

# PITCHFORK

## Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association

### President's Report

It's forty years since the Aquarius Festival happened at Nimbin; some of the survivors were reminiscing about their experiences on the ABC this morning. 'Community', 'pioneering', 'resourcefulness', 'resilience', 'creativity' and 'great joy and satisfaction in everyday life' all got a mention. It took me back to Canberra, where with three very young children and a mortgage, I yearned all those years ago to escape and be part of it...

Four decades later I'm living the dream I'd always had to get back to the land - my Scottish great-great-grandfather was a pioneer settler in the Congewai Valley near Wollombi in the 1830s and my cousin still works part of his original 5,000-acre grant. I had always wanted to be there too, but life didn't pan out that way. Pappinbarra land was affordable, beautiful and reminds me of Congewai. With a bit of luck, unlike the Hunter Valley, it will have no coal or associated gas in the vicinity!

Those who grew up here in times of rationing, transport by horse or cream lorry, no electricity and huge reliance on oneself, the neighbours, the chook pen and the vege patch are no doubt bemused - and possibly amused - by the efforts of some of the 'imports' to build their own houses, grow their own food, write their own entertainment, create their own works of art and co-operate to conserve our special environment. Why bother when you don't have to?

I think the answer is pioneering spirit - it drove the original settlers of our valley; it drove the Nimbin crowd forty years ago; it is alive and well along the Pappinbarra today. It embodies not only the qualities noted by those talking about Nimbin but also motivation and persistence. Nothing really worthwhile is ever easy - if it were, there wouldn't be the great feeling of fulfilment in accomplishing the things that pose so many challenges.

As always in the country, hard work awaits, but as I write this the sun shines; the lyrebird is performing his own special repertoire across the river; fragrant blue smoke goes skywards as we get the land in order; yellowing leaves spiral earthwards; life goes on. The original custodians, the pioneers, the diverse people who have settled here: thank you all for your contributions to the forging of our community and its wonderful spirit.

Jean Hegarty

See 'Hall Happenings' on page 4 for news and updates about the hall and current PPA happenings.



**Country Dance**  
with Russell Churcher

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> June  
at the Hollisdale Hall

Adults \$15  
Kids under 16 free

7pm start

Soup & light supper available for purchase. BYO drinks

Tickets at the Beechwood Store

### Unsung Heroes

The PPA committee wants to thank Rick Sharp for disposing of the garbage from the Hall on a regular basis. Much appreciated Rick! Up until the time he started chemo, Lyn Blythe mowed the grass and watered the trees at the Hall. Many thanks Lyn, and best wishes for a speedy recovery. Thanks also to Jan and Mary for gardening and mowing our grounds.

And thanks to the many willing hands that help clean up before and after activities at the Hall.

### First Friday

Come along to the First Friday get together at Hollisdale Hall on the 7th of June. June FF's usual BBQ fare will be supplemented with pea & ham and pea soups, courtesy of Elly Franchimont and Bev Sibthorpe and scrumptious sour dough bread made by Peter Michael.

### Country Dance with Russell Churcher

The one-man singer, caller, compere and orchestra for our night of old-time and bush dancing will be Russell Churcher. A performer throughout NSW and the ACT since 1985, he has been wowing audiences for decades with his extensive repertoire. He can entertain with tall stories, witty verse and comic songs, as well as fantastic music for dancing. His bush/country dance show with acoustic guitar, tenor banjo and mandolin has taken him to countless country halls and even to more citified venues. See poster for details of the dance on the 29th of June.

## Meet the Neighbours - Alec and Dawn Flanagan

The Flanagans came from the Mountains of Mourne in County Down, Ireland. Brothers Jim (1878) and Alex (1881) were born in the Manning River area to Frederick Flanagan and his wife, Catherine née Tisdell. As young men, they selected land in the Pappinbarra Valley.

