



Hartley District Progress Association

## Newsletter April 2010

Next Meeting: Monday 5th April 2010 at 7.30pm.  
Hartley school building, corner Mid Hartley Rd and G.W.Hwy.

### Community Organisations

Community organisations, such as the Hartley District Progress Association (HDPA), are part of community life and they make a difference within the community by providing an avenue to meet new people, build lasting friendships, have some fun whilst returning something positive to the community. So why not join the HDPA and get behind the wonderful Hartley District Community – our Community.

### Hartley District Progress Association

#### Presidents Welcome,

Welcome to the April edition of the Hartley District Newsletter and I hope you are enjoying the new format.

Our Editorial Team are always on the look-out for new ideas and articles of interest so if you would like to input why not come along to one of our Monthly Meetings? (Next meeting is in the Old School Building 7:30pm Monday 5th April 2010). As we build on the foundations and efforts of the past 53 years of HDPA endeavour, you will see from the articles below that numerous projects are underway or have been completed.

Planning for this years Big Back Yard is progressing well as is the initial planning for the Bi-Centennial crossing of the Blue Mountains in 2013 (the Hartley District being the most westerly point of that crossing). We are also excited about a "Slow food Night" to be jointly hosted by the HDPA and Steve Ring and his team from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, which will be held in the Historic Hartley Village – tentative planning is for late September this year with more detail in future editions.

The HDPA and the Hartley Rural Fire Service are also jointly installing some benches between the Fire Shed and Tennis Courts in preparation for the re-opening of the courts and to provide the Fire Service with an outdoor area to relax.

Membership continues to grow steadily and I invite you to join (it only costs \$5) as HDPA is about our Community and for our Community. Finally don't forget Adam's Shed will be holding their Annual Field Day in May. The Field Day helps raise awareness of local providers and providers as well as raising money for the Rural Fire-Brigade – keep an eye out for it!

### Thanks to our community businesses

The HDPA would like to thank the following local (and almost local) businesses for their support in giving of their time, equipment and product to help us achieve some of the many projects currently being undertaken by the HDPA:

#### Sandpit:

HDPA mystery Project Manager  
HDPA mystery assistant to the Project Manager  
JDL Excavations  
Hanson Quarries  
Good Earth  
Collins Hardware Main Street Lithgow

#### Tennis Courts:

HDPA mystery Project Manager  
JDL Excavations  
Lee Annett - Manager Austen Quarry  
Campbell Jones - Managing Director UNIMIN Australia  
Kevin Gracey - Gracey's Earthmoving  
B&R Barber Earthmoving



## Australia Day

This years Australia Day function was held at the Old School and was enjoyed by over 70 locals and their families. Highlights of the day were the gumboot throwing competition, the soft egg catching competition and of course the running of the Inaugural Hartley Cup. Melinda Watts won the ladies gumboot throwing with a massive throw that left the crowd wondering if she was a professional thrower touring the country and Rob Jolly cleaned up the men's event. In the girls competition Lily O'Toole held off a strong challenge from Emily and Morgan Watts and in the boys competition it was a dead-heat between Oliver O'Toole and Lachlan. The egg throwing ended in a delightfully messy outcome with a pair of old-time, top notch competitors coming out squeaky clean (Terry and Dianne) and proving there is no substitute for experience and guile! As for the Hartley Cup - Cox's River finished strongly (perhaps it was glass of wine the jockey was enjoying on her galloping steed) ahead of a very strong field. A great families day was had by all - see you next year!



Hartley Cup's winners circle



Final moments of the Hartley cup

## Sandpit

The Old School is the meeting place for Gumnats and the Applesseed play group - two organisations dedicated to providing care too some of our most active District youngsters. Late last year your HDPA approached the groups to find out if there was anything that could be done to help out. The removal of a decades old and now dangerous slide and the building of a covered and shaded sandpit for the kids were the two most pressing needs. With the aid of the HDPA mystery Project Manager and some willing local assistance (labour and materials) the slide was removed (and sold for scrap metal) and a 4M x 2M shaded and covered sandpit holding 5.8 tonnes of sand was built and had its 'Grand Opening' at the Australia Day function.



