

Balmoral

Village Voice



December 2013

No 52

A newsletter published by the Balmoral Village Association Inc.

Well, haven't things been happening since the last Village Voice went out? How lucky we all have been. Thanks be to God no one was injured or worse and no one lost their home in the fires, it could have been so much worse and as we are still only in Spring, we have a long very hot Summer ahead of us but now we will be able to see it through with a much easier mind than we might otherwise have done.

Many, many thanks to the wonderful men and women in our Fire Brigade who saved the day for us and to all those who came from Brigades everywhere to assist them.

Thank you too to the people who came out to help the fires by providing food and generally doing all they could to help - not only the firemen and women but other people in the district who might have been in trouble. Thanks too to the Council to Charmaine who rang to offer Council assistance to anyone who needed it. Miraculously, it seems no one did, but some of us came very, very close indeed.

Let's hope it will be many, many years before we find ourselves in the same predicament again

It's a dreadful thought, but it seems it is part of Australian life and does not look like getting any better. We just have to live with it – but don't forget - we are still luckier than a lot of other people in the world so we must count our blessings, appreciate what we have and do the best we can to protect it.

Brendan says it all better than we can further on inside.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Why is Christmas just like any day at the office?
Because you do all the work and the fat guy gets all the credit.

Village News

The Bush Dance was a great night, many thanks to Paul Mallia and his friends who so generously provided the music and such wonderful music it was – just to listen to it made you just want to dance – thanks a heap guys you made the night the success it was and we appreciate it. It was great to watch everyone, from the littlest to the oldest swinging away and having the best fun doing it. If you missed this one watch out for the next, you'll be sorry if you don't!!

The Theatre Restaurant night was a great success in spite of the smoke and policemen and fire fighters all around. Unfortunately, some of the caterers couldn't get through because of the road blocks but Judith did a sterling job assisting Georgie till the others could get there.

One of the actors couldn't make it either but his place was taken by another man, the writer of the play no less, so he didn't have any trouble with his lines.

It was really very funny and more true to life than one would think. The cast donated their fee for the night to the local fire brigade which was very generous of them and we thank them very much indeed.

It was a welcome break to be able to relax and have a laugh in the middle of all the stress and worry that went before and indeed was still going on. It shows a lot for the spirit of the people.

We have booked the players again for March next year so if you haven't been able to make it this year - keep it in mind. There will be more details later as more arrangements are made.

The food was delicious, the show was a scream and the whole night did a lot to relieve the tensions of everyone who could get there on such a difficult night.

The show must go on!!!!

From Ian and Mary Wolfe at Hilltop:

'Bowral Garden Club and Mittagong Garden Club would like to help to do a garden at the Balmoral Hall. It seems to be an offer of sympathy and friendship to the people of Balmoral after the fires, which is very kind of them indeed and appreciated very much. Apparently they have recently had a plant sale, these plants are "garden club" quality. There are a number left over which they are offering to anyone at Balmoral who lost their garden in the fire to have them'

The day of the great planting is Saturday 23rd.

Bunnings have also offered to give us whatever plants we would like for the garden and they propose having a sausage sizzle on the day of garden building at their expense. Southern Highlands Landscape Supplies have also offered to donate soil and compost for the garden so it would be great if as many locals as possible can come even if you are not able to work on the garden just to have a fun day out and a free sausage sizzle. And maybe get some quality plants for yourself. If you have any plants that you could donate it would be wonderful too, so have a look in your garden and see if you can help in that way.

Let us all show these wonderful generous people that we appreciate what they are doing for us. Please come. Anytime after 9am – the Sausage Sizzle people from Bunnings will be there from 11 o'clock till 2pm. So come along and make the most of it. It's not often anyone wants to do something for poor old Balmoral is it?

The Christmas party will be held on Saturday 21st December. It generally starts at 5.30pm with a sausage sizzle then comes the arrival of Santa Claus at about 6pm, the Carols start at about 7 pm and then supper after that. There will be a raffle and everyone usually has a great time – each year it seems to get better. So come along and get the Christmas Spirit- (actually you have to bring it with you as we only sell soft drinks) so don't be a scrooge - come and enjoy the night It is a great night for the youngest through to the oldest – something for everyone.

**Did we mention Christmas is coming??
Some things about Christmas:-**

Santa Claus: The only man to be interested in an empty stocking.

The Bermuda Triangle got tired of warm weather and moved to Finland.
Now

Santa Claus is missing!

Would you say that Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses?

Why does Christmas always come when all the shops are so crowded?

A bit of Christmas advice - Never try to catch snowflakes on your tongue until all the birds have gone south for winter.