Jim set up house across the creek. After his first wife died, he married Alec's mother, Ellen Hollis. They moved in with Alex and added verandahs and roof to the slab dwelling he had built nearer the road. 'Uncle Alex' never married. Jim

and Ellen's two boys and two girls were reared on *Avondale* - the old homestead is still standing. Young Alec walked up the valley to the one-teacher Pappinbarra School (where *Jack's Place* is now). He always wanted to be a farmer "here on this place", helping milk by hand, ploughing paddocks for corn with a draught horse and 'pulling the corn' with a horse and spring cart to take the cobs back to the corn shed (see *Days Gone By* below). Dawn's parents, Reuben Tarrant and Daphne née Wallis, had a dairy farm at Brombin. Her father bought a Kempsey bus and started the first bus service ever on Pappinbarra. She went to school at Beechwood and then at Wauchope High, cycling to Beechwood to catch the bus, and later found a job at the Beechwood Post Office and telephone exchange. "I rescued her from there!" said Alec. "To what?" was Dawn's rejoinder. They married at Wauchope's Methodist Church and built a new home on *Avondale*.

It was 'a sore point' when electricity finally came and the Reynolds and Flanagans had it for a while before those further up the valley, though Alec had already installed a diesel motor to power the machines in the new dairy built in 1953. He had a mixed herd - mostly Friesians with a few Jerseys to keep up the



butterfat. Using AI [artificial insemination], he tried different breeds, but found Friesian best, rearing heifers as replacements and selling the males as bobby calves. Growing and irrigating millet and cowpeas in summer and oats and rye with clover in winter kept him busy, but he "saw it coming" and got out of dairying "about 18 years ago while you still got a bit of money for your quota". He feels very sorry for some who missed out on that.

Alec and Dawn have eight grandchildren; their three children -

James, Ray and Sue - all live in the valley. When looking after the beef cattle became too much, Alec sold them to James who has carried on the breeding enterprise. Dawn loves her flower garden and she and Alec both work in the vegetable plot.

When asked about the big changes in his lifetime, Alec said electricity, motor transport and fire fighting - "We used a wet corn-bag or a piece of bush to fight fires!" He was a Deputy-Captain with Hollisdale Brigade "for a lot of years". On transport: one time the horse shied and tipped his father, mother and baby sister Mavis out of the sulky at Maguires' cutting. "When I was growing up we'd go eleven months without going to town. One night Walter Schmitzer took us in the cream truck to the circus in town; coming home he left the road (gravel) and went into the gully near Pat Murray's. Dad said Walter was the only driver good enough to put us all in the one waterhole." Alec and his brother Fred walked home.

There certainly have been big changes: you don't see many people walking these days...

Jean Hegarty

## Days Gone By



Alec Flanagan and his brother Fred getting in the corn with the spring cart and horse (see Meet the Neighbours).



Alec is also in the school photo. Names (we think) are:

**Top row:** Mable Murray; Doreen Hollis; Mavis Flanagan; Tom McWhirter; Merv Wallis

**Second row:** Hazel Kirkman; Rosemary Reynolds; Daphne Wallis; Alec Flanagan; Keith Kirkman

**Front row:** Marjorie Reynolds; Brenda Russell; Wilma Russell; Brian Wallis; Fred Flanagan; Reg Murray; Ron McWhirter.



## Rural Fire Service Update

The Hollisdale Rural Fire Brigade will hold its **Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday, 11 July at the Hollisdale Hall**. All members are requested to attend. Anyone wishing to join the Brigade is also welcome. Enquiries: Chris 6585-6700

Fire Permits to burn off **are NOT required** until further notice.  
Prior to a burn you are required to give your neighbours 24 hours notice in advance.  
**IN CASE OF FIRE – CALL 000**

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.

## Trivia Night Extraordinaire

Well, what a turn-out! We had just 35 tickets for this event pre-sold and were a little worried that we wouldn't fill the Hall! No need! We had people from everywhere - Kew, Comboyne, Bellangry, Wauchope, Port Macquarie - they just kept arriving. The number per table swelled from 6 to 8 and we finished up with 11 tables. The Hall was filled to capacity with people and noise.

