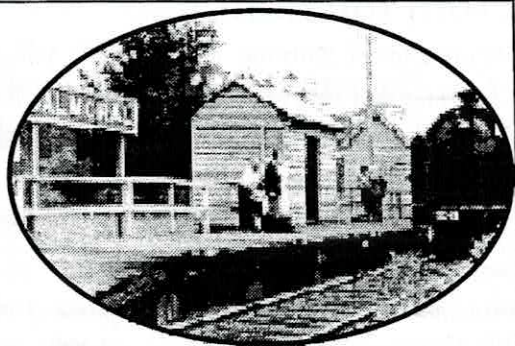


Balmoral

Village Voice



February 2005

No 28.

A newsletter published by the Balmoral Village Association Inc.

Council Recreation Study Supports Balmoral Public Land Selloff

by Lesley Bramich

A letter from the Wingecarribee Shire Council has been received by the Village Association since the last edition of the Village Voice, stating that "Council recently adopted (as a resource document) a shirewide study into the future needs for open space, recreation, community and cultural facilities prepared by consultants."

Following is an extract from the document that is relevant to Balmoral Village.

"Balmoral has a non-council owned/managed community hall and tennis courts. The town is well served by the leisure centre in Picton and also the recreational facilities in Hilltop (5-10 minute drive away). In terms of open space, the town is immediately adjacent to the Bargo State Conservation Area and has some Council-owned local open space that Council has identified to consider rezoning and selling off as continued on Page 3....."

From the Editor:

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Village Voice. I hope that you had a great Christmas and new year. Thanks to those who indicated to me that they enjoyed the last Village Voice. It was certainly well received... and I have to admit, even though it means a lot of work, I'm glad to see it back too.

So far this summer we have been most fortunate in that the dreaded hot dry fire season didn't eventuate. Let's hope that we can get through the next few weeks without incident as well. But I suppose if there's not fire, Mother Nature always has something else up her sleeve. The storms over the past few weeks have been the most dramatic I can remember here. Although they did cause some damage, it was good to see some people out checking on one another to see if everything was all right and if they could help out. It is this sort of community spirit that makes Balmoral a little different; not just another suburb of Sydney.

I hope it is this community spirit that will ensure a good turn out on Clean Up Australia Day. It is far easier to sit back and think that 'someone else will do it', but from past experience, you actually feel great that you have contributed in such a positive way, and it is a good way of getting to know the other residents of the Village.

If you have something to contribute, please feel free to call me (ph 48 898 146), drop it in my mailbox at 7 Station St, or email it to me (paulmallia@yahoo.com.au)

Paul Mallia.

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Pricing Policy for the Village Voice

All money received from advertising in the Village Voice goes towards the Village Association's upkeep of the Village Hall and its Grounds.

A full page advertisement will cost \$40 or \$10 for each quarter of a page. Of course, Balmoral 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.

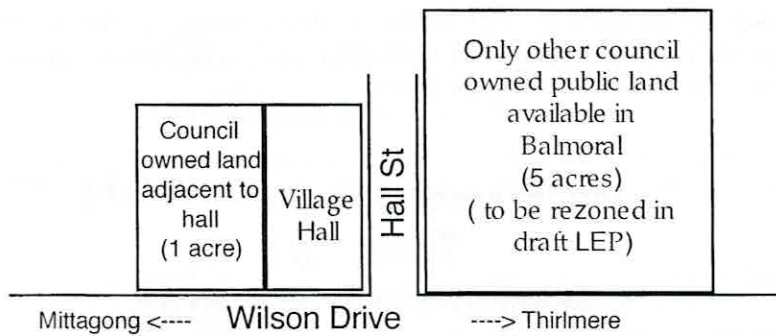
From Pg 1....

Council Recreation Study Supports Balmoral Public Land Selloff

residential lots. This report recommends that some of this land be kept and upgraded for passive open space use. There is demand and an identified need for some unstructured open space with an upgraded children's playground in the town. There is some vegetated Council owned land adjacent to the hall which could be cleared for this purpose subject to ecological investigations. The need for mowing and clearing of vegetation along the road verges of the township to allow for safe bike riding and walking was also identified through the community consultations, and is supported."

