



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association

President's Report

How green is our valley! It seems, however, that pastures haven't really taken off and we may be in for a hard winter. Let's hope that there is still time and temperature for some growth to happen.

Talking to Pat Murray about his days at Ellengrove School [see 'Days Gone By'] reminded me very much of my father's stories, not only of the one-teacher school he taught in before the war at Johnsons Creek near Wards River, but also of his days as a pupil in a little slab-built school in the Hunter Valley in the 1920s. That children's experience was so similar in the 1950s here in the valley really says a lot about the remoteness of this area - a generation on, little had changed. My father too, had no shoes, got the cows in before school, stood in fresh manure or where the animals had been lying to warm his feet and went home to more work after school.

Power didn't come to Hollisdale till about 1960; in 1968 the poles marched as far as Peter Reynolds', then the supply took a leap to Merv Wallis' before extending to the end of the valley. In the days before electricity, communal activities were organised round the full moon but, generally, country folk were so exhausted from hard physical work they just went to bed at the end of the day.

Times have changed. While there are aspects recalled with nostalgia, would we really want to return to that simple life, with supplies brought out on the milk truck and perhaps a trip to Wauchope once a year?

With that thought I leave you with the proposition that while we sail on with the times, it is important not to leave the past destroyed in our wake. The PPA would like to conserve the Ellengrove schoolroom, developing it for use as a small meeting room. An extension would be built to the rear of the hall with both kitchen facilities and storage for tables and chairs. Draft plans for this endeavour will be discussed at the March committee meeting and be on display at April First Friday.

I'm delighted to inform you that we have had another grant application success - \$1088 from the NSW Cancer Council for shade sails over the new sandpit.

And finally, many thanks to our advertisers past and present. Your investment in *Pitchfork* is much appreciated. I urge all our readers to support those who support us

Hope to see you at **First Friday** at the Hall on the **first of March**.

Jean Hegarty

Special General Meeting

Members Lyn Blythe, Joyce Ditchburn, Julie-Anne Murphy, Dale Goldfinch, Kerry Rowley, Steve Hadfield, Julie Hadfield, Chris Roelandts and James Adams have sent a letter to the PPA Committee requesting a Special General Meeting to address concerns they have about the following matters:

- The proposed new kitchen
- The new fence
- Our recent successful Arts grant application
- *Pitchfork* finances
- PPA finances
- PPA Budget
- Receipts for membership fees

Your committee welcomes the opportunity to address the issues raised and encourages members of the Association to attend the meeting.

When: 7.30pm, Thursday 14 March **Where:** Hollisdale Hall

LADIES CAN YOU
TOSS SALAD?
YES, WE'LL START TOSSING!

Sunday 10th March 1:30pm
@ the Beechwood Pub
JUDGING BY OUR LOCAL BOYS
Then we can taste the salad
with a BBQ thrown in
Gold coin donation
We will have raffles and music
and a cake stall on the day
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PORT DIALYSIS

Australia Day

We had a modest turnout for Australia day that was nevertheless enjoyed by those who came along. The adults and children's events, expertly managed by Jeanette Rainbow, were keenly contested. The sack race was won by Peter Michael while Emma Frost retained her title in the gumboot throw. Winners of the children's races were: hopping Noah Barter, sprinting Morrow Taplin and sack race Nina McGahey. Many thanks to our BBQ chefs Kelly Benson and Jim McGahey.

The line-up for the adult sack race— it was tough competition on the day!



Meet the Neighbours—Steve and Anne Bryson

Steve and Anne moved to the Pappinbarra Valley in November 1996. Originally their purchase of 2667 Pappinbarra Rd was for investment purposes, but after moving to the valley they loved it so much they decided to make the move permanent and left Port Macquarie behind.

Anne now works as a locum optometrist in Port Macquarie, Wauchope, Laurieton and Kempsey so is kept very busy. Steve's passion is their cattle, but as they started out with a smallish amount of land it wouldn't support too many cattle so they diversified into growing Proteas—Pink Ice and King varieties. They did this for 8 years.

Then the opportunity came for them to purchase more land and a Forestry Occupation Lease, and a freehold block of 100 acres became theirs. This allowed them to increase the herd to 100 breeders with Brangus and Angus bulls.

Anne and Steve were married on 15 November 1997 in our historic church at Pappinbarra. Their children, Kirsty and Matthew, loved life on the farm and often came to stay for weekends and school holidays.