Quizzing started a bit late, but once under way went at a cracking pace. The questions had been well researched and ranged from reasonably easy to completely impossible (for me anyway). There were 8 rounds of questions on different themes as well as a brain teaser and four mystery objects. Fines were imposed for raucous and argumentative behaviour and the table which had to stump up the most money won a prize!

"Chuck the coin at the bottle" of Kahlua or Scotch enticed many to try. I'm sure Patrick McEntee had been practicing - he won both times. We also played "Heads or Tails" and this strategy was used to decide the winning table, as there was a draw between tables 1 and 3; table 3 won - congratulations.

Most prizes were donated and a big thankyou goes to: **Hastings Co-op, EcoWild, Fuzzy Duck's Café, Christopher's Butcher, Lewis' Butcher, Greenbourne Nursery, Hair Affair, Hastings Fruit and Veg, Wauchope Newsagency, Chay Khamson, Jean & George Hegarty, and Mary Walker and Jan Childs**. Thank you to the

lovely folk at **Beechwood Store** who sold tickets for us. Thanks as well to the Quiz Masters Peter Michael and Damian Privett for putting together such a fantastic, fun and entertaining set of questions and games.

Thanks to the generosity of the people of this valley and beyond, we raised over \$1000 for the night. A terrific effort and thank you to all who participated.

**Mary Walker**



**Thanks to Pete Michael (right) and Damian Privett (left) for challenging our brains and for taking all of our rowdy abuse!**



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## Bird of the Month – Black-faced Monarch

**Common name:** Black-faced Monarch

**Scientific name:** *Monarcha melanopsis*

**Size:** 16 – 19 cm. **Status:** Secure

The Black-faced Monarch is a beautiful Monarch Flycatcher, predominantly blue-grey on the head, back, upper tail and upper breast while the lower breast, belly and undertail are a rich rufous colour. Adult birds have a black face and throat patch and the bill is blue-grey. The dark eye can have a patch of light grey around it. Young birds differ by not having the black face, have duller body plumage and a black bill.

Their call is a clear whistled “why-you-which-ye-oo”, or falling “wichooo” and other grating calls. These calls begin in spring when the birds begin to nest.

Usually occurring as pairs, they inhabit rainforest, woodland, coastal scrub and damp gullies where they feed by foraging for insects in the mid-level foliage of the forest or by taking flying insects on the wing. They are found from Far North Queensland to Eastern Victoria but are less common in the south of their range. They are resident year-round in the north but are migratory in the south where they arrive about September for breeding before returning north about March.

Breeding occurs from October to January. The female, alone, builds a deep cupped nest of Casuarina needles, bark, roots and moss bound with spider web which is placed in the fork of a tree from 3 to 6 metres up. Two to three eggs are laid and incubation and rearing of the young is shared by both adults.

For further information or questions related to this or other species contact can be made through this email address [peter\\_fac@yahoo.com.au](mailto:peter_fac@yahoo.com.au).



Peter Fackender

## Hall Happenings

Around the time you're reading this, a concrete pour should be happening at the Hall. An extensive area will be added to the outdoor barbecue area, access paths provided from the gates to the existing path, an anchor point provided for a flagpole, and poles to carry the sandpit shade sails cemented in. Contractors will be doing the job as the result of grants from the **NSW Government's Community Building Partnership** (outdoor area), the **Northern NSW Cancer Control Program** (shade sail) and the **Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal** (path for disabled and/or easier access).

**Bushed** rehearsals at will be at 4 pm Sundays at the Hall. Anyone who is interested in helping please contact George (6587-6077) and come along.

See the revised time for **yoga**, and don't forget the **Pitchfork choir**, second Saturday of the month.

Following the universally acclaimed cheese making demonstration at the Hall earlier this month, a workshop will be held at a future date. If you are interested, see details in this issue.

Send any comments on the Hall extension plan that was canvassed in last month's **Pitchfork** to your president ASAP.

The Pappinbarra Progress Association **AGM** will be held at the Hall in July/August. All committee positions will be declared vacant so think about getting involved in this vibrant community organisation. Nominations for the committee need to be submitted 7 days before the meeting, so attendance at the AGM and the general meeting immediately afterwards will not leave you open to pressure to stand! Current PPA membership expires on 30 June 2013 and members must be financial to nominate and vote. More details in the next issue of **Pitchfork**.

