



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News
Pappinbarra Progress Association

May 2017

Valley Happenings

PPA welcomes new members wherever they live. For only \$5 per adult, avail yourself of the pleasure of belonging to a group that is welcoming, pro-active and there to support its community.

Bushfire recovery concert with *Whoa Mule* will be a real treat on Saturday 27 May. Bring a plate to share and YOG at 6 pm. Free entry for all affected by the bushfires, including helpers and supporters. Donation box at the door. See poster this page.

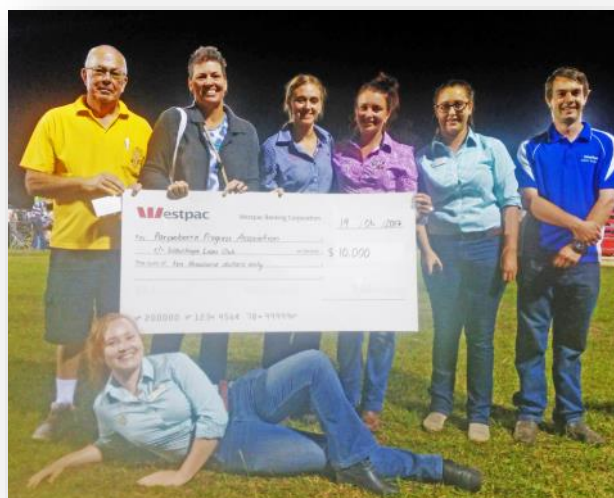
First Friday get-together is on from 6 pm at Hollisdale Hall, Pappinbarra Road on 5 May. Come along and enjoy the company. Don't worry if you don't know anyone - we make all feel welcome! Vegetarian and gluten-free options included in a tasty low cost menu. Soft drinks available. BYOG.

April First Friday saw the members' draw won by Rob Williams, who cooked yet again ably assisted by Christine and Bev. The raffle was won by Emma Frost who chose an *ecoWild!* voucher. Many thanks to all who helped in any way during the evening.

All Saints' Pappinbarra: Service on Sunday May 28 at 2 pm with afternoon tea around 2.45 off the back of Murphys' ute. All welcome. Bring a plate to share.

Rural Fire Brigade training for Pappinbarra and Hollisdale members is on the second Saturday of the month: 13 May 8-10 am. Meet at the hall in full uniform.

Footprints in Agriculture's energetic and inspiring group of young people raised \$10,000 for Pappinbarra Bushfire relief at their dinner dance in March. More details and thanks about donations and fund-raising efforts in our June issue.



Pappinbarra Community Market - Grown and Gathered is on Sunday 7 May. Come along and bring the family from 9 am to 12 mid-day for a country experience with beautiful food and coffee and live music! Port Macquarie Heritage Car Club will be bringing some of their pride and joy to display. Proceeds of the May jumble stall will go to the Reik family. Any suitable donations welcome, but no clothing or whitegoods please. Stall enquiries to Lisa on 0418 220 138. grownandgatheredcommunitymarket on Facebook.

PMHC grant for 'Bushfire protection for Hollisdale Hall: PPA has been successful in obtaining funds to purchase a water tank, fire fighter pump, Storz fittings, additional outlets, fire hose reels, hose extensions and a generator to 'enhance the capacity of Pappinbarra people to protect our community-owned hall'. Thanks to PMH Council.

PPA wishes Ken Aplin all the best for a speedy recovery.

Save the dates: Working bee at the hall Sunday 11 June; 'At winter's turn' performances 13-14-15 July.

Bushfire recovery concert with **Whoa Mule**



Saturday 27 May 6pm

@ Hollisdale Hall

Old time country balads, original songs and lively fiddle dance tunes.
Bring a plate to share for dinner and YOG.
Free entry for all affected by the bushfires, including helpers and supporters. Donation box at the door.

Fencing

There is nothing like a fire to put paid to the belief that 'my fencing days are basically done'. I am not sure I am over the initial shock nor have I come to terms with just how much has to be redone but I have begun.

