

THE Rosedale ASSOCIATION INC



Newsletter Issue 112 July 2011

MINUTES OF THE AGM held on Saturday 23 April 2011 Opened at 11.15 am by Margot Marshall

1. APOLOGIES

Ann & Bruce Kent, Ted & Barbara Wilcox, Jenny & Barry Hopgood, John Morgan, David Mackenzie, Mrs RB Friend, Richard Skipper, David Palmer, Rohan Kent, Dr Stutchbury.

After accepting apologies Margot Marshall noted that after a few years' absence Gordon Bray was present at the meeting and gave a special vote of thanks to him for his long standing involvement with the Rosedale Association.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: NOEL EGAN

Report as published in the March 2011 newsletter presented by treasurer Noel Egan. Noel noted that membership stood at 177 down slightly from the year before. Expenses much the same year to year. He also emphasised the need to push for more members.

Motion to accept the treasurers report
Proposed : Sue Falk
Seconder: Barbara Carter
Carried

3. LAND CARE REPORT

Ian Holmes presented the Landcare report as published in the March 2011 newsletter as well as the supplementary report, attached.

Darren Gribble said that council only has the resources to look at Blackberry and Bitou Bush in the Rosedale area. He urged those that don't have the time to volunteer can still contribute by making a cash donation to Landcare.

Motion to accept the Landcare report and the supplementary Landcare Report.
Proposed: Ian Holmes
Seconder: Margot Marshall

Carried

Motion to accept the Supplementary report

Proposed: Ian Holmes
Seconder: Anton Cook
Carried

4. FIRE OFFICER REPORT: BARRY SHORTER

Barry Shorter presented the Fire report as published in the March 2011

Margot Marshall thanked Barry for his time on the committee as Fire Officer Michael Buchanan has agreed to take over as Fire Officer for 2011

It was proposed to give Malua Bay Fire Brigade a donation of \$500

Motion to accept the Fire report
Proposed: Margot Marshall
Seconder: Darren Gribble
Carried

5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Margot 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 2011.

President: Vacant

Secretary: David Boardman

Treasurer: Noel Egan

Members: Darren Gribble

..... David Mackenzie

..... Margot Marshall

..... Michael Skipper

..... Sue Falk

(Newsletter editor)

New Members: . Jane Enright

..... David Palmer

..... Tim Brown

6. OTHER BUSINESS

David Boardman spoke about development over the road. There have been no significant changes since the Report by David Mackenzie in the March 2011 newsletter.

David Boardman also spoke about Country Energy's plan to install high voltage lines underground. This would ensure a reduction in outages and less tree canopy clearing. Country Energy had advised that they would like to have all power lines underground but they don't have the money to do it at present. It was noted that work had started in North Rosedale already Kitty Tischler suggested that if people have permission for major clearing round their properties they could include a note in the newsletter to avoid unnecessary complaints.

Darren Gribble and Ian Holmes advised that there would be a Landcare weed-athon and weed identification taking place in the afternoon from 2.00pm

Darren Gribble spoke about the fact the Rosedale Association had \$17k on hand and asked members if they have any suggestions for projects the association could be involved in.

He suggested one such project would be the upgrading of the path from the end of Yowani road to the rocky beach to the north.

David Boardman agreed to speak with council about their position regarding upkeep of paths and what funds might be available.

Sausage Sizzle was to be at 6.00pm

Meeting Closed at 12.10pm

* 68-70 members were present at the AGM.

FROM THE EDITOR

My remarks in the last Newsletter led to nominations from three new people to our committee. The position is now much healthier and I am left in hope that as committee members see how relatively relaxed the position of President can be, there may be a volunteer for that position, too.

Since the resignation of Anton Cook from IT duties with the Association, we have been fortunate enough to find Stephen Clark Kennedy to take over as webmaster. See a notice about him elsewhere. He has been appointed an ex-officio member of the committee. Attempts by various committee members to come to grips with our database are continuing apace. This is a good time and place to offer Anton our heartfelt thanks for the years of assistance he has given us. I hope you all visit the website occasionally so you can see his good work. See also the item on IT developments and the tribute to Anton, elsewhere.

