



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association

November issue

Valley Happenings

1 November: World Premiere of the sensational Pappinbarra Players' production of *Bushed!* Who says that life in the bush is dull? Don't miss out - get your tickets now. See poster below.

PPA welcomes new members Jon and Shelly van Beest, Susan Ashton, Brian Hewson and Sharon and Wayne Gill. Thanks to all the folk who have renewed their membership. Do join PPA if you haven't already - the more members the merrier and the better we are placed to access grant funds. Pay at First Friday or complete the form on P8.

October First Friday saw another great rock up. The Members' Draw, which had jackpotted to \$30 was won by Dale Goldfinch. Elly Franchimont won the raffle and chose the Greenbourne Nursery voucher.

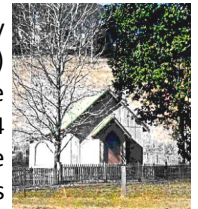
November First Friday will be on the **Second Friday** at the hall from 6 pm on Friday **November 8**. It will be a fundraiser for the Hollisdale RFS - a valuable and capable crew we need to support. They will do the cooking and raffle ticket selling, and there may be some games to relieve you of your small change. All welcome! There will be the usual offerings including vegetarian and gluten-free options.

Hollisdale RFS meet at the fire shed at 1 pm on Saturday 26 October (tomorrow) for a training session. Full uniform essential. See important fire info on p 3.

Pitchfork Choir will meet at the hall at 6pm Wednesday 30 October to rehearse with the *Bushed* cast. The normal choir session will be Saturday 16 November at 10am.

All Saints' Church

Services are held on the fourth Sunday of each month (this Sunday 27 October) at 2 pm with a cuppa 'off the back of the ute' around 2.45 pm. On 24 November, **All Saints'** will see the **baptism** of the valley's youngest new inhabitant - Leeroy Blayne Ostler. All welcome for the service at 2 pm and/or the cuppa afterwards. Bring a plate to share.



*In beautiful Tallowood Valley,
not far from Cedarrville,
all is not quite what it seems...*

Bushed

A play

Locally written and produced

Lifts the lid on life in the bush

Three performances only at **Hollisdale Hall**
Pappinbarra

Friday November 1 @ 7pm

Saturday November 2 @ 7pm

Sunday November 3 @ 2pm

Tickets \$20 available from **EcoWild** Bransdon St, Wauchope
(supper or afternoon tea included) and the **Beechwood Store**



Anyone for tennis?

All welcome to play in the local night competition at the Recreation Grounds, Upper Pappinbarra. Two seasons: mid-October to mid-December and end February to April. Cost \$5 per night. Contact Emma Frost 6587 6103

Beechwood Billycart Classic will be held on Sunday 17 November with the Pappinbarra Road closed from 11am to 12 noon. See details p6.

Thank you to all the folk involved in *Bushed*: as well as those noted last month, Jan Farrell for the work of art, Bryony Anderson, Chay Khamson and Emma Frost for the bush scene, Angela Macpherson for advice, Amy Hubers for curtains, Daniel Wall for sound effects, Comboyne Memorial Hall for loan of lights, Trevor Smith and Damian Privett for carpentry, Gary Rainbow for the settlers' photo, musicians Jay Moon and Greg Viney and, of course, the cast. It has been a real community endeavour; in addition to the song writing and workshops funded by our Country Arts Support grant, hundreds of volunteer hours have gone into the production. (See poster for performance and ticket details.)

Meet the Neighbours - Mary Rosamund Walker

Although not of royal blood, (can you believe that?) Mary was born in England's green and pleasant County of Buckinghamshire. She spent her first five years running amok (a-muck?) on the family dairy farm. This idyll came to a sad end: her father, Arthur Baker, keen on car racing, was given special permission to race his farm Land Rover at Silverstone, but was involved in an unfortunate accident and lost his life. Widowed for the second time, Mary's mother Marianne sent Mary and her younger brother Tom and her two older half-brothers David and Richard off to boarding school. At just five years of age, Mary Mary quite contrary lasted a term, during which she was moved from the girls' dormitory to sleep amid the little boys - she was 'creating too much havoc'!

