

THE Rosedale ASSOCIATION INC



Newsletter Issue 140 December 2025



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR BRONWEN GWYNN-JONES

Six years ago, after the loss of so many Rosedale homes and so much of our bushland in the new year fires, it was hard to imagine the landscape ever recovering. The devastation felt absolute. Yet nature's resilience is extraordinary, and watching the regeneration of the beautiful bush has brought both joy and renewed faith.

Before our own home was rebuilt, the beach was where I went to feel grounded — a reminder of enduring beauty and constancy, even as the bushland behind it struggled. That sense of natural regeneration runs through this edition.

Over the past year we've seen unsettled weather reshape our pocket of coastline, and the beach has responded with an ever-changing face. On Page 4, you'll find photos

capturing these seasonal shifts.

We've also shared the beach with some remarkable visitors: the extraordinary winter show of Southern Right Whales (beautifully captured by Kim and Hayley Moeller), a friendly seal in autumn, and a resident echidna in spring.

Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, the dunes and surrounding landscape are also showing wonderful signs of weed eradication and recovery — catch up on their progress on Page 5. More volunteers are always welcome on the second Saturday of each month.

Please don't miss Michael Skipper's essential fire preparedness update on Page 3.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas.



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

Margot Marshall

Annie Nadin

Michael Skipper

Peter Ward

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

JOIN OUR COMMITTEE!

Please think about joining the committee – we need new energy and some of us would welcome a break!

Form is [here](#).

Please send your application form to executive@rosedale.org.au



PRESIDENT'S REPORT DAVID BOARDMAN

As Christmas approaches, we are reminded of the 2019 New Year's Eve fires. Along with the houses much of the vegetation was destroyed, changing the bushland character of Rosedale.

The major rebuilding program is coming to an end, and homeowners are turning their attention towards landscaping, which is critical in achieving the desired character and re-establishing the natural environment.

Rosedale has beautiful beaches and rocky shores, Jimmies Island and surrounding rocky reefs support a diverse array of fish, invertebrates and algae. Snorkeling, diving and fishing are important parts of a Rosedale Holiday.

It is now 20 years since the establishment of Batemans Bay Marine Park. Rosedale is split into two zones. Habitat Protection Zone for areas north of Jimmies Island, and south of Jimmies Island is a Sanctuary Zone. (Map above)

Marine Park protection areas are now a widespread conservation tool. There is extensive evidence that no-take Sanctuary Zones increase the abundance of size and biodiversity, and enhance the ecosystem.

I have seen the improvement of fishing in Rosedale Habitat Zones and, to a certain extent, the return of over-exploited species such as abalone and crayfish in Sanctuary Zones. Marine Park management claim that many fish species are larger and more abundant, especially species such as Snapper, which was previously over-exploited.

Grey Nurse Sharks have been spotted at Jimmies Island and Burrewarra point after being absent for many years. There has also been an increase in the level of poaching in these no-take zones.

Compliance with Marine Park regulations is the responsibility of NSW Fisheries. **The Fishers Watch Hotline 1800 043 536** is the best way to report suspected illegal activity.

It is worth noting there is currently a class action underway in the Federal Court on behalf of First Nations peoples against the state of NSW for its policing of cultural fishing practices, making it difficult to enforce Sanctuary Zones.

Meanwhile, the results of a weed spraying project in the gully that runs from Tranquil Bay to Nun's Beach are looking very good. The Rosedale Association and Tranquil Bay residents have contributed \$8,932 towards weed spraying, with Council matching us with a dollar-for-dollar contribution. Council Landcare staff and the Rosedale Association will conduct a review of the area in December and decide if any further action is required.

The Rosedale Association has also offered to contribute to costs to improve the Yowani Road track to the beach, which Brian Joyce is following up with Council, with an inspection with Council staff scheduled before the end of the year.

Council has advised that the pathway from Knowlman Road to Nun's Beach will be re-opened as soon as the concrete right-of-way access to properties on the unformed portion of Knowlman is completed. We're also hoping for work to be done on improving the track to Rocky Beach in conjunction with the turning bay construction at the end of Yowani Road. Kath Wellman has been liaising with Council on this and will provide an update for our next edition.

BUSHFIRE PREVENTION MICHAEL SKIPPER

As we move further into the fire season it's prudent to take stock of conditions locally and across the state. NSW has been experiencing an above-average bushfire season, driven by the unpredictable weather patterns that keep communities and emergency services on constant alert.

