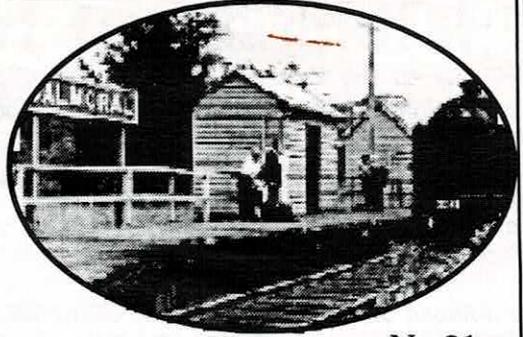


Balmoral

# Village Voice



February 2001

No 21.

A newsletter published by the Balmoral Village Association Inc.

## Village Gearing up for BIG Clean-up

Clean Up Australia Day in for 2001 is to be held in Balmoral Village on Saturday 3rd March, and it is hoped that this will be the most successful in the several years the Village has participated in the event.

Last year Balmoral Village defied the diminishing numbers of volunteers across the shire. Of 150 volunteers in total across Wingecarribee, almost 40 were registered from Balmoral.

The Clean up in the Village is traditionally organised Fire Brigade, and this year will be no exception, with the brigade hoping to once again highlight the sense of pride in the community with a good turn out.

The main aim will be to to clean up along the roadsides around the

Village from the Shire boundary at Buxton through to Hilltop.

Negotiations are also underway this year to have a team of workers from the National Parks and Wildlife Service to work alongside the Fire Brigade and other volunteers to venture into the State Recreation Area to the west of the Village and clean up trails such as Bolans Road and the access roads to Little River Waterholes.

It would be wonderful to see some new faces at the clean up, along with the seasoned helpers. If you are able to offer some assistance, take note of the details in the ad' on pg 2.

## From the Editor:

Welcome to the February issue of the Village Voice. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue. I even have some left-over material for the next one!

The usual historical feature has been replaced in this issue by a tribute to John Meredith, former resident of the Village, known by many of us, who sadly passed away last week.

As outlined on the front page, and in the ad' below, Clean-up Australia Day is on this coming Saturday. (Sorry about the short notice). I can only urge you to get the entire family involved to build on the community spirit and instill community pride in the children of the village. I hope to see you all there.

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 :  
[paulmallia@yahoo.com.au](mailto:paulmallia@yahoo.com.au)

The next edition will be out in May. (It will be put together throughout April) 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.



**Saturday, 3rd March, 2001**  
**Everyone Welcome**

Meet at the fire shed at 9:00 am  
Bring along a ute, truck or trailer if you have one, or just yourself  
with gloves and old clothes.

Stay for a barbeque lunch.

Hope to see a crowd to help keep our little part of Australia clean !!!

# Healthy Start for Balmoral Women's Group

(Lill Bramich)

The Balmoral Women's group is now up and running and has met once a week for the last 6 weeks, with an average of eight women and as many children of varying ages.

We meet in a friendly atmosphere over morning tea to discuss day to day issues, share ideas and to form new friendships.

It is hoped that in the future we may be able to organise craft days, tennis days, guest speakers on women's issues and network with other local women's groups.

On **Wednesday 14th March**, Francene Bartlett from **Bowral Family Support** will be our first guest speakertalking about the services available from Bowral Family Support. All members are encouraged to suggest

ideas for future meetings.

The Women's Group meets weekly on Wednesdays 10am-12pm at the Village Hall, Wilson Drive. Tea/coffee are supplied and we take turns to provide morning tea.

Women of all ages are most welcome. Mothers are encouraged to bring activities to occupy the little ones as formal child minding is not provided.

There is outdoor play equipment and the hall grounds are fully fenced.

Contact persons are:

Lill - 48 898 151

Deb - 48 898 347

We wish to thank the Association for the use of the hall and for its ongoing support.

