

THE Rosedale ASSOCIATION



Newsletter Issue 94 January 2004

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBOURS AT THE AGM ON 10 APRIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING BEGINS AT 11 A.M.

The Rosedale Association's annual general meeting (AGM) will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday, 10 April, on the grassed area north of the end of Knowlman Road, behind the dune. Bring a chair or a groundsheet.

Members and non-members are welcome to attend. The agenda is:

- Apologies
- President's report
- Treasurer's report
- Fire Officer's report
- Neighbourhood Watch report
- Landcare report
- General business: - Carpark
- Election of officers

If you wish to add items to the agenda—for inclusion in general business—please contact the Secretary, in writing, as soon as possible. Send to PO Box 2015, Malua Bay NSW 2536.

WEEDATHON AND SAUSAGE SIZZLE AFTER AGM

The AGM is the most important community event in Rosedale's calendar, and it's a three-way event again this year with the inclusion of a weedathon and sausage sizzle. Some years we manage to get upwards of 70 people out for a couple of hours and what we achieve is just short of miraculous. So 'do' the AGM in the morning, then weed along with others in the afternoon and finally relax at the sausage sizzle in the early evening. BYO liquids and seating. We supply the food. Times and places for the follow-on events, and what we hope to achieve, will be announced at the AGM.

FOR THIS AND ALL OTHER WORKING BEES

Please wear sturdy, enclosed footwear, sun protective clothing and sunscreen. Bring insect repellent and drinking water; you could dehydrate if the weather is hot. Bring a favourite hand tool for weeding if you have one.

MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

Your membership fees are due if you have a red tab by your address on this newsletter. A membership form (which you can also use to update your

personal information) is on the inside back cover of this newsletter.

NOMINATE FOR THE COMMITTEE

New starters for the committee are welcome and necessary. Please consider volunteering. A nomination form is on the inside back cover of this newsletter.

The form requires the signature of two financial members of the association and that of the nominee, and must be received by the Secretary before the AGM.

NEXT WORKING BEE

The next working bee is Saturday, 27 March beginning at 9 a.m. Meet at the carpark. Details of the morning's activity will be announced by email and a notice in the carpark.

NEW POSTAL ADDRESS

The Rosedale Association has a new postal address which is PO Box 2015, Malua Bay NSW 2536.



TREASURER'S REPORT

1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003

INCOME

Membership subscriptions (218 members)	\$2180.00
Bank interest	.08
	<hr/>
	\$2180.08

EXPENSES

Landcare	\$313.79
Landcare insurance	300.00
AGM BBQ	292.10
PO Box rental	52.00
Newsletter	172.21
Secretarial (Treasurer)	42.46
Secretarial (President—includes PO Box 2002)	190.63
Donation—Malua Bay Fire Service	400.00
	<hr/>
	\$1763.19

SUMMARY

Cash at bank 1.1.03	\$587.62
Plus income	2180.08
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	2767.70
Less expenses	1763.19
Cash at bank 31.12.03	\$1004.51

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

Investment account 1.1.03	\$10780.69
Plus interest 2003	419.11
Investment account 31.12.03	\$11199.80
CURRENT ASSETS	<hr/>
	\$12204.3

Deirdre Prussak, Honorary Treasurer

MORE HISTORY FROM OLD PHOTOS

I am (slowly) accumulating copies of old photographs, family snaps for a slightly different kind of history from that mentioned elsewhere here. I am interested in landscape science and ecology and I ask, 'What did the landscape, the beachscape and the urban-scape of Rosedale look like in earlier years and how has it changed in between?' Old photos of the sort of views that give us this information directly are not always easy to come by.

However, there must be hundreds

of photos of family beach houses and of people doing things on the beach and in their gardens, wherever, whatever, around Rosedale over the years. They may never have been directly intended to do so but they can show us the past shape of Rosedale in their backgrounds. With a bit of forensic snooping a great deal can be learned from the unintentional backgrounds to these happy snaps.

Will you share your old photos with me please? Please dig them out, any subject whatever, showing any

aspect of a previous Rosedale, however mundane it may appear to you. I can scan them (in Canberra or Rosedale) or accept images by email. They will greatly assist me in a reconstruction of the physical past. I thank Gordon Bray and Andrew Gleeson for their revealing photographic contributions to date (see my contact details on page 3.)

