

MOUNT STUART NEWS

MARCH 2019



Members of the Mount Stuart Primary School Choir delighting us at last year's Christmas Carols

Learn about Knocklofty's history with Suzanne Smythe and attend our (very brief) Annual General Meetings

7:30 pm Thursday 28 March 2019 at Mount Stuart Memorial Hall

Mount Stuart's two community organisations, the Mount Stuart Residents and Hall Associations, will hold their annual general meetings at 7:30 pm on 28 March 2019, in the Supper Room (downstairs) of the Mount Stuart Hall.

At 7:45 pm, Suzanne, our guest speaker, will talk about Knocklofty, which prior to the 1870s, encompassed West Hobart, Mount Stuart and Lenah Valley. Suzanne is the author of *Knocklofty - Hobart's Back Yard*. This came about because of Suzanne's granddaughter's interest in some of the ruins on Knocklofty and before she knew it, she was hooked on the stories she uncovered. Suzanne feels it's important these stories be recorded before they're scattered and lost. After Suzanne's presentation, there will be an opportunity for questions followed by refreshments.

We would love more people to join our Committees, but don't worry, if you come to the meeting we won't force you. Just enjoy learning more about your home and meet some of your neighbours. There will be nomination forms available on the night, email Stewart at secretary@mountstuarttas.org.au, or call Jennifer on 0414 632 537.

Why is our local community important? What does community mean to you?

Two committee members shared what it means to them.

"Being part of my local community means being in relationship with both the environment and with the people of my neighbourhood and suburb. So it gives a sense both of belonging, and also of responsibility. I care, and I should care, what happens to the area where I live, and to my neighbours. I guess the term "wellbeing" is relevant." David Reeve

"Community, to me, is simply knowing the people in my local area - my neighbours. Joining the Residents Group has helped me meet more people, and enjoy Mount Stuart more." Leo Foley

All our committee believe that a local community where neighbours have a chance, and are willing, to know their neighbours is "the absolute fundamental prerequisite for any healthy society, but it doesn't automatically happen" (Hugh Mackay, *Australia Reimagined*). Continued on page 2 and on our Mount Stuart Tasmania Facebook page.

The history of one Mount Stuart House

24 Benjafield Terrace

Sheree Dervish has sent an account of a visit from Dr Alisdair 'Breck' McKay whose family had built her house. His father Lawrence McKay (known as Scotch) and his wife Anne (known as Dry) commenced the build at 24 Benjafield Terrace in the late 1940s. They lived there with their family of four boys and one girl.

Post war materials were scarce and budgets were tight. The walls were constructed from sandstone and cement. The walls are 300 cm at the base of the house reducing to 30 cm on the first floor. Building materials were transported on a specially constructed wooden track through the property behind the house in Darling Parade.

Breck described the 'shed build', rotation of straw from the chicken coop onto the garden and growing lettuces to sell for pocket money. It was Breck's opinion that Mount Stuart was a community with a progressive spirit especially in the days of revitalised development after the war years.

As well as anecdotes about the house and many of the neighbours at the time, Breck had stories of some colourful McKay ancestors including a convict and a fisherman who was charged with attempted murder in 1925 and later absolved.

Breck trained as a nurse, studied medicine and finally practised in his field of pain management in his Queensland surgery. With his wife, Jacqueline, a physiotherapist they raised two children in Queensland. Parents, Anne and Lawrence also moved to Queensland to be closer to their family and ran a post office.

Sheree said, "It was a delight to listen to Breck's anecdotes about his life in our house. We always felt that it had a happy story. Breck is agreeable if you wish to contact (search Dr Breck McKay)."

The full article can be read on the Mount Stuart Tasmania Facebook page.



Medical student Breck in the late 60s. He was pleased to find when he visited, the old wood panelling has been retained in his old study downstairs.

Photo provided by Dr Breck

Why community is important ... cont

Our committee wants to provide places for this to happen, and support residents to know their neighbours in smaller, next door or street-based ways. For example, we supported the Open Door Program. Megan Hale says:

"Just before our energetic, much loved friend, Aviva Orgad, passed away last year Kathryn Darvell and I promised we would continue to run the Open Door program she had started, at least until the end of the year. Aviva wanted to bring neighbours together to meet each other, ensure people could chose not to be isolated or lonely, and at the same time learn new things by attending talks or workshops. However there haven't been many people attending most of the sessions. I have tried to find ways to improve attendance but have now decided not to continue the program this year." Why didn't this meet people's needs? Please let us know. And let us know what would? It is so important.

Our fragmented, busy lives come at a high cost. The Australian Loneliness Report, revealing that one in four Australians report feeling lonely for at least half of every week; that loneliness is a greater problem for young adults than for older people; that lonely Australians have significantly worse physical and mental health than those who are more socially integrated.

