



# PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News  
Pappinbarra Progress Association

June 2014

## Valley Happenings

PPA welcomes new members Cliff and Jenny Warburton. From 1 May, membership carries over to 30 June 2015. To join, pay at First Friday or complete the form on page 8.

**June First Friday** is on at the Hollisdale Hall from 6 pm on Friday 6 June with drum fires to keep you warm. Kelly Gould, Patrick McEntee and Elly Franchimont will cook steak, bacon, sausages, veggie burgers, chicken rissoles, onions, chicken and prawn satay sticks at reasonable cost. Water, soft drinks and poppers available; bring any other liquid refreshment you desire! All welcome to unwind and socialise.

**May First Friday** members' draw was won by Cathy Relf. Angela Frost won the raffle and chose the *ecoWild* voucher. Thanks to rostered cook Emma, and Darren, Sue and Angela for filling in for the sick. Thanks as well to all who helped with preparation and cleaning up.

**Hollisdale RFS** will train on Saturday 7 June. Meet at the fire shed in full uniform. AGM 7.30 pm on 3 July. **Pappinbarra RFS** AGM 2 pm 21 June. See RFS details p3.

Pappinbarra 2014  
**Bush Dance** with Russell Churches

**Sat 14th June**  
at the **Hollisdale Hall**

Entry **FREE**  
but by  
ticket only

**7pm start**

Tickets available from  
*ecoWild* and *The Living Room*

Ticket includes entry and supper, **BYO drinks**

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**Pitchfork choir** invites you to sing at Hollisdale Hall 10-12 mid-day on Saturday 14 June. All welcome!

**Council** communicated with our community and vice versa on Wednesday 14 May. See Editor's Musings on p7.

**Social Tennis** at the Upper Pappinbarra court on Friday 13 June - gold coin donation. Kids from 6 pm with fun lessons; adults from 7. Bring things to barbecue or snacks.

**All Saints' Pappinbarra** invites all to join in the 2 pm service on Sunday 22 June and/or bring a plate to share off the back of the ute for afternoon tea round 2.45.



**Bush dance** on Saturday 14 June with Russell Churcher will be free thanks to a generous grant from PMH Council. Admission (including supper) by ticket only - numbers limited due to our small hall. Tickets available from *ecoWild* and *The Living Room* in Wauchope after 1 June. Booking and tickets essential!

**Middle Eastern Cooking Class** with Tin at the hall on 19 July. Cost \$30 includes ingredients. More info July Pitchfork.

**Pappinbarra Valley Photographic Competition** closes 26 July. See details p7 and get your entries in!



**Times Past and Present: The Power of the People: the story of the Pappinbarra Field Studies Centre.**

The brainchild of two Port Macquarie High School teachers, the idea for Pappinbarra Field Studies Centre was aired at a public meeting in August 1972. The Centre became the first of its kind to be set up and run by a Trust for the benefit of a whole community, especially schools, but also arts, conservation, church and youth groups, and service and sporting clubs. The site at the far end of Pappinbarra Road's Left Arm was swapped by Hastings Shire Council for the Forestry Commission's land on which Timbertown now sits.



setting, into existence with minimum funds and then maintaining it!

The anticipated benefits of such a centre to school students were far-reaching, not the least being the development of responsible, resourceful, co-operative young people. Students were to plan their activities, work out schedules and regulations and agree upon tasks. This required co-operation and friendship, hopefully adding a new

dimension to the relationship between pupils and teachers.

The plan was for a centre to accommodate up to 50 people staying over weekends or up to a week at a time. Visitors would look after their own needs such as cooking, washing and cleaning, in return for sleeping quarters, a community dining room and kitchen, toilets, showers and laundry tubs, and hot and cold running water. There would be fields for sport and recreation, walking/study tracks radiating into the surrounding Mount Boss State Forest and the centre would require a reasonable access road to carry buses and delivery trucks, and an electricity supply for light and heat, and pumping in emergency situations.

The wild and remote setting was to help students gain skills in observation, recording and interpretation of all aspects of the environment and, not least, help them appreciate the achievements of early explorers and pioneering families.

Five years after the public meeting to introduce the idea to the people of the Hastings district, Pappinbarra FSC opened its gates to the public. From the start it was imperative to enlist the cooperation of the Upper Pappinbarra residents. A Management Committee was appointed after the public meeting to ensure that concerns about crime and vandalism, and the impact of buildings on the natural environment were allayed.

