

# THE Rosedale ASSOCIATION



Newsletter Issue 91 March 2003

## COME TO THE ANNUAL WEEDATHON AND SAUSAGE SIZZLE —APRIL 19

The annual Weedathon and sausage sizzle will be on the afternoon and evening of Easter Saturday, 19 April. Make this a family outing. Everyone is welcome, and all you need is enthusiasm.

Details of what we hope to achieve and where to meet will be given at the AGM. Please wear suitable footwear, sun protection and insect repellent as ticks may be encountered.

Weedathon is an activity of Rosedale Landcare, a member of Eurobodalla Landcare. Your failure to follow clothing and work practices suitable to the tasks carried out may jeopardize any insurance or compensation claims that may arise.

Join our sausage sizzle in the evening—it is our grand once-a-year community event.

BYO refreshment. We supply the food.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH HELP NEEDED

Some of our 'watchers' have moved away from Rosedale, so we are short of folk to check on many houses. If anyone is interested in helping out with Neighbourhood Watch it would be much appreciated. Please call me on 4471 7014 or email me at [deirdrep@ispdr.net.au](mailto:deirdrep@ispdr.net.au).

**Deirdre Prussak – Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator**

## NOMINATE FOR THE COMMITTEE

New starters for the committee are welcome and necessary. Please consider volunteering. The secretary must receive nominations by Monday 14 April 2003.

Nomination forms must be signed by two financial members of the Association and signed by the candidate. A form is inside the back cover of this newsletter.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

Membership fees are due now if you want to vote at the annual general meeting (our financial year is the calendar year). Check your address slip to see if you are currently paid up—F-03 or 2-03 means you are and a red dot means you aren't. A membership form is on the inside back cover of this newsletter.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 19 APRIL

The Rosedale Association's annual general meeting will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday 19 April on the lawns by the cabins. We thank the Knowlman, Pauley and Bray families for the use of this site.

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

- Apologies
- President's report
- Treasurer's report
- Fire Officer's report
- Neighbourhood Watch report
- Landcare report
- General business:
  - Update on developments 'over the road'
  - Changes to constitution
  - Yowani Road track to northern beach
  - Speed humps Cooks Crescent
  - Second dune crossing
  - Yowani wheelchair path
- Election of Officers

See page 5 for information on two amendments that are proposed for the Association's constitution.

If you wish to add matters to the agenda—for inclusion in general business—please advise the Secretary, in writing as soon as possible. Send to PO Box 536, Batemans Bay NSW 2536.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2002-03



This is our third newsletter since the last annual general meeting, and I find it hard to believe nearly a year has passed since I took up this position. The water situation has eased somewhat and all of us are hoping that follow up rains will mark the end of the drought. The Shire water restrictions went to Level 4 (no hoses—buckets only) and are now (20 March) back at Level 3 (Hosing every second day during specified hours). Personally I found the carrying of buckets of water demanding and tiring—and I am disappointed that some of our trees shrubs and flowers have died despite the TLC.

Many of our members are Canberra residents. We know that some lost their homes, some came perilously close to doing so and all were affected in some way by the fires of January. Those of us farther away from the action offer those affected our sympathy and best wishes. The danger period is not past. As I emptied my gutters yet again, I was surprised at how quickly the leaves accumulate. Fire is a very real threat to our community and Brian Voce has given good advice in his report.

### WATER FACTS

Because water is an issue here, I was interested to be given the Rosedale rainfall records for the last 34 years. (Does anyone have them going back further?) The first thing that stands out is how random our rain is. The pattern is that there is no pattern. The next thing that surprises is the yearly

average—it is 1084 mm. And for we older, non-metric types that is more than 40 inches a year! Now I grew up in Melbourne, with some 24 inches per year, and visited farms in the Wimmera where good wheat was grown with 18 inches per year. But the fact is that Rosedale, the shire and NSW are hurting. When I discount February of last year from my calculations (because it dumped nearly 13 inches that month) it is apparent that in 34 years there has never been such a dry 11 months. We had only 43 per cent of the average rainfall for those months, and I guess it is not surprising that the local flora is suffering.

### DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR AREA

Over the road, events are moving quickly. The Marsim Group, who seek to develop the 187 hectares that was the old Mann's nursery, has lodged its documentation with PlanningNSW. Because the land falls within the coastal zone, the Minister and not Council is the consent authority. The Marsim Group has lodged a development application for subdividing and developing the land—this comprises a body of documentation, including a master plan. The process encourages applicants to consult with the community: Marsim exhibited their documentation on 14 February in Batemans Bay. Their primary consultants were on hand and Gordon Bray and I attended. Frankly, we were impressed.

