## Pappinbarra Valley Monthly News

PITCHFORK

Pappinbarra Progress Association

#### August 2016

# Valley Happenings

PPA Memberships for 2016-17 now due - \$5 per adult. Please join at FF 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 19 August - 6 pm at the hall.

August First Friday get-together and barbecue is on 5 August from 6 pm at Hollisdale Hall, Pappinbarra Road. Drum fires to keep you warm - come along and enjoy the company! Vegetarian and gluten-free options included in a tasty low cost menu. Soft drinks available. BYOG.



Sunday August 7. Come along from 9 am to mid-day and enjoy the experience! Live music, soup and food. Stall enquiries to Lisa on 0418 220 138. facebook.com/ grownandgatheredcommunitymarket/

July First Friday saw Neil win the raffle (he chose the Mitre 10 voucher); Patrick's number was pulled out for the members' draw but he wasn't there so it jumps to \$35 next FF. Cooks Emma, Angela and Lisa did a great job on the barbecue. Many thanks to all who helped in any way during the evening. We farewelled Pam Wallis (off to town so we hope to continue seeing her) and visitor, Lis Tuck, Wauchope Arts stalwart, who is off to Central Australia.

work.

All Saints' Pappinbarra, our little historic church, welcomes all to the service on Sunday 27 August at 2 pm with a cuppa around 2.45 off the back of Murphys' ute. Bring a plate to share.

Hollisdale RFB Training on Saturday 6 August 8-10am. Meet at the hall in full uniform. Pappinbarra RFB members welcome.

Cheese-making Workshops at Hollisdale Hall starting 10am on Saturday 13 and 20 August. Almost booked out! Contact Liz Gough with your deposit to secure a place.

Card and board games night is on Saturday 13 August at 6.30 pm. Join us in the cosy hall for a relaxing evening. Adults only please. BYO drinks and a plate to share for dinner. Cost \$5 to play.

2017 Pappinbarra Calendar: The PPA will again be producing a Pappinbarra Calendar with images from the Valley. Please keep this in mind when out and about in the valley with your camera!

Other news: Many Pappinbarra Valley people were successful in their applications for funding under the Biodiversity Grant scheme administered by Hastings Landcare. Their efforts will enhance connectivity and build resilience in our riparian corridor. Congratulations to all the recipients.

Cricket Match 11th September and Working Bee at recreation ground (Upper Pappinbarra) 3rd September at 10am to get things shipshape for the cricket match.



## Times Past & Present With Rosalie June Fowler (née Hollis)

J une, who was born in June and has always been called June, thinks her mother ran out of original names! The youngest of Dan and Vida Hollis' seven children, born in Wauchope in 1932, she grew up on a property called *Hollisdale*. Located along Shaws Road, and now owned by Andreas Carboni, it has been re-named several times.

Hollisdale was a dairy farm; the family milked 40 cows twice a day. All the children had chores to do before and after school. June started milking (by hand) and separating cream when she was only five years old. Nine years later her dad modernized and bought a petrol generator! The house was very basic with hessian ceilings and no electricity.

June started at Ellengrove School six months before she turned five. Four of the Hollis children were at school at the same time. There was one teacher with 14 students ranging in age from four to fifteen. June's first teacher was Lyle Cameron, who stayed at the school for two years and boarded with Pat Murray's grandparents.

Her next teacher was John Yabsley, also boarding with Pat's grandparents. Stella, Pat's mum, was at school with June and was the eldest. The kids thought Mr Yabsley was inspired; he had special days and Christmas parties and when it was cold the children were sent out to collect firewood and they would light up and do their school work on benches in front of the roaring fire. Not one wore shoes; these were reserved for church or visits to the doctor.

In 1941 John Yabsley went off to war. The school closed (temporarily); June, aged nine, and her sister had to walk about five miles to Lyddington School down near the Pappinbarra bridge - no mean feat in bare feet! There Mrs Pat Roach taught about 20 students. Mrs Jo Roach, Julie-Anne Murphy's mother, taught sewing, so the education was well rounded. June was schooled at home for a while when she was nearly 11 and all schoolwork was done by correspondence until the Ellengrove School re-opened using unqualified subsidised teachers.

