



## Hartley District Progress Association Newsletter February 2010

Next Meeting: Monday 1st February 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

We can report that a good deal of discussion and spadework has gone into projects of varying size and cost during the weeks since our December newsletter, notwithstanding the Christmas/New Year Holidays intervening. The children's play area in the School grounds is receiving attention – the old rusted and unstable slippery dip is to be removed, and the sandpit is to be rebuilt in a new location. Investigations are under way into various means of providing much needed shade in the schoolyard for the benefit of all who use the area. We have a number of larger and more costly projects in the pipeline which are under discussion by the membership and for which we are preparing cases for funding assistance. We believe we can meet the criteria set down by the community and government groups we are approaching. These projects include the possible construction of a new kitchen and toilet block off the School Hall, for which preliminary drawings have been prepared, and the painting of the School and Hall buildings inside and out. The Committee views the Old Hartley School and its environs as being of great importance in our community's history and its cultural future, and we place its preservation and the upgrading of its facilities at a high level of priority.

We're delighted to confirm the return of The Big Backyard – the tenth to be held. It will take place at the Old School

on Sunday, October 31. We need lots of volunteer helpers in a whole range of activities both on the day itself and in the lead up, and we're asking Valley people to come out in force to attend our meeting on February 1 at 7.30 p.m. in the School Hall, just off the Highway in Mid-Hartley Road. The Big Backyard is Progress's major fundraiser of the year, and we need the help of as many people as we can muster. The event represents a lot of work and a lot of fun, but with many hands it's much easier – and rewarding in so many ways. If you'd like to help but can't make it to the meeting on February 1, please call Barb Johnson, Treasurer on 63 332057.

The increase in our membership has been a welcome feature of the past several months. We now have forty-four members, and hope for many more. We'd be especially pleased to have some of our neighbours in the "young family" stage of life come along to Progress meetings and have an input into planning future projects and community activities.

The HDPA is currently looking at different ways of working with the Lithgow Council to maintain/improve our local roads – some of which are in need of on-going maintenance. Recently we were able to get some temporary repairs done on Coal's River Road a good example of working together to improving our roads.

The format for the new expanded business directory for advertisers in the Valley and surrounding areas has been finalised, and we will soon be in touch with our regular contributors to explain the arrangements for the coming year. If you were unable to promote your business in the former directory due to its space constraints, we invite you to call either the Secretary or the Treasurer of the Association to discuss what we are now able to offer you in the area of advertising.

"Get outside everyday,  
Miracles are waiting everywhere."  
Anonymous

## Spirit of Hartley Award

**RAMSAY MOODIE** – Is the worthy recipient of the 2009 Spirit of Hartley Award. Ramsay is a committed, though at times behind the scenes, member of the Hartley community and Hartley District Progress Association (HDPAs). Ramsay realises that his full-time career in Sydney prevents him attending each and every HDPAs event or even running for HDPAs Office. So, he has given assurances to successive HDPAs Executives that he will "help out" in other ways, and so it has been. Ramsay has given and continues to give a lot of personal and family time to our community and, on occasions, has committed personal expenditure in assisting the administrative arm of HDPAs. In more recent times, Ramsay took over the reins as President of the Hartley Highway Action Group (HHAG) and, in an often thankless role, continues to give sterling service to our community. Congratulations Ramsay and from the membership of the HDPAs a big thankyou. The Spirit of Hartley award was presented at the Australia Day function sponsored by the HDPAs at the Old School.

## XMAS 2009

With the large, jolly, bearded and red-cheeked Gentleman in such high demand during December it was left to a delegation from the HDPAs to help Santa out at the final get together of the Gumnuts Play Group for 2009, held at the Old School on 11th December. With the kids inside, it was a loud HOHOHO and a ringing bell that announced the departure of Santa, after leaving a Swag of toys for all the good little Boys and Girls of Gumnuts. The HDPAs also provided food and drinks to get everyone into the Festive Spirit.

The afternoon was widely regarded as a great success and the sentiment was appreciated by the children and all the mums.



