



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association

President's Report

Easter greetings to all. If you are venturing onto the highways, safe travels.

The PPA Special General Meeting came to a conclusion after over two hours of deliberations, with the motion carried unanimously that a General Meeting be held every quarter and that members must follow the regular process for input to decision making so that the current democratically-elected committee can get on with its job. During the evening, the tabled financial statement from 1 July 2012 to 14 March 2013 and the tabled budget for the current financial year were overwhelmingly endorsed. Many thanks to Kelly Miller for so ably chairing the meeting for us.

For the most part, those who attended indicated they were quite comfortable with what is happening in PPA, and support the 'looking to the future' approach of your committee. Thank you to those who told us so; it is nice to be appreciated.

At the same time, your committee acknowledges that there have been shortfalls in communication with members; these were aired and will be addressed. The plans for the proposed (some time in the future) kitchen extension are included in this issue. They will also be on display at FF when Trish Crick, who drew them up, will be there to answer your questions - come along, have your say, meet your neighbours and enjoy a barbecue.

Some people of the valley have been losing chickens. At *Slieve Mor*, we have lost five of our ten guinea chicks to diamond pythons. These beautiful harmless (to us!) snakes have an immense gape even when relatively small and can swallow a 10-week-old chick with ease, to digest over the next week or so. This certainly reinforces the need to have all-predators-proof overnight enclosures for free-ranging poultry. If you have solved this problem we would love to hear from you!

Jean Hegarty

Easter Gathering

We have not organised an Easter gathering this year. Last year's event was not well attended and few entered the Hat Parade. However, the main problem this year has been the pressure on committee members' time. When event planning starts after the AGM, your Committee will be considering whether to hold an Easter event next year. Please let us know if YOU would like to see this event continue. Local school age children already have an Easter Hat Parade at school. Should we include a PPA Easter Hat Parade and/or children's egg hunt? We would appreciate some feedback. **PPA Committee**

Special and Forthcoming Events

Pappinbarra Trivia Night— Saturday 18 May. See poster (left) for details.

A night of Bush and Old Time dancing with Russell Churcher – **Saturday, 29 June** – mark it in your calendars and watch this space for details.

First Friday get together

Come along to the First Friday get together at Hollisdale Hall on the 5th of April. Enjoy a BBQ dinner being cooked up this month by Jan Childs and Mary Walker. Meet some new friends and catch up with some old. BYO drinks.

Pitchfork Choir

I have my voice back and can't stop singing! So I'm very excited about starting our regular singing session again on the 2nd Saturday of each month in the Hollisdale hall. I'll call this singing group *The Pitchfork Choir*. It is open to anyone who would like to do group singing. You don't need to have a fantastic voice. It's all about having fun and being willing to learn about singing in harmony. The next session will be on **Saturday, 13 April from 10 am to 12 noon**. Bring a plate to share for lunch if you can stay a little longer. Cost is \$10.00 per session and half of that is donated to the PPA. I hope to see many Pappinbarrians and visitors to our lovely valley there.

Elly Franchimont

KNOW IT ALL?
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PAPPINBARRA
Trivia Night
18 MAY 2013

AT THE *Hollisdale Hall*

Buy your tickets at the Beechwood Store
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Great Prizes! \$10 per head
Tables of 6 7pm

Come with your friends or form a table on the night
Bring gold coins for games. BYO drinks and nibbles.

