

# THE Rosedale ASSOCIATION INC



Newsletter Issue 132 December 2021



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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR MARGOT MARSHALL

It's been another year of Covid, PCR tests and lockdowns. Once again Zoom has been fantastic for committee meetings and presentations like the sand dune recovery project. But with travel restrictions for many committee members, Rosedale residents have carried the can, checking out creek pollution, liaising with Council and developers, working on dune recovery, lobbying local election candidates – heartfelt thanks for a huge year of work!

Luckily we managed to hold a face to face AGM at Easter - our first AGM since the fires – in gorgeous sunny weather. For the AGM Minutes, click [here](#). Since then, we've welcomed Fire Officer Michael Skipper back to the committee to replace Kate McInerney – many thanks to Kate for her contributions over the last few years.

Soon after Easter, our new website went live – [check it out](#) and please contribute! We've had some lovely new stories and nostalgic pictures of Rosedale from David Carter and Kit Tischler – see [here](#). Excerpts from Kit's story are on page 5.

Thanks to Roz Clark-Walker and Peter Hoad for images and to Annie Shillington for layout and design expertise.

Here's hoping for a safe and sunny Christmas break. It will be great to see some old faces back again in their rebuilt homes.

Happy Christmas!



ROSEDALE  
ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE

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rosedale.org.au](mailto:committee@rosedale.org.au)

President  
David Boardman

Secretary  
Vicki Smith

Treasurer  
Melissa Gribble

Members

Tim Brown

Noel Egan

Daniel Long

Margot Marshall

Michael Skipper

Dugald Stewart

Peter Ward

Please pass this newsletter on to your friends and neighbours – now's the time for everyone to join to help us care for the Rosedale we love.

See membership application [here](#). It's only \$10 a year.



Saltwater Creek, January 2021.

This year's lockdown at Rosedale was a step back in time. The beach was quiet, no traffic, parking in town was plentiful and best of all home school allowed plenty of beach time for the kids. Just as we were getting used to having this place to ourselves the borders opened. We were reminded that we have to share Rosedale with many diverse interests. Rosedale is changing and must accommodate a much larger community.

The Rosedale Association has strong membership, with many volunteering. The replanting on the dunes is so impressive. We can be very proud of what is being achieved - well done to all those involved. I have learnt much about the Rosedale dunes this year and can highly recommend the Hannah Power webinar.

Saltwater Creek may well be the litmus test for how well we can manage environmental issues under the impact of increased development around its tributaries. Over the years it has had to deal with sewerage seepage, cattle farming,

damming, nursery runoff and bush fires. In January 2021 the creek had recovered and looked the best it had for 50 years. But now it has to deal with the massive development to the west – posing both short and long-term threats to the health of the creek.

But we're on the case. Members are volunteering to test and monitor the creek and we're liaising with Council and developers to try and achieve a positive outcome (see Vicki's report on page 6).

Wishing everyone a wonderful Rosedale summer.

## BEACH SAFETY REFRESHER

**WHEN:** Sunday January 2, 2022  
10.30 am

**WHERE:** Main Beach

Come and remind yourselves how to use the defibrillator and CPR – adults and kids welcome. Remember, if you're caught in a rip, it's safest to raise your arms and float until help arrives. **Ring 000 if you see someone in trouble in the water.**

## HAPPY HOUR EASTER

Covid put a stop to our annual Easter sausage sizzle – instead there were impromptu drinks on the beach.







It is a normal Monday except for weather reports warning of very strong to gale force northeasterly winds. It is September 20th around 2pm, and I am finishing yet another Zoom call.

My daughter Emily races into my home office saying she can smell smoke - she says it reminds her of the bushfires.

Within a couple of minutes Vicki Smith is on the phone letting me know there is a fire on the top of Knowlman Rd and Cooks Cres. Tony Hamilton has just gone up to see what can be done.

I immediately down tools and head out. At first I can't smell anything but I can see smoke. Within minutes the Malua Bay RFS are on site too as are Mick and Cory Buchanan, David Boardman and Bill Legge.

The fire started when the roaring wind brought a tree limb down on the powerlines in Knowlman Rd. The showers of sparks flew up Knowlman and set the scrub alight close to the intersection of Cooks and Miller.

While the fire was only about 20-30 square metres and was promptly extinguished, in the strong winds it could have become much larger threatening the unburned gully south of Cooks Cres.

