



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association & Pappinbarra Outback Association

Upcoming Special Events

Quiz Night

The Annual Pappinbarra Quiz Night is on again, **Saturday, 19 May at 7pm**. The baton for organising has been passed to Ryan Barter and by all accounts it's shaping up to be a fantastic night - lots of fun and special sections on local knowledge. **Numbers are strictly limited so get your table of 6 together and register with Ryan today on 6587-6103**. \$10 per head. Great prizes.

Postponement - Songs of the 60s, 70s and 80s – FFFN 4 May

Elly has lost her voice and is struggling to get it back so she and Adrian have had to postpone this event. First Friday Family Night will take place as usual but we'll have to wait a month or so to have the music. Stay tuned.

Weeds and Landscape Field Day

Saturday, 5 May Hollisdale Hall from **1-4pm** - open to all - see pg5.

PPA President's Report

With Easter being early this year our FFFN was held over until 13th April and initially it seemed that it would be a very quiet evening. Then around 6.30pm people started to arrive and very soon there was a large hungry crowd.

Many thanks to Darren Rowley, Jean Hegarty and Emma Frost for manning the barbie at short notice - they did a wonderful job. Also thanks to Jan for selling tickets for the raffle which was won by Ron & I and we decided the Greenbourne Nursery voucher was the way to go.

Bev Sibthorpe, who has not missed a FFFN since August last year, was unfortunately not in attendance when her membership number was drawn from the barrel so our members draw will jackpot to \$20.00 for May FFFN.

We wish Bill and Jan Farrell all the best in their move to Port Macquarie.

Over the next three months we will be selling raffle tickets for a lovely painting donated to us by Jan so keep a look out for our ticket sellers; tickets will be \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Our next FFFN is to be on 4 May. Unfortunately Elly and Adrian won't be able to entertain us as planned, but we look forward to their show in the not too distant future.

Regards **Julie-Anne**



Welcome to Milton Ostler!

PPA and POA would like to congratulate Jess and Bob on the birth of their son Milton. He's already been to his first POA event and we hope it won't be long before we see him at a PPA function!

First Friday Chefs

4 May – Jan Childs and Mary Walker + helper TBA

Easter Sunday at Upper Pappinbarra



Denny Michael on the hunt for yummy eggs

Kids, big and small, had fun at the POA Easter Sunday gathering. Absolutely glorious weather greeted the small crowd who enjoyed the sunshine, the barbeque, the hats, the games and especially the egg hunt! It was lovely to see Jess and Bob come along with new-born Milton on his first Pappinbarra outing. Thanks to Ryan Barter for manning the BBQ and feeding the crowd, Steve Ostler for organising the games, Pansy Ostler for the jelly-bean contest and all those who contributed to the hamper raffle.



Sue Frost

The men get ready for the prestigious Egg & Spoon race

Spider Project

Like them or hate them, spiders are everywhere around us. The Spider Project is the inspiration of Bryony Anderson, a professional puppet maker who lives and works in Upper Pappinbarra. It's about tapping into the wealth of handcraft skills and creativity among people in the local district that often have no outlet. It's also about making creative use of things that are destined for the dump, in this case pre-loved soft toys of every size and shape that have been kindly donated by people



Spinning the web

in the district. With advice from renowned local naturalist, author and TV series host Densey Clyne, the finished work will be a huge spider, 100 times life size, that is as close to anatomically accurate as the materials will allow. The fur is being used for the

spider's skin and the stuffing hand spun to make 120 metres of web. The giant creature will be a centre piece of 'bug' related displays and activities for Summerfest at the Glasshouse in early 2013. Hopefully, it will help people appreciate how complex and interesting spiders can be.



There are currently about 12 makers working on the project, meeting for a day once every two months. Still to be done are spinning, papier mache, some sculpture work, design and construction of the moveable legs and attaching the fur to the body. If you're

interested in joining this great project or finding out more about it contact Bryony on bryony@bordernet.com.au She hopes to develop a group of skilled makers who can take on other projects like this in coming years.

Pappinbarra Outback Association – We need you too!

The recreation ground at Upper Pappinbarra, 7km along the dirt road, is an attractive setting for outdoor events, with a large grassed area, tennis court, meeting room/kitchen, covered area, picnic tables, barbeque and toilets. The facilities were built over the years by the community on Crown Land. Port Macquarie Hastings Council now owns the ground and improvements – the ground being in trust from Crown Lands.

Pappinbarra Outback Association Inc (POA) is responsible for running the ground's facilities, mowing, cleaning, taking bookings, and collecting and depositing hiring fees set and owned by Council. Responsibility for the maintenance of the buildings rests with Council.

POA's other function is to organise community events such as the annual cricket match, Christmas party, tennis etc. Despite (or maybe because of) the sloping ground, the annual cricket match is always great fun. Night tennis is a feature of the warmer months and our Easter and Christmas gatherings are a chance

for the community to get together.

