

PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association

February issue

Valley Happenings

PPA welcomes anyone new to the valley and new *Pitchfork* readers. Do join PPA if you haven't already - the more members the merrier and the better we are placed to access grant funds. Pay at First Friday or complete the form on P8.

December FF saw Santa arrive in the Hollisdale fire truck with a bag of presents for the kids. We had a write-up in the Wauchope Gazette and the editor chose the photo of Tess and Santa for publication. Special thanks to Santa for fitting us into his busy schedule and to Chris Roelandts who drove the truck. Thanks too to Jan Childs for photos. George Hegarty won the raffle and chose the Lewis Meats voucher.

PPA matters This month's committee meeting on Friday 31 January at **4 pm**. General meeting Thursday 20 February at **7 pm**. Business to be discussed includes hall extension, Hollisdale RFS shed extension and a small change to PPA constitution to actually state that we are a non-profit organisation.

February FF will be on Friday **February 7**. All welcome! Cooks will be Darren and Kerry Rowley and Mark and Cathy Relf, producing the usual offerings including vegetarian and gluten-free options - all very reasonably priced. Soft drinks and juice for sale. There will be a special event on the night - a *Show and Tell*. See poster and article on page 2 for details.

Hollisdale RFS raised over \$900 with their raffle in December. Thanks to all supporters. The money will buy much-needed equipment. Winners were (1) Val McKinnon from Long Flat, (2) John from Pappinbarra and (3) Dale Goldfinch from Pappinbarra. **Training** will now be held on the first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm. Meet at the fire shed on Wednesday 5 February for a session. Full uniform essential.

Pitchfork Choir will recommence at the hall on the second Saturday in March from 10 to 12 noon. Come and try it out. No need to be a fantastic singer - it's all about having some fun singing together and getting to know each other a bit more. Bring something for lunch afterwards if you feel like sticking around for a little while. Cost \$10 (\$5 goes to hall).

All Saints' Church welcomes everyone for the service on Sunday 23 February at 2 pm and/or the cuppa around 2.45 pm 'off the back of the ute' afterwards. Bring a plate to share.



Anyone for tennis? Come and play in the local night competition at the Recreation Grounds, Upper Pappinbarra. New season starts at the end of February and goes to April. Cost \$5 per night. Contact Emma Frost 65 876 103

Drama in 2014 Jenni Lea is writing a play for Pappinbarra Players. If you are interested in participating as cast or crew, come to a meeting at the hall on Sunday 16 February for a round table conference! Ring Jenni on 6587 6020 for more details.

PLCG Grant Show & Tell

Feb 7th @ Hollisdale Hall

Brief talks and displays from 7:30pm
after First Friday BBQ. See p2 for details.



Come and find out about the
good work that's being done
by landholders in the
Pappinbarra Valley.

Meet the Neighbours - Paul and Suzanne Pollett

Paul and Suzanne finally moved to the valley in late December with their two children, Amanda 17 and Liam 15. The timing seemed right when friends of theirs lost everything in the Blue Mountains bush fires and needed somewhere to live. So the Polletts moved from the Blue Mountains and rented their house and furniture to their friends.

They have owned the land on Pythonwood Road for ten years and relocated a house from Wauchope six years ago. Paul, a builder, has been renovating and extending it in his spare time ever since. Liam is happy to be here and is keen to join the Port Macquarie gun club to continue with his clay pigeon shooting. Amanda is not sure about the move as she has left behind a busy

social life. She starts University soon - the social life is bound to pick up. Suzanne has always lived and worked in the Blue Mountains so she is also still finding her feet; she has taken a year off from her job as a primary school teacher.

When Paul first came up here he was having a drink at the Beechwood pub when someone tapped him on the shoulder and said "G'day Paul". It was Christian Buthmann, his best friend

from primary school whom he hadn't seen for 25 years. Small world isn't it!!

Paul and Suzanne have been married for 20 years and have travelled extensively in Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and Bali; they enjoy getting away from the touristy areas and soaking up the culture.

Paul's great love is his Long Billed Corella called Bill. Bill goes everywhere with Paul and has his own perch in the car. The rest of the family are not so enamoured with this bird and call him "Bill the destroyer". He has destroyed the interior of Paul's car and chews everything indiscriminately. He is no longer allowed in the house!



