



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News Pappinbarra Progress Association

August 2014

Valley Happenings

Pappinbarra Progress Association AGM will be at Hollisdale Hall on Saturday 16 August at 2pm. All members are welcome to attend. Nominations for executive or committee positions should be given to the Secretary, Elly Franchimont, at First Friday or lodged before Saturday 9 August in 175 Mountain Valley Rd (mailbox on Pappinbarra Rd next to 1301). The nomination form is on page 8.

PPA welcomes new members. Membership for 2014-15 is now due unless you joined after 1 May. Pay at First Friday or complete the form on page 8.

August First Friday is on at Hollisdale Hall from 6 pm on Friday 1 August. The cold weather is no excuse - there will be drum fires to keep you warm. Chris Roelandts and Suzanne Pollett will cook steak, bacon, sausages, vege burgers, chicken rissoles, onions, chicken satay and prawn satay sticks, all priced to sell! Water, soft drinks and poppers available; bring any other liquid refreshment you desire. All welcome to unwind and socialise.

July First Friday Members' Draw was won by Patrick McEntee. Kerry Rowley won the raffle and chose the ecoWild voucher, a kind donation from Michèle Malseed. Thanks to rostered cook Paul Pollett and his able assistants Heather and Harvey Smith. Thanks as well to all who helped with firelighting, setting up and cleaning up.

Hollisdale RFS training has been re-scheduled to the first Wednesday and the third Saturday of each month. Meet at the fire shed in full uniform on Wednesday 6 August at 4pm (meeting to follow at 6.30) and at 8am on Saturday 16 August. At the AGM Mark Durham was elected President, Peter Michael Vice-president, Chris Roelandts Secretary and George Hegarty Treasurer.

Pitchfork Choir invites you to sing at Hollisdale Hall 10am to 12 mid-day on Saturday 9 August. All welcome.

Pappinbarra Valley Photographic Competition entries close tomorrow **July 26**. Bring your photos along to the Hall between 8am and noon. Entries will be on display at First Friday (August 1) and the following day 9 am to 2 pm at the hall.



All Saints' Pappinbarra invites all to join in the 2pm service on Sunday 24 August and/or bring a plate to share off the back of the ute for afternoon tea round 2.45pm.



The Middle Eastern Cooking Class and following feast were enjoyed by all. See report p 7. Many thanks to Julie Farrell and the fabulous belly dancers!

Upper Pappinbarra Recreation Ground and Tennis Court

S355 Committee Annual Review Meeting

The committee will hold its Annual Review Meeting on **Saturday 23rd of August** starting at 3pm at the recreation ground. Anyone interested in helping to run the facility for Council is very welcome. Without this committee the tennis court would have to close. Tennis is enjoyed by many in the valley, so let's keep things running for the coming year.

Sue Frost
Treasurer S355 Committee
6587 6129

Farewell Eric John Waldron 9th December 1944 - 27th June 2014



Born in Port Macquarie hospital on 9th December 1944, Eric was the youngest of eight children. His young life revolved around his family, growing up on Rawdon Island and later at Brombin, terrorising the neighbourhood along with his brothers and sisters.

His early schooling took place at Rawdon Island and Brombin, where he was notorious for heading off to school each morning

but not always arriving. It got so bad that his brothers, Kevin and Daryl, were put in charge of making sure he attended. They would even have to pass him to one another through the fences because if he climbed through first he would be off like a rocket. Although it was a tough job, the boys got him to school on most occasions after that.

Ever the larrikin, Eric features in many stories - like the time he wanted to ride a poddy calf. He kept falling off so his brothers tied his feet together to help him stay on. The calf took off and after a couple of steps Eric spun around under the calf, all the time being kicked as his head bumped along the ground. His brothers had to chase the pair to cut him loose before his mother heard the yells for help!!

With the Intermediate Certificate, he completed his schooling at Wauchope High. While there he developed a love for sport, particularly boxing and rugby league. Aged 15, Eric received his Surf Life Saving Resuscitation Certificate at the Wauchope Bonny Hills Surf Club. As a reward for countless hours spent on the beach, he had the honour of being named the Branch Patrol Person of the Year and was nominated for the Branch Life Saver of the Year.

