



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association

November 2014

Valley Happenings

PPA welcomes new member Gordon Nelson. Do you enjoy *Pitchfork*? You can support Pappinbarra Progress Association in this and other activities to benefit our community by joining PPA. See back page for form.

November First Friday barbecue and get-together next Friday November 7 at the hall from 6 pm. Trevor Smith and Michéle, Callum and Renton Malseed-Smith will be the chefs, with something to suit every taste - steak, prawn satay, vege burgers, chicken rissoles, chicken satay, eggs or sausages, all with onions and/or sauce. Soft drinks and juice for sale; BYOG. There will be a surprise unveiling - not to be missed. All welcome.

December First Friday: A reminder for parents that Santa will be coming with small presents for the children, provided by you-know-who

October First Friday saw Lyn Blythe win the members' draw and André Carboni the raffle. He chose the Lewis Meats voucher.

The **Wine and Cheese Fundraiser** for 'Operation Cleft' gave our community, together with many from further afield, the chance to contribute to a worthy cause while having a good time. With the money raised and sponsorships promised both on the night and the very next day, 17 children will receive the gift of a smile. The Polletts thank all supporters of the event: Bago Wines, Cassegrains, Black Duck Brewery, Comboyne Cheese, Wauchope Bakery, IGA, Wauchope Travel, Silk Hairdressers (Hastings Street), The Hastings Street Jewellery Shop, Beechwood PO, Culture Shock Bikers, the Wauchope Rotary Club and Trevor Smith for the hand-crafted nest box for auction, and all those who attended of course! PPA congratulates Amanda and Liam Pollett for their part in this initiative - an ordinary family's unselfish quest to improve the lives of others far less fortunate than themselves.

All Saints' Pappinbarra invites all to join us for the 2 pm service on November 23 and/or bring a plate to share off the back of the ute for arvo tea around 2.45 pm. This will be All Saints' Patronal Festival.



HOME BREWING WORKSHOP

Home Brewing 1.01: the basics - brewing and bottling with Patrick McEntee

Saturday

15

November

11 am

at Hollisdale Hall

\$5



Hollisdale Rural Fire Brigade will be meeting tonight Friday October 31 at 7.30 pm at the fire shed. All members requested to attend, come along if you are interested in volunteering. Training is scheduled for Wednesday 5 November at 4 pm and Saturday 15 November at 8 am. Meet at the hall in full uniform.

Pappinbarra Rural Fire Brigade will have a general meeting at the fire shed on Saturday 2 November at 10 am (postponed from last month). Everyone is requested to attend to discuss phone provision at the shed.

Pappinbarra Players will perform Ray Cooney's *Move Over Mrs Markham* early next year. Practice at the hall on Sundays at 2 pm. Enquiries Darren Rowley 6587 6076.

Hollisdale Hall is available for community members to hire. For details on hall hire see p8.

Bushed news: Anton Visser has almost completed the DVD, which will be available in November. Watch the notice board for details.

Pappinbarra Calendars for 2015: See p8 for details on when and where to buy.

Meet the Neighbours: Michèle Malseed

Michèle was born in Casterton, Victoria and lived on a dairy farm with her parents and three siblings. She was an A-class student who was Convent-schooled until her final years when she attended the local High School. Michèle describes herself as painfully shy, quiet and very well behaved during her school years.

Ballarat Teachers College was next; here she studied for a Diploma in

Primary School teaching. Again a high achieving student, she did very well but the wild child began to emerge!!

After graduation Michèle married Denis who was from an established farming family near Hamilton, Vic. The farm grew wool and beef and supported a busy social life for Michèle and Denis - a constant round of golf, horse racing, garden parties, tennis parties and water skiing. The dress code was twin set and pearls teamed with a Fletcher Jones skirt - hard to imagine isn't it?!

During this time Michèle worked as a schoolteacher in Hamilton and then Balmoral. While she enjoyed the landed gentry lifestyle, she found the property a bit remote, so they sold up, moved to Bendigo and bought a camping, tent city and ski gear business. As Michèle was still teaching she had all the school holidays to enjoy, so spent winters skiing with mates and summers basking in the sun in Torquay (Victoria). Party, Party, Party!

Michèle did a fourth year at Bendigo Teachers College, gained a BEd and was head hunted to teach at Kew Cottages in Melbourne. This was the largest Institutional Special School in the Southern Hemisphere. She moved out of her marriage to Denis and into a very challenging job.

She soon met Peter, a pilot and flying instructor, who was to be her next husband. His family had a business in Newspaper Presses so they moved to Sydney. Michèle changed careers, becoming Training Manager in several computer companies. She and Peter lived the high life and spent a great deal of time overseas, mostly in Germany, Japan and USA.