Presented by the Pappinbarra Progress Association

Meet the Neighbours — Damian and Kelly Privett

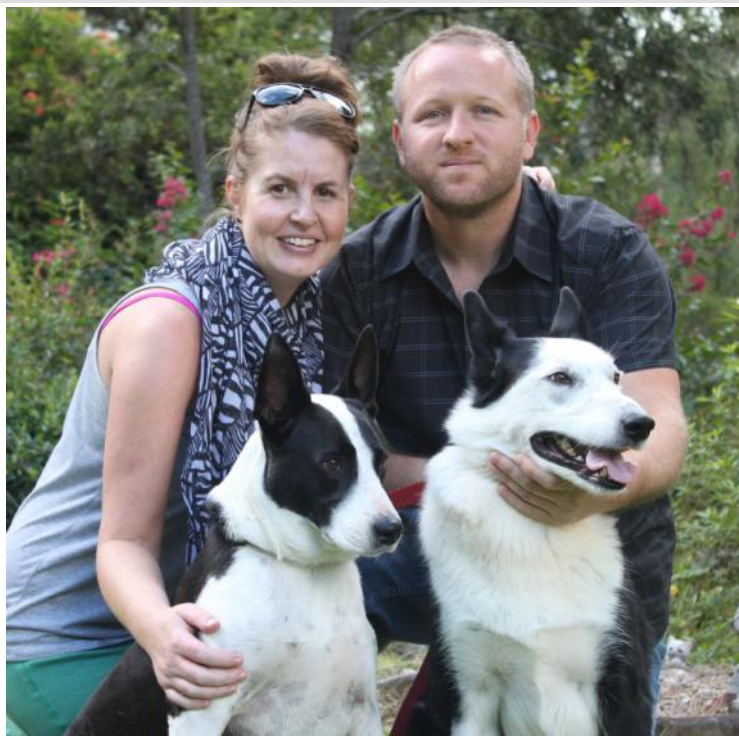
Damian and Kelly met 9 years ago in an Irish pub in Sydney. They eventually moved in together before travelling overseas, visiting Europe, U.K and Croatia. They returned to Australia via Thailand which they love, where much of their time was spent drinking and having massages. Damian proposed to Kelly in their motel swimming pool while drinking a few Bacardi Breezers... she said "YES"!!! They continued to travel back to Thailand several times and also visited Japan to visit Kelly's host family, whom she lived with for 12 months as an exchange student.

Damian was born in Canterbury Hospital in Sydney, with one blue and one white eye with no choice

but to follow in his grandfather's footsteps and support the Canterbury Bulldogs. He has worked in various trades including motor mechanic, funeral director, scaffolding, industrial maintenance and in the building trade.

Kelly was born in Wollongong, grew up in Oberon, and lived in various places, at one stage living on the grounds of Government House in Tassie. Kelly worked with disabled adults for a number of years and has many happy memories of this time, before making a career change after marrying Damian.

They married at Shoal Bay in 2006 (with Kelly's Japanese host mum as a special guest), and lived and worked in Sydney. Kelly worked in a mental health practice as receptionist/practice



Kelly and Damian with Taya and Neddy

manager and Damian was busy working as a supplies coordinator at St. Vincent's Hospital whilst also finishing renovating their home.

In 2010 Damian and Kelly decided it was time to make a change to a more peaceful life style. They wanted to be part of a caring community where they could participate and make a difference. Eventually they found the Pappinbarra Valley. Fate and good luck led them to meet John and Margie Davison before they had bought their property and it became instantly clear to both of them that they had found their new home, now proudly called "Privett

Paradise".

They have fantastic neighbours in Merv, Pam and Lucky Wallis and Scott Lindsay and have made many good friends in the valley. They have both joined the R.F.S.

When not cooling off in the pristine waters of Pappinbarra River (creek), they are working hard on Privett Paradise, a work in progress. They have plans of becoming more self-sufficient in the years to come. Their two beautiful dogs Taya and Neddy and Miss Muff a rather ancient cat make Privett Paradise a happy home to live in!

Mary Walker

Biological Control Workshop - Control of Giant Parramatta Grass (GPG)

There was a great turn up to the Biological Control Workshop held at Beechwood Hall on 14 March 2013. The Crown Rot Fungus (*Nigrospora oryzae*) has shown great promise in controlling GPG infestations. The fungus is not a cure-all and needs to be integrated into existing weed control strategies. Field studies have shown the fungus to cause a 75% reduction in infestations over an 18-month period in controlled areas. Crown rot diseased plants are available through Grant Taylor, Council's Weed Control Officer.

George Hegarty

FURTHER INFORMATION Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (Noxious Weeds Officer or Municipal Ecologist) 6581 8111.

Lapsing of Existing Holding Provisions

At a meeting held on 20 February 2013, Council decided to extend the sunset clause affecting the existing holding provisions by a further two years i.e. until 23 February 2015. If you feel that you may have a dwelling entitlement under these provisions in respect of land that does not meet the relevant minimum lot size requirement you should act quickly to fully protect your interests.

George Hegarty

POA Members

In recognition of the generosity of POA members in donating half of their remaining funds to PPA they have free membership of PPA to the end of the financial year. That brings our membership to 99. Bring on our 100th member!!!!

Upper Pappinbarra Recreation Ground Bookings

The Council-owned tennis court and other facilities are available for hire – non-profit \$5 per hour and commercial \$10 per hour. For bookings please contact Damian Privett 6587-6185 or Sue Frost 6587-6129.