The document, "Wingecarribee Open Space, Recreation, Cultural and Community Facilities Needs Study and Strategy", is available on Council's website under the Community Services heading or can be purchased (CD Rom) for \$15.

For any enquiries, contact James Shelton, Council's Strategic Planner on 48 680 773.



Rubbish Dumping - Don't forget, You can Help

If you see rubbish dumping occurring, **contact Council immediately**. The sooner you act, the sooner action can be taken.

**Ring the Resource Recovery Centre
Speak to Wayne Willis, Investigation Officer.**

Ph 48 680 504

FAX 48 681 501

email wayne.willis@wsc.nsw.gov.au

Clean up Day

Saturday, 5th March, 2005

Clean Up Australia Day is traditionally organised in Balmoral Village by the Fire Brigade.

Last Year was the first in many that Balmoral did not participate in Clean Up Australia Day, so this year we need all the help we can muster.

The clean up will take in the village area as well as Wilson Drive from the Cutting in the south to the Buxton southern crossing in the north. 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 1:00pm

Balmoral Village Film Society...by Steve Harrison & Janine King

The following films will be shown over the next few months.

Meetings are held at Steve and Janine's house, the Old School, 5 Railway Pde, on every second Saturday of each month.

Films start at 8 pm during daylight saving time and 7pm during winter.

Please feel free to ring for information.

February 12 - The Canterbury Tales, 111 minutes, Italy, 1972

Directed by Pier Paolo Pasolini, (English version)

March 12 - Faust, 85 minutes, Germany, 1926

Directed by Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau

April 9 - Rio Bravo, 141 minutes, USA, 1959

Directed by Howard Hawkes

May 14 - Citizen Kane, 119 minutes, USA, 1941

Directed by Orson Welles

June 11 - To be announced

The Canterbury Tales - A Summary.

This adaptation of Chaucer by Pasolini is based on a literary-cultural tradition, and form one of a trilogy of films by Pasolini. The other films being, The Decameron, and Arabian Nights.

The narrator - Pasolini as a fictional Chaucer - serves as an anchor for the four disparate tales (The Merchant's Tale, The Miller's Tale, The Frier's Tale and The Pardoner's Tale) Grouped in an open-ended fashion in a textural layering. Visually the film is remodelled after English and German miniatures of the time. There is a disquietingly dark undertow beneath the sumptuous reds and the strident yellows, the rich and sometimes coarse humour and sexual exuberance.

To Pasolini the trilogy was an unequivocal statement that ideology and sexuality are inseparably linked, the explicit sexuality being largely conceived as a protest against the rigid moralism of the extreme left in Italian politics at the time.

Faust - A Summary.

This film made at the height of Murnau's career, Faust is set at the end of the middle ages and made exclusively in a studio. The story is in two parts; the first is based on the folk legend, the second on Goethe's drama.

Rio Bravo - A Summary.

A beleaguered sheriff shuns offers of help in this conscious rejoinder to 'High Noon'. The apparent seriousness of purpose in 'High Noon' contrasts with the deceptively simple revivication of traditional Western elements (especially of characterisation) in Rio Bravo through the integration of character and action. Against the confines of a static, almost abstract background, there is a complex working out of interrelationships in a matrix of nearly simultaneous events.

Citizen Kane - A Summary.

A faceless journalist sets out to investigate the life of a media magnate and failed politician Charles Foster Kane. He seeks to uncover the meaning of "rosebud", Kane's last utterance. In turn satire, tragedy and gothic comedy, Citizen Kane is a triumph of disjointed, non-linear narrative in which the form becomes the theme, an ironic reflection upon the success ethic and the crushing weight of materialism. In drawing upon the tradition of classical narrative, while at the same time violating some of the expectations in the viewer's reception of such narrative, Welles ultimately assured Citizen Kane of its place as a watershed in modern cinema.