David Mackenzie

ATTENDANCES AT WORKING BEES

We have organized seven working bees since the last AGM, four regular ones and three holiday specials—one regular and one special were rained out. Regular events are advertised by email and by a notice in the carpark. Holiday specials were also advertised by email and lots of notices were posted around the village. Turnouts at the five events were (the holiday specials are underlined): 26 July, 3; 27 September, 11; 30 December, 13; 10 January, 6; 24 January, 13; Total, 46. Some people attended several events.

We email working bee notices to around 90 people, about 60% of the membership, and a few more people are alerted by locally posted notices. Attendance numbers are low compared to other Landcare groups but our community comprises largely absentee members and the chance of their visits to the beach coinciding with a working bee is clearly small.

Whatever the reasons for low attendance, we are underpowered and are having difficulty in keeping up with some weeds in some locations. Our ability to take on new tasks is similarly restricted. We are looking at ways in which we can boost working bee attendances and achieve more.

MORE REGULAR WORKING BEES?

Recent attendances at holiday special working bees suggest that if more events were staged more people would be able to come. Each time we announce a working bee, we receive many messages from people who want to help but the date doesn't suit. Should we provide more events to enable more people to contribute? Provided we can find sufficient additional assistance with organizing on the day of an event (see elsewhere this issue), we propose that we should run working bees on a monthly basis. This topic will be raised for discussion at the AGM and we are interested in hearing your opinion, not only then but at any time.

LANDCARE CONTACTS

Feel free to contact a Landcare committee member at any time.

- Gordon Bray, 4471 7134, gordon.bray@bigpond.com
- Ian Holmes, 4471 7252, ianjanh@sci.net.au
- James Blogg, 4471 8544, james_blogg@coffey.com.au
- David Mackenzie, 4471 8471 or 6288 6194, david.mackenzie@csiro.au



HELP! ASSISTANCE WANTED

The call in the last newsletter for assistance with organizing Landcare resulted in one response—Adrian Lewis (Cooks Crescent) lives in Sydney and is willing to help when he is down here. Welcome on board, Adrian. However we need a big enough pool of like-minded people so there is always someone to call on when the crunch comes. We especially need people who can lead a working bee, more especially if we begin to have them more frequently as discussed elsewhere in this issue. We literally face the situation in which we may have to cancel scheduled working bees because the small band of organisers all have other commitments—it happened last May. With a large enough pool of organisers to draw upon this need never happen.

Come on you out there! Some of you have been coming to working bees for years and must have more than enough knowledge and ability to do it. You do not need to have an encyclopaedic knowledge of weeds—no one else does around here! You would not be thrown in at the deep end, we can help you, it really is quite easy! If we have a sufficiently good response you might be called on once, maybe twice a year to lead a group. If Rosedale means as much to you that you want to keep coming here, ask yourself what it might be like if Landcare were to cease. Ring up and have a chat about it (see the Landcare contacts on this page).

CONTRIBUTE PHOTOS OR STORIES TO OUR ROSEDALE VILLAGE HISTORY

Kit Tischler and Deirdre Prussak will soon start writing a history of Rosedale Village, and we hope some of you have old photographs or stories to contribute.

We'd be happy to receive such items at the AGM, or anytime in the near future. Items can be sent to the Secretary, Rosedale Association, PO Box 2015, Malua Bay NSW 2536. Be sure to write your name and address (in pencil) on the back margin of any photographs, and we will ensure they are returned safely.

Also see David Mackenzie's comment on photographs on the previous page.

**Many thanks
Deirdre Prussak**

FIRE REPORT

The past year has been relatively quiet on the bushfire front in our local area. There is of course no guarantee that that will be the case next fire season.

Canberra homeowners and others with links to Canberra have had plenty of reminders through the media of the long-term effects of the firestorm of January 2003, including the evidence and information brought out in the coroner's and other inquiries. At the time of writing this report, the coroner's inquest is pre-occupied with the question of whether the residents of Canberra were properly informed of the likelihood of the fires reaching the suburbs and whether people were properly prepared. Evidence suggests that many had indeed gone to the coast, confident that their homes would not come under threat.

It has also been suggested that there was a strong belief in the community that 'it wouldn't happen to me'. It is also axiomatic that under such extreme conditions, including the size of the fire front, firefighting resources will be completely inadequate.

Rosedale is officially considered to be a high fire risk area. The topography, quantity of fuel and large tracts of surrounding heavily timbered country all add up to a grim scenario.

