



# PITCHFORK

## Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association

April 2014

### Valley Happenings

Thanks to all the folk who have renewed their PPA membership. 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.

**April First Friday** will be at the Hollisdale Hall from 6 pm on Friday 4 April. Cooks will be Jim McGahey and Kelly Benson. The usual offerings will be available. Come and meet your neighbours and enjoy the evening.

**March First Friday** members' draw was won by Natalie Mrowka who wasn't there so it jackpots to \$20 this month and Bev Sibthorpe won the raffle, choosing the ecoWild voucher. Thanks to the able team of cooks - the Barnes family - and to the folk who helped with the setup and clean-up.

**Hollisdale RFS** has training at the fire shed on Saturday 5 April at 8 am. Full uniform essential.

**Pappinbarra RFS** working bee needs you on Sunday 6 April to get the place ready for the official opening of the shed on Saturday 12 April at 2.30. Bring a plate and join the celebration. The Fire Commissioner and Council Representatives will be attending.

**Trivia night**, enjoyed by all comers last year, is on again on Saturday 24 May. Plan a table and come to try your luck at little tests of manual skill as well as the mental challenges posed by quizmasters Peter Michael and Damian Privett.

**Pitchfork choir** will sing again on Saturday 12 April 10am - 12pm. Come along and enjoy yourself.

**Mobile Phone Coverage:** Moves are afoot to improve this in the valley, but we need info on the areas where there is no coverage. The Hollisdale Hall has it. Does anywhere else? Replies to the editor ASAP please so we can get something happening.

**Friday Social Tennis:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday social tennis at the Upper Pappinbarra tennis court, gold coin donation. Kids play from 6-7pm with fun lessons. Adults can play from 7pm. Bring things to BBQ or snacks. Please register your interest with Robyn Flanagan on 6587 6011 or Emma Frost on 6587 6103.

**All Saints' Pappinbarra** invites all to come for a service on Sunday 27 April at 2pm to celebrate and admire the newly-painted church. Thanks to Gary Rainbow for the colour scheme, and the hard-working team of Jeannette and Charles Rainbow, Julie-Anne and Ron Murphy, Rod Hoare and George Hegarty headed by Paul Bramley from Port, whom you may have seen camping there, all the better to get the job done while enjoying the peaceful surrounds of Pappinbarra!

A short memorial service will be held for Patrick and Nancy van de Linde on Friday 11 April at 4pm, after which the family will place their ashes in the grounds of the church they loved. All welcome. Bring a plate to share 'off the back of the ute'.

**Thanks** to all who took their chainsaws down the road to help clear the fallen trees and branches after the short but severe storm of Sunday 16 March. Another example of the great community spirit in the valley.

### Official opening of the Pappinbarra Fire Shed!



**Come along  
bring a plate  
help celebrate!**

At the Upper Pappinbarra Recreation Area



## Meet the Neighbours - Heather and Harvey Smith

Heather and Harvey and their three children, Sophie (6), Zara (3) and Curtis (2), moved from Sydney to our beautiful valley in July 2013 when they bought Joyce Ditchburn's old place. Harvey was born in Coffs Harbour and Heather was raised in Bellingen. Through friends in Wauchope they got to know the area and fell in love with Pappinbarra Valley.

Harvey has been a mechanic since 1986 but it seems he can turn his hand to anything - welding, fabrication, small engine repairs and handyman builder are but a few of his talents. He ran his own successful handyman business in Sydney for nine years.

Heather describes herself as an 'industrial prostitute' - not a very flattering term but, as she says, she will turn her hand to almost anything as long as it pays the bills. She ran her own successful IT business in Sydney, is now working in marketing and is trying to stay sane with three kids on a farm!

The Smiths are both passionate about their property and have received a grant from the Landcare Small Grants Program for fencing off the river and installing off-stream watering points for their stock. They have about 50 Charolais cows, two old Charolais bulls, a beautiful Limousin bull and some healthy calves. Harvey describes his experience in farming as a vertical learning curve. They also hope to upgrade their causeway and have listed on 'YouCamp' to encourage people to explore this valley and enjoy a camping experience in the bush. Heather and Harvey also have a dream to plant the front paddock one day



Zara, Heather, Sophie, Curtis and Harvey

with fruit trees as a commercial venture. So many plans, so little time and money!

