



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News
Pappinbarra Progress Association

October 2014

Valley Happenings

PPA welcomes new members Peter Heywood and Juliet Mackie. 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.

October First Friday barbecue and get-together next Friday October 5 at the hall from 6 pm. Emma Frost, Neil Johnson and Gary Rainbow 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. All welcome.

September First Friday saw Trevor Smith win the members' draw and Lisa McLeod the raffle. She chose the Lewis Meats voucher.

The **Greg Ostler Memorial Cricket Match** was enjoyed by all. Report p7

All Saints' Pappinbarra invites all to join us for the 2 pm service on October 26 and/or bring a plate to share off the back of the ute for arvo tea around 2.45 pm.

Wine, Cheese and Beer fundraiser night October 11, 5pm. Come along for a fun night among friends and a way to show the rest of the world we care. We will show a kids movie for your children, please bring a blanket and pillow to keep them warm and comfortable. For more information see poster this page.



Social Tennis is on again at the Upper Pappinbarra Recreation Ground. Phone Robyn Flanagan for details AH 6587 6011.

 Wine cheese & beer tasting
BBQ
 entry just \$10

Party with family & friends at Pappinbarra,
Hollisdale Hall
Saturday, 11th October commencing 5pm
Guest speaker - Dale Finch, School captain,
Camden Haven High School

Tickets available at the hall or book now:
Call Paul on 0419 424 575 or
Lisa on 0418 220 138

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 **Operation Cleft**
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provides cleft repair surgery for
underprivileged children born with a cleft lip
or palate in Bangladesh. 

Hollisdale Rural Fire Brigade open day on Saturday 13 September saw kids enjoying climbing up into the fire truck and trying out the lights and siren while their elders were given advice on planning for the fire season. Interested in volunteering? Contact Chris Roelandts on 6585 6700. Training is scheduled for Wednesday October 1 at 4 - 6:30 pm and Saturday October 18 at 8 am. Meet at the hall in full uniform.

Pappinbarra Rural Fire Brigade meeting on Sunday 19 October; 10 am at the fire shed.

Pappinbarra Players will perform Ray Cooney's *Move Over Mrs Markham* early next year. Auditions at the hall on Sunday 12 October at 2 pm. For scripts and other enquiries call Darren Rowley 6587 6076.

Hollisdale Hall (see p6 for *Times Past*) benefits from **Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's** community grants scheme with new seating worth \$6,500. PPA thanks Council for their support in our endeavours to maintain and improve our community-owned hall and its facilities. For details on hall hire see p8.

Meet the neighbours: Trevor Smith

Born in Perth WA, Trevor grew up on a dairy farm in Nannup. When he was eleven, his family moved east to a small mixed farm at Rosewood near Tumberumba (meaning 'hollow sounding').

Trevor went to Wagga High for three years on a scholarship, boarding in a hostel. He has a very clear and bad memory of his parents walking away and leaving him there. In first year he was very lonely and hated it, but by the time he left he had learned independence and was enjoying himself. He finished his Leaving Certificate at Rosewood High.

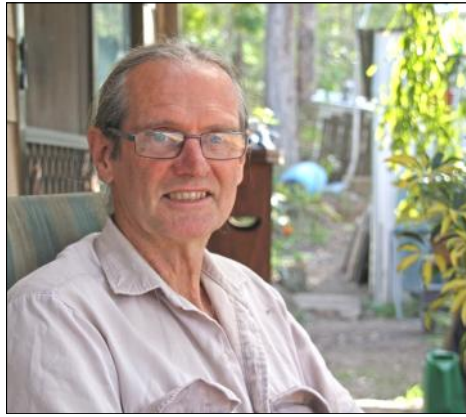
After leaving school he worked in the local bank and then in the Shire Council Office for two years, but being tied to a desk was not Trevor's style so he set out for some adventures.

