

# Hartley District Progress Association

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

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## Newsletter Summer 2013

Our next bi-monthly general meeting will be held in the Hartley School Hall, Mid Hartley Road, at 7.30 pm on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**. All residents of the valley are invited to attend this meeting.

### President's Report

At our AGM on 4th November last, our new Committee was elected. I had the honour of being elected President of the Hartley District Progress Association for the ensuing twelve months. Details of the new Committee members are outlined elsewhere in this Newsletter. You will note that we have a vacancy for a Secretary and one additional Ordinary Member. In order for your Committee to best serve the Community we need to fill these positions. All residents have the opportunity to contribute. If you feel you have the time please offer your services, I am sure you will find it a satisfying experience.

Before we move on, we should reflect upon and acknowledge the many achievements that we have made in the past twelve months - such a memorable period in showcasing our 'Valley' to the wider community. By our constitutional definition, the HDPa includes Hartley, Hartley Vale, Middle Hartley, Little Hartley, South Bowenfels, Kanimbla, Lowther and Hampton. If you were not previously aware that you were included in our reach, we welcome you to the HDPa.

Some of the more notable happenings in 2013 were:

Our Autumn Harvest Dinner Dance, which was very well attended and enjoyed by all, resulted in a profit in excess of \$4,000. Our Monster Raffle was a major contributor to the funds raised.

The official opening by the Governor, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir of the 1813 Bicentenary Commemoration exhibition 'A Moment in Time' on Saturday 1st June. Total attendance at the exhibition for the five weekends it was open, as well as the visits of three schools that attended midweek, exceeded two thousand.

Another very popular activity was the retracing of the route of the explorers and the subsequent Cox's Road from Mt York to Glenroy. We acknowledge the access to the now private land afforded by current landowners.

The official launch of the book 'A Moment in Time' at Lithgow Council Library on the 6th October was undertaken by local plein air landscape artist Warwick Fuller. It was considered to be the largest

attendance at a group function held in the Library and was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Our special thanks to the Library staff.

Our website continues to grow - social media is an important part of our ability to communicate, especially in times of emergencies such as our recent fires. We thank our Website Manager Diane Green, for maintaining this service.

On a sad note, we reflect on the loss of one of our best loved and respected Hartley citizens, Chris Bird, who passed away on the 8th April. Chris was Hartley born and bred and had been a member of Progress since the 1950's, serving as President on many occasions. He is dearly missed.

Finally, but most importantly, we acknowledge and express thanks from our community to all fireies for their efforts over the past weeks, in particular our local brigades of Kanimbla, Hartley and Lowther. In our expression of thanks we not only include those community members who manned the fire trucks but also to all the volunteer staff in catering and communications.

Our Community Christmas Lunch will be our final activity for the year. It is scheduled for Sunday 8th December in our Community Hall, Mid Hartley Road. More details later in this Newsletter. We look forward to seeing you there. And don't forget on Sunday 15th December the Carol Service at St Johns.

When the next Ordinary Meeting of the HDPa meets on the 3rd February 2014, a Program of Activities will be agreed upon. Some suggestions already received include : restoration of the world map in the Schoolroom; the commencement of an oral history project, updating of the existing World War One Honour Roll to include subsequent military conflicts; external repair and repainting of the Community Hall; internal painting of the Schoolroom. I look forward to seeing you at our meetings in the new year and in the meantime wish you seasons greetings and a relaxing break over Xmas.

**Tom Kent**  
President

## Dates for your diary

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December** Hartley Christmas Party

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December** Carols at St Johns

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February** Next HDPa meeting

## Something for Christmas

Whilst our A Moment in Time exhibition is just a memory, the book is now selling like hotcakes. What a delightful gift for a history minded friend, relative or young student. Sixty odd full colour pages of history focussing on the Hartley Valley. If you would like to purchase a copy of 'A Moment in Time' at \$29.50, including postage, please email Barbara Wheat at [thewheats@bigpond.com](mailto:thewheats@bigpond.com) or phone on (02)6355 2384. Tell us what you want to say and we will write your good wishes in the coversheet and post it direct five days before Christmas.

A magnificent high resolution coffee table version of the book is also available priced at \$119.09 plus GST and postage off the website <http://au.blurb.com/b/4505939-a-moment-in-time>. All proceeds from the sale of both books go to the Western Crossings Trust, a charitable entity established by the HDPa to promote community insight into the consequences of the 1813 crossing of the Blue Mountains by Europeans.

