

# THE Rosedale ASSOCIATION INC



Newsletter Issue 106 March 2009

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 11 APRIL 2009

**Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Rosedale Association Inc. will be held on Saturday 11 April 2009 on the cabin lawns at 10.30am.**

### AGENDA

- Adoption of minutes, 2008
- Any business arising from the 2008 meeting
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Membership
- Landcare Report 2008, Programme 2009
- Saltwater Creek
- Sewerage
- History Project
- Election of Office Bearers and up to seven committee members
- Any other business

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have been Acting President and Secretary since the last AGM, the former not by choice or by election, but by default. I will stand down as President after the next AGM, but will remain as Secretary if elected. I hope that a new President will come forward, just as it would be good to receive nominations for new Committee members. The work is not onerous, and can often be enlightening and enjoyable. It would be wonderful to see a Committee with representatives from different generations of Rosedale-lovers, helping to steer the community forward.

The present Committee has had a busy year, as this newsletter will testify. Most of the contents of this newsletter were discussed at our last meeting, on January 3.

We have kept a watching brief on developments east of George Bass Drive. I am indebted to Emmett O'Loughlin for this summary.

Marsim: the whole property has been up for sale since late November, in spite of "concept approval" being given by the Department of Planning earlier.

Any buyer could have trouble raising the capital needed for the development. So that's on hold.

Barlings Beach: Now taken over by the Walker Corp, with prices for lots in stage 1 reduced significantly (eg \$1m to \$650k for waterfront, \$300k to \$200k elsewhere). So far, 7 blocks sold. They are arranging for the infrastructure works to go in - maybe 6 months.

Retirement village: ESC still waiting for requested reports from the developer, and will probably need to exhibit the revised plans again, after they are submitted. So still on hold. (And see elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Rosedale Farm: Department of Planning still waiting on documents for environmental assessment from the developers. We have already and will continue to put pressure on the three developers, the Department of Planning and Council to ensure that the ecology of Saltwater Creek will be greatly improved following the developments. (More on Saltwater Creek elsewhere.)

Yowani Rd: We have no information about the sale of

### INVITATION TO SAUSAGE SIZZLE

THE TRADITIONAL SAUSAGE SIZZLE WILL OF COURSE BE HELD AFTER THE AGM, AT 6.00 PM ON THE CABINS' LAWN.

A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO MEET NEW - AND OLD - MEMBERS

## PRESIDENT'S PIECE (continued)

blocks, but there seems to be no movement. A letter has been written to Council about the roadworks and landscaping at the bottom of the road, requesting that we be given notice if further earthworks are to be undertaken, and questioning the lopping of a large gum. A further question was asked about the dangerous nature of the Yowani Road/George Bass Drive intersection itself. (See also the article on traffic engineering.)

Various committee members have been busy on internal matters such as membership and the updating of our various forms. You will see evidence of this towards the end of the newsletter.

Again we thank Emmett O'Loughlin, Bill Maher and David Mackenzie for their continued surveillance of Saltwater Creek. The committee unanimously recognises that this is our most fragile asset. The most important effort for all members is to continue to put pressure on those upstream to be mindful of it and to satisfy the letter of the law.

As you will see from the agenda for the AGM, we consider that a membership drive is very important. The benefits of membership and the achievements of the Association over the years are many. True to its initial charter, it has steadfastly refused any commercial development in Rosedale.

The Association is on a firm basis with its new constitution, its incorporation and a detailed Statement of Place. The timely publication of Minutes keeps the business of the association transparent and public. The activities of Landcare are visible throughout the precinct, notably around the new car park and Banksia Flat, and the protection of the dunes.

Many friendships have been made through the AGM and its sausage sizzle. May they burgeon and thrive.

SUE FALK

### TREASURER'S REPORT

01.01.08 TO 31.12.08

#### ROSEDALE ASSOCIATION INC

ACCOUNT BANK BALANCE 01.01.2008 ..... \$1437.14

#### CREDITS

Subscriptions ..... 1660.00  
Landcare Donations ..... 1565.00  
Return of Withholding Tax ..... 361.33  
Interest ..... 0.17  
**Total Credits** ..... **3541.50**

#### EXPENSES

Rental PO Box Mail ..... 70.00  
Easter Barbeque ..... 312.50  
Purchase of Barbeques ..... 325.50  
Dep of Fair Trading ..... 44.00  
Insurance ..... 300.00  
Malua Bay Fire Brigade Donation ..... 530.00  
Stationary and Paper ..... 79.80  
Postage and Printing ..... 183.72  
**Total Expenses**..... **1846.03**

