

# Village Voice



September 2013

A newsletter published by the Balmoral Village Association Inc.

No 51

---

Open wide your window dear  
The Spring, the glorious Spring is here

Spring is here all right. The flowers are flowering, the blossoms are blossoming and all's right with the world. There is a nest of quarrelsome magpies somewhere in the backyard they argue and complain all day. We'll be very glad when they grow up.

Not that we had such a very cold winter but it is nice when September comes and we can start shedding some of winter gear and start looking forward to doing more outdoor activities.

We must apologise yet again.

A number of copies of the last issue were printed on another printer which, for some reason known only to itself left out three pages including the fire report and as luck would have it a pile of these were picked up by mistake and delivered to some residents. If you were one of the unlucky ones who got the wrong copy (including the fire chief – blush, blush) we apologise sincerely.

We do try to get things right but sometimes the fates are against us.  
(Like nearly all the time.)

## Village News

It is nice to see some of our people back on their feet after having been in hospital, Lance Lawrence, Pam Kooyman and Ian Janoska are doing the rounds again. Look after yourselves guys, You are important.

---

The last Bunnings Bar-b-q was a great success. Many thanks to the good generous people who gave their time and their effort to make it so. It is people like these that give us heart to keep on working for the community

---

Welcome to the community Cindy and Terry Comins who have moved here from Western Australia and are very welcome.

There are a lot of new people coming into the village and we would like to know you. If you are new here contact us (4889 93380) and introduce yourself. We would love to meet you. We meet at the hall every second Tuesday of the month 7.30pm and you would be most welcome.

---

Congratulations to Pat Quinlan and Sharon who have announced their engagement. We wish them the best of everything for their future life together. They certainly deserve it. Pat has been a great supporter of the Association for many years and we hope, will continue to be. Good luck guys!!!

---

Thank you very much indeed Janine King for your fascinating glimpses into the past of our village. The articles she writes are always most interesting and very enlightening about its history.

Most people here have no idea how very old this village really is and it is wonderful to be able to read about it all. Where else could you get all this information?

---

Don't forget the Theatre Restaurant on 19<sup>th</sup> October It should be a lot of fun booing the villain and cheering the heroine... There will be more information about this later but keep it in mind.

---

Reminder that the Music Group meet every fourth Saturday and everyone is welcome. It is always a very pleasant afternoon – try it!

---

Anyone for tennis in this lovely spring weather? If you would like to have a game ring Pat Lawrence on 4889-8066.

---

The Christmas Party has been set for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December. This is always a most popular function and we hope it will be as successful this year as it was last year. The Bar-b-q- generally starts at 6pm, Santa arrives at about 6.30pm the Carols at 7pm then supper afterwards. It is a party for both children and adults and is always popular.

---

The hall is available for hire at very reasonable rates. Ian Janoska on 4889-8170 is the Keeper of the Keys - ring him to make a booking.

---

I spilt a drop of spot remover on my dog. Now he is gone!!!

---

Said Hamlet o Ophelia  
I'll do a sketch of thee,  
What kind of pencil should I use  
2B or not 2B

---

## Vale Gay Scott

(1930-2013)

Courtesy Janine King

It is with sadness I write of the passing of a long time friend, Gay Scott. Who died this year on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Gay grew up in 'Balmoral' an inner suburb of Brisbane

She came to Sydney as a young woman where she hoped to embark on a career in the theatre. Instead, she met and married Alan Scott. He was an accomplished tenor, recorder and concertina player and Gay became adept at performing with spoons and bones. It was at this time they began their lifelong friendship with John Meredith and their energetic focus made them three of the foremost contributors to the revival of an authentic Australian Bush Music genre. All were honoured with life membership to the Australian Bush Music Club.

John Meredith bought his block at the end of River St in 1939 and Alan and Gay bought their 5 acres some 3 years later, at the end of Amy Street and named it "Bent Acres" after Mr Bent who sold it to them.

