



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News
Pappinbarra Progress Association

December/January 2014/15

Valley Happenings

Do you enjoy *Pitchfork*? You can support Pappinbarra Progress Association in this and other activities to benefit our community by joining PPA. See form on back page.

PPA welcomes new members Bryan and Liz Gough and Michael and Melissa Cruickshanks. At our November meeting, your committee drew up tentative plans for PPA functions in the first half of 2015 - a trivia night, bush dance and Laos cooking workshop among them. Watch *Pitchfork* for details.

December First Friday, PPA's Christmas celebration, is on next Friday December 5 at the hall from 6 pm. All welcome. Santa will arrive at 8 pm to distribute presents for the children. Parents please note - presents should be modest and clearly labelled for the recipient. Trevor Smith and Amy Hubers will be the chefs, with something to suit every taste - steak, prawn satay, vege burgers, chicken rissoles, chicken satay, eggs or sausages, all with onions and/or sauce. Soft drinks and juice for sale; BYOG.

November First Friday barbecue and get-together was the usual success. The raffle was won by Avis Williams, who chose the ecoWild voucher, and the members' draw saw Sue Frost go home a bit richer.

All Saints' Pappinbarra will have a late Christmas service the Sunday after Christmas - 28 December. All welcome to join in singing some Christmas carols and/or bring a plate to share off the back of the ute for arvo tea around 2.45 pm.

Pappinbarra Players will perform Ray Cooney's *Move Over Mrs Markham* early next year. Practice at the hall on Sundays at 2 pm. Enquiries Darren Rowley 6587 6076.

Hollisdale Rural Fire Brigade training—Wednesday 3 December, 5-7 pm, Hollisdale Hall

Tennis - End of season gathering. Wed, Dec 10, 7pm. BYO dinner and drinks. Upper Pappinbarra Recreation Ground.

Hollisdale Hall is available for use by community members. For details on hall hire see last page.



The Pappinbarra Progress Association invites you to the

PPA

Christmas Party

at 'First Friday'

Friday 5th December at Hollisdale Hall

From 6pm, Santa arrives at 8pm! Live music from 'Heather and John'

Come and enjoy Christmas cheer BBQ with friends and neighbours! BYOG

Meet the Neighbours: Peter Heywood

Pete was born in Sydney, and grew up in London with his two sisters and two brothers. The family returned to Australia where Pete had his London accent knocked out of him at a Wahroonga Catholic boys school (gotta love the catholic education system). He changed schools to the more up-market St Aloysius' College in Kirribilli, and then later moved onto a more mind-expanding (read whatever you like into that) education at Kuringai High School in North Turramurra.

After school, Pete worked in various jobs including a 6-month stint as an apprentice motor mechanic before going on to Sydney Uni to study Agricultural Science. He had a go at postgrad work studying towards a PhD but ditched it after deciding not to become an academic and instead built timber fences with a mate for a while. He had another go at a PhD at UNSW, lasted a bit longer, but



joined IBM instead and began his career in the IT industry - right back when the Apple II was all the rage.

Married twice, Pete has six wonderfully creative kids. Millie is an actor and film maker in Sydney, Jackson is an actor in Los Angeles, Lewis a carpenter and recently trainee paramedic in Port Macquarie, Taylor is an interior designer working in Surry Hills, Charlotte a yogi and artist (currently in India) and Billy a budding Year 7 rock musician who sings and plays his Stratocaster.

After buying his beautiful place on Pappinbarra Road in 2004, Pete moved to the valley. He lives with his son Billy, dog Banjo, cat Monte and his wonderful flatmate, Juliet.

Pete loves music, travel, working on his house, motorcycle riding and spending time with his family. He's a regular Byron Bay Bluesfest attendee. He is currently in the USA visiting his son with the rest of the family to celebrate Thanksgiving with his son's

girlfriend's family in San Francisco.

Whenever he can, Pete gets out on his Triumph motorcycle to ride the incredible roads in Northern NSW. A typical Sunday morning sees him riding to Gingers Creek for breakfast and coffee with mates.

As far as work is concerned, Pete runs an online business selling Last Will and Testaments and other legal documents to customers all over the country. Plans for 2015 include rolling the business out to the UK and USA - gives him more excuses to travel.