While our corner of the South Coast has so far avoided the worst of the state's fire activity, large areas of inland rural NSW have recorded fire behaviour, with an elevated number of grass and scrub fires made more volatile by fast-drying vegetation.

Here in Rosedale, many of us still measure time by the devastating 2019–2020 fire season, which reshaped our landscape and our community. Six years on, the ecological regrowth continues to surprise. Black wattle remains the dominant low-to-mid-storey regrowth species and while it is encouraging to see the bush recover, wattle is also notorious for its rapid ignition and high-burn intensity. This makes ongoing preparedness — not just during summer, but year-round — an essential shared responsibility.

The NSW Rural Fire Service recommendations: keep properties free of combustible leaf litter, clear flammable materials away from homes, prepare fire plans, and ensure gutters and yards are maintained. Even green fuels can burn under the right conditions and this year's vigorous vegetation growth means there is substantial fuel on the ground.

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

In Rosedale itself, our community bushfire assets play an important role. The emergency water shuttles, and mobile fire units are strategically placed across North and South Rosedale, for the benefit of all residents.

The Static Water Supply Program is also vital. Any resident with a pool, tank, dam or other water source suitable for firefighting use is encouraged to make contact. This will help to equip firefighters when responding under pressure.



SUPPORT FOR OUR LOCAL BRIGADE

Each year, the Rosedale Association donates \$500 to the Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade. Our valuable contribution helps to maintain and upgrade brigade infrastructure and equipment. Funds contribute to essential operational items including fire hoses, personal protective clothing and equipment for volunteer firefighters, upgrades to water pressure pumps and improvements to firefighting vehicle equipment.

This year the Brigade purchased a Portable Variable Message Sign (VMS) solar-powered trailer. The VMS trailer is deployable at key locations, providing highly visible and timely information to the community during heightened fire danger periods, emergency incidents, road closures, or local hazard reduction operations.

Our Association can be proud that our donations have helped support its acquisition.

Michael Skipper is the Rosedale Association's Fire Officer



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES: 000

ABC LOCAL RADIO: 103.5 FM

WIRES (animal rescue)

13000 WIRES or 1300 094737

ESSENTIAL ENERGY 13 20 80

FISHERIES WATCH HOTLINE (poachers)

1800 043 536

SEWERAGE (Council): 02 4474 7347

NSW MENTAL HEALTH LINE 1800 011 511

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE HOTLINE

1800 675 8882

BEACH SAFETY

A mass exodus brought our Easter AGM to a dramatic end as the surf rescue chopper wheeled overhead, during rough autumn seas. Everyone swarmed to the dunes to witness lifesavers from Malua Bay Surf Club pull two people from hazardous surf. It was the second rescue in two days – five people were saved at Rosedale over the long weekend.

Never hesitate to ring 000.

There has been a lot of wild weather this year, reminding us all to take extra care in rough surf conditions, whether swimming, paddleboarding or surfing. In late October David Boardman watched a paddleboarder battling hazardous surf on a particularly rough day. He wasn't sure whether to ring 000, but caution prevailed. He called for police and within ten minutes the rescue helicopter from Moruya Airport had arrived and lifesaver, Anthony Bellette had raced around on his jet ski from Malua Bay. Anthony noted that there had been multiple calls of concern regarding the paddleboarder in trouble. He insisted no-one should hesitate about calling 000 - the lifesavers are there to assist and would prefer to be called early rather than leaving things too late.

If you see anyone in trouble in the water, ring 000, ask for 'Police' and give your location (eg Rosedale main beach, end of Knowlman Road). It's the fastest way to get a coordinated emergency rescue.

RESCUE DEVICES

Bill Legge has ordered a new battery for our defibrillator - located with the rescue tube on the wall between 13 and 17 Knowlman Road. A big thanks to Gordon Kleber who has volunteered to take over its maintenance.

We also have three Angel Rings – one at the south end of the main beach and two more at either end of Boatshed Beach. Do not enter the water without a flotation device when you see someone in trouble, even if you're a skilled swimmer.

Keep an eye on the BoM weather app for the hazardous surf warning for Rosedale – and remember our unpatrolled beaches are prone to dangerous rips at any time.

WINDOW ON ROSEDALE

Each season brings something very different to Rosedale Beach, as it takes on different personalities through the year. The wonder of nature and the Rosedale environment we're fortunate to share is remarkable in its ability to be ravaged by weather and recover to a pristine calm, maintaining its beauty throughout.

