

Hartley District Progress Association

www.hartleyvalley.org.au

Email : hartleyprogress@gmail.com



Newsletter Autumn 2013

Our next bi-monthly general meeting will be held in the Hartley School Hall, Mid Hartley Road, at 7.30 pm on **Monday 8th April**. All residents of the valley are invited to attend this meeting.

President's Report

With the rapid approach of autumn, it is lovely to see the valley so green and lush after the awful conditions that dominated the previous five months. The farming fraternity can look forward to an easier winter period as the body of feed builds up in the paddocks. The downgrading of the fire risk is another blessing.

During the past few months things have been rather quiet with activities dominated by the excellent Christmas party and the completion of the work schedule at the school and grounds. This work, undertaken and financed by the Progress association and the Hartley Lands Trust, is now complete. During the Christmas party our local state member Mr Paul Toole formally inspected the new additions and improvements made possible by NSW Government Community Development grants. He declared himself well satisfied that the monies had been put to good use. I would like to thank all who pushed the implementation of the taxing schedule that resulted in the new buildings and renovations. Between the two groups, HDPA and HRRT, we managed to raise in the region of \$40,000 to fund these long planned improvements.

The business of our two sub committees proceeds apace. The 1813 executive have a taken on a huge job and report that all is going along well. The HHAG group continues to push the valleys agenda with the RMS and government.

Starting in February, the regional ABC are running a "snapshot" program of items of interest in rural localities. Hartley will feature each month. The program will feature a short interview with a spokesperson for the area. The first interview covered some details of the 1813 Bi-centennial happenings. So, tune to ABC (Orange AM), 9am first Monday of the month.

On a more sombre note the recent vandalism at Hyde Park Reserve cast a blight on the community. As is always the case the vast majority of visitors to this beautiful area do the right thing. LCC have done extensive and, in my opinion, thoughtful remedial work in the park.

The thoughtless morons who recently desecrated this area with their spray cans and discarded litter will always be with us. There seems to be little that can be done to prevent them. The progress association has written to Lithgow City Council and described the situation. The swift reaction of LCC has been very pleasing and the graffiti on the signage has been cleaned up. The painted rocks and trees will prove more difficult. A visit to the site by Sharon Reilly and associates representing the Aboriginal custodians of Hyde Park took place during this week and their recommendations will be placed before the LCC in the near future. The general thought is that the park should be closed to all wheeled traffic in the same manner as Evans Crown reserve at Tarana. The HDPA will closely follow this matter.

Finally we are looking forward to the upcoming Autumn social event - dance, dinner, and raffle. This will be held at the school hall on March 9th and a flier was distributed to valley residents for information.

Seamus Casey
President HDPA.

Contacting the HDPA:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| President: | Seamus Casey | 6355 2113 |
| Vice Pres: | Duncan Wass | 6355 2043 |
| Secretary: | Ramsay Moodie | 6355 2259 |
| Treasurer: | Seamus Casey | 6355 2113 |
| Hall Bookings; | Barb Johnson | 6355 2017 |
| Newsletter; | Susie Moodie | 6355 2259 |
| PO Box 372 Lithgow NSW 2790 | | |

Dates for your diary

Saturday 9th March

Autumn Harvest Dinner Dance

Monday 8th April

HDPa General meeting

Saturday 17th April

Open Garden Day

Saturday 15th May

A Moment in Time Opens

Saturday 25th May

Bicentenary Fly Past/Picnic

Saturday 1st June

Official openings celebration

Monday 3rd June

HDPa General meeting

Weekends 18th May - 16th June

Walk/ride Cox's Road

Monster Raffle and Autumn Harvest Dinner Dance

The Hartley District Progress Association Monster Autumn Raffle to assist with renovations and repairs to the historic buildings and ongoing administrative costs will be drawn at a special Autumn Harvest Dinner Dance on **Saturday 9th March** next. We will be entertained by The Bunyip Bush Band - dances will be taught and called - great fun for all the family.

