

Village Voice



June 2014

A newsletter published by the Balmoral Village Association Inc.

No. 54

Well here we go again. How is everybody? Coping well, we hope. Time seems to fly faster at this time of the year. From Christmas to March doesn't seem to exist anymore. Anyway we're still all here and it's winter again so we'll have something to complain about and that can't be all bad. Gives us something to do on a cold night doesn't it?

Now is the time to start burning off all the dead branches and general garden litter and cleaning up the outside while we can so that last year's Bush fires won't happen again. We will be safe for a while but it doesn't take long to build up again so we have to be prepared – No doubt Brendan will have a few words to say on the subject further on.

There are a good few entertainments in the calendar for the rest of this year the Bush Dance, the Bonfire and the Christmas Party. There are more details further on in Village News. Please put them on your calendar and come along and bring the family if you possibly can. We know you'll enjoy them After all, what else is there to do in the winter? Besides shiver we mean.

Village News

If you missed "Moonlight Over the Estuary" you missed a very good night. The Small Hall Theatre Company is a government

sponsored group who go round all the small villages and perform for the local people. We are extremely lucky to be on their list – they are very clever and very funny. The last one was the best yet. With only two screens, two chairs and a card table for props they were able to create so many different scenes and different characters and the story was very funny indeed. So clever!

The next one will be in October, Saturday the 18th, so put it on your calendar and book in early. We haven't been given the title yet, but you can bet it will be first class.

The Bush Dance will be held on next Saturday May 24th, starting at 7.30pm.

The last one was a great night. The music was good and everyone from Grandpa to Four Year Olds danced and had a wonderful time. Don't worry if you can't dance, no one else could either but were shown what to do on the night as you will be - it's very easy and even if physically you can't dance it's fun to watch.

The cost in is \$10.00 per head – Children free and there will be a sausage sizzle - cost \$2.50. So come and have a warm up and a bit of fun.

Bonfire Night has been set for July 12th starting at 6pm. There will be the usual sausage sizzle again at \$2.50. This is another great family night enjoyed by both young and old as is the Bush Dance. We hope we don't clash with some big football match as we did last time. It's always a good night, BYOG. Many, many thanks to Kevin O'Grady and to Craig who regularly donate to the Hall for our raffles. Kevin has always donated a load of water and Craig a load of wood. These are valuable prizes in this village and we appreciate them very much indeed and recommend that if you are in need of either water or firewood you contact Kevin on 4681 0579 and Craig on 4889 8187.

Thanks boys for your generosity.

Remember our hall belongs to the people of Balmoral and we are responsible for its upkeep and insurance etc. This takes a lot of work a lot of money and a lot of generosity from the few people who do the work. The Council help as far as they can and we appreciate very much what they do, but they are restricted in what they can do as they do not own the hall, it is ours and if we do not support it we will lose it, as it seems a thankless task sometimes when the local people do not bother to even come to our fund raisers. To those people who do support us we take off our hats. Thank you very, very much indeed.

Thanks to the Council we look like we will be getting air conditioning in the hall, what a great blessing that will be on those cold winter nights!

Thanks to the Council too as they tell us the block across from the hall will be cleared for an assembly place, playground, picnic ground etc. next year – we have been trying for years to get that done so we hope it really happens this time. We really need a place to assemble in an emergency, a place for the kids to kick a ball, a place to gather for picnics and so on. Maybe this will be it!

Whilst we are on the subject of thanks, we must say a heartfelt thank you to Janine and Steve for their generous cheque. It is very much appreciated as is their work with Elizabeth to keep the new gardens watered during the summer. It is people like these who keep the village alive.

New South Wales Rural Fire Service

Balmoral Village Volunteer Fire Brigade

PO Box 87
Buxton NSW 2571

Phone (02) 4889 8387

News from the Captain:

We have had a mild to warm summer with good rainfall which has kept the fire calls down across the State; member's from Balmoral Village Brigade, Peter Lawrence, Jay Rasmussen, Peter McCutcheon, Scott Marks, Elisa Flemming and myself went to Victoria to assist with the fires there, we were in Bonang, Victoria. The beginning of April saw 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 in the next couple of years.

What can we do to Prepare?

Balmoral Village Rural Fire Brigade will be conducting HR's (hazard reductions) over the next couple of months; the right weather plays a big part in how much or how little we get done.

- Between now and up to the fire season we will endeavour to complete our planned Hazard reductions on the Western side of the village, this includes private and Council lands.
- We will also be conducting some Hazard reductions on Private properties on the Eastern side of the Village if time allows.
- National Parks are planning to continue the Hazard reduction on the Western side of the Village; we will be assisting with this where possible.

What you can do?

