



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association

November 2015

Valley Happenings

Pappinbarra Progress Association welcomes new members! Do you enjoy *Pitchfork*? You can support PPA in this and other activities to benefit our community by joining at First Friday - only \$5 per adult. Members can have free classified ads on a casual basis and are also invited to attend committee meetings; next one is at 6pm on Friday 20 November at Hollisdale Hall.

November First Friday get-together and barbecue is on 6 November from 6 pm at Hollisdale Hall, Pappinbarra Road. Come along and greet your neighbours! Vegetarian and gluten-free options included in a tasty low cost menu. Soft drinks available. BYOG.

October First Friday saw Patrick McEntee win the members' draw, while raffle winner, Ron Murphy chose the Greenbourne Nursery voucher. Thanks to members Chris Flockhart and Lee Heng for bringing along great Asian food. Harvey Smith did a great job on the barbecue, ably assisted

by visiting friend Wayne; Ken and Sophie Aplin and Sophie Smith were taking orders. To all who were there for the set up and clean up - thank you - your help is really appreciated.

The new 'Grown & Gathered' Community Market will begin on the 1st of November. Run a stall or come along and enjoy a day out in Pappinbarra. More info see poster this page.

Council's Community consultation in the hall went very well. Most questions involved maintenance and signage on Pappinbarra Road and those present, while realising that budgetary constraints limit what can be done, feel that the Mayor, Councillors and staff listened carefully to expressed concerns and will do what they can to address them. We thank them for coming and for the refreshments provided.

All Saints' Pappinbarra, our little historic church, welcomes all to the service on Sunday 22 November at 2 pm with a cuppa around 2.45 'off the back of the ute'.

Hollisdale RFB training on Saturday 7 November 8-10 am. Meet at the hall in full uniform.

Hollisdale Hall, owned by the community, is available for community use - there is a sliding scale of fees to cover cost of gas and electricity plus a \$200 bond for 18th and 21st birthday parties. Get details and book with George on 6587 6077.

Move over Mrs Markham was performed by Pappinbarra Players at Beechwood in October. See review p 6.

2016 Pappinbarra Valley calendars will be on sale at December First Friday. Great Christmas presents!

December First Friday is PPA's Christmas celebration. Santa needs parents to provide presents to go in his sack - clearly labelled please. Games and fun for the kids.

The first koel coo-eed his arrival a couple of weeks ago; the bladder cicadas have started calling, and the beautiful red-bellied blacks are active and mating throughout the valley. The grass is greening after some good rain; we need more.

Live music!
kids activities
home-grown produce
PPA fundraisers
reuse and recycle

PAPPINBARRA COMMUNITY MARKET
GROWN & GATHERED

Community market at the Hollisdale Hall
Creating community with local ingredients

1st Sunday of each month 9am to 1pm

Run a stall or come and shop or browse. There will be a variety of stalls including home-grown produce, jams and pickles, recycled clothing. Come and enjoy a scone and tea or bring a picnic and listen to the live music.

Next Market: Sunday 1 November

proudly presented by the Pappinbarra Progress Association
For more information or to book a stall call 0432762393 or 65876174 or email natfl@hotmail.com

GROWN GATHERED RESOULED

Meet the Neighbours

Kathy Wonderley

Kathy was born in 1974 in Sydney's northern beaches area. She has an older brother Daniel and a younger brother, Rob. Her parents, Ann and Stan, bought Stan's parents' farm on the Pappinbarra River in 1976 and the family moved from the city to our beautiful valley.

Kathy did her schooling locally, at Beechwood and then in Wauchope. She did well in school and subsequently went to Sydney University in 1993 to study Health Sciences; after three months she decided against it and came home to live. 'Bumming around' for a year doing odd jobs, she commenced a Diploma in Welfare at TAFE in Port Macquarie. Kathy worked part time at Westport High as a Teachers Aide, had her beautiful daughter, Cody, became a single mum and helped out on the farm. She was very organised and lucky to have support, especially from her mum.