PlanningNSW will be referring the material to Council, the Department of Land and Water Conservation, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Roads and Traffic Authority, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

In addition, PlanningNSW must also put the material on public exhibition for one month, advertise the fact and seek public comment. This they have

done, and the exhibition period is the month of March. Notionally comment must be made in the month of public exhibition, though there may be some flexibility. After the month, responses will be examined, the development application will be assessed and a recommendation will be made to the Minister (the present Minister has been in caretaker mode since 26 February, so there may be a new one after the State election). Overall at least three months will elapse before a decision is handed down—probably May at the earliest.

If approval is given, Council will then take responsibility for approving all work to develop the site, and for all subsequent work on individual blocks.

As noted in the last newsletter, Marsim is seeking community title for the site, which means community approval will be required before the owner of an individual block can lodge a development application with Council.

Your committee will provide comments to PlanningNSW during the public exhibition period(s).

We are a volunteer organisation and newsletter lead times do not allow us to keep you abreast of breaking events. When we heard of Marsim's public day, we passed the information on to those of you who had given us an email address (for Landcare purposes). We used the same contact plan when we knew arrangements for public exhibition by PlanningNSW.

### SUPPORT ROSEDALE—UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

It is interesting to analyse the number of Rosedale households with at least one Association member. There are 211 houses in Rosedale east of George Bass Drive. In 2001 and 2002, we had at least one member in more than 75 per cent of those houses. Interestingly and somewhat dismayingly, more than 20 per cent

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

of 2001's member households did not pay dues in 2002. This newsletter is sent to everyone who was a member in 2001 onwards, in the hope that you will stay with us as members. Please support the Association and pay for your 2003 membership, if you have not already done so. Remember that you must be paid up to vote in the coming AGM.

Ian Holmes

### CONTRIBUTE TO THE ROSEDALE WEBSITE

Our website at <http://www.netspeed.com.au/rosedale> was launched with the December 2002 newsletter. Many thanks to Sam Boardman, Gordon Bray and David Mackenzie for their contributions. Sam, aged 8, spent three days with his grandparents at Rosedale. His report and photos are in this newsletter (see the website for colour versions of the photos).

Gordon has brought the Rosedale bird list up-to-date with the help of Jill Whiter of the Eurobodalla Natural History Society. David keeps us up-to-date with Landcare activities.

We will use the website and, sometimes, email to keep you up-to-date with news and events between newsletters, so check it out often.

Contributions to the website are most welcome. Let us know about your knowledge of Rosedale, its past or present, or its natural history. My email address is: [anton.cook@netspeed.com.au](mailto:anton.cook@netspeed.com.au).



### KNOWLMAN ROAD TREES

During my Neighbourhood Watch walks in October, I discovered trees had been cut down from the public walkway along the crest of Knowlman Road. I wrote to council and a reply was received on 4 December from Gary Smith, environmental coordinator.

He wrote that 'Action in the Knowlman Road area is not yet over'. I replied on 1 February, stating that many Rosedale folk were interested in the outcome.

Copies of these letters are on file.

### FENCE RAILS BROKEN

On 20 December, Irene Morgan reported that the fence rails belonging to the Retreat were broken—someone probably jumped on them.

### BOLT CUTTERS IN TOWEL

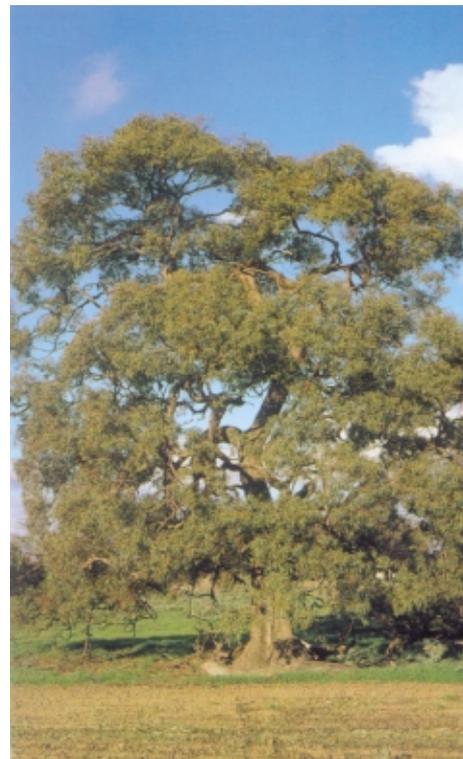
On Boxing Day, a beach towel was found on the roof of a Knowlman Road residence. When it was retrieved, the towel was found to have a pair of bolt cutters wrapped inside.

