

PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News
Pappinbarra Progress Association

July 2014

Valley Happenings

PPA welcomes new members. Membership for 2014-15 is now due unless you joined after 1 May. Pay at First Friday or complete the form on page 8.

July First Friday is on at the Hollisdale Hall from 6 pm on Friday 4 July with drum fires to keep you warm. Paul and Suzanne Pollett will cook steak, bacon, sausages, veggie burgers, chicken rissoles, onions, chicken satay and prawn satay sticks. Water, soft drinks and poppers available; bring any other liquid refreshment you desire! All welcome to unwind and socialise.

June First Friday members' draw was won by Brian Hewson who wasn't there so it jackpots to \$20 for July. Julie-Anne Murphy won the raffle and chose the *Greenbourne Nursery* voucher. Thanks to rostered cooks Kelly, Elly and Patrick. Thanks as well to all who helped with preparation and cleaning up.

Hollisdale RFS will train at 8 am on Saturday 5 July. Meet at the fire shed in full uniform. AGM 7.30 pm on 3 July.

Pappinbarra RFS At the AGM on 21 June, Pete Davison was re-elected as President. Scott Lindsay and Rob Frost were elected as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Pitchfork choir invites you to sing at Hollisdale Hall 10-12 mid-day on Saturday 9 August. No choir in July. All welcome!

Middle Eastern Cooking class

taught by Tin HtaNu

10am - 2pm

10 places available

Bookings essential

\$30 (includes dinner)

Call Elly 6587 6097



The Bush Dance was a huge success. See report p7. The event was free thanks to a grant from Port Macquarie Hastings Council. Thanks to Hastings Co-op, Beechwood Store and *The Living Room* for their generous donations for the raffle. Raffle proceeds and donations meant PPA made \$288 for the evening.

All Saints' Pappinbarra invites all to join in the 2 pm service on Sunday 27 July and/or bring a plate to share off the back of the ute for afternoon tea round 2.45.



Middle Eastern Cooking Class with Tin HtaNu at the hall on Saturday 19 July 10 am -2 pm. Cost \$30 includes ingredients. Book and pay at *ecoWild*. Be quick - numbers limited (10 only)!

Middle Eastern Feast with belly dancers at 6pm Saturday 19 July. Tickets \$25 from *ecoWild*. See poster this page.

Pappinbarra Valley Photographic Competition closes 26 July. See poster p3 and get your entries in!

Body Balance class at Hollisdale Hall

Thursdays 5:30 - 6:30pm \$10

Middle Eastern Night



Or, come for dinner only.

3 course meal

6:30pm

Belly dancing!

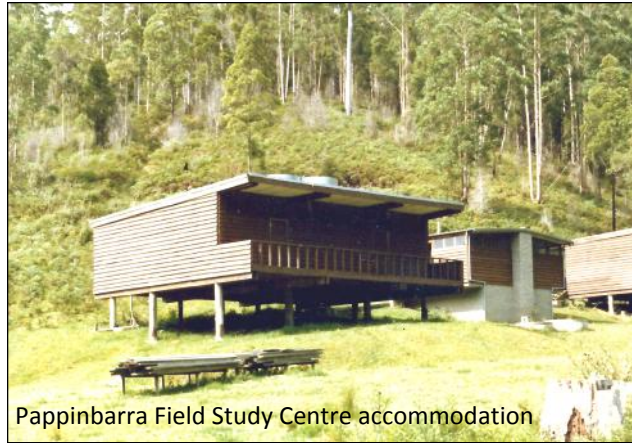
BYO

Tickets available at *ecoWild*
limited places

July 19
Hollisdale
Hall

Times Past and Present: The Power of the People: the story of the Pappinbarra Field Studies Centre.

...continued from last month
The scrapping of the RED Scheme by the Fraser Government in 1976 caused enormous disadvantage to many community projects. The Trust found itself in debt just when it had begun to see the end of its huge task, with electricity supply and kitchen/dining room facilities still outstanding. It took a sustained effort over the following months to pay existing debts and finance the remaining requirements necessary to ensure an opening that year.



Pappinbarra Field Study Centre accommodation

But open it did, and hundreds of school children and community groups were to enjoy the benefits. Catering by Pappinbarra people meant that children enjoyed fresh milk and other produce from local farms along with all the other activities the Centre offered. A few months after its opening, when over 400 children had stayed at the Centre, Bill Landy, the tall bearded English teacher from Port Macquarie High School who was central to the project, admitted that there had been times when he felt like giving it away - times when there was no money, when only a handful seemed interested, when his wife complained that he spent more of his free time there than at home. But every time a group of children stayed at the centre and came back with so much enthusiasm that they talked about it for weeks and weeks, Bill decided it was all worthwhile.