This Newsletter sees its first Letter to the Editor. I can only wish this might start a trend. Thinking, for example, of a couple of ideas raised elsewhere in this Newsletter, it occurs to me that apart from the AGM it is hard to sustain any discussion of common matters affecting us all: such matters as a viewing platform to help protect the dunes, and different tracks to the beach. Personally, I would be very pleased to see Doll and Jim Aldridge's track and bench commemorated in some way. There

must be many members with views on things like this, and perhaps Letters to the Editor can provide a forum for you to make your ideas known. Do not hesitate to avail yourselves of it. There is also information about our blog site. If there is some issue you want to raise, here is your ideal opportunity. You can also contact me through the website or through my private email address, below

A major development has taken place at State Government level. Part 3A of the Planning Act has been repealed. This unpopular legislation took all power over major developments in the State out of the hands of local Councils and placed it in the hands of the Minister. Local people thereby risked losing their voice in any matter concerning these developments. Not any longer! Eurobodalla Shire Council thus resumes planning power over matters west of George Bass Drive. How this will work out in practice is not yet clear. Your committee will continue to monitor things and let you know in future Newsletters how this will affect us. Lindsay Usher, Council's Head of Planning, as provided us with the following summary.

"Changes by the State Government in regard to Pt3A of the EPA Act, has resulted in a number of proposed developments being referred back to Council for assessment. These proposals would have previously been assessed by the Department of Planning and infrastructure.

The proposed Rosedale subdivision west of George Bass Drive is one of the developments which will now be assessed by the Council in accordance with Pt 4 of the EPA Act. The development will be assessed in accordance with the normal statutory requirements and will provide opportunity for community comment during the exhibition period.

Of the three proposed developments to the west of Rosedale hamlet, the Retirement Village DA is under consideration by Council and is not affected by changes to Pt3A;

Marsim's Concept Plan had been approved by the Minister for Planning before the changes to Pt3A and will not be affected by them; and the Rosedale Subdivision (Formerly Rosedale Farm), as a result of the changes, will be assessed by council."

We should thank David Mackenzie and Jane Enright for the time they took to visit and discuss the various tracks to the beach with Council's Reserves Manager, Wayne Hutton. See elsewhere.

This issue is without contributions from John Knight and Max Tischler. The first is apparently my fault: I did not allow enough time for the article to be written. There will, hopefully, be more from John in future editions. Max is in the final throes of writing up his PhD thesis. I'm sure most of you would want me to send him our very best wishes.

SUE FALK sue@susanfalk.net

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

It was with great pleasure that I read in the Narooma News recently of the scientific evidence being presented that suggests that the effects of the Batemans Bay Marine Park are starting to become clearly visible (Article link below).

The Batemans Bay Marine Park, established in 2006, that has multiple use zoning, runs from Bawley Point at its northern point to Morunna Point at its southern point. The park encompasses 85,000 hectares and includes foreshores, estuaries and out to 3nm from the coastline. (See map; <http://www.mpa.nsw.gov.au/pdf/bmp-zoning-map.pdf>).

Evidence suggests that fish stocks and populations of snapper, gummy sharks, morwong and abalone have been significantly positively effected since the establishment of the park.

The Burrewarra Point Sanctuary Zone that runs from the eastern tip of Jimmies Island, encompassing Burrewarra Point and around to Long Nose Point is the closest established sanctuary zone to Rosedale Beach.

Being only a newcomer to Rosedale (visiting since 2000), I have found a strong fishing culture on the beach and I have been fortunate to spend many delightful hours in a boat with Nick

and Max Tischler, Darren Gribble and John Braham hearing stories of previous generations fishing expeditions. I wish I had had more time to discuss the finer arts of fishing with Dick Bell, my wife Amber Bell's grandfather who from the stories on the beach was a master of his craft off the rocks.

Having co-purchased the Carter's boat at Easter time with Al Baxter and Richard Knight, we look forward to enjoying more of the benefits that are accruing from the establishment of the Marine Park and introducing the next generation to the gentle swell under a boat, a line in their hand and the feeling of exhilaration that comes with that first tug that tells them that dinner is on the hook!