## Garden Day

Our thanks to Grant Maundrell and Brigid for letting us spend time in their garden in October. Grant's down to earth explanation of the food forest he is developing was fascinating. From 'piggy' in a round compound, used to naturally prepare each tree site, down to his mulching strategy and insight into the various weeds that Grant allowed to grow through his mulch. We now have a totally different attitude to dandelions since Grant's explanation of how they bring up goodness through their taproot from the mineralised subsoil below. Thank you Grant, a wonderful talk enjoyed enormously by the thirty odd that attended.

### Contacting the HDPa:

President:	Tom Kent	6355 2393
Vice Pres:	Seamus Casey	6355 2113
Secretary:	Volunteer Sought	
Treasurer:	Ramsay Moodie	6355 2259
Hall Bookings:	Barb Johnson	6355 2017
Newsletter:	Susie Moodie	6355 2259

PO Box 372 Lithgow NSW 2790

## Thankyou

I would like to thank all the people who helped and who offered help at the recent fires in Lithgow. To the helpers, a big "Thank you" for all the very long hours you had to endure. Without your help we are unable to provide this service to our great Fire Fighters.

Doreen Peters,

Hartley District Bushfire Brigade Canteen

## Hytec Austen Quarry Expansion

Earlier this month the operators of the Austen Quarry on Jenolan Caves Road, Hytec Industries, advised the Hartley District Progress Association of their intention to commence a process to expand the operations of the quarry and to extend its life. In its early planning stages the proposed expansion of the quarry will increase the total level of rock extraction from the quarry by some 39 million tonnes. It will necessitate an expansion of the quarry extraction area by over 100% and the removal of 6 million tonnes of overburden that will be progressively used in rehabilitating the site. The expansion will extend the quarry's life by thirty years. Truck movements will increase with the expansion but will remain within the limits of the existing approval. Operating times will remain much as now. Economic benefits flowing from the operation include the provision of twenty direct jobs, forty further jobs being maintained in support industries.

The proposal should provide significant ongoing benefit to the local economy; on the other hand, it will entail further visual impairment of the Hartley Valley landscape. Individual residents should make their own assessment of the proposal. Comprehensive material relating to the proposal and the process for its approval is available from the Hytec website at <http://www.hytec.com.au/technical/p95.aspx>. You will also find at that site, forms that can be used to raise issues or concerns relating to the project. If there are any concerns regarding the process that you would like considered by the Progress Association, please address those in writing to, The Secretary, Hartley District Progress Association. PO Box 372 Lithgow NSW 2790.

## A Wolgan Valley Holiday \$20

What an opportunity, a two hundred ticket raffle for a two night mid week accommodation package at Emirates Wolgan Valley resort valued at \$4000. Just \$20 per ticket, this is a chance in a lifetime. Generously donated by the Emirates Resort to help fund the 1813 Bicentenary commemoration work of the Western Crossings Trust, tickets are already on sale and the raffle will be drawn on 28th December at the Hartley School Hall. The results will be announced on the HDPa website pm 28th December. Tickets are available from Adams Shed, The Hartley Roadhouse, Terry Feltham 6355 2077, Joan Kent 6355 2393 or Ramsay Moodie 6355 2259 or email [hartleyprogress@gmail.com](mailto:hartleyprogress@gmail.com) .

## Carols at St Johns

St John's on the hill in Hartley Historic Village extends a very warm welcome to all to join us for the celebration of the coming Christmas and Carols Service at 7 p.m., Sunday 15th December. Help to send the message of the first Christmas with well loved and remembered Carols. Musical accompaniment by Ian Hoffman, Soloist Rebecca Daniel and a surprise Christmas Pageant. We hope to see you there! Please join us for supper in the Royal Inn opposite the Church following the Carols Service.

## Dog Day at Hall

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, an interesting presentation on wild dog management via non lethal means was held at the hall. A US practitioner Suzanne Stone, who is managing a high sheep population Idaho USA site of some 100 square miles with minimal sheep loss results, was the centerpiece of the show. Utilising strategies varying from shepherd animals (including donkeys) to fladry tape, Suzanne outlined her success in achieving losses of only 60 sheep in her 100,000 head management area over the last six years despite reintroduction into the environment of the native North American wolf. If you would like to learn more or discuss non-lethal management tools, contact Brad Purcell on [b.purcell@uws.edu.au](mailto:b.purcell@uws.edu.au) or 0403 3492 148.

