

PITCHFORK

Monthly Newsletter of Pappinbarrna Progress Association

Valley happenings

Issue 180

December/January 2023



A Christmas visitor – Scarlet Honeyeater
- photo Silva Vaughan-Jones

ALL SAINTS PAPPINBARRA
Christmas carols
Sunday 17 December
5-6.30 pm

SECOND FRIDAY
8 December 5.30 on
Free snags for 12 & under
Steak sandwiches \$7
Vege burgers \$5
and Santa!

**PAPPINBARRA EMERGENCY
PLAN**
discussion meeting
Wednesday 17 January 2024
5.30 pm

**PAPPINBARRA WOMENS
GROUP**
Wednesday
13 December
9.00 am

President's Report - Lisa McLeod

Welcome to the last month of 2023.

How the weather and outlook can change in such a short space of time. Cooler weather, full water tanks and grass that is growing. We live in a great place!



Second Friday Xmas BBQ

- 8 December: As this is our last gathering of the year let's make this BBQ one to remember. We will be providing steak sandwiches for \$7.00 and sausage sandwiches free for 12yo and under. Veggie burgers \$5.00. Santa will pay us a visit around 7.30, so make sure you can come along. (Parents - don't forget to bring a wrapped present labelled with gift tag for Santa to distribute.)

Pappinbarra Valley Emergency Management Team Meeting - 17 Jan 5.30 pm. All welcome.

Free giveaways: We have at the hall many boxes of new clothes, books and other items. Please come along to the BBQ and take what you want for your family. This was donated to us and there are lots of kids' and adults' clothes.

Round up: This year has been busy and we hope you have enjoyed the events held at the hall. Most recently the school room received a facelift and it looks fantastic. Thanks to Harvey Smith for his sterling efforts in making this a wonderful area. Our community facility is looking great with all the improvements that have been completed this year. To list a few: the new extension and kitchen build, shipping container disaster storage items, interpretive signage (executed by PLCG). We have also received a grant to create a website. Work will begin on this shortly.

Shout out this month goes to the PPA committee for their efforts over the year. It really takes a team to do all that is required to keep our hall and activities thriving. To all the other volunteers that assist the PPA in many ways, I thank you as well.

Thanks to Jean for her tireless efforts in producing Pitchfork each month.

To the RFS members in Hollisdale and Pappinbarra brigades for their efforts early this season and their ongoing support and commitment to ensuring the safety of our community.

To all the members of the Pappinbarra Valley Emergency Management Team, thank you. Your efforts in pre-planning and preparation, as well as your willingness to step up for the community when a disaster impacts us are appreciated.

I am proud to be a part of this community and I wish you all joy, hope and love over Christmas and New Year.



Eastern Spinebill - a busy honeyeater all year round
- photo Daniel Herbert



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Pappinbarra RFB Report



The greening valley seems unreal given the short time-frame since the first rain event of Spring.

It's a good time to prepare your chainsaw, as the storms that we are likely to see over coming months could result in trees blocking the road at some stage.

Although Fire Permits can again be issued for pile burning, don't be complacent about maintenance of fire breaks, as old grass under the green top will enable rapid fire spread once we receive a couple of hot, dry spells over summer.

If you intend to apply for a Permit to carry out pile burning; the Permit Officer who is obliged to inspect the site beforehand will need to witness that you have running water at the location. This can be in the form of a portable fire-fighting unit such as a tank, fire-pump and hose on a trailer or 4WD.

Be aware that other road users can be unpredictable and dangerous, especially the visitors we can expect during the festive season.

Over the last few weeks I have experienced two drivers texting while driving. Then while driving home from my workplace Christmas party I was confronted with a driver reversing towards me on the Donut roundabout, as they had taken the Wauchope exit instead of the Kempsey exit.

On behalf of Pappinbarra Brigade, we hope everyone has a safe & relaxing summer.

*Andrew Jarrett
Pappinbarra Captain*

Hollisdale RFB Report



I would like to dedicate this article to a fellow firefighter, Captain Leo Fransen, from the Diamond Beach brigade (Forster), who tragically lost his life from a falling tree while protecting a community near Walgett, NSW.

