



# PITCHFORK

## Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Issue 113

October 2017

### Dry Spring weather – a Firey’s worst nightmare!

#### The hazard of Hazard Reduction

Chris Roelandts, Hollisdale RFS Captain

What a difference a month with no rain makes! Hollisdale Brigade has been called out seven times in the last month to hazard reduction fires that have escaped from residents’ properties.

**“It costs the RFS millions of dollars.”**

Two weeks ago I was travelling with the fire investigation unit that is now based in our area. It’s based here because it is costing the RFS millions of dollars to put out these fires; and that’s not counting the time that the volunteers give up protecting assets. RFS will now take a look at how each fire started and how it was managed; then make a determination on what action will be taken.

**Fire permits are now required, but have been suspended until we get significant rain.** Check with Fire Control on 65889000.

### New sprinkler system

We decided to install a sprinkler system on our house following February’s devastating bushfires in Lower Pappinbarra.

Although we were reasonably well prepared with firefighting hoses and we had the ability to pump water from the river with petrol-powered pumps; while we were fully occupied in fighting the approaching fire, we didn’t realise a spot fire had started behind us threatening the house. We do not want to be in this situation again, so to protect the house and be able to wet down around it whilst dealing with an approaching fire, we decided on a sprinkler system.

Our place is very large so the cost was about \$5000 all up. The system includes butterfly sprinkler heads placed all the way around the house under the gutters with some sprinkler heads on short poles on the peaks of the roof. They wet the whole house down and saturate four metres out from the perimeter. It is powered by the 6 hp petrol pump we have connected to our 100,000 litre rainwater tank, with another backup pump to bring water up from the river.

If anyone is interested in seeing what we have done they are welcome to give us a call on 65856529 and come to have a look. ‘Chook’ from Simon Rogers plumbing installed the system. It has given us great peace of mind.  
— **Cathy Johnston**



Some of our hard-working fireies at the opening of the new shed at Upper Pappinbarra.



Sprinklers are a great way to damp down the whole house.

Fire permits are required now but **all permits have been suspended** due to the dry season.  
**IN CASE OF FIRE – CALL 000**

# Horse Talk

Welcome to a new column with Pitchfork dedicated to our four-legged, friends. Horse Talk is a nook where you can catch up on all things horsey, ask questions and share your knowledge. Each month I will gather stories and information on horse care, courage, special interest, or just plain fun. Anyone who has ever owned a horse knows, you get challenged and then you get challenged and challenged and challenged... it never ends.



Just yesterday I watched my huge Quarter Horse, Jess, try and squeeze herself into our bathtub trough. She is a water-baby and her long legs splashed around, emptying the trough of course, even tipping it over—she just doesn't realise she is a horse. When I put my small herd across into the dam paddock, she leapt off the side

of the dam as if she was at the Olympic pool, doing several duck dives underwater. I've never seen anything like this before... these are the kind of stories I want; and also the experiences that can be both moving and frightening. This is how horsemen and horsewomen have evolved over the centuries. We talk and we learn as we go. I often wonder if horses do exactly the same thing in a 'pow-wow' in the paddock. Do they chew over their facts on the fumbling humans? It must be a conspiracy! — **Bronwen Kalea**

If you have a horse question or a story you would like to contribute, please email me, [tahomabooks@gmail.com](mailto:tahomabooks@gmail.com)

# Jean Hegarty

After five years editing Pitchfork, Jean Hegarty has handed over the job to concentrate on her work as a local historian. Summoning the energy to bring together more than 50 editions of this newsletter is a monumental contribution to the community. Thank you, Jean, we have all benefited from your time, talent and patience.

