



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association

September 2016

Valley Happenings

Please join PPA (\$5 per adult) to support your committee and be part of the community that is admired throughout the LGA for its vibrant, inclusive and varied activities. Next committee meeting is on Friday 16 September - 6 pm at the hall.

September First Friday get-together and barbecue is on 2 September from 6 pm at Hollisdale Hall, Pappinbarra Road. All welcome - come along and enjoy the company! Soup, vegetarian and gluten-free options included in a tasty low cost menu. Soft drinks available. BYOG.

Weeds Workshop/Post-market talk - 12:30 after the market on the 4th. See back page for details.

August First Friday saw Mary Walker win the raffle (she chose the Greenbourne Nursery voucher); Cheryl Willcocks won the members' draw. Cooks Kelly Gould and Stephen Lane were very efficient on the barbecue while Amy managed the orders. Many thanks to all who helped in any way during the evening.

Greg Ostler Memorial Cricket Match Dirt versus Tar 11 September at Upper Pappinbarra from 9.30. Working Bee on 3 September from 10am to get things shipshape for the match. There will be a raffle on the day (proceeds to Pappinbarra and Hollisdale RFBs) and barbecue lunch. Sign on time at 9.30 for a 10am start. \$2.00 for adults \$1.00 for kids to play.

All Saints' Pappinbarra, our little historic church, welcomes all to the harvest festival service on Sunday 24 September at 2 pm with a cuppa around 2.45 off the back of Murphys' ute. Bring some produce and a plate to share.

PAPPINBARRA COMMUNITY MARKET
GROWN & GATHERED

Sunday 4 September. Come along and bring the family from 9 am to mid-day for a country experience. Sheep shearing, baby animals, live music! Stall enquiries to Lisa on 0418 220 138. [facebook.com/grownandgatheredcommunitymarket/](https://www.facebook.com/grownandgatheredcommunitymarket/)

Hollisdale and Pappinbarra RFB Community Bush Fire Safety Meeting 24 Sept 12 noon at Hollisdale Hall. See details on insert.

Training on Saturday 3 September 8-10am. Meet at the hall in full uniform.

Tennis Spring Comp will start at Upper Pappinbarra on Wednesday 28 September. Interested? Ring or email Lisa for details. Council has upgraded the court (it looks great!) and should have the drainage fixed by then too.



2017 Pappinbarra Calendar: Please get out and about in the valley with your camera and send photos to the editor.

DIRT vs TAR

Greg Ostler Memorial Cricket Match
Upper Pappinbarra
11th September
9:30 am

No limit to players so come and support your side.
C'mon Taries, dont let the dirt win AGAIN!

Meet the neighbours

Charlene Tubbs and Sacha Ilsley

Charlie was born in 1972 in Mona vale, the first of three siblings, and later acquired two stepbrothers and two stepsisters. The family followed her father's work as a contract draughtsman with the mines up and down the east coast, eventually settling in the Hunter Valley when Charlie was nine. Although not a dedicated student, she found learning quite easy and schooled in Rutherford to year 12. Then she did casual work while trying to decide what to do.

In 1992 her daughter Keiran was born and, two years later, Charlie started university as a mature age student. She completed a BA Visual Arts and a Dip Ed. in Queensland in 2008 followed by a year of relief teaching, which she found quite challenging! During her time up north, she did casual and volunteer work and was an Art Workshop Provider at the Children's Festival at Woodford Folk Festival. She has an abiding love of photography and screen-printing and really enjoys doing face painting.

Sacha was born in Denmark in 1973 and has one older sister. The family moved to Australia in 1974 and settled in the Hunter Valley. He went to primary school in Paterson and high school in Dungog. Although it was all pretty easy, he left in Year 11. He was a bit unsettled for a while and turned his hand to many things - bar work, furniture removal, building, farming, dairying and tree felling. He once clipped the corner of his roof while dropping a brushbox that had grown too close to the house! He built a verandah from trees he had felled and milled himself. He counts working on a small mixed farm the most satisfying of his many enterprises.

Sacha met Charlie in the Hunter Valley through mutual friends. They lived very separate lives with Sacha in Queensland and Charlie in Newcastle, only occasionally bumping into each other at friends' places. Years later, in 2001, they started a long-distance relationship with Sacha zooming down the highway on his motorbike getting a very sore backside in the process. (He does admit to fancying her from the start!)