With the help and support of good friends Bert and Jan Brown and Merv and Pam Wallis, Steve and Anne rose to the challenges of farming life. Anne reckons she could write a book about all the



Steve and Anne Bryson

hurdles they have overcome in their 16 years of living on the farm.

Anne and Steve have seen many changes in our beautiful valley and they are delighted to see younger families enjoying living in our close and supportive community of Pappinbarra.

Mary Walker

Hall Fence, Sandpit and Kitchen Floor

What a great community building effort this has been! The people of the valley, under Jim McGahey's able direction, have constructed the beautiful three-rail hardwood fence that will stop children running out amongst parked cars during functions at the hall or while families picnic there. Over three very full days, a team consisting variously of Steve Bryson, Peter Michael, Damien Privett, Rob Frost, Angela Frost, Ryan Taplin, Chay Khamstone, Jan Childs and Mary Walker dug holes, sank posts, mixed and poured concrete, moved earth, sawed, chiseled, hammered, sanded and hung gates while supporters and exhorters – Bryony Anderson, Bev Sibthorpe, Kelly Benson, Elly Franchimont, Patrick McEntee, George Hegarty and Jean Hegarty worked on the sandpit



Jan Childs, Pete Michael, Mary Walker and Jim McGahey taking a well-earned break from building the magnificent fence.

and/or dismantled the kitchen/schoolroom prior to floor-sanding/sealing then re-assembled it and did a huge tidy up afterwards (the old timber floor looks beautiful!). Rob Frost also repaired all of the broken windows in the Hall. It was hard work by all and for a short time each day we all relaxed over lunches organised by Jan and Mary.

Many thanks to all who contributed in any way to these projects, not forgetting Julie-Anne Murphy, who wrote the grant submission for the fence last year and Darren Rowley, who lent his excavator. There will be an official opening ceremony at First Friday in March. You are warmly invited to come along and enjoy the occasion with the people of the valley.

RFS Update— Fire Permits and Bushfire Hazards

When are Fire Permits Required?

A fire permit is required during the Bush Fire Danger Period. Please note that other restrictions, approvals and/or permits may apply to council areas where the Bush Fire Danger Period has not been declared. For example, backyard burning is not permitted in many suburban areas due to Environmental Regulations and Council permission is required. If you have a permit, it is your responsibility to:

- **Check** if there is a [Total Fire Ban](#) (Wauchope 02-6588-9000) in your area. If there is, your permit is automatically suspended.
- **Notify** and **check** with your local NSW RFS [Fire Control Centre](#) (Wauchope 02-6588-9000) or Fire & Rescue NSW station whether permits are suspended.
- **Follow** any restrictions listed in your permit

For more information on Fire Permits see: <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/dsp>

Reporting Bush Fire Hazards

If you are concerned about bush fire hazards on your property, or the property adjacent to you, the Rural Fire Service (RFS) can provide advice regarding preparing your property against bush fires and what you have to do in the event of a bush fire. This advice is free and can be arranged by contacting your local RFS Fire Control Centre and speaking with one of our officers. The RFS is responsible for inspecting bush fire hazards, providing advice and if necessary and issuing notices to all landowners and managers to reduce hazards. If you believe there is a bush fire hazard near your property, you can make a formal Complaint by contacting your Local Fire Control Centre, in person, via email, mail, fax or phone (Wauchope 6588-9000). The RFS will arrange for an inspection of the site to determine if a bush fire hazard exists. The landowner or the manager of the land will be notified separately of the results. Privacy Legislation prevents the disclosure of your details. If a hazard does exist the RFS can issue a Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Notice, requesting the hazard be removed. This Notice can be issued to private and public landowners. If the Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Notice is not complied with, the RFS may remove the hazard at the landowner's cost.

Damian Privett

Fire Permits to burn off **are required** until further notice.

Permits are valid for 7 days only.

Prior to a burn you are required to give your neighbours 24 hours notice in advance.

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: Lyn Blythe 6587-6186; Beechwood: Sam Elphick 0428-856-222.

Lapsing of Existing Holding Provisions

You might, like many rural landholders, have been planning to erect a dwelling on land eligible for approval under the 'existing holding' provisions, or even planned to have it fund your retirement. Well come 23 February, unless Council is forced to act otherwise, your land will drop in value by at least 50% because it will no longer have a dwelling entitlement. Changes brought in in Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP) in February 2011 set a two year limit on such entitlement. From 23 February 2013 the right to make a development application for the erection of a dwelling on vacant land in a rural zone will essentially be restricted to land that meets the minimum lot size requirement specified for that land. In this valley these lot sizes vary from 100 to 250 acres.