Emma Frost

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Competition closes 30 November 2014 LPTM /14/00838



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Rural Fire Brigade (RFB) update

Saturday 22 Nov: Recent activity has certainly made up for the quiet times! The fire which started on 18 November halfway up the Pappinbarra Valley is still going and unless the brigades can carry out the planned controlled burn the area will burn for months. Over 220 hectares has been burnt. Under the control of Group Captain John Davison, brigades from as far away as the North Shore and Lorn have been working around the clock containing this fire. Hopefully the weather might help us out...

Sun 23 Nov: Two helicopters were brought in today, one spotting and the other water-bombing. The first had to airlift a firefighter from Sancrox to hospital with heat exhaustion. The fire was on the way down the hill towards the church from the big shed - moving incredibly fast in the extreme conditions - when the rain belted down and really pulled it up big time. The second helicopter was diverted to Kempsey and possibly later followed up a lightning strike at Comboyne. 680 hectares was burnt.

If you are worried about your property, put your **Prepare Act Survive** plan into action. Keep the area around your house clear; have a fire pump and ample water on hand if possible and if you are willing and able, join a brigade and give us a hand!

Chris Roelandts Captain Hollisdale Brigade 6585 6700

Steve Ostler Captain Pappinbarra Brigade 6587 6090

Editor's note: Those at *All Saints'* on Sunday afternoon anxiously watched the firefighting efforts up the hill and prayed for rain. Perhaps the Lord helps those who help themselves! Many thanks to all the firefighters on the ground as well as those in the air.

At the time of publication there is a TOTAL FIRE BAN

Call your fire permit officer to find out current fire permit availability

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.

Kids' Corner: My trip to the Opera House

On Saturday November the 9th, Mum, Granny, Grandad and I went to the Sydney Opera House. We went there so I could play my violin at the annual Suzuki Graduation Concert. I played my piece for the level 1 graduation on the main stage along with maybe 1000 other Suzuki students - all different levels all playing at once. The students from the more advanced grades played their pieces before me and they were amazing. There were also cellos, violas, flutes, guitars and two piano soloists. During my performance there were about 300 kids on stage and the rest were standing in the balcony seats to the side and back of the stage and they were all playing too. It was amazing and great fun. My favourite part was the looking at the inside of the Opera House and seeing the huge pipe organ.

I have been learning the violin in Port Macquarie for nearly two years. It is hard but I enjoy playing the pieces I've learnt.

Sophie Aplin (age 8)



Hey Kids!

How about making a collection of items that interest you to bring along to February First Friday after the holidays? We can have a 'show and tell' to entertain everyone. Some suggestions: insects, worms, plants or parts of plants like leaves, flowers, fruits, rocks, the wildlife in your garden - specimens or photos or drawings all good. Prizes on offer!



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Times Past: Bridle Races

For many years *Bellview*, the property of the pioneering McCarthy family of Pappinbarra was a hub of local and district activity. John McCarthy, born in Dungog in 1855, married Minnie Brownlow at Pappinbarra when he was 35 and they farmed in the area that was to become known as Hollisdale. John's sister Ellen married Newman Hollis (II) and died in childbirth at the age of 27, after giving birth to seven children. The school at Hollisdale was named Ellengrove in her memory.

Another sister Maria [pronounced as in Maria River or 'They call the wind Maria'] married John Roach of Rawdon Island and they also farmed in Pappinbarra. John and Maria raised eleven children, losing their first born soon after birth. The baby is buried on the property. [John Roach was brother to Julie-Anne (née Roach) Murphy's grandfather.]

Prompted by community frustration with the state of the road and the need for a bridge, John McCarthy, with neighbour and brother-in-law John Roach was instrumental in setting up the Pappinbarra Progress Association in 1913.

Bellview became the polling booth for Central Pappinbarra during elections. The brick house occupied by Avis Williams, with flags and pots is on what was *Bellview*.

