

THE Rosedale ASSOCIATION INC



Newsletter Issue 109 July 2010

ROSEDALE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Saturday 3 April 2010

Opened at 10:55 am by Acting President Sue Falk

1. APOLOGIES

Ted and Barbara Wilcox, Dan Buchler, Christine Sheil, Anton and Barbara Cook, Emmett O'Loughlin, Rohan Kent, Tony and Judy Cooper, Bruce Stark, A and S Lewis, Fay Reynolds, the Nicholas family.

2. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sue Falk announced that since the number of nominations equalled the number of places available on the committee, no election was necessary. The following are the executive and committee Rosedale Association Inc. for 2010:

President: Vacant

Secretary: Sue Falk

Treasurer: Noel Egan

Members:

..... David Boardman

..... Darren Gribble

..... Rohan Kent

..... David Mackenzie

..... Margot Marshall

..... Barry Shorter

..... Michael Skipper

New member:

..... Bill Williams

3. TREASURER'S REPORT: NOEL EGAN

Report as published in the March 2010 newsletter presented by treasurer Noel Egan. Noel Egan noted that there had been a slight but welcome increase in membership numbers.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report:

Proposed: Sue Falk

Seconded Ian Holmes

Carried

4. FIRE OFFICER REPORT

Barry Shorter provided an update on moves at Council, state and federal level following the 2009 Victorian bushfires, making available for members copies of the NSW Bushfire survival plan. Mr Shorter reported on a new scanning system under investigation by the Federal government to give early warning to communities throughout Australia of pending bush fire.

5. LANDCARE REPORT

David Mackenzie presented the Landcare Report as published in the March 2010 newsletter.

On other matters, David discussed the prevalence of rabbits as a threat to Rosedale's environment. While there is no funding from Council this financial year, he said he was confident that there is a good chance of funding next year because of the high populations of rabbits at Rosedale.

He also reported that the shaky footbridge is on the waiting list for Council to repair, but there was nothing to be done to escalate its priority as it was not ranked high as a safety threat in the shire.

He called on members to help weed areas around the beach and cliffs later that day.

Motion to accept Landcare Report

Proposed: Sue Falk

Seconded: Lotte Klebba

Carried

The Rosedale Association Incorporated

www.netspeed.com.au/rosedale

PO Box 4134 Manuka ACT 2603

6. SALTWATER CREEK

David Mackenzie advised that recent rains had broken through to the sea and reinvigorated the health of Saltwater Creek. Michael Orr, Bill Maher's student had reported that Saltwater showed all the signs of a healthy creek.

He also reported that, as directed by the 2009 AGM, Emmett O'Loughlin had written to Council with concerns about the Creek.*

7. SEWERAGE

David Mackenzie reported that the NSW Government had pulled back on subsidising sewerage projects across the state and that Rosedale's sewerage reticulation project was now deferred until 2013 -2014 at least. He also reported that it is possible that the Council's levy on all Rosedale ratepayers will need to be deferred, advising residents to watch the Council's website, www.esc.gov.au website for the outcome of Council's decision on the levy.

QUESTIONS

Bill Williams asked the Committee to investigate federal capital investment in the sewerage, pointing out that there had been a \$1.4 billion federal

capital investment fund and that if there were to be new federal investment, the Council might be interested in accessing this funding. David Mackenzie and Bill Williams to discuss way forward and approach to Council.

8. HISTORY PROJECT

David Mackenzie reported that he and Anton Cook have scanned all documents and photographs on Rosedale's history – but they need more. Anyone with material should contact David or Anton (see below).

9. AOB

- Sue Falk noted that CDAER published a regular newsletter – the Canberra & District Association of Eurobodalla Ratepayers Newsletter, which included news from the Bay Post
- Keith Boardman asked what was happening with developments across George Bass Drive.
- Sue Falk said that the Marsim block was still for sale, that neither Rosedale Farm nor the proposed retirement village had yet received planning approval and that one block had been sold on Rosedale Ridge.
- Rosedale Farm had applied to the Supreme Court to extinguish

outdated rights of way and their solicitors had requested the RAI to publish material to help identify persons who might be affected by the proposal. New traffic arrangements are not yet known but that part of Bevan Road on Rosedale Farm will remain a gazetted road.

