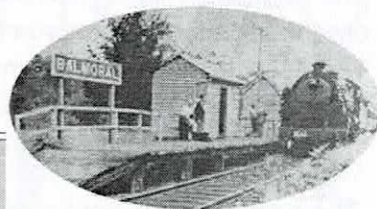


VILLAGE VOICE

WINTER 2009
Issue 39

A NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY THE
BALMORAL VILLAGE ASSOCIATION INC.



WHERE WILL SUPERMAN GO NOW?

As of early June, Telstra has removed the public payphone from our village. You may or may not have noticed it however if you are in need of a public phone in an emergency—good luck as you will be hard-pressed to find one.

Our ear to the ground, the Mayoress of Balmoral, Pat Lawrence, called me to share the news and to say I was astounded was an understatement given our isolation and lack of 'normal' mobile phone coverage. Pat was more fortunate than I in speaking to someone at Telstra in the know. I was transferred to neverland with the response of 'I will pass your complaint to the office'. "Which office?"

I responded—'the one in Melbourne' was the response.

Given that I haven't had a direct response as to WHY from Telstra—I will share the response Pat received which was—it was unprofitable and Hill Top will be next.

Get ready to open your doors to our unsuspecting passers by who have some mishap, can't get mobile reception and need to call a tow-truck because from hereon in it will be up to the community to help out.

You can do something about it of course—write to Telstra. I have received a written response that the 'proposal to remove this service is currently undergoing a review for a 90 day period'.

Now—as I go to print, I have received a further letter from Telstra advising that the 90 day review period finished some time ago, however Telstra always appreciates feedback

Send your complaint to:

June Gasson
National Customer Relations
Manager
Payphone Solutions
Telstra Consumer Marketing &
Channels
Lock Bag 6549
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Or call: 02 8255-3662

Or Fax: 02 9239-0397

Thanks for the heads-up Pat, hopefully the mailbox won't be next!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Balmoral Village Association, Inc AGM will be held on Sunday 27th July at 11am at the Village Hall.

The primary function of the Village Association is to upkeep the Village Hall and grounds and this alone keeps us all busy.

We are actively seeking new members for the Association who may or may not have the time to come along to our monthly meetings but who can help out once in a while with our functions and activities—all for the greater good of

our community hall and community spirit.

Balmoral is one of very few villages in the Highlands where the community owns the hall and grounds and this has only been due to the very committed members of the Association over the decades. Without their commitment this lovely property would have been destined to Council ownership and perhaps extinction.

Your support is urgently needed to keep up the efforts and help share the load with those who have contributed for so many years.

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FROM THE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT.

The Balmoral Village Association is a non-profit organisation formed and run by local residents. The Association manages and maintains the Balmoral Village Hall which is owned by you, the local residents of Balmoral.

The Association is not funded by council or any other government agency.

It is pleasing that we have had no vandalism of the Hall and facilities for some time now, after

a run of incidents which drained our time, finances and enthusiasm. It is our experience that patience is the best remedy as the culprits either grow up, are locked up or move on.

We ask you to help us run and maintain your Hall, by patronising our upcoming social and fund raising functions and helping us whenever and however you can.

See you at our AGM in July. Larry Wilson

FIRE BRIGADE NEWS....

Hazard Reduction Time NOW.

Now that we are not in the 'Bushfire Danger Period' it is an ideal time to plan for next summer. Before unfavourable windy weather in August, and before fire restrictions come into place in September or October, be sure to reduce the hazards around your home.

Once summer is upon us it will be too late, so forward planning and a proactive hazard reduction schedule is the key to increased safety over summer. If you are planning on having a fire in the open, it is permitted, but it is your responsibility to first ensure that you are complying with Council regulations on burning. These regulations are available from Wingecarribee Shire Council.

Fireplace Safety

Prior to using your woodburning heater / stove this winter it is a good idea to check the flue to ensure that there is no carbon or soot build up. This build-up can result in a flue fire under certain conditions, which can spread into your roof space. Should a flue fire occur, close the air intake on your fire and call 000. Refer to your owner's manual for further information.

Fire Extinguishers

Now that winter is here it is also a good time to invest in or check the condition of your fire blankets and fire extinguishers. All members of your family should know where these items are located in the home and know how to use them.

Village Hazard Reductions This Winter

As a part of the Wingecarribee Hazard Reduction

Plan, a number of prescribed hazard reduction burns are set to occur this year in and around Balmoral Village. Already major burns have been conducted to the north of the village with further work to be carried out in that area. These burns may occur on weekends or during the week, depending on the availability of crews.

