

# THE Rosedale ASSOCIATION



Newsletter Issue 92 September 2003

## MEMORIES OF ROSEDALE ON THE WEBSITE

Since the last newsletter, Pat Wallace has provided a heart-warming and entertaining glimpse of Rosedale in days gone by. You can read Pat's account on our Rosedale Association website at <http://www.netspeed.com.au/rosedale>.

Pat's article is so enjoyable that we hope others will be motivated to share some of their memories. In particular, a reader has asked to know more about some history of the 1975 storm (mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter) that devastated some of our beaches. So let us know about your memories of Rosedale—its past, or its natural history. You can send your contributions to: [anton.cook@netspeed.com.au](mailto:anton.cook@netspeed.com.au).

Also, please let us know if you don't have access to the internet, but want to read about the memories. We will then make an effort to include these 'memory' items in future newsletters (but you'll see them first on the internet). If you want these items included in the newsletter, please call Peggy Bright in Canberra on 02 6247 3584 or Ian Holmes in Rosedale on 02 4471 7252.

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

ANTON COOK

## NEXT WORKING BEE ON 27 SEPTEMBER

The next working bee is scheduled for Saturday 27 September (fourth Saturday of every second month). Meet in carpark at 9 am. Any other details will be advised through our email listing and by whatever other means are available to us.

GORDON BRAY

## MINUTES OF THE ROSEDALE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 19 APRIL 2003

The meeting commenced at 11 am at the Cabins.

### APOLOGIES

J Reid, M Reid, J&P Bright, M Barrell, I Morgan, S Edsell, P Romano, RT Winch, E Stutchbury, E Richardson, W Coupland, B Williams, D Reynolds, K&T Friend, J&B Hemer, B&S Gwynn-Jones, J Nicholas.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My report is as published in the last newsletter, but there are some additional things that need to be added.

Firstly, I need to thank the other members of our committee. Only three of us live in Rosedale and we have met only once in the year but, thanks to email, we have kept in close touch and all of us have shared the news of breaking developments and have contributed to a committee position as it was needed. Thank you my fellow committee members.

We have produced three newsletters over the year. I hope that you, the members, feel we have kept you informed of what is going on. I thank, on your behalf, those who produce the newsletter—Peggy Bright (editing), Andrew Shillington (production), Megan Vickery (design), Anton Cook (distribution), and Paul and Mary Mlakar (printing).

Our Landcare work continues and embodies much of the ethos that led to the formation of this association 27 years ago. Be in no doubt that Rosedale is infinitely more weed-free and more attractively planted on public land than would be the case if there had been no association or Landcare involvement. Thank you to David, Gordon and James—I know the hard work and long hours they contribute to our community. I single out David in particular. He sends me too many e-mails timed around 3 am but his untiring effort and his networking within the bureaucracy has resulted in plants, equipment and labour that have benefited us all.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

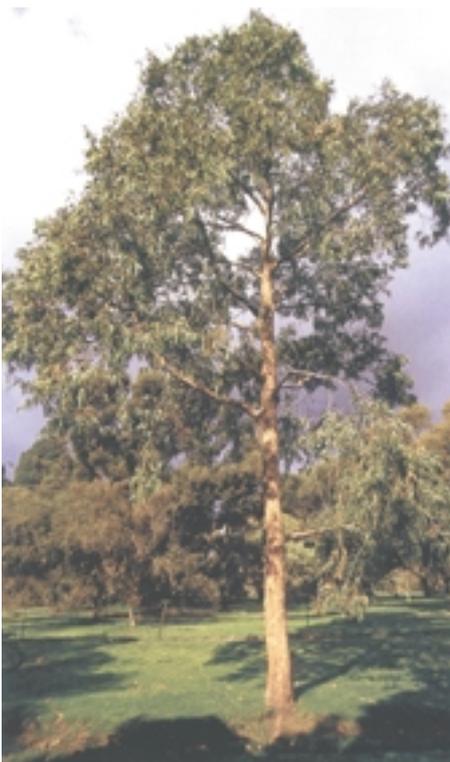
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### WATER RESTRICTIONS

The drought does appear to have broken in this neck of the woods. Even by our annual general meeting in April there was relief, with the rainfall for February and March equaling the sum of the previous eight months. Since then falls (and breakouts by Saltwater Creek) have been good.