The Hollisdale brigade had the privilege to work with Leo on the Gospers Mountain fire near Lithgow in 2019. A dedicated family man with a great personality, he was a very experienced firefighter with a big sense of humour; we had many a laugh.

Falling trees are the biggest killer in the RFS. There has been many a time when our crew have heard them come down close to where we were working - it's certainly a spine-chilling experience.

There are times when I wonder why we do it. Every time we put on the uniform we are risking our lives to protect the public. We don't get paid, very rarely get thanked, we get abused, spat at, told to piss off, some have even had guns pulled on them, but we keep on turning up.

Captain Leo Fransen, rest in peace, your shift is now over and we will take it from here.

*Cheers Chris Roelandts -
Hollisdale Captain*



Fire Permits now required*

Permit officers:

Upper Pappinbarra:
Andrew Jarrett 65 876 181;
Stephen Ostler 65 876 090;
Anthony Wall 65 876 127.

Hollisdale:
Chris Roelandts 65 856 700; 0429 310 933
Peter Michael 65 876 022; 0400 013 803
Beechwood: Steve Taylor 0429 458 653.

***From September 1, you must get a permit then you need to give all your neighbours and Fire Control 24 hours' notice!!**
You need the permit # to go online to do your burning plan www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify or ring on 1300 643 262.

Critters of the month: furry house guests - rodents and others - Angela Frost & Ken Aplin

(First published in Pitchfork March 2012 Issue 51.)

Most people around the world have some kind of small mammal sharing their home as an uninvited guest. Since moving into the Pappinbarra Valley early last year [2011], we have had encounters with four different kinds of small mammals running around inside our house. Three of these were rodents, the fourth, a marsupial.

Rodents are easy to recognise if you can examine them up close because they have two chisel-like teeth in each of the upper and lower jaw.



Yellow enamel on incisor front teeth of a mummified rat.

Two of the rodents we have seen are introduced species that came with early settlers from Europe. The House Mouse (*Mus musculus*) weighs about 15 grams as an adult and has a distinctive musky odour. It is usually a dull brown colour on the back and only slightly paler below.



Mice trapped during mouse plague – *Daily Telegraph*.



The marsupial - a Brown Antechinus (*Antechinus stuartii*) - has many small teeth at the front of a more pointed snout. These are insect eaters and, provided you can deal with the sight of them scurrying [very fast!] around inside the house during the evening, they are

likely to be beneficial in controlling household insects and spiders. Unlike the rodents, they don't gnaw and so probably don't do any damage to electrical wiring, clothing or furniture.



Above: Antechinus liberated from live trap;
Below: Drowned female with tiny babies in her pouch.



The Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*), sometimes also called the House Rat, is a larger, stockier animal, weighing up to 150 grams. Its name is a bit misleading because only some individuals are black; the majority have reddish brown fur on the back and sides, and cream or greyish fur on the belly. Baby rats are sometimes mistaken for mice but a quick look at the hind feet will distinguish them - in a mouse they are narrow and usually measure around 15 mm in length whereas the feet are longer (more than 20 mm) and heavier even in a very young rat. House Mice and Black Rats both make nests inside walls and under piles of rubbish, and can live in buildings or machinery, including cars. Black Rats are particularly destructive because of their size and they also carry more transmissible (to humans) diseases than mice.

The last of our small furry 'guests' is a native rodent, the Bush Rat (*Rattus fuscipes*). These are not generally reported as house pests but we have caught them inside our kitchen, where they were helping themselves to fruit from a bowl. Bush Rats and Black Rats are not easy to tell apart, but the following features are useful: tail is longer than the length of the head and body in the Black Rat, shorter than head and body in the Bush Rat; fur on back includes lots of pale, thickened hairs called 'spines' in a Black Rat but lacks these and so feels softer in a Bush Rat; fur on the belly is usually cream or pale grey to the roots in Black Rats but is dark grey at the roots in a Bush Rat.

Bush Rat.



