



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News
Pappinbarra Progress Association

August 2015

Valley Happenings

Pappinbarra Progress Association Inc.'s AGM saw Lisa McLeod elected unopposed as president with an enthusiastic committee to continue the great work of stewardship of Hollisdale Hall and promotion of community activities in the valley.

August First Friday get-together and barbecue is on 7 August from 6 pm at Hollisdale Hall, Pappinbarra Road. Come along, be made welcome, talk round the fires and meet your neighbours! Vegetarian and gluten-free options included in a tasty low cost menu. Soft drinks available. BYOG.

July First Friday saw Ron Murphy win the members' draw. We had a monster raffle and several folk went home very happy. Thanks to Lisa McLeod and Belinda, Jessica and Emily Barnes for a great job on the barbecue. To all who were there for the set up and clean up - thank you - your help is really appreciated.

Bushed the movie (on flash drive) for sale \$15 at First Friday and *ecoWild!*

All Saints' Pappinbarra, our little historic church,

welcomes all to the service on Sunday 23 August at 11:30 am with a cuppa around 2.45 'off the back of the ute'.

Hollisdale RFB AGM 3 August 7.30 pm. Training on Saturday 1 August 8-10 am. Meet at the hall in full uniform.

Hollisdale Hall, owned by the community, is available for community use - there is a new sliding scale of fees to cover cost of gas and electricity plus a \$200 bond for 18th and 21st birthday parties. Book with Bryan Gough on 0473 170 761.

Move over Mrs Markham will be performed by Pappinbarra Players in September at Beechwood. Details next *Pitchfork*.

Photographers, please start clicking for the **2016 Pappinbarra Valley calendar**. Sharada Boyce will be organising this for sale at December First Friday.

Working bee at the hall on Sunday 2 August at 10 am.

2015/16 PPA memberships now due.

Congratulations to the new PPA Committee for 2015-16!



Back row: Brian Gough, Todd Barnes, Mary Walker, Lisa McLeod, Jean Hegarty, Sue Frost
Front row: Elizabeth Gough, Kelly Gould, Wil Mrowka, Nat Mrowka, Suzanne Pollett
Absent: Gary Rainbow

Meet the neighbours:

Nat & Will Mrowka

Nat was born at the Wauchope hospital in 1976. Her parents were both Pastors in the Pentecostal Church so her upbringing was very sheltered and strict. She attended the Heritage Christian School for her primary school years and then her parents moved to Murwillumbah to start up a Christian Outreach Centre. Her senior school years were spent at Murwillumbah until Year 12 when her parents returned to Port Macquarie to take over the Coastside Church. Her father had a falling out with the church when Nat was 21; this was extremely stressful for the whole family.

Nat married aged 20 (much too young, she says!) She had three children, started the upmarket *Waterman's Café* in 1999 and, first in Cameron Street then in Bain Park, built up a very successful business until 2010. Nat sold, parted company with her husband and discovered the world. In 2008 she got her private pilot's licence and became one of only two female jump pilots in NSW; she flew a plane full of skydivers with a baby in the back seat and only ran out of fuel once! Nat also did her Certificate 4 in Fitness and Yoga during this time.

Will was born in Sydney in 1980 and moved to Laurieton aged three when his parents separated. He attended Laurieton Primary School and St Paul's in Port Macquarie for high school. He joined the Army aged 17 and lasted eight months; then Port Macquarie RSL took him on as an apprentice chef for three years. When the club was taken over, he took up an apprenticeship with Port Macquarie council as an Electrical Fitter and did a further trade as an Electrical Mechanic, working in this field until 2012. He obtained his private pilot's licence as well, enjoys flying ultralights and plans to take up aerobatics very soon.