Sandpit christened

## Tennis Courts

For those of you who have passed by the Old School in recent weeks, you may have noticed a new appearance to the tennis courts. Phase 1 of getting the courts back into service for the community has been completed with the laying of a solid foundation of 300 tonnes of granite dust and 3 tonnes of lime. It is hoped that with a bit more rain to help set the surface the courts will be available for social tennis, as a 'clay court' by the end of April.). Phase 2 - will be the laying of a permanent hard surface subject to the award of a government grant next year.

**Galloping Gumnats Mobile Van**, for children 0-5 yrs, meet fortnightly on Fridays 10-12.30 during the school term at the old School. Parents welcome to participate, Contact Meg or Deidre on 6352 3798.

**Hartley Applesseeds Play Group** meet at the Hartley Old School, Tuesdays 10am until 12pm, Contact Alison on 6351 4296 for more information.



## Ghosts of Hartley



As mentioned in the last Edition we were contacted by Julie Miller, who is researching for her upcoming book, 'Something is Out There'. She required details on the Ghost/s who are purported to haunt Hartley. We asked for assistance and ran an article on the Ghost of Caroline Collitt. Well it seems there are indeed many Ghosts in the District and they are not too keen on poor old Caroline getting all the lime light – so to keep the peace our very own Cub Reporter has ventured out into another 'dark and storming night' to bring you another tale (or is it a tale) of Hartley's 'Nightlife'.

The Harp of Erin was built in 1831 and was purchased by Carol and Joe Dickens in 1976 – you can imagine their surprise to find they were the Landlords to two ghosts! The first ghost, who became known to them as the Grey Lady, was only to be found outside in the garden and she was more of a 'feeling' a 'blur' a 'whisper' a 'hint' of greyness. When discussing these surreal feelings between themselves, 6 year old daughter Samantha chimed in with 'oh the lady in the long grey dress'. Unlike the adults, the young Samantha had seen her clearly on numerous occasions. Never threatening but always present, the Grey Lady has not been seen at the Harp of Erin since 1993, when Samantha married and left home. The second 'long term resident' of the Harp of Erin is more mischievous and seems intent on landing Joe in trouble. Yet to be seen, he manifests himself in the form of heavy foot steps and noise coming from the back of the house and Joe is invariably blamed for the racket! The Harp of Erin has many surprises like the convict chains found under the floor boards or even the visit by Charles Darwin on his voyage of discovery. Rich in history, the Harp of Erin is another local landmark of a bygone era.

## ..... Meet Your Local Business Personalities .....

As part of the drive to promote local businesses through the Hartley District Business Directory your Newsletter will now contain articles on those who make their Business in the Hartley District. This Edition we look more closely at:

JDL Excavations  
Blue Mountains Bathrooms  
Maple Springs Nursery and Gardens

### JDL EXCAVATIONS

To answer a riddle that has perplexed locals for many years, the JDL of JDL Excavations stands for John, David and Lynda, who are the three members of the Lovegrove family that are JDL Excavations. If it is a local business you are after then you will be hard pressed to go past the Lovegrove family. John's family were in Hartley Vale back in the 1950's and John has lived in the district all his life. Wife Linda and her parents moved into the area from Wallerawang back in 1970 and son David also lives and works in the District. John has lost count of the number of driveways, tank sites and shed sites he has completed over the years but he does recall installing the bike track at Hartley Farm and is currently doing earthworks for a Solar Farm. JDL also have a great reputation on Landscaping jobs – if your job requires excavations and earthworks, JDL will know how to do it and do it well. Surprisingly enough, John also finds time to indulge his passion for blacksmithing (having built his own Blacksmiths shed – to historic specifications – on his property). For those lucky enough to have visited the Lovegrove property, you would also have been impressed



John and David Lovegrove

by his hand built shed and artefacts belonging to a bygone era. The family efforts also extend past JDL Excavations into decades of community service through the Hartley Rural Fire-brigade Service where the whole family are active members. John, who has been the Brigade Captain these past two years, officially joined the Brigade back in 1975 but remembers fighting his first bushfire aged 10. Always on the lookout for new recruits, why not give him a call and give Rural Fire fighting a go? For all your excavation needs phone John on 6355 2460 or 0418 653 415.