They spent holidays with their young family here until they retired from their work in 1982 and moved here full time, Alan set to building a house and establishing a veggie garden and Gay planted many varieties of flowering bulbs while protecting the native vegetation as much as they possibly could. It was the wildness that brought them to Balmoral. In 2004 at the National Library of Australia Gay launched a small book "*The Sally Sloane Songbook*" that she had edited from field recordings made by John Meredith.

In 2006 she compiled a tribute book to John Meredith with the help of the National Library.

Gay was an enthusiastic supporter of the arts and organized days of papermaking, paper marbling, painting and printing with a group of us.

She was our first secretary of the Balmoral Film Society and remained an active member for the twenty-five years we gathered together in the Hall or in our homes to see 16mm film reels.

She joined my night class and completed the Certificate 11 in Ceramics at Moss Vale TAFE when she was in her seventies.

After the death of Alan in 1995 Gay continued her life here until she required care for her illness much later,

## Poet's Corner

Oh! To be out in the wild fresh breezes  
Oh! To be out in the hills today  
Wandering whither my fancy pleases  
Borne on the breast of the winds away.

Oh! To gather the sweet wild flowers  
Smiling up from the dewy grass'  
To bury my face in the golden showers  
Of wattles whispering as I pass.

Oh! To be where the distant mountains  
Stand like sentinals guarding all  
And the distant splash of a flowing fountain  
Stirs my blood like a bugle call.

Oh! To be out in the wild fresh breezes  
Oh! To be out in the hills today  
Wandering whither my fancy pleases  
Borne on the breast of the wind away.

---

Mountain should have holes in  
To see the other side  
By observing the view  
Through this aperture  
Would save a considerable ride.



# New South Wales Rural Fire Service

## Balmoral Village Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade

### News from the Captain

PO Box 87  
Buxton NSW 2571

Phone (02) 4889 8387

Winter is over and Springs is here, we need to get busy getting our Fire Hazard's squared away, let's not leave it to the last minute, or it could be to late, when Summer comes around lets all be fire safe and ready.

#### **Brigade News:**

Balmoral Village Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade has started to conduct Hazard Reduction's over the next couple of month's leading up to the fire season to reduce the fuel load in and around the Village; these will mainly take place on weekends.

- We started but have put a hold on the rail corridor from the Hilltop end to the top crossing at the 80km sign until we complete the western burns in place.
- We have started on the Western side of Wilson Drive from Boundary Road near Buxton, back toward the village behind private properties,
- There are more private blocks along Wilson Drive we will be reducing the fuel loads with a hazard reduction,
- National Parks is planning a Hazard reduction on the Western side of the Village, the RFS will be assisting with this when we are notified,

#### **What you can do?**

Now is the time as long as the wind is not stronger than a gentle breeze, to Burn off any small piles of Dry leaves and branches. Contact myself if you need assistance.

**Remember if you are going to burn off, give your neighbour's the courtesy of letting them know well in advance, at least 24hrs. If possible light it up toward the end of the day.**

**Be prepared with water on hand, clear the area around where you are going to burn, and only light the Fire on good weather conditions not to windy just right.**

The Brigade meets at the fire station the first Wednesday of each month for our monthly meetings. Training is on the third Wednesday's of the month.

**We are seeking new members to join the Brigade, (No Experience Necessary, All Welcome), training provided.**

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.

If you see us in the new station please drop in to say hello and have a look around.

Thank you for your time, stay safe.

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

*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. Please call myself before burning off if you are unsure.*

## COOKERY NOOK

Courtesy: *Pheasant's Nest Fruit and Vegetables.*

### Rhubarb Crumble

Whole bunch or around 400 grms of roughly chopped rhubarb, 3 granny smith or red apples, peeled and chopped, place in a pot with 70 grms sugar and a large knob of butter, zest of one orange, cook slowly until softened. Spoon into coffee cups or a large dish, sprinkle with crumble mixture over the puree' bake in oven til top goes golden, Serve with thick double cream!!!

