

THE Rosedale ASSOCIATION INC



Newsletter Issue 134 December 2022



IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BEACH SAFETY

PROTECTING OUR COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

BUSHFIRE MEMORIAL

WILDLIFE NESTING BOXES

DUNE REVEGETATION

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR MARGOT MARSHALL

Two La Nina summers in a row, after wet and wild winters and spring. Rosedale is looking very lush (particularly the weeds!) though it's been a battle keeping all the dune vegetation we planted from being washed away.

With all the rain, it's not only developments to the west battling erosion and runoff into Saltwater Creek. If you're rebuilding in Rosedale after the fires, ask your builder to strengthen erosion controls on your block to reduce runoff. Existing residents, landscape so that water doesn't run across your neighbours' yards, down the tracks to the beaches and into Saltwater Creek.

Sadly we lost two long-time members of the Rosedale community this year. Jean Reid who lost her home in Yowani Road in the 2019 bushfires died in September at the age of 106. And the very first secretary of the Rosedale Association, Mary Boardman (David's Mum) passed away in August (see page 5).

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter, especially to Nikki Wallace who organised more wildlife nesting boxes (see page 4) and to Katy Hamilton and Di Clark.

Here's hoping for a break from La Nina and lots of sunshine over summer. Happy Christmas!



ROSEDALE
ASSOCIATION
CURRENT
COMMITTEE

committee@
rosedale.org.au

President
David Boardman
Secretary
Vicki Smith
Treasurer
Melissa Gribble

Members
Tim Brown
Rory Eames
Sally Edsall
Margot Marshall
Annie Shillington
Michael Skipper
Peter Ward



Summer in Rosedale brings back wonderful memories of my long school holidays. And while much has changed over the years, the beach, the ocean and the bush are still fantastic - and worth conserving.

Now we're moving into a major expansion period and it's a huge challenge to protect Rosedale's environment. There's an enormous amount of reconstruction going on here, especially in North Rosedale. Many families have been unable to enjoy their beach summer holidays due to losses in the 2019 New Year's Eve fires. With many homes nearing completion we look forward to welcoming them back.

The new construction is generally seeing larger homes replacing smaller cottages. This presents challenges for new builds to comply with setbacks and minimum landscape requirements on Rosedale's smaller blocks, which are subject to C4 (Environmental Living) zoning. At the preliminary design phase of your new building project, we encourage everyone to read the Association's [Statement of Place](#) and the Development Control Plan for C4 zonings.

Construction is well advanced on access to west Rosedale, with a new roundabout at the George Bass Drive/Rosedale

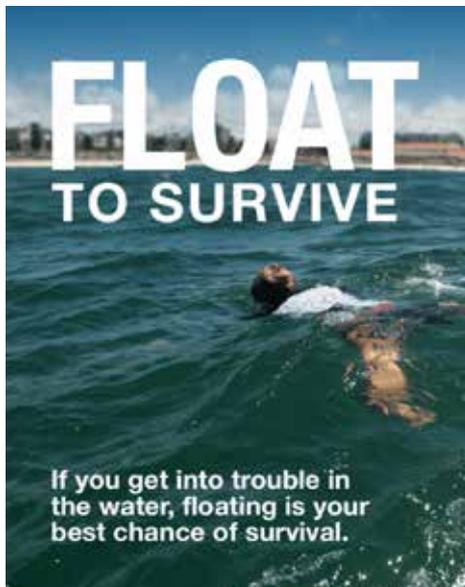
Parade intersection. The developer hopes to have the work completed by Christmas. We raised our concerns with the Mayor, Council and the developer regarding flaws in the design and approval process for the roundabout. In the end, the roundabout will provide safer access into and out of Rosedale.

People who have paid deposits on lots in the Rosedale Farm development, and further west in Elements, should have access by April. With high demand for housing across Eurobodalla, Rosedale can expect to see many new homes under construction by the middle of 2023. This will bring new challenges for us, including more people visiting Rosedale's beaches. I already hear rumblings about car park expansion and public toilets.

