



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association

August 2017

Valley Happenings

PPA welcomes new members wherever they live. For only \$5 per adult, avail yourself of the pleasure of belonging to the group of volunteers who support the community and maintain Hollisdale Hall.

First Friday get-together is on from 6 pm at Hollisdale Hall, Pappinbarra Road on 4 August. Come along and enjoy the company. Don't worry if you don't know anyone - we make all feel welcome! Vegetarian and gluten-free options included in a tasty low cost menu. Soft drinks available. BYOG.

July First Friday saw Sue McLauchlan's number pop up for the members' draw but she wasn't there so it jackpots for August. Amy Hubers won the raffle and chose the ecoWild! Voucher. Many thanks to the cooking team and to all who helped with the set-up and clean-up. Your willing assistance is most appreciated.

All Saints' Pappinbarra: Service on Sunday August 27 at 2 pm with afternoon tea around 3.00 at Hollisdale Hall. This will be Rev Canon Judy's last service with us as she is being promoted to Casino, and is to be married in Grafton in September. All welcome to farewell this amazing woman. Bring a plate to share.

RFS community meeting on 12 August at 2 pm at the hall to help residents prepare for the upcoming fire season. See poster this page.



Rural Fire Brigade training for Pappinbarra and Hollisdale members is on the second Saturday of the month: 12 August 8-10 am. Meet at the hall in full uniform.

Bushfire benefit concert by the Royal Australian Navy Band and the Hastings Concert Band in support of the **Rebuild Pappinbarra** appeal at Laurieton last month was magic! Not only was the music fantastic, but some of the players were also firefighters and Pappinbarra's own Daniel and Caitlyn Wall were in the Hastings band! Daniel was trombone soloist.

Pappinbarra Community Market - Grown and Gathered is on Sunday 6 August with some new stallholders and live music from *The Anchovies*. Beechwood School is manning the BBQ, so let's support their fundraising - come for breakfast or brunch! Bring the family from 9 am to 12 mid-day for a country experience. Stall enquiries to Lisa on 0418 220 138.

[grownandgatheredcommunitymarket](https://www.facebook.com/grownandgatheredcommunitymarket) on Facebook.

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

BUSH FIRE SAFETY COMMUNITY MEETING

FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

SATURDAY 12 AUGUST 2017

2:00PM | HOLLISDALE COMMUNITY HALL

Members from Hollisdale Brigade will be conducting an information session to assist residents in the preparation of a personal **BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL PLAN**, as well as provide the opportunity to ask questions related to bush fire preparation and planning.

Specifically the program will include:

- > Overview of District Risk Management Plan;
- > Information on private property preparation and protection;
- > Home fire-fighting equipment – demonstration;
- > RFS Membership opportunities;
- > Equipment standards & specifications used for bush fire fighting.

This is your community and your attendance will be appreciated.

For further information, please contact the District Office on 02 6588 9000

Times Past and Present

Timber Corner

Everyone who has done any sort of construction work in Pappinbarra this century has discovered the joys of *Timber Corner* - a long narrow block stretching along Rosewood Road with an entry on Beechwood Road not far from the racecourse.

I called in shortly after we moved to the district, looking for planks to put up temporary bookshelves. I left with bricks to sit them on as well, having met the Walls - indomitable and indefatigable - both of them. Even back then, *Timber Corner* was a maze of building materials of all sorts as well as a nursery with an amazing assortment of plants.

Back in 1967, Peter and Jenny bought 250 acres with a house on a slab near the Pappinbarra River on the Left Arm; the building and all their possessions were burnt to the ground two years later while they were away in Sydney. When, after years of hard work, they had the opportunity to buy *Riversleigh* in 1980 from Jack and Mavis Flanagan, they jumped at the chance to return to the valley and farm.

Simmons and Bennett had a business with a timber sideline they decided to offload in 1989. Peter was away in Queensland and Jenny decided to purchase it. When I asked was he pleased, Peter merely shrugged - "Something I had to do, wasn't it!"

There was a mill down the back with about two acres covered with mill offcuts piled 'about ten foot high' - at least 5000 tons



of firewood. Peter was kept busy delivering wood. "Port Macquarie has the best climate? Ladies wanted wood delivered to the third floor!" When he told them that would cost a bit more: "I'll phone your boss!" "Actually," he used to say, "he's hard to get. He's either cutting up wood or out delivering it." The wood business 'just meandered along as a subsidiary of the nursery'.

Jenny started up a nursery on the block - "She'd grow anything". Trees she propagated are 'all over the place'. When Peter was asked 'how big this plant would grow', his standard reply was, "Haven't you got a chainsaw? I've never seen a tree it can't control." He was often in trouble from Jenny.