In 1986, the Trust received a Community Employment Program grant totalling \$46,045 for three unemployed workers for six months. Tony Cross, a local builder and Trish Crick and Elizabeth Kohaupt, both trainee carpenters at Wauchope Tech, were given the job to fully renovate the FSC. Under the supervision of Col McWilliam, the work was done while the Centre remained open.

At the AGM nine years later, in 1995, the committee, which had always been based in Port Macquarie, expressed the wish to stand down. As quite a lot of locals were interested in becoming involved, a meeting was held at the Centre and a new committee elected, mainly of Pappinbarra people. Peter van Haeff resigned as Supervisor, and was elected as President. The following year the new committee organised another facelift for the some of the

buildings at the FSC as well as installation of a telephone and answering machine in the farmhouse, new insect screens for the dormitories, a pump to provide improved water pressure to the showers and amenities block, and recovering of mattresses. World Environment Day celebrations in June 1996 saw a permanent display of wildlife paintings donated by members of the Hastings Fine Arts Society and new laminated posters.

However, the burden of spiralling insurance, falling numbers of visitors and the reluctance of teachers in today's litigious climate to supervise children in such an environment took a toll on the FSC. It is now closed to the public and the lease is held by the local RFS, who are fundraising with a view to opening it up again not only for firefighter training, but perhaps with other groups such as Scouts to help with maintenance and insurance costs. So far they have raised almost half of the funds needed for this to happen. They would be grateful for assistance at a working bee to be held later this year.

Mary Wagg

Local scientists pay visit to local primary school

On June 5th four Pappinbarra residents with backgrounds in Biology and Science (Angela Frost, Ken Aplin, Kelly Benson and Kelly Miller) spent the day at Beechwood Public School. Armed with a great heap of biological specimens collected in the local area, they spent time with students in each of Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to showcase the kinds of things that professional biologists do. Students watched Angela dissect a lab rat and explain the role of each of the internal organs, and they used microscopes to learn about the structure and function of plants and animals. This event has featured in the last two school newsletters which are available at the Beechwood Public School website (<http://www.beechwood-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/newsletters>).

Everyone had a great time and the feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive.

As well as planning some follow-up visits, the team is also looking at ways to obtain funding to purchase some microscopes, books and other science equipment for the school. The goal is to establish a biology study area in the School Library – an area where budding biologists can carry out their own research into the plants and animals of the local environment.

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RFS update

Pappinbarra RFS

The controlled burns haven't yet been re-scheduled. We are waiting to see what the weather does.

Steve Ostler (Captain)

Hollisdale RFS

All quiet on the fire front, but if the weather we are now having is any indication of what is coming, we are going to be in for a bad fire season. We desperately need rain.

AGM at Hollisdale Hall 3 July 7.30 pm. All members requested to attend for fitting for new shirts. Anyone interested in joining also welcome!

Chris Roelandts

No Permit Required
 Prior to a burn you must to give your neighbours 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: Lyn Blythe 6587-6186; Beechwood: Sam Elphick 0428-856-222.

Losses to the community

'Nat Ché of *Frog Hollow* passed on peacefully at home on Friday 30 May with his beloved wife Lyn and son Cody at his side. This is what he wished.'

Nat played a vital part in Pappinbarra's first play, *Erect*, written and directed by Suzie West several years ago. PPA extends sincere sympathy to Lyn and Cody. The community has lost someone we respected and admired.

Martin Lawrie lost his battle with cancer last month. With his wife Ali and children Eoan, Finn and Eva, Martin lived for a while in Pappinbarra (at the pottery studio) before re-locating to Bellangry about ten years ago. He is remembered as a 'wonderful husband and father, a sincere and genuine ordinary bloke'. PPA extends sincere sympathy to his family and friends.

In the Veggie Patch

Now's the time to get the soil ready for your home grown potatoes, rhubarb and asparagus, lots of certified seed potato varieties available. They like fresh friable soil



that is well drained for good strong growth. Also keep an eye out for aphids and scale, large numbers still around due to the mild winter.



Happy gardening from the staff at **Greenbourne Nursery**

PHOTO COMPETITION

Only 4 weeks to go!