Maintain your property well by; keeping grass short, clean gutters out, cut branches over hanging your Home, do not dump grass clippings or tree branches across the road or behind your property as this poses a Fire risk, Compost it or when we are not

in the Fire season burn it off slowly, call us if you need any assistance with a burn off.

Remember if you are going to burn off inform your neighbour's in advance. Be prepared with correct clothing, gloves, water on hand, clear the area around where you are going to burn, Do Not build a pile under tree's, Only light the Fire on good weather conditions this means not to hot, not to windy just right.

We have had a number of the Brigade members recently complete and have been assessed as competent and some are currently doing RFS training for different competencies and may I say I am very proud of the members and how they conducted themselves at the courses and the high pass levels by all members so far.

BF (Bush Firefighter) Assessment Completed:

Warren Davis,
Andrew Johnston and
Michelle Flemming.

BF (Bush Firefighter) Course: Assessment to be done shortly

Tracy McCutcheon,
Amy McCutcheon,
Russell Scholes,
Connor Scholes,
Greg Walker,
Nerilly Thomas,
Michael Lacey and
Lorann McCann.

**CABA (compressed air breathing apparatus operators):
Assessment Completed:**

Peter McCutcheon,
Brad Marks,
Scott Marks and
Brendon O'Connor (myself).

VF (village firefighter) Course:

Warren Davis,
Elisa Flemming,
Brad Marks,
Scott Marks and
Michael Lawrence.

AF (advanced firefighter) Course:

Peter McCutcheon

Thank you to the training team for a great job.

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 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 fire 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

Kid's Korner

Q. What is a crocodile's favourite game?

A. Snap!

Q. What is the favourite drink of a koala?

A. Coca Koala

Q. What did the paper say to the pencil?

A. Write on!

Q. What would you call a skeleton that won't work?

A. Lazybones

Q. Why can't ghosts tell believable lies?

A. Because you can see right through them.

Q. What creature is the best cricket player?

A. The bat.

Q. What kind of dog keeps time best?

A. A watch dog

A bloke lent me a book on memory training, I want to return it but I've forgotten his name.

My wife's favourite book is the cheque book – she can't put it down til it's finished.

Critic: What do you consider your best work of fiction?

"Author: My Income Tax return"

Customer: I'd like a book – Something deep. Librarian: How about "20,000 Leagues Under The Sea"?

In Your Garden Courtesy of Naomi Williams Tahmoor Garden Centre

Autumn has nearly come to an end as we watch the colour come into the trees and our daffodils and spring bulbs start to push their way through the soil, don't think it's time for the gardener to hibernate. It's time now to clean up your garden. So green thumbs put on your gloves and let's have some fun!

Let's start in our vegie garden. Prepare your soil for all your winter crops by turning into the soil some well composted manure such as chicken manure or cow manure, a couple of handfuls of lime per square metre and some complete plant food (complete plant foods contain all the vitamins for healthy and highly productive vegie crops). You are now ready to plant your broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, broad beans, onions and so much more.

Your stone fruit trees are now ready to be sprayed to prevent fungal diseases such as leaf curl and shot hole, spray with lime sulphur now as a pre caution and give all fruit trees a prune to clean them up and so you can reach your crop at fruiting time.

For all you rose lovers in the village wait till the end of June and then prune bushes back by at least one half pruning out any dead wood and they then can also be sprayed with lime sulphur also to prevent those nasty fungal diseases such as black spot, rust and mildew. Prepare the beds now for composted manures (new season bare rooted roses arrive at Tahmoor Garden Centre in June, we have 600 roses coming, so many to choose from, new releases and all the old favourites – get ready now so in spring you will have time to smell the roses.

Look forward to seeing you all at my second home Tahmoor Garden Centre where Stephen or myself can help you with all

your gardening needs and Sylvie in our café will warm you up with the best coffee in town.

Till next time – Happy gardening!!

Cookery Nook

Pineapple Tarts

Shortcrust Pastry:

1cup plain Flour

60gr Butter

Pinch Salt

2 tablespoons Water

Rub butter into flour and salt. Add water, mix to a soft dough. Roll out and cut approximately 2 dozen tart shells. Bake till pale golden.

Pineapple Filling:

Heat small can of crushed pineapple and thicken with 2 heaped tablespoons of cornflour. Allow to cool.

Mock Cream:

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup Caster Sugar

125 gr butter.

1cup water

Boil sugar and water until sugar is dissolved, Leave till lukewarm. Beat soft butter till creamy, Beat in sugar/water mixture a little at a time until pale and creamy.

Fill pastry shells with pineapple, and then spread mock cream on top.

Make some passionfruit icing and spread over the top of cream

This should make approx. 2 dozen tarts – Indulge!!