Dance Tickets are \$25 for a family and \$10 for adults. This also includes supper. A barbeque dinner will be available for purchase 6.15 pm - 7.15 pm. The evening is BYOG although soft drinks will be available for purchase on the evening. Enquiries **Margaret Coombs** 6355 2192

Pilates in Hartley

Kristen Cummins, an accredited exercise physiologist with Tablelands Sports and Spinal Physiotherapy in Lithgow has proposed to start a pilates class in Hartley if there is sufficient interest. Improve your flexibility, posture, balance, core stability and strength. Class will be suitable for all ages and fitness levels. Old Hartley School Hall Tuesday's 5:30pm. Min of 5 participants required to make the class viable. For further information or to confirm your attendance please phone Kristen on 0401 645 264.

St John The Evangelist Hartley

Services held on the first Sunday of each month, at 5 p.m. Communion on alternate months.

You are most welcome to come and join in our fellowship of worship and song. Services are followed by a light supper, when you can meet with your neighbours from the valley.

ENQUIRIES TO Rev John Gaunt, 4787 8127.
Weddings by arrangement

Managing Horses on Small Properties

Free One Day Seminar covering everything from pasture development to poisonous plants provided by the Catchment Management Authority. Saturday 9th March 9.30. At the Vale Hall, Vale of Clwydd.

Bookings to vanessa.kevzer@cma.nsw.gov.au

Autumn Gardening

Time to prepare your plants for winter again. Give them their last feed - use a good all round fertilizer to bring them back to ultimate health - also mulch and weed.

Start to plan and prepare for new winter plantings, especially for the new bare rooted trees and shrubs.

Plan a new orchard - make a planting plan - spray out the weeds at each new tree location - dig the holes, incorporate fertiliser and compost - and then refill the holes so that the worms and other beneficial organisms can get to work. Then all you have to do at planting time is to reopen the spot and plant. It is also a great time to do the last of the summer pruning **on the rose garden**.

Moving on

We take this opportunity to bid a fond farewell to some good friends and neighbours in the Valley - Kerry Mills and Dianne Pease of "Bracken Hill" on Cox's River Road. Kerry and Di have taken a low key but valuable role in the local area - be it in the Kanimbla Fire Brigade or assisting with Progress activities in a practical way. They've always been there to help a neighbour if needed. They've taken the decision to downsize from their current fifty acres, and will move to The Mountains in the middle of March. We thank them for the contribution they've made in our community over the past twelve years, and wish them well in their new life "up the hill".

Bicentenary Events

May will mark the two hundredth anniversary of the first crossing of the Blue Mountains by Europeans, when the Hartley Valley became the gateway through which the West of New South Wales would be developed.

To mark this important anniversary a number of events will be held in Hartley. All promoted under a logo that draws its inspiration from the valley and its geology.



Saturday 15th May - the opening of an exhibition *A Moment in Time*, reflecting on the earliest history of the valley and the consequences of the crossing. The exhibition will include many images never before displayed outside of the inner sanctums of the State and National Libraries. This exhibition will be open until mid June when it will be demounted and go on tour. This is a gem not to be missed, and we owe a huge vote of thanks to valley resident historian Joan Kent, the exhibition's producer/curator (and her long suffering husband Tom).

Saturday 25th May - the climax of the **Bicentenary Flypast** with several hundred planes passing over Mt Blaxland. A community picnic is planned at a special vantage spot being established in Butlers Paddock on Jenolan Caves road east of Mt Blaxland.

Saturday 1st June will be the **official opening** of the *A Moment in Time* exhibition, which will occur immediately after the official opening of a walking track in the Hartley Historic Site. The track will provide access to the granite tors above the village, as a place to contemplate the consequences of the first crossing of the Blue Mountains by Europeans.

May and June there will be opportunities to join guided walks or separately to ride on horseback most of the route of the original 1814 Cox's road from Mt York to McKanes Falls Road. As the detail of these events firm up please go to www.hartleyvalley.org.au website for information.

2113 Time Capsule

A further element of our 1813 commemoration will be based on a proposal to bury a time capsule for 2113.

A sealed cylinder will be laid down at the old Hartley School site containing relics of today, items that will be of interest to our great/great great grand children in 2113. Would you like to be part of this project? Residents of the valley are invited to submit items for inclusion in the time capsule for consideration by the sub committee caretaking this project. Items for inclusion might range from the everyday eg a Lithgow Mercury through to personal items of use day to day. If you have an interest in contributing items to this project please forward your item/suggestions to Heather Fitzgerald dhfitzgerald@bigpond.com.au or 10 Suvla St Lithgow 6352 2137 or Bob Morris at bruwalin@hotmail.com or 2510 Great Western Highway Hartley for consideration.