Peter started a business in Singapore but Michèle felt unable to leave Australia, her mother and sister to whom she is very close. So she and Peter parted company very amicably and they still



remain friends. Michèle remained in Sydney where she met and married Graham, and ran Training and Development with CSR for several years, travelling extensively throughout Australia, NZ and Asia. She loved the lifestyle but her biological clock was ticking and she left her corporate career behind to have her first child, Callum, at the tender age of 41. She had Renton when she

was 43 and decided that she wanted her children to grow up in the country rather than the city.

After a holiday in Port Macquarie and a quick look around at properties she bought her farm on sight and has lived in our beautiful valley ever since. Michèle became a stay-at-home mum and approached motherhood with the same commitment, passion and dedication that she had given her previous life.

At 48, Michèle had a beautiful daughter named Gypsy who died in a tragic drowning accident aged 20 months; Michèle's life was turned upside down. It was two years before she could function again and she home-schooled Callum and Renton, ran the farm and gardened.

In 2011 Michèle found herself a single parent so she set out on another path and purchased the Wauchope health food store, now named *ecoWild!*, which has become a very busy and successful business. She still home-schools her sons so life is never dull!

Michèle was active in the Pappinbarra community until Gypsy died and she knew most people up the valley. She recently got to know everyone during *Bushed* - many of you will remember her performance as April, a flamboyant, alternative, fun-loving character who did a bit of a song and dance routine with Jingles her husband (Trevor Smith).

So if you see a slightly crazy, middle aged woman with not enough clothes on, say hello, it could be Michèle!!!

Mary Walker

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Rural Fire Brigade (RFB) update

It has been quiet on the fire front. The Hollisdale truck was called out only once this month.

Hollisdale Brigade thanks Jim Adams, who has moved to Ellenborough, for his work as Captain. He has joined the Long Flat Brigade and has been very busy with several callouts to MVAs (motor vehicle accidents). The meeting on Friday 31 October will discuss training, the Christmas raffle, equipment and courses for next year. Anyone interested in volunteering to help the community is encouraged to attend.

Chris Roelandts Captain Hollisdale Brigade

There will be a general meeting on Saturday 2 November at 10 am at the Upper Pappinbarra shed (see pg 1 for details). A phone at the shed will be vital for contacting volunteers for crews in what is shaping up to be a bad fire season.

Steve Ostler Captain Pappinbarra Brigade

At the time of publication there is a TOTAL FIRE BAN

Call your fire permit officer to find out current fire permit availability

IN CASE OF FIRE – CALL 000

Fire Permit Officers: Upper Pappinbarra: Steve Ostler 6587-6090; Bob Ostler 6587-6180; Anthony Wall 6587-6127 or Andrew Jarrett 6587-6181; Hollisdale and Lower Pappinbarra: Peter Michael 65876022, Jim Adams 65874414, Chris Roelandts 65856700; Beechwood: Sam Elphick 0428-856-222.

Jim Ylias 1935 - 2014

We are sad to report that former Pappinbarra resident and Hollisdale Hall trustee, Jim Ylias, died early this month in Port Base Hospital at the age of 79. His immigrant Macedonian parents, Thomas and Dafina, came from a small village of 600 people called Krapessina, now Atraposa. Thomas left his homeland on the *Orana*, arriving in Wauchope in December 1927. He went sleeper-cutting and worked in Calos' café to get enough money to bring his wife and young son Chris to Australia early in 1933. Rita was born in 1933, Jim in 1935. Arthur 1937, Bill 1939, Katie 1942 and Mary 1943. Thomas bought George Hollis' farm at Pappinbarra in 1933.

With his siblings, Jim grew up on the property now known as *Oakvale*, helping milk the 40 cows and walking to school at Lyddington (just before the Lemon Gum Road turnoff). There he was educated with kids from the Blythe, Roach, Demiris, Ninnis and Ylias families, Lindsay Bird and Maurice Avery.

When Jim was young, he used to put forms in the back of his truck and take folk to *Rosemont* for dances. He drove the Bellangry milk truck for 20 months, did National Service at Ingleburn and completed a refresher course at Singleton. When he returned home in 1955, he purchased a bulldozer with his father and brother Arthur and they cleared land for neighbours for a couple of years. After working for his father for over 15

years, he purchased the dairy farm in 1961 and grew corn and pigs.