**Aluminium Windows  
Aluminium Doors**

**Delivery Service to  
Southern  
Highlands**

**TRU-BLU**

**WINDOWS P/L**

**Ph: 9750 7418**

**St Paul's Anglican Church  
Colo Vale**



**1st Sunday of the Month  
Family Service**

**9:30am**

**Sunday School 9:30am**

**Other Services 10:30am  
(other Sundays)**

**Enquiries:**

**Michael Course - 48 898 645**

**Dulcie Waite - 48 894 207**

**Rev Peter Frith,  
19 Albert St, Mittagong  
ph 48 711 947**

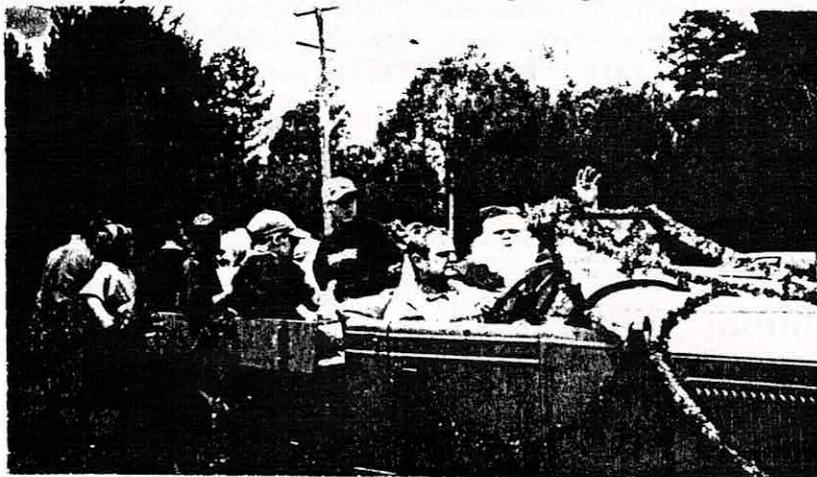
# Children Enjoy Vintage Christmas Ride

Children and adults alike enjoyed the Christmas party for 2000, which was put on, in typical Balmoral style in December.

Children were given a free barbecued lunch and drink, as well as Christmas showbags which were handed out by Santa.

Each Year Santa seems to arrive on a different and interesting form of transport, with this year no exception. Pictured below are the children having a ride with Santa on the back of a Vintage Dodge.

Children were also kept busy with face painting and games.



This newsletter  
was kindly printed by

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Ph (02) 46 55 8234.

## Pricing Policy for the Village Voice

At the August '99 meeting of the Association a price was set for business advertising in the VV.

A full page advertisement will cost \$40 or \$10 for each quarter of a page. Of course, community service or non-business ad's are free. If you have something you would like the rest of the village to know about, like your business, something you are selling etc, we'll even design your ad'. Contact the Editor for more information. (48 898 146)

News from the...

## Balmoral Village Association.

### Christmas Party

It was another successful Christmas party in December

Thank you to all who provided assistance on the day. A community function does not just happen without the dedicated helpers in the Fire Brigade and Association. (see article pg4).

### On the Issue of Rubbish....

At the February meeting of the Association, discussion focussed on what can be done about the increasing amount of rubbish along Wilson Drive and adjoining tracks.

Members of the Association have noticed an increase in dumping of building materials, bags of household rubbish and recycleables, household furniture and general litter.

The most common locations are those where vehicles can pull in away from the sight of houses and passing cars.

The association will be approaching council to mutually achieve a solution to the problem in the near future.

Until then, the advice to residents is to be watchful, and if you see rubbish being dumped, record the type of vehicle and a registration number and forward the information to Council as soon as possible.

### Centenary Tree Planting

The Association are currently working with council to determine the most appropriate location for the tree plantings to celebrate the Centenary of Federation. Any interested community members should attend upcoming Association meetings to provide input on the types of trees and possible locations

### 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 Larry Wilson well in advance, if possible, on 48 898 151.

### Postal Address

The Balmoral Association shares a post office box at Buxton along with the Balmoral Tennis Club and Fire Brigade. If you would like to sent correspondence to the Association, the official Address is:

Balmoral Village Association  
PO Box 87,  
Buxton,  
NSW, 2571.

(Content for the Village Voice can be sent to the PO Box or directly to the Editor)

### 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.

# Australia Day 2001: A Centenary Cricket Game

The second Annual Village Cricket Match was held on a Typical scorching hot Australia Day at "The Elms"

The match got off to a late start due to the players' need to hydrate themselves and let the food settle after a pleasant picnic lunch under the shade of the pine and elm trees.

The enthusiastic crowd appreciated the skill and, at times, the unorthodox styles of the players, including many children who showed cricketing promise for the future.

Tom Cunneen again proved himself

master of bat and ball, which probably means that he will be made umpire or scorer next year.

Commendation also goes to Lyle Spears for his cricketing attire, which added credibility to the game.

Many thanks to Leanne Ross for the use of her cricket ground (horse paddock) and to Lyle Spears who prepared the pitch which proved challenging to both batter and bowler.