Initially, I thought the boundary would be my priority. At least then the cattle would be contained. There are some secured paddocks on the northern side of our property, so contrary to my original plan, I have started there, working to secure the paddocks adjoining these. There is less damage and therefore less work to secure these adjoining paddocks. In these initial stages I am more rapidly making paddocks available.

Decisions about the type of fencing change somewhat after fire. I'm using more steel than timber. This is to a large extent necessary, if only a few posts are burnt out in a fence and the wires are remaining, the only option is to use steel as the wire is simply attached to the post, it does not need to go through the post. Steel posts are quicker to install and of course cheaper.

I have always preferred box-end assemblies to stays for straining a fence. Of course, both methods are only as strong and secure as the robustness of the strainer, the depth in the ground and the ramming at the base. A few years ago a mate showed me a much better method for securing strainers in the ground than ramming the earth. Ever since, I pour 10 mm gravel around the base of the strainer and wiggle it. The advantages of



this far outweigh any cost in my view, as, unlike rammed earth, the gravel will move to constantly secure the post irrespective of ground movements and/or age deterioration of the strainer.

Previously, I used high-tensile barbed wire. It was cheaper and stays tight but doesn't handle fire like Iowa barbed wire. Iowa is not only more expensive but harder to strain and keep tight. It does however, last longer and is not as easy to break.

Perhaps fencing is like a good marriage; it always requires work. I certainly don't have to go far to get firewood for the next few winters.

I cannot raise issues around the fire without expressing my sincere gratitude to people and businesses around Pappinbarra and Wauchope. I understand there have been very many who have supported us and it is difficult therefore to name people. Please accept a general thank you; we are deeply indebted to you! Ironically,

it is often the tough times that make you feel most heartened because at these times your friends hold you up. I do have to thank Lisa McLeod and the PPA - what an enormous job you have done for our community coordinating most of the support. Thank you to Cathy Eggert, for organising the donations of feed. What a legend you are Cathy. My personal thanks to staff and family of Camden Haven High School for the working bee.

Mark Hickson
Rosemont

Crossroads Cemetery

Do you have an ancestor buried at Crossroads Cemetery? This heritage listed historic cemetery, which dates from the 1860s, lies just west of Wauchope at the Oxley Highway end of Rosewood Road. The Wauchope District Historical Society (WDHS) is presently researching the lives of those buried there and how their stories form part of the history of the Wauchope district.

If you have ancestors you would like included in this research, please contact Sue Frost on 6587 6129 or email at suefrost6@hotmail.com.

Sue Frost

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Frugal Arts Update

The Frugal Forest is currently on display in Wollongong until the end of May, accompanied by the Giant Salvage Spider which hangs in its web above the gift shop at the entrance to the gallery. Kelly and Liz recently ran a workshop there and kids had great fun 'ballooning' their handmade spiders off the second floor balcony to the lobby below.

wollongongartgallery.com/exhibitions/Pages/Frugal-Forest.aspx

After Wollongong, Frugal Forest returns to the Hastings briefly for some tweaking before heading to the Opera House for 'Music in the Forest' from 28th July - 6th August.

sydneyoperahouse.com/events/whats-on/Kids-and-Families/2017/music-of-the-forest.html

In September, the Forest will return here and be displayed again for the general public at Sea Acres before a long Spring-Summer season of tours and workshops.

We're excited to be teaming up with Wauchope Arts to present JunkFest in Bain Park this year in November. It will be a day of

music, food, workshops, stalls and new ideas about old stuff.

Frugal Arts begins a new chapter this month with Bryony Anderson leaving the helm and, sadly, handing over to me. Bryony will still continue to manage the Frugal Forest as it tours around and bring other projects into the mix. Her excellent and energetic leadership will be really missed! We are glad to see her have time to devote to other endeavours though - she leads a very busy, creative life with her boys Morrow and Jove, and we wish them every prosperity and happiness in their lives back in Pappinbarra. In this new chapter of Frugal Arts, we look towards sharing ideas about a creative, circular economy through workshops, micro-industries and skills-sharing. For any info about how to get involved with upcoming workshops or events, contact me.

