

Village Voice

September 2012

A newsletter published by the Balmoral Village Association Inc.

No 47



What price progress!

If you have been reading the historical section of this newsletter you will be aware that Balmoral was established in 1886 as the main centre for supporting the people building the railway. That is one hundred and twenty six years ago. At various times over that period we have had a school, a convalescent hospital, a Post Office, a train to Sydney every weekday – Imagine that!! We've had a shop and we were to have had a church up on River Street. a cemetery in the Bolans Road area and a Centenary Park on the block on the south side of the hall.

We have never been able to find out what happened to the Centenary Park. All we have to show for that is an Australian flag which we cannot fly as we do not have a flagpole on which to fly it nor any place to put the flagpole even if we did have one.

We even had a public telephone once!

Now we have no Post Office, no shop, no church no school . no train and there is only one poor lonely soul buried in the cemetery but no one now knows who he was or whereabouts he was buried.

They even took away our public telephone!

But, as they say that's progress – you can't stop progress.

We wonder how much more progress we can handle. But we believe in looking on the bright side, We still have our hall, a brand new noticeboard thanks to the current Council, a new "BALMORAL" sign at the crossing - thank you Peter - a new post box, a new fire station a, a flag and a picture of the Queen so all is not lost – yet!

VILLAGE NEWS

Many, many thanks to all those people who attended a meeting earlier in the year to support Johann and Anna Schutt in their battle against Sydney Water who were trying to take over two thirds of their property to build a sewerage disposal unit to supply sewerage for the residents of Buxton. It was great to see so many people turn out to support village people who were in trouble

We haven't been able to get any information from anyone at Sydney Water as to the result of that meeting but we have been informed by other sources that Sydney Water have abandoned the project in Balmoral Village and have purchased a property in Thirlmere . We certainly hope that this is correct.

Sadly, we must again offer condolences to Ralph and Nerida Emmerson this time on the death of her mother. It is surely a very sad time for both of them. May she rest in peace.

The Bonfire was a great success - by a fortunate accident it was booked for the same night that the Music group gathered so we combined and what a magic night we had!! The numbers were down a bit but the night was still a great winner both socially and financially. There's nothing like sitting round a warm fire on a cool night – a glass of something good in hand and great music to listen to. Sheer magic!!

The bonfire is everybody's favorite entertainment. It's always a lot of fun and everyone enjoyed it. Many thanks to Craig Hurley and Doug who so very generously donated a load of wood for the raffle it was very generous of them and we can only say that when you are in need of a load of wood then Craig or Doug are the ones to call. They will give you a good deal too!

You can contact them on 0438 617 215 and say Village Voice sent you.

Thank you too to Janine King, our wonderful local historian who gives us the most interesting part of this newsletter and who now has given us a generous donation. Thank you Janine and Steve – you lighten the burden.

Ralph tells us that we actually got the grant for the new tables and seats for the hall. \$22,300 odd, not as much as we applied for but very, very much appreciated. Thank you to the Council for coming to our aid yet again. We can't wait for our new furniture!!

Happy 70th Birthday to Lance Lawrence. He reached that grand old age in July. We wish him all the best. On yer Lance!!

Congratulations to Ian Janoska and Milijana Markovic who are to be wed on the on the 22nd September. We wish them all the very best for their future happiness.

Congratulations too to Leonie and Len Jelaco on the birth of their new little granddaughter, the beautiful Annabelle Rose she is as beautiful as her name. Well done Lisa and Ken.

The village seems to be plodding on, the Music Group still meeting on the first Saturday afternoon of the month everybody welcome, the Art Group on the first Wednesday morning of the month - lots of fun. Morning Tea muddling along on the first and third Wednesday morning it's a great opportunity to meet the people and a good place to hear lots of gossip and have lots of fun.

Fire Brigade meet on the first Wednesday night – everybody who can should be involved.- it's your village, your safety. The Association meets every second Tuesday night and we urge you all to come to that. Don't forget the library is at the crossing every first and third Tuesday.