Jim became a Shire Councillor - the second youngest ever. Known and respected as a hard worker, he was a vital part of the community, owning two farms, the Star Hotel and an engineering business, James Machinery, in Wauchope's industrial area. The last was set up to give his sons 'a job'. Bennett's Steel now occupies the site.

A shack on what is now the Goldfinch-Rowley property was always available to accommodate visitors; he used to call it 'The Hilton'. He carted timber from the Yarras Mill to Sydney, including plywood used in the opera house.

When the hall was built onto Ellengrove School in 1965, Jim became a trustee together with Roy Blythe - a measure of the esteem in which he was held by the people of the lower end of Pappinbarra Valley.

Jim is survived by his wife Helen, their four sons, five grandsons and a great grandchild 'on the way'. PPA's condolences go to his family.

JH with thanks to Julie-Anne Murphy and Wauchope District Historical Society

People of the Valley heard with regret of the recent death of long-time resident, David Jones. Our sympathy goes to his partner Noelene, family and friends .

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massage*



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Kids spot - My trip to Laos

Last month my family and I, along with eight other friends, went on a holiday to Laos. In Luang Prabang we went on a floating library to visit a primary school and we learnt a song from the students about collecting snails when it rains and then cooking and eating them. On the way back from the school we were watching the Mekong River and on the banks of the river some people were holding nets to catch fish in. We also went to Kuang Si waterfall and saw some Asiatic black bears, which have a white 'v' shaped stripe on their chest. At a different waterfall called Tad Sae, we rode an elephant through the forest and my dad and his friends went on a zip line (a bit like a 'flying fox') through the rainforest. In Vientiane I went to my grandma Champa's shop and got my hair done up with extra fake hair wrapped around my real hair and a golden necklace wrapped around it, then finished off with a frangipani flower on top!



My sister, friends and I (left, looking down) having lunch at our guest house in Luang Prabang, Laos

Denny Michael (5 years old)

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2015

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Young Citizen of the Year - 16-30 years
Citizen of the Year - 31-65 years
Senior Citizen of the Year - 65 years +
Community Group of the Year

Nominations close 21 November 2014

Nominations must be made by an individual or organisation online at:
www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/australiadayawards

Australia Day
 PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS

In the vege patch

Now is the prime time to plant passionfruit. There are many varieties available including grafted Black Magic, Norfolk Black and Red and Gold Panama. The Panama varieties are best planted together to increase pollination and yield.



All require full sun and well-drained soil in a frost-free position. Add organic compost to prepare the soil and once the vines are established, feed with complete plant food.

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Plant of the month: White Cedar (*Melia azedarach* Meliaceae)

This is a common and widespread tree with a massive geographical range and an almost-as-large list of common names. In Australia, the tree is commonly traded as white cedar. Native to the region extending from Indochina, through the south-east Asian archipelagos to south-eastern Australia, it is however also known as chinaberry tree, Cape lilac, Persian lilac or even Indian lilac (although Persia/Iran and India are considered outside its range).



In Pappinbarra the tree is abundant, tending to prefer the intermittent minor creek-lines of the lower hill-slopes of the valley, the riverine flats and riparian forests, and often growing there in association with the river oak, *Casuarina cunninghamiana*.



White cedar is in that rare class of Australian tree that has been adopted

proudly as a valuable horticultural species; it has been widely planted in streets, parks and gardens all over the country. (Like many Australian native plants, it is recorded as weedy in some other countries).

It is a winter-deciduous tree like the red cedar, with deeply divided leaves and showy sprays of lilac to purple flowers. The fruit is a drupe (fleshy and single-seeded), with yellowish flesh. Although many local birds like currawongs and wompoo pigeons love

the fruit, it is quite poisonous to people and livestock when eaten in large amounts.

White cedars grow with a straight and upright trunk and broad, spreading crown, making the species ideal for driveway avenues, paddock trees or anywhere around the yard away from roofs and gutters where falling fruit won't foul rainwater. They typically grow to around 15-20m in height but much larger specimens have been recorded.

Peter Michael

All-sorts Fables: Friend or Foe?

A little monster turned up at my back door. It is quite a while since I have seen one here - very brazen, quite disinterested in my presence and in no hurry to get going. In front of me was a dingo - hunter, killer, top predator, *Canis lupus dingo*, closer to the wolf than the domestic dog. I marvelled at the apparent self-possession, the concern for scent on the wind, the careful gaze. I had to shoot it with something so I got my camera.



Looking at the photos, I realised how young she must be - possibly just six months old - and how very puppy-dog cute. In the photos she could be a pup out hunting with her mother - losing track of mum for a bit, so watching, listening and waiting.

