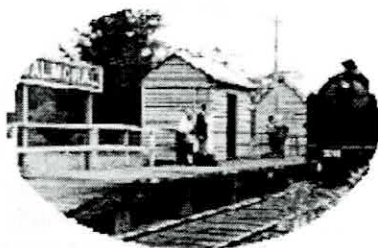


Village Voice



March 201

No 45

newsletter

published by the Balmoral Village Association Inc.

Well, here we are again, another year to work, fun and play, all our New Year Resolutions broken. Last year was very successful, thanks to everybody who was kind enough to help and we hope the coming year will be as good.

A visitor who came the Bonfire was very impressed with our friendly village atmosphere said it reminded him of earlier days when people were not so distant and were always there to help each other. No one was ever really alone. We are very lucky in that we still have that kind of friendliness here, let's not lose it and become too suburban or too distant for once lost, it is very hard to regain. Be kind to each other. – wave to people as you pass even if you have no idea who they are – that used to mark of our village let's carry on the tradition.

Let's remain a community. We will do our best to foster that attitude in the Village Voice so keep on reading. If you have any exciting news, weddings, births, baptisms, engagements anything you would like to share, contact the editor- We would love to hear about it.

Ronnie Ibbett on 4889-9338 – we are waiting for your call

Village News

The Christmas Party was a great success there was a very good crowd and everyone seemed to have a good time. The Carols were great as they always are - a pity it had to rain just as they were about to start but they were as good inside as they usually in the yard. Christy, a really great singer kept everyone entertained while they moved in. She was good fun and we would like to see more of her. Thanks Christy.

Thanks to all the people gave their afternoon to decorating the hall - it was very Christmassy - very effective.- Lee's beautiful Nativity picture dominated the scene and there were many compliments about it.

Santa was of course welcomed by all. There were a lot of very sticky kids there after he left, but they loved it.

The Bar-be-que was kept busy the whole time - many thanks to Rob, Maureen, Larry, Lesley and Ralph who were kept at it - they were flat out the whole time.

There have been a number of complaints about dogs and cats being on the street and causing trouble for motorists and people walking their dogs on a lead. The Council says that any pet, cat or dog in a public place must be held on a lead. Remember - no one wants to run over your pet any more than you would like to run over theirs. Please take care of your pets - they depend on you.

Wingecaribee Mobile Library

The Mobile Library is at the Fire shed every second Tuesday 1.45pm to 2.15pm. The next day will be Tuesday 13th March then March 27th.

Then -

April 19th and 24th

May 8th and 22nd June 5th and 19th

Recommended Reading;

Camping Out - by Billy T Brewer

The other one was about memory training but I can't remember what it was called.

Gabrielle Marlow, one of our foremost artists is starting classes in Landscape painting in oils commencing March 24th at the hall from 10am to 2.30pm for adults and children 12 years and over. The cost will be \$17.00 per head. Come along and have some fun - try yourself out - you never know what you can do til you try. Even if you draw more like Picasso then Botticelli you will still enjoy it. She will even give you morning tea.

Ring Gabrielle on 4889 8123.

Congratulations to Lyle and Lisa Spears on the birth of their new grandchild. A beautiful little boy called Noah. Way to go guys!!

The next meeting of the Balmoral Village Association will be held on March 13th at the village hall at 7.30pm. This should be a very interesting meeting and we urge any one who is interested in the welfare of the village to come along as Charmaine Cooper and another person from the Council will be attending to explain the new Tiny Towns pilot programme. This has apparently worked very well in Victoria and the Council are keen to try it here.

The idea is that two or more small communities combine to work together somehow for the benefit of all. (The somehow will be explained at the meeting). Balmoral Village and Wingello have had the honour of being the pioneer villages chosen to launch the trial.

It should be very interesting and if it can be of any benefit to our community we should get behind it - so if you are interested come to the meeting and ask all the questions you want and find out what it is all about.

The meetings are held every second Tuesday in the month and everyone is invited to come along and have their say, ask their questions and make their suggestions. The Association are always looking for input. New ideas, any bright suggestions are always welcome so come and look for. As we keep saying - this is your village so take an interest in it.

At the board meeting -
"All those in favour say "aye"
Those against - resign."

Don't forget the tennis club is still there. It is a good court let at very reasonable rates to the community. Tennis is a really great game suitable for all ages and great for family fun. The court has night lights so that you can play at night after work or weekends.

We have no other sporting facility in Balmoral so tennis is a good game to get the children interested. You don't have to be a Hewitt or a Tomic just come and have fun with a game of hit and giggle.

