



# PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News  
Pappinbarra Progress Association

March 2024

## Valley Happenings



**First Friday BBQ:** Friday  
1st March, 6 pm at the  
Hall.

**MNC Sewing Workshops:** Saturday 9, 16  
and 23 March, 10 am - Free - bookings  
essential. Contact Caroline at  
caroline.13@bigpond.com

**Hall Working Bee:** Saturday 2nd March,  
8 am to 12 pm. Many hands make light  
work, morning tea provided.



**Fire training Pappinbarra and  
Hollisdale:** Sat 9th March, 8am

**Pappinbarra Valley Emergency  
Management Committee:** Wed 28th  
March at the Hall

**Women's Group:** Wednesday 13th  
March, 9 am at the Hall

**Family Picnic Day/St Patricks Day:** Sat 17th March, 10 am at the Hall, Free for PPA members, See flyer  
insert for details



**All Saints Church Service** Sunday 24th March at the Pappinbarra Church, 2 pm

**Rock and Roll Dancing:** April 28, 2 to 4 pm, more in next Pitchfork



## President's Report

Welcome to March and how well are the ducks liking the weather. I for one am over it!

**Thankyou Jean Hegarty.** There cannot be enough thanks from myself and the community to Jean for her tireless efforts for nearly a quarter of a century. That's a long time to champion all things Pappinbarra. Your legacy will be long lasting and be felt for many a year to come. I take my hat off to you.

**Events this month:** Community BBQ 1st March. Working Bee March 2, 8am start. Community College Sewing days March 9, 16 & 23 - Turn up on the day 10am start. Bring your sewing kit or use what's provided. Fun and laughs for sure.

**Family Day March 17 Saint Patricks Day** - Free Pork, Beef and Lamb on a spit with Spuds and Salads. Water slide for the kids, Live Irish Music. 11-4. Pay your membership on the day for the 2023- 2024 year and lunch is on us. See Flyer. Best Dressed Prize and a raffle will be held. RSVP required.

**Shout out this month** is to the PPA Committee who are always looking for ways to bring the community together. We are looking forward to bringing you a free Rock & Roll afternoon on April 28 and a Bush Dance has been booked for July 27. Trivia Night date TBA.

Lisa McLeod

# Hollisdale & Pappinbarra Rural Fire Brigades

Hi all, it certainly was a very busy start to the fire season, with El Nino confirmed the predictions were unfavourable so being well prepared was on the agenda, luckily the weather gods were on our side and with the end of the season nearly upon us and the massive amount of undergrowth that has occurred over the years, it's time to start preparing for the next fire season.

The inquiry into 2019/20 bush fires had recommended that changes needed to be made so emergency services had a better chance of controlling out of control fires and make our community safer, one of these recommendations was that

overgrown and washed out fire trails and tracks needed to be cleaned up and maintained. The government has paid out hundreds of millions of dollars all over the state to get this project underway, and it's great to see our area has not missed out, with the help of a local contractor many tracks in Pappinbarra, Mt Boss, Yarras, Bellangry, etc, are being cleaned up which will give emergency services a great opportunity to box the fires in using these tracks as containment lines. Over the next few months you may see fire trucks up and down the valley checking out these tracks so we can use them too our advantage when required, so don't be alarmed.

**Cheers, Chris**

The following are some details from Pappinbarra resident and RFS member Pete Michael about his fire fighting set up at home:



The tank is our main rainwater collection tank: 130,000L. It has a 65mm Storz fitting and gate valve at the base and the domestic take-off (blue ball-valve) is set 10,000L above it, allowing for firefighter water to be kept. The pump is a 4-way Davey with a 5.5HP Briggs and



Stratton engine. It has 2 x 1.5" camlock outlets and 2 x 1" Storz. To the side is a toolbox of kit with 4 x 30m 1" percolating lay-flats, 2 x nozzles, a 25/38 Storz adapter and 1.5" M/M camlock adapter. We can 'wrap around' the property from both sides if needed using 2 x 60m configurations. We also have a portable Orange firefighter pump and this can be hooked up to our other tanks as well as 1.5" riser with Storz fitting at the bottom of the orchard. We use this if doing pile burns or burning off the bottom paddock.

**Pete Michael, Hollisdale Brigade**

## IN CASE OF FIRE CALL 000

**Fire permits now required and you must notify your neighbours 24 hours in advance**

**You need the permit # to go online to do your burn plan [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify)**

### Permit officers:

**Upper Pappinbarra:** Andy Jarrett 6587 6181, Steve Ostler 6587 6090, Anthony Wall 6587 6127

**Hollisdale:** Chris Roelandts 6585 6700 or 0429 310 933, Peter Michael 6587 6022 or 0400 013 803

**Beechwood:** Steve Taylor 0429 458 653

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# Thank you Jean Hegarty!

Late last year Jean Hegarty stepped down from her most recent PPA committee membership, and as the editor of Pitchfork. Acknowledging these milestones, this article celebrates her remarkable contribution to the Pappinbarra community over the last 23 years.

