

# Hartley District Progress Association

www.hartleyvalley.org.au

Email : hartleyprogress@gmail.com



## Newsletter Autumn 2014

Our next bi-monthly general meeting will be held in the Hartley School Hall, Mid Hartley Road, at 7.30 pm on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April**. All residents of the valley are invited to attend this meeting.

### President's Report

We are pleased to advise the appointment of Barbara Wheat as Secretary of our Association. Barbara and her husband Max are relatively new arrivals into our Valley, having moved from the Upper Mountains in the past 18 months. Apart from having a keen sense of community spirit, Barbara will be participating in the 100kms walk to raise funds for the Fred Hollows Foundation during the first weekend in March. Many of you will have met Barbara during the Bicentennial celebrations where she was a committed volunteer. Welcome to the team Barbara.

The last event for 2013 was the drawing of the Raffle for two nights' stay at Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort. The lucky ticket was held by long term Hartley Valley resident, Mrs Val Morris, with consolation prizes of a copy of the A Moment in Time book going to second and third place ticketholders Greg Lemeseurier from Cullenbenbong and Tracy McMahon from Little Hartley. Our thanks to all ticket sellers, especially Adam's Shed.

We will settle on a calendar of events for 2014 at our Executive Meeting on the 3rd March. Fundraising is always a major responsibility to cover recurrent expenditure of some \$8,000 per annum. Our focus is to sponsor events that are in the first place enjoyable for all, secondly to service a need for community cohesion and thirdly to achieve funds to cover expenses. History suggests that we should maintain proven events, including local music and entertainment, monster bonfire night, boot sales, our local business directory and raffles. We welcome suggestions and ideas from our community to add to our agenda.

Sunday the 2nd March is Clean Up Australia Day. We already have some volunteers to cover areas from The Gap to Brown's Gap Road, Hartley Vale and access roads, Mid Hartley Road to Brown's Gap Road, Baaners Lane and minor roads, Cranbrook Park Road, and Cox's River Road west. We need volunteers for Brown's Gap Road from the Highway to the intersection at Fields Road, and Cox's River Road east from the Kanimbla Fire Shed to GWH, as well as Blackheath Creek Road, the Ambermere Estate and Caroll Drive Estate. The Great Western Highway is not

included for safety reasons so we are having discussions with RMS to seek their assistance. If you would like to volunteer to help with this project call me on 6355 2393 or Barbara Wheat on 6355 2384.

As outlined elsewhere in the newsletter we have decided to again mount our exhibition, A Moment in Time relating to the consequences of the 1813 crossing of the Blue Mountains by Europeans. It has also been proposed that we should proceed to conduct the horse rides on Coxs Road project we had to cancel last year and to conduct further guided walks on Cox's Road during the period Mid September to Mid October. Sales of the book A Moment in Time launched in October 2013 continue to exceed expectations with the book now available from most local bookshops or direct by contacting Barbara Wheat on 6355 2384. We understand the Governor was presented with a copy at the recent Roaring Twenties ball hosted by the Mayor Maree Statham. Congratulations to the 1813 Committee for the nomination and award announced on Australia Day relating to our 2013 bicentenary activities.

The local community is encouraged to attend HDPA Executive Meetings held bimonthly on the first Monday of the odd month as well as the General Meetings which are held on the first Monday of even months.

I look forward to welcoming you all and hearing your ideas and suggestions as to how we can better engage the community.

**Tom Kent**  
President

### Contacting the HDPA:

President:	Tom Kent	6355 2393
Vice Pres:	Seamus Casey	6355 2113
Secretary:	Barbara Wheat	6355 2384
Treasurer:	Ramsay Moodie	6355 2259
Hall Bookings:	Barb Johnson	6355 2017
Newsletter:	Susie Moodie	6355 2259
PO Box 372 Lithgow NSW 2790		

## Dates for your Diary

**Sunday 2nd March** Clean up Australia Day  
**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March** Open Garden day  
**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April** Next HDPa gen meeting

## Highway Safety Upgrade Update

During the summer, meetings were held with the RMS regarding both the point to point camera installations in the valley and the safety works outlined in the final design and environmental impact assessment briefing issued to residents by the RMS in November.

In respect of the latter, we discussed a number of issues raised by residents, relating to improving the Jenolan Caves and Blackman's Creek Road junction and improving the right turn out of the Hartley Historic Site onto the highway. We have also sought assurance regarding the Mid Hartley Road turn in for east travelling traffic.

We also restated our concern regarding the point to point camera located near the Hartley Historic Site, that it is imperative that the camera be located in a position that no element of the infrastructure is visible from the site. Also that it is important that the verge clearing proposed in the safety upgrade doesn't compromise this primary principle.

