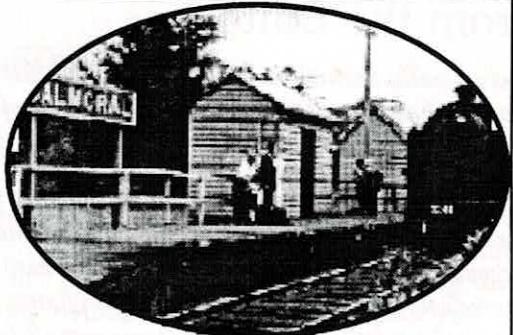


Balmoral

Village Voice



November 1999

No 16.

A newsletter published by the Balmoral Village Association Inc.

"A COUNCIL DECISION"



Photo: Level crossing stop sign replaced with "Rough Surface"

Stop signs at level crossings in Balmoral and Hilltop have recently been removed and replaced with "Rough Surface" signs, leading to rumours that the rail line had officially been closed.

Harley Drehorn, Managing Director of the NSW Rail Transport Museum at Thirlmere, has informed the Village Voice that he had been unaware of the changes to the signs, stating that it had been a "council decision", and that "the museum still has plans to extend the train rides from Thirlmere, through the cutting to Hilltop."

At this stage Mr Drehorn is unable to say when this may occur, as a siding needs to be constructed at Hilltop to turn engines around before the line can be used.

Next year the Museum will begin a promotional campaign to increase local participation in the Museum and its operations.

From the Editor:

Has it really been three months since the last Village Voice went out? Not a lot seems to have happened in that short period of time, but I hope you find something to interest you in this issue.

Thanks to Pat Lawrence for providing this issue's Historical Feature about the opening of the mudbrick toilet block and her staged 'stunt' to mark the 'decommissioning' of the old toilet. I am now out of historical features and would appreciate the loan of any old village photos, news clippings or information about the history of the village so that we can all learn a little more about the past days of Balmoral.

At the request of the fire brigade I have once again included the fire restrictions which came into force on the 1st October. I know many people have already seen them but many new residents to the village might like to make themselves familiar with the state regulations.

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 February. (It will be put together throughout January) 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.

Syringe Alert

A syringe, recently found on the roadside in the Village, is a reminder that Balmoral is not insulated from a changing world.

The syringe, found on the roadside of Wilson Drive last month, was probably thrown from a passing car, but highlights the dangers of doing innocent tasks like picking up papers from the roadside gutters or mowing the lawn bare footed.

The Highlands Post: Still Hoping

Recent negotiations between the Balmoral Association and the Distribution Department of the Highlands Post have not been successful in having its free local Newspapers delivered to Balmoral Village.

The Association had hoped that with the increase in cost of the Southern Highlands News, The Highlands Post may have been able to extend the delivery of their publication, which is free to residents of the Southern Highlands, to Balmoral.

The Association is still hopeful that with further negotiation, a positive result will be forthcoming.

News from the...

Balmoral Village Association.

Concern over Vandalism

Over the last six months there have been many instances of vandalism in the village which have not occurred before.

It has been brought to the attention of the Association that mailboxes and other property have been destroyed, residents have been disturbed late at night by noisy youths and graffiti has been painted many times on the Hall, Tennis Club, and elsewhere throughout the Village.

It is felt that much of the problem is caused by youths from elsewhere who come to the Village as guests of the residents.

It is parents' responsibility at all times to know where their children are, who they are with and what they are doing.

The Association believe that it is everybody's responsibility to maintain our pleasant village atmosphere, one of the reasons that many people have chosen to live here.

Christmas Party

The Association, along with the fire Brigade, invite everyone to attend this year's Children's Christmas Party, which is to be held on Saturday, 11th December.

During this traditional Village social occasion, it will be a chance for new residents to come along and meet the rest of the community. It is hoped that all 'older' residents will be able to come along too, for what is always a wonderful day.

Working Bee

A small number attended the working bee on Saturday 18th September, but a productive morning was spent repainting the tables in the hall grounds, as well as cleaning the windows in the Hall. Thank you to the helpers who gave their time to maintain the hall.