After a year of commuting, Charlie and Sacha set up house together in Queensland. Young Keiran came too, returning to live with her father in Newcastle two years later. Sacha and Charlie's daughter, Oni, was born in 2006; their son, Jye, in 2009. Sacha found work on a small mixed farm and did odd jobs in the community - building and household maintenance. He was a member of the local fire brigade and a founding member of a co-operative dairy. Charlie worked in a wholefood shop and did



some teaching in the River School, a neo-humanist school with small classes and a nurturing ethos. She also did some gardening and face painting at local markets.

When Keiran was in Year 10, the family moved to Newcastle to spend some time with her. They finally left Queensland in 2013 for a commune in Toorumbbee where Charlie's father was living. The next couple of years saw them at Pappinbarra, Kindee, Long Flat and Telegraph Point where Sacha's mum lives. With the relationship between grandmother and grandchildren really consolidated, it was time to put down roots.

They found their piece of paradise in our beautiful valley through word of mouth and the Net and got on really well with Pam Wallis (the vendor) who let them come at weekends to camp by the river, where there is a gorgeous swimming and fishing hole. When they eventually bought the 50-acre property in March, they let Pam stay in the house till she was offered a flat in Wauchope (where she'll stay till her new house is built in town).


Sacha, Charlie, Oni and Jye moved in at the beginning of July and adopted Red Dog and Ruby (Merv's old horse) and have already met many of the locals. The children are home-schooled so they have become part of that community. They have lots of plans for their property such as mixed farming, veggies, home-grown bacon and maybe a dairy cow or two, but are not going to rush into anything. Sacha works at Burkhardt's Bakery three days a week and likes to have lots of projects on the go but has a bad back so has to monitor his activities carefully. Charlie does the formal schooling and Sacha teaches the life skills. Sacha starts projects and Charlie finishes them. Sounds like an ideal blend of different personalities!

Mary Walker

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Cheese-making

A great time was had by the attendees of the two recent cheese-making workshops at the Hall. Liz Gough and George Hegarty ran the popular workshops to show people how to make a variety of cheeses from scratch.



A word from George H about them:

“Due to popular demand Liz Gough and I put on two workshops: one for eight participants and the second for 12. One enthusiast at the second, on looking at the dates on the recipe book, asked: “Do you do this every Saturday?” If only she knew! And at 35 bucks it was a steal. They learned all the spills and thrills of making: yoghurt cheese, fetta, camembert, ricotta, paneer, Monterey jack, and the really hands-on mozzarella. After five hours of tuition, punctuated by wonderful shared lunches in the sun, they headed off with their sample boxes and wide-eyed plans of putting it all into practice. If the second crew manage as well as the first at doing that there’ll be a lot more cheese makers on the loose out there. And as for next week ... definitely not on!”

Thanks to George and Liz for providing these wonderful workshops.

Allsorts fable: A killing machine

Like a black dog loping along the Forest Highway ahead of the truck, it neither veered right nor left. Running on the middle of the road was a big, black, feral cat.

There’s little in the bush to judge size against, so you can understand how people can say, “It was a panther, I saw a black panther!”

I wanted to see it properly so I accelerated and began to catch up. The black animal’s powerful bounds kept a line out on the open road and for a moment I wondered if I caught up, could I run it down? But before I could get close enough, it cut off to the side and was gone into the forest. On this occasion the cat was not a road statistic. This cat is not a pet nor is it an urban myth.

Moral: My machine is no match for this sly feral killing machine.

Music at the Hall

Last month local composer and choir leader Elly Franchimont organised a great concert at Hollisdale Hall which featured brackets from Elly’s inspiring ‘Wednesday’ *a cappella* group and ‘Bella Bago’ community choir - a fantastic way to brighten up a cold morning! The choirs were complemented by performances from talented local performers Susan Ashton and Tom, Kelly Gould, Sophie Aplin and Ang Frost.

After almost 16 years, this was Bella Bago’s last showing as a mixed choir - with a token male in evidence! It has now changed into a non-auditioned women’s choir. Community-based, the choir sings a variety of songs in three- or four-part harmony

without instrumental accompaniment: 16th century madrigals, traditional folk, popular contemporary and African American freedom songs, offerings from the World Music scene and original compositions by some amazing *a cappella* composers - Rachel Hore, Stephen Taberner, Tony Backhouse...