We note that friends living between Bungendore and Braidwood still have empty dams and the soil is dry at a depth of one spade blade, so the drought remains unbroken not far from Rosedale.

Water restrictions continue at Level 2. This means no fixed watering systems or unattended hoses are permitted. Micro sprays and hand-held hoses are allowed—each property being allowed one hand-held hose for an hour a day between 6-8 am and 3-6 pm. There is speculation that restrictions on watering during the heat of the day may become a permanent feature in the shire.



### WHAT THE DEVELOPERS ARE UP TO

**Yowani Road**—Batemans Bay Property Services, a division of Edwards Constructions, is the developer of the site, which is on your left up the slope as you enter Yowani Road from George Bass Drive. Nine blocks are for sale, ranging in size from 4300 square metres to one hectare. Planning approval lies, in the first instance, with the NSW State Government. The process of public exhibition and comment is complete. The developer has responded to Planning NSW by redefining the blocks to:

- meet fire requirements
- prove that the slope on each block allows a building site. This means, in effect, that there is a defined building area on each site
- allow for water retention basins at the foot of the hill to slow drainage into the wetland.

The developer hopes to have an approved Development Application by October, with construction of roads and guttering to start in February next year.

**Bevian Farm** opposite Rosedale on George Bass Drive—Edwards Constructions hopes to complete the master plan for this area during this calendar year, with construction to commence in a year's time. They plan to control development by offering house and land packages using their own architects to provide options for each site.

**Manns Nursery** along Bevian Road—The approval process by Planning NSW continues. The Marsim Group has submitted their first round responses to questions raised by the department and awaits further advice.

### CARPARK

Things are about to happen with the carpark. We have long known that Council planned to have a paved carpark at the end of Rosedale Parade, so we have been landscaping the surveyed area for some time. Stage 1 of the carpark—with 21 car places—is funded for this financial year, and it is hoped that work will be completed by Christmas. There will be a turning circle at the end of the road (as there is now) with a lead into the new park, which is the closest to the beach of the two locations defined by our planting. The present gravel parking area will be reclaimed and grassed, with foot traffic passing between the park and the beach access ramp. We have asked to have as much water run-off as possible directed away from Saltwater Creek, so as to reduce the silting problem.

Stage 2 has yet to make it into Councils' five-year plan.

### THANK YOU

My thanks to Mary Boardman, who has gone to great pains to get the two articles on ticks and cycads, and to Anton Cook for his unfailing support in maintaining our database of names and addresses and for his initiative in developing our website—see details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thanks also to members—you made a wonderful response to our subscription drive and the red dots on newsletters. We already have as many subscriptions this year as we achieved in the whole of last year. Because the red dot clearly works, we will continue the practice to alert members that subscriptions have expired.

IAN HOLMES

## FIRE-TIMELY REMINDERS

One hardly needs to be reminded about the threat of bushfires what with (at the time of writing) the release of the report into the ACT bushfires, devastating fires in Europe and forest fires in Canada.

And so to Rosedale. We are approaching the time of year when we have a good chance to clean up around our properties and to take stock of preparations for the coming summer. Here's a check list.

### Preparation

- Clear ground fuel around the house (grass, leaves, litter etc.).
- Clear gutters (an ongoing need) and debris on roof.
- Determine whether gutters can be blocked and filled with water.
- Prepare firebreaks around house.
- Screen or fill in openings able to admit sparks/burning debris.
- Remove or relocate flammable materials (woodpile, rubbish, debris etc.).
- Ensure hose(s) is long enough to reach all sides of house and left fitted to tap(s).
- Have buckets, rakes accessible.
- Work in with your neighbours.



### In case of fire

- Listen to local radio for fire news.
- Wear protective clothing (long sleeves etc.).
- Wet down roof and surrounds.
- Fill gutters with water.
- Fill containers, bath etc. with water.
- Plug gaps at doors and windows with wet towels.

