

UPDATE FOR ROSEDALE ASSOCIATION INC. MEMBERS

Well ... here we are ... six months after the bushfire and living in a COVID-19 world. Who could have ever dreamed up this scenario? One of the hardest things for us has been our inability to get the community together to touch base and see how everyone is going. With COVID restrictions easing as of 1 July, we have an event planned for 11 July that focuses on wildlife recovery. Details will be emailed to members shortly.

What about the AGM and our Return to Rosedale events?

The Department of Fair Trading now says that incorporated associations are no longer required to hold an AGM in 2020. We can still hold an AGM this year if we want to but the health and welfare of our community is paramount. Currently, we have no firm plans to hold an AGM in 2020, but will continue to monitor the situation.

What's happening with the footbridge, Yowani stairs and Nuns Beach access?

We asked Council to replace the footbridge as a priority, as an important symbol of the connection between North and South Rosedale. The work is underway and the footbridge will be much fancier than the old one! It should be finished in a few weeks and Council is planning an opening event involving the Mayor and State Government officials on site on 31 July. (Officials are travelling to the Eurobodalla that day and visiting various locations.) Numbers will be COVID restricted, so it is not possible for the whole community to be invited. This will not be the only event at the footbridge though, as our Committee is still committed to holding a community event at the site as soon as it's COVID safe to do so.

We continue to press Council to provide a timeframe for repairs to the Yowani stairs and for the Nuns Beach access project. Our President has made several phone calls to Council and formally wrote to Council's General Manager in June.

How are plans coming along for the allocation of donated funds?

There's ongoing work to identify the best use of donated funds, with meetings and discussions with the RFS, Southern NSW Fire & Rescue, Council and potential suppliers of equipment. Our Fire Officer is also looking at Mains water reticulation systems and determining viability over the short and longer term; coordinating inspections of every Fire Hydrant in North and South Rosedale; and undertaking further work to determine availability and accessibility of Static Water Storages (SWS) within Rosedale. Our Committee plans to meet in a few weeks to consider a proposal and identify next steps.

What happened with the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) student projects?

We've been actively engaged with a member of the Rosedale community, Professor Penny Allen (Professor of Landscape Architecture) and her Masters of Architecture students from the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). They recently presented their final projects, which are focused on Rosedale. The projects ranged from large scale fire mitigation strategies, which integrated forestry management practices with firebreaks and regional parks; to community scale strategies, such as a Collective Agreement, 'zones of care', a mobile nursery to support a collective approach to managing land, new evacuation pathways and shelters and an expanded public space at Saltwater Creek; through to ways of minimising Asset Protection Zones and innovative construction strategies at the scale of the lot. The projects are impressive and ambitious, with many concepts and ideas having merit beyond Rosedale and extending to other coastal communities.

We were pleased to see a Council representative at the students' final project presentations. We will soon meet with Council's Strategic Planning team to kick start a consultation process, aimed at identifying strategies to help protect Rosedale in the future.

We have also just lodged a submission in support of Council's draft Local Strategic Planning Statement that will, among other priorities, facilitate community consultation on bushfire planning strategies for Rosedale and other coastal villages. See a copy of our submission on our website – <http://www.rosedale.org.au/other-documents-and-information.html>

What else has the Committee been doing on behalf of members?

- We lodged submissions to the Royal Commission and the NSW Bushfire Inquiry - see <http://www.rosedale.org.au/other-documents-and-information.html> Our submissions were based on feedback from members through the 'Lessons Learnt' proformas. (Our submission received a brief mention at a Royal Commission hearing earlier this week.)
- We've written to Council's General Manager, acknowledging Laing O'Rourke's good work and sensitivity in clearing blocks across Rosedale.
- We are looking at grants for bushfire affected communities. We secured a grant of \$1,500 from Coordinaire Ltd for a community recovery event. The Mayor has advised us that grants of up to \$10,000 are also now available and open to community associations (applications opened on 1 July). We are looking at application requirements.
- We continue to liaise with various agencies, e.g. Council, Red Cross and Resilience NSW, and are learning from the recovery experiences of other communities, including through Red Cross webinars and other resources.
- We initiated contact with Peter Dunn (former Commissioner for the ACT Emergency Services Agency after the 2003 bushfires and now Coordinator of the Conjola recovery effort). Peter is also in touch with other fire affected communities, so we shared our two submissions and Easter newsletter with him, as a way of opening up information exchange. We are looking forward to meeting with Peter and building linkages with other communities.
- We negotiated a discount for stays at the new Malua Bay Abode hotel and apartments for members of the Rosedale community.

People are starting to think about what they should plant after a bushfire:

See Council's media release from February: <https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/home/news-and-events/media-releases/media-releases/out-of-the-ashes-what-to-plant-after-a-bushfire> and the Victoria Country Fire Authority's website, particularly its 'Landscaping for Bushfire' publication: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/landscaping>

Have you paid your 2020 membership subscription (still only \$10 per voting member)?

If not, you can pay now via this link: <http://www.rosedale.org.au/membership.html>

Finally, and most importantly, we want to know what you need and what we can help you with. If we can't help you with it, we might know who can, so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The Rosedale Association's President and Committee look forward to hearing from you.