



# PITCHFORK

## Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association & Pappinbarra Outback Association

### Upcoming Special Events

Don't forget **Pansy Ostler's 80th Birthday** celebration on the **31st of March**.

#### Easter Hat Parade and Egg Hunt

The POA's annual Easter Hat Parade and Egg Hunt is on again - **Sunday 8 April**, at the Pappinbarra Outback Recreation Ground from **11am**. Let your imagination run wild with your Easter bonnet and come along and join the fun! The hat parade will be around 11.30am. BBQ lunch (on sale), Easter egg hunt, games and a food hamper raffle (please donate a non-perishable item). Contact: Sue Frost 6587 6129

#### Trivia Night – Saturday, 19 May, 7pm start

**Q:** What has 12 legs, 6 stomachs, half a clue and eats chips and dips? **A:** Your table for the PPA Trivia Night. If you live in Pappinbarra and read *Pitchfork* you're bound to do well so come along and have fun. Developed and hosted by **Ryan Barter** and **Emma Frost**; \$10 per head, 6 people per table; limited number of tables; bookings essential (see details next month); fantastic prizes for the winning table such as 4 women coming to your place to do whatever you want (oh behave, we're talking about cleaning and gardening and stuff).

### PPA President's Report

In spite of the rain, March First Friday Family Night was well attended with our cooks kept busy at the BBQ - thanks to Ryan, Emma and Elly for looking after the hungry crowd. The Money Tree Raffle was drawn and Linda Murphy of Wauchope was our lucky winner. And while we're on the subject of luck, Emma Frost won \$50.00 in our members draw so it reverts to \$10.00 for our next First Friday.

Thank you to Brenda Murray, Jean Taplin, Kelly Benson, and Bev Sibthorpe for your help with the working bee and thanks to Lynton Blythe and Ron Murphy for mowing the lawn.

A lovely watercolour painting has been donated to the Association by Jan Farrell to be used as a fundraiser. We will be raffling this over the next few months, so watch out for when and where tickets will be available. Hoping to see you all soon.

Regards **Julie-Anne**

**First Friday Family Night in April is the Second Friday – 13<sup>th</sup>**



### Songs of the 60s, 70s and 80s – First Friday Family Night 4 May, Hollisdale Hall

Come and join us for our regular monthly BBQ, followed by a great evening of song with **Elly Franchimont** on Vocals and **Adrian Kimmorley** on Guitar. Bringing you songs of Joni Mitchel, Neil Young, Bob Dylan ... and more.

Adrian is a very accomplished local musician who has played rhythm and lead guitar for Country, Jazz, Blues and Rock & Roll bands for more than 20 years. Valley local Elly Franchimont (musical director of the Bella Bago Choir) has, over a period of 20 years, covered a wide variety of vocal styles ranging from traditional folk to "open throated" Bulgarian song, from Country to Rock & Roll and from Blues to Jazz. Two years ago Adrian and Elly formed a voice & guitar duo covering music from the 1970s era and their shows have been very popular in the Hastings community. This is a great opportunity to hear this local talent. BBQ from 6pm (great prices); music 7pm – 9.30pm for gold coin donation.

### Live Life Lunchtime Concert and Activity Afternoon

A very successful event in March was our "Live Life Lunchtime Concert and Activity Afternoon", partly funded by a Port Macquarie Hastings Council Seniors Week grant. This event was open to the public and around 70 people of all ages attended. As well as locals we had people from Wauchope, Laurieton and parts distant join us for lunch and entertainment. Our concert was stupendous and many thanks are due to Elly Franchimont and the Bella Bago Choir who were absolutely fabulous, Ernie Sharkey for his great poetry, George Hegarty and his troupe for the wonderful music, Jean Hegarty for her humorous poem and little Danny Rowley for putting a smile on everyone's face. Incredibly, Jean and Bill Taplin won 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes in the raffle!



The Bella Bago Choir delight their audience with a few songs

Thanks to Joyce Ditchburn for her donation of a large rice salad and her invaluable help to me in preparing the main meal. Thanks to Dale Goldfinch & Kerry Rowley for making the wonderful desserts, and thanks also to Jean Hegarty for preparing a delicious meal for our vegetarian and gluten intolerant guests.