In 1969 he went back to Perth with a couple of mates. He tried his hand at many things and learned how to do most of them proficiently. After doing a welding course in 1971, he got welding work in Dampier for a short time as a Trade Assistant, living in the single men's quarters with 700 others. The single women had their own quarters but there were only 30 of them. There was a well-walked path between the two! Trevor found this life too restrictive and moved on.

He went to Darwin with a mate, enjoyed two months of R&R, then travelled east to Queensland with his mate and their girlfriends. In Cairns he worked as a plumber's assistant and learned a bit about that trade.

In 1973 Trevor finally ended up back in Tumberumba and drove a bulldozer for his dad who was logging at the time. For the next few years, he moved about a bit and worked as a fruit picker, a ground-keeper at a golf course and on a passionfruit farm in Queensland where he drove tractors and built fences.

After finding himself back in Melbourne in 1978, he set up his own business mowing lawns and gardening. He also met Riff, his



future wife. His son, Dhama, was born in 1980 and in 1981, sick of city life, the family moved to Dorrigo to get some fresh air. Trevor took on various manual jobs and eventually ended up working for a welding business. He moved with the business to Port Macquarie in 1983 and became the workshop foreman - not bad for someone with no formal training. The business amalgamated and moved again to Wauchope as Fenon Industries. Trev and Riff married, lived

in Sancrox and Trevor again set up a mowing, pruning and gardening business. After the couple parted company in 1986, Trevor became involved as a partner in Earthcare Nursery, where he stayed for the next 23 years. The nursery moved several times and eventually finished its days next to *Timbertown*. Trevor sold up in 2010 but continued selling plants at markets until he became an 'old age pensioner'.

Trevor and Amy got together in about 2008 and, four years later, he eventually moved to Pappinbarra and lives in a delightful cabin surrounded by birds, trees, succulents and bromeliads with a very productive veggie garden. In his spare time, he uses recycled timber to build nesting boxes for native birds and animals. Trevor loves living here and is very involved in valley activities, coming to fame as Jingles in the local production of *Bushed*. Because he was raised on a farm he has a strong awareness of soil and water and the environment as a whole. He was the founding president of the Wauchope Urban Landcare Group in 1990.

With many strings to his bow, Trev has a prodigious knowledge of a variety of things. Quiet, unassuming and always ready to lend a hand, he is a valuable and valued member of the Pappinbarra community.

Mary Walker

Cocky's Corner: Plant growth and soil pH

With spring upon us and pasture starting to grow, it is worth reflecting on the limiting factor of soil acidity.

High rainfall coastal areas of Australia have naturally acidic soils. This can be exacerbated by agricultural practices such as application of nitrogen-based fertilisers and irrigation. Acid soils (low pH <6) reduce microbial activity and the availability of important plant nutrients such as nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus.

As soils become more acidic, the availability of aluminium increases to the point where it can be toxic to plants, especially susceptible species such as lucerne and clovers. As well,


aluminium reacts with soluble soil nutrients such as phosphorus forming insoluble compounds like aluminium phosphate. This is a major problem because such insoluble forms cannot be used by plants. This is how acid soils 'lock up' nutrients. Even though the nutrients may be abundant in the soil, they are not available in forms that plants can use.

The easiest way to reverse this is by adding lime. A soil test can help determine soil pH and soil nutrient levels. Soil tests are available through our local produce stores.

Mark Hickson

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Rural Fire Brigade (RFB) update

It has been fairly quiet on the fire front. The Hollisdale truck spent a couple of days at the Kundabung fire helping out State Forests. Fire permits are available at the time of writing so get one and burn any rubbish before the weather warms up and permits are suspended. Hollisdale received nearly \$2000 in vital equipment from the RFSA grants program. This will be of great assistance in the upcoming fire season.

Chris Roelandts

Both the Pappinbarra and Hollisdale brigades were involved in a backburn to protect the Pappinbarra fire shed. It was very successful with a good job done by all. Thanks to the volunteers who gave up their Sunday.

General meeting on Sunday 19 October at 10 am at the fire shed. Currently, permits are available for only 14 days.