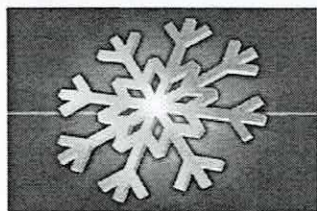
When the burns are conducted, depending on weather conditions, smoke will be noticeable throughout the village and residents should not be alarmed. Irrespective, if you have concerns over any fire activity close to your home, as always, call 000. Neighbouring landowners have already been consulted and will be notified in accordance with regulations.

In addition, to assist the community, the brigade will endeavour to display signs in the village a few days prior to the burns.

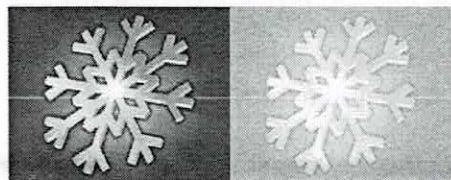
Membership/ Meetings

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 on the first and third Wednesday night of each month 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 and a training night is usually held on the third Wednesday.

P. Mallia - Secretary



CHRISTMAS IN JULY



DATE: SATURDAY 25TH

TIME: 6.00PM

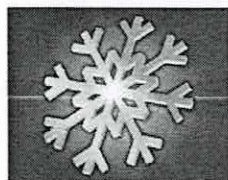
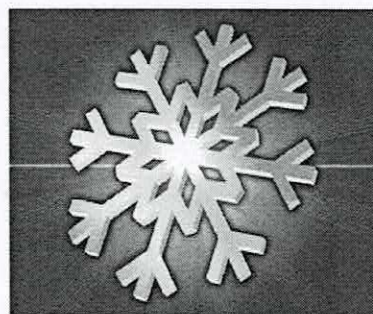
Santa & Friends with a free gift for every child

2 Course Christmas Dinner

Games

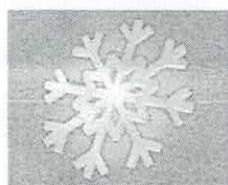
Prize for Best Decorated Table

Outdoor Fires will be burning



Location: Village Hall

Opening from 6.00pm and sitting down at 6.30pm



Bookings Essential as numbers Limited

CALL LYLE SPEARS 48898384.

Bookings Close Friday 17th July 7.00pm



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THE BALMORAL GARDENER...

Finally, we have had a little rain heading into winter. We did some gardening last week and were quite excited that the ground was still moist below spade depth. That hasn't happened for nearly 9 years.

Now that we have had some rain, thoughts turn to gardening in winter. If you need some deciduous trees, head down to a nursery now, as we all have good quality stock. Importantly, if purchasing a deciduous tree, do not let the roots dry out before planting. If you are buying a new tree in a sealed plastic bag, ask the staff how long the plant has been sitting in the sun cooking the roots. When planting the tree, dig a hole big enough to accept the root ball. If there are any damaged roots, cut them off now, as a clean cut will heal better than a split. Plant to the depth that the tree was originally at. Usually there are some marks on the tree to show you. If planting a grafted tree, never plant the graft below soil level- try to leave at least 10cm from the soil to the graft. Water the tree well, and mulch if possible. If there is sufficient rain, you shouldn't have to water again before spring. However, make sure that the tree does not dry out. If you overwater the tree, you may kill it before it shoots. Hold off on fertilizing till the buds have shot away in spring.

Now is the time to plant some roses as well. Follow the same rules as for the deciduous trees, and you should have no problems. There are some great varieties out there, and something for everyone.

Keep an eye out for the dreaded bindii. Now is usually the time when it starts germinating and getting a bit of growth before making your life a misery in summer. Use a broad leaf weed killer to knock it now. It does take a little longer to work in the cold, but you won't be suffering later. Be careful though if you have a buffalo lawn (good luck to you if you do in Balmoral Village) as the bindii killer may touch up the buffalo.

Camellias are looking good at the moment, and like the roses, there are plenty to choose from. The sasanquas make a great hedge, and were one of the few plants to survive the heat of summer without too much damage in our garden. If you have a shadier spot, then go for the japonicas. The flowers are much more showy, but the plant is a little more tender.

Pieris are also starting to flower at the moment. These do well in shady spots, or on the eastern side of the house. There are some nice varieties that grow to around 1.5m tall, and the flowers last for months.

Rhododendrons and Azaleas are also coming into flower now. Try and plant these in an area that has a little more regular moisture, as the root balls on these are relatively small. Definitely mulch well around the Rhododendrons to keep the roots moist and cool in summer.

Hopefully we will get a little more rain over winter to fill the tanks and dams. Happy gardening!!

Tom Cunneen, resident & owner of Braemar Garden World.