## BLUE MOUNTAINS BATHROOMS

What's in a name? Quality for one thing and Scott Hunter from Blue Mountains Bathrooms knows all about that – he has been in the business of bathroom design and installation for over 30 years and comes with many glowing references from a plethora of satisfied customers (including the Hartley District). Like many others in our District, Scott and wife Helen, decided to move from Sydney and seek a better quality of life west of the Mountains. So it was in 2007 that the pair, accompanied by umpteen dogs, cows and horses, set-up their home on 100 acres in Hampton. It is Scott's aim to establish a full-time business within the District and environs that will be the business of choice when it comes to renovating bathrooms. To this end Scott has completed over 20 renovations in and around the District and is currently in discussions with local colleges and employment agencies to take on staff from around the Greater Lithgow area.

Phone Scott on 6359 3090 or 0400 440 531.



Scott Hunter

## MAPLE SPRINGS NURSERY

Owned by Alan and Margaret Jackson, Maple Springs Nursery is a retail and wholesale nursery operating in Baaners Lane, Little Hartley since 1995 as a specialist grower of maples and conifers (trees and shrubs), all hardened for the Blue Mountains and central west climate (the largest collection of Japanese Maples in Australia)

Growing over 250 varieties of Japanese Maples and conifers, supplying to trade as well as the retail market for over 25 years (previously Katoomba and Wentworth Falls). Alan and Margaret have an exhaustive knowledge of horticulture and agriculture (combined over 60 years). Alan, a qualified horticulturist, trained and worked for the University of Sydney's Plant Breeding Institute for 17 years and studied at Ryde School of Horticulture with further studies of Park Administration, landscape design and construction, data processing and building and construction. Alan has also taught landscape gardening and has been a member of the Australian Institute of Horticulture for over 35 years to which he has served on that committee for several years. Margaret is a qualified teacher with a diploma in education and has been

involved in the nursery industry for over 30 years. Alan and Margaret have special interests in Japanese gardens and the Japanese culture. They have three children.

If Maple Springs does not have that tree or shrub, Alan and Margaret will get it for you. Also available – bob cat hire, rocks, pebbles, wood chip, bird baths, bonsai and bonsai supplies.

Phone Alan and Margaret on 6355 2148 or 0454 879 082.



Alan and Margaret Jackson

**IRISH SET DANCING** – with the odd Australian Bush Dance on 10th April at the Old School Hall in Hartley. The Workshop from 3-5. There's then a break of 90 minutes to rest and eat before the Ceil starts at 6.30pm. It's vigorous exercise, but so much fun – a great way to keep fit and young!

## Notices ...

to place a free ad please email secretary:  
danja\_alexander@hotmail.com

### LOST DOG

Big Black Long coated Retriever Male Dog  
Much Loved and Missed. Reward.

Please call John 63552055

Miniature Horses, FREE to good home.

please call Barbara on 6355 2017

### Report a fire: RING 000

Hartley Captain – John Lovegrove 6355 2460

Secretary of the Hartley Brigade – Lynda 6355 2460

Kanimbla Captain – Guy Tesoriero 4787 1360

Secretary of Kanimbla Brigade – Nancy 4787 1909

### Hartley District Progress Association contacts:

President – Duncan Wain 6355 2043

Vice President – Seamus Casey 6355 2113

Treasurer – Barbara Johnson 6355 2017

Secretary – Danja Alexander 6355 0214

Hire a Hall – Pam Day 6355 2114