These are powerful forces, and I invite you to join our efforts to rebalance towards a more compassionate, less anxious society, starting in Mount Stuart. Jennifer Dunbabin, President, Mt Stuart Residents Inc

YOGA: MOUNT STUART

2019

Supper Room : Mount Stuart Hall

Beginner & Experienced

Tuesday: 11 am - 12.30 pm

Experienced

Friday: 9.30 am - 11 am

Self-regulated physical postures; breath work; restorative relaxation; meditation.

Contact before attending

Ann Sparks 0428 842 144

ambika1008@gmail.com



Mount Stuart Christmas Carols 2018

Stormy weather and a great evening

A severe storm was predicted for the afternoon of our second Mount Stuart Christmas Carols, so a decision was reluctantly made to set up the outdoor activities inside. We were disappointed but when the rain did arrive, we were thankful to be inside and dry!

The Christmas Wishes, Photo Booth and the Imagination Playground provided entertainment in the Scout Hall and the BBQ provided food for those brave enough to venture out in the rain.

There was a real buzz inside the Main Hall as people started to arrive. Conversation abounded with people chatting to neighbours and friends and sometimes strangers, sharing stories and memories and generally catching up.

The Mount Stuart Primary School Choir started the evening of singing with several contemporary Christmas songs. This was followed by more contemporary songs plus traditional carols led by the Fuchsia House Ukulele Players and later, members and former members (and maybe future member) of the TSO. The singing was enthusiastic and enjoyed by everyone.

It was a wonderful evening and our thanks go to the many people and organisations who helped make it such an enjoyable occasion. Special mention to the Mount Stuart Scouts, Angela Moore, Annabel Watkins, Kathryn Archer, Owen Davis and to the Lenah Valley Volunteer Fire Brigade who supplied the magnificent tree. The event was supported by the Hobart City Council.



Neighbourhood Watch

Crime Report Nov 2019 – Feb 2019

There were 3 crimes reported in Mount Stuart Road, and one in each of Auvergne Avenue, Canning Court, Alt-Na-Craig Avenue, and Rupert Avenue.

A car was stolen from Canning Court (not recovered) and a ute from Auvergne Avenue (recovered in Rokeby). One house was entered and a packet of cigarettes stolen, and there were three burglaries from outside people's homes.

Police remind us:

- Don't leave property in unattended vehicles (especially personal papers & credit cards).
- Secure keys when not in use, don't leave them lying about

1 800 333 000 – Crime Stoppers

ROB VALENTINE MLC

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Farewell Justice Wood

10.4.1931 - 20.2.2019

We regret the recent loss of Mr justice Rodney Wood. He and his wife Christine were residents of Muir Court for 50 years. Their five children all grew up here and our sympathies are with them and their mother. A fuller article will be provided in the next edition.



**Alderman
Anna
Reynolds**

Working for your community

Please don't hesitate to call or email me if I can assist you with Council matters, or to sign up for my monthly community email newsletter.

ald.reynolds@hobartcity.com.au
0423 222 149



We'll take your excess produce!
If you've got spare fruit falling off your trees, bring it in to us at Sweet Sassafras and have a coffee on us.

Sweet Sassafras Cafe
279 Elizabeth Street

Mount Stuart News is composed, printed and published on a voluntary basis as a community service. We do our best to be accurate, but if you rely on this information you do so at your own risk.

55 Mt Stuart Road - the latest

The saga continues. Co-owner Darko Krajinovic appealed the decision of Magistrate Simon Cooper to the Supreme Court as he believed the fines of \$225,000 were manifestly excessive. In August last year, Justice Robert Pearce dismissed the appeal.

Mr Krajinovic began and withdrew an appeal of this decision to the Full Court of the Supreme Court. Council is pursuing him for its legal costs.

The Council has taken Mr Krajinovic to the Magistrates Court again, alleging further breaches of planning laws and the Building Act when he removed the stone footings of the old heritage-listed house without the relevant approvals. This matter has been adjourned until May 28.

There is some good news. You may remember that there were two heritage-listed trees on the property - a yew tree and a bay tree, both of which were cut down when the house was demolished. The yew tree did not survive but the bay tree has survived despite appearing to be dead and recovering twice already. We hope it is third time lucky.

Late news: as we go to press the Council has advertised a development application for 4 units to be built on the property. We are not sure how this can be approved unless Council disregards the heritage-listed bay tree.

Representations on the development must be lodged with the Council by midnight 22 March. Mt Stuart Residents will be submitting one.

Friends of Knocklofty

Friends of Knocklofty offers a chance to spend time with like-minded community members. The website (www.friendsofknocklofty.org) gives a full program of their working bees including one where they plan to work with the Leonard Wall Reserve Bushcare Group (Vicki Martin Convenor). Astrid Wright is the Co-ordinator. You can contact her on 6234 1580 and astrid@friendsofknocklofty.org.

Please send us more stories of Mount Stuart's history to share

The compilers of The Mount Stuart News would be delighted to receive more stories about Mount Stuart's past. It would be also wonderful to print people's memories of Mount Stuart from the past. Some old photos make these stories interesting too.