Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Progress Association

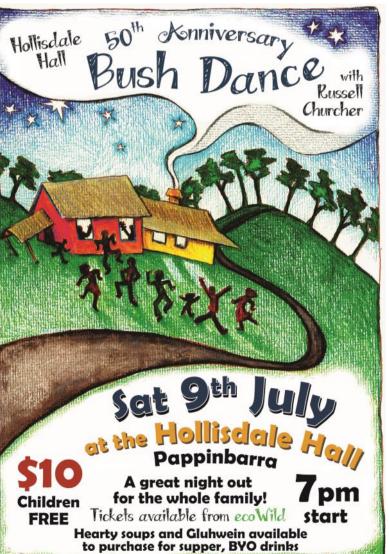
July 2016

Valley Happenings

PPA Annual General Meeting is on Friday 15 July - 7 pm at the hall. All committee positions are vacant; nomination forms will be available at First Friday (or via e-mail - from Jean on <u>jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au</u>) and must be lodged with Jean Hegarty on or before Friday 8 July. Annual subscriptions now due and payable at First Friday (\$5 pp). Please join and support PPA!

July First Friday get-together and barbecue is on 1 July from 6 pm at Hollisdale Hall, Pappinbarra Road. Come along and have a yarn! We will be farewelling Pam Wallis, who is moving into town. Vegetarian and gluten-free options included in a tasty low cost menu. Soft drinks available. BYOG.

Pappinbarra Community Market - Grown and Gathered is on Sunday 3 July. Come along from 9 am to mid-day and enjoy the experience! Stall enquiries to Lisa on 0418 220 138.



June FF saw Angela Frost win the raffle (she chose the *ecoWild*! voucher); the members' draw wasn't won so jumps to \$30 next First Friday. Cooks Rob and Debbie Williams did a great job on the barbecue with assistance from old hands Lisa and Liz. Many thanks to them and all who helped set up and clean up - your hard-working committee really appreciates a bit of help.

All Saints' Pappinbarra, our little historic church, welcomes all to the service on Sunday 24 July at 2 pm with a cuppa around 2.45 off the back of Murphys' ute.

Bring a plate to share.

Hollisdale RFB AGM 21 July 7.30 pm at the hall. All members are requested to attend. Training on Saturday 2 July 8-10 am. Meet at the hall in full uniform. Pappinbarra RFB members welcome.

50th Anniversary Bush Dance to celebrate Hollisdale Hall's 50th birthday on Saturday 9 July (**note date change**) at 7 pm. Music from Russell Churcher, back from out west for the occasion! \$10 per adult (children free). A hearty soup supper will be available.

Card and board games night is on Saturday 16 July, 6:30pm. Join us in the cosy hall for a relaxing evening. Adults only please. BYO drinks and a plate to share for dinner. Cost \$5.00 to play. Contact Mary 6587 6055 or Lisa 0418 220 138 to book in.

Felting Workshop 23 July at the hall. See poster page 7.

Grants: Your committee has been successful in gaining a grant of \$2,900 from our local Hastings Credit Union towards installation of solar panels on the hall.

Other news: The east coast low blew down a few trees, sent branches flying, and freshened up the river (and the bream fishing in Port!). The satin birds have reappeared in huge numbers and lyrebirds are calling in the gullies. We live in a great part of the world.

Meet the Neighbours Cheryl Willcocks and Allen Lance

C heryl was born in Casino in 1959. She, her younger brother and sister were raised on a dairy farm at Fairy Hill. When the milk moved from cans to vats, her father got out of dairying and took on raising beef cattle. Cheryl loved the outdoor life and was a tomboy, but didn't take a very active role in the farm.

There was a one-teacher school in Fairy Hill, then high school was in Casino. When Cheryl was 15 her father retired, the whole family moved to Port Macquarie and she finished her schooling at Port High. After doing a secretarial course at TAFE, she worked in a couple of jobs for a short time before taking up employment at Oxley Insurance Brokers (OIB) in 1977. Cheryl met her husband, Phillip, in 1977 and married in 1983. She continued to work at OIB until 1988 when they started their family, a son, Justin, (now 27 married to Caley with a daughter, Mackenzie, in Brisbane) and two daughters, Emily, now 25 (Brisbane) and Grace, now 20.

