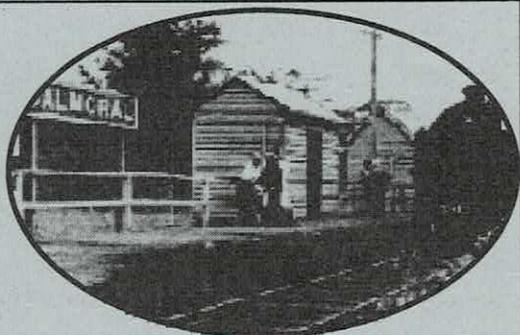


Balmoral

# Village Voice



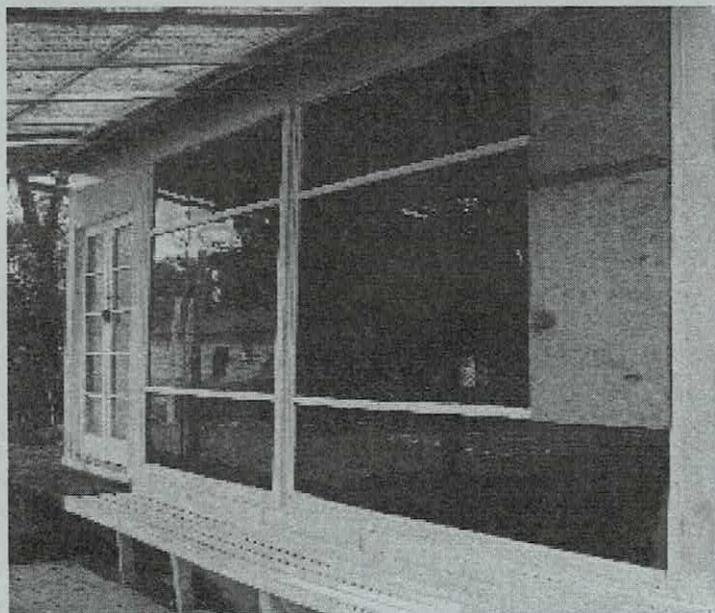
February 2006

No 31.

A newsletter published by the Balmoral Village Association Inc.

## Vandalism Shame!

by Pat Lawrence



The Balmoral Village Tennis Club, located behind the Village Hall, was recently the target of more senseless vandalism by village youths.

Was it your child? (details Pg 3)

## From the Editor:

Welcome to the February edition of the Village Voice. Thank you again to the people who have contributed to this edition. It makes the task much easier.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask families to think about Clean-up Australia Day, and seriously consider the advantages of participating. Besides the obvious benefit of having a cleaner community, it also gives the opportunity for the children in the village to develop a sense of responsibility and pride in the place in which they live. I can't help but ask myself that if children did develop this sense of belonging to the village, would we have problems such as the vandalism at the hall and the tennis club? It has been interesting over the many years of Clean-Up Days how we have seen families come along to participate as a whole, and the children do grow up knowing a lot of people in the community. Come on, it will only cost you a couple of hours of your time.... And then there is the social value. It is amazing how many people have moved to the village over the last couple of years and know very few people here. This is a great chance to break the ice!

if you have something to contribute to the next Village Voice in May, drop it into my letterbox at 7 Station St, Balmoral, email me at [paulmallia@yahoo.com.au](mailto:paulmallia@yahoo.com.au) or even phone me on 48 898 146

Paul Mallia.

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was kindly printed by

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### **Pricing Policy for the Village Voice**

All money received from advertising in the Village Voice goes towards the Village Association's upkeep of the Village Hall and its Grounds.

A full page advertisement will cost \$40 or \$10 for each quarter of a page. Of course, Balmoral 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 even design your ad! Contact the Editor for more information.

# Tennis Club Vandalism Shame

(from Pg 1)

At approximately 6:00pm on 29th December 2005, two teenage males dressed in black shorts and black shirts were seen after they smashed a large glass window on the front of the tennis clubhouse, using a brick. It wasn't an accident, but an act of vandalism.

The tennis clubhouse, court and hall are owned by the Balmoral Village community, not by council, and therefore have to be maintained by the residents, ourselves.

It's like someone wrecking your home. You wouldn't appreciate it.

We are a small community so we should help each other, not damage things.

One day you may require the use of the facilities and they may be broken. How will you feel ? Upset and as disappointed as I was?

Do you know what your children are up to when they leave your property? We would greatly appreciate you talking to your child about the vandalism and helping to make sure that this sort of thing doesn't happen in Balmoral.

