

THE Rosedale ASSOCIATION INC



Newsletter Issue 136 December 2023



C Roz Walker

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR MARGOT MARSHALL

It's wonderful to have so many sunny days on the beach after the last La Nina years. Rosedale is looking as beautiful as ever – though the rebuilding is noisy!

As usual it's been a busy year, lobbying Council, engaging with developers to the west, monitoring Saltwater Creek and liaising with neighbouring residents' associations. Our volunteers have done a fantastic job protecting the beach environment – see Di Clark's report on page 7. It's great to see so many birds and native wildlife around – so many echidnas! See Pete Ward's story on the swimming echidna on page 6.

There will be a hole in our beach activities this Christmas as the wonderful Tim Brown passed away this year. So many of us learned so much from his beach safety sessions - CPR, using the defibrillator, how to spot a rip. We'll remember

his *G'day mate* to everyone on the beach – and of course his fantastic efforts during the Black Summer bushfire. He will be sorely missed – see Amber Bell's moving tribute on page 4.

We have to protect the Rosedale we all love – so we need you! We anticipate several vacancies on the committee at Easter – and it's time for fresh blood and new ideas. (I for example have passed my use-by date!) Please think about joining the committee – we have a couple of face to face (or Zoom) meetings a year and most of the decision making is done by email. We also need volunteers to run or help our sand dune and other environment work. We'll be tapping some of you on the shoulder to check out your interest, but please contact any of us to discuss what's involved. Happy Christmas!





and 3 (35 blocks) are also complete, with Stages 4 to 7 (100 blocks) to be developed as demand warrants. The Bevia Road intersection to the north will be open soon. For a long time we've been lobbying for an update to the masterplan for the staged development on the land beyond Rosedale Farm ('Elements' - eventually around 700 homes). The developer, the Walker Corporation, is now working on an update to meet current planning requirements and our committee is only too happy to be engaging with them. We had some great feedback from members on what's lacking in the area and have passed that on (see Vicki's report on page 3). We've also talked to them about the health of Saltwater Creek and the need for a safe and efficient road network to include additional entry/exit points, both to the north

and south of the development. Keep sharing your ideas and we'll pass them on.

From all reports, Rosedale's in for a hot, dry summer, despite the surprisingly welcome rain in the last few weeks. While developments to the west have helped deliver a lower overall fuel load, we can't let our guard down – it's time to ensure our properties are well prepared.

On a very sad note, we lost a much-loved member of the Rosedale family in June. I had the pleasure of working with Tim Brown on the Association's committee for more than a decade. Tim always stepped up to help out and offer ideas and opinions to progress the Association's objectives. Tim and his son, Will, put in a huge effort on the ground in the Rosedale 2019 fires and Tim promptly followed this up with fundraising and coordination of community firefighting assets. His surf lifesaving sessions helped improve rip awareness and beach safety at Rosedale. RIP Tim.

It's fantastic to see the number and standard of rebuilds across Rosedale. Cath and Jack (see page 5) treated me to a tour of their new home – so impressive to see how the lessons learnt from the 2019 New Years Eve fire had been incorporated into their build.

- Rosedale Farm (Saltwood) is moving ahead, with many homes under construction in Stage 1 (40 lots). Stages 2
- ROSEDALE ASSOCIATION**
CURRENT COMMITTEE
- committee@rosedale.org.au
- President
David Boardman
- Secretary
Vicki Smith
- Treasurer
Melissa Gribble
- Members
Sally Edsall
Rory Eames
Margot Marshall
Annie Shillington
Michael Skipper
Peter Ward

MEMBERSHIP

Please pass this newsletter on to your friends and neighbours – especially new post-fire residents! We'd be delighted to have more members. Apply for new membership on our website [here](#) and pay by credit card. It's still only \$10 a year.

Existing members, your fees are due now. Pay online [here](#). If you're not sure whether your subscription is up to date, please email peteward@homemail.com.au.

JOIN OUR COMMITTEE

Please volunteer for the committee!

Form is [here](#). Please send your application form to executive@rosedale.org.au by Thursday 28 March 2024! – in the meantime, please contact any one of us.

BEACH SAFETY



We have a new Angel Ring – our third! It was installed in October on the rocks going round to Boatshed Beach after advice by Tim Brown at our last committee meeting. The others are on the cliffs at the southern end of Rosedale Beach and the northern end of Boatshed Beach.

Many thanks to Vicki Smith for coordinating, Max Castle and the Australian National Sportsfishing Association (ANSA) for donating the ring, and Council for installation.

MEMBER FEEDBACK ON WEST ROSEDALE VICKI SMITH

Thanks for sharing your views on what community and commercial spaces you'd like to see in the Rosedale area. Here's the feedback we put to the Walker Corporation for the Elements development.