Cheryl and Phillip opened the BBQs Galore franchise in partnership with Phillip's parents and after five years sold their share. A few years later they opened a used car business in Port Macquarie. It was very successful, but when they expanded it got a bit too big and started to fail. After a struggle with depression, Phillip took his own life in 1999, leaving Cheryl with three young children and a failing business. She sold the business and returned to work in familiar surroundings at OIB where she remained until 2015.

Allen was born in Penrith in 1966 and has an older brother living in Queensland. After schooling in Penrith, and finishing the HSC in 1984, he started work as an underwriter at GIO Parramatta, and later at Zurich Insurance. He married and had two sons: Craig, now 24 and Brendan, now 21. In 1989, fed up with the daily city commute, the whole family moved to Port Macquarie. A few years later, both sets of parents followed, embracing the sea change.

After jobs in both retail and insurance, building a house and then a marriage break-up, Allen met Cheryl at OIB where they both were working. They became good friends but romance didn't blossom until 2006. Each had their own house in Port Macquarie.

Cheryl yearned to live in the country and started actively looking in 2011. She and daughter Grace saw the Potts' house from the road, arranged to see inside and made an offer the same day. They moved to their piece of paradise in our lovely valley in May 2012 and set about cleaning up outside, establishing a veggie



garden, planting trees, replacing the leaking water tank and generally reclaiming their land. Inside, the house was very comfortable and only needed a few new appliances. Grace completed her schooling at West Port High and, in 2015, made the big move to Sydney where she has really found her feet and is very happy.

Allen and Cheryl planned a big trip around Australia that year, so Allen put his house in Port Macquarie on the market, expecting it would take a little while to sell. It sold the next day! He suddenly had nowhere to live. What else could he do but move in with Cheryl in Pappinbarra?! After being together for nearly ten years, they were finally living together!

In July last year they set out in a four-wheel drive with a rooftop tent to go round Australia. Allen had fitted out the vehicle and everything was very organised - the only problem with a rooftop tent is that there is nowhere to escape the wind and the cold! They had a fantastic time, the weather was kind, they had no rain, and covered over 23,000 km, following the coast most of the way. On returning home in October they settled back into country life quite quickly. They plan a bit more shelter next time! Both Allen and Cheryl had resigned from OIB in June before the trip. Cheryl had actually retired. Allen found work with a new insurance brokerage in town, Port Macquarie's Insurance House 360, and finds the daily commute rather tiresome but coming home - bliss.

Cheryl busies herself in the garden, fighting an ongoing battle with the wildlife. The natives are winning at the moment, the latest casualties being a couple of citrus trees. The wallabies have had a ball! Allen is a 'fixer-upper' and can turn his hand to most things so they complement each other, have a sturdy chook yard, a well-fenced veggie patch, convivial neighbours and a peaceful and happy lifestyle.

Mary Walker



Critters of the month Mud wasps

A fter a period of beautiful warm weather, the skies opened. With wet washing, I resorted to the dryer. The door had been not quite closed and when opened, rained silver spiders!

Had the laundry been colonised? Not by the silver spiders, which weren't moving. The slit between the body of the dryer and its door had proved too inviting for a small pin-waisted wasp, now lingering beside the torn-apart earthy wreck of her nest.

As a child, I investigated the nests of 'mud-daubers', mostly large orange and black striped wasps, their cells



stacked with an assortment of perfectly preserved, motionless spiders. Broken open, a cell could reveal a white wasp larva and partly-consumed arachnids, or a pupa next to their empty skins. Sometimes I dislodged a nest, riddled with holes, and crushed it - dry red earth and wisps of spider.

