O'Connor of Cooks Road, Christine Nolan and kids of Jack's Place, Jennie Lea, Ann Cox, Sue Bolton, Sue Ylias, Krissy and

October issue

Justin Cole. Thanks to all the folk who have renewed their membership. Do join PPA if you haven't already - the more members the merrier and the better we are placed to access grant funds. You can join at First Friday or complete the form on page 8.

PPA welcomes new members - Heather and Harvey Smith and family of Oakvale, Kelly Osmand, Jay Moon and Ashleigh

PITCHFORK

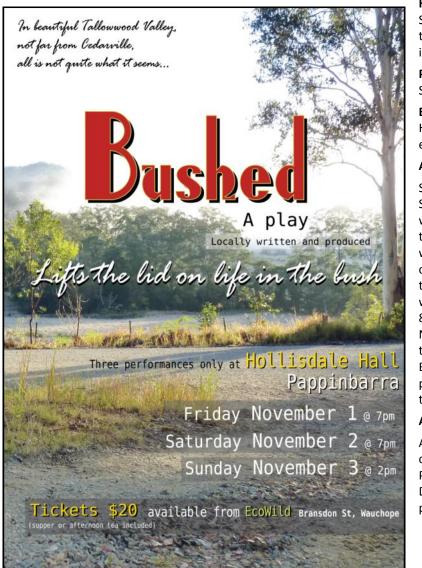
Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News Pappinbarra Progress Association

September First Friday saw a great rock up of new and old faces. The Members' Draw wasn't claimed by Bryony Anderson so jackpots to \$30 for October FF. Graham Smith won the raffle and chose the EcoWild voucher kindly donated by Michelé Malseed. Chay Khamsone, Peter Michael and a volunteer will be cooking at the October FF - the usual offerings as well as vegetarian and gluten-free options.

October First Friday at the hall from 6 pm on Friday October 4. All welcome.

Valley Happenings

Bushed rehearsals continue on Sunday afternoons at the hall. Suzanne Leigh has agreed to be Prompter and Damian Privett, Stage Manager. Marg Sipkes will consult on the sets and costume. See poster for performance and ticket details. A huge thankyou to Jim McGahey and helpers for extending the stage and to Darren Rowley who will organise the lights.



Hollisdale RFS meet at the fire shed at 1 pm on Saturday 28 September (tomorrow) for a training session. Full uniform essential. See important fire info on p 3.

Pitchfork Choir will meet at the hall at 10 am Saturday 12 October.

Exercise Classes haven't got off the ground at Hollisdale but are being held at Beechwood Hall every Monday at 2 pm.

All Saints' Church

Services are held on the fourth Sunday of each month at 2 pm with a cuppa 'off the back of the ute' around 2.45 pm. All welcome. Working Bee at the church on Tuesday 15 October



to prepare and paint the outside. All helpers welcome. Contact Jeannette Rainbow 65 851 895 or jeannette.rainbow47@gmail.com In November, All Saints' will see the baptism of the valley's youngest new inhabitant - Leeroy Blayne Ostler. All welcome for the service at 2 pm and/or the cuppa afterwards. Bring a plate to share.

Anyone for tennis?

All welcome to play in the local night competition at the Recreation Grounds, Upper Pappinbarra. Two seasons: mid-October to mid-December and end February to April. Cost \$5 per night. Contact Emma Frost 65 876 103.

1

Times Past: A Tribute to Bill and Lorraine Waller

The Wallers retired to 2066 Pappinbarra Road in 1989. On land first selected by Charlie Reynolds, the old house, which had served as a Post Office, was originally where James and Robyn Flanagan later built their house. Some of the Reynolds selection was sold to a Mr Jewiss, who cut off 50 hectares onto which he dragged the house and re-stumped it. That subdivision was sold to Mackays, who sold to the Wallers. [The larger part went to Bargwannas, then to the Flanagans.]

Born at Queanbeyan in 1934, Bill grew up at West Ryde, then Quakers Hill on Sydney's outskirts. The family raised pigs and sold veges 'off the back of a ute'. According to old friends, the Waller place there was 'a work in progress' - just like 2066 Bill's first job involved photolithography - transferring photos to Pappinbarra Road. In sore need of resurrection, the old house stones for printing. Next he worked as a projectionist at Seven inspired Bill with renovatory zeal. He would swing into action, then have another idea and swing into action on that. Lorraine young Lorraine just happened to be selling tickets. Bill, working was long-suffering and always supportive although it seemed no on the lights, was smitten. She had grown up on a chicken farm job was ever completed.

