



# PITCHFORK

## Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association & Pappinbarra Outback Association

### Upcoming Special Events

**A quiet month! Stay tuned for Christmas in July, Bush Dance....**

### First Friday Chefs

June 1st – Jim McGahey and George Hegarty – helper Bev Sibthorpe

### ‘New to the Valley’ Welcome from PPA/POA to the Barnes Family

PPA and POA extend a warm welcome to Todd and Belinda Barnes and their daughters Jessica (7) and Emily (4). They’ve been in Brisbane for 11 years but got tired of city life and have moved back to the district, joining Todd’s brother’s Wauchope-based kitchen business *Designer Living Kitchens*. They’d barely arrived in the Valley before coming to their First Friday and promptly winning the raffle. We hope to see you at many more of our events over the coming years.

### PPA President’s Report

Another happy gathering of Valley folk and others was held on Friday, 4 May. It was wonderful to have our Anglican Priest Judy Taylor there. Jan and Mary did a great job on the BBQ and Dale a fine job selling raffle tickets. Newcomers to the Valley Todd and Belinda Barnes were the lucky winners and like many others decided to take the Greenbourne Nursery voucher.

We were blessed with perfect autumn weather on Saturday the 12th to say farewell to Lyn Potts and Jan and Bill Farrell. We hope Lyn will enjoy being back in the ‘big smoke’!

**Membership fees are due this month** - see back page for our tear off renewal/new member form. Send your cash or cheque to Jan Childs or renew/join in person at First Friday Family Night (FFFN) – we will have forms available there. This year we are requesting email addresses and phone numbers so that we can keep in touch with our members when the need arises.

Our next FFFN is on Friday, 1 June when you’ll have another opportunity to purchase tickets in the beautiful water colour painting donated to us by Jan Farrell. I hope to see you there.

Regards **Julie-Anne**

### Trivia Night

Locals young and old turned out to make up six tables and a great (sometimes hilarious) night was had by all. We got off to a flying start when our quiz host Ryan Barter lost the questions and had to race home looking for them. Aply helped by his assistant Emma Frost, he plied us with cinchers through to brain teasers in 9 categories – On the Farm, Sport, Local Knowledge, Entertainment, Second Best, Pitchfork, Who, Bitsa and Megaround. Local people donated great prizes - a very big thank-you from the organisers, winners and the PPA for your generosity! The winning table shared amongst themselves contributions from Andrew Hearne (Near River Farm - gourmet condiments), George and Jean Hegarty (home-grown leg of lamb), Jan Childs and Mary Walker (Call an Angel - 2 hours work), Amy Hubers (½ hour massage) and 3 local men and 3 women each offering 2 hours of ‘whatever work you want done’. Those at the second table were rewarded with a bottle wine each, donated by Robyn Flanagan (Wauchope Travel). Other prizes were a pack from EcoWild, cold-and-flu herbal remedies from Steven and Karen Prahim and some electrical goods from Darren Rowley. Those at the last table each took home a pumpkin! Winning table members were Alexander Anderson, Angela Frost, Chay Khansome, Jim McGahey, Peter



Michael and Ryan Taplin. A special thanks to Ryan and Emma for all their hard work. This will continue to be an annual event, so come along next year and help stave off Alzheimers.

**Bev Sibthorpe**

**Ryan Barter firing off another question in round 5.**

## Meet the Neighbours—Introducing Kelly Miller and Mark Hickson

Mark and Kelly met when they were both teaching at the same school in Sydney in the mid to late 80s. They married but kept their own surnames (Kelly says that Mark refused to change his!!). Kelly is a Sydneysider but Mark was raised in Gulgong and requested to be sent to teach anywhere but Sydney, so his first placement was Sydney. Mark teaches agriculture and Kelly teaches science. They lived in Port Macquarie from 1991 and agisted their Angus cattle at Rollands Plain until 2003, when they purchased Rosemont and set about farming and raising Limousins.