- David Carter suggested that a letter be written to the owner of the Cabins, John Gasson, thanking him for the use of the premises for Rosedale business.

- Keith Boardman asked where the sausage sizzle was to be held; Sue Falk replied that it would be at 5 pm at the Cabins.

10. NOEL EGAN MOVED A VOTE OF THANKS TO SUE FALK; CARRIED TO APPLAUSE.

Meeting closed at 11.25 am.

* Council's response to this letter had been mislaid and it was assumed at the time that it did not exist. It has been located, and synopses of both letters appear elsewhere in this Newsletter.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Max Tischler, our favourite correspondent, is incommunicado somewhere in "the desert". His regular contribution to our Newsletter will resume in the next edition.

ROSEDALE HISTORY PROJECT

People's memories are gradually being collected. This is a long-term project, so you are invited to keep an eye on the website and as time goes by new items should appear.

If anyone has photos of the dunes so many of us seem to remember, that would be a valuable contribution. Likewise photos of what we used to call "the Lagoon", where it seems a good number of people learnt to swim, or to keep a kayak upright.

Photos would of course be returned.

Memories of Rosedale from all generations are welcome. Successive waves of the children of Rosedale have grown up on our beach. It would be great to hear from them, and thus get some sense of generational change and continuity.

Rosedale and Guerilla Bay Sewerage Project Postponed. Following on the somewhat inconclusive reports in the last Newsletter and at the AGM, we can now report with more certainty. Council's Greg Searle, Director, Water and Waste, has been very helpful in providing up-to-date information and detailed explanations. We are most grateful to him for his time.

State Government has postponed committing to a 50% contribution to the Rosedale and Guerilla Bay Project until at least 2013-14. We have not been singled out; funding postponements apply to a number of projects in the shire and indeed to LGA projects state-wide.

Consequently Council has similarly postponed the project until at least 2013-14. Further, the annual sewer rate levy of \$217 per household toward Survey, Investigation and Design (SID) work has been suspended, at least until 2013-14; it will not appear on the 2010-11 rates notice.

The SID work had not been completed at the time of postponement and aspects of it continue. A Review of Environmental Effects, currently under way is due for about the end of August. On resumption of the Project, SID work will restart and elements of previous work will need to be revisited as changes inevitably occur especially on individual properties (driveways are laid, extensions are built etc). Given the time span of such projects, later revision of earlier planning is normal even without postponements.

Approximately 340 households in Rosedale and Guerilla Bay have contributed around \$140,000 over the last two years through the household sewer rate for SID work. This has by no means met the full \$400,000 cost of the works so far undertaken and Council has had to meet the shortfall.

Council intends to issue another Community Newsletter on the Rosedale and Guerilla Bay Sewerage Scheme in the next month or so.

Infrastructure Fund. At the recent AGM the Committee was asked to investigate the possibility of Council accessing future federal capital investment in the sewerage Project. It was pointed out that there had already been a \$1.4 billion federal Infrastructure Fund and that there may be another, especially in an election year.

The Infrastructure Fund was available for projects that were in an advanced stage of planning so the funds could be expended promptly. Further, it was not available for water and sewerage projects. Council did in fact access about \$1m of this fund for 17 road and recreation projects while our Sewerage Project requires about \$4-5M which must be available in its entirety to permit a start. There are numerous sources of funding available to Council for different infrastructure activities and Council staff, no less those in Water and Waste, are constantly on the lookout for any possibilities.

Malua Bay to Tomakin Sewer Trunk. Many will no doubt have wondered at the purpose of the

recent pipe-laying activity to Rosedale's west. Unfortunately it has nothing to do with the Rosedale and Guerilla Bay Project as some had hoped.

Malua Bay's sewage is currently pumped to the Batemans Bay Sewage treatment Plant (STP), commonly known as the Surf Beach STP. The system, both the pump network of Malua and the STP, is overloaded and in large storm events can cause raw sewage overflows both in the suburbs and at the STP. Tomakin STP on the other hand is underloaded and the activity in question comprises the laying of a dedicated trunk to convey Malua Bay sewage to the Tomakin STP and thus relieve the load on Surf Beach.