Women of all ages and singing abilities can join Bella Bago, have fun and sing in a safe, non-judgemental group while learning and growing into the music. Join them on Monday evenings in the Wauchope Arts Hall from 6-8pm - you’re sure to enjoy it!

Watch for Bella Bago and others at the next concert at Hollisdale Hall!

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Standards for Ecological Restoration

With more and more Pappinbarra landholders receiving funding for bush regeneration it's good to know that earlier this year, the ground-breaking *National Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration in Australia* were launched. This followed a three-year process led by the Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia (SERA) in collaboration with 12 non-government partners, including the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR). According to AABR these are 'the first national standards for restoration anywhere in the world [and they are] attracting quite a bit of attention and rumours abound of other countries following suit before too long'. (aabr.org.au/NL/AABR_News_128_qwer.pdf).

The Standards identify six key principles for 'Ecological Restoration Practice'. Principle 3, relating to the recovery of ecosystem attributes, has a tool that allows the regenerator to illustrate the degree to which the project is achieving its ecosystem goals over time with respect to six domains - species composition, community structure, ecosystem function, external exchanges, absence of threats, and physical conditions.

The following section covers 'Standard Elements in an Ecological Restoration Activity' - namely planning and design, implementation, monitoring, documentation, and evaluation and reporting. 'While the latter includes a detailed list of activities required for professional level restoration planning, implementation, monitoring, recordkeeping, aftercare ... it is made clear that the essence of the standards can be complied with by non-professionals by adjusting the performance criteria to better match the individual project resources.'

While this is a pretty meaty document it is very well set out for online reading, with links to about 120 case studies of plant and animal community restoration being practised across Australia. You can find the Standards at seraustralasia.com/standards/contents.html.

(AABR produces an interesting bush regeneration online newsletter that you can receive free of charge).

Bev Sibthorpe

Times Past All Saints' window

The beautiful stained glass window above the altar is the outstanding feature of the little fibro church that stands on land donated by Merv Wallis' grandfather back in 1931. Its inscription reads: **In memory of John Neville.**

John Neville wasn't a Pappinbarra person; he took up the first free selection in the Parish of Redbank and married Miss Elizabeth McLennan in 1868. 'As time passed, more families settled round about and a school became a pressing necessity. After considerable agitation the Minister for Education sent an Inspector to select a site and make preliminary arrangements for establishing a school.' A name? 'It was pointed out to him that the opposite side of the river was called Rosewood and, that as there had originally been a lot of fine beech trees [there], Beechwood would be an appropriate name.' [Port Macquarie News 27 October 1923]

A church next to the school was graced with the window, donated by Elizabeth, after her husband died in 1917, aged 60. When the church was deconsecrated some years ago, the window was stored at St Matthew's in Wauchope. When the Pappinbarra community embarked on restoration of All Saints' in 1988, the Neville family was approached for permission to use the window. Jan Chivas, formerly a daughter-in-law of Pat and Nancy van de Linde of Pappinbarra, painstakingly restored the leadlighting. Jim Wills remodelled the sanctuary at All Saints' to accommodate the window and the altar from Beechwood as well. He had to split the window because of a structural beam.

More recently, the little church was painted, using colours from the window in a scheme devised by Gary Rainbow.



Jean Hegarty

Susan Ashton RN



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Tree of the month: Tallowwood *Eucalyptus microcorys*

These magnificent trees are flowering now throughout the district, providing a feast of nectar and pollen for not only native and introduced bees but also many other insects, marsupials, bats and birds. Found in wet sclerophyll forests, as emergent trees in rainforests, in forest remnants and as paddock trees - survivors of extensive clearing for cropping and pastures - they have persistent reddish fibrous bark to the smaller branches. The bark is often 'corrugated' or twisted, flakey, with small, scattered 'eruptions'. Tallowwood leaves are relished by koalas. Smallish for a eucalypt, they are glossy and darker green on the upper side.



Club-shaped flower buds are often clustered towards the ends of branchlets, seven to nine in a group, on long, tapering stalks. The creamy white flowers precede the development of funnel-shaped 'gumnuts'.