Following a meeting of over 50 landholders held at the RSL in

Wauchope recently a submission was made to Council that the 2 year limitation be revoked and that landholders be allowed to make a development application at a time of their choosing as they were under the previous LEP. Jean Hegarty also forwarded a petition to Council, signed by 16 members of the PPA, expressing the concern of valley residents and requesting that the restriction on landholders' rights be removed.

Council is considering this matter at its regular meeting on Wednesday 20 February when we will be giving a brief presentation on the issue. Unfortunately, the outcome will be known too late to include in this Issue of *Pitchfork*. See April Issue for an update on this important matter.

George Hegarty



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Frogs in the Valley

A trip outside on a rainy night can be very rewarding at this time of year. My husband, Ken and I were out on such a night a couple of weeks ago and we added another species to the list of frogs we have seen on our property – the list now totals 13. The new frog was *Uperoleia rugosa*, sometimes called the Wrinkled Toadlet and it was slow to make it to the list because it is very hard to see. Making a deep clicking sound, the male hides in a small depression on the ground often under grass at the side of a dam or a water-soaked ditch – waiting for a female. As soon as he detects something big (like us) approaching, he stops calling and won't start again for AGES! After a long patient wait in the rain we finally zeroed in on one and found him, a small, dark guy with a warty back and surprising pretty orange patches



The Wrinkled Toadlet and his lovely orange thighs!

in the joints of his legs.

Pappinbarra valley is almost deafening with male frogs calling at the moment, the rain arriving late not really bothering them as they have been getting down to business in the river, creeks, dams, ponds, ditches and puddles. I can recommend a wander around in the dark to see our many lovely summer-breeding frogs before they stop calling as it gets colder.

Angela Frost

Carbon Farming Community Workshop

The Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group is arranging a community workshop to help local people who have an interest in investigating carbon farming as a potential income source learn more about it.

When: Tuesday, 26 March, 7–8:30pm

Where: Hollisdale Hall

Presenters: Lindy Brown, Acting Catchment Coordinator (Southern), Northern Rivers CMA; Daintry Gerrand, Community Support Officer, Hastings Landcare

Cost: \$2

The workshop will cover: What does carbon farming mean? What does it entail? Do you need to plant and if so what? What funds are available to support this? Can it be plantings done in the past? How big an area do you need for it be viable for carbon farming? What is soil sequestering, how do you do it, and is it a potential source of income? What is vegetation sequestering, how do you do it and is it a potential source of income?

Contact: Kelly Miller 6587-6033 bigmarksmail@yahoo.com

Community Landcare Grants

Community Landcare Grants 2013-2014 are now open. These are the small grants component (\$5,000 up to \$50,000) of the *Sustainable Agriculture* stream of the Australian Government's *Caring for Our Country* initiative. They are designed to support the natural resource management community to ensure Australia's agricultural base is sustainable, productive and resilient. They are available to help local community-based organisations and groups take on-ground action as well as build their capacity and skills to manage their natural environment and productive lands, while contributing towards the program outcomes. Applications close on **20 March, 2013**. Overview, Applicant Guidelines, Application Form and FAQs can be found at: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/agriculture/clg/index.html>

More information can be obtained from Geoff Hudson, Senior Policy Officer NRM, Local Government & Shires Association of NSW 02-9242-4095, geoff.hudson@lgsa.org.au or by contacting Daintry Gerrand at Hastings Landcare 6586 4465.

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Plant of the Month— Privet

Privet – Large Leaf (or Broad Leaf, or Tree) *Ligustrum lucidum* and Narrow Leaf (or Small Leaf or Chinese) *Ligustrum sinense*
Family: Oleaceae (olive)

These two species of privet are noxious weeds in NSW. Both originate from eastern Asia and were introduced to Australia as ornamental or hedging species. They have become widespread weeds of disturbed land, pastoral areas and native bushland in coastal NSW and have extensive environmental, agricultural and human health impacts. Invasive weeds across the Port Macquarie Hastings Local Government area, they are found primarily in riparian and roadside areas and along rural fence lines, but are now spreading into bushland, including remnant vegetation areas. Unfortunately privets are still present in urban gardens, public plantings, hedges and windbreaks, although it is thought that new plantings of privet have declined. The plant produces masses of flowers in early spring. Large quantities of fruit are then produced. Propagation is primarily by seed, with birds being the main agents, and along streamlines, from suckering from damaged roots and broken stem pieces. These features all make the two privets difficult to control.