One day about four years ago when the river had just been in flood and was still running very fast, Paul took the children, a canoe and two life jackets up to a friend's place for a paddle. He decided to try and canoe down the river to the bridge - not a wise move. A fallen tree turned the canoe upside down with the children trapped inside. Paul got them out but not before Liam had turned a nasty shade of blue. They then had to walk in bare feet through thistles to get help. Needless to say Suzanne was not amused when they got home (and needed a large glass of wine to steady her nerves). The lesson learnt from this is: Listen to your wife and don't canoe in

a flood. Canoeing is not allowed unless Suzanne is present!

So if you see a man in a hat driving a semi-destroyed ute with a bird on his shoulder or if you hear any loud bangs up the hill you will know that the male Polletts are out and about.

Mary Walker

Conservation Corner – PLCG Show and Tell

Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group is holding a *Show and Tell* at February FF (7 February) from 7.30pm. Confirmed special guests include Deputy Mayor Adam Roberts, Councillors Sharon Griffiths and Michael Cusato, Hastings Landcare Coordinator Daintry Gerand, Local Land Services (LLS, previously CMA) Officers Hugo Marree and Lindy Brown, PMHC Natural Resources Officer Thor Aaso and PMHC Ecologist Bill Peel. The program will include brief presentations about PLCG and its current LLS grant funding; maps showing some of the grant works; nest box samples; a continuous slide show; a display of key weeds; a cicada display; bones and other artefacts; access to the PLCG website; and information about how to get involved in PLCG. We hope to see you there! **Kelly Miller, President**

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Total Fire Bans and FAQs

During a Total Fire Ban no fire may be lit in the open and all Fire Permits are suspended. This includes incinerators and barbecues which burn solid fuel.

Can I use an electric barbecue?

You can use an electric barbecue for cooking if it is under the direct and constant control of a responsible adult. No combustible material is allowed within two metres during use.

Can I use a gas barbecue?

You can use a gas barbecue under the following conditions:

- * It is under the direct and constant control of a responsible adult
- * No combustible material is within two metres during use

- * There is an immediate and continuous supply of water
- * The barbecue is within 20 metres of a permanent private dwelling such as a home;
- * The barbecue is within a picnic area and approved by Council, National Parks or State Forests.

Can I use a solid fuel barbecue?

No.

I have a permit. Can I use fire during a total fire ban?

On Total Fire Ban Days the lighting of fire is prohibited and your Fire Permit will be automatically suspended. Your permit resumes once the total fire ban is lifted.

BUSHFIRE DANGER PERIOD

No fires without a permit.

No permits issued till substantial rain falls

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.

Hollisdale RFS Update

Chris Roelandts is doing his Captain's training in February. The Hollisdale brigade needs a category 9 truck, a smaller vehicle than the cat 7, which holds a crew of five. With our hilly terrain, sometimes the 7 cannot get in. The cat 9 is more maneuverable. It is a quick response vehicle; two crew can jump in and go when called out. Often, only cat 9 vehicles are called out.

To accommodate a cat 9, the Hollisdale RFS shed will need to be extended. The problem with this is that the land owned by Council, on which the present shed is sited, and which was given to Council by the PPA for the fire shed some time ago, is about 2.5m too narrow.

If PPA can give an extra strip of land, there would still be access from the gate to the rear of the hall. As well, kitchen, toilet and

shower facilities could be incorporated in the shed extension to comply with OHS requirements. Council could then be approached re removing the asbestos from the old Beechwood fire shed so that it could be re-erected at Hollisdale to accommodate the cat 9.

We all need a responsive and well-equipped RFS! Come along to the PPA general meeting on Thursday 20 February to discuss these plans.



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Times Past

The Breelong Blacks were an Aboriginal tribe in the Gilgandra district. In 1900 Jimmy Governor, an Aboriginal of mixed heritage working for farmer John Mawbey, and another Aboriginal man, Jacky Underwood, murdered John Mawbey's wife and three children, and the school teacher who lived with them. It is believed that Jimmy Governor's wife, a young white girl, was subjected to racial taunts and bullying and that this was what prompted the violent crime. Underwood was quickly caught but Jimmy and his brother Joe Governor, calling themselves 'bushrangers', went on a fourteen-week rampage covering more than 3200 km, terrorizing a wide area of north-central New South Wales. Seeking revenge on persons who had wronged them, they killed five more people while on the run.