Entries close on *Saturday 26 July*

CATEGORIES:
 Landscape
 Flora & Fauna
 Farming
 People
 16 & Under



*A maximum of 3 entries per category per person
 Entry \$5 per photo, \$2 for 16 and under
 Photos must be hangable*

We have 3 judges collaborating to choose our winners - Silva Vaughn-Jones (photography judge & wild-life photographer), Deb Murrell (wildlife photographer) & Chris Nixon (wildlife photographer). Prizes will be awarded to all winners. All photos will be on display at 1st Friday (1st August) & at the Hall on Saturday 2nd August from 9am to 2pm

To arrange delivery of your entries (or for any queries) please contact Sharada on 6585 6079 OR drop them off at the Hollisdale Hall on Saturday morning 26th July between 8am & 12 noon

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Meet the Neighbours: Cathy and Mark Relf

Cathy and Mark migrated from Zimbabwe 13 years ago. Cathy was, born and raised in Zimbabwe and has a career in bookkeeping. Mark moved to Zimbabwe with his family from England when he was three, so is practically Zimbabwean.

After meeting each other through a blind date over 20 years ago, they gave England a try for a couple of years in the mid 90s before returning home to Zimbabwe, getting married and setting up a home. Mark was a partner in a large accounting firm there; Cathy ran her own bookkeeping practice.

They enjoyed the casual, friendly lifestyle and great weather of Harare. Things then went downhill in Zimbabwe under the Mugabe regime, with farm invasions organised by the government, business takeovers, food riots and hyperinflation. That prompted a move to Australia; they managed to get a bit of hard currency out of Zimbabwe and with the rate of inflation what they had left there quickly became worthless.

After moving to Sydney in 2001, Mark worked for a large accounting firm and Cathy had their first daughter Paige within three months. Their second daughter, Jordan, was born two years later. Cathy kept herself busy raising their girls and spent some time selling Tupperware, then Enjo, before working as accounts manager for a large church.

All went really well until, in 2010, a wake-up call came in the form of breast cancer, with Cathy and her sister being diagnosed within weeks. After 18 months of treatment and some soul searching, Cathy and Mark decided the time had come for a change of life style; life is too short to put things off. Not sure just how to make a change, they took off with a



Jordan, Cathy, Mark and Paige

camper trailer, later upgrading to an old caravan, and tried Wwoofing in Tasmania, then through Victoria and NSW to the Daintree in Queensland. Taking things slowly, mainly free camping, they made their way back to NSW and started looking for a new home.

They parked the caravan on a picturesque piece of land in the Pappinbarra valley. Six months and huge floods later, they had managed to build a shed with a verandah. After a bit of work on plumbing, electrics (totally off

the grid), paving and a fireplace they have made a welcoming and comfortable place to call home while they contemplate building a house.

Though they don't have farming backgrounds they have taken the plunge - raising Dexter cattle, sheep, rabbits (for meat), chickens and agisting horses. They have a hive of bees, two cats and two rescue dogs, who love their morning and evening walks. Jordan is enjoying the horses, improving her riding skills; Paige would rather cook or read a good book. A keen gardener, Cathy has built no-dig beds and shade houses and spends time home-making and looking after the animals. Mark spends the little spare time he has making the shed more liveable, (currently lining it), and trying his hand at fencing, slashing, clearing weeds (lantana!) and tractor repairs...

So finally they are home in their piece of paradise in the Pappinbarra Valley living a simple but oh so rich lifestyle. Dreams do come true!!

Mary Walker



AFRO MOSES SPIRIT SOLO

Afro Moses is a multi-award winning, international artist, singer, multi-instrumentalist and composer. His 'Afro Spirit 5 in 1' multi instrument solo performances replicate the big sound of 5 musicians playing. Using traditional African instruments (Afro can play 14 in total) and blending them with modern grooves and technology to create a fusion of hot rhythms that no one can resist dancing to!

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Nest boxes –providing artificial homes for wildlife

As part of the recent Local Land Services Grant members of the Pappinbarra Valley Landholders Conservation Group recently installed more than 120 nest boxes in trees on their properties. Some people have asked why we bothered doing this, and how we decided which kinds of boxes to install and where.

