



Newsletter June 2011

Next meeting will be on Monday August 1st at the Old School in Mid Hartley Road, Hartley at 7.30pm.

Urgent Public Meeting Draft Land Use Strategy

The several hundred pages that make up the Draft Lithgow Land Use Strategy have been released for public viewing. After a very short period of consultation with ratepayers, the finalised Landuse Strategy will inform the Local Environment Plan that will lay down the rules for development and land use across the region for the next twenty years.

The document is loaded with information on issues ranging from underutilised town centres, through extensive proposals for the restriction of future subdivision in rural areas, to the rezoning of land. There are some controversial issues within the Strategy that may affect you in both a financial and lifestyle way. HDPA is convening an urgent public meeting to help inform residents of the issues. It will be held at

**Hartley School Hall, Sunday 19 June 2011
Mid Hartley Road 1:30 - 4:00**

Council staff have been working on this document for years, and councillors have had it for six months, but we, the people directly affected, have only been granted six weeks to digest it and raise any issues of concern. Progress regards it as a matter of urgency that residents be given more time to study the hundreds of pages of information, and has written to council stating so. Progress cannot offer an opinion on matters in the documents, but this meeting is to enable everyone to discuss and seek answers to vital questions.

Council representatives have been invited. Members familiar with planning issues will be at the meeting.

It is important that any objections be circulated to the councillors as well as staff.

You may view the Draft Landuse Strategy and supporting maps at the council chambers the library, or on-line. You may speak directly with Sherilyn Hanrahan, the Councils Strategic Landuse Planner on 6351 9999. Anybody wanting a copy of the Land Use Strategy Document can obtain a pdf on a CD from the Council Chambers for \$5, a hard copy for \$44, or the document can be accessed on the Councils website at

www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au/landuse

Going, Going.....

Except for special occasions, this is the last printed, hand delivered newsletter you will receive. Progress has joined the electronic age, and will post future newsletters on our new website

www.hartleyvalley.org.au

If you let us have your email address, we can let you know by email when the newsletter is posted on the site. To go on the list, just go to the website and click on "Hartley Progress Assn" and then on the "register here" link, and we will add you to the list.

However, if you are not yet online, or prefer to feel the paper in your hands while reading, please send us your physical address and we can post a copy to you.

We would like to say a huge thankyou to those dedicated souls who have been driving all over the valley over many, many years to bring you the news and upcoming events. They have been thin on the ground at times, and taken on more than their share, and we are most grateful to them. And a big thankyou to Diane Green, who has taken on the job of administering the new web page (www.hartleyvalley.org.au) AND our facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Hartley-District-Progress-Association/125044480902275>). Do take a moment to look at them both, and let Diane know what you think.

May Crossing Commemoration Forum

On the weekend of Ironfest, Lithgow also hosted a full day history forum attended by one hundred and forty people, examining issues around the original 1813 crossing of the Blue Mountains.

Commencing with a welcome to country by Wiradjuri elder Meg Huddleston, the forum was opened by the Mayor of Lithgow, Neville Castle. He warmly endorsed the value of heritage and the contribution it can make to our local economy.

During the day, eight prominent historians presented original works on various aspects of the European crossing of the mountains in 1813. Papers presented ranged widely, including details of original exploration, the development of pre 1850 roads, the history of the mineral based economy that the original crossing facilitated, and the impact of the crossing on local aboriginal groups.

Originating from ideas generated by our 1813 Subcommittee, the forum was facilitated and chaired by Lithgow Council's Cultural Development Officer, Dr Naomi Parry. In the closing session, chaired by Emeritus Professor David Carment, President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, warm appreciation was expressed for Naomi's organisation of the day. There was also strong support for the proposition that further events of a similar kind be undertaken as part of our agenda for commemorating the 2013 bicentenary of the original crossing.

Thank you Dale, Keith and Seamus

Due to a stroke of luck re timing, former ALP candidate Dale Turner was able to twist some arms in MacQuarie Street, and after some fast work by Keith Berry and Seamus Casey, the Hartley Historic School was awarded a \$10,000 grant to be spent on restoration of the old school house.