The engineering work has been quite interesting. It involved remotely directed drilling tunnels under the highway and the creek through which 0.4 m diameter flexible pipes are pulled. These connect at either end with rigid PVC piping laid in open trenches. The current work does not complete the laying: funding dictates that there will be little if any further work in 2010-11 but it is expected to resume in 2011-12.

Tomakin STP has ample capacity to handle the Malua Bay and the Rosedale-Guerilla Bay loads. As developments to the west (Marsim, Rosedale Farm, Retirement Village) come on stream, Tomakin's capacity will be increased as required. In addition to the current trunk line, there will be separate trunk lines for Rosedale-Guerilla Bay and for the future developments.

CREEK STUDY

Field work on Saltwater Creek has concluded for University of Canberra Honours student Michael Orr. Elsewhere in this Newsletter he updates an earlier report on his findings and by the time you read this he will have submitted. We thank him for his contribution and wish him good fortune in his future endeavours.

PROTECTING SALTWATER CREEK: CORRESPONDENCE WITH COUNCIL

The 2009 AGM resolved the following motion:

The Rosedale Association Inc. requests that the Eurobodalla Shire Council imposes as conditions of development, that the impacts on water quality of any changes in land use in the catchment of Saltwater Creek be minimised by providing fenced buffers along the creek, specifically to exclude livestock. The Association also requests that its nominee writes a letter to Council, expressing its concern for the current degraded status of water quality in Saltwater Creek, the potential for further degradation, and the critical

The Association notes with sorrow the death of Emeritus Professor Athel Beckwith, a lover of Rosedale and frequent visitor over many years with his children and grandchildren. We offer our sincere condolences to his widow, Kaye, and family.

importance of this water body as a marine habitat.

Emmett O'Loughlin was appointed nominee. The writing of his letter was reported at the AGM but the response had been mislaid and assumed non-existent; it has since been located. Copies of both letters are available to members on application to the Secretary.

Here are abridged versions of Emmett's letter and the reply from Council's General Manager.

RAI to ESC 1 September 2009:

The RAI expresses its concern that water quality in Saltwater creek is highly degraded, and that future urban development surrounding the creek will degrade it even further. Steps should be taken now both to rehabilitate the creek and to prevent further harm.

The lagoon is a nursery habitat for several fish species and is fed by a stream draining the proposed urban expansion area. Over 100 years ago the catchment was cleared of forest for grazing and cultivation. This grossly altered stream hydrology which has for over a century, caused increased erosion and hence sediment and nutrient transport into the lagoon. Grazing cattle still have direct creek access, they damage its banks and pollute its waters with fecal matter. The stream and its lagoon have been severely degraded by these changes. Fish kills occur for various reasons such as oxygen depletion from phytoplankton blooms stimulated by increased nutrient levels. This situation is urgently in need of remedy.

In 2008 the Rosedale Association Inc submitted to Council a response to the proposed retirement village development alongside Rosedale Farm. Our essential concern was the issue of poor water quality in Saltwater Creek and the lack of information from the developer about how water quality would be protected from the well-known adverse effects of future urban development.

We also referred to the effect on Saltwater Creek of the proposed Marsim and Rosedale Farm developments in the catchment: the impacts of the three will be cumulative. These developments offer a once-only opportunity to provide certainty for the long term recovery of Saltwater Creek instead of further degrading it. The three developers should adopt an integrated approach to avoid permanent ecological damage to Saltwater Creek. We are not confident this will happen.

The ecology of the creek and its lagoon is fragile and they discharge directly into Batemans Marine Park. Primary and secondary contact usage in this urban estuary raises serious health concerns for residents both of existing and proposed developments. Yet the ecological and health significance of Saltwater Creek has barely been recognised in the environmental assessments of three developers.

Obviously the three developers are unlikely to coordinate their activities toward priority protection measures voluntarily and we look to the ESC as local approving authority to ensure the improvement and preservation of the health of Saltwater Creek and

its lagoon through appropriate measures.