After leaving school, Eric started work for Cec Bowden, successfully completing a Fitter and Turner trade qualification in 1965. He continued to work with the Bowden family and on 3rd February 1968, he and his soulmate Esma were married. Esma was the love of Eric's life and their partnership was enriched in 1975 with the birth of twin girls, Shannon and Linda.

In 1971, Eric and Esma purchased the Smash Repair workshop in Beechwood Road, Wauchope, where Eric's versatility and friendliness, and Esma's astute accountancy ensured the success of the venture. In 1983, they sold the business and started Murrumbidgee Wines in the shed behind the Beechwood Hotel.

Eric and Esma built and opened the new Post Office in Beechwood in 1994, and the first ever mail delivery run in the

area was begun. This building also housed the Wine Bar and Cellar Door sales for Murrumbidgee Wines. Esma is still our Post Mistress and Eric will be sorely missed.

Eric's sporting adventures were wide and varied; he enjoyed success in Rugby League, Boxing and Surf Lifesaving. He became a Life Member of the Shamrocks (Beechwood Footy Club), the Hastings District Rugby League and the Wauchope Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club.

The Shamrocks were successful on the field, winning four premierships and making four more grand Finals. Eric coached Beechwood in 1968; he played more than 150 games for the greens over a twenty year period and had his last run at the age of 40 in 1984. He was President from 1972 to 1984.

But it was in boxing that he really excelled. At 16, he fell in love with the fight game, going on to win many trophies and titles, including NSW Lightweight age champion at 17. He toured New Zealand with a team in 1961, fighting some of the toughest boxers in the Shaky Isles and also fought in the 1964 Olympic qualifying bouts in Sydney in the Light Welterweight division. A member of the very strong Wauchope Boxing Club through the sixties, he continued to train the younger boxers when he retired.

In 1990, Eric was awarded an Australia Day Achievement Award for service to the community and was also nominated for Citizen of the Year in the Wauchope area. He was a true giver to the community.

Eric Waldron was the 'Mayor of Beechwood' - someone everybody liked and respected. Everyone wanted to spend time with him and he gave so much so willingly. It is testament to his



worth and popularity that well over 500 people farewelled him at St Matthew's, Wauchope on July 2. Our valley has lost a true and valued friend.

God speed Eric. They are bound to need a president, a coach, a player or just someone to have a good time with in heaven. You won't have any trouble making friends.

Mary Walker, with thanks to Peter White for extracts from his eulogy.

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RFS update

Pappinbarra RFS

No scheduled training. The plans for a controlled burn have been postponed because of the unstable weather conditions.

Steve Ostler

Hollisdale RFS

It has been fairly quiet on the fire front with only one call out this month. The weather has been exceptionally dry, so we can only hope whoever is upstairs can help us out and start sending the rain down big time before the dried out manure starts hitting the fan. Hollisdale Captain is Jim Adams, Senior Deputy Captain Chris Roelandts.

Chris Roelandts

No Permit Required at time of printing but check with your fire permit officer before lighting up.

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

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: Peter Michael 65876022, Jim Adams 65874414, Chris Roelandts 65856700; Beechwood: Sam Elphick 0428-856-222.

A hot winter tip

Cutting up wood for winter fires has never been easier! The cradle is made of steelies, rammed into the ground. I use twelve - six on each side. Width should be about two thirds the length of your chainsaw; spacing depends on the length of firewood required. A solid roundback makes a good bottom plank for the pile and can be left in position. Any logs you can manhandle into the cradle can



be dealt with. Stack kindling and small branches on the bottom, then bigger stuff with heavy logs on top to safely weigh the whole lot down. The pile should be no higher than shoulder height. Clear any debris to provide a firm footing in front of the cradle before cutting. As you cut bend your knees and keep the saw level. Trim off sticks poking out the ends to get the desired length and cut midway between the steelies to avoid damaging the chain; make sure bolts/nails etc are removed from old fenceposts. Keep a firm hold of the saw because if the chain pinches, as happens occasionally, the saw will be pulled in, or pushed out, depending on the pinch. Happy cutting!

