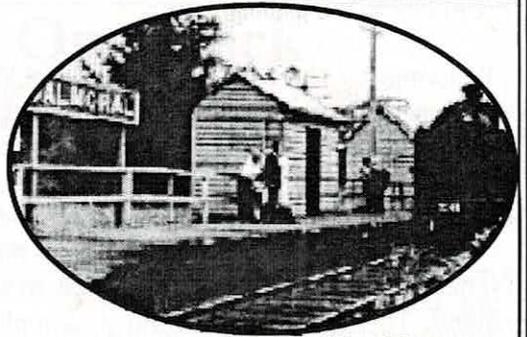


Balmoral

Village Voice



August 1998

No 11.

A newsletter published by the Balmoral Village Association Inc.

VISION BECOMES REALITY



Vision is becoming reality for the Balmoral Association after the first working bee to build a post and rail fence around the hall.

After successfully gaining a grant for materials, the hall ground's boundaries were surveyed and then marked out by the committee ready for the task of digging an endless line of postholes.

Gordon Ibbett, co-ordinator of the building of the fence, arranged for the purchase of 42 hardwood posts, which arrived at the hall one Saturday morning ready for a working bee.

By sunset all but six posts had been set in their holes. The speed with which the fence took shape was quite surprising, but is owed to the use of residents' tractors, and the large contingent of workers who volunteered their time to help out. Pictured above is the Saturday working bee, with the tractor used for installing the posts. A huge thank you to all who turned out to assist either on that day, or on other occasions during the construction so far.

(more fence news pg 7)

From the Editor:

Welcome to the winter issue of the Voice. Thanks again to all the people who have made such positive comments about the newsletter. Thanks too to the group of people who contributed to this edition. A writing session one Friday night made it so much easier this time.. The more minds the better!

As you will read in the Balmoral Village Association News, the Annual General meeting wasn't that well attended, but some great ideas were raised. To get the maximum accomplished though, it would be great to have input from the whole community. I know that there have been many people associated with the association over the years, and they have played a great role in improving the community. To those people Thank you for your past efforts, but why not come along and see what the current committee are doing. New residents in Balmoral too, have a look at some of the ideas from the Annual General meeting and see if there is something you would like to help in achieving. Maybe you have some ideas or concerns of your own. Come along and join in.

If you would like to contribute something to the Village Voice, drop it in to me at No 7 Station Street, phone me on 48 898 146 or Email me. (pm@acenet.com.au). The next edition will be out in November (It will be put together throughout October) so there's plenty of time to realise that you have some information that the rest of the Village might be interested in.

Paul Mallia.

Salvation Army Appeal Thanks



Sunday 24th May was the Salvation Army's Annual Red Shield Appeal Day.

In Balmoral Village, the collection was organised and carried out by members of the Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade. Thanks to members Greg & Joanne Bardsley, John Gray, Gordon Ibbett, Julie Lawrence & Michael Course who doorknocked throughout the village

collecting \$ 482. 20 in donations.

The Salvation Army greatly appreciate the contributions made everyone. This year in total the Appeal raised 8.2 million dollars Australia wide, which I am informed is 20% of their annual operating costs.

Trains On Track

Many people may have noticed the increased activity on the railway line between Balmoral and Buxton.

Arthur Tubby, General Manager of the Thirlmere Rail Museum, took the time to explain the current position and future plans for the rail line.

The museum has a lease on the line from Thirlmere to Colo Vale . It was hoped by the museum that the trains would run as far as Hilltop by last Christmas, but the current thinking is that the line will be useable by Christmas 1998.

The clearing which is occurring along the line is being done by private individuals after gaining a permit from the museum. This clearing is necessary for the drivers to have a safe and clear line of vision and for fire safety regulations, as required by

the Department of Transport.

The actual track between Buxton and Hilltop is in quite good condition, due to its steel sleepers, and it requires little work to make it safe and useable.

The road crossings along the line are an issue which needs to be resolved, and this will be done through community consultation with the Balmoral Association as the time draws nearer.

At this stage there is no plan for the train to stop at Balmoral, but to continue on through the cutting to Hilltop.