Rural Fire Service Update

Please be advised that as of **midnight 28 February, 2013** the statutory bush fire danger period ceased. No permits are required until the bush fire danger period starts again on 1 October, 2013 or otherwise advised. You must still notify any adjoining neighbours (including those separated by a road, lane or waterway) at least 24 hours before burning. Your neighbours may be exposed to the smoke from your burn and may need to make preparations to avoid any negative impacts (e.g. medical conditions or impacts on sensitive crops, livestock and pets). **If you do not provide notification, your neighbours may call EMERGENCY 000 to report your fire and the Local Fire Authority may take action.**

Congratulations to Kelly Benson and Todd Barnes on completing their Basics training and becoming certified to fight fires.

Damian Privett

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

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.

Frog Survey Update

Our summer frog survey produced an amazing list of 17 species and with a few more likely to turn up, it's official – we live in a frog paradise. Many of the species are very common and seem to be thriving in gardens and around dams and roadside ditches as well as in the more natural habitats. However, a few are found only in specific natural habitats - e.g. The Green-leaf Tree Frog seems to be restricted to streamside sedges under forest; the Giant Barred Frog to the forested sections of the Pappinbarra River. These may need a bit of special care if they are to survive into the future. Two of the species are of special interest for conservation – the Giant Barred Frog is officially Endangered; and the Green-thighed Frog is Vulnerable. Over the next year we will focus on finding out as much as we can about local populations of these species.

Group members have been taking lots of photos and making recordings of frog calls, and we are now working to make these available through the Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group (PLCG) website which should be up and running soon.

List to Date

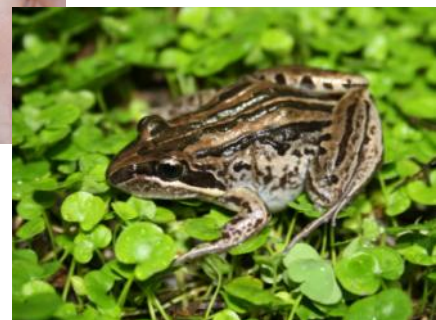
Adelotus brevis – Tusked Frog
Crinia signifera – Common Eastern Froglet
Limnodynastes peronii – Striped Marsh Frog
Litoria brevipalmata Green-thighed Tree Frog
Litoria chloris – Red-eyed Tree Frog
Litoria caerulea – Green Tree Frog
Litoria dentata – Bleating Tree Frog
Litoria fallax – Sedge Frog
Litoria gracilentata – Dainty Green Tree Frog
Litoria latopalmata – Broad-palmed Frog
Litoria peronii – Emerald-spotted Tree Frog
Litoria phyllochroa – Leaf-green Tree Frog
Litoria wilcoxii – Stony Creek Frog
Mixophys fasciolatus – Great Barred Frog
Mixophys iteratus – Giant Barred Frog
Pseudophryne bibroni – Brown Toadlet
Uperoleia laevigata – Smooth Toadlet



The Tusked Frog has a beautiful marbled belly and the male has little 'tusks' inside the mouth.



The Striped Marsh Frog is the one that goes 'toc' in the boggy places around your house.



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Bird of the Month – Spotted Pardalote



Common name: Spotted Pardalote

Scientific name: *Pardalotus punctatus*

Other names: Diamond-bird, Ground Diamond.

Size: 8 – 9.5 cm, amongst the smallest of Australian Birds.

Status: Secure

Spotted Pardalotes are small, very colourful birds. The male has a black crown and wings with rows of white spots and a white brow. The underside is buff with a bright yellow patch at the throat and under the tail. The upper tail is chestnut graduating to a bright red patch, then the black tip. The female differs from the male as it has yellow spots on the crown and no yellow throat patch. Their voice is distinct and clear carrying, surprising given its small size - a 3 note sequence, peep (low) – peep peep (high) repeated sometimes over very long periods.



They are found along most of Eastern Australia and Southern Australia from Cooktown, Far North Queensland to Perth, Western Australia wherever there are Eucalypts available for feeding. During the breeding season they form solitary pairs, however during Autumn-Winter they can form small nomadic feeding groups. They forage amongst the crown of Eucalypts for insects, especially Psyllids and their associated Lerps. These birds could be considered important control of these sap-sucking insects.

