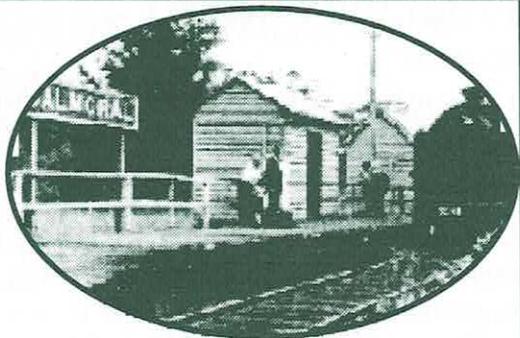


Balmoral

Village Voice



November 2004

No 27.

A newsletter published by the Balmoral Village Association Inc.

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PLAN

What are the Implications for Balmoral ?

by Lill Bramich

Wingecarribee Shire Council has submitted a planning document to various government agencies and departments for comment. A major concern for local residents is the proposal by the council to rezone for residential development, the largest of the only two parcels of land in Balmoral, currently set aside for recreation.

Shire Council.

The Balmoral Precinct Plan is intended to include all policy decisions of Council that relate to Balmoral Village. It will become a part of the "Wingecarribee Our Future Strategic Plan". This strategic plan will be Council's policy to guide landuse, planning and decision making until 2011.

A copy of the entire Balmoral Precinct Plan is available from Wingecarribee

The implications for Balmoral are outlined on Page 3.....

From the Editor:

It's Back!

Yes, we are resurrecting the Village Voice after a two year break.

For those residents new to the Village, the Village Voice has been a newsletter produced by the Balmoral Village Association, with its first edition in 1988. In 1995 it began as a quarterly publication to keep residents informed about the happenings in the Village. Unfortunately, as interest decreased and people no longer submitted articles, it was time for a break.

Recent enthusiasm, encouragement and offers of help though, have been enough for me to 'give it another breath of life'. Once again, we will try to publish quarterly, depending on support by residents submitting articles.

The old regular articles from the Fire Brigade, Village Association and Tennis Club along with Rainfall figures and Tom Cunneen's "The Balmoral Gardener" are all here and are still good reading. There have been offers of historical articles, bushwalking news, and much more.

I see The Voice as a very worthwhile publication. I think it to adds to the community spirit within the Village. It lets everyone know how they can be involved in the village in which they have chosen to live. It is the voice of the local groups and organisations, and even a voice to local and state government bodies. (Yes, they all receive a copy).

If you have something to contribute, please feel free to call me (ph 48 898 146), drop it in my mailbox at 7 Station St, or email it to me (paulmallia@yahoo.com.au)

Paul Mallia.

Rubbish Dumping - What Can You Do ?

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

Local Environment Plan....

Implications for Balmoral (from pg 1)

In this Draft Local Environment Plan it is proposed to:

1. Rezone the land adjacent to the Hall in Wilson Drive from "zone 6(d) Open Space Proposed Reservation Zone" to "Open Space 6(a) Existing Recreation Zone".

2. Rezone land on the Corner of Hall Road and Wilson Drive from "6(d) Proposes Recreation Reservation Zone" to "Zone 2(a1) Residential A1 Zone" with a minimum allotment size for subdivision of 1 acre (4000m²).

3. Replace existing "2C Village Zone" with "Hamlet Residential Zone", changing the minimum allotment size for subdivision from 1/4 acre (1 000m²) to 1/2 acre (2 000m²).

Amongst the other general landuse planning actions relevant to the future use and development of land within the Balmoral Precinct are:

1. Prohibition of the removal of native vegetation without council permission

2. The retention of the minimum allotment standard for subdivision being 100 acres (40 hectares) The draft statewide local Environment Plan is expected to be returned to Council in the first quarter of 2005, and will go on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days during which public submissions will be called for.

There is no legal recourse to appeal against a rezoning decision of Council.

A residents' action group has been formed. Any enquiries contact Col Ripper (ph 48 898 711).

My thanks to Ray Darney, Director of Environment and Planning for responding to questions and to Heath James of Council's Strategic Planning Branch.

Lill Bramich

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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'll even design your ad'. Contact the Editor for more information.

Pg 3

Bushfire Danger Period Now Applies

Due to extreme conditions,
The Bushfire Danger Period began on 1st August, 2004.

What are the Rules?

