

# Hartley District Progress Association

www.hartleyvalley.org.au

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## Newsletter Spring 2012

Our next bi-monthly general meeting will be held in the Hartley School Hall, Mid Hartley Road, at 7.30 pm on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October**. All residents of the valley are invited to attend this meeting.

### President's Report

With winter losing its icy grip on the valley it is lovely to see the wattle colours bursting through. Looking forward to Spring is always a joy and the longer daylight hours add to the feeling of wellbeing.

Things are usually quiet in winter but we managed to have a few enjoyable events and also have done a lot of the preliminary work on many projects which will be completed before Christmas. Our Boot and Ute sale was very popular and successful and contributed handsomely to our bank account. Well done Barbara Johnson!

Our mid winter bonfire was a roaring success and we all had a delightful evening. It was nice to see the children having such fun. The mulled wine was a lovely touch to the mid winter atmosphere. So many contributed to the evening - thank you, one and all.

Early in August the RMS(RTA) conducted information sessions at the Hartley School to advise the community as to the state of play in the Mt Victoria to Lithgow Highway project. The results have been well published elsewhere and the Hartley Highway Action Group will hold a public meeting on this topic next month.

Looking ahead there are quite a few projects to be completed before years end:

- Construction of a picnic Shelter. (Hartley Recreation Lands Trust).
- Weatherproofing of the existing toilet block in a suitable style. (Trust).
- Extension of the existing BBQ shed. (Trust).
- Replacement of damaged boards on the exterior of the school building.(Progress Association).
- Painting of the exterior of the school house. (Progress Association).
- Electrical work in the hall to install new lights and fans. (Progress Association).

-Repairs to the plumbing system associated with the various tanks and their overflow arrangements. This includes the overflow from the subterranean school house tank. (Trust).

The list might appear extensive but everything is fully funded and approved. A great deal of effort by members of both Progress and Trust has resulted in this gratifying state of affairs.

Our next public meeting is on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012, I look forward to seeing you there.

Seamus Casey  
President HDPA.

### Dates for your diary

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

Public Meeting re GWH upgrade

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

Spring open garden visit

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

Back to Hartley Event- Historic Site

**Mon 29<sup>th</sup> October**

HDPA nominations for office close

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

HDPA AGM Hartley school hall

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

Summer Boot and Ute Sale

**December 16<sup>th</sup> December (tentative)**

Hartley Christmas Lunch

### 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

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## So Shineth the Rose

It's nearly one hundred and fifty years since the gentlefolk left their coach to eat and retire at the Rose Inn whilst the ordinary folk took their rest at the Harp of Erin opposite. How good has it been to see the Rose Inn reborn as the Ambermere Rose Inn these last few years creating a new and productive life for this classic heritage building that is one of the valley's treasures. Congratulations to Fiona Richardson and her team for their win in the local tourism awards presented last month. Well done.

PS The photo in the last newsletter wasn't Collits Inn it was Edward Fields Inn (originally Joseph Collits Inn 1846) and now Ambermere home of the Ambermere Rose Inn of tourism awards fame. Apologies.

## Mid Winter Madness Bonfire

The bonfire, held on the evening of Sunday, July 8, was a great success, with well in excess of seventy people in attendance. It was a lovely clear winter's night, with not a breath of wind.

It was good to see the mix of people who attended - many familiar faces, and quite a number of new ones. All present - both the young and the young at heart - enjoyed the sparklers and fluorescent bangles given out by the Committee.

Many people in our community contributed to the success of the event. Our "Valley Boys" excelled themselves in building the bonfire. They foraged material from everywhere. A big thank you to each and every one of them. We particularly thank Ross Howard for contributing the amazing hollow log around which the whole thing was constructed, and Margaret Combs, for creating and providing the very glamorous "Princess Luna", who graced the top of the bonfire until the flames transported her to a place among the stars.

Special mention must go to Ian Campbell. Ian was our Fire Brigade representative on the night, and had the fire truck standing by just in case. He joined in the construction of the bonfire, got on with the many small jobs necessary for setting up at these gatherings, and then took charge of the barbeque. Many thanks for another wonderful contribution, Ian.

## December Boot and Ute Sale

This may be a good opportunity to clear out some more of those bits and pieces in various corners around the place and convert them to cash for Christmas.

THE DATE - Sunday, December 2nd.

LOCATION - Hartley School

THE TIME - Vendors to arrive and be in place between 8 am and 9.30 am. Buyers and browsers from 10 am.