Remedial measures should be adopted immediately to allow recovery to healthy levels.

Excluding livestock from the streamlines is essential despite the difficulties involved. There is currently nothing in place to protect the valuable, rare, endangered and irreplaceable aquatic environment of Saltwater Creek.

RAI invites discussion with Council officers to explore ways these protective measures might be effected. Steps should be taken well before any construction commences to begin rehabilitation. Strict conditions of consent should be imposed on specific DAs to preserve the ecology and amenity of Saltwater Creek.

ESC to RAI 24 September 2009.

The state's Department of Planning considered the Rosedale Farm [he was actually referring to Marsim] proposal and imposed conditions of consent to ensure no adverse impacts on riparian areas. Other Government agencies will be involved in assessing such works prior to commencement.

The other developments remain under assessment both by the State [Rosedale Farm] and ESC [Retirement Village]. Best Practice is expected for environmental protection and safeguarding. You are able to make specific submission in regard to either.

Re fencing to exclude livestock, both Council and Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority have worked with landholders on such issues on a voluntary basis. Environmental

works [such as this] are prioritized according to available funds and environmental values. Funding for fencing is unlikely since it would be a short term project given the intent to develop.

PROTECTING SALTWATER CREEK: FURTHER COMMENT

Saltwater Creek is Rosedale's most precious asset and there has been considerable effort over the last decade to have it protected from developments upstream of the lagoon. Emmett's letter reflects many of the points made in various submissions in response to all three development proposals. These have gone to Planning and ESC from Emmett O'Loughlin, Bill Maher, Joe Walker and myself, whether as individuals or writing on behalf of the RAI. RAI also submitted to the Sensitive Urban Land Areas Review; this included the Rosedale Urban Expansion Zone which contains these three developments.

Our recommendations for Marsim and the SULA were mostly ignored and we await the outcome of proposals for Rosedale Farm and the Retirement Village. It would be unproductive to make further submissions now while the developers are in discussion with the approving agencies regarding conditions applying to their respective developments.

Once Planning has granted consent for overall Concept Plans, Council becomes the approving agency for successive stages in these developments. We expect that as DAs are lodged with Council and publically exhibited, we will have the opportunity for further comment and we keep a watching brief.

Last year I investigated the matter of fencing out livestock from the creek but met with no success. It is unlikely the situation has improved in the interim. Landholders cannot be made to fence, they do so voluntarily. Council's comments above about funding an interim measure are apt; developers would likely take a similar view.

Understanding the creek. There has also been considerable effort to understand how the creek (more specifically the lagoon) operates. A number of studies over the last ten years or so has examined different aspects of the lagoon and compared it with other Intermittently Closing and Opening Lakes or Lagoons (ICOLLs). There has been little study of the creek system in its entirety (lagoon, creek and tributaries) nor of the catchment it drains.

The concerns raised in our several submissions and gathered in Emmett's letter are very real, they are based on well chronicled and widely understood experience elsewhere. They are no less valid or worrying if the several studies on Saltwater have not exactly found that the lagoon is a degraded mess.

There are many measures of water quality, they fluctuate widely over time and extreme levels may only be transient, lasting only for a few days or a few hours. Further, they fluctuate widely within any one ICOLL. So the timing of a study, its duration and when the measures are made may all have a profound influence on the outcome. Fortunately for Michael Orr's eight month study the lagoon broke out providing him with an invaluable

set of conditions to monitor: without that his results would have been very useful but entirely different. A wide ranging study over the whole lagoon and creek that sampled a wide range of seasonal extremes would require a large team involving many disciplines and cost mega-bucks. Such projects only target large water bodies with commercial or ecological significance (Tuggerah Lakes, The Coorong). Saltwater Creek has significance but is not in that league.

Commenting on Michael's findings, it is perhaps not surprising that he found elevated nutrient levels. What is surprising is that they were consistently high throughout most of the study period. Their origin is not entirely clear, there are several possible sources. The sustained anoxia (low dissolved oxygen) near the bottom is not at all surprising. The consistent presence of black, sulphide muds on the bottom indicate that organic matter that has settled there is being consumed by sulphate reducing bacteria, the end product of which is a range of sulphide compounds including our old friend and *bête noire*, hydrogen sulphide or rotten egg gas which can frequently be detected around the lagoon. This is probably the source of most of the claims of raw sewage entering the lagoon – which is not to say it has not occurred from time to time.