While it was great to see the bush telegraph at work, it really reinforced the point that fires can start anytime and anywhere. After a fairly wet period, we were all surprised at how quickly this fire took hold, showing us that the fuel is still quite dry and easily catches alight.

Since the end of lockdown, we have had burn offs of garden waste, an unattended fire at the point on Cooks Cres and a large bonfire where a party was about to get underway.

Thankfully the fires were extinguished and monitored but all were lit in a time of increased fire threat levels. I urge anyone renting their house to please ensure that tenants are aware that we live in a fire zone and we have many residents who are still scarred by the recent bushfires. Note that any outdoor fire after October 1 needs to have a permit.

## ROSEDALE SHOWCASED TO RFS

We have helped NSW RFS achieve a great outcome for NSW communities in bushfire prone areas. The RFS Level 3 Comprehensive Property Assessments – successfully trialled in Rosedale – are to be rolled out across the state.

Free property assessments were initially offered to Rosedale homeowners in August 2018, as part of Kelwyn White's Preparing for Bushfire in Rosedale workshop. Kelwyn had a one hundred per cent success rate in Rosedale with these property assessments, with every house that she'd visited still standing after the New Year's Eve fire. This is why we have been so supportive of her community engagement

program and helped her showcase her work in Rosedale to the broader NSW RFS.

Particular thanks to Michael Skipper who presented the Rosedale case study with Kelwyn at a national online conference; David Boardman and Vicki Smith, for video interviews shown at the conference; to Madeleine Kelly for her fire footage; to Michael and Vicki for radio interviews for the NSW RFS Get Ready Weekend; and to Dugald and Fran Stewart for allowing their house to be used for Kelwyn's video, [Prepare your home for fire](#)



L TO R: Michael Skipper, Kelwyn White, Pete Ward, Vicki

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES: 000

ABC LOCAL RADIO: 103.5 FM

WIRES (animal rescue)  
13000 WIRES or 1300 094737

ESSENTIAL ENERGY (poles and wires)  
13 20 80

FISHERIES WATCH HOTLINE (poachers)  
1800 043 536

SEWERAGE (Council): 02 4474 7347

NSW MENTAL HEALTH LINE: 1800 011 511





## DOG RANGERS OUT OVER SUMMER

We're about to have a Christmas influx of visitors who may not be aware of the peak season time-share dog access rules - or choose to ignore them. Please let your tenants know that Council has recruited an additional two rangers for summer and they're aiming to visit every shire beach once a day.

On Rosedale beach and Boatshed beach, from November 1 dogs are only allowed before 9am and after 5pm, either on or off leash. Dogs are allowed off leash all day on North Rosedale beach (below the Yowani Steps; also known to locals as 'Stony beach' or 'Pebbly beach').

For nearby beaches where dogs can roam click [here](#)

## JOIN THE SOUTH COAST GANG-GANG GANG ANNIE LANE

The Gang-gang cockatoo is hard to miss. The males wear a bright red feather helmet with a wispy crest. This relatively small, stocky and sociable bird was once common but within the last three decades sightings have declined dramatically. While Gang-gang numbers have remained steady in Canberra for the last 30 years, other areas in south-east Australia have seen declines of up to 70 per cent. We don't know why, and the future of the Gang-gang is under threat.

**This is a call out for help to protect this iconic cockatoo. We need you to be the eyes and ears, spotting Gang-gangs and observing their behaviour.**

September-October is usually a busy time for Gang-gangs with couples searching for and preparing nesting hollows – this year breeding is late so they're still scurrying around. The locations of very few nesting hollows are known – we need to find more. We're asking you to take photographs of Gang-gang activity in and around hollows and to note particular behaviours. This will help us prioritise a particular hollow for checking during the breeding season (usually October – January, but now later). Once known, breeding trees can be better protected and comparisons can be made of breeding success across the Gang-gang's range. This will help to understand the environmental factors that may be influencing the decline in numbers.

The Gang-gang citizen science project has been set up in iNaturalist where you can log your sightings.