SPRING



SUMMER



AUTUMN



WINTER



SPRING



SUMMER



AUTUMN



WINTER



DUNE CARE DI CLARK

We have made wonderful progress in the care of our sand dunes over the past year. Monthly gatherings of a dedicated few have continued through the year, and lately we've had trouble finding some of the weeds that we used to target. While this is very good news, it doesn't mean that we can cease activity altogether.

The reason our efforts are succeeding is because we have been consistently working towards our goal of keeping the dunes weed-free. Thanks to everyone who has kept this group going and we would love to see more faces next year.

We meet for one hour a month on the second Saturday in the month. Please come along.



PLANT WATCH

Summer is a wonderful time to be busy in your own garden. While enjoying the birds and the insects, why not take time to see if there are any unwelcome plants settling in? I have noticed that there are some tobacco plants popping up around the place and soon we will be seeing the Senna that we mention every Easter. Now is a good time to try to remove them, before they go to seed.

Another plant that is best controlled before they drop any seed are Agapanthus, which are starting to bud up now. If you have some in your garden, please remove the flowers after flowering and before the seeds develop and dispose of all your garden waste in a responsible manner. Many weed issues originate in our gardens, so it's good to be careful and observant.



Senna



Agapanthus



Tobacco plant

SALTWATER CREEK UPDATE



A dry springtime has meant that the Creek hasn't been open to the ocean for some time.

- The last significant rainfall was in mid-September
- More consistent rainfall was had during most of August

Recent ocean breaches during high tides haven't significantly affected the water level in Saltwater Creek, which is experiencing a recent surge in algal growth.



Dazzling white, and sporting a bright yellow comb or "crest", cockatoos are an eye-catching though noisy member of Rosedale's wildlife community. There are 11 Australian species of cockatoo. Sulphur-crested and less common black cockatoos are found throughout eastern Australia, including Rosedale. Along with lorikeets, galahs and corellas, cockatoos are members of the parrot family. Sulphur-crested cockatoos may be mistaken for little corella, which often form larger flocks.

Sulphur-crested cockatoos mature at four years. Nesting in the hollows of old trees, they breed between August and January. They have clutches of several pale-yellow chicks. Both parents care for the chicks, which remain with their parents for at least a year, and family groups may stay together indefinitely. Cockatoos are long-lived, surviving 100 years or more in captivity.

With powerful beaks and talons, these majestic birds have a varied diet, including seeds, gumnuts, fruit, roots, flowers and insects. Sulphur-crested cockatoos will eat berries and fruit from gardens, including citrus trees (but apparently not limes).

Cockatoos readily feed on birdseed but be aware that some commercial birdseed mixes can cause serious health problems, including malnutrition and disease; and the detritus can attract rodents. Native plants, like grevilleas, and water bowls are a better option for attracting native birds and other wildlife to your garden.

Cockatoos are curious and intelligent and their populations are threatened by habitat loss and land clearing. They can open outdoor cabinets and boxes in search of food. Their beaks grow throughout their lives, and it is believed that their destructive chewing aids beak maintenance. As well as chewing tree branches, cockatoos are known to damage timber decking, cladding and to strip the insulation plastic off power lines, solar panels and the lines of tennis courts. They will also dance to music and develop their own dance steps.

TICK ALERT

Paralysis ticks are most active in Rosedale over summer, especially when it's wet and humid. They are dangerous to dogs, cats and humans. Paralysis tick bites may result in anaphylactic shock and a long-term allergy to meat ("mammalian meat allergy") for humans.

