

THE Rosedale ASSOCIATION



Newsletter Issue 90 December 2002

DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE ROAD

The following notes arise from recent meetings with the Marsim Group and Edwards Constructions.

Marsim are the likely developers of the old Manns Nursery land, having a conditional contract to buy the 179–hectare property. They and their dozen or so specialist consultants have been hard at work since April of this year and their development application will go to Council "in the coming weeks". We invited them to tell us a little of themselves, and they replied as follows:

"The Marsim Group intends over time to develop a large portion of the Rosedale Urban Expansion Zone with a broad cross section of housing types from rural residential lots to controlled integrated housing. This will be achieved under a community scheme which will allow careful management of housing type, design, quality and architecture. There will be a higher level of open space and less housing numbers than called for in council's DCP.

"Marsim is an experienced and responsible developer and has considerable experience. It is proposed that development of this part of the Rosedale Urban Expansion Zone will offer the opportunity for local residents as well as new full and part-time residents to experience the quality lifestyle offered by the Nature Coast. This will add to the interesting and eclectic mix of residents in the Rosedale area.

"All aspects of council and state policies will be addressed. The estate will be developed with a view to enhancing value and increasing access for all residents in the Rosedale area."

Committee members met with the Marsim Group and attended their presentation to council's Environment, Planning and Administrative Services Committee and noted that:

- up to 850 dwellings are envisaged of five development types from rural homesteads on a hectare to "integrated housing" on 300 sqm;
- all lots will be fully serviced;
- all lots will be sold under community title. This specifies building envelope and house type and addresses the living environment including roads (community will own and maintain all but the main N—S artery which

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WE ARE ON THE WEB

Our association now has a website: www.netspeed.com.au/rosedale. We hope to be able to keep you up-to-date between newsletters with developments at Rosedale. As well as news and past newsletters, the site will be a place for useful reference material. For example, Jane Lemann's Rosedale Weed Management is there, augmented with cross references (links) to Eurobodalla Shire Council's South Coast Weeds database. If you want a weather forecast or the tide times, they can be found on our site, too.

The site is in the first stage of development. We hope it will evolve over time with the help of members. Do you have ideas for subjects that we could include? Would you be able to contribute an article?

You can e-mail me.

Anton Cook,
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH HELPERS NEEDED

As the Neighbourhood Watch coordinator I am short of 'troops'. Three of my 'watchers' have left the area. Would anyone like to help out? It involves checking the houses assigned to you about once a week, putting their garbage bins back by the house etc. Please call me on 4471 7014 if you can spare some time. With the helper shortage in mind, I find I can only allocate the time of the few watchers I have to our members and not to people who steadfastly refuse to join the Rosedale Association.

Otherwise, things have been relatively quiet since our last Neighbourhood Watch report.

Some rubbish bins have been found on Cooks Crescent which do not belong there. Is anyone missing theirs? A white post was pulled out of the ground and thrown into the bush on Cooks Crescent and a letter box was badly damaged in Miller Avenue. All in all, acts of vandalism and stupidity.

Deirdre Prussak.

DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE ROAD

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approximates to Bevan Road), open spaces, planted corridors, fire reduction, pets, noise levels etc. A draft community management statement will be included with the development application;

- 45 per cent of open space/wetland is retained;
- development will start in the south, that is from the Barlings Beach end, with rural lots in the north to follow;
- they will build model homes in each precinct to set an architectural standard; and
- documentation is extensive. The development application will seek subdivision approval.

Edwards Constructions are in the process of producing a development application for the 30 acres of Bevan Farm that lie east of George Bass Drive and north of Yowani Road. This is part of Rosedale and is zoned 2ec. The intention is for eight blocks, with a large reserve fronting George Bass. An access road is planned in from Yowani, where a track already exists under the power lines close to the intersection with George Bass.

Bevan Farm proper (some 35 hectares) lies west of George Bass. Studies continue for its development and it will be 6–8 months before a development application is forthcoming. The company wishes to have the development "meld in with Rosedale".

Your committee notes that Council have invited proposals from independent planning firms to undertake planning assessment of the proposed Rosedale urban expansion subdivision, including review and presentation of standard subdivision and development conditions in line with best practice, legislation and policy. We will watch developments and keep you informed.