Nat and Will got together in 2011; Will came to Nat's birthday bearing a bottle of wine and an axe (Nat has a history of breaking axes) and he never went home; she decided he was a 'keeper'. They started *The Living Room* together in 2012, turning a grotty



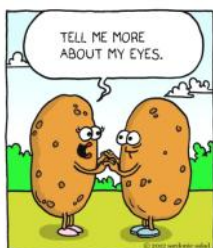
tractor spares and repairs shop into a welcoming casual eating space serving delicious healthy homemade food. (*No we don't have wi-fi. Talk to each other!*) They have just sold the business. Nat is enjoying a brief retirement before taking up full time study in Naturopathy. Will works at *Near River* and is known as 'Chief Vegetable Dude'.

Nat and Will started life together with Nat's three children, Flynn 14, Lucas 12 and Luella 8, in Kew, then moved to a house in Wauchope, opposite the chiming town clock where they got very little sleep! After getting to know some Pappinbarra people, they decided to rent in the valley. They love the community ethic and find the locals very caring and genuine - just the sort of environment in which to raise the children. With no TV, they all spend a lot of time outside and the children's natural curiosity is actively encouraged. They grow veggies and chooks and enjoy improving their patch of land and being part of the community. Both Nat and Will have just been elected to the PPA committee.

So if you see a plane flying upside down with two adults, three kids and a dog, give them a wave; it could be the Mrowka family out having fun!

Mary Walker

In the **vege** patch



Dig the beds over and add some compost - it's time to put in your potatoes and asparagus crowns.

Plant at the end of your vegetable patch or use some old tyres. Homegrown potatoes taste the best. There are lots of varieties available this time of year: Pontiac, Dutch cream, Sebago, Kipfler and Otway red.



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The abundance of fireweed now is testament to overgrazing on my farm over spring/summer. You know with cattle prices as they were, it was hard to sell and I hung on to more than I would have liked. The fireweed has been able to compete with my overgrazed grasses.

Fireweed is easier to control than many other weeds but its ability to 'take off like wild fire' and its toxicity to livestock makes



it an issue. The toxins in fireweed can cause liver damage in the animals that eat them. According to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), symptoms include: loss of condition; chronic scouring; poor growth and weakness. Fortunately, unlike sheep, cattle do not favour fireweed but sheep are more resistant to the toxins. Horses are more susceptible to fireweed toxins than either cattle or sheep.



It is obviously best if fireweed is removed or killed before seeding and preferably before flowering. It seeds profusely; the DPI report each flower can produce around 100 wind-dispersed seeds. I am sure you understand that, as a farmer, I am always short of time and I certainly cannot claim to have fireweed under control but I have made a simple rig. I tow behind the ute a six metre piece of weldmesh sheet weighted with steel. This pulls about 90% of flowers off the plant with each pass. I am able to do a 5 acre paddock in about 20 minutes. This helps reduce the fireweed setting seed.

Mark Hickson

Images courtesy of DPI

**No permits required for burning off now.
Don't forget to give your neighbours at least 24 hours notice.
IN CASE OF FIRE – CALL 000**

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

Rural Fire Brigade News

It has been very quiet on the fire front for quite a while but we are not going to get complacent! There will be a sector training day in August under the leadership of group officer John Davison. This will involve the Pappinbarra, Hollisdale, Beechwood and Bellangry brigades, also Wauchope communications. The trucks will be put through different scenarios to prepare the crews for the upcoming fire season. All trucks will meet at the Pappinbarra Shed at **8.30 am on Saturday 15 August**. We urge all fire fighters to attend.

Chris Roelandts Captain Hollisdale RFB

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PPA Annual Report

2014-2015

Today marks the conclusion of another action-packed year for PPA. Your committee has worked hard to ensure that Hollisdale Hall is a fitting focus for community activities and to realise outcomes that promote and enhance community spirit in the Pappinbarra Valley and surrounding area. So what has PPA achieved during the past twelve months?