FIRE RETARDANT PLANTS

Lists of fire retardant or fire resistant plants are appearing quite a lot of late. These plants are recommended as a means of minimising the chances of your garden, and perhaps your house, burning. In case you are unaware, this is all that can legitimately be claimed of these plants, and this is fine for most low intensity fires. However, any plant will burn if exposed to a sufficiently intense fire. The heat ahead of such a fire removes any remaining moisture and the plant becomes tinder for the fire.

By all means, plant fire retardant or resistant plants, but please do not rely on them to protect your house and garden in any but lower intensity fires. And remember that no one can tell you exactly how intense that is or when it will occur.

Finally, check the credentials of the source of such lists: plants observed not to burn in a fire and hence categorized as fire retardant are not necessarily exposed to the full intensity of the main fire. Pockets of lower intensity can exist at random in any fire.

In addition, authorities have pointed to the problems of access (and escape) for firefighters and their appliances. None of these are likely to change, so we must be realistic in assessing our situation.

While we should not discount the possibility of extraordinary conditions, there are preparations which can make a positive contribution to containing or lessening the impact of a fire in less extreme times. We regularly run articles in the newsletter encouraging people to clean up around their houses, and outline other precautions that can be put in place, and we will continue to do this. Meanwhile local fire authorities are looking towards better educating the community about fire risk, and the preparations and actions that householders can undertake. This includes encouraging community-based planning. Council is also advising on materials and building design in new developments, including extensions, in a bid to lessen the fire-danger rating of new constructions.

As in previous years, I point to the efforts made by our local firefighters, especially the volunteers, and would again recommend to the meeting that the Rosedale Association donate \$400 to the Malua Bay Fire Brigade.

Brian Voce



FIRE—TIMELY REMINDERS

At this or any other time of the year, we have a good chance to clean up around our properties and to take stock of our preparations for fire. Here's a check list:

PREPARATION

- clear ground fuel around the house (grass, leaves, litter, etc.)
- clear gutters (an ongoing need) and debris on roof
- determine whether gutters can be blocked and filled with water
- prepare firebreaks around house
- screen or fill in openings able to admit sparks/burning debris
- remove or relocate flammable materials (woodpile, rubbish, debris)
- ensure hose(s) are long enough to reach all sides of house and are left fitted to tap(s)
- have buckets, rakes accessible
- work in with your neighbours

IN CASE OF FIRE

- listen to local radio for fire news
- wear protective clothing (long sleeves, etc.)
- wet down roof, surrounds
- fill gutters with water
- fill containers, bath etc. with water
- plug gaps at doors and windows with wet towels
- close up house (doors, windows, openings)
- patrol after fire has passed; douse spot fires
- check roof cavity frequently for spot fires

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2003-04

Another 12 months have passed and it is time for me to sum up the year, after noting with sadness the death of Jean Carter, who had such a long association with Rosedale and who was known to so many of us.

CABINS SITE SOLD

The most recent event, at the time of writing, is the sale of the cabins for \$1.47 million. There were well over 100 people at the auction and bidding was spirited. The subsequent media coverage was extensive and nationwide. I note that all reports seem sure as to who was on the other end of the successful bidder's mobile phone, though none explained why they were sure. One report had Rosedale as a community of 19 houses. We have certainly had our 15 minutes of fame. One ongoing reminder in years to come will probably be in our land valuations. I quote from the newsletter of our near neighbours at Burrawang, adjacent to Barlings Beach. 'The NSW Valuer General has issued statistics that indicate that land values in the Eurobodalla Shire increased over the 12 months of 2003 by 75%. This rate increase exceeds by a large margin increases in any other area of New South Wales'. I note that my own block has increased in value at twice the CPI rate from 1988 to 2003 and guess that the next notice from the Valuer General will step up that margin considerably.

AUSTRALIAN CLEAN BEACH CHALLENGE AWARDS

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we won the NSW regional and state awards for Beach Spirit. Since this newsletter follows so closely on the heels of the last one, I will not repeat the citation for the award, but I am delighted to announce that we went on to win the national award in the same category. This was announced at Taree on 18 February and, as I write,

arrangements are being made which we hope will see the award being formally presented at our AGM. The award is for a community dedicated to maintaining the quality of its beach and recognises the contribution made by so many, particularly those involved in our Landcare activities which place such emphasis on the beach and its adjacent dunes and public land. Well done everybody.