Any questions regarding the future of the line can be directed to Arthur Tubby on 46 81 8001. (Weekdays) For enquiries about woodcutting permits, contact Neil Finney or Ron Handley on 46 83 1991. (Sat - Sun).

Nowhere to Nowhere

At *telstra's* instruction, and for no evident reason, a directional drill was recently used to place a 200 pair conduit along the southern side of "The Dipper" on River Street.

Eight days soon turned into 28 due to breakage of the drill string and collapse of a hydraulic motor. Getting the drill head stuck in the obdurate rock of Balmoral Village helped compound the frustrations of the drill crew.

The drill was used rather than a trench because *telstra* has been

prevented from trenching in a residential area. The drill string had to be cased in steel piping in order to remove it and the casing then had to be removed to place the conduit... As only 10 metres could be removed at a time the casing had to be cut and welded for each section Time consuming.

The areas cleared of vegetation to allow work to proceed will be re-vegetated some time in the future.

Does this mean that Balmoral Village will get good phone services ????

Stretch

In Memory of Max Ibbett

3/2/1923 - 13/5/1998

Many long time residents of the area were saddened by the passing of Douglas Maxwell (Max) Ibbett who passed away in May at the Queen Victoria Hospital, Thirlmere.

Max's family came to the village in 1948 and he moved here permanently in 1967, taking up residence on "The Farm" on the corner of River St, and Henry St.

In his years in the village he helped many people out with their car repairs and building projects. He was a long term member of the Village Progress Association, as it was then known.

Max was a founding member of the Village Bush Fire Brigade, becoming captain in later years, eventually earning his 25 year service award.

During his time in the brigade he saw it grow from a small entity with only a Council supplied trailer carrying two 44 gallon drums of water, into a well resourced and organised group. Max, and other volunteers were instrumental in getting the first real fire truck, the 6X6 Studebaker, which he rebuilt completely from a smashed tanker.

During Max's residency in Balmoral he saw it grow from a small hamlet of no more than ten houses into the bustling village it is today.

The respect locals had for Max was shown by the number of residents who attended his funeral.

*Rob Wilson
Gordon Ibbett*

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was kindly printed by

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**Would you like to
advertise something in
the next Village Voice?**

If you have something you would like the rest of the village to know about, like your business, something you are selling etc, you can advertise it in the next Village Voice for a small donation to the Balmoral Association. We'll even design your ad'. Contact the Editor for more information. (48 898 146)

We've Got a Member, Remember !

On Thursday 18th of June the local State member, Peta Seaton, held a public forum at the Village Hall. Approximately ten residents met and discussed several local issues.

Ms Seaton has since contacted the Association with copies of correspondence which she has sent to various government bodies regarding local concerns, namely:

The Minister for the Environment:

A set of keys to the gates to the National Park was requested by the Fire Brigade to enable quick access in emergencies. This key will be made available to the brigade in the near future.

A request was made for policy on horse riding in the Bargo State Recreation Area and National Parks. A response is pending.

Information was requested on bush fire hazard reduction plans for the Bargo State Recreation Area and National Parks. The fire brigade are still waiting for a response on this issue.

Wingecarribee Shire Council:

Limited visibility along Railway Parade due to vegetation encroachment south of Station Street was raised as a safety issue and the possibility of grading and scraping the verge of the road was canvassed.

River Street surface is in poor condition and is a regular school bus route. A request for road improvements was made.

State Rail Authority:

The issue regarding the lack of weekend public transport from Balmoral was raised. A response is pending.

A member from John Fahey's office also attended the meeting and fielded some questions relating to Federal issues.

VILLAGE LIGHTS UP

"Sparks Fly as Steaks Fry"

Sparks rose high into the night sky on Saturday 27th June as Balmoral Village saw its most successful Village Bonfire Night yet. Approximately 150 came out to enjoy a social get together and fireworks extravaganza.

The fireworks, which lasted about 20 minutes, were organised by the Fire Brigade. The bonfire too was built by the fire Brigade, (many thanks to Trevor Peddle for much of the timber), and it lasted well into the early hours of the morning.