Chay Khamson

chay@frugalarts.net 65876022

Native vegetation recovery from bushfire

Fire has been a feature of the Australian bush for millions of years, actually shaping its evolution and promoting fire-adapted species. As a visiting expert said at our hall a few years ago: the bush burns; it has burnt and it will burn. Fire is, in fact, essential for the survival of our dry and wet eucalypt forests. Eucalypts are not only adapted to fire; they also take advantage of any disruption of the forest canopy, especially that caused by fire. When leaves of mature trees are burnt, more light reaches the forest floor. The ash seedbed created by fire is rich in nutrients and seedlings have less competition for light, moisture and space. Insect numbers are down and grazing animals go elsewhere, so plants aren't eaten while they struggle to re-establish.

Adaptations for survival include:

- Lignotubers - swellings that develop at ground level in young eucalypts and other native species. These store food, allowing new growth to sprout if the tree is damaged. Even young seedlings in some of PLCG's recent plantings have new shoots growing from the hidden buds within the lignotubers.
- Root systems, which are extensive and have symbiotic relationships with various fungi (mycorrhizae), which promote



the roots' uptake of water and nutrients.

- Epicormic buds in the outer sapwood on branches and trunk, which sprout when triggered by stress, such as wildfire, which can severely damage the crown. Protected from fire damage by bark, they quickly sprout after fire to produce green leaves that photosynthesise food for survival and repair.

- Hard, woody capsules that protect seeds high in the canopy where heat may be intense but lasts for a very short time as the oil-rich leaves burn rapidly. After the fire passes, seeds are released onto the bare forest floor.

Thick fibrous bark, which insulates against bushfire.

We've all been amazed by the surreal greening of Pappinbarra Valley after the fires.

Native grasses are adapted to fires and re-establish rapidly after rain. Blady grass loves bushfire, responding with rapid regeneration and a massive flowering producing colossal amounts of light white feathery seeds. (That's not snow on those hillsides!)

Unfortunately, weeds are adapted to recolonise bare ground as well, but that's another story...

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Times Past: Farewell Alexander James Flanagan - 10 September 1932 to 16 March 2017

Alec's Irish grandfather, Frederick, married 17-year-old Catherine Tisdell in the Manning back in 1870. She bore him eleven children, including James (1878-1952) and Alexander (1881-1969). It seems the family moved to the Port Macquarie area in the early 1890s, as the last child, Ethel, (1892-3) was registered at Port.

Alec: "My father James (Jim) and Uncle Alex selected *Avondale* (our present property) and across the creek. Uncle Alex named it that; I bought the place from him. He played the fiddle and never married - said he wanted to be happy as long as he could. [Like his uncle, Alec had a dry sense of humour.] Dad married, lived across the creek and after three kids his wife died."

Aged 24, James had married Camellia Emiline McGregor Murray. Their three children survived, but Camellia failed to live long enough to see Gladys marrying Roy Wallis in 1925 and Elma becoming the wife of Walter Schmitzer (of Pappinbarra cream lorry fame) in 1926.

Alex lived on *Avondale*, building a house near the road of vertical slabs with a "tongued and grooved floor - probably tallowwood. The roof was bark - that's why it's so steep." Built to last, it's still there.



In 1930, with his first family off his hands, James married Ellen Hollis. They had children Mavis, Alec, Fred and Joy

"Dad remarried and moved in with Uncle Alex. He built verandahs on the old house, put on a tin roof and built the fireplace and kitchen. Before that was the 'galley' - outside kitchen. We were reared there. Uncle Alec left the place and was living with neighbours. He was a great one to entertain



kids. Played the violin at local dances and was a great one to play and not stop. We had great singsongs with neighbours at the old house. Jim Ylias and others came up for dances in the big dining room. It had a good floor considering the pretty rough walls."

Young Alec walked up the valley to the (now long gone) Pappinbarra School. "There was a school at Abdu's [*Jack's Place* now *The Old Schoolyard*] and I went there - Merv Wallis did too - in the mid 1940s. Doreen Hollis went there. She was reared here after her

mother (my aunt) died. John Shaw was teaching at the time the photo [on last year's calendar] was taken at the junction school at the top where the tennis court is now; it was a picnic for breaking-up day, the last day before the Christmas holidays. Some, like me, walked to school, some rode a horse or bike.