*Larry Wilson*



Photo: The teams relax under the pine trees.

# Fire Brigade News.....

## Fire Restrictions

A reminder that fire restrictions are in force until 1st April, 2000 unless otherwise announced. This date may change depending on weather conditions. This is a NSW Government requirement and there are penalties for breaking the law.

Until the end of 'fire season' a permit is required for all fires.

Permits are obtainable from Captain Peter Lawrence by phoning 48 898 004.

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Fire Brigade will occur on Wednesday night, 14th March commencing at 7:30pm at the Village Fireshed.

Office Bearers for 2001 will be elected, and all members of the brigade are urged to attend.

## 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 small upcoming hazard reduction activities or water pumping exercises 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.

(Except March due to the Annual General Meeting)

## Recent Incidents for Brigade

(by Michael Course)

### Wollondilly River Fire

A fire was reported at the Nature Reserve, Wollondilly River on 31st December 2000, and the Balmoral Brigade were called out to attend. Six members attended, helping with the "mopping-up" on the side of 2 steep mountain slopes overlooking the campsite.

Other brigades were called out for day and night duties to ensure the area was safe and blacked out before the extreme hot weather returned.

### Long Nose Point Fire

A crew of 3 was sent to Picton on 25th January due to an electrical storm to the North-west of Balmoral along the Long Nose Point Fire Trail in the National Park where two fires had started inside Wollondilly Shire boundary.

Many fire Vehicles were needed and a helicopter was used for water bombing over four days to bring both fires under control. Due to demand on the Fire service, Balmoral Brigade was asked to be on stand by at Picton Fire Control to assist with a Motor Vehicle Accident and any other incidents if they should occur during the day.

# Film Society Saturday Nights

## The Autumn Programme.....

Saturday 10th March,

**Raise the Red Lantern**

Hong Kong, 1991. Directed by Chang I-mou (124 mins)

Saturday 14th April,

**The Last Wave,**

Australia, 1977. Directed by Peter Weir. (105 mins)

Saturday 12th May,

**Bonnie and Clyde,**

U.S, 1967. Stars Warren Beatty & Faye Dunaway (111 mins)

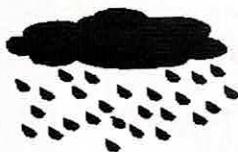
Saturday th June,

**Billy Liar,**

U.K, 1963. Stars Julie Christie. Directed by John Schlesinger. (99 mins)

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 8:00pm during daylight savings time, and 7:00pm during winter. If you are interested in joining the Society please ring Steve or Janine on 4889 8479 .

Janine King.



The Balmoral Village

# Raingauge



## November

Nov 1 - 3mm	Nov 15 - 55 mm
Nov 3 - 3mm	Nov 16 - 18mm
Nov 4 - 1mm	Nov 17 - 3.5mm
Nov 5 - 3.5mm	Nov 18 - 9mm
Nov 11 - 1mm	Nov 20 - 2mm
Nov 12 - 13mm	Nov 29 - .5mm
Nov 13 - 27mm	Nov 30 - 8mm
Nov 14 - 59mm	

## December

Dec 5 - 1mm
Dec 6 - 2.5mm
Dec 12 - 3mm
Dec 18 - 22mm
Dec 29 2mm

## January

Jan 4 - .75mm
Jan 5 - 2mm
Jan 7 - 6mm
Jan 9 - 11mm
Jan 16 - 4.75mm
Jan 17 - 25mm
Jan 18 - 6mm
Jan 25 - 6.5mm
Jan 26 - 7mm
Jan 27 - 2mm
Jan 28 - 4mm
Jan 31 - 15mm

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

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



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to:

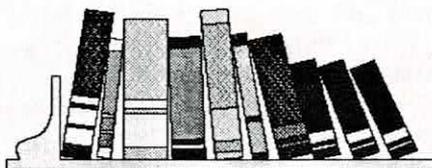
Duncan Tait - 1/3  
Julie Lawrence - 8/3  
Trevor Peddle - 14/3  
Jared Everton - 19/3  
Scott Lawrence - 16/4  
Adrian Butler - 18/4

## Wingecarribee Mobile Library - Tuesday Afternoons

Now 3:15pm -3:45pm  
near Village Noticeboard

At Balmoral on:

Tues, March 6th, 20th  
Tues, April 3rd, 17th  
Tues May 1st, 15th 29th



## 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. Its good to see that more families and friends are hiring the court for casual games.

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.

