

Hartley District Progress Association

www.hartleyvalley.org.au

Email : hartleyprogress@gmail.com



Newsletter Spring 2016

Next quarterly general meeting will be held in the Hartley School Hall, Mid Hartley Road, commencing 7.00 pm on Monday 5th September. All valley residents are invited.

Road Response

At our last meeting, Kym Jessep from Seymour Whyte, the principal contractor on the road upgrade, briefed us on the current status of the highway safety upgrade. Apart from promising completion of the valley works by early 2017, Kym and his team took many questions ranging over safety concerns through to the final landscaping plans for the road. In total some twenty questions were taken for a formal response from the contractor or RMS. You can find these questions and the RMS' answers at <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/projects/western-nsw/katoomba-lithgow/hartley-valley-frequently-asked-questions.pdf>

A Door Ajar

Don't miss Hartley playwright Dale Turner's magnificent verse drama, 'A Door Ajar'. Blue Mountains-centric, it deals with discovery and adventure, of black and white photographs, of world wars and the Great Depression. The cast includes locals Duncan Wass and Rebecca Daniels. Performed against the backdrop of moving images and live music, 'A Door Ajar' is a must see for lovers of the Blue Mountains. Playing at the newly renovated 150 seat theatre at the Fairmont Resort Leura, performances are on the 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th November. For more information and online bookings go to http://www.fairmontresort.com.au/a-door-ajar-theatre-show-,leisureandhealth_viewItem_121-en.html Local elections

Trivia

It was a Full House for the July Trivia night and much fun was had by all. Thanks to all the social committee but particular thanks to Sue and AJ Jack, Trivia organisers extraordinaire.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 5 th September	General Meeting
Saturday 10 th Sept	Election Sausage Sizzle
Sunday 11 th September	Tea and cakes
Saturday 8 th October	HDPa Workshop
Saturday 6 th November	Artists in Action
Saturday 12 th November	Open garden

Tea and Cakes

As part of the Rural Fire Service's "Get Ready Weekend", the Hartley Brigade is hosting a "tea and cakes" day from 10.00 to 15.00 (10 am to 3 pm) on Sunday, 11 September, 2016 at the Hartley Fire Shed, in Mid Hartley Road. Please come along. Discuss your bushfire-related concerns with Brigade Members. A selection of free pamphlets will be available for a number of fire-related scenarios. You might consider joining the Rural Fire Service as a volunteer fire-fighter, or providing a donation to assist the Brigade in its fire-fighting efforts. Everyone is WELCOME.

Election Day Sausages

March's Federal election saw the HDPa team supporting the Historic Hartley School polling booth with a great sausage sizzle. We will be doing the same for the Local Council elections and look forward to catching up.

Contacting the HDPa:

President:	Ramsay Moodie	6355 2259
Vice Pres:	Renzo Benedet	0418 424 452
Secretary:	Sue Jack	0418 411 683
Treasurer:	Warren Elgar	6355 2152
Hall Hire:	Barb Johnson	6352 5828
Newsletter:	Susie Moodie	6355 2259
PO Box 123 Lithgow NSW 2790		

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the HDPa

Funding from Council

During the month, we were advised that we had been partially successful in our application to Lithgow City Council, under their community grants program, for funding to enable us to complete the heating arrangements in the Hall at the Historic Hartley School. With \$650 received from Council and the balance from our own funds we will now be able to purchase a further gas heater to bring the hall up to 'warm as toast' level on the coldest winter's day. In a separate application, the Western Crossings Trust was awarded \$2800 to go towards expanding the date signing project already installed in Hartley Vale and the development of a Hartley heritage map.

Open Garden Day

Dick and Yvonne Austen have kindly agreed to open their home garden, with roses abloom, at Karingal, Great Western Highway Hartley, from 10am to 12midday on Saturday November 12th. If you are interested in truffle horticulture, it's just a short stroll to view the 800 tree truffier they have planted. The HDPa will provide morning tea. Any queries call Barb Johnson 6352 5828.

Peonies at Forty Bends

Peony season that gives us those gorgeous, flamboyant flowers, follows daffodil season.... Forty Bends Farm, on Forty Bends Road, South Bowenfels, will again be open on weekends from 22nd October to November 13th 2-5pm. Afternoon teas are served in the historic gardens; all proceeds go to supporting the Lithgow Brass Band. Purchase peonies at wholesale prices straight from the paddock. Phone Sarah and Brendan Childs 6352 3577 if you wish to book in a group on a weekday or are wanting more information. Sometimes the season starts early or is extended. They are happy to answer all enquiries.