The McCarthys' son Jock went on to become a renowned axeman. From a young age he helped his parents carve a farm from virgin bush and eventually took over the running of the farm with his wife Thelma (née Bacon). During John and Jock's years on *Bellview*, the farm was the scene of annual school picnics, dances, fundraisers and most famously, the annual bridle race. It seems there was a track suitable for horse racing and a range of other horse sport activities and each year the event was attended by a large crowd. This photo, taken at the 1907 bridle race shows that going to the races required a stylish dress code despite probable limited facilities.

Mary Wagg



Picnic race day on John McCarthy's property at Pappinbarra in 1907.



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Critter of the month: Bladder cicada *Cystosoma saundersii*

Last summer was a bumper season for cicadas but so far this year I have seen only one male 'Black Prince' and heard none of the usual strident daytime chorus. On a warm October evening, however, the first bladder cicada of summer started singing. The following cool weather dampened this activity but at dusk these unusual insects are calling now from many shrubs in the garden with their guttural 'rrrrrr'. One could almost believe they live from year to year, because they seem to call from virtually the same spot every summer.

You might think they would be easy to find just by following the sound, but because of their cryptic colouring - usually green but sometimes pale brown - and leaf-like wings, it's a challenge to locate them. During the day they shelter under a leaf, moving to a more exposed calling

site as the sun goes down. The male call is amplified by a hollow, inflated, bladder-like abdomen; the female is silent and her abdomen isn't inflated, tapering to a point.

Because they are so well camouflaged, bladder cicadas usually survive predation by birds and live for 2-3 weeks. The males are poor fliers, so are sedentary after their first couple of days of adult life, calling the females to them. When a female arrives, she produces a pheromone which she disperses by wing-flicking and the male changes his call to a series of short chirps. Mating lasts for over an hour.

Female bladder cicadas lay their eggs in slits on the live branches of food plants - exotic trees and shrubs. Egg-laying can last for up to 36 hours; then the female is up for another mating. On hatching, the slender nymphs drop to the ground and burrow into the soil. Next to the roots of the food plant, they excavate a small chamber, enlarging it as they suck sap and grow. Details of the time spent as a nymph are sketchy for this species.



JH

In the veggie patch



New style hand trowels are available for the garden and make great Christmas presents. Their ergonomic design makes them perfect for easy digging. Hand hoes are also available for weeding and planting. Japanese inspired, they are perfect garden implements.

Here are some ideas to get a bumper veggie crop. Plant flowering herbs like thyme, cilantro, sage, borage. even crocus, zinnia, aster, alyssum, or heliotrope around the beds. Give the bees something to buzz about in your garden and they will reward you with lots of fruit and veggies that have been pollinated and ready to fruit.



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- Erosion control in creeks and rivers
- Bush safety
- Bird biodiversity: results of surveys in Greater Hastings riparian zones
- Off-stream watering and fencing in flood zones

Greater Hastings...
building resilience through riparian habitat links

A Biodiversity Project funded by the Australian Government

Conservation Corner: Camphor Laurel in the Pappinbarra Valley – time to act!

With its attention-getting new growth on full display in Pappinbarra Valley, camphor laurel *Cinnamomum camphora* can't fail to be noticed at this time of year. Peter Michael featured this weed in the July issue of *Pitchfork*, reminding us of its potentially 'devastating impact on natural areas, riparian ecosystems and primary-production land' and its status as a Class 4 Noxious Weed. We are very fortunate that, in our LGA, the Pappinbarra Valley is not a local 'hot spot' for camphors. A concerted effort by local landholders can help keep it that way.

This tree is a rampant weed. In NSW, heavy infestations occur in the Lismore, Tweed, Byron and Ballina districts and parts of the Orara Valley west of Coffs Harbour. It is estimated that there are some 91,000 hectares of land containing camphor laurel in the Tweed, Brunswick and Richmond river catchments and it is continuing to spread in these areas and is also spreading southwards.

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/profiles/camphor-laurel>



**Bright green camphors with river oaks
along the Pappinbarra River**

Not so far up the road in the Bellinger Valley there are an estimated 1,000,000 camphors!

According to the DPI, while camphor laurel has the normal attributes of a weed, such as adaptation to the disturbed environment, prolific seed production, rapid growth rate and a lack of serious predators or diseases, it also has many specific attributes which enhance its weed status.