- Close up house (doors, windows, openings etc.).
- Patrol after fire has passed; douse spot fires.
- Check roof cavity frequently for spot fires.

BRIAN VOCE



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH-ROSEDALE MOSTLY QUIET

It's been a reasonably quiet time. The usual doors or windows have been left open and have been attended to by the watchers.

Due to high winds some trees have come down. One tree fell onto the roof of a Knowlman road residence but, fortunately, did very little damage. Another fell across electricity wires to a Rose Court house, but this was soon rectified.

The nastiest thing, though, was that a Yowani Road resident went to Sydney for a day and upon her return found that someone had taken all her winter wood from under her house. Not one log remained to allow her to light a fire that night. You can't get much lower than that.

DEIRDRE PRUSSAK

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

## PARALYSIS TICKS A SERIOUS PARASITE

*Our thanks to NSW Agriculture—This article is adapted from a longer one that addresses the treatment of cattle for ticks  
By Stephen Ottaway, Senior Field Veterinary Officer, and Keith Newby, Veterinary Officer, both of Grafton*



Paralysis ticks belong to the class of arthropods called Arachnida, which includes spiders, scorpions, mites and king crabs. Paralysis ticks, also called dog ticks, shell-back ticks or scrub ticks, are a serious parasite occurring on the East Coast of Australia. They inject a toxin causing paralysis that can be fatal in domestic animals, both pets and livestock. The toxin can also affect humans. More than 80,000 cases of tick toxicosis, mainly in domestic pets, are treated each year in eastern Australia.

Paralysis ticks are native to Australia and their natural hosts are marsupials, principally bandicoots, but also others such as echidnas, possums and wallabies. They also infest cattle, horses, other livestock and domestic pets. Native animals are usually immune to the paralyzing toxin because of their frequent exposure to tick infestation. However, they do

maintain a reservoir of paralysis ticks in a particular area. Paralysis ticks tend to be associated with bushy or scrubby areas which harbour the native animal hosts but they can still be picked up in open paddocks and other areas.

The three main ticks of concern in NSW are the paralysis tick, the bush tick and the cattle tick. Heavy burdens of paralysis ticks are rare and they are usually present in mixed infestations with bush ticks. This excerpt of the original article concerns only the paralysis tick.

### LIFE CYCLE OF THE PARALYSIS TICK

Paralysis ticks are a three-host tick. This means that the tick must attach and feed on a new host (of the same or a different species) on three separate occasions in order to complete its life cycle. These are:

- larvae ('seed ticks')—they have six legs and a body that is pale grey to very dark blue-grey. When fully fed they are still smaller than the size of a pin head
- nymphs—they have eight legs and a body that is pear shaped to round. Their colour is light grey to very dark blue-black. They are about the size of a match head.
- adults—they have eight legs with the front and rear legs forming a V on the sides of the body. The body is pear-shaped to oval and yellow-grey to light grey, with a dark band on the sides. Their sizes range from match head (unfed) to pea-sized.

A very thorough inspection of an animal is required to find larvae, nymphs or unengorged adult ticks. While engorged adults are generally easy to see, they can attach in places such as in an ear, which makes them very difficult to find.

The parasitic phase occurs when ticks attach to a host and suck blood. After feeding, the larvae and nymph ticks drop off onto the ground and must moult before they are able to attach to another host. Paralysis ticks spend a much longer time on the ground than they do on animals.

Paralysis ticks can be found on hosts at any time of year. However adult ticks are most commonly seen from July through to December with a peak availability of young adults in spring. When the fully engorged female paralysis ticks drop, they lay 2000-3000 eggs then die. With moist, warm conditions, most of these eggs will hatch within 7 to 9 weeks.

The resulting larvae tend to infest hosts in late summer and autumn. These drop and moult to nymphs which infest animals in late autumn and winter. While most tick development follows this pattern, there is enough variation that small numbers of adult ticks can be found at other times of year.