# Vale John Meredith

collector of folk-lore, musician, author, and mentor to many  
(1920-2001)

(resident of Balmoral between 1959 and 1981)

John Meredith came to Balmoral in 1959 ..."when the blackwattles were in full flower"... and bought thirty acres at the end of River St. Within a few years (spending every weekend and holiday there) he cleared a patch, erected fences, had a small dwelling built, planted fruit trees, grew vegetables, raised ducks and chickens and generally lived out an idyllic existence in the bush which many aspire to but few succeed in doing. So it was when Steve and I arrived at the Old School in July of 1976 with intent to forge a similar existence that we met "Merro". I was profoundly impressed by his walled Herb garden and his seeming ease at producing such abundance from what at first appeared to be a hard and ungiving environment. He was working full time at "Coty" then and living in Crown St, Surry Hills. He would catch the Friday evening train to Balmoral (later, a bus from Picton) and walk through the gully to Walden (named after David Henry Thorreau's idyll) and then retrace his steps on Monday mornings to arrive for work in the city by 9 o'clock. He did this for nearly twenty years.

Although John left Balmoral in December of 1981 he had been living full time at "Walden" for the previous few years. It was during this time he published "Ned Kelly", "Frank the Poet" and the "Coo-ee March". When he moved to Rose Cottage in Thirlmere he started "collecting" again. "Collecting" is what John may well be most remembered for. Between September 1991 to July 1994 he recorded 6,800 items (to add to his 1,200 recordings made in the 1950's). His collection of master tapes is housed in the Oral history department of the National Library in Canberra.

As well, he published another nine books within the next decade. These included "The Last Kooradgie" ~ the story of an aboriginal chief of the local Gundungurra People and "The Householders Compendium" which I refer to constantly especially during the fruit season.

At 6 p.m on 16th February our dear friend, John Meredith died in Albury Hospital. He had returned to his family roots at Holbrook in November of 1999. He did not recover from surgery performed two weeks earlier.

We remember him for the good times we had with him. We remember the Sunday nights at "Walden" watching his small black and white television and enjoying his splendid repasts, home - grown, bred and fermented delights. He

taught us so much about homesteading, the local flora, old books, history and music (appreciation)! He had a rare capacity of being able to share his worldly knowledge with a great humility. One loved to listen to his stories and learn from him. It was his inspiration that caused me to take a look at Balmoral with an historians interest and encouraged me to discover its past.

John Meredith published over twenty books (*Folk Songs of Australia* was reprinted 3 times), He wrote several plays ("The Wild Colonial Boy" was performed by The Picton Theatre group in 1982), numerous articles for magazines and produced 24 Super 8 films.

He had prepared at least three more manuscripts yet to be published including an autobiography "More than a Life (And thats Only the Half of it)"

John was awarded the **Order of Australia Medal (O.A.M)** in 1986 ..."for his contribution to the collection and preservation of Australian folk traditions".



In 1990 he earned the **Australasian Sound Recordings Association Award of Excellence**. He was made a **Member of the Order of Australia (A.M)** in 1992.

And in 1995 was awarded **The Australian Folk Trust Award for a Lifetimes Work** and the **Australia Day Council Achiever of the Year Medal**.

We will always admire his incredible energy, his focus, his capacity to turn dreams into reality and his inspiration!

So long John.

Janine King  
Steve Harrison

*Photo: John Meredith at Rose Cottage, 1998  
Courtesy of Janine King*

# The Village Noticeboard

A handy list of upcoming dates and information.

## Important Dates:

- \* Saturday 3rd March,  
Clean-up Australia Day, Begins 9:00 am at the Fireshed
- \* Tuesday 6th March,  
Balmoral Village Association Meeting, 7:30pm Village Hall.
- \* Saturday, 10th March, Film Society:  
"Raise the Red Lantern". Contact Janine King.
- \* Wednesday 14th March, 10am  
Women's Group Guest Francene Bartlett.
- \* Wednesday 14th March,  
Fire Brigade Annual General Meeting, 7:30pm at the Fireshed
- \* Tuesday 3rd April,  
Balmoral Village Association Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall.
- \* Saturday, 14th April, Film Society:  
"The Last Wave". Contact Janine King.
- \* Tuesday 1st May,  
Balmoral Village Association Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall.
- \* Saturday, 12th May, Film Society:  
"Bonnie and Clyde". Contact Janine King.

## Regular Events:

- \* Balmoral Women's Group meet each Wednesday,  
10am at the Village Hall.
- \* 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.
- \* Fire permits, Peter Lawrence 48 898 004.

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