

THE Rosedale ASSOCIATION INC



Newsletter Issue 126 December 2018



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2018 AGM SUMMARY

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR MARGOT MARSHALL

It's been a busy – and very dry - year! In the wake of the disastrous Tathra bushfire, we've worked closely with the Rural Fire Service to alert homeowners to Rosedale's fire vulnerability. Be sure to see page 3 for an update and page 7 for a summary of advice from Inspector John Cullen on "stay or go".

We've also presented Council with our views on the new dog rules (a success -see page 4), the Rural Land Strategy (it remains a shire-wide issue) and very persistently on walking track and beach access (page 2).

The AGM suggested we honour Gordon Bray – founder of the Association and long-term defender of Rosedale. What

should we do? We've had only one response to a call for ideas – please send any suggestions to the Committee.

Thanks to Roz-Clarke Walker, Mal Dwight and Fran Stewart for great images, to Rob de Jong and John Lingard for their stories - it's wonderful to get your contributions – and to Christie Cooper for great layout.

And finally, our deepfelt thanks to Annie Shillington for all the work and design flair she has put into this newsletter over the years. Hopefully she'll still be on hand to help again if we need her!

Happy Christmas!



ROSEDALE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Contact:
committee@rosedale.org.au

President: David Boardman
Secretary: Vicki Smith
Treasurer: Noel Egan

Members:

Tim Brown
Melissa Gribble
Daniel Long
Kate McInerney
Margot Marshall
Dugald Stewart
Peter Ward

Please pass this newsletter on to your friends and neighbours – the more ratepayers we represent, the more effective we can be.

Application form is at
<http://www.rosedale.org.au/membership.html>

It's only \$10 a year.



rosedale in april

Top: Kids have a ball at the Easter Sausage Sizzle; **Left:** A huge thanks to Sahara, Margot and Bonnie, who made \$78 from their cake stall in Knowlman Road and donated it to the Rosedale Association. What a great show of support from our Rosedale youngsters!

Above: Balmy beach weather

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE DAVID BOARDMAN

Walking tracks, and funding them, are an ongoing challenge for us. We've been pressing Council on Nuns Beach access and the Yowani track and stairs, including doing 'walk arounds' with the Mayor and Council staff. They're both High Priority projects for Council but need some external funding. We expect to receive a costing for the Nuns Beach project before Christmas. With the Yowani project, the Recreational Fishing Trust approved a grant contribution of \$10,000 but Council had made an administrative error, which meant the grant had to be declined and a fresh application lodged. Council says they can match a community contribution up to \$12,500 for the Yowani project. We think we can raise this amount from current funds (amount to be put to a members vote) and raise the balance through fundraising. We also sought project support and funding advice from the office of our local state member, Hon. Andrew Constance MP, and are pursuing additional funding options for both projects. We asked Council to upgrade the landing at the bottom of the Cooks Crescent track and this should be done by Christmas. They'll also install an educational rip sign on the walkway from the carpark to the beach.

Our Committee lodged two submissions, and had numerous communications with Council, regarding proposed changes to dog access rules for Rosedale

(see page 4). We also lodged another [submission](#) on Council's draft Rural Land Strategy. Despite significant and ongoing lobbying (from within the Shire and beyond), Council approved their draft Strategy. It will now go to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment for assessment and approval by their Minister. The Minister says the Strategy will be carefully reviewed and is aware of the level of community debate and concern about some aspects of it. We have copied our submission to the Minister, and to Andrew Constance MP, to ensure Association views are considered. If approved, the Rural Land Strategy will mean new zoning classifications for Tranquil Bay and Mackenzie's Beach and changes to land uses in Rosedale's E4 (Environmental Living) zone.

I represented the Association at a celebration at Fiona Lodge, marking 15 years of it providing a place for families of very ill children to relax and spend time together. It's part of the Ronald McDonald Family Retreat Program. I was amazed at the enormous support and generosity of local businesses to make sure families have a great stay here at Rosedale. I caught up with the Mayor and was moved to read the guest testimonials - a real insight into how Fiona Lodge is making a difference to these families and providing enduring memories.