THE COST - Vendors - \$10 for a car or small van, \$15 for larger vehicle. Buyers and browsers - entry by gold coin donation to be applied to ongoing restoration work at the Hartley School and Hall.

Since our last Boot and Ute Sale we've been able to markedly improve and increase our advertising signage (with the generous assistance of Bunnings at Lithgow), and so hope to encourage the participation of a larger number of those folk travelling the Highway.

Enquiries/site bookings - Barbara Johnson on 6355 2017.

## Gardening in Spring

With Spring just around the corner its time to prepare your garden for replanting of flower beds and vegetables. Digging in some good organic matter or cow manure will help prepare tired soils for spring plantings. Seedlings for flowers, bi-annuals, perennials, herbs and vegetables should be planted mid September. Fruit trees, azaleas, camellias, rhodos need a fertilize with trace elements or iron chelate and peaches, nectarines, cherries now budding need to be sprayed for prevention of summer leaf curl with a copper fungicide formula. Other trees need a fertilize with slow release granules or blood and bone as they enter their budding and growth stages, a good watering and mulching is also important. Roses that have been cut back in winter should be fertilized with a little garden lime and watch out for aphids. Spray with black spot spray at regular intervals if aphids or black spot becomes a problem. Spring bulbs are now blooming so water frequently and only cut back leaves when flowers have died right back.

Happy gardening and please call into Maple Springs Nursery to see the wonderful spring colours in the Japanese maples, weeping cherries and other great blossom trees in Spring.

## Open Garden Visit

Our Spring visit will be to the garden of Sharon and Ross Howard. The Howard's moved to their property at Easter 2011, and since then have been working hard on establishing their garden, a project they anticipate will continue as a labour of love for years to come.

Much of the inspiration for their garden has come from their visits to Europe, although Sharon is quick to point out that conditions in these parts can be a lot different as far as drought and climate are concerned. The visit to the Howards' property is set down for Sunday, October 7 from 10.30 a.m. The address is 12 Blaxland Road (off Cox's River Road). The Progress Association Committee will provide morning tea, we guarantee you'll be inspired, we'd love to meet you there.

Would you like to open your garden for a visit at some time in the future? No matter if it's big or small, well established or brand new. We're garden lovers, and all is of interest. It's great to see what people are doing with their garden, and to hear of their experiences and plans for its future. Enquiries to Barbara Johnson on 6355 2017.

## Hartley Highway Action Group

The Hartley Highway Action Groups has always sought to protect the heritage fabric of the valley. In accord with directions given by the community it has sought safety enhancements of the existing road as its first priority whilst seeking for the long term a Darling Causeway via Bell and Newnes to Marrangaroo option for any upgrade of the Great Western Highway beyond Mt Victoria.

Over time despite the promotion of the Newnes option the RMS settled on developing the existing line of highway. This option valued at some \$2billion doesn't make sense when the cost of cutting a road via Newnes was costed at <\$1 bn. Significantly the Newnes route could also be used as the western end of a Bells Line of Road expressway if that oft talked of road ever needs to be developed.

The long term proposal the RMS has now tabled comprises a major expressway style road through the valley and an associated service road running largely in parallel, all running close to the existing line of road. This proposal may never be implemented as it is enormously expensive and gives little return, it is however going to be locked in as a firm proposal and needs to be treated as such.

Many issues have been identified in the RMS consultation meetings on this proposal; the previously unannounced truck stops, running the service road through Little Hartley and Hartley villages and the difficulty of north south movements in the valley under the proposal, to name but a few.

More immediate are the safety enhancements proposed, an immediate spend of \$120m on Forty Bends and a number of through valley enhancements, with the balance of the \$250m of committed funds to be applied to safety upgrades of the GWH between Katoomba and Mt Victoria.

As advised separately in this newsletter, it is proposed that a Public meeting be held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September to consider a combined response to the RMS proposal. Whilst all people affected by the proposal need to put in their own submissions to the RMS we may be able to distil a broad community view in support of some issues that might add weight to individual submissions

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Public meeting

3pm Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>

September

### Hartley School Hall

For residents of the Hartley Valley to raise concerns they may have with the Road and Maritimes Services proposal as set out in their document Concept Design and Road Boundaries Report dated July 2012.

Organised by the Hartley Highway Action Group a sub committee of the Hartley District Progress Association.