Bev Sibthorpe, the inspirational founding editor of *Pitchfork*, drew together issues 49-56 ( and #90 in September 2015) of the PPA newsletter, establishing it in its present form. These are hard acts to follow! Fortunately, I have lots of support, especially from the ever-capable Angela Frost on layout, a host of enthusiastic writers, and you. — **Adrian Guthrie**



Pitchfork is the newsletter of the Pappinbarra Progress Association. The view expressed in Pitchfork are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the PPA or its members. Your contributions are welcome. Please send submission to the editor, Adrian Guthrie [adrianguthrie@gmx.com](mailto:adrianguthrie@gmx.com). We prefer unformatted Word documents with any photos as separate files. Liz Gough coordinates advertising [lizabeth52@hotmail.com](mailto:lizabeth52@hotmail.com). Angela Frost does the layout.

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- Project planning and grant application advice

## Bird of the Month - Brush Cuckoo

*Cacomantis variolosus*

Size: 20 to 23 cm.

The Brush Cuckoo is a bird that is seldom observed but often heard because its distinctive loud piping call is such a part of the Australian bush in spring and summer. If you are able to trace the call back to its source you will find a fairly dull coloured bird.



The male Brush Cuckoo is greyish-brown on the back and grey on the neck, head and breast. The underparts are a pale buff colour. The tail has white barring underneath and is tipped white. The female has two colour variations (morphs). The more common morph is similar to the male but has much paler buff under while the rarer morph has barring on its upper and lower body. Juveniles are heavily barred dark brown above and mottled below. The eye is dark with a grey eye ring.

Brush Cuckoos are found from the Kimberly region of WA, across the Top End and along the eastern part of the mainland from Cape York to Victoria. They are migratory in south-east Australia, arriving in September-October and departing north again by April. They are found in 'brush' habitats including woodlands, rainforests, along water courses, mangroves and roadside vegetation. They tend to sit quietly amongst leafy vegetation occasionally darting out to take insects and particularly, hairy caterpillars.

Vocal activity increases during the summer breeding season when a persistent 7-12 note descending 'fear-fear-fear' call is given day or night. A nearly hysterical, rising 'Where's-the-Tea' sequence is also given.

Breeding takes place between September and February when they parasitise the nest of target species such as robins, flycatchers, fantails and honeyeaters. Sometimes fairy-wrens and scrubwrens are also targeted. One egg is deposited in a nest and upon hatching after 12 days, any other eggs or young are ejected by the young cuckoo. The young cuckoo fledges after a further 19 days. — Peter Fackender.

## Fishy Tail: Australian Bass

Australian Bass (*Macquaria novemaculeata*) are a freshwater fish of the east coast rivers between Gippsland in the south and Maryborough. In the north they vary in colour from gold to bronze and can even have a greenish tinge. Some people call them perch. They grow up to 65cm in length and 4 kg in weight, but river fish rarely exceed 2 kg. Bass are stocked in many dams where they can grow to large sizes, but they need saltwater to trigger breeding so fish in dams do not breed. Although some consider them good eating, I have found they have a weedy/muddy taste unless rivers are flowing very clear for some time, and there are far better eating fish that have more sustainable populations. They are an iconic Australian sportfish and most anglers release them. There is a bag limit of 2 (only 1 fish over 35cm) and a closed season between May 1 to August 31 when they gather in the upper saltwater reaches for breeding. Bass respond to a wide range of fishing techniques including bait, fly and lure. — Rob Williams



A nice bass of about 30 cm puts a smile on a kid's face and poses for proof before being released.

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# Meet the neighbours: Introducing the Neale Family

New to the valley are Samara and Stephen Neale along with their two children Ada and Felix. You may have met Samara's parents, who live in Port Macquarie, as they secretly 'interviewed' the community by attending the Grown and Gathered market. They gave us the thumbs up.

Samara was born, bred and schooled in Dubbo until she went to Newcastle University to do a BA in Health and Leisure. She returned to Dubbo after university and began work as a teller in the local bank. She quickly rose through the ranks and worked in business banking for the next ten years; but, she says, please don't hold this against her!

Stephen was born in England, where he lived until his family immigrated to New Zealand. He left school after a parental ultimatum: "Find a job or go back to school!" The next day he had a job working with disabled people. Stephen then found his way into hospitality, where he developed his passion for food and qualified as a chef.