June's father fell ill when she was 15, so she and her brother had to run the farm, milk the cows, feed the chooks and pigs and help their mother in the house. Life was hard but simple and the family thought they were made when 'Dad bought an old Buick and we could go to dances in style'! Until then, in ball gowns sewn by hand and beautifully coiffured hair, the girls jumped on



the back of the cream truck dressed in their finery and were blown to smithereens on the drive to the fortnightly dance at Beechwood Hall.

In 1951 everyone was invited to *Clover Hills* for a 'tin kettling' welcoming home newlyweds by vigorously banging kerosene tins with sticks. What a party! June met her future husband, Pat Fowler. They married the next year at St Joseph's in Wauchope, took over Pat's family dairy farm on Rawdon Island, raised a son and two daughters and lived there until Pat sadly died of cancer in 1996. The farm used to flood regularly and they would end up with 70 cows crowded together on half an acre of land. Pat had to find work off-farm, so June managed and worked the dairy almost unaided for 20 years.

After the farm was sold in 1956, June moved to Clareville Avenue in Wauchope. She was secretary of the Pink Ladies and worked at the hospital and Bundaleer, but gave it up about ten years ago as she was getting a bit old and wanted to travel which she does as often as possible. Her time is filled with looking after her lovely garden, doing jigsaw puzzles, working at the Legacy op-shop, selling raffle tickets and Legacy badges and going to the RSL twice a week for a meal and the meat raffle.

June loves to go out and socialize; she came to the recent Bush Dance at Hollisdale Hall and was impressed with her old school room and the hall in general. Good on you June - come and visit us and your old school any time! June has a mind and memory as sharp as a tack - not bad for a woman who left school at the tender age of 15, lives alone with minimal help, has an artificial knee and shoulder and a pacemaker!

**Mary Walker** 



## Hollisdale Hall 50th Anniversary Bush Dance

T he newly painted, polished and lit Hollisdale Hall was a beautiful setting for our celebratory bush dance on 9 July. So much pride in this precious community meeting place was in evidence, as was the hard work by so many volunteers - over 800 hours (!) were logged for the makeover. While many locals had disappeared for the school holidays, there was a great

were often in order, but there was still plenty of opportunity to 'shake it all about'. It was great to see so many kids of all ages dancing the night away. The barbecue provided a welcome pit stop, and the delicious soups were a great energy restorer throughout the night - a big thank-you to the chefs George, Sue and Lisa, soup makers George, Jan and Heather, and Mary for

turnout for the dance with new faces from Wauchope, Port Macquarie and beyond. Russell and Dot Churcher had come a very long way from their current residence in Tottenham (NSW) to play and call for us and Russell did his usual splendid, good humoured job of guiding us through the dances, ever tolerant of those who, when it comes to the moment of action, don't know left from right. The hall was filled to capacity so small steps



the mulled wine. Thanks also go to the Frosts - Sue, Angela, Sophie, Emma and Rob - who set up the hall (the bunting looked great Sophie!) and to those who cleaned up afterwards; to Michéle at EcoWild for selling tickets; and last but not least to our fantastic President, Lisa McLeod, who threw the last overnighters out at midnight so that she could lock up.

**Bev Sibthorpe** 

## Bird of the Month

Red-browed Finch Neochmia temporalis

T he red-browed finch is small (11 to 12 cm) but boldly marked so is hard to overlook as it feeds or bathes close by our homes.

A bright red bill and eyebrow together with a bright red rump adorn an otherwise dull coloured body. The back and wings are olive-green and the under-body is grey, while the tail is black. Young birds have black bills and do not have the red eyebrow. Both sexes are alike.

Red-browed finches are found in the eastern part of Australia from Cape York in Queensland, southward to Adelaide in South Australia. They inhabit grassy clearings in forests with dense understory growth and are often found along creek lines.

