

THE Rosedale ASSOCIATION INC



Newsletter Issue 141 April 2026



Photograph - Russ Baker

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: SATURDAY 4 APRIL 2026

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of The Rosedale Association, to be held on Saturday 4 April 2026 at 11.00am, on the grass at 11 Knowlman Road.

AGENDA AGM 4 APRIL 2026

1. Apologies
2. President's Update
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Membership Update
5. Fire Report
6. Beach Safety
7. Environment Projects
8. Election of Committee
9. Other Business



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR - BRONWEN GWYNN-JONES

Easter has always been my favourite time of year at Rosedale. The hurriedness of the summer season has eased, together with the light, and the change of the season brings a slightly slower pace to a welcome autumn break. Please note our Easter activities and AGM, it will be great to see many of you there.

We have some lovely items in this edition, including Peter Ward's beautiful story about dolphins, inspired by the many sightings during the summer. I was fortunate to be swimming one morning with the Rosedale Rippers when we were escorted across the bay by a playful pod – a truly special encounter.

A very different form of wildlife that's not so welcome at Rosedale are rabbits; and they are unfortunately too numerous at present, wreaking havoc on vegetation and causing erosion. A group of residents have got together to work with Council on a control plan, and your help in reporting sightings would be greatly appreciated. Details on page 6.

We're fortunate to have acquired an archive collection of past Rosedale newsletters and photos, and we're looking forward to sharing some of these with you in upcoming editions. You'll find our first instalment, care of James Blogg on page 7.

See you at the AGM.

EASTER SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

EASTER WEEDATHON: 2:30 PM

Meet in the carpark – BYO gloves and basic gardening tools for weeding.

ANNUAL SAUSAGE SIZZLE: 5:00 pm

Where: On the grass at the end of Knowlman Road.

We supply the food – bring your own drinks and chairs, kids and friends!

ROSEDALE ASSOCIATION -
CURRENT COMMITTEE

committee@rosedale.org.au

President: David Boardman

Secretary: James Blogg

Treasurer: Melissa Gribble

Members

Sally Edsall

Rory Eames

Bronwen Gwynn-Jones

Annie Nadin

Michael Skipper

Peter Ward

MEMBERSHIP

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

Current members, your fees are now due. You can pay online [HERE](#). If you're not sure whether your subscription is up to date, please email peteward@aussiebb.com.au

JOIN OUR COMMITTEE!

We'd love to welcome new members to the committee. On behalf of members, the committee meets regularly with Council and the Rural Fire Service to raise Rosedale issues. We make formal submissions on development and environmental concerns, and we manage donations for environmental work including weeding and restoring the sand dunes and fire equipment. If you'd like to be involved, you'll find a form [HERE](#). Please send your application to executive@rosedale.org.au

TREASURER'S REPORT MELISSA GRIBBLE

ROSEDALE ASSOCIATION INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2025

INCOME

Member subscriptions & donations	\$ 3,930.00
Interest from term deposits.....	\$ 1,739.36
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 5,669.36

EXPENSES

Weeding	\$ 7,084.00
Website	\$ 718.80
Defibrillator Maintenance	\$ 499.95
Insurance - Public Liability & Events	\$ 361.79
Sausage Sizzle	\$ 361.50
Australia Post Letterbox	\$ 181.00
ATO Filing	\$ 112.00
Ezidebit - membership payment fees	\$ 76.74
Jotform - membership management	\$ 35.53

DONATIONS

RFS	\$ 500.00
BBSLC	\$ 500.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE **\$(10,431.31)**

NET INCOME **\$(4,761.95)**

Cash at Bank	\$ 20,038.05
Term Deposit	\$ 21,661.17
Term Deposit	\$ 11,619.00
Term Deposit – Fire Prevention & Restoration	\$10,299.17
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 63,617.39





Photograph - Russ Baker

The Rosedale Association was formed 49 years ago, and I have had the honour of being president for the last 13. I have had incredible support during this time from the committee and the Rosedale community.

I would like to pay a special tribute to Margot Marshall. She has been a constant and valuable part of this community for many years. Margot and Rick have sold their Rosedale house, and she has stepped down from her role on the committee. Margot has been the newsletter editor for as long as I can remember, creating a quality newsletter for the Association that is well regarded by Council and the community. Thank-you Margot, we will miss you and hope to see you and your family continuing a holiday at Rosedale, one way or another.

It is important for the Rosedale Association that members volunteer for the committee. When people leave, we sometimes wonder how we will manage to carry on. We discover there is a wealth of talent and sometimes members just need a little push to get involved. Bronwen Gwynn-Jones has stepped up to the editor's role; so, our quality publication carries on.

Since December, Brian Joyce and Gerry Crisp have been pushing Council on the Yowani Rd beach track. Kath Wellman has been using her landscape architecture skills to map the track and add drawings or required improvements.