We intend to do this the governmental way and call in four experts to tell us how to spend the money, and then have fifty dollars left to make a sign thanking them for their efforts.

But seriously folks, decisions are yet to be made, but we think a complete repaint inside and a sanding and re-oiling of the floor will give the building a much needed lift.

The exterior of the kitchen and store room also badly need repainting. There will also be some more fund raising in the future to perhaps reinstall the beautiful high curved top windows which once graced the building, and it will not be too long before we need a new roof.

Looking Back



We have recently been given some lovely old photos of the school in times gone by. Hartley School Fete 1963 drew a good crowd, and while most of these cars are now long gone, some of those tiny plants are still growing happily down the old driveway.

If you have any valley photos from yesteryear, we would love to have copies.

Best in Show

Congratulations to South Bowenfels artist Garry Pettitt for the awards he took home from the Royal Easter Show this year. His painting of long time resident and valley icon Chris Bird won first in the Figurative section, and also the Award of Excellence for Best Exhibit across Art sections 1-22s, and was sold on the day!



Round Table and Workshop

One of the projects for the 1813 bicentenary is a history conference, and to help plan and prepare for that event, a roundtable planning discussion and workshop was held on Saturday May 28th.

The day proved to be very successful, and a number of ideas for projects were floated. These including archaeological investigations, mapping sites, developing a digital library of historic maps and documents, and creating virtual journeys on the web.

An event in a year's time could be built around field trips and visits to places in the valley that are little known, hard to access, have interesting relationships and/or possess outstanding cultural significance. It could also build on the notion that 2012 is the bicentenary of the 1812 (pre-crossing) valley, and, with the support of the traditional owners and other Aboriginal groups, could focus on Aboriginal perspectives of the crossing.

Much more planning and conferring to be done, but things are looking good for a productive commemoration.

HOPA would like to acknowledge the generous support of The Family First Credit Union to the tune of \$250 towards the costs associated with the activities.

Australian Fire Service Medal

LONG recognised by Lithgow bushfire fighters for feeding them during their weary work, Doreen Peters has been nationally recognised with the Australia Day award of the Australian Fire Service Medal.

Doreen is one of very few female volunteer firefighters to receive this prestigious national award and this adds to her achievement of the 1998 Lithgow Citizen of the Year Award. In the 1970s Doreen saw the need for a mobile canteen to look after the volunteer firefighters of the Lithgow district. She organised for her Hartley Brigade to set up a 1943 Chev Blitz and equip it for food service wherever there was a fire. She gained her truck licence on the 'Blitz'. It has since been replaced by a modern vehicle, and Doreen continues to find volunteers and train them, and organise substantial donations of money and supplies. The canteen and Doreen are often seen at community events, cattle sales and shows, which help fund the canteen. Doreen has the canteen available for action at short notice all year round, not only for fires, but also to assist the Police and other agencies in bush rescue operations and other incidents.

Doreen is a capable and willing ear, supporting often stressed and tired firefighters, and she is renowned for her great food and service. In one fire she operated the canteen for 35 days straight and just recently she personally did 12 days of 12 hour shifts.

Doreen's outstanding qualities and long service place her in the ranks of the most accomplished and recognised firefighters in Australia.

CHARLES JOHNSON, from Lithgow Mercury 26 Jan. 2011



We presume this is the entire school from 1960, and can only think the room must have been a little crowded with 32 desks.

Different lessons for different grades would have been somewhat hard to arrange. We'd love to identify some of these students, and the teachers, so if you were there, or know someone who was, drop us a line.

Mt Vic Flicks

Just up the hill at Mt. Victoria you can see a great movie and have a delicious choc top ice cream for under \$15. Not only that, you can enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of one of the few surviving independently owned cinemas in Australia.

