

Hartley District Progress Association

www.hartleyvalley.org.au

Email : hartleyprogress@gmail.com



Newsletter Autumn 2012

Our next bi-monthly general meeting will be held in the Hartley School Hall, Middle Hartley Road, at 7.30 pm on Monday 2nd April. All residents of the valley are invited to attend this meeting.

President's Report

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2012. Our last couple of meetings have seen discussion on the role of the Progress Association (HDPa) in the Hartley Valley community. Since its formal inception in 1957 (origins around the 1870s) the HDPa has undertaken many activities to enrich or benefit the lives of Hartley Residents. These have ranged widely, community agreed representations to government, the accommodation of community education initiatives, like weeds information days or hosting children's playgroups, through to the arrangement of social events and events like the Big Backyard. Much of what we do is about building community; providing opportunities for people to meet and work together; to build trust, respect and understanding across the community in order to make the valley a better place to live.

Over our corporate life there has been a significant change in the valley. When we were formally incorporated in 1957 this was a farming community. People largely relied on apples and grazing and some Lithgow based work for their economic well being. Since then we have seen extensive subdivision of the valley and an influx of residents attracted to the lifestyle offered by the valley. With this significant change of demographic have we given sufficient consideration to the needs of the changed community?

We are now endeavoring to get some ideas from people as to what we should be doing for the future. The objective is to form a broad based group to sit down on a convenient day and brainstorm the notion of what the valley needs/wants from HDPa. If you would like to be part of that process or to offer ideas give me a ring on 6355 2113 or call Barbara Johnson on 6355 2017 or Mick Combs

on 6355 2192.

As a somewhat related issue we have the question of participation. Too often the things that need to be done fall on the shoulders of the few. We need to build an HDPa organization that is more broadly supported. We also need to have a succession plan so that in the future years we see a progressive renewal of the executive of the HDPa including younger members.

Overall, the HDPa role is to provide community service and in this vein we were delighted to hear of the awarding of an OAM in this year's Australia Day Honours to one of our members, Bob Morris . Bob has served the community in many ways over the years. In heritage circles in particular he is widely respected for his chairmanship of the Hartley Historic Village Advisory Committee since its establishment in 1977 and his chairmanship of the Hartley Vale Mt Blaxland Trust. I am sure the whole community would join me in congratulating Bob on this award as fitting recognition of the hard work that he has put in over the years.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting on 2nd April.

Seamus Casey.
President, HDPa.

Contacting the HDPa:

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

Easter gathering in Hartley

The HDPA is hosting a community get-together on Easter Sunday, April 8, commencing at 11.00 a.m., and we hope you'll join us. There'll be an Easter egg hunt for the children, and a barbequed sausage and a hot cross bun for anyone who'd like one. You're welcome to bring other items to bbq for your lunch - the facilities will be available. There's no need to worry if it rains - the lovely old hall can hold lots of people, so the day can go on regardless of the weather. Established residents are very familiar with the Old School and its story - if you're new to the Valley however, and have not visited before, we'd love to have the opportunity to show you around this wonderful community asset, to tell you something of its history, the restoration work presently in the pipeline, and perhaps share some thoughts with you as to how we might utilize the facilities in the future.

One last thing - no matter if you be man, woman or child - if you own a hat that you fancy might make you a prize winner, why not pop it on your head on the day and see what happens. You might get a nice surprise.

We look forward to seeing you on April 8, and would appreciate it if you would call Barbara Johnson on 6355 2017 up to one week before to let us know how many you are, and how many are children under twelve. Volunteers to help, please call Barb.

Valley Variety 3

Some of you will remember the first two evenings of music, sing-along and fun held in the School hall a while ago, when valley folk entertained valley folk. Well, it's time to explore the possibility of another event. Sometime in August might be good, but it's all flexible at the moment, so if you have any inclination to performance of any kind (singing, reciting, playing the bones, or the fool) give Duncan a call on 6355 2043, or email duncbarb@gmail.com and we'll see who volunteers to help make another memorable evening of fun from residents of the valley for the residents of the valley.