They grew tea trees to supply the tea tree oil industry from North Queensland to the Maria River and elsewhere and when prices went down decided to do cucumbers and, later, tomatoes - propagating (from seed), pricking out, potting up, planting out, pruning, picking and packing. They used to produce 1½ tons of Lebo cucs a day at the peak of production, but now only grow them in season. The tomatoes are more work, with not as quick a turnaround, but the plants last longer.

The house on *Timber Corner* was originally built for their son Anthony and his wife Jenny, who work at Port Base Hospital. Peter and Jenny travelled in from Pappinbarra each day till Peter became quadriplegic and had an op to remove half of each of several neck vertebrae and Jenny was crook as well. The solution was a house swap, with the younger generation getting more room and the oldies living on-site.

Of course the timber business needed Peter's demolition skills - he used to do the lot but now the demolishers supply him. With his and Jenny's ongoing health problems, daughter Angela has returned to run the show and organise the vast amounts of 'whatever you need'. Their motto is 'If you can't find it, we will'!

Jean Hegarty

Friendship

*Oh the comfort, the inexpressible comfort
of feeling safe with a person.*

*Having neither to weigh
thoughts nor measure words,
but just pour them all
out as they are, chaff
and grain together, and a
faithful hand will take*

*and sift them, keep what is
worth keeping and, with a
breath of kindness,
blow the rest away.*

George Elliot

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Wild Things

Native Gardens



Kelly Benson &
James Mc Gahey

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- Bush regeneration and tree planting
- Endemic tubestock supply
- Project planning and grant application advice

Bird of the month: Pied Currawong

Strepera graculina

Other names: scrub magpie, pied crow shrike, pied afternoon-tea bird.

Size: 42 to 50 cm.

Status: Secure in Qld, NSW and Victoria.

Pied currawongs will be known to many as they gather in small to large groups during Autumn and Winter to feed on berries and fruits, calling loudly to each other as they go. Traditionally, they would move from the mountains to lower areas during the cooler months, however many now remain at lower urban areas because of the increased food opportunities provided by our urban environment. During the summer months, their nesting period, they are significant predators on nests of small birds.

The currawong is predominantly black in colour; the 'pied' part comes from the white at the base of the tail and the under-tail coverts, with white tail tip and a white panel, which appears in the wing feathers during flight. Immature birds have greyer plumage and a dark eye. Currawongs have bright yellow eyes. The bill is quite long and stout, being about 1.5 times the length of its head. Males are slightly larger at 320 grams while females average 280 grams.



Pied currawongs are found along the eastern part of the mainland from Cape York to Victoria where they inhabit dry and wet forests below about 1500 meters, woodland, farmland and scrub. They feed on berries, fruit, insects, lizards and carrion and are attracted to picnic grounds and parks. During their nesting season, small birds' eggs and nestlings are taken.

Very vocal when they congregate during winter, currawongs give calls such as 'gurrah-chhurah' or a rising-falling wolf-whistle call. During breeding season, however, they become silent, skulking predators of our small birds. Some commentators are a little less harsh, saying that other native birds also prey on nesting birds, but it is my observation that they are somewhat opportune whereas the pied currawong is methodical and relentless.

Breeding takes place between August and January when a flat, saucer-shaped nest of sticks lined with grass and soft plant material is placed high in the fork of a suitable tree - typically a eucalypt. Three eggs are laid and incubated by the female for 21 days. The male feeds her during this time, then both birds feed the chicks for a further 30 days before fledging. They are sometimes parasitised by the channel-billed cuckoo.

Peter Fackender

In the Garden

Greenbourne is bursting at the seams with new season roses, deciduous ornamentals, fruit trees, a wide range of succulents and cacti and a fresh truck-load of plants. We still have rhubarb crowns and seed potatoes in stock. Now's the time to start preparing your garden for spring planting.

Happy Gardening from the Greenbourne Team.

Wauchope's Greenbourne Nursery now has new owners - Paul, Kristin and Marley Glessing. Paul and Kristin first visited the Hastings region around four years ago and fell in love with it - "It just felt like home". They purchased a local rural property, but still had to continue working as underground miners at Mt Isa for the next few years.

Finally here and loving it, Paul and Kristin said "We are very excited to have made a tree/career change. It's such a great environment to raise a family and to be part of the local



community. We have kept the existing staff who are all experienced horticulturists and have their respective areas of expertise."

Greenbourne will carry on, offering the usual great service, advice and wide range of plants

We wish Hayden & Alison all the best for their future as full time farmers. We also know they will enjoy and spend time in their garden!