When Pat and Nancy Van de Linde took out their fuel stove, Bill gave it pride of place in his kitchen. Not in the least deterred by unfinished cupboards or partly sealed windows, he produced wonderful meals. Many waifs and strays were taken in and fed over the years. The first time I met Lorraine at All Saints, I was invited back to the Waller home for Sunday dinner. What a feast Bank until he retired. it was: soup with bread rolls straight out of the oven, baked lamb As time went by, Lorraine and Bill bought several weekenders, with all the trimmings, wine, beer or whisky, apple pie and cream for dessert and not a can or a packet in evidence! There was, however, a jagged hole in the plaster ceiling above us. As tongues loosened, the company were told the sorry story of Bill re-wiring the house and his sudden descent onto the dining- loved it. He would delight in taking folk down to the river to see room table...

as well as electrical work and cooking. He had a wonderful memory for where to find his tools: "The stillsons must be down next to the pump. I had them there a fortnight ago." Like many retirees, he had a hankering to have a few animals around. The Bill, generous to a fault, also had a rare affinity with his fellows. usual dogs had the run of the place, cattle roamed the Always ready to be a sympathetic ear in times of trouble, to mountainside, and sheep for home consumption were in the advise, to lend a hand or a tractor, truck or block-splitter, Bill home paddock (and often out on the road - fencing wasn't a priority).

Then, harking back to his boyhood, and having enjoyed ham, pork and bacon all his life, Bill decided to raise pigs. He procured a boar and a couple of beautiful sows, duly installed in 'temporary' accommodation. The sows farrowed successfully; Bill friends in Pappinbarra, she was taken off to live in turn with her enjoyed the squealing when he fed the fast-growing and two sons. Forgetfulness became dementia; mini strokes were the intelligent piglets. James and Robyn did not enjoy the cohort's precursor to a heart attack. She survived her life partner by just a incursions to their vege patch! Anthony Wall was on hand when few days more than seven years, dying aged 77 on 12 July 2013. Bill suffered a heart attack; he asked what needed to be done on An inspirational couple, Bill and Lorraine Waller are fondly the farm, and was told, "Put the pigs away or they will hop into remembered in the Pappinbarra Valley and beyond. the ambulance with me."



Bill and Lorraine 1955

Hills cinema. One night there was a concert at the Memorial Hall; nearby and was just twenty at their wedding in 1955. They settled near her family in Seven Hills and Bill sold electrical gear, ultimately from his own shop. Lorraine worked as a 'Brown Bomber' [a 'pretty savage parking inspector'!] until Keith and Owen were born; Bill worked shifts as a security officer - on night patrol for about eleven years, then with the Commonwealth

holidaying at each one for a while before selling and buying elsewhere. This pattern was broken by Pappinbarra - no more moving on. As a childhood friend said, "Bill was in his element in his piece of Australia on the beautiful Pappinbarra River. He just the platypus. He loved the birds, the logs, the mosses, the vines, So Bill could turn his hand to most things - plumbing and building the waterholes. This was on his property; no-one would be touching this. It certainly was touched by the hand of God and God had a wonderful caretaker in Billy Waller. He had a rare affinity with nature."

> made good friends wherever he went. Lorraine was his quiet helpmate and companion. On 30 June 2006, when he gave up his long fight against illness and passed on peacefully in his sleep at only 72, Lorraine felt the earth shift from under her; she was shaken to the core. Insisting she wanted to stay amongst her

Jean Hegarty



Rural Fire Service Update: Hollisdale Brigade

Since 18 August this year, the Hollisdale Brigade has attended fires at Pappinbarra, Lower Pappinbarra, North Shore and Ellenborough with a total of approx 72hrs on duty.

The fire of most concern is the Lower Pappinbarra fire, which was deliberately lit at approx 11.00am on Wednesday 11 September - around the corner from the old guarry on Pappinbarra Road near Roach Road. It raced up the mountain at break-neck speed and brigades from Hollisdale, Pappinbarra, Beechwood, King Creek, Wauchope and Huntington attended.