Rosedale is a High Risk bushfire area. If we had any doubts about our vulnerability, they were dispelled by the Tathra fire in March, which burned thousands of hectares and destroyed more than 60 homes.

This year Kelwyn White of the RFS has held a series of fascinating information sessions (including a very popular one at the Easter AGM). On display were Bushfire Survival Maps – there is **no ‘Be Aware’ zone** and **no ‘Safer Place’** within Rosedale. The designated Neighbourhood Safer Places for our community are the Surf Club area at Malua Bay and Jack Buckley Park in Tomakin.

The RFS is continually updating the Rosedale Fire Mitigation Plan- on display in the main carpark. They’re also collaborating with us to map our static water supplies, such as pools and grey water, to help in firefighting if electricity and mains water pressure fails.

AUGUST WORKSHOP

Over 30 members of the Rosedale community attended a half-day RFS workshop.

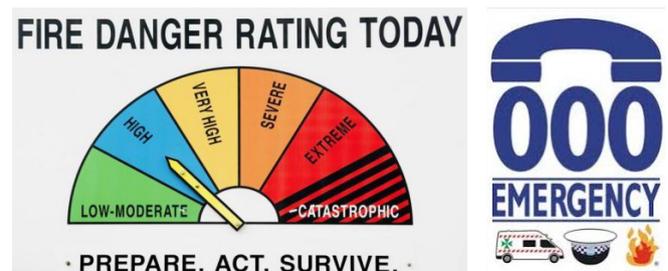
With Tathra fresh in our minds, we considered vital issues such as bushfire behaviour and firefighting techniques, how to prepare and protect our properties, and household bushfire plans.

The workshop reminded us that it is the landowner’s responsibility to manage our property. It highlighted the risks associated with properties that are not bushfire ready, which can also undermine the defence of adjoining properties.

A survey investigated our understanding and willingness to act on fire mitigation suggestions. See the graph on [our website](#).

The survey responses are interesting: everyone believes that people and property are at risk of fire in Rosedale but just over half of us currently have a bushfire protection plan. After the workshop we saw the need to formulate a plan and take extra steps to prepare our homes and surrounding area for fire.

Particular thanks to the many RFS volunteers who attended, especially Kelwyn White and Jane Mansergh, who fielded a wide variety of questions from participants. Thanks also to the Lingards and Stewarts for making their properties available for workshop assessment, which illustrated what we need to do to prepare our properties.



KNOW YOUR RISK AND BE PREPARED

(See the [RFS website](#).)

• **Make a plan and talk about it**

Make sure your family knows about bushfires and bushfire safety so they will be able to make the safest choices. The Bush Fire Household Assessment tool will help you make an informed decision regarding your ‘Leave Early or Stay and Defend’ choice for this fire season.

• **Prepare your home**

Embers can travel many kilometres ahead of a fire, so even if you are not directly threatened, you may be impacted by embers. Preparing your home can reduce the risk of embers starting spot fires around your property. For tips on what you can do, download the Bush Fire and Your Home fact sheet.

• **Keep yourself informed on days of increased fire danger.**

Pay attention to your local radio and TV stations and monitor the RFS website and social media pages on hot, dry, windy days. This will help you plan your day and make sure you avoid areas where there is an increased risk of a bush fire.

DOGS ON THE BEACH

If you attended the Easter AGM, you would have realized how incensed Rosedale dog owners were at Council's proposal to ban dogs from a section of the beach.