### Crumble Mixture.

1 cup oats, 1 cup raw sugar, 1/2 cup desiccated coconut, 1/2 cup plain flour, 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon 80 grms melted butter – pour melted butter over 4 dry ingredients and rub together until you have a crumbly consistency. Can be used on stewed apples, pears apricots, rhubarb or a combination of all three.

### Peanut Broccoli Stalk Salad

Thinly slice broccoli stalks raw and toll with sliced cucumber, handful of baby spinach, thinly sliced snow peas raw, cherry tomatoes and chopped spanish onion. Make a dressing of 2 tbspsn Soy sauce, 1 tabsp balsamic vinegar, 1 tbspn sesame oil,

1 tabsp peanut butter, 1 tabsp olive oil, chopped shallots or chives, crush 1 garlic clove, small knob of ginger, pinch of chilli flakes if you like it spicy. Mix together and dress salad. You will never cook broccoli again!!

---

It was the geography class and little Milly was asked to point out Tasmania on the map. She did so.

‘Now Freddy,’ she said, ‘Tell us who discovered Tasmania?’

‘Milly did.’ Said Freddy.



## **Balmoral Public School 1893 – 2013**

Courtesy Janine King

Back in 1993 we had a small celebration with a few because the home that Steve Harrison and I live in was then 100 years old. In what seems a very short space of time our home is now 120 years old. So I thought I would write a little from the research I have done over the last twenty-five years for my (unpublished) book **“The Big Book of Balmoral – a brief history of a small village”**.

Our school/home was the third school in Balmoral. The two Harry girls, Emily and Amy (daughters of Henry and Esther Harry) helped to educate the local children when they came to live at Truro in the early 1880's. In 1888 the locals erected a timber structure opposite the railway station in Railway Parade. The then 'Department of Instruction' furnished it and appointed Miss Eleanor Rixon, Miss Sarah Speer and then Miss Janet Thompson in August 1892. So, it was Miss Thompson who had the honour to be this school's first teacher.

This brick and stone school was built by Edward Bottley for 238 pounds on a square block of land almost four acres in area. The department purchased the land from Mr William John Harry (son of Esther and Henry Harry) for 35 pounds and acre.

From department records dated 28<sup>th</sup> June 1892 there were 34 pupils enrolled (21 boys and 13 girls). These were the crucial numbers that would decide the need for the department to build a school to replace the one built by the residents in 1888.

Originally it was one large classroom (25 ft long and 16 ft wide with a 16ft ceiling) built in double brick with a weatherboard weather- room (25 ft x 8 ft) attached at the front. It faced to the west.

Miss Thompson wrote to the department (dated 25th July 1893).

*The old premises were vacated yesterday afternoon, and after dismissal the school property was removed to the new building. I had purposed vacating the old School on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> inst. owing to a delay in obtaining the keys from the contractor I was unable to do so. Today (25<sup>th</sup>) was therefore the date of commencing work in the new premises.*

It would appear that Miss Janet Thompson enjoyed her six years of teaching at Balmoral Public School this report shows.  
From the *Picton Penny Post* (September 1896)

*... The whole of the children attending the school were, on Saturday afternoon invited by the teacher (Miss Thompson) to a few hours recreation and a cup of tea, with the usual accompaniments, got up by her best style by herself and the ladies at "Truro" house. Judging by the glowing accounts given by the children, a really happy time must have been spent and the fourth anniversary of Miss Thompson's arrival amongst them will be long remembered.*

However clashes with one of the parents resulted in the department demoting Janet Thompson and moving her to a less important school. Miss Evangeline Daley started teaching here in January 1898, Miss Eva Squire in February 1914 and Miss Kate Cashman in May 1915. On 26<sup>th</sup> January 1914, Mr Gideon Rutherford wrote to the Member of Parliament, Mr. F. A. Badgery

*Dear Sir*

*On behalf of the parents of Balmoral I am writing to you. Our school here has not opened since the holidays & as all Public Schools near here have started it looks as if our school is to be closed. Our railway facilities are bad for sending our children elsewhere. And you will confer a great favour if you can get the Minister to give us a trial for three months & and if the attendance does not warrant it close the school.*

Though numbers were dwindling, the school remained open until in January 1917 the school again converted to half time with Hilltop, Mr J, Trainor began the teaching year under those circumstances. Mr Robert Mathison was appointed in July 1917 and taught until April of 1922. His letter to the department dated 24<sup>th</sup> November 1920 also records the unsatisfactory train service between the two schools...