### SUSPICIOUS BIKER

In early January, Paul Ninham was driving along George Bass Drive when he saw a man riding his (Paul's) bicycle. He followed the bike for some way and the person riding the bike became aware of being followed. The thief (alleged) finally pulled up next to two cars and a trailer where five rather unsavoury types were waiting for him. The bike was abandoned and the men drove off. Paul took the numbers of the cars and reported them to police who think the area was being cased in preparation for being 'cleaned out'.

### STATUE SMASHED

A statue was stolen from Tranquil Bay Close on 21 January and later smashed. Farther up the street, a



garbage bin was up-ended and used to transport the statue to an area where it was smashed.

About this time another break-in took place in Rosedale Parade. External and internal windows were smashed but the thieves were unable to actually get into the main house. The police increased their patrols that night in case the thieves made a return visit.

### KNOWLMAN ROAD BREAK-IN

Another house in Knowlman Road was broken into on 3 February. One door was jemmied and one kicked. Ski gear and golf clubs were among the items stolen.

### BIG LEAK

In early February, we found a water-bore pump running in Rose Court. We also found what looked like a leak near the septic tank. The pump was turned off and the owner was informed.

Deirdre Prussak  
Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

## FIRE REPORT

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This summer's bushfire season has been the worst since 1968, according to the Acting Fire Control Officer for the Eurobodalla Shire, John Sanders.

This will come as no surprise to those who experienced, or witnessed through the media, the Canberra and regional bushfires as well as devastating fires in Sydney, wide areas of country New South Wales, including the Kosciusko National Park, and large areas of Victoria.

Once again we saw a massive effort by firefighters, mostly volunteers, battling fires in extreme conditions, with stark media pictures of the resultant destruction of the natural and built environment.

The 18 January firestorm in Canberra, which destroyed almost 500 houses and damaged many others along with costly damage to public assets and utilities, is already an historically significant fire. No doubt the resulting inquiries will, in time, lead to a range of recommendations and subsequent actions for government and the public to put into place. Although one can confidently predict that many lessons will have been learned before the inquiry results are made known, the reviews will reinforce the fact that, although most Australians reside in a relatively secure urban environment,

we are still living in a country where we are virtually powerless to stop a bushfire out of control in extreme conditions such as those experienced on 18 January.

On the other hand, many fires—probably the majority of outbreaks—can be successfully fought and brought under control, particularly if attacked early. Mr Sanders pointed out that eight fires, caused by lightning strikes 15 km west of Moruya in December, were quickly brought under control, although another two in inaccessible country caused continuing problems. (This past season, lightning strikes have been of particular concern because of the prevailing dry conditions. In more temperate seasons, an accompanying thunderstorm will often quench fires caused by lightning).

In June 2002, the Bushfire Management Plan for the region was signed off. As I reported to you when the plan was in draft form, it has identified Rosedale, along with Guerilla Bay, South Durras and other places, as extreme risk urban areas. Factors that place Rosedale in this category include topography, fuel and access for firefighters.

Mr Sanders said a recent article in the Bay Post had erroneously described these areas as being

blacklisted as 'areas that cannot be saved in severe fire'. He emphasised that the one-way access posed a big problem for firefighters, particularly in a wildfire front that came from west to east, and the safety of firefighters would be paramount. In less extreme conditions, such as a house fire or a fire starting within the area (as distinct from a well-developed fire bearing in upon the area), we could expect a normal turnout by fire brigades. This is consistent with previous statements regarding access by brigades to parts of Rosedale.

Part of the fire risk management strategy emphasises the need for hazard reduction, including residents 'managing the bush fire hazard (ground fuels) on and adjoining their properties'.

This fits in with the Rosedale Association's long and continuing campaign (through the newsletter) to encourage all of us to clean up our properties and reduce the amount of fuel and hazardous conditions where possible.

Simple precautions can reduce the rate of fire spread, giving attending fire units a head start in bringing a fire under control. Literature will be available at the AGM outlining steps you can take in and around your house to improve fire safety.

Finally, I would like to recommend, as in previous years, that the Association donate \$400 to the Malua Bay Bush Fire Brigade. Our past donations have contributed to the brigade being able to purchase additional equipment, including communications, which both increases the efficiency and safety of our volunteer firefighters.

Brian Voce



## THREE SPECIAL DAYS AT ROSEDALE

In the October school holidays I went to Rosedale to stay with my grandparents.