My laundry wasp - possibly *Sceliphron laetum* - was of the same wasp family (Sphecidae), and, like her larger cousins, built

her nest cell by cell with mud carried in a ball between her jointed mandibles and forelegs. Provisioning each cell with just one spider, she deposited an egg next to it before sealing the opening with more mud. Undisturbed, a new generation would have emerged over several days, gone off to feed on nectar and mated, with the females returning to construct their nests of mud around my laundry...

Finding each silver spider - a female with an elongate 1 cm body and long slender legs - upside-down in the middle of her

inclined circular web amongst grass or other understorey vegetation, my wasp, like one trapped, set up vibrations on the edge of the web. Approached by the spider, the wasp turned predator, flying off to sting, paralyse and store her prey as food for her young. No mean feat when the wasp was herself only about 1 cm long!

Observers report that if a nest is damaged, the wasp seems unaware, and is totally incapable of repairing any damage - she just goes on to construct and provision the next cell. And this highly specialised predatory wasp species always preys on *Leucage granulata* - the silver orb spider.

Jean Hegarty

Don't forget our very own Pappinbarra-made **'Say NO to Plastic'** supermarket-ready cotton shopping bags will be selling at this month's **Grown and Gathered Market.** Come along and buy your very own!





Times past and present Hollisdale Hall Part 2

W hen Ellengrove School was in operation, toilet facilities were two 'long drops' - boys' and girls' - down the two back corners. At some stage after the hall was built onto the schoolroom, new toilets with septic tank were constructed by Pat Murray, Tom Campbell, Ron and Julie-Anne Murphy and others. Like the schoolroom, the hall was framed and floored in local hardwood. Lined with fibro sheets, it has an outside cladding of galvanised iron. The gal roof was unlined and if you sat on the benches round the walls, you got an icy blast down your back.



The first grant accessed by PPA was for construction of the picnic tables and covers ('gazebos'), the second for the toilet block materials, though much of these, and the labour, were donated. 'The bricks were made by a young chap who lived out behind Dick Williams.'

Pappinbarra Progress Association became incorporated (PPA Inc.) and took over administration of the hall from the trustees, Pat Murray and Jim Ylias, in the mid 1990s.

The schoolroom was converted to a kitchen with the installation of cupboards and benches provided by Kevin Hughson. An electric pump brought water from a new tank outside the windows. Most of the equipment has been donated by the community over the years, supplemented by judicious purchases at garage sales or from local op shops. When Jim and George Wills painted the gal walls of the hall, they copped a blast from people who thought they'd robbed the place of its character! Early this century, two blue quandongs were planted behind the hall to celebrate [something?] Cindy Blythe established the beautiful garden along the front. Further additions to the grounds were kicked off by Damien Privett's planting a tree in remembrance of his wife Kelly in 2013. Next, several trees were donated and planted by Trevor Smith, who, with the help of Lyn Blythe and others, nurtured them through the following drought years. A sandpit was put in by Bryony Anderson and her team, with shadesails funded by the Regional Cancer Council and erected by Jim McGahey in 2013. A new ride-on came our way through the Commonwealth Government's Volunteer Support Program and a whippersnipper and pressure washer will be purchased soon with funds from the same source. This year, moves are afoot, driven by Christine Nolan, to establish a permaculture garden around the hall.

While Ray Johnson was president, a Council grant provided for a ceiling of narrow boards, which Nat Ché treated with a lime wash 'to preserve them until they were painted'. Fluoro tubes were transferred from the rafters to the ceiling. Around this time the inside and outside of both buildings were repainted in 'Federation cream and green'. In 2007 the committee carried out repairs to the kitchen roof and had a bit of electrical work done.

In 2008, grants from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and PMHC went towards building the disabled toilet and storeroom and erecting the awning to provide shelter for outdoor functions. Power was installed there the following year with another Council grant.

In 2012, when Julie-Anne Murphy was president, FRRR gave funds to put a fence up 'to keep our children safe'. An enthusiastic and energetic team under the direction of Jim McGahey, constructed it, with a pedestrian gate and two gates for vehicles.