"I always wanted to be a farmer here on this place, helping milk by hand, ploughing paddocks with a draught horse and 'pulling the corn' with a horse and spring cart to take the cobs back to the shed. Dad built the corn shed - split slabs for floor, originally a turpentine bark roof - lasts very well for pig sheds and cooler than iron. Dad kept pigs here too. In the early days he carted timber to Beechwood and owned a cream truck at one stage. He had a bullock team - there are still bits of gear in the old house.

"When I was growing up we used to go eleven months without going into town - on Walter Schmitzer's cream truck. He took a load of us into the circus one night and coming home on the unsealed road went into a gully outside Pat Murray's. Dad said Walter was the only driver good enough to put us all in the one waterhole! I walked home with Fred. It was one little gully on the left hand side.



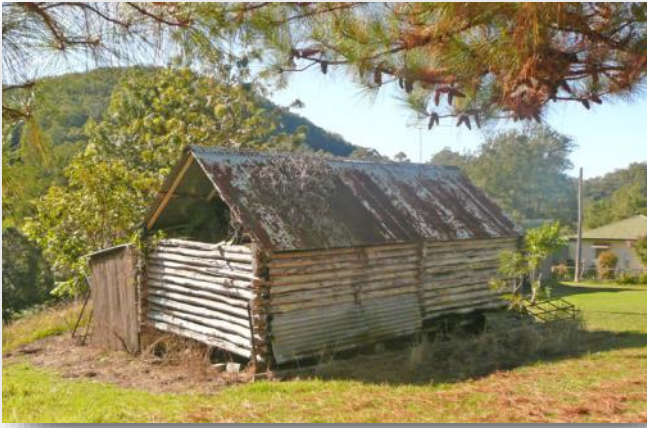
(Continued on page 5)

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“Once a horse spooked and put the sulky with Mum, Dad and baby Mavis over the edge at McGuire’s cutting. I’ve seen big changes - horse and buggy to cars and trucks. Society has changed for the worse though there is good and bad in everyone.

“We always grew our own spuds. We had two rows of citrus - ten trees, now replaced - old age. Plant spuds August-September; Sebago best if you can get it, with a second crop in February. We grew corn on the flats. 20 acres of flats plus 20 acres of hill.”

When he was 27, Alec married Dawn Tarrant at Wauchope’s Methodist Church. The daughter of Daphne née Wallis and Reuben Tarrant (who had a dairy farm at Brombin and started the first Pappinbarra bus service), Dawn was working at Beechwood Post Office and Telephone Exchange. “I rescued her from there” said Alec. “To what?” was Dawn’s rejoinder. They built a new home on *Avondale*.



“When the PPA decided to build a hall onto the Ellengrove schoolroom, we donated scantlings for rafters. All the timber that went into the hall was hauled off the place - white mahogany and tallowwood. Tom Hollis snigged the timber out with his dozer and it was milled at Reynolds’ sawmill.

“This was a dairy farm with milking seven days a week till 1995. First we had a draught horse, used to pull the plough and scarifier to grow corn. I walked behind. We used a hammer mill - first the cobs only but the whole plant later on. Now we grow irrigated rye and clover with oats for winter and millet and cow peas in summer.”

Alec worked with the Forestry, camping out with his brother-in-law. He emcee-d at dances at Hollisdale Hall, ran games nights, travelled to bush dances all over, and would pick up Albert Hollis to play the accordion. As a young lad, he showed great skill with the slingshot! Keen on tennis, he played comp for many years. Always ready to give others a hand, and to lend his gear, Alec had a ‘tough work ethic’. Alec, Jack Flanagan, Merv Wallis and George Reynolds were all very close - there was a cricket pitch on the old Wallis place where they used to play. Peter Wall recalls Alec was scared of heights - Peter put the roof on the hayshed for him. ‘He was vice-captain of the Hollisdale RFB for over 25 years.’