Breeding occurs from June to January with possibly two clutches being raised during

this period. A hole is excavated in a bank or sloping ground and a bark-lined nest chamber is constructed about 50 cm from the entrance. Three or four eggs are laid and the young leave the nest after about 40 days. All nesting duties are shared by both parents. It is during this nesting period that the birds are most easily observed as they are quite bold in returning to the nest despite your nearby presence. At other times they are in the upper foliage of the Eucalypts and difficult to spot.

For further information or questions related to this or other species contact can be made through this email address peter_fac@yahoo.com.au.

Peter Fackender

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Plant of the Month - What's a Weed?

On arrival in the Pappinbarra Valley from Canberra after a lifetime of teaching (that seemed at least three lifetimes), I really wanted not only to farm but also to conserve the plant and animal communities on our large holding. Somehow, although the cattle, sheep and poultry were promptly installed, I was labelled a 'greenie'. I still wonder what emanated from me to enable the casual observer to come to that conclusion...

Fourteen years later, I've learnt a lot. I've learnt that volunteer wattles are mainly weeds, especially along fence lines. I've learnt that those beautiful satin bower birds are absolute pests. I've learnt that diamond pythons are very efficient rodent and chicken killers. I've learnt that the goannas - here millenia before us - are sudden death for eggs. I've learnt that weed growth is explosive and pervasive in this climate and weed control could be a full-time job.

What is a weed anyway? Many years ago, when I was doing a Dip Ed, it was a given that "success and failure mean different things to different people". Weeds are a bit like success



and failure - one person's weed can be another's valued plant.

Bill Peel, PMHC ecologist, visited our property last year for an ecological assessment. I expected approval for the riparian zone fencing and the ongoing privet and lantana removal program. Instead, I was enlightened about the weediness of some of the plants lurking in the garden just waiting an opportunity, according to Bill, to spread out into the surrounding bush just like the lantana and privet before them. They were species that were in the garden when we arrived and I thought were inoffensive and even quite pretty: Walking Iris, NZ Christmas Bell (*Alstromeria*), *Ruellia* (an attractive ground cover with purple flowers), Madeira Vine (well, I did know about that one already but he spotted it in yet another location.)

So the catch-all definition of a weed - a plant growing in the wrong place - suddenly becomes far more meaningful here. If any of these 'weeds' escape into the bush they will surely spread. Is it a worry? Yes - and I am working hard to eliminate the offenders from the garden. If it means I am a greenie I can live with that.

Jean Hegarty

Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group

The Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group (PLCG) formed about thirteen months ago with a vision to support 'A resilient, healthy and productive landscape in the Pappinbarra Valley'.

So far the group has organised two community workshops, one on soils and the weeds of the valley and another on responsible fire use. Both workshops were facilitated by experts in their fields, a soil scientist, a weed ecologist, a fire ecologist and the Rural Fire Service (who also brought their trucks!). We are very grateful for their voluntary input and expert advice. All Pappinbarra residents were welcome to attend, and approximately 30 people came to each workshop. We are soon to have a third community workshop (26 March) on Carbon Farming. This will be facilitated by the Catchment Management Authority and Hastings Landcare.

Keen to get our hands dirty, we have begun phase two - on-ground works. Forming a group of 12 landholders on 6 properties we sought advice from Port Macquarie-Hastings Council and Wauchope Landcare. Thor Asso the Natural Resource Officer, Bill Peel the Council Ecologist and Daintry

Gerrand the Landcare Officer have been extremely supportive. They visited each property to identify the priority weeds and helped us to develop strategies to deal with them. We now have bi-monthly working bees during which time we gather at a member property and spend Sunday weeding. We have found this intensive support to be instrumental in 'breaking the back' of otherwise overwhelming weed issues. Additionally, it is a great opportunity to enjoy the company of our valley neighbours, and share stories and recipes over a delicious potluck lunch.

We have found that approximately 6 properties is a good number for on-ground works as it provides enough people for an intensive working bee and the follow-up visits to each property are timely. If you are interested in being a part of such an initiative we would be happy to help you organise a group. If you wish to become a member of the Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group please contact me by email bigmarksmail@yahoo.com or phone 6587-6033.