New Guttering

New guttering is in the process of being installed on the hall, replacing the very old rusting guttering currently in place. Many thanks to Col Ripper who has volunteered his plumbing expertise to complete the job.

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.

*Balmoral Village
Children's*



Christmas Party

*Saturday 11th December
at the Village Hall*



Starts 11:00 am

Lunch 12:00

Santa arrives 1:00

Games

Face painting

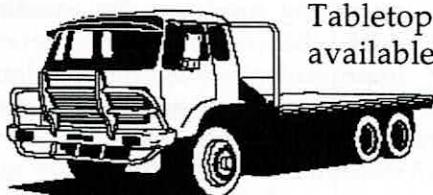
Christmas show bags for children

Free BBQ lunch for children

BBQ & drinks on sale for adults



**Need to move a load ?
Problem solved !**



Tabletop truck in the village now
available for all your haulage needs.

* Very Reasonable Rates
Ph. Peter : 48 898 004

Fire Brigade News.....

Hazard Reduction for '99

The Hazard reduction program this year has been quite unsuccessful due to unfavourable weather. A major burn to the south of the village resulted in perimeters only burning, with the fire not moving down deep into the gullies as it was hoped due to the fuel on the ground being too wet underneath.

Only small contained burns will now be attempted due to the oncoming summer and the introduction of fire restrictions.

Fire Restrictions

On the following pages are the NSW Fire Restrictions which came into force on 1st October. These are not imposed by the Balmoral Brigade, but are state laws with severe penalties for any breaches. They are designed to prevent unsafe situations from occurring which might result in a major bushfire over the summer season. If you have any concerns or questions, or if you need to obtain a fire permit, contact Captain, Peter Lawrence on 48 898 004.

The enclosed information on **Gas Cylinder safety** is also timely for summer. Please read it carefully, as gas fires are extremely dangerous.

Christmas Party

Don't miss the upcoming Christmas Party (ad opposite). Past Christmas Parties have been enjoyed by children and adults alike. Small community functions like this are rare. We hope that all Balmoral families will be able to come along and enjoy the afternoon.

Training

Congratulations to Gordon Ibbett, Stephen Bishop, Duncan Tait and Stretch who have recently completed the Village firefighting training course, equipping them with the knowledge to fight structural, gas and car fires.

Three new members, Brendan O'Connor, Jannet O'Connor, Dennis Crean, and junior member, Robert Lawrence have just begun Basic training. Basic training is now a requirement before any member is permitted to attend fires. If you are interested in completing the basic training course, either to become a regular member of the brigade, or to assist you in the case of a fire around your own home, contact the brigade.

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.

WINGECARRIBEE RURAL FIRE SERVICE

GENERAL PUBLIC INFORMATION

Bush Fire Danger Period
1st October to 31st March

Barbecues and Campfires

- * Light only in a properly constructed fireplace
- * To be at least 4.5m from any logs or stumps
- * Ground must be cleared at least 1.5m around the fireplace
- * Fire must be completely extinguished after use

Barbecues and Camp Fires During Total Fire Bans

Gas and electric barbecues are permitted with restrictions, these are as follows:

- * Barbecue is to be situated no more than 20m from your dwelling
- * A hose must be connected to a tap in the immediate area and a continuous supply of water is available
- * It is under the direct control of an adult

The ground within 3 metres of the barbecue is cleared of all material which could burn.
No other types of barbecues are permitted during the Total Fire Ban.

Check with your local Fire Brigade for information regarding Total Fire Bans.

Penalty for Offences - Up to \$100 000 fine or up to 5 years in jail.

Burning off in the open DURING the Bush Fire Danger Period

- * Permits are required from your local Rural Fire Brigade. Failure to obtain a permit could result in prosecution.
- * Notify your neighbours at least 24 hours before you light the fire
- * A responsible adult must stay in attendance at all times the fire is alight
- * Observe all other conditions of the permit
- * Have a suitable source of extinguishment

Burning off in the open during a Total Fire Ban

Strictly prohibited. Local Rural Fire Brigade can be contacted for this information.
Penalty for offences will carry a \$100 000 fine or up to 5 years in jail.

