



PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

Pappinbarra Progress Association

February 2016

Valley Happenings

Pappinbarra Progress Association welcomes new members! Do you enjoy *Pitchfork*? You can support PPA in this and other activities to benefit our community by joining at First Friday - only \$5 per adult. Members can have free classified ads on a casual basis and are also invited to attend committee meetings; next one follows a Special General Meeting at 6 pm on Friday 19 February at Hollisdale Hall.

February First Friday get-together and barbecue is on 5 February from 6 pm at Hollisdale Hall, Pappinbarra Road. Come along and greet your neighbours! Vegetarian and gluten-free options included in a tasty low cost menu. Soft drinks available. BYOG.

Pappinbarra Community Market - Grown and Gathered is on Sunday 7 February. Come along from 9 am to 1 pm and enjoy the experience! Stall enquiries to Nat 0432 762 393 or 6587 6174 or natfil@hotmail.com.

December First Friday saw Santa arrive with his sack of presents – see report p 6. George Hegarty won the

members' draw and raffle winner, Damian Privett chose the Hastings Fruit and Veg voucher. Thanks to cooks, Kelly Gould, Wil and Jim, and all who brought desserts to share. Many helped set up and clean up - thank you - your help is really appreciated.

Special General Meeting on Friday 19 February 6 pm to consider a change to PPA constitution re the number of committee members. This is the only business to be discussed. The committee meeting will follow.

Hollisdale RFB training on Saturday 6 February 8-10 am. Meet at the hall in full uniform.



Saturday 5 & 12 March 10 am to 12:30

First session at Hollisdale Hall

Bee biology and behaviour and what that means for honey production (booklet given as part of workshop).

Second session will be practical – hive establishment and management (in the field).

Cost for the two sessions is \$50 including morning tea. Bring some lunch to share.

Registration essential contact Jean 6587 6077 or jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au

All Saints' Pappinbarra, our little historic church, welcomes all to the service on Sunday 28 February at 2 pm with an Ostler baptism & a cuppa around 2.45 'off the back of the ute'.

Beekeeping Workshop 5 & 12 March in Pappinbarra. See poster this page.

Hollisdale Hall, owned by the community, is available for community use - there is a sliding scale of fees to cover cost of gas and electricity plus a \$200 bond for 18th and 21st birthday parties. Get details and book with George on 6587 6077.

Move over Mrs Markham Do you have any photos of cast, crew or set? Mary Walker wants to compile a pictorial record of the production to hang in the hall. Send them to Mary at janmary1301@bigpond.com

Pappinbarra Valley calendars Thanks to Sharada Boyce and Sue and Angela Frost for their work on the 2016 version. Keep your camera handy for shots suitable for the 2017 effort!

Pappinbarra Recipe Book Send your favourites to Lisa on lisa.mcleod2240@gmail.com or bring to First Friday.

Tennis Comp begins soon call Lisa McLeod 0418 220 138 if you are interested in playing or being a swinger.

Meet the Neighbours

Andrea Carboni

Andrea was born in Sardinia towards the end of World War II, the seventh in a family of ten. He remembers his childhood as happy but hard working. Very clever, he did all his schooling in Italy, excelled at maths and topped the school - all while working after school in a joinery shop from the age of eight. By 14 he was a qualified furniture maker.

When he was 19, Andrea left Sardinia and moved to Germany, wanting to earn more money, learn a new language and improve himself. He qualified as a Carpenter and Joiner. He then moved to Holland where he learned the language and worked as a labourer in a Pharmacology enterprise, helping to make penicillin! He returned to Italy in 1965 to do a compulsory year in the army.

Having completed his military service, he applied to come to Australia; he had heard it was a good country, a good life with lots of opportunities but no one told him how hot it could get! He arrived at Villawood and spent a great deal of time at the local swimming pool. Not very motivated to find work, he was enjoying an easy life, but eventually landed a job with Premier Joinery in Mascot (a big company where there would be a chance for improvement), remaining there until 1973.