Kelly Miller

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TIME: 10.30am to 1.30pm
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Valley Pollinators—Stingless Native Bees

Amazingly, there are over 1500 Australian native bees. Most are solitary but there are also at least 10 stingless social species in two genera *Tetragonula* (previously *Trigona*) and *Austroplebeia*. Stingless native bees are important pollinators of Australia's unique wildflowers and can also be good crop pollinators. In the wild they build their nests predominantly in tree hollows, walling off their living space with a thick layer of hard cerumen. This substance is also used to construct the irregularly shaped pots in which they hoard their honey and pollen. This makes their honey, which tastes quite different from European bee honey and has a wonderful citrus after-taste, quite difficult to harvest. It is also produced in much smaller quantities than European bee honey, and can only be harvested in warm areas of Australia (such as NSW) where the bees produce a surplus, otherwise the nest can be destroyed. Stingless beekeeping is becoming increasingly popular and there's lots of information about it on the web, including at Aussie Bee <http://www.aussiebee.com.au/index.html>. Experienced native bee keepers can transfer hives from tree hollows to nest boxes, while boxed nests of local species can be purchased from bee keepers and mailed to your home! These tiny, fascinating, hard-working creatures are a great asset in any garden.



Tetragonula carbonaria

Bev Sibthorpe

Relevant notices forwarded to us by Council that are not included in *Pitchfork* will be regularly put on the noticeboard on the Hall verandah.

In the Veggie Patch

Now is a good time to sow Coriander, Radish, Leek and Broad Bean seeds. Garlic corms are now available and ready to plant - a good variety is Austral. Winter vegies now available as seedlings include Snowpeas, Kale and Brussel Sprouts. For those wanting to try something different - purple Cauliflower and Broccoli, red leaf Spinach and yellow Cauliflower.
Happy Gardening



Alison Robinson

Hastings Farmers' Market

What a lovely performance from the combined Bella Bago and Out of the Shower choirs at the March market! As always, the Market will be on rain, hail or shine on the fourth Saturday of the month – **Saturday, April 27, from 8am till 12 noon**. A range of fresh produce, great coffee, home baked goods, soap, seedlings, cut flowers and more. Come along and support your local producers, catch up with friends and enjoy the local atmosphere.

Elly Franchimont

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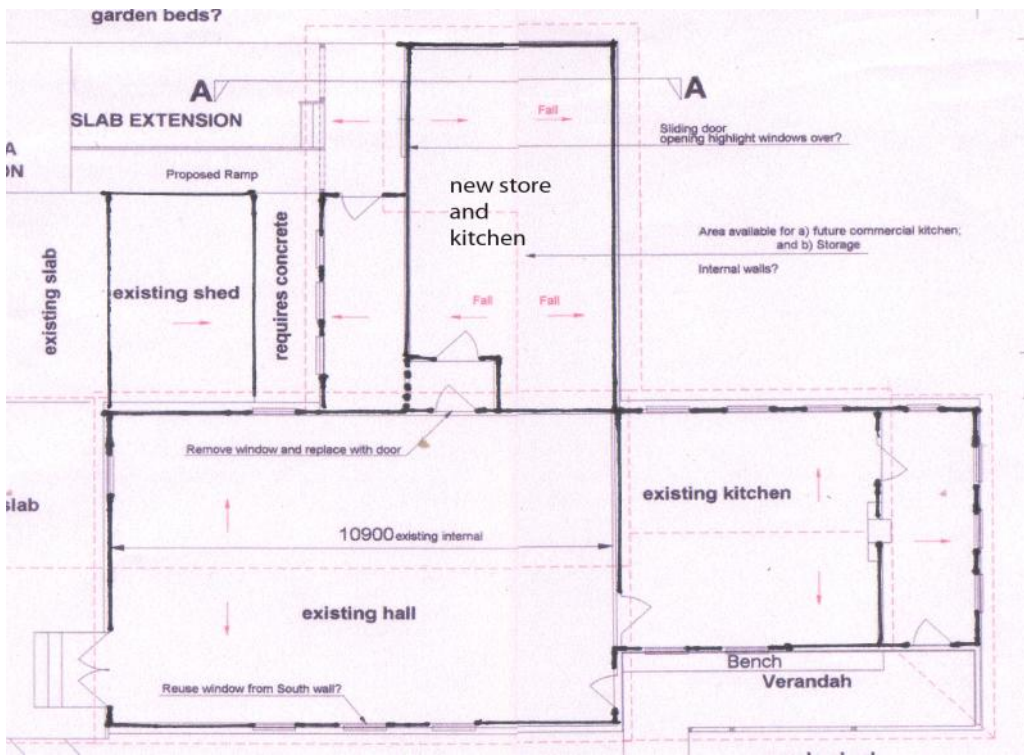
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Proposed New Kitchen



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Here are the plans for the proposed new kitchen. Trish Crick will be at First Friday to answer questions, and again at the July General Meeting after the AGM.

