

PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News
Pappinbarra Progress Association

September 2014

Valley Happenings

PPA welcomes new members Esma Waldron, Deb Murrell and Marita Dalhausen. If you enjoy *Pitchfork* support us by joining PPA at First Friday - everyone welcome.

September First Friday barbecue and get-together next Friday 5 September at the hall from 6 pm. Patrick McEntee, Suzanne Leigh and Jeannette Rainbow will cook the usual varied offerings with vegetarian and gluten-free options available. Soft drinks and fruit juice for sale. BYOG. Come and meet your community!

August First Friday saw Lisa McLeod win the members' draw. The Hollisdale RFS ran the raffle; Elly Franchimont won an *ecoWild* voucher kindly donated by Michéle Malseed. Thanks to cooks Suzanne Pollett, Emma Frost and Peter Michael and to all who helped with preparation and cleaning up.

Pappinbarra Valley Photographic Competition entries were on display at August First Friday. PPA thanks Sharada Boyce for organising it all. For report and results see pg 4.

RFS Open Day at Hollisdale Hall on Saturday 13 September 9 am to 2 pm. Hollisdale and Pappinbarra brigades will be there. Bring the kids to see how everything works! Get info on preparing your property for the fire season. Sausage sizzle for a donation.

All Saints' Pappinbarra invites all to join in the 2pm service on Sunday 28 September and/or bring a plate to share off the back of the ute for afternoon tea round 2.45pm.



RFS: Hollisdale brigade training Wednesday 3 September at 4 pm and Saturday 20 September at 8 am. Full uniform required.

The Annual Greg Ostler Memorial Shield

Cricket Match

Upper Pappinbarra Recreation Ground
Sunday 14 September

Registration at 9:30am - gold coin donation

All players welcome, young and not-so-young - no limit to numbers. BBQ lunch and other refreshments available for purchase. Free cups of tea available all day. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the fire brigades.

This is a great day out so come along and join the fun even if you only want to barrack from the sidelines for the 'dirt' or the 'tar' or eat a sausage under the trees. Play usually ends mid-afternoon.



Greg Ostler Memorial Cricket Match will be on for young and old at the Upper Pappinbarra Recreation Ground on Saturday 14 September. Come along for the annual bash between the tar and the dirt! Barbecue and refreshments for sale and raffle. All proceeds shared between the Pappinbarra and Hollisdale RFS. Registration (gold coin) from 9.30 am.

Mammals and Reptiles workshop at the Hall Sat 13 September, 2 pm. For kids and adults. All welcome. See poster pg 6.

The PPA AGM was held on the 16th of August. See pg. 7 for the annual Report. Thanks to retiring committee members Elly Franchimont (Secretary) and Meg Allison and welcome to Suzanne Pollett (Secretary), Todd Barnes, Suzanne Leigh and Lisa McLeod.

Meet the neighbours: Lisa McLeod and Darcy Towle

Lisa's family is from Luddenham near Camden; she was raised and schooled in the area. Her background is in the building industry and she managed a construction company in Sydney for 18 years. She moved to the Wauchope area nine years ago and met Darcy at a garage sale in Brombin.

Darcy is a local boy, originally from Byabarra. A self-employed jack-of-all-trades, he is also a collector of 'stuff' - second hand cars and car parts and lots of other things.

Both have children from previous relationships with a total of five between them: Emily 22, Jeremy 19, Cameron 16, David 15 and Sean 14. The children no longer live with them but Christmas and holidays are jam-packed with children and other family.

Lisa and Darcy have been together for seven years and were living on three acres at Yippin Creek. The house became too small very quickly as they have several sheep and other animals, not to mention all Darcy's stuff.

They found their little piece of paradise in the Pappinbarra Valley last September and set about making the cabin into a home. They don't mind the isolation or roughing it and have gas for cooking, solar for hot water and their trusty generator for everything else.



