



Hartley District Progress Association

Newsletter May 2010

Next Meeting: Monday 3rd May 2010 at 7.30pm.

Hartley school building, corner Mid Hartley Rd and G.W.Hwy.

(Big Backyard planning meeting at 6.30pm, Monday 3rd May — before HDPA meeting)

Hartley District Progress Association

Presidents Report:

Hello again, and yes, we are producing the newsletter more frequently in order to address the continually growing news in the district. Several projects are moving forward, and please contact us with your input if you have any thoughts.

We have approached Council to call a meeting at the School for all interested parties to discuss the best approach to the commemoration of the 1813 crossing of the mountains. We will be giving you more information as it comes to hand.

The RTA has costed the highway upgrade at over two billion dollars, and I daresay that thinking caps will be donned to search out the next step. HHAG is lobbying for some immediate upgrades to increase safety, regardless of any decisions on the proposed new route or the timing of its construction. A geotechnical survey has been completed to allow further design work on the proposed new toilets at the school.

There are plans afoot to hold a vintage and veteran car display on August 8th, and to hold a local car tour in conjunction, as well as a Boot and Ute Sale.

Big Backyard planning continues, with things falling into place nicely at this point. We are looking for people to do many jobs, but one in particular is the greeting of patrons at the gate and handing out raffle tickets to folks as they enter. Just an hour each will be a big help, and we'll have a carefully drawn up roster so you won't be asked to do more than you volunteer for. Please give us a call.

Finally, a huge thankyou to those folks who have been working very hard to continue to make things happen in the valley.

The Local Environment Plan

The Lithgow Council Local Environment Plan (LEP) has been in the process of development for several years. This plan is an essential document that will set the guidelines for the management and development of our valley for the next twenty or more years. There are also some immediate issues associated with the highway upgrade that need to be addressed in the LEP.

The Hartley Valley is a unique and very special place. It has an extraordinary ambience as a consequence of its geography and is filled with European and indigenous heritage assets. The wealth of early European heritage assets dotted across the valley and the marks of early settlement left on the landscape make it quite unique. We need a land use strategy for this area that recognises the unique nature of the valley.

In a recent meeting between the Progress Association, the Hartley Highway Action Group and Neville Castle the Mayor of Lithgow and General Manager Roger Bailey we were invited to make a submission raising issues relevant to the LEP and its implications for the valley. To do that we are calling a meeting of interested valley residents for the afternoon of Saturday 19th June to workshop the issues that need to be taken into account in the future management of this valley. If you have an interest in the heritage of the valley, its rural charm or the beauty of its escarpment (or more importantly how the valley will be managed for future generations) please join us at 2pm at the Hartley Schoolhouse Hall for a three hour workshop to input into the development of the issues we need council to consider in the LEP.

The Amen! of nature is always a flower.

Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894)

HDBA Car Day

Sunday 8 August 2000 is a day to mark down in your calendars as the HDBA Car/UTE Day is being resurrected bigger and better than ever. It has been several years since this event has been held but after canvassing the community there is enormous support to the notion of bringing it back. So what's involved? Well for starters there will be a fact finding drive around the District (should take less than 1 hour) following some cryptic directions and answering some well worded questions about our District. Always fun with prizes awarded for first and lost (yes that was lost - not last!). A sausage sizzle will be included as well as a display of Muscle, Classic and Vintage Cars. There will also be a car boot and ute sale, so start collecting your wares ready to sell. Details will be updated closer to the day.

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 Deldre on 6352 3798.

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



HDBA & Hartley RFS working together to install benches between the tennis courts and fire shed

Hartley History

As you can see from this month's insert there is a lot of resurrection happening in the Hartley District right now with Ambermere House and The Harp of Erin both coming back from obscurity to begin the next chapter in their long and fascinating history's.

One place however that resurrection may cause alarm is the **Hartley Vale Bush Cemetery**. Hidden away and just a short stroll off the dirt road that links Hartley Vale to Mid Hartley, the Hartley Vale Bush Cemetery is open to the public during daylight hours. For those braver amongst us there is even a picnic table set up! The Headstones make for interesting reading and highlight the families who first settled the region. There is even the 'celebrity grave' of Henry Lawson's father. Originally Larson (before becoming Lawson) the family made the long voyage from their Norwegian homeland to settle in the District - Grave 99 just another bit of the rich history that is Hartley.



