

# THE Rosedale ASSOCIATION

Newsletter Issue 93 January 2004

## ROSEDALE HAS A WINNING BEACH



Prof Bruce Thom, chair of NSW Coastal Councils (centre), presents the award to Eurobodalla Shire Mayor Pam Green and Rosedale Association President Ian Holmes.

It's official now, Rosedale has an awarding winning beach. The news came recently when Rosedale won regional and state honours in the 2003 NSW Clean Beach Challenge, organised by Keep Australia Beautiful NSW.

The honours were first prize in the Beach Spirit Award category (both state and regional, with the region covering Cape Howe to Durras Lake) and a highly commended certificate in the Natural Heritage Award (regional). Gordon Bray accepted the regional awards, while Ian Holmes and Eurobodalla Shire Mayor Pam Green accepted the state award.

## BEACH SPIRIT AWARD

The Beach Spirit Award is given to coastal communities that have faced difficult times and are committed to solving problems by turning them into opportunities. The judges looked firstly for evidence of a beach community 'hardship'—economic, environmental or elemental—and then the community's response and refusal to 'give-in'.

The citation reads:

'Rosedale Beach, just south of Malua Bay, is a comparatively small beach which is notable for the great rock

formations along the beach and headlands and the position of Jimmies Island, which also offers some protection against southerlies. When the water level is high enough, Saltwater Creek flows into the ocean at the northern end of the beach. At the time of inspection, there was not enough water to flow out of the lagoon and into the ocean. Despite this, the creek/lagoon is healthy and appeared to be a haven for wildlife.

'The beach is pretty much surrounded by the village of Rosedale, which is separated from the beach by a small

reserve. Rosedale is a typical holiday village, with the population more than doubling during summer. The community is very dedicated to maintaining the quality of their beach, which forms a major part of their lives. There is an historic community boat shed at the northern end of the beach, which has been in existence since the thirties and which is maintained in good repair by local boat owners.

'Locals are motivated to try and stabilise the fore dune of the beach after some major erosion damage

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## PLACE-BASED LOCALITY PLANNING



### FROM THE COUNCIL

#### Council have informed us that:

'Negotiations are taking place with the regional office of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources to secure financial assistance to assist council with its strategic planning tasks. Specifically, grant funding and additional resources are being sought to carry out the review of the residential zoning pattern under the Urban Local Environmental Plan and to develop a consultation framework for place-based planning for towns and villages. The department has also been asked to assist by providing peer assessment of the outcomes of these initiatives. Council's position has also been put to the Minister Assisting the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Planning Administration), the Hon. Diane Beamer, MP. The minister has been briefed on the approach we are taking in terms of the development of broad strategic plans that are supported by controls tailored to specific localities. This accords with the Government's PlanFirst initiatives.

'Place-based planning is essentially about government collaborating with the community to develop a shared vision for the future of our towns and villages that balances and integrates economic and social issues with the natural environment. Locality plans will be underpinned by place statements which enunciate desired future

character, defined land uses that are permitted or prohibited, place-specific development standards and listings of heritage items.

'Each place statement will contain a desired future character statement or "vision". This is a short concise statement of what council and the community want the neighbourhood to look like in years to come. It is the foundation for identifying the types of development that will be allowed in a place. A determination of what is consistent with the place statement will then form the basis of development controls for each individual locality.

'This aspect of council's strategic planning program is seen as crucial to setting the scene for future development. After securing assistance, we will arrange meetings with community groups to initiate the preparation of character statements. As you would appreciate, the process will be complex given the number of small towns and villages in the shire, and the many and varied views on appropriate styles of development. The process will obviously take some time to complete. It is intended that place statements will feed into the review of both the urban and rural planning schemes, leading to a single simplified planning system for the whole shire.'

### BACKGROUND COMMENTS

Your Rosedale Association has been long involved in Urban Local Environmental Plan developments, and the committee will follow events closely. Gordon Bray provides the following background:

'The existing Eurobodalla Urban Local Environmental Plan came into effect in March 1999 after five years in development and community consultation. However, Rosedale was one of the few recreational settlements in the shire, or indeed the state, with the organisation willing and facilities available to genuinely consult its community (detailed knowledge of owners and occupiers, a regular substantial newsletter and a strongly attended annual general meeting). In many communities, the whole 'consultation' process would have received scant attention despite the considerable effort put into it by council and its planning staff, including many public meetings, workshops, bulletins, discussion papers etc. Some of these communities have since objected to the plans imposed on their areas and there has been some review after consultation.

'Those of you who had an interest in Rosedale at that time will realize that in developing the Rosedale Association's response to council's August 1993 discussion paper, *Planning for development—what will the Eurobodalla coast look like in the next century?*, there was detailed community consultation and wide agreement at every step. Newsletter no. 64 in September 1993 was a special edition that included council's excellent discussion paper and the committee's draft response for community input. The association's final response was circulated to the community in newsletter no. 65 in February 1994.