POPULATION IN ROSEDALE'S POSTCODE AREA NEARS 16 000

Eurobodalla Shire's population growth in the five years to Census 2001 was 8.8 per cent, compared to 12.1 per cent in the previous five-year period (Census 1996) and 25.6 per cent in the 1991 census.

The population changes by postcode have also been extracted and reveal that population growth continues to be higher in the 2536 postcode area (at 9.6 per cent) than the average growth of 8.8 per cent. The population in the 2536 postcode is now 15 710.

There has been a drop in the proportion of young children (up to age 9) in the shire and a slight increase in the 15 to 19-year-old group. There has been a decrease in the proportion of people aged between 20 and 39 years and an increase in the proportion of those in the group aged 45 to 60 years. The group aged 65 to 70 years declined as a proportion of the total. These trends are mirrored to a greater or lesser extent in the State averages.

In broad terms, the cohorts of those aged 1–24, 25–54 and 55+ represent one-third each of the population. On closer examination, the movements in the Eurobodalla may indicate some migration away by young families and net positive migration of the 45 to 60-year-olds (with their mid-teen children).



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's time to get back to you all.

In the eight months since our AGM and the six since our last newsletter, we have all been affected by the worsening drought. As from early October the Council has moved quickly from Level 1 water restrictions to Level 3, because of the rapidly dwindling water supply. Only hand-held hoses are permitted until further notice, every second day on an odds and evens house number/date system, and for a maximum of 30 minutes. Watering times are between 6–8 am and 5–8 pm. No micro or drip irrigation systems are allowed. Given the portents for summer, please deal with the fire hazards around your homes. As I walk around our streets, I see those gutters full of combustibles, and the fuel on the ground that really does need clearing. This could be a bad summer—let us all take sensible precautions.

This edition owes much to the ongoing input of my predecessor. Gordon is indefatigable, particularly with scanning Council documents (which are voluminous). I found the matters he has drawn to my attention of interest, and in printing them here, trust that you do, too.

We have spoken with both developers for the Rosedale Urban Expansion Zone and report on their plans in this newsletter. We also provide a summary of the additional values and threats you told us about in response to our questionnaire in the last newsletter. These are threats to the things that we value about Rosedale. All of us can see that urban expansion clashes



head-on with some of those things. In the coming years, we are going to have to share the beach with more people. They will have a public toilet on our patch. There may be additional shops closer than Malua Bay. We all will feel the cumulative impact of expansion, and crying "Not in MY backyard" will, as usual, be unproductive. Having said that, and having heard what it is that you value, your committee promises to express your values, and to try to steer events wherever it can.

It is hard to believe that 2002 is almost gone and that Bali has happened.

Jan and I wish you a joyous Christmas and hope that 2003 will bring peace to more of mankind.

Ian Holmes

WORKING BEES

Two working bees are planned at opposite ends of the Christmas holiday season. This may allow some who cannot normally attend to participate—we try hard to please!

PRE-CHRISTMAS FENCING EFFORT

Saturday, 21 December, 8:30 am

This working bee has an early start—so we can beat the heat and because the contractor who is digging the postholes starts early. We plan to complete placing the posts to protect our plantings from foot traffic and Council mowers work on this commenced in late October. Bring narrow (posthole) shovels, crowbars and spirit levels if you have them.

There are about 50 posts to go in. Hole digging will not take long but setting the posts afterward is a slow job depending on how many helpers turn up. Once a hole is dug, we are required to either put a post in it or fill it in. Open holes are a hazard and we cannot leave any, so this work will

last as long as it takes to complete, maybe longer than the usual two hours. Naturally we would prefer putting in a post to refilling the hole. Please come for as long as you can.

LONG WEEKEND SPECIAL!

Saturday, 25 January 2003, 8:30 am

We'll gather at the carpark in Rosedale Parade.

This will be the first of our fourth Saturday of the odd-numbered months' working bees. The exact nature of the work will depend a lot on the weather from now on, but it will be weed removal in some part of the village. A notice with further detail will be emailed, as well as posted in the carpark, closer to the date. Please come bring your favourite trowel-sized digging tool.