I am told dingos may be the best way to keep down the numbers of feral cats which are driving many native birds and animals to extinction all across Australia.

Moral: Our worst enemy may be our new best friend.

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Farewell Peter Allison 1950 - 2014

Peter Maxwell Allison was born in Latrobe, Tasmania, the first-born of Joan and Max Allison. Max took up an offer to manage a potato-packaging business ('Praties') for Joan's Uncle George and the family moved to Sydney. Peter and his next brother Tony used to play in the tree house, the sandpit and an open storm-water canal at the bottom of the street. They spent many wonderful hours in the canal building dams and trying to catch eels, hanging out in the disused tram sheds of Eastlakes and in the bamboo thickets of the Australia Golf Course. Life was much simpler back then...

Peter finished Fifth Year the year before the first HSC exam. With his Leaving Certificate, he obtained an apprenticeship with QANTAS, training in all aspects of airframes and engines with an emphasis on quality and never a consideration of price over safety. Peter had a great respect for his engineering teachers, men who aspired to quality in aesthetics, construction and function. While there, he embarked on his first creation in metal: a beach buggy, a stripped and rebuilt old VW Beetle. It was certified for roadworthiness, registered and then, amazingly, sold! He wasn't interested in showing off in a racy little sports car. Ready to move on, he left QANTAS.

Peter's next occupation was an engineer at Praties, where he replaced ageing timber structures with more efficient designs fabricated in steel. He moved on to building houses in mud brick at McMasters Beach, then, anxious to build his own place and with his blue VW Kombi van loaded up, he headed north, eventually discovering serene Horseshoe Creek near Kyogle. He purchased 100 acres of marginal farmland and constructed the obligatory temporary shed out of galvanised iron and poles made from trees he had felled himself.

He had had enough of working with oil and grease, so he set about learning to farm. Before long, he realised he was no farmer and that farming was not conducive to clean hands anyway! Frustrated, he briefly considered carpentry but that was very dusty and he couldn't get the accuracy he wanted using the basic tools available.

In 1977, a blacksmith's anvil provided the inspiration for his next venture - Horseshoe Creek Forge. He constructed a two-level mud-brick and steel workshop where he lived and worked, forging and fabricating tools and utensils and cutting, welding or bending virtually anything that the local people brought him to fix. He took several commissions to make security gates, doors and window screens and from this came the notion of 'security with elegance' - his catchphrase for combining function with beauty.

Peter met Meg at a bush dance in Horseshoe Creek. She became his soul mate, confidante, artistic advisor, critic and

advocate, the foundation stone of his family and his lifetime partner. Yron B was born in 1984. For easier access to materials, Peter, Meg and Yron packed up and moved to Wauchope, where Peter constructed a workshop with 'just a plumb-bob and a water-level' - using ancient tools and techniques. The diagonal corners of the shed are square to within 5 mm and every machine in that workshop is the handcrafted creation of one man.

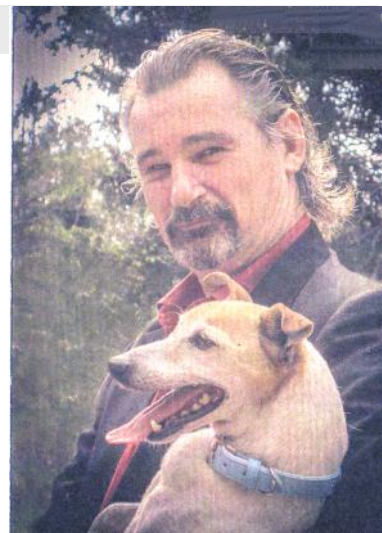
Peter's genius was his ability to use his extensive knowledge and analytical skills to resolve a problem in his mind, conceive the solution and then execute it with superb skill and quality. He began to take a stronger interest in the artistic elements of sculpting, building a triple sail motif in stainless steel for the White Sails building project in Port Macquarie, using his own technique for curving stainless steel using hydraulic pressure.

In Meg's NZ, Pete was introduced to organic farming and he became an enthusiast for worm farming and humate, building the fabulous bioreactor, embraced by India. He leaves behind many more inventions and art-works.

In a new challenge, Peter trod the boards in last year's production of *Bushed*, a locally written and produced play. Playing new chum Alan, a retired accountant living out his dream, he nailed the part to perfection.

Multi-talented, Peter impressed as a man of principle, integrity, and boundless curiosity, always willing to courageously face the next challenge. He devoted his energies to projects that he believed could make a difference; he embraced renewability and sustainability before they became buzzwords. He believed that all life is connected and that we humans are the product of a universal intelligence that exists in all living things and by which we, through our collective intention, affect the future for good or evil. He had no time for the shonks, the spin-doctors and the poseurs - what you saw was what you got. He was a real asset to the community and a great friend.