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## Plant of the Month - Red Kamala (*Mallotus philippensis* EUPHORBIACEAE)

Red Kamala is a native tree attaining a height of up to 25 metres, but commonly much less – typically 5-10 metres. Widespread in the southern Asian pan-tropics (including subtropics), its botanical name is an allusion to its first being collected in the Philippine Islands. The family in which it sits is one of the largest of the flowering plants, with up to 3000 species worldwide – 110 in Australia alone.



Fruit and foliage.

<http://www.brisrain.webcentral.com.au/>

In Pappinbarra, Red Kamala can be found in a diverse range of situations, including

subtropical rainforest gullies, riparian zones, the lower hill slopes tending to river flats, remnants of dry (depauperate) rainforest and along the ephemeral watercourses which sit above the mean flood heights but meander across farming flats (recently described as 'Cedar Gallery Rainforest' for the predominance of white cedar and – traditionally – red cedar in these communities). In exposed and previously cleared situations, the tree usually takes on a shorter, rounded form. It is capable of re-shooting (coppicing) after moderate fire conditions, slashing, trampling or crushing, and these trees – when left to maturity – have multiple trunks.

Once one gets one's 'eye in' for Red Kamala - it is instantly recognisable from a short distance. The alternately arranged leaves hang pendulously, are almost diamond shaped (although broadest at the base) and up to 15cm long. The 'Red' in Red Kamala could be an allusion to the colour of freshly-cut wood or the colour of the leaf underside, which, when held in the right light, has a red sheen, or to the red, dusty bloom on the fruit capsule. The individual flowers are not distinct but are held terminally in long racemes (spike-looking). Trees are either male or female flowered.

Red Kamala makes a fine specimen tree and should be encouraged as a local rainforest tree option which will tolerate full sun to deep shade. It is long-lived, does not habitually drop limbs and is among the more fire-retardant species.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

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

Or, feel free to drop any plant ID specimens in my mailbox (sealed plastic bag please) (2011 Pappinbarra Rd) with your details and I'll get back to you.

**Peter Michael**

## Conservation Corner

We understood the importance of maintaining and improving our riparian zone because of the potential to reduce soil erosion on our property and improve water quality and biodiversity along the Pappinbarra River.

The solution seemed easy, if a little costly in both time and money - fence it off from our cattle and plant endemics. We were fortunate to be supported financially and with labour through the Natural Heritage Trust, Landcare, and Conservation Volunteers Australia. Our two kilometres of Pappinbarra River were fenced, weeds were removed from one and a half kilometres and 9000 riparian species were planted.

I wish I could say it has been hard work but plain sailing but we have had setbacks. Flooding events have removed or laid flat thousands of planted trees and others have died in the sandy dry soil along the river. Very disappointingly, we did suffer significant erosion when a flood event shortly followed weed removal from a large area on the river bend.

Nevertheless, we have continued to work on weeds and to plant. More recently we have been supported by the Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group (PLCG). This is our newly-formed community organisation, members of which have regular working bees on each other's land, supporting each other to improve biodiversity.

Despite our set-backs, our riparian zone is unrecognisable from seven years ago. It was infested with Lantana, Tobacco Bush and Privet and mostly impossible to negotiate on foot. Today it is not perfect; we continue to manage our weeds and mitigate against soil erosion, but our riparian zone is increasingly delightful to walk along. It is more interesting because it has a greater range of plant species and very hearteningly platypus and water rats have returned to our stretch of the Pappinbarra! If you want to find out more about the PLCG call me on 6587-6033.