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Summary of Lisa McLeod's PPA annual report - July 2016 to June 2017

Of course February's catastrophic fire conditions which saw two huge bushfires destroy six homes, 14 sheds and lots of pasture, fencing and bush will colour the year forever. Thanks to RFS preparedness, 45 homes were saved. It could have been so much worse, and we are thankful that no lives were lost. The response from the wider community was truly amazing. Pappinbarra is grateful to all the agencies, donors and supporters who sprang into action.

PPA was fortunate to gain funds to improve our community-owned Hollisdale Hall; we had a grant of \$2900 from HCCU towards solar panels, which have now been installed thanks to Jed McCarthy, who was very generous with his time and expertise. We also received \$4020 towards a 'Mow and Grow' shed to store the ride-on and tools from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) - yet to be built by volunteers. PMHC came to the party with a \$10,000 grant to install fire defences. Brian Gough mowed and tidied, Trevor Smith did running repairs and a community garden was started under direction from Christine Nolan with help from Paul Pollett, his digger and a couple of French Wwoofers. Thanks to all.

First Friday BBQs and the *Grown and Gathered* market bring us all together each month. Thanks to our stallholders and the many PPA volunteers who work hard to make these events happen. Special mention must be made of Heather Smith, our social media expert, for her untiring efforts on Facebook. We appreciate you all. Our 2016 charity stall proceeds went to others.

PPA has continued to publish our newsletter, *Pitchfork*. Our thanks go to Jean Hegarty, Ang Frost, Jan Childs, Liz Gough and all the contributors and advertisers who make this possible, with over 40 hours' work needed to get the finished product to you each month.

PPA committee and several members have been tireless in organising and supporting all the events that happen - bush dance, card and board games nights, two concerts, two cheese workshops, beekeeping workshops, Greg Ostler Memorial cricket match, weeds workshop, tennis

comp, 'Say no to plastic' sewing bees, Christmas party, Lifeline workshop, Heritage Week church service at All Saints' with arvo tea at the hall afterwards, RFB training and play rehearsals. All this could not have happened without you all!

And a few words about the outgoing Committee:

Former Vice-president, Mary Walker, stepped down a couple of months ago to concentrate on her health. This wonderful lady made my job much easier. Mary was ready with solutions even if we didn't always agree and would work with me to get a result. She constantly had my back and stepped in more times than I remember to make things right. She is missed.

Sue Frost, Treasurer, whom I relied on heavily throughout the year - a capable person, helping at every function and I value all that you do.

Suzanne Pollett, Secretary, had information to me as soon as I requested it and was an ever-present helper at the Market and First Friday BBQ. Although working most of the year in Sydney, she was dedicated to our community.

Liz and Brian Gough were always ready to give a hand at every event and kept the Hall looking spick and span.

Adrian Guthrie was invaluable for his eternal optimism, insight and help and guidance he gave me straight after the fire in February.

Rob Williams has an unending can-do attitude, know-how that we relied on throughout the year, and wonderful BBQ skills; he fed feeding everybody at about seven First Fridays!

Christine Nolan was a breath of fresh air, always gave us different ways to look at any situation and lent a hand whenever required.

Elly Franchmont contributed to all our activities and helped with our grant submission for a new kitchen - we are yet to hear the result. Her wonderful voice lifted and inspired us all.

Lisa McLeod
President



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Another triumph for the Pappinbarra Players

Seasonal celebrations are an important focus for communities to get together to enjoy each other's company, share stories, sing songs old and new, have a few laughs, bemoan their lot in life and enjoy a celebratory feast. The Pappinbarra Players' lively and entertaining presentation of 'At Winter's Turn', an adaptation of a mediaeval Mystery play, ticked all the boxes. The play was in two parts: the first, inside Hollisdale Hall, was an encounter between three shepherds and Mak, a low-life sheep thief bent on rising above his station, and Gill, his over-bearing wife ('one most years and sometimes two!') The second, a tableau based on the story of the Nativity, was held outside.



Rob Williams and Darren Rowley

scheming to relieve them of one of their flock. While all retired for the night Mak arose and went sneakingly about his nefarious ways. Audience feedback reached its max with his wanderings through the crowd seeking a suitable 'lamb' to take home to his 'twin-labouring' wife Gill (played by Rob Williams - he and Darren sparked off each other in a memorable comic exchange). The shepherds were quickly on his trail and Mak and Gill's

attempt to put off the inevitable was exposed and Mak publicly humiliated - tossed in a blanket.

The play then moved from farce to the Visitation (Mystery) theme with the appearance of the angelic Sophie Aplin to the shepherds. The children's choir then led the audience outside where the final tableau was performed around a ring of fires as the shepherds followed the star to Mary (serenely played by recent arrival Alice Mai) and the infant in the stable.