## 2014 HDPa Business Directory

Advertisers are now being sought for the 2014 Hartley District Business Directory. If you are a local business wanting to build a link to the Hartley community here is your chance. Advertisers in the directory enjoy a Hartley website listing, a business card size insertion in the business directory (A5 book) and a listing in the four issues of the HDPa newsletter for \$75 . For the businesses wanting to take a higher profile a half A5 page insertion in the business directory is available for \$130.

We will make contact with existing advertisers in the new year to confirm their 2014 commitment and invite new advertisers wishing to participate to contact Barbara Johnson on 6355 2017.

## Letterbox Madness

The letter boxes of Hartley are a stunning metaphor of our community. They range from the neat, cast aluminium city model lodged securely in a pillar of brick work through the economy tin job on a post to the esoteric, the welded bird box or the quaint but engineered old paling edifice. And then there is the good old milk churn on its side. You see them all in an afternoon of delivering the newsletter.

After your first hundred deliveries it's hard not to commence a reflection on the desirability of autocratic government. More precisely, a set of draconian regulations to govern the size, alignment, height, slot size, proximity to the road etc etc. Post delivery contractors in a rural community must have a special temperament to cope with the challenges of the task. Falling down ditches, searching for the hidden ones, driving half way up the drive to find it, are but few of the challenges; but then comes a treat, three in a row where the boxes are aligned to the road and at window height, such that mail can be popped in directly from the car: heaven. Regulation might be the answer, but how lucky we are to live in a world where diversity is honoured and petty regulation generally abhorred. Our postal contractors are a special breed that warrant our respect and thanks for the job they do every day not just quarterly.

## HDPa Business Directory - Spring Newsletter version

<b>ALPACAS</b>	Belgrave Park Alpacas	Alpacas, yarn and garments	6355 2477
<b>ARBORIST</b>	Andy 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>	The Lollybug	Lolly store	6355 2162
	Alchemy	Wood Fired Pizza	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
	Ben Dikic	Decks, pergolas, doors	0413 354 523
<b>CINEMA</b>	Mt Vic Flicks	Arthouse cinema at Mt Victoria	47871577
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Marie Majanac	Maths tutor all levels to HSC	6355 0261
<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>FIREWOOD</b>	Ross Howard	Quality firewood	0418 344 344
<b>G/DOORS</b>	Hartley Valley Garage Doors	Sales and service	6355 2468
<b>LANDSCAPING</b>	Cliffords Landscapes	Design and construction	0410 552 294
	Grant Maundrell	Landscape architect/construction	0407 933 834
<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>			
	Rob Jolly	Reliable Property Maintenance	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>TILING</b>	Mountain Top Tiling	Wall and floor tiling and paving	0413 077 121
<b>TIMBER</b>	Dam Ard	Posts, beams, barn doors & more	0428 428 345
<b>WATER TANK MAINTENANCE</b>			
	Pristine Water Systems	All water problems - call Phil	0437 578 199

*The Hartley District Progress Association is proud to be associated with these local businesses and encourage residents to consider Hartley First when acquiring the services they offer.*

## What a Burn

It's all history now. It's alleged the army started it, next thing you know it was up in State Mine Gully. From then on things went from bad to worse. Thursday's weather conditions were appalling; a strong gusty northwester had the fire heading in two tongues south east to Mt Clarence so that it was showing over the Hartley Valley escarpment by Thursday night and east towards Clarence, Dargan and Bell and Mt Wilson. In that raging day, the fire progressed 25 kms on the Eastern front and was travelling at a speed 20% faster than predictions the RFS models would have suggested, probably because the fuel load on the ground was drier than assumed.

By this time the Mt York fire (in the Blue Mountains Fire District) had also started with the Blue Mountains Fire control group already under huge pressure from the Springwood fire that had created havoc on the Thursday, taking some hundred homes in its first day. By Friday night the creation of a monster was being witnessed that had potential to threaten western Sydney. By Friday night back burning of the Hartley escarpment had commenced, a process that was to continue until mid the following week as weather permitted. At one stage, the back burn under Mt York had 37 RFS fire appliances with 135 crew working along the newly cut escarpment fire trail.

A key objective of the plan for the Mt York fire, to keep it from crossing the highway into the Kanimbla valley, was achieved by the weekend. Meanwhile Dargan, Clarence and Bell were suffering their own nightmares from the State Mine Monster with many properties under dire threat and the State Mine and Mt York fire joined on the Darling Causeway. By this time there were already remote area fire fighters down in the Grose preparing to back burn to the west of Blue Gum Forest and there were literally hundreds of trucks and crews from country, the city regions and interstate from SA, Victoria and Tasmania on the fire ground helping.