We have organised a **First Friday (FF) barbecue** at the hall every month except January, so that people of the valley, their visitors and those from further afield have the opportunity to meet, talk and eat together in a relaxed setting. People who have been involved know that such events don't just happen; a lot of work goes on behind the scenes, plus setting up on the night, and clearing up afterwards. Thanks to sterling Vice President Mary Walker, for doing the bulk of provisioning for FF, keeping an eye on what needs to be done and organising the members' draw and raffle. Thanks to Lisa McLeod for managing gas cylinders and prompt removal of garbage. Thanks to Sharada Boyce for maintaining supplies to the toilets and keeping them clean. Steven Gould is now mowing under Sharada's supervision - many thanks for a job well done. Thanks to those who brought wood and lit the fires and those who did a bit of a marathon on the barbecue each time. The whole show has been a team effort - a big thankyou to all who have helped.

Our second year-round activity is publication of **Pitchfork**. As editor, I want to acknowledge with gratitude the enormous and ongoing contributions of all who play a part in the production process: Angela Frost for design and layout, Jan Childs for printing, Sharada Boyce for advertising, Peter Michael, Peter Fackender, Mary Walker, Mary Wagg and Alison and Brendan of Greenbourne Nursery for regular contributions; Kelly Miller, Mark Hickson, Ken Aplin, Adrian Guthrie, Christine Nolan, Bev Sibthorpe, Chris Roelandts, Steve Ostler, Melissa Halls and young Sophie Aplin, Denny Michael, Sophie Smith, Nina and Tess McGahey and Owen Bell for occasional contributions. In addition, we run copy from time to time to support the fantastic Frugal Forest, Landcare, resident-driven fundraisers for charity and other appropriate initiatives. We have a print run of over 300 and a growing email list of over 200. We thank *ecoWild!*, The Living Room, Beechwood PO, Beechwood Pub and Beechwood Store for displaying copies of *Pitchfork* for pickup and the first two for ticket sales on several occasions. Just last week, a Port resident who had picked up *Pitchfork* at Beechwood Store, rang to

congratulate us on our little publication, to ask for a copy of *Bushed*, and to be added to the e-mail list! Delivery is carried out on the weekend before First Friday by two members, with Anne Waugh doing Koree Island Road - often on foot! Port Macquarie library have requested copies of *Pitchfork* for their local studies section. Last but definitely not least, I want to thank all our advertisers and I urge you to support those who support us whenever you have the chance.

PPA's other activities aim to raise funds for maintenance and improvement of our community-owned Hollisdale Hall and to support other community endeavours.

A beautiful sunny August day saw the 2014 **Greg Ostler Memorial Cricket Match** at the Upper Pappinbarra Recreation Ground. Thanks to Sue Frost for liaison, general manager, Steve Ostler, barbecue cooks, Angela Frost and Ken Aplin, umpires Scott Lindsay, Pete Davison and Rob Frost, scorekeeper Chris Roelandts and all who participated or observed, the day was a great success. The Hastings Co-op kindly donated a hamper; this was raffled and the takings split between the Pappinbarra and Hollisdale RFS units.

The Hollisdale and Pappinbarra brigades held an open day at the hall in September in an effort to encourage all to prepare their properties for the fire season.

The **Mammals and Reptiles Workshop** in September was well received by an interested audience. Thanks to Ken Aplin and Angela Frost for sharing their knowledge and photos.

PPA benefited from **PMHC's 2014 community grants** scheme, gaining \$6500 for 100 new, comfortable chairs for the hall. We thank Council for their great support in our endeavours to improve our community-owned hall and its facilities.

October saw a very successful and well attended wine, cheese and beer tasting at the hall, organised by the Polletts and Rotary with PPA's help to raise funds for **Operation Cleft** - repairing kids' smiles in Bangladesh. This initiative gave our community and others a chance to improve the lives of those much less fortunate than ourselves. With the money raised and sponsorships promised, 17 children received the gift of a smile.

