PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association

President's Report

As I write this, we are hearing of massive loss of property in catastrophic bushfires elsewhere. We were fortunate indeed to have an outbreak earlier in the season when weather conditions weren't as extreme and our fire fighters were able to safeguard houses and grazing land. Back burning well before midsummer's heat was a job well done. I am sure the community joins me in heartfelt thanks for our RFS volunteers.

In small rural valleys such as ours, volunteering is essential to community welfare. Many years ago, Joe Patrick, late of the Right Arm, volunteered a cow to help new arrivals, Peter and Jenny Wall, cope with a young family far from town. Like many up and down the Pappinbarra, Joe was constantly doing things for others. Helping hands are extended in times of need. If you have been hesitant about joining PPA, or coming along to functions, please reconsider. Everyone will be made welcome; neighbourly help and mutual support are features of our community.

Elsewhere in *Pitchfork* you will read of exciting initiatives completed, currently being undertaken, or under consideration. If you want to have input, feel free to ring a committee member or write to the Editor. We are keen to respond to community needs and appreciate feedback.

Jean Hegarty

Special and Forthcoming Events Australia Day – Saturday, 26 January

We will celebrate Australia day at Hollisdale Hall with a 'Poets' Brunch', followed by the traditional gumboot throwing, egg and spoon race and sack race. Bring a picnic brunch and celebrate our national day. 10 am start.

There are no special events in February or March.

Regular Events Update

First Friday recommences Friday, 1 February. Yoga has recommenced. Exercises will recommence on Tuesday, February 5. Singing workshop is suspended until further notice. See back page for details.

Tennis tournament recommences in February. Anyone interested in playing call Damian Privett on 6587-6185 or damian.privett@gmail.com.

Extinguishment of Existing Holdings - there will be a meeting for all landowners concerned about this Council action at the Wauchope RSL on Wednesday 30th January at 7.30pm, to discuss this issue and ways to prevent this amendment. See page 3 for details.

Grants Update

Last year, the PPA successfully applied for a Council grant to erect a fence along the front of the Hall to prevent children wandering amongst parked cars and out towards the road. By the time you read this it should be in place or well on the way to completion. Thanks to those who helped with quotes and design, and to the construction team under the able direction of Jim McGahey.

Sanding and sealing the old schoolroom floor at the hall should start soon after Australia Day. That and construction of an island bench for the kitchen/schoolroom are the outcome of another Council grant. Our thanks again to those who provided advice and quotes for the work. This work will be carried out by Designer Kitchens.

The Community Arts Support Program (CASP) of Regional Arts NSW has given PPA a grant of \$1460 to pay a professional musician to assist with score writing and to run workshops for our home-grown musical production entitled "Bushed". If you are interested in having a role in this production – eg. singing, playing an instrument, set production - please contact George Hegarty on 6587-6077. The show is scheduled for the first weekend in August.

We don't yet have the result of an application we made to the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership Program for a grant to extend the Hall's outdoor entertaining area that was originally constructed under Ray Johnston's presidency.

We have just submitted an application to the NSW Cancer Council for \$1087.70 to install a shade sail and support structure over a proposed sandpit at the hall.

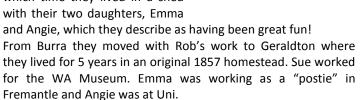
Submission of grants is a time-consuming process, involving planning, design, sourcing of quotes, and sitting down at a computer to write the application. Since we are a small association, we rely on grant moneys to achieve PPA's vision for the future of our hall and community. Thanks to all who have been involved in the process and to all who are willing participants in executing the vision.

Jean Hegarty

Meet the Neighbours—Rob and Sue Frost

Sue and Rob met in 1968 in Carnarvon where they both worked in a Tracking Station for the Apollo project, Sue as a teletype operator and Rob as a communications engineer. They married in 1972 but by then they had already travelled overland to the UK together so they knew each other pretty well!

Rob's work in tracking stations has taken them both from the west coast to the east coast and back again but they spent the longest time in and around Canberra where they bought a 60 acre block in Burra and set about building their first house. It took them 5 years during which time they lived in a shed with their two daughters, Emma



They moved again, this time to Brisbane. During their time there Rob took long service leave and they bought a yacht with the long term plan of sailing to South Africa. They took about a month to sail from Brisbane to Cairns and Sue describes life on board as "hell on earth" so, needless to say, they flew to Africa! They spent 3 months backpacking in Africa and Madagascar



Rob and Sue with Max and Tilly

stopping off in Mauritius on their way home - a fantastic trip.

Rob was made redundant in 2001 and moved thev to Murwillumbah, which they loved. Rob did odd jobs and Sue volunteered in the museum. They then went to Bali for 2 years as volunteers with the Australian Volunteers International, Rob working in the hospital in Denpasar in training maintenance, and Sue working for the Smile Foundation, an NGO assisting cranio-facial patients.

