

Mount Victoria Community Association Inc.

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

July 2019 | 16a AILSA ST, MOUNT VICTORIA NSW 2786 | www.mountvictoria.nsw.au

IT'S BEEN A BUSY YEAR

With the Annual General Meeting coming up in August it is a good time to reflect on the work that the community association has been doing on behalf of our village.

Over the 2018/19 year we:

- sponsored the annual Christmas gathering in the park;
- kept The Great Train Weekend Committee active ready for 2020 and supported the Ailsa Street Improvement Community Project;
- liaised with Council to have damaged signs in Fairy Bower and the Historic Wells replaced, repair the rotunda in Rotunda Park, provide space for a community garden, repaint the lines on Mount York Road, attended a Risk Assessment Workshop to assist our events, and have the tree plantings along the highway continued up to Mt York Road;
- kept lines of communication open with the Imperial Hotel developers;
- held a very successful Candidate's Night for the state elections;
- provided support to the Bell Quarry Action Group;
- continued representation at the Blackheath Area Community Alliance;
- liaised with TrainLink to consider safety improvements for rail commuters exiting at the steps leading on to Darling Causeway;
- delivered newsletters to each letterbox in Mount Victoria;
- are working on a photographic record for the primary school's 150th anniversary;
- kept our Face Book page active;
- applied for several grants;
- provided representation at ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies;
- partnered with St Peters Church to negotiate a better and safer placement of the bus stop on the highway with RMS and
- held three successful fundraisers to assist with costs for The Great Train Weekend
- are in the process of updating our website.



*Commuters need to be alert as they cross
The Darling Causeway.*

OUR 'GREAT TRAIN WEEKEND' GRANTED VICE REGAL PATRONAGE



It is with great pleasure that we announce that we have been awarded Vice Regal Patronage by the Governor of NSW, The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC, Governor of New South Wales, for our Great Train Weekend event, continuing on from 2018 when we were granted this status from

Past Governor, His Excellency General, The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC. This is very exciting news and enhances the rich history of our village.

'AMID GIANTS'

This was the front-page headline you may have seen in the Gazette recently. The museum and our association have been active in having two important historical figures, John Berghofer and Henry Rienits, placed on The Significant Graves Register. That makes twenty-five listed in the mountains and it is wonderful that two pioneers of Mount Victoria have been recognised in this way.

Henry Guenter Rienits (1851-1928) established 'The School', a private boarding school for young gentlemen of good family at Mount Victoria in 1885; his father Dietrich Guenter Rienits was associated with the introduction of Esperanto into NSW. Both are buried at Mount Victoria cemetery. Peter Larsen (Lawson) was the building contractor for the school,

and his writer son Henry may have attended as a pupil for a time.

https://www.flickr.com/photos/blue_mountains_library_-_local_studies/3235065161/

John Berghofer was the first elected President of the Blaxland Shire Council, now amalgamated into Lithgow Shire and was responsible for the construction of Berghofer Pass. He was one of the significant organisers of the construction of the Explorers' Monument at Mount York in 1900 and was also heavily involved in the 1913 centenary celebrations of the crossing of the Blue Mountains. John Berghofer also purchased the Hartley Inn, which he renamed 'Rosedale' where he resided.

Both Henri Rienits and John Berghofer were very active in the affairs of Mount Victoria. Unfortunately, being of German descent, they were forced to retire from public life when WW1 broke out, becoming victims of anti-German sentiment.

Rienits and Piddington apparently did not see eye to eye.

"In July, 1880, Mr. Rienits, a second-class teacher, was appointed to the Mount Victoria Public School, which had then in attendance of about 120 pupils. The establishment of a Public school at Katoomba about a year later, however, drew away at least 40 of these scholars. Such a decrease in the attendance threatened a reduction in the grade of this school. This was a source of uneasiness to Mr. Rienits, as lowering the class numbers of the school meant corresponding deduction from the teacher's salary. He, therefore, was induced to receive as boarders the sons of some gentlemen in the interior, who were not near any school."

Mr Piddington complained bitterly about school master Rienits advertising in the SMH for boarders to reside at the public school. He complained that the boarders were 'larrikins' and that the local students would be neglected and disadvantaged.

"I feel persuaded that there is nothing in the 14th section of the Public Schools Act which will warrant this singular practice of introducing two distinct classes of children into our Public schools."

Upon investigation, it was found that residents, parents and officials were completely satisfied with the boarding system. Henry Rienits went on to build a new school in the vicinity of Montgomery Street for up to forty boarders and Mr Piddington's claims appeared to be unfounded...

"The statement that some of the boarders are

"thorough larrikins" is unanimously contradicted. Mr Whitall, whose garden adjoins the school grounds, states that the behaviour of the lads is most exemplary. From his position, as manager of the Imperial Hotel, he has had ample opportunity to see how they behave and he speaks in the highest terms of their general demeanour."

<https://trove.nla.gov.au>

BUSHCARE LEGEND



Congratulations to local hero, Marianne Bate, who was awarded the *Landcare Award* by Mayor Mark Greenhill recently at the annual Bushcare Picnic in Megalong. Marianne was recognised for her voluntary commitment to eradicating weeds from our bushland interface, assisting local

residents to manage their weed problems and for being a supportive and caring community member. *Bushcare meets every last Sunday of the month. Email us at mountvictoria.nsw@gmail.com for details.*

NEW TO THE AREA OR JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Find us on Facebook – [Mount Victoria Community Association](#)

Check out our website: <https://mountvictoria.nsw.au>

If you have any content you would like put in the newsletter, please email it to mountvictoria.nsw@gmail.com

Businesses – join the association and advertise for FREE on our website.

Community Association meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7.30, St Peters Church Hall.

Annual General Meeting
19th August at 7.30
St Peters Church Hall
Guest speaker – Lis Bastian from
'The Big Fix' will talk about ways we can
collaboratively redesign media,
education and work!