December FF saw our wonderful **Santa** arriving in the fire truck, Captain Chris Roelandts driving, with every available bell and whistle sounding. The excited kids had games with Jeannette Rainbow to warm up, then gathered in the hall to receive their presents with Jeannette assisting Santa, who remarked it was the best Christmas do he had ever been to because the adults were as enthusiastic as the kids! Many thanks to Council, who came to the party with a \$500 place-making grant; this enabled us to have not only beautiful live music from *Acoustic Blue* but also free food for the kids and free dessert for adults.

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PPA's beautiful **2015 Pappinbarra Valley calendars** were sold out by the end of December's FF. Thanks to organiser Sharada Boyce, Angela Frost for layout and those who contributed photos. We are grateful to the local businesses who supported this endeavour with advertising.

Your committee again had a well-deserved break over Christmas to return in the New Year with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

February's **Cheese-making Workshop** with Liz Gough and George Hegarty had keen participants making ricotta, camembert, fetta, mozzarella and Monterey jack, a hard cheese.

In March, Silva Vaughan-Jones gave us a talk on **Wildlife Photography** - edifying and thought-provoking. PPA thanks her for sharing her expertise and concerns in this area.

March also saw the first of several **Photography Workshops** led by Deb Murrell. These are proving to be just what our enthusiasts need to get the most out of their digital equipment.

In April, PPA took to the track, filling a historic 620 Rail Motor carriage on a trip to Kendall and back to celebrate the **Wauchope Railway Centenary**. Thanks to our group discount, we had liquid refreshment, and everyone brought nibbles to share. The kids had a great time tooting the horn with the driver on the return trip. We sang a few railway songs, but the noise of the motor was too much competition for George's guitar; he has taken up the piano accordion for future occasions needing increased volume!

Trivia Night was May's standout event, adding about \$800 to PPA coffers while the capacity crowd ate, drank, racked their brains and made a racket! We can blame Peter Michael and Chay Khamson for the questions. Pete was assisted in his quizmaster role by Kelly Benson as the glamorous Ruby Fruit; Lisa McLeod and Mary Walker organised everything and everyone else in their usual capable way, including persuading many local businesses to donate the terrific prizes. Many thanks to everyone involved.

With another generous place-making grant from Council, we were able to again engage the brilliant Russell Churcher for our usual June **Bush Dance**. Everyone - young and old - had a great time. We need to consider the local calendar when planning for 2016 as numbers were down because of several other events on the night. Michéle Malseed, Chay Khamson, Mary Walker and Lisa McLeod organised the food and mulled wine. Thanks to them, to oversee Sue Frost and all who decorated, served food, and cleaned up before and after.

After many months in the making, the film of Pappinbarra Players' 2013 play, **Bushed**, has been completed by Anton Visser and is available for sale at \$15 a copy on flashdrive. This covers cost of the flashdrive and a donation to Anton for his time, expertise and equipment.

Our local electrician, Darren Rowley, has replaced the old

dangerous fluoro lighting in the hall with LED downlights and rigged up exterior lights and a time-delay switch. The committee thanks him for doing the job for the cost of the materials, donating his time and expertise to PPA.

As you can see from the set, rehearsals continue in the hall for Pappinbarra Players' 2015 production of Ray Cooney's comedy **Move over Mrs Markham**. This will be performed in Beechwood Hall in September as our hall is too small to accommodate the set as well as the audience! Trevor Smith is largely responsible for building it, as well as helping with other projects whenever needed. The committee is most appreciative of his willing and expert help.

Deliberations about extending the hall are ongoing. Thanks to Paul Pollett and the sub-committee for their input.

Your committee is pleased to report that the hall has been hired on several occasions for private social functions. On the basis of this experience, we recommend that conditions of hire are formalised to better inform users of their obligations and to protect our community resource.