**Landcare Distribution** ..... **1565.00**

**Balance** ..... **1567.61**

Late Receipts Accepted ..... 60.00

Late Payment for Stationary ..... 83.31

**Actual Balance** ..... **1544.30**

#### PERPETUAL CASH MANAGEMENT FUND

Balance at 01.01.08 ..... 16021.03

Interest Received ..... 752.44

**Balance at 30.12.09** ..... **16773.47**

#### ROSEDALE LANDCARE GROUP

TREASURERS REPORT 01.01.08 TO 31.12.08

Opening Balance ..... 5809.02

Deposits ..... 1565.00

Final Balance ..... 7374.02

**Balance at Bank** ..... **7374.02**

NOEL EGAN

# LANDCARE REPORT AND PROGRAM 2008

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## GENERAL

Following David Mackenzie's reversion to his former position as Technical Advisor to Rosedale Landcare (RL), I have become by default the Co-ordinator of this august institution. I request that it be noted that I neither volunteered nor was elected to this position. I will continue to organize the regular work bees (third Saturday afternoons of the odd-numbered months) and undertake other tasks as time permits, but I would cheerfully pass on the role to any other person who felt motivated, and had the time, to do it.

I have adopted the Landcare page of the Rosedale Association website as the bulletin board and clearing house for RL. The page contains a link to Jane Lemann's compilation on Rosedale weeds, which is recommended reading for all. Your attention is also drawn to the bush regeneration workshops which will be held in April (see below).

RL could do with a lot more support. Donations are warmly accepted, but a new influx of active supporters would be even more welcome. I realize that such involvement is not everyone's cup of tea, but a little education in the native flora and its management certainly deepens one's appreciation of our beautiful village and bushland in general. A little time spent in healthy outdoor work is its own reward, even if only on your own block. If you would like to move in this direction, we are here to provide all the assistance you could wish for.

## LANDCARE FUND

The Landcare fund is healthy, as shown in the financial report above. However, existing or

proposed commitments are not covered. \$2000 was committed some time ago to put with the Envirofund grant for the Banksia Flat work (see below) where the total spending on contractors is \$5,500 which includes the Bush Regeneration Workshops. We do not yet have another grant to follow on from Envirofund and it is pretty important that we do not go backward again. Eurobodalla Landcare Management Committee have contributed another \$2000 towards this critical work and we propose to commit up to another \$2000 to retain the contractors in the short term while another grant is sought. We thank you for your generosity. Please continue to maintain a healthy Landcare Fund for the betterment of Rosedale's surrounds.

## CURRENT WEED SURVEY

Council is responsible for the control of noxious weeds on reserves, not on private land. The two principal noxious weeds at Rosedale are Blackberry and Bitou Bush. Blackberry is scheduled for spraying in the near future by the Council's Weed Control Officer. We did a substantial walk-around in February to provide him with a map of all we could find. This does not, of course, include private properties. Anyone who has Blackberry on their block and who would like it sprayed is invited to submit a request to the author, who obtained the necessary certificate last year and is willing to provide this service.

We are increasingly finding Bitou Bush, particularly on the cliff faces, and have removed considerable quantities. The more inaccessible occurrences have been mapped for Council's contractor.

It is opportune to list here the principal environmental (as distinct from noxious) weeds which threaten Rosedale, with a few comments. The 'usual suspects' include Cobblers Peg and Fleabane, which many pull on sight in the course of their daily walks. Moth Vine has unfortunately jumped from Banksia Flat to the south side of Cooks Crescent, despite all the efforts to reduce it in recent years. It, Mile-a-minute and Turkey Rhubarb are under current professional attack, see below. Asparagus Fern has made an unwelcome resurgence. Less evident but still present are Mirror Bush and Sea Spurge, which can be a terrible weed in the dunes but has been kept at bay by constant vigilance.

The main garden escapees with which we have to deal virtually everywhere are: Honeysuckle; Montbretia (lots in the vicinity of the cabins); Cotoneaster (not common), Crassula (which is out of control on several cliff faces); Cassia, now re-named Senna, in the vicinity of many gardens; likewise Wandering Jew; of course Agapanthus; and recently quite a lot of Passionfruit. It would be greatly to Rosedale's benefit if people learned to identify all these and took steps to rid their gardens of them, or at least to stop them from escaping. Contact any one of us if you are not sure and require help.

In recent months Mike Freer has put in many hours spraying a localized Blackberry patch and Buffalo grass on Banksia Flat with good results. Both of these are significant contributions and we thank him sincerely for his efforts.