Please become a member of the South Coast Gang-gang Gang! Start logging your sightings including photos if possible: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/gang-gang-nests-tree-hollows-search>

Contact: Annie Lane, [budawangecoast@gmail.com](mailto:budawangecoast@gmail.com), 0428 827 218





Grandpa Knowlman



Kit and lobsters



Kit, Louise and fish



Group of Rosedale friends at Christmas



Kit, a schoolfriend and sister Louise

## MY ROSEDALE KIT TISCHLER

*Kit Tischler spent many holidays at the log cabins, built by her grandfather, Jack Knowlman. These are edited excerpts of her memories of Rosedale; the full version is on our website [here](#)*

In the early days, the trip down from Goulburn was a nightmare. It would take at least five hours, if not more. There was a "blue road" till Killrea (just out of Tarago) and a dirt road after that all the way. If we were good, we were promised an ice cream in Braidwood then off down the mountain. I was always car sick and my sister took one look at me and she was also sick! We always stopped at the bottom of the mountain for a sandwich lunch at Cabbage Tree Creek, then onto Nelligen. My father liked to time the arrival at Nelligen. If the punt had just left, he had time for a beer at the Steampacket Hotel. If, on the other hand, we arrived as the punt was pulling in, there was no time for the beer. One also had to be careful that one did not arrive at Nelligen at meal times, as the punt man went off for his dinner or lunch and you had to wait three quarters of an hour till he returned.

We then headed off on another winding road to Batemans Bay and another larger punt! There was a very bad road from the Bay to Rosedale, so we always went via Mogo and Tomakin then around past the wetlands, up the hill and in through the farm gate, now called Bevia Road. It was very easy to get bogged after rain. Finally we arrived at the cabins! First, lamps were lit, beds made and the kerosene fridge started.

In the early days I remember the cows on the beach every morning. They came down and walked along the beach, then grazed on what is now called Banksia Flat. In the afternoon, Mrs Stewart (the farmer's wife) came on her horse and drove them back. In the morning, we children would set off with a billy can, collect our friends on the

way and walk to the dairy for milk, which we then carried carefully back. We loved this walk through the bush track and enjoyed the fresh milk for breakfast. Shopping was a weekly excursion to Mogo or Moruya to buy provisions. If we went with Grandpa, it took all day as he liked to stop and chat to the locals and buy eggs, lemons and other produce from them.

In the 1950s there were few houses at Rosedale and everyone knew everyone. We swam, fished, collected pippies and worms, and went for wonderful long walks taking a picnic lunch. The sand hills were sand hills and we had great fun running up and down them and even sliding down them on a baking tray! The lagoon, as we all called it, was clear and open to the sea and this is where we all learned to swim, with the promise of two shillings when we could swim across. We also fished for paddy mullet with Grandpa's walking stick, which had an oyster bottle with bread in it tied to the stick. Grandpa used to set a line overnight and in the morning we had to see if he had caught an eel, which he did on many an occasion. I don't remember ever eating the eels. Fish were always plentiful, caught mostly from the beach and the lobster pot always had a few in it. The lobster pot was put in just off the first rocks (no getting your feet wet) and baited with rabbits, which had been shot the night before.

As the Knowlman family grew, my mother was allocated the May holidays for her "turn" at the cabins. She didn't like this at all...so purchased the cottage at 16 Miller Avenue. Rosedale was my constant holiday home until my husband Harry and I renovated 16 Miller Avenue and retired here in 2012. We had eight happy years here together until Harry died in 2020. My oldest friends are Rosedale friends and my children and grandchildren have loved Rosedale all their lives too.

## OUR ENVIRONMENT FUND IN ACTION

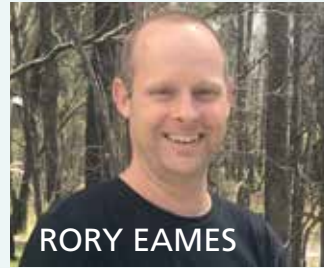
*We are lucky to have so much talent at Rosedale to help us broaden our efforts to protecting our bushland, creek and beach. Meet two relative newcomers who are sharing their expertise.*



DI CLARK

Dianne (Di) Clark has a lifetime of experience with native plants. Her career has spanned the nurseries of botanic gardens, including Victoria's famous Cranbourne Gardens and

most recently managing plants and the shop at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden. Di moved to Tranquil Bay Place six months before the fires roared through our bushland on New Year's Eve 2019. She loves learning about plants and sharing her knowledge, so it's great that she is working with a small group of Rosedale volunteers propagating native plants for our sand dune restoration (see below).



RORY EAMES

Rory Eames is a sustainability consultant who lives with his wife and small daughter in Rose Court. With a doctorate in Natural Resource Management and Human Ecology, for the past 20 years he's worked as an

environment manager principally on green buildings. In these days of NBN and Zoom, he now works from home - right on Saltwater Creek, so he keeps an eagle eye on the state of the water. Rory's expertise will be invaluable in managing the creek. He agrees that close monitoring will be necessary over the long-term, as different stages of developments are released, houses built and run-off and stormwater from hard surfaces make their way into the creek.