Requiring the cooperation of authorities such as the Forestry Commission, Hastings Shire Council and the Education Department, as well as the active participation of the people of the Hastings region, it was a grand scheme indeed. A Trust of 'responsible citizens' was charged with bringing the community-owned and operated facility, on an ex-dairy farm in a remote

By October 1973, members of Wauchope Lions Club had constructed a sturdy bridge over a creek and an imposing archway over the entrance to the Pappinbarra FSC (see photo).

Fundraising, through doorknocks, dances, an art union and donations, gave vital income to purchase materials that were not donated by generous local businesses. But it was the incalculable assistance of local service clubs and individuals that turned those materials into buildings, roads, ablution blocks, and playing fields.

Grants through the Regional Employment Development (RED) Scheme established by the Whitlam government in 1974 provided a huge boost. A team of six men headed up by Dick Hawtin, for 16 years a carpenter in Port Macquarie, comprised Bert Norton, Tom Hawkesworth, Michael Bradshaw, Berwyn Dick and Mervyn Wallis. "It is really heavy work," said Bert Norton, "and in 40 years in the building industry, it is the first time I have built a house around telephone poles."

To be continued next month...

Mary Wagg

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## RFS

### Pappinbarra RFS

The scheduled prescribed burns (fire station and Lot 1 Rollands Road) will go ahead on 7 June, weather permitting. Meet at the station at 10 am. Don't forget the AGM 21 June at 2 pm. All members are requested to attend.

Steve Ostler

### Hollisdale RFS

All quiet on the fire front. Congrats to Mark Durham and Peter Michael - now Advanced Firefighters. The Crew Leader course is still going. AGM at Hollisdale Hall 3 July 7.30 pm. All members requested to attend for fitting for new shirts. Anyone interested in joining also welcome!

Chris Roelandts

### No Permit Required

Prior to a burn you must to give your neighbours 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: Lyn Blythe 6587-6186; Beechwood: Sam Elphick 0428-856-222.

## The Frugal Forest

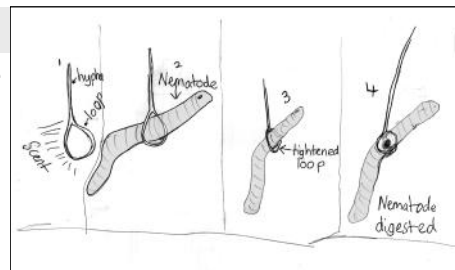
The Frugal Forest Project is returning to the Wauchope School of Arts Hall for monthly drop-in craft sessions. Come along to lend a hand or just satisfy your curiosity; Saturday the 28th of June, same day as the Farmers' Market, between 11am and 2:30 pm. Kids are welcome with a parent. We'll be converting old clothes into the bark of a forest giant. Bring your old clothes (torn, stained or hideous are all fine) and your sewing scissors!

We've just completed a 5-minute documentary film about the project. It's on our website: take a look at [www.frugalforest.oneoffmakery.net.au](http://www.frugalforest.oneoffmakery.net.au), where you'll also find a showcase of works made by local artists during our residency at the Glasshouse in March.

## Did you know? Carnivorous Fungi

Most fungi gather their nutrients from dead leaves or dead animals, but some have developed ways to trap small animals! One fungus has evolved traps to catch nematodes, which are like small worms. The nematodes will nuzzle into the loop and the fungus will pull the mini lasso tight, strangling the nematode. The fungus will then absorb the nutrients.

Morrow Taplin



## Cocky's Corner

230 students from over 20 NSW high schools attended the carcass competition at Wingham Beef Week in May. For over 20 years I have taken keen students from our region to this event where they compete in live and carcass assessment competitions - a unique and rich learning opportunity. For example, Year 12 Agriculture students receive a guided tour through the *Wingham Beef Exports'* abattoir. They experience the operation of the entire factory, from the yards to the killing and processing floor, seeing first-hand the boning and packaging processes. Student engagement is evidenced by their questions on quality control, government regulations and intervention through to specific queries regarding how to best 'value add'. Other students judge a group of live steers and predict fat depth, carcass weight, muscle score and final market destination. They then judge the same steers as carcasses using criteria such as meat colour, fat colour, rib fat, fat distribution, ossification, rib eye area and muscle score. Additionally, students identify ten retail cuts of meat and judge primal meat cuts for catering quality.

As far as I am aware, this happens nowhere else in NSW. *Wingham Beef Exports* provide an extremely valuable opportunity for our local students to learn about beef production and product quality criteria. This initiative can only support the local beef industry into the future.

Mark Hickson

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## Meet the Neighbours: Pete Michael & Chay Khamsone

Peter was born in Adelaide, the youngest of three with two older sisters. The family moved to Albury in 1975 so that his father could take a job as an Industrial Chemist. Peter spent the next 20 years in Albury and enjoyed an outdoor life style including fishing, swimming, mountain biking and shooting (only for the table). After completing his schooling, he attended Charles Sturt University, graduating in Environmental Science in 1993.