**Galloping Gumnuts 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

Recently we were contacted by Julie Miles, who is researching for her upcoming book, 'Something is Out There'. She requires details on the Ghost/s who are purported to haunt Hartley – do you have any tales that may assist? If so please contact the Secretary. There are it seems quite a few Hartley District ghosts and our very own HDPAs cub reporter filed this report:

**A Most Grave Warning** – It is on a sombre note that we begin this new History of Hartley segment, having heard of several frightening reports of paranormal phenomena occurring in Hartley of late. I only issue you with this most grave warning as these occurrences are becoming evermore frequent. Some of you may have already heard of her; some of you may wish you hadn't; yes, I am speaking of the infamous Lady in Black.

It was on a dark and stormy night (as it always is) in 1842 when young Caroline Collitt was savagely murdered by her ruthless and violent ex-boyfriend. To this day her tortured, vengeful spirit haunts these roads, appearing in all her ghastly rage, dressed in a solemn façade of black, with nothing but a mass of dark hair to cover her mutilated face. She clings to the back of passing traffic, causing her helpless victims to swerve off the road and into nature's grasp, never to be seen again.

So next time you are driving through our pristine valley keep a keen eye on the passing roadside, you never know what can stay hiding so well in the shadows of the night. You have been warned.

## Gardening Tips for End of Summer

As bountiful vegetable harvests and glorious flower displays continue in late summer, there are a few tasks we can do in the garden to help keep the enjoyment coming now and later in the year.

- Plant autumn crops of fast growing, cool season vegetables such as lettuce, spinach and radishes.
- Plant new lawns and seed bare areas of existing lawns.
- Continue to remove weeds and diseased plant materials from the garden.
- Obtain and plant spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils, tulips and hyacinths. Planting in March allows for good root development before winter and better quality flowers come spring.
- Continue watering trees, shrubs and perennials as needed to promote healthy root system to reduce plant stress entering winter.

"All my hurts, my garden spade can heal!"

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

## Meet Your Local Business Personalities

**A**s part of the drive to promote local businesses through the Hartley District Business Directory (3rd Edition out February 2000) your Newsletter will now contain articles on those who make their business in the Hartley District. This Edition we look more closely at:

**Adam's Shed (Agricultural Supplies and Produce)**  
**Hartley Valley Nursery**  
Resident Electrician **Mark O'Toole**

### ADAM'S SHED (AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES AND PRODUCE)

Adam started gravitating west from Sydney 8 years ago and he and wife Louise are now in their 4th year running Adam's Shed. Life is very busy for the young couple with the business and two young lads Jack (2) and William (5 months) to keep them on their toes. There is however plenty of family support available with mum, Maree (a local of many years [discretion does not permit the author to be more specific]) a regular in the store as well as an extended family who also live in the District. This is indeed a truly local family business and there is certainly no shortage of local knowledge at the Shed either, with all the staff being local residents, so they know the climate, the conditions, the quirks and requirements of living and producing in the District.

There is much more to Adam's Shed than Agricultural Supplies and Produce, as Adam also offers a large selection of local wines and gourmet delights, as well as offering an outlet for local manufacturing, but more on that in a later edition.

Adam and Louise have a vision to be the local provider of choice for all stock and produce requirements. To this end Adam is a member of Landmark, the most trusted name in agriculture. So don't travel outside of the District for your stock and produce needs - give Adam a call, he has worked hard to be competitive for the community, check out the prices - you will be impressed. You will also enjoy the friendly 'can-do' attitude of the staff at Adam's Shed, you can't beat a local smile!

Each May Adam holds a mini-field day at the Shed showcasing the wares of agricultural agents servicing the District. It is also a great opportunity to help out the Rural Fire Brigade who use the Field Day to fundraise.

Phone: 6355 2096



### MARK O'TOOLE'S ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Having married a local girl, Mark moved from the Western suburbs of Sydney to Little Hartley in June 1998. The O'Toole family of Jane, Mark, Oliver and Lilly and their extended family (long time residents of the Hartley District) are well known for their involvement within the community. Mark not only has over 20 years experience working for himself in everything electrical (trenching machine and Bob Cat included) he and the family can regularly be found riding bikes and/or horses around the District. Such is the family's involvement within the District that Mark once had a successful trotter called Baaners Lane - you don't get much more local than that!