Yours sincerely,

TIM BROWN

Resources

* www.mpa.nsw.gov.au

* www.naroomanewsonline.com.au/news/local/news/general/marine-park-research-into-sanctuary-zones-minister-flags-review-of-zones/2152629.aspx

LANDCARE SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

The Landcare Report published in the last Rosedale Newsletter, No 111, April 2011, deals only with the search for a Landcare Coordinator, the level of interest in Rosedale Landcare and why Landcare is important for Rosedale. There have been developments since which are addressed in this report intended as a supplement to the Newsletter Report to be accepted into the AGM Minutes

NEW LANDCARE COORDINATOR AND COMMITTEE

We now have a new Landcare Coordinator. A meeting of Landcare people on 11th April 2011 elected Jane Enright as Landcare Coordinator, with three other Landcare Committee Members being elected: Adrian Lewis, Ian Holmes and David Mackenzie. The latter retains the role of technical advisor. Jane, Adrian and David are unable to attend the AGM this Easter so this report will be given by Ian Holmes.

The Landcare Committee will meet soon after Easter to plan the year ahead and organise activities. It will consider any feedback from this AGM and advise the Rosedale Association Committee of the outcome of its deliberations.

Jane Enright, the new coordinator, has been living in Rosedale for two years now, has been coming here since the age of two and is enthusiastic and motivated to keep our precinct healthy and sustainable for future generations.

STATE OF THE PRECINCT

The recent spring-summer growing season has brought forth profuse and welcome plant growth with an increase in the diversity and numbers of birds and other animals.

With the good comes the bad and there is a profusion of weeds, some of which have returned with a vengeance after a low profile during the drier times. Rosedale now has a number of weeds whose distribution across the hamlet approaches alarming proportions; this will be obvious to most. These include:

Bridal Creeper*	Bitou Bush*
Blackberry*	Turkey Rhubarb
Honeysuckle	Mile-a-minute
Cobblers Peg	Moth Vine
Fleabane.	

* - *Noxious Weeds or Weeds Of National Significance*

These will be the principal focus of the Landcare Committee's future deliberations.

Our weed control options include:

- volunteer on-ground activity, both informal and organised (annual Weedathon, working bees)
- outside help in the form of Green Corps and other training or volunteer groups; and
- contractors funded through grants from a range of funding bodies or from our own Rosedale Landcare Fund.

BANKSIA FLAT

Rosedale Landcare's principal efforts concentrate on Banksia Flat. Here are some reasons why.

- Banksia Flat is the epicentre of weeds in Rosedale; it has the greatest concentration in the Hamlet of our most invasive weeds. While they flourish there without curb, seed is freely distributed by birds and wind across Rosedale with no regard for either public or private land. Reserves and gardens are equally vulnerable.
- Banksia Flat has a significant number of native species that have survived around 100 years of grazing. These, together with some recent plantings, are the foundation of a future healthy reserve with diverse plant and animal populations. They are under real threat of being smothered by uncontrolled weeds: creepers have regularly to be pulled off tree canopies which they would otherwise smother and kill.
- Banksia Flat has a significant number of species indicating that it was once a littoral (i.e. water's edge) rainforest. A long term plan is to restore the Flat to some semblance of the original rather than just filling it with a collection of native species. This is a worthy target that will be of inestimable research and amenity value to future generations: without suppressing the worst weeds this aspiration can not be made reality.

When will Banksia Flat be finished? The answer is - never, at least not while the community accepts the intrinsic value of this reserve and has aspirations to make it into something of value for posterity. Weeds grow and seed and must be continually suppressed by us until they are sufficiently under control

for the native vegetation to take over and our input is then minimal. This has happened, for example, with the casuarina stand at the car park.

When we relax the pressure, weeds get out of hand. So in recent years we have used a combination of Council funds, outside grants and Landcare Fund monies to maintain continuing pressure using contractors, whose efforts have been to good effect. By continuing this we will eventually win.

Our contractor is currently (April) working through 60 hours worth of a "Caring For Our Country" Community Action Grant of \$2100 – that is, at \$35 per hour. Another bid from the same source will be made soon and we intend to try for a continuing grant.

