

THE Rosedale ASSOCIATION INC



Newsletter Issue 105 December 2008

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

In recent years there has been a steady decline in the number of members of the Rosedale Association. When I first became treasurer I noted that we had about 210 members in the preceding couple of years. For the last few years we have had about 190 and this year we have only 160.

Now there a couple of possible reasons for this but the most likely relates to the lack of Gordon Bray at Rosedale. Gordon used to catch up with new arrivals and make them aware of the Association and what it aimed to do. We lack that immediate contact with new residents of the area.

The problems that this decline causes are also several.

It impacts on our cash flow and we are now getting reasonably close to running a deficit.

This is annoying but not the most important of the problems.

These relate to the fact that the Association does not receive the concerns of all the residents and therefore cannot act on their behalf to pursue a remedy of the issues that affect them adversely.

The other concern is the other side of this coin. When dealing with council and other statutory or other groups the Association needs to be able to speak on behalf of the majority of the residents. As the membership declines we are less able to do so and therefore less likely to be listened to.

So it is important to get our numbers

HISTORY OF THE LOG CABINS

Anyone interested in the back-ground to the log cabins should visit our website and look at the document prepared around the last time the property was put on the market. The RAI Committee actively campaigned for the inclusion of the cabins on the NSW Heritage list, and was finally successful. While researching the question, this fascinating document came to light. It is an assessment of the impact on the heritage status of the cabins of proposals for developments adjacent to them. These developments may or may not eventuate and others may be proposed in the future but at least the heritage status of the cabins is now assured.

back. What can we do? The first thing is for existing residents to contact new residents and make them familiar with the Association, its aims and objectives. It is important that new residents know that they are important to us and that they contribute to the maintenance of the good qualities of Rosedale by supporting the Association. They need to know that we have a web site with all the latest news available and we have E-Mail access to the executives of the Association should they have a problem for which we can be of assistance.

I feel that with a little help from existing members that this decline will be short lived but we do ask you to assist us in this matter.

NOEL EGAN

A CONTRIBUTION FROM EUROBODALLA BOTANIC GARDENS

SCAEVOLA AEMULA

Fairy Fan Flower

Family: GOODENIACEAE

Scaevola aemula is a hardy perennial herb, which grows to about 1m across to 30cm high. The plant is an excellent ground cover suitable for dry areas. It is resistant to salt spray and is frost tolerant.

Flowers- Fan-shaped showy mauve-blue to pink coloured flowers in spring-summer.

Cultivation Requirements - Plant grows best in full sun or part shade.

Plant requires good drainage. Pruning encourages new growth and more prolific flowering.

RYAN HARRIS



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NEWS ABOUT DEVELOPERS AT ROSEDALE

The Department of Planning (DoP) has given "concept approval" for the 806 lot subdivision proposed by Marsim. Those who attended our 2007 AGM will recall the presentation given by the developers. The site occupies all the cleared land north of George Bass Drive and west of the Tomakin sewage treatment plant. 792 residential lots are planned, plus one "super" lot that will be subdivided later.

The proposal states that development will be staged over 5 to 10 years, starting from the north. This means that the so-called community facilities at the southern extremity of the development may not appear soon. We can expect that the initial access will be via the northern end of Bevia Road. That access route will also service the proposed Rosedale Farm development (178 lots – but see later), and my information is that both developers will finance the upgrading of that section of Bevia Road. However, the Rosedale Farm development is still awaiting concept approval from DoP, so nothing can happen yet. Note that DoP has not even called for public submissions concerning Rosedale Farm.

The Rosedale Association took considerable trouble to make a submission to DoP about Marsim's proposal back in April, expressing our concerns at many aspects of the proposed development. Sad to say, the only recommendation adopted by Marsim, and approved by DoP, is the relocation of the southern access road into the site. This road has now been shifted to run alongside the sewage plant. The modified plan also requires jiggling a few lots adjacent to the plant. Oh, and there's another concession – the developers have agreed to monitor water quality in Saltwater Creek, but only once a year!

It's evident that concept approval

for the Marsim proposal (and probably the Rosedale Farm proposal) was almost guaranteed ever since the Refshauge Report on Sensitive Urban Land Areas (2006) endorsed, with Council's support, close urban development on these sites. We also made a detailed submission to that Inquiry, but to no avail. As they say, in the face of the inevitable, lie back and enjoy it.

In early November, the news came out that the Marsim holdings at Rosedale, plus the Barlings Beach Caravan Park, are up for sale! Potential buyers will doubtless be encouraged by the concept approval given to Marsim.