'Council put a draft plan on display in early 1997 and this was reported on in newsletter no. 75, and our draft submission on the plan was in newsletter no. 76 with further information in newsletter no. 78 in September 1998.

'Our 1994 response to the original discussion paper and in particular, its Part B: Rosedale specific comments was very much in tune with the

direction which planning is heading in in place-based locality planning so we should not have digestive problems with this direction.

'Over recent years, privacy provisions have made it more difficult for community associations to maintain good records of property owners and occupiers but the sponsorship and direct involvement of government authority in this

community consultation should ensure that this potential barrier to full community contact should be set aside.

'Hopefully we can look forward to a good outcome with both planners and approving authorities better understanding and helping to meet individual communities different aspirations.'

## PRESIDENT'S PIECE

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This edition of our newsletter should arrive early in the New Year, and Jan and I hope that 2004 will bring you health and happiness and we will see an improvement in world peace.

Rosedale has featured in the local press on several occasions in recent times.

Firstly, we were regional and state prize winners in the NSW Clean Beach Challenge. This is reported elsewhere in this newsletter. Suffice to say here that Gordon and I met with the judge as he moved along the coast and we shouldn't have been surprised that Rosedale sold itself. Secondly, our association has acted as community sponsor for a local initiative to reduce the number of plastic bags on our beaches over the holiday period.

### FREE CALICO BAGS

Mogo is the first mainland community where the great majority of the shops have adopted a 'no plastic bags' policy. It is an initiative of which we can all feel proud. To help it expand in the shire, the association applied for a Local Litter Prevention Grant from Keep Australia Beautiful NSW. The application was approved and we have \$4000 to fund free calico bags for distribution by local shops and caravan parks, and to run an awareness campaign for the young with the assistance of local surf clubs at Malua Bay and Broulee. Jim

Templar, a Rosedale resident and Council employee, is the driving force behind the campaign. I hope that those of you who have come to Rosedale for Christmas/New Year noticed its impact. The bags feature a logo which is drawn from the notable input of the children of Broulee Primary School. Because we are not allowed to charge for the calico bags, we are asking for a donation to allow the work to expand.

### DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Batemans Bay Property Services, developers of the new blocks on Yowani Road, tell us that, after discussion with Planning NSW, they have met the fire requirements by having the nine building sites in a tighter configuration so that each 'asset protection zone' (that is, the cleared home site and surrounding 80 metres of under-scrubbed bush) overlaps its neighbours. A circling of the wagons if you will. We should see work commence soon.

Marsim—developers of the land from Manns Nursery to Barlings Beach—says they are still dealing with NSW Planning, and have been responding to various requests for information. At this stage they do not think they will get approval for the master plan until sometime in the first to second quarter of 2004.

### PLACE-BASED LOCALITY PLANNING

The topic of place-based locality planning gets three articles in this newsletter—advice from Council, background from Gordon Bray, and an address given at Guerilla Bay. The speaker has views that seem to me to resonate with those expressed by you, our members, when you told us of the things that you value about Rosedale. Council is seeking to produce a short, concise future character statement for each community—what the neighbourhood should look like in years to come. Guerilla Bay and Rosedale have much in common and we will work together..

### ROSEDALE HISTORY

A few years ago, Ian Harrison, who has a long family association with Rosedale, wrote a history of the area which was printed over several editions of the newsletter. We think it is timely to rerun it and the first segment and a local map are included here.

### WATER RESTRICTIONS

Water restrictions continue in the shire. In this newsletter, there is a guide to the restrictions at each level, and as I write we are at Level 3. Do check the current level on Council's free hotline.

Ian Holmes

## BEACH SPIRIT AWARD

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caused by storms some years ago. With this aim, there has been an extensive program of environmental weed control and revegetation with natives, which has been fairly successful. A major part of this work

has been the encouragement of the whole community to lend a hand to undertake the work.'

Our judge stated, 'The level of community involvement, along with partnerships between Landcare and council, in restoration and maintenance work at the beach is very impressive indeed. There is a regular newsletter which goes out to local residents (including the "part-time" residents), and this helps both educate the community and coordinate clean-up and Landcare efforts. The level of attendance at

regular beach clean-ups and working bees is also astounding, getting up to 70 per cent of the local population (and in summer, includes many of the "part-time" residents). The locals ability to motivate even the non-permanent resident holiday home owners to participate in helping keeping a clean and healthy beach is nothing short of amazing. The fact that residents decided that they wanted a regular monthly activity is a testament to the success of the Landcare/Residents' Groups education efforts.'

The Beach Spirit Award is a well-earned recognition of the efforts of residents over many years. In particular this award is a tribute to the unstinting and long-term efforts of a few individuals—notably Gordon Bray, whose work with Landcare and

related activities, which are too numerous to list here, is pulled together by this award. Thank you, Gordon.

### NATURAL HERITAGE AWARD

For the Natural Heritage Award, judges looked for evidence of the community's and/or council's commitment to the preservation of local fauna and flora. Undertakings such as weed eradication policies and programs, partnerships between council and the community which are designed to identify, rehabilitate and/or protect local fauna and flora and an overall commitment to the maintenance and protection of coastal/dune vegetation were assessed.

