

## **Burra Management Committee news**

### **Hall hire fees for 2009-10**

At its February meeting, the Burra Management Committee (BMC) recommended a new Hall hire fee structure for inclusion in Palerang Council's 2009/10 Management Plan.

The committee examined the running costs for the hall and concluded that the current fees charged were not covering cost of gas and electricity and made no allowance for regular maintenance of the facilities. The cost of gas and electricity alone comes to over \$1600 per annum. There has been almost a three-fold increase in electricity usage since the installation of the commercial refrigerator, prompting a new policy on its use (see below).

A comparison to other community halls in Palerang indicated that hire fees for the Burra Hall were significantly under priced and have not been increased sufficiently in recent years to keep pace with running costs.

In the new financial year, fees for local community groups will be \$15 per use, or \$40 if the booking is for fund-raising purposes. Local private functions will be charged at \$125.00 while non-local private functions will be charged at \$250.00 per use. Private functions also attract a refundable bond of \$300.

All hall hire fees will include the use of kitchen and gas. Currently, these are billed separately but it is impossible to monitor actual usage. The large commercial refrigerator will be switched off when not in use but is still available for hall users on request.

The Hall Annex (Tennis Shed) will also be available for hire at \$5 per use. The space is much cheaper to light and heat, making it ideal for meetings of up to a dozen people.

The committee will monitor costs over the next 12 months and review hire fees for subsequent years. Our aim is to keep the hire fees affordable but still have sufficient funds to make improvements and keep the facilities safe, clean and presentable.

### **Working bee**

Many thanks to Tony Godfrey-Smith, Sandy Lloyd, Annabelle Schweiger, Amanda Ozolins, Elisabet Hawker and Peter Hawker for giving up a recent Saturday to clean out the Hall Annex.

The accumulated, unwanted junk has now found a new home at the Mugga Lane tip and the Annex has been restored to a useful space, complete with table and chairs.

The large fridge which was in the Annex has been returned to the Hall and can be used by hall hirers. This will enable the large, power-hungry commercial refrigerator to be switched off when not in use, thus saving on hall running costs.

## **Parking at Burra Hall**

At its February meeting, the BMC considered the safety and environmental issues of the car parking arrangements at the Park.

The committee heard that parents with young children are loath to attend functions at the hall or in the Park, especially at night, due to the risk of children being injured when cars reverse out from the area in front of the Hall. When Scouts have major functions, they lock the gate to the oval and keep all cars out in order to improve safety for children.

The cricket oval used to extend to where the steps up to the Hall are now situated. Due to cars driving and parking on the oval, the area of bare dirt in front of the hall is steadily increasing in size and the oval is now too small to be used for cricket matches. Burra used to have a very active cricket team and social cricket matches were enjoyed by many residents. Maybe this interest would be rekindled if the state of the oval was improved.

The BMC has agreed on the following changes:

1. On-oval parking will be limited by a barrier preventing parking in front of the playground and directly in front of the Hall. There will still be vehicular access to the Hall and about a dozen parking spaces under the pine trees near the tennis courts;
2. Additional parking will be in the designated area currently occupied by the recycling bins. Extension of this area, the relocation of the recycling bins and lighting to the new parking area are being considered as part of this project;
3. Rehabilitation of the grass in front of the hall and children's playground area will be undertaken, weather (drought) permitting.

Until the physical barriers are in place, individuals and community groups using the Burra Park facilities are encouraged to voluntarily adopt the new arrangements of restricting parking in front of the hall.

## **Hall bookings**

Bookings for the Burra Hall and Annex can be made by contacting Ros Bush on 6236 3536, or via email at [bookings@burra.org.au](mailto:bookings@burra.org.au).

An online booking inquiry facility and availability calendar will soon be available from the BMC's web page at [www.burra.org.au/bmc](http://www.burra.org.au/bmc) This will enable intending hall users to

see when the hall is available for hire, and to make an inquiry online. Bookings will be confirmed by return email. You will still be able to book by phone if you prefer.

### **Next meeting**

The quarterly meeting of the BMC will be held on Tuesday, 12 May starting at 7 pm in the Burra Hall. All interested residents of Burra and Urila are welcome to attend.

A draft agenda will be posted on our website prior to the meeting at [www.burra.org.au/bmc](http://www.burra.org.au/bmc).