Like all incorporated bodies, POA must be covered by public liability insurance and it is the responsibility of the POA committee to raise the money for this each year. We do this through our events, raffles, cake stalls and barbeque lunches and the small profit from our tennis tournaments but it is always a struggle. Without this fundraising we could not exist and the facilities would cease to be available to the community. A small committee run POA. We welcome new ordinary and committee members and new ideas for events and fundraising.

Anyone, including POA, wishing to use the facilities must pay the hire fee set by Council – to book call Jan Brown 6587 6159.

The next General Meeting of the POA will be on Sunday, 20 May starting at 2pm at the recreation ground. All welcome – please come along and support your outback committee.

Sue Frost, President

Heritage Bus Tour

As usual, a Pappinbarra volunteer was prominent amongst the movers and shakers for the 2012 Heritage Festival 14-29 April. Jeannette Rainbow, under the auspices of the Wauchope District Historical Society, organised a coach trip to 'take in the sights and historical points of interest on a guided tour of Wauchope and the Upper Hastings area'.

The clouds cleared; more light was shed on Wauchope's old timber houses, Jacaranda House, the first hospital, possibly the widest country street in NSW (Hastings Street) with Jeannette's enthusiastic commentary. West of Wauchope, Wendy Jonas spoke of her ancestors - the Lindsays of Huntingdon - and Anne Waugh of the historic *Moripo* property where she and Peter

spent many years. Thoughts were on the slow journeys of the pioneers as we rolled along in our air-conditioned coach.

A walk across the 75-year-old wooden suspension bridge at Kindee was followed by a welcome lunch at Long Flat pub with guitar and songs from Laurie Steep of Kindee. Afternoon rain failed to dampen the spirits of the happy coach load of locals (plus 5 from Port that Jeannette confessed to not knowing already). Like travellers of bygone times, we disembarked at the Big Waterhole at Timbertown, but thankfully didn't need to water the bullocks.

Jean Heggarty

Pappinbarra Progress Association Inc

Executive

President: Julie-Anne Murphy 6585- 6309

Vice President: Allan Ferris 6587-6106

Secretary: Jan Childs 6587-6055

Treasurer: Dale Goldfinch 0447-422-134

Pappinbarra Outback Association Inc

Executive

President: Sue Frost 6587-6129

Treasurer: Jan Brown 6587-6159

Secretary: Brenda Patrick

Social Organisers: Jessica Zycki, Steve Ostler

Pappinbarra History Project

Too Much Rain? THIS is Rain!

The Advertiser (Adelaide) Tuesday 12 February 1929
SAVING STOCK. WATER ABOVE TELEGRAPH POLES.

At Wauchope many farmers succeeded in swimming their stock safely to higher land. In one instance men pulled boats to the rescue of 50 dairy cows, which were fastened in pairs to the boats and towed to safety.

Mails and passengers for Port Macquarie were conveyed by boats over the submerged main road, where the water was so deep that passengers could touch the tops of telegraph poles.

The Sydney Morning Herald Thursday 14 February 1929

SAD SPECTACLE. HORSES SWEEPED TO SEA.

Large numbers of bodies of stock were seen, sweeping out to sea at Port Macquarie. Several horses, still alive, were observed fighting desperately as they approached the sea. The frenzied animals made repeated efforts to make a landing on the breakwater, but falling, were swept onwards to sea, still swimming.

Many farms will be enriched with heavy deposits of silt, but other farmers are losers owing to scouring of their lands. Some alluvial lands have been scoured of grass and maize, holes feet deep being left in places.

Mary Wagg

Macropods in the Pappinbarra Valley



A Red-necked Wallaby with her joey—'Red-necks' are the most commonly sighted macropods in the valley

Macropod is the general term for the family of kangaroos and wallabies. Their smaller relatives, the potoroos and bettongs, will be covered some other time. Since moving to the valley early last year we have seen three different kinds of wallabies and one kangaroo. We hold out hope that at least two other kinds are still found in the valley and look forward to seeing them. One other kind of wallaby that used to occur in this area is probably locally extinct.

The **Eastern Grey Kangaroo** (*Macropus giganteus*) is a common sight in more open country in the lower parts of the valley and around Port Macquarie. They are the largest local macropod, have a grey-brown fur and white spots on the front of their ears, giving the impression of startled eyes. The **Wallaroo** or Euro (*Macropus robustus*) is another large macropod probably found in parts of the valley. It has browner, shaggier fur than the Eastern Grey and lacks the dark tail tip of the latter species. It prefers steep, rocky habitat, but generally avoids the wetter forests.