Cooking or heating fires

- * You do not need a permit for cooking and heating fires
- * Only light cooking and heating fires in an area surrounded by ground that is clear of all combustible matter for a distance of at least 2 metres. *(Penalty up to \$2 200)*
- * Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the area. *(Penalty up to \$5 500 / 12 months imprisonment)*

Smoking

- * Don't drop or throw down any lighted cigarette, match or anything burning on any land, bridge, wharf, pontoon or similar. *(Penalty up to \$5 500)*
- * Don't light or carry a lighted cigarette or match within 15m of stacked or standing crops. *(penalty up to \$5 500)*

Fire permits required for open burning

- * You need a fire permit from your RFS Fire Control Centre or NSW Fire Brigade Station to burn off
- * Notify your neighbours at least 24 hours before you light a fire
- * Make sure someone is there all the time the fire is alight
- * Observe all conditions of the permit *(Penalty up to \$5 500 / 12 months imprisonment)*

Total Fire Ban

During a total fire ban, no fire may be lit in the open. Fire permits are suspended during a Total Fire Ban. This includes incinerators and barbecues which burn solid fuel, eg wood or charcoal.

You may use a **gas or electric barbecue**, but only if...

- * it is on a residential property within 20m of the house or dwelling
- * if it is a picnic area and the appliance is approved by council, National Park or State Forest
- * it is under the direct control of an adult
- * the ground within 2m of the barbecue is cleared of all materials which could burn
- * you have an immediate and continuous supply of water available

When is a Total Fire Ban Declared ?

For public safety, a Total Fire Ban is declared for days when fires are likely to escape and be difficult to contain. Extreme fire danger is caused by a combination of dry vegetation and hot, windy weather.

How will you know when a Total Fire Ban is Declared?

Total Fire Ban announcements are made through newspapers, radio and TV. If in doubt, ask the local RFS Control Centre (Mittagong), or call 1800 049 933

Births



A Big Welcome to :
Brooke Emily McKeown,
born 30/9/04.

A daughter for Scott and Colleen
and little sister for Brent and Riley

Balmoral Village Playgroup

0-5 years

Meet at the Village
Playground each fortnight.

Contact Janette Dunn
48898002

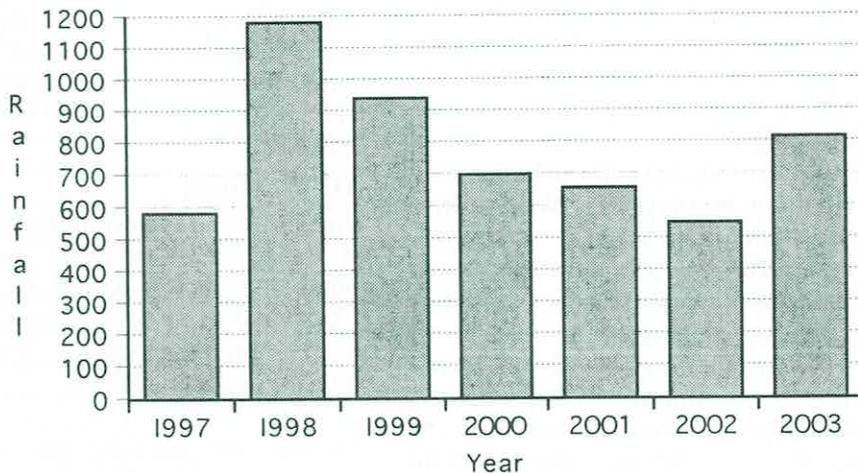
Has Our Rainfall Really Decreased?

Thanks to figures supplied by Lyle and Lisa
Spears, it is possible for you to make the
comparison between annual rainfall figures.

Lyle and Lisa also provide the quarterly
rainfall figures for "The Raingauge" (pg 11)

Year	Rainfall (mm)
1997	585.5
1998	1182.4
1999	940
2000	703.25
2001	659.75
2002	547
2003	819.75

Balmoral Annual Rainfall



News from the...

Balmoral Village Association.

Council Grant funds New Tank

The Association has recently received a grant for \$2000 as a part of the 2004 Community Grants Scheme, to assist in the purchase of a new 5000 gallon concrete water tank for the Village Hall.

The tank, costing \$2795, has already been placed in the hall grounds, a great improvement on the small existing tank which could not cope with long dry spells or large community functions. Thanks to Wingecarribee Council for the grant.

Local plumber Col Ripper has offered to help with the installation of plumbing to the tank (Ph 48 898 711)

Local Environment Plan

At recent meetings of the Association, the Council's Precinct Plan for Balmoral has been discussed with much community interest. A resident action group has been formed by Col Ripper (ph 48 898 711).

The action group, along with the Association, are currently researching to make submissions to the Council when the Local Environment Plan is placed on public exhibition early in 2005. Updates will be given at upcoming meetings.

Working Bee

Thank you to the 9 people who gave up their time last Sunday, 21st November, to help maintain the Village Hall. The working bee carried out maintenance tasks including weeding gardens and planting new plants, the gates were re-welded, old down pipes were removed and low branches were trimmed from trees.

