

# Hartley District Progress Association

[www.hartleyvalley.org.au](http://www.hartleyvalley.org.au)

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## Newsletter Summer 2011

**Next general meeting: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December at the old School in Mid Hartley Road at 7.30pm**  
**Please bring a plate for the end of year supper.**

### President's Report

The past year has been an active one for the HDPa under the very effective guidance of outgoing president, Duncan Wass. Some of the highlights of his President's Report tabled at the AGM include:

- \* Facilitating the efforts of the Hartley Valley Forum in presenting a strong document to Lithgow City Council re the proposed Land Use Strategy.

- \* Significant work has been done by the 1813 subcommittee in developing various proposals for events to commemorate the bicentenary of the European crossing of the Blue Mountains in 2013.

- \* The web site is a great source of news and history. Thanks to Diane Green

- \* Our recent car boot sale was very successful and proceeds go to the restoration of the Old Hartley School.

- \* A committee has been formed to oversee the restoration of the school. A generous grant has been obtained from the NSW Government to assist with starting this work.

- \* Five new advanced shade trees planted this year are all doing very well.

- \* An application for a large grant has been prepared under the "Community Building Partnership" scheme. If successful, it will fund the construction of adequate toilets and provide an all weather notice board. Excellent work by Diane Green, with assistance from Jim Robson.

At our recent meeting it was agreed to donate \$500 to the Hartley Bush Fire Canteen to assist with the very popular Christmas party for families in our valley. Money left over will be used to help fund the essential services provided by the canteen.

Responding to community requests, we will

continue to publish a hard copy newsletter each quarter and deliver it to the 500 households in the valley (volunteers to help with delivery keenly sought). The newsletter will still be available on our website.

The membership of the HDPa continues to increase, we are in a strong financial state, and will continue to be a forum for the community in all matters of concern. The restoration and grounds committees will proceed with their very fine work. Finally, I would like to wish one and all a joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you all at our next general meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Seamus Casey.

President, HDPa.

**HDPa General Meetings are held on the first Monday of every even numbered month**

### Hartley Boot and Ute Sale

Notwithstanding some problems with inclement weather, the car boot sale was very successful.

A huge thank you to Barbara Johnson for overall organization of the day. We hope to make it a regular event.

The food sales were great, many hands made light work. Special thanks to Susie and Ramsay Moodie, Di Pease and Keith Berry in that area. Ian Campbell had the grounds looking wonderful, with many people commenting favorably. Seamus Casey did a lot of work in the lead-up to the day, taking care of the long list of small jobs that invariably arise, and as always John Facchina and Diane Green were there to lend a hand. Special thanks go to Ian Bathgate for his efforts in mounting the most interesting display of vintage cars.

# Hartley Community Family Christmas Party



An invitation to all Hartley residents....

The Hartley Community Family Christmas Party

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 12 - 2.30**

**Hartley School Hall**



Fun and Games for the kids from 12 midday, then after Lunch Santa will arrive with a gift for all kids under 12. Christmas Ham and Chicken will be served (please bring a plate of your favorite salad/ slice/cake or fruit to share) followed by Doreen Peter's homemade Christmas Pudding and brandy custard (not to be missed!) Soft drinks, tea and coffee, and jellies and lolly bags for the kids will be supplied. Please let us know if you are coming by **4<sup>th</sup> December** (for catering purposes) and how many kids, their age and gender (to help Santa with his gifts) Please leave a message on 6355 2332 or email [hartleyprogress@gmail.com](mailto:hartleyprogress@gmail.com)

The party will be catered for by the Fire Brigade Canteen. This event is jointly funded by the Hartley Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, the Hartley District Progress Association and the Hartley Recreational Reserve Trust. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Two New Faces on HDPa committee

The AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> November saw Seamus Casey elected as President, Duncan Wass as Vice President, Ramsay Moodie as Secretary, and Barbara Johnson as Treasurer and Hall Hire Officer. Other committee members elected on the night were Ian Campbell, Diane Green and Michael Combs. We welcome Ramsay and Michael to the committee and look forward to a fruitful year. After expressing a heartfelt view that a hard copy newsletter in addition to the web version was an important service of Progress, Susie Moodie volunteered to help with the Newsletter and the meeting was happy to accept. If you have any valley news or ideas for stories etc. please call Susie on 63552259 or 0417439749.