Their other abiding passion is rallying. Heather has her own Sigma rally car (in rebuild phase after a roll 18 months ago) and Harvey drove for the Hyundai Factory Team for five years at State level and for two years in the Australian Rally Championships. Heather managed the planning and marketing - quite a team. They love to rally and would do it every weekend if it weren't so expensive. As well as Heather's Sigma, they have a beautiful blue Hyundai i30 with all the safety gear and roll bars, which make getting in or out a very

tight squeeze. Rally drivers speak a completely different language when driving; for instance 7L tight 50 actually means something!

So if you happen to enjoy a day out at a local car rally and you see a blue Hyundai whiz past and they are speaking in tongues, it could well be Heather and Harvey. Don't forget to wave!!

Mary Walker

## Photographic Competition

Are you keeping an eye out for good photo opportunities in the *Pitchfork* area? Let the community share your vision of our landscape and its inhabitants (both human & other). Categories are:

**LANDSCAPE** – long or short views of our magnificent area – the hills, river, streams, forest & open country.

**PEOPLE** – action packed, comedy, portrait – if a person is the main focus then it's eligible

**FLORA & FAUNA** – includes trees, flowers, animals & birds

**FARMING** – show us some of those farming activities through the lens

**16 & UNDER** – special section for our youngsters to photograph whatever catches their eye. C'mon kids, show us what you can do! You can also enter the other sections if you wish – now, there's food for thought!

**Sizes** – whatever size you can get printed. The prints must be able to be hung for the competition exhibition.

(NB only landscape format prints can be considered for the 2015 calendar.)

**Entries close Saturday 26 July.** After judging they will be on show in August at the Hollisdale Hall.


Further information from Sharada Boyce 6587 6079 or sharadaboyce@yahoo.com.au

  
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## Rural Fire Service Update

### Pappinbarra

Here is an opportunity to show your support for our local RFS volunteers and appreciation of the hours they put in training, implementing fire control measures and fighting fires - locally and further afield. Pappinbarra fire shed will be officially opened on Saturday 12 April at 2.30 pm - next to the Upper Pappinbarra Recreation Area (formerly Pappinbarra Outback). There will be a National Medal Ceremony in Wauchope at 10:30am after which the Fire Commissioner will be coming out to officially open the shed. We invite everyone to come along, bring a plate and help celebrate! Also bring along any fire-fighting related photos and memorabilia you might have.

If you can help at the working bee to prepare the shed and grounds, rock up at 10 am on Sunday 6 April.

Steve Ostler

### Hollisdale

It has been very quiet on the fire front. The Hollisdale truck hasn't been called out since January. The rain has certainly helped out. With darkness falling early, we have had difficulty training, so we have decided to move the training session to the first Saturday of every month at 8 am. The next one is April 5. Full uniform essential. One member just completed his chainsaw re-certification; two are attending the advanced fire fighter course and one is doing the crew leader course.

Chris Roelandts

Editor's note: Good on you all - the community appreciates all your efforts on our behalf.

**No fires without a permit until 31 March 2014**  
Prior to a burn you must 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.

## Allsorts Fables: The Antechinus goes to it

The kids called her Speedy. A tiny marsupial racing around the verandah beams at an improbably high speed - defying gravity and sometimes seeming to almost fly. Passing an obstacle by travelling along the underside of a beam if needs be - no problem! Jumping from toehold to toehold - easy! And in the early morning first-light when she performs these tricks, or at the last part of dusk, you just have to question whether you are actually seeing this! Is it possible for a little mouse-like creature to do such feats of balance and relative strength?

The Antechinus seems to live with a speeded-up body clock that disregards our comparatively slow-motion sense of time. Now I have realised that there are virtually no spiders on the verandah

any more - so I can put a purpose to her acrobatic vigilance every morning and evening. Last night I found her gorging on the contents of a wasp nest - stuffed with paralysed spiders. Speedy had neatly opened up the mud nest and was enjoying the take-away treat the wasps had prepared - processed and a bit contaminated, but fattening!