Still working part-time, she was an external student at Southern Cross University while Cody was a baby, attained a Bachelor of Social Science (HR and Community Development majors) and completed a course in Training and Assessment. Next, Charles Sturt University saw her achieve a B Ed in Primary teaching and a Grad Dip in Special Education. She trained in Australian sign language.

Kathy's work has been almost exclusively with people with disabilities, starting as a Disability Support Worker in 2002 and working her way up while studying. She has been in a management role since 2008, taught Certificate III in Disability at TAFE and Community College and this year reached the dizzy height of Chief Operating Officer with a staff of 55 paid workers and 30 volunteers. Wow!

Kathy was greatly influenced not only by her fit and hard working mother who gained a degree as a mature-age student, but also by her highly intelligent maternal grandmother, the recipient of an Order of Australia Medal for her work in Aboriginal affairs. She had a strong work ethic and was very broad-minded; she marched in the Mardi Gras with Kathy's aunt!

After Cody was born, Kathy struggled with her weight for the next 18 years. Not any more - she has taken up 'CrossFit', which includes Olympic weightlifting, rope climbs, pullups, skipping etc. She can clean and jerk 70 kg, dead lift 130 kg and bench press 62 kg. She feels fantastic, has lost over 60 kg and can mix it with 20 year olds! She is learning tai chi and is performing in Pappinbarra Players' production of *Move over Mrs Markham*.

For most of her life Kathy has lived in Pappinbarra, spreading her



Kathy with daughter Cody

wings periodically but always returning. Her dad Stan, who was killed in a car crash on Pappinbarra Rd in 2004, was well known in the local community, worked at the Hastings Co-op for many years and was a regular at the Beechwood pub. He was physically the strongest man Kathy has ever known and a great jack-of-all-trades. Kathy was looking at moving out west to teach at the time of the crash, but his death persuaded her to stay in Pappinbarra. She was passionate about the farm, had a great family unit and was already working in the disability sector. So the running of the 300-acre farm fell to Ann, Daniel and Kathy. In collaboration, they have made many improvements and have a happy and productive life, running beef cattle. Kathy is involved in all aspects of cattle work and greatly respects and values tuition from neighbour Dale Goldfinch.

The house is very old, with a 50 ft drop to the river from the back, a fantastic swimming hole and wonderful neighbours. There are lots of peacocks, which arrive from nowhere. Never asked to stay, they roost in trees around the house and breeding season is a very noisy time of the year. Cody lives close by and is studying Social Work at university, doing very well with minimum effort and lots of fun.

The Wonderley farm is over the river so they frequently have to wade or swim across. Kathy has been known to make it almost naked using a boogie board! The flying fox was removed some years back; Kathy remembers using it to go to school during floods.

So if you see a fit, semi-naked woman swimming across the Pappinbarra River with a calf above her head, it's possibly Kathy!

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PPA President's Note

WOW! Our last First Friday BBQ was a fantastic night. We had the L J Hooker team treat us all to some fabulous dishes. We also met Phil, Rebecca and Amee - what a lovely family. They didn't take long to mingle with the crowd. Welcome to Pappinbarra.

The end of the year is rapidly approaching. Take care as we come into the hot silly season and let's make every day count. Don't forget our great Christmas celebration at December FF with Santa booked to arrive on the fire truck.

Quote of the month: 'The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.'

Lisa McLeod

Rural Fire Brigade News

With the hot weather commencing it was a bit busy for a few days: a fire started on the side of the road at Rick Sharpe's place on Tuesday 6 October (a discarded cigarette perhaps to blame). Over the next three days 16 trucks were used to keep the fire within containment lines. It had to be manned around the clock. Large back burns were used to protect assets and to ensure it did not escape into other properties. Overall, 88 hectares were burnt before the fire was declared out six days later after some rain helped.

If you do see anybody throwing a cigarette out the window jot down their rego number and hand it to the authorities; a \$660 fine may make them think differently next time.