With a policy of no job too big or too small, Mark has provided a quality service to many local residents, businesses and schools, as well as providing his time, experience and effort to helping others within the community. So if you are looking for local, reliable and above all professional service, at reasonable prices, you won't be able to go past Mark O'Toole Electrical Services - another passionate Hartley District Business. Mobile: 0409 582 526



### HARTLEY VALLEY NURSERY

There is more to the Hartley Valley Nursery than your run of the mill nursery. Reopened on the 27th of February 2007, Bill Grattan has every manner of plant and tree that thrives in our unique soils and climate. From fruit trees to vegetables, climbers to runners, bamboos to Venus Fly traps, if it can grow here, Bill has it and if he doesn't he can get it in for you.

You can trust Bill to give you expert advice that suits your needs because he has lived and worked in the wider area for years and is not only a Trained Horticulturalist of over 30 years experience, he is also qualified in Natural Resource Management, Landscape Design and Bush Regeneration. Bill is also a full member of the Royal

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Horticultural Society of the UK as well as being a full member of the Australian Institute of Horticulture.

So if its quality and a good price you are looking for, in all matters horticultural, pop down to the Hartley Valley Nursery and have a chat to Bill and get swept up in his passion for the plants that thrive in and around the Hartley District! Phone: 6355 2548



### A thought for the month

**ANNE FRANK:** The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature.

### Hartley District Bushfire Brigade

On Sunday 19th December Hartley brigade held a very successful Xmas party. An important guest's arrival was welcomed by a large group of local children. Santa arrived on a big red fire truck giving lots of presents out and receiving some interesting requests. One little girl was reluctant to let Santa out of her sight!

The Biggest truck in the Hartley fleet was checked out and found all lights and sirens to be in working order by some of our local up and coming youngsters.

Doreen Peters our Canteen Manager excelled herself as usual by putting on a great spread for everyone to enjoy along with help from Carol Crossman.

The much anticipated Brigade Xmas stocking raffle run by Ken Hinwood was drawn by Santa before he had to fly off on other xmas duties. Ken wishes to thank Adams Shed, for their generous help and allowing the brigade to showcase the stocking and selling tickets, The farmhouse and Talisman Gallery also for selling tickets.



### St John's Anglican Church, Hartley

(within the Hartley historic village)

Church service: 1st Sunday of each month at 5 pm. Church every Sunday at St Peter's Mt Victoria at 8:45 am. You are always welcome. Phone 47878127. Minister: Rev John Gaunt.

### Business Advertising

You will note that the usual Advertising spread has been omitted from this edition - Near not! The HDPA is developing a 'Local Business Directory' and Fridge magnet 'Ready Reckoner'. This will be available next month. If your business has not been contacted about the new Local Directory please contact the Secretary by email at dunja\_alexander@hotmail.com The Advertising Process is being amended to better meet the community needs, increase Advertising Space and to provide more room in the Newsletter for local articles of interest.

### Classifieds ...

To place a free ad please email secretary: dunja\_alexander@hotmail.com

#### BICYCLES

- One Girls Brevetti, Excellent Condition, suit girl aged 6 to 10, \$36.00 omo
- One Girls Malver Star, Very Good condition, suit girl aged 6 to 10, \$30.00 omo
- One Boys Repco, Good condition, suit boy 6 to 12, \$15.00 OR Swap OR FOR THE LOT. Call Rev on 6355 2107.

**NEW — Alvey Side Cast Reel — Star Drag Model 650-C3**  
Excellent beach, shoreline or boat reel. If you are interested, GREAT VALUE AT \$80-\$100. At a retailer it would set you back well over \$350.00. Phone Terry on 6355 2107.

Four 'Cyclone, Rural Gates'. If interested please call Terry on 0403 772 284 for specific details (sizes etc). A bargain to be had as Terry wants to sell for 1/2 recommended Retail.

Report a fire: RING 000

Hartley Captain — John Lovegrove 6355 2460

Secretary of the Hartley Brigade — Lynda 6355 2460

Kanimbila Captain — Guy Tesoriero 4787 1361

Secretary of Kanimbila Brigade — Nancy 4787 1909

#### Hartley District Progress Association contacts:

President — Duncan Wicks 6355 2043

Vice President — Seamus Casey 6355 2113

Treasurer — Barbara Johnson 6355 2010

Secretary — Dunja Alexander 6355 0214

Hire a Hall — Pam Day 6355 2114