Hartley Vale Bush Cemetery

Hartley School Grounds

There was a lot of great work done by the local residents and members of Progress many years ago.

Some of these early plantings have since reached the end of their life cycle and some of those same people are still with Progress today and are now involved with replacement plantings and new shade trees for the future.

This illustrates the long term commitment of Valley folk to the area in which they live. There are currently at least three donors of new semi advanced shade trees and if you would like to contribute in any way - let us know.

..... 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:

HARTLEY CHAINSAW & MOWER REPAIRS
TALISMAN GALLERY & CAFE
HARTLEY ON THE HILL B&B
ALDGATE GALLERY

HARTLEY CHAINSAW & MOWER REPAIRS

You won't find a photograph with this article as Andrew had concerns about damaging the camera! But seriously Hartley Chainsaw & Mower Repairs has a real local pedigree. Andrews parents moved into the District 30 years ago and live next door to Andrew (or is it Andrew who lives next door to them?) - Andrews sister even lives 'up the road'. Wife Tracey and Andrew were High School sweethearts and have two children Jessica (13) and William (11) both of whom are keen sports participants all year round. Trained in fitting and machinery and working in Heavy Industry (high power) Andrew has completed several TAFE courses including welding and an Advanced Certificate in Mechanical Engineering. Several years ago he had an idea for a business which was based on the influx of people into the area, who had predominately moved from suburban blocks onto acreages. The shift from lawn mower to ride-on mowers/chainsaw/brush-cutter etc provided Andrew with an opportunity that has rapidly grown from casual work to 7 days a week. Andrew currently has 114 very satisfied customers who will attest to his customer focus, local friendly service, honest rates and quality work. Hartley Chainsaw & Mower Repairs also includes a free pick up and delivery service (local), light welding and chainsaw sharpening. The family themselves live on 5 acres and as Andrew jokes the acreage was necessary so that he could indulge his hobby of flying model aircraft and helicopters so if you are dropping off or picking up equipment - keep an eye out for low flying aircraft! Remember winter is the ideal time to have all that gardening equipment serviced in preparation for next spring.

Phone Andrew on 6355 2336 or 0410 626 307

HARTLEY ON THE HILL B&B

Vivienne and Keith Berry are relative newcomers to the Hartley District. After discovering a five acre block on a hill in Little Hartley eight years ago, part of Pat and Bill Connell's subdivision, they built and settled into a new lifestyle which includes running a Bed and Breakfast.

Keith had retired from his position as Principal of Mount Victoria Public School in 1998, and continued as a casual teacher until last year. Vivienne has a part-time job as a Medical Receptionist, and they both have full-time jobs enjoying their six grandchildren. Keith is now able to

devote more time to developing the garden and supplying the kitchen with fruit and vegetables. The new chicks may start laying soon. The business attracts people from all over the world, and they all remark on the beauty of our area as well as Vivienne's breakfasts. Each guest has a story to tell. Many local people use the Bed and Breakfast to accommodate guests for family gatherings and events when their own house reaches capacity. Vivienne and Keith derive great pleasure from their association with Progress, and in the wide variety of people, both "old" and "new" Hartleyites which they meet as a result.

Phone Keith and Vivienne on 6355 0201



Keith and Vivienne

TALISMAN — WHERE EVERYTHING IS HAND CRAFTED

Some 12 years ago Ron, Catherine and son Raphael moved from the famous Norton St Leichhardt in Sydney out to Little Hartley and founded the Talisman Gallery and Cafe. Ron had a thriving metalworking business (Ron is a qualified Blacksmith) and indeed he handmade the furniture for their home as well as providing unique furniture to Sydney stores - but quality of life called and hence the move to the Hartley District. Within 12 months Ron had transformed the premises on the GWH into a Gallery and Workshop that sells locally and globally. Ron has always had an interest in symbols - Celtic, zodiac etc and you can see this in his work. More recently Ron has expanded into hand-crafted jewellery, stone statues and bronze figures all of which make for ideal gifts and remember Ron can arrange for them to be sent overseas. Such has been the favourable feedback on the jewellery that Ron is planning to have a Ladies Pizza and Jewellery night in the not too distant future (details will be published) - to give the community an excuse to come together and to showcase