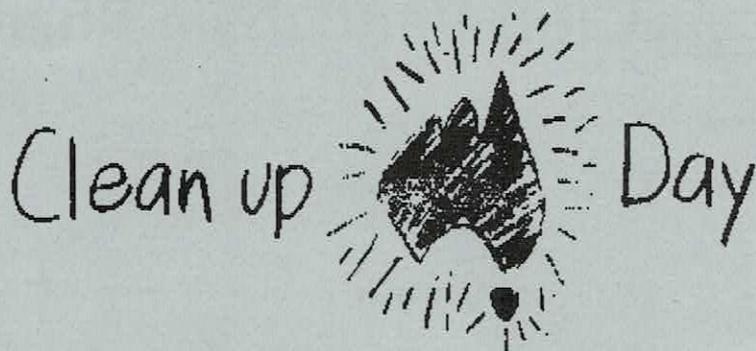
*Pat Lawrence*

## Local Blackberries Could Be a Health Risk

**Residents should be warned that blackberries along the railway line at Balmoral could pose a health risk if eaten.**

As reported in "Wingecarribee Today", contractors have been spraying blackberries on private and public land around the shire since November and will continue to do so until the end of the growing season in April. Spraying has been necessary this season due to the favourable growing conditions which have encouraged vigorous growth of the weeds.

Further information about the spraying is available from Council's Vegetation Management Officer, Ken Folkes, on 48 692 388.



## **Saturday 4th March**

Clean Up Australia Day will once again be organised in Balmoral Village by the Fire Brigade. Although Clean-up Australia Day is officially on Sunday 5th March, it is held in Balmoral on the Saturday so as not to clash with the Thirlmere Steam Festival.

All residents are encouraged to come along for just a few hours to help make the job easier.

The clean up will take in the village area as well as Wilson Drive from The Cutting in the south, to the Buxton southern crossing in the north.

*Any interested residents should*

**Turn up**

*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,  
then*

**Stay**

*for a barbeque lunch which will be held at 1:00pm*

# Heritage Listed Tree Replaced

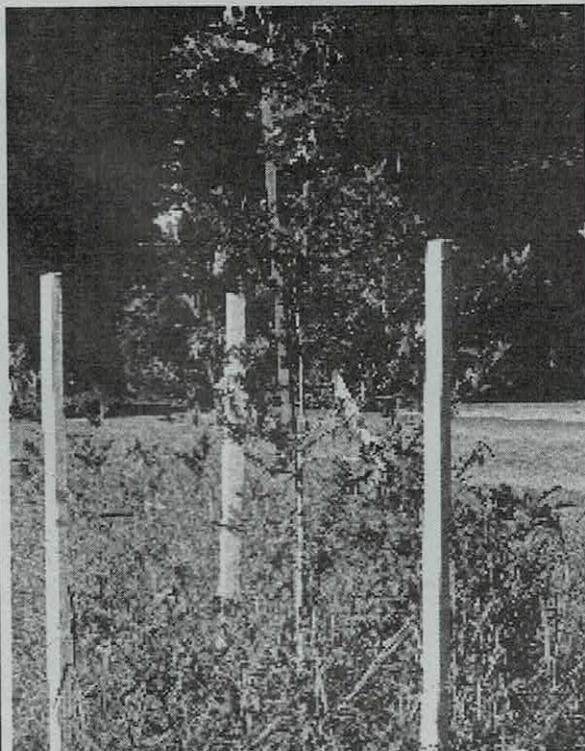
**One of Balmoral's Heritage listed trees has recently been replaced thanks to the generosity of village resident and owner of Tahmoor Garden Centre, Steve Hollingworth.**

The four Oaks on the corners of the main railway crossing as well as a grove of ten Liquidambers along the railway line were originally planted in 2001 to celebrate the Centenary of Federation and are protected by a heritage listing.

With the drought over the past couple of years, one Liquidamber, and the Oak on the north-eastern corner of the crossing died.

Steve had noticed the dead tree on his daily trips through the entrance of the village, and replaced it with an advanced tree from the garden centre.

"Hopefully, with this rain we've had, we'll have more luck with this one.", said Steve, as I stopped after coincidentally seeing him digging out the old tree one afternoon.



On behalf of the residents  
of Balmoral, Thanks  
Steve!

*(Tahmoor Garden Centre is  
located on Remembrance  
Driveway at Tahmoor. Let  
Steve know that you are from  
Balmoral on your next visit)*

News from the...