Hill Top Bakery Cookies Chicken" lipsmakingood"

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Tel: 4889-9961

A LITTLE PIECE OF HISTORY

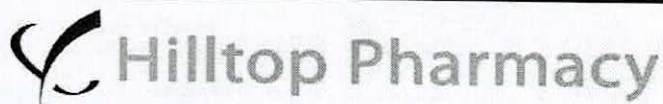
The Balmoral Village Hall was once known as a "Mechanics Institute". The Association of Mechanics' Institutes and School of Arts continues today and has provided a little piece of history for us through some research.

From the NSW *Statistical Register* which lists those organisations which received State or Municipal Aid (1900-1). It was reported:

The Balmoral Mechanics Institute had been opened in 1901 and received a government grant of £50.17.9. In the 1901-2 Report the Institute received government grants of £7.15.0 for the building fund and £2.17.0 for maintenance but raised £20.9.0 from private donation.

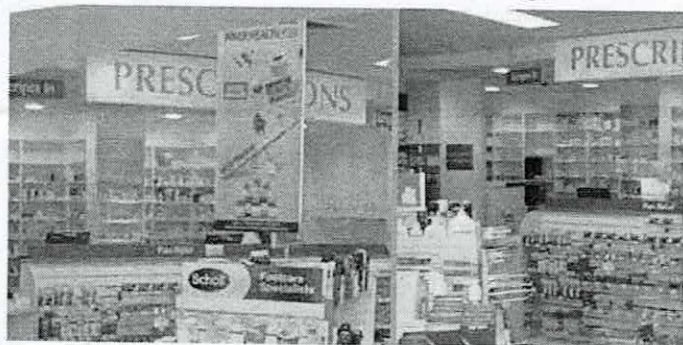
There were 80 volumes on the shelves and 24 regular readers.

In the 1914 *Register* it was reported that the Institute had 23 members, 163 books on its shelves, the approximate value of the library was £40 and the value of their buildings was £225. They did not receive a government grant but raised £4 from private subscriptions and £3 from other sources and they expended £3 on maintenance and £4 on books.



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MUSIC AT THE HALL UPDATE

"Music at the Hall" has now been held monthly for six months and in that time has proven to be a relaxing and entertaining Sunday afternoon experience for the musicians as well as spectators. It has been encouraging to see 'closet musicians' from the village come along to watch and then join in. Hopefully anyone else who can play or sing will give it a go over coming months. It is an exciting to see guitars, mandolins, violins, banjos, bodhrans, accordions and drums all playing together to create a wonderful accompaniment to singing voices. The style of music has ranged from contemporary to country, folk, traditional Irish dance tunes and blues.

So if you enjoy a little bit of live music, whether you are a musician or a keen audience member, come along to the next Sunday afternoon get together. The dates for each month are now set, and the "Music at the Hall" signs usually go up a week in advance near the railway crossing.

Hope to see you there.

Paul Malia

From 3pm to 7pm
26 July
23 August
20 September
18 October
29 November
27 December

PLAYGROUP UPDATE

It's been an amazing term of amazing weather on Tuesdays! So while the heater (from the council grant) has been installed, and we have a great new - big - rug for the floor, we have not really yet needed to use them... yet! Thanks Larry for helping to install the heater. I suspect others have had more use of it than us up till now.

Some of you may have noticed the new jacaranda trees planted around the mound outside the hall. Thanks David (at The Loft) for the donation of your trees! They were planted with great care by fathers and grandfathers and big brothers during a school holidays get together. Thank you also to Steve (Tahmoor Garden Centre) for the donation of a big bag of dirt. The rest of us were trying our hand at weaving baskets from willow branches, with some very creative results. It was great to have some grandmothers to help too!

This term we've taken the opportunity to do lots of painting activities together - the mess doesn't go home... as much! Also some car repairs. Col Ripper excels as a car plumber as well. You discover all sorts of things at play group! Thanks Col. The car did make it home.

If you have been planning on coming along - please do! We would love to see you, how ever often you can make it.

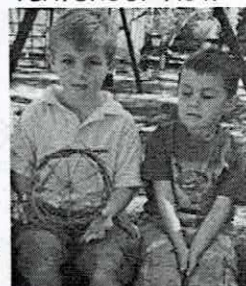
Tuesdays 10am - 12pm at the Village Hall (during school terms)

For more information contact

Janette Dunn 4889 8002 Or Jodie Kilmister 4607 0000



PLAYGROUP NSW



Above: Jack & Harry

Below: Freya planting



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COMMUNITY INFORMATION

MOBILE LIBRARY—NEW TIME

FORTNIGHTLY TUESDAY
1.45 - 2.15



The mobile library calls at Balmoral Village on Tuesdays between 1.45pm and 2.15pm on the following dates for the first half of 2008.

NEAR THE VILLAGE NOTICE BOARD

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 small marquee tent, ideal for people having parties at home.

