



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association

Hall Happenings

Saturday 27 July: **Hollisdale RFS** meet to check uniforms etc at 1pm.

Friday 2 August: **First Friday** get-together at 6 pm. All welcome. Barbecue and BYO drinks. Gluten free and vegetarian options available. Members' draw, raffle. Last month's members' draw was won by Kelly Benson and Julie-Anne Murphy won the raffle - a \$25 voucher for meat at Lewis' Butchery.

Saturday 3 August: **Pappinbarra Progress Association AGM** at 2 pm followed by a **General Meeting**. Agenda will include discussion of proposed improvements and extensions to the hall. Come along, show your support and have your say.

Saturday 10 August: **Cheese-making Workshop** 10 am to 3 pm. See notice below.

Saturday 17 August: **Pitchfork Choir** starting at 10 am. \$10 (\$5 to hall). Learn songs for *Bushed* production. Bring a plate to share for lunch.

There will be a working bee in August at a time to be decided at the General Meeting. Keep an eye on the notice board for details. All welcome.

Sunday 8 September: **Annual Cricket Match**. Upper vs Lower Pappinbarra at the Recreation Ground. Keep it in your diaries, details in next *Pitchfork*.

Thanks to Jim McGahey for organizing the new flagpole!

Presidents Message

It is always sad to see friends leave Pappinbarra. As they move elsewhere, in response to changed circumstances, we have most recently seen off Anne and Steve Bryson, Jan and Bill Farrell, and Lyn Potts. All people who made significant contributions to this community, they come back from time to time and keep in touch with friends and happenings in the valley, helped by *e-Pitchfork*.

Seven years ago, the valley lost Billy Waller. His wife Lorraine, who then went to Sydney at her sons' insistence, died on July 12. Jim Belford, who used to live at *Jack's Place* with his partner Steve Frew and the boys they fostered, lost his battle with cancer in March. Kelly Privett left *Privett Paradise* in June for what was to be a minor medical procedure; all who knew her were shocked and saddened to learn that things didn't go well and she died in her sleep. On behalf of PPA I extend sincere sympathy to Damian on his great loss. A gathering to remember Kelly will be held tomorrow.

Whatever one believes, we know that those who die are never going to be seen in the flesh again. We may see them in our mind's eye; we may gaze at photos of them; we may feel their presence in old haunts; we might see them in their children or grandchildren; we might read what they have written and remember... We know just as well that some day, sooner or later, when our time is up, we too will cast off this mortal coil.

DUM VIVIMUS VIVAMUS was the precept of those who followed the Greek philosopher, Epicurus: *WHILE WE LIVE, LET US ENJOY LIFE*. His teachings emphasized the 'tranquility to be derived from living the right life' rather than the epicurean 'eat drink and be merry with no thought of tomorrow' version.

Although I hated Latin at school, (my mother topped the state in Latin but I was a very contrary teenager) for me, the Roman poet Horace said it even better: *CARPE DIEM - SEIZE THE DAY*. This is a warning of the risks of procrastination, as well as an injunction to live each day to the full. If today were your last, would you have been happy with what you achieved? The honest answer is probably not, but it's something to aspire to. Those we remember fondly seem to have had the capacity to seize each day and to make the most of it.

Jean Hegarty

First Friday

'**Princess Mary of Buckinghamshire**' will actually cut the ribbon to officially open the new fence at August First Friday. We hope she will arrive round 6.30pm. Do join us for this celebration and round the fire afterwards for the usual barbecue and good company. Soft drink cans and poppers available for purchase. Bring your own drinks.

Cheese-making Workshop

This workshop will be a great chance for those who attended previously to brush up on their skills, share their stories and learn heaps more. Newcomers welcome. **10am-3pm Saturday August 10** at Hollisdale Hall. \$25 PPA members; \$30 others. Bring lunch to share. (Tea, coffee provided.) Cost includes milk and cheese samples to take home. Booking essential: 65 876 033 or 65 876 077 by August 3.

A Tribute to The Beautiful Kelly Privett, 06/04/79 – 04/07/13.

Kelly and Damian breezed into our lives one Happy Hour at the hall, a couple of years ago now, and it almost seemed like they'd just always been there. As such a happy, friendly couple they quickly made friends all up and down the valley. We would often marvel how they managed to know everyone and had cups of tea with people we'd not even heard of yet, even though we'd been here longer!