**Kelly Miller**

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## Lyme Disease

This very debilitating tick borne disease, that has a bewildering array of signs and symptoms, has been back in the news. Debate continues about whether it occurs in Australia, what symptoms can be attributed to it, whether or not it can become chronic and the effectiveness of treatment regimes. The relevance to us is that many people - both medical practitioners and possible sufferers - believe it occurs in our district, particularly on the coast. There have been enough people talking about it to have prompted the Australian Chief Medical Officer, Professor Chris Baggoley, to set up a Clinical Advisory Committee on Lyme disease to provide him with advice on the evidence for Lyme disease in Australia, diagnostic testing, treatment and research requirements. The Committee will also provide advice on the most appropriate ways to disseminate information to health professionals and the general public. Follow this link to hear a Radio National Background Briefing on this disease broadcast on Sunday, 12 May.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/backgroundbriefing/past-programs/>

There has also been an edition of the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators newsletter devoted to the topic.

[http://www.aabr.org.au/images/stories/resources/newsletters/AABR\\_News\\_112.pdf](http://www.aabr.org.au/images/stories/resources/newsletters/AABR_News_112.pdf)

A search of the web will bring up lots of other 'hits' on this topic including a NSW Health Department Fact Sheet and the Karl McManus Foundation website.

Bev Sibthorpe

## In the Vegie Patch

*Herb of the month:* Tuscan Kale. Ideal to plant now, this kale is an heirloom variety with a great flavour that is easy to grow. It is a good source of vitamins, minerals, fibre and antioxidants. This kale produces long crinkly dark green leaves almost bluish/black. Its flavour is enhanced by frost.

*Pest watch:* The Cabbage White Butterfly is still flying around. It lays its eggs on the underside of the leaves of all the Brassica vegies (Cauliflower, Broccoli, Cabbage and Brussel Sprouts) - these eggs hatch into small green caterpillars that chew holes through the leaves.

Happy gardening!



Alison Robinson

## Hastings Farmers' Market

The popular Hastings Farmers' Market continues to be a showcase for freshly picked local produce, a friendly community meeting place and an experience to browse, sample and buy a great range of locally grown produce and hand made products. The Hastings Farmers' Market growers and producers like talking about their crops and ways to enjoy them. The market's message of 'eat fresh, eat local and know the source of your food' is taking a firm hold in our community. People are realising that healthy living is simply about going back to basics. What has been lost in the mass food and drink movement is the essence of seasonal eating. Starting this month, The Living Room Cafe will join the Hastings Farmers' Market with their delicious home-made cakes made with locally sourced produce. Their pumpkin, walnut and fruit cake, for example, will be made with Colin and Delilah Amos' pumpkins and Kindee Valley eggs. There will be more than 40 stall holders at the Wauchope Showground for the Hastings Farmers' Market on **Saturday, June 22**. The market will be open to the public from 8.00am to 12 noon, rain or shine. Hope to see many of you there.

Elly Franchimont, Market Coordinator

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A cartoon illustration of a brown cat sitting on a red upholstered chair. The cat is looking towards the viewer.

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A logo for Bellrowan Valley Horse Riding. It features a circular emblem with a horse and rider, and the text 'BELLROWAN VALLEY EST. 2001 HORSE RIDING'.

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A white silhouette of a person in a yoga pose (Cobra pose) against a dark blue background.



## Cheese Making Demonstration

An enthusiastic band of 13 neophytes rocked up to the Cheese Making Demonstration at the Hollisdale Hall on 11 May. Kelly Miller and I introduced them to the mysterious world of curds and whey and quark, camembert, fetta, ricotta and mozzarella making. All made it to the end of the three hour session - some even stayed to help clean up! Judging by the feedback they will be back for more. Future sessions will be workshops in which participants can make their own cheeses under supervision, with heaps of encouragement. To register your interest call me on 6587-6077.

George Hegarty



## Community News and Events

As part of the Moving Forward Project (funded by Transport for NSW in partnership with the NSW Office for Ageing) Mid Coast Communities is conducting research into the transport habits and needs of the 50yrs+ community. If you are 50 years or older and live on the Mid North Coast they are interested to learn about your current transport habits and future transport needs. Fill out their survey for an opportunity to enter the draw to win one of eight \$250 Qantas travel vouchers. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7P2MSG> Closes 7 June.

## Upper Pappinbarra Recreation Ground Bookings

The Council-owned tennis court and other facilities are available for hire – non-profit \$5 per hour and commercial \$10 per hour. For bookings please contact Damian Privett 6587 6185 or Sue Frost 6587-6129.