In small feeding flocks ranging up to 10-20 birds, they are sedentary or nomadic within their locality, searching for suitable seeding grasses. They feed mostly on the ground on seeds and insects, but seek nearby dense shrubbery at the slightest hint of danger. Seed feeders and bird baths attract them. Calls are almost inaudible high-pitched squeaks and chirps.

Breeding takes place between September and January in the south of the



finch's range. During this time a male may court the female by holding a stem of grass in his bill and displaying before her. Using both green and dry grass stems, together they construct a loose, bulky, bottle-shaped nest with a side entrance in a dense bush or tree from 1-3 meters above ground. The nest chamber is lined with small feathers and other soft material. Clutch size is 4-6 eggs with often more than one clutch per season. All nesting duties are shared by both parents.

For further information or questions relating to this or other species contact can be made through this email address peter\_fac@ yahoo.com.au

#### **Peter Fackender**



# PPA Annual Report 2015-2016

T oday marks the conclusion of another action-packed year for PPA. Your committee has worked hard, not only to maintain and improve Hollisdale Hall for all the activities happening there, but also to build a sense of community in our Pappinbarra Valley and the surrounding area. So what has PPA achieved during the past twelve months?

Many PPA activities aim to promote community spirit and raise funds for maintenance and improvement of our communityowned Hollisdale Hall.

We have organised a **First Friday barbecue** at the hall every month except January, so that people of the valley, their visitors and those from further afield have the opportunity to meet, talk and eat together in a relaxed setting. Of course this involves a lot of work. I want to thank everyone who has helped make these evenings so successful, especially the members who willingly stepped up to the barbecue plate to feed the crowd. Your Vice President Mary Walker, purchased the food for FF, organised chairs and tables and the members' draw and raffle. Treasurer Sue Frost kept the change flowing and looked after food money and memberships. Rubbish removal was dealt with by myself and Mary Walker; toilets cleaned by Kelly Gould and Liz Gough; grounds kept looking great by Bryan Gough. People who came early helped set up and many helped with the clean-up. Thank you all for your help - it couldn't have been done without you.

Pappinbarra Players' 2015 production of Ray Cooney's comedy *Move over Mrs Markham* was performed in Beechwood Hall in September to four very appreciative audiences! Our reviewer said: "It was a riot of uproarious sexual shenanigans, with John Uncle's direction making the most of the opportunity to celebrate funny business in every sense"!

In September, a beautiful spring day saw the 2015 **Greg Ostler Memorial Cricket Match** at the Upper Pappinbarra Recreation Ground. Thanks to Steve Ostler, barbecue cooks Jim McGahey, Angela Frost and Ken Aplin, umpires Scott Lindsay, Pete Davison, scorekeeper Chris Roelandts and all who participated or observed, the day was a great success. The Hastings Co-op kindly donated a fruit and vegetable hamper to raffle. The profits for the day were split between the Pappinbarra and Hollisdale RFBs.

We had a pleasant **consultation with Council** at the hall in October; we thank them for coming and listening to the community's concerns.

Our **Grown and Gathered Market was** kicked off by Natalie Mrowka and helpers on the first Sunday in November. It is evolving every month with our social media guru Heather Smith at the forefront of the growth. We feel that these markets are good for our community and hope they continue for the foreseeable future.

**PPA's Christmas party** on December First Friday was enjoyed by all the kids as Santa arrived on the fire truck, siren sounding, driven by Captain Chris Roelandts. Jeannette Rainbow helped him distribute presents from his sack. Folk brought desserts to share and a festive time was had by all. Thanks to everyone involved.

We thank **Port Macquarie Hastings Council** for their great support in our endeavours to improve our hall and its facilities. Under their grants program, we received \$6394 for resources to paint the hall inside and out and have the floor professionally sanded and sealed. Volunteers have so far spent about 800 hours in preparation and painting. Darren Rowley brought along his cherry picker to help with the high walls at the back. Liz Gough provided morning teas and lunches for the volunteers. Thanks to all who put in the hard work to bring our lovely hall to the picturesque state it's in today.