In a small creek sudden changes are not buffered and result in large fluctuations not seen so often in larger well buffered water bodies. This will occasionally take concentrations of different compounds past the adopted water quality guidelines. The water quality guidelines for Australia and New Zealand are

built around this variability in nature and are not binding. They allow for levels to be exceeded 20% of the time. While this may be unacceptable from health and amenity viewpoints, we need to understand that they are in many cases natural responses. To this extent the creek's many processes seem to be operating well.

However, we should not assume from this observation that an adverse spike in any one water quality attribute was not man-made and it's essential that we maintain vigilance. We, residents, owners, visitors, who enjoy Rosedale as the place it is must take some responsibility for adverse impacts on the lagoon from a development which is the Hamlet of Rosedale. While we can undo some of this in time, the prospect of what can happen to the lagoon from developments upstream remains a challenge.

WATER QUALITY STUDIES IN SALTWATER CREEK LAGOON - MICHAEL ORR

Intermittently Closing and Opening Lake or Lagoon (ICOLL). Reiterating some of the background in my last newsletter article (No. 108, March 2010), I observed changes in water quality characteristics between September, 2009, and April, 2010, focusing on changes which occurred as a result of the opening of the creek in mid-February.

The two results which struck me most from the study were the consistently high nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) concentrations and the lack of oxygen in bottom waters. These indicated considerable nutrient inputs from the catchment, which would originate principally from

urban, agricultural and, to a lesser extent, natural sources. Although other studies have reported similar nutrient concentrations, even in ICOLLs with undisturbed catchments, the majority of nutrient and dissolved oxygen concentrations recorded were well outside those considered acceptable in guidelines for NSW estuaries.

Heavy rainfall in February caused Saltwater Creek to open to the ocean for about nine days, and hence, flushing resulted not only from catchment inflow but also from tidal interchange. Such exchanges with the ocean commonly improve the water quality of ICOLLs through dilution of lagoon water by seawater with its lower nutrient and contaminant concentrations. Openings in larger ICOLLs also tend to occur for longer periods, maybe several weeks. However, nutrient concentrations remained elevated in Saltwater Creek after the opening. Flushing appears to have been efficient so it is possible that there was a significant inflow of nutrients from the catchment after the opening or that the bottom sediments contain high nutrient concentrations which were released into the water column or both: this study was unable to determine which. High nutrient concentrations subsequently triggered a phytoplankton bloom in the surface waters which collapsed within days as they drew down levels of available nutrient, and sank to the bottom to await decomposition.

The opening of Saltwater Creek also caused stratification of the water column, i.e. where fresh or brackish water and seawater,

SALTWATER CREEK continued

because of their differing densities, are kept from mixing and lie in horizontally separated layers until gradually they mix. This phenomenon is detrimental to water quality as it prevents mixing in the water column and dilution of higher nutrient concentrations in the less saline lagoon water. In larger ICOLLs, stratification is less common as wind often mixes the water column. However, wind mixing is poor in Saltwater Creek as surrounding vegetation and terrain shelter it from wind and it has a small surface area to present to any wind that does reach it. Dissolved oxygen levels in some of the deeper bottom waters were consequently depleted due to the decomposition of organic matter settled on the sediment

surface. It was positive to see that stratification broke down in April towards the end of the study as this would have allowed dissolved oxygen to be replenished somewhat via exchange with surface waters and/or production by algae near the bottom, with the latter being dependant on light penetrating sufficiently far down through the water column. Overall, the study suggested that certain processes in Saltwater Creek lead to 'unhealthy' conditions in parts of the creek. High nutrient and organic matter loads occur naturally in ICOLLs and the effects of these are exacerbated by the lack of mixing which occurs throughout the water column. The resulting lack of dissolved oxygen in deeper pools leaves these parts of the

creek unsuitable for fish and other oxygen dependant organisms. Despite this, fish were observed to be common at all times during the study period so would have been restricted to the upper, more oxygenated waters. Their abundance appeared to be unaffected by the opening in February. Fluctuations in water quality in Saltwater Creek (and other ICOLLs) will continue to occur as natural responses to seasonal changes and to the varying pattern of opening and closing cycles. The study also emphasises the short time scales over which such changes can occur.