his unique designs. Once able to purchase the adjoining block, to provide much needed car parking space, the Gallery was joined by the Café (specialising in Gourmet Pizzas) run by wife Catherine and son Raphael and in keeping with the spirit of hand crafting, the dough for the pizzas is made fresh by hand every morning. Likewise the produce used is, where possible, sourced locally, organic and cooked in a traditional manner and in a traditional wood-fired pizza oven – the aromas are to die for! The team have lost count of the number of diners who have commented that the Talisman pizza is more Italian than pizzas they have sampled in Italy!

The Café is open Thu – Sun 9 till 9 (7 days during holiday periods) and caters for gluten free pizzas as well.

The Gallery is open Wed – Mon and 7 days during holidays. Pop in you won't be disappointed. Phone: 6355 2043



Catherine, Ron and Raphael

ALDGATE GALLERY

Aldgate Gallery showcases works from local artists as well as Sydney, greater NSW and interstate. South Australian sisters Barbara Marvel and Ann Hilder began the gallery thirty years ago, and present owners Duncan and Barbara Wass are keen to carry on the tradition of quality Australian work.

In June the gallery will be host its first solo exhibition by South Bowenfels landscape artist Garry Pettit. The opening on Friday 11th June marks Garry's first showing for five years, and if his other shows are a guide, the exhibition will be sold out very quickly. He is becoming very collectable, and conveys the mist, light and shadows of Hartley with consummate skill. The Wassses met later in life, after pursuing very different careers. Duncan spent time as a civil engineering draughtsman, before taking to the stage. He worked with most major theatre companies in the country, as well as some film and television appearances. Barbara began in the travel industry, before moving to hospitality, and specialising in event coordination at Lillanfels. After meeting, they taught English in Sanda, Japan for two years, before returning to Australia and beginning the Hartley adventure.

Since moving to the valley seven years ago, the Wassses have built a thriving business that is now widely recognised throughout the mountains, and far to the west, as one of the best of its type.

Phone: Duncan and Barbara on 6355 2043



Aldgate Gallery

IRISH SET DANCING — with the odd Australian Bush Dance on May 1st and 29th 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 6.30. 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:
dunja_alexander@hotmail.com

SAD THEFT

It is with considerable regret that we report the theft of approximately 8 large sleepers that had been donated to help establish a garden at the fire shed. They were removed from the space between the Hartley Fire Brigade Shed and the tennis courts on Mid Hartley Road. If you know of the whereabouts of these sleepers please let a member of the HOPA Executive know. If you took the sleepers please return them or at the very least make a substantial donation to the Rural Fire Service.

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!

Report a fire: RING 000

Hartley Captain – John Lovegrove 6355 2460
Secretary of the Hartley Brigade – Lynda 6355 2460
Kanimbla Captain – Guy Tesariero 4787 2361
Secretary of Kanimbla Brigade – Nancy 4787 1909

Hartley District Progress Association contacts:

President – Duncan Wass	6355 2043
Vice President – Seamus Casey	6355 2113
Treasurer – Barbara Johnson	6355 2017
Secretary – Dunja Alexander	6355 0214
Hire a Hall – Pam Day	6355 2114

History Reborn

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AMBERMERE HOUSE

Located on the GWH Little Hartley, Ambermere House has undergone a transformation and on Good Friday quietly opened their doors once again to the public. First licensed in 1845 (and obviously built before then) by Joseph Collits, to coincide with the opening of Victoria Pass, the Inn (originally trading as The Rose Inn) was first licensed in 1846 and had several licensees until cease of trading in 1873 once travel by railway was introduced. The Collits family came to the Hartley district in the 1820's with Pierce Collits (Joseph's father) building one of the earliest Inn's in Australia - 'Collits Inn' (formerly known as The Golden Fleece). From 1873 - 2010 Ambermere served first as a School then as a private residence. The original kitchen (which stood separate from the main house) has been demolished early this century after serving as a private schoolhouse. All the other buildings have also been demolished as the clay bricks made from the local clay did not weather very well. The original handmade bricks can be seen in the remaining chimneys of what once was the original kitchen, which still stand today in the outdoor courtyard. These bricks were stamped with a 'G'.