On the first day I saw two whales. They were jumping on their backs and spurting water out of their blowholes. The whales were out near Jimmy's Island and I think they were

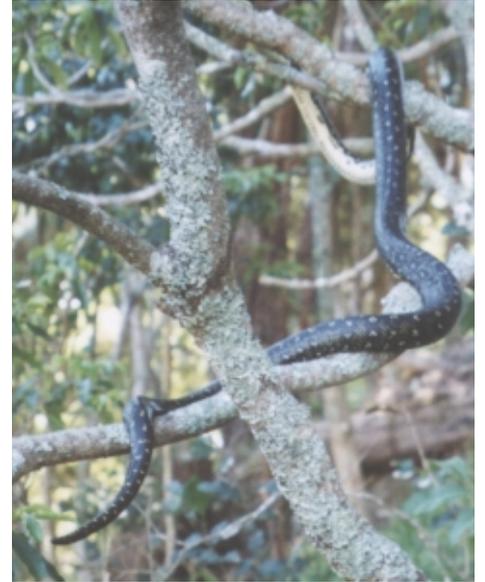


Southern Right whales. I watched them with binoculars for a while until they swam away.

On the second day we went down to the beach. On our way back up to the house I spotted a three-metre long diamond python just beside the track. My mum quickly pulled me back out of the way until we realized it was harmless and very beautiful. We watched it slither across the track and up a tree. It moved from tree to tree and then rested for a while. Then it started slithering to the next tree. It was black with beautiful yellow and orange markings and a long forked tongue. I decided to call him Forky. We took some photos of the beautiful diamond python.

The Falks who live in Cooks Crescent gave me a python skin which they found hanging from their roof. I took it to school for 'show and tell'.

On the third day we went to the beach again. We saw something in the



water just past where the waves were breaking. We thought it was a dead dolphin. After a while we realised it was a resting seal. Then we went back up to the house. After a while we came back down for a walk to see if it was still there. It was! It must have been very tired.

I had a fantastic three-day surprise.

Sam Boardman (aged 8)

## TWO AMENDMENTS PROPOSED TO THE ASSOCIATION'S CONSTITUTION

We have received a notice of motion to amend the Rosedale Association's constitution as follows:

'Insert in Rule 3, after the definition of General Meeting, the following: the Rosedale area means that part of Rosedale which lies between George Bass Drive and the Pacific Ocean.

'Insert in Rule 5, after "ratepayers and residents of the Rosedale area" the following: persons who were financial members of the Association as at 19 April 2003.'

### EXPLANATION

As set out in our constitution, the principal objective of the Association is:

*'to maintain the existing environmental character of the Rosedale area.'*

Most members know about the proposed new subdivisions in the area. Many members have expressed concern that the new subdivisions will bring people with different interests, for example people interested in the kinds of facilities members of the Association have traditionally opposed, such as shops.

Because of the size of the subdivisions, the new residents may, in time, outnumber existing residents. If eligible for membership in our Association, those in the new subdivisions may, in time, be able to outvote current members and thus totally change the character of Rosedale, and the Association and its objectives.

The proposed amendments would confine future eligibility for Association membership to:

- ratepayers and residents of the Rosedale area (as defined in the amendments); and
- such other persons as may be admitted by the committee.

All current members would remain eligible for membership.

The amendments, if approved, would enable us to preserve the character of the Association while retaining all existing members.

## ROSEDALE URBAN EXPANSION ZONE—THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

The following is a synopsis of a January 2003 report addressing environmental concerns.

Subdivisions will soon occur in the catchments of Saltwater Creek and Bevia Wetland. The major proposed development is to the west of George Bass Drive and there is a smaller development on the eastern side of it in North Rosedale. They will have significant impacts on these two catchments and the sensitive waterbodies they each feed: Saltwater Creek drains into a small urbanised ICOLL,\* otherwise known as Saltwater Creek Lagoon, and Bevia is a SEPP\*\* 14-protected wetland.

We sent a submission to the NSW Minister for Planning, to the consenting authority (PlanningNSW) and to the regulating agencies, drawing their attention to some environmental outcomes that are not only desirable for all parties but are achievable. We emphasised two major aspects:

- the need to recognise different development phases and to address evident environmental issues during the entire life of the development; and
- the need to monitor key attributes for evaluating ecosystem health.

The country was cleared over 100 years ago and consequently the catchments and the waterbodies they feed are ecologically and hydrologically degraded. In the continued absence of remedial measures they will get worse and any further disturbance can lead to ecological collapse. In practical terms, the reality is that successive developments inherit the results of previous ones, resulting in successively lower environmental starting points and progressive deterioration of continually less resilient environments.

It is our belief that much of this reduction in ecosystem health associated with new developments can be avoided to the benefit of the region, the developer and residents.