Installing nest boxes is one active step to help preserve local wildlife. Nest boxes are essentially just artificial tree hollows. Many species of birds and mammals shelter and breed in tree hollows and without access to suitable structures, they may be unable to live or breed in an area of otherwise suitable forest. Many types of trees form hollows and they can develop at any stage in the life of a tree. However, they are most common in very old trees and especially in standing dead trees. Modern forestry operations tend to protect these 'habitat' trees but this was not the case in the past. As a result forests that were logged more than a few decades ago or that have grown back over formerly cleared land usually contain few hollows and often support far fewer native mammals and birds than you might think. By installing artificial nest boxes in these forests, we can make them more suitable for many species of wildlife, including some, like the Brush-tailed Phascogale, that are struggling to hang on in our region.

Different kinds of animals prefer different kinds of nest boxes. When buying or making a box, it is important to think about what



kinds of animals you are trying to encourage. Another important point to consider is that nest boxes do not last as long as natural tree hollows. Depending on the materials used for construction, they probably need to be replaced every ten years or so or the animals they have benefited may find themselves homeless. Installing nest boxes in young forests is an ongoing commitment.

Nest boxes can be installed in gardens to encourage birds and other animals. But be aware that any garden nest boxes with a large enough entrance will most likely be taken up by a Brush-tailed Possum – already a common resident of many houses and sheds. Sadly, installing nest boxes for these animals probably won't encourage them to vacate the buildings – instead you will just have even more possums. Brush-tailed Possums will not be able to make use of nest boxes designed for small species as

the entrances won't be big enough.

A lot of information is available to help get the right kind of nest box onto the right kind of tree for each target mammal or bird species. If anybody would like to install some nest boxes on their own property, they can be purchased from various suppliers (we used Nest Boxes Australia - www.nestingboxes.com.au) or from valley resident Trevor Smith (65856785) who makes beautiful boxes out of recycled materials (like the one in the photo). For more general advice on nest boxes, contact Ken Aplin on 65876129.

Ken Aplin

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Weed of the month Camphor Laurel *Cinnamomum camphora*, Lauraceae (Laurel Family)

Introduced as an ornamental tree from China/Japan in about 1822 and actively promoted for shade and shelter, camphor laurel has spread to dominate the landscape in many parts of northern NSW. Abundant across the coastal strip, floodplains and middle to



Mature trees

the camphor laurel is a beautiful, large spreading tree with attractive timber for furniture, carving and turning, there is little denying its devastating impact on natural areas, riparian ecosystems and primary-production land. Homestead and municipal trees (parks, street plantings, avenues of honour) quickly and effectively become 'founder populations' which continue to impact on neighbouring lands such as pastures, fencelines, stockyards, powerline easements, conservation lands and waterways.

The regretful current situation is that while much has been done over many years to reduce the extent and impact of camphor laurel, its range has continued to expand and is yet to be fully realised - a blunt reminder that the best time to start managing camphor is now.

Pete Michael

For further information, contact the NSW Department of Primary Industries, Local Land Services, Landcare or Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's Noxious Weeds Officer on 6581 8111.



Leaves and fruit

upper catchments of the PMHC area, closer to home in the Pappinbarra catchment, it has recently been declared a Class 4 Noxious Weed with land above the Junction to be impacted first. Control rests with the landholder where a plant is declared noxious.

Not many areas have been spared the negative impacts of camphor laurel although the tree has also been heralded as a valuable resource in many situations. Its capacity to quickly establish in unmanaged or abandoned farmland has earned it a reputation as a vital rainforest regeneration surrogate when other local native tree species have been depleted. By creating cool, shaded conditions, camphor laurel attracts frugivorous (fruit-eating) animals which (re)introduce seeds from nearby rainforest remnants, although those same animals also spread

Did you know?

Beechwood General Store is open for business again.

The new proprietors, Sharon and Guy, have refurbished the premises and now stock **Fredo's Meats** and **fruit and vegetables from Ken Little** at good prices. Judging by the number of cars parked outside since the opening on 5 June, local residents are very pleased to see the store back in business. The store will have a visiting chef cooking three Friday nights out of four with an interesting menu. Bookings appreciated but all welcome.

Sharon and Guy kindly donated two \$25 vouchers as prizes in the raffle held at Pappinbarra's recent Bush Dance.

If you haven't been to the Beechwood General Store lately, make sure you drop in; you'll be pleasantly surprised. Let's keep the doors open this time.