Steve Ostler

**No Fires without a permit.
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.

Thoughts on neighbours

Sitting in my lounge room reading, I hear a loud snorting. It is Toby, my arab gelding. He has new neighbours. Standing still, poised with ears pricked and eyes fixed, unsure of his next move, he is obviously a little upset by them. He circles but returns to stand his ground.

The new neighbours are a small group of alpacas who appear quite relaxed.

Toby's nostrils flare as he snorts again and his eyes never waver from the alpacas. I wonder what he will do? Surely he realises they are just 'different' and pose no threat to him or his routine. Or will he stay far away from these strange new neighbours?

Our two placid steers have gone over to meet and greet, curious noses over the fence, not in the least bit afraid of rejection. I expected our golden retriever to bark and be obnoxious but he is just his soulful, bounding self, good looks and playfulness unaffected. Much like a child he is quite oblivious to the changes over the way.

Still Toby stands poised, ready. But ready for what? Are new neighbours such a frightening thought? Who are they? What are they? What is that smell? Friend or foe? Life is about to change a little...

What do we do about new neighbours? Do we welcome them, with our noses over the fence, say good-day, introduce ourselves? Maybe we just continue with life unaffected, going on with our own routine. Or do we take a stance, withdraw, feel insecure or threatened? Are we at the ready to stand our ground

in some way over something we imagine to be a threat to us? Do we remain aloof, staring, aware of them but never daring to approach? Do we dig our heels in and feel that this is our territory, our place? New neighbours do mean some level of change.

Two hours later, Toby is poised in the same place, eyes fixed, ears pointed, alert and ready. That flight or fight instinct is running strong through his veins. What will he do? Should he just relax, make friends and move on with life? Maybe he will always be prickly over the new neighbours? We will just have to wait and see...

My neighbours with the alpacas have been wonderful. I help them at alpaca shearing time each year and have been spinning alpaca fleece ever since. Actually I am blessed with very good neighbours in our whole area. The property next door, on the other boundary has just been sold and we are about to get more new neighbours. We know the family this time, so that makes things a lot easier. I'll bake that welcome cake and say hello on their moving in day.

Melissa Halls



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Bird of the Month: Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo - *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

Size: 55 to 65 cm.

Other Names: Funereal Cockatoo or Wylah.

Status: Secure in QLD, NSW, VIC and TAS. Vulnerable in SA. Not present in NT & WA.

The Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo is a large cockatoo native to SE Australia. It has black plumage with yellow cheek patches and tail feathers. Body feathers are edged yellow. The male has a black bill and a pinkish-red eye-ring. His cheek patch is pale compared to the female's bolder cheek patch. She also sports a bone-coloured bill and a grey eye-ring. Immature birds are like females, but paler and browner.



male

Parties of two or three birds or small to large flocks are found along the coast and ranges of SE QLD, NSW, VIC and SA, and in Tasmania. They occupy Eucalypt woodland and pine plantations where they feed on the seeds of native trees and shrubs, especially Banksias, Hakeas and Casuarinas as well as exotic pines. They also seek out wood-boring grubs by tearing away the outer layer of trunks or limbs to reach grubs such that of the cossid moth. (See photo at right taken at Pappinbarra in December) Their flight is strong, with slow, deep wing beats and glides. You may first be alerted to its presence by its far-carrying call "Why-lar" or "Wee-lar" while in flight. Harsh screeching calls are given in alarm. Adults are generally quiet while feeding although dependent young can put up a continuous begging chatter. Superb Lyrebirds imitate its wailing call almost to perfection.



female

The breeding season in Pappinbarra could be from January to May. The nest is in a large tree hollow high up in a Eucalypt where the female incubates one or two eggs for 28 days and is fed by the male. Usually only one chick is brought to fledging at about 11 weeks. The young remains in the company of its parents for six months.

Although Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos remain common through much of their range, habitat fragmentation and loss of large trees suitable for nesting has caused population decline in some areas of Victoria and South Australia.