Digital Television in the Valley

Lots of us will be in trouble when digital television cuts in this year and the retransmitter on Hassans Walls is shut down on 5th June. Those relying on the old service will need to apply to switch to the VAST (Viewer Access Satellite Television) service to receive a digital signal after that date. Residents who want to take advantage of this service need to register by 17th April to be eligible for a \$400 government subsidy towards the approximately \$700 cost of installing the digital satellite service. If you want to check if you qualify go to www.digitalready.gov.au where you can pinpoint your house location on a map and it will confirm your eligibility. Assuming you are eligible, you can then proceed to register for the subsidized service installation. Alternatively call 1800 20 10 13 for more information.

Local Services Directory

We have a few additions to the services directory in the back of the newsletter this month. Our old friends, the Mount Vic Flicks have joined....what better place to enjoy arthouse cinema.

Lithgow Party Hire located in the centre of the valley have also joined. They can hire you everything you need for the perfect party, juke boxes, chairs, wishing wells, frozen cocktail machines - you name it, they probably have it.

Lastly there is Andy Moody the arborist, formerly doing tree work in Sydney and more recently Katoomba, Andy claims a good knowledge of natives, exotics and weeds, and has a keen interest in preserving native habitat. He is offering locals a discount of 10% off his usual rates as he is keen to work closer to his home in Little Hartley. Services he offers include expert pruning (for aesthetics/views/solar gain), whole tree removal, chipping, firewood, milling (mobile saw mill), tree planting. Free advice on habitat restoration and land management.

Needlework and Craft Group

In our Summer newsletter we included a flyer announcing the formation of a needlework and craft group to be run at the Hartley school hall. Whatever type of sewing you enjoy, here is a sociable way to do it.

If you are interested, please call Christine Piper on 0142 630 412.

Christmas Party Reflections

The Hartley Community Family Christmas Party attracted some seventy people. Run by the Hartley Bush Fire Brigade Canteen with supporting donations of \$500 each from the Progress Association, and the Reserve Trust, the remainder of those funds were used to boost the reserves of the Canteen for use in the vital work it undertakes.

Despite a few spots of rain, the weather was kind and all clearly enjoyed themselves. Santa made a spectacular entrance and departure and was understandably very popular during his time with us. Whilst the children were far too busy having fun and opening presents to give a second thought to such things, some of the more mature folk did wonder how we'd lived all these years without realizing that Santa is Irish. A revelation to be sure. The lucky door prize, a magnificent Christmas hamper, was won by a chap from Palmer's Gully, who then generously shared his prize with others through further ticket draws.

Doreen Peters and her dedicated team did an excellent job in organizing and managing the day. Pam Day did great work in all sorts of areas, not the least in organizing games and off-siding Santa in handing out the gifts and Ian Campbell presented the School grounds in top order as always. A very big thank you to all who were involved in making the 2011 Christmas Party such a success and a very big thank you to the Blackheath Butchery who kindly donated the yummy ham we all enjoyed on the day. Doreen would like to thank all the helpers and all those who brought a plate to share.

Irish set dancing

Set dancing is social dancing, very like square dancing - couples dancing together in a group of eight. Each dance is comprised of several figures set to traditional Irish tunes such as reels, jigs, polkas or hornpipes.

If you have an interest in learning or participating in Irish set dancing, 21st April is the day and the Hartley School Hall is the place. There will be a pre dance workshop 3pm to 6pm for those wanting to learn and there is a Ceili or dance from 6.30-10.30. Call Diane Green for info 6355 2174 or go to www.hartleyvalley.org.au for a background article.

October Hartley Happening

The last Sunday in October has traditionally been the day of the HDPA's premier event the Big Backyard. This year will see a new event at the Hartley Historic site on that day that will both showcase the Hartley Historic Village site and incorporate key elements of the old Big Backyard. Sunday 28th October. It's a special time also as it will be the 175th anniversary of the construction of the courthouse. Put it in your diary as a day not to be missed. If you would like to help with the planning or delivery of this event give Lynda Lovegrove a call on 6355 2258 or call Steve Ring at the Hartley Historic Village 6355 2117.

Boot and Ute Sale

Another Boot and ute sale is planned for 24th June. Start thinking about the treasures you want to sell. More info next newsletter or book now with Barbara Johnson 6355 2017.