The Association has also had ongoing consultations with the developer and Council regarding silt runoff into Saltwater Creek. The developer has strengthened silt mitigation and council rangers are closely monitoring the situation. House construction in Rosedale also contributes to silt runoff and we ask everyone to ensure all measures are in place to control erosion and runoff from their blocks.

Please pass this newsletter on to your friends and neighbours – we'd be delighted to have some new homeowners join us.

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



BEACH SAFETY TIM BROWN

A reminder! Rosedale beaches are beset by rips and every holidays swimmers need rescuing.

If you're caught in a rip, don't risk exhaustion or heart attack by trying to swim across or against it.

Remember to FLOAT - you will eventually be pushed back to the wave zone and to the beach.

If you see someone in trouble in the water, ring 000 for the fastest coordinated response.

Our defibrillator and rescue tube are located on the block wall between 13 and 17 Knowlman Road. There's also an Angel Ring on the cliffs at the southern end of Rosedale beach and one on the northern end of Boatshed Beach.

PROTECTING OUR COASTAL ENVIRONMENT PETER WARD



Rosedale is rarely mentioned in the draft coastal management program. It is not included in the list of high priority beaches where property and infrastructure are threatened by shoreline recession, beach erosion, coastal and tidal inundation, cliff or dune instability. We pointed out that those threats in Rosedale will be exacerbated by the pollution of Saltwater Creek and runoff from it, increased stormwater and erosion, increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic, litter, bushfires, feral animals (such as rabbits and cats) and weeds.

Our submission highlighted Saltwater Creek, where current regulations have provided little protection from activities in the catchment. Water quality has deteriorated, yet there is no basis for intervention so long as developers and

builders are adhering to basic, mandatory erosion controls. We argue that there is a need for governments to review and upgrade existing erosion control measures and to actively monitor their effectiveness.

For the past year or so David Boardman, Katy Hamilton and I have represented Rosedale on a working group contributing to Eurobodalla's draft Coastal Management Program. The program's designed to mitigate climate change threats to coastal infrastructure and property – for example by raising roads or building a sea wall along Bateman's Bay CBD. The draft program was released for comment in October, and the Rosedale Association's submission focussed on areas where our local issues were ignored.

We also highlighted the Association's dunes program. We contend that the coastal management plan should support initiatives like this by coordinating research, monitoring, resource allocation, community education and cultural inclusion.

We also highlighted the Association's dunes program. We contend that the coastal management plan should support initiatives like this by coordinating research, monitoring, resource allocation, community education and cultural inclusion.

BUSHFIRE MEMORIAL SIGN VICKI SMITH



We've spent a lot of time looking at options for a bushfire memorial for Rosedale - something to recognise the enormity of the event and to inform future generations.

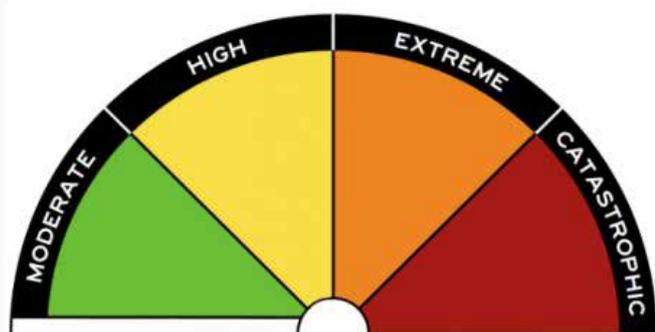
Out of possible locations, we decided on the footbridge - so badly damaged in the fire that this connection between North and South Rosedale was lost. We reported the community's sadness to Warren Sharpe at Council and the footbridge was soon replaced - a shiny new symbol of recovery and the physical reconnection of North and South Rosedale.

After looking at alternatives (thanks Celia Davey for your help), we were lucky to work with Karlee van der Meulen from Council's graphic design team. Karlee visited Rosedale so we could walk and talk about the fires and what we wanted reflected in the memorial sign. We think she's done a beautiful job with her design. A big thanks to Christine Shiel for the initial inspiration and to Council for sharing some of the costs with us and managing to install it before Christmas.