Our community's strong preference is for a 'walkable' and 'rideable' community, providing ease of access for west Rosedale residents to the natural environment and carefully planned green and safe spaces close to their homes. These spaces should include:

- Planned low impact bush tracks/walking trails.
- Bike trails linking Tomakin to Malua Bay via west Rosedale to further enhance the nature experience for residents and provide options, other than vehicular, to access these centres.
- A local park of a reasonable size, with experiences and facilities catering for people of all ages and abilities (play and exercise equipment, picnic tables, BBQs and public toilets).
- A dog park.
- A community centre surrounded by green space, doubling as a Neighbourhood Safer Place or Heat Haven (with solar/battery power, road and path network accessibility and potential for firefighting asset storage).
- A community microgrid.



Retail/commercial spaces:

- A small commercial business (café, village store, bakery or mixed business) to reduce the volume of traffic exiting west Rosedale for basic daily supplies. Any retail/commercial activity should be low level and primarily aimed at meeting the needs of west Rosedale residents. It should be set well back into the development, so it is unobtrusive and does not detract from Rosedale's bush setting.
- A few members suggested a bar/live music venue or restaurant, while others cautioned against any commercial development, arguing that such businesses struggle outside of holiday seasons. The Tomakin and Malua Bay commercial zones were considered substantial enough to support the daily retail convenience needs of the anticipated population of west Rosedale, with potential for these centres to flourish and become more viable and vibrant.
- The need for a community health clinic was noted, while recognising the challenges of attracting doctors and other health professionals to regional areas.

BEACH SAFETY REMINDERS

Many people die from heart attack after being caught in a rip. Our defibrillator and rescue tube are located on the wall between 13 and 17 Knowlman Road – learn how to use it.

If you see someone in trouble, phone 000 and ask for 'Police' – it's the fastest way for a coordinated emergency rescue. Do not enter the water without a flotation device when you see someone in trouble, even if you're a skilled swimmer. Throw

a flotation device such as an angel ring, surfboard, boogie board or rescue tube into the rip water. The rip will carry these devices towards the swimmer.



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



TIM BROWN - A TRIBUTE AMBER BELL

There are not many who spend time at our beautiful Rosedale and leave untouched; very few of us, though, leave a mark when we are no longer here.

Rosedale has forever been a sacred place for me, a retreat of calm and of cherished friendships, and I will be forever grateful to have married a man who also treasured it. Tim, however, found more in Rosedale than I ever would have. He found adventure, he found community and connections, and he found an abundance of fish.

From the early days of our courtship when he would spend hours surfing, to the years of wallowing in the lagoon when our kids were small, to more recent years of adventuring in the beloved Red Rocket, the tinny he co-owned with Al and Rich. In the Red Rocket, Tim spent countless hours fishing, taking out anyone who showed the slightest interest: kids, family, friends, and casual acquaintances, returning with hauls of his favourite flathead and much sought bonito. Or exploring Jimmy's Island, visiting the seals at Burri Point and towing various kids across the bay on makeshift wakeboards.

Tim didn't just explore from the water though; he wandered the streets, the cross-country tracks and the rocky outcrops. Returning always with tales of someone new he had met, whose story and history of Rosedale he brought with him, retained, valued and shared. Or an old friendship recharged.

Tim thrived when he was able to make a practical contribution, and this was never more apparent than at Rosedale. The time he spent within our community, on the Rosedale Association Committee, through his CPR demonstrations on the beach, and his work during and in the aftermath of the 2019 bushfires all brought him fulfilment and pride and form part of his legacy.

While there is now a large, Tim Brown shaped void in our world, let us use it as a reminder to find joy in all that is around us. To celebrate as he did each sunrise and sunset, to catch as many waves as we can, to say hello to everyone we pass, to deeply love and protect this beautiful place and to hug closely whenever we can.

TB, with us at Rosedale, always.





REBUILDING AFTER BUSH-FIRE CATH BOWDLER

Jack and I knew within 48 hours of the firestorm that destroyed our house and everything we owned that we would rebuild on our block in Dale Place. We went through the fire day and saw how terrible the blaze was but knew that it was possible for a house to withstand the firestorm if it was built to do so.

We set about finding an architect and builder pretty much straight away and despite some setbacks found our great architect, Anthony Knobel, and builders Homeline. Then Covid struck and things got a whole lot more complicated. It was a perfect storm of building difficulties - endless rain, material and labour shortages, lockdowns and price increases. Nonetheless the build started with groundworks in April 2021 and we moved into the not quite completed house on Christmas Eve 2022, due to a huge effort by our tradies.

Now we have a fabulous house and new garden and are pretty confident it will withstand the next big blaze. Most of the house is built to flame zone, with nothing that can burn on the exterior. It's all about keeping fire out of the building interior so on vulnerable windows and doors we have stainless steel shutters that have their own back-up battery power source. Plus we have a 13,000 litre galvanised water tank connected to a serious sprinkler system on the roof and a 36m firehose on a reel, both connected with copper fittings to a quality electric water pump with a back-up generator on hand should mains power drop out. Jack is going to defend the house if it happens again but I am confident he will survive in our studio/bunker.