To be announced - A Summary.

This has all the exciting possibilities of unlimited promise and expectation.

News from the...

Balmoral Village Association.

Recreation Study

As outlined on pg 1, The Recreation and Open Space Study recommends that Council rezone and sell off excess public land in Balmoral.

This supports the recent Local Environment Plan reported in the last Village Voice, in which Council also floated the idea of rezoning and selling the land on the corner of Hall St and Wilson Drive.

Strong opposition to this land being rezoned as residential has been voiced at recent meetings of the Association. Further information will be presented at upcoming meetings with an opportunity for residents to discuss their thoughts.

The Association is currently formulating a response to council, outlining the reasons why the only Public land in Balmoral should remain as public Land.

Rubbish Dumping

As the amount of rubbish being dumped on roadsides around the village seems to be increasing, the Association will be looking at strategies to both minimise the amount dumped, as well as ways of dealing with the rubbish to have it removed as quickly as possible.

Vigilant residents will often be the best deterrent for dumpers. Remember the Council contact on Pg 3 of the Village Voice. A number plate or vehicle description could be enough to provide council with further leads to enable prosecution.

Tennis Court Vandals

Unwelcome visitors continue to damage the fence on the tennis court to gain entry. Please be aware that this is happening and keep an eye out as you drive past.

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)

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.

All Welcome !

The Balmoral Association meet on the Second Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall at 7:30pm. All residents are very welcome to attend and have a chat and tea or coffee.

Fire Brigade News.....

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the brigade will be held on Wednesday night, 2nd March, 2005 beginning at 7:30 pm. Elections will take place and all members are encouraged to attend.

Auditor Required

The Brigade, which is a non-profit organisation, is seeking the services of a local person qualified to complete an annual audit on the brigade's books. It is hoped that a suitably qualified person might like to contribute their time and expertise as a way of assisting the brigade. If you are able to help, please phone the Treasurer, Julie Lawrence, on 48 898385.

Clean-up Australia Day

The Brigade will be organising Clean up Australia Day on SATURDAY 5th March. It is hoped that many residents of the Village will turn out to show some community spirit and work as a team to clean up the local area.

(See Pg 4).

Quiet Summer So Far

So far this summer the Brigade has attended only one minor fire incident at a property where a backhoe had caught fire.

Brigade Assists at Buxton

During and following the severe weather at Buxton on Wednesday night, 2nd February, the Brigade assisted alongside other brigades, and the State Emergency Service, to cut down and clear trees which had fallen on houses throughout the town.

Christmas Party

The Annual Christmas party was held on 27th November. About 30 children and many adults were treated to an enjoyable day with games, show bags, face painting and tractor rides.

Thanks to all members who gave up their time to help organise and run the day.

Fire Permits Still Required

It is important that all residents understand the legal requirements if they wish to light any fire in the open during the Bush Fire Danger Season which is current until April this year. Fire permits are available from Michael Course (48 898 645). Upon receiving the permit, residents will observe further conditions including the requirement to notify neighbours at least 24 hours before lighting the fire.

Membership/ Meetings

If you would like to become a member of the brigade, whether to be an active fire-fighter or to learn about fire behaviour for the protection of your own home, why not go along to weekly meetings. 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.

P. Mallia - Secretary

Historical Feature

Here is the second part of the historical feature written by Alan Pride, a resident of Balmoral 50 years ago. As explained in the last issue, Alan lived in "Balmoral Lodge", the remains of which can still be seen just south of the Railway crossing on Wilson Drive. The article was longer than I had first thought, so will conclude in the next edition.

As there was no shop in Balmoral, the residents, who were mostly aged pensioners, had to travel to either Mittagong or Picton for their provisions. I saw the need for a grocery/newsagency for their convenience and so we fitted out the front room of Balmoral Lodge into a small shop which my wife attended to while I was away at work, and somehow also managed to do the housework, cook the meals, chop the wood for the kitchen, laundry and bathroom and grow vegetables at the same time.