Wine improves with age – The older I get the more I like it.

Here's a toast to Mum's cooking and may my wife never know how bad it was.

Way Back When

We loved this extract from "My Life As Me" memoir by Barry Humphries. With grateful thanks to Allan Tooney.

We would like to stress that it bears no resemblance to the previous report of the Small Hall Theatre Group whatsoever!

NICE NIGHT OUT

*I think the whole periodical press takes
a vastly disproportionate view of the
importance of mountebanks and reviewers.*

HENRY JAMES

Once when we were staying at our Mornington beach house, we went, at my insistence, into the small township for a show.

There had been intriguing posters for it beside Boyle & Woitwod's grocery and outside the post office and the shire hall. The poster was distinctly old fashioned and brightly coloured and it advertised an attraction called "The Incomparable Sloggetts". A man in evening clothes was seen to have successfully decapitated a vivacious young woman in a green spangled dress, and the embellishment of snakes and skulls more than hinted at the macabre. The lithographed billboard promised song, comedy and above all, magic. The event was for one night only, and with great excitement we all attended.

When the lights abruptly went out – nothing dimmed in the Mornington shire hall – Mr Sloggett appeared, wearing a mildewed tailcoat, and in the wobbly spotlight, before a threadbare red curtain and in an old fashioned theatrical voice, he extolled the gifts of his wife and daughter and promised his audience a gallimaufry of marvels. It was indeed a touring family show of only three persons. The Sloggetts were not so much on a planned theatrical tour as, like Dickens's Crummles, "in the course of wandering speculation". They must have

been wandering for years before we witnessed them, and with the same rudimentary sets and props, although the "wife" and the "daughter" may have been subject to replacement.

Even to a child like me there was something risibly seedy about the whole performance. More than once juggled balls fell where they were not intended and were gleefully retrieved by the audience. Mrs Sloggett, if it were indeed she, was no longer young nor could she sing like Gracie Fields. And the theatrical tradition to which they were all sadly vestigial – the vaudeville magic show – was on its last gasp and alien to the slick American entertainments we enjoyed at the pictures. There were, however, gasps of admiration when Mr Sloggett, who must have been at least seventy years of age, performed his piece de resistance of juggling eggs with his mouth.

Throughout the venerable tricks, the hoary jokes and the incomprehensible patter, the small audience of Australian holiday makers laughed and clapped with good-humoured gusto. With growing alarm I realised that they were laughing not at the success of the performers, but at their failure. The show's triumph was that it was so bad. But the Sloggetts slogged it out to the end, with a poignant bravado. Even as they stood at the curtain call in their faded and heavily mended finery, holding hands and bowing extravagantly, the members of the audience were rising, turning their backs and hurrying out to their cars.

We were barely in the car before my mother, with a small smile of satisfaction at life's predictability, made her customary observation after witnessing any superannuated spectacle: "Isn't it pathetic at his age?"

His mother would be most upset if she knew he was an actor. She still thinks he is running dope from Bangkok.

Poets' Corner

The Donkey

G.J. Chesterton

When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me I am dumb
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour
One far, fierce hour and sweet,
There was a shout about my ears
And palms were at my feet,

There's a big difference between buffalos and bisons.
For a start; you can't wash your hands in a buffalo.

A man was drinking at a bar with a giraffe. They had been drinking all afternoon when the man began to stagger out the door – the giraffe dropped into an ungainly heap on the floor. The barman yelled "Hey, you can't go out and leave that lyin' on the floor!"
The man growled "Don't you know the difference between a giraffe and a lion?"

There was this fellow who wandered into a small café in a tiny bush town followed by an emu. He sat down and ordered his dinner. "Steak and eggs please." He turned to the emu and

asked "What will you have?" The emu replied "I'll have the same, thank you."

When they had finished the proprietor gave him the check and the man put his hand into his pocket and handed out the exact amount without even counting it. The proprietor was amazed. Every night that week the man and his emu came in and ordered dinner always the same procedure – the man ordered and the emu agreed and he always had the exact amount of money in his pocket, never had to count it.

By the end of the week they had grown friendly enough for the proprietor to ask how he managed to always have the right money in his pocket.

"Well, said the man, I was walking through the bush one day when I spied a fancy looking bottle in the grass, I picked it up and undid the cork and out jumped a genie who said ' Thank you for letting me out, I'll give you three wishes in return.'" So first I wished for good health, which I have, then I wished to always have enough money and that's how I always have what I need".

"But, what was your third wish?" asked the proprietor agog.
"Well that's where I went wrong" the man sighed "I wished for a bird with long legs and a big bum who would always agree with me."

Remember, children be careful what you wish for and never, ever call a lady a "bird".