Back in the bosom of her family in a 'lovely old house' in Great Missenden called *Haredell*, on a couple of acres, Mary was sent to day school nearby. "Mother did try but there was no discipline and I was very naughty." The school coped somehow... At the tender age of ten, she was packed off to boarding school with 99 other young girls. "Everyone did it, but the state of education in England was abysmal!"

Meanwhile, having also sent the youngest, Tom, off to school, Marianne went off to South Africa with her mother. On board ship they struck up a friendship with a Tasmanian horticulturalist, Bill Walker, who had been designing at Kew Gardens, with whom they kept in touch.

Later, Mary's mother decided to visit Richard in Australia - he had set off looking for adventure and landed a job jackarooing in Tasmania. She met up with Bill, whose wife had by then died. On her return to England, a proposal letter awaited. Marianne emigrated to marry a third time, taking Mary and Tom to Tasmania.

It was 'a bit of a shock' to land, at seventeen, in a mixed secondary school in Tasmania with 1000 students. With her 'very proper accent', Mary was teased mercilessly until her bottle of ginger beer exploded in the locker out the front during French. Notoriety followed.

After matriculating in 1967, Mary 'went nursing and had a huge amount of fun, facing Matron every week for some transgression or other'. When she finished her training, the big trip beckoned - mostly England but Europe as well. In Greece, Mary's group of free-camping friends frolicked naked in Corfu's balmy waters. Local Greek men used to come by boat and anchor off shore to get free entertainment. Mary set up a first aid clinic out of her



van each morning to patch up injured campers, which in turn paid for that night's refreshments. The drink of choice at the taverna was ouzo - lots of it. On return to Australia four years later, she did midwifery but 'hated it - the babies!!'

1978 saw the heroine of our story in Melbourne, completing a Diploma in Nursing Education followed by Psychiatric Nursing. From the mid-eighties, she worked in the latter field, ending up in Forensic Psychiatry where, known as Colonel Kickarse, she also taught self-defence.

Mary and Jan moved to Pappinbarra in 2006. They have a 'happy household of five dogs, three cats, two cows, two sheep with lambs, ten chooks and about 50 roosters - the last totally free to good homes - or anyone who can catch them'.

After working in aged care in Wauchope for about 18 months, Mary had 'an unfortunate misunderstanding with management', let her nursing registration lapse, and became a 'Garden Angel' with Jan. A bulwark of PPA, she has been involved in the valley community for over three years. She had a stellar role in *Dimboola*, beat a cancer scare in 2012, officially opened our FRRR fence at the hall as Princess Mary of Buckinghamshire, and is preparing to triumph again as Stella in *Bushed*.

This paragon may be encountered at any First Friday gathering, where she likes socialising and having a drink or two. Folk are invited to join her birthday celebration at the hall after the Sunday performance of *Bushed*. Bring a plate to share and something to toast her health!

Jean Hegarty

Pitchfork delivery will continue

After hearing many opinions from around the valley it has been decided by the PPA committee members that *Pitchfork* will continue to be printed and delivered. Anybody who wishes to be added to the *ePitchfork* list can still do so by writing to Angela Frost at angfrost@hotmail.com

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Rural Fire Service Update

Hollisdale Brigade

The Hollisdale brigade has been fairly busy again this month. A Section 44 (State of Emergency) was declared for the Taree and Hastings area with large fires at Lorne, Taree, Old Bar and Harrington causing most concern. The Lower Pappinbarra fire broke out again in a couple of spots and with the help of Pappinbarra, Beechwood and Wauchope brigades it was contained. We were also called on to give a hand at Harrington for a couple of days with many brigades and helicopters involved. The water-bombing helicopter extinguished the last of the Pappinbarra fire and, on Saturday 12 October, the Section 44 was terminated. Thanks to all the volunteers that gave up their time to help others.

Chris Roelandts

General Remarks on Fires compiled by Damian Privett from the RFS website

1 October marks the start of the statutory bush fire danger period in NSW. Some areas have already commenced their danger period due to continuing dry conditions. "In the last few weeks we have already seen significant fire activity which has put homes and lives at risk," Minister Gallacher said. "With the warm and dry conditions forecast to continue, it's important everyone understands the increased risk this season, and prepares for it. Last bush fire season was a challenging one in NSW, with more than 50 homes destroyed in January alone. In bush fires, complacency can kill. You may think a fire may not happen to you, but if you live in or near the bush, you are at risk and need to prepare now".