Council also gave us \$500 towards Christine Nolan's **community garden** initiative. This has been used to kick off the permaculture project with construction of a new garden bed in front of the Ellengrove schoolroom and a new garden coming soon to the rear of the block.

PPA's beautiful **2016 Pappinbarra Valley calendars** were sold at December's FF. Thanks to organiser Sharada Boyce, Angela Frost for layout, those who contributed photos and Sue Frost for marketing. We are grateful for the advertising support from local businesses.

March's **Beekeeping Workshop** (with theory and practical sessions on two Saturdays), delivered by Patrick McEntee, Mark Hickson and Jean Hegarty had ten keen participants, many of whom now have their own bees. Trish Crick was so inspired she has constructed a fabulous permaculture bee garden on her lofty hillside. Those who bought flow hives said they really valued the contact with experienced beekeepers.

PPA's **Indian Cooking class** of eight students and **Indian Night** at the hall in April was a great success. Alicia Gestal-Lanza, Harold Stokes and George Hegarty shared their expertise and sixty diners that evening enjoyed a delicious Indian feast. PPA was thrilled to welcome the **Jewelled Gypsies** for a repeat performance and many joined in an impromptu belly dancing class!

(Continued on page 5)



A monthly **card and board games night**, started in April, will continue to provide a chance for adults to enjoy a low pressure child-free evening with a shared meal.

We have been fortunate in receiving funds from the **Commonwealth Department of Social Services Volunteer Grants** for a brushcutter, pressure washer and vacuum cleaner and from the **Holiday Coast Credit Union Community Partnership Grants** for almost \$2990 towards the cost of solar panels for the hall.

**Trivia Night** was again May's standout event, adding to PPA coffers while everyone ate, drank, racked their brains and made a racket! Peter Michael and Chay Khamsone devised and delivered the questions, kept the scores and tried to control the crowd. Mary Walker organised everything and everyone else in her usual capable way, including persuading many local businesses to donate the terrific prizes. Many thanks to all involved.

We again engaged the brilliant Russell Churcher for our usual **Bush Dance**, which celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the addition of the hall to the schoolroom. Everyone - young and old - had a great time. Jan Childs, Heather Smith and George Hegarty organised the food and Mary Walker the mulled wine. Thanks to them, to Sue Frost's decorating team and all who served food, and cleaned up before and after. I locked up at midnight after seeing off over 100 attendees home.

PPA's **Say NO to Plastic** project, co-ordinated by Sue Frost and backed by a seeding grant from **Hastings Co-op**, sold 50 reusable shopping bags, made by members, at the July Grown and Gathered Market. This project is a fantastic way of getting the message to people of the valley and the wider community about saving our environment.

We continued publication of PPA's newsletter, *Pitchfork*. Angela Frost does a fantastic job of design and layout, Jan Childs capably looks after printing and folding, Liz Gough advertising and Jean Hegarty editing. Regular contributions from Peter Fackender, Mary Walker, Chris Roelandts, Jean Hegarty and myself have been supplemented from time to time by Chay Khamsone, Sue Frost, Kelly Miller, Mark Hickson, Cathy Eggert, Patrick McEntee, Ken Aplin, Bryony Anderson, Adrian Guthrie, Christine Nolan, Bev Sibthorpe, Steve Ostler, Peter Michael, Mary Wagg, Natalie Mrowka, Morrow Taplin, Todd Barnes, Heather Smith, Jennie Lea and Alison and Brendan of Greenbourne Nursery. In addition, we run copy from time to time to support Landcare, resident-driven fundraisers for charity and other appropriate initiatives. Pitchfork has a print run of over 300 and a growing email list of over 200. *ecoWild!*, Beechwood PO, Beechwood Pub and Beechwood Store display copies of *Pitchfork* for pickup, and *ecoWild!* sells tickets for advertised events. Thanks to all.

Thanks to the business people of Wauchope who advertise in *Pitchfork* and the PPA calendar and are prepared to donate goods and services as prizes when approached. Pappinbarra people are involved in many community-based enterprises in Wauchope, so we do give back to the great town that gives us such a lot of support. Please support those who support us whenever you have the chance.