In spite of our appeal only thirty six people answered the Council's survey for the project "Our Village Our Future". This was very disappointing but we know that the people in this village are pretty browned off with the Council and have lost faith - so many promises over the years but nothing to show for them – so many promises forgotten that people have become very cynical.

We have always been on the outside looking in - the orphan in the storm so to speak - but Courage Camille!!! The current Council seem to have a different approach and we hope that "**Our Village -Our Future**" will be the beginning of a happier relationship between Council and the people. We look forward to it with real hope for the future of the village.

The glass is really half full this time and we feel that if enough people wake up and take an interest in their village and what happens here we may really get something good that we can be proud of. There will be a meeting with the Council people involved on Sunday September 23rd. so please come and have your say and see if we can't get something worthwhile to be proud of for our children and those others to come later

Maybe we'll have somewhere where we can resurrect our Australia Day
"Balmoral Village against The Rest of the World" cricket match.
Wouldn't that be fun!!!!

Village Voice is interested in everyone in the village and we want to know what you are doing – what you are interested in and what you would like to do, who is getting married, who is moving into the area, who has had a new baby - so please let us have your news, Ring Ronnie on 4889 9338 and tell us what is happening in your neck of the woods.

We try to put out Village Voice every three months at the beginning of March – June – September – December, but please, please get your news in early as we do not have the facilities or the staff of Fairfax or News Limited and it takes a while to edit, proof read and generally get things together in order to print (that is when the printer is working, not to mention our pet hate - the computer!) Grrr.}

Now for the good news!! Charmaine Cooper from the Council's "Our Village Our Future" has offered to print and distribute our newsletter and we can't say how grateful we are.

Printing and distribution have always been very difficult for us and to have that lifted from our shoulders is without price. Thank you Charmaine – thanks a million!!

This is also a chance for Council to get their news and matters of interest out to the local people . This will be a great advantage to all as at the moment all we have are notice boards which not every one can see so it will be winners all round.

The hall belongs to the people of Balmoral and is kept in order voluntarily by the Committee. We get no Council services so we

have to dispose of any garbage or rubbish of any kind ourselves. So please take your rubbish away with you when you finish with the hall and please, please don't trash the place by leaving unwanted articles of furniture or anything else there - it's hard enough work as it is – and if we could catch the half wit who carved his initials into the stage - he would cop it - well and truly.

It's your hall - don't destroy it. We bet you wouldn't carve your initials in the family dining table would you?

COOKERY NOOK _____Recipe from Leila Cula

Leila recommends that for this recipe to make the stock with real chicken bones. Stock made this way is good against respiratory problems.

With all the seasonal colds and so on, here is a great recipe for our health.

Nothing like a large pot of soup

IMMUNE BOOSTING CHICKEN SOUP

4 tbs Olive Oil

1 whole chicken

6 large carrots

6 medium onions

1 large parsnip

1 turnip

1 cup peas

6 spring onions

¼ cup parsley

¼ cup coriander

2 tbs curry powder

4 cloves garlic, finely chopped

½ tsp cayenne pepper

2 tsp lemon juice

Seasoning to taste

Water, enough to make this large pot of soup

1 In a large pan boil chicken, onion and garlic for at least 1 hour to make a stock. Remove chicken and let it cool. Then take out all the bones and skin. Leave chicken meat on a plate for now.

2 While the chicken is being boiled for stock, dice all the vegetables, and chop the parsley and coriander. Add all the vegetables to the soup as well as the spices and the oil. 4 Bring to the boil and then simmer until the vegies are tender. Add the chicken meat and parsley and coriander. Now season to taste.

BALMORAL VILLAGE OPEN GARDENS

As part of an ongoing fundraising venture in aid of supporting the upkeep and running costs of the Village hall we are planning to host an Open Garden weekend for Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th of November, 2012.

Positioned at the northern end of the shire our gardens tend to be different from its colder areas.

We are a milder and dryer climate. Our soils tend to be harsher. Village gardens large or small are of interest to both new and experienced gardeners.