Thanks to the RFSA grant program, Hollisdale brigade received \$661 in equipment for the truck and shed, which has already been put to good use.

During the Council consultation at the hall a, we discussed the extension to the fire shed to cater for a toilet and shower and possibly a Cat 9 truck which would have been very useful at the recent fire because it is more manoeuvrable in these hilly conditions. It has taken 18 months for PPA's letter advising Council of their donation of the strip of land needed for the purpose to get through the red tape. Hopefully with the Mayor on our side things might get a move on.

**Chris Roelandts,
Hollisdale captain**

Permits are now required for burning off.

Don't forget to give your neighbours and fire control (6588 9000) at least 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, Chris Roelandts 65856700; Beechwood: Sam Elphick 0428-856-222.

In the Vegie Patch

Greenbourne Nursery in Wauchope has a new range of Johnsons seeds called 'World Kitchen' which features favourite vegetables from all over the world. Examples include Thai Eggplant, Goji Berry, Italian Onions, Chopsuey Greens and Mexican Chillies. Check them out and try something a bit different in your vegie patch this summer!



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Times Past

Up the left arm with the Ostlers

Ernest Ostler came as a Soldier Settler (ex 30th Battalion) to a property some 30 miles up Pappinbarra Creek from Wauchope in an area on the Left Arm they called Cedar Scrub. Ernest had been born in Sitapur, India, the son of a British Quarter Master Sergeant serving on the North West Frontier. His mother died when he was a young boy. His father married again in England and migrated to Australia with a large family in the early 1900s to eventually settle in the Hastings area. At the onset of World War I, Ernest went off to the Western Front. Wounded in the legs and severely gassed, he was recovering in an English Military Hospital when he met Nurse Nellie Reeson. Her Lincolnshire parents, who owned property including a flour mill, didn't approve of her nursing, and were even less pleased when she packed her bags and followed Ernest to Australia when he was repatriated at the end of hostilities. Nellie and Ernest married in Wauchope on 21 May 1921. 'Dad was quiet and steady; Mum hated injustice and was more volatile but intensely loyal.'

Ernest worked round the area and three boys - Keith, Tony and Bruce - were born before they moved to the block at Cedar Scrub (later called Upper Pappinbarra). Ernest's brother Alfred secured an adjoining block in the ballot.

Both arms of Pappinbarra Creek were gazetted for soldier settlement: 'virgin scrub, both rainforest and eucalypt, never been touched by the blade of a sharp axe, making the task of clearing a truly daunting one' [and cleared it had to be as part of the settlement conditions]. 'Some blocks were never occupied and I think one man committed suicide. Out of the 16-17 blocks, only six were finally settled by ex-servicemen.' So the trees were felled, the huge ones ringbarked and the dried logs burnt or used for farm buildings, pit-sawn or split into slabs *in situ*.

'Our old home on *Frithville* was built butter-box style, of sawn timber and slabs, with a timber shingled roof and front and back verandahs. It was durable and serviceable, lined to keep out the cold.'

Tony has a vivid memory of his dad on the reins of the sulky back from Wauchope, his mother holding new baby David with Bruce 'in the middle with his leg all bandaged up' - while being minded by his dad he had tripped over a kero can lid Tony had left in the yard and gashed himself badly.

A few years later, Bruce was splitting kindling; toddler David put

some wood on the block and a misplaced little hatchet took out his middle finger and badly gashed another - again a 30-mile trip to the doctor in Wauchope, that time in Uncle Alf's car.

'The eerie call of a dingo not more than a few hundred yards away, sent shivers up little boys' backs as we cuddled together in our bed.'

By the mid-1920s 'Dad had the phone on and was running the Post Office in a little room on the end of the front verandah - a boon plus a little extra cash. The next PO was ten miles down the valley and, three times a week, Dad would collect the mail from there and deliver it per horse and sulky.'