Andrea met his future wife, Maria, in 1969 and, after a five-year engagement, moved to North Manly, married and lived with his in-laws. In 1974 his daughter, Mira, was born. It soon became evident that his mother-in-law not only had a worrying gambling problem but also a major influence over his wife. In an effort to break the gambling habit, they moved to an apartment and then bought a house in Brookvale. All to no avail - the gambling continued.

In 1978 Andrea and Maria had a son, Raffaele, and the next year they went to Italy, to try and get away from the gambling again. Andrea couldn't settle in Italy; he missed Australia and couldn't wait to get back here. His wife stayed for a further six months. Shortly after her return it became obvious that the marriage was failing and, taking the children, Maria moved back to her parents. 1985 saw Andrea and Maria divorce, marry again four weeks later and then divorce again! Maria was the love of Andrea's life and he still becomes tearful when talking about her.

Andrea sold the Brookvale house in 1989 and got a bit lost for a few years. He eventually found himself and decided it was time to face up to his responsibilities so purchased a house in Rooty Hill and lived and worked in Sydney for a while. Ten years later



Andrea with his family photos

he bought a farm at Firefly, near Nabiac, and commuted there at weekends. Unfortunately the farmhouse burnt to the ground, so he rebuilt it.

In 2004 Andrea decided it was time for a tree change. After selling up at Firefly and Rooty Hill, he located a piece of paradise on the Pappinbarra River. The farm had no fences but the infrastructure was sound; he put up about 4 km of fencing, worked very hard and is now reaping the benefits with a beautiful Angus stud.

Andrea came to our valley to heal himself, finding lovely people and some wonderful neighbours. Very proud of his two children and four grandchildren, he lives for them and has a lovely family picture gallery as you walk in the door! Never absent when there is any action at the hall, he loves to dance and sing, likes a joke and a chat but values his freedom. He speaks Italian, English and Spanish fluently and he used to speak German, Dutch and Sardinian but has had no practice lately. So if you need an interpreter you know where to go!

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Rural Fire Brigade News

It has been very quiet for us on the fire front again. When hot weather comes we seem to get some rain to take away the danger! This is great, but we cannot be complacent because with all the new growth out there it's only a matter of time till it all dries off and the trouble starts.

Everyone needs to remember that there are rules which are enforceable all year round concerning fires.

Even if permits are not required in a non fire danger period,

you must inform your neighbours and Firecom on 65889000 that you are going to light a fire. Otherwise, if someone sees a plume of smoke and rings 000, you may find trucks arriving to find you sitting in your deck chair with a stubby in hand watching the fire! As well, the fire must be contained within your property.

There is never a better time than today to clean up flammable rubbish and slash high grass!

**Chris Roelandts,
Hollisdale captain**

Permits are now required for burning off.

Don't forget 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.

Lost and Found

I guess I will start at the beginning... at about 7:30 pm on Wednesday 11 December, I was finishing cooking dinner when I realised that my three year old son Kobi wasn't here. I searched inside the house and outside the house but still couldn't find him! As he is not one to really wander, by 8:30 I was in a panic! He only had a nappy on, nothing else.



We've only been living in Pappinbarra for a bit over a year with our five children, ranging in age from 18 to eight months, but have met our near neighbours. I called Kerry Rowley; she called Mal McKenzie and lots of friends and neighbours turned up to help. When it was getting dark, I called the police. They contacted the Fire department and SES. Before I knew it my yard and property was a mass of people and flashing lights; everyone was looking for Kobi.



As time ticked by my internal panic was increasing every minute. The dogs were on their way and the helicopter was coming at midnight. Thank goodness we didn't need them as at 11:45 Peter Hinds from Lemon Gum Road called to say that he had found him in our back paddock in grass about 1.5 metres high.

Never have I been so stressed!! Then relieved, and when I took a moment to look around I was completely blown away by how many people were here to help look for Kobi!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone who helped that night and especially to the neighbour who found my little son!! What a great community. By the way, he only had a few scratches to mark his almost five-hour ordeal.

Danielle Williams



Kobi's version of what happened

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Times Past

The Hollis Story

Newman Hollis was born in Mursley, Buckinghamshire, England on 22nd December 1816. His parents were John and Elizabeth Hollis and his siblings William, George, Mary, Elizabeth, Alice, Thomas, Susanna and Ann. At neighbouring Drayton on 24th November 1833 Newman married Martha, daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Kirk.