Behind the Logo - Hartley Rocks

- A place known to the Wiradjuri and Gundangurra people of these parts for thousands of years prior to the first writings of European history.
- People whose record is marked deep in the rock of this valley.
- People who left rocks, fashioned for their use, as evidence of their presence.
- A place discovered by Europeans in 1813.
- A place that shows a change in scene and geology that offers the prospect of access to the plains beyond.
- A place encompassed by a sandstone rock escarpment that melds into a valley of granite.
- A place through which convicts carved a road, leaving their pick marks written in the rock.
- A place that nurtured early settlers and offered prospects; that led them to cut hearthstones from its rock.
- A place that on examination yielded coal and torbanite from within its rock,
- A place that could nurture and provide wealth

And then the greatest rocks of all; the mighty rock tors that dot the valley, rocks that have resisted the elements for millennia and still stand.

Sentinels
Watchers of the journey
The passing of time and people.
Rocks that know all.

Lithgow's hidden sandstone Heritage 1820s-1880's

On Saturday 21 April and Sunday 22 April 9.30am - 1pm the Lithgow Branch of the National Trust will lead tours around the built legacy of Andrew Brown, one of Lithgow's earliest and most famous sons.

This will be a rare and special treat.

Meet at Lithgow Visitor Centre, 1 Coorwull Road, Great Western Highway (The Miners' Lamp). Coach assembly 9.30am. Discover the buildings which are links to the opening up of pastoral development after the Western Crossings of the Blue Mountains in 1813.

Philanthropist Scotsman Andrew Brown (1797-1894) established a great pastoral empire which commenced at "Coorwull" Homestead (now western Lithgow). Led by historian Ian Jack, travel by coach to churches, schools, mills, houses, and back in time to the rustic outbuildings of Andrew Brown's once thriving homestead.

COST: \$30 per person, includes morning tea.

BOOKINGS: Essential

ENQUIRIES: Helen Clements (02)6353-1501

Welcome New Advertisers

The 2013 bicentenary edition of the business directory comes out this month. Use it as the easiest way to find local suppliers you can really trust.

New additions to the business directory include Ben Dikic for a range of carpentry services, Dam Ard for posts, beams barn doors and more, Ross Howard for firewood, Grant Maundrell a landscape architect and most recent of all Geoff Cooper for floor and wall tiling and paving. Welcome all.

Concerned about Climate Change

Lawson Long Alley resident John James will present a compelling case for needed change at a talk at the The Yoga Shed Richmond 2 pm Sunday 17 March 2013.

Hartley Highway Action Group

Since our public meeting last October, the committee of the Hartley Highway Action Group has taken a number of steps to implement the decisions of that meeting, including writing to the RMS, our local members, both federal and state and the Mayor of Lithgow City Council. Those communications have also gone to relevant state and federal ministers. We have also had deputations meet with Paul Toole, our local member and Maree Statham the Mayor of Lithgow City Council. We reiterated our demands and took time to ensure a full understanding of the process by which the Hartley community had determined its position on the various issues.

Enquiries of the RMS suggest that we will not hear further feedback until mid year. At that time there will be a response and consultation on the various submissions made to the RMS on the Concept Design and the proposed Safety Enhancements. The RMS is currently running consultation workshops in the Mountains regarding the proposal to effect safety enhancements on the Katoomba to Mt Victoria section of the highway.

Anybody wishing to discuss any aspect of the highway issue please call the Chairman Ramsay Moodie on 63552259

Open Garden Visit

Our Autumn visit will be to the property of Richard and Sarah Lawrence. Over the past few years the Lawrences have built and moved into their "reverse brick veneer" house, and look forward to showing us the progress they've made with their newly established garden. The Committee of the Hartley District Progress Association will provide morning tea as always, and we hope to see you at 10.30 am on **Sunday, March 17** at 110 Bonnie Blink Drive, Little Hartley (Bonnie Blink Drive runs off Baaners Lane). Enquiries to Barbara Johnson on 6355 2017.