Bring any friends or relatives staying with you, we have yet to be embarrassed by having too many helpers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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KEEPING SAFE—For insurance purposes you must wear gloves, sturdy shoes, a hat, and preferably wear long sleeves and long trousers for sun and tick protection. You also need to sign the attendance book. Be sure to use sunscreen and insect repellent. Bring water or drink plenty of it before coming because you could easily dehydrate on a hot day.



The Bateman's Bay Youth Foundation was established in 1974 by the Rotary Club of Bateman's Bay. In 1997 the Soldiers' Club and the RSL sub-branch joined with the Rotary Club so the Foundation could expand its activities. These three organisations have been sponsors ever since. In addition Woolworths Ltd. have provided an annual grant of \$5000 to further the work of the Foundation beginning in 2002.

It is "a foundation for the purpose of providing financial assistance to local youth to pursue personal development and advancement in an unlimited range of worthwhile fields of endeavour".

Great care is exercised by the Foundation in selecting award recipients. The criteria used in selection are the:

- financial need of the applicant and the family;
- perceived future potential of the applicant; and
- relevant performance at school.

While the grants made have been predominantly for university studies this has not been because the

Foundation favours such candidates in any way. Working closely with the vocational education and training sectors of our schools and with industry, the Foundation aims to place as much emphasis as possible on attracting applications from persons desiring to develop a career in a trade or service industry. They need financial support just as much as university students—they have to purchase uniforms and tools and in many cases have to travel to attend TAFE or a similar institution and mostly incur accommodation expenses.

The vision for the future must depend on the ability of the Foundation to receive support from people with an interest in the future of the area. I have been very impressed with the Foundation and if any members of our Association would be interested in giving to it, please contact me for further information.

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FIRE REPORT

Prolonged dry conditions in the shire promise a worrying fire season.

Local authorities said this week that we have been lucky in this area to date, particularly in contrast to northern areas that have been battling big bushfires for some considerable time. They stress, however, that the situation could turn overnight given the right (or wrong) conditions.

Local fire officers are urging property owners to clean up their properties, to reduce fuel around houses and assets, and to be prepared for a long hot summer.

In our own area, they have particularly noted the number of houses that have accumulated leaves in gutters and on roofs. There are also many properties that have accumulated leaves and litter banked up against the underside of houses.

Many owners are being issued with notices to clean up these hazards, but we should not be waiting for a fire notice before taking action.

The comment about leaves in gutters is particularly relevant as they are tinder-dry and are located in the worst of places—at the edge of the roof cavity.

In a bushfire, many little fires start ahead of the main blaze as wind-born sparks land in and ignite dry grass and other fuel.

If the sparks alight in the gutter, the whole gutter can burst into flame. From here the result can be a blaze in the roof void that may not be noticeable in its early stages. Fighting the fire as it develops in this confined area is particularly difficult and many houses have been lost this way even after the main fire front has well and truly passed. Clean out those gutters!

For good reason, fire authorities continually stress the need to clean up in and around properties in high fire risk areas such as Rosedale. By removing ground-level fuel, we can slow the rate of spread of fire, make access easier for fire fighters and lessen the amount of potential damage.

Much of this work can be done with ordinary garden tools, such as rake, hoe and spade, bush hook and mower.

So have a critical look at your surrounds and plan your cleanup. Start at the house (don't forget to continually clean out roof gutters), and work out towards the edges of your land. Where possible, work with your neighbours in a cooperative effort to maximise protection.

Brian Voce

VALUES SURVEY RESULTS

Following are all the additional responses we received in relation to the summary of the AGM values session in our last newsletter. The responses are listed in no particular order, apart from being broadly separated into values and the perceived threats to what we value. The repetition demonstrates which were the "hot" issues.



