



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News
Pappinbarra Progress Association

May 2015

Valley Happenings

Pappinbarra Progress Association welcomes new members Greg and Catherine Johnston. Join PPA and warm up your autumn with First Friday, the May trivia night, the June bush dance. See details below.

May First Friday get-together and barbecue is on

Friday 1 May from 6 pm at Hollisdale Hall, Pappinbarra Road. Choose from a tasty selection of low cost food. Soft drinks and juice for sale; BYOG.

April First Friday saw Julie-Anne Murphy win the members' draw. Amy Hubers won the raffle and chose the *ecoWild* voucher. Lisa McLeod and Sue Frost were stalwarts on the barbecue, but had an easier night than usual because Liz Gough and George Hegarty provided curry, dhal, pappadums and naan as an alternative. PPA thanks our four cooks and

all who helped set up and clear up. Special thanks to Steven Gould who did a great job on the mowing.

All Saints' Pappinbarra opens its doors on the fourth Sunday of the month at 2 pm with a cuppa 'off the back of the ute' at about 2.45. This month the service is on 24 May. All welcome!

Hollisdale Rural Fire Brigade training on Wednesday 6 May at 5 pm. Meet at the hall in full uniform.

Hollisdale Hall is available for community use - \$30 members and \$50 non-members plus \$50 bond. Some were disappointed in April; book early with George Hegarty 65 876 077.

Pappinbarra Craft Corner from 7.30 pm on Wednesday 17 June at *Oakvale*, 1024 Pappinbarra Road. No craft this month.

Bush Dance: PPA's annual bash with Russell Churcher will be on Saturday 20 June. Save the date; no partner necessary and all ages welcome.

Trivia Night is on 23 May. Buy your tickets at *ecoWild* or *The Living Room*. Numbers limited; eight to a table. See poster this page.

Pappinbarra Progress Association
2015

Pappinbarra
Trivia
Got lots of pointless trivia
stuffed into your brain?
Night
at the
Hollisdale
Hall

This is your chance to shine!

Saturday 23 May 7pm

\$10 per head Tables of 8

Get a table together and buy your tickets now so you dont miss out!

Tickets available at *ecoWild* and the *Living Room*

Bring your own refreshments and snacks and gold coins for games

Meet the neighbours: Lina Graham

I met Col and Lina at the first Farmers' Market at Wauchope showground in 2002 - they were selling *Maharg Farm Fresh Vegetables* grown on their Pappinbarra property. Going up the valley, you often saw Colin on his tractor, or Lina weeding down by the river. Many who saw Lina's 'stop and save' notice did; her beans, zucchini, watermelons, squash and pumpkins were hard to beat.

Colin William Graham was born on 8 July 1918. As a small boy, he wandered away from the family home at Kooree Island and everyone went looking for him. Before too long, he was found: "Little Budgie - he's OK!" The name Budgie (rhymes with 'could ye') stuck - through school at Beechwood, his apprenticeship as a motor mechanic, and his building and opening Grahams' garage in Wauchope, run with his brother Macky. When he was in Wauchope hospital this year a nurse said, "Hello Budgie"!

Even after retiring, Budgie loved tinkering with engines and could



fix anything - pumps, chainsaws, mowers, cars, tractors... A keen fisherman, he spent three years fishing as a professional at Laurieton in his boat *Budgie G*.

Col enjoyed writing to penfriends all over the world. In 1984 he sent a letter to Carol, a Filipina who was a midwife. She was too busy to reply and passed it on to her friend Lina. Col and Lina corresponded for four years. As they say, the rest is history. Col went to the Philippines, met Lina and her seven sisters and one brother, spent time with the family in Davao City, saw Manilla, organised the paperwork and returned to Australia in April 1988. Lina followed him in December and they were married in February 1989 at the

Grahams' property, Rob Roy Road, King Creek. After eleven years there growing vegetables, they moved to Pappinbarra. "Col taught me to use the Yeats' Garden Guide," said Lina. "He was always very protective - always took really good care of me."

Col gave Lina a bit of a scare when he had a Merkel cell carcinoma on his lip in 2003; it didn't spread. Cancer struck at the other end in 2008, but he didn't go for treatment. A tough customer, he was still fencing and driving the tractor till one very hot day in January when he had a fall inside the house. His neighbour Harald Stokes came over to help and Lina rang the ambulance. Budgie said, "I'm like an old motor car." Signing himself out of hospital after 15 days, he came back home, only to suffer another stroke a week later. Anthony Wall gave support and help with the ambulance at this time, and Harald drove Lina to Port hospital when she was asked to come in on 22 February. In his 97th

year, Col passed on next morning with Lina by his side.