We scheduled dinners together when we could fit them in, as Kelly and Damian always seemed to have a steady stream of visitors staying at their place; both family and friends who obviously missed them too much since their move to the country from Sydney.

If they were not entertaining family and friends they were off helping out at the neighbours' place: dispatching chickens with Pam and Merv Wallis (just about Kelly's surrogate family in the valley), celebrating Lucky the cow's birthday complete with party hats, admiring Scott Lindsay's horses, helping with the Pappinbarra RFS, the Hastings Ostomy Group and much more. I remember one day Kelly sat patiently through about 4 hours of 'chicken coop renovation' at our place. While we roped Damian into building it with us, she sat and played games and made daisy chains for our girls, and chuckled heartily at the sight of us all covered in chicken poo dust.

Kelly was always up for a giggle, some good food and a drink or two. I feel lucky to have shared at least a couple of these with her. She was an awesome cook, from traditional Japanese meals that she'd picked up from her time as a student in Japan, to the hearty minestrone she once dished up for me as we sat cackling in front of *Days of Our Lives*. She also happily volunteered to be designated driver a couple of times on girls' nights out, needing no alcohol to fuel hilarious anecdotes of Kelly and Damian's travels together in Japan, Thailand and Europe. And another occasion driving the 'party bus' (their old van) to Bago winery for a day of fun. Those two definitely put the 'party' back in 'party bus'!

One of the main reasons for Damian and Kelly moving to Pappinbarra was Kelly's protracted health issues and complications after her diagnosis with endometriosis. But whenever I enquired about where her health situation was up to, Kelly was always upbeat despite the obvious frustrations that it presented. I never heard her once complain about it. Then there was the photo she posted of herself on Facebook. She was grinning, with big thumbs up, and her shirt pulled up to reveal an ostomy bag taped to her belly. As I read the words "Happy World Ostomy Day!" written underneath, I thought, "This chick is amazing!"

To see someone so young calmly and resiliently dealing with the bad luck life had dealt her in terms of her health was a real

inspiration, especially to see the supportive relationship she and Damian had built as they spent every day together at their very own "Privett Paradise". When we heard from Damian that she had suffered more health complications and was in hospital in Sydney, there was no way anyone could have anticipated the chain of events that followed.

So to have that phone call from Kelly's neighbour, Scott Lindsay, to say that she'd passed away on the morning of the 4th of July was a complete shock.

Like Damian and both of their respective families, we were just expecting her to be home any day.

I remember planning to spend that Thursday cleaning the house, which was a complete mess, and then after that phone call realising how unimportant it was. I couldn't imagine the pain that Damian and Kelly's family were going through in receiving such shocking news. Life's wheel of chance seemed to have stopped on the random "unfair" peg. But in this game there is no referee to stop and yell at, as much as I would like to. I guess that's when you have to put aside those selfish desires that cause you to ache, like wanting to have known her better.

I don't really know where Kelly's spirit is now, but I'm sure that every molecule of her being will be expressed again in the happiness, generosity and laughter that she was known for. She was just so damn gorgeous, inside and out! We miss you Kelly.

And to you, the community in the valley who are so good at rallying around when the going gets tough, I know you will help Damian through this difficult time, and help him to remember his Kelly with a joyful heart.

Chay Khamstone

* * *

Gathering for Kelly

Kelly was farewelled at a funeral in Sydney by over 220 of her family and friends on Thursday 11th July. Damian, along with Kelly's father, Walter and friends would like to hold a gathering at the Hollisdale Hall this Saturday 27th July at 3pm and invite everyone to come along. There will not be a service, but it will be more of an informal get-together to remember Kelly. The memorial will be preceded by a BBQ from 1:30pm. In lieu of flowers, Damian is inviting people to make a donation to the Hastings Ostomy Group which you can do on the day.



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Bird of the Month – Golden Whistler

Common name: Golden Whistler

Scientific name: *Pachycephala pectoralis*

Size: 16 – 18 cm.