Council has advised that no funds are yet available for a pathway to the beach along Rosedale Parade. We have written to Council advising our support and have requested the construction be prioritised.

We still wait for action on the hammerhead turn at the end of Yowani Road with no clear commencement date from Council. Kath has provided an update for members, below.

Funds allocated for weed control in the nun's beach gully area have almost been exhausted. A recent walk through with our coordinator, Sue Davenport and ESC Landcare was very positive. We have managed to talk them into providing funds for another round of spraying. We are also looking to extend the operation into private properties on Cooks Crescent that back onto the gully. Thank-you to those property owners who have authorised permission. You can read Sue's update on page 4.

Not only are we looking at improving tracks, but we are also still doing a fantastic job on dune care, monitoring our creek health, looking at rabbit control, and maintaining our life saving equipment.

Wishing you a great Easter and I look forward to seeing you at the AGM and the BBQ.

ROADWORKS ON YOWANI ROAD

The end of Yowani Road has for a long time caused problems for service vehicles turning, particularly waste management vehicles, exacerbated during the long construction period following the fires. On occasion waste services have been unable to collect waste, resulting in additional costs for Council for return pick-ups. There has also been increased run-off from the road, due to more paved and roofed areas in the street, creating a large wet area at the end of the road, further eroding the track to the back beach. With construction nearing completion, Council is interested in addressing the problem with a long-term solution.

With various designs explored, including a reduced roundabout, Council, The Rosedale Association and nearby Yowani residents have settled on a hammerhead design as the best solution, similar to that constructed at the end of Knowlman Road. The advantage of the hammerhead design includes substantially less paved area required, leading to less run-off and more control of its direction, a better fit



with the landscape with changes of grade allowed, and less impingement on neighbouring properties.

No parking will be allowed in the hammerhead, as is the case on Knowlman Road, to ensure access for service vehicles.

Council has not budgeted for the roadworks this year; however, the hammerhead design will be used to estimate cost and to seek funding in the future. In the interim, a temporary hammerhead may be built using existing Council resources, to facilitate the turning of the waste management vehicles. We are continuing to liaise with Council on the upgrade and repair of the path down to the back beach, so that it can be integrated with the roadwork program in the future.

KATH WELLMAN



Groundhog Day is an appropriate term to use when referring to weed removal at Rosedale. It seems we do the same thing repeatedly, removing the same weeds. Fortunately, this recurring action seems to be paying off for our sand dunes. The small team of dedicated workers

who meet almost every month are removing less weeds every session. I don't think the dunes will ever be weed-free, but they are looking good! This is not just important because it's more pleasing to look at, but the dunes are a vital barrier between the land and the sea, and the vegetation on the dunes is vital and specific to this area.

One plant that we have been removing from the dunes is marram grass, first planted on dunes to help stabilise the sand. It does do this, but in a different way than the local spinifex grass. The marram grass sends down long tap roots that hang onto the sand, but wave action causes the sand to break away and leave a steep dune. The spinifex

sends out long runners and the sand is removed from a broader area, but not as steeply so a more rounded, flatter dune remains. The larger flatter dunes offer more protection in the long run and shift and move naturally.

Any native plant area that has private property along its borders is at risk if that property is not also maintained. The recent rains have caused increased plant growth in the area. Now is the time to look around your garden and see if you can identify any problem plants. The yellow flowering cassia is in full flower at the moment and the agapanthus are finishing their display. Seed removal is helpful, but plant replacement is far better. Council offers a service where they will come out and inspect your property if you have concerns or would like some advice and inspiration. They also have a pamphlet called 'Grow Me Instead' and a booklet called 'Bush Friendly Gardens'.

<https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/residents/gardens/Bush-friendly-and-water-wise-gardens>

You can also come along to any monthly weeding session, held on the second Saturday of each month at 3pm, and ask any questions.



Marram Grass



Senna Pendula

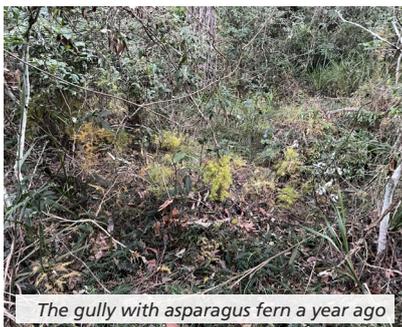


Spinifex

Easter Weedathon 2:30 pm EASTER SATURDAY

Our big Easter Weedathon is held every year. We will concentrate on the pathway and garden that lead to the main Rosedale Beach. The session is held on the afternoon of the Annual General Meeting and is just for an hour or so. We'd love to see you there. Just bring along gloves, bin for weeds, protective clothing (hat, closed shoes) and secateurs if you have them. Anyone is welcome and there are jobs for all capabilities. Family and kids are welcome. Meet in the carpark.