Thoroughly sick of studying, he started working in retail - he could probably sell ice to Eskimos! In 1995 he decided to move to Melbourne in search of adventure and shared a flat in a very multicultural area while working in computer sales.

Peter then set off on the overseas experience. He backpacked around the USA and enjoyed it so much that he overstayed his visa. When he tried to meet up with friends in England he was refused entry as they didn't believe he would leave when he said he would. So back to the States he went!

Back in Melbourne, he worked in a technical bookshop, took up mountain biking again and did a Cert 3 in bike mechanics. He began work as a bike mechanic, trained really hard, raced as often as possible, and stayed in this field for seven years.

Chay was born in Vientiane in Laos. When she was two years old, the family moved to Johns River. When her parents separated, her mother moved to Canberra in search of a good education for Chay (aged five) and her brother and sister. They lived there for 15 years. When Chay finished school she took a gap year and travelled overseas, meeting up with her mother, Kathy, and travelling with her for a while.



On her return to Australia Chay went to Melbourne University; six months later, she met Peter. He was sitting alone in a dark little bar on a dark winter's night. They started chatting and didn't stop! Chay took Pete's number and felt compelled to ring him the next day. The rest is history...

They moved in together and set about blending their very different life styles - Peter, up at 5.30, filled with energy and out for a 40 km training bike ride - Chay, not a morning person, pretended enthusiasm but really just wanting

to stay in bed. She completed a Bachelor of Creative Arts, a Diploma in Modern Languages (Italian) and eventually did a teaching Diploma. The relationship flourished and Chay became very familiar with Peter when he had a spectacular bike crash while jumping down some steps. He broke both wrists! (Use your imagination!)

After relocating to Brisbane, Chay taught in a high school and Peter worked in bush regeneration. They loved Brisbane and have many friends there. In 2007 they decided to marry - three times - once in a registry, once at a huge party at Johns River and finally in Laos in a traditional wedding punctuated by awkward dancing and rice whiskey!

Ready for the rural lifestyle and starting a family, Pete and Chay found their ideal place in the Pappinbarra Valley in 2008. Denny was born in 2009 during the big floods and Melia in 2011. They grow veggies, have a hobby-sized orchard, several sheep and a disorientated goat that walked in the other day. The children are living the outdoor life and loving it; both are strong and athletic. Denny swims really well and is a chatterbox like Dad; they say she can talk under water. Melia also swims well and is known as the 'Viking Nugget'. Kathy has her own cottage on the property, so it's a well rounded family.

As with many families with young children, chaos reigns supreme. The imagined and sought-after bucolic lifestyle often seems even more remote than it did in the city. Spurred on, though, by the prospect of raising a family, having home-grown produce and hosting friends and families (and the occasional goat) for get-togethers, Pete and Chay are forever looking forward to the years that lie ahead.

Mary Walker

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**Pest of the month: The Rat of the Bird World - Common or Indian Myna - *Acridotheres tristis***

One day, back in the 1980s, a pair of 'flying rats' arrived at Hawker College, Canberra. No-one took much notice. They ate discarded lunch scraps, raided rubbish bins, and the ag plot compost heaps, multiplying with amazing speed. Perhaps they called up their friends on the bush telegraph or perhaps they bred like rabbits - before too long there was a huge flock of the pests and not another bird to be seen. Canberra had no Indian Mynas till 1968; now there are more than 100 per square km.

Like other introduced species, the Indian Myna was considered a good prospect for pest control - specifically in Melbourne market



Peter Fackender

gardens. Unsuccessful, it was still taken elsewhere! It was, however, extremely successful in spreading throughout our cities and towns and then heading for the hills, damaging crops and fouling nesting and roosting places. In built-up areas, huge flocks roost in trees, adding to pollution levels with their droppings, noise and smell. When Indian Mynas nest in roof holes, the mites they carry can migrate to people or domestic pets and cause irritation which can last for weeks.

At Pappinbarra, I rejoiced in the absence of these verminous creatures. There were no starlings, no sparrows and no blackbirds - all pests in Canberra. This happy state lasted a few years. To my horror, a small flock of Indian Mynas arrived one morning and proceeded with their evening cacophony, roosting in a native apple. We plugged the hollow in the apple to stop their nesting and stalked them with an air rifle. They were surprisingly difficult to shoot - very aware and clever. Our Indian Myna-free state requires constant vigilance with the gun in easy reach.