Described as 'a moderately tall tree attaining relatively large diameters', tallowwoods are distributed from Maryborough in Queensland south to Newcastle, growing from near the coast to higher altitudes of the Great Dividing Range. They often grow with blue gums (*E. saligna*) and blackbutt (*E. pilularis*).

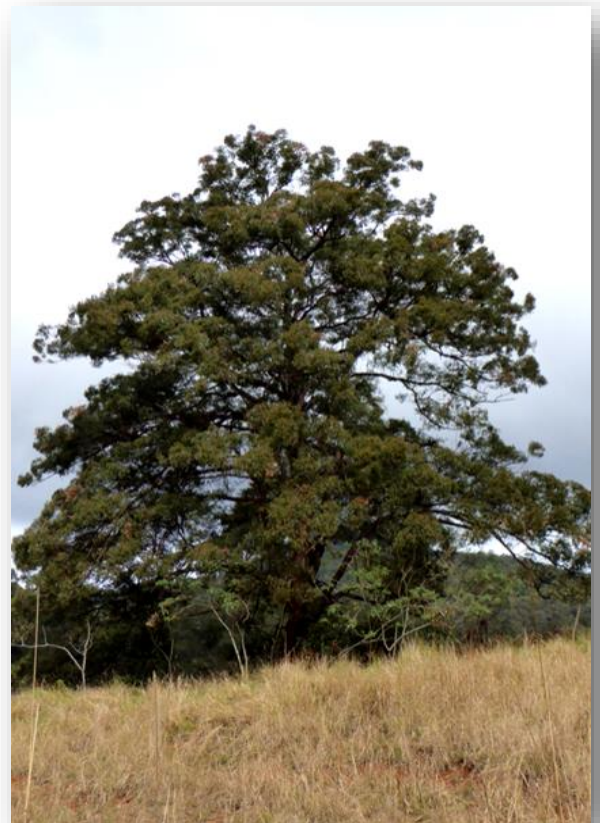
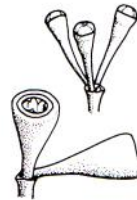


The pale yellow to yellowish-brown timber is hard, durable and highly valued. 'The combination of great strength and durability has resulted in tallowwood being in

demand for light and heavy construction as well as posts, poles and sleepers. The smooth, greasy finish of the dressed timber makes it very suitable for dance floors. In NSW it is considered to be the best hardwood in the state.' [Forestry and Timber Bureau *Forest Trees of Australia* 1957]

Tallow, of course, is the fatty substance obtained by boiling down sheep or cattle, used to make candles and soap - hence the common name for this tree. Its aboriginal name is banyalla.

Jean Hegarty



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Grown & Gathered Market review

What a wonderful vibe at the August Markets. Our visitors are truly enjoying what our beautiful valley has to offer.

Thank you to our wonderful stall holders and of course all our very talented musicians. We love the fact that anyone can rock up and entertain us - if you can perform, come and have a go on the day.

Our September Market is on Fathers Day, 4 September. Bring Dad to visit us and he can sit and listen to the music. This month Garry Annetts is giving us a sheep shearing demonstration - if you have a couple of woollies bring them along! More stalls and some great food will be on offer.

Don't forget our charity table for your surplus items. Last month we raised \$109.30 for Lifeline and the September charity stall takings will go to the Wauchope Men's Shed.

If you would like to have a stall and haven't as yet we encourage you to do so. We would love to have some fresh vegetables on offer.

Hope to see you there.

Like us on

facebook.com/grownandgatheredcommunitymarket/

Market Committee

Heather, Lisa, Chay, Mary & Christine

From farm dam to seasonal wetland

We have written before in Pitchfork about how our local frogs are divided into two main groups – stream-side species that breed in the flowing waters of the Pappinbarra River or its many side creeks; and forest-dwelling species that breed in shallow ponds and wetlands along the valley floor. Although all frog habitats have changed since the arrival of Europeans, it is the valley floor wetlands that have been affected the most – these now exist mainly as boggy areas in paddocks or as farm dams.