Remember that the hall is owned by the people of the Village and without community involvement, it would fall into a state of disrepair.

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 first Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall at 7:30pm, but this will be changed to the second Tuesday each month as of January 2005.

All residents are very welcome to attend and have a chat and tea or coffee.

Fire Brigade News.....

Christmas Party

The annual Christmas party for residents of the Village will be held on Saturday 27th December. Whether you have children or not, this is a great opportunity to meet other residents of the village. Everyone is welcome.

Prepare your Property

Now is the time to prepare your property for the upcoming bushfire season. Following are a few suggestions to help you make your home safer BEFORE a fire approaches.

- * Clear guttering of all leaves and twigs
- * Remove firewood and kindling from near house
- * Refresh fuel in petrol powered water pumps and check that they start regularly
- * Remove overhanging branches from houses
- * Reduce leaf litter on ground near the house
- * Don't allow water tanks to fall to near empty levels

Firewise Meeting

The Brigade conducted a Firewise meeting on Friday 15th October in the Village Hall. Wingecarribee Deputy Fire Control Officer, Bob Simpson, addressed a gathering of residents in an informative session about maintaining an asset protection zone around their home and how to properly prepare their property for the upcoming fire season. The importance of acting now to reduce fuel and carry out maintenance such as cleaning guttering of leaves and twigs was stressed so that homeowners were not forced to panic in the event of an approaching fire.

Fire pumps and connection to water tanks by these pumps and fire trucks was also discussed.

Residents who missed this worthwhile night should try to attend future firewise nights to help them understand fire behaviour and learn ways to protect properties from fire in such a fire prone area as Balmoral.

Fire Permits

It 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 this year on 1st August.

Fire permits are available from Michael Course (48 898 645) Upon receiving the permit, residents will observe further conditions including the requirement to notify neighbours at least 24 hours before lighting the fire.

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.

Yoga Anyone ?

Lill Bramich

Did you know that we have Yoga classes at the Village Hall. How nice to have a "Village -based" class instead of having to drive somewhere again.

Yoga classes have been happening for the past three months. I started as a beginner and have not been deterred - quite the opposite.

Robyn is trained in OKI-DO and Shiatsu and has been teaching yoga for 14 years. She combines Hatha and Lyengar styles and tailors each class to the people present, their moods and physical needs.

Sure some poses seem challenging but I have found that by making an attempt within my limits using breath and practising - it is amazing what you can achieve.

The health benefits of yoga are well documented, but what I really love is, as a mother of a young child, the yoga class has become "my time". An hour where I can relax, stretch out and leave the past week behind me. Each session finishes with a meditation and then 'let the weekend begin'!

The class numbers are small and there is plenty of room for newcomers.

Everyone is encouraged.

Just bring along a mat and blanket.

The cost is \$10 per class. 9am - 10am Saturdays

Classes have finished for this term but will begin again in the new year.

Any enquiries ring Robyn - 46 770 305.

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.

The Balmoral Tennis Court can be hired an 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.

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Historical Feature

This is the first in a two part historical feature brought to us by Col Ripper, who stumbled upon one Alan Pride, a resident of Balmoral 50 years ago. Alan agreed to recollect his memories of Balmoral in those days. Alan lived in "Balmoral Lodge", the remains of which can still be seen just south of the Railway crossing on Wilson Drive.

In the summer of 1955 I was a young 26 year old having been born and bred in Broken Hill and recently married to Patricia, a young English girl and I had a dislike for hire purchase. I had worked my way around the world as a marine engineer and returned to Australia to settle somewhere near Sydney. With a reasonable bank balance for my age of 1100 pounds (2200 dollars) I could not afford to buy in the city or suburbs so I scanned the advertisements for something further afield and noticed an ad in the Sydney Morning Herald (no "Homes Dictorials" in those days). It read, "Home on 24 acres - Balmoral Southern Loopline - 1100 pounds". Just what I wanted. So I contacted the agent, Dave Gavin at Thirlmere and I became the youngest resident landowner in Balmoral at that time (and probably the poorest now).

The "home on 24 acres" was "Balmoral Lodge". The old wooden home had a red corrugated iron roof and rough rooms and sheds added on at the rear but was very comfortable and robust (at the time) and conveniently located right opposite the railway station (now dismantled and removed).

This was all quite a culture shock for my young London born wife of 20 years of age but she had faith in me and weathered the hardships of comparative loneliness, hot summers, pan toilets, no running water and bushfires. (Twice burnt right up to the back door whilst alone at home with pioneer-like fortitude.)

Soon after arriving, I started work as a mechanic at the only place in the district with a vacancy- Malden Cement Works, and in those days before pollution control it was nothing short of horrendous to work there because of the amount of cement dust in the air and surrounding areas and landscape, so after a very short while I started work as a draftsman at Liverpool, two and a half hours drive away, or three hours by train (changing at Picton and Campbelltown).