Free living stages can survive on the ground for extended periods. Unfed larvae can remain alive for five months, while eight-month-old unfed nymphs have been shown to be infective. Free living stages are particularly susceptible to dry conditions. Temperatures above 32°C delays development or kills the tick while temperatures below 7°C for a few days can kill unattached adults. A good cover of mulch on the ground provides ideal conditions for eggs to develop and hatch and for the survival of larvae. Of the free living stages, unattached adults have the shortest potential for survival. The number of ticks is generally determined by rainfall during the year before.

# MINUTES OF THE ROSEDALE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 19 APRIL 2003

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Note that we expect Council work to start on the public car park this year, and we seem well placed on the list for a bus shelter.

Thank you members for your response to our request to renew your membership. The post office box has been busy over the last couple of weeks, and our treasurer is busy this morning.

Saltwater Creek broke out to the sea last weekend. Maybe the drought really has been broken.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Report as published in the last newsletter. Report submitted by Deirdre Prussak and seconded by Pip Tichler. Adopted.

Current assets \$11,368.31 invested, with a further \$850 banked in the last few weeks.

## FIRE OFFICER'S REPORT

Report as published in the last newsletter with a recommendation to donate \$400 to the Malua Bay Fire Brigade. Report submitted by Brian Voce and seconded by John Nicholas. Adopted.

Discussion then ensued to reintroduce equipment to Rosedale for residents to fight fires before the arrival of the brigade, if the brigade won't travel into North Rosedale. Brian clarified the situation. When the safety of firemen is compromised in extreme circumstances, management may refuse to send in a truck where it might be unable to get out.

Having equipment sited locally raises issues of upkeep, compatibility with departmental equipment, training and liability. Official volunteers using equipment are covered by state legislation. A garden hose is

a good interim measure until the brigade arrives.

G Bray proposed an amendment to the above recommendation to increase the donation to \$500. It was seconded by Milton Stebens. The amendment was not approved (31 for and 39 against), after discussion that noted \$400 is 20 per cent of the association's annual income.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Report as published in the last newsletter. Report submitted by Deirdre Prussak and seconded by Don Bowack. Adopted.

Knowlman Road cliff top trees removal—three letters have been written to Council Environment Coordinator. No response has yet been received as to what official action will result after Council has investigated the matter.

Watchers are still needed, particularly for the Tallwood-Tranquil Bay area. Volunteers should contact Deirdre on 02 4471 7014.

## LANDCARE REPORT

Report as published in the last newsletter. Report submitted by David Mackenzie and seconded by Gordon Bray. Adopted.

Coming projects for 2003 include beach stabilisation—noting the slow recovery from damage inflicted during the 1975 storm. Increased pressure is expected due to population increase. Plantings with guards (necessary for 12-18 months) will be sited in front of the dunes on the main beach and at beach's south end (in front of Banksia Flat). Locally found species will feature (acacias and casuarinas).

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### Marsim development

The committee made a submission to Council which covered the following points:

- The Association wishes to see the nature of the adjacent area as a wildlife habitat maintained and reinforced by the development, and recommends that there be minimal removal of trees, and that the wildlife habitat and corridor functions of the adjacent forested land be augmented by strategic reforestation.
- Supports the Eurobodalla Shire Council's own submission.
- The Mackenzie, Walker and Maher proposal was commended, as was the adoption of its recommendations.
- The estimate of 600 square metres as the existing average residential block size is an underestimate for this area.



- Sewerage connection is encouraged for Rosedale, in line with State Government policy, and sufficient capacity should be provided.

### Constitutional change

Two proposed amendments to the constitution—restricting membership to those living east of George Bass Drive—were published in the last newsletter. Amendments moved by Ernst Willheim and seconded by Paul Mlakar.

There was discussion and clarification that any constitutional change requires a two-thirds majority of members attending an annual general meeting.

Vote: 20 for, 51 against. Defeated.

### Speed humps

Advice from Council is that traffic calming devices should be limited to carparks as their application to streets and roads creates unnecessary disturbance to residents.