- It has a tendency to form single-species communities and exclude most other tree species, including desirable native vegetation.
- It has a competitive advantage over native vegetation because it establishes easily.
- Birds and other fauna readily eat the fruit and disperse the seeds.
- It has a very dense, shallow root system which, when accompanied by the shading provided by the canopy, suppresses the regeneration of native seedlings.
- It can destabilise stream banks due to undercutting of the shallow root system and the general lack of ground cover species around the trees to hold the soil in place.

- Mature camphor laurels are large and therefore difficult and expensive to remove.

- Camphor laurels are long-lived with some being over 100 years old and there are reports of some up to 500 years old in their native habitat.

- Camphor laurels regenerate easily after lopping.

Invasion of agricultural lands by camphors can cause significant impacts on productivity and the costs of control can reduce the viability of some agricultural pursuits.

The largest/highest density camphor infestations in the Hastings Local Government Area are in the Lorne Valley and the lower floodplain of the Hastings and Wilson Rivers. When you travel towards Port Macquarie from Wauchope you can see that the paddock shade trees are virtually 100% camphors and there are considerable numbers of large camphors scattered through urban areas.

PMHC's approach to camphor control is based on a catchment approach, focussing on working from 'clean' areas to the higher infestation areas, starting in the upper catchment sections and, over time, working down the valleys. Council is planning to spray/cut and paint/stem inject roadside camphors, the treatment determined by the size of the camphor, beginning at the tops of the valleys and working down. The removal of the very large camphors, which will pose a safety risk if stem injected and left standing, will have to be staged as money becomes available to safely remove them, utilising appropriate machinery.

Council will be using a similar approach with private landholders who are required under the Noxious Weeds Act, to meet the following Class 4 Noxious Weed conditions: *The growth of the plant must be managed in a manner that continuously inhibits the ability of the plant to spread and the plant must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed.*

According to PMHC's Noxious Weed Coordinator, Grant Taylor, there will be a need to phase in control of some of the large camphors on private land because of shade considerations for stock, and the practical logistics of felling the large trees. They have prepared some draft control zones for both camphor laurel and privet, based on working down from the top of the catchments to do inspections and require landholders to carry out control works. The Pappinbarra Valley will be one of the first catchments for this program because of its low infestation level. The requirement will be to control all small camphors and to plan for and stage removal/control of large camphors, on both public and private land. Council plan to start work along the rural roadsides to control camphors (along with other weeds) on a fence to fence basis in late summer 2015.

So now is a good time to be starting to think about camphor control on your property. You can get advice from Grant Taylor on 6581-8224 or 0429-818-011 and from Hastings Landcare. The DPI website link shown above also has some useful information for landholders. Another useful resource is the NSW DPI publication [Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook](#).

Bev Sibthorpe

Plant of the month: Red Cedar (*Toona ciliata* syn *T. australis* Meliaceae)

Dismayed by the intractable hardwoods they found growing round Sydney and further afield, the early settlers couldn't believe their luck when they discovered that the 'brush' or 'scrub' in this strange and hostile new land (rainforest in today's terms) was home to gigantic, majestic softwoods - *Toona ciliata*.

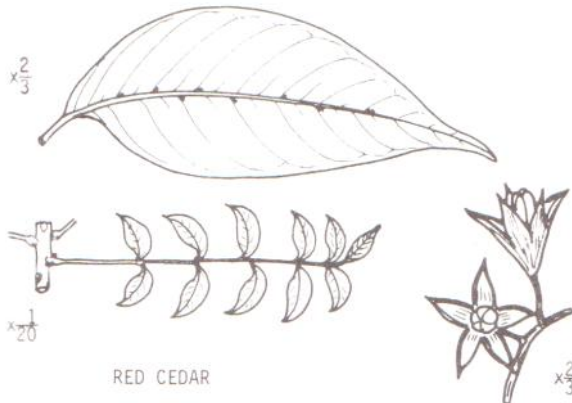
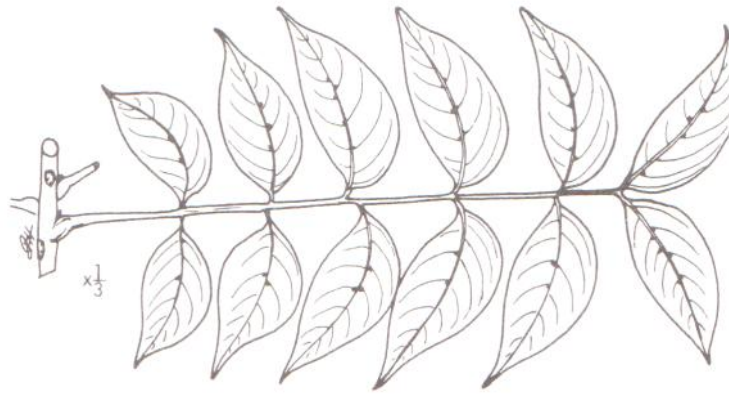
Despite the colonial authorities' attempts to regulate cutting by licence and exporting the timber to Britain on returning convict transports, the accessible cedars along the Hawkesbury were soon harvested. Easy to work, cedar was used not only for furniture, but also for pit-sawn skirting and ceiling boards, fowl yards, cow bails and pig pens!