You have probably seen the salacious news stories about some of the Antechinus clan in recent times: it seems that what was once said of rabbits is all the more true of these little marsupials. As Anon wrote: "The rabbit has a pretty face; its private life is a disgrace!" I say no more.

*The moral: Time is relative*

## Heritage Week Events

**Escorted Rail Escape to Wingham Monday 14 April.** Depart Wauchope Station at 8.44 am; morning tea at Manning Valley Museum; two course lunch at Wingham District Services Club. \$65 all-inclusive (conc. \$55)

**Escorted Coach Tour to Wauchope, Byabarra and Comboyne Thursday 17 April.** Depart Wauchope 9 am, morning tea at Wauchope, two-course lunch at Comboyne Ex-Servicemens and Citizens Club. \$65 all-inclusive.

**Escorted Cruise of the beautiful Hastings River Wednesday 23 April.** Depart Port Macquarie 9 am, morning tea on board *River Princess*, own arrangements for lunch in Wauchope. Cost \$45 (excludes lunch)

Bookings essential. Enquiries and bookings: Jeannette Rainbow 65 851 895 or 0424 226 258

  
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## Conservation Corner

PPA congratulates the three Pappinbarra properties which have received small grants through **Hastings Landcare** for

- Fencing, weed control and bush regeneration
- Improving fire management by clearing an old logging track, and
- Protection of riparian and wetland habitat.

We understand there are more probable recipients for such grants in the pipeline. Funds that are earmarked for Hastings Landcare projects will be allocated for that purpose; if no locals apply, other districts will benefit, not only from enhanced conservation/agricultural outcomes but from the flow-on effect of grant moneys being spent locally and stimulating the local economy.

It is worth reiterating that Hastings Landcare welcomes proactive expressions of interest for projects which improve conservation outcomes and/or enhance sustainability of the enterprise on your land. You can call Hastings Landcare on 6586 4465 or email [hastingslandcare@midcoast.com.au](mailto:hastingslandcare@midcoast.com.au) to discuss

your project, potential funding opportunities, and to obtain an 'expression of interest' form to fill in. That way, you are assured of notification when funding opportunities arise. (A reactive mindset is counterproductive - don't wait until you see others being funded for projects you would have liked to implement!)

When it comes to writing your grant submission, PLCG members are happy to help you. They have a wealth of experience in grant application, local and regional environmental priorities and future directions, and on-ground works including weed management and revegetation.

You can also book through the Hastings Landcare office for two events: **Feral Animal Control; Wildlife Nestboxes** Sunday 6 April  
**Native Bees; Weed Control Essentials** Saturday 12 April

Our own local conservation group, the Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Croup (PLCG), received a letter of congratulations this week from Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner for the LLS grant they received late last year (see page 7).

## Is anything missing from our local mammal fauna?

The Pappinbarra Valley is a veritable mammal paradise. Two kinds of bandicoots are so common that they are regarded as garden pests by many residents. Bush Rats and Brown Marsupial Mice also abound and are not infrequent even within our houses, while Brush-tailed Possums raid all of our orchards. Three kinds of wallabies run the gauntlet of Upper Pappinbarra Road every night (not always successfully) and two larger kangaroos are also present, though mainly in the lower sections of the valley. Less commonly seen are Platypus and Water Rats that swim in our rivers, two marsupial carnivores (the Tiger Quoll and Brush-tailed Phascogale) that account for the odd chicken or two, and four species of smaller possums – the gentle Ringtail Possum, the acrobatic Sugar Glider, the shy Eastern Pygmy Possum, and impossibly tiny Feather-tailed Glider. Two other native rats also deserve a mention - the Swamp Rat and the Mosaic-tailed Rat. Then there is the Grey-headed Flying Fox that visits us from its big camps nearer the coast, and a wider variety of small insect-eating bats. And let us not forget the koalas, munching away quietly in the trees and letting out the occasional roar to remind us who is the real boss of the forest.