LANDCARE FUND

Landcare Fund. Since the inception of the Landcare Fund in mid-2005, donations have totalled over \$12,000 and expenditure has been some \$8000, nearly all of which has been spent to keep contractors at work on Banksia Flat, when external grants and Council monies were not available.

The difference has been deemed a prudent sum to be held in the bank for unforeseen or emergency use.

If you value Rosedale's surrounds, please continue giving generously to the Fund as well as turning out for the on-ground activities which we will be arranging soon. Both forms of help are required. As a guide, the Federal Government puts a value of \$30/hour on community volunteer effort and a single working bee has averaged 2 hours. Even before cash donations, at a conservative estimate, we need to put in 100-150 hours on-ground annually to make a noticeable impact.

If you have any suggestions or requests for Landcare activity, please contact our Coordinator, Jane Enright via the EMAIL link beside her name on the Rosedale Association website (<http://sites.google.com/site/rosedaleassoc>) > About Us > Committee) or contact any one of us through regular channels.

JANE ENRIGHT
IAN HOLMES
DAVID MACKENZIE
ADRIAN LEWIS

LANDCARE

The last Committee meeting was held 17th May 2011 with four in attendance. Since then, Michael Freer, who was on the previous Land-care Committee, has accepted an invitation to join. Michael is a retired agricultural scientist and brings considerable experience with him.

BLACKBERRY & BITOU BUSH

Occurrences across Rosedale were mapped by Landcare after Easter and these were sprayed by Council's Noxious Weeds Officer, Mick Johnson early in May. This was the last of the season's Blackberry spraying and the first of the Bitou Bush season; most sprayed plants are now dead. If you see any plants of either that were missed, please let us know so we can have them mapped for next season's spraying. At your invitation any of these, together with any other noxious weeds, on private land can be controlled with Landcare advice and possibly assistance.

Coastal Weeds Forum. David Mackenzie attended this at the Botanical Gardens on 18 May. The emphasis was on chemical control and was a very useful summary of what chemical to use on which plant and how best to apply it. There was a heavy emphasis on minimal use of chemicals and care to ensure it is restricted to the target weed.

COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT

This funding for 60 hours of contract weed control on Banksia Flat came to an end early in May. Fortunately funding for another 60 hours was made available; this is very timely given the huge weed growth this past summer. Michelle Tribolet, Bush Regenerator, and her team were able to continue their earlier work without delay. Your Landcare coordinator has been contributing to this effort and with her assistance on Wednesday 1 June, the crew removed 29 bags of Turkey Rhubarb seed and tubers! Focus is now being placed on the vigorous creeper 'Mile a Minute' or Morning Glory which is spreading through the vegetation /canopy at Banksia Flat. Scrape and paint method of chemical removal is being undertaken by Michelle's team which is slow and tedious but will hopefully have some good results.

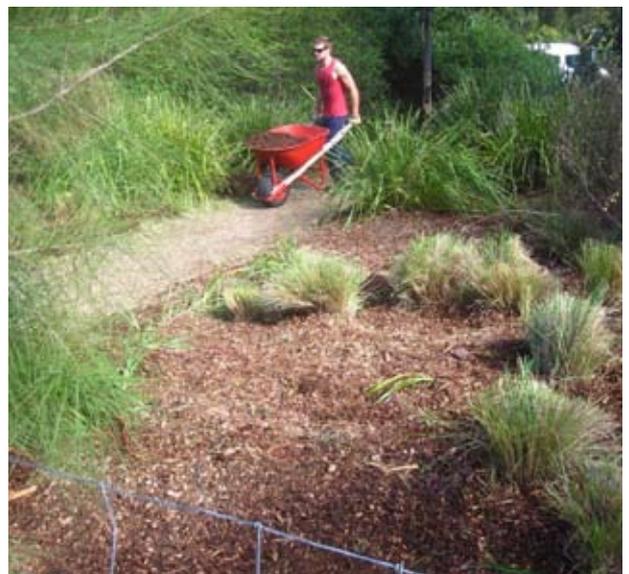
BEACH ACCESS AND OTHER WALKWAYS

Jane Enright & David Mackenzie met with Council's Reserves Manager, Wayne Hutton, re path maintenance and safety for beach access sites and related issues on 10 June; this meeting is reported elsewhere in this Newsletter.