Indian Mynas are thriving in several locations in the valley. They use the nesting hollows favoured by many of our native birds and will turf out eggs or chicks - rosellas, kookaburras, dollar birds - or even evict sugar gliders, resulting in their certain death. Listed in the top 100 invasive species in Australia, the Indian Myna is truly a feral pest. Landholders licensed to shoot feral pests can, with stealth, keep their property Indian Myna-free. Otherwise, trapping is an alternative. The RSPCA is concerned with humane use of traps and dispatch of trapped Indian Mynas; traps and guidelines for their use are available from Landcare.

The Indian (or Common) Myna shouldn't be confused with our native Noisy Miner (Squeaker). JH

**Dallas James from "The Voice" is playing live at The Living Room**  
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## Weed of the month Noogoora Burr - *Xanthium occidentale* and other *Xanthium* spp.

One of the most widespread weeds in the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area, Noogoora burr is also abundant across wide areas of temperate, subtropical and wet/dry tropical eastern/central Australia. It is a fast-growing plant to around a metre tall, although it can grow to twice that height if supported by other vegetation. Young plants are poisonous to pigs, sheep and cattle.



Infestation (left) and close-up of ripening fruit (right)

[www.keyserver.lucidcentral.org](http://www.keyserver.lucidcentral.org)

ripe, they brown off and become easily detached, clinging to passing livestock, people etc. Vast numbers of burrs are spread in floodwaters and dense stands can be seen germinating *en masse* after floods, to the exclusion of almost all other plants. Once in riparian areas, they can quickly spread into adjoining pastures by attaching to livestock hair/fur or as a contaminant on vehicles in mud/soil. Little-known about Noogoora burr is that the two-seeded fruit are craftily designed; both seeds do not usually germinate in the same year, instead germinating a year or two apart, to maximise their chances of survival. Controlling Noogoora burrs by hand-pulling should be easy, as they are weak-stemmed and shallow-rooted. The sheer numbers, however, often require initial control with a foliar application of herbicide followed up by systematic pulling or chipping of outlying plants. Any seed collected should be binned or burnt.

Pete Michael

As poisonous as Noogoora burr is, its other claim to notoriety is for the way it fouls sheep's wool with its burr fruits (covered in hooked prickles). The burrs are about the size of a shelled peanut and are borne in leaf axils on the mature plant. When

For further information on control and requirements to manage Noogoora Burr under the Noxious Weeds Act, contact Council's Noxious Weeds Officer on 6581 8111.

## Conservation Corner

### Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group (PLCG) Local Land Services (LLS) grant outcomes.

Our LLS grant is drawing to a close and we will be able to take a well-earned breather for a little while. The environmental outcomes of the grant will be fully realised in the years to come. We have learned a great deal about managing such a project, including on-site safety. We have discovered very extensive expertise and enthusiasm in Pappinbarra and beyond - nest-box work alone required significant knowledge of habitat and appropriate box design. Community support came not only from within PLCG (always willing to welcome new members), but also the wider community including PMH Council and LLS. These two organisations gave us significant information and on-ground support.

Our project involved weed removal, bush regeneration, fencing off refuge areas and installation of nest-boxes. As well, we ran workshops and field days. The outcomes of the project thus far have been achieved through the grant from LLS but no less importantly from the volunteer work of our members. Up to the time of writing, 1500 hours have been given to on-ground work (removing weeds, planting, and siting nest boxes), with an additional 800 hours given to managing the project and keeping records.

As President of PLCG, I wish to heartily congratulate the current members on a sterling effort and fantastic outcomes and sincerely thank you for your generosity. Anyone interested in joining PLCG please call 65876033 AH.



Bush regen. working bee at Turrum Turrum

Kelly Miller

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## Photographic Competition

Categories: Landscape; People; Flora and Fauna; Farming; 16 and Under.

Any size photo is acceptable, but must be 'hangable'.

Your frame could just be stiff coloured cardboard (black often shows the photo up well) or maybe you have a frame at home you could borrow from an existing photo; cheap frames are available at op shops, the Reject Shop or the \$2 Shop or you could make your own using lightweight board, cardboard, sticks, thin timber - the possibilities are endless if you use your imagination!

Remember: a maximum of three entries per person per category; \$5 per entry; \$2 per entry for 16 and Under.

Photos must be taken locally. Write your name, location of photo and category on the back and give to Sharada at FF or ring 65 876 079 to arrange delivery.

Closing date: Saturday 26 July.