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Times Past

I arrived at Edith and Alan Trotter's farm on Bellangry Rd on a cold, wet winter's afternoon. Welcomed into their cosy living room warmed by a blazing wood burning stove, I was treated to freshly made scones and homemade jam. Edith and her sister

Bertha took me on a trip down memory lane with a box of photos from their childhood and youth, while their husbands chatted by the fire. The sisters were born into the family of Frank and Thelma Wilkerson. Thelma came from Orange NSW but was living at Pappinbarra at the time of her marriage to Frank. Frank was born in 1900 and celebrated his 21st birthday on a ship bringing him from England. He first stayed with

his aunt in Melbourne before making his way to the remote Cedar Scrub, where his brother Bill had already taken up a Soldier Settlement block. Frank built a hut on an adjacent property. The hut burnt down, so he built another one. Thus began his struggle to establish a dairy farm in uncleared bushland. Frank and Thelma probably lived in that hut for a while when they first married, before building the 'second' house, which is still on the property. The property, flanked by those of Ernest Ostler and Arthur Howe, was to become the site of the Pappinbarra Field Studies Centre in the 1970s.

Frank and Thelma were married in Beechwood in 1937. They had six children. Vern, their first born, was a sickly child who died when he was nine years old. Charles was their next child, followed by Roslyn, Edith, Bertha and John.

Like most of the children raised at Cedar Scrub, Edith and Bertha remember a childhood of hard work. Both parents worked endlessly to build up and maintain their dairy farm and the children were expected to pull their weight. They can't recall their parents attending local dances and they rarely left the farm.

Home was a slab hut with a wooden floor and a wood fire which provided heating and on which Thelma cooked for the family. The children slept on mattresses made from sheep's wool, under bed coverings of corn bags sewn together. No-one had new clothes. The children wore clothes handed down from a family whose children were older than the Wilkersons, and Thelma altered them to fit on her treadle sewing machine. Edith was not to have a new pair of new shoes until she was fourteen. Life was hard, and without any luxuries, but food was always plentiful. The family was self sufficient except for staples like flour, sugar and tea. They had a vegetable garden and kept chickens, geese and ducks. Their mother made bread which was



Lyne family hand milking

a favourite with the children. Without electricity or refrigeration, fresh meat was an infrequent treat. A beast was shared between neighbours, and after a couple of days of fresh meat, there was corned and pickled meat, brine-cured and smoked bacon. There were times when the menu was limited but there was always plenty to eat.

Both women remember their mother's roast goose and vegetables every Christmas, accompanied by a big Christmas pudding. The laundry copper would be fired up the night before it was to be cooked, and the pudding bubbled away there for six hours.

They kept pigs, grew corn and sold the cream from their cows. They fed

the milk and corn not used by the family to the pigs.

Frank and the children ploughed the creek flats using Belle, the workhorse, and planted feed for the animals. Up towards Arthur Howe's next door, there was another big paddock cleared by Frank and planted to corn and saccaline.

Edith and Bertha were delivered at home by Mrs Howe. Edith said: "I can't tell you for sure how many cows we had at the time, but I can tell you the morning she (Bertha) was born, I milked 28 cows by hand and I was five years and five days old. Don't ask me where my sister or brother was."

The family had around 40 or 50 cows, and the milking was all done by hand until mechanisation came in around the early 1950s. Edith remembers turning the big wheel to start the diesel engine.

Edith recalled her father used to stay with Herbert Rollan's son Archie and his family when he did the census on horseback. Herbert is credited with being the first soldier settler at Cedar Scrub, sadly killed by a falling tree limb after two years there. Frank would go from Pappinbarra, down to Flanagan's and take his packhorse over the mountain to Birdwood and Yarras, staying with the Rollan family overnight, on the top of a big hill.

Electricity was finally connected to the Wilkersons' home around 1965, by which time both girls had left home. It isn't surprising their mother was astounded at the difference having some modern conveniences made to her life. I left the Trotter home humbled by their story, so different from the simple, carefree childhood of my experience. Despite the apparent harshness of their early years, Edith and Bertha spoke with humour and fondness of an upbringing that produced two strong and capable women typical of so many of that era.

