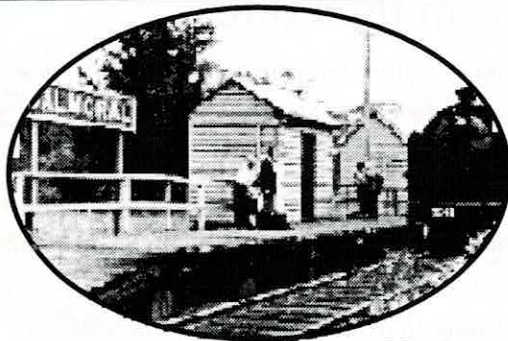


Balmoral

# Village Voice



February 2002

No 25.

A newsletter published by the Balmoral Village Association Inc.

## BUSHFIRE BURNS PARK TO EDGE OF VILLAGE

### Central Road Firetrail Saves Balmoral

**Bushfires which devastated much of NSW over the Christmas to New Year period have left a charred reminder to the west of the village in the Bargo State Recreation Area, Thirlmere Lakes and Nattai National Parks.**

The fires which roared through Warragamba, Silverdale and The Oaks on Christmas Day reached Couridjah on Christmas night and burned through the parks reaching Buxton on Boxing Day, still fanned by hot dry winds and fed by heavy fuel loadings. Crews from across Sydney were rushed in to protect property.

Once across the Shire boundary, Wingecarribee began an aggressive firefighting campaign of constructing

firetrails and undertaking backburning, beginning with the reconstruction of the Central Road Firetrail, which used to exist behind properties on the western fringe of the Village.

Over the next three weeks, fire crews from the shire and others from the Victorian Country Fire Authority contained the fires within the National Parks with a 160km long backburning operation stretching from Balmoral to Mandemar near Wombeyan Caves. In all over 100 000 hectares of National Park was burned, with no loss of life or property in the Wingecarribee Shire.

The Bargo State Recreation Area remains closed nearly two months after the fires.

## From the Editor:

*I must begin this edition by saying a few words about the fires which are now thankfully behind us. It was a time of great worry for the entire village, but it was also a time when we, as a village, came together to battle a common foe.*

*In my many days and nights at the fireshed, along with the other members of the fire brigade, I was constantly amazed at the community spirit, the generosity and people's willingness to help in any way they could. It was amazing on Boxing Day morning that residents came to the shed with loaves of bread made into sandwiches, Christmas hams and turkey, hot meals, scones and cakes and drinks .....and the list goes on. But it didn't stop there. It continued for days. In fact, Balmoral was known among the other brigades as the place to stop in for a cuppa and a snack. On behalf of the brigade, thank you so much for making life so much easier. There are far too many to thank and I'll probably leave someone out, but Sue, Maree and Cathy especially, your cooking was greatly appreciated by everyone.*

*And then there were the people who, even though not members of the brigade, stayed at the shed for long shifts, often right through the night, filling firetrucks with water and fuel, or making sure that the phone was answered and the urn was full when the crews came in. Thanks Len, Lance, Dave, Loyd, Brad and Peter.*

*And what about the members of the Brigade. On behalf of the Village, can I thank you for the time and effort you put in over nearly three weeks. Just like me, many gave up your holidays, some gave up work, families or building your own homes....but it was worth it. We still have a village!*

*If you would like to contribute something to the next Village Voice, drop it in to me at No 7 Station Street, phone me on 48 898 146 or Email me at paulmallia@yahoo.com.au*

*The next edition will be out in May. (It will be put together throughout April) so there's plenty of time to realise that you have some information that the rest of the Village might be interested in.*

Paul Mallia.

# Clean up Day

**Saturday, 2nd March, 2002**

Clean Up Australia Day is traditionally organised in Balmoral Village by the Fire Brigade, and this year will be no exception, aiming to clean up along the roadsides around the village.

This year the clean up will take in the village area as well as Wilson Drive from the Cutting to the south to the Buxton southern crossing.

As the roadsides become more littered year after year, a greater crowd on Clean-up day would make the load a lot easier.

**Any interested residents should turn up at the  
fire shed at 9:00 am.**

**Bring along a ute, truck or trailer if you have one,  
or just yourself with gloves and old clothes,  
then stay for a barbeque lunch which will be held at  
the Village hall at 1:00.**

This newsletter  
was kindly printed by

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Fax. 4647 6800

## **Pricing Policy for the Village Voice**

At the August '99 meeting of the Association a price was set for business advertising in the VV.

A full page advertisement will cost \$40 or \$10 for each quarter of a page. Of course, 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. (48 898 146)

# Train Welcomed by Locals

**As the Christmas fires approached Balmoral on Boxing Day morning, Peter Lawrence, Captain of the Balmoral Rural Fire Brigade, made a phone call to the Thirlmere Rail Museum, resulting in a train visiting Balmoral for the first time in twelve years, and a desperately needed water supply being delivered to the village.**

Neil Finey from the museum took most of the day to rearrange trains at the museum and fill two 7000L water tankers, which were once used to supply steam trains, then push them with a diesel locomotive up to Balmoral.