Research conducted by the NSW RFS and the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre following the January 2013 bush fires found a large number of people did not heed the warnings about the dangerous conditions. "More than 40% of people surveyed across some of the worst affected areas last summer including Coonabarabran, Yass and the Shoalhaven, stated they wished they had done more preparation," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said. "35% stated they wish they had a better plan. The majority of people know that a Bush Fire Survival Plan could save their life but too many people leave their planning to the last minute. That's when lives are lost. We have just experienced the warmest winter on record and the latest forecasts are pointing to continuing dry and warm conditions. In the last few weeks we have seen fires which have started and spread quickly. If you've been waiting for a wakeup call about preparing for bush fires, this is it."

Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) Commissioner Greg Mullins said it's important those who do not live close to the bush also prepare. "Embers from fires can travel great distances, landing several streets back from the bush and starting new fires. It's often these residents that don't consider themselves at risk. Therefore it's essential that you have a plan and prepare your home even if you don't live right next to bushland. This year alone over 140,000 properties across the State, worth more than \$64 billion, have been provided with protection from bush fires by hazard reduction work. Hazard reduction is a vital tool in helping to protect lives and properties. Our volunteers have been working with other agencies to conduct these important burns."

BUSHFIRE DANGER PERIOD

No fires without a permit.

No permits issued till substantial rain falls

Prior to a burn you must to give your neighbours notice 24 hours in advance.

IN CASE OF FIRE – CALL 000

Fire Permit Officers: Upper Pappinbarra: Steve Ostler 6587-6090; Bob Ostler 6587-6180; Anthony Wall 6587-6127 or Andrew Jarrett 6587-6181; Hollisdale and Lower Pappinbarra: Lyn Blythe 6587-6186; Beechwood: Sam Elphick 0428-856-222.

Gardening Groups

Two are thriving in the valley. If you are interested in being part of a third for 2014, send your name and address to PPA committee member, Sharada: sharadaboyle@yahoo.com.au and she'll help you get off the ground.


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Times Past

From *The Port Macquarie News and Hastings River Advocate*
25 August 1888 (Trove)

The Hon. J.H. Young in the Country.

The journey before us, across the mountains, we were led to believe was a rough one, consequently we strengthened ourselves for the task and our horses apparently did likewise. After a stay of about an hour [at the residence of Mr. Robert Woodlands, known as Bellangry], we left Bellangry, which I might remark is a splendid property... and soon found ourselves ascending and descending the different mountain spurs lying between this place and the Hastings River. The road, a mere track in places, is very rough, and the country travelled through is, for the most part, barren mountains. After crossing Fraser's Creek we came to the Pappinbarra Creek, both of which are tributaries of the Hastings River. We passed the residences of several settlers on the Pappinbarra, but the amount of agricultural land available appears to be very limited, and confined to a narrow belt along the bank of the creek, which is one of the best in the colony for water. Here, too, we had testimony of the privations and hardships through which settlers pass in their struggles to make homes for themselves. Near the road stood what I took to be a stack of posts, covered by a few sheets of bark; but our guide soon threw more light upon the matter, by informing me that this was the residence of a selector. The "house" consisted of an enclosure about 12 ft. square, built of fencing posts, and these supported a flat roof of bark, just sufficiently high to admit of entrance. It was suggested by our honourable friend that the advantage of such a building would be found in its admissibility for firing a gun through what might be termed port holes in the event of such a

necessity arising through invasion by enemies. Passing on, the country appeared better adapted for stock than that through which we had journeyed, and the flats and ridges were well clothed with grass. On one of the mountain tops we fell in with two bullock teams - those of Messrs. Wallis and Lewis - and we saw at a glance the labour necessary to get to market that now very scarce but excellent timber, the cedar, which at one time was very plentiful on the northern rivers. It is found necessary, when the foot of a mountain is reached, for two teams to unite, and by this means the ragged peaks are crossed in turns by the bullock drays and their contents; but it is no unusual thing, on account of the dangerous "sidling" at one place on the road in question, for drays to topple over and thereby sustain damage and put the teamster to endless trouble and annoyance. As we journeyed towards the Hastings River we came in sight of a very steep mountain, and soon discovered that the road lay across this, and that a tedious ascent was before us. Our horses reached the summit of this mountain, known as "Kindee", without any great difficulty, and the view from this eminence was exceedingly charming to the lover of both hill and dale...



