

Hartley District Progress Association

Newsletter

Spring 2017

President's Corner

A number of things have occupied us over the past few months.

Trivia Night

A wonderful success by any standard! A packed hall with grey matter being tested to the hilt, laughter packed comedy acts, fine foods and plenty of fierce rivalry as tables attempted to assert their knowledge. This annual event is becoming renowned for the spirit in which it is held. I like to sincerely thank Sue and AJ Jack for officiating on the night and they, together with the wider Social Committee for planning such a successful evening.

Hartley School Site

On behalf of the HDPA, I thank the Hartley Recreation Reserves Trust (HRRT) for organising the replacement water tank at the Hartley school site. We now have a 13,500-litre tank which should more than serve our future water needs. The tank and motor were supplied by Adam's Shed at a highly competitive price. Adam's Shed has always been an integral part of Hartley and their support for and commitment to the local community is unbelievable. We thank them greatly for what they have done and specifically, for their generosity and support.

Your Say on the Future of Lithgow LGA

 We wrote to Lithgow City Council proposing a number of initiatives to be considered by Council in its future planning. Summary details are provided overleaf.

Baaners Lane

 Residents of Baaners Lane and adjoining roads have for some time been seeking answers to questions about the proposed improvements to Baaners Lane. HDPA facilitated a briefing of local residents by the owner/developer of the Moyne Farm development. See further details overleaf.



The best brains endeavouring to beat the chaser



In with the new and out with the old

I wish to inform you that due to health reasons, our Vice President, Jeff Thurlow has stepped down from his position. We thank him for his contribution to the HDPA in the short time he has served on the Executive and wish him all the very best. I welcome Sebastian Caruso, who has agreed to fill the Vice President role in a short-term capacity until the AGM.

Dates for your diary:

HDPA Gen Meeting – 4th Sept, 7.00 pm **Hartley Markets** – 1st and 3rd Sundays / month (8.30am to 2.30pm)

RFS Bushfire Awareness – 17th Sept from 8.30am Link to Sydney Harbour Bridge – 22nd Sept, 6pm Open Garden – 23rd Sept, 'Glenroy', 10am-noon Melbourne Cup Day in Hartley – 7th Nov from 11.30am The First Crossing – 25th Nov, 10.30am Hartley RFS – 3rd Dec, Christmas function



HDPA General Meeting – Monday 4th September

Our next HPDA General Meeting will be on Monday, 4th September commencing at 7pm at the Mid Hartley Road Public School hall.

Our guest speaker on the night will be Bathurst author and publisher, Keith Painter. Keith has lived in the Blue Mountains on and off since 1971 and his documented range of local history and bushwalking guides are widely available.

"Keith recently published a definitive history on Hassans Walls and before that two acclaimed books on the Chert Mines of Mt Victoria.

Prior to that he published a series of walking guides on the various walking track in the Blue Mountains and wrote the guide to the Cox's road walks that were such a popular element of our 2013-2015 Bicentenary commemorations activities.

Keith will talk about Hassans Walls with special attention to Finnigans Point and the connection to Finnigans Creek and the Finnigan family of Hartley back around the 1860s".

So, come along at 7pm and hear what Keith has to say and participate in the Q&A session. After Keith's presentation, we will get down to discussing HDPA business from around 7.40pm.

Constitution Changes

At our 2017 AGM to be held in December a number of changes will be proposed to the Constitution of the HDPA. These will include an amendment to pick up the principal changes made to the standard constitution (provided under the Association Incorporations Act) to allow for the use of electronic media and technology in the administration of the Association. The other changes will comprise:

- To recognise that we have always had our Treasurer act as Public Officer not the Secretary as currently provided in our Constitution;
- To allow membership of not only residents but also of people owning property in the valley or running businesses in the valley;
- To introduce a specified delay of 28 days between membership application and the granting of membership to achieve a better continuity in membership; and,
- To allow members whose membership will potentially be terminated through ceasing to be resident in the valley to remain members if they

wish, subject to the specific approval of the members (this is picking up a principle we have already adopted in practice).

The specifics of these changes will be promulgated with the notice for the HDPA's AGM that will be circulated in our December newsletter. Any change will require the approval of 75% of members present and entitled to vote. If anybody has any query relating to these changes or wishes to suggest other changes as desirable please call Renzo Benedet on 0418 424 452.

Your Say - Future of Lithgow LGA

In May this year, Lithgow Council sought community input to its draft Delivery Program and draft Community Strategic Plan. The HDPA formally submitted its views based on member feedback and our focus was on:

- Installing safe bus shelters along the GWH for school users;
- Provision of bicycle / walking track promoting outdoor activities;
- Better telecoms and TV coverage & reception;
- Weeds management; and
- Local roads infrastructure.