Dairy farm at Pappinbarra

I sit here in my reverie of all that shaped my life
Trials, tribulations, heartaches, toil and strife
The memories come flooding back about my childhood days
And that farm miles up Pappinbarra where we were all raised.
We were raised among the ridges where crystal waters flow
From springs up in the mountains to the creek that ran below
The life blood of the farms and many people's dreams
For all had to rely upon clear water of the streams
As they meandered eastward joining others on the way
To the Hastings then the ocean where Port Macquarie lay.
The valley where my family spent their younger days
Surely shaped our lives in many different ways
For on that dairy farm, five and twenty miles from town
We learnt if there was a job to do, you worked till after sundown.
No television then with shows and ads to choke the mind
Our entertainment always was of very different kind
We listened to the radio if batteries were not flat
If they were, too bad, it was as simple as that
No electricity there, so put on your smiley face
For we just had candles, kero lamps and a great big fire place.
We walked the miles to school and back, or ran on many days
To get home to the jobs to do, to help in lots of ways
There were cows to milk, the pigs to feed, and poddy calves too
While younger ones had lots of other simple chores to do
Fetching kindling, getting chips, that's the way it goes
I learnt to swing an axe and still have my fingers and toes.
Unlock the chooks, feed and collect the eggs
Doing the ducks could really test your legs.
Often, way up from the creek they would take to flight
And quack their way back down there with hope to spend the night
You couldn't leave them there with lots and lots of eels
That liked to get duck legs and ducks do need their heels.

So down the hill we trudged to muster them again
And though I can't explain it, from flying they'd refrain.
Winter time was liked by one and (almost) all
With cows turned out, pigs, poddies sold, the workload took a fall
Us boys all took to rabbiting – a fascinating sport
And fished for eels and crayfish – we ate the ones we caught.
When springtime came the older folk would all be in a bustle
With all the jobs we had to do we always had to hustle
We'd find cows calving out the back and had to bring them in
After running round the hills you'd feel you had a win.
Sometimes you'd get the cow, but couldn't find her calf
She'd have it hidden very well – cunning - not by half
So you just had to get her home and lock her in the yard
Then next morning let her out and follow – sometimes a bit hard.
But if you kept your distance and kept the cow in sight
With udder bursting full of milk she'd head for the calf all right.
Dairy farming was so different from what it is today
But I wouldn't swap those early years for anything – no way!

– Fredrick Swanson



2023 view of the mountainous country in Upper Pappinbarra where Fred grew up.

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Remarkable Echidnas – Kate Dutton

from The Conversation 29 August 2023

Echidnas are pretty common in Pappinbarra Valley but many of us may not know much about them. This will tell you lots!

Many of us love seeing an echidna. Their shuffling walk, inquisitive gaze and protective spines are unmistakable, coupled with the coarse hair and stubby beak. They look like a quirky blend of hedgehog and anteater, but aren't related to these creatures at all. They're even more mysterious and unusual than commonly assumed. Australia has just one species, the short-beaked echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*), which roams virtually the entire continent. But it has five subspecies, which are often markedly different. Tasmanian echidnas are much hairier and Kangaroo Island echidnas join long mating trains. Here are three things that make echidnas remarkable.

1: They're ancient egg-laying mammals

Short-beaked echidnas are one of just five species of monotreme surviving in the world, alongside the platypus and three worm-eating long-beaked echidna species found on the island of New Guinea. Our familiar short-beaked echidnas can weigh up to six kilograms – but the Western long-beaked echidna can get much larger at up to 16kg. These ancient mammals lay eggs through their cloacas

(monotreme means one opening) and incubate them in a pouch-like skin fold, nurturing their tiny, jellybean-sized young after hatching. Scientists believe echidnas began as platypuses who left the water and evolved spines. That's because platypus fossils go back about 60 million years and echidnas only a quarter of that. Remarkably, the echidna still has rudimentary electroreception. It makes sense the platypus relies on its ability to sense electric fields when it's hunting at the bottom of dark rivers, given electric fields spread more easily through water. But on land? It's likely echidnas use this ability to sense ants and termites moving through moist soil. It was named for the Greek mythological figure Echidna, who was half-woman, half-snake, and the mother of Cerberus and Sphinx. This was to denote the animal's mix of half-reptilian, half-mammal traits. First Nations groups knew the echidna by many other names, such as bigibila (Gamilaraay) and yinarlingi (Warlpiri).