The issue of the mid valley truck parking bays included in the concept design for the future road upgrade remains a matter of contention and will continue to be the subject of protest as will the ill considered \$120 million spend on further upgrading the Forty Bends section of the highway with a bridge over Whites Creek despite the good safety record of this section of road since it's post 2000 upgrade.

## Oral History Project

At the last meeting of the HDPa a discussion ensued on a project to collect oral histories of folk in the valley who have an insight into the valley's history.

Do you have a story to tell or know a neighbour who is a font of information about the old days? If you have an interest in being involved in this project, call Diane Green 6355 2174, secretary of the Hartley History Research Group.

## Hytec Austen Quarry Expansion

As outlined in our last newsletter Hytech have started a process to significantly extend their Austen Quarry. Hytech have indicated a willingness in principle to provide a community briefing on their intentions and their various impacts. The HDPa will be arranging a meeting where interested residents will be able to hear about the detail of Hytech's proposal probably in the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> March. Details of time and place for this meeting will be posted on the [www.hartleyvalley.org](http://www.hartleyvalley.org) website.

## Open Garden Day

The next Open Garden day will be held **10 am Sunday 16th March** at the home of John and Hilary James at the Crucible Centre in Lawsons Long Alley. You turn into this historic road just opposite the Comet Inn in Hartley Vale. Proceed to the road's end, swinging left across the cleared ground and park in the open grassland. A short walk will bring you to the Crucible Centre. Morning tea provided. Enquiries call Barb Johnson 6355 2017.

In John's words; The Crucible Centre is a valley enfolded by steep wooded hills. It feels safe and protected. Yet 18 years ago it was uninhabited and infested by blackberries and scotch thistle, and lots of tea-tree. We bought the land for our home and to run workshops to heal the emotions while we let the land soothe the soul. We are almost completely surrounded by parklands, a small oasis in a sea of eucalypts. In the middle we built a sustainable house with solar electricity and hot water, found a natural spring and created a garden for our joy. We enclosed an orchard with over 30 fruit trees and with Mel nourished a vegetable garden to supply our needs and those of the folk who come to our workshops. We hope to show that it is possible to live well from the land, frugally and leaving a minimal stain on nature. Certainly, this is easier on a couple of hundred acres than on a suburban block, but at a time when badly crafted mass-produced food is blunting our taste buds and adding too many kilos it is wondrous to taste raspberries and kale and pears, as we did as children.

## Another Moment in Time

At the last meeting of the HDPAs 1813 committee, following many enquiries from people who missed it last year, we decided that we would remount our crossings bicentenary exhibition "A Moment in Time". Similarly we have decided to again run guided Heritage Walks on Cox's Road in conjunction with the exhibition and will mount the guided rides on Cox's Road that we had to cancel last year due to an equine Strangles outbreak. The rides will be held between August 30 and September 7 and the exhibition will be open on weekends from September 13th to October 12th. This decision to do things later in the year takes advantage of Spring and coincides with the Blue Mountains Festival of Walking that is strongly promoted.

More information as it comes to hand, but we are again looking for volunteers to manage the door, act as hosts, guides etc. If you would like to help please contact Barbara Johnson who will again act as coordinator of our volunteers. Barb can be contacted on 6355 2017.

For any general enquiries on the exhibition ring Joan Kent 6355 2393, on the walks ring Ramsay or Susie Moodie 6355 2259 and the rides Trish Ryan on 6355 2026 or speak to Kristie or Vanessa at the Hartley Saddlery .

## Cox's Road Signage

As most people will know we have many remnants of William Cox's 1815 road to Bathurst located in the valley. From the drains cut into solid rock coming down the escarpment, to remnants of the road in bush or paddocks, to the modern day roads of Mid Hartley and Fields Road built on the original line of Cox's Road, we are richly endowed with reminders of this element of our colonial history.

In a project fostered by the Cox's Road committee of the National Trust signage is shortly to be installed on those sections of the road running through the Lithgow area. This will see directional signage on Mid Hartley Road and down at the Glenroy Bridge on Jenolan Caves road and interpretive signage at the historic Hartley School site (Cox's Road traversed part of the school grounds) and at the east end of Cut Hill Road.

## Heritage

Those interested in the wealth of heritage in our region will have been disappointed to learn that the heritage provisions in the Local Environment Plan have been gutted. The original draft LEP proposed the local heritage listing of some six hundred sites as proposed by Professor Ian Jack in his seminal 1990s study of the region. All of these have been excised from the LEP now submitted for approval to the NSW Department of Planning based on a motion proposed by a Lithgow Regional Forum Councilor.

## Hartley Motorbike Circuit

"HARTLEY NEEDED A BIG HEART --- 6 kms of flat-out dirt was a test of the brave in the '30's and you can still try it any weekend". (Excerpt from Old Bike Australia, May/June 2010, Editor, Jim Scaysbrook).