If you answer YES to any of the following questions we would like to hear from you.

- ☒ Are you a keen gardener?
- ☒ Are you a novice gardener?
- ☒ Is your garden established or new and/or in the making?
- ☒ Are you passionate about growing a particular plant species e.g. roses, natives, succulents, edibles, tropical, camellia, azalea, geranium, ivy., etc.?
- ☒ Do you have a productive vegetable garden and/or fruit/nut trees?
- ☒ Do you have a kitchen garden and/or herb garden?

- ☒ Do you have a potted garden, shade house, fernery, glass house, aviary?
- ☒ Are you an organic gardener?
- ☒ Do keep chickens, ducks, geese, rare birds, pigs, sheep, goats, beef, rabbits, bees, etc?
- ☒ Do you have a rockery, garden sculptures, pond, fountain, pergola, and/or dry stone walls?
- ☒ Do you like to potter in your garden or regularly take a stroll through your garden?
- ☒ Are you able to contribute to our plant sale stall with potted homegrown plants?
- ☒ Do you or might you enjoy sharing your experience with other likeminded individuals?

We are eager to get things underway. Please call Judith Collins
Tel.46833365

STARTLED INTRUDERS

The world music festival at the Village Hall was a success. Previous to the event, signs had been erected and leaflets had been distributed notifying all and sundry about the festival.

We arrived at the hall at 4pm that day to help set it up for the arrival of the crowd at around about 6pm. We hurried to get things ready.

We shared in the sausage sizzle and listen to the music. It was a time enjoyed by everyone. Great conversations, making new friends and lots and lots of laughs.

On our arrival home however, the evening took on a more sinister note.

A group of burglars sat in their car, lights off, and in the dark. Hidden by our big shed. We arrived home steering to the right hand side of our circular driveway towards the carport and the house. Inside awaiting us was our 87year old mother for whom we care full time. Happily watching a favourite television show.

We walked to our bedroom, kicked off our shoes and were about to change into nightwear when I from the corner of my eye caught the flash of a torch light. Suddenly the dogs who were secured in their kennel began to bark in a very defensive tone. Certainly not the tone for wombats, kangaroos, feral dogs or cats.

Quick to act we switched on all of the floodlights leaving nowhere to hide. The burglars car skidded to and fro in a frenzy to escape. The spinning wheels on the imbedded rock bush driveway was audible. We called the police.

The police told us that when they themselves see a concert or festival or school fete advertised they know to expect a robbery. For up to a month or more, prior to the event burglars patrol the streets looking for unsecured or secluded homes. Regularly they drive down sparsely populated roads so that neighbours become familiar with the car and don't see it as a threat. After all, if the same car travels down your street three times a week for a month or more, it must be a relative or friend of your neighbour?

We all need to have a wits about us.

Disturbing intruders shakes one's foundations.

Paul and Judith Collins

THOUGHTS ON GARDENS

A gardener is a bloke who calls a spade a spade – until he falls over one.

Now is the time of the year when the bulbs you forgot to plant fail to bloom.

She talked to the trees – that's why they took her away.

Fred says talking to plants doesn't make them grow. His wife hasn't stopped talking to him in 25 years and he hasn't grown an inch.

The fern specialist declares that with fronds like his who wants anemones?

KIDS KORNER by Ryan, Mariah, Brock and Tarshar aged 5 to 9

Why did the rooster go to Red Rooster?

Answer: to get wed

Patient: Doctor doctor, my eye hurts when I drink tea

Doctor: When you drink tea, do you take the spoon out?

What is the way to speak to a monster?

Answer: from very far away.

Patient: Doctor doctor, can you please help me out?

Doctor: Yes, over there the same way as you came in.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

Answer: frostbite

What do you call a one eyed dinosaur?

Answer: do-you-think-he-sawrus

Why did Mickey Mouse go to space?

Answer: to find Pluto

Patient: Doctor doctor, I swallowed my pen

Doctor: How are you coping so far?