The other current development proposal is for the "older community" village, comprising 114 units, on about 7 hectares inside the Rosedale Farm. For reasons unknown to me, the approval authority for this development is the Eurobodalla Council, not DoP. Plans were exhibited at ESC for only two weeks in July, and submissions from the public were invited. As a committee member of the Rosedale Association I made the following points to ESC.

1. This site for a retirement community (target age range 73 - 75) is unsuitable because all the desirable community facilities and services are located too far away.
2. Pedestrian or motor-scooter passage between this development and the nearest shops (4-5 km) must occur via George Bass Drive, a most dangerous high-speed road.
3. The additional demands to be placed on community services, especially medical, have been ignored.
4. A traffic blackspot will be created at the proposed X-intersection of George Bass Drive and Rosedale Parade.
5. The hydrological analysis for stormwater management has not

been presented. No mention is made of how the principles of "Water Sensitive Urban Design" (WSUD) will be used to protect water quality in the Saltwater Creek ICOLL. This proposal treats Saltwater Creek as essentially a drain, rather than an ecologically valuable nursery habitat for several fish species.

6. The proposed "erosion control site retention basin", with its buffalo grass vegetation, is clearly incapable of improving the quality of stormwater before it enters Saltwater Creek. The design principles and analysis of the retention basin are not presented or described (the A1 calculation worksheets are inadequate).

7. Two other major developments are planned in the catchment of Saltwater Creek (Marsim, and Rosedale Farm - both already submitted to Dept of Planning). Impacts of the three developments will be cumulative. It is essential that an integrated approach be adopted for avoiding permanent ecological damage to Saltwater Creek. This will require collaboration between the developers, and a monitoring/adaptive management program to protect the creek during construction and into the future. No mention is made of such plans.

Council has informed me that they have requested the retirement village developer, TRCD Pty Ltd, to address the issues thrown up by the submissions. It's possible that the plans will be modified to the extent that a new public exhibition period, and new submissions, will be required. So again, it's a waiting game. It's interesting that DoP website documents still make no mention of this major alteration to the Rosedale Farm development that they are assessing.

So, in spite of efforts to transform the Rosedale landscape into a

parking lot, nothing has actually happened yet. The Barlings Beach development is in receivership, the 9-lot at North Rosedale is still sitting there, although kerb works are in progress. With any luck, the current global finance crisis will give a little respite to our community, at least until the next boom cycle.

EMMETT O'LOUGHLIN

ABALONE & JIMMIES ISLAND

I remember diving around Jimmies Island and tranquil bay as a teenager and despite considerable pressure from commercial operators there was always plenty of abalone available.

This was certainly not the case when I took my kids diving in 2006. I was surprised at how scarce abalone had become and there appeared to be very few juvenile stock.

One positive side of the marine park and the no take zone for Jimmies Island, Tranquil bay and Burrawarra point was that abalone stocks would return. I was looking forward to snorkelling around the island and seeing how long it would take to recover.

Since the declaration of the marine park I have come across a pile of undersize shells in the bush at the end of the headland. Then in June I saw a couple of suspicious characters returning from a mid week diving trip to Jimmies with heavily laden backpacks.

Hopes for the recover of abalone had been dashed and without policing the no take zones would be exclusive fishing grounds for abalone poachers.

I have since spoken to fisheries officers in Batemans Bay whom where aware of poachers working the area from the motor vehicle I described. But to get a conviction they need to be caught in the act.

So if you see anything suspicious give fisheries a call on 1800 043 536

David Boardman

Max Tischler October 2008

Over the past month Rosedale has enjoyed some unseasonably good weather. There have been some stunning weekends, with lovely hot days, calm seas and offshore winds. Many of the native plants have ended their winter dormancy, and have begun flowering and fruiting. The bush has a warm, rich smell, and there has been an increase in animal activity. Along with these beautiful spring conditions, has come a particularly loud and raucous visitor.

*For anyone having visited Rosedale recently, you may have had the pleasure, or at times displeasure to meet this noisy chap. For most of us the encounter has come at around 4am! A loud "cooo-wup...cooo-wup...coo-wup" rings out incessantly, long before any self-respecting rooster would start sounding-off, and then continues throughout the day. The owner of this rather intrusive call is the Common Koel, otherwise known as *Eudynamis scolopacea*, and is a member of the cuckoo family.*



The Koel is a summer migrant, and arrives in the southern part of Australia around September. It stays and breeds over the summer months, and then returns north to Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and other parts of south-east Asia around March. They are about the size of a large Magpie, yet are rarely seen. The sexes are distinctly different: the male is completely black, and the female is a mottled brown, black and tan. It is solely the male whose call rings out during the breeding season.

