

Village Voice



April 2011

No 41.

A newsletter published by the Balmoral Village Association Inc.

Our Village is a beautiful place – but unfortunately, we have no place where people can meet and greet regularly, no shop, no Post Office, no school, no Church, and nowhere for the children to play, the only community facility we have is the village hall, which is owned by the people of Balmoral, not by the Council. The Hall Committee is a small handful of people who work very hard to keep it as a community asset, but our numbers are dropping and if we can't get more help I fear it will go under. Many other villages have had to hand their halls back to the Council and it would be a shame if we were to lose the ownership of ours. If you are able to help in any way by attending the meetings or helping to run the various social events or working bees it would be very much appreciated. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the hall at 7.30pm. If you are unable to attend the meetings but can help in any other way please contact me on 4889 9338 or Gordon on 4889 8385.

We would love to hear from you.

Ronnie Ibbett
Secretary.

Balmoral Village Association News

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party was a great success, arguably the best we have ever had. Many thanks to the Fire Brigade for their great help, and thanks too to the Hilltop Carol Singers and to Mr Paul Magnion from Hilltop Church. As usual they made all the difference to the success of the day

Clean up Day

Clean up Day was a non event due to lack of workers which was a pity as they usually do a great job keeping the village clean.

Many thanks

Alan Everton kindly donated his time and expertise to install external lightning on the Hall and re-organize the power supply to the tennis court.

Hall Hire

The hall which is managed by the Association is available for hire for classes, parties or regular meetings at very reasonable rates. Contact Larry Wilson on 0417 727809.

Wingecarribee Mobile Library

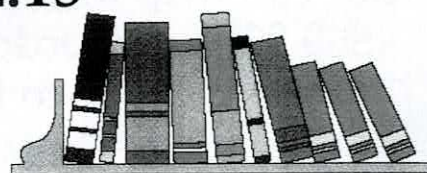
Tuesday Afternoons 1.45-2.15

March 29th

April 12th and 26th

May 10th and 24th

June 7th and 21st



THE VILLAGE PEOPLE

Balmoral Village has had some wonderful and clever people living here. Take, for example Mrs Hammond. Mr Hammond had been the manager of an orange orchard in Bourke. The oranges they grew must have been superb as they were exported to England for the King's table. Mrs Hammond had been the Matron at Bourke Hospital.

The Hammonds moved to Balmoral when he retired early in the last century. Mrs Hammond became everybody's grandmother – you were sick – she nursed you, you were getting married – she made your wedding cake, she was always there for anyone who needed her.

They did it hard in those days, she carried the water in a bucket from the Dripping Rock - a spring some $\frac{1}{2}$ kilometer from her house. She used to drive to Sydney every week to take flowers from her own and others' gardens to the markets. She couldn't have been a very confident driver as she never learned to reverse. She would go as far as Liverpool, park there and take the train to the City.

In those days there was a train service weekdays from Sydney and many people came here for the weekends, one of these was her neighbour and while he was away she picked the beans he had growing along the fence entered them in the Show and won him a prize. I wish I could have known her!

Reminiscences by Ronnie Ibbett

Rainfall this year - Courtesy of Lyle and Lisa Spears

January: 77.0
February: 64.0
March so far: 63.4

Kids Korner - Roy Bramich-Wilson

Q. What happened to the dog that swallowed the watch?

A. He got ticks!

Q. Why did the lion spit out the clown?

A. Because he tasted funny.

Patient: Doctor! Doctor, I feel like a rubbish can!

Doctor: Don't talk such garbage.

Q. What did the baby corn say to the mother corn?.

A. Where's pop corn?

Q. What's orange and sounds like a parrot?

A. A carrot

Knock! Knock!

Who's there?

Robin

Robin who?

Robin you- so hand over your cash!

Come and Have a Game!

Many thanks to Alan Everton for his generosity in giving his time and expertise in the electrical work he did for the tennis club and Hall.



The courts are available for hire –
Contact Pat Lawrence on 4889 8066 - Tennis is a great game and wonderful exercise so come on out and play!!! Winter will be here soon and what better warm up could you get?

Yes, Virginia, there is such a thing as a free lunch!

The gossip and giggle brigade meet at the hall every second Thursday at 1pm for lunch, Don't sit at home on your own eating dry Saos.

Come on down (boys too) and have a beautiful lunch and a lovely afternoon, you will be most welcome and all it will cost you is the effort!.

Come and give it a try on:

March 24th
May 5th & 10th

April 8th & 22nd
June 14th & 30th.

Balmoral Village Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade News

We have had a mild summer with good rainfall which has kept fire calls down. On previous years the beginning of April sees the end of the fire season, so we all need to get busy preparing for next summer.

What does this mean to us? There will be larger amounts of fuel on the ground for when we hit a dry patch again.

What can we do to prepare? Balmoral Village Brigade will be conducting hazard reductions over the next couple of months.

*Firstly heading to the North toward Buxton from the main railway crossing to Balmoral Park along the rail corridor.

*Then finishing the Southern end of the rail corridor heading to Hilltop.

*The Eastern side of the Village

*National Parks is planning to continue the hazard reduction on the Western side of the village, we will be assisting with this.

We will also be conducting some hazard reductions on private properties

What can you do? Maintain your property well by: keeping the grass short, clean gutters out, cut branches overhanging your home, do not drop grass cuttings or tree branches across the road or behind your property. Compost it, or, if we are not in the fire season burn it off slowly. Call us if you need any assistance with a burn off. Know what you will do in the event of a major fire, are you prepared to protect your home or when you will leave or where you

will go and what you will take (important papers, family heirlooms). Don't try to leave at the last minute – it is too late then!

Remember – If you are going to burn off give your neighbours the courtesy of letting them know well in advance and be prepared with correct clothing and water on hand. Clear the area where you are going burn, only light the fire in good weather conditions (watch the Danger sign at the crossing). This means not too hot, not too windy – just right.

We only had a few calls to burning off in the Village during the fire season. There is no burning off permitted beginning of October to end of March. Please call myself before burning if you are unsure.

Finally, after many years Balmoral Village is getting a new Fire Station in the same location - but the entry/exit will be between the cross over between Railway Parade and Wilson Drive, not facing the homes as it was in the past, thank you to those residents for your patience over the years. The construction of this station will take a couple of months to completion, when there will be an official opening of the station. We would like to see you there, we will keep you posted on the date.

There will be plenty for the brigade to finish in the new station as we pretty much get the shell, power, toilets, kitchen cupboards, and shower, the rest we are going to need to buy- fridge, computer. cupboards, chairs, tables crockery etc,

Any donation of money (which is tax deductible as we are a non profitable organisation) would be greatly appreciated to assist in getting the station up and running as soon as possible. Or if you have an item that is not used and in good condition that would be greatly appreciated also. Or offers from any of the tradespeople in the village to donate some time completing different tasks would be great,

Due to not having a station the brigade is meeting for our monthly meeting in the Village hall on the first Wednesday at 7.30pm and travelling to other brigades to do training. When we get our new station we will meet on the first Wednesday of the month for our monthly meeting, to discuss any issues and information. Training is in the third or fourth Wednesdays

For anyone who would like to protect our beautiful village either as an active member, assisting with hazard reductions and fire calls or, as an ancillary member assisting in the station with radio and back up work for the fire crews please contact myself or another member of the brigade and have a chat about how you can help our village and what is needed to get joining under way. When you see us in the new station please drop in and say hello and have a look around.

Thank you for your time, stay safe

Balmoral Village Rural Fire Brigade
Captain Brendan O'Connor
(M) 0417 246 078