It's been a challenging time but also rewarding. We were lucky to be able to rent in south Rosedale for three years and met a whole new part of the Rosedale community and now life is almost back to normal four years on in our wonderful new house.

Until the recent heavy rains, Rosedale has been uncomfortably dry, so it's great to see the vegetation (and my lawn!) come alive again. But the forecast is still for a dryer, hotter summer, so no time to be complacent.

In the last few months, devastating fires in Queensland and Tasmania (houses, sheds and other assets burned out) have triggered some terrible memories for us here at Rosedale.

The current message from the RFS is one of caution. We have lower fuel loads now to the west and northwest of us but we do live in a bushfire prone environment and that brings a need to be vigilant – we will always be susceptible to localised fires at any time.

So - to help save your home from fire attack, all households in Rosedale need to:

- Trim overhanging trees and shrubs
- Mow grass and remove the cuttings
- Remove material that can burn around your home
- Clear all the debris and leaves from your gutters
- Have sturdy hoses that will reach all around your home

Invest a small amount of time, get family members and friends involved and prepare a bushfire plan so everyone knows what to do if fire threatens. Download this great RFS resource [here](#).

SCHOOLIES FIRE

Unfortunately, we had a recent incident involving a schoolies' fire on the beach. Even though the kids had tried to smother the fire, next morning locals discovered hot embers and smouldering, partially burned debris. After they'd put it out – and removed broken bottles, aerosol cans and rubbish - RFS member Tony Hamilton rang his Malua Bay deputy captain. His message is: always ring 000 for fire on the beach or elsewhere in Rosedale, even if you think you can manage it.

Reminder: You must have a permit for a fire during the Bushfire Danger Period. No fires anywhere on a Total Fire Ban Day. For permit rules see the RFS website [here](#).



CAN ECHIDNAS SWIM? PETER WARD



Beachgoers were surprised – and delighted!- to see an echidna swim across Saltwater Creek earlier this year. Apparently, like other native animals, echidnas are good swimmers, often using their long noses as a snorkel. Their back feet point backwards (see Di Clark’s photo right), so they have a natural rudder system with their feet. With increasing climate change, we’re likely to see them swimming more often, as their low body heat makes them intolerant of high temperatures.

More often, they’re seen ambling through our backyards and bushland, occasionally crossing roads. They use their tough claws to rip open ant nests and termite mounds then lap up the inhabitants with their long, sticky tongues.

Echidnas may live for up to 40 years. They mature at five to 12 years, laying a single egg each year, which is incubated in the mother’s pouch. The baby ‘puggle’ is around 1 cm long and looks like a jellybean. It licks up milk that oozes out of its mother’s pouch. At seven weeks, when it begins to grow spines, the puggle ventures out into the world to feed on grubs, insect larvae, ants and termites.

Platypus and echidnas are the only egg-laying mammals. Echidnas only occur in Australia and PNG. They are a completely different beast to the porcupines found in other parts of the world. There are four species of echidna, with those around Rosedale likely to be short-beaked echidna.

Did you know?

- Their spines are actually hairs.
- Tongues can be up to 15 cm long.
- Like platypus, they don’t have a stomach.
- They form ‘mating trains’ with a female echidna closely followed by a conga line of up to 10 males over considerable distances.
- The male’s penis has four heads!

Vince Carnovale shot a great video of an echidna swimming across Saltwater Creek... click [here](#).



SALTWATER CREEK WATER MONITORING RORY EAMES



Stormwater and runoff retention trap and gabion walls

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.



Monitoring kit

PROTECTING OUR SAND DUNES DI CLARK



Fleabane - before

The dunes at Rosedale are remarkably resilient. They have coped with fire, excess rain and now a lack of rain. Fortunately, the dry weather has held the weeds in check, but that has not stopped a dedicated group of volunteers from looking after them once a month. The regular working bees have proved to be very useful, just keeping on top of any new weeds. The group meets on the second Saturday of the month, usually at 3 pm, depending on the season. If you'd like to join an email list please contact the committee. Everyone is welcome, every little bit helps.



Dune after weeding



LANDCARE ACTIVITIES

Landcare work has continued in other areas of Rosedale with the help of the now defunct Eco Crew. Jane Enright organised for large piles of mulch to be delivered and summoned up helpers to shift it all. The Eco Crew also helped to plant new plants around the carpark area and also to weed

bridal creeper found in large amounts on Banksia Flat. It is lovely to hear all the positive comments as people walk down the path to the beach.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved with these activities. Working together makes this task possible and enjoyable.



MONBRETIA



The newly sculptured dunes at the end of Knowlman Road have been weeded and had some plants added. This area will require some use of spray to kill off the Monbretia plants and the addition of some sandbinding plants to hold it all together. It's lovely to see some of the local plants returning by themselves. If you do see Monbretia flowering in your own garden or local area it's best to remove the flowers before they seed and spray to kill off the plant. Digging out will only work if you can remove all the underground parts. Removal of weeds often requires a second effort and an abundance of patience!

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PO Box 2125
MALUA BAY NSW 2536

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