Backburns were put in to protect buildings on the top of the mountain. On Thursday 12 September all of the houses on Pythonwood Road were under threat, including Trish Crick's place. Brigades from Lake Cathie and Bonny Hills were also called upon. Backburns were used again and after many

exhausting hours, tons of water and working in the choking smoke, all of the structures were saved - but the fire still continues to burn.

As I put pen to paper it is sprinkling so hopefully the rain will continue.

This fire and others are being investigated by the police. If you see suspicious activity on the side of the road please jot down any details that you can; this could help authorities should an incident occur.

I would like to thank the volunteers from all brigades for protecting our neighbours in the valley.

Chris Roelandts

BUSHFIRE DANGER PERIOD Permits to burn off are required until further notice. Prior to a burn you must to give your neighbours notice 24 hours 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.

Grass Fires

Never underestimate the danger posed by grass fires; they can nose and eye protection (goggles). start easily, spread quickly, produce huge amounts of heat, Take care with machinery during the bush fire danger period. destroy homes, crops and livelihoods and kill anyone caught out Tractors, slashers, harvesters, grinders, welders and chainsaws in the open.

ploughing around buildings, crops, pasture, storage areas and approved spark arrestor and carry a water fire extinguisher or along key fence-lines to establish firebreaks. The breaks should, where practicable, avoid trees, or provide an additional break conditions. When using welders and grinders, clear the area of around the trees.

Protect yourself when in the vicinity of a grass fire. Keep the During total fire ban days, no hot work (welding, grinding) is burnt ground in mind as a safe refuge and wear protective clothing: long-sleeved shirt and pants made from a natural fibre (cotton); sturdy leather boots and woollen socks; leather gloves; a wide-brimmed hat; face mask or towel to cover your mouth and

can all start grass fires. They should be free from any faults and Protect your property by mowing, grazing, brush-cutting or mechanical defects that could start a fire, be fitted with an knapsack spray. Avoid using such machinery during extreme fire flammable materials.

> permitted in the open without special permission from the NSW RFS.

> > **Damian Privett**

New Delivery Arrangements for Pitchfork – Commencing 2014

We're moving to new delivery arrangements for Pitchfork from the beginning of 2014. From January onwards you will be able to:

- Have ePitchfork delivered electronically to your inbox; and/or
- Pick up a hard copy from drop boxes outside the Beechwood Store and Post Office. There will be flags on the drop boxes to alert people to the fact that Pitchfork is available.

Contact Jean Hegarty any time to register for ePitchfork jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au



Bird of the Month White-headed Pigeon Columba leucomela

Other names: Baldy; Baldy Pigeon; Bally Pigeon; White-headed Fruit-Pigeon **Size**: 38-42 cm. **Status**: Secure

The White-headed Pigeon is a large pigeon, native to Australia's east coastal regions from Cooktown in Far-North Queensland to the South coast of New South Wales. Males have a white head, neck and breast while their wings and back are black with a slight iridescent sheen of green and violet. They have a red eye-ring and a pink bill with a yellowish tip. Female birds are similar but with grey mottling to the head, neck and breast. Juveniles have a grey crown and breast. They are generally shy and wary birds.

Their voice is a low pitched "hoom-coo" or "whoo-uk", repeated over.

Usually occurring as nomadic pairs or small flocks, they inhabit tropical and sub-tropical rainforest, forest remnants and open urban woodland where they seek out fruiting native and introduced species, particularly Camphor Laurel. They can travel several kilometres to feed on fruiting trees in open country and will sometimes come to feeding tables where they eat grains. In the past they were plentiful, but clearing of rainforest and shooting for the pot brought about a severe decline. Since the 1950s with the protection of our native birds and re-establishment of forest, there has been a recovery in numbers, northern NSW being a stronghold for this bird.

Breading occurs from August to January when a platform nest of sticks is built in dense tree foliage or vine tangles at heights up to 15 meters or so. The female lays one egg and both adults incubate and raise the single young. Nesting occurs only once in a season.

For further information or questions related to this or other species, contact can be made through this email address <u>peter fac@yahoo.com.au</u>.