## Balmoral Village Association.

### **Village Hall Vandalised.....AGAIN All Parents Should Read This !**

Like our friends at the Tennis Club, we too have encountered vandalism during the Christmas break, with several hall windows smashed and a hole being dug through the wall of the amenities block. These grounds and buildings are wholly owned by the Balmoral community and therefore any repairs and damage have to be paid for by the Balmoral community, taking money away from any organised events we may hold for our community.

So, during the next school holidays, please help by keeping an eye on our property, know where your children are and what they are up to. It only takes one or two to do this damage but it reflects upon the whole community.

### **New Years Eve Party Cancelled**

The Association would like to apologise for cancelling the 2005/06 New Year's Eve Party. Due to the efforts that were to be expected of a few, we felt it was better to cancel the event. We felt that this time there was a lack of interest expressed compared with previous events, which have enjoyed good patronage from the Village residents and friends.

We look forward to planning and organising community based activities in our hall, but we need the input and any assistance our community is prepared to give. Should you wish to express yourself, or add ideas, please feel welcome to come along to one of our casual, friendly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month.

*Lyle Spears (President)*

### **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 send 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)

### **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.

### **All Welcome !**

The Balmoral Association meet on the Second Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall at 7:30pm. All residents are very welcome to attend and have a chat and tea or coffee.

# Fire Brigade News.....

## **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Brigade will be held on Wednesday night, 1st March, 2006, beginning at 7:30pm in the fireshed. Reports about the achievements of the brigade over the last year will be given and elections will be held for the upcoming year.

All members are encouraged to attend. Any interested members of the public are also welcome to attend the meeting.

## **Hazard Reduction Plans Being Formulated**

Hazard reduction plans for the upcoming burn season are now being formulated by the brigade. If you are concerned about fire hazards on neighbouring public or private land, you are asked to attend the fireshed on a Wednesday night over the next month to raise your concerns and have input into the areas to be looked at this year.

## **Brigade Represented in Victorian Emergency**

Scott Whiting, Captain of the Balmoral Fire Brigade, recently answered the call for assistance during the recent Victorian fire emergency. Scott became one of 16 fire-fighters from Wingecarribee Shire flown to the Grampians area in Victoria, near the South Australian border, where he assisted the Victorian CFA for four days in very unfavourable hot conditions. Residents might remember that during the 2001 Christmas fires, Victorian fire-fighters came to the assistance of Wingecarribee and Wollondilly Shires. This was a good opportunity to repay the favour.

## **Fire Permits**

It is important that all residents understand the legal requirements if they wish to light any fire in the open during the Bush Fire Danger Season, which began last year on 1st October, and will end, at this stage, on 1st April this year.

During this time, no fire permits will be issued in Wingecarribee Shire. Any enquiries should be directed to the Captain, Scott Whiting (ph-48 899 888)

## **Membership/ Meetings**

If you would like to become a member of the brigade, whether to be an active fire-fighter 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.

*P. Mallia - Secretary*

## **Balmoral Village Playgroup** 0-5 years

Meet at the Village Playground each fortnight.

Contact Janette Dunne  
48898002

## **Rubbish Dumping - Don't Forget, You Can Help**

If you see rubbish dumping occurring, contact Council immediately. The sooner you act, the sooner action can be taken.

**Ring the Resource Recovery Centre**  
**Speak to Wayne Willis, Investigation Officer.**

Ph 48 680 504

FAX 48 681 501

email [wayne.willis@wsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wayne.willis@wsc.nsw.gov.au)

**From the Tennis Club...**

## **Come and Have a Game!**

Come and get some light exercise.  
Bring the whole family, as it is a  
game everyone can get involved in.

We play Wednesdays at 10am - 2pm. We alternate with Hilltop Tennis Club, playing one Wednesday at our court and the following week at the Hilltop court. Due to our low numbers there are no joining fees, so just come along and join in!

The Balmoral Tennis Court can be hired any time.  
Contact Pat Lawrence on 48 898 066.

Please ring the night before, so we can arrange things. Hire costs are very reasonable.