It was time to leave New Zealand and a friend's couch in Sydney seemed a good place to start. Stephen spent the next six years learning from well-known chefs in Sydney and Melbourne; until, in the early 90s, he moved to Dubbo for a promising job.

The job was a disappointment; however, Stephen quickly saw an opportunity to open a stand-alone restaurant in Dubbo. The *Echidna* boasted a menu with an eclectic range of dishes made from local produce. Stephen set up a network of local farmers to supply the restaurant, which evolved into him working with small primary producers to value-add and sell their produce to Sydney markets and restaurants. He was the founder of one of the first in the new wave of produce markets in NSW, winning awards and gaining accolades for his community work. Very entrepreneurial for a lad in his 20s!

Stephen sold *Echidna* and opened another restaurant, which he named *3 Snails*. He taught at TAFE and completed a BA in Vocational Education. The restaurant did well for three years until droughts and plagues hit the Dubbo area and the business became non-viable; so Stephen shut the doors and went into teaching full-time.

Samara and Stephen met in 2003 and married in 2006. They travelled together to South America, France, Asia and England where they both have family. They had a lot of fun, spent heaps of money, and have had great adventures.

In 2010, they relocated to Darwin for work; but 18 months later returned to Dubbo with Samara going back to the bank. They also created their own business for which they developed educational resources and programs. Back in Dubbo, they thought it might be time to have a baby. Ada was born in March 2012.



In 2014, Stephen was offered a new job in Darwin, this time as Assistant Director in the Education Department designing educational programs and support resources for Indigenous students in remote areas. Samara, who was pregnant with Felix, also worked for the strategic and policy team at the NT Education Department.

At the beginning of this year Ada was on the eve of starting school, so the time was right to leave the Territory and head to the NSW Mid-North Coast. They wanted to be out of town, with space for the children, in a vibrant community and with good schools. They have found it in spades. Samara plans to be a stay-at-home Mum, but she is looking for work to keep her brain active. Stephen works remotely for Charles Darwin University, working on multiple projects. The main project, at the moment, is researching and developing a farm management prototype using data sensors. Ada is very happy at Beechwood school and loves catching the bus; while Felix is a chatty young man who keeps his parents on their toes.

Their house is on 100 acres that is mostly bush. It has fantastic 360-degree views. It is a location, they have found, that can sometimes really *catch the breeze!* Shortly after they moved in, Stephen put together a small shed for some chooks. They awoke next day to find the shed a crumpled wreck with the chooks under it all, a little ruffled but alive and well. Their shed is now firmly anchored and isn't going anywhere! — **Mary Walker**

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# Big News!

## The Tar takes it away!

Tar defeats the Dirt to win the Greg Ostler Memorial Shield for 2017!



**Simon Livingston the Player of the Match presented with the Shield by Steve Ostler, with Fielder of the Match, Jake Cooper.**

Everyone enjoyed a great day at the Upper Pappinbarra Recreation Ground where the battle for the Shield was won – after years of struggle – by the Tar! Well done Tar-ites! Although Steve O was heard to say that he probably lent the Lower team too many good Upper players! The great thing about our annual cricket match is that all ages can join in and have fun together; and on Sunday we had all ages, from toddlers to spritely eighty-something.

The day was perfect, sunny, mild and about forty players took to the field which, surprisingly, still had a touch of green.

The final scores were, Dirt 143 and Tar 156. Fielder of the Match was Jake Cooper, who showed that while he is only a youngster he is already an amazing fielder. The Young Player of the Match certificate was awarded to Brock Cooper for a good all-round performance. Player of the Match was Simon Livingston, a spirited player both on the field and at the crease, Simon is a visitor working at Near River. The Certificate of Encouragement went to Lisa McLeod for her enthusiasm and for a particularly great one-handed catch that was worthy of the MCG!

Everyone enjoyed a barbeque lunch. The raffle was won by Steve Ostler. A modest amount (\$118) was raised for each of fire brigades. It was a special day out!!