Hartley Valley Website

Don't forget you can register on the website for valley updates to be automatically alerted to you.

www.hartleyvalley.org.au

Refelections of a Reader

Recently you had an article regarding the 1940's and 1950's rabbit trade in the Kanimbla Valley. I thought you might like to hear the experiences we shared when we were growing up here.

This story is more like my father's experiences during the '40's and 50's. My father who, incidentally was the John Grant's great grandson, born to Jane Flanagan. In fact, our boundary still adjoins Moyne Farm, as also his father's father and his father's property used to. He was the current mailman during these times. His father and also his grandfather were the mailmen during their lifetimes. His duties were to distribute the mail to all of those who lived from Little Hartley, down to Redfern/Cullenbong,

Marsden Swamp and Ganbenang. The epicentre of the district was Les, Alma and John Williams' general store where the now "Harp of Erin" is situated. Les and Alma and John Williams were the life and soul of this area. It was a meeting place for all. They sold bags of wheat, bran, etc., as well as doing up people's orders that they had rung in, e.g. bacon off the bone, biscuits, molasses – you name it and they supplied it, booked up on credit.

They had some interesting stories regarding some experiences they had, especially with gypsies. The gypsies would all arrive and one would ask for something out the back of the store, and while they ducked out to get what was asked for they would help themselves. Often Williams would ask us children to come into the shop and watch what they got up to.

They also operated the local post office where they would sort out and parcel up for delivery to all the people out in the Valley. The papers and bread would be brought down from "Shells Bakery" and Ireland's general store just up the hill in Mt. Victoria. My father would also collect meat orders from the butcher's shop just up from the police station in Mt. Victoria, where carcasses and bacon were sliced up and delicacies such as tripe, black pudding, rabbits, steak and kidneys etc. were standard tucker. People were always cadging a lift with him out to places in the Valley.

As times were tough we needed to supplement what he was earning. As was written in your story, rabbits were everywhere. All the hills around the district were a mass of movement. What I remember very clearly was when we children were home from school we had to go on the mail run with dad or mum to open all of the gates out to the Valley. There were no fences along the road sides. We must have had to open and close up to thirty or forty gates along the route while dodging the stock camped under the trees along the road.

My recollection was that every person who wanted to make money would buy his traps, and consequently nearly every property had rabbits to collect. I remember that dad would deliver the mail often stopping for cups of tea on the way, having chats with everyone he met. I could still take you to places out in the Valley that very few have ever had the experience to explore. The mail run lasted all day. One day we got bogged in one little car and when dad came along he huffed and puffed until three o'clock in the morning until he lifted the car out with big branches.

As your article said, the traps would be set the night before and first thing next morning they would go around their traps and collect their rabbits. These rabbits were gutted and skinned and their feet were interlaced in a way to make it easy to hang them over a tree branch. Then a tarpaulin would be wrapped around them until dad would pick them up from around all of the properties. Usually there would be approximately ten to thirty rabbits to be collected from each paddock. I remember even driving down the steep slope down the big bend down River Lett Hill, into the paddock on the left down to a big tree owned by Arthur Hodder at that time, collecting his rabbits. The rabbits would then leave our home about four or five in the morning and would be delivered down to butcher shops and delicatessens all the way down to Penrith and even further in some cases.

It became a thriving business with many wanting to get into the action, so consequently there were plenty of fist fights in those days. These fights were even popular at the Lowther Hall dances when after a few drinks the fights would be on. They would all be mates again the week after.

Then as they said myxomatosis was introduced and all business stopped. I still couldn't eat a rabbit to this day. But then it all stopped and people moved on and the rest is history. The next big event was the wool boom during the Korean War and the properties just took off. Then there was the problem of the heavily laden wool bales being driven up the Victoria Pass, and when they would get to the steepest part I remember being very frightened when these little ill made trucks would have to stop, and I remember watching the front wheels on these trucks lifting off the ground and seesawing up and down due to the overladen wool bales, until a tow truck would come down from the mount and haul them up the pass.

Well that is my story, maybe not that interesting but I do like to remember just how many paddocks and properties we explored. There wouldn't be many that I wouldn't remember.