The train was stopped at both Couridjah and Buxton by Police, who did not want to let the train pass, but Peter Lawrence, determined to have water on hand, saw the decision overturned.

The story, which has become legendary in the Brigade, goes that Peter compared the number of stripes on his own captain's shirt, to those on the police officer's, telling him that they "both have three stripes and that that train is going through."

As the train pulled into Balmoral, a large crowd of residents gathered to welcome it. A tape was stretched across the track and cut by the train as it arrived in true style.

The diesel locomotive returned to Thirlmere that afternoon, leaving the two tankers parked on the tracks behind the fire shed to be used for the duration of the fire. Fire crews replenished their tanks from them day and night until the fire had passed.

The departure of the tankers on Sunday 26th January was just as popular as their arrival, with train enthusiasts travelling long distances to see them off.

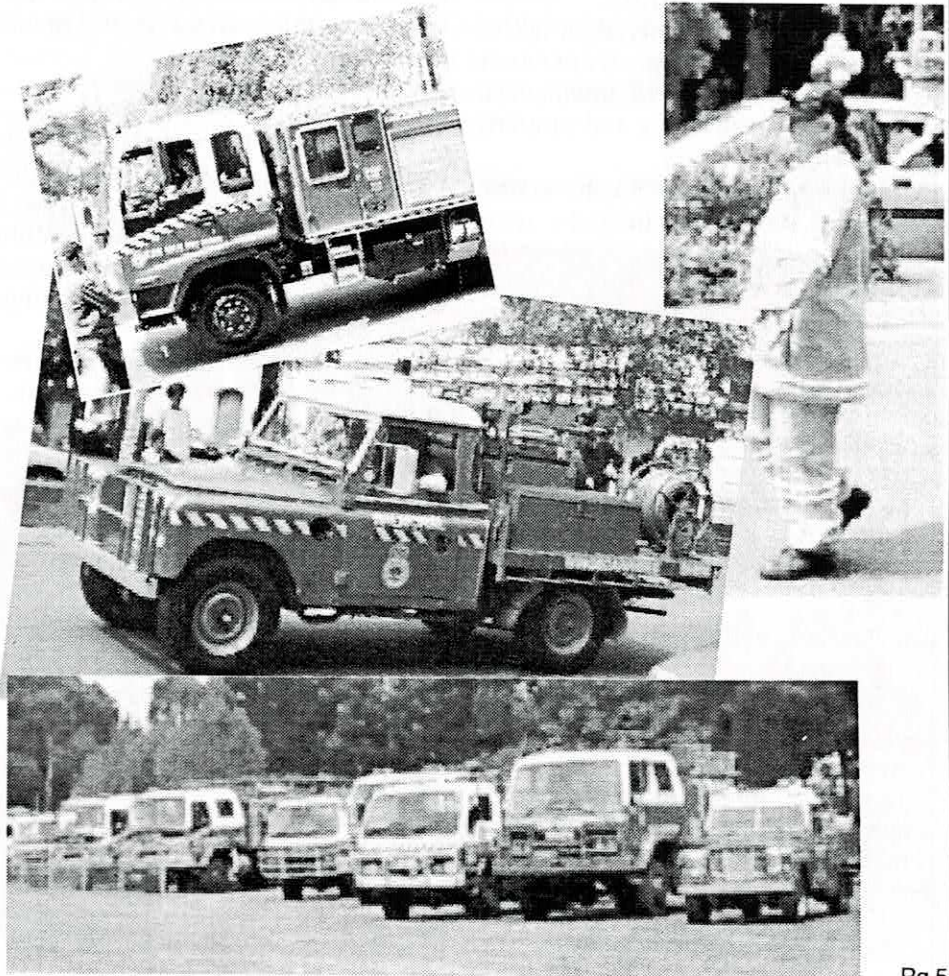


*Photo - Gordon Ibbett.*

# Brigades Honoured In Town Parade

After the fires and the smoke died down, shire and municipal councils around NSW looked for ways to honour the men and women who gave so much during the crisis. In the Wingecarribee Shire, it was the Mittagong Rotary Club which organised a street parade for the fire brigades and other emergency services, through the main streets of Moss Vale, Bowral and Mittagong, followed by a barbeque at Mittagong Oval.

Rob Pitmann supplied the following photos of the parade:



# Fire Brigade News.....

## Fire Wrap-up and Thank you

The Balmoral Village Volunteer Rural Fire service would like to take this opportunity to thank village residents and their visitors for their generous donations of money, food, drink, assistance and moral support for the duration of the Christmas/New Year fires.

