

# MOUNT STUART NEWS

September 2020

## Lord mayor to be the guest speaker at our AGM on Thursday 24th September at 7.30pm

This presentation had to be cancelled in March because of COVID-19 restrictions. The Residents Committee has invited Cr Anna Reynolds to speak on sustainability, something she has been a strong advocate for. She will be accompanied by Jeff Holmes, HCC's Solid Waste Coordinator. The talk is titled Sustainable Waste and Recycling. It will be held in the Dance Hall – the upper hall.

Many people are concerned about plastic waste and how much recycling of our rubbish actually happens. Members of this Residents Committee would like people in Mount Stuart to be more engaged in tackling the problem. Please come along to hear what the lord mayor has to say. Please join us for tea or coffee after Anna's address.



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

#### MOUNT STUART RESIDENTS INC. AND MOUNT STUART HALL INC.

Your two community associations will hold their AGMs before the address by the lord mayor in the Mount Stuart Dance Hall. These meetings only take a few minutes, and a good representation of Mount Stuart residents would help us all to be involved and mutually accountable. Office bearers will be elected: presidents, secretary, treasurer/public officer, plus up to nine other committee members.

Nomination forms will be available before the meeting or can be found under Annual General Meetings on the home page of the Mount Stuart website [www.mountstuarttas.org.au](http://www.mountstuarttas.org.au)

If you would like to offer yourself, nominate someone else or just find out more, contact the secretary Stewart Gardner: [secretary@mountstuarttas.org.au](mailto:secretary@mountstuarttas.org.au)

### Appointment of president

At its July meeting Mount Stuart Residents Inc. Committee elected Scott Faulkner as president. The position had been vacant for over a year. Although elections will take place at the AGM in September, this means there is someone in the position available to chair meetings etc. until then.

### 2020 MOUNT STUART CHRISTMAS CAROLS



Disappointingly, the carols event will not be held this year due to the COVID-19 restrictions which are currently in place.

### ROB VALENTINE MLC

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Publication of the newsletter is supported by a grant from Rob Valentine MLC. Thank you Rob.

## Report from Mount Stuart School

We have certainly had a very changeable and uncertain time this year with the arrival of COVID-19 and its impact on us all.

I am very pleased to say though that our school community has been an absolute credit to the Public Education system here in Tasmania as it has worked together to support and encourage staff, students and families alike.

Our students are back at school and definitely back to learning. Our School Improvement Priorities for this year are 'Engagement in Learning' and 'Writing in Action' and we have clear and defined key actions and processes for monitoring and review to ensure we see the improvements in learning we are looking for.

Our Early Childhood classes have introduced lots of outdoor learning to their curriculum this year. You may see our students out and about in the community each week walking to Providence Valley or Knocklofty Reserve to engage with learning in a different setting. There are some well documented positives for students having access to learning outdoors including improvements in wellbeing. It also reinforces the concept of learning happening everywhere, all the time.

Please feel welcome to visit our school at any time for a tour... just make an appointment first to ensure we are adhering to all our COVID-19 requirements.

Warm regards,

Louise Lynch

Acting Principal, Mount Stuart Primary School

## KNOCKLOFTY SHINES DURING COVID-19

Knocklofty Reserve has more than proved its worth as an outdoor and exercise resource during COVID-19, judging by daily foot traffic through the park.

Figures released by the Hobart City Council (HCC) show that by the end of June (the latest available figures) the reserve was attracting up to 300 walkers a day from the Forest Road Knocklofty car park along the fire trail.



The Fiona Allan Track daily usage averaged 100 walkers by the end of June, while the summit track was attracting 160 walkers – double the number of users from six months earlier.

HCC has three track counters in the reserve and the data is collected quarterly.

Craig Macaulay



**Mount Stuart  
Scout Group**

### **New Members welcome**

Mount Stuart Scout Group is a thriving Group of around 75 youth members. We are welcoming new members aged 5-16 years. Check us out on the web: [www.mtstuartscouts.org](http://www.mtstuartscouts.org) or enquire via email at [gl@mtstuartscouts.org](mailto:gl@mtstuartscouts.org).

## Dance Hall upgrade

The Dance Hall, which is the main space at the Mount Stuart Hall, has been the centre of attention, with the old plaster ceiling tiles being replaced with new acoustic tiles and insulation. At the same time, coloured LED lights were installed. We anticipate painting the old ceilings at each end of the hall and the walls soon. An excellent community venue is being further enhanced.

Our sincere thanks go to Eric Pinkard for his hard work in organising this upgrade.

## Walter “Wally” Nicholson

14/03/32 - 13/07/20

Wally Nicholson moved to Lenah Valley (Greenway Avenue) in the early 1970s with wife Janise to raise their 10 children. Along with many local sporting commitments with all the children (football, Little Athletics and cricket), Wally was involved in all aspects of their lives and became a life member of many associations over the years.