From Newcastle, convict cedar cutters worked up and down the Coal [Hunter] River and its

branches as far as Wallis Plains [Maitland] in the early 1800s. 'They manhandled the logs into the river, formed them into rafts and floated them to Newcastle. By about 1820 they were working upstream from Maitland.'

John Oxley had discovered and named the Hastings River and Port Macquarie in late 1818, coming across the Great Dividing Range from where Tamworth is now located, then following the river down to its estuary. He wrote: *...and on the hills blue gum, stringy bark, iron bark and forest oaks. Brushes growing on the rich alluvial land of the Hastings Valley consisted of many varieties of trees totally different from the eucalypts and casuarinas which grew in the open forests. The brushes were distinguished by their rich umbrageous foliage of bright shining green, the trees being red cedar, white cedar, mahogany, tulipwood, rosewood, ironwood, sassafras, corkwood, the Australian tamarind, box and a variety of the myrtle genus.*

The isolation of Wallis Plains was broken in 1820 by the discovery of an overland route from Sydney, so it was decided to move the penal settlement from Newcastle to Port Macquarie - a move



RED CEDAR

complete by 1823. Convict cedar cutters were then employed around Port Macquarie and up river. As well, ticket-of-leave holders and escaped convicts made a living by the axe, getting into the valleys ahead of government bureaucracy. Even well upstream, logs could be floated out on floodwaters then

retrieved to be loaded onto schooners outside the river mouth.

Mid-century settlers augmented their income by cutting cedar up-river, while cedar brush on river flats was cleared for cultivation. Often, vast quantities of timber were burnt. Cedars up the sheltered sides of valleys were felled and dragged out with bullock teams. Bill Haydon, born 1890 in Hannam Vale, 'The Cedar King', drew red cedar, white beech and mountain ash with his team until he bought a truck. His ability to extract logs from remote locations became legendary as he used

'haulers' to winch logs out and bulldozers to construct tracks. After World War II, the NSW Government Railways began building 'rolling stock' and needed large quantities of cedar for the interior of carriages; Haydon filled supply contracts and donated cedar for seating in local churches. He disappeared in the Washpool in April 1965 while on an expedition looking for yet more cedar; his body was never found.

When my father was a young teacher in 1939, he was appointed to Johnsons Creek Public School near Gloucester. He came from a dairy farm at Congewai in the Hunter Valley, granted to his great grandfather in 1825 by Governor Brisbane. Some of the family were timber getters, but the red cedars were long gone. There was a large cedar table built on the place. Dad was very keen on cedar. He wrote to the woman he would marry: *Cedar of Lebanon, felled and sawn, seasoned and cut again, measured and carved and smoothed, then carried to the temple and softly set in place; cedar on the coast of a new land, felled and dragged to the mill so recklessly that now these grey, rough-barked trees are rare and their timber costly.*

Continued on following page...