Forty-nine competitors aged from seven to their mid- 60s had some wild rides competing at Rosedale Beach in October. Fantastic pics by photographer Dan Lloyd Jones (@southcoastphoto).

The new Fire Danger Ratings



MODERATE
Plan and prepare

HIGH
Be ready to act

EXTREME
Take action now to protect life and property

CATASTROPHIC
For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

New national Fire Danger Ratings are being rolled out across the country. The new simplified ratings describe the potential level of danger should a bushfire start - and what you should do at each alert level. They're a trigger for action to stay safe.

Under the previous system, fire danger ratings were based on fire behaviour in only bush and grass. The new ratings are based on updated science and the latest fire behaviour models over eight vegetation types mapped across the entire country.

Days of minimal risk are 'No rating' (the white block). While Rosedale may now be at 'No rating' after all the rain, we've had huge growth in vegetation since the New Year's Eve fires. This may be dangerously flammable once hot, dry and windy conditions return. The RFS has warned of increased risk of grassfires once the weather warms up.

So be sure to inspect your block and ensure any fuel is removed to lessen the fire threat.

MORE WILDLIFE NESTING BOXES NIKKI WALLACE



The team at Kuringai Community Workshop ('The Shed') have been busy making more wildlife nesting boxes for the Rosedale community. With leftover ply donated to the Shed soon after the fires, and subsequent COVID interruptions, the team has recently been toiling away to complete the remaining boxes, as promised.

The following boxes will be available from around 19 December to 6 January for pick up at 4 Paul Street, or to drop off to your place:

- 20 Microbat boxes
- 16 Masked Owl boxes
- 12 Sugar Glider to Rainbow Lorikeet boxes

If you're interested in picking up a few boxes, or know someone in the area who'd be keen, please email me at nikki.rosedalenestingboxes@gmail.com

To learn more about Wildlife Nesting Boxes, and how to install them, please check out nestboxtales.com and download the booklets for more details.

We thank the team at 'The Shed' for all their hard work and support in helping revitalise the local wildlife habitat at Rosedale.

© Nestbox Tales



VALE MARY BOARDMAN DAVID BOARDMAN

My Mum, Mary Boardman, passed away on 9 August, aged 93. She loved Rosedale.

Mary and her young family spent holidays on the south coast after moving to Canberra. It was quite an expedition in the 60s - winding roads, car sickness, cleanup stops at Cabbage Tree Creek and long waits for the punt at Nelligen.

In 1966 a permanent Boardman base was established at 33 Yowani Rd. Holidays meant Mum and seven kids taking up residence, with Dad coming down on weekends and for his annual leave in December/January. People may think that this wasn't the ideal setting for a holiday - being left at the end of a 20k dirt track, with seven kids, your husband in Canberra, no car, no phone, no town water, the odd black snake and a long drop dunny.

But for Mary this was paradise. She would kick us out to the beach as early as possible. Usually with an offer of not having to do our chores round the house if we just left. She'd then rush around cleaning the house, washing clothes etc. She would then make lunch, bringing it down to us on the beach just to make sure we didn't come home.

On the beach it was time to relax. She would lie in the sun, bodysurf or bodyboard and chat with Rosedale friends. This was her Rosedale - 'cut off from civilisation'. We would take billy cans out to the local dairy farmer to be filled with fresh milk. Charlie Bellette would run a truck from his shop in Mogo and we could buy fresh eggs from the Old Cheese Factory.

George Bass Drive made it to Rosedale in the early 70s - we were 'on the map.' But Mary and her friends were not ready for a proposed caravan park. Serious discussions were held on the beach in between swims and looking out for kids. One day Mum was at the National Press Club in Canberra with Mal Pratt and Phil Patroni discussing what could be done. They decided they should form an association to fight the caravan park, and that lobbyist Gordon Bray should be president. And so the Rosedale Association was born, with Mary as the first secretary. Council was effectively lobbied - the caravan park development was stopped.

Mary's love of Rosedale, beach, ocean and bush has been well and truly passed on to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



It is such a joy to be out weeding the dunes and have an echidna wobble past with nose in the air seeking ants. It's rather creepy to be in the dunes and witness a tangle of diamond headed pythons but wonderful that our dunes are now providing a diverse habitat for a range of birds and animals.