Ring Pat Lawrence on 4889 8066. Pat is the keeper of the keys and will set you right.

Kookery Nook

Ham Balls This makes a large quantity so it can be halved or frozen.

Ingredients: 1 & 1/4 kg. ground Ham	1kg ground Pork
1/2 kg ground Beef	3 eggs beaten
lightly	
3 cups biscuit crumbs	2 cups milk

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl – Shape into balls (using an ice cream scoop or if you want smaller ones a water melon baller). Arrange in baking dish.

Sauce for Ham Balls

2small cans tomato soup	3/4 cup vinegar
2 cups brown sugar	2 tabspns mustard

Mix and melt over heat til dissolved, pour the sauce over ham balls. Bake for 1 hour at 180 degrees C.

New South Wales Rural Fire Service Balmoral Village Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade

PO Box 87
Buxton NSW 2571

Phone (02) 4889 8387

News from the Captain:

We have had a mild summer with some heavy rainfall recorded in the Village. The beginning of April see's the end of the Fire season, this means we do not need to apply for a Permit to burn off, and therefore we all need to get busy over the next few months preparing our properties before next summer.

What the Fire Brigade is doing:

Balmoral Village Rural Fire Brigade will be conducting hazard reductions over the next couple of months; these will take place depending on the weather. When Hazard Reductions are done they will produce smoke in the Village area.

- We will complete heading north towards Buxton from the main railway crossing to Balmoral Park along the rail corridor; this will complete the Northern end of the Village.
- Then finish the Southern end of the rail corridor heading to Hilltop, this will complete the Southern end of the Village.
- Still in the planning is a large hazard reduction to the Eastern side of the Village, from the southern end and joining it to the northern burn we conducted two years ago.
- We will also be conducting some Hazard reductions on Private properties, particularly the people waiting since last year. We will be in contact shortly.
- National Parks is planning to continue the Hazard reduction on the Western side of the Village; the NSW Rural Fire Service will be assisting with this where we can.

What you can do:

Maintain your property well by; keeping grass short, clean gutters out, do not have tree's or shrubs right up to your house, cut branches over hanging your Home, do not dump grass clippings or tree cuttings in the bush as this increases the fire risk, compost what you can or when we are not in the Fire season burn it off slowly, call us if you need any assistance with a burn off. Check on your neighbors to see if they are able to do these safety checks, this also helps to protect you!

New South Wales Rural Fire Service Balmoral Village Volunteer Fire Brigade

PO Box 87
Buxton NSW 2571

Phone (02) 4889 8387

The Brigade meets the first Wednesday of every month, to discuss any issues and new information members need to be aware of, and to organise dates for activities.

Brigade training is on the third or fourth Wednesday of the month.

For anyone that would like to help protect our beautiful village either as an active member assisting with hazard reductions and fire calls or as an ancillary member assisting in the fire station with radio and back up work for the fire crews please contact myself or another member of the Brigade and have a chat about how you can help our village and what is needed to get joining under way. When you see us in the new station please drop in to say hello and have a look around.

Remember if you are going to burn off, be prepared before lighting that fire,

give your neighbour's notice in advance, clear the area around where you are going to burn before lighting any fire, wear the correct clothing, have water on hand to extinguish any fire, contact 000 immediately if it gets out of hand don't wait.

Most important of all, only light the fire in good weather conditions this means not to hot, not to windy just right.

Always be prepared:

Know what you will do in the event of a major fire, are you properly prepared to protect your family and home, or when you will leave and where you will go, and what you will take (important paperwork, family heir-looms),

Don't try to leave at the last minute, it is too late then!

Thank you for your time, stay safe.

Brendon O'Connor
Balmoral Village Rural Fire Brigade Captain

M) 0409 634 066

Q. Why are robots never afraid?

A. Because they have nerves of steel.

Silver LINING Automotive
MOBILE MECHANIC

0401 766 834

Licensed Vehicle Repairer. Lic No: MVRL49005

New Car Log book servicing

Mechanical Repairs

Mobile service or Pick up & delivery available

Contact Paul Jelaco on 0401 766 834

Are you a junk tragic?

Then come to ...

Gordon's Rural Antiques and Retro Relics



next door to The Post Office Thirlmere
and browse around. There is something for
everyone.

SALE

and browse around there is something for

Way Back When

More of the Camp at Rocky Waterholes (continued)

Courtesy Elizabeth Villy

How many people lived in the tented village is unknown. There were at least 65 labourers, many were family men and a number of babies were born who were registered at Picton. It can be surmised that their lives were hard and lonely, the camp being miles from anywhere.

