

THE Rosedale ASSOCIATION INC



Newsletter Issue 130 December 2020



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR MARGOT MARSHALL

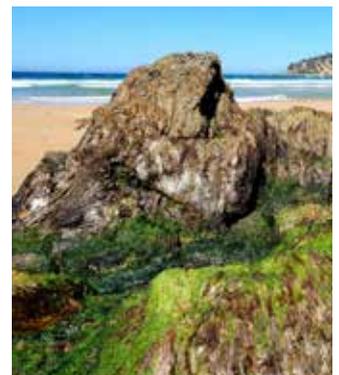
What an unbelievable year – drought, our devastating bushfire, COVID-19, wild winter weather with huge winds and seas. But Rosedale's recovery continues, vegetation (including weeds!) thriving after the winter rain and a steady stream of people getting ready to rebuild.

As you can see from images in this newsletter, Rosedale is different, but ever beautiful.

It's been suggested to us that we have some sort of memorial to the New Year's Eve fire, a reminder to stay alert and prepared and a thanks to all those who helped us survive it. Rather than another sign, we thought a sculpture near the footbridge linking North and South Rosedale. What do you all think? Do you know any local sculptors who might be interested? Please email committee@rosedale.org.au with your suggestions. We'd welcome proposals from sculptors.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter – especially Roz Clarke-Walker, Fran Stewart and Lyn Stadtmiller for great photos.

Here's to a wonderful summer enjoying smoke free air and cherishing the bush and the beach.



ROSEDALE
ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE

committee@
rosedale.org.au

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David Boardman

Secretary
Vicki Smith

Treasurer
Noel Egan

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



Rosedale is rebuilding. Many in the community are busy designing new homes, lodging their development applications and grappling with BAL ratings.

It is an important time to reflect on Rosedale's character and what it is that makes this place so special. Rosedale is zoned E4 – environmental living. The bush setting is important as are the green belts to the north and south. The fires have destroyed much and we question the balance between bush and asset protection. We love the way Rosedale was. The challenge is to rebuild it while maintaining its character and achieving a higher level of bushfire protection.

Architect Catherine Townsend and students from the University of Technology Sydney have been giving us new ideas for building a more fire resilient Rosedale. In last month's webinar architects Thomas Caddaye and Rob Henry talked about their design of very different beach houses, both a wonderful fit for

Rosedale. If you missed it, it's well worth listening to their insights.

You can find the recording on Rosedale Renew, Rebuild, Restore or [click here](#). We recently met again with UTS and they're now developing a website for their Rosedale projects. We'll share a link with you once it's completed.

Eurobodalla council and the NSW government are also doing their part. The footbridge connecting North and South Rosedale has been rebuilt. I had the opportunity to meet the Mayor Liz Innes and member for Bega Andrew Constance at the bridge opening. Both are well aware of the challenges Rosedale is facing.

Thanks to Council, the Yowani Road steps - just finished before the fire - have been rebuilt. Nuns Beach access will be improved in February with stairs from the viewing platform. We're also looking at ways to reach the stairs from Cooks Crescent.

The generosity of so many people is helping us rebuild. Donations to the Association and GoFundMe, the work of locals and groups as far away as Sydney to boost our wildlife, a fantastic effort by Michael Skipper researching fire equipment – the list goes on. As much as we hope we never face a fire like New Year's Eve 2019, we will be better prepared.

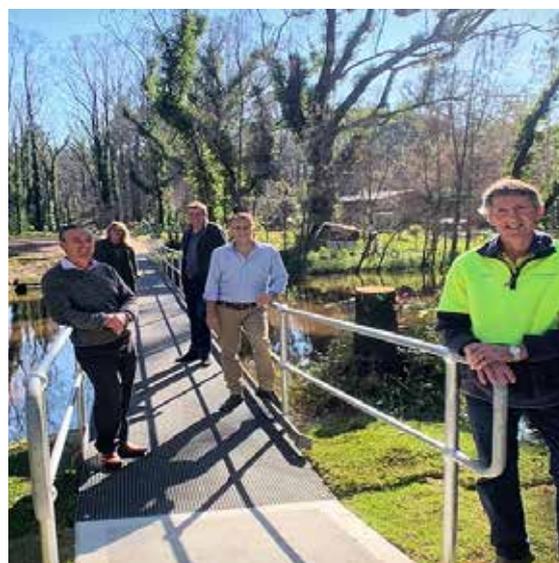
So it's been a year of great community effort. The contrast from 12 months ago couldn't be greater: after a wet spring, the landscape is green and the creek has been well flushed. Looking forward to summer and enjoying the beach!