LANDCARE ACTIVITIES

Landcare introduction flyers were delivered to letterboxes in Rosedale to encourage assistance from interested locals with planned weeding activities on Thursday 2nd June & Saturday 9th July.

The first 2 hour activity was a great success with 11 participants. Bridal Creeper & Asparagus fern were targeted in the reserve between Cooks Crescent & Tranquil Bay Place - 9 bags of weed were collected and disposed of. Morning tea followed and new friendships made - thank you to you all!



GREEN CORPS

This team of 18-20 year olds is spending six months training for their TAFE Certificate 3 in Environmental Management. They came to Rosedale for three days in mid June. They concentrated on the area around the car park. It has been weeded, pruned and remulched, old cans & bottles, pieces of glass and also a used syringe removed, and wheelbarrows full of sand spread over the access path to beach. The huge pile of prunings will be chipped and stockpiled for future mulching. We finished off the last day with a BBQ for all our hard working helpers to which Peter Gow, Eurobodalla Landcare Community Support Officer also was invited. We were lucky to have three good sunny days, and I think you will agree a huge improvement has been achieved!

JANE ENRIGHT./ DAVID MACKENZIE



MYRTLE RUST WORKSHOP

Myrtle Rust Workshop. Jane and David attended this day long event on 29 June as guests of Council. Myrtle Rust, recently introduced into Australia, threatens to affect plants in the Family Myrtaceae which includes the eucalypts, bottle brushes, paperbarks and tea trees. The workshop was for Landcarers, contractors and staff from National Parks, Botanical Gardens and SRCMA.

It was convened to pass on the limited information available about the rust, how to recognise it and what to do when you find it. Basically the rust is not yet well understood and is already beyond control in the wild. Its ultimate extent cannot be predicted with confidence and we were briefed on how to act as lookouts to assist with the mapping of its spread. We plan to set up sentinel points and show community members how to recognise and report on the rust's occurrence at these locations.

Please tell one of us (Jane 4471 7431; David 6288 6194 or 4471 8471) if you want to know more or help with a sentinel point, it will take a minimum of your time.

An item on Myrtle Rust should appear on the website in due course.

BEACH ACCESS, PUBLIC WALKWAYS AND OTHER ASSETS

During discussion at the AGM in April about potential projects the Association might fund, the upgrading of the path from the end of Yowani road to Rocky (or North) Beach evoked some interest. David Boardman agreed to speak with council about their position regarding upkeep of paths and what funds might be available.

On Friday 10 June, Jane Enright and David Mackenzie met at Rosedale with Wayne Hutton, Council's reserves manager, to discuss the maintenance of and potential additions to Council owned walkways and amenities. In a 2 ½ hour walk around the following topics were considered.

1. Carpark. Pruning of walkways and elsewhere is well overdue and Council has undertaken to finish what the Green Corps Team was unable to do in mid-June. Tasks such as pruning, mulch spreading, fencing and walkway maintenance were top priority for the Green Corps three-day visit. Casuarina suckers in pathways and adjacent to bitumen will be removed; they will grow back in time and this is seen as a continuing task. They can't be poisoned since this may kill adjacent plants in the main grove. Broken bollards will be replaced: these are susceptible to being snapped off by vehicles and larger diameter bollards are preferable but there is no timetable for replacing the smaller ones.

2. Public Toilet. The current carpark is only Stage 1 of a larger space, Stage 2 is scheduled to go to the west of it and is unlikely to go ahead until it can be funded with Section 94 Contributions from the developments proposed to our west or until there is sufficient demand for it. The emotive issue of a public toilet continues to surface. As above, Council will provide a public toilet at Rosedale Beach in due course with Section 94 contributions or when there is sufficient demand. This demand might be closer than we think given the use of the surrounding vegetation as a public toilet. The topic was fairly comprehensively covered in Newsletter No 109, July 2010, p10 (see it on our website).