In 2009 they moved to 'Tullamore' in the beautiful Pappinbarra valley. Their daughters have also made the tree change and life is now very busy for Rob helping to build a

house for Angie and her husband, Ken. Sue tends her beautiful garden and is very involved in Valley life, including past President of The Outback Association.

Sue and Rob say that their roaming days are over now that they are Old Age Pensioners. Since they both love to travel I don't think it will be too long before they set off again, but they will always come back to Tullamore.

Mary Walker

Upper Pappinbarra Christmas Party 2012

Despite the threat of rain, the night was fine when friends and neighbours gathered to catch up and exchange season's greetings on 22 December. A very pleasant night was had by all. Thanks to those who helped organise the event and everyone who donated to the magnificent hamper raffle which was won by Owen Ostler. Special thanks to Santa and his trusty Elf for taking the time to visit...

Flashing lights and siren screaming Santa beaming, bag a-bulging Kids excited, presents opening...



Christmas Carols at the Hall

Contrary, perhaps, to our Church Warden's expectations, this evening's entertainment after the Christmas Service at All Saints, spanned an amazing breadth of music, including some carols. Rosanna, our *pianiste extraordinaire*, tickled the ivories on her keyboard to great effect. Although she says she doesn't read music, no request was met with a blank stare. Some danced, some sang, and a fantastic night was had by all.

New Year Festivities

While many locals celebrated New Year at parties up and down the Valley a group of oldies, enlivened by Andrea's daughter, husband and gorgeous 9-month-old, had a great time at the hall. Peter Wall, with Juliana Jones and Arthur the ukelele player, entertained us. Especially memorable was Peter's Robesonesque rendition of *Old Man River*. We confess to having sung Old Lang Syne some considerable time before midnight!

RFS update—Neighbourhood Safer Places

Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSP) is a new concept that has evolved out of the tragic Victorian 'Black Saturday' bush fires in February 2009. A Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP) is a place of last resort for people during a bush fire. It can be part of your contingency plan, for a time when your Bush Fire Survival Plan cannot be implemented or has failed.

An NSP is an identified building or space within the community that can provide a higher level of protection from the immediate life threatening effects of a bush fire. NSP's still entail some risk, both in moving to them and while sheltering in them and cannot be considered completely safe. They are a place of last resort in emergencies only.

The following limitations of NSP need to be considered within your Bush Fire Survival Plan:

NSP do not cater for pets

When using NSP do not always expect emergency services to be present

NSP do not provide meals, amenity or cater for special needs (e.g. for infants, the elderly, the ill or disabled)

They may not provide shelter from the elements, particularly flying embers.

If an NSP is part of your contingency plan it should not require extended travel through fire affected areas to get there. If there is not sufficient time or it is unsafe to travel to an NSP you should then consider other pre identified safer locations such as your neighbours' home or a wide open space.

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.

Extinguishment of "Existing Holdings"

On 22nd February 2013 the Port Macquarie Hastings Council will minimum lot size requirements indicated in PMH LEP 2011. It has extinguishing "existing holdings" that will affect all rural for a dwelling will incur a \$10,000 fee. landowners who own land that contains the allotment or Alarmingly the amendment to the LEP was a recommendation of

The relevance of existing holdings is that it has been possible to There will be a meeting for all landowners at the Wauchope RSL minimum lot size (usually 40 or 100ha) - such is the case around ways to prevent this amendment. the Pappinbarra bridge. After 22 February all applications for dwellings will only be permissible where the holding meets the

instigate an amendment to our Local Environment Plan also been mentioned that to submit a Development Application

allotments as the property was at 26th May 1967. Subdivisions or the Administrator, Mr Gary Payne some 3 or 4 days after the consolidation of property relating to the allotment or allotments General Manager was sacked. This amendment will have severe after 26th May means that they are not classified existing ramifications for landowners who are hoping to sell off land to aid their retirement as it will not be allowed.

get approval for a dwelling on land that may be smaller than the on Wednesday 30th January at 7.30pm, to discuss this issue and

Patrick McEntee

Spider Project

After more than 600 hours of handwork, the giant Salvage Spider went up last month in the Glasshouse foyer. Made from 92 old stuffed toys and materials scavenged from around the Hastings, the Spider hangs in a web made of 205 metres of hand-spun line, and has all the anatomy you could hope to find on a real spider, with a cheeky addition or two (look for the teddy-bear face on the abdomen). The response has been wonderful, from toddlers through to busloads

Large range of trees, shrubs & fruit trees Wide range of seedlings Pots & giftware NURSERY

wauchope thebusinesstree.com.au 239 High St. Wauchope (opposite Timbertown) Open 7 Days 65852117 Hayden & Alison Robinson greenbourne.nursery@midcoast.

from an aged home. Big congratulations go out to all the crafty locals who helped make it happen; as one person commented, "What a clever community!" You can see the video of the Spider-making process at http:// vimeo.com/56297780 or just look up Salvage Spider.