The Australian Golden Whistler is the predominant member of a family of Golden Whistlers spread over Australia, Indonesia, New Guinea and South-west Pacific Islands. Adult male birds have a striking plumage of bright yellow breast and under body, olive-green back and wings with a black head and breast band encircling a white throat. The bill and legs are black. Adult females are not brightly plumaged, being grey above with a



female

pale-olive tint on the shoulders and a paler grey below with a pale lemon-yellow tint. Juvenile birds have a rich rufous plumage briefly but this is replaced after only a few weeks, so that they then resemble female birds.

Their call is strong, clear and varied.

There are a variety of phrases resembling “wi-wi-wi-tu-whit”, or a rising contact call, “seep”. Particularly entertaining to listen to is a vocal dispute or duel between males in adjacent breeding territories.

Usually occurring singly or as pairs, they inhabit rainforest, woodland, Mallee or coastal scrub but prefer denser vegetation. They forage for insects, spiders and other small arthropods in the lower and mid-level foliage of the forest. Berries are also eaten. They are found from North Queensland through Eastern and Southern Australia and Tasmania to mid Western Australia. They are sedentary, however some local migration takes place in the South-East.

Breeding occurs from September to January. The male and female share nest building, incubation and chick care. A shallow cupped nest of twigs, bark and grasses bound with spider web is placed in the fork of a bush or tree from 0.5 to six meters up. Two to three eggs are laid and only one brood is raised per season.

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



male

Peter Fackender

Beechwood School Market Day

Come along to the Market Day at the Beechwood Hall on **Saturday August 3 from 3pm to 6pm.**

Stalls will include gifts and items from small businesses within the school.

Enjoy a chai latte or cappuccino with a delicious locally made dessert for just \$5.

The Market Day will be raising funds for Beechwood School.

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Country Dance

What a great night we had. Numbers were down a bit, but everyone got into the mood and danced till their feet ached. Hughie opened the skies at about 6.30 pm, the gutters overflowed and some of us got a bit wet but this didn't dampen our enthusiasm as there was plenty of soup and cake to keep us warm and hydrated. We even had gluhwein to slake our thirst!!



The music was fantastic and very varied thanks to the prodigious skills of our maestro Russell Churcher, who played and called lots of bush dances and for the not so young and fit, there were some slower dances.

Those who purchased tickets brought along about 15 children, who amazed us with their enthusiasm and persistence. By evening's end they were dancing as well as most of the adults. In a break after about two hours of playing, Russell whistled while we were all spellbound by a performance with limberjacks (wooden puppets with jointed limbs). Apparently they refuse to dance if he doesn't whistle!



Altogether a fabulous night of dancing and conviviality with a pleasing profit. Thank you to everyone who participated in providing refreshment for the hungry and thirsty dancers.

Mary Walker

Plant of the Month - News from the north: The 12th Queensland Weed Symposium

This month, I thought I would take the opportunity to bring something different to the *Plant of the Month*, having just returned home from the Weed Society of Queensland 12th Weed Symposium. I've come away from it inspired and reinvigorated but also somewhat wary and concerned with what our northern neighbours are currently grappling with on the invasive species front. So, here is a snapshot of a handful of Queensland's most troublesome weeds – many of which are highly suited to our mid-north coast region.

Thatch grass / giant Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia rufa*): if you've driven the Pacific Highway near Raymond Terrace over the last few years, then it's likely that this is what you may remember as the roadside monoculture of 2m tall grass. It gets bigger the further north you go and is a major weed of grazing country. Please report this if you suspect seeing it in the Hastings.

Pond apple (*Annona glabra*): this is the rootstock tree species used for grafting custard apple (and related trees), but since poorly maintained and abandoned tropical and subtropical fruit orchards provided a means of the re-shooting stock to fruit over the past few decades, pond apple has become a weed of national significance (WoNS), infesting at least 2000 hectares of the Wet Tropics and is considered by many as easily capable of establishing in the sub-tropics.

Cat's-claw creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*): recently added to the WoNS list, this vine is well established already in New South Wales, but the scale and intensity of cat's-claw in Queensland

(particularly the south-east corner) is on another level altogether. In Brisbane, it is literally as commonplace as the morning glory vines here (*Ipomoea* species), and it seems to be expanding its range even further. Riparian infestations of more than 200 kilometres (yes, you read that right) are heading out of the upper Murray-Darling basin and into north-central NSW. Cat's-claw creeper vine has no known age or height limit and can completely decimate riparian ecosystems.