Last but not least thanks to Anne, Lynne, Dale, Kelly, Darren, Ron, Emma and anyone who I may have overlooked for helping to clean up after the event.

**Julie-Anne Murphy**

## Meet the Neighbours- - Joyce Marie Ditchburn

Joyce was born on her grandfather's dairy farm in Hallam, Victoria. She was delivered on the dining room table!! (breakfast had been cleared away) By the age of 3 she could milk a cow and she helped her grandfather in the dairy until his death when she was 7 years old. She went to the local school until she was 15 years old.

Joyce worked as a stocking seamer from the age of 15 to 21 and she seamed thousands of stockings until she married and moved to a dairy farm in Bena, Victoria, with her mother and first husband. Dairying was definitely in her blood and every day she milked her own herd of 45 cows and a neighbouring herd of 250 cows. She also raised 3 boys and rode track work for a local horse trainer in her spare time!!

In 1979, newly divorced, Joyce went to a New Year's Eve party and met Arthur and was swept off her feet. Arthur needed a companion to join him on a cruise; it took 3 weeks and many expensive dinners to convince Joyce that a cruise with Arthur was a good idea. They had a wonderful time and the rest is history.



Joyce and Ginger

Joyce and Arthur lived in Sydney until 1989 when Arthur retired and they moved to Pappinbarra. Arthur was not really interested in farming, so Joyce was the boss and she set up a Charolais stud. They travelled a lot during this time, both within Australia and overseas and generally lived the good life. Arthur died in 2003 and Joyce continued farming with the help of her son, Allan, and her good and generous neighbours.

Allan lived on the farm with Joyce for 18 months and became Vice President of the PPA. He has now gone to Chinderah where the work is more plentiful, but is keen to return here.

Many of you will remember the desserts that Joyce prepared for Dimboola single-handedly. She is always willing to pitch in and help whenever asked, a good friend indeed.

Joyce still moves fences for her cows every day. She is getting slower and can no longer wrestle a recalcitrant calf to the ground. She talks to her cows and is convinced that they understand - they haven't answered her back yet but it won't be long until they do!!!

Mary Walker

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## Pappinbarra Progress Association and Hollisdale Hall – We need you!

The PPA goes back a long way and was already in existence when it acquired the old Ellengrove School building and surrounding land from the Education Department around 1958. We became an incorporated body in 1993 and own the Hollisdale Hall, one of only a handful of local communities which own their hall (the others are Byabarra, Ellenborough, Kindee, Kendall Community Centre and Rollands Plains). With hall ownership come some great opportunities as well as important responsibilities.

A lot of work has gone into making the Hollisdale Hall what it is today. The re-piering of the original school building (the kitchen) and building the extension were both done many years ago with voluntary labour. More recently, the large undercover area, small gazebos, exterior toilets, interior and exterior painting, paths, new roof, hall ceiling and attached shed/toilet were all made possible by grants to the Association from various sources. Improvements to the kitchen were partly funded through grants and partly through donations. Hats off to previous committees for all their hard work.

The Hall is a really great venue for community events and a precious asset that helps foster a sense of community in the Valley. To take care of it we have to pay for maintenance, utilities, property and public liability insurance (big ticket items!) and equipment. We also have plans and hopes for further work including a fence along the front, a much larger storage shed out the back, further upgrading of the kitchen, and a climbing structure for the kids.

We have a committee that works hard to look after the Hall,

make it accessible to people, pay the bills, keep making improvements and produce a newsletter. We raise funds through our First Friday Family Night BBQ and raffle, other raffles (e.g. the Money Tree and Jan's painting), a program of events throughout the year (e.g. Dimboola, which was an outstanding success, the Bush Dance, Trivia Night) and through applying for grants whenever and wherever we can. *Pitchfork*, which is our key communication mechanism with people in the Valley costs a bit to print, but we are working hard to get that to the point where it covers its own costs.

Membership of the Association is also really important – not only does it raise a little money for the Hall, it also allows us to show the scale of support we have from the local community when we apply for grants. We currently have 67 financial members, which is great, but we're always keen for more.