And what's going on that we can't see when the smoke is at its thickest? For one thing there is a high flying Lear jet that radar and infra red scans the fire twice a day to develop a clear picture of fire boundaries and intensities. Then there are meetings, strategy meetings, end of shift handover meetings, community update meetings, media liaison meetings. From a standing start there is a management team bigger than your average corporation having to communicate and co-ordinate a workforce of thousands. Meanwhile there is the welcome arrival of out of town crews, but who is going to feed and accommodate them? They also have a need for very detailed briefings and the supply of maps and briefing documents to convert the out of town crews into a resource that knows what they are defending, where it is, where the water is, who to listen to on the radio etc. And so the job gets bigger. There is also the need to feed the local volunteers as well, they will go home to their own bed but need to be fed whilst on the job, either on the fire ground or in town. Throughout the twelve days of the State Mine fire the Hartley Canteen was at full stretch with its crew working 16 hour days turning out a hundred plus meals a sitting.

And what should we learn from it;

What can be a perfect (dry) spring day one day can see an unstoppable inferno the next, where an accidental fire ten kilometres away can overrun you with embers within hours and a fire front within the day if you have winds like we had on the Thursday.

If you want to be safe keep your property clean, don't let large fuel loads build around your house and sheds, and don't wait till its hot and dry to do this, this should be standard pre summer maintenance. Your house then becomes defensible when the fires arrive.

Don't, by neglect or economy, underinsure. You will only get money to rebuild if you have properly covered the full likely cost of rebuilding. Don't get caught short in the unlikely event of losing your property (if you are near bush it mightn't be unlikely, more a matter of good luck and good management)

Support your local brigade, buy their raffle tickets, give them a donation, volunteer or just tell them you love them. You can contact Hartley Captain Brad Collins on 0425 240 342 Kanimbla Captain Jim Commens on 0417 273 438 .

## Helping to protect your home from fire

The following simple points, if considered when designing your House site and Garden, can make all the difference for your own defence of your property and allow Fire and other Emergency Service vehicles unhindered access to your property. Your Garden may already be too well established for some of the points, but some simple changes could still make all the difference .

**Identification** - Make sure your property is clearly identified with a number. Remember the Rural Number system is not just a number, it tells emergency services the distance from the last intersection and the side of the road your house is on.

**Entrances and Gates** - Make your entrance as easy for emergency service vehicles to enter as possible. Remember how large a Fire Brigade Truck is. Difficult angles and narrow gates make it slower for us to get to you. Your entrance gate should be at least 3.6m (12 ft) wide. If you have more than one front gate put your number adjacent to the gate that gives the best access.

**Overhanging obstructions** - The larger Bushfire trucks are used for property protection. They need 4.6m high clearance and at least 3.0m wide for unhindered access. Any overhanging structures including wires, Christmas lights and plants/trees should be placed to allow enough clearance. If your garden is already too well established to allow for clearance and you have another access point, make sure the fire Brigade (both RFS and Fire & Rescue NSW) know, have someone waiting to guide them in for an emergency.

**Your Garden** - Don't plant trees that will grow tall or wide close to the house. Also, keep the area adjacent to the foundations clear from plantings and combustible materials. Most people know not to stack wood against the house. In the case of a fire emergency you should also remove all other combustible materials from around the house like hanging baskets, door mats etc. Mulch made from combustible materials like bark can cause an easy ignition point in the case of ember attack. Try to keep mulch away from the house. When it comes to selecting plants for close to the house, use evergreen fleshy plants where possible. Fleshy plants generally contain a lot of water and are difficult to ignite. As part of a summer maintenance program remove as much of the dry garden material as possible, it makes great compost. Don't forget to clean out the gutters !

**One last point** - Take the time to walk around your house and assess the fire risk. Many houses burnt in bush fires ignite through the eaves, usually by something on the ground or the veranda catching alight first and flaring up into the roof space. Check for the potential of this happening, remembering the greater, but not the only, fire risk comes from the West to the North or if you are on a slope, from below.

If you want any specific advice on protecting your property or on developing your bushfire management plan, please don't hesitate to call your local brigade captain.

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### **Late Extra**

#### **Lithgow Mercury Honours local Lass**

In a not unexpected announcement last week, Lithgow Mercury editor Len Ashworth, announced Joan Kent as Lithgow Legend of the Month, citing Joan's heritage work and her commitment to various community initiatives. Well deserved. Congratulations Joan!