Artists in Action

November Art Trail. 10am - 4pm Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th November 15 local artists from Kanimbla to State Mine are opening their studios on that weekend. Enjoy visiting the studios, workshops and gardens, join in some art making, watch some demonstrations, maybe bag a bargain, enjoy yummy arvo tea, and see artists in their natural habitats. For details call Annie Joseph 0418 117 743

AGM

Our HDPa Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 5th December. At our last AGM we had four new members join the committee bringing new ideas and enthusiasm to the group. Now is the time to start thinking if you might like to play a role in the Association going forward, to help shape the future of the Association and to bring your thoughts into play for the benefit of the community.

Rivers of Gold

1852 was a year of gold in New South Wales with the second rush commencing in February that year. By the second half of the year the winnings from the gold fields were literally pouring down the Bathurst Road, now the line of the highway through the Valley to Sydney. In the second half of 1852 it has been estimated that more than 25,000 ounces per month of gold was transported to Sydney, half by the gold escort and half by private transport. While the value of gold was a price set by the crown in 1852, it was hugely valuable. The present day value of such shipments, something like \$40 million per month, provides an interesting perspective on the pull of the gold fields that had city folk and valley workers alike abandoning their posts to take the weary walk (up River Lett Hill) to the west to try their luck on the goldfields.

Council Elections Candidates

At the Council elections on 10th September, we will see three Hartley Valley locals standing as candidates. Jeff Thurlow from Hartley is standing as number two on Cassandra Coleman's team, whilst David Peters from Hartley Vale, is standing as number two on Col Hunter's 'Independents with Vision' Team and Kathy Noble is at number five on Martin Ticehurst's team. Steve Ring, manager of the National Parks Historic Site in Hartley is also standing for election at number three in one of the two Lithgow Regional Forum teams. We wish all candidates the very best with their campaigns.

Vale Johnny Wilson

We were saddened by the passing of valley identity Johnny Wilson. One of life's gentlemen, with a great generosity of spirit, he and his friendly wave from the truck as he drove by, will be missed by all.

The Future of HDPa

Over the years, the HDPa has undertaken a diverse range of highly successful projects, The Big Backyard, the Moment in Time exhibition and Valley Variety to name a few recent ones. It has facilitated the debate over the Highway upgrade and has been a key player in the push to have the highway made safer. It has had guest speakers present on subjects of interest, it has arranged successful social functions, it has lobbied council on issues of concern, it has coordinated programs like Clean Up Australia. In short a lot has been done in the interest of making the Hartley region a better place to live.

Based on the object clause in its constitution, (dating from 1956) the Hartley District Progress Association was set up to 'generally improve the living conditions within the District of Hartley and to provide cultural, social, sporting and other advantages for the residents of the District of Hartley'.

At that time, the Hartley Valley was rural; some small mixed farms, a host of apple orchards and then a number of larger rural properties grazing sheep and cattle. Significant changes have occurred since then through rural subdivision, rural residential subdivision and the development of rural land concessional allotment entitlements. The result has seen an influx of new settlers, families whose breadwinners work in the Mountains or Lithgow or who work remotely with occasional city visits, families with home based businesses, city families acquiring lifestyle or hobby farm properties, a good sprinkling of retirees making a 'tree change'. A number of larger traditional rural holdings remain. The demographic of the valley has totally changed.

In light of the change in the Valley demographic, it is appropriate to revisit the objectives of the HDPa. What should the HDPa be doing to 'generally improve living conditions' in the Valley? Should we be advocates for rural sustainability, for the environment, for local infrastructure, for economic development, for local planning considerations, for heritage, for governance?

Should we be a community builder, a communicator of issues, a source of information?

To address these questions we are proposing to use a process driven by a methodology known as 'Design Thinking' to determine what the HDPa should look like to serve the needs of a twenty first century community. Design Thinking starts with a goal, instead of solving a specific problem. Through a Design Thinking process we aim to uncover the problems and needs within our community as a way of determining the future 'design' or strategic direction of the HDPa

The committee of the HDPa, in a process led by one of our committee members, Josh Barnes, has held an initial workshop, facilitated by a trained Design Thinking practitioner Carol Petersen, in which we explored a Design Thinking approach to how we might progress this project. Out of that session tasks have been allocated to individual members to gather views of people from different sectors of the community and to look at how other similar organisations work. The results of this work will be brought to a workshop to be held on Saturday 8th October at which we will endeavour to assemble a collective view on what the broader community thinks.