## SALTWATER CREEK REPORT

VICKI SMITH



Biofilter holding pond



Silt filtered out

After more than 30 years, the dreaded developments to the west are now full steam ahead. We've been worried all year that the developer's erosion and sediment controls are not enough to protect Saltwater Creek. We've regularly raised our concerns with Council and then sought advice from the EPA - while very helpful, the EPA steered us back to Council as the responsible authority.

Council's view is that the developer is meeting, and in some cases exceeding, the required standards of the development consent. But they acknowledge that sediment control barriers on any site may not always cope with heavy rainfall (we've had a lot!) so they follow up as required. For example, after a visual inspection, Council required the developer to reinstate sediment and erosion control measures at particular drainage points. We've pressed Council to do regular water quality testing but they say that monitoring doesn't prevent pollution, and that it's more effective to ensure the builders comply with consent conditions and environmental protection legislation.

We're fostering a good working relationship with the developer of Rosedale farm. David Boardman, Rory Eames and I met with the site manager, who showed us their silt mitigation, erosion and sediment control barriers. In Stage 1



David and Rory inspect creek

of their development there are now two 50 metre biofilter holding ponds that filter stormwater and trap and hold silt. (The site manager said they were required to put in only 25 metre holding ponds but they upgraded them to 50 metres each.) Work to finalise another Stage 1 pond was delayed by bad weather but should be finished by now. This third pond is critical to managing runoff from the cleared blocks on the south-eastern side of the development. You can see how effective the ponds are in filtering silt - see the colour of the water going in and coming out of the ponds.

In addition to the biofilters, the developer is terracing (to reduce the gradient of cleared, bare land), placing some smaller silt traps through the site, and slowing water runoff into stormwater drains with sandbags and mulch.

To address concerns about dust, they are increasing their use of water tankers to settle bare earth and trialling a biodegradable polymer that binds with the soil to seal areas that have not yet been spray grassed. Some areas have been seeded or spray grassed and roads are being sealed. When asked why they had totally cleared the blocks on the south-eastern side, they said that they needed to reduce the hill by five metres to create flatter blocks. We have urged them to minimise the clearing and earthworks for future stages.

We're assessing the feasibility of conducting our own long-term monitoring- meanwhile the good news is that the site manager has agreed to share data with us from their water sampling.



# DUNE RESTORATION UNDERWAY

KATY HAMILTON

Since we received the [sand dunes report](#) from coastal scientist Hannah Power, we've made a great start on the action plan. Thanks to all the volunteers who've come forward, and to Landcare's Emma Patyus and Jane Enright for their support, advice and work on the ground.

## Note for Diary - Working Bees

Many people have told us they'd like to plan their visits or availability at Rosedale ahead of time. So we're trialling regular environmental working bees, alternating between a Friday morning and Sunday morning each month. Sometimes we'll be weeding and planting, at others we'll focus on other environmental issues, such as plant identification. Instruction on plant ID will help us learn together and update documentation, including photos of what we have at Rosedale.

Meet at the carpark at 10:00 am

Friday 31 December

Sunday 23 January

Friday 25 February

Sunday 27 March

Meet at 2.30 pm

Saturday 16 April (Annual Landcare Weedathon)

# BEACH ACCESS PLANTING



To protect plants and the dune integrity, we want to encourage people to use the three main tracks to the beach. To deter feet from heading off through the dunes we're filling in the planting beside the tracks. We've started with the main beach path from the carpark, planting pigface, knotted club rush and lomandra longifolia - may be more to come, but we're monitoring for now.

## EROSION

We have a problem with erosion in front of the cabins. Council inspected and identified coastal inundation as the key cause – hopefully the forthcoming Coastal Management Program will develop some mitigation strategies. Council has placed some ecologs in the hole, and we're waiting for more. Meanwhile the damage is exacerbated by heavy rains, with stormwater gushing with greater speed down Knowlman Rd. We need to reduce run-off and slow the speed of stormwater – with vegetation and perhaps work by individual landowners.

## PROPAGATION



Di Clark has held a fascinating plant propagation session.

Nine plant species were collected from Rosedale then stripped, trimmed, diagonally snipped, coated in rooting solution, dibbed into their special planting mix before being gently watered and placed in their new warm home. Creating tube stock is the next step once they have developed the all important roots.

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