After committing numerous robberies as far north as Narrabri, and in the Quirindi district, they moved into the rugged headwater country of the Manning and Hastings rivers, pursued by Queensland black trackers, bloodhounds and hundreds of police and civilians. (Authorities thought that the Governors might pass through Pappinbarra as it was a direct route to Kempsey where they were believed to be heading.) Exulting in outwitting their pursuers, the Governors blatantly broadcast their whereabouts and wrote derisive notes to the police. On 8 October the government offered a reward of £1000 each for their capture.

After several close escapes Jimmy was shot in the mouth by Herbert Byers, a hunter, on 13 October; in a weakened condition he was captured by a party of settlers at Bobin, near Wingham, on 27 October. Joe was shot dead by John Wilkinson north of Singleton on 31 October. They had been outlawed on 23 October.

Jimmy stood trial on 22-23 November in Sydney for the murder of school teacher Helen Kerz and Governor was convicted. He was hanged at Darlinghurst Gaol on 18 January 1901 and buried in an unmarked grave in the Anglican section of Rookwood cemetery; Underwood had been hanged in the Dubbo gaol four days before.

THE NORTHERN RIVERS—MORE ABOUT THE HASTINGS. A BUNCH OF SETTLEMENTS. (From Our Special Reporter.)

(The Sydney Morning Herald 7 February 1906).

It was up the Hastings, in rugged, broken country, that the Breelong blacks finished their murderous flight, and I passed not far from the spot where Jimmy Governor was taken. A very

great area is locked up in large estates along the route for many miles to and from and along Walcha road, which at one stage runs through five miles of such property.

Some owners will not let any at all; others put some under clearing leases. For that they get a higher rental than they would get from a farmer, because the teamster gets his immediate return. But his occupancy is temporary, and he has not done very much, if anything, towards making the land more acceptable to the farmer by the time he has taken away the valuable timber and left the stumps and all the smaller stuff.

Easy communication with the market, such as a railway would give, would gradually force the position, and all that land would come into direct production, or be used for fattening. There is a wealth of light brush land also of great richness. Naturally it is more troublesome to clear than the forest, because of its habit of "suckering," but it ultimately gives delightful farms. The forest country right up the river for 30 miles or so, just beyond Yarras Station, is big ironbark, blackbutt, and tallowwood country, but at Rush's Creek, nearby, the nature of the country suddenly changes, and beyond the creek there is not an ironbark to be found, the forest timbers being then blackbutt, gum, and box. Up in those far reaches the district is eminently suited for grazing, and the Crown still holds large areas unalienated. They are for the most part under lease, but are not stocked to their fair capacity.

It is believed, however, that if the region were tapped by railway, so that the droving would be over a reasonable mileage, the number of stock would be doubled. Some sheep have been tried on the higher lands, and have in some cases done well. Many men believe that a suitable strain would thrive easily. Yarras Station, the property of Mr. John Hill, is a valuable property of some 5000 acres freehold, and back country of leasehold. It was originally a grant to the late Major Innes. Until recent years it was mainly devoted to cattle fattening and pig raising, and in a lesser measure to maize growing. But now the owners are going in for cattle raising as well, on a fairly large scale.

(Because of the length of the article it will continue in subsequent issues of Pitchfork). **Mary Wagg**

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PLANT OF THE MONTH - Tamarind (*Diploglottis australis* Sapindaceae)

Not to be confused with the cultivated tropical fruit tree, *Tamarindus indica*, our native Tamarind is a common and widespread rainforest tree of the Pappinbarra Catchment that is easily recognisable by its umbrella-like form and very large compound leaves. Like its namesake, the local Tamarind produces abundant yellow sour-tasting fruits which can be eaten straight from the tree. (I suspect they would make an excellent addition to jams, sauces and fruit salad!). They are also favoured by many frugivorous birds including brown cuckoo-dove, wompoo fruit-dove, regent bowerbird and green catbird, who promote the spread of seed beyond the local patch and into other perching, feeding and roosting sites. Collecting the fruits can be an endeavor all its own, however, as the habit of the tree (very few lower branches) does not make it easy. Be prepared to get a ladder! Regardless of its bush-tucker properties, Tamarind makes a superb feature tree planted almost anywhere. The habit is tall and straight, foliage is evergreen and it ranks very low in terms of flammability, root invasiveness and limb-dropping behavior (although showers of overripe fruit can get into gutters). Fresh seed germinates readily and - once established - growth is moderately fast. Native Tamarind can tolerate full sun, but does best when sheltered as a young'un before breaking through leafy canopy/shade to be an emergent mature tree.

