

MOUNT STUART NEWS

MARCH-APRIL 2023

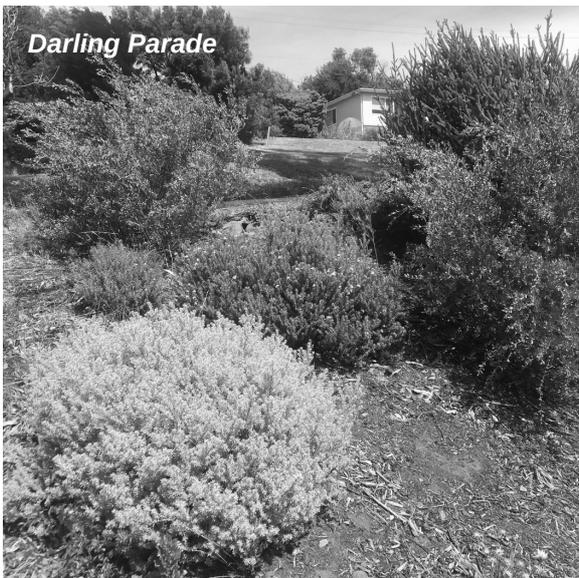
Who Looks After your Nature Strip?

Some residents take pride in a well-tended nature strip that they mow as an extension of their garden. Also, there is a growing movement of residents who develop community garden strips, or plants to encourage birdlife. But in some locations around the suburb, nature strips are wide and/or steep and rough, and impossible for residents who are growing older to tend.

Hobart City Council has announced that:

The City of Hobart will move away from mowing and maintaining nature strips adjacent to private properties from the end of March 2023. The City's new nature strip program encourages property owners and residents to recognise the value of nature strips and take pride in maintaining them.

A bold plan! Or a cost-cutting exercise? Perhaps a bit of each. Read more on page 2 – and come to hear the speaker at our Annual General Meetings (see below).



2023 Annual General Meetings

**Mount Stuart Residents Inc.
Mount Stuart Hall Inc.**

in the Mount Stuart Hall
on Thursday 23rd March 2023 at 7:45pm.

All residents of Mount Stuart are members of these two associations, so please come if you are able, to hear about activities over the past year and to take part in choosing the office bearers and committee members for 2023-24. The meetings only take a few minutes and will be followed by a talk by Heather Huxley from Hobart City Council Parks and Reserves about the Council's new nature strip program.

The Hobart City Council's Nature Strip Program

**Heather Huxley
Acting Program Leader
Hobart City Council Parks and Reserves**

will talk to Mount Stuart residents
and answer your questions
after the AGMs at 7:45pm
on Thursday 23rd March 2023



Nominations for Committees

You are warmly invited to nominate yourself or another Mount Stuart resident as a committee member or office-bearer for the committees of the two associations. Meetings normally occur monthly and follow each other, currently on the evening of the fourth Thursday.

Contact the Secretary, Stewart Gardner, at secretary@mountstuarttas.org.au or find a nomination form on the Mount Stuart website.

Who Looks After your Nature Strip?

.... continued from page 1

What the announcement means

Those residents who wish to make use of their nature strip and maintain it themselves will no longer need to apply for permission – as long as they follow the Council's fairly strict guidelines. But modifications they make will be at their own cost. The guidelines include such restrictions as only using shrubs lower than 60cm. There are also requirements to leave space for kerbside bin collection and parking, and there's a list of landscaping elements such as rocks, that are forbidden.

If you will have difficulty maintaining your nature strip

The City of Hobart is offering support to those who, due to mobility or other issues such as poor health or age, need help maintaining their nature strip.

A Request to mow nature strip should be completed using the online or printable form available on the Council website: Nature strips - City of Hobart, Tasmania Australia (hobartcity.com.au).

It's worthwhile to read the Council's guidelines: coh-nature-strip-guidelines-2022-12-20.pdf (hobartcity.com.au). It's an attractive document, well-illustrated, with the guidelines clearly laid out. There are helpful lists of Tasmanian native plants, fire-retardant plants, plants for wildlife, and ornamental plants.

Questions arising

It will take time for the new program to take effect. It leaves us with questions such as:

- Why isn't there a form for residents who can't maintain their nature strips which don't need mowing?
- What about nature strips that already have large, significant trees?
- Where Council has previously given permission to plant trees higher than 60cm... what now?
- Will Council liaise with residents to continue planting trees on nature strips as part of its greening of Hobart program?
- Will the nature strip need to be looked after by the resident as if it were their front yard, e.g., regular maintenance?
- Will HCC be inspecting the nature strip at all, once the resident opts to take care of it?

To find out more, and to put your own questions, come to hear Heather Huxley from the HCC after our Annual General Meetings on 23rd March. And please send us your comments, as the new approach takes effect from 1st April. We will follow up with another article in the next issue of Mount Stuart News.

Vale Lawson Ride

Former Mount Stuart resident Lawson Ride passed away on 31 October last year aged 73. He is fondly remembered for his ready smile and friendly approach, which combined with his aptitude for music, resulted in him playing the piano at many Primary School events. Lawson was the inaugural CEO of the Cancer Council from 1995 until 2009, when the effects of Parkinson's Disease, including speech issues, meant that he was forced to retire. In 2015, he was awarded Hobart City Council's Citizen of the Year.