There are two medium-sized wallabies. The **Red-necked Wallaby** (*Macropus rufogriseus*) is the commoner of the two and is often seen in the upper reaches of the valley, grazing into open fields. It has rich red-brown fur on the neck, cream belly fur, and a pale white stripe on the side of the face. The **Swamp Wallaby**

(*Wallabia bicolor*) has grizzled dusky fur on the back and sides, a rich cream to orange belly, and a bold cream stripe on the face. It prefers to stay inside scrubby forest and seems to be more common in the lower parts of the valley.

Smaller wallabies include the **Red-necked Pademelon** (*Thylogale stigmatica*). They are similar to Red-necked Wallabies but are smaller, do not have a face stripe, and have pale hands and feet (black in the larger wallabies). They prefer dense scrub and are often seen bolting across the road at night, their short tails held stiff behind them. The **Parma Wallaby** (*Macropus parma*) is probably also here. It is small like the Pademelon, but has duller brown fur, a pale face stripe and a narrow dark stripe down the middle of the upper back. Parma Wallabies are found only in the ranges of central New South Wales and were once thought to be extinct.

Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies (*Petrogale penicillata*) were once widespread over the steep slopes and rocky hills of eastern New South Wales. Today they are restricted to rugged areas where their agility on steep cliffs keeps them safe from foxes and other predators. Rock-wallabies have long, cylindrical tails that help with balance. We would love to hear from anyone who thinks they have seen either a Rock-wallaby or a Parma Wallaby in the Pappinbarra Valley. It might be good to stop and check any unfortunate small wallaby lying beside the road – provided you can do it safely.

Ken and Angela, Tullamore, 65876129.



Red-necked Pademelon

MAY 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2 Tennis	3 Tennis	4 First Friday Family Night	5 Yoga, Weed Field Day 1-4pm	6
7 Losing it in the Bush	8	9	10	11	12 Yoga, Card making and Scrapbooking	13
14 Losing it in the Bush	15 Hastings Landcare Meeting 6:30pm	16	17 Craft morning	18	19 Yoga, Trivia Night 7pm	20
21 Losing it in the Bush	22	23	24	25	26 Yoga	27
28 Losing it in the Bush	29	30	31			

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Plant Profile—Tree Tobacco

There are surely not many as highly visible or identifiable introduced plants in our region as the ubiquitous Tree Tobacco (*Solanum mauritianum* SOLANACEAE). It seems to appear with lightning speed beneath any fence, shed or paddock tree as soon as you turn your back. This is largely due to its appeal as a reliable food source for many birds (probably bats, rats and foxes too) including brown cuckoo doves, satin bower birds and regent bower birds, but seed may also lie dormant in the soil. Further, seed is spread readily by slashing and hay-cutting and as a contaminant in soil on machinery and vehicles. You may have also noticed how it tends to colonise rapidly on the margins of forest (particularly rainforest) and along watercourses where flooding has scarified or disturbed the soil.

Tree Tobacco is a large shrub to small tree to 4m with a straight, green trunk and an open-branched spreading habit. Flowers are lilac and produced year round, followed by clusters of round, yellow fruit to 12mm, each with numerous small seeds. In our region, Tree Tobacco competes with native analogues such as Hibiscus (*Hibiscus heterophyllus* MALVACEAE), Kangaroo apple (*Solanum aviculare* SOLANACEAE) and Brush Kurrajong (*Commersonia fraseri* MALVACEAE). Oddly, it's widely credited as a valuable pioneer species in the reestablishment of



Leaves and ripe fruit (Photo from www.esc.nsw.gov.au)



Habit (Photo from www.metafro.be)

rainforest patches, but unlike its native alternatives it also has the undesirable trait of being able to spread between patches as well as into farming land, becoming a nuisance-plant for landholders. It is palatable to stock 'in moderation', but many people find the smell of the plant (when disturbed) and the easily-airborne hairs that cover all parts to be highly irritating. Therefore, use caution when handling or treating the plant.

Regarding any specific or general weed (or native plant) identification or control, contact Council or the DPI for further information, but if you're still having troubles, please just call or email me (petewm@hotmail.com). As always, if you have any plant you'd like identified, pop a sample in a sealed plastic bag along with your contact details into my letterbox (2011 Pappinbarra Rd) and I'll try and identify it for you.

Peter Michael

FURTHER INFORMATION - Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
(Municipal Ecologist or Noxious Weeds Officer) 6581-8111;
NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
www.environment.nsw.gov.au;
Weeds Australia website www.weeds.org.au

Hastings Landcare Meeting + Catchment Management Authority Presentation

The next meeting of Hastings Landcare will be held at the Hollisdale Hall on **Tuesday, 15 May at 7:30pm**. Prior to the meeting, commencing at **6:30pm** there will be a presentation by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority on the Catchment Action Plan review. **All welcome.**

Weed Management and Landscape Field Day – Saturday 5 May, Hollisdale Hall, 1-4pm

On **Saturday, 5 May** a **Weeds and Landscape Field Day** - open to all - will be held at the Hollisdale Hall from **1-4pm**. It will have a presentation and Q&A format with speakers from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and the Mid North Coast Weeds Coordinating Committee, followed by a visit to a nearby property to discuss weed and pasture management, plant identification and farm biodiversity.