PHASE	NATURE OF WORKS	POTENTIAL EFFECT
1	Excavating for roads, sewerage and other services	Export huge masses of sediment over short periods causing long-term, possibly irreversible damage to the stream system. Loss of habitat from vegetation clearing.
2	Building construction	Large numbers of small sediment exports to streams with long-term deleterious effects. Further loss of habitat.
3	Landscaping and consolidation	Start of nutrient export from fertilisers and other horticultural chemicals damaging to the aquatic ecosystems into which they flow. Replacement of local native vegetation with other species inappropriate for the local fauna.
4	Long term operation of the development	Horticultural pollutants entering both the groundwater and surface waters. Untreated stormwater runoff, rubbish entering surface waters. Loss of habitat through build up of weeds and gradual loss of local species.

The environmental impacts of a development may be envisaged in four distinct phases, which differ in magnitude, sources and the types of materials and pollutants generated. As the Rosedale developments are likely to be staged over a lengthy period, all four stages will exist simultaneously for the majority of the establishment phase of the development.

We urge that an effective water quality monitoring system be established in the Rosedale catchments without delay so that some benchmark information at least is gathered during the brief lead-time before construction commences. Thereafter the sampling strategy needs to vary according to the roll-out of the developments.

A degraded catchment can be extremely difficult to rehabilitate. However, it is possible to generate

# URBAN EXPANSION ZONE

improvement. By focusing on key areas of the catchment a flow-on or self-restoration effect can be initiated and it is usually possible to restore a number of ecological functions and services that were lost or impaired under previous land uses. The catchments of Bevia Wetland and Saltwater Creek, including the sensitive ICOLL into which the latter drains, appear to offer scope for a considerable degree of improvement without recourse to a great deal more investment than is called for by the existing instruments governing developments.

Some important actions for achieving these ends are:

- consider catchment areas as a whole, ignoring property boundaries;
- ensure that no untreated stormwater reaches either the Saltwater Creek lagoon, Bevia Wetland or their feeder streams;
- exclude development from all but the smallest streamlines;
- establish suitably wide vegetation buffers along all streamlines to act as sediment and nutrient traps; and

- establish tree lots using appropriate local species and retain existing vegetation to provide wildlife habitat and linking corridors.

There is no direct requirement for a developer to improve the environment: the basic requirement of the conditions of consent is to maintain the status quo. However, we suggest it is in the developer's best interests to enhance the current environmental condition (or at least preserve the ability to enhance that condition in the future), particularly the key features, such as receiving waters. The marketability of an award winning 'Green' subdivision is a powerful incentive.

This is the last chance to achieve an environmental improvement in these catchments. By going some way beyond the minimum stipulated environmental development conditions, the developer has the opportunity to take advantage of today's improved environmental awareness and commitment to environmental responsibility. In addition to the market place advantage that this extra effort



brings, there would be a significant contribution toward reducing the magnitude of environmental challenges facing the region by developing a way of life that does not borrow from future generations.

\* Intermittently closing and opening lake or lagoon.

\*\* State Environment Protection Policy.

David Mackenzie,  
CSIRO Land & Water, Canberra

Dr Bill Maher,  
University of Canberra

Dr Joe Walker,  
CSIRO Land & Water, Canberra

## COMMENTS ON MARSIM'S RECENT OPEN FORUM TO DISPLAY KEY FEATURES OF THEIR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

*Marsim's Development Application was placed on public exhibition on 28 February and public submissions closed on March 31. These comments were written before the exhibition opened and they should be read both in this context and in the context of the above report on environmental concerns. I am indebted to Dr Joe Walker for valuable assistance in editing them.*

• Overall I think the developers' representatives covered most of the

environmental matters that could cause concern, but the devil is in the detail, and all I managed to cover was the Master Plan.

- There are four documents that will be put on public display when the proposal is advertised by PlanningNSW.
- Preparing a submission requires a copy of each from the developers and it is uncertain that copies will be available for close scrutiny.

• The Master Plan and the Development Application will likely go on display for 30 days during which public submissions are invited. PlanningNSW will then carry out their assessment taking into account public submissions. So the whole business could take four to six months.

• Attempts will be made to ensure that no untreated stormwater runoff will reach a stream. Consequently, there will be lots of detention devices such as rainwater tanks with

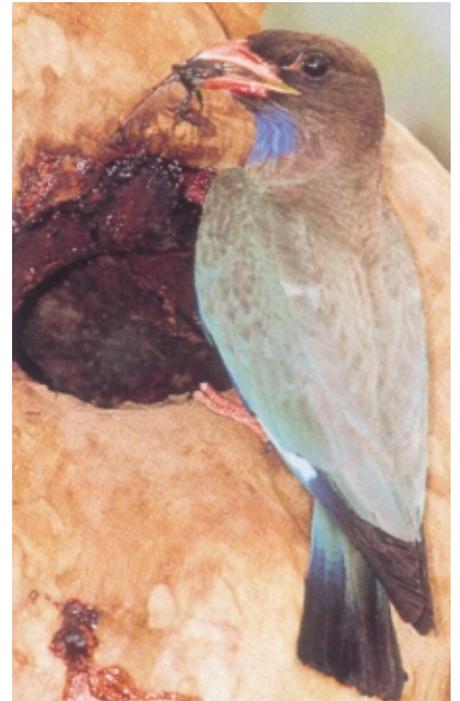
# ROSEDALE URBAN EXPANSION ZONE

dead space (that is, a pipe part way down so that the top portion drains off slowly and reduces runoff rates), additional dams (but not yet clear if these will qualify as constructed wetlands), roadside swales with gravel filled drains under etc.