**Kelly Miller and Mark Hickson**

Mark and Kelly love to travel and have been to South America several times, walking in remote high country. They were in Bolivia with Mitchell, their son, aged 4 and hiking about 20 kms a day. Mitch walked about half the distance and had a pony to ride when he got tired. They were set upon by bandits at gun point, but the pony man said they wouldn't be killed until after dark so they walked all night until they found a small village and hid with

the villagers (a lucky escape!!).

They spent 3 years teaching in Vanuatu where Mitchell went to primary school - there were only three non-indigenous children and he learnt to speak the local language, Bislama, fluently. They all loved Vanuatu and have returned several times to catch up with friends and to snorkel the coral. Mark went to teach on a small island called Yap, but he describes this island as 'difficult'. The locals including the children all chewed Beetle nut stuffed with tobacco and soaked in Vodka so needless to say they weren't very receptive to learning!

Once back from overseas Mark returned to his position in Kendall Central and Kelly went to Wauchope High for 3 years. They now both teach at Camden Haven High. Currently they both have a year off from teaching. They are really enjoying working on the farm, sailing their trailer yacht, supporting Mitch who is studying for his HSC and some relaxation. Mark's trade mark is his hat. He has worn one since 1991 and rarely takes it off; Kelly often has to remind him to remove it before he gets into bed!!

**Mary Walker**

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## Pacomania—Part 1

My love affair with Alpacas began back in 1992 when these wonderful creatures were very new to Australia. Peter and I owned 'Glenfield', a sheep and cattle property near Guyra and they were on display at Wool Expo at Armidale. They were such delightful looking creatures, with their big brown eyes and silky, soft coats that I bought a brown male which I named 'The Glen Nutkin'. 'The Glen' became my stud name when the Australian Alpaca Association came into being. We picked Nutkin up from the owner in Sydney and proudly brought him home in a crate on the 1 tonner, much to the fascination of other travellers on the road north. The neighbours just thought we were crazy. He had a very long fleece and needed shearing so my daughter, who was visiting, and I tied him up to the verandah post at the back of the house and shored him with a pair of dagging shears. He

was a very polite fellow and behaved remarkably well, but he looked rather bumpy by the time we had finished with him. Cathy and I were exhausted!

So, what to do with one lone Alpaca? Nutkin's previous owner was a wheeler and dealer and fairly quickly found me two white females from Victoria (Alpacas were about as scarce as hen's teeth at this stage). Nellie and Adelaide were delivered to my brother's house at West Pymont Hills - he had quite a big back garden - and it was back to Sydney to pick them up. I was on my way to make my fortune with Alpacas - I hoped. The neighbours now knew we were crazy! Stay tuned to find out what happened next ....

**Anne Waugh**

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## Roadside Clearing Left and Right Arms

Vanessa Blanch (Right Arm) and Sue Frost (Left Arm) have been lobbying Council to have these roads graded and repaired. Everyone using these roads would agree they've got dangerously rough and overgrown. After several letters, emails and numerous phone calls they've both been told that maintenance work is scheduled to happen within the next 3 months, but rather ominously this commitment is "subject to the limits of our available funding and our other maintenance commitments throughout our local government area ... [and these roads] are not considered a priority." Let's hope the funds are available! Many thanks to Vanessa and Sue for their efforts on behalf of the local community.

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## Support Our Local Post Office

Our local post office is 130 years old (!) this December (see page 5). Let's support this important local asset. Eric and Esma offer the full range of postal services, bill paying and banking (except Westpac and ANZ). They also have wine tasting and sales and a range of delicious locally made jams.