## Hartley School Hall - a party

It may have been closed for almost four decades, but lessons in reading, writing and arithmetic still went ahead on a cold Saturday morning on August 10 at the old Hartley Schoolhouse. More than 20 children aged between four and eleven descended on the venue for the fifth birthday party of local boy Harry Papadatos. Mum Vanessa hired the venue in order to put a full sized jumping castle inside the hall, however, the highlight of the day for the older kids was pretending to be the old Hartley School headmistress and writing on the old blackboards still inside. Several five year olds were bailed up inside and told to be seated until they had learned the words on the blackboard and their one times tables.

Says Vanessa "The hall and school building were a steal for \$50 to hire. The kids got to play inside when the weather was inclement and outside in the magnificent grounds when the sun came out." "Highlights of the party included a treasure hunt in the sandpit, riding bikes around the grounds, chasing 'rocket balloons' and a BBQ lunch at the lovely picnic tables outside." "The hall and amenities', including coffee making facilities, tables, chairs and toilets were spotlessly clean and we would highly recommend the venue to anyone considering a get together or party."

## Back to Hartley Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October

The **Back to Hartley** event planned for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October is now in full production and should be a must attend day for all valley residents. Food fun entertainment the lot.

Anyone interested in lending a hand on the day please contact Steve Ring on 6355 2117. Anyone wishing to be kept up to date with the planning email [steve.ring@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:steve.ring@environment.nsw.gov.au).

## Welcome New Advertisers

New additions to the business directory this month include Greg and Samantha Watson and their businesses making show canes and whips and exclusive millinery. We also have new residents in Hartley Vale, Marie Majanac as a maths tutor and Rado Majanic in building design and construction.

## A-litter-ation

Cartons, cans, containers, contaminate, cigarettes, careless, combust, countryside.  
Signed Confused

## Hartley Valley Website

Have you yet had the opportunity to visit our website? A considerable amount of work has been done on this project by our Committee member Diane Green, with the expert support of "AJ" Jack, and the site is creating more and more interest. Progress will of course continue to publish the quarterly newsletter, but if matters of interest arise between issues they're sure to appear on [www.hartleyvalley.org.au](http://www.hartleyvalley.org.au). This is an interactive site, and members of the community are encouraged to post items should they wish to do so.

## 2012 Council Elections

Don't forget to vote next Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September. You can vote locally on the day at the Hartley School or thirteen other polling booths around the district. Alternatively pre poll vote at the Union theatre during the week before. This is an important election where all voices need to be heard.

## Hartley History Workshop

The second Hartley Valley history workshop was held in front of the fire in the Hartley School in early June. The workshop was held to discuss the meaning of the valley prior to the arrival of European settlers and their cattle and to help shape the Valley's proposed 2013 bicentennial conference. In the afternoon attendees of the workshop visited two aboriginal scar trees and a series of aboriginal axe grinding grooves located in the valley.

## Fire Season Soon

There is lots of moisture in the ground which will turn to lots of grass in a month or so. Keep it mowed or slashed around your house before it hays off which it will do very quickly in a week of hot weather. Once its dried off slashing itself becomes a risk.

Report all fires to 000.

## The Hartley Valley a Heritage Treasure House

The Hartley Valley is a treasure house of European and Aboriginal heritage assets. In addition it represents the first place west of Sydney where you feel you have reached 'the Bush', real country in which one can achieve a feeling of rural solitude.

Following is a table of heritage properties that mark the valley as a treasure house. Most are private dwellings though some are open to the public. The Progress Association is keen to promote this portfolio as a remarkable series of properties and places that add up to make the Hartley Valley a remarkable place. We would be interested to hear the views of residents to the concept of making the broader community aware of the significance of the Hartley Valley as a place of powerful heritage significance. Have we missed some? Are their dates of origin right? Do you have information that might enhance appreciation of particular places or like to suggest that places be excluded from consideration. Any comments or corrections please advise the Secretary Hartley District Progress Association 1813 Sub Committee PO Box 372 Lithgow NSW 2790.