Patient: I'm using a pencil

Why is 6 afraid of 7?

Answer: Because 789

What did the weighing machine say when a really fat lady stood on it?

One at a time please

What do you give birds when they are ill?

Answer: Tweetment

What part of the computer does the astronaut like best?

Answer: The Space Bar

MEDITATION

Tuesday evenings at 7pm. All welcome, Free as always

233 Railway Parade, Balmoral Village

Ph Simon/Gabrielle 48898123



New South Wales Rural Fire Service Balmoral Village Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade

News from the Captain:

Good day to you;

The colder weather is nearly gone and the sunshine and warmer weather is on the way, here are a few helpful tips to keep the family safer:

- It is time to start the coming into spring clean up.
- Clean gutters and any debris on your property.
- If you are doing your own clean up burn off, keep the pile to a manageable size, the material you are burning needs to be dry, 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 is too windy!
- Start checks on pumps and other items used to defend your Home.

Village Brigade Hazard Reductions:

Brigade volunteers will be conducting a number of hazard reductions in and around the village area weather permitting, over the next couple of months leading up to summer and the beginning of the fire season, these are the following:

- Finish the rail corridor toward Buxton, also up the hill toward Hilltop.
- We have a number of private property burns we will be also doing, on Railway Parade and Wilson Drive.
- A large burn on the Eastern side of the Village to Bargo River.

Village Fire Station:

I would like to thank Elisa Flemming and Angelina Vujicic who have both recently volunteered their time and joined the Brigade to assist in the protection of our beautiful Village. Thank you both.

POET'S CORNER

Say it with flowers
Say it with sweets
Boxes of chocolates
Or plush theatre seats

Say it with diamonds
Say it with mink
But whatever you do
Don't say it in ink!!!

Thoughts on poetry :

Most poets will tell you that rhyme doesn't pay.

Truro - the Test of Time

It must have been quite a blow to the Harry family when Henry died in 1893. None of them stayed in Balmoral. They dispersed widely in the next few years. Mrs Esther Harry moved to North Sydney. In 1898 Emily Maud Harry married a Cornishman and went to live in Brisbane. Edith Amy (also spelt Edyth Amie on documents) Harry went on to train as a nurse before marrying in 1909 and moving to Tasmania. William John Harry moved to Western Australia and married in 1908, but died eleven years later.

Truro was sold within a few years of Henry Harry's death to the neighbouring landowner, Samuel Bensusan. It would be quite a while though before Truro would become a family home again.

During preparations for Australia's participation in the First World War, a number of recruiting drives were organized from western NSW country towns. (Balmorals own author and historian, John Meredith, wrote "The Coo-ee March" about the men who set off from Gilgandra.¹).

Preparations were afoot to welcome "The Kangaroos" as they marched into Mittagong on Friday December 31st, 1915. Eighty-eight men had set off from Wagga Wagga, and 230 arrived in Sydney.² The men camped at Lake Alexandra that night.

The Kangaroos left Mittagong at 9.30 a.m on New Years Day, and were escorted as far as Braemar by the Mittagong Band and a number of townspeople. The contingent received an ovation from the boys of the Mittagong Farm Homes, and the men were presented with fruit from the orchard attached to the Homes.

*The Kangaroos were entertained at lunch on Saturday by the residents of Balmoral and district, and then left for Thirlmere.*³

From conversations with local residents⁴ it was recalled that the men had their lunch at *Truro*. At the time it was owned by a "game and oyster merchant"⁵ so perhaps they were **very** well fed!

During the 1920's, Mrs Crossley ran *Truro* as a boarding house and charged about three guineas a week. Around 1923 the coloured dome glass roof was smashed during a hailstorm.