Peter Fackender

Summer breeding frogs are on the move



Over the last three or four weeks the valley has come alive again with frog chorus. The loudest and most conspicuous call is made by the Emerald Spotted Tree Frog (*Litoria peroni*). Its call is a descending, maniacal cackle - so loud that it can be heard for hundreds of meters across open country. Most are calling from low branches or on the ground around dams but we have heard some calling from inside forest. The Leaf-green Tree frog (*Litoria phyllochroa*) seems to only call along the banks of the main flowing waterways. Its call is complex, starting with a short bleat and ending in a 'chic-chic', but when many are calling together the result is a classic streamside frog chorus. With patience and a good eye, these gorgeous little frogs can be found perched inside the protective cover of a Lomandra.

The Striped Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes peroni*) makes a slow 'tok tok tok', like a tone-deaf banjo player tunelessly plucking away. This species is also quite hard to see, as they sit on the ground or in shallow water under cover of grasses and sedges. Only a few seem to be calling at present but once the rain comes, they should start up all through the valley. The Sedge Frog (*Litoria fallax*) makes a short "zik-zik...zik" that sounds like a finger nail running up and down a fine-toothed comb; while the Bleating Tree Frog (*Litoria dentata*) makes a short, strident screech and often calls from places that amplify this sound even more. Both of these species can be heard and found in seemingly frog-hostile places at the moment. They might be high in the crown of isolated trees, out in the middle of paddocks, or in patches of bracken and sedges, far from any water. What do they think they are up to? Well, they have spent the winter scattered across the landscape, using patches of forest and scrub to feed and shelter. As summer approaches they are starting to move back toward the streams and ponds where they will come together to breed during the summer months. Corridors or small patches of forest and scrub that connect the riverside habitats with the forested hills are vital for maintaining the seasonal movements of our summer breeding frogs, as well as supporting many other groups of local animals.



Weed of the month - Mistflower (Agerating riparia Asteraceae)

If you take a drive along almost any east coast road between southern New South Wales and central Queensland this weekend, chances are you'll probably see a ton of Crofton Weed (Agerating adenophora) in flower. Its erect, showy white daisy

blooms are conspicuous as is (to the keen weedspotter) the smell of the plant when crushed, slashed or otherwise disturbed. And the impact of Crofton Weed is well known, including human allergy, stock poisoning and aggressive competition pastures with and native vegetation. What may be less-known to many locals is the similar-looking and



closely-related mistflower. In many respects, mistflower is a definitely a new twist in this story. plant which can take over where Crofton leaves off - that is, in Regarding any specific or general weed (or native plant) shaded riparian areas, steep rainforest sites and areas which identification or control, contact Council or the DPI for further might otherwise be too cool, shaded or undisturbed. Mistflower information, but if you're still having troubles, please just call or is a fast-growing perennial herb to 0.5m in height and produces email me (petewm@hotmail.com). As always, if you have any abundant daisy-like flowers in winter/spring. Seed sets quickly plant you'd like identified, pop a sample in a sealed plastic bag and spreads in flowing water, mud, wind, machinery, vehicles, along with your contact details into my letterbox (2011 livestock and people. Further, stems root aggressively at joints Pappinbarra Rd) and I'll try and identify it for you. and broken-off stem fragments can form new plants. Left unchecked, mistflower can dominate stream banks and out- Further Information - Port Macquarie-Hastings Council compete native vegetation. One final word on mistflower is that there is a 'naturally spreading' biological control which turned up in the past few years in the NSW/QLD border ranges area. The fungus Entyloma ageratinae is proving to be quite the success

(Municipal Ecologist or Noxious Weeds Officer) 6581 8111; Weeds Australia www.weeds.org.au

Peter Michael

2014 Pappinbarra Calendar

Mon-Fri: 9am - 5pm

Sat: 9am - 12:30pm

Sun: by appointment

How about this for the calendar? Do you have a photo you'd like to look at for a month? Please send to sharadaboyce@yahoo.com.au or go out and take one now. We are setting aside one month for a kid's effort and already have one entry so get your kids out and about with a camera and show us what they can do! Submissions close on Saturday, 16 November so the Calendar will be available for purchase at the December First Friday.

Sharada Boyce

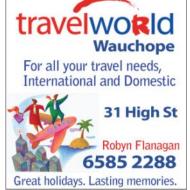


Bransdon St

65852424

Wauchope

Ph: 6585 1655 1 Carrington St Wauchope Open Mon-Fri 8am - 5pm. Sat 8am - 12pm, Sun 9am - 1pm.