Rosedale was highly commended, with the citation reading:

'Rosedale's efforts in ensuring the natural resources in the area are protected and enhanced have been acknowledged in this award. The community readily took on the required tasks either as individuals or as part of one of the many conservation groups with the help of others. Weed eradication and native revegetation has been extensive.'

### NEWSPAPER DELIVERIES TO ROSEDALE

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The Broulee Newsagency is now home delivering newspapers in the Rosedale area. Contact Cheryl or Brian on 4471 6008 if you would like to have this service.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - ONE BREAK-IN

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It's been a relatively quiet time. The usual backdoors and windows have been found unsecured. There was a break-in (one of a number in the Batemans Bay area) in Cooks Crescent: the front door was kicked in and a microwave, TV and the like were stolen.

**Deirdre Prussak**  
Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

# Rosedale

## A BRIEF HISTORY

*The following is part 1 of a brief history of Rosedale, written by Ian Harrison some years ago.*

Rosedale valley includes portions 11, 12, 32, 81, 98, 118, 213, 214, 215 and 221 in the Parish of Bateman, County of St Vincent.

One of the clues to the development of any area under European settlement is the portion numbers on the parish map. Due to an official view that 40 acres was an adequate living area, land was originally allotted in 40-acre parcels. Potential settlers would pick out their parcels and (often some years later) approach the authorities to formalise their choice. Portions were allotted numbers as they were surveyed out of the whole, and the early blocks were often square blocks. Interestingly, while blocks 1, 3 and 4 in the parish are on the southern shore of Batemans Bay, lots 2, 5, 6 and 7 are at Tomakin, portion 10 is on the Tomago River near Mogo, and portions 11 and 12 are straddling the creek at Rosedale.

Portions 11 and 12 were taken up by Thomas Hollands in 1878, while John Hollands was granted portion 32, also straddling the creek but further west, in the same year. There is no indication that these persons ever occupied these portions or were in the district at all, and the dates seem to indicate that they were probably city speculators attempting to cash in on the work already done by squatters.

Rosedale Farm was first settled by James Sebbens, while the western end of the valley was settled by Karl Thomsen. Both men hacked out their farms from dense bush. Sebbens was born to Joseph Seaban (note the spelling) and his wife (whose maiden name was Caroline Saunders) in

Essex in 1814. He was deported as a convict on the 'John Barry' in 1838 after several skirmishes with the law in Essex and was assigned to serve his time at Broulee. He received his certificate of freedom on 29 January 1848.

Miss Celia Anne Barling arrived from England with her parents at Broulee in 1832 when she was four years old. On 31 March 1851 she married James Sebbens, and they raised a family of nine boys and five girls while living in the Tomakin area. They owned a fairly respectable-sized property called Oaks Ranch, located southwest of Candlagan Creek.

The Sebben family included Elizabeth, Cecilia, Minnie, Joseph, William, James, Richard, Daniel, Andrew, Phillip, Henry, Samuel and Jane.

James senior died in 1876 and is buried at Moruya cemetery. Following his death, Celia married a Mr Henry Rose whose remains are interred at Mogo cemetery under an impressive headstone which states that he was born in Stockport UK in 1820 and died at Tomakin in July 1906.

Cecilia's father, Richard Henry Barling, who was a free overseer, formalised his conditional purchase of portion 5 in 1852. This may have been spurred on by the acquisition of portion 2 (of 30 acres) by James Houston in 1851. Interestingly the survey of Barling's land locates it by referring to the Catholic cemetery plot on the headland (now used as a lookout) which clearly indicates that this was dedicated earlier. Barlings Beach caravan park is now located on portion 5.

The 1860s were a time of vigorous growth in Australia due to the gold finds near Bathurst and then Victoria

and then Mogo and Araluen. Broulee/Tomakin became a major set down point for coastal shipping which was the only realistic way to travel along the coast. A bridal path from Tomakin via Mogo and Buckenboursa led to the Araluen fields and much commerce was introduced to this area by the rushes. Scuttlebutt often quoted when we first arrived at Rosedale in the 1950s claimed that 13 liquor-selling pubs and several boarding houses were located in Tomakin at that time and the little town of Mogo was reputed to have over 30 pubs. Three timber mills were definitely located at Tomakin with at least two of them being steam powered.

Joseph Sebbens, the eldest son of James and Cecilia, operated a steam mill at Malua Bay in the latter part of the 1800s with the help of his brother, William. This mill had been originally set up at Tomakin by a Robert Jennings in 1874 but was salvaged and moved by Joseph after Jennings abandoned it in the 1880s. Family stories tell that Joe and his wife (maiden name Sara Allaying) towed the parts of the mill on a homemade raft from Tomakin to Malua Bay with husband and wife each pulling on an oar in the towing boat. Equality of the sexes was more relevant then.