Mary Wagg

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Bird of the Month

Size: 26 to 28 cm.

Status: Secure in WA, NT, QLD, NSW and VIC. Rare in SA. Not present in TAS.

The Olive-backed Oriole announces its presence in the forest with a distinctive, rolling "ori-ori-oriole" call heard in Pappinbarra in spring and summer when some birds from Northern Australia

migrate south through the eastern states. Distinctive and far carrying, the call has a rolling, mellow quality. During the mid-day, birds often give a soft, scratchy warbling song which can include mimicry of other birds.

This bird's plumage is rather dull, being olive-green on the head and back with grey wings and tail. The underparts are creamy-white with bold dark streaks. The female's underbody

colour extends further up the neck to the chin. Both sexes have red eyes and a paler red bill. Juveniles are grey and brown above with a dark eye and bill.

Olive-backed orioles inhabit eucalypt forest, woodland, rainforest and some urban tree-studded areas where they eat native fruits and berries along with insects taken from the tree



Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

canopy. Sedentary in Northern Australia, they occur as summer breeding migrants from SE Queensland down the east coast and into SA.

Breeding occurs from September to January. The female builds a cup-shaped nest of bark strips, grass, wool and leaves, all bound with spider web and suspended by its rim in the outer foliage of a tall tree up to about 20m although the breeding pair I photographed was at only 5m. Two to four eggs are incubated by the female for 18 days, then both sexes feed the young for a further 17 days before they fledge. In good seasons, breeding can occur again.

Peter Fackender



For further information or questions relating to this or other species, contact can be made through this email address peter_fac@yahoo.com.au

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Weed of the month

Blue Heliotrope *Heliotropium amplexicaule* BORAGINACEAE

This weed is not yet in Pappinbarra, but is definitely one to be vigilant for. Blue Heliotrope is established in many regions of NSW and eastern and southern Australia and - in spite of being managed as a weed for many decades - is still extending its range and impact. A member of the Boraginaceae Family, which includes other some other well-known plants such as Patterson's curse and Italian bugloss (*Echium* spp), comfrey (*Symphytum* spp) and forget-me-nots (*Myosotis* spp), Heliotrope is a low-growing and sprawling perennial herb with a



Spreading habit (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

strong tap-root and long weakly-ascending, upward-curving stems. The flowers are blue and tightly arranged in rows close to the stem and tend to unfurl with plant maturity, not unlike the frond of a tree fern.

resprouts at the next chance. Its abundant small seeds are spread in fodder, contaminated soil in and on vehicles and machinery and floodwater. The plant is quite toxic due to its high levels of pyrrolizidine alkaloids, though stock do tend to shy away from it.

I urge all landholders to be vigilant for blue heliotrope, particularly if buying fodder from other areas or if slashing is being done by a contractor who covers a broad geographical range. An excellent resource for further identification can be found on the DPI website at: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/profiles/blue-heliotrope>



Flowers (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Pete Michael

An aggressive coloniser of disturbed and over-grazed land and not restricted to road-sides and waste areas, it is tolerant of a wide range of soil types and climatic conditions, from drought to flood, humidity and cold. Plants tend to be knocked back by frost but this is of little benefit to the landholder as it simply

For further information, contact the NSW Department of Primary Industries, Local Land Services, Landcare or Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's Noxious Weeds Officer on 6581 8111.

In the vege patch

This month is all about mulch, what type should I be using and what's best for me? Our main mulches are sugar cane, pine bark and tea tree.

Sugar cane is a golden colour and is the quickest to break down and add nitrogen back into the soil. A nice soft mulch that's easy to work with, it's suitable for vegetables, flowers and strawberries. Pine bark mulch is a long-term mulch - very slow to break down but good for using around established trees. It is relatively cost effective. Tea tree is native mulch, dark brown in colour and easy to work with. It keeps the moisture in the ground through dry times. On breaking down it adds nutrients to the soil and is perfect for native gardens.