The Fire Brigade provided a barbecue, while the Balmoral Association supplied tea, coffee and soup, all well patronised, covering

the costs of the night and raising a small profit for the two community organisations.

The raffle organised by the Fire Brigade was won by Mrs Spears, with other prizes going to Pat Lawrence, Jason Magill, and the new owners of 'Kilat'.

Many thanks to Lofty Richardson, Domestic Water Carrier for the donation of the loads of water.

It was a most enjoyable night for all who attended, and reflected the community spirit in the village. It is hoped to see even more at next year's bonfire night.

Nearly That Time of Year Again

Many residents have been playing soccer since March but this will come to an end soon, so what next?

Cricket has grown in leaps and bounds over the last few years to become one of the biggest sports in the northern villages. Boronia Park at Hilltop is only a five minute drive from Balmoral, and is the cricket base for towns like Bargo, Yerrinbool, Colo Vale, Buxton, Thirlmere and Balmoral.

So why should you play cricket? First of all the cricket coaches have been trained to make practise more exciting with fun drills and skills, while having fun at the same time. One parent told me that her son is excited about playing cricket because it is

different. "The variety makes him try harder and he doesn't muck up as much." Making friends and achieving goals is what joining a cricket team is all about. Cricket is for both boys and girls. We also have a junior game called Kanga Cricket which is for ages 5 - 7.

The Northern Villages Cricket District is looking for U10s -U16s. If you would like to play I would be happy to talk to you. If you want private coaching without going to Boronia Park I can cater for that too, without charge. Mums and Dads are welcome to participate.

*Anthony Lynch - Junior Co-ordinator
for the Northern Villages Cricket
District. (ph 48 898 676)*

News from the...

Balmoral Village Association.

1998/99 Committee

At the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 12th July the 1998 /99 Committee were elected as follows:

President - Stephen Bishop
Vice Presidents - Gordon Ibbett
- Pat Lawrence
Secretary - Lill Bramich
Treasurer - Lyle Spears
Publicity /Editor- Paul Mallia

Annual General Meeting Discussion

The attendance at the Annual General Meeting was somewhat disappointing, and a part of the discussion was therefore based on how we might further increase village participation and therefore involvement with the Association. Ideas about this as well as community improvements were floated.

A streetlight on the corner of Hall St & Wilson Drive was discussed, as well as a possible pedestrian crossing to the hall across Wilson Drive. These matters are currently being followed up by John Gray.

A "You Are Here" map of Balmoral to be placed near the village noticeboard was a valuable idea being considered, as was new playground equipment, landscaping around the hall, a children's disco night and a survey for village residents to determine community needs.

Fence Progress

As reported on Pg 1, the fence around the hall is beginning to take shape. There are too many people to thank

individually, but you know who you are. So many people have helped either through volunteer labour or with donations of materials or equipment. It has been great to see some new faces at the working bees, as well as some older ones.

Now that the fence posts are in, a group of residents will be chainsawing mortises in the posts ready for the rails. In future weekend working bees the rails will be installed, the wire put up and the mesh attached. Gates will be built for car and pedestrian access. If you are interesting in helping in future working bees, Contact Gordon Ibbett on 48 898 385

Hall Hire

The hall, which is owned by the Association (not the Council, as many other village halls are) is now available for hire. It is ideal for classes, parties or regular meetings etc for very reasonable rates. Also for hire are the hall seats, tables and a marquee tent. These would be ideal for people having parties at home. Contact Stephen Bishop on 898 740.

All Welcome !

The Balmoral Association meet on the first Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall at 7:30pm. In upcoming meetings the association will be discussing the building of the fence, fundraising functions, issues raised at the AGM as well as any other topical local issues. All residents are very welcome to attend and have a chat and tea or coffee.

Fire Brigade News.....

Hazard Reduction

Recently the brigade have burned sections of the Railway line between Balmoral and Buxton. This has removed the hazardous tree heads adjacent to the railway line which were left by woodcutters. This was carried out on Friday nights and were well attended by brigade members.

More recently a perimeter fire was burned on the block of land opposite the hall on Wilson Drive. This, it is hoped, will be completed when the weather permits.