TRANQUIL BAY HEADLAND PROJECT UPDATE *SUE DAVENPORT*



The gully with asparagus fern a year ago



Healthy weed free gully now



At the Rosedale Association AGM 2023 it was agreed to contribute to a joint project with the Eurobodalla Shire to tackle the weed problem in the gully between Cooks Crescent and Tranquil Bay Place. This small rainforest gully had been infested with several invasive species such as cassia/senna pendula, wild tobacco, passionfruit, climbing asparagus and the Illawarra flame tree. Overseen by Emma Patyus, Eurobodalla Shire's Local Landcarew Coordinator, Mitch Stein, a specialist contractor has been removing larger weeds and spraying others in the two years since the project began.

Dave Boardman, Emma and I did a walk-through of the gully in early March and can happily report that the spraying and weed removal has been very successful. The weeds are almost completely gone, and the gully is looking fresher. Mitch will complete one more spray, and it will then be up to us to keep monitoring the area to try to stop further invasions. Last year, five blocks on the northern side of the gully had the understory cleared, and they are now infested with weeds. This clearing, along with the clearing of another two blocks is contributing to an increase in the temperature in the gully, usually damp and cool, so the possibility of re-infestation of the gully is possible. We will monitor this and alert Emma and local residents of further infestation.

ROSEDALE COMPANIONS GREYHOUNDS OF THE SEA

PETE WARD

A Rosedale Rippers ocean swimmer recently reported “the most extraordinary and magical experience on our morning swim, as a large pod of dolphins swam with us, accompanying us across the bay and back”. These sleek, inquisitive mammals have incredible physical and social attributes.

At least six dolphin species visit Rosedale, including our most frequent visitors, the Common and Bottlenose Dolphin. They usually form pods of 10–15 individuals, consisting of adult males, females and their young.

Dolphins often leap over five metres out of the water. They are the fastest marine mammals, swimming up to 60 km/h and travelling 150 km in a day. They move considerable distances following prey, or may remain in a local area for months.

Dolphins use echolocation to feed on squid and small pelagic fish, like pilchards, often at night. Coordinated hunting concentrates their prey at the sea surface.

Mature dolphins give birth to a single 10–14 kg calf every 10–12 months. The mother feeds its calf milk and provides care for at least two years. Adults grow to 150–260 kg and may live for 40 years or longer.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Threats include purse-seine fishing for tuna, gillnets, protective beach shark nets, boat-strike and pollution, including plastics.
- In cooler waters, the calving season is concentrated in late spring to early summer.
- Dolphins will not necessarily protect swimmers or surfers from shark attack, as they may feed in the same areas as sharks. However, dolphins will certainly attempt to protect their young from threats and there are documented cases where they have protected humans.
- Orca and False Killer Whales are actually dolphins.
- Porpoise are more closely related to narwhals and belugas. They can be distinguished from dolphins by their triangular dorsal fin and blunt beak.
- The Yuin name for dolphins is baruwaluwu.

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/marine/marine-species/cetaceans/species-found-australian-waters>



Photographs - Kim Moeller

SALTWATER CREEK UPDATE JAMES BLOGG

The impact of seasonal and environmental changes on Saltwater Creek are not what you might expect. We've previously talked about the dangers of algal blooms for swimmers and the impact of the lack of rain leading into summer, but there have also been changes since the creek was breached by the large seas in mid-January.

Regular monitoring of the water shows that phosphorus levels and the pH of creek water have remained steady, despite these recent changes.

The algal blooms have disappeared. While they looked



awful, there was a lot of oxygen under the algae for the residing fish. Conditions would need to get much worse for creek marine life to really suffer, but longer, drier summers may be around the corner.

Even at their worst, the algal levels remained acceptable, but fish life is less tolerant to any rapid temperature change related to rapid inflow of rainwater. It's much like bringing your first goldfish home and needing to let the fish adapt to room temperature before you add it to your fish tank.

Increased runoff is a long-term trend with changes to runoff into the Creek associated with development in West Rosedale. Although swales have been installed by the developer to slow water into Creek and try to control the increased runoff from ever-increasing hard surfaces, these are only effective with minor downpours. In mid-January there was steady rain over several days and the creek was breached by heavy seas after the creek level was already quite full, so thankfully, no fish kill was observed.

We will continue to support monitoring of the creek and report on any changes to you.

As we move through the latter part of the 2025–26 fire season, I’m pleased to report that the Rosedale and broader South East Coast region of New South Wales has experienced comparatively mild fire conditions. While other parts of the state have faced challenging periods, and both Victoria and SA have endured several significant bushfire events over the summer, our region has benefited from generally cooler, more benign conditions.