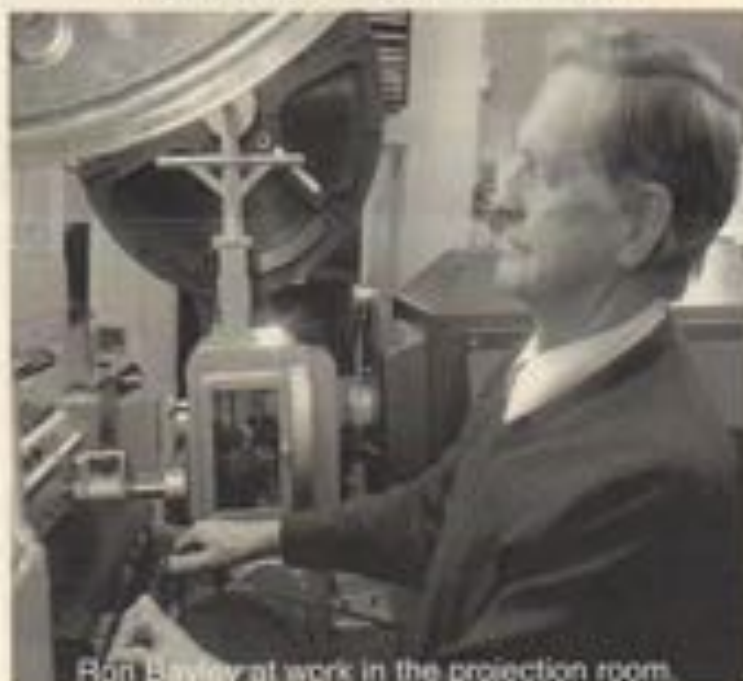
In 1985 local residents Ron and Di Bayley, with over 30 years of cinema experience, took a run down, boarded up public building and used their passion for picture shows to turn it into the Mount Vic Flicks. Their tagline says it all, 'cinema, the way it used to be'.

From the friendly smile when you buy your ticket, (where else can you see a movie for \$10- a ticket?) to the old style lollies, choc tops, tea, coffee and chips in the candy bar, it's a great experience.

Sometimes it feels like you are visiting a friend's place because you run into so many people you know. Why not come along and join the friends at the Mount Vic Flicks!

Screenings are Thursday through to Sunday and Public Holidays. For information on the current cinema programme, admission prices, coming attractions and special events, visit the newly launched website.

<http://www.mountvicklicks.com.au/>



Ron Bayley at work in the projection room.

Special Offer for Progress readers:
The first 10 people to present this story when you buy a ticket will receive a special guided tour of the projection room.

More work on the Pass

Work on the bottom of the Victoria Pass has been completed, and the next stage of safety work improvements is about to get under way. These will include construction work to improve and widen the top curve of the Pass, the installation of Variable Message Signs, jersey barriers on the centreline, upgraded guardrails and improved centreline marking. The RTA will be hold information meetings at Hartley School Building Mid Hartley Road, Hartley on Wednesday 29th June 2011 from noon to 2.30pm, and at Mount Victoria Public School, Great Western Highway, Mount Victoria on Wednesday 29th June from 6pm to 8.30pm. If you wish to attend please register by calling 1800 035 733 (toll free) or you can email MV2LInformation@MV2L.com.au. This is for catering purposes.

1813 Bicentenary

A very productive meeting last Saturday, and planning moved forward on several fronts. No firm decisions yet, but a clarification of the way forward.

There are now new proposals on the drawing board, one being a scheme to enable guided groups to walk sections of Cox's Road where appropriate during a time frame to be decided. Another possibility is a bicycle race for elite athletes up and down some of the steeper hills in the valley, and the last is for an historic photograph display covering as many aspects of the history of the valley as we can.

To that end, we would love to hear from you if you have, or have access to, memorabilia which might be of interest. Joan Kent on 6355 2393, or Lynda Lovegrove on 6355 2460 would appreciate a call.

Hartley District Progress Association Contacts:

President: Duncan Wass 6355 2043

Vice President: Seamus Casey 6355 2113

Secretary: Seamus Casey 6355 2113

Treasurer: Barbara Johnson 6355 2017

Hall Hire: Barbara Johnson 6355 2017