Life can be very challenging at times but the next day everything is wonderful again as they sit on their verandah and take in the view. Ahh, bliss.

Darcy is setting about filling the land with stuff and most days their trucks are loaded up coming back from town. Lisa is very busy working full-time at Mid Coast Road Services in Wauchope (if you need your driveway asphalted you know who to see!)

After being out and about at the Hollisdale Hall, Lisa is looking forward to taking a more active part in our vibrant community and has agreed to go on the PPA committee. Darcy is more of a stay-at-home fellow, but he might be enticed to join in for a beer at the next First Friday.

So if you see a truck on the road with old cars and other bits of treasure, it could well be Lisa or Darcy. Stay on your side of the road!

Mary Walker

Times Past, Present and Future: Wauchope Rail

The first meeting of the Railway League was held on 25 May 1901. The League was active in pushing on towards the construction of the North Coast Railway. The following representatives were included in the membership: Dairying (WS Lindsay), Agriculture (D Bain), Mining (RE Andrews), Timber (VP O'Neill), Pastoral (JH Hill and Jas Lyon), Pigs and Poultry (PJ O'Neill and J McLennan), Commerce (HB Nicoll) and Land Settlement (J Jones.)

The Wauchope Railway Station was opened on 14 April 1915. The President of the Hastings Shire Council, Councillor J Downes, presided, and members of both political parties were present including the new Minister for Public Instruction, Mr Arthur Griffiths and his wife. The catering arrangements were in the hands of Wauchope's ex-baker, Mr Norman Hunter. He and his family had left Wauchope in 1914 after living in the town for ten years.

With the coming of the railway, many farmers believed their consignments would reach the Sydney Markets in better condition. At a meeting held on 22 December 1915, it was agreed that the Dairy Company be formed and registered.

Planning for Wauchope's Centenary of Rail Celebrations is under way. A ten-day festival from 10-19 April 2015 will include Wauchope's 105th Show, mini rail journeys, vintage train, Centenary dinner, opening re-enactments, grand parade, rail shuttles, Anzac celebrations, displays, and much much more.

If you have railway stories or photos please contact the writer.

Jeannette Rainbow

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RFS update

Hollisdale brigade has attended several fires this month: Bellangry, lower Pappinbarra, Cooperabung and the fire next to the Hegarty property. I would like to thank all the crews that attended the Hegarty fire - Hollisdale, Pappinbarra, Beechwood, Wauchope and Sancrox. Under the leadership of Group Captain John Davison, a possible disaster was averted; the brigades' quick response stopped the fire from jumping several roads and threatening other properties. To achieve such results we have to keep training! New recruits welcome - come and talk to us at the Open Day on Saturday 13 September.

Chris Roelandts

Pappinbarra RFS were successful in obtaining a grant of about \$2300 from the RFS Association (RFSA) for office equipment, a fridge and an urn.

Steve Ostler and Scott Lindsay

Fire report: Of the 90-odd fire vehicles in the Hastings and Manning, only six weren't in action on Friday 1 August. It was the first day of the fire permit season, the weather was hot and windy, and 30 major fires kept the crews busy. Conditions were the worst since 1996. After a gruelling time, fires were on standby the next day. The Pappinbarra brigade hung around all morning but weren't called, so at lunchtime Phil Cordell was heading home when he saw flames on the left of Pappinbarra Road on the property of Keith and Susan Chamberlain. His calling 000 was a stroke of luck, as no-one was at home there and the fire was racing up the hill to *Slieve Mor* next door.

When Pappinbarra brigade arrived the flames near the road were 40 feet high. Several brigades were fighting the fire where it started while Hollisdale put in a backburn from the *Slieve Mor* driveway. While the initial fire had been lit during the week, it should be emphasised that it is the responsibility of the landholder to have adequate water on hand to fully extinguish fires and to ensure that this is done before leaving the scene.

Before the rain, the fire index was 150; for permits to be issued, it must come down to under 80. Every inch (24mm) brings the index down by 20 points, so no permits will be issued until substantial rain has fallen.