One of our long-term local residents, Allan Patrick, set me a challenge in a recent letter to the Wauchope Gazette – to identify what if anything of the original mammal fauna has disappeared from the Hastings area since European settlement. One we can be sure of is the Hastings River Rat – a specimen from the 1840s in the Liverpool Museum tells us that it once lived in our area, though it is now found only further inland and

to the north, and now only in small scattered populations. Five other species were very likely found here but have not been recorded locally and may no longer be present – two other species of native rodents (New Holland Mouse, Eastern Chestnut Mouse), the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby, the Long-nosed Potoroo (a distant relative of the wallabies), and the Eastern Quoll. For



the Long-nosed Potoroo, there is a fresh-looking skull of this species on display at Timbertown and said to have come from the grounds (on my last visit it was labelled as a bandicoot). Potoroos are secretive animals that

could easily be mistaken for a bandicoot, and they may yet survive in the Pappinbarra Valley.

Finally to the Eastern Quoll – this species was once wide-spread across southeastern Australia but foxes and diseases took a terrible toll. Today they survive in Tasmania but the last definite mainland records were from a Sydney suburb in the 1960s. Allan's letter seems to suggest that they might still live in the Pappinbarra Valley. I sincerely hope that he is right and that, if he does know where to find them, that he might share this important information more widely. That really would be the icing on the already very fine cake that we call home.

**Ken Aplin, Tullamore**

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**Plant of the month: a preview of changes to the Declared Noxious Weeds of our LGA**

This month, instead of a feature plant, this is an ‘awareness drive’ and brief summary of some of the weeds now included in *Weed Control Order 30* under the *NSW Noxious Weeds Act 1993*. The Order became law on 28 February 2014. It contains some changes that will likely affect many Pappinbarra landholders. A full list of weeds – including Noxious Class – declared in the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area (LGA) can be viewed online at the DPI website [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au) (follow the links to search by your LGA), or contact Council’s Noxious Weeds officer. It is also advisable to understand the requirements of the Order as some weeds are *notifiable* and require considerable effort to ensure compliance.

When you read the list, it will be immediately apparent that most of the weeds listed do *not* occur in the PMHC area, let alone Pappinbarra! In straightforward terms, the Class declaration (1 to 5) *usually* reflects the relative distribution and abundance of the weed in NSW and its weed risk (ie likely impact on agriculture, biodiversity, etc), Class 1 being the highest classification. Many species have been added to the list in different Classes, but it is primarily the Class 3 and Class 4 weeds that tend to impact us most in terms of control. As mentioned above, there are some declarations which may affect local landholders, particularly the Class 4 weeds, where *specific control areas* within the LGA will be detailed in the months to come. These include:

- Privet (*Ligustrum spp.*) (large and small leaf): proposed to be Class 4 (control required in defined areas).
- Camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*): as for privet.
- Tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*): Class 1 (not in Pappinbarra, but in the LGA).
- Asparagus species (except for the edible *Asparagus officinalis*): Class 2 and Class 4.
- Glory lily/Gloriosa/Flame lily (*Gloriosa superba*): Class 3
- Thorny gleditsia/Honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*): Class 3
- Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*): Class 4

- Cat’s claw creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*): Class 3
- Cockscomb coral tree (*Erythrina crista-galli*): Class 3
- Yellow bells (*Tecoma stans*): Class 3
- Chinese tallow (*Triadica sebifera*): Class 3

**Pete Michael**

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](mailto: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 to identify it for you.

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



**Leaves and fruit of the Camphor laurel - birds eat and spread the seed, especially to fence lines and rivers.**

**In the Veggie Patch**

Now’s the perfect time to plant garlic. It’s best to buy organic seed garlic. Italian White does well in our area. Dig the soil over, add some granular potash (per the directions on the pack) and mineral rock dust. Plant individual cloves 20cm apart. New season vegies now available include cauliflower, broccoli, kale, onions, cabbage and red leaf spinach. Don’t forget to companion plant with dwarf french marigolds which work to deter insect pests. Happy gardening



