



Newsletter

March 2009

www.saveourspringwood.org.au

Welcome to our March Newsletter.

Last month saw SOS members participate in Clean up Australia Day. This turned out to be a rewarding Sunday morning for the members who helped as Springwood certainly looked better after our efforts. We cleaned up graffiti, flower beds, collected rubbish and recyclables from all parts of Springwood Town Centre, Springwood Ave, Fairy Dell, north & south car parks, council car park and the Civic centre area. We were assisted by other concerned residents, both adults and children and would like to thank them very much for the efforts they put in on the day. We would also like to thank Michael Aaronson for the great job of organising.



In this Newsletter we have included (over the page) an **SOS Salutes Springwood** column where we hope to feature in coming editions a little about the history of our town and the great people who make it a wonderful place to live. We hope this will give insight into why we fight so hard against inappropriate development. We hope you enjoy our efforts.

Fire Sale of the Faulconbridge Tennis Courts – Don't allow this to happen

The future of the tennis courts adjacent to Buttenshaw Park is to be decided at **next Tuesdays (24th) council meeting**. Council officers have recommended proceeding with the sale of this public land despite advice from the Department of Planning, and intense interest from the local Springwood and Faulconbridge community.

Furthermore, the report in the business paper states further that “given recent Ministerial directions, it is unlikely that any new rezoning application to rezone the site to residential uses would be looked upon favourably,” by the Department. Nevertheless, Councils Triple Bottom Line assessment suggested that not to go ahead with the sale would lead to “a loss of supply of residential land” and no funds to allocate towards their Property Investment Fund. SOS deplore Council’s reasoning and question why important recreational infrastructure has been left to deteriorate and why council is selling more of our precious public land. Voice your disapproval email or phone your local councillors. *See over for contact details*

April in Springwood

Foundation Day

Saturday 4th April,

8.30 am Fun Run
10.00am Opening
12.00pm Parade

The Parade will be commencing from Springwood Fire Station

Come along and join the celebrations!

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### **Valley Heights Bushcare Group**

Meet Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am

(4<sup>th</sup> Sat. of the month)

At the rear of 18-20 Cambridge St Valley Heights

(future Benoit Park site)

Further details: Pam Gardiner 47512196

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Heart Foundation Weekly Walk

If you wish to get your fitness up join in the Heart Foundation Weekly Walk.

Departs from the Springwood Neighbourhood Centre every Monday morning 8 am. till 9 am.

SOS SALUTES SPRINGWOOD

An Introduction To Our History

Springwood is 74 kilometres west of Sydney and lies 371 m above sea level in the lower part of the Blue Mountains. The town is one of 26 towns and villages that make up the Blue Mountains City Council Local Government area. The census for 2006 revealed that 8210 people resided in the area.

Primarily, the village of Springwood is a one strip shopping centre adjacent to the railway and highway transport corridor. A diverse mix of small businesses complements the small village, which overlooks the National Park & the Blue Labyrinth, on its southern boundary. In fact, a spectacular view of the surrounding natural bushland can be enjoyed from the School of Arts Town Square. The square, the original site of the now-demolished Springwood School of Arts, is the central heart of the village and the starting point of a heritage walk.

The heritage of the village adds to its natural charms. Along Macquarie Road – the main street – are several heritage listed buildings such as the present railway station (see photo below left) – built by John Whitton in 1884 – which replaced an earlier wooden building. Opposite the station is the Royal Hotel built in 1881 by Thomas Boland (see below centre) who is recognised locally as the father of Springwood. Further along is the pretty sandstone Frazer Memorial Presbyterian Church, which was erected in 1895 from funds supplied by businessman and benefactor John Frazer. At the eastern entrance to the village James Hunter Lawson built, in 1891, the Oriental Hotel (see photo below right) and Braemar (see front) and Danville the following year.

The beauty of the natural environment complements the heritage buildings and all contribute to a strong sense of place shared by the community. Similarly, residents of Springwood share a fondness for their Civic buildings. Since the 1960s, the Civic Centre has been the venue for numerous social events such as weddings, engagement and coming of age parties and the community Ivy Markets. Our aim is to keep our local economy strong and maintain the ambience and heritage of our village by objecting to large developments such as Woolworths/Coles.



Springwood Railway Station



The Royal Hotel



The Oriental Hotel

With thanks to Local Historian Pamela Smith BA

CONTRIBUTIONS

If you know of someone living in Springwood whose story would be great to share, and who wouldn't mind being featured in our column or, if you would like to contribute to our Newsletter, please let us know by contacting Narelle Halse on 0410 514 813 or 4751 4812 or emailing mail@saveourspringwood.org.au

We are also happy to publicise any coming events and to discuss with you any issues that concern you with regards to our Ward 3 area. SOS members can be found in the Town Square every third Saturday from 10am till midday. Councillor Brendan Luchetti joins us when he is able.

Contact details for councillors

Alison McLaren	0410 441 842	amclaren@bmcc.nsw.gov.au
Daniel Myles	0414 418 161	dmyles@bmcc.nsw.gov.au
Brendan Luchetti	0414 195 986	bluchetti@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

SOS Save our Springwood Committee