Autumn Gardening Tips

From Bill at the Hartley Valley Nursery

Now is the time to prepare your plants for the long winter. 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 fertilizer 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. By doing all of this you avoid the last minute panic. It is also a great time to do the last of the summer pruning on the rose garden, also fertilize them to bring them on for the autumn flush of flowers. Now to the vegetable garden - prepare the beds for the winter crops like broad beans, peas and members of the cabbage family. These need to be planted now so that they get established before the cold weather sets in. Lastly, order your bulbs now like the ones that you would like to naturalize in the woodland garden.

Garden Club

The HDPa Garden Club has always been popular, and as a result of many requests we're glad to advise that it's back on the calendar.

We hope to meet every two months or so, with perhaps a brief mid-winter recess.

Our first garden visit for 2012 will be at Kerry Mills' and Di Pease's "Bracken Hill", located at 423 Cox's River Road, Little Hartley, about four kilometers from the Great Western Highway.

We hope to have your company there at 10.30 am on Sunday, 25th March. We'll walk around a lovely garden, meet Kerry and Di's ducks and their donkeys, Marco and Alex, and enjoy morning tea together. Tea and coffee, etc. will be provided. (You might like to bring a small nibble to share).

Please don't be put off if the weather turns wet - the garden is level and safe underfoot, will still look great in a shower, and there's plenty of cover.

If you're one of the people who have been going to Garden Club for years, it'll be good to get together again. If you haven't been to Garden Club before, or are perhaps new to the Valley, we look forward to the opportunity of welcoming you. Any enquiries please call Barbara Johnson 6355 2017

History Workshop Saturday 2nd June

A must for heritage buffs. As a precursor to our proposed 2013 Bicentenary History symposium we will hold a workshop this year based on the theme 'Before the white man came'.

This workshop will provide a forum for a number of speakers, both lay and academic, to reflect on aboriginal co-existence with the land prior to European settlement. Speakers will cover issues including the Aboriginal meaning of country, what country provided, journeys through country, sustaining the meaning of country... and all the interactions that predated the 'three explorers', including aboriginal interactions with the settlement at Sydney Cove, and the traditional routes people took in these parts. You can register for notices by emailing Jeremy Dawkins the convener at jeremydawkinsmail@gmail.com

Hartley Cricket team

Formed in 2006/ 2007 by Russell Blanchard and sons Richard and Joshua, the Hartley team plays in the second grade Lithgow Competition.

In 2011/2012 Season they were looking good in fourth position when we last checked, after having won their last 3 games.

With the big games now happening, Hartley is reliant on key batsmen Josh Blanchard (captain) and Damon Gill, who have both struck century's this season, and bowlers Mitchell Blanchard and Lenny Redman who have taken 27 wickets between them.

If anyone would like to join the Hartley team next season, please give Russell Blanchard a call on 0423 513 440 or 63552438.

Road safety

The New South Wales Centre for Road Safety was established in July last year to provide a means by which people could register their concern direct with government regarding the appropriateness of speed limits and speed limit signage on all roads, whether controlled by the council or Roads and Maritime Services (the RTA).

Do you have a concern about a local road ? Perhaps the speed limit is inappropriate having regard to the condition of the road, or who use it (school buses, trucks etc).

Register your concern on <https://www.saferoadsnsw.com.au/HaveYourSay.aspx> . There you can outline your concerns for consideration by the authorities in reassessing speed limits or signage. You can also review on the site the initial list of 100 roads prioritized for consideration for reassessment.

Volunteer Bushfire brigade

Brigades are always looking for new members. Meetings are first Sunday of the month at Hartley and Kanimbla fire sheds. Call Lynda Lovegrove 6355 2258 the Hartley Brigade Secretary for more info.

'We don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing'

-George Bernard Shaw

HDPA Business Directory - Autumn Newsletter version

ALPACAS

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

ARBORISTS

Andy the Treeman	Pruning lopping, milling	0439 278 130
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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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CINEMA

Mt Vic Flicks	Arthouse cinema	4787 1577
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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	Specializing 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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PARTY HIRE

Lithgow Party Hire	All the gear for a great party	6355 2438
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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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