Lina wants to thank all who bought her veges over the years, and all her good neighbours, especially Anthony and Harald.

Jean Hegarty



Hastings Farmers' Market
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The Frugal Forest update

and brought to life by community, we hope that it will trigger a conversation about how we treat the precious resources of this tiny planet.

Huge thanks go out to all who donated to our crowd-funding campaign. We raised over \$9,000 which will go to underpaying some of the many professionals involved - making the soundscape and lighting system, building the touring trailer, running workshops and much more.

Big thanks to Ursula Kaldor of Pappinbarra, who donated a caravan, which had been lurking in the undergrowth for a decade. It is being converted into a lightweight, watertight touring trailer for the Forest.

Have a look at our website for details on how to donate. Every little bit helps.

www.frugalforest.oneoffmastery.net.au

Bryony Anderson

Our mission: to create an astounding, immersive installation, intricately crafted from stuff that was destined for the dump. Informed by scientists, dreamed up by artists,

> The horde of people who got messy on Easter Monday, dyeing 15 square metres of forest floor and stripping out the donated caravan.



**No permits required for burning off now.
Don't forget to give your neighbours at least 24 hours notice.
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.

Conservation Corner - Review of NSW biodiversity legislation

The Final Report of the review of NSW biodiversity legislation was released on 18 December. In it, the Review Panel argues that *ultimately our goal must be to minimise future losses of native biodiversity. While there is a delay between habitat degradation and extinctions, by aiming to conserve habitats in good condition, we can reduce the rate of biodiversity loss. We believe that this can be done at the same time as reducing regulation and improving social and economic outcomes.*

The Final Report recommends the repeal of the Native Vegetation Act 2003, the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and parts of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 Act and introduction of a new **Biodiversity Conservation Act**.

It proposes a vision of landscape-scale conservation and productivity through a connected network of public and private land, which meets national and international obligations, is in line with international best practice, and is feasible, achievable and

affordable. It recommends that management of native vegetation on *existing* agricultural land would be assisted by Local Land Services, while *new* agricultural developments would require consent from the appropriate authorities as occurs for any other change in land use. It also recommends that a statewide biodiversity offsets fund should be operational as soon as possible.

It is sobering to read just how little is known about the current condition (quality and extent) of native vegetation in NSW or the effectiveness of past native vegetation laws. What evidence is available suggests the condition of most native vegetation in NSW has deteriorated while clearing continues at a rate of around 23,400 hectares per annum. The report makes interesting reading.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversitylegislation/review.htm>

Bev Sibthorpe



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Bird of the Month:

Rose Robin

Scientific name: *Petroica rosea*

Other Names: Rose-breasted Robin.

Status: Secure in all states that it occurs.

The Rose Robin is a small (11 to 12 cm), slender, long-tailed member of the Australian Red Robin family, not closely related to either European or American Robins.

Males of this family are brightly coloured. They sport dark grey plumage on the upper throat, head and back with a small white



male

patch above the bill. The breast is a rose-pink colour while the under body is white. The outer tail feathers are graduated white in both sexes. Females are brownish-grey with a small buff patch above the bill and two pale buff wing bars. They may have a very pale pink wash in the breast. Young birds are like females.

Rose Robins are found from about Gladstone in Queensland to Adelaide in South Australia. They inhabit wet Eucalypt forest and rainforest where they feed on a variety of spiders and insects



taken from foliage or on the wing. Feeding activity occurs mostly in the mid to upper level of the forest although some prey is taken at ground level.

The Rose Robin is a seasonal migrant, moving north during winter and returning south to wetter forests during summer. They also move altitudinally, descending to lower areas during autumn and winter.

Their voice is high pitched; the males give a thin trilling song while both sexes give a 'tick' contact call.

The breeding season is from October to February. A neat, cup-shaped nest is bound into the fork of a lichen-covered rainforest tree. The outside of the nest is camouflaged with lichen. Two to three young are raised by both adults. More than one clutch may be raised in a season.

For further information or questions relating to this or other species contact can be made through this email address peter_fac@yahoo.com.au

Peter Fackender

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PPA takes to the track

To celebrate the opening up of the railway to this region 100 years ago, locals young and old took a ride on Sunday 12 April on the line and partied all the way. Adrian Guthrie was one of them and writes of the event:

The romance of rail may seem a thing of the past, but there is a charm to rolling through the countryside in good company with not a care in the world. There is no driver fatigue and you can have a drink and something to eat as you go: it's a party on wheels! This was the spirit as Pappinbarra residents filled a two-compartment carriage of the historic 620 Class Rail Motor for a leisurely ride to Kendall and a hasty return!

