-known celestial events in all of recorded history.



Many planetariums are currently running sky shows interwoven with a Christmas theme. Utilising special effects projectors, audiences are transported back in time to see the night sky as the Magi may have seen it and are then asked if perhaps an unusual gathering of planets might have been the fabled star. Or was that 'sign' a comet, a nova or something supernatural?

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.

VALLEY STREET ORCHARD

An article in the *Mercury* newspaper (Friday May 13, 2011) featured a century-old apple tree in the Valley Street Reserve, with a photograph of residents displaying arms full of fruit from it. This area of Mt Stuart has had a strong association with horticulture, and with the Cato family.

Joseph Cato (1792-1873), having arrived with his wife, Frances, and family in Hobart Town in 1832, established an orchard and nursery at 'Kemble', (now 111 Montagu Street) in 1834. Their eldest son, William, continued working that property, but Joseph (junior) and Cornelius, their second and fourth sons, purchased 'Paraclete' (now reduced in size) from Dr James Ross. Here they created the Cato and fruit-growing connection with Mt Stuart. Cornelius died soon after the purchase, but Joseph (1821-1884) with his wife, also Frances, or Fanny, and one of his sons, (Arthur) Hilmer (1858-1932) remained for many years.



Early Paraclete

The name 'Paraclete' roughly translates as 'advocate' or 'helper' and for Christians refers to the Holy Spirit. The Cato family would not have felt uncomfortable living in a house with such a title. A letter to the *Mercury* newspaper in 1932, at the time of the centenary of the Cato family's arrival in Hobart, described Joseph as being "... one of the old school of Methodists, full of religious zeal." However, rumour has it that the ciders and wines produced from the fruits of 'Paraclete' may have had an unexpected effect if one were to be too enthusiastic in the partaking thereof, a sentiment supported in an article in *The Tasmanian Farmer and Fruitgrower* (date unknown) by the well-known photographer Jack Cato (1889-1971).

The apples photographed in the recent newspaper article were green; however the

apples most often associated with 'Paraclete' are red. A 1977 article in the *Apple and Pear World* magazine describes how Joseph and Hilmer crossed a Lady in the Snow, or Pomme de Neige, with a Scarlet Pearmain, thus producing an apple with the white flesh of the former, but with the late keeping qualities of the latter. The result was at first known as the Cato's Seedling, but later became known as the Crofton. The writer's father remembered his grandfather, Hilmer, describing to him how they covered the flowers of the Lady in the Snow with cheesecloth, thus preventing any unwanted cross-fertilisation, and used a fine brush to import the desired pollen.



Following Hilmer's death in 1932, his second wife, Annie, moved to Jordan Hill Road, and the Cato connection with Paraclete came to a close, with the homestead falling into disrepair. However numerous descendants maintained involvement with horticulture, operating orchards in places such as Woodbridge, Cygnet, Cradoc and Judbury.

Our thanks to Alan Cato of Cradoc for this article.

MOUNT STUART NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CRIME REPORT 1st August – 24th October

Keith White Crescent: On 19th September a house was entered through a dog door. Cash was stolen although electronic items were not disturbed. **(429258).**



Canning Court: On 20th September entry was forced into a house but nothing was stolen. A description of a suspicious looking male was provided to police. **(4290290)**

Mount Stuart Road: On the 4th October an outboard motor was stolen from a boat in the driveway. Nothing was seen or heard. **(429998)**

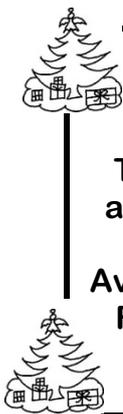
Mortimer Ave: On the 24th October a securely locked car was stolen. It was later located on the Southern Outlet with minor damage. **(431308)**

**Police phone numbers: Non urgent
131444**

Crime Stoppers 1 800 333 000

Police are anxious to hear from anyone who may have witnessed any of these incidents (please quote the incident number) or noticed any suspicious activity in the neighbourhood. You are also reminded not to leave valuables in your vehicles when they are unattended!

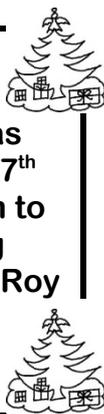




Christmas Trees

Lenah Valley Volunteer Fire

Brigade will be selling Christmas Trees on Sat 10th, Sun 11th, Sat 17th and Sun 18th 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.



STREET BY STREET

In every neighbourhood, there is an isolated elderly person, and a person living with a disability, and a new settler wanting to communicate and develop connections with locals. And in every neighbourhood, there are people wanting to make connections with others and offer support in simple and practical ways.

Uniting Care Wesley in Adelaide has developed a neighbourhood support program called ***In Your Street***. This aims to foster the development of caring communities by linking up people who live in the same street or nearby and its focus is on practical helping tasks which can relieve isolation and make the difference between someone remaining in their own home or needing to move into more supportive accommodation; tasks such as:

- Taking the bin in and out
- Hanging out washing
- Getting a few items from the shops
- Getting mail from the letterbox
- Looking after pets during absences or illness
- Practising language skills

Street by Street will replicate this model in towns and suburbs around the country. Uniting Care Wesley would like to hear from individuals and organisations around the country interested in participating in rolling out *Street by Street* on a national scale. Their goal is to have 100 registered groups by the end of 2011. You can find more information by accessing their website:

<http://www.civilsociety.org.au/StreetbyStreet.htm>

If you are interested in getting a group going in Mount Stuart, contact the Progress Association.

NEIGHBOUR DAY 2012

While on the subject of community involvement, celebrate Neighbour Day 2012, Sunday March 25th, by joining members of

Neighbourhood Watch & the Progress Association for a BYO BBQ at Mount Stuart Park from 4.30 pm onwards. Newcomers to Mount Stuart are especially welcome. (You will get another reminder next year.)



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Water and Sewerage Corporations Merger

It is very pleasing to see that the push to have one state-wide water & sewerage corporation has gained momentum over the last few months.

I strongly support the move to have a single state-wide body.

Tasmania has a population smaller than that of many councils on the mainland. We do not need four separate organisations to administer our water and sewerage.

The current structure is top-heavy and inefficient, with substantial unnecessary costs being incurred. One organisation with a CEO and three regional managers would be much more efficient and there are anticipated savings of \$5 million per annum, on top of savings of \$2 million from a recently announced restructure of Onstream.



One of the reasons for establishing the regional bodies was to ensure that councils' contributions were recognised, particularly those with well established water and sewerage infrastructure as they were very concerned that their ratepayers would be adversely affected by the takeover of their assets.

There may be resistance from councils to the proposed changes, but this can be overcome by giving each council shares in the single state-wide body based upon their respective contributions. At present, the 12 Southern Tasmanian councils have one share each in Southern Water, despite the fact that the councils who owned Hobart Water contributed by far the biggest share of the assets of Southern Water. Fortunately for Hobart ratepayers, dividends paid to councils are not based on shareholdings, but on contributions.

Eric Pinkard

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