Conservation Corner – PLCG Website

The Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group (PLCG) is very pleased to announce that its website is finally 'live'. <http://plcg.net.au/> We've got heaps more work to do, but at least we've made a start! This is now the place to find out about the PLCG - who we are, what we do and how to join. We also have great plans for making it the place to go for a wealth of information about the flora and fauna of the Valley and about how people can contribute to achieving the PLCG's vision of "A resilient, healthy and productive landscape in the Pappinbarra Valley."

Over time we will build up publicly accessible databases on our local mammals, birds, frogs, other critters, native plants and weeds. We will add short articles and links to other sites and resources. We hope people will post comments, draw to our

attention things we should review, and even send in articles. By the end of the year, we hope to have the members-only section functioning - this will be the repository for the wealth of information we are building up about member property strategic directions, conservation plans and on-ground works etc.

Bev Sibthorpe has taken on primary responsibility for developing the website, with lots of help from Angela Frost. Thanks to both of them for the many hours spent getting to this point. Input to the website is most welcome - either post a comment or email Bev Sibthorpe bsibthorpe@bigpond.com

Kelly Miller, President

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Weed of the month - Arsenic Bush/Smooth Senna *Senna septemtrionalis*

Family FABACEAE Sub-family Caesalpinioideae

Arsenic Bush is an extremely widespread plant in eastern Australia, originating from Central America and originally imported and cultivated for its hardiness and showy yellow flowers. It has long since escaped cultivation and naturalised in a wide range of landscapes including hardwood forests, coastal scrubs and rainforests, and riparian areas and has become a significant pest of transport infrastructure corridors and ruderal [disturbed] areas.

A legume, Arsenic Bush bears pods containing many hard-coated seeds that can persist in soil for years, germinating *en masse* after fire, flooding, earthmoving, cultivation or other land disturbances. Ecologically, the seeds' dormancy is broken by exposure to heat, light and (often, but not always) increased moisture.

In many ways, Arsenic Bush is typical of many other widespread legume weeds that grow and seed quickly, returning vast quantities of seed to the soil. Some of these other 'weeds' are wattles, forage legumes, brooms and gorse. Dense thickets can quickly establish, excluding other desirable species and degrading assets such as forest margins, road reserves, fence lines and stockyards. Suppression can be achieved in various ways (herbicide, slashing), but extirpating this species is difficult.

Avoid exposing poultry to the plants (ingestion of leaves can be fatal), but most livestock tend to shun Arsenic Bush. Identification is generally straightforward, although it is occasionally confused with Easter Cassia (*Senna pendula* var. *glabrata*), which has oval leaflets and an arching habit to the branches. Both have alternately arranged compound leaves, smooth, dark stems and clusters of yellow flowers.

Regarding any specific or general weed (or native plant) identification or control, contact Council or the DPI for further information, but if you're still having troubles, please just call or email me (petewm@hotmail.com). As always, if you have any plant you'd like identified, pop a sample in a sealed plastic bag along with your contact details into my letterbox (2011 Pappinbarra Rd) and I'll try and identify it for you.

Further Information - Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (Municipal Ecologist or Noxious Weeds Officer) 6581 8111; **Weeds Australia** www.weeds.org.au

Peter Michael



Arsenic Bush with pointed leaflets (top), Easter Cassia with rounded leaflets (bottom).

<http://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/>

2014 Pappinbarra Calendar

Last chance to contribute your photos!! Closing date is Saturday 16th November so calendars will be available for purchase at First Friday in December (6th).