In the Vegie Patch

That little bit of rain has spurred the gardeners on time to get into the vegie patch. Grow rockmelon, honeydew and watermelon from seed or get them or the new mini versions in seedling punnets. Put a



small amount of granular potash in the planting hole, cover with a bit of soil, add plant or seed and backfill with the remainder of the soil.

There is a great range of heirloom tomatoes available now: Black Cherry, Lemon Drop, Siberian, Principe Borghese and Cherry Roma from Diggers and Big Beef from Yates.

Watch out for aphids on new spring growth. Happy gardening! Alison Robinson

Herb of the month: Basil – Ocimum basilicum

oils.

Leaves - Fresh: Good for rubbing on insect bites, or added to either sunflower or almond oil to use as an insect repellent. Use in steam inhalations for colds and catarrh, include in herbal teas as well as tonics for nervous exhaustion, depression or any cold condition. They are best harvested before flowering. In cooking, essential oil, either externally or internally during pregnancy. minced fresh leaves add a sweet pungency to many dishes, basil is an invaluable addition to any heavy fatty dish, and is extremely well in a container. Plant now that the soil has wonderful with tomatoes, pasta, pesto and salads.

Leaves - Dry: When taken as a tea, basil is said to alleviate stomach spasms/cramps, indigestion, gastritis, & constipation.

annual BOOSE BASE FUNDRAISER "WILLD WALLD WAEST" October 26 At the Beechwood Hotel \$25 per head includes dinner and entertainment Tickets on sale now at the school office and the **Beechwood Hotel** Auction, games, raffle, lucky door prize Enquiries contact Erin 6585 6729

Beechwood Public School

Active constituents include: Basil camphor, tannins and volatile Basil tea has also been used as a blood purifier/tonic and to stimulate lactation in nursing mothers. As a gargle, the tea is used to treat thrush and inflammations of the throat.

> Essential oil - In aromatherapy, the oil extracted from the leaves can be used for depression and is often combined with hyssop, bergamot or geranium oils for massage. Do not use the

Cultivation - Basil is best grown as an annual in temperate including soft cheeses. Because of its ability as a digestive aid, regions. It prefers a moist but well-drained soil and will grow warmed up.

Jennie Lea

Gardening Groups

Two are thriving in the valley. If you are interested in being part of a third, send your name and address to PPA committee member, Sharada: sharadaboyce@yahoo.com.au and she'll help you get off the ground.

New/Featured at Hastings Farmers' Market

and hot pies.

demo using bushfood products. At the Sydney Royal Show last come along and congratulate them tomorrow. month, they scored Champion Regional Organic Product and a

Tomorrow's market sees Marrook Farm again with their gold medal for their Lemon Myrtle Ground Spice, silver for delicious European/Swiss style matured cheeses processed on- Davidson Plum Sauce, Mango & Lemon Myrtle Dressing and farm from biodynamic milk. Ausbuff Stuff will be there too with Aniseed Myrtle Ground Spice, and bronze for Bush Tomato buffalo milk gelato, cheese and yoghurt, as well as fresh meat Chilli Sauce, Davidson Plum Jam, Rosella Jam, Wild Lime Marmalade and Dorrigo Pepper Spice. . Bruce and Barbara have Barbushco's Bruce and Barbara Barlin will put on a cooking been with the Hastings Farmers' Market since its inception. Do

Elly Franchimont, Market Coordinator



Cricket Match

Sept 8. It was a fine day, well attended, and everybody had a deftly by her dad Pete. The weather clement, Angela Frost and rollicking time. It was dirt versus tar and for the first year in a long time there was a fairly even number of players from both sides. Buoyed by playing for their own sides, many put on fine performances. 41 players in all gave the ball a hit and the scores were fairly evenly matched. Lower Pappinbarra just pipped Upper with a score of 165 to 136. Person of the match was Tristan Ostler; best fielder went to Syd Cooper and best junior player was Jye Cooper. Young Denny Michael received a

The Annual Greg Ostler Shield cricket match was held on Sun certificate of encouragement for an outstanding innings guided Ken Aplin were kept busy on the BBQ, while Chay and Pete pumped out the coffee and the banana ice creams. The hamper raffle was won by Sharada Boyce. Thanks to Hastings Co-op for donating a hamper. Raffle proceeds (\$100) were split between Pappinbarra and Hollisdale RFS. Thanks also to Steve Ostler for his great organizing and Chris Roelandts for keeping the score. A great day was had by all.