At the conclusion of my third year as president, I am retiring with grateful thanks to the truly wonderful committee and to all those who have been such enthusiastic supporters of PPA in its various endeavours. That many business people of Wauchope advertise in *Pitchfork* and the PPA calendar and are prepared to donate goods and services as prizes when approached really warms the heart. Wauchope is a great town. The traffic, however, is definitely not all one way. Something that has struck me for quite a while is that Pappinbarra people, while working locally for their valley, are also concerned with the broader community. Many have active roles in Wauchope's Arts Council, its District Historical Society, Rural Fire Service, Rotary, Gateway Project, Centenary of Rail Committee, Landcare, Chamber of Commerce, Community Radio and Community Progress Association. They have made considered contributions to various ad hoc groups, including those responsible for the planter boxes in High Street and the banners, signage still to come. All these volunteers from a very small population find time in their busy lives to work for the good of the community.

Working cooperatively, enjoying meals and entertainment together, sharing expertise, stories and ideas, being there for each other in good times and bad, all help give us a sense of belonging and enrich our enjoyment of living in Pappinbarra Valley and environs. Many come here seeking such a connection. Being part of it all continues to give me the greatest pleasure. Thank you everyone.

Jean Hegarty



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Times Past:

A young man's first teaching appointment

Some will know John Shaw as Principal of Beechwood School from 1968 until 1985 and be aware that his services to teaching earned him an OAM. His wife Rita's connection with Pappinbarra is through the Roach and Monaghan families; her aunt was the first white woman born on the Pappinbarra River. John's relationship with his beloved Pappinbarra continued after retirement through the family property purchased in the early 70s.

It may not be so well known though, that John's love affair with Pappinbarra began well before his appointment to Beechwood School. Just as the end of the Second World War was announced in 1945 the placements for graduating students from Teachers College were posted, and 18-year-old John was excited to see *Pappinbarra Junction* beside his name. He thought he had a rural placement on a railway line! Not surprisingly, a trip to Central Station's huge destination signs failed to find Pappinbarra; on a map he found his new school where two remote streams joined to become Pappinbarra Creek...

The schoolyard was merely a cleared area in the bush, where some stumps had been driven in and the school dropped on them. Logs and debris were strewn about. John made up a 'bullock team' with the children, who took it in turns to crack the whip while the others moved the logs to clear a garden space and build a fence. There were about 25 children enrolled. John fondly recalled: "One little girl Irene, she was in fifth class, beautiful little girl with red hair, full of life, lovely girl, and I asked her what she did before she came to school. She said she had to get the cows in, just on daylight. I said 'do you ride the horse up into those hills?' and she said 'no, I walk up, but if there's a horse up there I catch him and ride him down' and I said 'do you take a bridle and saddle with you and she said 'no, I just catch him and put a vine through his mouth and ride him down'. That's fantastic. She was amazing; they were all amazing kids; they were good kids".

John boarded with Bert Berrigan. Like all the dairy farmers, Bert sold his cream, grew corn and raised pigs which he took to town

for sale on foot. John recalled: "Oh, it was a good place to live. It was fantastic. Everybody was good to everybody. You could go through anybody's place and nobody minded. We used to do a lot of shooting. Fresh meat - where I lived we'd go out one day each weekend, shooting birds. Make soup, beautiful soup. You'd have a big pot of soup sitting on the stove there through the week. Catbirds, satin birds, regent birds, brown pigeons, wonga pigeons, bubalo marys, fruit pigeons, turkeys, even lyrebirds, pheasants. All those fellas - and any of the parrots. King parrots were plentiful because the country was covered with corn and the corn was covered with king parrots. The wonga pigeon was the best bird - nearly all chest".

Although raised in Newcastle, John considered himself a 'bushy' because of Christmas holidays on his uncle's dairy farm near Coolongolook. In weeks of freedom and fun with his cousins, he learned new skills and gave his aunt a break from the daily milking. But the young Pappinbarra men were timber getters and much of their conversation centred on how fast they could fell a tree, saw a log, cut a sleeper. Not wishing to show incompetence, John decided to quietly practice felling a tree on his own - up behind the school. "So I put the belly in uphill and I cut the back in, and there was about this much wood left and it was still standing up, and suddenly it fell on the boys' toilet!" Fearing the wrath of the school inspector and being found out by the locals gave him wings. In the middle of mending the toilets and getting rid of the evidence, all the boys came by in the truck and saw what he'd done. It took him a while to live that one down!