Our NSW Office of Environment and Heritage speaker will cover the natural history of the catchment from geological formations and landscape processes and soils to overlying vegetation - in effect, an overview of *why* we see *what* we see in the landscape around us. The second speaker will present on the current state of weed management, both from a government authority's perspective and that of the private landholder with whom management usually rests. Also, landholders are encouraged to bring plant samples (or photos) for identification and – if relevant – advice on management. A gold coin donation will be sought to cover the cost of the Hall hire and refreshments and **RSVPs are essential** (see details below).

This is the first in what is hoped to be a series of such workshops to be held every 2 months in Pappinbarra and coordinated by the Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group. The PLCG is a newly-formed and unincorporated group of landholders wanting to gather and utilise the collective knowledge of responsible land management of all interested Pappinbarra residents. Its aim is to be locally relevant and reflect the needs of Pappinbarra landholders.

To **RSVP and/or obtain more information on the Weeds and Landscape Field Day**, for suggestions on topics for future workshops, or to find out more about the PLCG please **contact Peter Michael** on **6587-6022** or petewm@hotmail.com

Regular Events

First Friday Family Night

When: 1st Friday of the month, 6pm onwards

Where: Hollisdale Hall

What: BYO drinks and nibbles, low cost BBQ including vegetarian option, member's draw (cash prize) and raffle

Contact: Julie-Anne Murphy 6585-6309

Losing it in the Bush

Another **6-week** session of this great, **free program** with accredited exercise physiologist Rhonda Coppin, designed for older people not in the workforce, has commenced.

When: Every Monday until 28 May, 2pm

Where: Hollisdale Hall

Contact: Di Penberthy 6588-2859 or 0429-600-346

Dianne.Penberthy@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Yoga

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

Where: Hollisdale Hall

What: \$15 (mats are provided)

Contact: Amy Hubers

Craft morning

When: 3rd Thursday of the month, 9am – 1pm

Where: Hollisdale Hall

What: \$2; BYO craft

Contact: Brenda Murray 6587-6161

Scrapbooking and Card Making

When: 2nd Saturday of the month, 1pm – 4pm

Where: Hollisdale Hall

What: \$2; BYO materials

Contact: Brenda Murray 6587-6161

PPA/POA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – monthly at 5pm before First Friday Family Night – all welcome.

Facilities for Hire

Hollisdale Hall – contact Jan Childs 6587-6055

Upper Pappinbarra facilities and tennis court -

contact Jan Brown 6587-6159

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.

Want to try your hand at Pottery?

Come along and join the happy band of potters at Bellangry Community Hall every Wednesday from 10a.m. Run by the Bellangry Craft Group. Contact Ros: 6587-5164 or Barbara: 6585-6724.

Farmer's Market – Saturday, 28 April, 8am-12md, Wauchope Showground

Come and get great local produce and delicious fare and support hard working producers in our district and beyond. This month the first citrus will be available and a farmer all the way from Kentucky will be there with his prized apples. Don't forget this renowned market is on **every fourth Saturday of the month.**

Pappinbarra Rural Fire Brigade News

A **General Meeting and Training Day** will be held on **Sunday, 29 April, 2:00pm** at **Pappinbarra Fire Shed**, Pappinbarra Junction. The meeting agenda will include our nominations for group Captains. Following a brief meeting we will do some training, so all Active & Probationary members will need to bring full PPE. **Further Brigade Training Days will be publicised in due course.**

Hazard Reduction Burns

Residents who wish to involve their local Brigade/s in a Hazard Reduction Burn are required to complete some paperwork and gain approval in advance. The forms are available from the Hastings Fire Control office in Cameron Street, Wauchope. These days, going through the proper channels with an application and subsequent approval is the only way you are allowed to involve your local Brigade/s in your HR burn.

Andy Jarrett, Secretary B/H 6581-3388 A/H 6587-6181

Fire Permits to burn off are not required until further notice.

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

IN CASE OF FIRE – CALL 000

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

Pitchfork

Circulation

Pitchfork has hardcopy and email circulation of approximately 250, now including Koorie Island Rd. It comes out on the Friday **before** First Friday Family Night – **Friday, 25 May** for the June Issue. Material for the June Issue to Editor by **Wednesday, 17 May**.

Advertising

We run both casual and regular advertisements at very competitive rates. Contact Bev Sibthorpe bsibthorpe@bigpond.com 6584-0051 or 6587-6075.

Production Team

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