WATER RESTRICTIONS

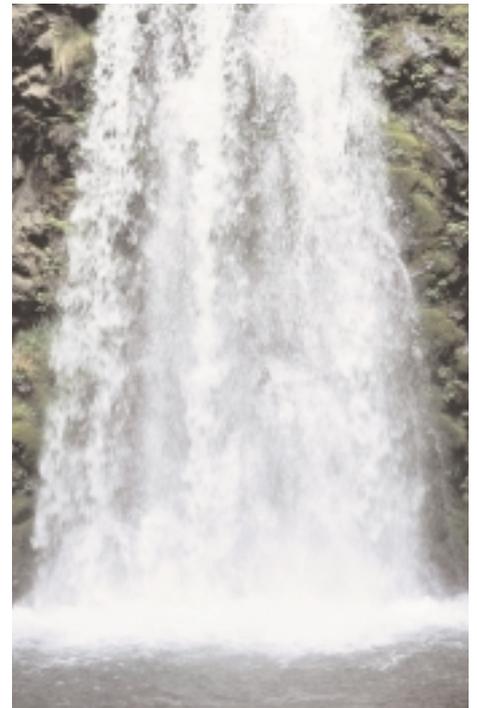
We seem to be back to normal with our rainfall, though, as I have noted in the past, normal is a hazy concept because our falls are rather random. No water restrictions currently apply in the shire, but water conservation measures have been introduced. Sprinklers and micro-watering systems may not be used between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., to avoid watering in the heat of the day. Pathways may not be hosed and cars should be washed on the grass, using a bucket or hose with a trigger nozzle.

DEVELOPERS' NEWS

Batemans Bay Property Services report that they hope work on their Yowani Road site will start in June or July this year.

There have been rumours that Planning NSW wants Marsim to maximise sites by having a standard suburban street grid from north to south. Pete Best of Marsim reports that although this was an initial indication, that Planning NSW has since indicated that changes will be minor in nature and unlikely to change the design philosophy behind their master plan as exhibited.

He also said they are carrying out some additional archaeological work which should be completed by late March when Marsim and council 'will meet again and finalise the design issues and other minor outstanding



issues...we would like to then think that approval for our master plan and development application would finally be forthcoming'.

YOUR COMMITTEE

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, we invite members to join us on the committee. We have vacancies, the duties are light, and you would be contributing to the ongoing wellbeing of this community. Please join us.

PLACE-BASED LOCALITY PLANNING

As reported in the last newsletter, council is seeking to produce a short, concise future character statement for each community in the shire. We recognize this as an important development and have written to council supporting the concept and expressing our willingness to be involved.

CARPARK STAGE 1

The first half of the carpark (coastward of the narrow strip of plants between two rows of posts) is scheduled to be completed this

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2003–04

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

financial year. The present gravel surface will be removed leaving an area for pedestrian access and landscaping—which is where our Rosedale Association and Landcare come in. We have plants waiting to be put in the area which is the present (gravelled) carpark. The new surface will be tar sealed and will drain back into the swale and the grove of casuarinas, so no longer will there be sediment loads washing off the carpark via the stormwater drains into the creek and adding to turbidity.

GREEN CORPS AT ROSEDALE

Once more we are to host a team of about 10 young trainees in a couple of one-week stints. They are operating in the shire between April and September. We will be able to give them experience with planting in different types of ground—in the new carpark landscaping, on the beach dunes and on Banksia Flat—as well as path construction between the new carpark and the dune crossing. Rosedale has, in the last few years, hosted a number of teams of youthful trainees. It is a two-way benefit: we get the work done and they get the training.

Thank you

My thanks to the committee for their work over the year. Thanks also to the team who produce this newsletter—Peggy Bright, Andrew Shillington and his staff (particularly Megan), Paul and Penny Mlakar, and Anton and Barbara Cook—to Anton for maintaining our database and website, to David Mackenzie and Gordon Bray for their untiring Landcare work, and to all of you who contribute to this special community.

Ian Holmes

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

I attended the annual general meeting of the Batemans Bay Neighbourhood Watch this week and found it quite interesting. It was heartening to learn that Rosedale has very little crime compared to areas such as Sunshine Bay, Surf Beach and Malua Bay. Granted our population is so much smaller, but nevertheless it was good to hear.

In the areas where theft is increasing, solar lights and hose reels seem to be popular to take, especially if they are close to the property line and therefore more accessible.

We were told that garden gnomes are very popular, not so much to steal but rather to relocate. Folk have suddenly found a large gnome happily centred on their front lawn.

Thankfully, Rosedale itself has nothing of a criminal nature to report. However, there are a couple of annoying things.