Karl Thomsen (the son of a free German migrant who first settled in the Buckenboursa Valley after coming to Australia for the Majors Creek gold rush) cleared all of portions 32, 213 and 221.

James Sebbens (junior) was born on 21 January 1858 and it was he and his wife, Wilhelmina Louise Thomsen of a large local pioneer family, who cleared and developed Rosedale and parts of Burri/Guerilla Bay. They had

# Rosedale

## A BRIEF HISTORY

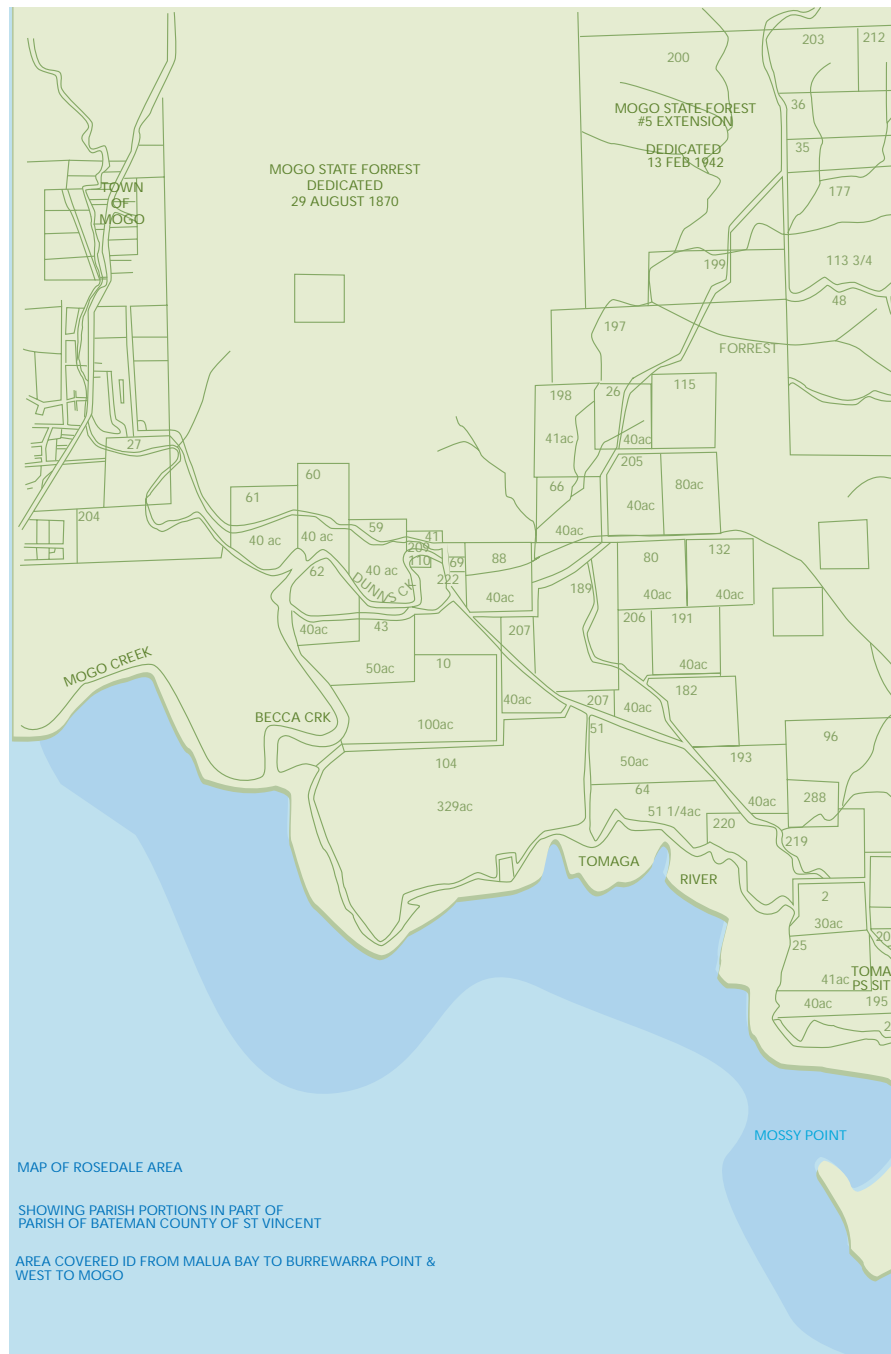
only one daughter who suffered from some physical debility, possibly Downes Syndrome.

By 1884, the surveyor (sent to mark out portions 214 and 215) noted the area showed improvements consisting of two acres of cleared land, 38 acres ring-barked and a house. Sebbens cleared all the land in portions 81, 214, 215 and most of 98 although it is not clear whether he cleared right to the cliff edge at what is now called North Rosedale. He certainly had cleared all of what is now Bells and Emerys blocks and the flat running up the creek past George Bass Drive and virtually all of South Rosedale. While significant regrowth has occurred, particularly during the past 30 years, the distinction in tree height and density is still just apparent at the junction between portions 215 and 122 (the latter was never cleared) and with portion 183 to the south.