## ENVIROFUND PROJECT (BANKSIA FLAT)

Following the recent withdrawal of the original contractor from

this project, we interviewed two applicants for his replacement, Michelle Tribolet and Marie Cadman, both very competent and enthusiastic professional bush regenerators. To take full advantage of their skills, we appointed Michelle to do the on-ground work and Marie to run the three education workshops which are required under the terms of the project's funding.

Michelle has begun work with her team of two helpers on Tuesdays and will continue until the expiry of the project in mid June. They are primarily targeting Moth Vine, Turkey Rhubarb and Mile-a-minute on the parts of Banksia Flat which are less accessible or dangerous for volunteers. Anyone who wants to go down to Banksia Flat on a Tuesday to see how it's going and perhaps join in to help, maybe build on their bush regeneration skills, is encouraged to do so.

### WORK BEES

Two of these were held in January with significant support, which is encouraging. By the time of the

## SALTWATER CREEK

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The 2008 AGM appointed Bill Maher, Emmett O'Loughlin and me to a Saltwater Creek subcommittee whose task was to prepare a report on Saltwater Creek water quality and submit it to Council. We have in fact been acting as an unofficial subcommittee for some time in talking with Council staff and various government agencies since the first of the big developments was proposed a few years ago and we have contributed a number of submissions in response to proposals for the developments upstream of the Rosedale Lagoon.

### BUSH REGENERATION WORKSHOPS EVERYONE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE

These workshops will be advertised widely around the local area and participants from anywhere are welcomed. They are being organised by the Shire's project Officer. Marie will hold them during the second week of the school holidays in April. They will run each morning on Tuesday 21st, Thursday 23rd and Saturday 25th. Following the morning session, participants will be encouraged to return after lunch to try their hand at applying their newly acquired techniques to practical on-ground work. We hope that as many supporters of RL as possible will take advantage of these two-part sessions.

AGM there will have been another, on March 21, (the third Saturday). Mackenzie and Lewis, during their numerous weed-spotting forays around the precinct both together and separately, noticed evidence of others at work and these shy people are thanked for their efforts.

### OTHER ISSUES

The recent summer holidays have seen heavy beach usage and the foredune opposite the main dune crossing in particular is showing the effects. The dune is eroding as a result of sand blowouts where people cross the dunes. We are seeking expert advice from the relevant government departments

as to the best management options we might follow, if any.

### MANAGEMENT PLAN

A plan of management was published in the RA Newsletter for March 2007. It was not published in the 2008 pre-AGM Newsletter and was adopted later by Committee. I propose the following revised and streamlined plan for 2009. From time to time, Council's Landcare people, often at short notice, offer us volunteers or trainees to work in our precinct and they can be principally directed into any of these works that are relevant to the particular team.

ADRIAN LEWIS

All of these have been reported in this Newsletter or on the Association's website.

By way of background, we believe from the scarce available evidence and from the experience of similar lagoons on the NSW coast, that the ecology of Rosedale Lagoon has been severely compromised by a number of impacts. In particular, the clearing of almost the entire catchment, begun over a century ago, and subsequent farming operations has provided generous pollutant loads into the lagoon and

altered the frequency of lagoon opening. Urban development around the lagoon has added its own raft of pollutants carried in by storm water inflows but these are slowly being reduced (sealed carpark, sewage reticulation, other possible measures under discussion).

The three developments cover approximately 90% of the catchment of Saltwater Creek so there is a high risk of further degradation, indeed substantial degradation could readily occur. Our main concern, which we

## LANDCARE REPORT 2007-8

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	STATUS	COMMENTS
Dale Place Reserve	Weed & garden escapees removal	Ongoing	Previous disturbance significantly improved by plantings. RL work bees will continue
Car Park	Weeding, pruning, maintenance	Ongoing	Mulching assisted by Community Volunteers Australia; to continue. RL work bees.
Banksia Flat	Weed & garden escapees removal	Ongoing	Contractors, RL work bees. Landcare Fund contribution to Envirofund Project and to retain contractors for a while after the Project formally expires.
Dunes	Watching brief	Ongoing	Targeting sea spurge and other weeds.
Boatshed Beach	Weeding	Ongoing	Largely successful, RL work bees will continue.
Saltwater Creek	Watching brief	Ongoing	Other possibilities to do with the developments upstream are being investigated.
Other reserves: south of Nuns Beach, east of Tranquil Bay Pl, North Beach, all cliff faces, etc	Weed & garden escapees removal	Ongoing	RL work bees
General	Blackberry and bitou spraying	Yearly	Mapped by us, done by Council or their contractors

### SALTWATER CREEK continued

have consistently stressed and will continue to do so, not only to Council but to the Department of Planning and to a lesser extent, DECC and DWE, is the extreme vulnerability of Saltwater Creek to sediment and other pollutants washed down from development construction upstream of us. We have insisted that any development consent requires robust conditions attached to ensure the best possible protection of the ecologies of Saltwater Creek and Rosedale Lagoon.