How come you never hear anything about the other Reindeer? You know the one -
Olive, the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names?

If Santa won a saucepan in the Christmas raffle would you call that pot luck?

Did you hear that the police arrested Santa Claus because he was out all night sleighing?

Would Santa's nationality be said to North Polish?



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

PO Box 87
Buxton NSW 2571

Phone (02) 4889 8387

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:

What a start to the fire season!

16,500h burnt out in both Wingecarribee and Wollondilly Shires, no lives lost, no serious injuries, no occupied dwellings destroyed, 2 unoccupied dwellings destroyed, some vehicles destroyed, some sheds destroyed and sadly some pets lost to a section 44 (state fire emergency). This in itself is amazing considering the ferocity in which this fire took off.

We did get a good touch up around the Village causing some damage on and around some properties, over all we fared well.

I was asked by a number of people why the fire even when it was gone from our Village was still called Hall Road, Balmoral Village.

The answer is that it gets its name from the beginning and until the end of time from where the origin of the fire was.

I would like to say how proud I am of your Volunteer Firefighters who recently undertook a 13 day fire campaign to protect our beautiful village and succeeded. The effort and time by the RFS Brigades and some of our residents who day and night patrolled the village was greatly appreciated, a big thank you to you all.

The support from our residents and people not living in our village was sensational, bringing in food, drinks or helping around the fire station, filling tankers and making sure the firefighters were looked after.

A huge Thank you to these amazing ladies Tracy, Jill, Amanda, Janet who cooked, cleaned and took care of the station duties.

The feed back I have received from all Brigades coming here to assist us was that in all of their years of going away to fight fires they had never received the hospitality from residents or the other Brigade as they did here in Balmoral.

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.

On Hot, Dry, Windy days you should pay extra attention to the fire risk in our area!

There are actions you can do to save time in case a fire does start:

- Contain pets so they can be easily found.
- Move stock to fully grazed areas.
- Check water pumps and generators.

Have your Emergency Survival Kit, Personal belongings and protective clothing ready.

Listen to local media, RFS website www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or telephone 1800 679 737 for updates.

The Brigade meets at the fire station the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm for our monthly meetings.

Training is on most Wednesday nights from 7.30pm.

For anyone that would like to help protect our beautiful village either as an active member assisting with hazard reductions and fire calls or as an ancillary member assisting in the fire station with radio and support work for the fire crews, please contact myself or another member of the Brigade and have a chat about how you can join.

Donations are always greatly appreciated and are used to purchase safety equipment to assist the people who help to protect you.

If you see us in the station drop in to grab an application form, or to just say hello and have a look around

Captain Brendon O'Connor
Balmoral Village Rural Fire Brigade
0457 253 851

IF

If elephants could fly the world would suffer
We'd walk around the countryside in fear
And carry steel umbrellas as a buffer
In case a herd flew by with diarrhea

I'm very glad that cows don't ride on street cars
(They might if they had someplace good to go
Well, maybe for a drink in mix n' meat bar?
Where Malibu and Milk is all the go.)

If waffles made of offal tasted awful
Who'd have the guts to eat a Persian Pie?
And breeding cats for food - would that be lawful?
A feline fricassee could make you cry.

On Tuesday I played poker with an aardvark
I went down hard, he had a lucky streak
And how was I to know he was a card shark?
With aces hid from here into next week,

I knew a gnu in Timbuktu one summer
But hunting season came around each fall
Quite quiet she was then, but now she's dumber
But makes a lovely trophy on the wall.

It's tragic how we eat such friendly critters
I think of fillet steak and feel my shame
And almost choke on veal and chicken fritters
But animals eat animals, so I'm game

Kids Korner

(Why Teachers Drink)

From Janine

Teacher: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago

Winnie: Me!

Teacher: Glen, why do you always get so dirty?

Glen: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

Teacher: Millie, give me a sentence starting with 'I'

Millie: I is

Teacher: No Millie, Always say 'I am'.

Millie: All right....I am the ninth letter of the alphabet.

Teacher: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it, Now, Louis, Why didn't his father punish him?

Louis: Because George still had the axe in his hand.....

Teacher: Simon, tell me frankly. Do you say prayers before meals?

Simon: No sir, I don't have to, my mum's a good cook.

Teacher: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly he sane as your brother's Did you copy his?

Clyde: No sir, it's the same dog.

Teacher: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

Harold: A teacher.

Teacher: If I gave you two cats and another two cats and another two cats, how many would you have?

Johnny: Seven, Sir.