– Susan Frost



I'd like to introduce you to the Hastings Woodworkers Guild, who have their base at Timbertown Heritage Park in Wauchope where they have workshops and a display area. Our shed is open to members 7 days a week to use lathes, scroll-saws, routers, many types of saws, and machinery to cater for all our interests. Members develop their skills through practice and by sharing ideas and techniques. The outcomes include some outstanding work – some beautiful, some quirky. Members special interest cover furniture, puzzles, musical instruments, jewellery boxes, and wall art; many different projects, made from different woods.

Guild members are proud of their community involvement with projects developed in conjunction with local schools, the hospital, and Timbertown itself. The mighty waterwheel at Timbertown was one of the projects Guild members created together.

Our Annual Exhibition this year, will be at the Laurieton Servicemen's Club 14-15 October. Saturday 9am-5pm & Sunday 9am-2pm. Come along and view some of our achievements; most items will be available for sale. Chat to members there about our special interests. Be amazed at the creativity on display; specialist methods employed, including intarsia, woodcarving, and woodturning.

If you are interested, come and have a look around our workshop. New members are always welcome! For any further information please contact Rod Hoare [fellowship@inet.net.au](mailto:fellowship@inet.net.au) or 0408 684 802.

## October Gig Guide

**Wauchope Arts** in Oxley Lane (opposite Bain Park) home to a diverse array of world class acts. Book: [wauchopearts.org.au](http://wauchopearts.org.au)

### Friday 6 @ 7:30pm - Jed Rowe

"An acclaimed singer/songwriter and guitarist from Melbourne. His music walks the line between folk, blues and country... Rolling Stone described his music as 'Heartland alt-country shot through with nostalgia.'"

### Sunday 15 @ 7:30 pm - Twin Peaks

Experience the beauty in the blended voices of Canadian Music Award winning folk/roots duo Twin Peaks (Naomi Shore and Lindsay Pratt)

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## Native Stingless Bee Course

Are you interested in keeping Native Stingless Bees for fun, honey production, conservation, pollination or education? A Native Stingless Bee



Course is being held in Wauchope on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017 from 10am to 4pm.

The Course is being run by Dr Tim Heard, one of Australia's leading expert on Native bee management and behaviour. Dr Heard is an entomologist and an ex-CSIRO Research Scientist. The Course will cover bee nesting biology, bee forage biology, importance of bees in natural systems, traditional stingless bee-keeping around the world, modern stingless bee-keeping in Australia, using stingless bees for pollination of gardens, sugarbag honey and its properties, and rescuing bees threatened in the wild. The Course will include slide shows, discussions and practical sessions- opening hives, how to move a colony from a log into a hive, and dividing a hive, showing the process of colony propagation.

Dr Heard's University Doctoral study was using Stingless bees for crop pollination. Tim has published 60 Research Papers and popular articles on bees and pollination. He rescued his first hive from a cut-down tree, transferring it into a wooden box and now manages hundreds

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## In memory of our beautiful princess Harriet Kate Ostler

29.03.15 – 22.10.16

We thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new.  
We thought about you yesterday and the days before that too.  
We think of you in silence, we often speak your name;  
but all we have are memories and your picture in a frame.

Your memory is our keepsake with which we'll never part;  
God, has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts.  
A thousand times we've cried.  
If love alone could have saved you,  
you never would have died.

In life, we loved you dearly, in death we love you still.  
In our hearts, you hold a place no-one can ever fill.  
It broke our hearts to lose you but you didn't go alone,  
for a part of us went with you the day God took you home.



Those we cherish,  
will always live on  
in our memory.

Our precious little Harriet you were with us for such a short time but the love in our hearts will last forever. Until we meet again Sweetheart, you will always be our Special Little Angel.  
Love forever, Mummy, Daddy, Milton and Leeroy. XXXX

## President's note:

New playground equipment has been installed at Hollisdale Hall and we will have a [Grand Opening at the October First Friday BBQ on 6 October](#). Please come along. Bring the whole family!

Volunteers from **Port Macquarie Hastings Council** and the Pappinbarra community came together on the 16 September to install this vibrant addition to the family facilities at the Hall.