**Alison**

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**THE NORTHERN RIVERS - MORE ABOUT THE HASTINGS.**

**PART THREE UNEXPLORED COUNTRY.**

A little further back towards the township a fine plain beam bridge spans the Pappinbarra Creek, a permanent watercourse of unusual sinuosity, which rises away back to the dividing range between the Hastings and the Macleay rivers, close to the source of the Forbes River. Its tortuous course forms many rich alluvial pockets, and within a distance of 16 miles there are some 21 farmers. It is an old settlement, and the settlers for the most part began as very poor men. They have not yet taken

dairying in hand, and probably will be the last to follow the lead as a whole, though a few are getting their land ready for it. The farm areas range from 40 to 120 acres. Generally there is about 10 acres of alluvial, and the balance is forest country. That forest country is ridgy brush land, capable of grassing well, and, taken generally, would make first-class dairy farms. But, in the first place, many of the settlers have not the wherewithal to buy the necessary cattle, and in the second place they are of the old school, and slow to take to new ideas. Maize-growing and cattle-fattening have stood by them for years, and why should they go back on it? Of course, some do advance with the times to the extent of horse and cattle breeding. There is no question that this country is admirable for dairying.

Recently a report was made to the department that further up the creek there was a big area of good land which should be thrown open. That statement was, on official investigation, found to be wide of the mark, but, as a fact, there are eligible areas available. The country up at the head of the creek, and at the head of the Wilson, and over on to the head of the Forbes, is about as unknown a tract as there is in New South Wales. It has never been explored systematically. Many years ago Mr. George Wilson, now of Rolland's Plains, made a daring ride right across that terra incognita, and finding the feat a safe one, he has since traversed the route several times. He did not, however, explore it, but he saw enough to tell him that there were patches of rich country there. Some day, perhaps, a spur from the North Coast railway will wind along the valleys and win new wealth from Nature's store. The Thone Creek, on the other side of the river - it is called Thone River on the Comboyne, where it rises, and Deep Crook midway in its course - waters farm land for about 20 settlers, and as it flows on

towards the Hastings its banks are heavily timbered, and thus find employment for a large number of timber men.

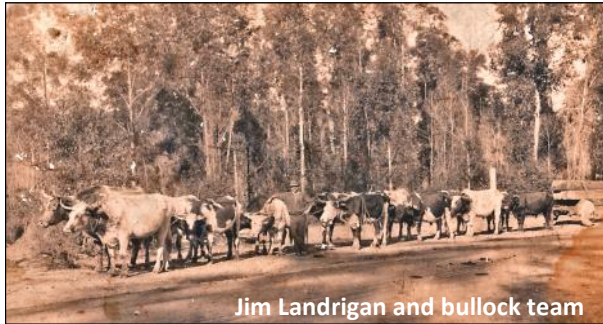
The main road from Wauchope to Beechwood crosses the Hastings at the Cameron Falls, a ford which is always bad, but is sometimes dangerous. However, a sum of £6000 has been voted for a bridge, and the plans are now in the draftsman's office. I took a side road in order to pass through the settlement of Huntington, four miles out from Beechwood, on the southern bank. There is a goldmine there from which, as from all gold mines, much is expected. For the sake of Huntington it is to be

hoped that much will result. At present there are a few men employed. The greater interest to me was to see some very pretty farms, agricultural and dairying, on not a few of which the homesteads were distinctly a credit to the farmers. Some, however, were bad. The fact is that Huntington is an estate belonging to the Lindsay family who own big areas in other

parts of the district also and is rented out as tenant farms. Some members of the family live on the estate, and it may have been their houses which looked so well. The settlement is a prosperous one, and the tenant farmers claim satisfaction with their lot.

My object at this stage of the tour was to reach Kew, whence the famous Camboyne tableland was most accessible. The road to Kew lay through Wauchope, a township built on private property, largely old grants to Major Wauchope and Mr. Bain. Wauchope is the centre of what will be a big dairying district, though at present it is not properly exploited, because of the popularity of the timber industry. On the river flats there are many maize farmers, but here again the farming is on primitive lines - everything is taken out of the soil and nothing returned. Out from Wauchope the frowning Broken Bago, which overawes Beechwood, is conquered, for a fine road has been thrown right across his back to carry the traveller down on to the road from Port Macquarie to Kew.