Wally and Janise had already been a part of the Mount Stuart community since 1968, when they started a ballroom dancing studio at the Mount Stuart Hall, after the old Belvedere Dance Studio in Arygle Street closed. As Tasmanian and Australian ballroom dance champions, they taught hundreds of students over the years – even other Australian champions. An accountant by day, Wally would then teach with Janise in the evenings. They also held weekly social dance classes. They became so popular that when Tasmania hosted the Miss Australia Pageant, all the participants wanted to go dancing, so Wally had the task of finding suitable dance partners for the evening. Miss South Australia returned several months later and became a Mrs Tasmania!

In 1998 Janise passed away, and Wally lost not only his soul mate but his dance partner. He decided to focus again on teaching and returned to ballroom dance teaching at the Mount Stuart Hall with long-term friend Sherry Lendrum, teaching not only pupils, but also other dance teachers. It was only in his 87th year that Wally retired his dance shoes. On Monday 13th July 2020, Wally passed away and was finally able to be reunited with his beloved wife, soul mate and dance partner Janise, to dance together again.



For over half a century the Mount Stuart Hall was central in Wally’s life; everyone waltzing or foxtrotting through it also became part of Wally’s family. Vale Wally.

### HOBART YOGA SPACE

Mount Stuart Memorial Hall  
Supper Room

Weekly Iyengar yoga classes

Monday to Thursday, mornings and evenings for beginners and non beginners with Liz, Mary & Margie.

Contact Liz to discuss your class level  
6234-9489

For our full timetable please see

<https://hobartyogospace.carrd.co/>

### WEERONA AVENUE FLOOD PROTECTION PETITION

Weerona Avenue residents have submitted a petition to the Council seeking a cut-off drain be constructed above the houses on the western side of the street to hopefully protect their properties from flooding. This was explained in our article in the December 2019 edition of this publication.

Hobart City Council officers have recommended the petition be refused. This will be considered by HCC at its meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

The principal reasons for the refusal are that the flooding is a result of run-off from natural bush catchment and that constructing a cut-off drain would increase stormwater in the downstream piped network. We do not agree with the latter statement as all the run-off water will end up in the stormwater system anyway.

## Mount Stuart shortcuts and backways

Many of us value the shortcuts, steps and backways between our streets, and the links to other suburbs and to bush reserves.

Since mid-March, with restricted movements and the impetus to exercise locally, these routes have seen increased use. At the top of the popularity list has been the recently developed Lake Fenton Pipeline Track from the end of Weerona Avenue to tracks in the Knocklofty Reserve. It provides a well-formed, elevated but relatively level walk-with-a-view between Mount Stuart and West Hobart: great for exercise and dog-walking and as a route to other areas such as the Hobart Rivulet Linear Park or the City.

The Fiona Allan Track and the steps above the Mount Stuart Lookout offer shorter routes to the heights above, but those who are looking for more moderate gradients can follow the Knocklofty loop to the top after taking the Lake Fenton Pipeline Track.

The reserve looks very healthy following good rain and freedom (mainly) from recent fire – and the Knocklofty Bushcare group does great ongoing work, especially in weed control.

Reconstructed footpath to eliminate steps on Darling Parade



The Mount Stuart website has an updated version of the map that we issued a few weeks ago. See the link below.

During lockdown, a challenge was announced on

Facebook: Walk all the marked links but only one way! We know some people took up the challenge and recorded their times. Others did so virtually, from their desks or armchairs.

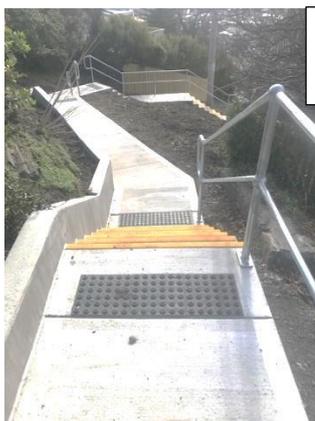
May we continue to value and cherish this special feature of our suburb, encouraging the use and maintenance of these routes.

### Links to Maps

<http://www.mountstuarttas.org.au/?q=content/mount-stuart-walkways>

<https://www.hobartcity.com.au/Community/Parks-reserves-and-sporting-facilities/Find-a-park-or-sportsground/Knocklofty-Reserve>

i. You may wonder about the Lake Fenton name – since that lake is far distant in the Mount Field National Park. This route is part of the water supply line from there, as is the reservoir in Benjafield Terrace. (On the Hobart City Council website map of Knocklofty Reserve this track is marked as Mrs Field's Fire Trail. This is probably an inaccurate reference to the Fielding family, previous owners of the land crossed by the track.)



The newly completed link between Darling Parade and Benjafield Terrace

There are many links between the streets of our suburb. Over recent months one of them, between Benjafield Terrace and Darling Parade, was closed for reconstruction of the

steps. The finished product is impressive!

Many steps remain, but at the top, a section of the Darling Parade footpath was reconstructed to eliminate a set of steps.

That is now a moderately graded route suitable for older people or people with prams.



**Cr Anna Reynolds**

*Working for your community*

Please call or email me if I can assist you with Council matters, and to receive my monthly community newsletter.

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Thank you to all our contributors and deliverers of the newsletter.