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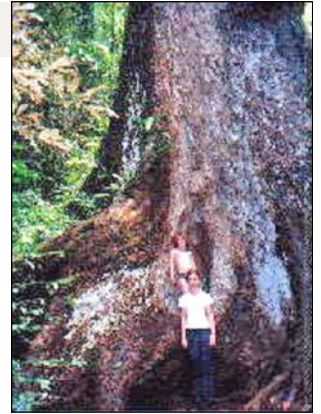
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This morning I was taken to Gloucester to make a few purchases and found time to visit the cedar mill again; oh the pleasant scent of sawn timber; the piles of brown shavings; the zestful song of the keen saw as it bit through the rich red piece I bought; the neat cedar sashes; cedar ribs for someone's canoe; cedar reddening in the sun, cedar logs lying in the yard, cedar everywhere. I show my beautiful wood to those who brought me; they nod and leave me to turn it in the sunshine to catch the sheen of it, to muse over it, feel it, smell it, weigh it in my hand... Cedar, cedar of Lebanon could not be more splendid than this!

In that rainforest country, he procured a cedar log, fashioned into furniture for his family down the track - a bedroom suite after the war, a desk in the 1950s, and lamps and bowls when he retired and took up wood-turning. They are all still valued by the family, although the modern fashion is for pale furniture and uncluttered lines.

Re-growing cedars in plantations has proved problematic because of the cedar tip moth; larvae eat the bud at the apex so

trees fail to grow straight and tall. Cedars occur naturally from Milton on the NSW South Coast to Cape York and beyond to southern Asia. Young trees have pinkish timber; the heartwood of mature trees is rich red and fragrant. Buttressed at the base with grey-brown scaly bark, cedars have alternate pinnate (feather-shaped) leaves with 3-8 pairs of leaflets. Scented flowers are borne in a large panicle at the ends of branchlets. The trees are easily spotted in spring; unlike most native trees they are deciduous and the new bright red growth stands out. That its timber was soft and easily worked with the tools of the day, dried without warping, had a beautiful grain and took a fine polish, sealed the fate of *Toona ciliata*. I am told some local landholders have cedars still growing in remote gullies - I hope so.



JH

Bird of the Month - Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

Other Names: Australian swallow or house swallow.

Status: Secure in all states.

Have you all welcomed the return of our endemic swallow? The warmer months bring such nomadic or migrant birds to re-join those that remain over winter, swelling the numbers of these aerobatic aerial feeders around our villages and farms.

Black above with a metallic blue sheen, the welcome swallow is light grey underneath with a rufous forehead, throat and upper breast. The wings are a dull black, as is the deeply forked tail, which when spread shows a row of small white dots. Tree martins and fairy martins look similar in flight, but do not have the welcome swallow's deeply forked tail. Juvenile swallows have duller plumage and the rufous on the forehead is not as extensive.

Welcome swallows are birds of the air, spending many hours a day swooping and passing over farmland, streams, dams, open bushland, parks and suburban areas seeking out their insect prey. When not feeding on the wing, they can be found perching on powerlines, fences, railings and the like.

Their call is a single or double squeak on the wing or a song of squeaks, twitters and whistles while perched.



The breeding season is from August to December. This sometimes brings them into conflict with people as they seek out nesting sites around houses. They also nest under bridges and culverts and natural sites such as caves and cliff overhangs. The cup shaped nest, lined with hair, fur and feathers, is made of mud and grass stems. The female incubates three to five eggs for about 21 days. After hatching, both parents feed the

young for about 21 days before fledging. They may produce two or more broods in a season.

If you have a swallow's nest which is sited a little inconveniently around your home, before taking action to prevent repeat nesting in that position I would encourage putting up with it for the three weeks it takes for the young to fledge. You will then have three to five more swallows consuming their own weight every day in flies, mosquitos and other insects around your home.

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

Peter Fackender



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On the hobby farm: Worming mix for chooks

Garlic, chillies and carrots are natural vermifuges for chooks, (as well as good food for humans). For a mash to feed 20 pullets on a monthly basis:

To 2 litres of whole milk and add 2 freshly-crushed cloves of garlic, 6 finely chopped hot chillies, 1 tbsp paprika and 1 tbsp of turmeric. Warm the milk to serving heat for porridge, then let stand overnight. Next day, warm again and mix with 2 kg layer mash. If you have reason to believe your chooks are wormy, grate 4 carrots into the mash and mix well. This works for my chooks!