In 2014 we used some grant funding from Local Land Services to try an experiment – was it possible to use fencing to exclude stock from part of a paddock dam (keeping the dam partly accessible to stock) so that the wetland-breeding frogs would be able to return? And by connecting the dam through to natural forest habitat with a fenced and replanted corridor, would we be able to attract a wide range of the pond-breeding species? The photos tell part of the story – after only two years we have complex pond-side vegetation around part of the dam while stock continue to use other parts; and a partially revegetated corridor that

provides shelter for frogs and other small animals. Last spring and summer, with much less plant growth, we were rewarded by a healthy chorus of frogs, with seven species all vying for space. As spring approaches again, we anticipate an even larger crowd and hopefully a few more species. All up, we rate it as a great success and a good illustration of how even a small change in how we manage the landscape can bring large benefits for conservation.

Some of the young frogs that emerge from our dam will move back up the corridor to spend the year maturing in the forest, while others will probably move along the forested margins of the Pappinbarra River in search of new places to breed. If anyone is interested in creating a similar frog haven on their property and would like advice or assistance, we can be contacted on 65876035 or aplin.ken@gmail.com.

Ken Aplin



Jan 2014



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Rural Fire Brigade News

It is quiet on the fire scene but with continuing dry weather things may heat up! Permits for burning off will be required from 1 October or sooner if there is no rain.

There will be an RFS display involving several brigades at Beechwood School on Saturday 10 September from 8 am to 1 pm.

Our local bush fire safety community meeting will be at Hollisdale Hall at midday on the 24 September. Come along to support the volunteers who give their own time to ensure that the fire threat in Pappinbarra and environs is minimised - find out what you can do to help them and help yourself! (See insert this issue.)

Chris Roelandts

Permits are no longer required for burning off.
However, you still need to give your neighbours and fire control (6588 9000) 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, Chris Roelandts 65856700; **Beechwood:** Sam Elphick 0428-856-222.

President's message

This is an important lesson for all of us. There are many things we can't do alone, but that doesn't mean we can't get them done. We are all surrounded by resources that can be utilised to help us achieve our goals - family, friends, community and faith. Sometimes we fail to ask for help because of pride or stubbornness. Sometimes we think it's a sign of weakness to admit we need a hand. And sometimes we don't even think about asking for help. Whatever the reason, it's a waste.


It's important that we learn to use all our strength; this includes inner resources such as discipline, courage and even love. But it also includes outer resources. Just as we should be willing help others we should be willing to ask others to help us. It's one of the great things about being human.

Quote: The effect you have on others is the most valuable currency there is.

Lisa McLeod

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Pappinbarra Community Connect

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

facebook.com/groups/850891678290572/

(Admin Damian Privett)

To find out more about our monthly 'Grown and Gathered' market (or to give us a 'like'!) go to facebook.com/grownandgatheredcommunitymarket/ or google 'Grown and Gathered Market'

Kids Corner

Bring your Dads along to the Pappinbarra Market on the 4th of September, it will be a special Fathers' Day market with lots of cool things for Dads (and kids too of course!)

The PPA would still like to hear from you if you have any ideas for fun activities that could be run at the Hall. Send your ideas to Lisa at lisa.mcleod2240@gmail.com.



Let's talk weeds! Weed workshop at the Hall.

After the next market (September 4th), weeds officer Grant Taylor from Port Macquarie Hastings Council will talk about noxious and invading weeds in the Hastings, also any emerging problems. He will discuss the declaration of Camphor Laurel and Small-leaf Privet and methods to eradicate them from the Pappinbarra valley. Terry Schmitzer from Landcare will discuss the focus that Hastings Landcare has to assist landholders to address their weed infestation problems.

Peter Michael and Kelly Benson, Pappinbarra residents who both work in weed control and bush regeneration, will be available after the talks to give advice and answer questions.

This presentation will be in the Hollisdale Hall starting at 12:30 pm. It is a great opportunity for all landholders to talk with weed control experts. Bring along any weeds you would like identified.

PPA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – every third Friday of the month 6 pm at the Hall. Interested members welcome.

Hollisdale Hall Hire - booking essential. Contact George Hegarty 6587 6077.

Upper Pappinbarra facilities and tennis court - contact Lisa McLeod 0418 220 138 or Robyn Flanagan 6587 6011

Pitchfork

Contributions welcome. Email to editor Jean Hegarty jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au by Thursday 22 September. (Copy may be edited for reasons of space or clarity. The views expressed in *Pitchfork* are not necessarily those of the PPA).

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