(Michael is an Honours student under Prof. Bill Maher in the Institute of Applied Ecology, University of Canberra.)



The enforced absence of our Landcare Coordinator, Adrian Lewis, is expected to come to an end later in the year. He proposes to arrange monthly working bees on the afternoon of the first Saturday of each month.

EASTER WEEDATHON

Rain threatened Easter Saturday activities. It held off sufficiently for the AGM but bucketed down shortly after and (for the first time?) the Weedathon was abandoned. However a few hardy souls turned up and spread mulch on the carpark plantings, thank you for your perseverance.

Banksia Flat. Contract weed control on Banksia Flat, funded by Envirofund and our own Landcare Fund, came to a halt at the end of last winter. Eurobodalla Landcare Management Committee recently engaged bush regeneration contractor Michelle Tribolet to continue weed control and habitat maintenance work there over this winter. She and her team made significant inroads previously and we are fortunate in being able to keep up the pressure and maintain the continuity of her services.

The funding, \$2500, comes from Council. Rains in recent months have brought on a significant spurt in all plant growth and Turkey Rhubarb, which appeared to have slowed down during the drought but made a good comeback in autumn, has been her team's principal target so far. The remaining work is planned to be spread over the winter by which time we may be fortunate enough to secure further funding.

"When does it all end?" I have heard asked. Weeds require constant attention to be kept under control, they are almost never eliminated. They regrow from root remnants and the soil seed bank as well as fresh seed dispersal until, after sustained pressure, these reservoirs are depleted and minimum effort only is required to keep them under control. Our volunteer resources have been inadequate to maintain the continued pressure necessary on Banksia Flat and it has only been in recent years that we have had funding to augment our own intermittent efforts. So, it never ends but once on top the effort becomes minimal.

Where is all this effort leading? As with most Landcare efforts across the country, the primary target is a relatively low maintenance public reserve with a diverse array of native plant species providing habitat for native fauna. With walks for improved access and possibly interpretive signage, Banksia Flat will then be a significant community asset providing valuable amenity for all ages. Since Buffalo Grass control was begun in 1999 an interesting array of plant species has re-appeared. Elements of littoral (waterside) rain forest are showing up and suggest that, outside of weed control, it might be restored in some form with little effort over the long term. We hope to gain the interest of the University of Wollongong Ecology Group in providing guidance. If sufficient of the Rosedale community are interested in bringing this to fruition, it is an achievable target. Expressions of interest are welcome.

Recent storms have reshaped the beach somewhat but normal beach replenishment processes should return most of the sand in the short term. There were some losses in beach vegetation much of which will self-repair in due course. The seas reached the front of the boatsheds and entered the creek mouth, rising well up toward the houses on the first bend: these sites are not well vegetated and are vulnerable to a big sea coming directly front on. They may benefit from additional stabilisation.

CREEK BREAKOUT

King tides around the full moon of May 28 combined with the low pressure system and a heavy sea,



saw an overtopping of the bar which filled the lagoon. It broke out on May 29 at a height of 1.74 m on the footbridge gauge. It was following this breakout that the seas entered the creek mouth and much debris was pushed well upstream. It is unlikely that there was any meaningful flushing as there was little runoff into the creek and the water level did not fall appreciably. Following the restoration of the bar and re-closure, wave overwash continued with higher tides for about two weeks. The salt water influx has left the lagoon waters an opaque dark olive-green. The water should clear shortly.