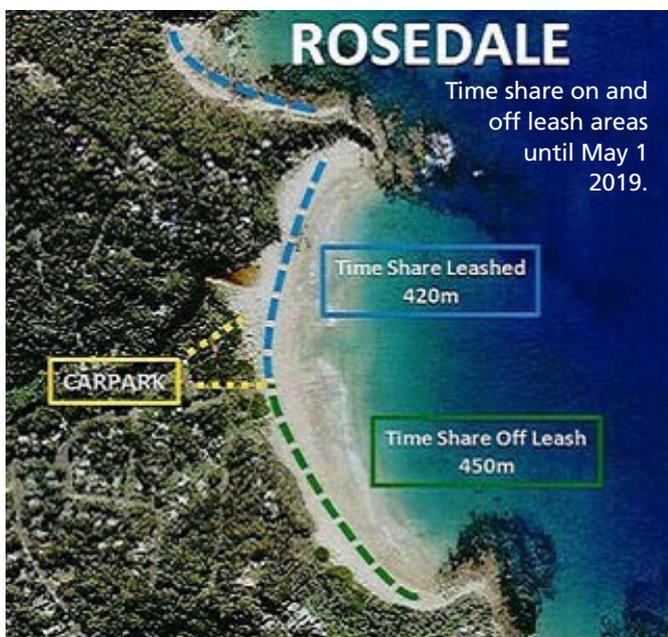
We emailed Association members seeking feedback – all argued that a blanket prohibition stopped residents exercising their dogs the full length of Rosedale Beach, when at many times of the year they are the *only* people using the beach.

Our new committee member Kate McInerney presented our submission to a Council meeting in October, along with several Rosedale residents.

The personal appeal was successful – Council agreed to lift the blanket ban, and from May 1 the same timeshare/on or off leash rules will apply for the entire length of Rosedale Beach, including Boatshed. There'll be new signage, and more patrols promised.

In the meantime, please let your tenants, friends and family know that these rules apply over Christmas:

- Dogs are not allowed on Rosedale Beach between 9 am and 5 pm.
- Before 9 am and after 5 pm, you can walk your dog on a leash from the carpark north to the end of Boatshed Beach, around the rocks and on North Rosedale Beach.
- Before 9 am and after 5 pm, you can exercise your dog off leash from the carpark south to the headland.
- Dogs must remain leashed until you get to the designated on or off leash exercise area.
- Animals must always be under the care and control of a competent person.
- Beaches without signage (such as Nuns Beach and Tranquil Bay) can be accessed but dogs must be leashed at all times.



FRUIT FLY AT ROSEDALE ROB DE JONG

We have retired at Rosedale with one of our hobbies being an organic veggie garden with an orchard. Over Christmas you may see our sign at the corner of Tranquil Bay Place with excess veggies for sale.

Last summer the peach trees started producing fruit after four years of nurturing. With great anticipation we threw the nets over to protect them from the eager birds. As they started to ripen we noticed little black dots appearing on the skin. With closer inspection we realised that all the fruit had been penetrated by the fruit fly.

Yuk !!! Straight into action. We picked all the fruit, put it into black plastic garbage bags, left the bags in the hot summer sun for a week and then properly disposed of them.

This year we've purchased fruit fly nets to put over the trees as well as installing Eco Lure traps.

We've informed our neighbours who've also taken preventative measures.

To rid Rosedale of fruit fly will need a concerted effort from all residences – all the more concerted as Rosedale is predominantly a holiday place.

Information is available at www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/plant/fruit-flies and <http://www.fightthefruitfly.org/information.html>



BE SAFE IN THE WATER

Rosedale beaches are not patrolled and every year visitors get in trouble in the water – a reminder of what to do to help.

- First, ring 000 and ask for the Batemans Bay police, for the fastest possible response.
- Learn how to identify a Rosedale rip and how to swim out of it. There are two good videos [here](#).
- Learn how to use the defibrillator, located behind the cabins – you could save a life.
- And note where the Angel rings are located - one on Boatshed Beach and one on Main Beach.

BASIC RESCUE SKILLS AND HOW TO USE THE DEFIBRILLATOR.

... WHEN: 10.30 am,
Thursday 3 January 2019

WHERE: Main beach in
front of the Cabins

Visitors and kids all
welcome – encourage
anyone you know to attend
to keep safe in the water.



