



HARTLEY CHRONICLE

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No. 4



A FAIRY TALE

Once upon a time, long long ago, in the beautiful Hartley Valley a group of interested community citizens held a friendly meeting to discuss ways and means to help their neighbours and generally enjoy themselves.

And so the Hartley District Progress Association came to pass.

They did great things! The Community motto was "Many hands make Light work". They built a recreation and community hall with adjacent tennis courts. Many the joyous days and nights of social events were held by this close knit group in their community hall.

They came together, the great people of this beautiful valley and enjoyed themselves. There were times of great trauma and stress when the bush fires struck the area but this band of community people held together through good times and bad times. Helping each other in a true and neighbourly spirit.

They held Christmas parties, tennis parties, card nights, games nights and social parties. Many tales have been handed down, through generations by the elderly people of the Valley.

Unfortunately, horror struck! The Valley people were dragged screaming and kicking into the twentieth century, with the widening of the road and building of a new bridge by the Department of Main Roads.

The community hall was dismantled and moved to its new residence in the Hartley school grounds. The tennis court died!

Further sorrow followed with the National Parks and Wildlife Service taking over the Village. The Hartley District Progress Association disbanded.

Was the Hartley Valley finished!

Years passed, people moved, young people grew up.

Suddenly, a group of interested community citizens held a friendly meeting to help their neighbours and generally enjoy themselves.

One of the ideas was to build tennis courts. The Hartley District Progress Association was resurrected.

Once more a thriving band of helpers set about their tasks. The same motto "Many hands make Light work" was used. Clean ups were set in place. A grant was obtained to repair and paint both the community hall and the old school building.

Plans for tennis courts were drawn up.

The community was thriving. They held Christmas parties, reunions, St. Patrick's dances, card nights and generally enjoyed themselves.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service established the Historic Hartley Village site. This brought an influx of tourists into the valley to enjoy what the valley people had always appreciated: "The beautiful Hartley Valley and the Historic Hartley Village".

From this happy community bend the idea came up for a playgroup and the Hartley Valley Playgroup was founded.

Working hand in hand with the Hartley District Progress Association, the Hartley District Fire Brigade enjoyed a large membership.

With the new facelift for the buildings came the monumental task of clearing for the tennis courts, replanting trees, establishing plants and building shelters.

New toilet facilities were created for the use of the community. Both the hall and the school are frequently hired to community members and sporting groups.

Everyone was happy! Everyone knew each other and helped each other. There were good times and bad times. Bushfire scares, drought and the many scares of modern day living. Through all these worries the Valley people pulled together as one.

Alas! This time has passed. The Hartley District Progress Association has been held together by a very small band of friends. They perform the numerous chores that once were performed by many. The Valley motto "Many hands make Light work" has been forgotten.

This sorry little band are growing tired. They do not want to give up. They want the Valley to be happy again, for families to come together, to hear laughter ring out in the hall once more.

Working tirelessly, this little band have maintained the grounds, keeping the lawns mown, repairing the buildings. They have bought new furniture for the hall. Continued the work on the tennis courts until the light at the other end of the tunnel is in sight. The tennis courts are a reality!

The time is slowly ticking away. On Monday, 5 July next at 7.30 p.m. the Annual General Meeting of the Hartley District Progress Association will come to pass.

Unless the numbers are reinforced this tiny band of friends will fade away forever.

Everyone in the Valley is invited. The motto could still be "Many hands make Light work". The grounds, community hall, old school house are your heritage.

Care for them, look to our future! Stand up and be counted! If you love your heritage, your Valley, your country, take part and protect our land!

Bring back our Valley motto "Many hands make Light work!"

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HARTLEY DISTRICT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

WHEN: First Monday every second month at 7.30 p.m.
WHERE: Cnr. Mid Hartley Road and Great Western Highway, Old Hartley School, Hartley.



HARTLEY VALLEY CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUP

WHEN: Every Wednesday 10.30 a.m.
WHERE: Cnr. Mid Hartley Road and Great Western Highway, Old Hartley School, Hartley



'GALLOPING GUMMIT' PRE SCHOOL

WHEN: Thursday from 9.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
WHERE: Cnr. Mid Hartley Road and Great Western Highway, Old Hartley School, Hartley



HARTLEY DISTRICT BUSHFIRE BRIGADE

WHEN: First Monday of every second month at 7.30 p.m.
WHERE: Cnr. Mid Hartley Road and Great Western Highway, Old Hartley School, Hartley.