Christine Nolan



Editor's Musings

As I write, the day is heating up, the air tinged with blue bushfire smoke. The fire apparently was started along Pappinbarra Road below the property formerly called *Jack's Place*, now *The Old School Yard*. Containing and controlling this fire has so far involved up to six brigades every day for six days and despite the huge expenditure of time and energy, there is still a risk of its escaping. The country is rugged and clothed with dry bush.

Before white incursion, the aboriginals practised what has become known as 'firestick farming' - using low intensity controlled burns to provide food-producing habitat. Early paintings of New South Wales depict landscapes like those of manicured estates in Britain with grassy sward between well-spaced trees and shrubs. Explorers discovered 'meadows' and 'fields'; today there are none of these in wilderness areas, except above the tree-line in alpine areas where there were never trees anyway. Without aboriginal husbandry, the bush has taken over.

Visiting former inhabitants of Upper Pappinbarra lament that where they had once farmed corn and pigs is 'now a wasteland of weeds and wattles'. Introduced weeds are the first colonisers of neglected ground, followed by pioneer species like wattles before the bush takes over again.

In our perhaps uneducated and misguided efforts to 'preserve habitat for native species', we have largely eschewed the use of fire - periodic burning of the land over thousands of years has been replaced in only the last two hundred by feeble and random 'controlled' burns. Where once the husbanded land provided

ample food for its inhabitants - human and other - it now struggles, with farmers fighting the wildlife off their crops and pastures.

I spent many hours teaching students about the adaptations of Australian native plants to fire, but was still taken aback by the information proffered at a community workshop here on vegetation a couple of years ago: the Australian bush has

burnt and it burns and it will burn. Encircled by vast expanses of that grey-green bush, just waiting, it seems on days like today, to burst into flame, we Pappinbarra people choose to live in a fire-prone environment.

With that choice comes the necessity of taking responsibility for our own safety and that of our property, livestock and pets. Out here, it's no use thinking that a quick call to 000 will do the trick. Apart from Group Captain John Davison, all our local RFB members are volunteers. When the pager goes off, they could be on a tractor half a mile down the paddock, or in Port Macquarie on business. Then they have to get home, get uniformed, and get to the fire shed. By that time you might have been able to look after yourself with a fire pump and ample stored water.

Fires only burn where there is fuel. We are constantly urged to have a fire plan and carry out the preparedness part of it. That means clearing fuel from around your house and sheds, clearing bush from the vicinity and, if humanly possible, having a fire pump and water supply. It seems that many who don't live permanently on their bush blocks in the Pappinbarra hills haven't bothered to do the minimum of clearing. Piles of flammable rubbish, old tyres and junk almost hidden by rampant lantana are an added danger not only to property but also the safety of those called out to fight and control fires. A routine burn could be severely compromised by piles of unexpected 'stuff' in the bush.

Only the arrival of several brigades possibly prevented the last fire near us from advancing down the drive and across the grass to the house. Before that, we thought we were pretty safe.

New to the valley, or an old hand, you would be welcomed by your nearest Rural Fire Brigade - contact numbers for Hollisdale and Pappinbarra are listed under RFS News on p3.

As an alternative to putting yourself on the line, please give a generous donation to your nearest Rural Fire Brigade!

JH





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Large male turkeys \$20
Ring Todd/Belinda
AH 6587 6046

Found - stolen kids bike

On Sunday 9 November, a young kid was seen throwing a blue child's bicycle away into the bushes on Kooree Island Rd, Beechwood. We recovered the bike, and are almost 100% sure it was stolen, most likely from a property along Kooree Island Rd. The bike has been handed in to Wauchope Police, 6585 1404.

For Sale

Ideal Christmas presents
Pappinbarra Valley calendars produced by the PPA \$15
5 or more \$12 each
Ring Sharada 6587 6079 or buy at December First Friday



PPA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – the second last Friday of each month at 5:30pm. All welcome.

General Meetings – quarterly. Next general meeting TBA. All welcome.

Facilities for Hire

Hollisdale Hall – contact George Hegarty 6587 6077

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 30 January for the February issue (there is no separate January issue). Material for the Feb issue to the Editor by Thursday 22 January. We run both casual and regular advertisements at very competitive rates. Contact Sharada Boyce.

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

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