TELL TENANTS ABOUT RUBBISH RULES

We ask residents who rent out their homes to let tenants know that rubbish is collected on Wednesday mornings and that only what is placed in the bin is picked up. Often—especially after holidays—cardboard boxes or plastic bags of rubbish and bottles are left beside bins. These are tempting to dogs, who tear apart the bags and scatter the rubbish. So please be sure to tell your tenants that any rubbish or recycling that doesn't fit in the bin should be taken home or dumped at the tips in Surf Beach or Moruya.

DOGS ON THE BEACH

While on the subject of dogs. The rangers have been around, so all dog owners are reminded to control their dogs and not allow them to roam. Recently three large local dogs arrived unattended at the beach and immediately dropped piles of faeces.

It took quite some effort to get council to allow us to take our dogs unleashed onto areas of the beach. If complaints are made about unattended dogs and faecal matter on the beach we could lose this privilege. Dog owners should carry a plastic bag at all times. It is amazing how much other rubbish can be collected and help to keep our beach clean.

Deirdre Prussak



caring for our ROSEDALE ENVIRONMENT

LANDCARE REPORT

Most of the year's activities have been reported in the three newsletters since the 2003 AGM. Here is a synopsis:

- Five regular working bees were held on the fourth Saturdays of the odd-numbered months. One of these was rained out. There was none in May, due to organisers' other commitments.
- Summer and chance rain brought on maturing weeds so we staged an additional three working bees over the holidays. One of these was rained out too! (This is the first time we can recall that working bees have been washed out—remarkable for a time of drought.)
- Work has concentrated primarily on weeds and we worked mostly in the carpark, on Banksia Flat and Dale Place Reserve. There was some planting, too.
- During autumn–winter we had a team of 10 Green Corps trainees visit us twice for several days each. Among the tasks they performed for us were:
 - put 500 plants and their guards into the beach dunes and Banksia Flat in May
 - in September tended the surviving plants—hard hit by heavy seas in late June and then by drought (they have been water stressed for most of the time since)
 - refilled with sand the ageing board-and-chain dune crossings (from the carpark) and pruned back encroaching vegetation (which has grown back and has had to be redone lately)
 - replaced rusted wires in the fences around the vegetated dune
 - rectified minor safety problems to do with the slope of the holey-belt dune crossing at Banksia Flat.
- An impromptu community force rallied on 28 June to rescue the new beach plantings, mentioned above, hit by heavy seas.
- The annual Easter Weedathon was attended by 31 people who attacked weeds on Banksia Flat. The now famous follow-up sausage sizzle was even better attended and a large pile of bagged weeds was later taken to the tip, attesting to the success of the day.

The Landcare Committee appreciates the strong support it gets, particularly from the regular attendees and those who undertake Landcare tasks in their own time, and we



thank them sincerely. We especially thank the sausage sizzle team for their continuing support and for helping make the weedathon our best community event. It is efforts such as these that have brought us the National Beach Spirit Award. Good work, keep it up!

LANDCARE PROGRESS

BANKSIA FLAT

Our biggest challenge is getting to weeds before they seed and no more so than here. With working bees held every two months, we often get there too late, so if we can manage to hold working bees more frequently we will have a better result. Not all is doom and gloom, there is now good growth of native species following buffalo grass removal in 1999, and a lot of the subsequent plantings have taken well. More plants are needed, especially banksias if we want the name to have relevance!

CLIFF WEEDING

Rosedale has a heritage of weedy cliffs. When garden wastes (including trimmings from view enhancement operations) are disposed of over the cliff, firstly, invasive plants get established and, secondly, the existing plants are smothered so that when the rubbish rots away there is no healthy vegetation left under it, a perfect recipe for weed invasion and smothering of remaining native vegetation. Unfortunately the practice persists to the present day. Cliff weeding is considered too hazardous for community members, and large numbers of people scrambling around on steep slopes would do too much damage. Cliffs therefore often get neglected and forgotten. Started in 1999, cliff weeding has been done by contractors paid for by grant money. While a great deal of progress has been made, there remains much to do and we cannot afford to be much longer without follow-up work. We are looking for ways of getting grants for further contract work.

caring for our ROSEDALE ENVIRONMENT

LANDCARE PROGRESS

CARPARK

The plantings here are doing very well indeed. Bucket watering by James and Suzanne Blogg (living opposite) and others, during water restrictions, has allowed this area to surge ahead in a dry time. The initial planting was deliberately dense to achieve a quick fill-in and already there has had to be some thinning, more will be needed. This project is one of our most successful. It has become a real show piece, it draws good attendances at working bees and demonstrates what can be achieved. It contributed in large part to Rosedale's recent Beach Spirit Award. Hearty thanks to all concerned.