Please pass this newsletter on to your friends and neighbours – now's the time for everyone to join to help us rebuild the Rosedale we love.

See membership application [here](#). It's only \$10 a year.



Thanks to Bronte Surf Club who donated the rescue tube



INVESTING IN FIRE EQUIPMENT MICHAEL SKIPPER



Water tank in Rose Court

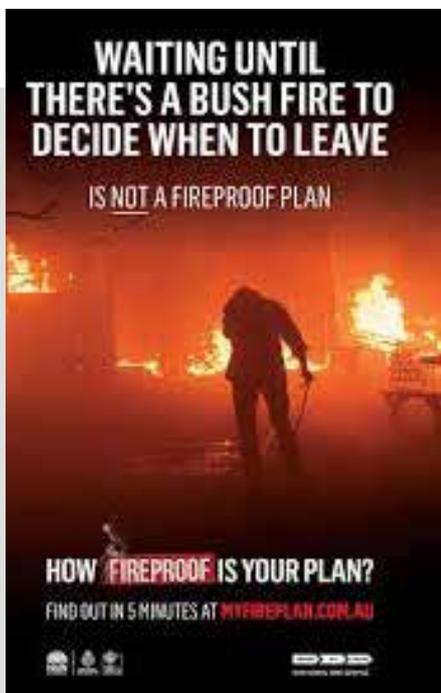
I hope never again to see a fire like the one that ripped through us on New Year's Eve. While the immediate bushfire threat has diminished, I remain concerned about areas to our south, with high fuel loads between us and Guerilla Bay and Tomakin. But we are better prepared this year.

You may have already noticed several IBC 1000 litre tanks of water strategically placed around North and South Rosedale. These tanks will ensure we have water available if our mains supply fails in a fire. We'll be setting out the tanks around October each year and returning them to storage in March or April. We've also invested in a number of firefighting pumps, fire reels and tanks that can be fitted on utes and trailers so that we can quickly get to fires and provide mop-up assistance to the local RFS brigades.

Our equipment will be housed in a shipping container at the end of Tranquil Bay Place and we'll be running and testing it several times a year. Malua Bay RFS will hold training exercises for the designated volunteers (dubbed the 'Rosedale Rovers') so that we can respond efficiently and safely to any fire threat.

So we are well on the way to giving our community some level of comfort knowing that there is firefighting equipment ready and able to be used.

Meanwhile we need to be vigilant, keep fire fuel levels low on our properties, update our Bushfire Plans and make sure they're well understood by our family and guests. Let's all be better prepared.



WILDLIFE RECOVERY VICKI SMITH



Bill Legge at work

Nikki Wallace felt helpless in the aftermath of the New Year's Eve bushfire and terribly sad about the loss of habitat and wildlife across Rosedale. She wanted to do something – and various men's sheds and community groups in Sydney were happy to help. Between them they made 110 wildlife nesting boxes to help us attract displaced wildlife back again. Bill Legge got to work adding 'ladders' to the boxes, the Wards, Stewarts and I helped him with the painting and Daniel Long (Rosedale Landcare) helped us all organise a highly successful

Wildlife Recovery Day in July. By the end of the day, 98 nesting boxes had been distributed around Rosedale! Additional boxes have been allocated since then and there are a few more on the way. If you missed out and would like a nesting box for your property, please email: nikki.rosedalenestingboxes@gmail.com



Nikki, Vicki and Daniel

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

NSW MENTAL HEALTH LINE:

1800 011 511



RENEWAL IN NORTH ROSEDALE MARGOT MARSHALL



After the loss of 70 homes, it has been great to see North Rosedale cleared of debris and coming alive again. Unfortunately many fire damaged trees will inevitably need removal – heavy winds frighten us all and we watch razed blocks being eroded in heavy rains.

Some vacant blocks have found new owners – at the corner of Rose Court I found Joe, a carpenter, preparing his block for a caravan, in which he'll live when building his own house next year.

Gerry and Jane Crisp were among the first to put a caravan on their property in Yowani Road. The pizza oven which survived the fire has been moved, the power is on at the block, and the DA for their new home was approved in six weeks! They were relieved to be assessed by Council at BAL 29 – a huge saving in building on the bushfire resilient house designed for them by Thomas Caddaye (designer of the bushfire-proof house in Dale Place).

Among the temporary caravans dotted around is Kim and Hayley Moeller's, nestled in the trees overlooking Saltwater Creek.

For us in North Rosedale, the burgeoning caravans are a sign of hope.