The Brigade was involved in active firefighting starting from from 30/10/01 at Mangrove Mountain, near Gosford for backburning and property protection.

After lightning strikes in the Nattai National Park, the brigade were called in to Oakdale on 10/12/01 for property protection and then for backburning at Nattai Village on 12/12/01.

On 18, 19 and 20/12 the brigade were stationed at Camelot west of Hilltop, supporting helicopter refuelling.

The brigade commenced local backburning on 26/12/01, which continued until 31/12/01. Balmoral then assisted in the continuation of this backburn through to the Colo-Vale and Mandemar area, keeping them busy from 1/1/02 until 12/1/02.

Once again, in the face of adversity our small community has shown its great strength and support.

**Thanks once again Balmoral Village**  
from the members of  
Balmoral Village Volunteer  
Rural Fire Service

## Special Thank-you to Warren Browning

For the duration of the fires many people would have noticed Warren Browning's Water cartage truck making repeated trips to the Village. Warren repeatedly filled the train tanks, as well as filling house water tanks for those who were low on water to fight the fire. All this without payment - just doing his bit. Warren certainly deserves the thanks of the Village !

## Fire Restrictions

A reminder that fire restrictions are in force until 1st April, 2002 unless otherwise announced. This date may change depending on weather conditions. This is a NSW Government requirement and there are penalties for breaking the law.

Until the end of 'fire season' a permit is required for all fires (not barbecues). Permits are obtainable from Captain Peter Lawrence by phoning 48 898 004.

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Fire Brigade will occur on Wednesday night, 13th March.

All positions will be elected, and all members of the brigade are urged to attend.

## Clean-Up Day

Clean-up Australia Day is to be held on Saturday, 2nd March. All residents are urged to help out in cleaning up the ever increasing amount of garbage which is deposited along the roadsides.  
(see ad' pg3)

## Training

If you are interested in completing the basic firefighting training course, either to become a regular member of the brigade, or to assist you in the case of a fire around your own home, contact the brigade.

## Membership /Meetings

If you would like to become a member of the brigade, whether to be an active firefighter or to learn about fire behaviour for the protection of your own home, why not go along to weekly meetings. Participating in the small upcoming hazard reduction activities or water pumping exercises might give you an insight into the work of the fire brigade.

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.

*Pictured Below: Just some of the fire brigade and supporters who gave up their time and did such a great job.*



News from the...

## Balmoral Village Association.

### **New Years Eve Postponed**

Due to the recent fires, the 2001-2002 New Year's Eve party was postponed, but the association is keen to plan one for the end of 2002. More information as the year progresses.

### **Trivia Night Success**

The Trivia night which was held in November 2001 saw nearly one hundred people fill the hall for a sellout night of entertainment. Some groups took the night very seriously, while other tables impressed the crowd with their table decorations and food. In all the Association were very pleased with the night, which brought the community together as well as raising over \$1000. These funds will go towards the continual maintenance and upgrading of the hall, as well as those ever increasing running costs, including insurance and electricity. A special thanks to Vicki Dowling and Lisa Spears for arranging sponsorship and prizes from local businesses. Thank you too, to those local businesses for their support.

### **Thankyou for Gardens**

The Association would like to acknowledge the time and effort put in by Jane Cuneen and Deb Langford, who regularly visit the hall grounds to work on the gardens, which are now kept looking great. Also thanks are extended to Tom Cuneen and his company, Pacific Plant Development, for their continual support by way of plant donations.

Next time you visit the hall, take the time to notice the improvement in the garden, which is all due to these hard workers. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

### **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.

### **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)

### **All Welcome !**

The Balmoral Association meet on the first Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall at 7:30pm. In upcoming meetings the association will be discussing ground improvements to the hall fundraising functions, as well as any other topical local issues. All residents are very welcome to attend and have a chat and tea or coffee.



If you would like a birthday of a friend or relative added to our birthday list, contact the editor.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

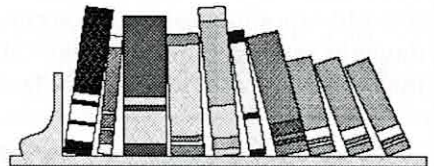
to:

Duncan Tait - 1/3  
Joanne Bardsley - 1/3  
Julie Lawrence - 8/3  
Trevor Peddle - 17/3  
Adrian Butler - 18/4

## Wingecarribee Mobile Library - A change to Afternoons

**Now 3:15pm -3:45pm**  
near Village Noticeboard

At Balmoral on:  
Tues, March 5th, 19th  
Tues, April 2nd, 16th, 30th  
Tues, May 14th, 28th



## From the Tennis Club... Come and Have a Game!

The tennis club are always looking for new people to come along and join in their Wednesday social games, but may consider a weekend social game, Saturday or Sunday, depending on interest shown. The Tennis court behind the hall is also available for private bookings at very reasonable rates. Its good to see that more families and friends are hiring the court for casual games. If you would like to join any of the social games or to hire the court phone Pat Lawrence on (02)48 898 066. (Call the day or night before if possible). Children must always have an adult supervising.