Between the later 1870s and 1908, when they sold out and moved to western Sydney to take up poultry farming, these two developed a very profitable and highly integrated farm operation utilising in all some 700 acres. Of this, they owned (or were leasing under conditional purchase arrangements) 430 acres and were understood by all the locals to be the owners of the remaining 285 acres although they never actually did so. They were therefore utilising an area along the seashore from the northern most point of Rosedale Beach to Long Nose Point (where the sewerage works now deliver effluent into the sea) and from there due north to Mann's houses and then west a little to include the 40 acres on which Mann's Nursery stood and then east to the sea.

They were fundamentally dairy farmers, producing cheddar cheese. The centre of their activities was located near where a set of old bails remains till this day near the creek downhill from the present farmhouse. Originally their residence was also located nearby, together with a large piggery and combination dairy (for milking the cows) and cheese factory. They also had a large two-storey barn with stables below for their draft

and riding horses and several other machinery sheds. By the time they were ready to sell, they had developed a farm operation that was self sufficient in just about



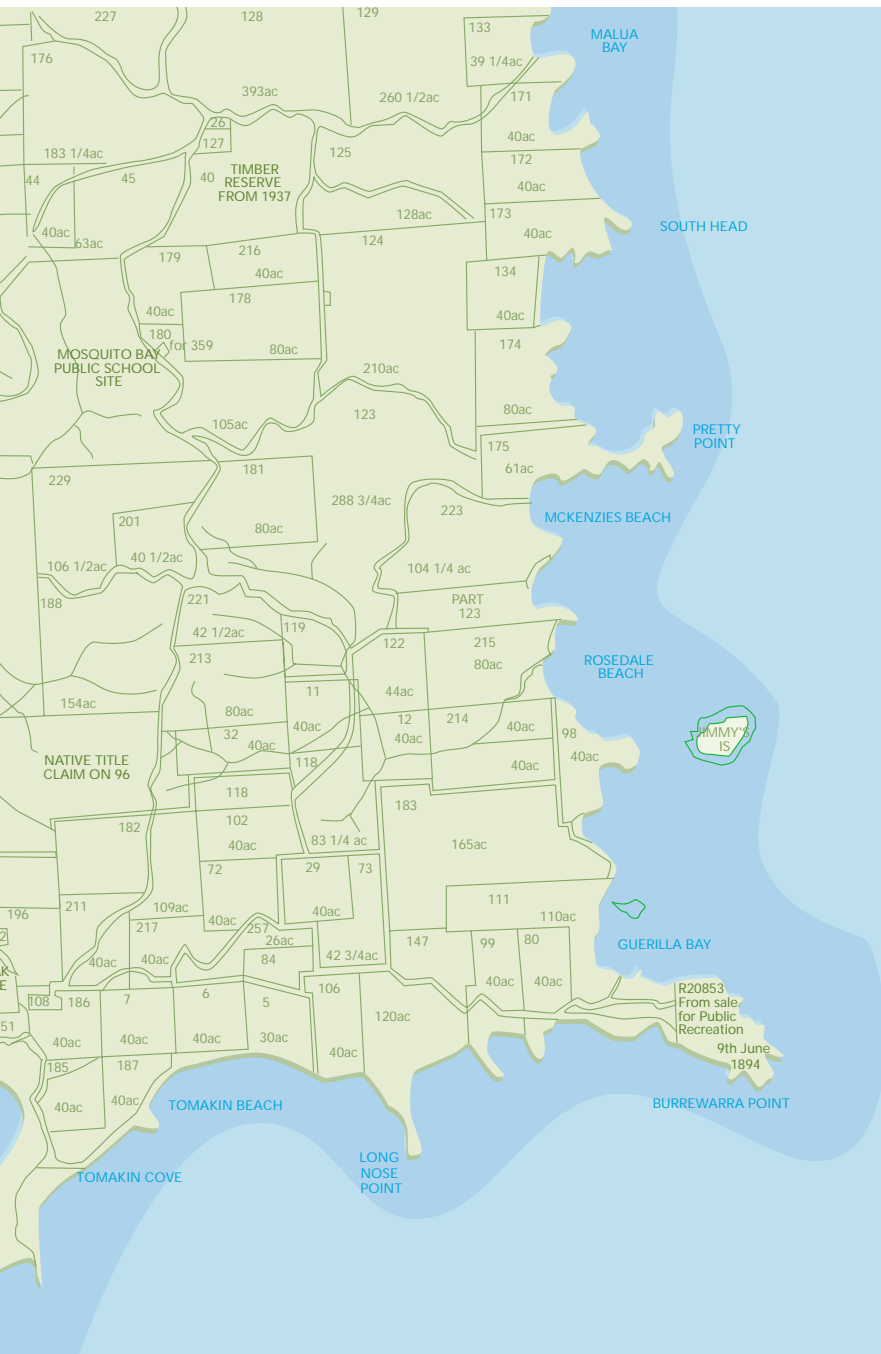
everything except kerosene for lamp fuel. Cheese from the property was highly regarded and much sought after in the Sydney market. Jim apparently used to take a full