We are lucky enough to be getting some much-needed work done (by Council) on the surface of the **Pappinbarra tennis court**. This will ensure that we are able to keep playing there for years to come. The ground is Council-owned and forms a vital link to the community that sits on the dirt end of the road.

I would also like to acknowledge the people that have previously volunteered to get the hall where it is today - thank you - without you our job would have been that much harder.

For those who will one day volunteer their time I encourage you in this endeavour as it is a most rewarding experience and one that will bring you a deep sense of satisfaction. Don't be fooled: it can be hard work, unappreciated by some and downright frustrating at times. It's not for the faint hearted on occasions. But ultimately it's for the good of the community. You don't always have to be available but when you are giving 100% that means the team effort works brilliantly. In this role I have made some lovely friends that will be with me for life and I can't express how happy that makes me feel.

At the conclusion of my first year as president, I want to express my thanks to the truly wonderful committed committee who have worked like a well-oiled machine and to all those who have been such enthusiastic supporters of PPA in its various endeavours. I have learnt a lot about myself and those close to me over the year and you have not put me off standing for the president's position again.

Working cooperatively, enjoying meals and entertainment together, sharing expertise, stories and ideas, being there for each other in good times and bad, all help give us a sense of belonging and enrich our enjoyment of living in Pappinbarra Valley. Many come here seeking such a connection. Being part of it all continues to give me the greatest pleasure. Thank you everyone, I applaud you.

> Lisa McLeod PPA President



## Grown & Gathered July Market

W hat a fantastic market we had in July on picture perfect day with a fabulous friendly market feel!

We had 15 stalls – not including the PPA ones – and it was certainly a spirited market. We benefited from having a listing on 'My Community Connect' provided by Southern Cross Austereo (2MC and StarFM), with many saying they had heard the announcement on the radio in the days leading up to the market. Our social media following is growing, and this is a great way to reach new people.

On the day, Lisa managed the open fire like a champion – keeping the kids and marshmallows under control – and George Hegarty made golden boys with the kids and tasty dampers for people to try. PPA's corn on the cob was a winner

with the crowds.

Denny Michael's super mini massages were a hit, with people lining up for second turns and giving great tips (monetary ones). Our small entrepreneur needed reminding to come back to her business occasionally, but if early indications are anything to go on, she should be busy at the next market!

Our new stallholders, *Beeline Toys*, had a range of environmentally aware educational toys that had my kids all

begging for them! This local company is a lovely alternative to the plastic throwaways that grace the toy shelves of the stores, so keep an eye out for them (www.beelinetoys.com.au) when you're looking for that special gift for your children or grandchildren.

The only downside to mention is dogs. As we are a community market, we realise that pets play their part. Please help us out - if you bring your dog to the market keep it on a lead and clean up after it. If visitors step in doggie doo on their way through the gate, it isn't a good start to their market experience.

Back to the positives: our August market is looking good as we build on the momentum from the previous ones. We could really use more fresh produce on our stalls – people love to come and know that they are buying food that is not days or months old. If you have produce to spare, please consider having a stall. We are getting a great range of guests from Port Macquarie who don't have the same space as most of us to grow fruit and vegetables for themselves.

We are also holding a free seminar after the August market to help our stall holders who might have questions about how to use social media to benefit their businesses. This is open to anyone in our community (see the ad on p 8) and may in turn benefit the market, exposing it to wider audiences.

Thank you again to all the people involved in making our July market so successful – stall holders, cooks, musicians, fire controllers and more. Looking forward to seeing you again in August.

Please consider following the market on Facebook, and sharing it with your friends.

www.facebook.com/grownandgatheredcommunitymarket/

#### Heather, Lisa, Chay, Mary & Christine

# In the garden

A lthough it is the middle of July it's great for gardening! Now is the time to think about planting new season deciduous trees, both fruiting and ornamental varieties.

Time too, to prune established deciduous trees if required.

Rose season is also upon us - it's the ideal time to plant new season roses and to prune existing ones.