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### **Pappinbarra Progress Association Inc**

*Executive*

President: Julie-Anne Murphy 6585- 6309

Vice President: Allan Ferris 6587-6106

Secretary: Jan Childs 6587-6055

Treasurer: Dale Goldfinch 0447-422-134

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### **Pappinbarra Outback Association Inc**

*Executive*

President: Sue Frost 6587-6129

Treasurer: Jan Brown 6587-6159

Secretary: Brenda Patrick

Social Organisers: Jessica Zycki, Steve Ostler

## Days Gone By— Beechwood Post Office

Our Post Office has a very long history! In 1873 residents of Beechwood petitioned for a postal service in the area and were eventually successful, Andrew Calvin becoming the first postmaster. By 1881 residents wanted more and a group successfully petitioned for a Post Office in Beechwood. John Neville was appointed postmaster on 1 December, 1882. G.H. Rowsell carried the mail from Port Macquarie to Beechwood twice a week.

In 1888 John Neville resigned and the Post Office was passed to Edward Dark. His store was in front of the trees on the corner of Beechwood Rd and Bellangry Rd. This was also when Beechwood was officially named. Also in 1888 the telephone was connected and the telegram service commenced.

John Dark took over the postal service in 1911. In 1913 the Commonwealth Bank opened a Branch in the Post Office and the telephone exchange was established in the same building in 1915.

In 1916 Nancy Bartrim had the Post Office moved to her premises and that building - the shed behind the blue house opposite the existing Post Office – is still there today.

Hawthorn Thompson took over in 1940, followed by Brian Ogalvie from 1975 until he resigned in 1992. Esma and I were appointed licensee's of Australia Post in 1993. In 1994 we erected the current building in the same style as Lyle Shoosmith's blacksmith's shop that was there. Continued next month .....

Eric Waldron

## Does your Letterbox Score 8/8?

Spare a thought for your hardworking posties Eric and Kylie (not to mention your Pitchfork delivery teams). There are some great letterboxes in the Pappinbarra Valley – including some with artistic flair - but there are also some real shockers. It's important to bear in mind that the mail service is a **roadside service**, not a boundary fence or driveway service, that is **provided by car** - inaccessible letterboxes have workplace safety implications for your trusty posties. So we've put together this checklist for you to self-assess your letterbox. How does it rate? 8/8? If not, now is the time to upgrade your box with the possibility of a nice prize for your efforts. Eric and Esma are generously donating a bottle of wine to **each of the next two households** that upgrade their sub-standard box to an 8. Take before and after photos and send them to [bsibthorpe@bigpond.com](mailto:bsibthorpe@bigpond.com) Winning boxes (with photos)

announced in *Pitchfork*. Let's get all Valley's letterboxes up to scratch!!

- Your postie can pull up right beside it then travel on forwards
- There is no deep wheel ditch right in front of it (!!)
- It is not surrounded by shrubs or other herbage
- The slot or lid lift is at car window height
- The slot is big enough to receive bulky items
- It is big enough to hold bulky items
- It is weatherproof
- It is clearly numbered

## Bird of the Month

**Common name:** Regent Bowerbird

**Scientific name:** *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

**Size:** 24 – 28 cm.

**Status:** Secure

The male Regent Bowerbird has a Golden Yellow colour to its head, back and flight feathers. The remainder of the bird is black. The forehead and crown is sometimes tinted crimson and it has a yellow eye and bill. This plumage takes from 2 to 5 years to develop. Females have mottled brown plumage above while below they are pale buff with brown mottling. The nape of the head has a black patch while the eye and bill are dark. Juvenile males are coloured like females.

Their voice is used infrequently, except by males during the breeding season when at the bower they give harsh squeaks and chatter.

Regent Bowerbirds inhabit rainforest, woodland and parks and gardens along the east coast of Australia where they feed mainly on fruits, berries and insects. There is some seasonal movement between higher to lower altitudes.

During the breeding season the adult males construct a bower for display and courting. The bower consists of two parallel walls



Male Regent Bowerbird

of sticks usually well hidden below a tangle of ferns and vines. The bower is decorated with items such as brown snail shells, berries, pebbles and leaves. The walls of the bower are "painted" with a mixture of the bird's saliva and green/yellow vegetable matter. The male performs at the bower to attract females where he will mate with any receptive female.