# Rosedale

## A BRIEF HISTORY

two-horse-team wagon load (probably about a ton to perhaps a ton and a half) to Batemans Bay four or five times a year for shipment by coastal steamer to the

held the yield record for many years. He bred draft and riding horses as well as all his own dairy heifers and naturally had household poultry.



produce merchants in Sydney. In addition, he was renowned for the quality of his pork and farm-cured bacon, and produced a crop of corn on the flat, which

Towards the end of the last century, they had one setback when their house burned to the ground while they were visiting relatives in Tomakin. Seeing the smoke, they raced home because they had locked two much loved dogs in the laundry attached to the house so that they wouldn't follow them to Tomakin, but they arrived home too late to save either the house or the dogs. It was then that they developed the present house utilising two other unused houses.

The present farmhouse is very interesting in that it is fabricated from very hard hardwood, probably ironbark, and is clearly two quite different structures stood alongside one another and then added to. The two pitched roof sections are the original two houses. The kitchen is the older of the two having been dragged from somewhere in the Buckenboursa Valley. It may have been the original Thomsen home. It was a simple one-room structure with framing hand cut and squared by axe. The northern part of the house was originally a four-room cottage built by a Christensen up Dunns Creek. It was also dragged to the present site and then modified somewhat. Both units were set onto hardwood logs about two feet in diameter; three under the kitchen and five under the front portion and these are still located under the house. They clearly show the flattening of their bottom side was caused by abrasion during the drag which reduced their thickness to about eighteen inches under the front part and about one foot under the kitchen which came the greater distance. Locals always wondered why the house was located where it is, rather than down near the farm sheds. Probably Wilhelmina (Willi) was sick of living so close to all the smells. In any case it was strategically located next to the track leading to the southern half of their land holdings and no doubt had a lovely sea view from the front verandah once they added that.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

## A NEIGHBOUR REFLECTS

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The following is an address on the topic 'The Environmental Future of Guerilla' given by John Hodges to the Guerilla Bay and Burrewarra Point Progress Association's annual general meeting on 6 October 2003.

I'm an architect. I live in Sydney and have owned a holiday house in Guerilla Bay since 1986.

I've kept a low profile in Guerilla Bay building and development matters because these are the things I do in Sydney and I bought my house here to get away from them. However I believe such complacency is now inexcusable because events have occurred here in the last year or so which I am convinced could change the present environmental character forever.

It is possible some people do not understand, or are not conscious of, what a remarkable place Guerilla Bay is.

Since Europeans arrived, and especially in the last few decades, the vast majority of Australia's coastline has been developed in a particular manner. The settlers removed the majority, if not all, the bush and replaced it with houses, roads, footpaths, fences, telegraph poles, exotic gardens—in fact nothing much different from what is found in a major city's typical suburb. Malua Bay is a good example.

But for some wonderful reason this, in the main, did not happen at Guerilla Bay!

Four generations of settlers have retained most of the trees and built houses which again, in the main, are not prominent.

I do not know of another coastal settlement in Australia where you can stand on the beach with your back to the ocean and not see 90 per cent of the houses facing it. Why this marvellous miracle has occurred here and not elsewhere will, I'm sure one day, be the subject of some sociologist's doctoral thesis.

So what has happened in the past couple of years which I believe could change this?

One event and the one with perhaps the greatest potential to cause change is the dramatic increase in land prices. Blocks which would have sold for \$400 000 only two years ago are now fetching over a million.

It is now likely the new buyers will not be humble public servants from Canberra or impoverished architects

from Sydney content to build their simple shacks amongst the trees, but a wealthier group who, having spent so much on their land, will want to make a big statement with their houses and certainly not have any trees blocking their water views.

Elizabeth Farrelly who writes for the *Sydney Morning Herald* on matters architectural, paints the picture far better than I when she wrote last year:

'Gone are the days when pretence was vulgar and taste, not to say courtesy, involved a degree of understatement. Gone are the fibro, corrugated iron and soft-board of gentler times. The humble shack is all but extinct, aggressively outmanoeuvred along our coastline by vast budget-bloated glass-eyed dune-toppers.'

A second event is the heightened concern about bushfires. There is the potential for people and regulators with little affinity with the bush and a great fear of fires, to use this concern as an excuse to remove the trees and scorch the earth. From my reading, the science of fire mitigation is still in its infancy. For example, there is an argument held by some but not others that trees can help, rather than hinder. They form wind breaks and impede the passage of embers. It is certainly too soon to jump to any environmentally disastrous conclusions.

A third concern is the powerful effect that precedent has on human behaviour. There are now examples of development in Guerilla Bay which, if repeated in large numbers, will change the present dominant bushland character. The greater the number of these examples the greater the chance that newcomers,





especially people who have no strong feeling about their environment, will follow these examples.

What did the Guerilla Bay pioneers do that was not done in just about every other coastal development?