I had purchased a second hand Norton motorcycle for transport and this was great in the summer months but in winter I frequently took the rail motor - a single diesel powered carriage which I believe is still alive and well at Thirlmere Rail Museum. It would arrive at Balmoral Railway Station at about 6am and if by chance I had not heard the alarm and was late, the driver would wait there tooting the horn! I awoke to this horrifying sound several times!

Continued next edition

The Balmoral Gardener

Tom Cunneen

Mulch

Now that we have had a little rain, we can think about how to keep the moisture in the soil so that it can remain available to the plants in the garden for longer. One of the best ways to do this is to apply mulch to the garden. Mulch has the benefits of reducing water evaporation from bare soil, it suppresses weed growth, reduces erosion, and can help keep the soil cooler on hot days. There are several types of mulch available, and these can be broken down into two groups- the organic, and the inorganic.

Inorganic mulches include stones, crushed rock, weedmat, old carpet, and vermiculite. Even things like fibreglass, aluminium foil, and asphalt (eg: around trees in the city) have been suggested but these aren't recommended here. The inorganic mulches are generally used when a particular effect is desired in the garden, like white stones in a Japanese themed garden. These types of mulches, whilst reducing the amount of water loss from the soil, and suppressing weeds, do not add or remove any nutrients from the soil. They won't break down and therefore will be less likely to need replacing every few years.

Organic mulches include grass clippings, sugar cane, leaves, chopped tree branches, mushroom compost, lucerne hay, and seaweed to name a few. As organic mulches break down, they can improve the water holding capacity and nutrient holding capacity of the soil.

They also encourage earthworms and beneficial microbes.

When applying organic mulch there are a few things to consider:

The depth of the mulch shouldn't be too thick. This can actually have a detrimental effect as water from fine sprays or light rain will not actually penetrate the mulch and reach the soil where it can be used by the plants.

As the mulch will hold water, it should be kept away from the stems of plants so they do not rot.

Where possible, compost the mulch first. The microbes that break down the organic mulch use nitrogen in the process. If you use straw (eg wheat or oat) or woody chippings direct on the garden, add some slow release fertilizer to help combat the loss of nitrogen. Green leaves, grass clippings and lucerne hay are generally higher in nitrogen and will actually add nitrogen to the soil as they break down.

The composting process generates heat, which helps to kill some detrimental microbes and weed seeds. This is an important consideration when using green waste compost from the tip. We had no problems when we used green waste on the gardens around the village hall a few years ago. Mushroom compost needs to be well composted to the point where it has virtually no smell. If used fresh, its high pH (alkalinity) can actually burn the plants.

Use a mulch that works well with the look you are trying to achieve in your garden.

From personal experience I can tell you that; shredded newspaper will blow away; fresh grass clippings put on too thick will mat together and stop *any* water penetration; rice straw can grow a crop of dryland rice (I naively thought the rice would die without water, but I could have harvested enough to feed us for a year); too many pine needles make the soil repel water. On the other hand, chippings from the tree surgeons and around the home have provided an excellent, cheap mulch (we added slow release fertilizer when applying the mulch).



The Balmoral Village Raingauge



August

Aug 2 - 3mm
Aug 3 - 1mm
Aug 5 - 4.5mm
Aug 14 - .25mm
Aug 15 - 1.75mm
Aug 16 - 1.5mm
Aug 17 - 1.5 mm
Aug 29 - 4.5mm

September

Sept 4 - 12mm
Sept 5 - 1.5mm
Sept 7 - 9mm
Sept 20 - 5mm
Sept 28 - 3.5mm
Sept 29 - 10mm
Sept 30 - 20mm

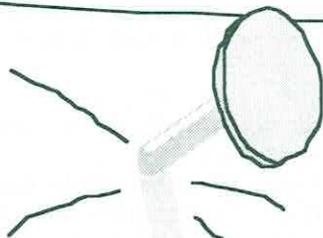
October

Oct 1 - 32mm
Oct 2 - 2.5mm
Oct 4 - 14mm
Oct 5 - 26mm
Oct 7 - 2mm
Oct 8 - 1mm
Oct 10 - 1.5mm
Oct 11 - 12.5
Oct 19 - 3.5mm

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

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 month)
Captain: Michael Course. ph 48 898 645
- * Village Association meet first Tuesday night of the month, 7:30pm, Village Hall
President, Gordon Ibbett, ph 48 898385
- * 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.
- * Film Society inquiries, phone Janine King or Steve Harrison, ph 48 898 479.
- * Fire permits,
Michael Course 48 898 645.
- * Hall bookings, Larry Wilson, 48 898 151.