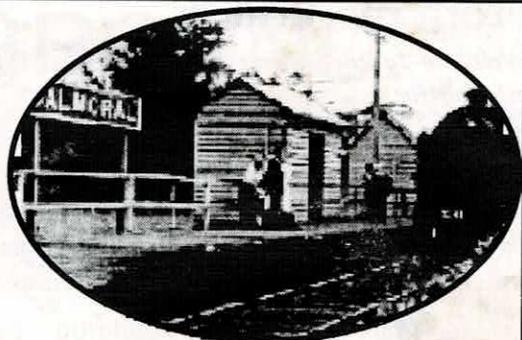


Balmoral

Village Voice



August 1999

No 15.

A newsletter published by the Balmoral Village Association Inc.

IT'S PLAYTIME



Pictured - Matthew , Nathan and Jemma Hahn enjoying the new playground equipment at the village hall- Story Page 3.

From the Editor:

Welcome to the spring edition of the Village Voice. I hope you will find it informative.

For many of the village's long term residents, it is a sad farewell to Col and Sue Ritchie who after having lived here for what seems like forever, have chosen to lift their roots and move further north and sail to exciting and exotic places. (Are Balmoral winters becoming too much for them ?) On behalf of those who know Col and Sue I wish them well on their journeys and hope that they find a community with as much to offer as this one.

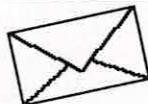
It seems as if the village has a wealth of experience in Arts and Crafts to share. I believe that Anna Tait had a positive response to her quilting classes after the last issue of the Village Voice, and in this issue Balmoral artist, Sue Southwood, has included information about her workshops.

*If you would like to contribute something to the next Village Voice, drop it in to me at No 7 Station Street, phone me on 48 898 146 or Email me **at my new email address.** (paulmallia@yahoo.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.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Balmoronians,

It has been 16 years since we arrived in the village and now it's time to move on.

The friendship, camaraderie and community spirit has enriched our lives and will travel in our hearts as we sail into the future.

We wish you all love, peace, goodwill and happiness, and until our paths cross once more, we bid you farewell.

Col & Sue Ritchie.

PS. We are sure that David and Jennifer, when they move into our home and the community, will find as much happiness here as we have.

PLAYGROUND READY FOR USE BY VILLAGE CHILDREN

From Page 1:

A new playground, which meets Australian Design Standards, has been installed in the Hall grounds.

The old playground was removed in October 1998 along with most other playgrounds in Wingecarribee Shire as they did not meet acceptable standards.

The new Hall playground was in part funded by a community grant of \$3607 with the Council Parks and Gardens Department providing the softfall and playground borders.

Many thanks to Mark Chapman of Wingecarribee Shire Council Parks and Gardens who liaised with the Association and arranged the

purchase and installation of the playground.

The playground was obtained from Megatoys, who, due to insurance purposes, were also required by Council to install the equipment.

The playground was sited in the north-west corner of the hall grounds for maximum visibility and possible expansion along the tennis court fence.

All are welcome to use the playground. Access is via the small walk-in gate which is unlocked.

Please remember that children using the playground must be supervised by an adult at all times, and please shut the gate as you leave.

Larry Wilson

John Lund

Rowan Lund

Johnny Kool
Automotive

For all your mechanical and
spare parts needs.....

33 Boronia Ave
Hill Top, N.S.W. 2575

COMPETITIVE GREEN SLIPS

Ph (02) 4889 8231

News from the...

Balmoral Village Association.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Sunday 4th July.

Elections for office bearers resulted in the following positions for the 99-2000 year:

President	Larry Wilson
Vice Presidents	Stephen Bishop Gordon Ibbett Pat Lawrence
Secretary	Lesley Bramich
Treasurer	Lyle Spears
Publicity/ Editor	Paul Mallia

Membership Fees

Membership fees have been reduced to a nominal \$2 per person or \$5 for a family. Any resident of the village is eligible to become a member of the Association, which allows them voting rights at Association meetings as well as entitling them to discounted hall hire.

Working Bee

A working bee is planned for 18th September to complete much needed maintenance on the hall and its grounds. If you are able to help doing such jobs as replacing guttering, establishing gardens or painting, come along to the upcoming meetings, or contact one of the Association members.

Bonfire Night

The Association and Fire Brigade held yet another successful bonfire / Fireworks night this year.

The Association was fortunate enough to raise some funds from the tea/coffee/

soup stand.

Thank you to all who came along to enjoy the night and to the Fire Brigade, who provided the fireworks and worked hard to ensure the success of the night.