## Carols at St Johns

Carols by Candlelight at St John's on the hill in Hartley Historic Village, will be held on Sunday, 11th December, at 7 p.m., in the Church, followed by supper in the Royal Inn opposite the Church. All welcome.

## Fire Season

With the best spring in years we have a fabulous body of feed on the ground. Give it a couple of weeks and it will be a prime fire hazard. Now is the time to clear around your property and make it fire ready. Slash or mow well back from buildings whilst the grass is still green. With a couple of weeks of hot weather the grass will all soon hay off and slashing will not be possible for fear of starting a fire. Reporting fires call -- 000

## Thank you Mr Berry

After a very productive two years, Keith Berry has stepped down from his role on the HDPa Committee where he made an impressive intellectual contribution in the rewriting of our Constitution. He oversaw administration of the highly successful 2010 Big Backyard, and has cooked countless sausages and onion rings to feed hungry visitors at Progress events.

Keith is always aided and supported by his wife and partner in all things, Vivienne, the comely Kiwi lass he met and courted at Jenolan all those decades ago. He is truly a man for all seasons - a dancer and romancer of the lovely Viv, a devoted father and grandfather, a teacher and mentor to many young people over the years, a ukulele player and, more recently, a bikie. Late in his teaching career, Keith was headmaster at the Mt. Victoria Public School. It's a heartwarming experience when he meets up with one of his former pupils - to see an otherwise self-possessed youngish adult revert briefly to childhood, and with much respect, and not a little awe, say "Hello, Mr. Berry".

For all that you've done for the HDPa over the years - Thank you, Mr. Berry

## New Business directory

With this issue of the HDPa newsletter you will find the 'fridge magnet' copy of the 2011 business directory. You will also find a summarized directory on page four which we will include in all future newsletters. The A5 Business Directory booklet incorporating the business cards of our advertisers will follow. Apologies for the delay in getting this out.

## HAAG Highway Update 14

Work has now commenced on the safety upgrade of the top corner of Victoria Pass, and is scheduled for completion by Easter next year. Mitchell's Lookout, presently used as a depot for the work, will then be reopened.

Last month, a HHAG representative was invited to attend a meeting organised by the Mt Victoria and Blackheath Highway Action Groups, with Roza Sage (member for the Blue Mountains) and our local member Paul Toole. Pass safety issues were discussed, and our longstanding calls for the 'Newnes option' as an alternative to upgrading the existing highway. The meeting was also attended by senior RTA personnel who discussed potential solutions to problems with the bottom bend, including the runoff over the westbound lane in heavy rain and the inadequacy of the downhill merge on the left bend going into the bottom corner. Consistent with our many calls for the use of technology to control speed, RTA has proposed to government that point to point speed cameras should be installed on the pass. We have written to the minister voicing our full support.

October saw the O'Farrell government implement its pre-election commitment to conduct a full review of the Mt Victoria to Lithgow project. An international firm of infrastructure consultants, Evans and Peck, was appointed to review all of the RTA's decisions to date, and to meet with the various groups that have an interest in the matter. We met with Evans and Peck, and restated our position regarding the 'Newnes option', and the desirability of doing Bells Line Of Road safety enhancements by diverting money from the proposed River Lett Hill south upgrade.

We await the outcome of this review and have written to the minister seeking early release of the full report by Evans and Peck.

## Hartley School Heritage Assessment

Work continued this month to develop a formal conservation plan for the Hartley School with a meeting with Christo Aitken, Lithgow Council's heritage adviser. Exterior repainting of the timber sections is sorely needed, and will probably be the first job done.

*'No one likes erosion any more....now that all the scenery is made.'*

-James Galvin, Fencing the Sky

## Land Use Strategy

Many in the valley will be pleased with the Lithgow Council 7<sup>th</sup> November decision on the Land Use Strategy. This will now form the base for development of the Local Environment Plan that will control development in the region for the next twenty years.

The original proposal was to seriously reduce the existing entitlements of rural landholders, (by eliminating a multitude of existing rights relating to the erection of dwellings, and increasing the size of future rural lots that would qualify for dwelling entitlements.) This was a powerful affront to principles of equity, and would have seriously affected the value of all lands zoned as rural right across the Lithgow local government area.