There are several major aspects of the developers' proposals that we strongly challenge:

- the efficacy of the storm water

control measures they propose, maintaining that they are not fully proven and do not, as they assert, afford even mediocre protection. We stress that much greater stringency is required.

- that the three developers are apparently not required to liaise over how they manage stormwater flowing out of their properties into Rosedale's lagoon and the Marine Park. We have requested that the developers be required to liaise over joint stormwater management measures to ensure greater certainty of protection by cooperating to adopt a joint water management strategy that is demonstrably effective.

- the lack of any requirement to measure storm water flow rates and quality. We have stressed the need for continued monitoring of flow levels and water quality into the head of the Lagoon for the quick identification of illegal pollutant releases and that this be a permanent requirement not only during development but later when collectively there is a small town across the catchment.

- the assumption that water flow rates from the developments and its quality only need to match the current levels, stated as pre-development levels. However, as we stress above, these are maintaining a substandard lagoon ecology and are vastly inferior to those of the

undeveloped catchment of early last century. We are trying to get across the point that for the lagoon to begin a full recovery, water flow regimes and pollutant loads need to be returned to those of the undisturbed catchment.

Creek and its Lagoon have been the unchallenged pollutant dump for all the developments in the catchment for far too long and there is no justification for it continuing to be so.

The Marsim development has been granted conditional assent and proposals for the other two are currently being assessed (see Newsletter No 105). Because of our continuing discussions we have not yet sent a report to Council but will do so at the appropriate time. We will continue our discussions and keep the Association informed.

DAVID MACKENZIE

### ROSEDALE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

The DA for the proposed Rosedale retirement community was publicly exhibited in July last year. This Association lodged a submission in response to it and comments arising from that appeared in Newsletter 105 (Dec 2008). At the start of March this year Council and the developer were still in negotiations over a number of topics. Here are some comments based on conversations with both.

The developer has been working through issues with various state government agencies to whom Council referred parts of the application. The Dept. of Water and Energy is satisfied with modifications they required, namely setbacks from the northern boundary, reconfiguration of parts of the proposed estate, a slight reduction in dwellings and modification to the proposed management of stormwater. The Rural Fire Service is continuing to assess the application with particular interest in setbacks from the eastern boundary. The Dept. Environment and Climate Change is still assessing. A REF (Review of Environmental Factors) is being reworked.

The DA may eventually be re-worked to the extent it has to be publicly exhibited again which would give us an opportunity to respond further. In any case it appears that there may be some way to go before this DA is finalised. Your Association will continue to monitor the situation and report back.

## MEMBERSHIP- A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

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In recent years there has been a steady decline in the number of members of the RoseWdale 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 one 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

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 email 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.

## SEWERAGE

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*The committee noted that the Council had not been in touch with landholders on the subject of sewerage, as had been promised. David Mackenzie reports below.*

### THE CURRENT STATE OF THE SEWAGE RETICULATION PROJECT

There has been progress since the last report to the Association in Newsletter 103 (March 2008). There have also been a few delays and there is a fair bit more yet to happen. Existing mapping of the area was inaccurate and resolution was insufficient to allow accurate location of such essential assets as items as houses and roads without which no setting out of future pipe lines and so forth is possible. This is some undertaking considering that there are several villages involved, including Bodalla (130 dwellings), Wallaga Lake (30) and Rosedale-Guerilla Bay (350). Some other small areas may possibly be included later. The areas were flown for the photography required to update the mapping but not surprisingly the tree canopy in places was impenetrable and further delay occurred as ground based survey was required to complete the exercise.

The next step is to map the accurate locations of the necessary

infrastructure. The location of street mains and trunk lines from the villages to the sewage treatment plants has to be surveyed. Similarly, the location of installations at each dwelling has to be mapped accurately: a small holding tank beside each house to receive outflow, a pump to send it off-property to the street main and pipe to carry it. Clearly these locations, especially that of the pipeline, will be of concern to most owners. Contractors hope to engage with householders as they visit but, as can be expected with our largely absentee ownership, most owners will see their plans for the first time in the post. They then have the opportunity to accept or object. This operation would have transpired over Christmas last but the mapping problems delayed it.

Following mapping, specialist environmental consultants will draw up a Review of Environmental Factors to, among other things, identify sensitive areas to be avoided. These include such items as endangered ecological habitats, endangered species and heritage sites of all kinds. These exercises have some potential to generate delays. Then, once a geotechnical study is complete, the detailed design of the project can proceed, after

which tenders can be drawn up and finally, contracts let.