Burning Off Garden Refuse and Household Rubbish During Bush Fire Danger Period

Burn only in a properly constructed incinerator (one that prevents the escape of sparks and burning materials)

or

Burn on the ground in a space cleared to at least 4.5m around the fire and then only between 7pm and 7am. The fire must be completely extinguished by 7am.

Burning off Garden Refuse and Household Rubbish during a Total Fire Ban is strictly prohibited

NO FIRE of any kind may be lit during a TOTAL FIRE BAN

WHAT TO DO IF FIRE IS APPROACHING YOUR HOME

- * Dress in protective clothing (made from cotton or wool, NOT synthetics)
- * Plug downpipes and fill all gutters with water
- * Hose down wall and garden shrubs on fire approach sides
- * Make sure family and pets are safe

WHAT TO DO IF FIRE HAS ALL BUT REACHED YOUR HOME

- * Go inside and close all windows and doors
- * Block all gaps and crevices under doors and around windows
- * Stay inside until the main fire has passed
- * Don't leave home at the last minute - This is when lives are lost
- * After the fire has passed, inspect your home and put out any small fires

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE CAUGHT IN A BUSH FIRE

On FOOT

- * Find an open space, or clear one
- * If possible hollow out a shallow trench
- * Lie face down
- * Cover all exposed skin or get into a creek or dam (not an above ground tank)

In a CAR

- * Do not attempt to drive through smoke
- * Park by the side of the road in the clearest spot you can find
- * Put on the headlights
- * Wind up windows and close air vents
- * Stay inside the car
- * Lie on the floor and cover all exposed skin
- * Do not leave the car until the main fire has passed (even if the car is burning)

HOW YOU CAN HELP TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

- * Clear dry timber, vegetation and rubbish well away from the house
- * Keep the grass around the house short and green
- * Clear undergrowth from fences
- * Clear undergrowth (at least 2m wide) between your property boundary and adjoining bush
- * Remove branches overhanging the roof of your house
- * Store flammable liquids away from the house
- * Check that your garden hoses and taps are ready for use
- * Clear your gutters of leaves, bark and twigs
- * Box in open eaves and close up any openings to prevent sparks entering
- * Enclose the space under your house
- * Fit wire screens to windows, doors and vents

Note: For further information regarding any of this Rural Fire Service Information contact Balmoral Village Bushfire Brigade on 48 898 387 (Wednesday nights), or Peter Lawrence (Captain) on 48 898 004.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to:



Peter Lawrence - 28/10/99
Nathan Hahn - 5/11/99
Paul Mallia - 8/11/99
Larry Wilson - 29/11/99
Jemma Hahn - 4/12/99
Lisa Spears - 10/12/99
Sharon Spears - 10/12/99
Stretch - 22/12/98
Glenn Hahn - 17/1/2000
Matthew Hahn - 18/1/2000

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

The Balmoral Village

Raingauge

August

Aug 8 - 1.5mm
Aug 12 - 7.5mm
Aug 14 - 2mm
Aug 26 - 6mm
Aug 27 - .5mm
Aug 28 - 8mm
Aug 29 - 1.5mm

September

Sept 1 - .75mm
Sept 5 - 1.25mm
Sept 16 - 8.5mm
Sept 20 - 1mm
Sept 22 - 1.5mm
Sept 24 - 1mm
Sept 26 - 32.5mm
Sept 30 - 1mm

October

Oct 1 - 6.5mm
Oct 2 - 5.5mm
Oct 3 - 7mm
Oct 4 - 15.5mm
Oct 5 - 3.25mm
Oct 6 - 2.75mm
Oct 15 - 1mm
Oct 16 - 1.5mm

Oct 18 - 22mm
Oct 19 - 4.5mm
Oct 22 - 3mm
Oct 23 - 90mm
Oct 24 - 34.5mm
Oct 30 - 18mm
Oct 31 7.5mm

* 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.

Pricing Policy for the Village Voice

At the August 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)

Film Society Saturday Nights

The Summer Programme.....

Saturday 13th November,

The Road to Yesterday.