When Jean and George Hegarty moved to Pappinbarra in 1999, one of the guests at a welcome gathering in their honour invited them to attend a PPA meeting. Shortly after, Jean joined the committee and the rest, as they say, is history. With vision, commitment, tenacity and many, many hours of dedicated work she has given generously of her time, skills and energy to the Valley's activities ever since.

One of Jean's early roles was as a community representative on the Hastings Catchment Management Committee. She also played a very active role in the development of the Pappinbarra Community Plan for the Port Macquarie Hastings Council's Community-Council Action Team (CCAT) initiative.

Her standout contributions though have been in grant writing and editorship of Pitchfork. Since 2012, with help from Sue Frost and Lisa McLeod on financials, Jean has successfully applied for 25 grants for the PPA to a total value of around \$400,000! This includes the \$256,000 grant for the new kitchen which she applied for 6 times over about 10 years until successful. Over the years the funds have made an immeasurable contribution to the amenity of our beautiful Hall (remember when it had no heating, no covered outdoor area, no storage shed, no fence, no shade sail, and badly needed painting and a new kitchen?). Funding has also been awarded for a number of the activities hosted at the Hall, and for the Wildlife of the Pappinbarra Valley display boards recently installed there, the latter a project dear to Jean's heart. On top of all this she has also won two grants for the local RFS totalling \$26,000.

Then there's Pitchfork. In a truly remarkable effort Jean edited Pitchfork for almost a decade, starting when I stepped down as editor in October 2013 and with just two breaks along the way

she produced around 100 issues. I know from experience what a huge job this is and the value of that effort to the community is impossible to overstate. This little newsletter is the communication lifeblood of the Valley and has been filled with wonderful stories about the Valley's history, current residents, events, obituaries and wildlife; regular vital information from the RFS and other disaster preparedness and recovery matters; and is the go-to place for Valley happenings. As well as editing, Jean has written a lot of the newsletter content, including the popular Times Past stories (acknowledging Mary Wagg for her input to these).



Jean was President of the PPA for 3 years; along with George, has attended almost every PPA working bee at the Hall since their arrival; has lobbied Council on various matters; and been a longstanding member of Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group. She's also been a strong supporter of the Valley's little church and played an active role in the struggle to ensure that it remained in community hands. In keeping with her love of history, she compiled a book about the church for its 80th anniversary, and again for its 90th (copies of the latter are still available).

It's easy to see that 'community' has been - and will surely remain - a huge part of Jean's love for Pappinbarra Valley. Thank you Jean, our community has benefitted enormously from your wonderful energy, dedication and skill.

**Bev Sibthorpe**



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## 3-Day Sickness in Cattle (BEF Bovine Ephemeral Fever)

Late November we had three 14-month-old heifers reluctant to get up. When they did get up, they would soon go back to lying on the ground. I am sure you would agree a symptom of 3-Day Sickness but too early for the mid-north coast as it is more common around February and March. A disease believed to be carried by mosquitoes and sandflies, it is understandable that it becomes more common in the warmer wetter months.



It is caused by a virus and not uncommon in young cattle, they can be down for 3 days and longer. Whilst most animals will recover if they can access food, water

and shelter, it does seem to affect heavier, healthier individuals like bulls more and be particularly problematic if they cannot get up to access fluids (a little like Man-Flu). It is a particularly good idea to vaccinate bulls. Cattle will develop immunity to 3-Day Sickness if exposed to the virus either through getting the disease or vaccination. Similar to the flu it can be more virulent in some years.

We contacted Ian Poe the Local Land Services (LLS) veterinarian. Ian can provide advise for herd-based health issues (for individual animal issues your local veterinarian should be contacted). Ian took body



temperatures and blood samples of the sick animals for laboratory analysis, checking for 3-Day. The tests came back negative. We still do not know the cause of their temporary lethargy. During late November 2023, there had been cases of 3-Day around Casino but none had been confirmed on the Macleay nor Hastings. We will be watching out for it during February and March especially because of this summer's weather.

*If you wish to contact the Local Land Services (LLS) veterinarians for herd-based livestock issues phone 1300 795 299*

**The Lazy Dog**



To connect with Pappinbarra Valley residents for trading, swapping, selling, information and other services go to **Pappinbarra Community Connect** on Facebook

### Pitchfork

Do you have suggestions for items in *Pitchfork*? Contributions welcome. Contact Angela by email [angfrost@hotmail.com](mailto:angfrost@hotmail.com) or phone 65876035. (Copy may be edited for reasons of space or clarity. The views expressed in *Pitchfork* are not necessarily those of the PPA).

**Advertising** Contact Caroline Hemmings, 0439 016 071, [caroline.13@bigpond.com](mailto:caroline.13@bigpond.com).

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### PPA

**President:** Lisa 0418 220 138 [ppa.president2021@gmail.com](mailto:ppa.president2021@gmail.com)

**Next PPA Committee meeting** – March 19th 6:30 pm at the Hall. Interested members welcome.

**Hollisdale Hall Hire** - booking essential. Contact Harvey 0414 375 333.

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