### Second dune crossing

David Mackenzie proposed a second holey belt crossing in the last newsletter. The site is a dune walkway and blowout at north end of Banksia Flat. The proposal was discussed.

Seconded by Nick Peterson. Defeated.

### Wheelchair pathway

Surveyors' plans were tabled at the last annual general meeting, with a case being made for a wheelchair and disabled access in the following newsletter.



The Committee does not support the proposal for the following reasons:

- There is no demonstrated demand for wheelchair access.
- If there is a demand, why this pathway? It starts half way up Yowani Road where there is no provision for car parking and specialised put down/pick up.
- The design would be visually intrusive—particularly in the final 80-100m which follows the cliff face out onto the rock shelf before Boatshed Beach.
- The Rosedale Parade carpark is, and will remain, the focus of public access to the beach. This carpark provides the most accessible, safe and lowest cost place from which to provide wheelchair access—should a demand for such access, ever become apparent.

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

#### Fiona Lodge

What are the levels of utilisation?

Anton Cook, who lives next door, estimated that occupancy at Fiona Lodge was 12.5 per cent in its first three months of operation. During school holidays there appeared to be good utilisation.

#### 49 Yowani Road

Moved by Bruce Kent, seconded by Paul Isaacson.

That the 2003 annual general meeting of the Rosedale Association:

- records its disappointment at the scale of development that the Eurobodalla Shire Council has approved at 49 Yowani Road, North Rosedale
- considers that the scale of development at 49 Yowani Road, North Rosedale, is inappropriate and incompatible with, and detrimental to, the character of the area.
- records its total opposition to the use of this site for any purpose

other than that of private residence.

- supports an appeal to the Land and Environment Court by Paul Isaacson of 50 Yowani Road, against the proposed two-storey double garage at 49 Yowani Road.
- resolves to contribute \$500 in the first instance to the cost of any appeal by Mr Isaacson.
- requests the Eurobodalla Shire Council to consult the Rosedale Association, as the recognised representative of the Rosedale Community, in relation to any further proposals relating to this site and the adjoining area.
- instructs the secretary to forward this resolution to the Eurobodalla Shire Council.

Much discussion followed, including the following points:

- that the floor space ratio was calculated differently at the time of the original application to Council. All development on site has council approval.
- legal advice had been received by Mr Isaacson that he has 'a strong point' which he 'should win on'.
- the owner commented that they had to remove the trees from the block but plan to replant at the end of construction as per guidelines from Eurobodalla Shire Council Fire Officer. They have a large family and therefore need a large home.
- Council guidelines were perceived by the members to have been breached and ground rules need to be set for the area.

The motion was voted in two parts. First, all the above points apart from dot point 5 (which gives financial support for the appeal). Carried, 58 votes to 7.

The second motion was limited to the resolution to contribute \$500 in the first instance to the cost of any appeal by Mr Isaacson. Carried, 48 votes to 16.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

We continue to ask for volunteers to join us on the committee and have had no response. Thankfully, nearly all of last year's committee has offered to stand again, and their nominations are to hand. Numbers are within our constitutional limits and the officers and committee for 2003-04 are:

### Officers

Ian Holmes-Chairman  
James Blogg-Secretary  
Deirdre Prussak-Treasurer

### Committee members

Jane Boardman      Darren Gribble  
Nick Peterson      Andrew Shillington  
Brian Voce

The Landcare sub-committee will continue to be Ian Holmes, James Blogg, David Mackenzie and Gordon Bray.

## WEEDATHON AND SAUSAGE SIZZLE.

Details were advised.  
The meeting concluded at 1pm.

### JAMES BLOGG

Secretary

(Footnote: Mr. Isaacson advises he will not be proceeding to court.)

## CYCAD SEX AND THE FORCES OF WEEVIL

*By Brad Collis*

Next time you are heading to the coast, keep your eyes out for the palm-like plants with hard, spiny leaves called cycads.

They are quite common along the east coast and are a survivor from the Jurassic era, their thorny defence said by botanists to have developed as a defence against browsing dinosaurs. However with the demise of the dinosaurs on Gondwanaland, the cycads became vulnerable to the hordes of plant mulching insects which emerged during the following Cretaceous era.