Any more kids wanting to contribute?? Photos to sharadaboyce@yahoo.com.au

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In the Vegie Patch

In the vegie patch this month we need to keep an eye out for grubs and caterpillars. There are plenty of sprays, dusts and whatnots on the market, but in the industry we have found the use of a spray based on natural ingredients, Yates' *Success*, one of the best approaches to the pest problem. It is a great all-rounder for the vegie patch. When mixed and applied, it protects your prized tomatoes and lettuce for 7 -10 days. A safe spray for use on vegies, fruit, herbs and ornamentals in the garden, *Success* contains 'Spinosaad' - an Insecticide derived from naturally occurring soil bacteria. Next time you're shopping at the Garden Centre, make sure to keep an eye out for Yates *Success*. Remember to keep the water up to those vegies and a thick layer of mulch around. This will keep the moisture in and the hot weather out.



Happy gardening from **Brendan**.

Beechwood Public School
Annual
B00SH Bash
fundraiser

'WILD WILD WEST'
October 26
At the Beechwood Hotel
\$25 per head includes dinner and entertainment
Tickets on sale now at the school office and the
Beechwood Hotel
Auction, games, raffle, lucky door prize
Enquiries contact Erin 6585 6729

Beechwood Billycart Classic

Yes, it's that time of year again! The Billycart Classic is on Sunday 17 November, with a special call for funny/novelty carts. Go to the Billycart Classic web site (www.bilycartclassic.com.au) for rules and entry forms. This is the major fundraiser for the Beechwood Reserve and a great family day so we hope to see a lot of families there. Are you interested in running a stall on the day? Ring Jim for details on 0417 060 953 or email doglegion47@gmail.com. Money raised from stall fees (\$10) and entry fees goes to upkeep of the Beechwood Reserve. Beechwood road will be closed from 11:00am till 12:00pm.



Jim Hutcheon
(Secretary, Beechwood
Recreational Reserve
Trust)

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New/Featured at Hastings Farmers' Market

What an exciting Hastings Farmers' Market it will be in October! See sheep being shorn by local mobile sheep shearer, Gary Annett, and their fleeces being spun into wool. Sandra Ollinkoski from *Jasmine Goat Stud* will let you pet some of her gorgeous baby goats and she'll show how goat's cheese is made. *Shakara Park Alpacas* will bring some crias (baby alpacas) and the Sidlers will bring ducklings. Neil Coombes from

the Hastings Poultry Club will demonstrate how to get your chickens ready for competitions and his brother Colin will sell live chickens at his regular stall. See you at the Wauchope Showground between 8 am and 12 noon on Saturday 26 October.

Elly Franchimont, Market Coordinator

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Another look at paralysis ticks

A consequence of the mild winter weather is a high prevalence of paralysis ticks. Ticks don't survive in places where temperatures fall below 7°C for a few days. Here, a good cold winter will reduce their numbers. They also don't do well in temperatures above 32°C. This is why they don't like pasture with short grass where they are exposed and cannot hide from extremes of temperature. Paralysis ticks are three-host ticks. They have to feed three times before they can breed. Unfed larvae (after hatching) can survive for 5 months without feeding. The nymph stage (after first feed) can survive for at least 8 months without feeding. Adult ticks before feeding have the shortest potential for survival (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au). Although there are chemical controls available for our pets, they are not 100% effective but all animals can build up resistance to the paralysis tick toxin if exposed over time.

My two dogs - both Border Collie crosses - are immune to paralysis ticks. They regularly get paralysis ticks but these have little or no effect on them. I have used a pour-on chemical control in the past but now I do not have any chemical control measures in place for either dog. I believe Ella and Paddy have developed their immunity as a result of exposure to ticks and being fed the odd squashed tick. Early on, I also used a homeopathic remedy, 'Ixodes', which I was told would help build up tick immunity. Some or all of these measures have obviously worked.

The top photo shows the ticks I removed from Paddy this morning. Only one is a paralysis tick. When removed, paralysis ticks (sometimes referred to as shellbacks because of the brown

shield behind the head) leave a pit on the animal. Unless fully engorged, female paralysis ticks are always hard to remove. The other ticks in the first photo are some of the other species found in this district. None poses a danger to dogs unless they have a very heavy infestation. They come off with the scrape of a fingernail.