If you would like to be part of that workshop please register your interest with Sue Jack our secretary, at hartleyprogress@gmail.com or call her 0418 411 683. Over the next few weeks, members of the committee will be in contact with a cross section of residents in the valley seeking peoples' views as an input to that workshop. They will also be in attendance and talking to people at the Local Council Election day sausage sizzle. Alternatively we have a questionnaire on our website at www.hartleyvalley.org.au/survey that you could complete to have your views taken into account in this process. Any questions don't hesitate to call any member of the committee.

HDPa Business Directory - Spring 2016 Newsletter

ARBORIST	Andy Tree Man	Pruning, Lopping, Milling	0439 278 130
AUTOMOTIVE	Mt Vic Service Centre	Sam Millar	4787 1811
B and Bs	Glenroy Cottages	Cottages and camping grounds	6355 2186
BUILDING	Darren Anderson Constructions	All building works	6355 2448
CAFES etc	The Lollybug	Lolly store and coffee	6355 2162
	Alchemy	Wood Fired Pizza/Licensed	6355 2056
	Collits Inn	Restaurant	6352 4442
CARPET CLEANING	ALM Carpet Cleaning	Andrew	0435 752 493
CINEMA	Mt Vic Flicks	Arthouse cinema at Mt Victoria	47871577
CLOTHING/EQUESTRIAN			
	Hartley Store and Saddlery	Clothing and equestrian supplies	6355 2165
COMPUTER SERVICES			
	Central West Info & Technology (CWIT)	Ron and Jo	6352 2800
ELECTRICIAN	Mark O'Toole	Bobcat & trenching machine	6355 2488
EARTHMOVING	B & R Barber Earthmoving	Brad Barber	6355 2186
EVENTS HIRE	Blue Mountains Special Events	All the gear for a great event	4782 1023
FIREWOOD	Ross Howard	Quality firewood	0418 344 344
	Rob Jolly	Great firewood	6355 2278
GALLERY	Talisman Gallery	Metal art and jewelry	0407 723 722
HORTICULTURE	Vella Gardens By Design	Stephen Vella - beautiful gardens	0439 070 670
JOINERY/CABINETMAKER			
	Ashtrees Joinery	Custom interior fitouts	0410 153 305
LANDSCAPING	Cliffords Landscapes	Design and construction	0410 552 294
	Grant Maundrell	Landscape architect/construction	0407 933 834
	Lithgow Landscape and Building Supplies	Rob	6353 1077
MARRIAGE CELEBRANT			
	Sue Jack	Wedding and Naming Ceremonies	0418 411 683
MOWER AND CHAINSAW REPAIRS			
	Hartley Chainsaw & Mower Repairs	Andrew Lawson	6355 2336
NURSERIES	Maple Springs Nursery	Fabulous maples and much more	6355 2140
PAINTING	Kay Decorating & Painting	David and Catherine Kay	6355 2270
PERS. TRAINER	Fit and Fabulous	Angela Mills	0411 700 188
PHOTOGRAPHY	Karen Edwards	Fun, family, events, photography	0414 857 764
PLUMBING	Steven Linhart Plumbing		0417 045 105
PRINTING	C&W Print	All commercial printing	6351 4806
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE			
	Rob Jolly	Reliable Property Maintenance	6355 2278
REAL ESTATE	Hartley Reality	Kristie	6355 2002
RURAL SUPPLIES	Adam's Shed	Stock feeds, fencing, produce	6355 2096
SOLAR POWER	Hartley Green Power	Sun and wind power solutions	6355 2299
SOLICITOR	Le Fevre & Co	All areas of law since 1907	6352 2699
STONE MASONS	Mountain Stone Design	mountainstone@live.com.au	0400 277 818
	Heritage Stoneworks	Bill Holmes- Stone Mason	0421 367 257
SURVEYOR	Anderson Surveying P/L	Subdivisions, set-outs, boundaries	6351 3476
TAXATION SERVICES			
	York View Accounting Stacey Down	Registered Tax Agent and Bookkeeper	0418 612 284
TRAVEL AGENT	Cruiseabout Lynne Anderson	Flights, cruises, tours, accommodation	6355 2406
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
VETERINARY	Hartley Veterinary & Animal Centre	Bronwyn De Losa	6355 2272