Along with other locals, we were out to celebrate the centenary and we did it in style – the slightly dinky style of the little diesel Rail Motor – the perfect party train whose twin carriages had served branch lines and smaller communities across the country. Not that Wauchope was on a branch line; in 1915 our station was the terminus for the North Coast Railway and remained so until



the track was extended to Kempsey in 1917 – getting through to Brisbane only in the early 1930s. At the beginning, steam trains served the line with a punk majesty and today the industrial might of big diesel locomotives plies the Sydney-Brisbane rail link. The railway was a win for Wauchope and established the town's role to service rural industries in the area; it was the hub, serving rural communities and fishing villages along the coast between the Manning and the Macleay.

To celebrate the opening of Wauchope station 100 years ago our party went south to the quiet waters of the Camden Haven River on the banks of which Kendall nestles, named after the poet Henry Kendall. The driver then walked the length of the train and from the alternative control cabin took us back the way we had just come, accompanied by some community singing of railway songs, and much tooting of the Rail Motor's horn, as befits a party outing.



Dear Pitchfork, the train ride was excellent. I hope the train was great, to me it was excellent. Thank you Jean, Jorg [George] and Sue.
- Sophie Smith (Age 7)

I liked it because we went with our friends and I got to beep the horn, but the trip was too short. - Nina McGahey (Age 7)

I liked the train trip because I got a window seat and it was fun going through the tunnel with the lights out. - Tess McGahey (Age 6)



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Spare a thought for our posties

I had never really given much thought as to how our mail got delivered; it just did. I would occasionally see the mail vehicle on the wrong side of the road and was just thankful that I hadn't encountered it on one of the many dangerous bends on the Pappinbarra Road. Did you know that it is actually illegal for the Postie to get out of the vehicle to deliver your mail? And should anything happen to them if they do, then you would be liable? Scary thought!!

I had occasion to deliver the April *Pitchfork*, up and down Pappinbarra Road including the Right and Left Arm and some of Pipeclay Road, so I had to encounter the same problems that our trusty Postie faces alone. The difference was that there were two of us, myself at the wheel and Lisa McLeod doing the delivering. She spent a fair amount of time out of the car as some of the roadside mail boxes (RMBs) were inaccessible from the vehicle or too dangerous to approach. Fortunately Lisa is pretty fit and very patient but we wondered how on earth the mail actually got delivered into some of the boxes without the Postie risking life and limb or breaking the law. One of our Posties has already destroyed two vehicles - driving into pot holes or sliding into a fence - and is having fun beginning the destruction of the new car by breaking a tail light (she reversed into a tree getting back onto the road from a poorly sited RMB).

Lisa and I came to the conclusion that the Postie deserves a medal for bravery and fortitude and for just being obliging. They don't have to deliver mail into a box that is dangerously placed or cannot be accessed through the window of the vehicle and



Isaac, Esma, Julie and Dick

they do this every mail run, come rain, hail, slippery mud and shine, just because they are really nice people.

So spare a thought for our Posties. Can you access your RMB from the driver's seat? Is it too low? Do you risk pulling a muscle or sliding down an embankment? Does it have sharp edges that could damage an arm or the side of the car? Is the slot big enough to easily accommodate items? Is the box big enough for your packets? If your RMB could cause problems, please move, modify or replace it. Our Beechwood Postmistress, Esma, is only too happy to offer advice and is always ready with a smile.

Remember: the Postie doesn't have to get out of the car and once the mail is in your box it is no longer the responsibility of Australia Post (get a padlock if you are worried). Esma has no control over the efficiency of the system until your postal item is in her hot little hands. So don't shoot the messenger!!

Mary Walker

Safety Alert There have been a couple of near misses for pedestrians on Pappinbarra Road lately. If you walk on the roadside, please wear something visible (not dark clothes at dusk!) and walk on your right side of the road.

In the vege patch

Rather than reaching for the chemicals here are some natural forms of bug beaters.

Pyrethrum is a plant-derived natural insecticide effective against a range of garden pests. It works well on the cabbage butterfly.

Upland cress is the ultimate companion plant for the winter vege garden. This cress variety attracts cabbage moths which lay their eggs on it. When the grubs hatch out and start to feed they die because the leaves are toxic.