Fireweed Concern

Wingecarribee Shire Council have distributed information regarding the invasive weed Fireweed, which is becoming a problem throughout the shire. The information opposite is reproduced from the Council's information sheet. It is hoped that all landowners will be responsible in controlling this weed.

Hall Hire

The hall, which is managed by the Association is 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, ideal for people having parties at home. Contact Stephen Bishop on 48 898 740.

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 ground improvements to the hall fundraising functions, as well as any other topical local issues. All residents are very welcome to attend and have a chat and tea or coffee.

Fireweed

(*Senecio madagascariensis*)

DESCRIPTION

FIREWEED is an erect hairless annual or short-lived perennial herb, 10-50 cm high, with bright green, narrow, rather fleshy leaves, usually alternate and 2-6 cm long. The leaf margins may be serrate, entire or lobed. Flowers are bright yellow (usually 13 petals) arranged in clusters at the end of branches.

The seeds are small and light, attached to a pappus of fine white hairs and each plant may produce 25 000 to 30 000 seeds per season.

DISPERSAL

The main source of spread is by wind, though some seeds may be transported by birds, animals, machinery and in hay and grain.

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds usually germinate from March to June, but can continue into Spring/Summer, and with suitable moisture conditions can germinate all year round. Flowering normally occurs 6-10 weeks after germination, but can occur in as little as 3 weeks.

THE PROBLEM

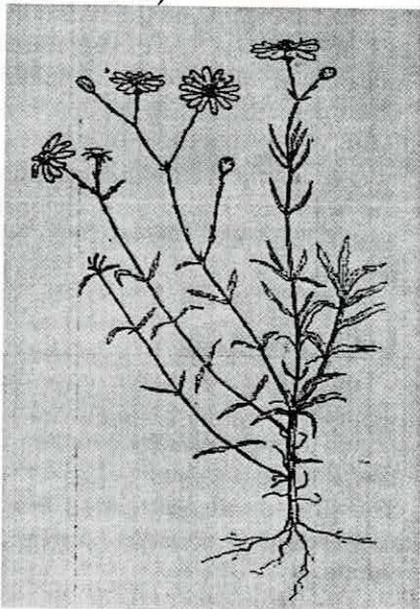
FIREWEED seeds prolifically and quickly invades pastures, especially after drought.

FIREWEED is most common on bare areas, roadsides, vacant blocks, overgrazed and neglected pastures, and on disturbed or cultivated land during Autumn to Spring.

FIREWEED is responsible for ill-thrift and poisoning of livestock, particularly cattle and horses. The alkaloids cause liver damage and the plant is toxic, green or dry.

CONTROL

- * Isolated plants should be pulled out and burned.
- * Larger areas can be spot or boom-sprayed with Bromoxynil
- * Wick-wipe (ropewick) with Glyphosate (Roundup) if plants are higher than the pasture, before flowering.
- * Maintain a vigorous and competitive pasture



Fire Brigade News.....

Hazard Reduction for '99

Hazard reduction for 1999, as outlined in the last issue of the Village Voice is still to be undertaken. On those occasions when the brigade have attempted hazard reduction burns, it has been unsuccessful due to unfavourable weather conditions. As the weather warms up the brigade will continue with the '99 hazard reduction plan.

Fires Attended

Over the past three months the Brigade has attended two car fires, one to the north and one to the south of the village.

The Brigade also attended one grass fire which occurred during high winds.

Time to Plan Your Own Hazard Reduction

Don't forget that late winter is the perfect time to plan and conduct hazard reduction around your home in preparation for the summer of 99-2000. Waiting until late in spring means that if the weather is unfavourable for burning, you are left with dangers around your home for the entire bushfire season.

If you would like some assistance in planning to make your property safer, call the fire shed on Wednesday nights between 7:30pm and 8:30pm to arrange for a qualified brigade officer to pay you a visit. Remember that Fire restrictions come into force in October.

Bonfire / Fireworks Night

This year's bonfire night drew the largest crowd yet. Well over 100 people, including Mayor Sara Murray, and Councillors Helen Chadwick and Peter Reynolds braved the strong south westerly winds to enjoy the spectacular.

Considering the poor weather conditions, the night was a huge success, the great patronage providing village residents new and old, with the opportunity to meet socially.

Thanks to Mark Worley who, with the use of his backhoe, removed stumps and helped with the construction of the bonfire. Thank you too, to all the workers on the night.