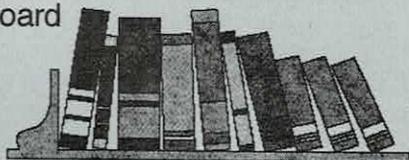
*Pat Lawrence.*



# Wingecarribee Mobile Library - Tuesday Afternoons

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

Feb 14, 28  
Mar 14, 28  
April 11, 25  
May 9, 23



The Balmoral Village

## Raingauge



### Nov

Nov 1 - 29mm  
Nov 4 - 4.5mm  
Nov 5 - 1.5mm  
Nov 6 - 3mm  
Nov 7 - 33.5mm  
Nov 21 - 3.5mm  
Nov 24 - 3mm  
Nov 25 - 18mm  
Nov 26 - 33mm  
Nov 27 - 6mm  
Nov 29 - 30mm  
Nov 30 - 32mm  
Nov 31 - 3mm

### Dec

Dec 1 - 1mm  
Dec 2 - 38mm  
Dec 6 - 6mm

### Jan

Jan 1 - 5mm  
Jan 2 - 1.5  
Jan 5 - 7.5mm  
Jan 10 - 29mm  
Jan 11 - 29mm  
Jan 12 - 4mm  
Jan 13 - 1.5mm  
Jan 14 - 49mm  
Jan 15 - 8.5mm  
Jan 17 - 21mm  
Jan 18 - 7.5mm  
Jan 25 - 5mm  
Jan 31 - 2mm

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

# The Balmoral Gardener

Tom Cunneen

## Making the Most of Compost

It's amazing how much the grass grows with a little bit of rain over the summer months. The trees and shrubs have also grown, perhaps to the point you might be considering a bit of pruning in the cooler evenings. No doubt there are a few leftovers from the summer salads as well. What can we do with this material, rather than simply throwing it in the garbage? Why not turn it into compost? Compost is a product of the breakdown of organic matter by microorganisms into humus. Humus is a great natural fertilizer, which also helps to increase the waterholding capacity of the soil and the activity of earthworms. So how do we make it?

Commercially available compost bins are available at most good plant nurseries and hardware stores. However it is just as easy to construct one out of spare bricks, chicken wire, and/or wood. Depending on how much compost you would like to make, a 1m x 1m x 1m structure with an opening at the front is simple enough. Placing two of these together will allow you to add to one whilst fully composting and using the other - a great way to ensure that there is always some of this great natural fertilizer available. When considering the location of the compost heap, make sure it is in a shaded area of the garden to prevent the contents from overheating in the sun.

You can put nearly all organic material into your compost heap. Make sure if you are using clippings from the garden that they are cut into smaller pieces to speed up the composting process. Fruit and vege peelings, coffee grounds, ash from the fireplace, prunings, manure, and grass clippings are all suitable for breakdown. Don't add things that will not break down, such as plastic or metal. Also don't add meat or dairy products, as these will bring the foxes out of the forest, and attract mice/rats.

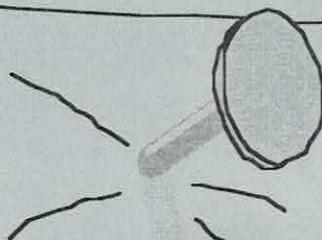
Try to add a balance of material to the compost heap. Adding a great pile of grass clippings to a compost heap in one go will probably make a beautiful amount of silage, which is great for cattle, but a little smelly close to the house. If you do need to add a lot of something, make sure that you are able to aerate the compost to prevent the build up of the smell producing, anaerobic bacteria. Similarly, too much water in a compost pile can drive out the air and increase the smells. However, some moisture is needed in the compost to help the microorganisms break down the organic matter. There is usually enough moisture from the material added. The compost pile will generate some heat as the breakdown process occurs. This is completely normal.

If the compost is taking too long to break down, first make sure that it is not too dry (a lot of fungal spores may be an indication that it is too dry). If this is not the problem, add some nitrogen fertilizer to the compost to aid the microorganisms. Also throw the garden fork in there to aerate the pile. The end product should be a dark, crumbly humus which you can use to dig into the garden, or to use as a mulch. When using compost over time, and for that matter, organic mulches, you will start to notice that the soil gradually becomes darker and easier to work, and retains moisture for longer.



# The Village Noticeboard

A handy list of dates and contacts.



## Regular Events:

- \* Balmoral Bushfire Brigade meet each Wednesday night, 7:30pm at the fire shed.  
(business conducted on first Wednesday of the month)  
Captain: Scott Whiting, ph 48 899 888
- \* Village Association meet second Tuesday night of the month, 7:30pm, Village Hall.  
President, Lyle Spears, ph 48 898384
- \* Tennis Club play Wednesdays, 10:00am, at the the tennis club (behind village hall)  
Contact Pat Lawrence, ph48 898 066

## Phone Numbers:

- \* Bush Fire Control! Dial 000
- \* Tennis Club or Tennis Court bookings, phone Pat Lawrence, 48 898 066.
- \* Fire permits, Scott Whiting 48 899 888.
- \* Hall bookings, Larry Wilson, 48 898 151.