The stainless steel-topped island bench in the kitchen filled a need for more working space and additional storage. Having been allocated funds by Council, the committee had to decide who should build it and this had to be done on the toss of a coin, as both quotes were similar. The new committee had no idea how much one company had done for the hall in the past... oops! At the same time, the kitchen floor was sanded and finished professionally. The bench and floor were funded by the 2013 PMHC Community Grants Program.

In 2014 the gas heating in the hall, funded by NSW Government's Community Building Partnership Program (CBPP), made it a great place to be even in winter.

(Continued on page 5)



The small concrete area at the end of the hall was covered by an awning erected in 2008. The slab was extended in 2013 with grant funds from CBPP. A 2016 PMHC Non-Council Halls Grant will see the extension of the awning to provide additional shelter for the growing numbers at First Friday and other functions and to provide covered entry to the disabled toilet.

A PMHC Community Grant provided for replacement of the old plastic chairs with 100 beaut new comfortable ones in 2015.

Last year, Peter Wall did some maintenance work on our 'electricals', then our resident

electrician, Darren Rowley, installed floodlights outside the hall, replaced the leaking and dangerous interior fluoro lighting with LED downlights and set up a time-delay lighting system for use when locking up at night.

Council's Placemaking Grant program gave us \$10,234 last year for repainting the hall inside and out. Your committee decided to ask Gary Rainbow, who had consulted for the Comboyne people on re-decorating and reviving their War Memorial Hall to great effect, and who had also been the architect of the colour scheme used on All Saints' Church at Pappinbarra, to do a consult for the hall. A keen and dedicated team, all of whom think the scheme fantastic, have spent hours on the challenging job. A (very) few people have expressed less than satisfaction with the colours, but, as local artist Mark Durham explained, "Bright, new and exciting pigments were becoming available round the time of Federation and became very popular. The

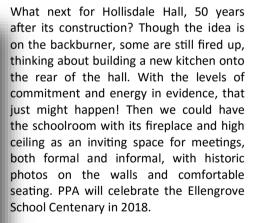
revived 'Federation colours' are really a pale imitation of the originals. The current colour scheme for the schoolroom and hall is much more appropriate." Inside, a dark colour makes the ceiling seem much higher, like the night sky, and renders the fans invisible. The grant funded sanding and re-finishing the floor carried as well out professionally by Galaxy Floors. A vacuum cleaner is to he purchased with Commonwealth Government Volunteer Grant funds. The Hastings Credit Union (HCU) has given us grant funds towards solar panels for the hall. The community is most grateful



for all grants received over the years.

Many people of the valley have expressed their appreciation of the work done by PPA committees past and present, saying, "The hall really looks loved and cared for". To do just that is one of PPA's *raisons d'être*; the other is to promote the sense of community in our valley and environs.

The many improvements to Hollisdale Hall (the hall, the schoolroom and the grounds) would never have happened without the energetic, committed and capable volunteer work of many community members over the past 50 years. Time, materials and expertise have been freely given. Ideas have been brought to fruition with funds from many sources. On behalf of the community, the present PPA committee sincerely thanks all involved in the story - it wouldn't have happened without you!



Jean Hegarty

Neville Parsons of Hastings Credit Union and PPA president, Lisa McLeod.



Frugal Forest Update

T he amazing Frugal Forest installation goes to Maitland on July 23. Bryony Anderson and Chay Khamsone, inspired drivers of the project, were in Sydney recently - 'small town hicks' Frugal Arts Inc. were finalists in the NSW Creative Achievement Awards, held at the Museum of Contemporary Art during Sydney's Vivid Festival. Congratulations to all involved in what we like to think of as a homegrown creation; many of the volunteers are Pappinbarra people. Their inspiring endeavour puts them up there with 'the best of the creative industries in NSW'.

In the veggie patch

W hat a great time of the year with all the rain about and the mild winter. Rhubarb crowns, asparagus crowns, potatoes and mushroom kits (for the fungi lovers) are ready to plant now.

Giant Victoria rhubarb is an easy to grow heirloom variety, producing fat red stems that are not stringy and have a good flavour. It prefers rich well drained soil, growing year round.

