

Village Voice



June 2011

A newsletter published by the Balmoral Village Association Inc.

No 42.

In the last issue we made an appeal for people to come forward to help with the various Community projects which we try to provide. We are sad to say that not one man in the whole village put up his hand to help. Three very nice ladies have offered and indeed have already helped and to Gabriella, Lorraine and Pamela we say a sincere "Thank You".

For those of you who have children, remember that if we lose the hall and playground there will nowhere at all for the children to play, no Christmas Party nor Hallow'een nor any other of the fun things we have had in the past.

As the price of petrol goes up, people in all of the little villages will be looking for entertainment in their own areas. The Council say they have been inundated with requests for help in all the villages already. So if we lose our hall, we will have nothing and that is sad.

Ronnie Ibbett.
Secretary
Phone 4889 9338

Balmoral Village Association News

As it is essential that we raise some money to up keep the hall, at the last meeting we discussed having a Bonfire night in June, a Christmas in July Party and a Night at the Theatre thanks to a group of actors from Mittagong who have offered to give us this night free.

A Bonfire night has always been a lot of fun but also a lot of work and helpers are needed to firstly, build the Bonfire, then to help run it, that is, cook at the barbecue, sell raffle tickets and do those things necessary for a successful night – with the best will in the world, the few people who are doing it now cannot manage.

If we cannot raise the money we need then we must lose the hall. Please help if you can.

All of the above applies to Christmas in July. Last year only one man came to set up. This year he is not available, who will come?

A group of members approached the Council in the hope of getting some help there, but the Council do not own the property and are very limited in what they are able to do for privately held lands. However, we have made an application for a Special Grant to pay for compulsory insurance. We can only hope.

Many thanks to Cameron's Real Estate for their generosity in time and expertise in giving us a valuation of the hall and land which was required by the Gaming and Racing Authorities before we can get our licence to fund raise, it was indeed very good of them to do so.

Also, whilst on the subject, a hundred thousand thanks to Pat Quinlan for his generosity - not to mention patience in hauling us out of the bureaucratic morass that we were drowning in..

Thank you guys, thank you!!

Next Association Meeting Night

The next meeting of the Association will be held on Tuesday 14th June at 730pm at the village hall. If you can come you will be more than welcome. At this meeting we will be deciding on the date, time and place for the Annual General Meeting which is usually held in June or early July.

This will be a most important AGM, as we will have to elect a new Committee and will decide on the future of the Association itself (if any). There will be another notice sent out advising you of the date. Please come and lend your support if you possibly can.

It's your village so come and take an interest in what happens in it.

Rainfall This Quarter

Courtesy Lyle and Lisa Spears

March 63.50

April 6.5

May 7

Kids Korner

- Roy Bramich-Wilson

Q. What do you call a boy with a block of wood on his head?

A. Edwood!

Q. What do you call a boy with two blocks of wood on his head?

A. Edwood Wood!

Q. What do you call a boy with three blocks of wood on his head?

A. I don't know, but Edwood Wood would know.!!

Q. Why was the sand wet?

A. Because the sea weed.

Mother string to baby string "Go to bed, you've been knotty today and now you're tied!"

Wingecaribee Mobile Library

Tuesday Afternoons **1.45-2.15**

July 5th – 19th



August 2nd – 16th – 30th

September 13th – 27th

Recommended Reading:

The Hangover - by Adelaide Knight

The Long, Long Trail - by Peter Bourke

Whilst we are in a literary mood let's have :

POET'S CORNER

Ruth and John

Ruth and Johnny, side by side
Went one day on a carriage ride
The carriage hit a rock, Ruth hit a tree
Johnny went on Ruthlessly

Don't you think that is terribly uplifting? Or maybe just plain terrible.

In Your Garden

Courtesy Tom and Jane Cunneen

It might be cold outside, but now is a great time to think about deciduous trees. As usual, the highlands put on a great display of autumn colour this year with the cooler start to winter, and it's easy to get a touch of that colour in your own garden. There are plenty of stunning deciduous tree varieties to choose from, and something to suit almost every type of garden.