The other photos show the female paralysis tick I removed from Ella last week. It is whitish, rather than the dark bluish grey of the engorged harmless tick in the first photo. The legs are arranged in a triangle. A tick which has been on a dog long enough to grow to this size will kill even a large dog if there has been no previous tick exposure.

Jean Hegarty



Paddy's tick burden 19 Oct 2013 (paralysis tick top left)



Fully engorged female paralysis tick on its back (left) and right side up (right)

Editorial

Life is being devoted to *Bushed* not only in our household but in many others as well. The play explores tensions that can arise in today's rural environment. Some of these are generated by things that can happen to anyone in any environment; others could only happen in a rural setting. Some have arisen in our own Pappinbarra Valley; others just might. Like the characters in the play, we each have our own world view - a result of our own unique background and life experiences. So it is inevitable that differences in outlook, opinions and practices will distinguish each of us and potentially disrupt neighbourly relations.

Like the residents of *Bushed's* fictitious 'beautiful Tallowwood Valley', we have all chosen to live along the Pappinbarra and in its environs, enjoying the richness of life available in such a rural setting. That life comes, inevitably, with challenges like droughts, fires, floods, market vagaries, weeds and straying, sick or dying stock. We can face such challenges alone or we can tap into the resources and energy that abound in our community.

You might not feel you have the time to volunteer for the RFS;

come along to November's FF on the SF and support them. You many not be interested in conservation; give yourself a chance and have a look at the PLCG website. You may think that your neighbours have nothing to offer; come and meet them some FF. Acting in a play may be at the end of a long list of things you want to achieve or may not even be on the list; come to see others have a go, at the same time helping PPA maintain and improve Hollisdale Hall.

Involvement in the community implies a willingness to hear and be accepting of the outlook, opinions and practices of others, although our own outlook, opinions and practices may be very different. Tolerance and respect can go a long way to fostering a harmonious community life.

Whoever you are, wherever you're from, whatever you do, however you look, why ever you've come, welcome! [Theme song from *Bushed*, words by Kelly Gould]

Jean Hegarty

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Livestock

Calling all shepherds...

As owners of a little flock we are sometimes looking to introduce new blood or for purchasers for the lambs. If you are in the same situation and would like to form a small email/phone network of local sheep breeders for swapping buying or selling, contact Steve and Mary Wagg on stevewagg@skymesh.com.au



For sale: 2 young male alpacas, will come when called for food. Semi-trained as pets. \$220 ea incl. GST.
Ph: Anne 6585 6618

Anything else you would like to advertise?

Selling your car?

Help Wanted?

Use the *Pitchfork* Classifieds to buy, sell, find...there are a lot of great resources within our own valley!

PPA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – Usually the Friday before First Friday at 6pm. All welcome.

General Meetings – quarterly. Next general meeting will be in November. All welcome.

Facilities for Hire

Hollisdale Hall – contact Sue Frost 6587 6129

Upper Pappinbarra facilities and tennis court - contact Damian Privett 6587 6185

Pitchfork

Circulation

Pitchfork has hardcopy and email circulation of approximately 280. It comes out on the weekend **before** First Friday - **Friday, 26 November** for the **December Issue**. Material for the **December Issue** to the Editor by **Wednesday, 17 November**. We run both casual and regular **advertisements** at very competitive rates. Contact Chay Khamson.

Production Team

Editor: Jean Hegarty jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au 65 876 077

Production: Angela Frost angfrost@hotmail.com

Advertising: Chay Khamson chay.khamson@gmail.com 65 876 022

The views expressed in *Pitchfork* are not necessarily those of the PPA.

Pappinbarra Progress Association Committee

Executive:

President: Jean Hegarty 6587-6077

Vice President: Mary Walker 6587-6055

Treasurer: Sue Frost 6587-6129

Secretary: Elly Franchimont 6587-6097

Other Committee Members:

Sharada Boyce

Meg Allison

George Hegarty

Public Officer:

Jan Childs

PPA Membership 2013-2014 \$5 per adult

PLEASE PRINT

Member Names: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Payment amount: _____

Send cash or cheque made out to "Pappinbarra Progress Association" to: Sue Frost, 2751 Pappinbarra Rd, Pappinbarra NSW 2446