The cycads should then have gone the way of the dinosaurs but instead found an unlikely ally that has stayed with them and protected them throughout the hundreds of millions of years since.

Dr Rolf Oberprieler from the Australian National Insect Collection managed by the CSIRO in Canberra, says that when ripening, the cycad seed cones emit warm, strong, 'foody' odours that attract a particular group of weevils.

Weevils are normally associated with damage to plants and their seeds, but in the case of the cycad, the weevil is an essential part of its conservation because it has become the plant's main pollinator.

'The insects mate, dine and lay their eggs in the male cones, during which

time they become covered in pollen,' Dr Oberprieler says.

'Then, in one of nature's more remarkable strategies, female cycads employ a subtle form of chemical conmanship.

'First, receptive female cones emit an odour that mimics that of the male plants. This dupes the pollen-laden weevils, which are lured from the male plants to fly across and alight on the cones of the female plants.

'Here they deposit the pollen, as they hunt for the promised banquet. But before the weevils can cause too much damage to the maturing cycad seed-cone, the female has a second chemical signal: a potent form of insect repellent. This toxic substance drives away the weevils, which once more take refuge on the male plants where they are 'invited' by the cones' increased starch content to lay their eggs and perpetuate the cycle.'

Dr Oberprieler says the remarkable evolutionary feature is the way a plant, which had been around for more than 100 million years, was able to cope with the emergence of new species of predators and actually harness them to ensure its survival.

'Cycads are such a distinctive part of the Australian landscape that it is important we preserve them and one of the keys to achieving this will be to also look after the weevils which are

essential to their reproduction.'

Dr Oberprieler says research shows the cycads were invaded by these highly specialised herbivores at least seven times during their ancient history, but on each occasion the plant managed to surmount the threat.

- By killing off sick and diseased plants, the weevils actually contributed to the emergence of the hardy strains which survive today.
- Particularly vulnerable, the seed-bearing female cones gradually became denser, more heavily armoured and more toxic in their bid to control the invaders.

He says over time this caused the weevils to develop their present way of life, laying, hatching and living mostly on the cones of male cycad plants and flitting across to the females for just long enough to deposit the precious pollen, before being driven off again.

'It is quite astonishing and shows we can take nothing for granted in our Australian landscape. Every part is precious and if we want to look after our unique flora, it will mean looking after the insects and other creatures which pollinate it.'

Dr Oberprieler says that in effect the cycads are here today because they 'hired' a certain group of insects to help them have sex.

# *caring for our* ROSEDALE ENVIRONMENT

## LANDCARE ACTIVITIES

Eurobodalla Greencorps recently spent three days at Rosedale planting about 500 dune/beach species at both our main beach and south beach. This is the beginning of the beach stabilisation program announced at the annual general meeting and in the previous newsletter.

The principal purpose at the main beach is to encourage pedestrian traffic to follow more defined and direct tracks from the fenced dune to the beach itself. This should minimise random traffic and deterioration of the forward dunes that are likely to occur when pedestrian numbers increase with housing development.

On the south beach, the main object is to augment the recovery

of the dune which was severely affected by storms in 1974-75 and has been slow to recover fully.

Not long after the planting, we had some of the biggest seas for many years and many of the new arrivals were inundated. A small group of hardy souls including the Allen family (53 Yowani Road) had to do a resuscitation exercise on Saturday 28 June. The south beach was more wave-affected than it has been for nearly 30 years and it underlines the necessity for care of the dunes.

We were not expecting to get further help from Greencorps until September, but in the meantime we were offered a further batch of 240 suitable dune species from Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens.

We thought plantings would be dependent upon a working bee

on Saturday 26 July but, fortunately, a Greencorps team was able to come to our rescue on Tuesday 22 July and they planted the whole batch on that day.

The working bee on 26 July concentrated on removing and bagging seed heads of weeds that had got away from us at the southern end of Banksia Flat. These would otherwise have compounded in the spring.

Thanks to Greencorps and others who have participated.

GORDON BRAY

## 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