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

Saturday 11th December,

Video: Peter Greenaway **"The Early Years"**

Never Give a Sucker an Even Break - Comedy staring W.C. Fields. U.S, 1941

Saturday 8th January,

The Navigator,

Australian, 1988. Directed by Vincent Ward (90 mins)

Saturday 12th February,

The Cars that ate Paris

Australian, 1974. Directed by Peter Weir (84 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. 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:

Nov 16th, 30th

Dec 14th, 28th

Jan 11th, 25th

Feb 8th, 22nd



Christmas Trees for Sale

“Glengariff”

Wilson Drive, Balmoral Village
(Between Balmoral & Buxton)

Open From

Saturday 27th November
to
Friday 24th December

Come and Choose Your Own Tree

Price Range: \$10.00 to \$25.00
Phone (02) 48 878 215

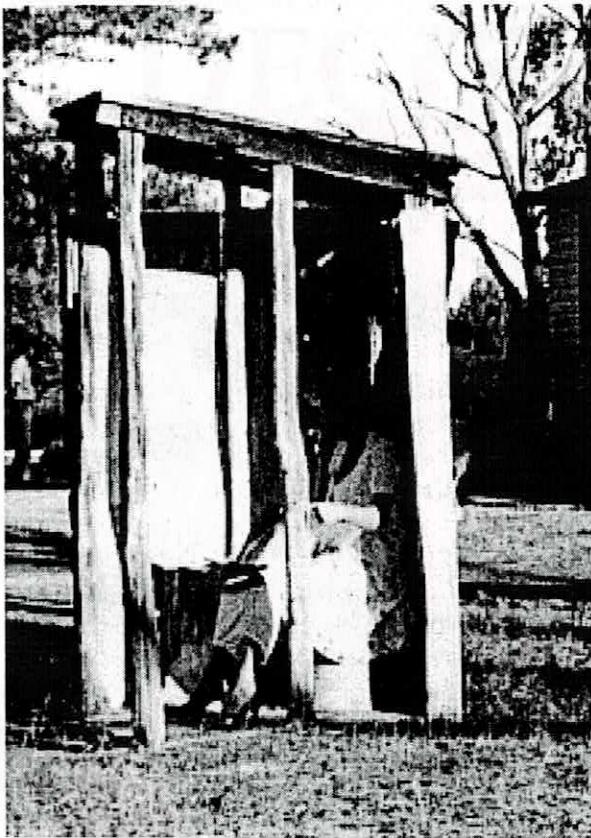
Historical Feature

The Village Hall, up until 1983 had, as toilet facilities, one ladies and one gents iron "thunderbox". It was decided to build a mudbrick toilet block.

The locals all pitched in, hands and feet and we made the bricks. By the end of 1983 the whole building was finished and long drop toilets were put in so the toilets didn't have to be emptied after dances, parties etc which we had in the hall.

The Balmoral Dunny Doo Dance, as it was heralded, officially opened the toilets on 28th January, 1984 at 6pm.

The old dunny was tied up with toilet paper, the nails already removed. The new toilet was also wrapped up with toilet paper. A secret volunteer was asked to sit on the old "thunderbox" smoking a cigarette, reading a newspaper and baggy knickers around ankles.



The first volunteer reneged on the deal so I volunteered.

Being a non-smoker I used quite a few matches keeping that cigarette alight - it kept going out.

The time came for the official opening. The old toilet building had to be disposed of first. The toilet paper was cut and I jumped up in an Oscar winning performance, in shock horror, yanking up the baggy knickers. The new toilet was now officially declared open for use.

Afterwards we had a games night, cards, roulette etc, followed by dancing. A good night was had by all.

Pat Lawrence

Photo courtesy of Janine King

The Village Noticeboard

A handy list of upcoming dates and information.

Important Dates:

- * Tuesday 7th December, Balmoral Village Association Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall.
- * Saturday 11th December, Children's Christmas Party, Village Hall, 11 am.
- * Saturday, 11th December, Film Society: "Never Give a Sucker an Even Break". Contact Janine King.
- * Tuesday 4th January, Balmoral Village Association Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall.
- * Saturday, 18th January, Film Society: "The Navigator". Contact Janine King.
- * Tuesday 1st February, Balmoral Village Association Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall.
- * Saturday, 12th February, Film Society: "The Cars that Ate Paris". Contact Janine King.
- * Tuesday 2nd March, 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 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)