The residents of the village in the 50's were, without exception, lovely people to know and have as your neighbours. They were all older than my wife and I, and many were retired farmers. One such person was my next door neighbour (towards Thirlmere) Norm Zillman, and his wife and their Jersey cow "Berry" which, through the generosity of Norm, provided free milk to many of the neighbours and I suppose, much to the disapproval of the local milkman. Norm was an enthusiastic and knowledgeable market gardener and I admired his perseverance and determination to grow good quality produce with no town water and because of competition and costs, would sometimes receive as little as 9 pence net return from the Sydney markets for a chaff bag full of peas or beans.

Opposite the Zillmans, in the little cottage near the railway line lived a retired railway worker, Jack Batten, and opposite his cottage on the other side of the line lived Mrs Higginson and her partner, Charlie Ballard. "Higgy" and Charlie were both retired and spent a lot of time in the large vegetable garden in the back yard, especially the rhubarb patch which he generously shared with the neighbours, until someone observed the pan toilet being used as fertiliser. Everyone suddenly lost their appetite for home-grown rhubarb!

Along that side of the line and further towards Mittagong was the Balmoral Post Office and (manual) telephone exchange situated in the gracious old home named "Truro" and operated by Elwyn Grant who lived there with her husband, Saxby, and their three children. Sax made the three hour rail journey to work in Sydney (as did many others) and also grew vegetables in his spare time.

Now approaching the Christmas period of 1956, Saxby and I had decided to make some extra cash by cutting about fifty Christmas trees about 6 feet high from the bush and selling them at the Sydney markets.

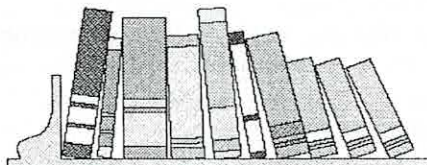
I had purchased a Ford V8 utility earlier that year. It was ex-army, very worn and uncomfortable, but cheap. And so we loaded the trees along with several boxes of freshly dressed chooks and set out for Sydney at about 2:30am with no sleep. We arrived with the load and sold everything in a couple of hours. Happily, we set off for the return journey via Razorback Mountain (the only way in those days) with its steep and very winding road with broken edges and the occasional pothole which was hard on my old army ute, especially with my risky style of driving. Imagine my surprise when I noticed a wheel bouncing alongside down the road at the same speed- it was ours! The front axle had broken off when I had hit a pothole! I arrived home behind a tow truck which took care of most of my earnings that day.

Concludes next edition

Wingecarribee Mobile Library - Tuesday Afternoons

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

At Balmoral on:
February 1, 15
March 1, 15, 29
April 12, 26
May 10, 24



Balmoral Village Playgroup

0-5 years

Meet at the Village Playground each fortnight.

Contact Janette Dunne

48898002



The Balmoral Village

Raingauge



November

Nov 1 - 12.5mm
Nov 2 - 2.5mm
Nov 4 - 14mm
Nov 5 - 26mm
Nov 7 - 2mm
Nov 9 - 1mm
Nov 10 - 1.5mm
Nov 11 - 12.5mm
Nov 19 - 3.5mm

December

Dec 5 - 3mm
Dec 7 - 7mm
Dec 8 - 6.5mm
Dec 10 - 57mm
Dec 11 - 3mm
Dec 12 - 5.5mm
Dec 13 - 41.5mm
Dec 14 - 2mm
Dec 15 - 7.5mm
Dec 16 - 6.5mm
Dec 22 - 2.75mm
Dec 27 - 2.5mm

January

Jan 4 - 10.5mm
Jan 15 - 2mm
Jan 20 - 9mm
Jan 24 - 15.5mm
Jan 25 - 2mm

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

From the Tennis Club...

Come and Have a Game!

We play Wednesdays at 10am - 2pm. We alternate with Hilltop Tennis Club, playing one Wednesday at our court and the following week at the Hilltop court.