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

Peter Fackender

Frugal Forest

The Forest is growing slowly but steadily, with a total of 380 people contributing so far, scattered up and down the Mid North Coast. We've found uses for baling twine, bottle tops, coffee cups, odd socks, mesh bags, plant pots... the list goes on. If you'd like to see what they are being transformed into, you can see images and a short film about the project so far at

www.frugalforest.oneoffmakery.net.au

Interested in seeing what's happening and perhaps lending a hand? The Frugal Forest project meets every 4th Saturday of the month (same day as the Farmer's Market) at the Wauchope School of Arts Hall, between 11am and 2:30pm. Drop in for a bit of craft and a chat - it's mainly for grown-ups, but kids are welcome if they're supervised.

Bryony Anderson

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Mammals and Reptiles of the Pappinbarra Valley

The 40 Pappinbarrans fortunate enough to attend this workshop at the Hall on 13 September were mostly blown away by the diversity of mammals and reptiles this great valley supports. We heard we have:

- 25+ species of tree and ground frogs, including the endangered Giant Barred Frog (*Myxophyes iteratus*);
- 2, possibly 3, species of turtle;
- that great predator and scavenger the Lace Monitor (goanna) as well as 5 species of dragon lizard (including the ubiquitous Water Dragon), 19 species of skink (including the Land Mullet and Blue Tongue), 5 species of gecko (including the fabulously camouflaged Leaf-tailed Gecko) and 3 species of legless lizard;
- 1 or maybe 2 species of python, 4 blind snakes, 4 very venomous front-fanged snakes (Tiger, Brown, Death Adder and Copperhead) and 12 other species of snake;
- the iconic monotremes Platypus and Echidna
- representatives of fully nine (!!) Families of mammals including those little home invaders the *Antechinus* (possibly 3 species), Phascogale, Dunnart, Planigale,

Quoll, Bandicoot (2 species), Koala, Bettong, the endangered Potoroo, several species of kangaroo and wallaby, Brush-tailed Possum, Ring-tail Possum, several species of glider including Sugar, Squirrel and Feather-tailed, Pigmy Possums, 9 species of bat, and several species of native rat.

And we did not even talk about the birds or invertebrates! This great diversity can be attributed to our location at the southern end of a very rich and ecologically significant strip of land that runs from here into Southern Queensland. Much can be done to restore and protect the habitat of our precious co-residents, some of which may be hanging on by a thread. Workshop hosts, the **Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group (PLCG)** are committed to contributing to this effort over the coming decades, and to steadily building up a rich source of information about the local flora and fauna on our website (a long way to go!). Our thanks to PLCG members and presenters Ken Aplin and Angela Frost for a thoroughly informative presentation.

Bev Sibthorpe

Vice-president, PLCG

All-sorts Fables: The Leaf-tailed Gecko's tale

The local leaf-tailed gecko's camouflage is masterly: patterned like bark, its mottles are irregular and topped off with tiny balls of pure vermilion that exactly mimic lichen on dead wood.

My friend the gecko is quite shy but made a terrible mistake in regarding my place as home and the stacks of timber and doors standing around as a tree. Inevitably the worst happened: as I moved some timber, it perceived my intentions as predatory and shed its tail in panic.

Abandoned, the tail has sprung to life with the contorted spasms of a devious St Vitus Dance decoy, beating like a maddened paddle, thrashing and gyrating on its end. This display demands

the full attention of the predator, for several crucial minutes taking on the vital presence of the gecko. It

goes nowhere in particular and so finally provides a good feed for a real predator - while the gecko escapes.

Moral: Even a story of misunderstanding, panic, loss, self-harm and deceit can have a happy ending.