A WHALE OF A TIME PETER WARD

These fantastic pictures by Mal Dwight captured a female humpback whale and her calf bonding in South Rosedale waters this winter – an earlier than usual calving.

You can often see humpbacks off Rosedale during their northern migration in May or June, and again in September–October as they return to the Antarctic. Look for them swimming, dark back regularly appearing on the surface, occasionally blowing water from their twin spouts before taking a fresh breath. Or poking their heads out of the water, wagging their massive tails, or slapping their flukes and exceptionally long flippers. You may catch them breaching - powering up from the depths and launching out of the water with a huge splash.

Since the ban on commercial humpback whaling in the 1960s, numbers have slowly increased to almost half the pre-whaling level. The eastern Australia migration now involves about 4,000 adults.

It's a 5,000 km journey from the Antarctic feeding grounds to the calving grounds of the southern Great Barrier Reef – about two months migrating north and longer to return. Female humpbacks travel singly or in small herds, calve in reef waters and then suckle their calf on the return journey.

At birth, the calves are the size of a family sedan: 3–5 m and over 500 kg! Humpbacks may live for

We're lucky to have several qualified lifesavers in our community, and they're happy to share their knowledge.

Tim Brown, Amber Brown (Bell), Al Baxter and Jen Baxter (Crisp) all hold Bronze Medallions and patrol at Bronte Surf Club, and Tim's son Will is a cadet there.

Following his popular safety session on the beach in April, Tim has volunteered to hold another session after Christmas.



Tim Brown demonstrates CPR on his son

80 years, growing to 17 m and over 40 tonnes. At the size of a B-double truck, adult humpbacks present a danger to yachts and other boats.

The humpback doesn't actually have a hump on its back – it's named for the way it hunches its back before making a deep dive.

Humpbacks are 'baleen' whales, with long hairy plates hanging from their upper jaw to strain food from the water. They feed on schools of small fish and 'krill' – tiny crustaceans, that drift in the upper layers of the ocean and are particularly plentiful in Antarctic waters during summer. Humpbacks rely on their fat reserves ('blubber') during migration.

While humpbacks are the main whale species off Rosedale, you may occasionally see southern right, pilot, minke and killer whales.



Facebook: Wet and Windy Photos

RAINFALL IN ROSEDALE JOHN LINGARD

Believe it or not, rainfall happens!

This year with all NSW declared in drought, by the end of September Rosedale had only 566 mm, with a wet January and February and a dry July and August. September had 17 consecutive days without rain.

I started recording rainfall in 1997 when Ian Holmes gave me statistics commencing in 1970. I have combined these records and tried to draw some conclusions.

Annual		
Average (1970 – 2004)	35 years:	1074 mm
Average (1970 – 2017)	48 years:	1032 mm
Average (2005 – 2017)	23 years:	1004 mm
Conclusion: Average annual rainfall in Rosedale has lessened over 48 years – global warming?		



Hail the Hail – Rosedale rarely experiences hail, but there was a freak deposit a few years ago that covered everything, including the beach sand, to a depth of 4 cm and took more than a day to melt.

Flooding – on one occasion the bridge over Salt Water Creek at George Bass Drive had water over it after days of heavy rain. The level, measured at the pedestrian bridge, reached 1.9 m above sea level as the swollen creek tumbled to the sea.

Monthly Distribution (1970 – 2017)			
Month	Minimum	Maximum	Average
January	9	386	101
February	0	573	120
March	10	476	118
April	0	449	113
May	4	295	85
June	3	455	101
July	4	275	51
August	0	319	51
September	3	248	66
October	4	412	91
November	9	789	103
December	10	223	73
Average	5	409	1032
Conclusion: Every month may have very low rainfall (0 – 10 mm) or high rainfall (223 – 789 mm). Overall the wettest months are February, March and April; the driest months are July, August and September.			

Thanks to Jane Enright for organising a great planting effort at Easter – *families and kids had a great time* doing more work to stabilise the dunes.