Very little is understood about the size of the Koel's breeding territories, however, from the number of individuals calling at Rosedale, I would guess they are pretty crowded around here. Like most cuckoos, the female Koel lays her eggs in a 'host' nest. Typically this is just a single egg, but she will lay eggs in a number of different nests.

Some of the more common birds at Rosedale known to be parasitized by the Koel, are the Red Wattlebird, Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike and Magpie-lark.

The host will incubate the Koel, alongside its own eggs. Once hatched, the Koel, usually much bigger, will systematically eject all other eggs and young from the nest. Rather nasty survival strategy, but very successful! The dedicated host will then raise the young, despite the baby Koel often growing much larger than the 'parent'.

*I can't remember there being so many Koels at Rosedale. They have such a distinct call, and it seems like only in the last few years that they have arrived in numbers. There are several explanations as to why this may be. Koels are usually found in rainforests, and heavily wooded environments, where their favourite foods (fruits and berries) are abundant. However, they may be moving into urban and residential areas with the increase in ornamental plants and weed species found there. Cotoneaster, which produces a bounty of fleshy red berries is one such plant found at Rosedale, as is the native *Pittosporum* (an orange berry), which is becoming more and more abundant here.*

There is no doubt many other explanations as to why Koels are becoming more common at Rosedale. With the increase in Red Wattlebirds there is certainly no shortage of potential hosts. Regardless, it seems the Koels are here to stay for the next few months. Whether they return again in the following years remains to be seen (or heard). But for now, the earplugs have their place on the bedside table. For further information visit: www.birdsaustralia.com.au

LANDCARE REPORT

Rosedale Landcare is at a turning point. After many years of dedicated and energetic service to this vital element in the life of Rosedale, David Mackenzie feels he can no longer take on the leading responsibility for it. Fortunately he is willing to continue in the role of Technical Advisor, for which he is uniquely qualified.

It is timely that the role of Rosedale Landcare now be reconsidered. Its primary aims – the rehabilitation and conservation of the hamlet's extraordinary natural features – must surely be maintained. But the practical activities of the group are in need of overhaul.

The principal sectors of attention can be listed as: Banksia Flat (BF), the car park, the Dale Place Reserve, the back of the Boatsheds, the cliff faces generally, and the remainder of the precinct.

Banksia Flat is currently under the concentrated attention of a contractor engaged on the basis of the Envirofund grant which RL secured in the last round of federal government largesse.

Anyone with an interest in these matters might take a walk around BF to contemplate both its great beauty and the state of its rehabilitation. You can conveniently enter it from the bottom of the Cooks Crescent track steps, whence paths lead off to both north and south. Do be mindful of the natural hazards as you enjoy this lovely area.

Photos from the 1950's show this area as a completely razed cow paddock. One result of this was the infestation

of BF with buffalo grass. The present banksia forest and its undergrowth represent a natural reversion assisted by human intervention (that of RL).

The regeneration of this and the other sectors is only possible through ongoing attention. Weeds are inherently opportunists, and any which can get a foothold will do so. RL has gone a long way towards the reduction of many of them, but remnants and seedbanks persist and only ongoing attention can make possible their eventual control.

How can you help Rosedale Landcare? Regular weedathons are the front line, but since the departure of Gordon Bray they have fallen

increasingly into abeyance. The writer of these lines is now a full time Rosedale resident, and is in a position to re-establish the practice.

So here goes. Saturday December 20, 2.00 pm meet in the carpark. Hats, boots, long sleeves, aeroguard, water. Take the opportunity to participate in this healthy, educational and constructive work. We'll do it again mid-January, and at that time also have a meeting to attend to organisational matters; perhaps over a BBQ.

Please contact me (aandslewis@bigpond.com) with any questions or comments.

ADRIAN LEWIS

A NOTE FROM EMMETT

There might be some poaching going on in the Marine Park. Last week, there was a newspaper report that the Park Authority was doing some night-time monitoring to catch commercial trawlers inside the park boundary

- up to three miles from shore. No culprits so far, but it's disappointing to hear that such activities might be going on.

And whales are having a ball just outside Barlings Island. For three days last week, a mature pair of humpbacks have been slowly circling offshore, with thunderous breaching for 15 minutes at a time.

As well, a mother and calf were cruising near Broulee Island. All this while I was trying to hook a few flathead (they are actually starting to bite now)!



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