VALUES

- Clean water in the upper catchment of Saltwater Creek
- Beautiful coastal reserve inviolable and retained in natural condition
- Public toilets be reconsidered discreetly positioned and serviced
- Upgraded access tracks
- Minimal signage
- No commercial development between Malua Bay and Tomakin
- Individuals who think about their own impact
- Houses discreet and inconspicuous when viewed from the beach
- Sense of community and friendship generated through the Rosedale Association
- Family, friends and fundamentals
- No strata titles
- Without added pressures of over catering for individuals
- No playground equipment-the beach is the playground
- Lack of any commercial development
- Lack of people
- Small carpark, no shops, caravan park
- Natural bushland environment
- Absence of public and commercial facilities
- Rosedale is perfect without any other accesses or amenities
- Sewerage be reticulated through Rosedale
- Highest possible class of development for west of George Bass Drive

THREATS

- Carpark and potential run-off impacts
- Speeding cars-vehicle slowing devices and entrance development for safety near carpark
- Dumping rubbish and garden waste over the cliffs or in the bush
- Erosion of landscape including tree removal
- Too many access tracks to beach
- Increased pressure to establish toilets, boardwalks, parking, bins due to Rosedale Farm development and tourists
- Pressure for shops and caravan parks
- Unnecessary amenities such as toilets, public telephone, shops etc.
- Potential polluting of creek from upstream and forced development
- Increase of people on beach
- Building public toilets, public telephone box and playground equipment
- Commercial development east of George Bass Drive
- Demand for larger carpark
- Demand for shop
- Bevan development
- Dog droppings
- Increased population pressures and proposals for public and commercial facilities
- Over reaction to perceived bushfire threats
- Mogo charcoal plant – we love to try to stop this abomination

NEWS IN THE SHIRE

The following seven items relate to news in the Shire. The first two cover information Council provided in response to queries from the Association. The remaining five have been lifted from minutes of meetings of Council and its committees and are included for general interest.

ROSEDALE CARPARK

In 1994, Council approved a plan for relocating and sealing the Rosedale carpark, but the work was placed on hold because of land ownership and other issues. The issues were subsequently resolved.

Over the past 12 months, following Council assistance with surveying and pegging the new site as well as providing materials and plants, it has been possible to get the landscaping started using a combination of Greencorps and considerable community effort. A total of \$30 000 has been allocated to "seal-beach carparks" in 2003–04 and Council has now amended the description in the capital plan to indicate these monies for Rosedale.

BUS SHELTERS

The number of children catching buses from Rosedale continues to increase as forecast by the Association. Council has confirmed that the Rosedale Beach bus shelter continues to be included in the management plan.

GREEN WASTE RECYCLING

Council provides residents with four free kerbside collections of garden cuttings per year to encourage people to recycle (the contract for this service runs until June 2004).

Since this recycling program commenced in November 2001, more than 5000 cubic metres of vegetation have been mulched or composted for re-use. All vegetation collected from kerbsides or dropped off at the Moruya or Broulee waste depots is taken to the Surf Beach composting area, which is operated

by Cobowra Community. Development Employment Program. Their fees are cheaper than the current tipping fees. Also, uncontaminated grass cuttings can be dropped off at Surf Beach's composting area for free. The fee reduction provides an incentive for people to recycle. The contract is valid until June 2004 with an extension to June 2006.

The composting program and the current recovery rates for vegetation are proving to be successful at diverting significant amounts of waste from landfill and Council has decided to continue with the existing system.

KERBSIDE RECYCLING

Council has decided not to pursue kerbside recycling of newspapers, cardboard, bottles and glass at this stage. This is because these materials make up only about 20 per cent of total waste in domestic garbage bins—paper and cardboard make up 13 per cent while recyclable containers make up 7 per cent.

These materials can already be recycled at relatively low cost through Council's drop off facilities, so the additional cost to provide kerbside collections cannot be justified. Council advised that due to travel distances, the cost to collect and recycle material from this shire would be much higher than urban areas.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Council staff have identified the need for the preparation of a strategy to address 'bush tracks, stairs and associated works' to better address risk management issues. This strategy will be looking at access tracks, headland tracks, pathways, steps etc.

to ensure that the most urgent works are done.

Development application for a mobile phone base station at Malua Bay

Currently the mobile phone service to Malua Bay and north and south along George Bass Drive is poor (in most part non-existent). There are currently no Telstra or other carrier tower facilities located in Malua Bay.