BOATSHED BEACH

The huge winter seas have badly eroded Boatshed Beach – there's now a sand cliff in front of the newly restored boatsheds and it's a long walk or a climb to get up to them.



MY ROSEDALE IAN HARRISON



This is an edited excerpt from a piece we'll publish on our website.

Creek and dunes 1960s

I was a long time attender at Rosedale from 1945 (aged 8) to 2004. As a young man I spent six years trying to suck milk out of cows at Rosedale, where we named our place Bevia Park (an overly grandiose name for a small and scruffy dairy farm). While there, I learned that the whole district suffered a similar fire in 1939, with tales of folk bucketing water over their canvas-topped cars - parked in the water on the beach to stop the cars catching fire. Virtually every post and rail fence erected by earlier settlers was burned out and that meant that I spent far too much time building fences.

I also remember sitting on the end of our little beach house veranda and shooting rabbits that were hopping about in what became Emery's place. The rabbits kept all that buffalo neatly trimmed so there was no mowing. The sand dunes extended right across to the North side with the creek becoming a lovely clean lagoon just in front of our houses.

The creek did not break out until the very wet year 1952.

The first boatshed was built by a Mr Smidmore in the late 1950s (not the 1930s as the Association website says). Smidmore built a very nice retirement home at the top of Knowlman Road and bought four or five blocks along the southern side of Knowlman Ave from the new Miller subdivision. There were no boatsheds on any of Rosedale's beaches prior to his gable-roofed flash one being built and he obviously did not bother to get anyone's permission before building it. It turned out much later that it was partly on McKenzie's/Palfreyman's land. It was fitted out with a petrol-powered winch and Smidmore had light rails he could lay out on the sand to expedite the launching and retrieval - all unaided - of his internally-engined clinker boat. Smidmore's home was sold to the Ursuline Nuns from Canberra who rebuilt it in block after the original timber home was destroyed by fire.

MEMORIES

HEATHER MCGREGOR

There were a few burned posts left standing along our north boundary in Yowani Road and I became very attached to them. We need a fence as we have a dog so when a new fence was to happen I found I wanted to keep the old, burnt posts. I decided to ask my brother-in-law Nick Hopkins to turn them into a sculpture. He is a prize-winning local sculptor, who tragically lost his home in Malua Bay, along with his works of art and tools. He installed



the finished product and I just love it. It is my statement of hope, a symbol to record memories and a reminder not to take anything I cherish for granted.

WE WANT CLIMATE ACTION



A North Rosedale burned tinny has been acquired by the National Museum of Australia for its historic collection. It's Jack Egan's dinghy dragged from the ashes of his Dale Place home and painted with the sign 'WE WANT CLIMATE ACTION'.

Late last month, members of Bushfire Survivors for Climate

Action farewelled the tinny at a protest event in Dale Place.

The melted dinghy will form part of a collection documenting the horrific 2019-20 bushfire season for future generations. It's expected to be part of an exhibition next year on the bushfire crisis and the COVID pandemic.

RESTORING OUR SAND DUNES

KATY HAMILTON

The New Year's Eve fires and huge seas in July have played havoc with our sand dunes and their restoration is now a priority for the Rosedale Association committee.

First step was an onsite meeting last month to assess the dunes. Council's Paul Martin (Invasive Weeds and Pests) and Emma Platyus (Landcare coordinator) joined David Boardman and me to look at what plants are regenerating and consider what needs to be done now.

Emma and Paul were pleased at the variety of vegetation regenerating. Seeds that naturally germinate will be the most resilient, so they suggest we "wait and see" before deciding if we need to do any extra planting. As for the sad remaining blackened shrubs and trees, they say they are important to the dune ecosystem as bird, insect, reptile and fungi habitat.

In the immediate future, Council will control the invasive plants - and ever active rabbits! - and Emma will organise photographic monitoring of some areas of the dunes to help decide future jobs. Their work will have a better result if we help by monitoring the invaders and doing follow up work. We'll be developing a plan - if you are interested in being involved, please email: committee@rosedale.org.au