Ambermere Rose Inn - Circa 1872 - 1yr prior to closing as an Inn - Note original kitchen in background

In 2007 Fiona and Sean Richardson and their children Callum (9), Aidan (7) and Eloise (2) moved from Mudgee to Little Hartley with a vision to bring to life the history and ambience of Ambermere through their seasonal menu that features local produce from the region. This is what was historically on offer to the traveller to Ambermere in the 1800's and is a great way to bring the history to life for their patrons to enjoy. Most of the wines and beers available at Ambermere are not generally found in the larger bottle shops and as a wine bar/restaurant why not just drop in for a glass of the best the Central West has to offer in the magnificent outdoor eating area at the back. On 6 acres Ambermere is exquisitely finished in period fittings. Ambermere is open daily 8.30am to 5.30pm for morning and afternoon teas as well as lunch and Friday & Saturday 8.30am - late for Dinner. They will also do a take-away coffee in the mornings for those heading to work.

For any enquiries please don't hesitate to contact Fiona Richardson on 6355 2266 (BH) or 0410 667 781 or email to ambermere@bigpond.com.



History Reborn

Harp of Erin Gallery to Re-Open 21 May 2010 with the Opening Celebration on 29 May 2010

The Hartley District is bursting with activity and the re-opening of the Harp of Erin Gallery is just another example of how vibrant our Valley is. We have already 'met' the Ghosts of the Harp so perhaps its time to meet the history of the Harp of Erin!

Built on 100 acres granted to Michael Flanagan, it was opened as an Inn to service the new Bathurst Road on February 13 1832 and named The Harp of Erin in memory of his Irish background. Flanagan held the licence until 1838 when Andrew Gardener became licensee. The building then became the property of William Lewington and from 1857 it became W. Lewington General Wholesale Store and Post Office (with an annual Post Master's salary of 12 pounds), and business was so brisk that records show it was not uncommon for them to take 100 pounds before breakfast! In 1882 Henry Williams became owner and the building remained in his family for almost 100 years. According to Post Master General records, at its closure in 1975, it was the oldest Post Office in continual operation in Australia.

The Inn is constructed of handmade, sundried bricks and lime rendered to protect against erosion. The timber throughout is Australian cedar and the many 12 paned windows still hold the original hand made glass. The original store was constructed of wattle and daub and can be seen in a Haltermann collection photo taken as he journeyed through Little Hartley in 1872, being eventually replaced by the current cedar built store, originally Balmains Store at Hartley Vale (local legend tells us Henry won it in a poker game) when it was then became known as William's Store. The Harp of Erin received a Lithgow Council Heritage Restoration Award in 1999 and it is #1/07/232/0006-00826 on the National Federal Heritage Commission database.

Currently owned by Joe and Carol Dicker, who fell in love with the old building when they came across it whilst on a country drive in 1976, determining at that moment that they should purchase it and live there. The building was, as these things happen, completely derelict and so began a lifetime job of restoration. The busy highway, so close to the building, does great damage to the delicate brickwork and The Harp needs a constant programme of upkeep. In 1999 the Dickers first decided that the only way to protect it for future generations was to open to the public, so, drawing on their combined artistic background (Joe as actor/singer and Carol as theatre director/producer) they opened the Harp of Erin Gallery in 2001.

Joe and Carol are very excited to be re opening the Gallery on May 21 as The Harp of Erin Gallery and Emporium. As well as a selection of paintings by respected local artists, the Gallery will feature beautiful and unique Victorian and Edwardian jewellery, as well as repro and vintage pieces. Original Art Nouveau French lithographs, vintage clothing, pottery and bric-a-brac.

Business hours are Friday to Sunday or by appointment on 0414714447 or 63552182.

With the official re-opening on May 29 Joe and Carol invite locals to 'drop in' at the Gallery at 5pm to toast the future of the Gallery and the village of Little Hartley.

They will also be putting up a 'What's On in Little Hartley' notice board on the shop front to display all manner of interesting information about our beautiful local area. So if anyone is planning a Birthday celebration, Christening, Fete, etc, they can let the whole world know by pinning a notice on the board.