For those with smaller gardens, try *Acer palmatum* 'Sango Kaku'. This tree grows to about 5m high and has bright red young stems that add colour to the garden in winter. The foliage colour in autumn is quite stunning too.

Another beautiful smaller tree is *Cercis Canadensis* 'Forest Pansy'. This tree also grows to about 5m, but has purple, heart shaped foliage during the summer months. In autumn the foliage turns yellow-orange. An added bonus is the lilac coloured flowers in spring.

The Crepe Myrtles are also a good hardy selection for the garden. With these, you get stunning summer flowering and autumn foliage. Once established they are quite hardy (just look at the ones growing in the median strip at Mittagong). There are quite a few varieties of Crepe Myrtles on the market now, so ask at your local garden centre to make sure you get the right one for you.

For tight spaces, look at the ornamental pears. They can grow up to 12m tall, but only spread to about 4m in diameter (not including the Manchurian Pear which can spread a lot wider). The foliage colour in autumn is fantastic, and as a bonus, in spring they are covered in white flowers. There are a few varieties to choose from, including 'Capital', 'Bradford', 'Aristocrat', and 'Red Spire'. Larger gardens are lucky enough to be able to grow a wider selection of deciduous trees.

Up until a few years ago, my favourite deciduous tree was the Liquidambar. I love the variation in colours that you get with these large,

graceful trees. For a look at the variation you can get, head north after the Nepean River at Camden.

The Liquidambars planted on the left side show the amazing diversity of genetic variation. There is one that turns a beautiful purple colour that I will have to take cuttings of, one day. However my new favourite tree is *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory'. We planted one a couple of years ago during the middle of the drought. We watered it a few times and then left it alone. It grew magnificently and is now well on its way to its potential 12m high by 9m wide. The best feature of this tree by far is the absolutely stunning autumn foliage colour. It is the most brilliant red, and catches your eye no matter where you are in the garden. The only problem with it is that a damn cockatoo snapped off the central leader, so now we have it heading skywards in a couple of directions.

Other trees for larger sites include the Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*). This will grow massive, so give it plenty of room. Although it can be a little harder to get started, it gives better autumn foliage colour and a more pyramidal shape than the English Oak.

Golden Elms have become popular in the last few years, probably due to the ones growing on the Gib as you head into Bowral. These will get quite large too, so give them plenty of room.

Don't forget the spring flowering deciduous trees. There are many varieties of flowering cherries, plums, apricots, and peaches. All give stunning displays in the spring, and are well worth considering. My spring favourite would have to be the flowering crab apple *Malus floribunda*. Ours has grown to about 4m tall and 12m wide in 14 years, and in spring it is magnificent. It is covered in pink buds opening to white flowers, with a touch of green foliage poking through. If the August winds aren't too strong, the tree flowers for weeks. The Bechtel Crab Apple, *Malus ioensis* 'Plena' also looks fantastic in spring and has large double flowers. This will grow to about 6m tall and 4.5m wide.

The New South Wales Rural Fire Service

Balmoral Village Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade

News from the Captain:

Good day to you;

The colder weather has begun which means our fire places, electric and gas heaters are being used, here are few helpful tips:

- A wire mesh screen should be used for any open fire place to reduce the risk, of logs rolling or burning sparks coming out of the fire place.
- Keep any combustible materials away (i.e. drying of clothing and linen) from any electric, gas and wood fireplace/heater. Keep any portable heater away from curtains as well.
- Keep an eye on children around heaters and fire places as there clothing or sleep wear may be combustible.

Village Hazard Reductions:

Brigade volunteers have completed a number of hazard reductions in the village up to date this year and weather permitting one or two more before it turns to cold, we would then recommence hazard reductions in a couple of months in spring.

If you are doing your own clean up keep the pile to a reasonable size, let it dry out and let your neighbors' know before you light up.