- Riparian buffer zone widths always appear as though they will vary according to the terrain etc. but it is not yet clear if these will be sufficient.
- The developers intend to add 60 metres to the required 40-metre buffer zone surrounding Bevan Wetland and there will be gross pollutant traps and detention ponds interspersed on streamlines before they discharge into it.
- Riparian vegetation will be restored to some of the streams but inasmuch as this could provide a bushfire wick between the forested lands to the east and the west, they will be discontinuous, at least there will be little or none in the upper reaches which may be okay because at those points the streamlines may not yet be incised.
- Consequently, wildlife corridors will be minimal as they also constitute fire corridors from west to east. There is also the matter of George Bass Drive as an effective wildlife barrier between west and east. However there is scope for tongues of vegetation allowing wildlife into the zone from the north and west and this is a point to be made forcefully in a future submission. We were advised that no costs will be allowed in the area.
- The concept of neighbourhood governance is interesting: it seems to me to be not unlike a body corporate with a constitution and rules to which all landholders are bound by law. Departures from these must be passed by the

committee, the entire membership, the Eurobodalla Shire Council and, in extreme cases, PlanningNSW. However, the developers will draw up the constitution and rules, and it appears there will be little if any opportunity for community input. I did not find out if these will also be on public display. They include such matters as house styles for different precincts, paint colours etc. The neighbourhood will be responsible for such matters as grass mowing, weed removal, rubbish collection etc. It will be interesting to see to what extent the neighbourhood body will go to achieve good environmental outcomes when the costs begin to mount.

- I indicated that there needs to be a strong commitment to Landcare activities and cooperation with neighbouring Landcare Groups to which general assent was given by those present. I had made the point several times that we did not see a boundary between the two developers, we saw only the two catchments, Bevan and Saltwater, each as a whole catchment. There seems to be minimal exchange between the two developers.
- The hydrologist indicated there was some requirement for them to monitor water quality of the discharge which they pass into Bevan to the south and to the other development to the east. We discussed in broad terms the nature of an effectively structured monitoring program but when I pressed him to tell me what he considered to be reasonable programs to put in place during each specific stages of construction (1. civil; 2. house construction; 3. consolidation; and 4. established and long-term), I did not get a complete answer.
- The hydrologist agreed there were problems with local government



enforcing the regulations to ensure that there is no discharges of sediment during construction. By and large local governments do not have the resources to police it and so sediment discharges willy-nilly into the waterways. This is a serious matter that should be taken up with Council and PlanningNSW immediately. Essentially if Council can't guarantee they can effectively prevent contractors allowing sediment to pass from their site, then PlanningNSW should not allow the development to go ahead. A few hay bales scattered around and a bit of silt mesh thrown up may be sufficient only to handle a one-in-30 days event.

- Overall, I think the developers have good intentions. The measures they intend to implement to achieve reasonable sociological and environmental goals will be costly but future residence in this development will not necessarily involve a trivial investment.

David Mackenzie

## TREASURER'S REPORT

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1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002

### INCOME

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Member subscriptions (211 members)	\$2110.00
Bank interest	\$2.65
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	\$2112.65

### EXPENSES

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Secretarial (two years)	\$549.50
Car park	\$738.46
Other Landcare	\$142.75
AGM barbecue	\$198.62
PO Box	\$52.00
Insurance	\$235.00
Newsletter	\$391.68
Bank charges	\$6.60
Malua Bay Fire Brigade (includes \$30 donation)	\$430.00
Presentation	\$183.20
To investment account	\$3000.00
	<hr/>
	\$5927.81

<b>Cash at bank 1 January 2002</b>	\$4402.78
<b>Plus</b> income	\$2112.65
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	\$6515.43
<b>Less</b> expenses	\$5927.81
	<hr/>
Equals cash at bank 31 December 2002	\$587.62

<b>Investment account 1 January 2002</b>	\$7412.81
<b>Plus</b> interest	\$367.88
<b>Plus</b> transfer from cheque account	\$3000.00
	<hr/>
<b>Investment account 31 December 2002</b>	\$10780.69
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<hr/>
	\$11368.31

Deirdre Prussak  
Honorary Treasurer

# *caring for our* ROSEDALE ENVIRONMENT



## PLANTINGS PLANNED TO AID BEACH STABILISATION

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Rosedale Beach is relatively stable for the small volume of usage that it experiences compared to many and it does not suffer bad erosion from any but the worst storms. It took a good beating during the major storms of 1975–76 and there is speculation that it may not yet have completed its recovery from that episode.

