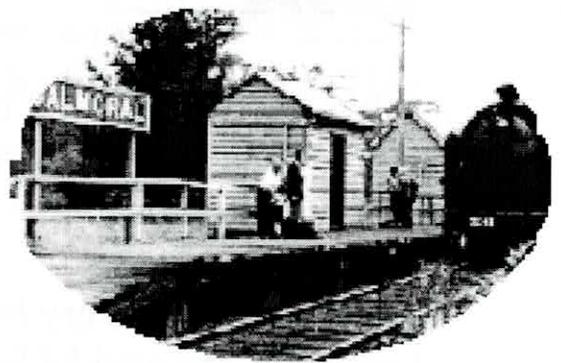


# Village Voice



December 2012

A newsletter published by the Balmoral Village Association Inc.

No 48

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Christmas is coming and the geese are getting fat. - We don't know about the geese but our wallets are not getting any fatter. Still, Christmas comes but once a year which is probably a very good thing and we have twelve months to recover before we do it all over again. Silly isn't it?

Still we hope you all have a very merry Christmas (not too merry now\_don't go\_to extremes) and have a happy and prosperous New Year

Getting out a magazine is no picnic,

If we print jokes people say we are silly

If we don't they say we are too serious.

If we clip things from other sources, we are too lazy to think for ourselves.

If we don't print contributions, we don't appreciate true genius.

If we make changes in other peoples' writing, we are too critical.

If we don't, we are asleep.

No doubt someone will say we swiped this from another publication.\_\_\_\_\_We did.

## Village News

It has been very quiet in the old town this last quarter = not a great has happened = everyone seems to have been behaving themselves - the way it should be - boring isn't it?

There were two very lovely weddings in the village since the last issue. Ian and Miljana Markovic were married in their beautiful garden in September and had a reception in the hall. Miljana looked lovely and the day was delightful

Then Lyle and Lisa Spears opened their expansive and splendid gardens for the wedding of their daughter Rochelle and Owen Howe.

The reception was held in a marquee on the grounds, everything was beautifully done and the day was just great.

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You may have noticed but now we have solar power on the hall. That should save us some money maybe even make some! Thanks to Ralph who did the hard work.

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The Christmas party has been set for December ~~16<sup>th</sup>~~<sup>23<sup>rd</sup></sup>. It should be a good night - it usually is. The Barbeque will start at 5pm. Santa comes at 6pm and the Carols start at 7pm then there will be a Tombola and supper so it should be a lot of fun - anyway come along and see for yourself - the children love it and everyone loves the Carols so come along and share some fun with us.

The last issue of Village Voice went out over the weekend of the Council elections. For those of you who haven't heard the result was the following councillors who will sit for the next four years.

Juliet Arkwright

Duncan Gair

Graham McLaughlin

Garry Turland

Ian Scandrett

James Clark

John Uliana

Holly Campbell

Larry Whipper

Councillor Juliet Arkwright was elected as Mayor by her fellow councillors.

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A society matron was crowing about her husband's re-election on the local council. 'Yes, my John got in for his third time and got in unexposed.'

## A Sad Tale of Christmas.

It was Christmas Eve morning , snowing and blowing at the North Pole. Santa had been to a party the night before and had woken with a screaming headache. He would have given the world to stay in bed but knowing what a busy day (and night) he had in front of him he had to get up and get on with things. He was too ill to have any breakfast , he snarled at Mrs Clause and went out to the workshop to get the elves started at finishing and packing the toys for the night's trip.

However, when he got there he found the elves had gone on strike for more money and not being in any mood for conciliation he sacked them on the spot and set out to do the job himself - but when he went to bring the sleigh in to start loading he found it had a broken runner, so he had to set about fixing that. By this time he was feeling hungry, but Mrs Clause had had a fit of the sulks and gone out to do some Christmas shopping, so he went back to the job.

Whilst he was putting together a wooden train he gave his thumb an almighty whack with the hammer – the train fell to the floor and just as he was jumping around, holding his thumb and using very unChristmaslike language he stood on the nail that was sticking put of the train. Just at that point the Christmas Angel came to the door and said “I've brought you your Christmas Tree – where do you want me to put it?” .....

And that, children, is why you will always find the Christmas Angel sitting right at the very top of the Christmas Tree.

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Go to church this Sunday and avoid the Christmas rush.

Only 25 shoplifting days to Christmas.

Actually. There were four wise men. On the way to Bethlehem one of them said he knew a short cut.