Netting. There is a new style vege netting which not only protects plants from insects but also from the hot sun and temperature extremes we can have. Have a try and see how they work for you.



Happy gardening **Brendan**

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Times Past:

Ferndale and the Lewis Family

There is a huge *Magnolia grandiflora* amid bush opposite the Barnes' Tallawong, a kilometre before the end of the tar on Pappinbarra Road. This, and an old cement well topped with bricks and hidden in the undergrowth, are all that remain of the homestead and garden of George and Frances Lewis. There was a temporary school, which disappeared, there near the stockyards.

The Pappinbarra was a remote, densely forested area and the earliest settlers braved its wild terrain in the 1880s and 90s. The Lewis and Wallis families were among the pioneers. George Lewis came from Gresford in the Hunter Valley and married Frances Wallis in 1881. He selected over 1,000 acres, which he called *Ferndale*. Frances, who was just five feet tall while her husband was well over six feet, bore George nine children. He had a bullock team and hauled cedar from Cedar Scrub to Bains Bridge. Early on, the 'Missing Link', a slippery hill on his property, was impassable in wet weather. By the time Walter Schmitzer had the cream lorry it was 'a better road', but there was 'never much gravel on it'. Always a bone of contention, it was 'absolutely shocking', even in 1956, when 'it was a goat track with 12-15 log trucks every day.' The road has been re-routed and sealed since.

Ferndale became the hospitality centre of Pappinbarra; on the rare occasions when the incumbent at Wauchope's St Matthew's ventured out to Pappinbarra, or a 'circuit minister' braved the road, the service was held there. This ended when Frances' brother John Wallis (Merv's grandfather) gave a block of land for a church which, built by the people of the valley, was dedicated in December 1931. John's *Riversleigh* covered more than 2,000 acres.



The Great War's call to duty had sounded loud and clear in Pappinbarra; George and Frances' son, (John) Darcy Lewis was born in 1893. Like so many of his compatriots, reared in rural Australia, rarely venturing far from home and eager for the adventure and excitement of it all, he enlisted. It is thought he perished at Pozières in July 1916; his body was never found. His mother wrote in anguish to the authorities: *I have not even the melancholy satisfaction of knowing where or how he died...* Fifteen years later, his still-grieving parents

donated All Saints' brass candlesticks in his memory.



George and Frances Lewis with youngest daughter Ada c.1896.

Darcy's brother James also enlisted, was gassed twice and on repatriation went to Randwick Military Hospital. He had ongoing respiratory problems and was told the sea air would help so he lived in a shack on the beach at Dunbogan.

At some stage George and Frances took in an aboriginal girl, Maggie Brown, whose 'family had been more or less dying of starvation - she was very malnourished'. She became the household help and when 'Frances gave her

hell', 'used to go and hide in the ferns'. The children she looked after said she was 'wonderful - the sweetest, kindest person you'd ever meet'. When Frances was old and ill, 'Black Maggie' looked after her and 'when Frances died, went to Port with George. She didn't consider herself an aborigine - went to the movies on Saturdays and put her nose in the air if anyone approached her. She lived till she was in her 80s'.

Ethel May Lewis, daughter of George and Frances, married George Taylor Braithwaite. Their daughter Adrienne, along with her cousin Frances Schmitzer, was christened at *Ferndale*. She remembered her grandmother as 'a great big woman in a long black dress', but was only three when she died, so even a five-foot-nothing grandmother obviously made a lasting impression! 'Her presence was felt.' Adrienne's family moved to *Ferndale* from *Glen May* 'a bit down the valley' when George Lewis moved to Port. George Braithwaite, at some stage, 'got double pneumonia and pleurisy, which injured his heart. He couldn't keep on farming and we all retired to Port Macquarie'.

Frances died in October 1938, aged 78. George survived his wife by nearly nine years. They are buried in Beechwood Cemetery.

Jean Hegarty with thanks to all who shared their memories and research.



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PPA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – the second last Friday of each month at 6 pm. All welcome.

General Meeting – June on a date TBA. All welcome.

Facilities for Hire

Hollisdale Hall – booking essential, contact George Hegarty 6587 6077

Upper Pappinbarra facilities and tennis court - contact Damian Privett 6587 6185 or Sue Frost 6587 6129

Pitchfork

Circulation

Pitchfork has hardcopy circulation of over 300 plus email of over 100. It comes out on the weekend before First Friday - Friday 29 May for the June issue. Material for the June issue to the Editor by Thursday 21 May. We run both casual and regular advertisements at very competitive rates. Contact Sharada Boyce.

Production Team

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

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

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