Recovery is seldom a continuous process, lesser storms can impact quite heavily before the beach has fully stabilised and so there are natural cycles of accretion, or build up, and regression, or erosion. The sand lost during an erosion event is mostly parked conveniently out near the first line of breakers and its return begins on the next tide after the storm abates. This is evident each time Saltwater Creek breaks out: once the outflow has ceased, successive tides put the sand lost in the breakout back into the mouth of the creek and the lagoon can close off again in a few days. Not all beach regeneration is as swift as this, natural recovery may be in the realm of many decades and our various types of beach usage are known to stretch it out even further:

Following the 1975–76 storms there was some reshaping of the sand dune, some revegetation and some fencing to protect the new growth. Beach vegetation will change, both in the number of species and the volume of material growing. A storm that erodes the beach may have a severe impact on the vegetation, as may a drought. One of the major causes of vegetation decline on beaches the world over is traffic, both vehicular and foot. There is extensive experience around the world in managing this problem and the Australian expertise is among the world's best. The trick is to protect the beach from being loved to death while minimising restrictions on beach usage and the proliferation of visually intrusive structures. This needs to be accompanied by huge efforts in raising public awareness of the issues, the remedial measures being taken, the reasons why and the consequences of not taking the measures.

Rosedale has little or no vehicular traffic and as already noted, little foot traffic. However, this is about to change. With the developments to our west coming increasingly on line in coming years, beach usage will increase and foot traffic will soon exceed the safe usage threshold for the beach to maintain its stability and its resilience, that is, its ability to recover quickly after a heavy storm. Once it loses its resilience it may not recover at all, even from a medium-sized storm, and the beach will retreat inland at the expense of the amenity we now enjoy.

Landcare has been thinking about ways to minimise the likelihood of such a deterioration. On advice from NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation, who own most of the state's beaches, and Coastcare, we plan to begin this autumn with beach and dune plantings to augment the existing vegetation. We have a healthy credit with two nurseries resulting from an accumulation of grant monies over recent years and we have requested a range of beach and dune species for this exercise. It is unlikely that we will make a huge impact with a single planting, so there could be several in one season and certainly further plantings in subsequent years. In so doing we hope that future beach usage need not be restricted, sand trapping and crowd control structures can be minimised and that the amenity will remain in a healthy condition for all to enjoy.

**David Mackenzie**

## DUNE CROSSING TO BE CONSIDERED AT AGM

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There are now four constructed dune crossings on Rosedale Beach; three longstanding board and chain crossings from the car park and a more recent holey-belt crossing from Banksia Flat and Cooks Crescent. The holey-belt crossing caused some concern among residents. Why are dune crossings necessary?

A dune is the beach's natural protection from the storm at sea. Without a dune, waves would come far inland and do untold damage as indeed they do in the many parts of the world, especially where building has unfortunately been allowed on the dune and it can no longer

function as a buffer against the sea: the textbook example is to be found at the Gold Coast. Traffic crossing a dune at a popular spot creates a notch in the dune as firstly the protective vegetation is repressed, then onshore winds remove sand from the unprotected area and before long there is a blowout. Sand blowing over the beach is no longer trapped by the dune but blows inland through the notch, from which the wind also blows sand inland. The result is a deepening notch and a plume of sand migrating inland.

The popular track from Cooks Crescent over Banksia Flat to the beach had created a notch in the dune about a metre deep and the resultant plume had filled the swale (hollow) behind the dune: this fill can still be seen. Council accepted Coastcare advice that this situation needed attention and was keen to trial holey-belt as a dune crossing for the first time in the Shire. It is commonly used with great success in the north of the state. Council relocated sand from the beach at low tide to fill the notch before construction. This is a fairly common and wholly respectable practice in beach repair; it does not harm the beach in any way because the sand removed was most likely once on the dune and is only being returned to the dune a bit earlier than might have happened naturally. Further, the hole left in the beach is covered at the next high tide and refills after a couple more.

There are several smaller notches in the dune along Banksia Flat—some caused by unthinking hikers and some by animals. From time to time Landcare repairs these by restoring the vegetation and blocking them off with dead branches before they can

grow to be a problem. However, one significant dune crossing remains at the north end of Banksia Flat. There is not as large a volume of foot traffic as the first one but it too had developed a deepening notch, the vegetation was being depleted by foot traffic and a substantial plume had developed. It too was marked to have a holey-belt crossing installed and Council filled it with sand relocated from below the high tide mark at the same time as it filled the other.