Has anybody got photos of the kitchen when it was a school house? Or of the Hall being built? Please send them to Jean Hegarty jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au. We plan to put some photos in the Hall to remind ourselves of its history.

KidSpot

"Orrk!" (G'day). I'm a Giant Barred Frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*) from Mortons Creek. I know my species occurs in your catchment too so I'm leaping into your newsletter because I'm Endangered. I occur mainly on private land and I'm relying on people such as your good selves to care for me and my habitat.

My lifestyle is rather orrk-ward in this modern age. Back in the days before anyone ever imagined clearing the fertile lowlands and grazing cattle, my ancestors camped in the forest leaf litter and "orkk"-ed through the nights. While in amplexus in the creek with my Dad, Mum used her powerful hind legs to fling my siblings and I up on to a moist ledge on the creek bank. Now that must've been orrk-ward! Fortunately there was shade and moist leaf litter on the bank where we lay as vulnerable little fertilised eggs. Mum orrk-estrated it well so that when the rain came we were washed into the creek and some of us developed into giant

tadpoles. I've been through some dramatic changes along life's journey. I had to rely on the water quality being pretty good for the best part of a year I spent as a tadpole. Not too many of us make it long enough to emerge from the water, but the end of my tail was not the end of my tale. You can imagine just how excited my humans were on the orrk-asion they found me, as a juvenile frog (4cm long), on their creek bank. They're still "orkk"-ing about me. They've seen and heard adults before but I'm the first evidence they've had that my species is breeding successfully on this land, where the forest has been regenerated and the cattle kept out of the waterways since last century. They're very proud I'm here and think, barring an orrk-cident, I might grow to be a Giant of more than 11cm! They're orrk-ay!

Cathy Eggert



A young Giant Barred Frog from Pappinbarra River still with the remnants of its tadpole tail.

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Regular Events

First Friday

When: First Friday of the month, 6pm onwards

Where: Hollisdale Hall

What: BYO drinks and nibbles, low cost BBQ including vegetarian option, members' draw (cash prize) and raffle, table tennis, all ages welcome

Contact: Jean Hegarty 6587-6077

Yoga

When: Every Saturday morning, 8-9.30AM

Where: Hollisdale Hall

What: \$15 (mats are provided)

Contact: Amy Hubers stillpointyogamassage@gmail.com 6585-3470

Pitchfork Choir

When: Second Saturday of every month, 10am -12md

Where: Hollisdale Hall

What: \$10 (\$5 of which goes to the PPA); bring something delicious to share for lunch if the urge takes you

Contact: Elly Franchimont 6587-6097 or 0424 220 937

www.vocalpointevents.com

Exercise

When: Tuesday afternoons 1:30—2:30pm

Where: Hollisdale Hall

What: Equipment provided

Contact: Lyn Blythe 6587-6185 or Beverly Kilpatrick 6587-6112

PPA Matters

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

General Meetings – quarterly. Next meeting after the AGM in early July. All welcome

Facilities for Hire

Hollisdale Hall – contact Jan Childs 6587-6055

Upper Pappinbarra facilities and tennis court - contact Sue Frost 6587-6129

Classifieds

Got something to sell? Want to buy something? Why not advertise here? Contact Chay 6587-6022.

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.



Pitchfork

Circulation

Pitchfork has hardcopy and email circulation of approximately 280. It comes out on the weekend **before** First Friday – **Friday, 26 April** for the **May** Issue. Material for the **May** Issue to the Editor by **Wednesday, 17 April**. We run both casual and regular **advertisements** at very competitive rates. Contact Chay Khamson.

Production Team

PPA Executive: Jan Childs janmary1301@bigpond.com 6587-6055

Editor: Bev Sibthorpe bsibthorpe@bigpond.com 6584-0051 or 6587-6075

Production: Angela Frost angfrost@hotmail.com

Advertising: Chay Khamson kwanchay@hotmail.com 6587-6022

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: Jan Childs 6587-6055

Secretary: Elly Franchimont 6587-6097

Other Members:

Kelly Benson Chay Khamson

Lyn Blythe Bev Sibthorpe

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PPA Membership 2012-2013

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