Keith, Bruce, Tony & David

'The massive flood of February 1929 really cut the Cedar Scrub off from the world.'

'By the end of the 20s a good set of bails had been built, so we had a dairy herd - very quiet cows, milked by hand of course. Only the cream was sold so we kept pigs, fattened on separated milk plus corn, which we grew, ploughing the paddocks with draught horses. When the weeds came up with the corn the horses were used with a scarifier to scuffle the ground and hill the corn. We pulled

the cobs at the beginning of winter, collecting them in the cart to store in the barn - Mum, Dad, the kids and anyone else who turned up.'

The chooks were essential for their eggs and had to be locked up every night - marauding foxes, quolls and goannas were common.

'We grew our own fruit and veges - shops were a long way away and Mum preserved lots of peaches and plums. Sometimes she'd use a kerosene tin; the lid would be soldered on after the fruit was cooked up on the fire. With no electricity, all lighting had to be run on kerosene and the empty, four-gallon, square kero tins were made excellent use of in a number of ways after the lid was cut off and a wire handle put on - carting water round the house and garden, for washing down the dairy and carrying separated milk for pigs and calves. They also found a

(Continued on page 5)

Susan Ashton RN



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(Continued from page 4)

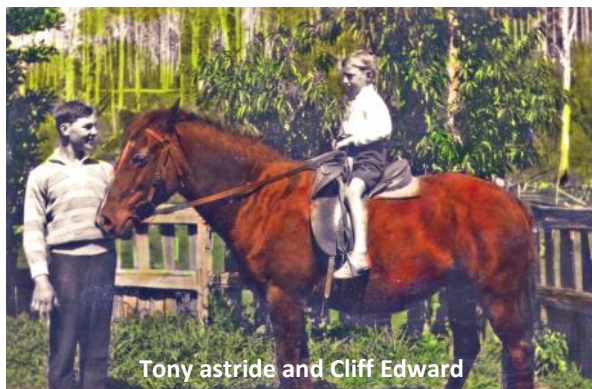
use in outside dunnies - no inside toilets those days.

'We didn't just buy kero in bulk - flour and sugar as well. You never knew when you might be cut off from town by floods or even bushfires. My mother was a very practical woman and always made good use of the bags in many ways. We made our own butter from our cream - all hands to the wheel

turning the churn for the finished product. Homemade bread was always on the menu: Dad was a dab hand at making it and had a never-ending job with a growing family. Fresh bread (or scones), homemade jam and fresh cream - a great combination!

'Dad always kept pigs and a vealer or two for slaughter on the farm. No electricity so no freezers or fridges; we preserved most of the meat in brine. Short-term, we used a hanging bush safe to keep it cool and away from blowflies.

'My mother was very strong on education and taught us through Blackfriars Correspondence School, until a subsidised school was built on the property and a teacher engaged to put a bit of polish on us Ostlers and the neighbours' kids. The teachers boarded with our family. Bill Lake, in particular, had a



Tony astride and Cliff Edward

profound influence on me. Sadly, he lost his life serving with the RAAF in WW II.

'We were isolated and life was hard for my parents, Ernest and Nellie, their sacrifices monumental. We children knew no other life and, by and large, were happy and contented. But change had to take place, education being the main factor in my family. In 1936, when I was twelve, Dad put in a sharefarmer, made the big move to

Port Macquarie for six months, then relocated to Harrington, where he took over the Post office. I finished primary schooling there, went to Taree High, and, with WW II in full swing enlisted in the army at 18. I returned to Pappinbarra exactly ten years to the month since the family had left. I joined brother David back on the old farm. In 1948, Dad bought *Highfields*, next door, from Jim McKinnon. Around this time I met Patricia Amy Saul who was holidaying with her cousin Thea Foulger on a nearby farm. We married in 1951 and moved to *Highfields* in 1952.'

Jean Hegarty with many thanks to Tony Ostler.
(More of his story in future issues.)