There's been astounding growth over the past 18 months in the fire affected areas with the regeneration of fire-damaged plants, spreading groundcovers and our 2021 plantings. The area closest to the shore has been damaged by the big seas and stormwater making it important for everyone to avoid trampling on the stabilising vegetation.



Focus this year in the dunes has been to remove flaxleaf fleabane (*Conyza bonariensis*). It's a prolific weed producing up to 120,000 seeds in a season and is currently loving our sand dunes and regular rain. Good news is that the beach gladioli are much declined thanks to last year's efforts - a much easier job to keep under control this season.

We need more helpers!
We'd specially like those who are happy to organise a weeding session - if this might be you, please contact me on 0428 563 173.



Rabbit Patrol Update

Dense vegetation now covers areas of our dunes making the perfect cover for our resident rabbits. But the adjacent barren areas are scarred with their diggings and droppings - clear evidence the numbers are building up.

We've found that early morning and evening walks are the best way to spot our elusive rabbits. Fortunately for us, rabbits don't like being out when it is raining or windy - on the other hand, this has made it tricky to coordinate our patrols over the past few months!

We have our walking routes mapped out ([see here](#)) and plan to do them at the same time every four months. We'll record our sightings in real time to provide data for the Invasive Species team at Council.



Dunes Cleanup

We think this boat is owned by a previous Rosedale resident. Our regular beach walkers are witnessing its slow disappearance as the dune vegetation envelopes it and creates another home for rabbits. Those boats that are no longer in use are the target for a planned dune cleanup around Banksia Flat when vehicle access is possible.

A KEEPER OR A THROWAWAY? DI CLARK

After all the rain, there's been an abundance of growth of vines in trees and on the ground. Often we refer to these plants as pests even though they may be native. One definition of a weed is a plant growing in the wrong place. If you feel a vine may be smothering a garden plant below it, you may want to prune it back a bit. One of the aims of our local plant enthusiasts is to try and learn which plants are native and which are not local and are potentially a threat to our local species.



At present there is a local passionfruit flowering. It is a native plant called native passionfruit (*Passiflora herbertiana*). This climber will smother other shrubs as it grows, but less so when there is not so much moisture available. This native passionfruit has beautiful flowers and has distinctive glands on the leaf. It also provides food for bats and birds and the fruit are meant to be tasty. I will aim to try one this summer.



SALTWATER CREEK WATER QUALITY MONITORING RORY EAMES

With a large number of building sites on both sides of George Bass Drive, many of us have watched the dirt runoff making its way into the creek, and after heavy rain, flowing out to sea.

Our monitoring will give us a better understanding of the creek beyond these visual plumes of dirt and silt. It will establish a base for recording observations long term.

A small group has been meeting to agree on what's best to monitor, how and how often, and we've also undertaken a creek walk to take a close look and establish suitable monitoring positions.

Throughout this summer and beyond, we'll measure a range of characteristics such as available phosphate, dissolved oxygen, pH (acidity/alkalinity), turbidity, and nitrogen. These measures are in addition to broader observations for flow, temperature, and flora and fauna.



spring display



Lots of beautiful native plants flowered prolifically this spring. The slender rice flower (*Pimelea linifolia*), above right and toothed daisy-bush (*Olearia tomentosa*), above left. The pea plants have put on a wonderful show and are also helping to improve the soil. We might be cursing our lawn as it grows overnight but the local grasses have also thrived and will provide plenty of food for our insects and small birds.

LANDCARE DI CLARK

Council and Landcare have frequently organised a group of young and enthusiastic members of the Eco crew to help out with weeding jobs around the carpark, Banksia Flat and around the stairs at Nun's Beach. They've



removed loads of asparagus grass and turkey rhubarb (before it could spread its seed) and planted out a new section of the carpark garden area. Some of these plants were propagated locally by our propagation group that met last year.

If undeliverable please return to:
The Rosedale Association Inc.
PO Box 2125
MALUA BAY NSW 2536

The Rosedale Association Inc Newsletter
Print Post approved No: PP229200/00009

