



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association

July 2024

Pappinbarra Bush Dance with

Lick the Spoon



From 5:30pm
Entry by gold coin

Soup and Bread Roll
provided for Supper.
BYO nibbles, drinks
and dancing shoes.

Bring some change
for the Raffles
on the night.
\$5.00 for 6 tickets

Saturday July 27

This event is proudly brought to you by the Pappinbarra Progress Association with the support of our sponsor, Port Macquarie Hastings Council and their community grants program



President's Report

How nice is it to rug up? I love this time of year.

Events this month:

Community BBQ July 5 from 6pm. BYO drinks and nibbles.

Bush Dance - See poster. Lick the Spoon play a wide range of acoustic instruments including Double Bass, Cajon, Washboard, Hand Drums, Banjo, Mandolin, Fiddle and Tenor Guitar. They love playing Bush Dances because all ages can participate, have fun and a good laugh. All the dances are thoroughly explained and called. A great night to remember is guaranteed! The campfire will be lit, bring your marshmallows. Light supper (soup and bread roll) provided, feel free to bring your own dinner, nibbles and drinks. No sale of soft drinks on the night.

Shout outs this month go to 1) Heather and Harvey Smith for raising approx. \$1,800.00 for the PPA from the Trivia night they hosted at the Hall. It was a fantastic night with lots of laughs, bribes and a compare (Harvey) in a dress, it was a hit with all who attended. 2) The PPA committee members for their commitment and effort over the last year. You have all done an amazing job and it was a pleasure to be

on this committee with you.

Grants - We were successful in obtaining a grant from the Governments Community Building Partnership 2023 grant round. The surrounds of the hall building will be sealed off from ember attacks and the front deck will be replaced as part of the DA conditions we had to construct the new kitchen. Work on this will start soon.

Change of Date AGM to July 24 at 6 pm. Nominations forms are on the hall notice board. I encourage you step up and join. Each person will have a role so the load is shared and it's an opportunity to really make a difference. Without new committee members coming on board the progress association will not be able to function to its full capacity. We need you!

Thanks for the opportunity to be the president for the last three years. I will still volunteer for the community and I will be looking for opportunities to assist where I can. I worked hard, I played hard and most importantly what I did made a difference.

Lisa McLeod

Hollisdale & Pappinbarra Rural Fire Brigades

Now it's winter time you should be getting ready for the next hot season. Staying and fighting a fire from burning your house is a big decision to make but there is an alternative. A spray system that covers your house in a fine mist of water and you don't have to be there, just start the pump and leave, you can fit this all yourself which saves a lot of money.

All you need is the pipe, sprinkler heads, and a fire fighting pump, we will have this on display at the get ready weekend in Sept, or if you want to start now call in and see Heather at Mid Coast Irrigation in the Wauchope industrial area.

Cheers, Chris



IN CASE OF FIRE CALL 000

Fire permits are not required.

Please notify the RFS and your neighbours at least 24 hours in advance of a burn.

Permit officers: Upper Pappinbarra: Andy Jarrett 6587 6181, Steve Ostler 6587 6090, Anthony Wall 6587 6127

Hollisdale: Chris Roelandts 6585 6700 or 0429 310 933, Peter Michael 6587 6022 or 0400 013 803

I AM, YOU ARE, WE ARE – owners of our HALL!

For those new to the valley let me introduce our hall – Hollisdale Hall.

We are lucky in this valley to have a hall which is community owned. It started life as the small Ellengrove School around 1929. When the school closed in the 1950s the land and building were purchased for the community. The main hall was built by the community in the 1960s. In true country style, timber was donated and local volunteers did the work.

A local committee of the Pappinbarra Progress Association Inc (PPA) runs the hall for the community. Over the years much has been added to the hall including the wonderful large outdoor covered area and our new kitchen. The hall is the centre for local events and is a place to gather together and support each other in good times and bad. The hall is available for hire for private events.



Painting the Hall, 2016

Come along, meet your neighbours, make new friends, become a member of PPA and enjoy your hall – how about the bush dance on the 27th?

Sue Frost

PPA AGM is this month - 24th of July 6pm. Please come along and support your community association.

Membership due the beginning of July, \$10 per adult.



Other Dates:

PVEMP committee meeting Sunday 7th

Fire training Saturday 13th, 8 am

Women's group Wednesday 10th from 9 am

Pappinbarra Church service Sunday 28th, 2 pm

First Friday 5th July 6 pm

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Now is the time

Set joining of livestock (running the bull with the cows over a limited time) has significant advantages over continuous joining (running the bull with the cows year-round).