DUNE PLANTINGS

Beach stabilization has been discussed elsewhere in this and in previous issues. We need to continue planting for as long as beach stability can be improved. Inevitably there will be losses to drought, vandalism, heavy seas and unthinking people walking off the designated track. Every footstep on the dunes does some damage to vegetation and this includes damage to microscopic fungal growths in the sand. These help create a better growing environment by stripping nutrients from sand grains which then become available to bigger plants whose roots bind the sand and so on. So we need to designate where people walk and this is best done with dune plants (look at the vegetation just north-east of the cabins). If this does not control foot traffic with the increased beach usage we might expect when developments to the west come on line, the Council or the relevant state department will erect fences across the dunes. Let us avoid that.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Modest results with bridal veil are appearing where we have released the leaf hopper and the rust. One heavy stand has died off completely. It is still early days for these informal trials.

David Mackenzie

ANYONE OUT THERE WITH GREEN THUMBS?

We will soon run out of plants already paid for and I am sure you are all aware by now that we need lots of plants to keep replacing the losses we normally incur. We need possibly between 500 and 1000 plants annually for a number of years until we get on top of present projects. If you would like to help but are unsure what to do, please ring me to talk about it. Plants don't have to be raised in Rosedale, it isn't at all complicated and free advice is available at any time. Even if several people raise only 20 lomandras (they are so easy to grow) it soon adds up to a sizeable contribution. The association can assist with materials if needed.

David Mackenzie
4471 8471 or 6288 6194
david.mackenzie@csiro.au

ADOPT A PATCH

Every time we email a working bee notice we get several apologies coupled with an offer to do something at a time more convenient than that advertised. For those who simply cannot get to our working bees but genuinely want to contribute, we introduce Adopt a Patch. It works a bit like the groups who keep a length of highway clean—call it self-operated working bees if you like. You select a patch, be it on a street or in a reserve—or ask to have one suggested for you—and thereafter you keep it weed free during times that suit you. Mike Freer (Rose Court) has already adopted a patch around his place and at times of his choosing is tackling, among other weeds, aggressive blackberry. Gordon Bray has been doing it for more than 20 years, except his patch is the whole of Rosedale and he could do with a break now. Let's see this habit spread some. Want to know how to go about it? Ring one of us (see page 3 for contact details) on the Landcare Committee and talk it over, it really is so easy and we desperately need your additional effort.

DO YOU HAVE FIRST AID QUALIFICATIONS?

It is essential that each Landcare group have at least one member trained in first aid and we are required to advise Eurobodalla Landcare, our parent body, who among our group have such qualifications. Would Landcarers with such qualifications please let me know who they are? Also, if you wish to be trained in first aid, please let me know as Eurobodalla Landcare may be able to arrange it without charge.