Newman's grandfather, William Hollis, went to New South Wales in 1791 as part of the Third Fleet. Apparently, Newman decided to follow him, after winning the money for the fares in the boxing ring! Newman and Martha, both aged 28 years, with their family - Mary Ann (10), Elizabeth (8), Robert (6), Susanna (3), and Sarah (2 months) arrived at Sydney Cove on 11th July 1844 on the sailing ship *St Vincent*. A son, Kell died on the voyage.

They were not long in Australia before they made their way to Port Macquarie where Martha's father Benjamin Kirk had been employed by Major Innes. Sadly, Benjamin had been killed in an accident just prior to their arrival and Newman was asked to replace him. Thus began the 170-year history of Newman Hollis and his descendants in the Hastings Valley.

At auction on 26th March 1855, Newman bought two blocks of land at Kindee. There he built a very fine home and established the first Arab Horse Stud in the State. Among his horses were Tosca, Emulator and Saladon. Over the years the family grew to six sons and five daughters (including a son called Newman (2)).

In the 1870s Newman and his sons conducted a very successful carrying business between the New England and Port Macquarie with their three bullock teams and wagons. Some hair-raising stories have been told of their experiences on the mountain trails. Amongst other things, wool was the major consignment to be shipped out of Port Macquarie.

Newman's son, Robert, made his home in Port Macquarie; George, Joseph and William all chose the Upper Hastings and Newman 2 selected land at Pappinbarra [about a mile down from the present hall] to be called Hollisdale in later years. He married Ellen McCarthy [whose family lived about halfway between the Pappinbarra bridge and the present hall].

At just 27, Ellen died in 1886 and was buried on their property. Newman Senior came to live with Newman 2 and when the younger man died on 26th March 1910, aged 59 years, he moved to live with grandson, Vincent John and wife Mary Josephine née McKenna in a house built in about 1910 'down near the creek'.

The property was named *Ellengrove* after Vince's beloved mother. The old man died on 15th October 1911, aged 95 and was laid to rest in the Church of England section of Beechwood Cemetery.

Vince and Mary Hollis had six daughters and three sons. Thomas Newman Hollis was the youngest son born at Wildfels Private Hospital, Wauchope on 18th April 1924. Other siblings were Rose (Nellie), Sara, Vince, Dorothea, Mary (Pat), Bernard (Joe), Ada and Audrey. Beside the nine children and their parents there



The Hollis family 1903. Back: George (14) Nell (22) Vince (20) Newman (24) Margaret (25) Ada (23) Ern (18) Rose (16) Front: Newman (95) with Mary (6) Angus (11) Robert (8) Jim (3) Dan (10) Newman 2 and his second wife Rose with Paul (6m)

were two farmhands and a schoolteacher in the household. Tom often remarked how amazing it was that his mother and sisters could provide such hearty meals, all cooked on a small Beacon Light stove. Home grown vegetables, fruit, preserves, meat and poultry, milk, butter and eggs all ensured there was plenty for the family and visitors to enjoy.

Parents and children all contributed to the running of the largest dairy farm on the Pappinbarra, milking one hundred and twenty cows by hand twice a day. The cream was separated and sent to the Wauchope Factory and the skim milk fed to pigs and calves. They grew corn and other crops to feed the livestock.

The storekeepers from Beechwood, Mr Nicoll and Mr Brownlow rode horses up the valley to take orders from the farmers to be despatched on the cream lorry. Bread and mail were delivered three times a week and fish orders were taken for Friday. Any other supplies were delivered per cream lorry to the farmers. Bappin School was built 'about three mile down the road'. Tom said, " Me oldest sister said it was too far to walk and she wasn't

Susan Ashton RN



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Thomas Newman Hollis (16)
in 1940

going to go. The next two, they used to walk there and back when they started. Me dad said it was too far to walk so he give them this little block of land - half an acre - to build a school. So they moved the school up here." Originally, it was a rough building on *Ellengrove* [now a barn] until the present schoolroom was built, called Ellengrove School after Vince's mother Ellen [Tom's grandmother]. Tom's mother, Mary, was the postmistress for Hollisdale, established in

1928. Sorting mail and later conveying telephone services for that locality. Her unexpected death on 29th July 1938 saw the duties continue under Vince and daughter Nellie.