Please ensure you clear around the pile and have a source of water close by, no lighting up if it to windy!

New Village Fire Station:

The construction of the new fire station is coming along, we hope the station will be operational in approximately two months, and there will be things that will still need to be done inside and out.

When the Brigade has moved in you will be most welcome to come and have a look inside and have a cuppa and a chin wag.

Volunteering or Donating:

Have you thought of Volunteering or Donating to Help our Volunteer Brigade Members protect our Village? Either Volunteering your Time or Donating to our equipment and training fund would be a very welcomed assistance.

We are a Volunteer organization and rely on fund raising and donations to keep our fire fighters safe with the correct equipment and training equipment, while protecting Life and Property in our Village.

Please assist where you can.

Thank you and stay safe and warm,

Brendon O'Connor
Captain
Balmoral Village Rural Fire Brigade
(M) 0417 246 078

From Balmoral Village Visual Inventory

By Eva Hampel BS BL Arch and
Michael Adams BS BL Arch (no date supplied)

Aboriginal: National Parks and Wildlife Service services records indicate a number of significant Aboriginal sites in the southern Wollondilly area and northern Wingecarribee Shire areas. Local informants indicate that there are probably more sites closer to Balmoral Village which have not yet been recorded by the service.

European: Balmoral Village was designed as the central settlement on the Picton to Mittagong Railway Line, which was built during 1860-1880 as part of the Great Southern Line to Melbourne. However, when the alternate route through Bargo was built and opened in 1915, the first one became the "Loopline", carrying only local traffic and halting the growth of the villages along it. A local rail motor operated during the 1970s, although now the line carries only excursion traffic from the Railway Museum at Thirlmere. A number of elements associated with the Loopline have considerable local significance and contribute to the distinct character of the area. These include:

The deep railway cutting just north of Hilltop- constructed by hand prior to 1880 and as the deepest handcut gorge in the Southern Hemisphere.

The three Victorian weatherboard cottages on Railway Parade referred to as the "Railway Cottages" and possibly built as accommodation for workers associated with the railway. The most obviously significant building in Balmoral is the house "Truro" on Railway Parade, built probably in the

mid-late 1800s by Henry Harry, recipient of the original land grant in the area. It retains its grand entry gates and formal gardens, and occupies a central position in the "historic" section of Balmoral

Other buildings with historic significance include:

Balmoral Lodge- the oldest surviving building, the original part being of slab construction from the 1830s.

The old Schoolhouse – built in 1893 as the only brick schoolhouse in the area, and closed in 1915 with the loss of importance of the railway.

Cherrybrook Cottage – originally constructed as a children's pulmonary hospital in the nineteenth century as Balmoral shared the Southern Highlands reputation for having beneficial air. (more next time)

TREES

I think that I shall never see

A poem lovely as a -----

Sorry, I got a bit carried away there. Do you have tree that needs lopping or chopping or dealing with in any other way
Then Jeremy is your man.

Call him on Mob. 0400 777 605 to arrange for a quote.
You will be pleasantly surprised!

One More Joke.....

An Englishman, a Scotsman and an Australian were trying to get into the Olympic Games without paying, The Englishman got a long stick and sharpened the end. He went to the gate and said 'Charles Smith – England-Javelin" and went in. The Scotsman found a tennis ball, rubbed the fluff off it, went up to the gate and said "Sandy Mc Donald – Scotland – Shotputt" and went in, The Australian found a piece of barbed wire left by the builders, went in and said "Bluey Brown – Australia – Fencing"

Cookery Nook

Light Fruit Cake (Quick and easy)

1/2lb Margarine or Butter

12oz Mixed Fruit

1/2lb Sugar

3 Eggs

3/4 lb Flour

1 teaspoon Baking Powder

(1 cup water and one dessertspoon cornflour – cooked to sauce and cooled)

Cream butter and sugar, add eggs, fruit and flour with sauce

Bake in a moderate oven for 1 to 1 1/2 hours or until cooked.