Breeding occurs from September to March with the female laying two to three eggs in a nest she constructs herself. She incubates and raises the young without any assistance from the male bird.

Although I have seen and photographed this bird in the Pappinbarra Valley, I have not yet discovered any bowers or nesting activity in my time there. I would appreciate any feedback on local knowledge of this species nesting here.

For further information or questions related to this or other species contact can be made through this email address [peter\\_fac@yahoo.com.au](mailto:peter_fac@yahoo.com.au).

Peter Fackender

# JUNE 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1 First Friday Family Night, 6pm	2 Yoga	3
4	5 PLCG meeting, 5:45pm	6	7	8	9 Yoga	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Yoga	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Yoga, Farmers' Market	24 All Saints, 2pm
25	26	27	28	29	30 Yoga	

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## Plant Profile—Kurrajongs

This month, we're going to break with convention and cover two trees of the Pappinbarra valley, both with a similar (and sometimes confusing) common name – Kurrajong. Both belong to the same family of plants, Malvaceae, although they used to reside in a different family called Sterculiaceae, named after an ancient God of manure piles (Sterculus) as many of the plants in the family were judged to have flowers with an offensive smell.

The first of the trees is the widespread Brush Kurrajong (*Commersonia fraseri*). It is a common and widespread tree so named because of its association with 'brush' – a somewhat generic term for rainforest in northern New South Wales (although 'scrub' is also occasionally used). It is an aggressive coloniser on the margins of rainforest and wet hardwood forests, but also readily seen in road cuttings, verges and riparian areas. It grows determinedly and quickly from seed and spreading underground roots, quickly forming thickets. However, its role ecologically as a coloniser is evidenced by its inability to continue to flourish in the shaded environments of mature, closed forest. Identification is usually easy – alternately arranged leaves with irregularly-toothed margins, dull-green on the upper-surface and ashy on the



Fruit of *Brachychiton populneus*

[www.th.bestpicturesof.com](http://www.th.bestpicturesof.com)



leaves of *Commersonia fraseri*

[www.floragreatlakes.info](http://www.floragreatlakes.info)

under-surface. Stems and trunks are straight and dark brown to black in colour.

The second of the Kurrajongs is simply known as that – Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*). This is an entirely different tree to Brush Kurrajong as it does not germinate *en mass* or colonise into thickets from creeping roots, but presents simply as a single-trunked medium-sized tree up 20m in height. It is widespread but not common and is variously described as a tree of dry hardwood forest, open woodland and dry (depauperate) rainforest. The bole (trunk below the lowest branches) is cylindrical and the bark brown and narrowly fissured. The crown of the tree is usually spreading and open-branched and these characteristics combined with its semi-deciduousness makes the Kurrajong an ideal feature tree in a yard or paddock. Leaves are alternately arranged, glossy green and roughly diamond-shaped. Flowers are pinkish-white and somewhat cup-shaped. The fruit is an unmistakable woody pod much like a canoe with hard seeds covered in rusty hairs which can be roasted, ground and steeped into a hot drink.

Peter Michael

## Weeds and Landscape Field Day

There was a good turnout for the **Weeds and Landscape Field Day** held at the Hollisdale Hall, on 5 May. Michael Eddie, Senior Soil Surveyor with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, gave an overview of the geological processes that have made our local soils what they are today – mostly clay and rock on the hillsides, with some narrow fertile bands on the river flats. This is the result of millions of years of weathering eastwards of the mountains to our west that were pushed up by the Pacific plate sliding under the Australian plate. Outside those narrow fertile bands, making our soil productive requires a lot of inputs as many of us know!