Reduce Your own Hazards

The fire brigade are experienced in safely burning off, whether it be windrows or whole parcels of land. If you would like the brigade to manage your fire or hazard reduction this can easily be arranged for a small donation to the Brigade. Call Captain Peter Lawrence on 48 898 004 to make arrangements early in the hazard reduction season. Remember fire restrictions begin again in November!

Chain Saw Sharpening

Chainsaws can be sharpened at the fireshed on Wednesday nights for a fee of \$4.00 per chain. Discount for brigade members.

Fundraising

The recent Bonfire night was the most well attended for years. The barbecue and raffle covered the \$200.00 cost of the fireworks and made a small profit which will be used by the brigade.

Sketch Location Maps

Recently you would have received a 'Sketch Location Map' from the fire brigade. The information you give on these sheets is confidential and will be used for the safety of firefighters and close residents if a fire should break out at your house. It would be greatly appreciated if all residents could return these.

Training

Three members recently attained their Basic Firefighter Accreditation. Congratulations to Lisa Spears, Tim Roach and 'Stretch'.

Currently, Larry Wilson, Lesley Bramich, Duncan Tait and Stephen Bishop and Lyle Spears are undergoing Advanced Firefighting training.

Membership /Meetings

If you would like to become a member of the brigade, whether to be an active firefighter or to learn about fire behaviour for the protection of your own home, why not go along to weekly meetings.

The Balmoral Bushfire Brigade meet each Wednesday night at 7:30pm in the fireshed. The meetings are conducted in a relaxed social setting over a cup of tea or coffee and everyone is most welcome to attend. Business is conducted on the first Wednesday of each month. In upcoming meetings the brigade will discuss future hazard reduction plans, training opportunities and return of sketch location maps.

From the Tennis Club... Weekends & Wednesdays. We want You !!



The tennis club are always looking for new people to come along and join in their Wednesday social games, but are now considering a weekend social game, Saturday or Sunday, depending on interest shown.

The Tennis court behind the hall is also available for private bookings at very reasonable rates.

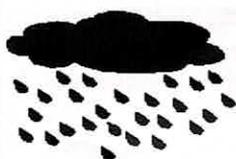
With great lighting, why not have a

game with the family after work.

If you would like to join any of the social games or to hire the court phone Pat Lawrence on (02)48 898 066. (Call the day or night before if possible).

Children must always have an adult supervising.

Pat Lawrence.



The Balmoral Village

Raingauge



May

May 2 - 1.5 mm
May 3 - 4 mm
May 4 - 2 mm
May 5 - 20 mm
May 13 - 2.5 mm
May 14 - 2.5 mm
May 15 - 2 mm
May 17 - 2 mm
May 18 - 17 mm

June

Jun 1 - 7 mm
Jun 2 - 3.5 mm
Jun 3 - 31 mm
Jun 4 - 2 mm
Jun 22 - 50 mm
Jun 23 - 3 mm

July

July 6 - 1.5 mm
July 11 - 4mm (sleet)
July 18 - 6 mm
July 20 - 24 mm
July 23 - 1.5 mm
July 24 - 10 mm
July 25 - 4 mm
July 26 - 12 mm
July 27 - 4.5 mm
July 28 - 2.5 mm

** Results collected by Lyle & Lisa Spears in Balmoral Village. Readings are taken each morning at 7:30am for the 24 previous hours.*

Have a Film Society Saturday Night

We're showing films at the Old School and not at the Hall while our numbers are small. Although we have no new members to the film society many people have noticed our inclusion in the Village Voice and asked about the films. Here is a brief summary of our programme for the next five months.

August 8th

Pandoras Box.....1928 German 109 mins

Described as the most "modern" of silent classics

September 12th

Celine et Julie vont en Bateau.....A10690298 (VHS)

185 mins .French 1974. Dir by Jacques Rivette

" This film....is in turn magical , joyous and unsettling...an exhilarating display of parodies and genre pastiches forming what amounts to a meditation on the art of allusion."