Teacher: No, listen carefully, If I gave you two cats and another two cats and another two - How many would you have?

Johnny: Seven, sir.

Teacher: Let me put it differently.... If I gave you two apples and another two apples and another two, how many do you have?

Johnny: Six, sir

Teacher: Good, now if I gave you two cats and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?

Johnny: Seven!!! SIR!!

Teacher: Where in hell do you get seven from?!?!?

Johnny: I've already got one cat!!!!

From The Canberra Times March 3rd 2001.

'Obituary to John Meredith.

Born in Holbrook, NSW, John Meredith returned to the district (*Balmoral Village*) to spend the last period of his life. His accordion-playing father was an occasional presence in his early life, returning from extended periods away working in the bush and dying when Meredith was nine years old. As a teenager Meredith's mother encouraged him to take up the button accordion.

Meredith became an assistant to Holbrook apothecary, gaining his life's work skills and experimenting with photography. At the end of World War 1 he rode a push bike from Melbourne to North Queensland, undertaking bush walks along the way, before settling in Sydney in 1947, where he worked as a laboratory assistant and became involved in the left inspired Australian post-war cultural revival.

With friends he explored the Blue Mountains region and the Sydney Basin extensively, making an important collection of paper tracings of Aboriginal pictographs.

The March 1952 Youth Carnival for Peace and Friendship in Sydney inspired many including, Meredith, who afterwards formed a musical group with Jack Barry and Brian Loughlin, The Heathcote Bushwackers. He began looking for Australian folk songs to perform, researching initially in the State Library of NSW and making personal contacts through an extended network of friends and associates. Borrowing a tape recorder from Jeff Way, a friend and neighbour, Meredith began recording rural musicians, the work for which he is best known.

In late 1953 the Melbourne New Theatre production, *Reedy River* came to Sydney and Meredith's group was added to the cast. Chris Kempster and Ces Grivas became members, recently collected songs were included and he ensemble became known as The Bushwacker Band. The group was an overnight success, the style and repertoire of the "bush band" genre becoming established through these and subsequent *Reedy River* performances. The much later Melbourne group The Bushwackers (sic) is an otherwise unrelated example of this influence. Meredith was responsible for the introduction of the 'lagerphone' and the "Bush Bass", semi consciously mirroring developments in the emerging skiffle band formula in Britain.

The 1956 recording of *The Drover's Dream* by Meredith's original group, with his own great friend Alan Scott singing lead vocals was a runaway success, selling 20,000 copies.

Meredith's initiatives, ideas, stories and collected music provided the significant thread of substance in the Australian folk revival. His early work on convict-bushranger Jack Donohoe (the archetype behind *The Wild Colonial Boy*) convict poet Francis MacNamara ("Frank the Poet"), Ned Kelly and Henry Lawson in particular led to the wide acceptance and consolidation of these figures as Australian folk heroes.

Between 1953 and 1958 Meredith made an important collection of 30 reel-to-reel tapes around Sydney and in the Lithgow and Mudgee districts returning briefly early in the 1960s. Music he encountered recalled from the mists of childhood memory tunes that his father had played. From 1956 he began work on a publication of this material in collaboration with Hugh Anderson. It appeared in 1963 as *Folk Songs of Australia and the Men and Women Who Sang Them*, an Australian classic. At the suggestion of Russel Ward, the National Library of Australia acquired his tapes in 1963.

Meredith's 1960s contribution to the study of Australian folk lore was seminal, providing field recorded material and interpretation that greatly influenced the work of Russel Ward, Douglas Stewart, Nancy Keesing, Edgar Waters, John Manifold and A. I. Lloyd among others. He performed live, on radio and on recordings, wrote numerous articles and booklets, dabbled in poetry and with playwright Joan Clarke, wrote the play *The Wild Colonial Boy*. He was a foundation member of the Australian Folklore Society (1954), the prime mover behind the Sydney Bush Music Club (1954) and organised the first Australian Folklore Festivals in Sydney (1955 and 1956)

Two years after his retirement from work in 1978, Meredith moved from his bush block at Balmoral Village, to Thirlmere and returned to field recording after a 20 year absence. From 1983 until the mid 1990s he embarked on an ambitious program of fieldwork, partly financed by the National Library. The fruits of this later work first appeared in 1987 as *Folk Songs of Australia. Volume 2*. The National Library housed a photographic exhibition in 1988-99, later published as *Real Folk* (1995)

Meredith's material legacy is without parallel. His example provided inspiration for all Australian folklore field recording, and his work was accomplished without substantial government support. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1988, and was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1992.