The first holey-belt crossing and the relocation of the beach sand were a cause for residents' concern. Representation to the Association's committee resulted in work on the second structure being paused until the last AGM where it was voted to have no structure built. The principal reason for this decision appeared to be an objection to the visual intrusion: this seems strange given that most houses with a view of the beach can also be viewed from the beach.

The consequence of this decision is that another notch is developing as the relocated sand blows inland, accelerated by foot traffic, albeit a small volume of traffic but sufficient to have a deleterious effect. There is a convenient track with well-made steps down the cliff feeding traffic onto this crossing. As a result, it is not sufficient to say there are only a few users of this spot so that either it or the crossing should be blocked off, as has been suggested. Council is unwilling to block off the cliff track and steps—these are considered a fixture. The further reality, which any good landscape designer well understands and disregards at peril, is that foot traffic takes the shortest route and foot traffic on this route will undoubtedly increase as the developments to the west proceed. Block off the existing crossing and another will simply develop nearby, thus multiplying the problem. In time another sizeable notch will develop, vegetation behind it will be covered by sand. Given a large enough storm, which could come any time, there will be serious dune erosion, which could take decades to recover. Even without a storm, the Department of Land and Water Conservation could step in and, with or without community consent, take such measures as they deem necessary to protect the asset with whose well-being they are charged. This could result in other structures, the visual intrusion of which is potentially far greater than a holey belt crossing. It is far better to bend like the grass than be snapped off like the oak in the strong wind.



The matter comes before April's AGM for consideration once more. I urge members to think carefully about the consequences of rejecting a dune crossing structure yet again and consider removing any obstacle to its erection. Its purpose is to protect the beach you love to use, don't allow the beach to be loved to death.

David Mackenzie

# *caring for our* ROSEDALE ENVIRONMENT

## WORKING BEE NEWS

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Opposite ends of the Christmas holiday season did not seem to fit in with many members plans but, of course, the January fires in Canberra and the fire situation generally made the Long Weekend special impossible for many.

Saturday 21 December: A team of seven tackled the protective post installation in the area between the carpark and dune. The group really worked as a team—the only planted area not now protected is the circular bed. There is a Telstra box

adjoining with telephone wire ingress and egress which calls for great caution in sinking posts. So far the plants do not seem to have been damaged by traffic—even during the holiday period. The posts in the area of the northern walkways are not protecting plantings but they do enclose an area behind the dune where we hope there will be some natural regeneration. The mown area is now reduced and a clear access delineated for Council maintenance vehicles.

Without rain the big effort since has been to keep the plantings alive, initially with a half hour of hosing on odd-numbered days and now with bucketing only when critical. Anybody else who feels they could help James and Suzanne with that task please call them on 4471 8544 so all our efforts can be coordinated.

Saturday 25 January: There were only six for this working bee with David Mackenzie unavailable. A week earlier, the Mackenzie's house in Canberra was saved through

prodigious and persistent firefighting efforts by David and his son, David. Their efforts were punctuated by three evacuations and subsequent returns. They lost their garden, together with Jenny's car and two others.

Nevertheless, a great team effort again. Lots of fleabane, moth vine, bridal creeper, cassia and some blackberry were successfully dealt with at a critical time. There is still a lot to be done. Cobbler's peg is particularly bad—we could deal with only a small portion and decided the earlier mentioned should be our practical priorities. Turkey rhubarb still remains but that calls for careful and selective spraying for best effect.

The most recent working bee was on 22 March.

**Gordon Bray**

## GLASS AND CLIPPINGS LITTER CLIFF AREA

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It was very disappointing to find fresh bottles thrown over the cliff above Banksia Flat after all the earlier efforts to clean up old bottles and broken glass, particularly towards the northern end. Despite repeated entreaties, clippings and prunings also continue to be thrown over the cliff face to the detriment of the already sparse and stressed vegetation. Is there anyone up there who might join us to help in, and also encourage, keeping the cliff face free of rubbish, garden or otherwise?

**Gordon Bray**



## NOMINATION FORM

I nominate .....

for a position on the Rosedale Association Committee.

Nominator: .....

Secunder: .....

Name: .....

Name: .....

Signed:.....Signed:.....

I agree to stand. ....

Signed:.....

Send this slip to the Secretary, PO Box 536, Batemans Bay NSW 2536.

## IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP-TO-DATE?

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

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

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

Name(s).....

Postal address (for newsletter) .....Postcode .....

Rosedale address .....Postcode .....

Email address .....

Home phone .....Mobile phone .....Fax.....

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