October 10th

Lancelot du Lac.....A10693300 (16 mm)

French .Directed by R. Bresson.1974. 84 mins

November 14th

Titicut Follies.....A12056073 (16 mm)

U.S.A. 1967 Frederick Wiseman documentary. Filmed in the state hospital for the criminally insane at Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

December 12th

Boudu Saved from Drowning.....A12950849 (16 mm)

French. 1932. Dir. by Jean Renoir. 80 mins.

...gently satirical and subversive rather than cutting...

If you are interested in joining our Society or making suggestions for future films please ring Steve or Janine on 4889 8479 . If we can increase our numbers once more we will be able to use the Hall again.

Janine King.

Classifieds...

Wanted

Wanted, Life, Contact Wally.

Wanted, Your ad for our next edition, published in November, Contact the editor

Public Notices

Have you noticed the 80km/h speed signs on Wilson Drive ? It may interest people to know that police have been doing a roaring trade by parking in Hall Road to catch unsuspecting motorists. Beware !

Historical Feature

Last issue saw the beginning of a two part Historical Feature on the first 100 years of Balmoral Village, taken from an article in the Southern Highlands News on Wednesday, December 16th, 1987. This is the second part of that article.

BALMORAL VILLAGE

. . . the first 100 years (continued)

It was James Patterson, who in June 1888, as station master at the now Balmoral Railway Station, renewed the application for a school to be started at Balmoral. There were now four families with a total of 14 children of school age at Balmoral and three families with another six children around the Buxton village, most of the children were attending a private school at Truro in Balmoral operated by Miss Harry. This was the first private school in the area.

"Truro" was a well known guest house, known for its local surroundings, its beauty and service to its guests. Miss Harry arrived from Sydney in 1887.

A new school inspector, Mr Murray stressed the way in which the timetable at Hilltop school had been arranged since 1884 to suit

the Balmoral people. He also felt it was inconsistent of them to complain about their children's journey to Hilltop, yet base their claim for a school on the expectation that the Buxton children would travel three to four miles to school at Balmoral. It was also pointed out that the private school at Truro made it impossible for Hilltop school to survive in its current form and yet there were not enough children at Balmoral for a Provisional School.

A rather neat solution Mr Murray found was to recommend that Hilltop school became a half time school with Balmoral. In July 1888 the Department of Public Instruction accepted the solution.

It was also noted that a local resident, Thomas McGlynn, was willing to lease half an acre of

land near the railway station for the School at a nominal one shilling a year.

Soon a building of sawn slabs with an iron roof was erected on the site by the parents.

Everything was ready in November 1888 and Miss Ellon Rixon opened the new school in late November. She taught in the morning at Hilltop and in the afternoon at Balmoral.

The train timetable suited this arrangement.

During its peak Balmoral grew to have two platforms of great length.

Today the village has slipped back in time. It now has no platforms or railway, no school, no guesthouse nor does it have any shops or post office. But it does have beauty by way of its bush, its hundred year old pine trees, the many wild birds that come in from the gullies through to the Blue Mountains.

Noticeboard

A handy list of upcoming dates and information.

Important Dates:

- * Tuesday 1st September,
Balmoral Association Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall.
- * Saturday 12th September, Film Society:
"Celine et Julie vont en Bateau" , Contact Janine King.
- * Tuesday 6th October,
Balmoral Association Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall.
- * Saturday 10th October, Film Society:
"Lancelot du Lac" , Contact Janine King.
- * Tuesday 3rd November,
Balmoral Village Association Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall.
- * Saturday, 14th November, Film Society:
"Titicut Follies". Contact Janine King.

Regular Events:

- * Balmoral Bushfire Brigade meet each Wednesday night,
7:30pm at the fire shed.
- * Tennis club play Wednesdays,
10:00am, at the the tennis club (behind village hall)

Phone Numbers:

- * Bush Fire Control (Bowral) 48 61 3635 or Dial 000
- * Tennis Club or Tennis Court bookings,
phone Pat Lawrence, 48 898 066.
- * Film Society enquiries,
phone Janine King or Steve Harrison, 48 898 479
- * Hall Hire,
phone Stephen Bishop , 48 898 740

If you have a date or other information for the noticeboard, contact the editor (ph898 146)