2: From deserts to snow, echidnas are remarkably adaptable

There are few other creatures able to tolerate climate ranges as broad. You can find echidnas on northern tropical savannah amid intense humidity, on coastal heaths and forests, in arid deserts and even on snowy mountains.

The five subspecies of short-beaked echidna have distinct geographic regions. The one most of us will be familiar with is *Tachyglossus aculeatus aculeatus*, widespread

across Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria. You can think of this as 'echidna classic'. Then there's Kangaroo Island's *T. aculeatus multiaculeatus*, Tasmania's *T. aculeatus setosus*, the Northern Territory and Western Australia's *T. aculeatus acanthion* and the tropical subspecies *T. aculeatus lawesii* found in Northern Queensland and Papua New

Guinea.

You might think subspecies wouldn't be too different – otherwise they'd be different species, right? In fact, subspecies can be markedly different, with variations to hairiness and the length and width of spines. Kangaroo Island echidnas have longer, thinner, and paler spines – and more of them, compared to the mainland species. Tasmanian echidnas are well adapted to the cold, boasting a lushness of extra hair. Sometimes you can't even see their spines amidst their hair.

3: Mating trains and hibernation games

Remarkably, the subspecies have very different approaches to mating. You might have seen videos of Kangaroo Island mating trains, a spectacle where up to 11 males fervently pursue a single female during the breeding season. Other subspecies do this, but it's most common on Kangaroo Island. Scientists believe this is due to population density.

Pregnancy usually lasts about three weeks after mating for Kangaroo Island echidnas, followed by a long lactation period of 30 weeks for the baby puggle. What about the echidna subspecies we're most familiar with? *T. aculeatus aculeatus* has a short lactation period (23 weeks), but rarely engages in mating train situations. After watching the pregnancies of 20 of these echidnas, my colleagues and I discovered this subspecies takes just 16–17 days to go from mating to egg laying.

Editor's musings

I used to do a bit of musing for *Pitchfork* about something contemporaneous that I thought might be of interest to those living in the valley and environs, but discontinued when there seemed to be so much other information that had to be conveyed to all. This extended Christmas *Pitchfork*, intended to cover January as well, has given me the chance for a last fling at 'Editor's Musings'.



After many years of doing a job I thoroughly enjoy, I have decided that I have done my dash with editing the newsletter. For the last few years I have done the layout as well - quite a time-consuming task. In fact, every month but January I have been devoting three days to the newsletter and several hours to getting material together. When you take on a job like this, with a deadline, it is near the forefront of your mind all the time.

I have appreciated those who have made the effort to contribute reports, photos and ideas for *Pitchfork*. Lisa, thanks for reliably submitting your President's message. Thanks to Chris Roelandts and Andrew Jarrett for their Rural Fire Brigade updates and to Rob Frost who fills in at times. Kelly Miller and Bev Sibthorpe have contributed informative text and photos about conservation efforts in the valley. Sue Frost is my go-to person for photographs and reports on activities that no-one else has covered. Steve Duffy keeps readers abreast of what is happening on the emergency management front and Chay Khamson's reasoned and well-researched article on the Voice Referendum was, in my opinion, an outstanding counter to the dis- and mis-information abounding in some sections of the media.

When managing the market, Kelly Guthrie gave me marvellous coverage each month and, for years, Mary Walker produced great 'Meet the neighbours' episodes, not to mention the odd poem! My thanks to all.

Peter Fackender wrote a 'Bird of the Month' article for *Pitchfork* every second month up until May this year. These were illustrated with beautiful bird photos he provided and often accompanied by an MP3 recording of that bird's calls to go out with the email *Pitchfork*. He also self-published a little book titled 'Birds of Pappinbarra' - a compilation of his articles in *Pitchfork* together with a CD of bird calls. Since June, emails to him have been undeliverable and, as I haven't heard from him at all, I am afraid he has met with some mishap. He was a devoted and capable birdwatcher and his articles are sorely missed. My best wishes for his health and welfare go out to him. I'm sure those who enjoyed his articles would be with me on this.