Opportunity to contribute to Council's biodiversity assessment

Port Macquarie Hastings Council is developing a regional Biodiversity Strategy and has convened a Community Panel to assist in this process. The Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group has representation on the panel and has been asked to feed local knowledge about wildlife into this process which otherwise relies on information contained in various public databases. These are understandably incomplete and they tend to be heavily biased towards public land. Our objective is to get many more data points onto the maps, especially from private lands that have production as well as conservation values, and to help develop a more accurate picture of the region's biodiversity values. Contributors will be provided with a checklist of birds, frogs, reptiles and mammals and asked to mark off those species for which they have reliable sightings either from their own property or from particular points along the various local roads. It is not necessary to attempt to cover all groups, just those about which you are confident. If anyone is interested in contributing to this process, they can contact Ken Aplin either by email (aplin.ken@gmail.com) or by phone (65876035).

New colours for the Hall



Jean Hegarty and PPA President Lisa McLeod with Mayor Peter Besseling at the presentation of the grant on 8 October for the painting of Hollisdale Hall.

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Move over Mrs Markham

*There is a very cosy and very big bed in a luxury top floor London flat – what today we'd call a Penthouse flat. No-one is supposed to be home, and everyone has a key.
What could possibly go wrong?*

Funny business rules!

Move over Mrs Markham is a riot of uproarious sexual shenanigans with multiple misunderstandings crafted as the 'sexual revolution' of the 60s changed lives for ever... or did it? Before *political correctness* there was the *good natured romp* and John Uncle's direction of the Pappinbarra Players makes the most of the opportunity to celebrate funny business in every sense.

The Markhams are the model of love, marriage and affluence – played to a tee by Michèle Malseed and Darren Rowley. This hapless couple cannot see the idyll in which they live, and neither do we until the end, after their every good intention has been tested by the comic scheming of friends, miscalculations of randy work colleagues and self-obsessed antics of infatuated staff... Labour never comes cheaply, we are told; and then, perhaps, neither does true love? This couple set a comic pace punctuated by side-splitting moments of consternation shared with the audience as their lives unravel to our delight.

Philip Markham's business partner, Henry Lodge, has set him up with a flash pad just upstairs from their publishing business – convenient for Philip to do all the work day and night and easy to borrow for the occasional assignation if the Markhams should ever go out. Tonight the Markhams are going out, so Lodge is in with plans to seduce a woman he has only spoken to on the phone. Unknown to both men, Lodge's long-suffering wife, Linda, played by Kathy Wonderley, has found herself a man and prevailed on Mrs Markham to let them meet in the very same penthouse that night. Henry is a bit of a cad, but impossible to dislike in this affectionate performance by the play's director John Uncle, who captures the character's endless bafflement in the mayhem that proceeds from the collision of what he wants with what he gets.

Add to this confusion the fetching resident au pair – a florid continental, in this very British play - and the Markham's flamboyant interior decorator – in his case very British and also

very florid, camping it up as only the 60s would have it – who have romantic intentions that very same night in the very same bedroom. Emma Frost's Sylvie manages to flip between flirtation and pique to great comic effect as she tries to serve both her master and herself. The interior designer, Alistair Spenlow, is played with panache by Gary Rainbow. His antics never fail to pull off priceless comic moments, with interjections, running gags about suggestive colour schemes and chatty commentary on who's in charge. Fittingly, Spenlow ends up playing Philip Markham in a galling piece of role reversal - servant playing the master- at the hysterical climax of the play.



Linda Lodge's would-be lover, Walter Pangbourne, is a long time getting there. He arrives, bouquet in-hand, a comic gem played by Trevor Smith. We await him so long that someone in the audience asked, "Where's Walter?" This is more than a cameo performance, it is a cluster of crazy appearances – plural – appearing as he does, out of the cupboard, bathroom, bedroom, study... and through the front door seemingly numerous times, increasingly disorientated and dishevelled by the goings-on. Lodge's girl on-the-side arrives, played with spirit by Kerry Rowley; she mistakes who it is she is supposed to be on a date with and disrobes in the bedroom for the wrong man... chaos is imminent as she is separated from her clothes.