## **PIONEER LABOURS INSPIRED SCULPTOR**

### **“HUMAN ENDEAVOUR”**

Carving the deepest railway cutting through a sandstone mountain outcrop at Hilltop over a century ago was a monumental task for men with only hand tools and blasting powder, As a monument to them – Balmoral sculptor, Joe Enfield has erected a massive concrete sculpture near the scene of their labours.

The sculpture, in sandblasted pre cast concrete makes an impressive sight in the silent bushland setting near Saddleback Bridge at Hilltop, where it was erected last Monday.

The mechanics of the sculpture are impressive. It weighs 37 tonne and comprises two main parts A smaller base supports a 21 tonne section. This structure is reminiscent of the stylized figure of Atlas, supporting the world on his shoulders. The sculpture lies in the east west line and throughout the day. the passing sun throws an ever changing shadow pattern which further emphasizes the triangular shapes. It is particularly awe inspiring on a moonlight night in the absolute silence of the unspoilt area.

Mr Enfield, German born and a hardworking plumbing contractor in Sydney for 25 years came to Balmoral with his musician wife, Ann four years ago where, at last he could indulge himself in his art.

He had developed an interest in sculpture in Germany as a young person when he helped a sculptor friend of his father. His interest carried through to a major work in Sydney about six years ago, This is a three metre high sculpture entitled “The Twelve Tribes” on which he and several other craftsmen worked.

Mittagong Council who had approved the project some time ago,, was represented by the Shire President Cr Jim Gasson and Hilltop Councillors Mrs May and Ben Chalker, all of whom voiced unqualified approval of the massive grey sculpture.

About twenty local residents were present during the erection process and all were delighted with the final effect, certain to become a landmark, especially if promised landscape later results in the area being used by the passing public

From The Southern Highland News, March 19 and 21<sup>st</sup> 1980.

Editor's Note; Unfortunately, the Council did not live up to its promise of landscaping and are now no longer Mittagong Council. The monument has been left to stand forlorn and neglected for thirty two years now – the brass plaque that explained what it is about has been stolen by some miserable thief. The monument was put there to honor the men who worked and died on the job building the deepest hand cut cutting in the Southern Hemisphere, which is something to be proud of, not neglected or used as a dumping ground for road building materials or unwanted household rubbish as seems to have become its fate.

. The local Association have often wanted to do something to make it what it should be, but unfortunately, never have the money as it is all we can do to keep the hall going.

It's design is very interesting in itself as Joe explained it, it is designed as a series of triangles though no triangle can be seen in it. Next time you go past don't just drive by, have a look at it as it is really quite amazing.

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### **Thoughts on Housekeeping**

A clean house is a sign of a broken computer

I don't clean windows because I love birds and I don't want one to fly into a clean window and get hurt.

I don't disturb cobwebs because I think everything should have a home.

I don't spring clean because I don't want the other seasons to get jealous,

**COOKERY NOOK**                      **Christmas Drinks**  
**From Sweet Perfection Dec. 2006**

**Fruit Punch**

2 cups Water	2 cups Sugar	1 cup Pineapple
1 cup Strawberries	1 cup Raspberries	1 cup Bananas
1 cup white Grapes	1 cup maraschino Cherries	
Juice of 6 Oranges	Juice of 6 Lemons	8-10 bottles Soda Water

Boil the water and sugar for ten minutes. Cool and add other ingredients but crush the fruits before adding and reserve the soda water. Chill thoroughly and add soda water before serving.

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**Tropicana Punch**

1 small glass Brandy, 1 small glass Curacao, 1 slice Orange  
5 thin slices Pineapple, 6-8 Maraschino Cherries, 5 cups Claret,  
3-4 teaspoons Sugar, 5 cups Lemonade or Soda Water, Dash of  
Maraschino, juice of 1 lemon.

Mix together in a large bowl with plenty of ice.

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**Champagne Cocktail**

Place a sugar loaf in each glass. On the sugar pour ½ teaspoon  
Brandy and a dash of bitters. Let stand for at least 10 minutes. Fill  
with icy cold Champagne.

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**Ruby Punch**

¾ cup Water	¾ cup Sugar	6 sticks Cinnamon
1 teaspoon whole Cloves	2 cups chilled Burgundy	
5 cups Apple Juice chilled.		

Place Water, Sugar, Cinnamon and cloves in a saucepan and bring  
to the boil. Simmer mixture on low heat for about 10 minutes. Strain  
and chill – add the Wine and Apple Juice and serve chilled.