‘Never happier than when he had grandchildren around, Alec liked to share his knowledge of the bush and animals.’ ‘He taught the kids to waltz.’ ‘Family was his motivator, his pride and his joy.’ ‘He was a resourceful fixer - used the tractor battery to run the wireless.’

He was a shy man of few words, but a gentleman worth listening to. He agreed with John Wayne: ‘Talk low, talk slow and don’t talk too much’!

Parkinson’s Disease necessitated Alec’s moving to Bethany Nursing Home in Port. There he serenaded with his guitar and enjoyed bowls, church, outings and concerts. ‘In his last hours, he was ready to die, at peace and comforted by his family around him. He had faith and hope of the next life.’ ‘Love helps us get through the hard times. Love never ends - it will remain in the hearts of those who shared it with him.’

Jean Hegarty

with thanks to Alec himself (2013), to Dawn and to those who spoke at his funeral.

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Bird of the month - Grey Fantail

Rhipidura albiscapa

Size: 14-17 cm, about half of which is tail.

Status: Secure in Qld, NSW, Vic, Tasmania, SA and WA. Critically endangered in NT.

That little grey and white bird with the fanned tail that flits to and fro over your head in pursuit of insects while you work in your garden is this month's bird.

The grey fantail is the most active of Australia's fantails. During the day it is almost constantly in motion as it flitters about the tree canopy or darts from trees in acrobatic twists and loops pursuing insects. Its tail is often seen spread fan-like.

Plumage is light to mid grey above and white to pale buff below with a dark band on the breast. The throat is white and it has a short white eyebrow and a short white mark behind the eye. The wing coverts and tail feathers are tipped white.



adult

The eye is dark. Both sexes are alike. The head and wing markings in juvenile birds are a rufous colour.

Grey fantails are found all over Australia in habitats with trees, apart from the dry deserts of the interior. They are found singly, in pairs, or in small groups feeding on flying insects that are located anywhere from ground level to 30 meters above or more. During winter some of the population migrate away from their summer breeding sites, moving north and inland.

They are quite vocal birds, giving a variety of tinkling squeaks in a rising song with other shorter chattering notes.

Breeding takes place between July and January, when a slender, wine glass-shaped nest is built on a thin branch, sometimes at a fork in the branch. The nest is made of thin grass stems bound with a copious supply of spider web, its base drawn out in a long thin stem. Clutch size is 2-3 eggs, which are incubated for 14 days, then the chicks are fed for a further 21 days before fledging. All nesting duties are shared by the adults and they may have several broods in a season.



juvenile

Peter Fackender

Heritage Week service at All Saints'

The fourth Sunday of May saw a selection of beautiful vintage cars proceed up the Pappinbarra Valley, carrying folk from Wauchope and Port Macquarie to our little old All Saints' Anglican church on land donated by Merv Wallis' grandfather. The church was packed out, much to the delight of Reverend Judy and All Saints' warden, Jeannette Rainbow, who organised the whole thing.



Afterwards, the vintage cars and other assorted and motley vehicles took the congregation back down to Hollisdale Hall where a beautiful home-cooked afternoon tea ensured that no-one went home at all hungry. Thanks to the PPA committee members who cooked, especially Liz Gough, who outdid us all with vegetarian, gluten-free and meat sausage rolls, a gluten-free fruit cake and various other sweet treats.

Because some of the cars had no headlights, the festivities ended at 4.30, with the townspeople wending their stately way back home. Thanks to drivers from the Hastings Valley Vintage Car Club and the Port Macquarie Club for so obligingly coming along and braving the gravel stretches outside Beechwood and at the end of the tar.

Thanks to Jeannette (also secretary of Wauchope District Historical Society) - an organiser par excellence!

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Grandis - after the fires: a sculptural tribute

After the Pappinbarra fires, Stephen Gale created this sculpture for Cath Eggert on her fiftieth birthday.

'It represents the community, scorched but not destroyed by the February bushfires.

'The people's roots are strong in the ground; with a shower of support life will regrow from the ashes.