Jan Childs

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Bush Dance

A great night was had by all who attended last Saturday night's bush dance at Hollisdale Hall. Russell Churcher provided the music and called the moves in his usual terrific style and had everyone up and dancing. At times the hall was so packed there was hardly room to move! Although the evening was a little chilly, everyone soon warmed up after some vigorous dancing. It was lovely to see the kids joining in and enjoying themselves.

Thanks to Chay and Emma for decking out the hall in fine style - it looked very festive and set the mood for a great night. Also many thanks to those who worked hard to feed the eighty or so dancers - the delicious soups were especially popular. A big thankyou to Mary Walker for organising the monster raffle and, along with Elly, serving the food during the dance. Many people helped set up and clean away the mess at the end of the night - thank you, many hands do indeed make light work!

We acknowledge with thanks the support for the raffle from the



Hastings Co-op, Beechwood Store and The Living Room.

Special thanks go to Port Macquarie Hastings Council who provided PPA with a grant from their Community Grants Program for running the bush dance.

PPA Committee



Russell captivated the kids during a break with his puppet show

Editor's Musings

In late May Sue Frost and I drove to Sydney for a short internship with the Powerhouse Museum. As members of the Wauchope District Historical Society (WDHS), we spent three very full days learning about 'exhibition practice'. Now, together with Mary Wagg, we hope to design and implement new displays for when the WDHS historic church building is moved to new ground in the heart of Wauchope.

Sydney's crowds, traffic and noise aside, we had an inspirational time with many of the young, vibrant, talented and creative people who run the Powerhouse, as well as the curators of early colonial Rose Bay House and the amazing Jewish Museum.

Sadly, the Regional Outreach Program under which this took place is to be axed as part of the Federal Government's cost-cutting measures. All the wonderful people running the course had to re-apply for their jobs or source other employment under a slash-and-burn regime. The loss of expertise is truly regrettable. Back home, our volunteer jobs intact, we are planning an exhibition to present the story of Wauchope and hinterland - the cedar getters, John Oxley, the timber workers, dairying, beef cattle - the lives and times of people, the ordinary as well as the famous.

With the sale of *Timbertown*, significant items of the WDHS

collection were lost. We are hoping that community members will come forward with the stories of their forebears and their tools - like 'the axe great grandfather used to clear the land for his slab hut'. Just any old axe has no value in a museum; although we can imagine how a crosscut saw, a separator or a bullock yoke was used, to capture their story for a display, we need to document provenance - 'what, where, when, why and how' - for future generations.

Here in our valley, PPA's endeavours, while focussed on the present in building community spirit, are also trained on the future, especially the survival and amenity of our community-owned Hollisdale Hall. WDHS, while looking to the past for inspiration and stories, is looking towards a future in which the history of the district is remembered and displayed in a manner befitting its significance.

You might consider helping in this important project. Contact WDHS if you have items, stories or expertise to share. Let's have Pappinbarra Valley showcased as part of the history of the Wauchope district!

JH

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Work Wanted

Good reliable worker wants mowing, fencing, gardening, or cattle work. \$10 per hour. Phone Steven 6587 6167 after school.

Help Wanted

PPA needs somebody to take the First Friday rubbish to the tip. If you can help please contact Jean on 6587 6077.

Lost

The community's fire extinguishers have disappeared from the hall. Any info or their return much appreciated. 6587 6077

Accommodation needed!

A friend **urgently** needs a place to live. Small house, shack, shed or anything that is heatable or weatherproof. Happy to pay a reasonable rent. Ring Mary 6587 6055

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PPA Matters

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

General Meetings – quarterly. Next general meeting will follow the AGM in August. All welcome.

Facilities for Hire

Hollisdale Hall – contact Sue Frost 6587 6129

Upper Pappinbarra facilities and tennis court - contact Damian Privett 6587 6185

Pitchfork

Circulation

Pitchfork has hardcopy circulation of 300 plus email of about 100. It comes out on the weekend before First Friday - Friday 25 July for the August issue. Material for the July issue to the Editor by Thursday 17 July. 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

Production: Angela Frost angfrost@hotmail.com

Advertising: Sharada Boyce sharadaboyce@yahoo.com.au 6587 6079

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

Pappinbarra Progress Association Committee

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President: Jean Hegarty 6587-6077

Vice President: Mary Walker 6587-6055

Treasurer: Sue Frost 6587-6129

Secretary: Elly Franchimont 6587-6097

Other Committee Members:

Sharada Boyce

Meg Allison

George Hegarty

Public Officer:

Jan Childs

PPA Membership 2014-2015

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