Peter is survived by Meg, their son, Yron, and Renee, young Flynn and baby Willow. He is sorely missed.



J & G Hegarty with thanks to Tony Allison

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Thoughts on Conservation

Two hundred years ago the well-heeled traveller could rent a hammer and chisel from an enterprising local to break off their own bits of the Parthenon to bring home with them. This commercial populism saved the antique world from being locked up in situ and allowed for its appreciation by a much wider community, or so it was said...

I am concerned by State Government proposals to open up National Parks in NSW to shooters. Our parks are havens to protect landscape, habitat and species diversity. Commercial populism is alive and well! On this, we are all answerable to posterity.

Consider the initiative to open up the Art Gallery of NSW as a shooting gallery. It should be widely applauded. New tracking will carry the paintings around the walls at a slow pace so that novice shooters will have plenty of opportunity to bag a painting of their choice. It is wonderful to see the valuable resources of NSW accessible at last for the people to actively enjoy. For too long the Art Gallery has been exclusively for the appreciation, protection and preservation of art with insufficient concern for 4WD access.

Dr Adrian Guthrie

Editor's Musings

"When you got live ones, you got dead ones", an old fencer doing up the stockyards said to me some years ago. I could have been mourning the sudden demise of a young ewe, found still warm in the morning with her orphan lamb cuddled against her; perhaps it was the old mare, down for just a day, but lifeless by the next noon; or it could have been a tiny fire-tailed finch, never to fly again after an encounter with a window pane...

Death is part of life, but we often deny and refuse to admit its inevitability - sooner or later. I was brought up in the tight-lipped Scottish tradition; children didn't go to funerals and the dead weren't spoken of. Though my life was by no means cocooned and sheltered, I didn't see a dead person until I went to a wake in Ireland in my fifties. By contrast, my Irish husband has a vivid memory of being picked up and held to give his confined grandfather a goodbye kiss.

A dear friend just lent me a gem - a little book of crystallised wisdom called *Dying to know: bringing death to life*, with 60 thoughts on the topic. Time doesn't heal all wounds; one gets used to the absence of a loved one, that's all. There's never a day goes past that I don't think of something I want to say to my father, and he's been dead for almost a decade... He was old and ill, he'd had a good innings. Death is even harder to deal with when it is sudden - when the person still had so much to offer.

Faced with the sudden and unexplained death of their son who was studying overseas, his desolate parents have kept his room as a memorial and will talk of him if asked. How totally bereft does a mother feel about her stillborn baby, whisked away for 'disposal'

many years ago, before she could hold the wee one and weep over her. *Dying to know* suggests that ears are a wonderful asset - just listen to those who are grieving. Or take them a meal, or some groceries; keep in touch.

The same dear friend once remarked that it was a privilege to sit by someone who was dying. We feel that those who pass on with loving family or friends at hand are lucky; so too are those who are there, perhaps just holding a hand; listening; telling stories of past exploits; singing; playing music or reading aloud.

Dying to know asks: *If you knew it was coming would you do anything differently - why wait?* It suggests clearing out the closet - talk to those who need to know about the skeletons! Record your memories for your family, perhaps even set up your own website. Write down your death wishes - who you want to look after you, end-of-life treatments or not, how you want to be buried. What about organ donation? Discuss it all with those who need to know. Plan your own funeral - venue, music, eulogist, what you want to wear.

The little book lists many ways of honouring those we loved. Someone I know plans to build a music hall in memory of his wife. It could be planting a tree, adopting an animal, stitching a quilt, donating to their favourite cause, funding a scholarship, writing a poem or song, lighting a candle...

JH with thanks to Pilotlight, publishers of *Dying to know* 2007.

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PPA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – the second last Friday of each month at 5:30pm. All welcome.

General Meetings – quarterly. Next general meeting TBA. All welcome.

Facilities for Hire

Hollisdale Hall – contact George Hegarty 6587 6077

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 28 November for the Dec/Jan issue. Material for the Dec/Jan issue to the Editor by Thursday 20 November. 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

Executive:

President: Jean Hegarty 6587-6077

Vice President: Mary Walker 6587-6055

Treasurer: Sue Frost 6587-6129

Secretary: Suzanne Pollett 0419 242 575

Other Committee Members:

Sharada Boyce

Suzanne Leigh

George Hegarty

Lisa McLeod

Todd Barnes

PPA Membership 2014-2015

\$5 per adult

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