Nothing beats home grown asparagus. It's easy and sometimes lasts up to 20 years in full sun and kept moist and well fed. After the first frost in winter or when the foliage browns off, cut off the old tops about 7.5 cm from the soil surface. Try to keep the berries from falling on the ground, as the seeds will germinate and choke the bed. Apply a generous dressing of

PPA President's Note

J une has been such a busy month for all in the valley and surrounding areas, with burning off and preparation for the winter months ahead. Please ensure that your chimneys are clean and that you are safe with your home fires this season.

I felt very privileged to be involved in the 'Say no to plastics' sewing bee at the hall on 4 June. It was truly an unforgettable experience to be a part of such a wonderful day with many

compost and well-rotted manure to feed the spring flush of growth, then top with a thick hay mulch of hay.

Potatoes available at your garden centre include Sebago, Dutch Cream, Desiree, Nicola and Pontiac.

If you're short on space, why not grow your herbs in a vertical garden - many makes and models out there; some practical ones are made of a felt like material.

Happy Gardening from the team at Greenbourne.

people in our community. Thank you for the great company and the feeling that we were really making a difference.

Quote: Your living is determined not so much by what life brings to you as by the attitude you bring to life; not so much by what happens to you as by the way your mind looks at what happens.

Lisa McLeod





Rural Fire Brigade News

I t is still very quiet on the fire scene for us understandable for this time of the year. The only burning is hazard reduction.

The pre incident plan which was supposed to be in this issue is on hold for the moment with a community meeting to be organised with a district officer from headquarters before the fire season. Watch this space for more information. All members are requested to attend our AGM on 21 July at 7.30 pm in Hollisdale hall.

Chris Roelandts (Hollisdale captain)

Permits are no longer required for burning off. However, you still need to give your neighbours and fire control (6588 9000) at least 24 hours notice. IN CASE OF FIRE – CALL 000

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

BEGINNERS FELT MAKING

with Chris Pearce

Master felt-maker Chris Pearce will show you each stage of the felt-making process and you will make your own iPad/Kindle case or a small shoulder bag with hand-dyed Australian wool. All equipment is supplied and you can choose from a large selection of colours on the day.

July 23 at Hollisdale Hall 9 am to 4 pm

Cost \$70 includes all materials and morning tea. BYO lunch.

Bookings call Sue Frost 6587 6129 or email info@vasnasdesigns.com.au



Pitchfork Classifieds

Advertise in the Classifieds First month free for PPA members!

For Sale

Upright Kelvinator freezer. Good working order. \$100. 6587 6055

Free

Metal futon sofa-bed with futon mattress. 6587 6035.

For Sale

Hand-made cotton shopping bags made by PPA members will be available at the Markets on July 3. The bags are designed in consultation with the IGA so they are perfect for the bag frames at the supermarket. 100% cotton and washable, strong and very cool! Only \$4 per bag or 5 for \$15.

Contributions to *Pitchfork* welcome. Email to the editor by Thursday 21 July. Copy may be edited for reasons of space or clarity. The views expressed in *Pitchfork* are not necessarily those of the PPA.

PPA Matters

<u>PPA Committee meetings</u> – AGM Friday 15 July. 7 pm at the Hall. All welcome. <u>Facilities for Hire</u>

Hollisdale Hall - booking essential. New charges in operation to better cover costs.

Contact George Hegarty 6587 6077.

Upper Pappinbarra facilities and tennis court - contact Lisa McLeod 0418 220 138 or Robyn Flanagan 6587 6011

Circulation

Pitchfork

Pitchfork has hardcopy circulation of 300 plus email of over 100. It comes out on the weekend before First Friday -Friday 29 July for the August issue. Material for the August issue to the Editor by Thursday 21 July please. We run both casual and regular advertisements at very competitive rates. If your business would like a one-off A4 advertising insert in *Pitchfork*, provide us with 300 copies and we will distribute for \$30. All advertising contact Liz Gough 0473 170 761. Deadline is 28 July for the August issue.

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PPA Membership 2016-2017

\$5 per adult

PLEASE PRINT

Member Names:	
Address:	
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Payment amount:	

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