To read the full AGM minutes click [HERE](#) or go to www.rosedale.org.au and click on documents. Here's a summary of the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Boardman advised that Council had now listed the Yowani Road and Nuns Beach access tracks as High Priority. External funding was needed and Council had applied for a Recreational Fishing grant for Yowani Road. He noted also that Council had promised community consultation before construction of the local park mooted in the Recreation and Open Space Strategy and that there was to be an updated Master Plan and integrated Road Master Plan for the Marsim development and Rosedale Farm, considering the impact on Rosedale roads and traffic. Pedestrian warning signs had been installed on Rosedale Parade after a traffic survey found 15 per cent of vehicles speeding. Council did not think engineering calming devices were warranted as the eventual roundabout would slow entry speeds. Council will consider ways to improve visibility at the Miller Avenue blind corner and repaint the lines. Re sewerage: Council advises everyone to turn their water off when they're absent from Rosedale but not to turn power off to their pump. Finally David asked members to help build membership numbers, so the Association represents a higher proportion of ratepayers.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Presented by Noel Egan and accepted.

FIRE REPORT

An extremely popular and useful address by RFS representatives, Superintendent John Cullen (Manager, NSW RFS Far South Coast) and Inspector Kelwyn White (Community Protection Planning & Neighbourhood Safer Place Officer, NSW RFS Batemans Bay).

Kelwyn White presented Bushfire Survival Maps for Rosedale, Bushfire Preparation Maps and advised of the half day Property Protection Workshops. Kelwyn asked members to fill out survey forms passed around. John Cullen reminded us of the RFS AIDER program which helps owners manage their properties if they are not physically able to do so.

TATHRA

Inspector Cullen briefed us on the Tathra fires, noting that power lines had started the fire 5 kms from Tathra and it was over in two hours, with homes lit indiscriminately. He urged us to talk to our families now and know what we will do – plan for no phone contact, ember attack, smoke, radiant heat, flame impact and power lines or trees down across roads blocking exits. John urged us to get out early, if that is our plan, and to have a Plan B. He encouraged us to seek RFS advice to manage our properties, noting some requirements might change as a result of inquiries into the Tathra fires.

In response to additional questions, Superintendent Cullen said it was difficult to advise people to stay or go, as they need to be physically (and emotionally) able to stay and defend their property, and their house needs to be prepared. He noted that many older homes were lost in Tathra - old timber decks, leaves on roofs and decks, and exposed storage areas under homes allowed the fire to get in. He reminded us that there was no Neighbourhood Safer Place in Rosedale, that it would be difficult for fire trucks to get in and that the beach would be a last resort. A vote of thanks to the RFS representatives was greeted with a round of applause and the motion to donate \$500 to the Malua Bay RFS approved.

LANDCARE

Jane Enright delivered the Landcare Report on behalf of Daniel Long.

Beach sand dunes, car park, Saltwater Creek, Banksia Flats, beachfront slopes, sewerage pump station, Dale Place reserve, beach access paths/ stairs and vacant blocks of land are priorities. Jane asked members to remove Cassias from their gardens.

BEACH SAFETY

Vicki Smith explained where the defibrillator, first aid kit and rescue tube were located, thanking the Gassons for allowing the items to be stored at the log cabins. SMART Pads would be replaced in May. Council would look at installing more obvious signage to alert people to rips as they entered the beach from the carpark. The meeting approved a donation of \$500 to the BBSLSC.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The meeting thanked outgoing Committee member Robin Oldham, noting his significant contribution particularly on governance and legal issues. New nominee Kate McInerney was introduced to replace Robin. As the number of nominations equalled the number of places available, a ballot was not necessary.

OTHER BUSINESS

On Council's proposed changes to dog rules on Rosedale Beach, members were encouraged to email Council or complete the survey on Council's website, but also voted that the Committee should follow up the issue up with Council. The Committee would also ask Council to review carpark signage, and send a letter thanking the owners of The Retreat for allowing continued beach access through their property. The Committee was also asked to consider doing something in honour of Gordon Bray, with David inviting suggestions.

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