David Mackenzie
4471 8471 or 6288 6194,
david.mackenzie@csiro.au

Rosedale

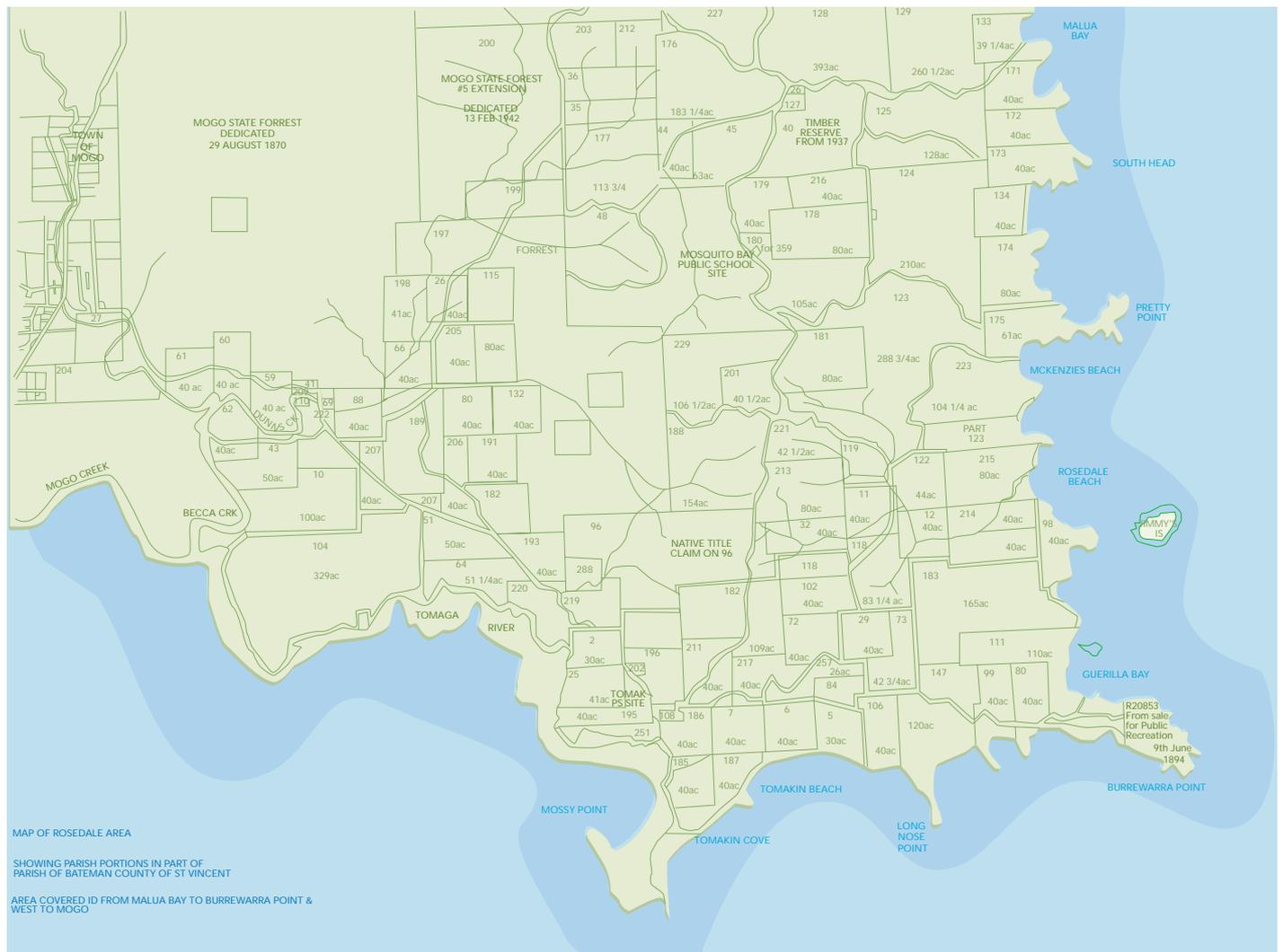
A BRIEF HISTORY PART 2

The following is part 2 of a brief history of Rosedale, written by Ian Harrison some years ago. Part 1 introduced some of the main players in the early settlement of Rosedale, including James and Wilhelmina Louise Thomsen Sebbens, who cleared and developed Rosedale and parts of Burri/Guerilla Bay. They had only one daughter who suffered from some physical debility, possibly Downes Syndrome. Between the late 1870s and 1908, they sold out and moved to western Sydney to take up poultry farming.

Why did Jim and Willi leave such a well-established and prosperous farm that they had carved out of the bush with their bare hands? Jim was still in his prime at 50. Local knowledge does not have a clear explanation but it may be associated with the physical deficiency of their daughter and a desire to give her greater scope for treatment or friends etc.

They left a raft of relatives still farming around the area. Karl and Elizabeth Thomsen were still actively farming the western part of the Rosedale Valley. Adolph and Minnie

Thomsen (nee Sebbens) owned land from Tomakin to Karl's southern boundary and were also adjacent to Rosedale Farm to the west of the Burri section. Bill and Joseph Sebbens and their wives were farming just north of Rosedale with their farm centre near the present Malua Bay shops, and the Allabins were west of them. A cousin, one of the Barlings, was farming the land west of the ridge road and north of Karl's holdings, so there were plenty of local family ties to the area. Apparently there were also siblings and cousins located in the western Sydney area who made the move more attractive.



At the time of the sale the property was consolidated into one title for the first time under freehold with all the conditional purchase areas, which up to that time had not been purchased, being converted.

The buyer was a Herman Nibbe but more of him later.

In this and the last newsletter there a map showing the Malua Bay to Tomakin coastline and all the parish portion numbers.

Perhaps you can envisage where George Bass Drive has been superimposed on this map and where Rosedale Parade, Yowani Road and the other streets go. Rosedale Farm as described to you so far included portions 215, 214, 81, 12, 98, 183 (lease only), 111, 80 and 147.