Fuel loads across parts of the Eurobodalla remain moderate. Grass growth earlier in the season, combined with leaf litter and understorey build-up means there is still enough material present to carry fire if weather conditions align unfavourably. Even in seasons that feel “quiet,” bushfire risk does not disappear, it simply waits for the right combination of heat, wind and ignition source.

Our coastal location can also create a false sense of security. While sea breezes can moderate temperatures, they can also drive fire behaviour later, so we all need to be aware of the changing conditions. Ongoing prevention and preparation remains our strongest defence.

- Clean gutters regularly and remove accumulated leaf litter.
- Reduce fuel loads around homes by clearing dry vegetation, pruning overhanging branches and removing combustible materials from near structures.
- Keep lawns and grassed areas maintained and short.

- Ensure access points to properties are clear for emergency vehicles.
- Check pumps, hoses and water supplies if you rely on tank water for firefighting purposes.
- Review your Bushfire Survival Plan and ensure all household members understand it.
- Small, consistent actions taken across the community make a significant cumulative difference to risk levels.

Our local volunteer brigade at Malua Bay has been active during suitable weather windows, undertaking hazard reduction, backburning operations and assisting with rubbish and fuel removal in key areas. On behalf of the Association, I acknowledge and thank the brigade members for their ongoing efforts.

Early reporting saves time, critical in the first moments of a fire. If you see smoke or unattended fire that causes concern, dial Triple Zero (000) immediately. Residents are also encouraged to monitor official updates from the NSW Rural Fire Service and to ensure emergency contact details and warning apps are current and active.

Michael Skipper is The Rosedale Association’s Fire Officer.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES: 000

ABC LOCAL RADIO: 103.5 FM

WIRES (animal rescue) 1300 094737

ESSENTIAL ENERGY (poles & wires) 13 20 80

FISHERIES WATCH HOTLINE (poachers) 1800 043 536

SEWERAGE (Council): 02 4474 7347

NSW MENTAL HEALTH LINE: 1800 011 511

RABBIT CONTROL AT ROSEDALE

Rabbits have been wreaking havoc in our bushland for many months, a symptom of a widespread infestation in the region. Rabbits cause significant harm to our native vegetation and grasses, also leading to considerable erosion, which has become evident in many locations. They can also erode residential structures through burrowing, and under buildings and boats are perfect habitats.

Rabbit control requires a multi-pronged approach. A controlled reduction and elimination program that doesn’t put any other animals at risk will hopefully re-commence soon with



the support of Council. Control measures might include fumigating burrows, so locating the burrows and warrens in the first instance is critical. This is where residents play a vital role in ensuring the invasion doesn’t become a major problem for Rosedale.

Kate Hamilton has led collaboration with Council on behalf of Rosedale residents and has the following advice and request to assist.

- Rabbits are most likely to be seen just on dawn or at dusk.
- If you see single or multiple rabbits in a particular location, please report the sighting to Kate by text message. Include the rough number of rabbits seen, the location, and the direction they were seen running. Together with repeated sightings, this will help to understand the likely location of burrows. Text message example: “3 rabbits seen in Dale Place running towards end of the road.”
- And finally, if anyone would like to be involved in the rabbit watch group, please let Kate know.

Together with a small group of concerned locals, Kate will compile the ‘rabbit intel’ received and continue to liaise with Council on control measures.

Kate’s mobile number for text communication on rabbit sightings: 0428 563 173.

FROM THE ARCHIVES - A WINDOW INTO ROSEDALE'S PAST

We're delighted that due to the generosity of members and their families, The Rosedale Association now has access to a collection of photos, slides and negatives depicting earlier days at Rosedale.

Also preserved are plans of the original Rosedale subdivision and a library of Association newsletters, all the way back to Issue #55.

Pleased to introduce a new section, we'll share photos and anecdotes from the archives in future editions.

Special thanks to David McKenzie, Elizabeth Richardson, Ian Holmes, Deborah Purs, Arthur Conrick and the Knowlman, Mallet, Richardson and Harrison families for sharing these precious documents.



BEACH SAFETY EQUIPMENT UPDATE



Our beachside defibrillator is conveniently fixed to the northern wall of 17 Knowlman Road, and as it's fully exposed to the force of the south-westerly winds, it requires regular maintenance.

Thanks to the diligence of Gordon Klebba, we have a fully restored defibrillator with a new battery and fresh chest pads. All are now housed

in a new case - courtesy of Royal Lifesaving Society of Australia (NSW) who have also provided us with a pair of trauma shears, which can be used if required for a patient who is wearing a wetsuit.

To open the housing, simply pull firmly on the right side of the door which will break the lime green security/tamper seal. There are replacement seals inside the housing.

This article wouldn't be complete without including [the link to serious - but fun CPR skit with Richard Roxburg.](#)

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The Rosedale Association Inc.
PO Box 2125
MALUA BAY NSW 2536

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