Construction is expected to take less than a year. Once the system is commissioned and we are on-line, we will not have to pay the \$200 annual development levy again and the annual flat rate sewage rate will not cut in until rates fall due around August of the ensuing financial year. Now for the Crystal Ball segment. In the last report we said, "No one seems keen to make any promises this time but there are currently definite notes of optimism..." We can say little more this time around. The best estimate is that the system could be commissioned in 2010-11 but this is not an official statement. It will be evident after reading the above that there is abundant opportunity for delays to occur, delays that could cost heaps to buy a way around. However, one of the greatest fears is that, in the current financial turmoil, State Government may once more renege on some or all of its funding commitment. The project stumbled when the State withdrew promised funding in 2007 and got back on line only when fresh State funding was offered in Jan 2008. Council may not fund this project on its own.

DAVID MACKENZIE

## TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

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A roundabout is proposed for the intersection of George Bass Drive and Rosedale Pde to accommodate traffic generated by the proposed Retirement Village and Rosedale Farm developments. Council, as the consenting authority, currently prefers this option but the issue is by no means finalised. The Association

wrote to Council, cc RTA and DoP, in May last year suggesting a staggered intersection but it appears that it is not possible to achieve sufficient separation between the two intersections. Council also required some enlargement of the internal road network to facilitate access for larger service vehicles.

The DA may eventually be re-worked to the extent it has to be publicly exhibited again to which we will have an opportunity to respond further. In any case it appears that there may be some way to go before this DA is finalised. Your Association will continue to monitor the situation and report back.

# FLORA AND FAUNA OF ROSEDALE

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## MUTTONBIRDS

Firstly, my apologies for continuing with a bird theme in this column. My only defence is that birds are one of the most conspicuous wildlife groups at Rosedale, and many of their habits and behaviours are fascinating examples of animals living in a natural and built environment. Their presence is often taken for granted despite having these remarkable life histories, and none more so than the humble Muttonbird. These brownish-grey seabirds are most commonly seen, unfortunately, face down on the beach. You may recall seeing some of these casualties at Rosedale over the summer holidays.

The Muttonbird, Yolla (aboriginal) or Short-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) is a member of the 'tube-nosed' family (Procellariidae) of seabirds. They have adapted nasal cavities at the base of the beak, giving them an incredible sense of smell, which is rare in birds. This is a highly specialised adaptation used in navigation, particularly in the search for food (e.g. krill, squid and fish schools) on the open ocean. They are diving foragers, often plunging into the water and propelling themselves with wings and webbed feet to chase prey. If you've ever been out fishing and had these little birds attack your bait you'll know how efficient they are at swimming! This 'tube-nose' also houses a secretion gland enabling them to drink salt water.

Like all oceanic birds, short-tailed shearwaters spend their entire lives in the open seas, only venturing back on land to breed. It is believed some adults can live to be 50 years old. They have a wingspan of about 1m and superb aerodynamics, which enables them to spend most of their time



gliding on the wing; exploiting the dynamic wind patterns associated with waves and currents. It is not uncommon, on a calm day to see huge numbers, or 'rafts' of seabirds sitting on the water becalmed: with no wind and no waves it's just too hard for these birds to fly!

Short-tailed shearwaters are Australia's most abundant seabird, with approximately 23 million birds breeding in about 285 colonies along the east coast. The majority of these colonies are on islands surrounding Tasmania. A commercial harvesting industry was established in the early colonies for the bird's breast-meat, crop oil and feathers, and is where the name muttonbird became custom. This industry con-

tinues today, however, harvesting (between 27 March and 30 April) is strictly regulated and chicks ONLY are taken. Although the current population numbers are high, historical records indicate these numbers are declining. In 1798 Matthew Flinders, sailing through Bass Strait estimated seeing 100 million birds in a single flock!

They typically breed on offshore islands, nesting in burrows, in which they lay a single egg. Each parent will spend 2-3 days with a chick before undertaking extensive foraging trips in search of food. These bouts can take up to 3 weeks, and the adults may wander thousands of kilometers during that time.

During the austral winter months, after fledging chicks, these birds migrate huge distances into the

northern hemisphere. The exact migratory paths are not well understood, but current research suggests they travel up the west Pacific into the Arctic Circle. Returning, they fly through the mid Pacific, arriving back on the east coast at the start of summer. This is an enormous mission, and is undertaken annually.