Emma Frost



Editorial

It isn't easy taking over from someone who has been superefficient! I want to thank Bev Sibthorpe for overseeing the development of Pitchfork. Under her editorship, the basic little newssheet of two years ago has been transformed into today's informative and interesting eight-page newsletter. It wouldn't have happened without Bev's drive and enthusiasm, many dedicated and talented contributors, and the continuing efforts of the production team - Angela Frost, Chay Khamsone and Jan Childs. We all hope to continue the good work. If you have any ideas for articles, ads or improvements, please contact us.

to prevent further spread of the bushfire around the Pythonwood area and beyond - hard work on a hot day as a service to the community. In a rural area, as in the city, it's quite easy to hole up at home, keep to oneself and not be at all bothered about others. But what do you do if something goes wrong? What if there's a big snake in the laundry, a fire in the gulley, a dingo after the calves or?? The neighbours have probably dealt with many such crises before, and they're much

closer than professional fixers in town!

There are sure to be others in the Pappinbarra Valley and surrounding areas who share your interests and passions - get about, meet them and be energised and inspired. We currently have Hollisdale and Pappinbarra RFS units, PLCG (Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group), two cooperative garden groups, tennis starting mid-month, church every fourth Sunday, Pitchfork choir, and a proposal for a sheep-interest group. Some are volunteering their time and talents to put on a musical play (Bushed). All the horse enthusiasts of the valley might care to As I write, RFS volunteers are putting in a firebreak in an effort meet each other. The collective energy of like-minded folk is a potent force, which can enrich our community and improve our lives.

> If you haven't already braved the unknown, make October the month you come along to First Friday BBQ at the Hollisdale Hall a first step to becoming a member of our Pappinbarra community.

Jean Hegarty



Address:	Phone:		
Member Names:			
PLEASE PRINT	PPA Membership 2013-2014 \$5 per adult	L .	
			12
/ice President: Mary Walker 6587-605 Freasurer: Sue Frost 6587-6129 Secretary: Elly Franchimont 6587-6097	George Hegarty		
President: Jean Hegarty 6587-6077	Sharada Boyce	Jan Childs	
Pappinbarra Progress Association Cor Executive:		Public Officer:	
The views expressed in <i>Pitchfork</i> are not r	ecessarily those of the PPA.		
Advertising: Chay Khamsone chay.kha	msome@gmail.com 65 876 022		₩ ₩
Editor: Jean Hegarty <u>jeanmay@bluem</u> Production: Angela Frost <u>angfrost@ho</u>			DP
Production Team	<i></i>		and a
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Pitchfork has hardcopy and email circu	ulation of approximately 280. It comes vember Issue . Material for the Novem		1 K
Circulation	Pitchfork		
Hollisdale Hall – contact Sue Frost 658 Upper Pappinbarra facilities and tenni	37 6129 is court - contact Damian Privett 6587	6185	
	eneral meeting will be in November. A		
PPA Matters PPA Committee meetings – Usually th	e Friday before First Friday at 6pm. All	welcome.	
Wanted - second-hand or salvageable building materials. Call Angela 6587 6129	GST. Ph: Anne 6585 6618		P
	For sale: 2 young male alpacas, will come when called for food. Semi-trained as pets. \$220 ea incl.	resources within our own valley!	17
Wanted - five foot soil aerator. Call 6587 6077	stevewagg@skymesh.com.au	Use the <i>Pitchfork</i> Classifieds to buy, sell, findthere are a lot of great	L
Wanted to buy	buying or selling, contact Steve and Mary Wagg on		
window surrounds going cheap. Contact Sharada 6587 6079	situation and would like to form a small email/phone network of local sheep breeders for swapping	Help Wanted?	
A houseful of lace curtains and	new blood or for purchasers for the lambs. If you are in the same	Selling your car?	
Contact Chay 6587 6022.	flock we are sometimes looking to introduce		
something? Why not advertise here? <i>First month free</i> for PPA members.	Calling all shepherds As owners of a little	Anything else you would like to advertise?	1