¹ Meredith, John *The Coo-ee March* Macquarie Publications Dubbo 1981

² Ibid P 96

³ Sydney Mail Jan 4th 1916 BDF&HS, Mittagong

⁴ including Mr Sax Grant 1988

⁵ LTO Sydney Vol 1322 Fol 72

*Mrs Crossley did very well with the boarding house for about ten years, but after she sold out, the business fell away in the middle thirties and it became empty and fell into disrepair...*⁶

This is probably the time that Mr Saxby-Grant referred to when he heard that local boys used to ride their horses through it.⁷

During the war Miss Cull used *Truro* as a convalescent home for children but owing to staff shortages had to close after a short time. Miss Annie Bennett (from Greengate Farm, now called 'Glanmire') gained employment there during this time.

Truro changed hands three more times during the depression years and in 1938 the widow, Lillian Isabella Pyemont made a forced sale purchase. Mrs Pyemont and her husband Henry, an orchardist, were both listed in the 1906 and 1908 electoral rolls⁸ with a Balmoral location.⁹

Four purchases later there is a lot more to be known about this Home in the Highland for now in winter 1951 it is bought for the family of Mr Walter Donald Saxby-Grant (aka Sax Grant), from Cheltenham in Sydney. When Mr Grant saw the sales advertisement for *Truro* in the paper, it seemed a good opportunity to bring his family to this wonderful country with its 'champagne air'.¹⁰

Once again *Truro* flourished - and has continued to flourish to this day. For the next twenty years *Truro* became truly loved by Mr Grant, his wife, Phyllis Elwyn, their two daughters Betsy and Virginia and son Hugh. Christmas parties were held there for the members of the Picton Masonic Lodge and their families. *Truro* was supposed to be host to large parties from its beginnings. I was living in Balmoral when the last one was held, and I will come to that shortly.

Mrs Grant was appointed as postmistress in 1960. One of her jobs was to collect and dispatch the mail from the box at the railway station. She was taking over from Mrs Batten who lived in the railway house and relocated the Post Office to a room off the front verandah at *Truro* and Mr Grant paid £10 towards the cost of doing so. Mrs Grant was the telephone operator also. When the Grants sold up in 1970, the post office closed after nearly sixty years. It must have been a day of regret for those who benefited by the service. However, changes were in the wind for only a few years down the track, the Post Master Generals department divided into two - Telecom (now Telstra) and Australia Post. Economic rationalism was just around the corner. It took a lot of lobbying on the residents part (fairly recently) to get a post box

⁶Letter from Dot Brown dated 5th June 1988

⁷Interview dated 1988

⁸H.J Daley Library, Campbelltown

⁹Undated letter from Dot Brown suggesting the Pyemonts were resident at *Cherrywood*

¹⁰Interview with Beryl Hick of Buxton 1988

put into the Village and that's before the rationalists closed the P.O at the neighbouring village.

In 1980, Truro became the setting for a very large party. Now owned by a trio of television executives who decided to throw a party for their clients. Those who had been invited were brought down from Sydney on a specially hired diesel train. A roll of seagrass matting was spread across Railway Parade and through the gates of Truro. The band "Mental as Anything" was hired and played their popular and successful music nice and loud.

We, (and other uninvited residents) had to make do with dancing in the moonlit street. The train idled on the line until about 2 a.m the following morning, when the 200 or so guests were returned to the city. I wonder how many of them would remember where they had been?

Truro has been a beacon for the economic changes during its time - regressing and flourishing - and while its history has no counterpart in Balmoral it has been perhaps the greatest survivor.

Fridge Calender for the next three months:

September

Wednesday 5th Fire Brigade meeting at the hall
Saturday 8th Music Group meet at the hall - all welcome 3pm.
Tuesday 11th Association meeting at the hall - hope you can
come 7.30pm
Library at the crossing
Morning Tea 10am at the hall – come if you dare
10am
Tuesday 25th Library at the crossing

October

Monday 1st Morning Tea
Saturday 6th Music Group meet
Tuesday 9th Association meeting
Library
Monday 15th Morning Tea
Tuesday 23rd Library

November

Saturday 3rd Music Group meet
Monday 5th Morning Tea
Saturday 10th Open Garden Day
Tuesday 13th Association meeting
Monday 19th Morning Tea
Tuesday 20th Library