## Tree Fiesta

The annual Tree Fiesta in Bain Park and the Arts Hall is planned for **Saturday, 3 August** from 10am to 3pm. Keep this date free for what promises to be a wonderful day of info and entertainment! More info in the next *Pitchfork* or Phone 6585 3470.

Amy Hubers

## Lapsing of Existing Holdings

Council held an information day at Wauchope on 14 May to explain the proposal to extend the sunset clause on existing holding provisions until 22 February 2015. If this proposal goes through affected landholders will have until that date to apply for dwelling entitlements; thereafter a dwelling can only be constructed on rural land if the lot meets the minimum lot size requirement - this can vary from 40ha-100ha. As this proposed amendment has to be approved shortly by Council contact local Councillors urgently to register your concern if you feel your interests may be affected. For further information ring George on 6587 6077

## Do you have broadband?

More than 40 households in the Pappinbarra area have had satellite broadband gear installed for free under the Australian Government's NBN program. This amazing information came from the pleasant technician who came to set up our new dish and modem. After receiving a quote of \$800 to fix our defunct equipment, we contacted NBN to discover that we were eligible for installation under the program. We are now back in touch with the world!

Don't miss out - ring NBN on 03 6108 9030.

George and Jean Hegarty

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[www.designerlivingkitchens.com.au](http://www.designerlivingkitchens.com.au)

## Regular Events

### First Friday

*When:* First Friday of the month, 6pm onwards

*Where:* Hollisdale Hall

*What:* BYO drinks and nibbles, low cost BBQ including vegetarian and gluten free options, members' draw (cash prize) and raffle, table tennis, all ages welcome

*Contact:* Jean Hegarty 6587-6077

### Yoga

*When:* Every Tuesday morning, 10-11.30AM

*Where:* Hollisdale Hall

*What:* \$15 (mats are provided)

*Contact:* Amy Hubers [stillpointyogamassage@gmail.com](mailto:stillpointyogamassage@gmail.com) 6585-3470

### Pitchfork Choir

*When:* Second Saturday of every month, 10am -12md

*Where:* Hollisdale Hall

*What:* \$10 (\$5 of which goes to the PPA); bring something delicious to share for lunch if the urge takes you

*Contact:* Elly Franchimont 6587-6097 or 0424 220 937

[www.vocalpointevents.com](http://www.vocalpointevents.com)

### Exercise

*When:* Tuesday afternoons 1:30—2:30pm

*Where:* Hollisdale Hall

*What:* Equipment provided

*Contact:* Lyn Blythe 6587-6185 or Beverly Kilpatrick 6587-6112

## PPA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – Usually the Friday before First Friday at 6pm. All welcome.

General Meetings – quarterly. Next meeting after the AGM in July/August. All welcome

### Facilities for Hire

Hollisdale Hall – contact Jan Childs 6587-6055

Upper Pappinbarra facilities and tennis court - contact Sue Frost 6587-6129

## Classifieds

Got something to sell? Want to buy something? Why not advertise here? Contact Chay 6587-6022.

## All Saints Church

Services are held **every fourth Sunday at 2 pm** with a cuppa 'off the back of the ute' around **2.45p.m.** All welcome.



## Pitchfork

### Circulation

*Pitchfork* has hardcopy and email circulation of approximately 280. It comes out on the weekend **before** First Friday – **Friday, 28 June** for the **July** Issue. Material for the **July** Issue to the Editor by **Wednesday, 18 June**. We run both casual and regular **advertisements** at very competitive rates. Contact Chay Khamson.

### Production Team

PPA Executive: Jan Childs [janmary1301@bigpond.com](mailto:janmary1301@bigpond.com) 6587-6055

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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: Jan Childs 6587-6055

Secretary: Elly Franchimont 6587-6097

### Other Members:

Kelly Benson Chay Khamson

Lyn Blythe Bev Sibthorpe

Sue Frost

## PPA Membership 2013-2014

\$5 per adult

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