Contact Larry Wilson in advance, on 48 898151

FROM THE TENNIS CLUB

COME AND GET SOME LIGHT EXERCISE. Bring the whole family, as it is a game everyone can get involved in.

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 48 898 066.

Please ring the night before, so we can arrange things.

Hire costs are very reasonable.



Devonshire Tea at the Hall

Wednesday mornings 10am to 12pm

Everyone is invited to come along and enjoy morning tea at the Village Hall. If you are free – come along! The company will only be surpassed by the scones!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BUNNINGS BBQ

The BVA will be hosting the BBQ on Sunday 16th August. If you have a couple of hours to spare on the day to help at the stall, please call Larry Wilson on 48898151.

If you are unable to spare a couple of hours, please pop in for a snag & a drink to help raise funds for the Hall upkeep.

KEVIN O'GRADY WATER

Reasonable rates

Stainless steel food grade tank

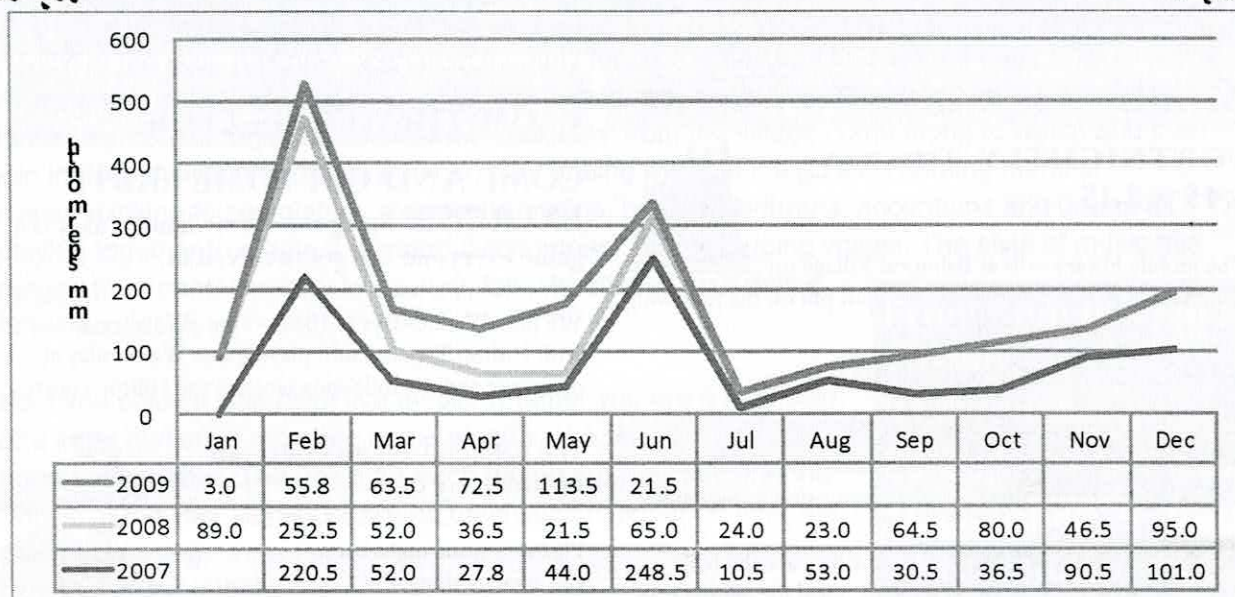
Loads 12,000 litres

TEL 4681-0579 MOBILE 0432 385 740





THE VILLAGE RAINGUAGE



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

THE VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD

Regular Events:

Balmoral Bushfire Brigade Meet 1st & 3rd Wednesday every month — 7:30pm at fire shed. (business conducted 1st Wed. of month) Captain: Peter Lawrence Ph: 48898004 or Mobile 0427 932523

Village Association meet second Tuesday night of the month, 7:30pm, Village Hall. President, Larry Wilson, ph 48 898151

Tennis club play Wednesdays, 10:00am, at the tennis club (behind village hall) Contact Pat Lawrence, ph 48 898 066

Playgroup every Tuesday morning 10am—Midday at the Village Hall Contact Janette 48898002 or Helena 48898157

Phone Numbers:

- * Bush Fire Control Dial 000
- * Tennis Club or Tennis Court bookings, phone Pat Lawrence, 48 898 066
- * Fire permits, Peter Lawrence 4889 8004
- * Hall bookings, Larry Wilson, 48 898 151
- * Bowral Police: 48 629 299
- * WIRES: 4862-1788 (Wingecarribee)

Balmoral Village Association Inc.

PO Box 87, Buxton NSW 2571

Phone: 4889-8151 E-mail: balmoralvillageassoc@yahoo.com.au