We pass on our condolences to his wife Viv, four children, and four grandchildren.



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.

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



"I am available anytime by phone or email to discuss current legislation or assist with any government issues you may have"

Hon. Rob Valentine MLC

Your *Independent* Member for Hobart

Office: 03 6212 2344

Email: rob.valentine@parliament.tas.gov.au

Mobile: 0418 127 323

Website: www.robvalentine.com.au

Community Batteries

TasNetworks, as the Tasmanian Electricity Distributor, is investigating the installation of lithium-based batteries in communities around the state. This program, funded by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), is part of a national rollout between now and 2024/25 and involves the connection of household solar systems in a neighbourhood to batteries that would most likely be sited on a nearby street. This means that residential solar energy produced above what is needed for the household can be stored in a local battery rather than being directly sent to the grid. It can then potentially be used by the residences involved, be shared with neighbours, provide a source for an electric car fast charger, or be used by the electricity supplier to help make the grid 'more stable'. From 20 to 100 houses are needed to be involved in each community battery set-up.

Two sites are under consideration in Tasmania so far, but others will be selected over the next few years. TasNetworks is asking for communities with an interest in a community battery to contact them. Mount Stuart Residents Association is not planning to do this directly, as we do not have the time or skills required. However, we may be able to support local residents who would like to be involved. For example, we could help set up a working group of those who contact us. If you are interested, please contact us at secretary@mountstuarttas.org.au.

General information about ARENA and the community batteries program is available at <https://arena.gov.au/assets/2022/12/community-batteries-webinar-presentation.pdf>

More specific information about TasNetworks' involvement is available at <https://www.tasnetworks.com.au/config/getattachment/c1843c44-7705-4804-bf54-a8cc6ce324cb/community-battery-tasmania-2022.pdf>

Good and Bad News for Knocklofty Maintenance

Hobart's mild and drier winter, along with a wetter spring and early summer, proved ideal for native plants in the Knocklofty reserve such as poas and fireweed. The Friends of Knocklofty annual report in January noted that in two cleared areas above the Weerona Trail where some 250 grasses were planted in August 2020, the poas are thriving.

However, of four other species planted, less than 10 percent survived, although the small low native grasses that grew around the edges of the area are doing well and spreading downhill. Volunteers have spent quite a few hours keeping thistles and seedling gorse down, to improve the grasses' chances of taking over.

The reserve continues to attract an increasing number of visitors from both the Mount Stuart and West Hobart entry points. Track counter data shows up to 200 'passes' daily along the Weerona Trail and another 500 elsewhere in the reserve. Council has acknowledged the use of the Weerona Trail by dog walkers with the placement of a dog waste bin and bag dispenser.

Council has also responded to requests for additional seating. A rustic arrangement of three large logs has been placed next to the bandicoot corridor at the southern end of the Weerona Trail.

In response to concern about reduced biodiversity due to the proliferation of self-seeded blackwood *Acacia melanoxylon* in Salvator Rosa Glen, a management plan was drawn up and volunteers have removed some of the young blackwoods.

Volunteers have been engaged through the year, predominantly in removal of weeds. The nine hectares of land that Council acquired four years ago on either side of the Weerona Trail is still a main focus, involving removal of gorse seedlings, thistles, forget-me-nots, wild turnip, *Euryops*, elderberries, hawthorn and broom.

An average of 12-16 volunteers attend Thursday maintenance sessions. They meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month, 9:00-11.30 am and on the third Sunday afternoon, 2:00-4.30 pm.

More information can be found on the Friends of Knocklofty website - <http://friendsofknocklofty.org/>

Also: Valley Street Bushcare

First and Third Tuesdays of the month, 1-3pm
Contact Vicki Martin on 0468 452 115

Mount Stuart Christmas Carols 2022

A balmy, sunny evening heralded the return of Mount Stuart Christmas Carols, organised by the Mount Stuart Residents Association and financially supported by the Hobart City Council.



There was a real buzz as people lined up for a sausage from the barbecue run by the Mount Stuart Scouts and for hot drinks from Loui's Van. The Scouts also provided some craft activities. The Lenah Valley Volunteer Fire Brigade brought along a fire truck for young and old to inspect. Neighbours and friends gathered on the grounds, catching up with each other, renewing friendships and making new friends.

Inside, under the special lighting, everyone gathered to sing together. The Mount Stuart Primary School choir started the evening, performing several songs with enthusiasm. The Fuchsia House Ukulele Players continued with contemporary songs and the evening concluded with more traditional songs led by the Festive Quartet.



It was a wonderful evening, and our thanks go to the many people and organisations who helped make it such an enjoyable occasion.



Wildlife at Risk from Traffic

The December issue of Mount Stuart News included information about wildlife-at-risk signs available for residents to display on their properties. We have now installed signs facing each way alongside Byard Street, outside the Hall.

A variety of signs can still be purchased from the Friends of Summerleas Wildlife group, through Facebook. Signs measure 600 x 900 x 5mm, are on printed corflute board and can be purchased for \$16 each.



<p>Tuesday Morning Badminton for Ladies 10:00-11.45 am Come join us for some exercise. Contact Vicki Martin 0468 452 115</p>
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