PRICKLY PEAR

Significant numbers of prickly pear pieces were washed up all along the beach and into the lagoon during the heavy seas. Elise Stutchbury contacted Council and Special Projects Officer Heidi Thomson, with assistance from a small number of community members, gathered more than a trailer load of pear for disposal. The question on most lips was where did it come from? The most likely source is from Jimmys Island. There have long been reports of a stand of prickly pear there but difficult access has dissuaded Landcare from attacking it. Jimmys is a council reserve and Council's Environment Team is concerned enough to be considering a visit the island to deal with any remnants. If any readers have knowledge of this stand and how best to access it, please contact me with any details so I can pass them on to Council.

BITOU BUSH

Council Environment staff recently celebrated a significant

milestone: Eurobodalla is the first shire in NSW to have virtually eradicated Bitou Bush. Starting in 1990, Council made a modest start toward controlling a severe infestation threatening native plant communities spread along

SEA SPURGE

This extremely invasive weed, mentioned in earlier Newsletters, can cover an entire beach and spread into the bush behind. It spreads on ocean currents and has migrated from SA around the



The great prickly pear campaign. images (above and left) courtesy of Elise Stutchbury

54% of the shire's coastline. Eurobodalla combined with neighbouring shires to stage a united front. Landcare groups in the shire and elsewhere have had a major impact on the pest and have replanted much of the cleared areas with dune species. At Rosedale, a contractor regularly sprays the cliff faces and Landcare has repeatedly accessed small stands missed by the contractor in sometimes daring cliff exploits. It has become hard to find a bitou plant around here but they will continue to crop up until the soil seed bank is depleted.

coast into southern NSW and on up to the far north of the shire. Council is rightly concerned and is waging a serious attack on dense stands in the shire. Rosedale is lucky as only occasional plants have been seen on the beaches but they will continue to crop up.

Look out for them, root them up, bag them to avoid seed spread and bin them. Be careful as the milky sap is caustic and will burn eyes and sensitive skin.

If you want a brochure about Sea Spurge, I would be happy to supply one.

BRIDAL CREEPER

Gordon Bray used to spray Bridal Creeper all over the precinct every October with excellent results. Then CSIRO introduced a rust which we established here prior to the recent drought with good effect. We hoped rust was the primary cause of the decline in Bridal Creeper but suspected the drought was the cause. It seems the latter may have been correct as there has been a marked lack of rust across the shire when, by winter, there should be substantial infestations building up. Council is searching for infestations with which to inoculate the dense stands that have returned following rains in recent months. Without the rust, Rosedale faces a problem in the spring as the current population

flowers and seeds. A busy spray program may need to be mounted and we only have three certified sprayers in Landcare. Anyone with chemical handling certification who is willing to assist from late September through to early November, even for a few hours during a weekend visit, please contact me. We have the chemical, we have the sprayers, we have the target, all we need is the work force.

Rabbit Control. Although rabbit control funding had been expended for 2019-10, Council recently found some end-of-year money to put toward a Pindane cage-baiting effort at Long Beach and burrow poisoning at Rosedale. The rabbit program for 2012-11 has not been finalised but monitoring will continue,

including at Rosedale, especially to see if the burrow poisoning had any effect; only a few burrows could be done. We are pushing hard for a cage-baiting effort at Rosedale in any case and failing this we will campaign for an extensive burrow poisoning effort. There are reports of a re-appearance of myxamaotosis at Long Beach. If this is correct there is a chance it might spread, hopefully southward although there are fewer mosquitoes at this time of the year. Please keep your rabbit sightings (including deaths - could be myxo) coming in to me or direct to Council; they need evidence of significant populations to allocate priorities. There are many rabbits and little funding. Meanwhile Landcare continues to liaise with Council.

PUBLIC TOILETS AT THE CARPARK

Council's Draft Recreation and Open Spaces Strategy was on public exhibition until recently. It specifically mentioned amenities at the Rosedale Carpark. Committee did not consider that it warranted a submission from the Rosedale Association even though the public toilets topic has been a cause for concern among the membership for some time. The strategy and public comments are currently being considered by Council. A discussion with Council's Assets Engineer, Royce Toohey, provided useful facts to add to our existing experience.

In the early 90s the Association (not then incorporated) liaised with Council to draw up plans for a sealed carpark to replace the gravelled surface that quickly pot-holed, eroded into the lagoon and was ideal for the performance of wheelies. This finally resulted in Stage 1 which is what we now have. Stage 2 will go to the west of and duplicate the existing area in the future. On the plans a 'future' toilet block was located approximately over the former gravelled carpark.