Brendan

Kids Corner

Laika

Laika was the first living creature to enter the earth's orbit in 1947 on the Russian rocket, Sputnik 2. This was the first test to see if animals could survive in space. Laika was one of three stray dogs chosen for this mission because of her ability to tolerate extreme hunger and the cold conditions of life on Moscow's streets. Laika, meaning 'Barker' in Russian, was a crossbreed of husky and terrier. Unfortunately Laika either died of starvation or upon re-entry into the earth's atmosphere, sparking the first debates about animal cruelty.

Nina McGahey (7 years old)

I chose this photo of Laika because she looks more loving in this one.



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Middle Eastern Night



Middle Eastern music, exotic decorations on walls and tables, belly dancers and fabulous food all added up to a great occasion. Tin HtaNu and her cooking class made the food during the day and a team of helpers prepared the hall and tables, plated up and served, and cleaned up afterwards. Thanks to Mary Walker for overall co-ordination of the event, Elly for organisation and liaison with Tin, the belly dancers, the capable team of cooks, Jan for photography and PPA committee members who helped before and during the night.

JH



The cooking class hard at work creating all the tasty dishes



Our lovely Hall was beautifully decorated for the dinner

Editor's Musings

Last week, listening to the car radio on the way to Newcastle, I tuned in to some regional researcher who had been investigating wellbeing. She reported that those in rural areas who were involved in the doings of their community scored highest in the mental health stakes. They probably don't score so well when it comes to a tidy house or an immaculate garden though!

In the bygone days of almost universal churchgoing, life's meaning and purpose were encapsulated in 'doing unto others as you would have them do unto you' and although the going would be tough, you had the assurance that eternal life in heaven would be the reward.

Many of us don't want to wait that long for rewards; indeed some see money as the ultimate reward and duly pursue it relentlessly. Research on wealth and happiness, however, indicates that there is no positive correlation between the two. In fact, the really rich spend a lot of their time worrying about how to keep their money or how to make even more.

One of the most generous people I know has very little in the way of material goods - an outdoor kitchen, a tiny dwelling, clothes from the op shops - but when approached by two women fleeing violence in High Street, gave them money for a motel room for the night. She is universally regarded as a good person, always

ready to help others...

Hugh Mackay, Australian psychologist, social researcher and author, writes: *a moment's reflection on the idea of 'goodness' reminds us that the good life is a life lived for others; a life in which we focus more on 'who are we?' than on 'who am I?'* Some live for their family, some for their job, some for their friends, some for the wider community. All these can be a source of deep satisfaction and contentment. Why wait till afterlife to experience feelings of worth and purpose? In contemporary jargon: *what goes around comes around*. Thanks to all in our community who live the good life; you are appreciated and although we may not know you, you know who you are!

JH



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NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE 2014 - 2015

We wish to nominate:
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- PRESIDENT**
- VICE PRESIDENT**
- SECRETARY**
- TREASURER**
- GENERAL COMMITTEE**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MORE THAN ONE POSITION PLEASE NUMBER YOUR PREFERENCE IN THE BOX AGAINST THE POSITIONS

Nominated by:
(PPA Member's Name) (PPA Member's Signature)

Seconded by:
(PPA Member's Name) (PPA Member's Signature)

I, accept the nomination/s:
(Candidate's Name) (Candidate's Signature):

**THIS FORM MUST BE LODGED WITH PPA SECRETARY, ELLY FRANCHIMONT
175 MOUNTAIN VALLEY RD, HOLLISDALE BY 2PM SATURDAY 9 AUGUST 2014**

PPA Matters

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

General Meetings – quarterly. Next general meeting will follow the AGM in August. 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 circulation of 300 plus email of about 100. It comes out on the weekend before First Friday - Friday 29 August for the September issue. Material for the September issue to the Editor by Thursday 21 August. We run both casual and regular advertisements at very competitive rates. Contact Sharada Boyce.

Production Team

Editor: Jean Hegarty jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au 6587 6077

Production: Angela Frost angfrost@hotmail.com

Advertising: Sharada Boyce sharadaboyce@yahoo.com.au 6587 6079

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:

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PPA Membership 2014-2015

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