As always Grant Taylor, Noxious Weeds Officer with Port



Macquarie-Hastings Council, demonstrated his fantastic knowledge of local geography, farming and weeds. He briefly outlined the main drivers for the introduction of exotic plants to the local area from the days of first white settlement, including growing food and developing pasture for milk and later beef production. And he talked about the economics of weed management from a rural perspective. We heard that Council is very keen to work cooperatively with rural landholders to address the critical weed issues that threaten productivity and/or conservation values in the Valley.

On the guided walk on Kelly Miller and Mark Hickson's beautiful property we talked about what might be causing an area of unhealthy pasture, their experiments with Giant Parramatta Grass eradication and the work they've done over the past few years to get rid of weeds and replant their river bank. This was rounded off by a delicious afternoon tea on their deck looking up the Valley in the fading afternoon light – a real Pappinbarra treat.

The workshop was organised by the newly formed **Pappinbarra Landholders Conservation Group**. The Group's next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 5 June** at the Hollisdale Hall—all welcome. The next field day will be held on **Saturday, 7 July** and will be about **fire**, from a number of perspectives. If you want to get on the email list for the PLCG or simply find out more about it contact Peter Michael [petewm@hotmail.com](mailto:petewm@hotmail.com) or 6587-6022.

Bev Sibthorpe

## Regular Events

### First Friday Family Night

*When:* 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month, 6pm onwards

*Where:* Hollisdale Hall

*What:* BYO drinks and nibbles, low cost BBQ including vegetarian option, member's draw (cash prize) and raffle

*Contact:* Julie-Anne Murphy 6585-6309

### Yoga

*When:* Every Saturday morning, 8 - 9:30am

*Where:* Hollisdale Hall

*What:* \$15 (mats are provided)

*Contact:* Amy Hubers

Scrapbooking and Card Making, and Craft Morning have been cancelled.

## Hastings Co-op Department Store Shareholders Days

**Fri 1st & Sat 2nd June.** 20% off for shareholders on selected items and lots more. See you there!

## 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.

## PPA/POA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – monthly at Friday 5:30pm the week before First Friday Family Night – all welcome.

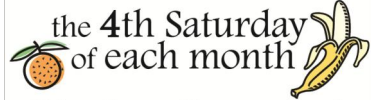
### Facilities for Hire

Hollisdale Hall – contact Jan Childs 6587-6055. Upper Pappinbarra facilities and tennis court - contact Jan Brown 6587-6159

## Saturday, 23 June

### Hastings Farmers' Market

the **4th Saturday**  
of each month



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## Pitchfork

### Circulation

*Pitchfork* has hardcopy and email circulation of approximately 250, now including Koorie Island Rd. It comes out on the Friday **before** First Friday Family Night – **Friday, 25 May** for the June Issue. Material for the June Issue to Editor by **Wednesday, 17 May**.

### Advertising

We run both casual and regular advertisements at very competitive rates. Contact Bev Sibthorpe [bsibthorpe@bigpond.com](mailto:bsibthorpe@bigpond.com) 6584-0051 or 6587-6075.

### Production Team

PPA Secretary: Jan Childs [janmary1301@bigpond.com](mailto:janmary1301@bigpond.com) 6587-6055

Editor and Advertising: [bsibthorpe@bigpond.com](mailto:bsibthorpe@bigpond.com) 6584-0051 or 6587-6075

Production: Angela Frost [angfrost@hotmail.com](mailto:angfrost@hotmail.com)

POA Member: Sue Frost [suefrost6@hotmail.com](mailto:suefrost6@hotmail.com) 6587-6129

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

**PPA Membership Fees for existing and new members are now due and should be paid by 31 July, 2012 for you to be financial.**

**(Note: If you only joined in the last 3 months, you are financial until June 30, 2013).**

**Renew/join and help keep the Hollisdale Hall and community events alive.**

## PPA Membership 2012-2013

\$5 per adult

PLEASE PRINT

Member Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Send cash or cheque made out to "Pappinbarra Progress Association" to: Jan Childs, 1301 Pappinbarra Rd, Pappinbarra NSW 2446.