- they retained as many trees as possible
- they retained as much of the natural bush as possible
- they didn't build fences
- their buildings 'retreated' into the bush—they didn't 'advance' to the road or more importantly, to the beach.

These simple actions have created an environment with a particular character which is very rare and, in my opinion, very precious. I'm told by council planners that there is only one other settlement in the shire with a similar character—Mystery Bay at Cape Dromedary just south of Narooma.

It is a fragile character which can be lost very easily. It has survived four generations but could be gone by the end of the fifth.

Fortunately, however, we as a community, if we have the will to do it, have an opportunity to at least make it more likely that the present character will be retained.

The State Government's Department of Planning has a relatively new concept for local planning called 'place-based planning' in which a plan for an identifiable community is drawn up by both the local council and the community. It is my understanding that unlike existing planning instruments, it is not prescriptive. It won't lay down rigid rules such as distance from boundaries or height of buildings—these are spelt out elsewhere. Rather,

it will be more a statement of principles and will have photographs to help explain the message.

A pilot for the system is being conducted at South Durras but, sadly, I'm told it is a disaster. The community it seems has split into three warring factions and council planners come back from meetings shell shocked by the screaming matches they turn into.

I'm sure we at Guerilla Bay could do better and if we want to, we can apply to council to give it a go.

John Hodges



## MEMORIES OF ROSEDALE ON THE WEBSITE

In 1963, the Tooker family built a holiday house at Rosedale. The two sons, Alan and Paul, had many happy holidays there until 1968. The family then left Australia to live in Europe when father was appointed to a position with the United Nations in Geneva.

Alan, while now living in London, still retains an interest in Rosedale and its community. He writes that during visits to Australia he has made two brief visits to Rosedale and finds it as beautiful as ever.

Both Alan and Paul have written about holidays at Rosedale during their teenage years. 'I got into lots of trouble', writes Alan. His and Paul's stories can be read on the Rosedale web site at <http://www.netspeed.com.au/rosedale>.

By the time you read this, we hope to have Ian Harrison's article on the history of Rosedale on the website.

## WEATHER UPDATES

Some of you who live elsewhere may want to know if there have been significant weather events at Rosedale. We plan to bring you a weekly rainfall report on the website on Thursdays, and reports on any other major events. Thanks to Gordon for this.

Anton Cook

# *caring for our* ROSEDALE ENVIRONMENT

## DUNE PLANTINGS

Many of you will be aware that in the winter of 2003, we embarked, possibly for the first time since the big storms at sea of 1974-75, on beach planting into the dunes of the South Rosedale beaches. We were offered a 10-strong Green Corps team and they slotted about 250 plants into the dunes and sub-dunes over two days, an opportunity we could not afford to miss. The case has been made both at the Rosedale Association's annual general meeting and in these columns for increasing the vegetative stability of the dunes as a protection for our beaches against heavy seas. We would be foolish not to anticipate the effect of increased beach usage as developments to the west come on line. The beach/dune system is a time-bomb ticking away-if we do not improve the vegetative stabilization of that beach, future increased usage will degrade it. Just as simple as that.

Recent feedback suggests some community concern at, firstly the low success rate of our plantings and, secondly, the visual intrusion of the plastic plant guards we used.

We, the organisers and the on-ground workers, are perhaps more disappointed than any of you about the low success rate. Recent planting losses have been particularly heavy because of the drought-most of the losses occurred before the first reasonable rainfalls eventuated. The dry time was exacerbated by what seemed to be unusually persistent and drying winds that blew the sand away from the plant guards and either exposed the plants' roots, thus drying them further, or covered over the smaller plants and smothered them; there was little in between. It is not at all uncommon in Landcare activities for there to be heavy planting losses. The accepted practice is to keep trying, to continue with replanting, to improve planting methods as we learn and to gain a little more each time until the target is reached.

Plant guards are a mixed blessing. They tell us where young plants are hiding so we can find them for such tasks as counting, weeding, watering and repositioning the guards. Except under the extreme conditions we have experienced, they protect the young plant from drying winds. On the downside, they are a target for vandalism (yes, we have had some of that too) and they create visual pollution for the brief period they are required. To those who appreciate their need, they are a welcome sign that healing processes are under way. We would like to have removed them, both from established and dead plants, before the summer holiday influx but we only ever have a small workforce and two working bees were

washed out before Christmas (welcome rain though). When we eventually got parties on the ground after Christmas and New Year, we had to attack weeds that were getting out of hand, simply a matter of priorities.

So are we doing the right thing? Well, according to the best advice we can get, yes. Large plantings are necessary; small plantings, well tended, will take decades to cover the dunes. We haven't the numbers to tend our plantings more than we do and to be able to water some plantings is an unusual luxury not enjoyed by many Landcare groups: most Landcare plantings receive zero after-care.