Thanks to Bronwyn Kalea, Robyn Flanagan, Dawn Flanagan, Heather Smith, Graeme McLauchlan, Peter Michael, Jenny Wall (Senior), Krissa Wilkinson, Dianne Norris, Kym Kilpatrick, Rebecca Montague-Drake, Marina Fowler and Fred Swanson for their contributions over the last few years.

Thanks to Sue and Emma Frost for printing and often delivering copies to Beechwood PO first thing on Monday morning.

Lastly, thanks to George, my long-suffering husband for the occasional cooking article, the occasional delivery of copies to our advertisers and constant help and support, always given cheerfully.

Best wishes to all
Jean Hegarty

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PS We have three kelpie x blue heeler cross pups left. 11 weeks old and ready to go! They are exceptional - come and inspect. 65 876 077

Pappinbarra Valley Emergency Management Plan (PVEMP) – Update



Hi everyone. I missed inclusion in Pitchfork last month so bit of a catchup here. It was really pleasing to have such a successful Fire Season 'Get Ready Day' early October. We had over 60 residents pass by over the morning and many stayed for the Sausage Sizzle at the end.

Speaking with several groups, I found they were very impressed with the simulation table demonstrations of how fire behaves and what happens as it develops and threatens our homes. It was also pleasing to know that our message about being prepared, having a fire plan, and taking actions early to be ready for any fire threat were acknowledged and understood by those attending. If you don't have a plan in place or have not taken preventative measures yet, the advice is to get ready very soon. Given the weather we've experienced prior to the last couple of weeks, those precautions may well be very important.

Lisa and I were invited to attend the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) meeting for PMHC local area at SES HQ in early October. We learnt a great deal more about efforts being made by state and local government and the various emergency service organisations to meet the natural disaster challenges of our region. We will use this knowledge to make sure our Plan fits neatly into those established arrangements. I was permitted to brief the group on our activities for Pappinbarra Valley. This was received very well by the meeting and we were encouraged to proceed. They offered assistance to complete our efforts.

Our Emergency Management Plan is now in draft form and has been reviewed by the other team members. After initial amendments, it has been sent to LEMC members for their review and comment. I will then take any LEMC recommendations and include them in the final draft where suitable. Hopefully we can have the Plan adopted and in place before Christmas.

Please keep the surveys coming in; the information will help us understand the various risks and needs within the community and assist in planning how to manage these in case of an emergency. Printed copies are available for those who prefer that method; or you can use the following link or send me a text to request a paper copy that we can deliver to you (Steve – 0432 262535).

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Pappinbarra-Community-Survey>

Our next meeting will be after New Year on Wednesday 17 January at 5:30pm at Hollisdale Hall and we will be glad for anyone else to attend. You can also ask questions, raise items for us to consider, or seek information about the plan. You can use the group email address PVEMTeam@gmail.com.

- Steve Duffy

Farewell Mavis Wills (1933-2023)



Mavis was the daughter of Ted and Julia Thursfield. She spent her early years in Punchbowl with her parents and two brothers and started work at Casben's clothing as a machinist. A keen cyclist, she tagged along with her elder brothers and met Jim when she was just 13 and he 15!

They celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on April 18 this year.

Jim and Mavis built their first home at Yagoona (Sydney). Mavis played tennis for many years and when her two children Deb and Greg, were old enough to learn how to swim, "She religiously got us up at 5 am and drove us to training in her little green Morris Minor. We didn't ever miss a session - much to our disgust!"

After moving to Pappinbarra around 1985-6, Mavis discovered a talent for folk art which progressed to Hardanger embroidery, at which she would spend hours, sometimes delighted, sometimes cursing when 'the counting of threads just wouldn't come right'. 'She absolutely loved her time with her Monday craft group.'

Mavis volunteered in St Matthew's op shop until July this year. After All Saints was restored (largely through Jim's efforts which she supported, she became a regular church-goer.

'She proved herself to be a tough old stick, looking out for her beloved husband Jim. She cared for him in his last illness, putting his welfare ahead of her own.

'They are together again.'

- JH with thanks to Debra and Greg.