David, Emma and Paul



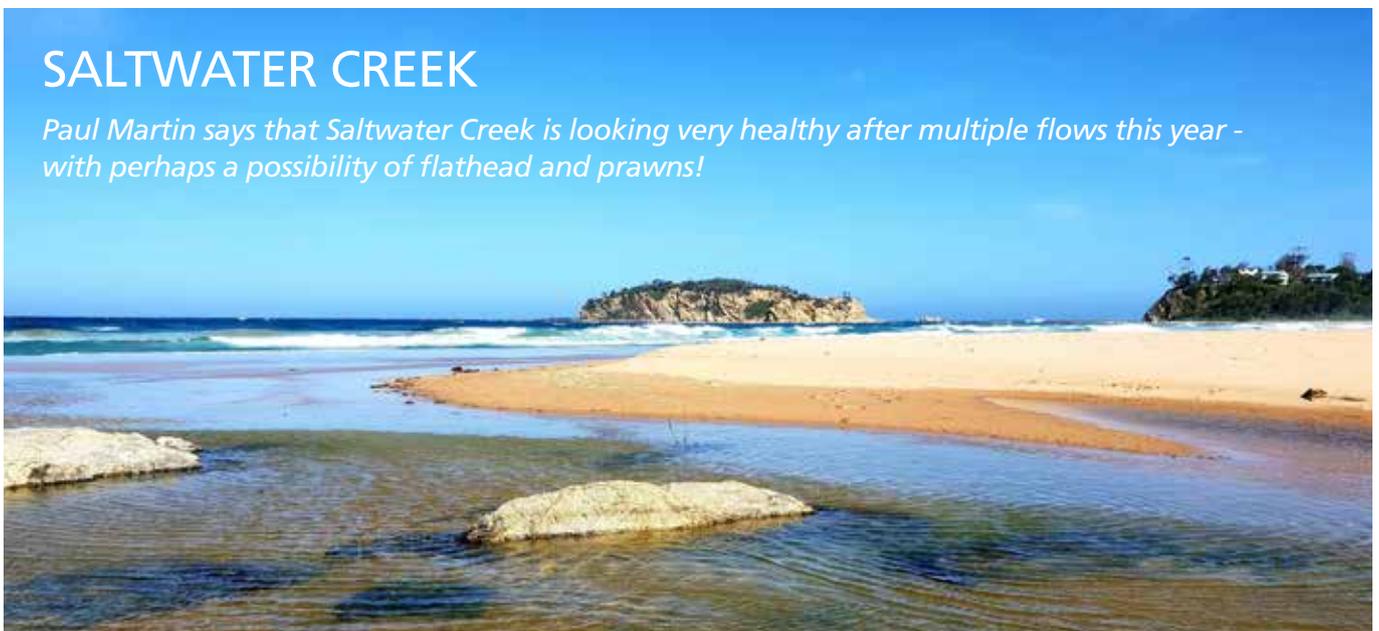
Rabbit burrow



Pretty but invasive, beach gladioli (*Gladiolus gueinzii*) is a weed in our dunes and easy to spot in flower (late spring - early summer). It propagates by winged seeds and corms that multiply below the plant. These corms can be removed by digging them out and sifting the sand.

SALTWATER CREEK

Paul Martin says that Saltwater Creek is looking very healthy after multiple flows this year - with perhaps a possibility of flathead and prawns!



BUSHFIRE WEEDS

There are so many new weeds in our gardens – growing madly. But what is a weed and what’s a new plant to save? Council’s Paul Martin has put together a fantastic video to identify bushfire weeds.

[Click here](#)



Swamp Lily



Derwentia



Elaeocarpus

PLANTING AFTER BUSHFIRE

Noel Egan was keen to discover the best native species to plant after the fires. While no plant is fireproof – everything will burn if the fire is hot enough – he has come up with the useful list below.

The natives are recommended by the Australian Plants Society (Victoria), with the caveat: *These plants have been found to provide some degree of protection during bushfires.* Noel and Council’s Emma Platyus have culled the Victorian list to include only plants thought suitable and readily available for Rosedale. We’ll have an extended list at the AGM.

Fire resistant plants that will not burn in the face of continued flame	Fire retardant plants that will not burn in the first wave of a bushfire but may burn once dried out
Coastal saltbush, <i>Atriplex cinerea</i> . Up to 1.8m.	White sallow wattle, <i>Acacia floribunda</i> . 2-8m.
Bluish pigface, <i>Carpobrotus glaucescens</i> . Groundcover.	Blueberry ash, <i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i> . 3-5m. Good for screening.
<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i> . Groundcover.	Derwent speedwell, <i>Derwentia derwentiana</i> . 50-150cm.
Seaberry saltbush, <i>Rhagodia candolleana</i> . 0.1-1.0m.	Black anther flax lily, <i>Dianella revoluta</i> . To 1.0m.
Dune fan flower, <i>Scaevola aemula</i> . Ground cover, 40cm. Blue flower (also purple and white forms).	Kidney weed, <i>Dichondra repens</i> . Groundcover.
	Native violet, <i>Viola hederacea</i> . Perennial herb groundcover.
	Swamp lily, <i>Crinum pendunculatum</i> .

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