Pat Lawrence.

# Film Society Saturday Nights

## The Autumn Programme.....

Saturday night, 9th March,

**Touch of Evil**, USA, 1958, directed by Orson Welles. (109 mins)

Saturday night, 13th April,

**Kuhle Wampe, Oder, Wem Ge Hort Die Welt ?**

( To whom does the World Belong ?), Germany, 1932,

Written by Bertolt Brecht. (80 mins)

Saturday night, 11th May,

**Short Poppies 2** (VHS), Australia, 1992 - 94.

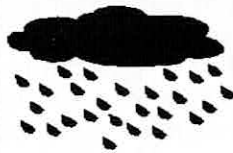
Compilation, experimental, student, competitive festival. (75 mins)

Saturday night, 8th June,

**Aparajito**, India, 1956. The second film in Satyajit Ray's trilogy (108 mins)

The Balmoral Film Society meets at Steve and Janine's at 5 Railway Parade (the old schoolhouse) on the second Saturday of each month at 8:00pm during daylight savings time and 7:00pm during winter. If you are interested in joining the Society please ring Steve or Janine on 4889 8479 .

Janine King.



## The Balmoral Village

# Raingauge



### November

Nov 6 - 22.5mm

Nov 7 - 23mm

Nov 11 - 16.5mm

Nov 12 - 1mm

Nov 13 - 2mm

Nov 14 - 1mm

Nov 15 - 1mm

Nov 17 - 28mm

Nov 20 - 1.5mm

Nov 24 - .75mm

Nov 30 - 0.2mm

### December

Dec 3 - 5.5mm

Dec 5 - 1mm

Dec 7 - 7.5mm

Dec 8 - 1.5mm

Dec 15 - 1mm

Dec 16 - 3.5mm

Dec 23 - .5mm

### January

Jan 6 - 13mm

Jan 7 - 8mm

Jan 15 - 15mm

Jan 16 - 2.5mm

Jan 21 - 1.5mm

Jan 24 - 7.5mm

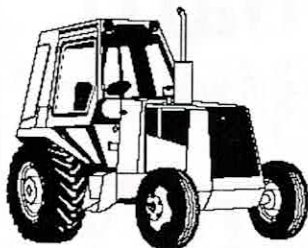
Jan 25 - 2mm

Jan 29 - 1mm

Jan 31 - 2.5mm

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

## Steve's Slashing Service



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Ring Steve for a competitive quote.  
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**St Paul's Anglican Church  
Colo Vale**



Sunday School, Every Sunday  
9:30 - 10:30

1st Sunday - Family Service - 9:30am  
2nd Sunday - Morning Prayer - 10:45am  
3rd Sunday - Holy Communion - 10:45am  
4th Sunday - Morning Prayer - 10:45am

Enquiries:

Michael Course - 48 898 645  
Pam Thurlow - 48 894 288  
Rev Peter Frith,  
19 Albert St, Mittagong  
ph 48 711 947

# The Village Noticeboard

A handy list of upcoming dates and information.

## Important Dates:

- \* Saturday 2nd March,  
Clean-up Australia Day,  
Begins 9:00 am at the Fireshed
- \* Tuesday 5th March,  
Balmoral Village Association Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall.
- \* Saturday, 9th March, Film Society:  
"Touch of Evil". Contact Janine King.
- \* Wednesday 13th March,  
Fire Brigade Annual General Meeting, 7:30pm at the Fireshed
- \* Tuesday 2nd April,  
Balmoral Village Association Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall.
- \* Saturday, 13th April, Film Society:  
"Kuhle Wampe, Oder, Wem Ge Hort Die Welt?". Contact Janine.
- \* Tuesday 7th May,  
Balmoral Village Association Meeting, 7:30pm, Village Hall.
- \* Saturday, 11th May, Film Society:  
"Short Poppies 2". Contact Janine King.

## Regular Events:

- \* Balmoral Bushfire Brigade meet each Wednesday night,  
7:30pm at the fire shed.  
(business conducted on First Wednesday of month)
- \* Tennis club play Wednesdays,  
10:00am, at the the tennis club (behind village hall)

## Phone Numbers:

- \* Bush Fire Control Dial 000
- \* Tennis Club or Tennis Court bookings,  
phone Pat Lawrence, 48 898 066.
- \* Film Society enquiries, phone Janine King or  
Steve Harrison, 48 898 479.
- \* Fire permits, Peter Lawrence 48 898 004.

If you have a date or other information for the noticeboard, contact the editor (ph48 898 146)