3. Superfluous dune crossing closed. Council has decided to close off the middle dune crossing. Casuarina suckers in the dune crossings are a concern, they repeatedly require cutting back causing the roots to develop calluses which trip pedestrians. There is no practical solution to this problem; any surface that is robust enough to resist the suckers is not flexible enough to handle shifting sands so we retain board and chain. Council feels the maintenance cost for the center crossing is unjustifiable where there are already two other crossings in close proximity. The little used centre walkway will no longer be maintained, the casuarinas will reclaim the space, it may in time be closed off.

The shower and tap will be moved across to beside the main walkway and given a concrete pad. Elsewhere, Council will attempt to minimise the root calluses in the lead up to the north crossing and the service road between the two remaining crossings. Casuarinas will also be allowed to claim back the gravel path through the grove leading to the closed off dune crossing. Council largely attempts to space dune crossings about 100 m apart and Rosedale will be left with two crossings about 90 m apart.

4. Dune damage. Surfers and fishermen have for some time now been leaving the main dune crossing to get a better view over the coastal wattle of the wave climate at the north end of the beach. The traffic is damaging the already sparse dune vegetation making it more vulnerable to wind erosion. Serious erosion has not yet resulted but this is no reason to be complacent, especially in light of predictions of more frequent and more severe storms.

Several unsuccessful attempts to prevent this traffic have been made and the idea of a viewing platform was discussed with Wayne Hutton firstly in 2007 and again at this meeting. Such a structure might at its simplest comprise 1-2 m high platform with rails and steps up. Optional extras could include seating, a picnic table, rubbish bin, panels with information

about such matters as whales, vegetation, surf and so on, all governed primarily by cost. There are many fine examples around including those in National Parks. Apart from surfers and fisherpersons, the structure would serve Rosedale residents, visitors, whale watchers and the like. While allowing the dune to re-stabilise against the next super-sized storm event. We invite suggestions of alternate approaches that will meet the requirements of both users and dune stability.

5. Access - Yowani Rd to North Beach.

The path has eroded into small gullies. Water flowing down these has delivered sediment to block off the gully coming down from behind Yowani-Dale Place. The blockage diverts most of the flow down the stone steps and repeatedly damages them. The hand rail on the stone has come adrift and been removed. The problems associated with this access were looked at in 2004 but Council had to withdraw for various reasons and the matter was dropped before a full debate could be held. The 2011 AGM asked that attention be given to the steps. However, all these factors are interrelated, fixing one alone will not remedy all so they would be treated as a package.

The most likely remedial course involves replacing the stone steps with a timber staircase (similar to that on the Cooks Crescent-Banksia Flat track), replacing the gully blockage with a small foot bridge, repairing the worst of the track erosion and diverting water flow away from the tracks. All works would have to meet the requirements of Council and their insurers and new structures must conform with the appropriate Australian Standards. It would be fitting to replace the seat known as Dolly's Seat with something

less informal and affix a small plaque acknowledging the original builder of the steps and seat, a gesture that might be within the Association's budget. A crude cost estimate during the onsite meeting was between \$40 and \$50K.

6. Beach Access - Cooks Crescent via Banksia Flat. The track to the timber steps has become hazardous from side erosion at the lower end. Council has agreed to shore up the side and fill to level it.

7. Beach Access - Yowani Rd to Creek mouth. These two paths with their steps have been variously constructed, repaired and altered over the years. While pointing out that they require some maintenance and possible realignment, Wayne said that funding for these works would not be readily forthcoming in the near future.

8. Other access tracks. One track opposite No 13 Tranquil Bay PI has sort of disappeared and Council has been requested to re-survey and restore it. Several other tracks in the village, mostly unofficial, require minor work which might be within the capacity of Landcare to tackle in due course. Landcare is constantly clearing fallen trees and rampant growth from unofficial tracks around Banksia Flat with the objective of provide a network of walking tracks. The public is urged to explore.

9. Some background. Council owns and maintains a large number of walkways, dune crossings, steps, footbridges and similar assets for pedestrian use on its reserves and parks. The maintenance budget for several hundred such assets across the shire is minimal. Any requests we might make for maintenance, replacement or new structures are assigned priorities in the context of myriad others. New assets add to Council's

maintenance load and further, additional funds have to be set aside annually over the life of the new structure for its eventual replacement. This is so whether they were constructed with Council or outside funds

What next? It is highly unlikely Council in its current parlous financial situation could take up the full cost of either or both a platform, or other form of dune protection, or the Yowani to North Beach access. The Association could only contribute a small share. A range of outside funding opportunities exists and these will be investigated if and when required.