Consolation, though, was at hand. At least two businessmen in Picton saw opportunities, so in February 1861, Tom Hilder, the licensee of the George ran the Red Lion, a coach licensed to carry 10 passengers and a driver from Picton to the Rocky Water Holes and back. Soon after, James Smithers opened the Camp Hotel, which he ran for several years.

In 1865 Smithers was in trouble on several counts. Two navies attacked him and one was fined 14 shillings in the Picton court. Smithers himself was charged with illegally allowing dancing and music at his public house and on another occasion was fined for drinking on a Sunday. Smithers also provided the labourers and their families with food or household goods as he was given a hawker's license. Local farmers provided the camp with meat and food.

There was a bad accident in the cutting on May 6th 1863 when a five feet charge of powder, rammed into a borehole in the rock, failed to explode. Half an hour later a workman returned to the site to clean out the hole and while doing so, the original charge exploded. The rock was hard blue metal and it was believed that the friction caused by the second man as he cleaned out the original powder, ignited it by the steel drill. Rock blasted a group of men working below in the gullet. Patrick McHugh, badly injured, was carried on a stretcher to the public house where he died.

Jeremiah Connor lingered on in an unconscious state for several days before he died. A number of men were injured but eventually recovered. The inquest was held in the Terminus Hotel in Picton.

A few months later, in October, the men downed tools for 11 days when the contractors, Randle and Gibbons, failed to pay their wages for the previous month. 48 summons were issued against W Dixon, the agent for the contractors and 17 against a contractor named Childs. The case was held up initially as Dixon failed to appear.

In the meantime the men somehow got themselves to Picton, only to walk the streets for several days until the magistrate decided that Dixon was evading the charges, so they proceeded to hear the case. The navies won and both men were ordered to pay the men 24 days wages as well as three days for the lost time.

Childs particularly was in a predicament as he employed the 17 men himself yet Randle refused to pay him. In the meantime he dispersed rations to these men as well as feeding the horses on the site. The magistrates were sympathetic to Child's predicament as well as to the men who had families to support.

Randle and Gibbons were unsatisfactory contractors in many ways and eventually lost their contract. Larkin and Wakeford were then awarded the contract for the line from Picton to Mittagong on February 28th, 1867. Then the carriages were divided with one engine taking six carriages and the second, the remainder, the line ahead too steep for one engine.

In May 1863 workers under Ambrose Crowshaw who had the contract to construct the viaduct, took him to court for nonpayment of wages. Crowshaw, like Randle and Gibbons was declared insolvent. The line was officially opened and the train

carrying distinguished members of society, influential gentlemen and members of the ministry in the 15 carriages steamed into Picton on February 28th, 1867. There the carriages were divided with one engine taking six carriages and the second, the remainder, the line ahead too steep for one engine.

The trains trailing clouds of black smoke steamed over the viaduct, through the tunnel, through the woodlands, along huge embankments and through the cutting . They passed the navvies' campsites, more embankments, another tunnel and into Mittagong where cheering crowds awaited. There were no stations along the line except a stopping place at Rush's Platform (later called Braemar) - these would come later, as would sidings along the line

'The railway opened up the country and it was the timber getters who were the first patrons using the new train to transport timber to Sydney. The navvies moved on to other lines although some retrained and worked as fitters or maintenance crews. Picton remained a railway town with its engine shed, coal loaders , sidings, cattle yards and turntable until the 1960s.

Dad and Dave were having a holiday in the city. and were enjoying a train ride when a priest stumbled into their compartment in obvious pain and leaning heavily on a crutch.

"I slipped over in the bath this morning" he explained.

After he got out Dave asked "Dad, what's a bath?"

"How would I know?" grumbled Dad "I'm not a bloody Catholic!!"

KID'S KORNER

Jokes, HA! HA! HA!

Courtesy of Roy Bramich-Wilson

Q. Why did the footballer hold his boot to his ear?

A. Because he likes sole music!

Q. What do Eskimos sing at birthday parties?

A. Freeze a jolly good fellow!

Q. What did the bull say to the cow?

A. I love you for heifer and heifer!

Q. Who were the words shortest lovers?

A. Gnomeo and Juliet!

Q. What kind of test do witch teachers give?

A. Hex-aminations!

Q. What is a Polygon?

A. A dead Parrot!

Did you hear about the cannibal Lioness? She swallowed her pride.

'Mum', Richard yelled from the kitchen. 'You know that dish you were always worried I would break'?

"Yes Dear, what about it"?

"Well... your worry's are over"

Q. What is conjunctivitis.com?

A.. A site for sore eyes.