Dune vegetation improvements are not usually made overnight so we might experience long lead times before significant gains are achieved. Continued plantings will be needed for a few years or more, depending on seasons and storms at sea. Plastic guards are recommended and until a better practice comes along we might be wise to continue with them. So we beg your indulgence: what is worse, plastic guards intermittently for a few years or a beach with much less stable sand?

David Mackenzie



## BEACH AND DUNE PLANTINGS

The Greencorps team did beach and dune plantings in June-July, and we were fortunate to have them again for three days in September. In addition to rehabilitation and watering of the previous plantings, both on the dunes and in the carpark, they extensively repaired dune and walkway fencing, as well as sand-filling between the exposed walkway boards.

All the plants have had a tough time and many have been lost despite the attention we have tried to give them. Plastic guards intended to protect the plants served little other purpose than to show where new plants were. The prolonged winds, from practically every direction at different times, gouged sand from around the guards and either covered the plant inside or exposed its roots.

# *caring for our* ROSEDALE ENVIRONMENT

However, by persevering with increasing the plant population, we aim to stabilise the upper reaches of the beach and make it able to withstand more severe storms without great loss of sand while, at the same time, encourage the ever-increasing pedestrian traffic to follow more defined tracks towards the seaward part of the beach and seashore. Experience elsewhere shows that repeat plantings are common and where Landcarers persist they eventually win, in most cases. Plans are underway to plant as occasion and plant availability permit. We will continue in the ensuing year with our major projects on Banksia Flat, the dunes on the main beach, the eroded zones of the south beach and maintenance plantings in the carpark. Other opportunities may be suggested—particularly if neighbouring property owners/occupiers can take responsibility for follow-up care.

We will soon run out of current grant money for plants and we need to consider options for the future. Does anyone have the interest to propagate plants for landcare purposes, not only for new plantings but to replace losses? You do not have to be resident in Rosedale to do this. Please contact a member of the Landcare Committee:

- David Mackenzie 6288 6194 or 4471 8471
- Gordon Bray 4471 7134
- Ian Holmes 4471 7252 or
- James Blogg 4471 8544

if you are the volunteer we really do need to do this.

## CARPARK

The carpark plants are quite spectacular and revelling in the care led by James and Suzanne Blogg. Work on the new carpark should be completed in 2004.

## BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

We have launched biological control on bridal veil creeper at various sites and, despite the dry weather, our efforts look promising. The rust and hoppers being used are sponsored, with material coming from the CSIRO under council sponsorship.

## WORKING BEES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

The working bee scheduled for Saturday 22 November was washed out so we have scheduled three for the Christmas holiday period in the hope that a lot of Rosedale enthusiasts will feel that they can give a couple of hours to at least one of these.

- Saturday, 20 December, 9 am
- Saturday, 10 January, 3 pm
- Saturday, 24 January, 3 pm

Helpers should meeting in the carpark at these times. Meeting reminder notices will be placed in the carpark. We will also post reminders on the web and send out our regular email circular to reach as many members as possible. We recognize that the newsletter's production lead-time may well mean that these dates are history by the time you receive this.

Gordon Bray and David Mackenzie

## CALL FOR HELP: LANDCARE ORGANISERS NEED ASSISTANCE

We are looking for assistance with the organization of our Landcare activities, not all of which are working bees. Landcare activities have been increasing and the associated organizational demands are likewise increasing. Those of us organizing Landcare activities are beginning to feel like having just a few more with whom to share them. Further, we need a larger core of persons familiar with the workings to buffer when someone of us cannot continue.

Behind the scenes of a Landcare working bee there is often a deal of forward planning, such as ordering, notification etc. Closer to the date, there is an assortment of matters to be organized, notices, hoses, garbage bags, tools, plants, fertilizers and so on. After the event there is usually a trailer load of weeds to be taken to the land fill, and materials and equipment to be returned and various follow-up activities. For some there is always more than just the nominal two hours duration of a field activity.

Are you willing to assist with organization? Please consider it. Your contribution can be large or small, frequent or intermittent, specialist or general 'dog's body'. We are particularly looking to permanent residents to come forward but you can still help if you live elsewhere. A phone is pretty much essential and email is useful but its absence by no means precludes you from helping. Even the incapacitated can be of assistance, you do not have to be able to attend the field activities to be able to help. Your Rosedale needs you!

If you are willing to assist in any way at all, please contact myself or any of the committee, contacts for whom are to be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

David Mackenzie

## WATER RESTRICTION LEVELS

CALL THE HOTLINE, 1800 44 1070, FOR THE LATEST

LEVEL	GARDEN WATERING	PAVED AREA WATERING	DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEMS	LAWN WATERING	CAR/BOAT WASHING
1	One hand-held hose per property, at any time	Banned	Single tap fixture only, in lieu hose	As per garden watering	As per garden watering
2	As 1 but on odd/even days, 6–8 am and pm	Banned	Banned	As per garden watering	As per garden watering
3	As 2 but maximum of 60 minutes a day	Banned	Banned	Banned	As per garden watering
4	Buckets only on odd/even days	Banned	Banned	Banned	As per garden watering
5	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned	As per garden watering

## 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