We all had a great day. The council is to be applauded for their sense of community and the PPA is grateful that they chose us to be recipients of this initiative. Enjoy. — **Lisa McLeod**



# TASTINGS ON HASTINGS

Ignite your senses at Port Macquarie's premier food festival, Tastings on Hastings.

The Main Event will kick off from 12noon NEXT SATURDAY and will provide the opportunity to taste our region's delicious flavours, chat with producers, share tasting plates and enjoy live entertainment. Entry is just \$5 all weekend with under 18s free.

As part of our Tastings on Hastings festivities for 2017, we are thrilled to be incorporating a range of Foodie events. These events promote the best of our region by taking people to the source of our fabulous foodies and include the popular bi-annual event; Meals in the Fields at Near River Produce. From exquisite fine dining to day-tripping around our region's farm gates and wineries, our Foodie events will leave your taste-buds tingling.

For a full schedule of events visit [tastingsonhastings.com.au](http://tastingsonhastings.com.au)

## Pappinbarra Community Connect : on Facebook

for trading, swapping, selling and keeping in touch with other Valley residents.

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# Valley Happenings

**1 October - Grown and Gathered - Pappinbarra**



**Community Market** - is on Sunday 1 October. Join us and bring the family from 9 am to 12 mid-day for a bush

brekkie, a bit of a chat, some local treasures, yummy food, coffee and live music! Stall enquiries to Lisa on 0418 220 138. [grownandgatheredcommunitymarket](http://grownandgatheredcommunitymarket) on Facebook.

**6 October - First Friday BBQ** get-together from 6 pm



at Hollisdale Hall, Pappinbarra Road. Come along and enjoy the company. Don't worry if you don't know anyone –

we will make you welcome! Vegetarian and gluten-free options included in a tasty low-cost menu. BYO drinks. Cooking team: Rob Frost, Alice, Michael Fowley, Trevor. Plus the **Grand Opening** of the new playground equipment! (Bring your party hat!)

At the last First Friday there was no winner for the members' draw so the jackpot is now a whopping \$90... a sum worth getting out of bed for! Many thanks to the cooking team Rebecca, Phil and Deb; and to all who helped with the set-up and clean-up.

**7 October - Rural Fire Brigade** training for



Pappinbarra and Hollisdale members is on the **FIRST** Saturday of the month this time (usually the second Saturday) at 8 to 10 am. Please come in full uniform.

**8 October - Tennis competition** 7pm start for the



first round at Upper Pappinbarra Courts. Fun for young and old. Everyone welcome. Contact Lisa if you would like to join this friendly competition.

**21 October - Working bee** to spruce up the Hall; finish some painting; tidy the gardens; contribute to some minor building; and generally, get the place shipshape for the party season. **Saturday from 8 am - 2pm.** Come along for an hour or two or all day. Bring your tools and some food to share for morning tea/ lunch.

**22 October - All Saints' Pappinbarra:** Service on the



4th Sunday at 2 pm with afternoon tea around 3.00 off the back of the Murphy's ute. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a plate to share.

**Hollisdale Hall** and grounds are smoke free - please don't smoke at any of our functions.

Is your **Annual PPA Membership** up to date? The 2017-18 membership was due in July, but it's not too late to join!

## Wanted to buy:

Hastings Wood Workers Guild wants a dual axle 7x4 or 8x5 galvanised trailer. With a cage would be good too.

Please contact Sharada 6587 6079 (leave a message)

## Support your local community - join the Pappinbarra Progress Association!

**For only \$5 per adult per year to support Pitchfork, Hollisdale Hall, and PPA activities in Pappinbarra and environs.** We would love to hear your voice and have your participation in our diverse community. Your name will also go into the membership draw at First Friday each month. Just fill in the form below and post to the treasurer Sue Frost at 2751 Pappinbarra Rd.

## Pappinbarra Progress Association membership form 2017/18

Please print:

Member Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Send cash or cheque made out to "Pappinbarra Progress Association" to: Sue Frost, 2751 Pappinbarra Rd, Pappinbarra NSW 2446