Sharada Boyce



## Trivia Night



The winning table

Trivia Night was enjoyed by all, ably hosted by the skirted Peter and his beautiful blue-blonde assistant Chay. Mary Walker sourced an amazing array of prizes from sponsors - *The Living Room*, *ecoWild*, Hair Affair, Hastings Co-op, Muddles, Fuzzy Ducks, Wauchope Newsagency, Lewis' Butcher, Hastings Fruit and Vegies, Greenbourne Nursery, Beechwood Hotel, Beechwood PO, Modishe Café, Village Green Café, Top Takeaway, Timber Corner, Mary Walker, Wauchope Pharmacy and Wauchope Travel. Thanks to all involved! We made about \$800.



The lovely *hostess*, Chay, and host Pete in a Samoan *lava-lava*!

## Editor's Musings

Since mid-May, everyone who uses Pappinbarra Road will have enjoyed the slashed roadsides and the filled potholes. Some potholes were repaired before the Rural Consultation Forum at Hollisdale Hall on May 14. When challenged by some on the timing, Jeffery Sharp (Director of Infrastructure) replied that these things were 'planned months ago'. Perhaps we may be forgiven for thinking that the forum was also 'planned months ago'!

Seriously, there was a great turn-out of locals, councillors and Council staff. Thanks to everyone for their attendance and to Council for the provision of refreshments. Pre-lodged questions were answered on a handout and, after a quick run through these, there was the opportunity for questions from the floor. In answers, it emerged that the gravel parts of Pappinbarra Road - and hopefully the Left and Right Arms - will be graded and rolled in June (weather permitting). Council staff asserted that recent roadside spraying was part of 'an integrated approach' to management of roadside vegetation. Several speakers expressed concern with weedicide use, lack of visibility for overtaking, and the accident potential when wallabies dart out suddenly from long grass on roadsides. We are happy to conclude that the extensive slashing carried out since then was Council's response

to the community's concerns.

Jeff Sharp undertook to investigate whether the jet patcher process is being used correctly for potholes, following observations from the floor that the fill takes very little time to be dislodged, especially in wet weather. Concern was also expressed about lack of drainage maintenance and the role that poor drainage plays in deterioration of the road surface. Council were congratulated on the bridge repairs at the beginning of the Right Arm. We were assured that Council values feedback about current problems; anyone is welcome to ring Council's hotline on 6581 8111.

To the cynics who assert that such forums are 'a waste of time', I would say that I gained the impression that, given present funding limitations, Council is striving to do its best in delivering outcomes that benefit rural communities such as ours as well as the more populous coastal areas. Since we look after our own garbage, our own water supply and our own sewage treatment, Pappinbarra Road is Infrastructure #1 for us all.

JH

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# Classifieds

First month free for PPA members.  
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## Wanted

Someone who goes there on a regular basis to take the First Friday rubbish to the tip.



## Found

A female goat possibly pregnant with a thick leather collar. Answers to 'Goat' or 'Goaty' If you've lost a goat recently, email [lonelypappinbarragoat@gmail.com](mailto:lonelypappinbarragoat@gmail.com)  
Genuine enquiries will be replied to.

## Lost

The community's fire extinguishers have disappeared from the hall. Any info or their return much appreciated. 6587 6077



## Work Wanted

Good reliable worker wants mowing, fencing, gardening, or cattle work. \$10 per hour. Phone Steven 6587 6167 after school.

## For Hire

Hollisdale Hall. Regular hire \$10 per hour. One-off or occasional hire \$30 members; \$50 non-members with \$50 deposit.

Got something to sell?  
...advertise in the classifieds!

## PPA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – Usually the Friday before First Friday at 6pm. All welcome.

General Meetings – quarterly. Next general meeting will follow the AGM in July/August. All welcome.

Facilities for Hire

Hollisdale Hall – contact Sue Frost 6587 6129

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 27 June for the July Issue. Material for the July Issue to the Editor by Thursday 19 June. We run both casual and regular advertisements at very competitive rates. Contact Sharada Boyce.

### Production Team

Editor: Jean Hegarty [jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au](mailto:jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au) 6587 6077

Production: Angela Frost [angfrost@hotmail.com](mailto:angfrost@hotmail.com)

Advertising: Sharada Boyce [sharadaboyce@yahoo.com.au](mailto:sharadaboyce@yahoo.com.au) 6587 6079

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

## Pappinbarra Progress Association Committee

### Executive:

President: Jean Hegarty 6587-6077

Vice President: Mary Walker 6587-6055

Treasurer: Sue Frost 6587-6129

Secretary: Elly Franchimont 6587-6097

### Other Committee Members:

Sharada Boyce

Meg Allison

George Hegarty

### Public Officer:

Jan Childs

## PPA Membership 2013-2014

\$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