John Davison (Senior Group Captain Mid Coast District)

Editor's note: Our thanks to Phil (Dusty) and all the volunteers who fought this fire while we were away on holidays. With a bad season probably ahead, do consider joining the RFS and training to meet such emergencies. We are all busy people; volunteers give up their time to fight other people's fires. Come to the open day (see p1) and enlist or support your brigades. JH

**All permits suspended until substantial rain falls.
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: Peter Michael 65876022, Jim Adams 65874414, Chris Roelandts 65856700; Beechwood: Sam Elphick 0428-856-222.

Allsorts Fable: Falcons beware

Whether he was old or young, the codger was once the man - and it was always a bloke - who looked after the hunting falcons. With leather gauntlet he traded tit-bits of food for the falcon's acceptance of the hood, darkness and acquiescence. No more the blue sky or wide horizon, these birds won a form of blindness and did the codger's bidding.

Moral: Beware the offer of small treats with savage consequences.



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Pappinbarra Valley Photo Competition

First Prize

16 & Under:	Morrow Taplin	<i>Fungus Squash</i>
Farming:	Jean Hegarty	<i>Laura</i>
Flora & Fauna:	Angela Frost	<i>Green Stream Frog</i>
Landscape:	Alicia Gestal	<i>Sundrenched River</i>
People:	Alicia Gestal	<i>Happy Hour by the River</i>

Highly Commended

Morrow Taplin for *Glistening* in the 16 & under section
 Angela Frost for *Stoney Creek Frog* in the Flora & Fauna section
 Angela Frost for *Fungus family* in the Flora & Fauna section
 George Hegarty for *Starry, starry night* in the Landscape section
 Jean Hegarty for *Bath Time* in the People section

Thanks to Silva Vaughan-Jones, Deb Murrell & Chris Nixon for judging and for coming on FF for presentations and discussion afterwards. The judges were quite impressed by the overall quality of the 67 entries from 14 exhibitors. They also chose a cover photo and 12 others for inclusion in PPA's 2015 Calendar - thanks to the photographers for permission to use their work. My thanks also to Elly Franchimont, Ryan Barter and Kelly Gould who helped with setting up and Suzanne Leigh - packing up.

Sharada Boyce



The judges were impressed by the quality of the entries



Angela Frost receiving her prize for the Flora & Fauna section from judge Chris Nixon


Best In Show was awarded to Morrow Taplin for his *Fungus Squash* [See below]



This is a photo I took up at *Onelot* [his family's property]. Fungi play a major ecological role in the soil by breaking down dead organic matter and transferring it into nutrients that other plants can use. The part that you see sticking out of the ground is actually the minority of the fungus. The majority is these branching white threadlike things called hyphae. These can stretch a long way underground. The largest fungus ever recorded had hyphae that spanned approximately two square kilometres!

Morrow Taplin

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Conservation Corner

As some readers will already be aware, Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) no longer exist in NSW. Their functions have been subsumed under the new Local Land Services (LLS). There are 11 LLS regions across the state. Each region is accountable for 'delivering services that add value to local industries, enhance natural resources, protect industries from pests and disease and help communities respond to emergencies like flood, fire and drought'. We fit within the North Coast (NCLLS) area which stretches from Camden Haven to the Queensland border, and is divided into three 'socio-ecological landscapes' - Northern, Central and Southern (us). NCLLS will be developing a five-year strategic plan with wide community consultation to set the vision, priorities and strategy for the delivery of functions and services in the region, with a focus on appropriate economic, social and environmental outcomes. It will incorporate a number of existing natural resource management, agriculture, biosecurity and emergency management plans and policies. Implementation of existing plans will continue until the Local Strategic Plan has been developed. One of the most important of these is the Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan (CAP) 2013-23. http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/496829/NR_CAP_2013.pdf

A key focus of the NCLLS will be rivers and creeks, which are 'vital living ecosystems that carry water from catchments into estuaries and oceans [and] support thousands of species of fish, frogs, aquatic plants and insects, while yielding water for drinking, agriculture, industry and recreation'. The existing CAP strategies include 'Protect and restore stream-bed and stream-bank structure and complexity' and 'Undertake strategic revegetation, weed control, stock management and establishment of effective buffer zones to improve the condition of the riparian zone and catchments'.