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.



Rusty hairs on new growth tips (Photo: author).

Foliage and fruit

www.saveourwaterwaysnow.com.au



Juvenile plant (Photo: author).

Further Information - Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
(Municipal Ecologist or Noxious Weeds Officer) 6581 8111;
Peter Michael

Tip of the month: Broody chooks



That hen who has been laying really well now wants to sit, even though you have been collecting the eggs regularly? You don't want chickens or you couldn't get them anyway because there is no rooster around? Morna Flower (poultry expert, formerly of Pembroke) says that the trick is to nip the sitting behaviour in the bud. Use a suspended cage with an open wire bottom to confine the broody so that she has cold air around her bum! A couple of days like this will get rid of the urge to sit and if you have implemented the cure promptly, the broody will start laying again. If she sat for more than 48 hours before you moved her, she won't produce eggs for six weeks.

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In the Vegie Patch

This weather we need to keep an eye out for Monolepta beetles. These small, bronze beetles have two reddish dots, one on each shoulder. Control using Yates' SUCCESS, which is a product containing natural soil bacteria. Monolepta come in swarms and have been really damaging this year as the season is dry.

Beat the heat in the vegie patch by using lots of mulch, such as sugarcane. This helps to keep the moisture in the ground and the roots cool. If the vegies are struggling or drying out too quickly, why not try Searle's Water Crystals? All you need to do is scratch them into the ground under the mulch layer and this will help to hold the water for when the plants need it.

Happy gardening from **Brendan**



Monolepta Beetle
brisbaneinsects.com

CARER EDUCATION

PORT MACQUARIE

Carer Education: Dementia & Intellectual Disability

Are you a family member caring for someone with dementia (or who is showing signs of dementia) and an intellectual disability? Alzheimer's Australia NSW has been funded by the NSW government to provide this FREE workshop for family members or friends to help understand some of the changes that occur when a person has dementia and how to support them.

This workshop is available to family carers and friends directly involved in the care or support of a person with dementia and an intellectual disability.

It is designed to assist family and friends gain a better understanding of the impact of dementia when the person has a pre-existing intellectual disability.

This workshop will cover:

- ☑ The signs and symptoms of dementia and how they present when a person has an intellectual disability
- ☑ Changes in communication and tips to maintain connection
- ☑ Behaviour change associated with dementia and responses focused on reducing distress
- ☑ Supports available for the person and for you

DATE: Thursday 19 June, 2014

TIME: 9.30am to 2.30pm

COST: Free

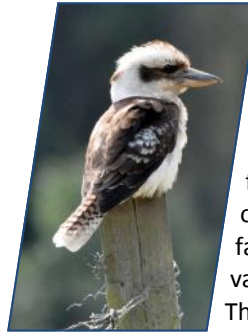
VENUE: Medicare Local, 53 Lord St Port Macquarie

Ph: 8875 4663 to register

DO YOU NEED RESPITE TO ATTEND?

Please contact the Commonwealth Carer Respite Centre on 1800 052 222 or your current respite service provider.

Allsorts' Fable: The reliability of kookaburras



You can rely on kookaburras to wake you at that brief time when night is done, but it is not quite yet day. For kookaburras it's a family business - making sure their boundaries are known by all comers. Their family carolling marks each cardinal tree on their patch; then this passes from one family group to another up and down the valley just before dawn and just after dark. They are better than an alarm clock, more reliable, more musical, and conscientious.

Old timers know that the kookaburras will react to distant thunder long before our ears can hear it, and tell us that rain is on the way with their anxious outburst of territorial carolling to repulse the thunder as if it were birds from another group coming too close for comfort. Our summer work is punctuated by comments such as, "There go the Kookaburras! Let's get going! We've only got an hour before it starts to pour down!" But planes flying between the big cities have confused the precision of the kookaburras' power of prediction. Some days the distant growl of jet engines over the horizon will start the birds' carolling to defend their territory from uninvited guests. Passenger jets flying close to the edge of the atmosphere pose no immediate threat to a kookaburra family or their food supply. It is a misunderstanding that cannot be explained. Moral: Things are not always what they seem.