MM

We wondered who "MM" might be – we imagined a young fellow, a contemporary of Ian Campbell's. Not so. Some of our long term Hartley residents were able to identify "MM", who turned out to be a slip of a lassie named Marion Hughes (now Muir), third in a family of four girls who grew up locally. Marion still lives in the Valley, and as time has passed she's become the mother of four children and the grandmother of six. Thank you for taking the time to write to us, Marion, and for sharing a fascinating look back at times past.

HDBA Business Directory - Autumn Newsletter version

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| ALPACAS | Belgrave Park Alpacas | Alpacas, yarn and garments | 6355 2477 |
| ARBORIST | Andy Tree Man | Pruning, Lopping, Milling | 0439 278 130 |
| BATHROOMS | Blue Mountains Bathrooms | Scott Hunter | 6359 3090 |
| B and Bs | Glenroy Cottages | Cottages and camping grounds | 6355 2186 |
| | The Comet Inn - C1879 | Greg or Cathy | 6355 2247 |
| BUILDING | Marjanac Design | Design/Construction since 1980 | 6355 0261 |
| CAFES | Hartley Valley Teahouse | Serious coffee, quality meals | 6355 2048 |
| | The Lollybug | Lolly store | 6355 2162 |
| | Talisman | Wood Fired Pizza & Gallery | 6355 2056 |
| CAR SERVICE | Mt Vic Service Centre | Sam Millar | 4787 1811 |
| CARPENTRY | Mark O'Carrigan | New work, restoration& repairs | 6355 2777 |
| | Ben Dikic | Decks, pergolas, doors | 0413 354 523 |
| CINEMA | Mt Vic Flicks | Arthouse cinema at Mt Victoria | 47871577 |
| EDUCATION | Marie Majanac | Maths tutor all levels to HSC | 63550261 |
| ELECTRICIAN | Mark O'Toole | Bobcat & trenching machine | 6355 2488 |
| EARTHMOVING | B & R Barber Earthmoving | Brad Barber | 6355 2186 |
| | JDL Excavations | Excavator, Positrack, tipper hire | 6355 2460 |
| FIREWOOD | Ross Howard | Quality firewood | 0418 344 344 |
| G/DOORS | Hartley Valley Garage Doors | Sales and service | 6355 2468 |
| LANDSCAPING | Cliffords Landscapes | Design and construction | 0410 552 294 |
| | Grant Maundrell | Landscape architect/construction | 0407 933 834 |
| MOWER AND CHAINSAW REPAIRS | | | |
| | Hartley Chainsaw & Mower Repairs | Andrew Lawson | 6355 2336 |
| NURSERIES | Maple Springs Nursery | Fabulous maples and much more | 6355 2140 |
| PARTY HIRE | Lithgow party Hire | All the gear for a great party | 6355 2438 |
| PAINTING | Kay Decorating & Painting P/L | David and Catherine Kay | 6355 2270 |
| PLUMBING | Mick Linhart Plumbing | No job too small | 6355 2251 |
| PRINTING | C&W Print | All commercial printing | 6351 4806 |
| PROPERTY MAINTENANCE | | | |
| | Rob Jolly | Reliable Property Maintenance | 6355 2278 |
| RURAL SUPPLIES | Adam's Shed | Stock feeds, fencing, produce | 6355 2096 |
| SADDLERY | The Hartley Saddlery | For all your horse and riding gear | 6355 2165 |
| SHOW HORSE ACCESSORIES | | | |
| | Greg Watson and Hatitude | Show canes and millinery | 6355 2044 |
| SOLAR POWER | Hartley Green Power | Sun and wind power solutions | 6355 2299 |
| SOLICITOR | Le Fevre & Co | All areas of law since 1907 | 6352 2699 |
| TILING | Mountain Top Tiling | Wall and floor tiling and paving | 0413 077 121 |
| TIMBER | Dam Ard | Posts, beams, barn doors & more | 0428 428 345 |
| WATER TANK MAINTENANCE | | | |
| | Pristine Water Systems | All water problems - call Phil | 0437 578 199 |

The Hartley District Progress Association is proud to be associated with these local businesses and encourage resident to consider Hartley First when acquiring any of the services they offer.