Director Adrian Guthrie working with 'Mary' played by Alice Mai

The play was very well cast and all got on top of the rhyming stanza format. The direction stayed true to the spirit of the original and Adrian is to be commended for undertaking a challenging play and involving so many community members (over 30) in the production. The shepherds' witty and eclectic choral mix was augmented by contributions old and new from Farmer John Eggert ('The Foggy Foggy Dew'), an adult choir and a children's choir (complete with percussion effects).

A locally catered midwinter feast and entertainment were a fitting finale for a night of truly enjoyable community theatre.

George Hegarty

Photos by Deb Murrell



The three shepherdeses:

Emma Frost, Elly Franchimont and Kelly Gould



The Angel Sophie Aplin

Inside the hall, audience members were invited by seasoned director, Adrian Guthrie, to make themselves at home and to view and participate in the action in any way they felt comfortable. The shepherds, wonderfully played by Kelly Gould, Elly Fanchimont and Emma Frost, bemoaned their lot (womanly and otherwise), told bawdy tales and sang songs old and new. They were soon joined by Mak (another top comic performance by Darren Rowley) who accepted their hospitality while

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Say No to Plastic - bag making begins again!

I hope everyone had a chance to see the ABC's excellent program *War on Waste*, especially the episode about plastic shopping bags. Did you know that Woolworths is currently giving out 3.2 billion lightweight plastic bags per year?! Good news is that both Coles and Woolworths have announced plans to phase out single-use plastic bags over the next 12 months. There is also presently a campaign by 'Ban the Bag' to encourage PMHC to be the first in NSW to ban single-use plastic bags.

Our Pappinbarra Community project, Say NO to Plastic, has already produced 83 good-quality calico shopping bags with nearly 250 hours of volunteer time. All bags have sold at the Pappinbarra market. We are about



to begin another round of bag making. The calico has been purchased and as soon as the washing, cutting and screen printing is complete we will hold a sewing day. Sewing days are fun, we get together in the Hall and we always have a nice lunch afterwards. Sewing machines and skilled workers are needed as well as pinners, folders and ironers on the day. We also need off-cuts of patterned cotton material for the handles and tags – donations are most welcome.

I will email those who have previously assisted – new volunteers can email or phone me so I can include them on the mailing list.

Sue Frost
6587 6129

Annual financial report for PPA

Total income for the financial year 2016/17 was \$25212.69 and expenditure \$21571.54. The Market was our biggest money raiser with an income of \$7848.50. Below is a summary of the finances at 30/6/2017:

\$24,946 was raised for our *Fodder, Fencing and Farm Gear Fund* to support those affected by the February bushfires. The money has now been distributed in the form of fencing products through Wauchope Rural.

Sue Frost
Treasurer

Holiday Coast Credit Union PPA accounts:	
S14	\$21,541.63
S14.1 Visa	\$3,575.06
S14.2 Special fundraising	\$3,149.82
Total in HCCU	\$28,266.51
minus Grants - not yet spent	\$18,520.00
minus Bushfire Fundraising	\$3,194.82
PPA funds after grants	\$6,551.69
Insurance (Sept) approx - set aside	\$2,500.00
Balance funds available	\$4,051.69

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RESIDENTIAL AND RURAL IN OUR REGION

LETS be prosperous!

The Hastings region will soon have its own LETS (Local Employment Trading System).

To stimulate local employment, enjoyment, social interaction – and as a buffer against the looming economic crisis coming our way soon – the Hastings Xchange is forming.

Basically, it is a barter system that uses a local currency to facilitate trading. Activity on the system is recorded and transparent, and often run by volunteers.

Hastings Xchange will use a 'Bago' as its currency, on the basis that one Australian dollar = one Bago.

Since the currency is unique to this area, the 'wealth' of the population is not exported elsewhere, and remains to stimulate even more activity locally.

Unlike traditional banks, you don't need a credit balance to begin. A debit is simply a commitment to the system that will be extinguished by later credits. So everyone can get busy trading immediately.

Unlike other LETS there will be no joining fees and no application forms, as every resident of the area is automatically a member whether they trade or not. If someone wants to involve themselves at a later time, they can then start immediately.

In the past, small systems tended to become rather exclusive little 'clubs', and therefore experienced far less growth and

corresponding benefits to the community. Eventually, it is hoped that there will be many barter communities throughout Australia.

For people who are unemployed, the system is a boon, because now there can be greater employment within the local area, giving someone with fewer dollars the ability to tap in

to goods and services they might not normally be able to afford. Can't normally stretch the budget for a massage? Now you can!