Baaners Lane Update

Lithgow Council at its 14th August meeting gave approval which will see developer contributions (Section 94 contributions) for the overall Moyne Farm development being directed towards the renewal of Baaners Lane. HDPA addressed Council at its 14th August meeting pointing out the need for engaging residents of Baaners Lane and adjacent roads about the planned works along Baaners Lane. HDPA offered to facilitate a meeting with local residents. This came to pass when the HDPA held a public forum on Saturday, 19th August, at which the developer's representative, Richard Matthews, outlined the construction plan for the roadworks. It was a highly positive meeting. Now we all look forward to a vastly improved Baaners Lane.

The First Crossing

Year 2013 saw much fanfare around the 1813 efforts of Blaxland Lawson and Wentworth. In fact, they didn't get across the Great Dividing Range. They only got to Mt Blaxland some 5kms short of the backbone of the range, a line marked by the road that runs from Rydal to Hampton. The real hero was the surveyor George William Evans who reached the crest of the range on 30th November 1813, 5 months after the earlier attempt. This achievement by George Evans and his



party will be acknowledged and honoured with the unveiling of an interpretive sign to be installed on the line of Evans journey and adjacent to the Rydal Hampton Road just north of Mt Cheetham on Saturday 25th November at 10.30am.

Links to Sydney Harbour Bridge

On Friday 22nd September at 6pm at the Community Cinema in Main Street Lithgow, the local Branch of the National Trust in conjunction with the Lithgow Valley Film Society, are holding an event focussing on the Sydney Harbour Bridge and its links to Lithgow. Featuring historical films from the National Film and Sound Archive and photo displays, the event will include an introduction by Hampton resident Ian Litchfield focussing on his father's connection with 'the Bridge' as a supervising engineer working under Dr John Bradfield, the Chief Engineer. Tickets are \$15 (incl. wine and finger food) and are already selling from A Reader's Heaven Bookshop in Mort Street (book early – spaces are limited).

Bridge Sign Resolved

Residents who travel to Lithgow on Browns Gap Road will have noted the new line markings. You might also have noted the change in the Joseph Morris bridge sign, previously signed as the Lett River; the new sign correctly acknowledges the river as the River Lett. This correction is a reflection of the original naming where George Evan's reference to the river as a 'rivulet' is presumed to have led to an early cartographer recording the name of the river as the River Lett.

Melbourne Cup 2017 - Heads Up

It might be some time off before we glue ourselves to the one national event that 'stops the nation'. This year though it will be slightly different – the Melbourne Cup is coming to Hartley. On Tuesday, 7th November, the Hartley Store (courtesy of Johan and Kristie) will bring the Melbourne Cup races to you. Held in the open space adjacent to the Hartley Store, Cup Day will have its traditional settings of a large marquee, large TV screen, VIP tent, food and drink stalls, sweeps, prizes and lots more. Gates open from 11.30am till stumps at 4.30pm. A courtesy bus will operate from Mt Victoria and Lithgow train stations. You can get your tickets from the Hartley Store. Pencil in the date and get in early - it should be a great day.

Vale Warren Merrick

Our sincere condolences go to the Merrick Family following the passing of Warren Merrick. Warren contributed much to the local community, especially through the Hartley RFS where his help was highly visible over the years during the many bushfires in the district. He gave many years of community service, unselfishly.

Upcoming Hartley District RFS events

The NSW RFS will hold its bushfire awareness promotion on Sunday, 17th September which will include having a stand at the Hartley Markets on that day. Andrew Moyle is RFS' local coordinator and can be contacted on 0435 752 493. Also, the Hartley RFS brigade will hold its 2017 Christmas Party on 3rd December (contact Doreen Peters on 02 6355 2139).

Website Coordinator

We need your help. The services of a Website Coordinator are required to manage HDPA's website and Facebook page. This is a voluntary position. We thank Diane Green for the excellent work she has done in helping to better communicate to the Hartley community. Please contact Renzo Benedet on 0418 424 452 for further details.

Open Garden

Brad and Rosemary Barber will open their garden at 'Glenroy' Jenolan Caves Road, Hartley to us all on Saturday, 23rd September from 10am to Noon. View the new plaque to mark the holding of the first Divine Service west of the Blue Mountains, as well as the Bicentenary monument installed by Brad and Rosemary. Come along and admire 'Glenroy'. HDPA will provide morning tea.

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