Pappinbarra River is the lifeblood of our valley, rising below Mount Boss in Werrikimbe National Park and, fed by many creeks, travelling 58 kms before joining the Hastings River near Beechwood. I cannot find any formal 'health check' of the river but many local landholders have already begun to protect their riparian zones by excluding stock, managing weeds and planting native trees and sedges. It is now widely recognised that this is as good for the farm as it is for native plants and animals. It will be interesting to see how the NCLLS strategic plan addresses this issue and what support might become available to enhance the river's health over the coming years.

Bev Sibthorpe

P.S. For a great little riparian zone repair story from Victoria go to:

www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/news/article/commitment-to-mt-emu-creek



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Fauna of Pappinbarra
Mammals
& **Reptiles**



Potoroo



Bandy-bandy

A great opportunity for kids and adults alike to learn more about our spectacular and diverse fauna with local wildlife scientist Ken Aplin. Bring along your skulls and bones and have them identified!

Sat 13 Sept
2 - 4pm



Mosaic-tailed Rat



Land Mullet

Hollisdale Hall, Pappinbarra

Entry by gold coin, all welcome
Afternoon tea provided

In the vegie patch

The rain has finally come. It's time for your tomatoes. Varieties available now include Grosse Lisse, Ox Heart, Black Russian, Apollo, Truss, Money Maker and Cherry Tomato.

Before you plant it is a good idea to add some lime, to boost the soil with calcium and improve the strength of your tomatoes. It is also a good idea to grow the tomatoes in a different patch of the garden each year.

There is a new and improved product on the market - keep an eye open for Brunnings **Tomato Magic**. This soil/potting mix is enriched with blood and bone and is a great mix for your tomatoes. Grow full-flavoured tomatoes at home in your own vegie patch!



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Pappinbarra Progress Association Inc. Extract from Annual Report 2013-2014

Today marks the conclusion of another action-packed year for PPA. Your committee has worked hard to keep Hollisdale Hall as a fitting focus for community activities and to realise outcomes that promote and enhance community spirit in the Pappinbarra Valley and surrounding area. So what has PPA achieved during the past twelve months?

We have organised a first Friday (FF) barbecue at the hall every month except January. This has been a team effort - a big thankyou to all who have helped. The committee purchased a new barbecue and a PA system to promote the smooth running of FF and for use at other events at the hall.

Our second year-round activity is publication of *Pitchfork*. As editor, I want to acknowledge with gratitude the enormous and ongoing contributions of all who play a part in the production process: Angela Frost for design and layout, Jan Childs for printing, Sharada Boyce for advertising, Peter Michael, Peter Fackender, Mary Walker, Mary Wagg, Brendan from Greenbourne Nursery and Ken Aplin for regular contributions, and Kelly Miller, Mark Hickson, Damian Privett, Adrian Guthrie, Jennie Lea, Bev Sibthorpe, Trevor Smith, Steve Ostler, George Hegarty, and young Morrow Taplin and Nina McGahey for occasional contributions. Delivery is carried out on the weekend before First Friday by two members, with Anne Waugh doing Koree Island Road - on foot! Last but definitely not least, I want to thank all our advertisers and I urge you to support those who support us at every opportunity.

In August 2013 the hall fence, funded by a grant from FRRR, was finally officially opened by Princess Mary of Buckinghamshire at FF. Thanks to all who had a part in building it.

Kelly Miller, assisted by George Hegarty, ran a cheese-making workshop at the hall. The new island bench proved a great asset.