I recommend using Seamungus pellets when planting new trees or shrubs;

it's a natural soil and plant conditioner made from composted seaweed, fish and humic acid.

Happy gardening from Alison



## **Rural Fire Brigade News**

**Hollisdale**: Campers on *Inshallah* left a fire which escaped. Chris spotted it and he and Paul Pollett thought it could be easy to control with the fire hose from Chris' place, but it got into the long grass and started heading up the hill. Brigades from Hollisdale (Cat 7), Wauchope (Cat 7) and King Creek (Cat 9) were needed to get it under control. It just goes to show how fast a fire can move; even in the middle of winter, complacency about fires is misplaced!

One of our fire fighters, Geoff Carson, is moving out of the valley; we thank him for his 28 years of dedicated service to our RFB.

Chris Roelandts



**Pappinbarra:** Members of both valley brigades did some training on Pappinbarra's new Cat 9 vehicle on Saturday 9 July to get accustomed to it before the fire season. This was followed by a gathering to celebrate its addition to their firefighting arsenal - plenty of room for

it in their beaut fire shed! This is a vehicle that is smaller than the usual fire truck, so can get places the bigger one has difficulty in accessing.

Over a barbecue lunch and a tri-colour cake, Captain Steve Ostler thanked Pam Wallis for her support on the food front over many years and wished her a happy retirement in Wauchope. For PPA, Jean Hegarty presented her with a native bouquet (grown in Pappinbarra) and related a story or two about Pam's varied contributions to valley life. Thanks for everything Pam; we will miss you.



### 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.



## Pappinbarra Community Connect

## President's message

Your committee for 2016-17 was endorsed by those intrepid souls who braved the winter evening to hear the PPA Annual Report, endure another election and have a celebratory glass or two afterwards. Welcome to Elly Franchimont, Adrian Guthrie, Christine Nolan and Rob Williams. Thanks and farewell to Todd Barnes, Kelly Gould, Jean Hegarty, Nat and Wil Mrowka and Gary Rainbow.

If you want the best the world has to offer, offer the world your best.

Lisa McLeod 0418 220 138 lisa.mcleod2240@gmail.com

## Kids Corner

Hey, kids of Pappinbarra! The PPA would love to do some more activities for you at the Hall. The committee made a couple of suggestions (treasure hunt day, a video competition and

screening, a lantern parade at Christmas) but they would 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 <u>lisa.mcleod2240@gmail.com</u>.



To connect with Pappinbarra Valley residents for trading, swapping, selling and other services go to <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/850891678290572/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/850891678290572/</a> (Admin Damian Privett)

Social Media under the Spotlight

following Grown & Gathered Market Sunday 7 August 12:30pm - 2:00pm

## Free Seminar

covering Why use Social Media? Who is using social media? #WhatAreHashtags Social Media for Business Settings and Safety PLUS an open Q&A session

### Sign up...

Go to Facebook.com and search "Social Media under the Spotlight" or go to: www.writeapproach.com.au

### **PPA Matters**

PPA Committee meetings – AGM Friday 19 August. 6 pm at the Hall. All 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 19 August. Editor's Note: The Hollisdale Hall Story

With the Centenary of the Ellengrove schoolroom coming up in 2018, we want to publish a souvenir booklet which will include many of the 'Times Past' stories we have had in Pitchfork over the last few years. Any additions or amendments to these will be gratefully received. If you have things to add or a story you would like to pass on, give me a call on 65 876 077 or email me on jeanmay@bluemaxx.com.au. If I don't know, I can't write about it!

(Copy may be edited for reasons of space or clarity. The views expressed in *Pitchfork* are not necessarily those of the PPA).

Advertising Contact Liz Gough lizabeth52@hotmail.com 0473 170 761 for info on both casual and regular ads. If your business would like a one-off A4 advertising insert in Pitchfork, provide us with 300 copies and we will distribute for \$30. Deadline is 25 August for the September issue.

Circulation: 300 hard copies; over 200 by email. Comes out the weekend before First Friday. Production including ad design: Angela Frost angfrost@hotmail.com