Now for the pitch! If you're not already a member, think about joining the Association and doing your bit to help keep the Hollisdale Hall 'alive' (currently \$5 per adult, children free). Come along to First Friday Family Night and our other events (we have an amazingly wide range of interesting people from all walks of life living in this Valley) – members and non-members all welcome. You can also help with working bees and maybe donate something to the Hall – you'll see in this issue of *Pitchfork* that were currently on the lookout for a piano.

We look forward to seeing some new faces amongst our regulars in the coming months.

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### Pappinbarra Progress Association Inc

*Executive*

President: Julie-Anne Murphy 6585- 6309

Vice President: Allan Ferris 6587-6106

Secretary: Jan Childs 6587-6055

Treasurer: Dale Goldfinch 0447-422-134

### Pappinbarra Outback Association Inc

*Executive*

President: Sue Frost 6587-6129

Treasurer: Jan Brown 6587-6159

Secretary: Brenda Patrick

Social Organisers: Jessica Zycki, Steve Ostler

## Pappinbarra History Project

### Pioneer Days in Pappinbarra by Eva Everett, Hastings Shire Gazette 18/6/1987; Extract

'We lived in Pappinbarra for about 7 years before acquiring the luxury of a Model T Ford car in 1930. Outings were few and far between and before owning the car, consisted of trips to friends and neighbours in the sulky drawn by our bay pony Kitty. These were very special occasions and greatly enjoyed by the children.

'In the early days, when the weather was wet, nothing was transported beyond the "missing link", a slippery hill on the property of Mr Lewis snr. Later a better road enabled supplies to be brought to Pappinbarra Junction by cream lorry and each resident collected his groceries by horseback, horse and cart etc.

'My sister Rosa sometimes walked the three miles to the Junction to collect the mail which came three times a week. Later, Milton and Lil also made this trek. I well remember in flood time once our family lived on boiled wheat for days.

'For six years we ran a dairy as well as the sawmill; the cream (in cans) being taken across the creek in flood times by a 'flying fox' – a strong wire stretched across the creek above water level and fastened each end to the trees. At other times carted to Wauchope Butter Factory by cream lorry, which for many years

came only as far as the Junction. Mr Walter Schmitzer was the driver for most of our childhood days.

'We never went to town before owning the car, unless to the dentist, and then it would be by the cream lorry. My brother Milton's first trip to Wauchope was at about age 9. There were only three or four shops in the main street at that time.

'Sometimes dad employed men with bullock teams to draw the logs to his saw mill. Norm Mackay, Mr Cameron, and Bill Stanley all worked for dad. We children were fascinated watching the obedience of the bullocks to their owners.

'Even after acquiring the car, trips to town were rare and we had to take turns as room had to be provided for 150 lb bag of flour, wheat, tins of kerosene (for lamps), groceries etc.

'One of the terrors of my childhood was our Model T being stuck in the Junction Creek. To me it seemed to almost always happen. Dad and my brother Ivan would take off their shoes, roll up their trousers, dry the vitals of the old car, bag the radiator and usually, away she would go. But every time we drove through I would hold my breath.

'It was an exciting luxury when the bridge was built over the Junction creek'.

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### Foodie's Corner - Easy Pavlova

2 egg whites, 1 1/2 cups castor sugar, 1/2 tsp vanilla, 1 tsp vinegar, 1 tsp corn flour, 4 tablespoons boiling water.

Beat all ingredients together until very stiff, spread on greased tray.

Bake for 10 mins in mod oven, reduce heat to low and bake a further 45 mins, cool in oven.

Top with your imagination.

Joyce Ditchburn

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### Bird of the Month - Satin Bowerbird

**Common name:** Satin Bowerbird

**Scientific name:** *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

**Size:** 27 – 33 cm.

**Status:** Secure

The male Satin Bowerbird has a deep black plumage which has a deep blue sheen. Its bill is a pale yellowish as are the legs. Females have grey-green plumage above with grey-brown wings and tail while below they are green/yellow with dark scalloped markings. The bill is dark. Both adult birds have a blue eyes. Juvenile males are coloured like females. Juvenile males can begin the transition to adult plumage about their 4<sup>th</sup> year but don't achieve full male plumage till their 7<sup>th</sup> year.

Their voice consists of strong whistles, hissing and buzzing sounds intermixed at times with mimicry. The male also gives a "weeoo" call.