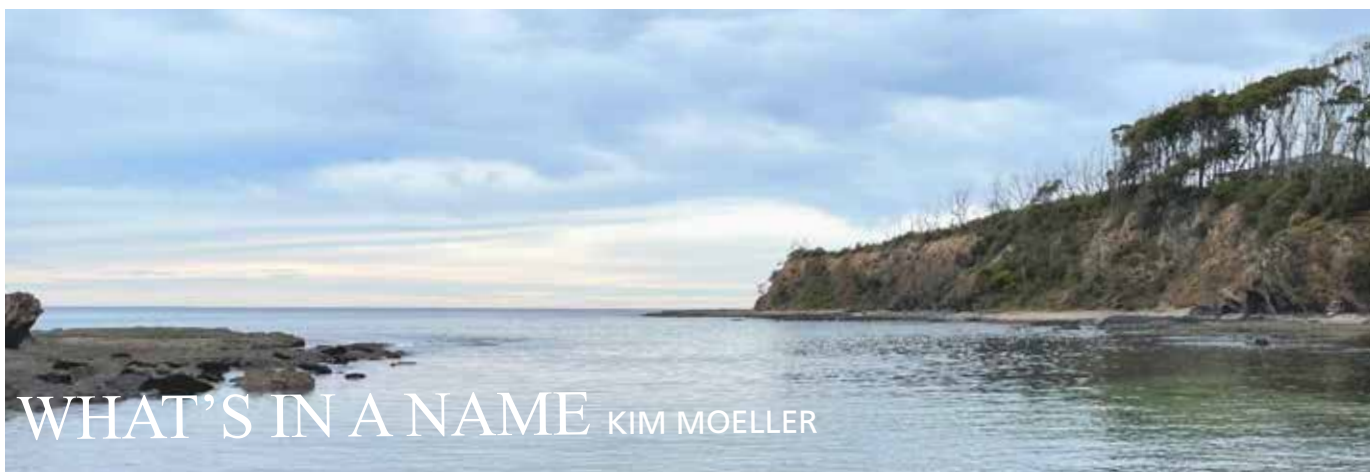
The presence of a tick, which may be smaller than a millimetre, shows up like an itchy, red mosquito bite. Application of Lyclear cream or a freeze spray is recommended, as removal with tweezers is difficult and may leave tick parts in the wound that become infected.

Prevent tick bites by applying an insect repellent and by wearing shoes and socks, a long-sleeve shirt and trousers with tight cuffs when gardening or bushwalking.



Did you know?

- Most are left-handed; they tend to use their left claw when feeding.
- The sexes are difficult to tell apart. If you get close enough, you might notice that females have red-brown eyes whereas the eyes of males are darker brown.
- They prefer feeding in groups, where one cockatoo will act as a sentry, warning others of approaching predators and other dangers.
- Their crest is used to signal various emotions, including aggression, attention-seeking, curiosity and being startled.



If you wander north of Boatshed Beach, you'll stumble upon one of those quietly perfect corners of Rosedale that is formally known by Council as North Rosedale Beach. It's a tidy, practical name, but it skips the heart of the matter - the generations of family tales, beach nicknames, and barefoot memories that make this place so special.

Those who've lived in Rosedale a while are unlikely to call it by its tidy geographic name. In fact, if you ask around, you may end up with a dozen different names, each one whispered with equal conviction and a hint of family pride. A recent Facebook thread on Rosedale Rebuild brought many of these names and their stories to light.

We called it Black Beach, which could have been a misunderstanding from other families who call it Back Beach. Others insist it's called Shark Beach, or was that Rocky Beach? While some fondly call it Pebbly Beach, perhaps for obvious historical reasons. There's even been talk of a shark torso incident that may have tipped the vote to Shark Bay. One family swears by Pirate Beach.



Another family call it Mermaid Cove, and yet another calls it Small Black Rock Cove, a name born from a kind-hearted decision to collect the "boring black rocks" that no one else wanted. Some real estate agents have dubbed the bay, Smugglers Cove. There's also Smelly Beach, once known for its heroic piles of seaweed - although this name is also a name for one of Rosedale's most southern beaches, Nun's Beach. As for the cave on the way, some call it the Bear Cave and quip that it's a submarine dock.

The various names are symbolic of how close-knit our Rosedale community is, with generations of families with origin stories, and new ones coming along. In true Rosedale spirit, we won't just settle for North Rosedale Beach when we could have something far more fitting, like Our Smelly, Mermaid, Pirate, Shark, Black, Rocky, Pebble Beach. Now that's a name with character, even if it's a bit too long for a GPS. Perhaps it's best summed up by one family's adopted name - Magic Beach, name that reflects how we all feel about Rosedale.



DOG TIMESHARE

From 1 November to 30 April dogs are not allowed on Rosedale Beach between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

At other times dogs can be leashed or unleashed, but they must always be under the control of a competent person and owners must carry a bag to pick up droppings. Please pass this information on to your guests and any tenants who are visiting Rosedale.

If undeliverable please return to:
The Rosedale Association Inc.
PO Box 2125
MALUA BAY NSW 2536

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