An applicant proposes to erect a mobile phone base station and tower on Council land at Reservoir Road, Malua Bay. The 25-metre tower and base station is proposed to be located on the hill that forms part of the ridgeline enclosing Malua Bay.

KINGS HIGHWAY

Council's Traffic Committee has recommended for the Kings Highway that:

- the 100 kph speed zone west of Nelligen be reduced to 90 kph;
- the 90 kph zone 11 km west of Nelligen be reduced to 80 kph; and
- Road Transport Authority concurrence be requested to install a high visibility sign at the top of Clyde Mountain for eastbound traffic, to advise of the number of fatalities on the mountain.

A GAOL FOR EUROBODALLA?

Council is preparing a press release to let the community know that they intend to make a fact-finding visit to Goulburn to enable councillors to make an informed decision as to whether or not they should further investigate a proposal to establish a gaol in the shire.

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David Mackenzie has written this collection of articles. He is the Association's technical adviser on Landcare and other environmental matters.

CARPARK ACTIVITY

The carpark plantings of July 2001 and January 2002 have been remarkably successful, due in no small part to the dedicated watering and weeding activities of James and Susanne Blogg. A fill-in planting was organised in May this year by James Blogg, and a number of locals turned out for that. Some of the plants have succumbed to the recent dry time, helped by the depredations of a remaining few rabbits.

At a short-notice, weekday working bee on 21 October, three further tasks were completed. The posts (bollards) around the carpark were relocated to reflect more accurately the final carpark, which is proposed for the next financial year. The mound, planted last January, was extended another few metres, mulched and planted. Finally, further casuarinas were planted seaward of the current carpark. Our sincere thanks go to the small but hardworking band that stuck it out to completion that day.

BANKSIA FLAT

Since the Easter Weedathon there has been quite a lot of Landcare activity on Banksia Flat. At the south end of the Flat in June, contractors paid for by Council's fire prevention unit, removed weeds from around the plants established in July 2000. The work was authorized by Council's newly appointed Fire Mitigation Officer, Scott Sewell. Scott is interested in seeing well-managed (that is, well-grown, weed-free, sensibly-placed) native vegetation in Council reserves as a starting point for fire mitigation. He has had experience as a bush regenerator and has already done much to dispel the image of total vegetation removal as a fire mitigation tool.

There was a working bee in August to remove regrowth bracken fern in the north of the Flat and to clear around the desirable plants. Another working bee was held in October, principally to pull moth vine from the central section. There is no shortage of further work required on the Flat.

CONTRACT WEEDING ON CLIFFS

Stage III of our cliffs and foreshores weed control program was completed in September. Local contractors, James Paull and Ann Currell, removed the worst weeds from reserves on the less accessible cliffs and slopes. The program covers all the cliff areas in Rosedale. Depending on rain, they will complete Stage IV by the end of January. The nature of the work to be done will depend on what was missed last time and what has recovered in the interim.



FUNDING SITUATION

Rosedale Landcare has been the recipient of four grants, one per year beginning in 1999. The funds were sought to carry out indigenous vegetation rehabilitation on the public reserves that comprise our cliffs and foreshores. Some of these funds have been spent on Banksia

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Flat (buffalo grass removal and planting), some of the plants for the carpark and contract weeding on the cliffs (designated too unsafe for community working bees).

The funding came, indirectly, from the National Heritage Trust, derived from the part sale of Telstra. This fund has finished and any unspent monies were to be recalled at the end of September.

Rosedale had a considerable sum unspent and some of this has recently gone to pay the contractors for Stages III and IV cliff weeding and bobcat hire for the carpark work. There was another large unspent sum allocated to plant purchases and this has been deposited with the Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens and a local nursery to pay in advance for plants to be supplied over the next 18–24 months. Future fund application requires some careful consideration: we have much to acquit by way of plantings in coming months, but we must maintain the pressure on our cliffs' weeds or we will lose the advantage gained to date.

early November. The paper was well received.