They are both currently classified as environmental weeds in the Port Macquarie Hastings Local Government area, which means there is no legislative requirement to control them. Council staff undertake control works on privets on Council managed land to protect high priority vegetation areas and in situations where they are growing with other weeds being targeted. The declaration list for Noxious Weeds in NSW has recently been reviewed and the new Control Order 30 is to go on public exhibition in the next few months. Both Large Leaf Privet and Narrow Leaf Privet are proposed to be included as Class 4 weeds for the Port Macquarie Hastings Local Government area, with the control requirement being: *The growth of the plant must be managed in a manner that continuously inhibits the ability of the plant to spread.*



Broad-leaf Privet flowers
Photo: Elissa van Oosterhout



Broad-leaf Privet Fruit
Photo: John Hosking

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/profiles/privet/privet-image-gallery>

Council will be developing Weed Management plans for both privets that will reflect the Class 4 legislative requirements, and will guide land managers in the control of these weeds.

Large Leaf Privet is commonly confused with the native shrub Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*). Other native tree species that can be confused with privets include: Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium smithii*), Grey Myrtle (*Backhousia myrtifolia*), Coffee Bush (*Breynia oblongifolia*) and Native Olive (*Olea paniculata*). Care is needed to distinguish privets from these native species.

Control

Hand – generally small plants can be hand pulled, but use caution on steep and friable ground where uprooting can cause soil damage. **Chemical** – foliar spray with metsulfuron methyl (eg Brushoff) 1.0g/10litres; cut stump to 100mm and brush with undiluted glyphosate (eg RoundUp Biactive); the trees are often multitrunked so all trunks need to be treated; chisel or drill and inject larger trees with undiluted glyphosate with 2mL per cut/hole 100mm apart and as close to the ground

as possible. Also treat any dominant surface roots. Large infestations of germinated seedlings can be sprayed with RoundUp Biactive (10mls/1litres).

Carol Jungblut and Estelle Gough, Port Macquarie Landcare with Grant Taylor (Noxious Weeds Officer Port Macquarie-Hastings Council); courtesy of Habitatler

FURTHER INFORMATION

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (Noxious Weeds Officer or Municipal Ecologist) 6581 8111.

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MARCH 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1 First Friday 6pm	2 Yoga 8am	3
4	5 Exercise 1:30pm	6	7	8	9 Yoga 8am	10
11	12 Exercise 1:30pm	13	14 Special general meeting 7:30pm	15	16 Yoga 8am	17
18	19 Exercise 1:30pm	20	21	22	23 Yoga 8am, Farmers' Market 8am-12pm	24 All Saints Church 2pm
25	26 Exercise 1:30pm, Carbon Farming Workshop 7pm	27	28			

Look through the *Pitchfork* for details of the events and programs found in the calendar.

Hastings Farmers' Market

The Hastings Farmers' Market will be vibrant with sound and colour and food on **Saturday, 23 March**. As always there will be the best and freshest produce and product available. This includes a variety of fresh herbs and lettuces grown by a young local farmer from King Creek who is just starting out on this adventure and a new stall with egg and bacon rolls made from the producer's own free-range pigs, and eggs from their free range hens. To add excitement to the market experience, Bella Shower choir (a combination of Bella Bago choir and Out of the Shower choir) will come and sing their hearts out on the stage in the main pavilion at 10.30 am. The market is at the Wauchope Showground and open to the public from 8 am to 12 noon, rain hail or shine. I look forward to seeing many Pappinbarrians there.

Elly Franchimont

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Days Gone By

There were originally three one-teacher schools in the Pappinbarra Valley - Lyddington, down near the bridge, Ellengrove at Hollisdale and Pappinbarra at the Junction, near where the fire shed is now.

The middle school, then called Bappin, began in 1900 in a small structure, probably built of slabs with the supporting poles set in the ground, on Crown land surrounded by the McCarthy property where Blythes now live. It closed briefly during the First World War, to re-open in 1918 near the river on the Hollis property, inside the *Ferneleigh* gate. A fanciful story was told of its being pulled there on a



The Ellengrove School in the '50s

couple of logs by a bullock team.

In 1928, the extant weatherboard schoolhouse was built on land donated by Tom Hollis' father. It was named Ellengrove for his wife, Ellen. The children went into their classroom via the door at the end of the verandah, through the hat room. The teacher's desk was in front of the fireplace, with the blackboard, as it is now, above the fire. It seems the fire was rarely lit.