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Creature of the month: Gordian Worm

With the hot weather some Pappinbarra residents are spending a lot of time at the river so may come across the rather unlovely Gordian Worms. According to the Australian Museum <http://australianmuseum.net.au/Gordian-Worms>, they are found all over the world, in still water such as puddles, ditches, ponds and quiet areas in streams. Sometimes they get into domestic water supplies, such as toilets or bowls of water. They are usually found after rains, leading some communities to believe that a 'rain of worms' has occurred, or that horsehairs have 'come to life' after falling into a pond or stream - hence the other names Horsehair Worms and Horsehair Snakes.

Adult Gordian Worms are brown or black in colour and reach lengths of 22-30 cm. They are free-living in water, but the juveniles are parasitic in land-dwelling insects and spiders. Because these hosts are not found in water, the larvae must reach them by a two-step process. The adult Gordian Worms attach long egg-strings to waterweeds and other debris in water. From these eggs, tiny larvae hatch and sink to the bottom, but can only survive for a short time unless they find a host. Many animals, such as fish, snails and small crustaceans, get infected. Larvae and juveniles are parasites in the main body cavity of the host, secreting digestive enzymes through their skin to gradually absorb the host's body contents. They eventually grow to become a tightly coiled mass killing the host, then penetrate the host's body wall and return to the water, taking up a free-living existence until their sex organs mature. Male worms die after mating and females after egg-laying.

A number of freshwater fishes feed voraciously on Gordian Worms in summer and their stomachs may be crammed with

them. The fish are not harmed by the worms and they are still safe to eat. Although Gordian Worms can resemble some of the parasitic round worms (Phylum Nematoda), there is no danger of humans becoming parasitised by them.

Bev Sibthorpe



Editor's note: My several dictionaries (Macquarie, Webster's, Fowler's) tell that Gordius was an ancient king of Phrygia in Asia Minor who tied the yoke of his wagon to the pole with a knot so ingenious and intricate that its beginning and end were not apparent. An oracle declared that it would be undone only by the one to be master of Asia. When Alexander the Great came on the scene in 333 BC, fearing that an inability to untie it would prove an ill augury, he cut it asunder with his sword! So a 'Gordian Knot' is a seemingly insoluble problem.

Editor's Musings

The Christmas season prompts memories of long-gone holidays; my most memorable as a kid was at Wangi Wangi on Lake Macquarie. I spent my mornings and evenings catching mating frogs in the little stream next to our cottage, and the sunny days chasing cicadas or duck-diving and opening my eyes underwater in vain attempts to see the wildlife there. I did manage to catch a blue-ringed octopus - I knew it had a beak and could bite but was blissfully unaware of its poisonous nature. The several frog species I caught were liberated from their watery dish at week's end at my father's insistence. He, a primary school teacher, told me the cicadas' common names.

The past weeks have seen me revisiting my childhood, stalking cicadas on the flooded gums along our drive. The first to emerge from their nymphal skins were the Black Princes, followed closely by the Double Drummers. The din was ear-splitting and the clouds of these big insects amazing. A few Cherry Noses,

Green Grocers and Yellow Mondays appeared, as well as a good population of Floury Bakers.



The five grandchildren who came for a farm holiday in January were fascinated to hold cicadas, hearing the males at very close range, and keeping exhausted females clinging to their shirts. They, too, went looking for frogs along the verandah and the river. They found another species of cicada in the

watergums. Life goes on...

More info about cicadas, frogs and lots of other wildlife at February FF. Happy New Year and hope to see you there!

Angela Frost is on holidays in Indonesia; many thanks to Chay for the layout this month!

Jean Hegarty

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Got a problem with swarming bees?

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PPA Matters

Committee meetings - monthly at 6pm on the Friday before First Friday. This month's committee meeting on Friday 31 January at **4 pm**. All welcome.

General meetings - General meeting Thursday 20 February at 7 pm. 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 and email circulation of approximately 280. It comes out on the weekend **before** First Friday - **Friday, 28 February** for the **March Issue**. Material for the **March** issue to the Editor by **Wednesday, 19 February**. We run both casual and regular **advertisements** at very competitive rates. Contact Sharada Boyce.

Production Team

Editor: Jean Hegarty jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au 65 876 077

Production: Angela Frost angfrost@hotmail.com

Advertising: Sharada Boyce sharadaboyce@yahoo.com.au 6587 6079

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

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