Saltwater Creek, while very low at present, remains in good health and this is supported by further efforts by University of Canberra's Robert Dalton whose work was described in Newsletter No 88 (March 2002). We can contribute to its continuing good health in a number of ways. Be careful to send no pollutants or other rubbish down the storm water drains, in particular be careful to prevent sediment from running off building sites and poorly vegetated nature strips into the creek. Resist the temptation to remove snags, especially while the water is low and it is easier to do so: snags are the life-blood of the food chain and help support larger numbers of animals in the lagoon waters. Cultivate and maintain a well-developed and near-natural streamside vegetation comprising only indigenous plants that will support a population of insects and other small animals depending on water for part of their life cycle. These will contribute to the lagoon's biodiversity. Mown grass to the water's edge is neat and convenient but is habitat for very few species that contribute to a healthy water body. Your near-natural streamside vegetation should comprise a large number of indigenous species: a heavy stand of a single exotic species holds little of value to the stream's ecology.

CREEKCARE

John and Jill Lingard continue to make observations of the creek and record rainfall. With helpers, they have gathered an almost daily record, and Jill delivers me the data on a spreadsheet at frequent intervals. By last August, Saltwater Creek had logged 21 openings of the sandbar at its mouth in 4.5 years of monitoring. Openings ranged in duration from 1 to 30 days and the creek was open for 11% of that time. Closed periods, on the other hand, ranged in duration from 3 to 217 days.

On the basis of Saltwater Creek results, Council paid for instruments to measure water levels in four more creeks in 2000. Over the five instrumented creeks, we found that the duration of both openings and closures varied considerably, both within creeks and between creeks. It appears they behave differently and suggests they may require different management strategies. This is also the opinion of others from the University of Canberra who are studying other aspects of these and other creeks. I presented the results of the first 600 days of this later exercise at the national "Coast 2 Coast 2000" Conference at Tweed Heads in

ROSEDALE URBAN EXPANSION ZONE

The Rosedale Urban Expansion Zone is mentioned elsewhere, I wish only to comment briefly on environmental aspects of the proposed developments. Saltwater Creek lagoon and Bevia Wetland

are the end points of the streams draining the development areas and, clearly, what happens in their catchments is a strong determinant of their ultimate wellbeing.

The developers are required to make no substantial difference to the flow or the quality of water into these two water bodies. However, the flow of water and its quality have been affected by the previous 100 or so years of land use in the catchments, and now could be the only opportunity for improving the environment of these catchments as well as the ecology of the two water features. A number of us will be conferring with the developers and the consenting authorities as the proposals are formulated over coming months to explore what scope there may be for some reversal of these adverse trends and the restoration of some of the former ecological services.

BEACH PLANTINGS

Future developments to the west of Rosedale could see a steep rise in visitation to the Rosedale beaches: current activity in the carpark in part anticipates this increase. The additional foot traffic will indisputably have an adverse effect on the beach, damaging the sparse vegetation and leaving it vulnerable to smaller storms and lower winds. We have had advice from Coastcare that an increase in the dune vegetation will be necessary to avert, or at least moderate, this situation. We may expect to see hundreds of housing lots developed to the west of us over the next decade or so and it is imperative that we substantially increase beach stability well in advance of the extra loads it will eventually carry. To this end we are

in discussion with our plant suppliers about what species might be available for dune plantings in coming months. Your comments are invited.

RESERVES CODE OF CONDUCT

Council is in process of preparing a Code of Conduct which, as far as can be ascertained, will set out the processes by which Council will treat violations of the various regulations governing what can and cannot be done on reserves. Once in place we may expect there to be a hardening of Council's attitude toward damaging in any way the native vegetation, or dumping lawn clippings and other garden wastes on reserves. These practices persist in Rosedale, any short walk along cliff tops will attest to this. There is a small strip of reserve in front of most cliff top residences, please ensure you know where your boundary is and avoid illegal activities on the reserves—the consequences may not be so benign in future.

BRIDAL VEIL CREEPER

Gordon has completed his annual bridal veil creeper spraying on reserves and on some properties (by arrangement), and results so far have been excellent. There remains a follow-up to get the few that were missed or did not succumb. Landcare started in Rosedale with an attack on bridal veil in the casuarinas by the carpark. It was thick in there about ten years ago, today there are but a few, mainly recent arrivals via bird droppings. This of course means there are still plants in the area that are being allowed to set fruit. You can help by ensuring all plants in your garden are sprayed or preferably dug out. You need to follow down the stem very carefully (it is brittle) to where it emerges from the ground and dig up the bunch of fleshy tubers from which it grows. In older plants, this bunch may have developed into a plate 20 cm or so in diameter.