Ambermere	1846	Rosedale	1839
Meades Farm	1860	St Bernards Catholic	1842
Bungarribee	1859	St Bernards presbytery	1842
Hartley Catholic cemetery	184?	St Johns Anglican church	1859
Hartley Court House	1837	Comet Inn	1879
Crazy Cottage	c1872	Collitts Inn	1823
Farmers Inn	1840s	Collitts cemetery	1841
Fernhill	1858	Collitts Axe Sharpening Grooves	1788
Harp of Erin	1832	Moyne farm	1820
Williams Store (Hof E extn)	1879?	Moyne Farm cemetery	18??
Ivy Cottage	1850s	Coxs road	1814
Shamrock Inn	1841-56	Lawson Long Alley road	1823
Hyde Park	1881	Lockyers pass road	1828
Billesdene Grange	1831	Victoria Pass viaduct	1832
Old Trahlee	1840	Bells Line siding road	1826/1880
Royal Hotel	1849	Berghoffers pass	1912
Blackmans cemetery	184?	Bonnie Blink	1885/6
Hassans walls cemetery	184?	Eliza Rodd's grave	1831
Hartley School House	1881	Glenroy Gov Macquarie Camp	1815
Hartley Vale school house	187?	Glenroy stockade	1816
Hartley Vale incline railway	1880?	Hassans Walls Stockade	1832
Hartley Vale works	1876	Victoria Pass Stockade site	1832
Nioka	18??		

## Rabbit Economy - a story as told by Ian Campbell

Before the coming of myxomatosis, the Hartley valley was a rabbit's dream. The dry gravelly soils of the granite country were populated by rabbits in their millions. Warrens with 30 or more entrances were perfect opportunities. What a great start for a young bloke just out of school in the early fifties. All you needed was a string of rabbit traps, little spring traps with a nasty set of metal teeth, each with a chain and peg to secure them. The traps would be set in the evening, a dozen at a time in the gravel around the myriad entrances to a big warren. At first light, the rabbit would be back, rabbit released, a quick strike to the back of the neck (hence the Australian vernacular term 'rabbit chop'). Gutted, skin left on, the rabbits were laid out in old cardboard boxes and the same taxi that brought down the bread from Mt Victoria took the rabbit and his catch back up. Bus to Katoomba and by lunchtime the rabbit was paid three shillings per rabbit by the butcher.

As an aside it wasn't just the rabbiters who lived on the rabbits. Foxes and wedgetail eagles thrived on rabbit. One story relates to a local rabbiter who killed twenty two wedgetails in a year, not for killing lambs (probably a fallacy anyway) but for competing with the rabbiters for the available supply of rabbits. They would land close to the trapped rabbit to eat it at the trap and often step on a trap themselves. Interestingly they learnt the system and moved to a strategy of not landing but grabbing the rabbit and flying off, often trap and all. How times change.

Going back further to the depression years, handed down stories tell of the orderly allocation of rabbiting territories to resident families. In those days, rabbiting was a matter of survival, not just of earning income.

# HDPa Business Directory - Spring Newsletter version

<b>ALPACAS</b>	Belgrave Park Alpacas	Alpacas, yarn and garments	6355 2477
	Bonny Belle	Producers of fine alpaca	6355 2372
<b>ARBORIST</b>	Andy the Tree Man	Pruning, Lopping, Milling	0439 278 130
<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>	Ambermere Rose Inn	Sat & Sun & 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	6355 2056
<b>CAR SERVICE</b>	Mt Vic Service Centre	Sam Millar	4787 1811
<b>CARPENTRY</b>	Mark O'Carrigan	New work, restoration& repairs	6355 2777
<b>CINEMA</b>	Mt Vic Flicks	Arthouse cinema at Mt Victoria	47871577
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Marie Majanac	Maths tutor all levels to HSC	63550261
<b>ELECTRICIAN</b>	Mark O'Toole	Bobcat & trenching machine	6355 2488
<b>EARTHMOVING</b>	B & R Barber Earthmoving	Brad Barber	6355 2186
	JDL Excavations	Excavator, Positrack, tipper hire	6355 2460
<b>FENCING</b>	Cap Fencing P/L	Domestic and rural fencing	6355 0296
	Gilles' Fencing Ent.	Specialising in Colorbond	6355 2095
<b>G/DOORS</b>	Hartley Valley Garage Doors	Sales and service	6355 2468
<b>HANDYMAN</b>	Moonhill	Window cleaning, painting	6355 2241
<b>LANDSCAPING</b>	Cliffords Landscapes	Design and construction	0410 552 294
<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>PAINTING</b>	Kay Decorating & Painting P/L David and Catherine Kay		6355 2270
<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>			
	Reliable Property Maintenance Rob Jolly		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>SHOW HORSE ACCESSORIES</b>			
	Greg Watson and Hatitude	Show canes and millinery	6355 2044
<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>WATER TANK MAINTENANCE</b>			
	Pristine Water Systems	All water problems - call Phil	0437 578 199
<b>WEDDING RECEPTIONS</b>			
	The Briars	Receptions and special events	6355 2265

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