When John was 21, his steel worker father contracted TB and died, so John returned to Newcastle to help out his mother and siblings. He taught at Shortland for six years, and during this time he and Rita married. They went on to Waukivory for six years, then to Bigga for another six, and had a stint in Tarago before coming to Pappinbarra to take up the Principal's position at Beechwood School.

Mary Wagg

with thanks to John and Rita Shaw

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PPA President's Report

Much appreciation and praise is to go to the outgoing committee members and all the other helpers. Without your generous donation of time and skills the community would not have had such wonderful events throughout the year.

A warm welcome to our new committee members as well as some familiar faces who are working again for our community. I am sure the future will be just as rewarding for all as the past year.

Please let us know your new ideas and suggestions for events you would like to see happen in the valley. Members you can contact are listed on the back page.

Lisa McLeod

Pappinbarra Recreation Reserve S355 Committee Notice of Annual Review Meeting

Sunday 2nd August 2015 2pm
At Pappinbarra Recreation Reserve

In accordance with Council regulations the S355 Committee has scheduled the Annual Review Meeting (see box).

Everyone interested in keeping the tennis court and recreation grounds functioning is invited to attend. The S355 Committee collects hire fees for Council and keeps the grounds maintained.

A new committee will be elected at the Annual Review Meeting as required by Council. Committee members include President, Secretary, Treasurer and Bookings Officer.

Those who play tennis in the PPA competitions are especially urged to attend and to consider taking a role in the management of the tennis court. Without the S355 committee the tennis court and recreation area may be closed. Further information phone Sue Frost 6587 6129.

Sue Frost
Treasurer

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Arvo tea after the All Saints' service about 2.45 pm on the fourth Sunday of the month.

The generator boils the jug, the goodies are laid out on the ute tray and everyone gathers round Murphys' ute to socialise. Drop in if you are going past – church attendance not necessary to come to arvo tea! The church is located a couple of kilometres past the end of the Pappinbarra bitumen. (August service at 11.30 am, so a late morning tea afterwards.)



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Willing to pay up to \$100/week. Office space needed only two days a week but access to yard needed for daily (Mon - Fri) tools pick up and drop off.

Please contact Jim on 0448379726 or Kelly 0409 846 952. Have a good one!

If your business would like a one-off A4 advertising insert in *Pitchfork*, provide us with 300 copies and we will distribute for \$30. Contact Liz Gough 0473 170 761. Deadline is 24 August for the September issue.

PPA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – the second last Friday of each month at 6 pm. All welcome.

Facilities for Hire

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

Contact Bryan Gough 0473 170 761.

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

Pitchfork

Circulation

Pitchfork has hardcopy circulation of 300 plus email of over 100. It comes out on the weekend before First Friday - Friday 28 August for the September issue. Material for the September issue to the Editor by Thursday 20 August please. We run both casual and regular advertisements at very competitive rates. Contact Liz Gough 0473 170 761.

Production Team

Editor for September issue: Bev Sibthorpe bev.sibthorpe@bigpond.com

Production: Angela Frost angfrost@hotmail.com

Advertising: Liz Gough lizabeth52@hotmail.com 0473 170 761

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

Pappinbarra Progress Association Committee

Executive:

President: Lisa McLeod 0418 220 138

Vice President: Mary Walker 6587 6055

Treasurer: Sue Frost 6587 6129

Secretary: Suzanne Pollett 0419 242 575

Other Committee Members:

Todd Barnes

Liz and Bryan Gough

Nat and Will Mrowka

Kelly Gould

Gary Rainbow

Jean Hegarty

PPA Membership 2015-2016

\$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