*...I was forced to speculate on a horse, to convey me to and from Hilltop on alternate days. I presume I am entitled to the full rate of forage allowance.*

He was successful in his application to receive a forage allowance of 12 pounds per annum.

Mr David Chapman was the half time teacher at Balmoral and at Buxton School and was appointed in April 1922 until the closure of Balmoral School in 1926. The children from Balmoral who attended during 1926 were recorded as follows:

*Jack (John) Brown aged 13 years*

*Andrew Rutherford aged 13 years*

*Ella Batten aged 11 years*

*Dorothy Brown aged 11 years*

*Jack (John Batten) aged 9 years*

*Jean Harvey aged 7 years*

*Howard Ladbury aged 7 years*

*Maryann (but maybe Marjorie) Ladbury aged 5 years*

The Balmoral School closed finally in December 1926 and those children disadvantaged by this, once again made the journey to Hilltop. At the end of 1928 there were four children attending Hilltop. They were Dorothy Brown, Ella and John Batten and Violet Travis.

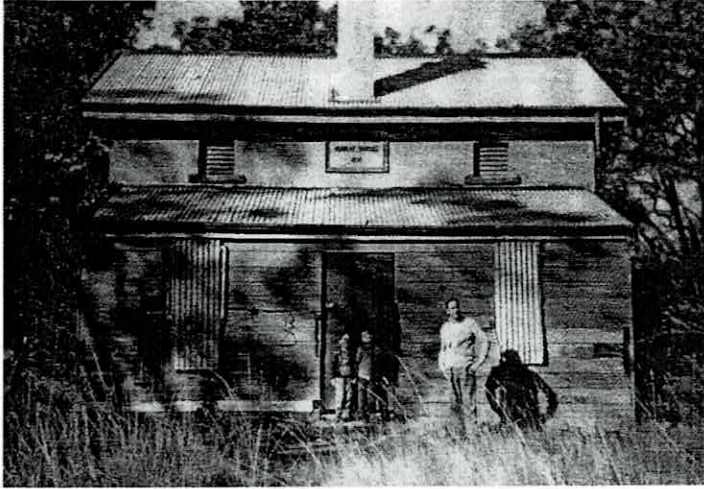
Much later, the department employed teachers for small classes of students, the teachers, Mr Bride, Mr Caradice (1941) and Mr Bob Denham (in the late fifties).

I understand Mr Caradice was the one who painted the main roads and rivers in NSW on the southern wall and the map of Australia on the northern wall. These maps were still mostly intact in 1976.

The department sold the school at auction to Mr Jim Richie in 1963. He sold it directly to us in 1976. We became friends with the Lucas's who lived in "Toad Hall" and called us the 'school kids' (affectionately) and I suppose that is how we appeared thirty-seven years ago.

The department however retained some acres at the corner of River St and Railway Parade for at least another twenty-five years until it must have been decided there would never be a need for a public school in Balmoral.





*"The Old School in 1963"*

From left Wayne Harvey, Ned Patching and Sid Harvey ( father of Wayne) in front of the school. *Photograph with permission from Joyce Patching (nee) Ferguson* whose family lived at Fernbank between 1935 and 1938.

And this is pretty much how it looked in 1976 when Steve and I located it here in Balmoral, fell in love with it and made it our home.

My research has been with the Archives Office and conversations and correspondence with past students and/or their families.