Meredith's fund of knowledge and experience was widely acknowledged but not fully appreciated. In any other country he would have been celebrated widely as a national treasure.

Meredith never married, his abiding love for Australia and his interest in Australian culture sustaining his life's passion.

John Meredith OAM, born January 17, 1920; died February 18, 2001



Have you heard this one?

There was a man who couldn't stand his wife's cat. So, one day, he decided to get rid of him by dumping him a long way away from the house.

He put the cat in the car and drove about 20 blocks away, and left him at the park. But when he got home the cat was there waiting for him. The next day he decided to take the cat further away about 20 blocks. But when he got home the cat was there to greet him again.

The man said to himself "This is impossible, tomorrow I'll make sure he doesn't get back".

So, the next day he put the cat in the car and drove around making turn after turn - right, left, right, right and so on. After about an hour of this, he let the cat out and began the trip home.

A few hours later, the phone rings at his house and his wife answers. It's the husband and he asks "Is the cat there?"

"Why, yes" says the wife, He's been here for quite a while, where are you?"

"Put that bastard on the phone, I'm lost and I need directions

Which reminds us of this one:

Walking past a pet shop, a man sees a sign in the window saying "Talking dog for Sale", Intrigued, he asks the shopkeeper to see the dog.

"Can you really talk?" he asks the dog.

The dog says "Yes, I can."

The man says "So, what's your story?"

"Well, I discovered I had this gift when I was only a pup. When I was old enough I applied to the Government for a job. In no time they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in on meetings involving world leaders, eavesdropping and reporting. Later, I decided to settle down and took a job as an undercover security guard at an airport. Here, I thwarted a hijacking, was given a huge bonus by my boss and was able to retire"

Amazed, the man asks the shopkeeper

"How much are you asking for him?"

"Ten quid." came the answer.

"The dog is amazing," the man says, "Why are you selling him so cheaply?"

"Because he's a liar." says the shopkeeper." He didn't do any of that stuff!"

Cookery Nook

Sweet Corn Fritters

2 cups fresh corn kernels	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup finely chopped onion
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$\frac{1}{2}$ cup flour	1 teaspn baking powder
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1 egg beaten	2 tabspsns chopped coriander optional,
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1 tabspsn chopped mint optional	Salt and pepper to taste
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Combine all ingredients and mix well. Heat some olive oil in a pan and spoon small amounts in to pan, cook until golden and serve with parmesan and a small scrape of butter on top. Great for breakfast with bacon and avocado

Home Made Sweet Corn

Cut kernels off two corn. Place in food processor and blend for about 20 secs just so the kernels are crushed up. In a pan heat 20grms butter and fry off two cloves garlic until soft, add your smashed up corn and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cream or milk and heat stirring frequently, season with salt and pepper. Serve as a side veg to any main meal.

Quick Banana Cake

4 Bananas mashed

4 Eggs

125 grms brown sugar

325 grms S.R.Flour

1 Beat bananas, eggs and brown sugar together and combine in flour

2 Grease a 20" baking tin with baking paper

3 Pour mix into tin and sprinkle with some sugar.

4. Bake for 45 mins at 190 degrees C – No fan

Pineapple

Did you know Australian pineapple canned in natural juice has just about as much fibre as peeled fresh pineapple

More Things you might like to know

Keep all those little pieces of soap, place in an empty 2 litre milk bottle, fill with water, shake well and use to water roses to eradicate aphids.

Soften hard paint brushes by putting them in a container with some hot vinegar for a few hours,

If your hanging basket doesn't come with a saucer, stretch a plastic shower cap across the bottom to catch the drips when watering.

To remove rust stains, cut a lemon in half and rub in some salt and scrub over the rust stain then wash normally.

Use a flannelette sheet as a blanket on a summer night. It gives enough warmth and is easier to wash.

Your children are sure to see a note if it is taped to the television.

If your windows need a clean, try mixing half a teaspoon of washing up liquid with three tablespoons vinegar and two cups of water. Pour it all into a spray bottle, shake to combine and hey presto – clean chemical free glass.

Did you know spiders hate lemon and eucalyptus? When sweeping away webs, put a drop or two of either essential oil on the head of your broom. Also, a few drops wiped onto the back of seldom moved furniture will curb web build up in hidden places.

Plastic containers and lunch boxes often retain the smell of the food you've stored in them. Put the empty container in the freezer overnight and the odour should disappear.

When sending a get well card to someone in hospital, always put their name and address on the back of the envelope. If they have been discharged early, it will be sent on to them.



Wishing you all the happiest of Christmasses and everything wonderful for the New Year.