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. Participating in the upcoming planned hazard reduction activities might give you an insight into the work of the fire brigade.

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.

Bargains Benefit Brigade

The weekend of 15 / 16th May, the Bush Fire Brigade held a Huge Garage Sale at the Village hall to raise much needed funds.

Residents were most generous in donating fine used goods and assorted treasures. The assortment, which came together on the Friday night, was sorted and priced ready for sale on Saturday morning.

Advertising ensured that hordes were waiting at the door at the commencement of trading at 8:00am.

Antiques and collectables were snapped up early, whilst the remainder of the goods sold steadily over the weekend.

Tom Cunneen, local horticulturalist, also ran a stall selling a variety of plants.

In all the brigade raised over \$1500.

Many thanks to everyone who donated their preloved goods, and patronised the sale.

Come and Hear all about THE OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

coming to Wingecarribee Shire.
Information evening at
Mittagong RSL auditorium,
Tuesday August 31st at
7:30pm.

How do I apply to run?

What celebrations will there be ?

Where does the torch go to ?

When is it coming ?

How can I be involved ?

Where can my children best see the relay ?

Will there be facilities for disabled runners / viewers ?

Everyone Welcome

Steve's Slashing Service



Small or Large acreages
Slashing
Fence post removal and general
tractor work
Reliable operator

Ring Steve for a competitive quote.
48 898 740.

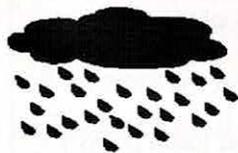
HAPPY BIRTHDAY



to:

Justin Spears - 23 /8
Lyle Spears- 29/8
Rory Spears - 8/9
Lesley Bramich - 2/10
Mick Ibbett - 16/10
Peter Lawrence - 28/10

If you would like a birthday of a friend or relative added to our birthday list, contact the editor.



The Balmoral Village

Raingauge



May

May 5 - 1.5mm
May 6 1.25mm
May 22 - 2.5mm
May 23 - 10mm
May 24 - 4 mm
May 29 - 1mm
May 30 - 1mm

June

Jun 6- 3mm
Jun 9 - 18mm
Jun 11 - 1mm
Jun 22 - 2.5mm
Jun 26 - 4.75mm
Jun 31 - 6mm

July

Jul 1 - 35mm
Jul 8 - 1.5mm
Jul 11 - 4mm
Jul 12 - 24mm
Jul 13 - 48mm
Jul 14 - 4.5mm
Jul 15 - 2mm
Jul 16 - 2mm
Jul 25 - .5mm
Jul 30 - 1.5mm

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

This newsletter
was kindly printed by

**Peddle Press
Prestige
Printing.**

Contact Peddle Press for all
your printing needs.

Ph (02) 46 55 8234.

**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)

Film Society Saturday Nights

The Spring Programme.....

Saturday September 11th,

The Philadelphia Story.

U.S, 1940. Stars Cary Grant, Katharine Hepburn and James Stewart (112 mins)

Saturday October 9th,

Mr Chedworth Steps Out.

Australian, 1939. Directed by Ken G Hall. Stars Cecil Kellaway, Peter Finch. (92 mins)

Saturday 13th November,

The Road to Yesterday.

U.S, 1925. Directed by Cecil B. De Mille (98 minutes)

The Balmoral Film Society meets at Steve and Janine's at 5 Railway Parade (the old schoolhouse) on the second Saturday of each month at 7:00pm. If you are interested in joining the Society please ring Steve or Janine on 4889 8479 .

Janine King.

From the Tennis Club...

Come and Have a Game!



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

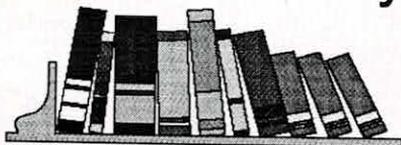
The Tennis court behind the hall is also available for private bookings at very reasonable rates.

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.

Wingecarribee Mobile Library



10:45am -11:15am
near Village Noticeboard

At Balmoral on:

Aug 24th
Sept 7th, 21st
Oct 5th, 19st
Nov 2nd, 16th

Papermaking By Hand

with local artist
SUE SOUTHWOOD
Sunday August 29, 1999
10am till 3pm
Cost : \$25.00

You are invited to participate in a papermaking 'play' shop at my Balmoral home studio. For those new to the craft, this is an opportunity to gain first-hand experience with the delightful process of making your own unique papers. For those 'old hands', it is an opportunity to join in and meet with other papermakers, in exploring this wonderful craft. Recycled materials and plant fibres will be available for you to explore ways of making individual papers for a variety of uses.