'The inspiration for this piece came from some flooded gums growing in a gully on the Murphy place just to the west of Roaches Road as it crosses the first culvert before the Pappinbarra River. The flooded gums and ground were all scorched bare.'

To Cath: [part of the] 'shower of love and support that restores life' and has been raining down on the people of the Valley.

Stephen's *Eucalyptus grandis* sculpture



RFB Report

Hi all. Another month has gone by and the long and hot fire season has finished. Now it's time to start preparing for next summer. A long-term resident told me there are parts of Pappinbarra that have not been burnt in over 50 years, so imagine how much fuel is on the ground.

Over the last two months I've listened to many stories from firefighters who were concerned about how many properties were unprepared for the February fire, with poor access to the property, no access to water and even difficulty in finding the

address because of poor roadside numbering. There were other concerns too.

We will be holding a community meeting at Hollisdale in early spring to discuss these issues, which are not just of concern when it comes to for bushfires, but also in cases of housefires, rescue situations, ambulance calls and so on.

Chris Roelandts
Hollisdale captain

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

IN CASE OF FIRE – CALL 000

Garden your way to better bushfire safety

When you live in Australia, it's a fact of life that bushfire awareness is a part of summer. Whether you live in the bush or city, part of keeping your property as safe as possible in fire season is a thoughtfully planned garden. Nothing can guarantee your home will survive a bushfire, but you can make the area around it less flammable. Tree selection is very important.

Any trees growing close to your home should be fire retardant. A fire retardant tree acts as a green shield that stops the embers from landing on the house. Many such trees will actually stop the fire from moving through because the high moisture content in the leaf tissue is enough to stop the fire.

So what to choose?

Broadly speaking many of the fruit trees - citrus, figs, apples - and evergreen or deciduous ornamental trees - Magnolia, Pyrus, Prunus and tuckeroo will fill the bill. The staff at Greenbourne are only too happy to assist you with choosing suitable plants.

Maintaining your Garden

It is important to keep on top of growth and foliage. Keep leaf litter to a minimum to eliminate that source of fuel.

Now is a good time to get into the garden and plant. There is adequate soil moisture and beautiful autumn weather.

Alison

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Pappinbarra Community Connect

To connect with Pappinbarra Valley residents for trading, swapping, selling and other services go to Pappinbarra Community Connect on Facebook: facebook.com/groups/850891678290572/
(Admin Damian Privett)

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

President's message

Can you believe that May is upon us? For me the year is going too fast and I have taken the Easter break to reflect.

It is very easy to rush without paying much attention or taking the time to appreciate just how precious life is. Our minds can become restless. We run towards some future hope or dream, or away from things in our past. We lose our connection with life, with ourselves, and forget to enjoy the journey. Or we begin to lose faith in the world around us; there are so many problems to think about that we put our blinkers on and stop seeing what is right there, on the doorstep; what we can do to make a difference. We become attached to our rigid view of life, how we like things to be. But when the world doesn't fit in with our wishes and desires, we become frustrated and stubborn; we forget how to bend and be flexible and life becomes difficult.

Sometimes, we should take a break from the fast track and slow down and look around us. When we slow things down, we find we have more time to do the things that matter; we can look around and appreciate all the details; we feel connected with our own body, our own mind, with all the people in our life and with the world around us.

When you do, you will further your understanding and connect with yourself and with others. You may begin to discover or get to know more deeply what you truly want to achieve. This is a gentle reminder to live your life with compassion; to be kind to yourself so that you may be kind to others.

When someone is mean, don't listen

When someone is rude, walk away.

When someone tries to put you down, stay firm.

Don't let someone else's bad behaviour destroy your inner peace.

Lisa McLeod

WAUCHOPE POULTRY AUCTION

Sunday May 7th 9am viewing, 10am start auction.
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PPA Matters

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

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

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

Pitchfork

Contributions welcome. Email to editor Jean Hegarty jeanmay@activ8.net.au by Thursday 18 May. (Copy may be edited for reasons of space or clarity. The views expressed in *Pitchfork* are not necessarily those of the PPA).

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

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

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