Council's 2002 "Eurobodalla Public Toilet Strategy" refers to the future need for "toilets, picnic facilities and parking" at Rosedale as developments to the west put additional load on the beach. These would be funded through contributions from the developers (Section 94 contributions). This Strategy is still current and is used annually in the preparation of Council's Management Plan

The Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2010-2030 notes that the current supply of quality beach and foreshore spaces are likely to be able to accommodate population growth however the ancillary facilities in these areas, such as parking, amenities, showers and paths will require upgrading. It notes further, a large number of unstructured activities occur in the beach and foreshore area, it is important to provide such facilities to support these legitimate activities.

Note the time span of this Strategy, 2010-2030. Public toilets at Rosedale will undoubtedly not happen before sewage reticulation, which keeps disappearing over the horizon. Further, developments to the west may not generate any significant Section 94 contributions for the next decade, or more. However, should there be a spike in public comment, Council may respond by proceeding with provision of these facilities with their own finances beforehand and recoup when Section 94 funds become available. Rosedale Beach is a public facility like beaches around the world; objections from RAI and individual residents against the erection of public toilets are unlikely to have much traction with Council. The RAI might do well to work with Council to get a mutually acceptable design and location rather than have an inappropriate structure thrust upon us.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2010 ARE NOW DUE

If the address label on your newsletter has a red dot your membership subscription for the calendar year 2010 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.

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. Please complete and forward this form with your cheque to:

The Treasurer
The Rosedale Association
PO Box 4134
Manuka ACT 2603

You may renew your membership and make payment by bank deposit. Please use the form on the Rosedale Association Inc website. Go to the Membership page at <http://www.netspeed.com.au/rosedale>

Application type (Please tick one)

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

Voting members

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

Name and address for mailing

Rosedale address

Telephone numbers

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

Rosedale telephone number

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

FOOTBRIDGE REPAIRS

The footbridge hand rail was loose and potentially dangerous just before Christmas when a Consumer Service Request (CSR) was lodged with Council. This resulted in an immediate but temporary stabilizing of the hand rail. Subsequently, on a number of occasions as opportunity allowed, the handrail has been further stabilized and rotting hand rail planks gradually replaced. The stabilization is only temporary and more permanent work is scheduled for the near future. The recent extreme weather has resulted in a deal of work for the bridge team across the Shire, all of a higher priority than Rosedale's bridge and, barring further emergencies, we might see the work completed by the end of August. Meanwhile the bridge is a good deal more safe than when the CSR was lodged in December. Council staff all the way up to the Leader of the bridge team have been extraordinarily helpful and willing to discuss this matter in detail at each contact.

WATER RESTRICTIONS AND WATERING POINTS AT THE BEACH

The showers and tap at Rosedale Beach remained blocked off for some time after water restrictions were recently relaxed. A call to Council had them turned on again shortly after.

Level 1 Regional Water Restrictions have been in force in the Eurobodalla Shire since 2nd June 2010 and will remain until further notice. Some of the details:

- One hand-held hose per property may be used at anytime outside the hours of 11am-4pm EST (Winter) and 10am-5pm DST (Summer).

- Fixed Sprinklers, Micro-spray Systems, and Unattended Hoses are banned.
- Drip irrigation systems may be used outside the hours of 11am-4pm EST (Winter) and 10am-5pm DST (Summer), only if fixed to a single tap per property and only in lieu of a hand-held hose.
- For lawns and new turf, one hand-held hose per property may be used at anytime outside the hours of 11am-4pm EST (Winter) and 10am-5pm DST (Summer).
- Vehicles to be cleaned on grass areas where possible using buckets and a final rinse with a trigger nozzle hose at anytime.
- Boat washing and motor flushing may be conducted as per vehicle washing above.

This is a guide only and cannot be used in defence of non-observance of the Restriction; acquaint yourself in full from Council's website: www.esc.nsw.gov.au .

CONTACT US;

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

The Rosedale Association Inc Newsletter
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