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COMMUNICATING LANDCARE INFORMATION

Landcare events are now occurring reasonably frequently. Unfortunately this newsletter is not issued frequently enough to announce the bulk of Landcare events. Those of you not on email or who have not provided your e-address to the Secretary (or myself) will be unaware of a lot of Landcare activity that has been publicised to the 90+ persons on my Landcare e-list. If you have not given us your e-address, please consider doing so and join the many who try to get to at least some of the events announced by email between newsletters.

With the advent of the Rosedale website there is an added medium for announcing activities as well as posting interesting articles. Rosedale Landcare has a page to itself and details of the next working bees are now showing there. Jane Lemann's excellent 'Rosedale Weed Management' appears as a start to

what should eventually be a collection of informative articles, and you can find a link to the Shire Council's detailed coverage of environmental weeds.

NEW PROGRAM OF MORE REGULAR WORKING BEES

Instead of holding only an annual Weedathon and one or two special events in the year, we are trying to organise Landcare working bees more frequently. The amount of work required to keep on top of the weeds, put in more plants, tend new plantings and so on, requires this additional effort. We followed up on the good response to the Bush Regeneration Workshops of 2001–02 by using email to invite people to attend working bees. There have been about six bees this year and the response has been so positive that we plan to hold regular working bees, as far as possible, on the fourth Saturday of the odd numbered months.

Work for each occasion will be announced by email or where possible in the newsletter. Occasionally this date will be inappropriate and we'll notify you by email of a postponement or cancellation. Other working bees may be announced as the need arises. Some discussion has arisen over whether morning or afternoon is the more appropriate and we will try to mix it a bit but with a preference for summer mornings and winter afternoons. Those not on email can contact one of us for a briefing on the next planned event. This plan emerged by consultation among the so-called e-group of Landcarers and we are anxious to hear comment from those of you who have not been part of the discussion so far.

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF ROSEDALE

Of the 113 items recorded in the values session at the March AGM, a quick check reveals that upward of half of them were related directly or indirectly to the natural environment. Some reflected a concern over perceived threats to it, some hinted at threats, others simply did not want it changed (I presume they meant it should not be further degraded). It is well worth remembering that clearing in the catchment began over 100 years ago and that most of the area was once extensively cleared for grazing. Consequently most of the bushland that surrounds us at Rosedale, however delightful and dotted with birds, is regrowth. Just what the original vegetation looked like or what plants and animals were in it can only be guessed at: we have no yardstick.

Landcare activities have been aimed at maintaining what we have left of the indigenous vegetation in our reserves, improving it through weed control, augmenting it by planting species of the region and protecting it by trying to raise public awareness of how best to foster it. Landcare is inextricably linked with Bushcare, Creekgcare, Dunecare, Coastcare and Beachwatch. Their activities are collectively aimed at reducing threats to environmental values such as those that we enumerated that day last March.



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The President has requested us to respond to the values session with mention of threats to our values. Many have already been mentioned, some several times over, in the Landcare and other contributions that Gordon Bray and I have written in past newsletters. In this newsletter there is a reminder that further threats-which we have long anticipated-are now on our western doorstep. Individually, these issues may seem innocuous enough and readily retrievable, but do not underestimate their collective capacity to whittle away what little we still have. Be aware of the tyranny of small changes, their totality nearly always leads to the irretrievable.

If we value the Rosedale ambience, we must be prepared not only to preserve it, but to improve it and, further, be prepared to put our effort into arenas other than

Landcare. If we each leave it to the mythical someone else there may not be enough to do the job and before long the Rosedale environment we so cherish will no longer be as valued as we thought.

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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 is marked U-02 or U-01, 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 2002 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 phoneMobile phoneFax

Rosedale phone

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

Send this slip and payment to The Rosedale Association, PO Box 536, Batemans Bay NSW 2536