With set joining:

1. It is easier to know the fertility of your herd. With set joining, the bull is put with the cows for 3 cycles (8 weeks). You can then pregnancy test or wait for calving and the cows that are not pregnant can be culled, so you are not feeding animals for no gain. Of course, less fertile cows breed less fertile offspring, so this helps avoid developing a herd of infertile cows and heifers.
2. Calving can be managed better and calving will be much less work. With set joining, calving occurs during 8 weeks per year, not all year. This facilitates calving husbandry including weaning, marking and vaccinating. Whereas if you have continuous joining you then have calving jobs all year. The worst time for ticks can be avoided for young calves. Cow gestation is 283 days (9.5 months), if you join your bull to the cows at the end of September, the worst of the tick season can be avoided for really young calves. Your calves will be born June and July when they are much less likely to get lots of ticks and will have a chance to develop resistance before the tick season of summer is in full swing.
3. Feed can be managed much better as you can match the feed needs of calves to your pasture availability. When your calves are being weaned around 5 to 6 months you have most feed on the ground if they are born June/July.
4. Importantly, heifer loss is much less with set joining. You can manage putting heifers with the bull when they are physically ready. Heifers like humans will start to cycle before they are physically mature enough to bare offspring (because we have bred cows for fertility). Heifers need to be kept away from the bull until they reach the critical mating weight which is >60% of a mature cow weight. If your cows are around 550kg then the minimum weight for joining a heifer is 330kg. Heifers that are too young have birthing issues or will die when birthing.

Now is the time to get cows and bulls ready to be joined.

Cows

Calves need to be weaned to give cows a chance to get a body condition score of 3 for joining. Cows also may need supplementary feeding with hay or silage to help improve their body condition. Cows in poorer condition (with a body condition score of 2) produce fewer reproductive hormones and will not cycle as consistently. Poor nutrition and low body condition is

the greatest reason for low fertility. You want to avoid culling a cow that is only infertile due to poor management. Meat Livestock Australia (MLA) state that reproductive efficiency is a bigger driver of farm profitability than price at the sales.



Parasite control and vitamin supplements I use with my cattle

Bulls

Bulls need to have a body condition score of 3 or 4 but not too fat as they become lazy (this is getting close to the bone now). To achieve this, they may need supplementary feeding.

Vaccinating

To prepare for successful joining, your herd can now be vaccinated with '5 in 1' (for tetanus, malignant oedema, enterotoxaemia, black disease and black leg) and they can be drenched now for parasites. They should also be given mineral and vitamin supplements (such as Multimin) for optimal health as coastal soils are particularly low in several minerals including selenium. Additionally, bulls can also be vaccinated for vibriosis (an STI, a bacterial infection of the reproductive tract).

Lazy Dog



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Trivia Night wrap up

The trivia night in May was a wonderful event, with the intent of making a significant dent in some of the PPA's operating costs for the year.

The attendances were lower than last year (those bull riders and motor bike enthusiasts at the showground drew quite the crowd). However, what we lacked in numbers we certainly made up for in volume, competitive spirit and generosity!

Quizmaster Harvey was in his usual fine and flowery language form, bringing the crowd along for the laughs and heckles. His 'Weird Shit from Harvey's Shed' section remains a popular category, though each year weird things get harder to come up with. Certain teams claimed some kind of competitive advantage for this category, given that a few people in the crowd had spent significant time in Harvey's shed, but that didn't make a difference when it came to the final scores, so they went home and had a little cry to themselves.

The 2023 winners "Silly Duffers" didn't put a show in this year, so there was no one aiming to win a second title. A hodge podge team named "Pants Optional" (no thanks!) consisting of a teacher, a bricklayer, a mechanic, a nurse, a quality improvement specialist and a gin lush won the night, and proudly took home the perpetual trophy, a



whole bunch of lollies, a \$25 Lewies Butchers voucher and a pair of fancy socks each.

I can't talk about the rest of the Shenanigans because – as they say – what goes on tour stays on tour, so if you want to know more, you'll have to sign up for next year's trivia night.



As unbiased as I am (cough, cough) this must be one of the most fun events on the Pappinbarra social calendar. Do yourselves a favour and get involved. Great food, great fun, great friends, and terrific fundraising. In the end it looks like \$1800 was raised for the Pappinbarra Progress Association to help keep the hall running for its events, and as a refuge in emergencies. Huge thanks to everyone who attended, donated, and supported us in any way.

See y'all next year!

Trivia Sidekick Heather and Quizmaster Harvey

Thanks to: Near River Produce, A1 Auto Parts Wauchope, Wauchope Rural Centre, Sunsets and Flowers Photography, Paddock Flowers, Phoenix Security, Beechwood Post Office, and apologies if I have forgotten anyone!



To connect with Pappinbarra Valley residents for trading, swapping, selling, information and other services go to **Pappinbarra Community Connect** on Facebook

Pitchfork

Do you have suggestions for items in *Pitchfork*? Contributions welcome. Contact Angela by email angfrost@hotmail.com or phone 65876035. (Copy may be edited for reasons of space or clarity. The views expressed in *Pitchfork* are not necessarily those of the PPA).

Advertising Contact Caroline Hemmings, 0439 016 071, caroline.13@bigpond.com.

Circulation: 225 hard copies; over 100 by email. Comes out the Wednesday before First Friday.

Production: Angela Frost angfrost@hotmail.com

PPA

President: Lisa 0418 220 138 ppa.president2021@gmail.com

Next PPA Committee meeting – After the AGM, July 24th 6pm start at the Hall. Interested members welcome.

Hollisdale Hall Hire - booking essential. Contact Harvey 0414 375 333.

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