Mary Wagg



Jim Landrigan and bullock team

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PLCG's letter from Andrew Stoner  
(see *Conservation Corner* for  
explanation) →



**The Hon. Andrew Stoner MP**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Trade and Investment  
Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services  
Member for Oxley

Ms Kelly Miller  
Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group  
970 Pappinbarra Road  
PAPPINBARRA NSW 2446

Dear Ms Miller,

Thank you for taking the time to contact myself regarding the Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group.

I would like to congratulate the group on being successful on receiving the Local Land Services grant. It is so pleasing to see a community such as Pappinbarra pull together and achieve great outcomes for the benefit of the whole community.

I look forward to seeing the group's further progress and hearing of future successes.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon Andrew Stoner MP  
NSW Deputy Premier  
Member for Oxley

18 MAR 2014

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## Editor's Musings

Did you know that Prime Minister Bob Hawke planted a tree to launch the Landcare movement back in 1989? According to the ABC's website, on Friday 15 March 2014, 25 years on, representatives of the National Farmers Federation (NFF) and the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) used the same spade, at a ceremonial tree planting at Braidwood, east of Canberra, calling for a 'new decade of action' on Landcare. The author calls it 'an uncommon alliance' between the two groups - traditionally conservative farmers and those often termed 'greenies' by their detractors. I quote:

*The NFF and ACF want governments, as well as the farming and conservation communities, among others, to recommit to Landcare and the work done by farmers and volunteer groups to revegetate and restore landscapes, and combat pests and weeds. In spite of government funding cuts over many years, and a general declining trend in volunteering across all sectors in Australia, Landcare's advocates remain passionate and optimistic about the future of the movement.*

*The Braidwood property that hosted Friday's event belongs to committed Landcarers Geoffrey and Sally White, who describe the revegetation and rejuvenation of their sheep grazing property as their greatest achievement.*

*He said the creation of Landcare supported farmers and landholders to try things out, and he was able to rope in a handful, and then a dozen, neighbours and friends to help out. [Landcare work has] had a profound positive environmental impact on his property, that has in turn led to a productivity boost for his livestock production.*

*ACF chief executive Don Henry paid tribute to farmers such as the Whites, who've invested so much time, energy and money in*

*restoring farming landscapes all over Australia, but says the work must continue.*

*The NFF's Matt Linnegar paid tribute to his and Mr Henry's predecessors, Rick Farley and Phillip Toyne, who brought the two organisations together to push for a movement that's supported farmers and communities for a quarter of a century.*

So there you have it. Farming and Landcare are bedfellows! As some have pointed out, not all Landcare initiatives along the Pappinbarra have been successful in the long term. For example, riverbank restoration works on the Left Arm were destroyed in a flood, and floods have also demolished some fences (funded by Landcare grants) along the river. On the other hand, there have been many successful projects over the years and with the community's help there will doubtless be many more in the years to come. As always, the community spirit that sustains this valley can also nurture an exchange of ideas and information and result in outcomes that benefit us all.

JH

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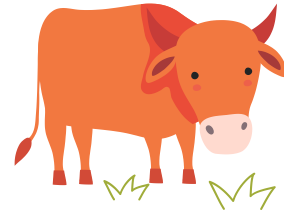
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## PPA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – Usually the Friday before First Friday at 6pm. All welcome.  
General Meetings – quarterly. Next general meeting will follow the AGM in July/August. All welcome.  
Facilities for Hire  
Hollisdale Hall – contact Sue Frost 6587 6129  
Upper Pappinbarra facilities and tennis court - contact Damian Privett 6587 6185

## Pitchfork

### Circulation

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### Production Team

Editor: Jean Hegarty [jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au](mailto:jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au) 6587 6077  
Production: Angela Frost [angfrost@hotmail.com](mailto:angfrost@hotmail.com)  
Advertising: Sharada Boyce [sharadaboyce@yahoo.com.au](mailto:sharadaboyce@yahoo.com.au) 6587 6079

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

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