Satin Bowerbirds inhabit rainforest, woodland and parks and gardens along the east coast of Australia where they feed mainly on fruits. They occur as small flocks during autumn/winter when they can do damage to fruit orchards.

During the breeding season the adult males defend a territory against other males. In this territory he constructs a Bower of small sticks for display and courting. The Bower consists of two parallel walls of sticks oriented north/south and placed toward the rear of a cleared area. This display area is decorated with items of a blue colour along with brown snail shells, cicada nymph shells and yellow flowers and leaves. The male performs complex "dances" at the bower to attract females where he mates with any receptive female at or near the bower.



Male Satin Bowerbird in front of his bower - obviously impressing a female

Breeding occurs from September to February with the female laying two to three eggs in a nest she constructs herself. She incubates and raises the young without any assistance from the male bird.

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

# APRIL 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30						1
2	3	4 Tennis	5 Tennis	6	7	8 Easter Hat Parade
9	10	11 Tennis	12 Tennis	13 First Friday Family Night	14 Yoga, Card making and Scrapbooking	15
16	17	18 Tennis	19 Tennis Craft morning	20	21 Yoga	22
23 Losing it in the Bush	24	25 Tennis	26 Tennis	27	28 Yoga	29

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**Bella Bago Choir**

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## Plant Profile—Annual Ragweed

In what seems like no time at all, Annual Ragweed has gone from 'zero' (ie lying in the soil seed bank) to 2 metre-tall flowering giants everywhere I look. It's particularly aggressive in areas that have been scarified (laid bare) by significant disturbance events such as grading and stock-piling, overgrazing followed by de-stocking and in areas affected by flood-waters.

Annual Ragweed is a member of the daisy family Asteraceae, but unlike many in the family that produce seeds with a pappus of 'parachute'-like 'hairs' for drifting on the wind (think of Croftonweed, Groundsel bush, Fleabane etc), Annual Ragweed

simply produces thousands of tiny seeds that usually just fall beneath the parent plant. Hence, a single plant last year can easily give rise to a hundred plants on the same spot this year. The plant is an annual and effective management needs to be integrated (eg stocking pressure prior to seed set, herbicide application, pasture competition) and planned. Annual Ragweed is an acute trigger of hay fever from its wind-blown pollen and occasionally causes contact skin reactions in people.

**Common name:** Annual Ragweed **Botanical name:** *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* **FAMILY:** Asteraceae **Native range:** America.

**Description:** Fast growing annual herb to 2m with finely divided leaves. Crushed leaves have a strong smell. Flowers appear at/



near the top of the plant. **Ecology:** Another disturbance specialist, it quickly colonises ground with poor coverage or in inter-tussock spaces in pasture. Abundant tiny seeds that spread in water, and on machinery, tools, people and livestock.

**FURTHER INFORMATION - Port Macquarie-Hastings Council** (Noxious Weeds Officer) 6581 8111; **NSW Dept. of Primary Industries** [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au) or 1800 808 095; **Weeds Australia** [www.weeds.org.au](http://www.weeds.org.au)

Peter Michael



### Losing it in the Bush

Why does the exercise program 'Losing it in the Bush' happen during the day on weekdays, making it inaccessible to working people? Because it is specifically designed for older people not in the workforce and this is what works best for them.

Another **6-week** session of this great, **free program** with accredited exercise physiologist Rhonda Coppin begins on

**Monday, 23 April**

*Where:* Hollisdale Hall

*Contact:* Di Penberthy 6588-2859 or 0429-600-346

[Dianne.Penberthy@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Dianne.Penberthy@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au)

### Hastings Landcare Meeting + Catchment Management Authority Presentation

The next meeting of Hastings Landcare will be held at the Hollisdale Hall on **8 May at 7:30pm**. Prior to the meeting, commencing at **6:30pm** there will be a presentation by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority on the Catchment Action Plan review. **All welcome.**

### Heritage Bus Tour

As part of the Port Macquarie Hastings Shire Heritage Festival **14-29 April** our own **Jeanette Rainbow** will be escorting an interesting bus tour on **Thursday, 19 April**. Departing at **9.30am** from the Wauchope District Historical Museum near Timbertown, this heritage tour will cover Huntingdon, Bagnoo, Long Flat (sumptuous hot dinner here with Lyn at the Fig Tree Restaurant), Ellenborough, Kindee, Crossroads Cemetery, Bain Bridge and Redbank. Tour \$35 per person including complimentary beer, wine or soft drink; lunch \$15 includes roast dinner, sweets and tea or coffee. Don't miss out! Book now on 65852692 or 65851895 or 0424226258.