We do not have much information about these two proposals. The Association would need to make a formal request to Council. Council may then look at what needs to be done, how best to do it and estimate the cost. They would also consider ancillary matters such as future usage and associated car parking on Yowani Rd. The Association should then be in a position to conduct an informed debate. Committee will attend to this and make the outcome known, either in a subsequent Newsletter or on the Website

Regarding the closure of the middle dune crossing, if you have concerns or other comment, please make them known to Committee.

The first step is to make a formal request to Council to have these two projects go ahead. Committee will attend to this and make the outcome known, either in a subsequent Newsletter or on the Website.

JANE ENRIGHT &
DAVID MACKENZIE

TRIBUTE TO SUE FALK

There were no nominations for the Presidency at the 2008 AGM. Sue Falk, as Secretary, volunteered to undertake the dual role of Secretary/Acting President as well as Editor of the Newsletter, a somewhat burdensome load. There were no nominations for President again in 2009, 2010 and 2011 although the search for a President has been under way consistently all the while. In all that time Sue continued in her triple role, finally stepping down this year from Secretary/Acting President when David Boardman stepped into the dual role. It is a tribute to her hard work and good organisation that the Association has continued to operate over that period: we survived when many such groups would have floundered in such circumstances. Further, over that period, she and our volunteer compositor, Annie Shillington, continued to produce the excellent Newsletters that have become their hallmark, including this one - Sue retains the role as Editor.

The Association is deeply indebted to you Sue for your sterling contribution, we thank you most heartily for it and hope you can relax some now and continue to accept late copy.

ANTON COOK MOVES ON

THANK YOU ANTON

Anton Cook relinquished his IT role serving the Committee on 6 May last. His service goes back to 1998 and while it was mostly in IT, it includes a lengthy stint on Committee. With other responsibilities now demanding his attention, he decided it was time to move on. He has handed over his IT responsibilities to Stephen Kennedy-Clark, see elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Anton is a modest, quiet person but his contribution to the Rosedale Association's IT is immense, unlike Anton, it shouts loudly. It was Anton who pulled the somewhat resource-shy Association up from a paper bound, IT challenged organisation to one with the IT services we enjoy today. It is no fault of Anton's that attempts to increase usage of these services has not exactly burgeoned, regrettable as that may be. We, the Committee Members over recent years must accept responsibility for this.

Anton commenced the website in 2003 the year that Ian Holmes became president. The intention was that members, and particularly the Executive, would contribute content to keep the site fresh. It was a disappointment to Anton that this rarely happened, even less so in the last few years.

The website has largely served to publish minutes of AGMs, sporadic Landcare reports, an archive for newsletters, Jane Lemann's Rosedale Weed Management booklet, the RAI Constitution, and plant and bird data. Several members have responded to the call for historical material and personal reminiscence. One Anton's last innovations was to set up a blog facility.

The membership database was developed by Ian Harrison in the early 90s using the now antiquated Microsoft Access 2000 format. Anton has since built it up to provide various reports (financial and lapsed members, landcare donors, and membership statistics) and to provide email address lists for 'paperless newsletter' emails. Importantly, he modified the database to generate the Newsletter mailing labels, and maintain member's contact information and financial status. Adding the annual collection of Member data is no small task and Anton, in concert with Noel Egan, streamlined the procedures used by the Treasurer to gather it.

'Storage and archiving are always a burden for volunteer organisations. For some years the website and the documents accessible through it were stored on unused components of Anton's personal email account. Storage limitations ultimately led Anton to archive the Association's material on the free Google Documents service, a form of 'cloud' storage. On the website, he set up a mail service which allows website visitors to email President, Secretary, Treasurer, and others without revealing their personal email addresses. He set up the facility for online Payment by Bank Deposit facility, and now, the website is stored on Google Documents.'