The Balmoral Tennis Court can be hired any time.

Contact Pat Lawrence on 48 898 066.

Please ring the night before, so we can arrange things. Hire costs are very reasonable.

Come and get some light exercise. Bring the whole family, as it is a game everyone can get involved in.



Pat Lawrence.

The Balmoral Gardener

Tom Cunneen

More Water Saving Tips

With it still not raining significantly since the last edition of the Balmoral Gardener (apart from the storms on the 2nd and 3rd of February), here are some more tips on saving water in your garden:

Install a drip irrigation system. This type of system will deliver water direct to the soil, rather than spraying it into the air. You can watch the water on some spray systems evaporate into the air, especially if the water pressure is high. This is not a problem with the drip system. Install it under mulch for more efficient watering.

Use timers on your taps. If you don't, some day you will forget that the tap is on, and your tank will be empty. This is especially true of the drip system, where you generally don't see that it is on.

Water less frequently. Watering frequently encourages roots to be lazy and not search for water. Giving the garden a good soak once or twice a week should generally be enough. For smaller plants like petunias, pansies etc, more frequent watering may be required to keep them looking good. A lot of gardens in the village are receiving rainwater only, and they are still alive.

Recycle water. If you can, install a small tank and plumb it to the waste water from the shower, laundry, kitchen sink etc (but not the toilet). If you can do this, be sure to use the water quickly, as it may become smelly if allowed to sit in the tank. The local council may have rules regarding this type of water, so its best to check with them first.

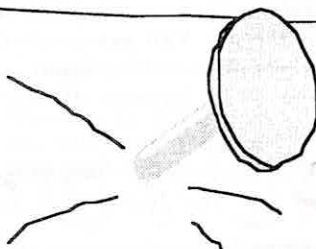
Use wetting agents. These are like a detergent and break down the soils ability to repel water. You can purchase these either as a pre-mix liquid or granules. However, if it hasn't rained for a while, the soil can become repellent to water containing the wetting agent. As an experiment we applied a wetting agent mixed in water to the soil around a pine tree. The soil was extremely dry, and repelled the water/wetting agent. We applied later after rain, and had no problem. It is best to re-apply the wetting agent each year.

Use water crystals. These are small jelly like crystals that expand when watered. They then release the water over an extended period. It is best to use the crystals when planting, and place them at the base of the hole (the crystals preferably pre-loaded with water). We found that if not planted deep, they have a tendency to rise to the surface with each expansion and contraction, where they are quickly broken down by sunlight. If deep in the soil, they should last for a few years. In pots, we found that the average watering time is not long enough for the crystals to charge with water, so although the theory of them was good, they are best kept for new plantings.

Use plants with low water needs. This has been on of the bigger tips from the water companies. Planting gardens with local natives has also been recommended for less watering and maintenance. If you want a garden that looks like the bush behind your property, then this is the go. If you want your native garden to look good, then you will find that regular pruning, mulching, and sometimes watering will give a significant improvement. The best garden type in these conditions is the one that you enjoy. Efficient watering and mulching will allow you to grow nearly anything that you like. Pg 11

The Village Noticeboard

A handy list of dates and contacts.



Regular Events:

- * Balmoral Bushfire Brigade meet each Wednesday night, 7:30pm at the fire shed.
(business conducted on First Wednesday of month)
Captain: Michael Course. ph 48 898 645
- * Village Association meet second Tuesday night of the month, 7:30pm, Village Hall
President, Gordon Ibbett, ph 48 898385
- * Tennis club play Wednesdays, 10:00am, at the the tennis club (behind village hall)
Contact Pat Lawrence, ph48 898 066

Phone Numbers:

- * Bush Fire Control Dial 000
- * Tennis Club or Tennis Court bookings,
phone Pat Lawrence, 48 898 066.
- * Film Society inquiries, phone Janine King or
Steve Harrison, ph 48 898 479.
- * Fire permits,
Michael Course 48 898 645.
- * Hall bookings, Larry Wilson, 48 898 151.