Both Joe and Tom had worked on Queensland Cattle Stations before they enlisted in the AIF. During World War 2, Joe served in the Middle East before returning to New Guinea where he was shot in the heart. The bullet remained there until his death in 1996. Tom trained in jungle warfare and saw active service in New Guinea.

Their father, Vince, died suddenly on 6th August 1943. His three

sons inherited the properties and the daughters each received a cash settlement.

In 1948, at the Catholic Church in Waverley, Tom married Elaine Gavegan, sister to Peggy, who had married Joe in 1943. They settled in the old homestead by the creek. Joe sold his portion on the upper side of the road west of the present hall; it was re-sold a couple of times till Tom bought it in 1964.

Tom provided for his family by developing his beef cattle enterprises and logging for Reynold's Mill.

Tom and Elaine's children, Robyn, John, Constance, Raymond and Geoffrey, together with nieces Christine and Denise were reared at Hollisdale and mostly educated later at boarding schools. None of the children followed in their father's footsteps. After downsizing his holdings, Tom continued to breed beef cattle until his death on 7th August 2009, aged 85. Tom is remembered as an honest, reliable and decent man with a great sense of humour.

Jeannette Rainbow with details gleaned from Mrs Sara Swanson's reunion book of 1976



Tom Hollis (84) in 2007

Frugal Forest Exhibition

Congratulations to all the people involved in the Frugal Forest! The exhibition was launched on the 8th of January at the Glasshouse and was on display there for two weeks. Close to 4,500 enthusiastic visitors came to see it. Now the Forest is off on a tour of the Mid-north Coast for the next year and a half.

Midwaste, who have been great supporters of the project, conducted a survey during the exhibition and passed on some of the comments of visitors: 'Wonderful, hopefully will be seen by lots of children to teach them about consumption, waste and the environment', 'Impressive', and 'Amazing', 'Absolutely amazed and beyond inspired!', 'Fantastic interaction', 'Awe. A phenomenal work of art with a very important message' and 'A spectacular creation that has changed our point of view. I know care a whole lot more about the environment and recycling different materials'



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Plant of the Month

Hastings River Reed

(*Potamophila parviflora*)

These are the ones I like. Something local. Something so common you'd hardly notice it was there. Lazy years to get a positive identification on the ubiquitous grass growing along the banks of the Pappinbarra river, after stabbing at various other possibilities. Once you get your eye in for the Hastings River Reed, it's unmistakable.

The grass takes the form of a tall dense tuft with narrow dull-green leaves. While this may sound like many grasses of the district, there are none that grow as readily (or exclusively) in the fast-flowing waters of our area's streams and rivers. Hastings River Reed anchors itself to cracks in rock reef (bed-rock) or along with other cohorts in this niche including Creek Mat-rush (*Lomandra hystrix*), Bergalia Tussock (*Carex*

longibracteata) and Tassel Sedge (*Carex fascicularis*).

The flower spikes present above the foliage in a broadly similar way to that of Giant Parramatta Grass, but fall more 'open' than that of GPG.

I have no experience or knowledge with this species as a cultivated plant, but assume that it can be grown from seed.

Peter Michael



Hastings River Reed with root zone submerged
(source Wikimedia)

PPA Christmas Party

This was a great success with all the young and young at heart having a great time.

Thanks to Santa for finding time in his busy schedule to visit us. Thanks too, to his helper Jeannette Rainbow. Chris Roelandts drove the fire truck with Santa aboard and made sure he brought along his sack of presents - thanks Chris.



PPA President's Note

What an exciting year 2016 is shaping up to be! The committee have many great events planned already. If you would like to suggest an activity please feel free to email me with your ideas.