Witchweed (*Striga* spp.): on the 3rd day of the symposium, we had the breaking news as to why two of the most senior Biosecurity Queensland staff were not attending the conference as planned. Regretfully, the reason was that Witchweed had been just been discovered for the first time in Australia and BQ were swinging their response into action. This is very bad news for the affected sugar cane farm in central Queensland and for cane and cropping industries more broadly. Witchweeds are considered among the world's worst weeds. They are root parasites that cause massive crop damage even before the plant emerges from the soil, making detection and control extremely difficult. Please take the time to read up on witchweeds and the others above at:

www.weeds.gov.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

Peter Michael

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Rural Fire Service Update

Hollisdale RFS was on the verge of closing and gone forever, which would have been a sad moment, especially when we needed it in fire season. Many thanks to James Adams for stepping up to the plate. After extensive training and dedication, he has now passed his Crew Leader Status and is in the process of completing his Village Fire Fighting course. Hopefully we can get the Brigade back on track – but to do that we need new members and our current members need to dust off their uniforms and give us a hand. Anyone interested in joining the Brigade is most welcome. Any enquiries contact Chris Roelandts 65 856700 or email rolo56@bigpond.com

We now have a Dual Cab Category 7 truck (CAT 7), which has a massive advantage over the old one because it holds six firefighters.

The AGM was held on 11th July and the Committee is as follows: President: James Adams; Vice President: George Hegarty; Captain & Crew Leader: James Adams; Secretary/Treasurer: Chris Roelandts. We also decided to hold a meeting and training session at the shed on the last Saturday of every month at 1.00pm. The first will be on 27th July, but see below.

Pappinbarra RFS AGM will be at 10 am on 27th July followed by a stocktake. Stuart Robb from HQ will be in attendance and will take requests for uniform updates.

Stuart will go down to Hollisdale to deal with uniform requests at 1 pm.

Please note that at any training sessions, members must wear their full PPE Gear (Personal Protective Equipment) for insurance purposes and in case of a call-out.

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.

Piano Tuner

Thank you Paul Pollett for the donation of a piano to the Hall. We are planning to get a piano tuner to come and tune it soon. If you would like your piano tuned on the same day please ring Jan Childs 6587 6055.



Tree Fiesta
Saturday August 3
Bain Park, Wauchope 10am - 3pm
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Healthy food stalls, free live music,
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workshops, refreshments in the Arts Hall
A free family-friendly day for all.....
Enquiries phone Krissa: 0429 854 733 www.wauchopearts.org.au
Tree Fiesta is a Wauchope Community Arts Council event.

2014 Pappinbarra Calendar - Request for photos

Have you been taking your photos for the **2013 PPA calendar**? We'll be looking for shots that best capture the spirit of each month of the year. Start emailing them now to sharadaboyce@yahoo.com.au. Entries will close on Saturday, 16 November and the calendar will be available for purchase at December First Friday.

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 Sue Frost 6587-6129.

Recreation Ground Working Bee

As a lead up to the annual cricket match, the \$355 committee will hold a working bee on Sunday 25th August to bring the grounds up to scratch. Start will be 10am—willing workers very welcome.

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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 and gluten free options, members' draw (cash prize) and raffle, table tennis, all ages welcome

Contact: Jean Hegarty 6587-6077

Yoga

Yoga at the Hollisdale Hall has been postponed until there is enough interest.

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

Pitchfork Choir

When: Second Saturday of every month, 10am -12pm (third Saturday this month-17th)

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 following the AGM in August. All welcome

Facilities for Hire

Hollisdale Hall – contact Jan Childs 6587-6055

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

Classifieds

Wanted - Rental Property

Mature person and cat (both with great references) desire quiet, peaceful home in Pappinbarra area. Three bedrooms is great, can be smaller or larger depending on location and land. Would love space for a veggie garden. Cat goes on a leash so is not a danger to wildlife. Call Maggie 6556 7661 and thank you.

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, 30 August** for the **September** Issue. Material for the **September** Issue to the Editor by **Wednesday, 21 August**. 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

Sue Frost

PPA Membership 2013-2014

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