LOTS OF FUN - AND A LIGHT LUNCH IS INCLUDED!

ENQUIRIES - 02 48 898 437

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL - R.S.V.P. AUGUST 26

KidsArt Holiday Playshop

with local artist
SUE SOUTHWOOD
September 28, 29, & 30, 1999
10am to 3pm
Cost: Only \$65.00 for 3 days of Fun!

A delightful series of art experiences are in store for interested children, 6-16. Anything, including sculpture, papermaking, painting, printing, tie dyeing and more is possible. In a safe and supportive atmosphere, children will be encouraged to explore a variety of materials and art processes and will make some wonderful works to take home. Shorter sessions can be arranged if required, but bookings are essential. All materials and equipment are supplied but please bring your own lunch. To book your child's place, call 02 48 898 437, before September 23.

Open Studio October Long weekend

Come along and see the variety of arts & crafts in an open studio weekend.

10am -4pm over the long weekend.

53 Railway Parade, Balmoral Village.

Ph 02 48 898 437.

Historical Feature

Here is the second part of the 2 part historical feature on the history of the early years of Balmoral Village School. It is a collection of snippets taken from the Hilltop Public School Centenary booklet, written by Tony Stevens and published by Hilltop School in 1984. Janine King, local historian, has pointed out to me that the excerpts used from Tony Stevens' book, need to be credited to Jan Burnswood who was, at the time, employed by the Department of Education to complete similar research on several schools. A few copies of the book are still available from Hilltop School.

The Department of Education purchased a new four acre site for the Balmoral Public school from W.J. Henry for 139 pounds in 1892, and in 1893 a brick schoolroom plus verandah was erected at a cost of 238 pounds. The old slab building was then used for a School of Arts, until by the end of the 1890s it was beyond repair. Evangeline Daly was the school's teacher from 1898 to 1913, and during this time the enrolment gradually declined. In 1903, after the closure of Hilltop, there were 33 pupils at Balmoral, but by 1913 there were only 13, from 7 families.

From the beginning of 1914 the Balmoral School was under threat of closure. The average attendance was only about 9 and Inspector Thomas thought about converting it into a half time school with Buxton. He rejected the idea because Buxton's attendance was 15 or more and it seemed unfair to reduce it to a half-time school.

As things turned out, by the end of 1914 Balmoral's attendance was 12, and this was considered enough to keep the school going.

Balmoral School was actually closed in July 1916, when the enrolment was 10 and the average attendance 6.6. The resignation of of Ellen Whitelaw from

Hilltop subsidised school, where the enrolment was 9 and the attendance also 6.6 occurred in August. It was this combination of events which suggested to Thomas that Balmoral and Hilltop could become half-time schools. Hilltop and Balmoral were reopened as half-time schools in January 1917. The teacher was John Trainor, but after six months he was transferred to a new school at a camp on the Picton to Mittagong deviation lineworks. Robert Mathison then took over the two little schools, and he was to stay until 1922. The irregularity of the rail service caused great difficulties for Mathison, especially after the opening of the 'new southern line' in 1919. For some time he walked between the two schools on alternate days, and then in 1920, to use his words, "I was forced to speculate on a horse".

Mathison was an unskilful teacher and a weak disciplinarian. Inspector Cotterill found him lacking in "definiteness and thoroughness", "animation and virility", but nevertheless "earnestly desirous of success" and thought he might develop as an assistant in a country school.

The Village Noticeboard

A handy list of upcoming dates and information.

Important Dates:

- * Sunday August 29, Papermaking Course
Contact Sue Southwood, 48 898 437
- * Tuesday 7th September,
Balmoral Village Association Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall.
- * Saturday 18th September, Working Bee,
Village Hall, 10am-3-pm, Contact Larry Wilson 48 898 151
- * Saturday, 18th September, Film Society:
"The Philadelphia Story". Contact Janine King.
- * Saturday, 10th July, Film Society:
"Mouchette". Contact Janine King.
- * 2/3/4 October, Open Studio, Sue Southwood, ph 48 898 437
- * Tuesday 5th October,
Balmoral Village Association Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall.
- * Saturday, 9th October, Film Society:
"Mr Chedworth Steps Out". Contact Janine King.
- * Tuesday 2nd November,
Balmoral Village Association Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall.

Regular Events:

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

Phone Numbers:

- * Bush Fire Control 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

If you have a date or other information for the noticeboard, contact the editor (ph48 898 146)