Quite often we can all feel overwhelmed with what we have to deal with in our busy lives, and often we wonder how to stay

sane in the process. Just remember you have a whole community of people around you that you can turn to even if it's just to jump out of your life for a moment and have a cuppa and a chat. Be spontaneous, it feels good. You never know what may come of that break in your routine.

Quote: A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal.

Lisa McLeod

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Bird of the Month

Pheasant Coucal

Centropus phasianinus

Other Names: Cane Pheasant, Swamp Pheasant.

Size: 50 to 70 cm

Status: Secure in WA, NT, QLD and New South Wales.

The Pheasant Coucal is one of those birds that doesn't quite fit the mould. It is like a pheasant, being a ground dwelling bird with a long tail, large body, short stubby wings and short legs, but is a member of the cuckoo family. Cuckoos are known for their habit of laying their eggs in the nests of other bird species. The Pheasant Coucal, however, is different from all other Australian cuckoos: it builds a nest and incubates and raises its own young.

The adult Pheasant Coucal in breeding plumage has a black head, neck and body, with rich chestnut wings barred with black. Its long tail is marked with black, brown and cream bars. The eye is red. After breeding, the adults moult out of their black plumage to a white-streaked chestnut colour. Young birds have paler plumage. Adult females are generally larger than males. They are sedentary birds who form life-long bonds with a partner.



Found in coastal and adjacent areas from the Kimberleys in WA through NT and QLD to the south coast of NSW around Nowra, they inhabit forests and woodlands with thick grassy undergrowth or weedy thickets and wetlands.

Sugar cane cropping has benefited these birds as they feed on the ground, taking frogs, small reptiles, large insects and small mammals. They also take the eggs or hatchlings of other birds and are sometimes mobbed as a result.

Their distinctive, far-carrying, booming call has 15 or more notes, accelerating down the scale, "whoop-whoop-whoop-whoop-whoop..." with the male's call sometimes accompanied by the female's lower pitched call. Calling often occurs following dawn and prior to dusk. They also make a single rasping alarm call.

Breeding takes place between September and March when an untidy round nest of sticks, grasses and leaves is built in a thicket or long grass with the long stems above being drawn together. The male incubates the 3-5 eggs for two weeks and the female helps feed the young. More than one clutch may be reared in a season.

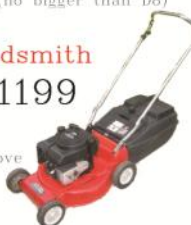
Peter Fackender

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

Editor's note: I often see pheasant coucals moving off the road crouched low like their reptilian ancestors; millennia disappear in a flash as they take clumsily to the wing.

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Demonstration

Patrick McEntee will
have his **new flow bee
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the 7th from 11 am.

If your business would like a one-off A4 advertising insert in *Pitchfork*, provide us with 300 copies and we will distribute for \$30. Contact Liz Gough 0473 170 761. Deadline is 24 Feb for the March issue.

Trevor Smith's beautiful
nestboxes will be on sale
again at the **Pappinbarra
Community Market** on the 7th
of February



PPA Matters

PPA Committee meetings – Special General Meeting at 6 pm Friday 19 February to consider a change to the PPA constitution. Will be followed immediately by the ordinary committee meeting. All welcome.

Facilities for Hire

Hollisdale Hall - booking essential. New charges in operation to better cover costs.

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 over 100. It comes out on the weekend before First Friday - Friday 29 Feb for the March issue. Material for the March issue to the Editor by Thursday 18 February please. We run both casual and regular advertisements at very competitive rates. Contact Liz Gough 0473 170 761.

Production Team

Editor: Jean Hegarty jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au

Production: Angela Frost angfrost@hotmail.com

Advertising: Liz Gough lizabeth52@hotmail.com 0473 170 761

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

Pappinbarra Progress Association Committee

Executive:

President: Lisa McLeod 0418 220 138
lisa.mcleod2204@gmail.com

Vice President: Mary Walker 6587 6055

Treasurer: Sue Frost 6587 6129

Secretary: Suzanne Pollett 0420 329 841

Other Committee Members:

Todd Barnes

Liz and Bryan Gough

Nat and Will Mrowka natfil@hotmail.com

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