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Times Past: Hollisdale Hall

After closure in December 1954, Ellengrove School was purchased by people with foresight who saw it as a perfect focus for community activities. Dances, previously held in the old house built by John and Maria Roach on Rosemont, then in a shed with tallowwood floor and bench seats round three sides (built 1951-2) on Oakvale, moved to the schoolhouse. 'Edie Hollis organised



dances. Albert Hollis from Brombin played the accordion and Alec Flanagan's Uncle Alec played violin. People came from Bellangry and Long Flat. Paid 10/- each and got an 18-gallon keg. Had a few drinks. A lot didn't dance and just hung around the keg. We had sandwiches for supper - minced corn, meat and tomato sauce.' 'Trustees - highly regarded members of the community - were appointed to manage the schoolhouse and the land.'

When activities outgrew the schoolhouse, the community planned an extension; 'Roy Hollis levelled the building site with a dozer; Alec Flanagan donated logs, which Kelly Pead carted to the mill. The Reynolds brothers were responsible for milling timber; Dave Olsen who was a builder did the framing and roof for a low fee; the windows were donated by Roy Blythe - ex Lyddington School. Volunteers were Jim Ylias, Arthur Ylias, Tom Hollis, Jack Koning (painter) and maybe others, while donations came from Jim, Arthur and Tom Ylias, Sam Demiris, Alec Zaicos, Pat Murray and others. Harry Witchard said "I built one at Tele Point and I'm not doing it again" - wouldn't contribute!' 'Galvanised iron was both bought and donated.'

'Tom Wilson who share-farmed George Hollis' farm (Mount View, now Slieve Mor) lent \$100 (interest free) so it was debt-free and afterwards the community paid him back.'

'There was a big ball for the opening. 2016 will be the 50th Anniversary.'

'To be a member [of the original PPA], you had to own property between Manderson's (now #57) and the end of the tar. This group of people carried on the voluntary business of successfully running the PPA and maintaining the building and surrounds without outside funding until the 1990s when a newcomer to the Association and the

valley decided they needed to be protected by becoming an incorporated body. This created some consternation among the original owners and trustees... After the PPA became incorporated, the Committee made the decision that there was no longer a need to live in the designated area and persons could join the Association from anywhere.'

As an incorporated not-for-profit association, PPA was able to apply for grants to improve the facilities at the hall. Since then, 'the committee has done so.'

Again, we find that activities have outgrown the building and, in 2012, the PPA committee initiated long-term community consultation with the ultimate aim of extending the hall to better accommodate the diverse social, recreational, educational and cultural activities of Pappinbarra Valley residents and their friends. [Pappinbarra Players' next production will be staged in the Beechwood Hall because Hollisdale Hall is too small.]

**JH with thanks to Arthur and Jim Ylias,
Julie-Ann Murphy and Pat Murray.**

In the veggie patch

With all this lovely spring rain about it's a perfect time for the garden. Veggies are off and racing along this time of year. A good idea for the veggie patch is to stagger your plantings: start from seed, plant out your seedlings, and when they have been in the ground for five weeks, plant more seeds. This way you will get a nice early harvest and a mid- to late-season crop. Be sure to lime the soil as well. Lime helps to prevent blossom-end rot in your tomatoes.



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Greg Ostler Memorial Shield Cricket Match - Sunday 14th August

Once again, Pappinbarra turned on a beautiful sunny day for the annual cricket match. After our recent rain, the pitch looked good and even had a touch of green. About 30 players, young and not-so-young, fronted up for a great day's cricket with some features unique to Pappinbarra, such as not being out before you score but having to leave the field once you make 20 runs.

In a reversal from last year, the shield went to the Dirt team - final scores were: Dirt 179; Tar 101. Thanks to Scott Lindsay, Pete Davidson and Rob Frost for umpiring and Chris Roelandts for keeping the score. Steve Ostler, as usual, did a great job as general manager, keeping it all going.

Awards for the day were:

- Player of the Match – Noah Theofanou
- Best fielder – Rob Frost
- Junior Player award – Brock Cooper
- Certificate of encouragement – Ashley Wrightson

Thanks go to all those who helped with organisation and cleaning up, with a special thankyou to Angie and Ken

for barbeque cooking. The raffle, kindly donated by IGA Wauchope, was won by Greg, a visitor from Collombatti. Proceeds from the raffle, along with the players' fees will go to our two rural fire brigades, Pappinbarra and Hollisdale.