### Weed Management and Landscape Workshop – Saturday 5 May, Hollisdale Hall, 1-4pm

What began as small-talk last year amongst a handful of local landowners about lantana and other weeds has given rise to this Weed Management and Landscape Workshop. The landholders have since decided to (provisionally) call themselves the Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group. The group aim to raise awareness and knowledge of weeds and feral animals (identification and control methods), weed management, fire management, erosion control, river health and wildlife habitat. This first in a proposed series of workshops will be an opportunity for people to have their mystery plant samples identified, to get advice on weed management, to network with other landholders, and to find out more about the Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group. The workshop program will be published in May *Pitchfork*. Contact: Peter Michael 6587-6022 ah or [petewm@hotmail.com](mailto:petewm@hotmail.com)

## Regular Events

### First Friday Family Night

*When:* 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month, 6pm onwards

*Where:* Hollisdale Hall

*What:* BYO drinks and nibbles, low cost BBQ including vegetarian option, member's draw (cash prize) and raffle

*Contact:* Julie-Anne Murphy 6585-6309

### Craft morning

*When:* 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month

*Where:* Hollisdale Hall

*What:* \$2; BYO craft

*Who to contact:* Brenda Murray 6587-6161

### Scrapbooking and Card Making

*When:* 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month

*Where:* Hollisdale Hall

*What:* \$2; BYO materials

*Who to contact:* Brenda Murray 6587-6161

## PPA/POA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – monthly at 5pm before First Friday Family Night – all welcome.

### Facilities for Hire

Hollisdale Hall – contact Jan Childs 6587 6055.

Upper Pappinbarra facilities and tennis court - contact Jan Brown 6587-6159.

## 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.

## Wanted, Give Away, Trade or Sell

Wanted - piano donated to the Hollisdale Hall – contact Julie-Anne 6585 6309

## Want to try your hand at Pottery?

Come along and join the happy band of potters at Bellangry Community Hall every Wednesday from 10a.m. Run by the Bellangry Craft Group.

Contact Ros: 6587-5164 or Barbara: 6585-6724.

## Pappinbarra Rural Fire Brigade News: Grass fires – a growing threat

A recent news article from NSW RFS Fire Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons has highlighted the increased risk state-wide of grass fires. We quote his comments: "Grass fires pose a real danger. They can start easily & spread quickly. It's not unusual for grass fires to burn at 20 or 30 kph under certain conditions and they can quickly destroy homes, crops & livelihoods. This poses a real issue as many people haven't seen conditions like this in a generation. They need to understand the risk and prepare for it" the Commissioner said.

Be prepared:

- Keep well maintained firebreaks mowed, ploughed, slashed or grazed along fence lines or around your home, shed and storage areas. This can slow the spread of a fire.
- Keep a well maintained area around your home, such as lawns, paths or gardens.
- Keep the grass cut.
- Seal under-floor spaces to stop embers entering under your house.
- Make sure you've got water for fire-fighting, have water tanks filled and connected to a pump.
- Have a diesel pump. Electric pumps won't work during a fire if the power goes out.
- Store things like fuel & wood piles well away from your house.
- Make sure the access points to your property will enable a fire truck to enter. Cattle grids & bridges will need to support the weight of a fire truck.

**Andy Jarrett, Secretary**

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**

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

## *Pitchfork*

### **Circulation**

*Pitchfork* has hardcopy and email circulation of approximately 250, now including Koree Island Road. It comes out on the Friday before First Friday Family Night – **Friday, 27 April** for the May Issue. Material for the April Issue to Editor by **Wed, 18 April**.

### **Advertising**

We run both casual and regular advertisements at very competitive rates. Contact Bev Sibthorpe [bsibthorpe@bigpond.com](mailto:bsibthorpe@bigpond.com) 6584-0051 or 6587-6075.

### **Production Team**

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