Bryony Anderson

The 'Salvage Spider' team underneath their creation on opening day.



Frog Survey Update

The Pappinbarra Frog Survey is underway. The several bouts of wet weather have finally triggered the summer breeding activity among Pappinbarra frogs. Members of the survey team have spent time at four different locations over the past month and so far we have located populations of 12 frog species. Most of them are still just in the 'warm up' phase of the breeding season, when the males are practicing their calls in anticipation of the arrival of egg-laden females, the majority of whom are still keeping a safe distance from the breeding congregations. It is a mistake for a female to turn up early – there is a real risk of being mobbed by enthusiastic amorists. Several species are now calling vigorously around buildings and gardens, including the Bleating Tree Frog (*Litoria dentata*) – named for its



Bleating Tree Frog

very loud sheep-impersonations – the smaller Sedge Frog (*Litoria fallax*) that has a high pitched 'scratchy' call, and the Red-eyed Tree Frog (*Litoria chloris*) that makes a loud, quavering *waaa waaaa*. In case anyone is wondering how long these species will keep calling outside their bedroom window, we don't yet know - but we will by the end of our first summer of local frog watching.

Critter of the Month – Platypus or Water Rat?



Hydromys chrysogaster—the Water Rat



Many valley residents at one time or other have seen the fabulous Playtpus swimming in the Pappinbarra River – an unmistakable sight, with its wide rubbery bill and flattened tail. But if you catch only a brief or distant glimpse of an animal swimming in the river, take pause to wonder whether it might not be that other common resident of Australian rivers - the Water Rat (Hydromys chrysogaster). Water rats are about the same size as a platypus but they have a long tail that is usually about half white (to the tip). Although by no means as weird as a platypus, water rats do not look particularly rat-like, as their snout is broad and very whiskery, their eyes and ears are small, their feet are broad and partially webbed, and their fur is very dense and sleek – all excellent features for a life spent in cold running water. Unlike typical rats, water rats are carnivores and they hunt at night for shellfish, yabbies and fish. They are essentially solitary animals and live in burrows dug low in the banks of the river and with a saucer-sized entrance. Water rat fur is so lovely that it was almost their undoing - in the early 1900s they were hunted almost to extinction in some areas for their pelts. Judging from the numbers of burrows they are common along the Pappinbarra River, so there is a good chance of seeing them. They are not particularly shy so ... find a comfortable spot beside a big pool, settle down

before dusk with a supply of nibbles and drinks at the ready, and wait for the entertainment.

> Ken and Angela, Tullamore



Water Rat swimming







Plant of the Month—Lolly Bush

Lolly bush (Clerodendrum floribundum) Lamiaceae

Lolly bush is a local native shrub to small tree usually growing to 6 metres in height, but can be taller in old specimens. As an Australian native, is has uncharacteristically bucked the trend of being overlooked as a horticultural plant and is, in fact, widely known to be a cultivated feature in many Australian gardens. This can be largely attributed to its hardiness, variability of tolerance to climate, widespread natural distribution (NSW, Qld, NT, WA) and showy floral display. Spring flowering is a show of clustered white flowers, followed in summer by black, berry-like fruit 'nested' in the persistent red sepals. The fruit are eaten and spread by

various frugivorous (fruit eating) birds. Identifying the plant can be difficult at different life stages. In all cases the leaves are opposite each other on the stems. However, when young the leaves are soft and often have numerous irregular lobes, but this lobing usually disappears with maturity. The petioles (leaf stems) are purplish in colour and the bark is cracked and rough. Under average conditions seedlings can grow 50cm a year for the first few years, then they begin to slow as the trunks develop. Lolly bush can be raised from seed, but can be sporadic in germination times. Although variously described as a plant of forest margins in coastal areas, it clearly enjoys the Pappinbarra environment and can be seen in and on the margins of most forest types (wet and dry sclerophyll (hardwood) and subtropical rainforest).



Further information:

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

Or, feel free to drop any plant ID specimens in my mailbox (sealed plastic bag please) (2011 Pappinbarra Rd) with your details and I'll get back to you.