The cricket match is named in memory of Greg Ostler, who grew up in Upper Pappinbarra. Greg was one of the players in the inaugural cricket match held at James and Robyn Flannagan's property. The match was a result of a challenge, Lower versus Upper and on that occasion Greg actually played for Lower to

make up the numbers. Sadly, Greg died suddenly in 2007 aged 52. He is fondly remembered by those who knew him.

**Sue Frost
PPA**



Editor's Musings

Today Spring is sprung; the grass is ris; no need to wonder where the birdies is! It seems every satin bower-bird in the district is here plundering the greens, the herbs, the citrus and the chook feed. Add a large flock of yellow-tailed black-cockatoos, forty or so Lewin honeyeaters, and a score of currawongs and there's a real battle going on to save a few fruits and nuts for human consumption. With food production so beset with problems, it's no wonder some just give up and buy all their fruit and veg from the shops.

As a young Agriculture graduate, I was dismayed to find one of my contemporaries, who had landed the coveted prize of a rich grazier husband, didn't have a vegetable garden on their property near Orange. Why not, with all that space?! Economically, she explained, 'it just wasn't worth it'.

When we first arrived in the valley, more than fifteen years ago, we thought we might grow rhubarb and/or asparagus to supplement the super. George went off to Bowraville to buy a rotary hoe. The vendor had been growing basil for Coles for several years. Every year Coles demanded he grow more. When they had him in their clutches, they started winding back the agreed price and changing their packaging requirements. Finally he gave up, ploughed in the basil, and sold his rotary hoe...

Neighbours up the road started growing *Echinacea* root for the health food market. After thorough research, and growing to

specifications, the product tested high for the active ingredient so they expected a nice little earner. Not so; their selling agent mixed their product with inferior stuff he sourced elsewhere - the return was half what they had expected! So they decided to try the Sydney cut flower market. This involved labour-intensive picking, petal plucking, packaging in special cartons, and transport to the highway for pick-up by refrigerated truck. Alas, returns were not as promised and payment took months. A few times the courier 'forgot' the pick-up; sometimes the market agent claimed that the flowers had arrived mouldy...

In small-scale food production, buyers don't want to know about floods, fires, droughts or storms, insect plagues, disease outbreaks or predatory birds - the grower takes all the risks and just gets screwed. The supermarket duopoly - Coles and Woollies - have all the power and, in spite of trumpeting fresh food and 'Australian-made', bring in cheap and inferior foods (perhaps fresh and often processed) from overseas, making things even more difficult for the small producer. [IGA does seem prepared to support locals.]

Other countries support their agricultural community in food production - why doesn't Australia? Why shouldn't farmers be financially encouraged to produce healthy food from healthy land to satisfy local demand?

JH

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KITCHENS

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Pitchfork Classifieds

You may find just what you were looking for right here in Pappinbarra!

Advertise in the Classifieds

First month free for PPA members!

For Sale

Dorper Sheep
 4 X Dorper Ewes
 1 X Dorper Ram
 1 X Whilty Poll Ram
 7 X X breed Dorper
 3 X Lambs at foot.
 \$400 as a lot. Ring Barry after
 6pm 65876 122

For Sale

Plastic stackable chairs great for
 extra seating \$1 each.
 Pay and pick up at First Friday.

Found

Found at Hollisdale Hall -
 Bow tie. Will be returned to the
 Prince Charming whose neck it
 fits at First Friday.

For Sale

Young muscovy drake \$15
 65 876 077

PPA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – the second last Friday of each month at 5pm. 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 31 October for the November issue. Material for the November issue to the Editor by Thursday 23 October. We run both casual and regular advertisements at very competitive rates. Contact Sue Frost.

Production Team

Editor: Jean Hegarty jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au 6587 6077

Production: Angela Frost angfrost@hotmail.com

Advertising: Sue Frost suefrost6@hotmail.com 6587 6129

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