A thriving local system usually also means fewer social problems, as people are busy!

Hastings Xchange will commence shortly in Wauchope, and then the greater area taking in Port Macquarie, Laurieton, Kendall and all stops in-between.

If you want to get involved, then have a look at [hastingsxchange](http://hastingsxchange.com) on Facebook, or send an email to hastingsxchange@gmail.com



RFB Report

It has been very quiet on the fire front.

Members of Hollisdale Brigade will be conducting an information session on 12 August at 2 pm at the hall to assist residents in the preparation of a personal BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL PLAN, as well as provide the opportunity to ask questions related to bush fire preparation and planning.

It will include:

- Overview of District Risk Management Plan
- Information on private property preparation and protection

- Home fire-fighting equipment – demonstration
- RFS membership opportunities
- Standards and specifications for bush fire fighting equipment

This is your community meeting and I hope to have a good attendance to prepare for the upcoming fire season.

Cheers,

Chris Roelandts
Hollisdale captain

Fire permits are not required but check the RFS website to make sure and notify your neighbours 24 hours in advance. Fire Headquarters must also be notified before lighting any fires on 6588 9000.

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Pappinbarra Community Connect

To connect with Pappinbarra Valley residents for trading, swapping, selling and other services go to Pappinbarra Community Connect on Facebook
(Admin Damian Privett)

To find out more about our monthly 'Grown and Gathered' market (or to give us a 'like'!) go to [facebook.com/growndgatheredcommunitymarket/](https://www.facebook.com/growndgatheredcommunitymarket/) or google 'Grown and Gathered Market'

President's message

Having just returned from Indonesia and experienced their roads, I must say accidents were few and far between. The speed was 30-40 km per hour, with no apparent road rules (or none that I could figure out) and cars travelled quite happily on the wrong side of the road. The bipping of horns was just to let you know someone was approaching - not to move from your line of travel. Funnily enough it works and it was a pleasure riding to see things if not a bit daunting sometimes. Everyone was smiling and happy. It's a great place to visit.

When I got home and hit Pappinbarra Road, I had people overtaking in unsafe places and several tailgating me. Just the other day I had a wide load with no pilot vehicle run me off the road. I would like to remind everyone who travels on this road to take care.

If you drive slower than most move over when you can and let the faster car behind you go past. The car that overtakes should bip to say thanks. On many occasions I let people pass and don't get any acknowledgement. Courtesy goes a long way. For those of you that are tailgaters, please stop. The road is bad enough without your driving too close behind a vehicle. If someone has to stop suddenly I am sure you don't want to hit them.

I think we all would like to know that our loved ones get home safe every day. Let's all work together to make our road safer.

Quote: *The most important decision you make today is to be in a good mood.*

Lisa McLeod

New 2017-18 PPA Committee

President: Lisa McLeod

Vice President: Adrian Guthrie

Secretary: Suzanne Pollett

Treasurer: Sue Frost

Committee general members:

George Hegarty

Liz & Bryan Gough

Rob Williams

Elly Franchimont

Can anyone help?

MISSING FOR FOUR WEEKS:

much loved and missed

Purebred male Red kelpie dog:

If found please phone Jeannette on 0424226258

A small note from John and Patsy Murrell, who came up from Gloucester to see our play:

"We had a wonderful evening AT WINTERS TURN. A big thank you to the catering gang, a great effort! Adrian and the stunning cast are to be congratulated on a magic performance! The atmosphere made a special evening."

PPA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – every third Friday of the month 6 pm at the Hall. Interested members welcome.

Hollisdale Hall Hire - booking essential. Contact George Hegarty 6587 6077.

Upper Pappinbarra facilities and tennis court - contact Lisa McLeod 0418 220 138 or Robyn Flanagan 6587 6011

Pitchfork

Do you have suggestions for items in *Pitchfork*? Are you a budding writer? The editor is seeking new contributors and is more than happy to work with anyone who has ideas for our newsletter. Contact Jean by email jeanmay@activ8.net.au or phone 6587 6077. (Copy may be edited for reasons of space or clarity. The views expressed in *Pitchfork* are not necessarily those of the PPA).

Advertising Contact Liz Gough lizabeth52@hotmail.com 0473 170 761 for info on both casual and regular ads. If your business would like a one-off A4 advertising insert in *Pitchfork*, provide us with 300 copies and we will distribute for \$30. Deadline is 24 August for the September issue. Classified ads are free for members.

Circulation: 300 hard copies; over 100 by email. Comes out the weekend before First Friday.

Production including ad design: Angela Frost angfrost@hotmail.com