Congratulations to the many in the valley who contributed to this lively debate.

## Summer Gardening Tips

From Maple Springs Nursery

Spring rains have brought lush growth and good blooms, but summer's arrival means lots of work in your garden. Fertilising and mulching are vital for healthy growth in the hotter months. Regular fertilizing with small amounts of fish emulsion, blood and bone or seasoil will keep roots conditioned, and maintain lush growth. Mulch vegies and fruit trees with pea straw or sugar cane mulch to a depth of 75mm. Ornamentals and natives can be mulched with hardwood chips or shredded tree prunings. Keep this topped up through the summer months.

Common herbs like fennel, dill, coriander and sage marigolds will help encourage ladybirds and praying mantis to your vegie garden, and they will eat the undesirable bugs.

Soil conditioning is important in the Hartley area. After a few months of rain, many plants struggle in the silty/clay soils of the flatter areas. Aerate the soil by digging in coarse sand, shredded pine bark and compost, and till the soil well before planting. Adding mulch is very important to cool the roots and retain moisture.

### Contacting the HDP:

President:	Seamus Casey	6355 2113
Vice Pres:	Duncan Wass	6355 2043
Secretary:	Ramsay Moodie	6355 2259
Treasurer:	Barbara Johnson	6355 2017
Hall Bookings		6355 2017
Newsletter		6355 2259

PO Box 372 Lithgow NSW 2790

## Hartley District Business Directory - abridged Newsletter version

### ALPACAS

Belgrave Park Alpacas	Alpacas, yarn and garments	6355 2477
Bonny Belle	Producers of fine alpaca	6355 2372

### BATHROOMS

Blue Mountains Bathrooms	Scott Hunter	6359 3090
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### BED and BREAKFASTS

Glenroy Cottages	Cottages and camping grounds	6355 2186
The Comet Inn - Circa 1879	Greg or Cathy	6355 2247

### CAFES

Ambermere Rose Inn	10 to 3.30, & Fri & Sat evenings	6355 2266
Full Throttle Diner	Eat in and take away	6355 2275
Hartley Valley Teahouse	Serious coffee, quality meals	6355 2048
The Farmhouse	Cafe and lolly store	6355 2162
Talisman Wood Fired Pizza & Gallery	Bookings and phone orders	6355 2056

### CARPENTRY

Mark O'Carrigan - "The Hatter"	New work, restorations & repairs	6355 2777
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### ELECTRICIAN

Mark O'Toole	Bobcat & trenching machine	6355 2488
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### EARTHMOVING AND EXCAVATIONS

B & R Barber Earthmoving	Brad Barber	6355 2186
JDL Excavations	Excavator, positrack, tipper hire	6355 2460

### FENCING

Cap Fencing P/L	Domestic and rural fencing	6355 0296
Gilles' Fencing Enterprises	Specialising in colorbond	6355 2095

### GARAGE DOORS

Hartley Valley Garage Doors	Sales and service	6355 2468
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### HANDYMAN

Moonhill	Window cleaning, painting	6355 2241
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### LANDSCAPING

Cliffords Landscapes	Design and construction	0410 552 294
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### MOWER AND CHAINSAW REPAIRS

Hartley Chainsaw & Mower Repairs	Andrew Lawson	6355 2336
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### NURSERIES

Hartley Valley Nursery	Bill Grattan	6355 2148
Maple Springs Nursery	Nursery and gardens	6355 2140

### PAINTING

Kay Decorating & Painting P/L	David and Catherine Kay	6355 2270
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### PLUMBING

Mick Linhart Plumbing Service	No job too small	6355 2251
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### PRINTING

C&W Print	All commercial printing	6351 4806
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### PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Reliable Property Maintenance	Rob Jolly	6355 2278
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### RURAL SUPPLIES

Adam's Shed	Stock feeds, fencing, produce	6355 2096
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### SOLAR POWER

Hartley Green Power	Sun and wind power solutions	6355 2299
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### SOLICITOR

Le Fevre & Co	All areas of law since 1907	6352 2699
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### WATER TANK MAINTENANCE

Pristine Water Systems	All water problems - call Phil	0437 578 199
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### WEDDING RECEPTIONS

The Briars	Receptions and special events	6355 2265
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