Such an odyssey has its impacts, and the majority of dead birds found washed up on east coast beaches each summer have died from shear exhaustion. So next time you see one of these little guys washed up at Rosedale, consider just how remarkable their journey: they've probably just completed a 30 000kms round trip.

MAX TISCHLER

# FLORA AND FAUNA OF ROSEDALE

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## PLANTS OF ROSEDALE

Growing local indigenous plants can be both rewarding and frustrating.

Given that the plants occur naturally in the area in which we might like to grow them, one can be forgiven in thinking that our chosen plants would be easy to grow. When choosing plants for gardens, experience shows that plants quite often need very specific conditions if they are to thrive.

I'm sure that many have tried to grow some special plant in what appeared to be ideal conditions only to find the plant struggled, or just died.

What can you do to give your plants the best chance of survival ?

The best advice you can follow is to ensure that your plants have good, free draining soils. It is virtually impossible to remove water from the plant root zone when the soil is wet and poorly drained. A basic recommendation is to raise the planting beds, or planting sites by up to 30cm, so that the new plant roots have the opportunity to establish in free draining soil, and can choose if they wish to enter the heavier subsoil.

Other important points to consider are the amount of sun or shade your chosen plants require, and whether the aspect in relation to wind, either salt laden coastal or hot north westerlies are likely to be tolerated.

We have all fallen for the trap of finding an absolutely gorgeous little treasure during a visit to the nursery, bringing it home and then looking for a suitable home. A far more practical, but maybe less appealing approach should be to

choose the plants you need whilst still at home and then go to the nursery to seek out plants which meet your requirements.

Sitting in your garden, visualizing what the plant or plants might look like when grown, will give you the best chance of selecting the right plants.

Do you need a windbreak, and if so how high need the plants grow to do the job ? To achieve a 3 metre high windbreak might require a plant which the books say grows to 4 or 5 metres, to take account of the pruning effect of wind.

Does the plant need to flower at a time when you are in residence, if yours is a holiday home, or flower at a time when bees are less active if you are concerned that children playing in the yard might be at risk of being stung.

We all have a good idea of what we would like our garden to look like, so by recording your expectations and then researching the plants you need to produce expected results, although boringly practical, will prove the best approach.

The recent fires in Victoria must demonstrate that we need to be aware that fire in Rosedale is certainly possible, and it is better to plan your garden with fire protection in mind. No one wants a yard covered in concrete, although that might be the blanket suggestion of unsympathetic planners charged with bureaucratic responsibility of ensuring our homes are safe in such eventualities. So being proactive planning your garden for such events will also be time well spent.

Whilst no plant is fire proof, there are some which could be classed as resistant, at least during a first ember attack. Plants which have broader, fleshy leaves such as Lilli Pilli, will be less likely to catch fire than a fine leaved plant of the Myrtle family, such as teatree. The Victorian fires demonstrated that even when houses have a fair cleared area surrounding them, if conditions are so dry, and winds so fierce, there is no defence. So whilst you should consider planning your garden with fire in mind, don't forget the reason you chose Rosedale to live, for the bushy environment and lively birdlife and other animals that make living in such an environment. By all means clean up around the house, and rake up excess leaves but remember that plants need to be fed, and they are at their best when nutrients from fallen litter is recycled, providing not only food for the plants but also a home for the myriad micro animals which are the builders of good soil.

JOHN KNIGHT

### FIRES ON BEACH

Council regulations forbid the lighting of fires on any beach in the Eurobodalla Shire. This is because of the risk of injury, particularly to small children. It has unfortunately been the case at Rosedale that a New Year's Eve fire, doused with sand, continued to smoulder for quite some time. A young girl's feet were badly burned.

If you see that a bonfire is being planned on any of Rosedale's beaches, the best thing to do would be to call the Ranger on 4474 1307, or, after hours, 4474 1222.

### COASTAL WATTLE AND SAND DUNE STABILISATION

Coastal Wattle (*Acacia sophorae*) is native to our south eastern coasts. It occurs on beach dunes, and extends inland. It has been planted extensively on dunes where storms, fire, grazing and general overuse have left bare sand to blow away. It grows at Rosedale, principally on South Rosedale Beach where in the last decade it has spread to afford most of the main dune an excellent level of protection.