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**Mimosa** use half and half well chilled Orange Juice and  
Champagne

## **KID'S CORNER**

### **Kid's advice to kids**

'Never trust a dog to watch your food' – Patrick aged 10.

"When your dad is mad and asks you "Do I look stupid?" don't answer. – Hannah aged 9.

"Never tell you mum her diet's not working" - Michael aged 14.

"When your mum is mad at you don't let her brush your hair" – Taylia aged 11.

"Never let your three year old brother in the same room as your school assignment" – Tracey aged 14

"A puppy always has bad breath, even after eating a Tic Tac". – Andrew aged 9

"You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk." – Rodney aged 10.

"If you want a kitten start out by asking for a horse." - - Naomi aged 14

"Felt tip markers are no good to use as lipstick" – Lauren aged 10

"When you get a bad grade in school, show it to your mum when she's on the phone." – Alyesha aged 13.

"Don't pick on your sister when she's holding a baseball bat." - Joel aged 10

"Never try to baptize a cat." – Eileen aged 8

## **Reflections on life**

Brain cells come and brain cells go, but fat cells live forever.

Keep your kitchen clean – eat out.

It's called the miniature cocktail – drink one and in a miniature out.

He's so dumb he'd throw a drowning man both ends of the rope just to be sure.

A new vitamin has been discovered for children – It includes Vitamins B1, B2 and B quiet.

Lady Godiva was the world's worst gambler – she put everything she had on a horse.

Ireland's worst disaster – a 22 seater plane crashed into a cemetery. Irish rescue squads have already recovered 826 bodies.

Sorry about that!\

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Fred got a letter from his wife – “Fred, I missed you yesterday. Please come home and let me have another shot”

# Balmoral Village N.S.W. Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade News

PO Box 87  
Buxton NSW 2571

Phone (02) 4889 8387

As we are now into summer there is “NO BURNING OFF PERMITTED” until the end of the fire season, which is the end of March 2013.

**No Fire Permits are issued during the Fire Season and there is No Burning off Permitted, from the beginning of October to the end of March each year.**

## **Brigade News:**

Balmoral Village Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade members conducted Hazard Reduction’s leading up to the fire season to reduce the fuel load in and around the Village. Unfortunately rain and strong wind held up a number of planned hazard reductions. These will be looked at next year from March 2013.

## **PREPARE**

You must make important decisions before the fire season starts

- Know and understand your bush fire risk.
  - Prepare yourself, your family, your home and property for bush fires.
  - Prepare a Bush Fire Survival Plan. Update it yearly if needed!
- “Preparing to Make a Bushfire Survival Plan is Not a Plan”**

## **ACT**

The higher the fire danger rating, the more dangerous the conditions

- Know the fire danger rating for your area and what you need to do.
- Put your preparations into action – don’t wait and see.
- Check your Bush Fire Survival Plan.

## **SURVIVE**

Fires may threaten without warning - know what you will do to survive.

- The safest place is away from the fire – your survival is the highest priority

- Follow your Bush Fire Survival Plan and make decisions to protect you and your family.
- You need to know what to do if you are caught in a fire. You may be threatened by a fire without warning.
- Know the bush fire Alert Levels, monitor conditions and keep up to date.

### **What you need to know about the Fire Danger Rating Sign located in the Village**

The Fire Danger Rating (FDR) is an indication of the consequences of a fire, if a fire were to start.

Be ready to act.

When the Fire Danger Rating is Severe, Extreme or Catastrophic, this means a fire will be unpredictable, uncontrollable and very fast moving. This means little or no warning about the threat of a bush fire.

The Fire Danger Rating should be your first trigger for activating your Bush Fire Survival Plan.

By choosing to Stay and Defend in the event of a bush fire you may be at risk of serious injury or death.

**If there is any doubt in your mind, you should leave early in the event of a bush fire.**

**When a High Fire Danger Rating and above is advised, you need to take it seriously and be prepared to act.**

**Your Families survival may depend on it.**

**Balmoral Village N.S.W. Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade  
News**

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Finally, A little bit more about the Christmas Angel:

A little girl asked her mother "Mummy what is the name of the Easter Angel?"

Mother answered "I don't know. Why do you ask?"

Girl: Well, I know the name of the Christmas Angel but I don't know the name of the Easter Angel"

Mother: "You know the name of the Christmas Angel? What is it?"

Girl; "Harold!"

Mother: Harold? Whoever told you that?"

Girl: Oh Mummy! It's in the song - Hark the Harold Angel Sings."

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Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.