Peter Michael

Carbon farming possibilities

Some landowners in the valley are looking into the possibility of forming a co-operative to participate in the Federal Govt's new Carbon Farming Initiative — a scheme which can both assist and reward landowners willing to revegetate marginal or unproductive cleared land (even small disconnected patches). Apart from generating future earnings for each landowner on the carbon market, the co-operative may also open up avenues for us to apply for other funding to help maintain biodiversity in the valley. If anyone is interested in finding out more about these plans, please contact Bev Sibthorpe in the first instance: bsibthorpe@bigpond.com. More general information about the Carbon Farming Initiative is available from the Govt website: http://www.countrycarbon.com.au/





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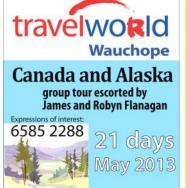
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Breakfast, Lunch & Snacks Dine in (BYO) or Take-Away Group bookings and A/H functions Phone Wendy on 6585 6130

FEBRUARY 2013

1						
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	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	27	28			

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

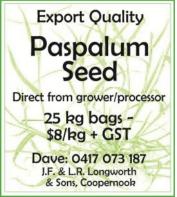
Hastings Farmers' Market

Our local producers are giving tender love and care to their produce as they're trying to keep their plants growing, their chickens, ducks and fish alive and their meat cooled during the heat so they can bring the best and freshest produce to the Hastings Farmers' Market on 23 February. Come and do your shopping at the market and find out from these local farmers how they did it. The Hastings Farmers' Market is a lovely place to meet and greet your friends and community.

Tennis

Tennis matches will resume in February, if interested please contact Damian Privett on 65876185 or damian.privett@gmail.com









Letterboxes

Roadside mail boxes ideally facilitate delivery of postal items of varying sizes from the driver's window of the postie's vehicle. Eric Waldron of Beechwood PO has been very pleased with the improvements to roadside mail boxes along Pappinbarra Road following our little Pitchfork competition. He and Esma awarded prizes to Chay and Pete Michael's big yellow 44 drum (Postie's Choice) and to Ray and Natalie Flanagan (most improved).

PPA was pleased to give bottles of wine as 'Encouragement Awards' to Dean Newell's milk can on a tree (most efficient), Jeff Fowler's 4-gallon drum with helmet (most improved) and John and Margie Davison's hollow log suspended on a dead branch (most artistic). There are some really eye-catching RMBs in the valley and we have featured many on the December page of our PPA calendar for 2013.

We encourage you all to consider our postie, continue the upgrade, and have an eye to making the drive up our valley even more interesting!

Jean Hegarty

POA Wrap-Up

The Office of Fair Trading has approved POA's proposed distribution of funds – half to PPA and half to Upper Pappinbarra RFS. This will be processed in the next couple of weeks.

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 Brenda Patrick 0439076255 or Sue Frost 6587-6129.

Can you give a few hours to the PPA?

There's a huge amount of work involved in making sure the PPA is really active and our precious facilities are maintained and steadily improved. Your hard working committee would love some help. If you can spare a few hours, monthly or just from time to time, we'd love to hear from you. Things we'd <u>really appreciate</u> some help with are:

- 1. First Friday chef roster could you be part of a 3-person team 2 or 3 times a year?
- 2. Pitchfork delivery roster could you be part of a 2-person team for 4 hours on the last Friday of the month 2 or 3 times a year?
- 3. Organising special events. Now including POA's traditional events (see p7), PPAs annual events calendar includes New Year's Eve, Australia Day, Seniors Week, Easter Bonnet Parade, Trivia Night, Christmas in July, Bush Dance, Cricket Match, Home Brew Competition, Christmas Party, one-off musical and theatrical events and the tennis competition could you volunteer a few hours to join the teams putting on these events once or twice a year?

If you can help – regularly or just being willing to have your name on a list of people we can call up to see if you've got a bit of free time when events are coming up or roster gaps and absences happen - please email Jean Hegarty jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au.

PPA Committee









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

<u>PPA Committee meetings</u> – 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

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, 22 February** for the **March** Issue. Material for the March Issue to the Editor by **Wednesday, 13 February.** We run both casual and regular **advertisements** at very competitive rates. Contact Chay Khamsone.

Production Team

PPA Executive: Jan Childs <u>janmary1301@bigpond.com</u> 6587-6055 Editor: Bev Sibthorpe <u>bsibthorpe@bigpond.com</u> 6584-0051 or 6587-6075

Production: Angela Frost angfrost@hotmail.com

Advertising: Chay Khamsone kwanchay@hotmail.com 6587-6022

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: Jan Childs 6587-6055 Secretary: Elly Franchimont 6587-6097

Other Members:

Kelly Benson Chay Khamsone Lyn Blythe Bev Sibthorpe

Sue Frost



PPA Membership 2012-2013 \$5 per adult

PLEASE PRINT

Member Names:______
Address:______
Email: ______ Phone: ______
Payment amount: ______

Send cash or cheque made out to "Pappinbarra Progress Association" to: Jan Childs, 1301 Pappinbarra Rd, Pappinbarra NSW 2446.