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Carols in the Valley
Share the Joy of Christmas Carols

at

All Saints Pappinbarra Community Church

Sunday 17 December 2023, 5pm – 6.30pm



2363 Pappinbarra Road. [1 kilometre after the bitumen ends.]

Music sheets will be supplied.

Please bring your own snacks, drinks, chairs.

Don't forget your child-friendly candles.



'Survival of the cutest'



This headline caught my eye on January 23, 2021 in the ***Sydney Morning Herald Explainer*** post. It was by Sherryn Grooch; I have taken the liberty of condensing her excellent article here.

'No one who has lived with a pet could deny they have feelings: affection, irritation, fear, perhaps even shame and jealousy, perhaps love.

'Dogs and cats have been our companions for thousands of years and remain fiercely popular). Yet serious scientific questions about their inner lives have only been asked in recent decades. Why is it that a dog always seems to know when you're sad? How did this species evolve from the wild into our homes? How do you read their body language? And could they one day learn to talk to us?

How did dogs become dogs? 'Evolving from wolves sometime between 15,000 and 32,000 years ago, dogs are the wolves that came in to sit by the campfire, who learnt to work with our ancestors for food, helping them hunt and manage other animals, offering protection and now, increasingly in the modern world, companionship. They evolved at our side, they can read our facial expressions. Even their patented "puppy dog eyes" offer an evolutionary advantage – for dogs, life has become not so much the survival of the fittest but of the cutest.

'Melissa Starling, who both trains and researches dogs at the University of Sydney and has her own lively brood at home, says "We have no defence against puppy dog eyes."



'Still, dogs today remain 99 per cent wolf. The tiny changes in their DNA affect the digestive system and the brain as well as the rate of their physical development (which helps explain the big differences between breeds). Essentially, dogs are well-mannered wolves who can eat grains.

'Any wild animal might become "tamer" if handled by humans from a young age. But dogs still need to be around humans early to grow up "normal" (that is, well-behaved), it's not just nurture at play. Thousands of years by our side has created some serious chemistry too.



Dogs have been recorded getting a boost in oxytocin - the hormone released when we're in love or bonding - while being patted by their owners. [The owners get it too.] The reward centre in a dog's brain lights up more powerfully in the presence of its owner's scent compared to when it's sniffing other humans or dogs.

'Jeffrey Masson, a former psychoanalyst from California Masson himself believes dogs are now better at loving than people are. "No one will ever love you like your dog," he says. "They love purely." [They are always pleased to see you!]



Thanks to Lee Godbolt for photos at bottom L of pages.

How dogs perceive the world? Humans tend to see the world first – dogs smell it. For dogs, smell is the primary sense - and the world is one aromatic buffet of informative scents. The nose of a dog is at least 10,000 times more powerful than your own. It can sniff out storms before a whisper of rain



is on the air, find cancer cells in our blood, or catch a familiar scent up to 20 kilometres away. We have bred dogs to help us hunt and now we train them for more modern jobs such as sniffing out bombs, drugs, even COVID.



Squads of coronavirus-sniffing canines, for example, have been trialled in airports around the world.



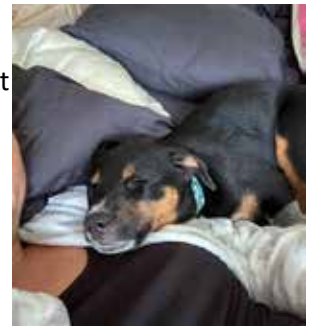
The vision of dogs is also less precise than humans because it's designed to help them hunt, catching movement more than detail. So, while they have a wider field

of vision (240 degrees for dogs compared to 180 for humans), they struggle to focus close up. They also don't see in the rich spectrum of colour that we enjoy, but neither are they completely colour blind; their world is painted in mostly blues and yellows. And they can see much better than we can at night thanks to a reflective layer behind the eye that helps catch even the faintest glimmer of light (and gives them that distinctive green eyeshine).

Dogs like to stay near their humans, [and be part of the pack]. For many children, Masson says, the death of a beloved pet will be their first experience of grief. "The good thing is people don't really say 'It's just a dog' anymore. Pets help teach children empathy, too." And they can do more than that. At the end of his mother's life, Masson would take his dog Benjy into her nursing home and watch him lift the shadow of dementia from her eyes.