Beach vegetation can be conveniently divided into three distinct zones parallel to the water's edge. The Primary Zone is closest to the water where low nutrient levels, salt spray and sand blast make for a tough plant environment. Here, colonizing (or pioneer) species, Spinifex, American Rocket, American Pennywort and Grey Saltbush, among others, struggle to catch wind blown sand into hummocks and ridges which are periodically washed back to sea by a storm and later washed back up to start the cycle all over again. This harsh environment cannot support Coastal Wattle. The Secondary Zone is where sand has not been washed (or blown) away for longer periods and by accumulating organic matter and nutrients has begun the long process of developing a soil from the siliceous sand. Plants in this zone at Rosedale typically include Coastal Wattle, Coastal Beard Heath, Westringia, *Correa alba* and Salt Bush, among others. These plants create a zone of protection behind them for larger plants which make up the Tertiary Zone where, over a longer period, better soils have developed capable of supporting these larger plants. They include Coastal Banksia and Swamp She-

oak, typically seen as you leave the car park and climb the crossing over the main dune. Coastal Wattle can be found occasionally in this zone.

These three beach vegetation zones are almost always present but do not necessarily occur strictly on specific dunes. Dune types vary greatly, indeed some may be absent, such as at Rosedale where a foredune is absent.

Coastal Wattle has been planted to stabilise bare dunes at many sites over the south eastern coast. We have no record that it was planted in the early 80s at Rosedale when dune rehabilitation works were carried out to repair the damage from the severe storms of the mid 70s that reduced the beach to a vast expanse of bare sand. It was planted in recent years to augment the existing vegetation and build more dunes on the strand. The strand, or ephemeral zone, is the area of bare sand and sparse, low plants between the water and the first reasonably well vegetated dunes. On the South Rosedale beach it ends approximately where the fence line is. More dunes give the beach a greater capacity to withstand storms, the more and bigger the dunes, the greater the storm the beach can withstand. Plantings of Coastal Wattle have not done well on most of the Rosedale strand and exceedingly well on some of it, e.g. near the cabins.

The thinking at a number of places in the Shire is turning to how we might create a more diverse plant species mix on the foredunes dominated at present by Coastal Wattle. Too much of one species has the potential for creating another bare sand

situation if large portions of it were to be destroyed by disease, insect attack, fire or even planned removal. Also, a diverse species mix provides food and habitat for a wider range of fauna. A stable area of a single species may not be a bad thing if there is a diverse flora surrounding it providing a range of faunal habitats. There is speculation that additional species should be planted into the wattle thickets using different techniques. Long Beach Landcare has obtained a Caring for Coast grant for a scientific study into Coastal Wattle at Long Beach to see if any intervention is worthwhile and if so what. This is a site specific study and there is no funding at this stage to extend it to a range of sites with similar stands of wattle.

The ability of Coastal Wattle (and other plant species) to provide dune protection can vary depending on the extent of exposure to storms. To examine this variability Joe Walker (CSIRO) and myself looked at nine beach sites from Durras to Moruya River in March this year where Coastal Wattle grows. The range of sites showed many consistent features but also subtle differences related to exposure, past storm events and the degree of soil development. Coastal Wattle favours the foredune region where the development of a soil that can better retain nutrients and moisture than pure sand has begun. We did observe some spreading forward into the primary zone and into the hinddunes – both can be observed at Rosedale. The amount of spread seemed to be naturally controlled by wind and sand blasting in the primary zone and by competition in the hinddunes.

Will Coastal Wattle spread rapidly beyond the foredune areas and have an effect on habitat and biodiversity? Care must be taken when comparing sand dunes with headlands or other area with different soil types where some invasions have been reported. Our tentative conclusion based on evidence from the dunes we examined suggests the probability of a massive invasion by Coastal Wattle in either direction from the fore-dunes is low. However we need to keep a watching brief and if plants are found in numbers beyond the foredune, then is the time to decide on management options.

DAVID MACKENZIE

### PAYMENT BY BANK DEPOSIT

**A number of members have asked if it would be possible to pay membership subscriptions and Landcare donations by directly depositing to the Rosedale Association Inc. bank account. Given that cheque books are becoming less used and that many are now using the Internet for banking an alternative is provided.**

It involves two steps:

Complete a Bank Deposit Form available on the website. This will be sent to the Treasurer and will give you a code that will enable your deposit to be identified with yourself.

Then deposit your payment quoting the code either when you deposit to the Rosedale Association bank account via Internet banking or over-the-counter transactions.

The Bank Deposit Form can be found by going to the Membership page on the website. You will need to enter your membership ID. This is printed on the top left corner of your Newsletter mailing label. If you receive a 'paperless newsletter' your membership ID will be beside your email name.

Full details of the procedure are provided on the website.

## ARCHIVING ROSEDALE'S HISTORY

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The History Project (see Agenda for AGM) aims to assist people who have a story to tell about themselves in early Rosedale or just about early Rosedale itself. The Association has been working to help produce the oral histories of those willing to share their memories and seeks more participants. Scanning of photos and documents that go with these memories can be arranged also.