Anton operated very quietly in the background and few might have known that for all those years he was diligently searching for cost-free approaches to meet our IT requirements and strived to keep operations as accessible to the lay operator as possible. We acknowledge the time he spent, his unstinting attention to getting it right and the strong sense of responsibility he assumed as a volunteer to provide us with a useable, versatile service. He has developed a strong foundation on which to build. The Association's debt to Anton is immeasurable.'



WELCOME TO OUR NEW IT MANAGER STEPHEN KENNEDY-CLARK

Stephen Kennedy-Clark has kindly agreed to be our IT Manager following Anton Cook's stepping down. He introduces himself here.

G'day, I'm Stephen Clark.

Both my wife, Alex and my own family have had a long association with the South Coast of NSW. Alex's grandfather, David Morgan built on the point at the end of Cooks Crescent where her mother Elizabeth grew up.

Rosedale was the first house in Australia Alex knew. As for myself, as a kid my family spent nearly all of our summer holidays camping along South Coast beaches, particularly at Durras, where Alex and I chose to get married. My parents retired to Tuross Head, just down the road, where mum still lives. We try to get down there with our kids as often as we can.

I'm an IT manager at a university in Sydney specialising in web and database programming. I've come from a background in geology, environmental and earth sciences. I'm hoping that by helping with the IT support for the Rosedale Association I'll be helping to preserve a pristine corner of the world for my kids to enjoy.

Stephen is happy to support the Rosedale Association's IT and web related activities, particularly the management of the Website and will support our yet to be appointed Database Operator. He has been in discussion with both Anton Cook and David Mackenzie in coming to an understanding of what the IT Manager role requires. Discussions are under way over directions that might be taken in the future and a number of innovations may be trialed soon.

We welcome Stephen on board, we thank him for stepping up to take on the role and wish him well in his endeavours and look forward to great things for Rosedale IT!

ROSEDALE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

In recent times our previous IT Manager, Anton Cook, made some changes to the Website. He brought us into Cloud Computing and the Website now resides on the free Google Documents site. The new address is:

<http://sites.google.com/site/rosedaleassoc>

You will be redirected there if you use the previously published address:

<http://www.netspeed.com.au/rosedale>

Communication within the Association has been made easier. There are two ways you can talk to other Members or reach Committee from the Website:

GO TO ABOUT US AND CLICK ON COMMITTEE

Selected Committee Members have EMAIL beside their names. A message sent from one of these goes to that person's private email without the world knowing either the message or the private email.

GO TO FEEDBACK AND ENTER THE BLOG FACILITY

Post a comment or question here. We have no moderator and a question to Committee may not get read for a little while so this principally allows you blog in the usual way, read others' comments, add your own.

This recent addition has not had much use yet, you are urged to use it and especially to provide feedback to assist us with improving its performance.

Committee invites your comments on any topic at all. The state of a walking track, the operation of the Website, shortcomings in Committee's operations, why don't we see Gang Gang cockatoos anymore, what parts of Rosedale will go under water with sea level rise, Landcare activities, there's no end to the topics.

VACANCY: WEBSITE EDITOR.

We are looking for a Website editor. Before he handed over his IT mantle, Anton Cook recommended this move. The successful applicant will need enough IT savvy to post material as it arrives, remove out of date material and do any edits or corrections required. The Editor will certainly require some knowledge of the community and how it operates so as to act appropriately and not to be operating in a vacuum. The Editor has to be able to monitor the Website regularly and be able to respond quickly to any needs that arise. From an IT perspective, rebuilding the website will not be part of the job but the Editor will be encouraged to work with the IT manager, Stephen Clark, to implement necessary changes and implement imaginative innovations to build a Website the envy of all.

One of the principal tasks is to source material to go onto the Website such as local and community matters and happenings, interesting feature articles relevant to the various sections of the site and wherever the imagination leads, within acceptable limits of course. The Website is open to the World so the Editor has to exercise judgment in selecting what goes onto the website and appreciate local sensitivities; is it appropriate to air to the World?

The real measure of performance will be a huge increase in usage and popularity of the website.

Direct your applications to the Secretary via email from the website (see above) or indicate your interest to anyone on Committee however you wish.

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

The Rosedale Association Inc Newsletter
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