As a reporter, I've seen it too, the therapeutic power of an animal, not just in aged care but in schools among children with a history of trauma. They'd tell me the moment they reached out their hands to touch the therapy dog, they instantly calmed down, as if the dog was a kind of talisman.



But what if our pets could just tell us what they wanted? 'Primates might be closer to humans in DNA (and brainpower) but researchers say dogs are much better at understanding us, and that means they might also be better at communicating. In 2018, speech pathologist Christina Hunger began teaching her young blue heeler, Stella, to 'talk' using the same interactive soundboard she deploys to help young children master language (tapping a button on the board will play a recorded phrase). In one video, Stella taps the 'outside' and 'look' buttons in response to a sudden noise outside.



[Researchers] 'stress that the more we understand the richness of animal thinking, the more we may need to rethink how we treat them.

'What do our pets know of death, for instance? Dogs seem to want us with them

when they are dying. "Vets will tell you they panic if their owners leave the room when they're being put down, like they know," Masson says. It struck me then. We may not always know what our animals really mean to us: are they roommates, workers, critics or family?

'They are not people, of course. But they seem to reach us somewhere other humans can't. And they leave us far too quickly.

'Whether they get as much out of this deal of companionship as we do, no one can say. But, millennia on, they are still at our side.'



Extracts from article by Sherryn Grooch - Ed.



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- [Lifeline](#) 13 11 14
- [Kids Helpline](#) 1800 551 800
- [MensLine Australia](#) 1300 789 978
- [Suicide Call Back Service](#)
1300 659 467
- [Beyond Blue](#) 1300 224 636
- [Headspace](#) 1800 650 890
- [ReachOut](#) au.reachout.com
- [Care Leavers Australasia Network \(CLAN\)](#) 1800 008 774



*Have you found
injured wildlife?*

Keep it in a warm, dark and quiet location and call FAWNA. Do not feed or water.

FAWNA
FOR AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE NEEDING AID

Alternatively, take to a local vet who will contact FAWNA.

Not at home? Download the IFAW wildlife rescue app or visit wildliferescue.ffaw.org to locate the closest wildlife group.

Call the FAWNA 24 hour Hotline 6581 4141

PPA contacts

President Lisa 0418 220 138
ppa.president.2021@gmail.com
Secretary Graeme McLauchlan
Treasurer Elly 0424 220 937
ellyfranchimont7@gmail.com
Hall bookings Harvey 0414 375 333
Chris Roelandts
Kelly Miller
Russell Evans
Caroline Hemming

Membership of PPA for July 2023-June 2024 is now due. Please support your community and the work of PPA (including this newsletter).

PPA Membership 2023/2024
\$10 per adult

PLEASE PRINT

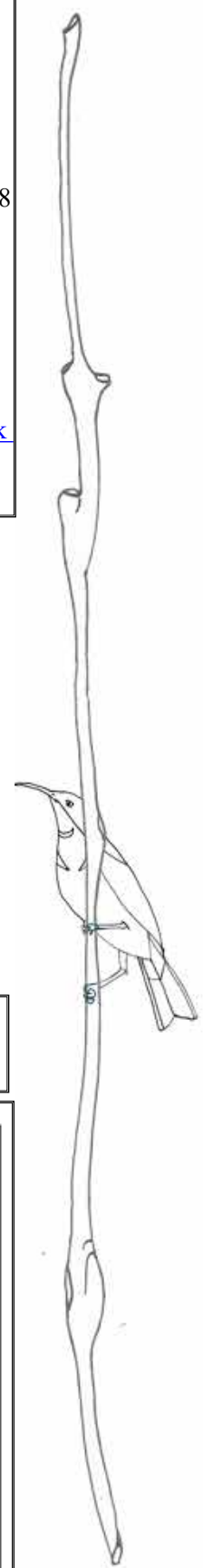
Member's name/s: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Payment amount: \$ _____

Bring cash and details to First Friday or direct deposit to Regional Australia Bank
BSB 932000 A/C # 500166657 (Name with payment for ID please)



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