You can appreciate the size of the catchment for the Rosedale Valley when you see that portions 221, 213, 32, 118, 119, 11, 12, 122, 81, 214 and 215 and parts of 183, 123 and 181 form the catchment.

When I last wrote we had arrived at the point where Jim Sebbens had sold to Herman Nibbe in January 1908. Actually the sale was to two people, John Henry Charles Bartels and Herman Nibbe but as Bartels apparently never came to the district and the title was transferred to Herman Nibbe alone in April 1908 it can be assumed that Bartels was either a silent financial partner or thought better of the deal within a very short time. Nibbe farmed Rosedale for 12 years. He maintained the dairy herd and the quality cheese reputation built up by Sebbens, but also made himself famous in the district by trying sheep. Always in financial difficulty he sold the property to a Sydney financier, Patrick John Fox, in January 1913 and continued to farm the property under leasehold until 1921. Nibbe, although of German descent, was not, so far as I can determine, interned during the 1914–18 war. Local history suggests that he and his wife reared three lovely daughters during his stay at Rosedale, but I have not found any trace of any of them in the area.

Next on the scene was Horace Benjamin O'Neil who purchased the farm from Fox in October 1921. At this time, the farm still comprised the whole area first cut out of the bush by Sebbens, but its productivity was rapidly waning. Unfortunately for the farmers who settled this area the soils are heavy clays based on shale and siltstone with only occasional small pockets of volcanic soils. Once cleared of the big timber which had been drawing sustenance from deep in the ground, the surface soil was thin and quickly depleted. No one understood the

fundamental lack of nutrients, particularly phosphorus, at that time so British farming methods were persisted with despite their regular poor productivity. Some successes were achieved with the introduction of improved grasses such as buffalo and kikuyu but the overall productivity was still not high.

O'Neil is very important to our Rosedale history though as he actively encouraged tourism at Rosedale.

Up to the first World War, travel in the district was virtually restricted to travel by boat or very local and painstakingly slow travel by horse or horse/bullock-drawn vehicles. Roads were very poor and travel to such places as Braidwood or Nowra were slow and problematical undertakings involving weeks of tedium. By the early twenties however roads had been formed and improved due to the pressure generated by the new horseless carriages.

Cars were adopted by those with the necessary funds very early in Australia. The advantages of speed and lower maintenance costs were quickly obvious in this large country. Adolf Thomson, the Tomakin grazier, purchased an International Motor Buggy in 1908 which is still owned by a Batemans Bay family. This vehicle, which had a small two-cylinder petrol motor slung under a standard four-wheel horse buggy driving the rear wheels by cross shaft and outboard exposed chains, was the forerunner of rapid change in the district. By 1920 there were over forty motor cars owned by farmers in the district and evolution of the car had reached the point where all had the features which still persist today in our light trucks, a parallel steel chassis supporting an engine at front driving a differential equipped rear axle through a multi-speed gearbox and with a body attached to provide seating for the passengers and accommodation for the load. The chassis was separated from the front and rear axles by multi-leaf springs adapted from those used in spring carts but the front wheels were now universally swivelling on the ends of the front axle and controlled by 'Ackerman' type steering systems utilising a steering wheel, special gearbox and rods, virtually identical to modern cars and trucks.

This modernisation of transport gave the wealthier members of society the opportunity to travel to places not available by public transport and at considerable distance from home. It introduced the possibility of tourism and this Horace O'Neil was quick to pick up on.

To be continued

NOMINATION FORM

I nominate

for a position on the Rosedale Association Committee.

Nominator:

Secunder:

Name:

Name:

Signed: Signed:

I agree to stand.

Signed:

Send this slip to the Secretary, PO Box 2015, Malua Bay NSW 2536

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP-TO-DATE?

Our Treasurer, Deirdre Prussak is still keen to get all records up-to-date and have all membership subscriptions current. Please check your address label on this newsletter. If it has a red dot, your subscription has run out. Subscriptions support the work of your Rosedale Association, and are only \$10 per person, per year. If you haven't already done so,, send your payment today.

Please note that you cease to be an Association member if you are unfinancial for two years.

Enclosed is my cheque for \$_____being subscription for _____ membership(s) for the 2003 calendar year, at the rate of \$10 per voting member for the persons listed below.

Name(s).....

Postal address (for newsletter)Postcode

Rosedale addressPostcode

Email address

Home phone.....Mobile phoneFax

Rosedale phone

Would you like to be sent Landcare notices? Yes | No

Send this slip and payment to The Rosedale Association, PO Box 2015, Malua Bay NSW 2536