Others may not care to tread the oral history path yet they may have photos and documents they might want to share or preserve. The value of these may not be apparent to the owners, that is for future historians to decide. They may be safe for now, but could be lost for a number of reasons: descendants may be unaware of their significance, or we may simply lose contact with those who move away.

Archiving Rosedale's History is a companion project to the History Project. It seeks to go beyond the immediacy of oral history and preserve the documents of Rosedale's early days so they

may be accessible for any future history projects. The two projects are complementary. We may be able arrange for your material to be lodged with state or national libraries or a local historical society if that's what you'd like. We would need to talk with you about why they are significant and record as much context as you could provide.

As a pilot for what others might want done with their material, we have begun to scan the papers that Ian Harrison used to compile his five-part Rosedale History for the Newsletter last decade. There is more material there than he ever used. We'll continue with this and eventually catalogue the papers while the originals may later be deposited safely elsewhere. In another exercise, a number of old scenes provided by early Rosedalians show what the beach was like before and after the terrible storms of the mid 70s and how treeless Banksia Flat was when grazing stopped in the 50s. These are invaluable in

depicting what old Rosedale looked like for the younger generations and we want to build on this.

If you would like to contribute material, please let us know directly or through a contact. We will be happy to discuss with you what you want done and how we may help. You may want to produce an oral history as well as have some material archived, the two are quite compatible. If you wish we can maybe peruse your material with you to help select what may be of use.

Any material entrusted to us for copying will be cared for properly and returned as promptly as possible. We particularly seek photos of old Rosedale and the folk who peopled it. So far we have a lot and many are of good quality. Please phone or email us.

[sue@susanfalk.net](mailto:sue@susanfalk.net) 0418 460 717

[anton.cook@netspeed.com.au](mailto:anton.cook@netspeed.com.au) | 6161 3264

[davidmackenzie@grapevine.net.au](mailto:davidmackenzie@grapevine.net.au) 6288 6194

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2009 ARE NOW DUE

If the address label on your newsletter has a red dot your membership subscription for the calendar year 2009 is now due. Subscriptions support the work of your Rosedale Association and are only \$10 per voting member per year.

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

Please include a completed Membership Application, Renewal and Payment Form with your cheque so that we can keep our records fully up to date.

Subscriptions should be sent to:

The Treasurer  
The Rosedale Association  
PO Box 4134  
Manuka ACT 2603

Subscriptions may also be paid by bank deposit. Please see the article Payments by Bank Deposit [elsewhere in this Newsletter] or go to the Membership page on the website. Please use the Payment by Bank Deposit form on the Rosedale Association Inc website. For this see the Membership page at <http://www.netspeed.com.au/rosedale>.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, RENEWAL AND PAYMENT FORM

You may use this form to apply for membership, to renew your membership, to make a Landcare fund donation, or to advise a change to your membership details.

The annual membership subscription is \$10 per voting member and subscriptions become due on 1st January each year. Payments may be by cheque.

Application type (Please tick one)

- Membership application
- Membership renewal/Landcare donation
- Change of membership details

Voting members

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone numbers

----- (h) ----- (fax)  
----- (w) ----- (m)

Rosedale telephone number

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Email addresses (please print carefully)

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Weed notices (Please tick one)

Would you like advice on noxious weeds on your property?  Yes  No

PAYMENTS

Membership subscription for _____ voting member(s) for the calendar year _____	\$ _____
Landcare fund donation (optional)	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

COMMENTS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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ROSEDALE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM - 2008

Please print and complete this form and forward it to reach: The President  
The Rosedale Association Inc  
PO Box 4134 Manuka ACT 2603  
by Tuesday 7 March, 2009, or hand it to The Secretary before the AGM on Saturday 11 April. 2009.  
Nominator, seconder, and nominee must be members of the Rosedale Association Inc.

I nominate: \_\_\_\_\_ for a position on the Rosedale Association Inc Committee

Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconder: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to stand: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name)

of \_\_\_\_\_  
(address)

Being a member of the Rosedale Association Incorporated  
hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name of proxy)

of \_\_\_\_\_  
(address)

Being a member of that incorporated association, as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the  
annual general meeting and the special general meeting of the association to be held on the 11th  
day of April 2009 and at any adjournment of those meetings.

(signature of member appointing proxy)..... (date) .....

Note: Each member is entitled to appoint another member as proxy by notice given to the secre-  
tary before the time of the meeting.

If undeliverable please return to:  
The Rosedale Association Inc.  
PO Box 4134  
MANUKA ACT 2603

The Rosedale Association Inc Newsletter  
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