Children had to help on the farm before and after school - many got the cows in and helped with the milking before going off, sandwiches in a bag, to recite their tables every morning at 9.30 am and sit still and listen till 3.30 pm except for playtime and lunch; after school more milking and other jobs. No wonder that some recalled little of the daily lessons!

Two long-drops - boys' and girls' - were at the back corners of the schoolyard. The teacher kept order by liberal use of a cane; he seemed to have an endless supply, many of which ended up down the boys' loo. 'There was an excuse for a flower garden out the front.' It would just get going then die from frosts or lack of water. Drinking water came from two tanks.

Ellengrove closed for a time during the Second World War and re-opened in 1948 only to be closed permanently seven years later due to declining numbers of children. With great foresight, the Pappinbarra Progress Association bought the school and land from the Education Department. There they held meetings and beetle and darts nights until the hall was built - but that is another story.

Jean Hegarty (with thanks to Pat Murray)

Distribution of POA Residual Funds

In finalising POA's affairs, Fair Trading has approved the distribution of its remaining funds. As resolved in the final meeting of the POA committee, \$588 has been given to the Pappinbarra Rural Fire Service and \$588 to the PPA. PPA and the Fire Brigade have expressed thanks to the POA for its generosity and will be able to use the funds for the benefit of the Valley community.

Sue Frost

Upper Pappinbarra Recreation Ground Bookings

The Council-owned tennis court and other facilities are available for hire - non-profit \$5 per hour and commercial \$10 per hour. For bookings please contact Sue Frost 6587-6129.

In the Vegie Patch

Great to see the rain! This is a perfect time to prepare your garden beds ready for winter crops. Lime the beds first, if you have not done this previously. Leave for 1-2 weeks then add a layer of well-rotted animal manure, dig in well. Vegetable seeds to sow now: Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Peas, Beetroot, Broad Beans, Turnip, Cauliflower, Parsnip and Spinach. Available now in seedling punnets: Broccoli, Cauliflower, Spinach and Peas. Product highlight for March: "Dr Grow it all" BFA registered organic liquid fertiliser. It contains biological compounds and valuable microbes. For more information <http://www.drgrowitall.com.au>

Happy Gardening



Alison Robinson

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Regular Events

First Friday

When: First Friday of the month, 6pm onwards

Where: Hollisdale Hall

What: BYO drinks and nibbles, low cost BBQ including vegetarian and gluten free options, members' draw (cash prize) and raffle, 'Trading Table', table tennis, all ages welcome

Contact: Jean Hegarty 6585-6077

Yoga

When: Every Saturday morning, 8-9:30AM

Where: Hollisdale Hall

What: \$15 (mats are provided)

Contact: Amy Hubers stillpointyogamassage@gmail.com 6585-3470

Saturday Sing Along - Suspended until April

When: Second Saturday of every month, 10am -12pm

Where: Hollisdale Hall

What: \$10 (\$5 of which goes to the PPA); morning tea (bring something delicious to share if the urge takes you)

Contact: Elly Franchimont 6587-6097 or 0424 220 937

www.vocalpointevents.com

Exercise Group

When: Tuesday afternoons 1:30—2:30pm

Where: Hollisdale Hall

What: Equipment provided

Contact: Lyn Blythe 6587-6185 or Beverly Kilpatrick 6587-6112

PPA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – monthly at 6pm the Friday before First Friday – all welcome.

Facilities for Hire

Hollisdale Hall – contact Jan Childs 6587-6055. Upper Pappinbarra facilities and tennis court - contact Sue Frost 6587-6129

Trading Post

Got anything to sell?

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Contact Chay: kwanchay@hotmail.com

All Saints Church

Services are held **every fourth Sunday at 2 pm** with a cuppa 'off the back of the ute' around **2.45p.m.** All welcome.



Pitchfork

Circulation

Pitchfork has hardcopy and email circulation of approximately 280. It comes out on the weekend **before** First Friday – **Friday, 29 March** for the **April** Issue. Material for the April issue to the Editor by **Wednesday, 20 March**. We run both casual and regular **advertisements** at very competitive rates. Contact Chay Khamson.

Production Team

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

Pappinbarra Progress Association Committee

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Vice President: Mary Walker 6587-6055

Treasurer: Jan Childs 6587-6055

Secretary: Elly Franchimont 6587-6097

Other Members:

Kelly Benson Chay Khamson

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PPA Membership 2012-2013

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