September saw the Greg Ostler Memorial Cricket Match at the Upper Pappinbarra Recreation Ground. Thanks to Steve Ostler and all who helped to make the day a great success. The Hastings Co-op kindly donated a hamper; this was raffled and the takings split between the Pappinbarra and Hollisdale RFS units.

After many months of rehearsals, three performances of George Hegarty's play, *Bushed*, were enthusiastically received by full houses in November. Elly Franchimont, funded by a grant of \$1216 to PPA from the NSW Country Arts Support Program, wrote the music for five songs and words for four; Kelly Gould wrote the words for 'Beautiful Tallowood Valley'. Thanks to the wonderfully talented cast, the choir, the support crew, and of course, the audience for making the dream come true.

December FF was a momentous occasion for the kids with Santa arriving in the Fire truck, siren blazing. Thanks to driver Chris Roelandts and a truly authentic Santa for the cuddles and presents!

In February, local member, Andrew Stoner, visited us to see the result of the NSW Community Building Partnership's funding of gas heaters for the hall. April saw the official opening of the new Pappinbarra RFS shed. There was a huge turnout; visitors were impressed with the number of local volunteers. PPA thanks all who are willing to give their time in training and fire-fighting.

Our dynamic duo, Peter Michael and Chay Khamson, hosted May's Trivia night at the hall. Mary Walker encouraged many local businesses to support us, so the winners went home suitably rewarded. Many thanks to our supporters, to Chay, Pete and Mary, to Patrick McEntee for organising games, and all who helped with setting up and clearing up.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council held a well-attended community consultation forum at the hall. Although there were heated contributions from some participants, the overall impression was that Council is genuinely prepared to listen and is striving to deliver outcomes that benefit rural communities such as ours. Thanks to a generous grant from Council, our free June Bush Dance with Russell Churcher saw a contingent of the young, their parents, and the not so young enjoy a very energetic evening and supper. Thanks to all who decorated, served the food, and cleaned up before and after.

July's much-anticipated Middle Eastern Cooking Class from Tin HtaNu was enjoyed by an enthusiastic group of locals, followed at night by a Middle Eastern Feast with belly dancing from Julie Farrell and her troupe. Thanks to all involved.

The much-awaited Photo Competition entries were on display at August FF. Many thanks to Sharada for organisation and to our three guest judges - Silva Vaughan-Jones, Deb Murrell and Chris Nixon. Morrow Taplin won the junior section and was the overall grand champion!

We have just been awarded \$300 from the Co-op's community chest; members have been invited to attend a presentation ceremony in Bain Park on Thursday 4 September.

The hall has been hired on several occasions for private social functions and group meetings.

Throughout the year, our ride-on mower (purchased with a Commonwealth Government grant of \$4,950) has been invaluable in maintaining the hall grounds. Thanks to the prime user, Mary Walker, and to all others who have done their bit.

I have great admiration for those who have not only chosen to make their home in this beautiful valley and environs but who also find time in their busy lives to work for the good of the community. I especially want to acknowledge the wonderful help and support I have had from your Committee.

Jean Hegarty

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Saturday 11th October

At Hollisdale Hall

More details in next month's *Pitchfork*

For more information call Paul Pollett 0419424575 or email lisa@mcroad.net.au

PPA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – the second last Friday of each month at 5pm. All welcome.

General Meetings – quarterly. Next general meeting TBA. 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 circulation of 300 plus email of about 100. It comes out on the weekend before First Friday - Friday 26 September for the October issue. Material for the October issue to the Editor by Thursday 18 September. We run both casual and regular advertisements at very competitive rates. Contact Sue Frost.

Production Team

Editor: Jean Hegarty jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au 6587 6077

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Advertising: Sue Frost suefrost6@hotmail.com 6587 6129

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: Suzanne Pollett 0419 242 575

Other Committee Members:

Sharada Boyce

Suzanne Leigh

George Hegarty

Lisa McLeod

Todd Barnes

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