At this point Mary Walker adds the icing to the cake with her portrayal of the prim Miss Smythe, whose commanding and unexpected arrival in the midst of the multiple would-be affairs sets the moral compass spinning - something has to give, and it does. Basically true love triumphs, boy gets girl and girl gets boy. Miss Smythe gets published. But Walter? Where's Walter?

This play proves our ability still to be shocked and to giggle at our human foibles. Remember: Funny business rules... and charity begins at home.

Adrian Guthrie

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Bird of the Month

Fan-tailed Cuckoo

Cacomantis flabelliformis

Other Names: Ash-coloured Cuckoo, Storm Bird.

Size: 24cm to 28cm

Status: Secure in all states that it occurs.



Of the 13 species of cuckoo inhabiting Australia, the Fan-tailed Cuckoo is perhaps the best known of the medium-sized cuckoos. During the spring and summer breeding season they call much more frequently than at other times.

Adult birds, slender with a generally upright stance, are mid-grey on the head, back and wings and a pale rufous under-body. The under-tail is boldly barred grey and white. The tail is rounded but is seldom opened fan-like! They have a prominent yellow eye-ring. Young birds lack the yellow eye-ring and are brownish all over with fine brown barring on the breast.

They are found along the east and southern coastal regions of Australia from Cape York south into Victoria and Tasmania and across to south-western WA. Birds from Tasmania generally migrate north to the mainland during winter. In wet eucalypt and more open forests they feast on a variety of insects and have been seen to prey on hairy caterpillars - something which few other birds do.

Their most common call is an often repeated, mellow, descending trill heard day or night. Also other calls resembling an ascending 'pe-weeerr' or a descending 'pe-woorr' are less frequently heard.

The breeding season is from July to January or February. Fan-tailed Cuckoos are brood parasites, laying in the domed nests of other small birds like thornbills and scrub wrens. The cuckoo lays one egg in the brood-host's nest, removing one of the host's eggs as it does. The cuckoo egg generally hatches first and the cuckoo hatchling then ejects the hosts own eggs or hatchlings from the nest. The host parent birds continue to feed the young cuckoo until it fledges.

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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If your business would like a one-off A4 advertising insert in *Pitchfork*, provide us with 300 copies and we will distribute for \$30. Contact Liz Gough 0473 170 761. Deadline is 26 November for the Dec/Jan issue.

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SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22

11:30

For catering purposes, please book with Hastings Landcare on 63864465 or hastingslandcare@midcoast.com.au

Proudly brought to you by:



PPA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – the second last Friday of each month at 6 pm. All welcome.

Facilities for Hire

Hollisdale Hall - booking essential. New charges in operation to better cover costs.

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 over 100. It comes out on the weekend before First Friday - Friday 27 November for the December/January issue. Material for the Dec/Jan issue to the Editor by Thursday 19 November please. We run both casual and regular advertisements at very competitive rates. Contact Liz Gough 0473 170 761.

Production Team

Editor: Jean Hegarty jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au

Production: Angela Frost angfrost@hotmail.com

Advertising: Liz Gough lizabeth52@hotmail.com 0473 170 761

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

Pappinbarra Progress Association Committee

Executive:

President: Lisa McLeod 0418 220 138

Vice President: Mary Walker 6587 6055

Treasurer: Sue Frost 6587 6129

Secretary: Suzanne Pollett 0420 329 841

Other Committee Members:

Todd Barnes

Liz and Bryan Gough

Nat and Will Mrowka

Kelly Gould

Gary Rainbow

Jean Hegarty

PPA Membership 2015-2016

\$5 per adult

PLEASE PRINT

Member Names: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Payment amount: _____

Send cash or cheque made out to "Pappinbarra Progress Association" to: Sue Frost, 2751 Pappinbarra Rd, Pappinbarra NSW 2446