During the 20's and 30's there existed a motor cycle race circuit known as The Hartley Circuit which was made up of Fields Road, Browns Gap Road and Hartley Vale Road - a distance of 3¾ miles, (approx. 6kms.) The infield included refreshment stall, provision stall, pit area, etc.

It has been suggested that a "Back to Hartley Circuit" day could be organised with invitations extended to motor cyclists of the era and/or their families, and any clubs with an interest in vintage, veteran and historic motor cycles. Interest from vintage car clubs would also be viewed favorably. Obviously, in this day and age, racing would not be practicable, due to safety issues, so this would be a display day only, with a possible swap meeting, food and drink stalls, etc. Rides around the track would be a must have, of course!

Your thoughts on the feasibility of this event would be appreciated, as well as any suggestions you may have to offer regarding the execution of the event should it proceed. For further information on history of the circuit visit <http://archive.lithgow.nsw.gov.au/tourism/LithgowMotorCycleGuide.pdf> If you would like to make suggestions or be involved in this project please contact Barb Wheat secretary of the HDPAs or Max her multiple bike owning husband on 6355 2384, 0404 948 411 (Max) or 0415 539 801 (Barb).

# HDPa Business Directory - Autumn Newsletter version

<b>ARBORIST</b>	Andy Tree Man	Pruning, Lopping, Milling	0439 278 130
<b>AUTOMOTIVE</b>	Lithgow Auto Wreckers and Repairers		6351 2367
	Mt Vic Service Centre	Sam Millar	4787 1811
<b>BATHROOMS</b>	Blue Mountains Bathrooms	Scott Hunter	6359 3090
<b>B and Bs</b>	Glenroy Cottages	Cottages and camping grounds	6355 2186
	The Comet Inn - C1879	Greg or Cathy	6355 2247
<b>BUILDING</b>	Marjanac Design	Design/Construction since 1980	6355 0261
<b>CAFES</b>	The Lollybug	Lolly store	6355 2162
	Alchemy	Wood Fired Pizza	6355 2056
<b>CARPENTRY</b>	Mark O'Carrigan	New work, restoration& repairs	6355 2777
	Ben Dikic	Decks, pergolas, doors	0413 354 523
<b>CINEMA</b>	Mt Vic Flicks	Arthouse cinema at Mt Victoria	47871577
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Marie Majanac	Maths tutor all levels to HSC	6355 0261
<b>ELECTRICIAN</b>	Mark O'Toole	Bobcat & trenching machine	6355 2488
<b>EARTHMOVING</b>	B & R Barber Earthmoving	Brad Barber	6355 2186
<b>FIREWOOD</b>	Ross Howard	Quality firewood	0418 344 344
	Rob Jolly	Great firewood	6355 2278
<b>G/DOORS</b>	Hartley Valley Garage Doors	Sales and service	6355 2468
<b>GALLERY</b>	Talisman Gallery	Metal art and jewelry	0407 723 722
<b>LANDSCAPING</b>	Cliffords Landscapes	Design and construction	0410 552 294
	Grant Maundrell	Landscape architect/construction	0407 933 834
<b>MOWER AND CHAINSAW REPAIRS</b>			
	Hartley Chainsaw & Mower Repairs	Andrew Lawson	6355 2336
<b>NURSERIES</b>	Maple Springs Nursery	Fabulous maples and much more	6355 2140
<b>PARTY HIRE</b>	Lithgow party Hire	All the gear for a great party	6355 2438
<b>PLUMBING</b>	Mick Linhart Plumbing	No job too small	6355 2251
<b>PRINTING</b>	C&W Print	All commercial printing	6351 4806
<b>PROPERTY MAINTENANCE</b>			
	Rob Jolly	Reliable Property Maintenance	6355 2278
<b>RURAL SUPPLIES</b>	Adam's Shed	Stock feeds, fencing, produce	6355 2096
<b>SADDLERY</b>	The Hartley Saddlery	For all your horse and riding gear	6355 2165
<b>SOLAR POWER</b>	Hartley Green Power	Sun and wind power solutions	6355 2299
<b>SOLICITOR</b>	Le Fevre & Co	All areas of law since 1907	6352 2699
<b>STONE MASONS</b>	Mountain Stone Design	Michael Campbell 0400 277 818	4787 1340
	Heritage Stoneworks	Bill Holmes- Stone Mason	0421 367 257
<b>TIMBER</b>	Dam Ard	Posts, beams, barn doors & more	0428 428 345
<b>WATER TANK MAINTENANCE</b>			
	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 residents to consider Hartley First when acquiring the services they offer.*