

Hartley District Progress Association

www.hartleyvalley.org.au

Email : hartleyprogress@gmail.com



Newsletter Winter 2013

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

President's Report

Autumn in Hartley is usually a special time of year and this year is no exception. The "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" is around us in all its glory. After the good summer rains the farms in the valley are enjoying a period of bountiful feed and contented livestock.

The HDPHA have had a busy few months culminating in the Autumn Harvest Dinner Dance. This was a huge success and enjoyed by one and all. I would like to thank the many sponsors and businesses of the valley for their support of our efforts to raise funds for improvements to community resources. A special word of thanks to Bob Morris and Barry Funnell for their huge effort in selling tickets at the Lithgow Plaza and also, along with Ian Bathgate, in manning the barbecue at the Dinner Dance.

The ongoing planning and preparation for the 1813 commemorative events continue apace and the hard working sub committee has had hardly time to draw breath. The calendar of events is spelt out in detail in the pages following.

With regard to subcommittees of the HDPHA, for some considerable time there has been a perceived problem in the relationship between the sub-committee HHAG and the parent body, HDPHA. At the most recent and well attended General Meeting of the HDPHA on Monday 8th April, steps were made to remove the obstacles that persisted in preventing the smooth operation of HHAG to represent the wishes of the well attended public meetings on the subject of the upgrading of the Great Western Highway through Hartley. As a result of a motion presented to the meeting and carried unanimously HHAG will henceforth conduct its operations totally independently of

the HDPHA.

HHAG will continue to operate as it has done in the past, representing the wishes of the people who attend its well-publicised public meetings without being subject to the HDPHA constitution. The HDPHA will, of course, be available as a neutral platform for any points of view that HHAG may bring up at an HDPHA public meeting. Any matter of Valley interest will be handled with total impartiality.

The Hartley Community Website continues to grow in popularity and effectiveness. I recommend this site to all in the community. It is a marvellous forum for up to date news with links to associated zones of interest. The popularity of the Hartley District Progress Association Facebook Page has increased exponentially and news spreads quickly through the valley via this medium.

In recent days we sadly said good-bye to our good friend, Chris Bird, who passed away after surgery on Monday 8th April. Chris was Hartley born and bred. He was an example of all the old-fashioned and lovely traits that do such credit to those who embody them. Chris had been a member of the HDPHA since the 1950's and has served as President on more than one occasion. I find it very hard to imagine the community without his presence. I've known Chris for over forty years and I cannot ever recall hearing him be unkind to anybody, nor can I recall hearing any criticism of Chris. The valley is a poorer place for his passing.

I just want to draw your attention to a photographic tribute to Chris on the Hartley Community Website which says more than words can express.

Vale Chris Bird.

Seamus Casey
President HDPHA.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 17th May

A Moment in Time Opens

Saturday 25th May

Music, Markets & Plane Spotting

Saturday 26th Thursday 30th May

Walk the Journey

Saturday 1st June

Official openings celebration

Sunday 2nd Sunday 9th June

Walk the Journey

Monday 3rd June

HDPa General meeting

Sunday 16th June

A Moment in Time Closes

Thanks to our Monster Raffle Donors

The raffle drawn at the autumn harvest dinner dance held on 9th March proved a wonderful success raising a total of nearly \$3,400. Thanks go to everybody who supported the raffle. Our special thanks go to our prize donors: R&N Auto Electrical of Katoomba, Little Hartley Firewood, Adams Shed, Hartley Green Power, Hartley Saddlery, Hartley Valley Teahouse, The Lolly Bug, Talisman Gallery, Massage on Main, Anne Hider, Barbara Johnson, Michael and Margaret Combs, Blackheath Butchery, Bills Old Fashioned Cake and Pie Shop and the Sunshine Bakery. Thanks also to the Hartley Historic Site and the Cedars Rock shop for assistance with ticket sales.

Open Garden Visit

Our thanks to Sarah and Richard Lawrence for inviting us to see their newly planted garden - a lovely mix of grasses, shrubs and trees. The Lawrences have planted a wonderful vegetable garden, and kindly offered a big bowl of home grown raspberries and strawberries to sample, along with a selection of their produce for us to take home. We look forward to a return visit as time goes on, to see the plantings as they develop - especially the wonderful pomegranate trees - still small, but covered with fruit.

Contacting the HDPa:

President:	Seamus Casey	6355 2113
Vice Pres:	Duncan Wass	6355 2043
Secretary:	Ramsay Moodie	6355 2259
Treasurer:	Seamus Casey	6355 2113
Hall Bookings:	Barb Johnson	6355 2017
Newsletter:	Susie Moodie	6355 2259

PO Box 372 Lithgow NSW 2790

Music Festival proposal

An international organisation ID&T held an information day in the Hartley School hall last month to outline to interested community members their intention to seek approval from Lithgow City Council and the Hartley Community to hold a three day music festival in the valley targeting an audience of 20,000. ID&T advised that on their information day the majority of attendees were supportive of the proposal, with only three attendees opposed. In a subsequent meeting of the HDPa a number of residents expressed adverse views. Equally, views were expressed that a proposal of this nature, that has potential to input millions of dollars into the local economy, should be the subject of proper objective consideration. A decision was taken to facilitate a further meeting where the proposal could be objectively considered. For those interested the festival proposed is apparently exemplified by the video located at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0z4oiZaUnQ

Hartley Highway Action Group 20

As noted in the Presidents report, the Hartley Highway Action Group has been separated from the Progress Association. This has been done to avoid continual attempts by a member minority group to prevent HHAG from carrying out the instructions of the public meeting called in October last year.

Since last report HHAG has made representations at both a state and federal level calling for the reclassification of Bells Line of Road to enable improvements in the safety and productivity of that road.

As we go to press the RMS has issued feedback on the safety upgrade and concept design community consultation process. Hundreds of pages of documents that warrant review have now been uploaded to the RMS website. In respect of the concept design it is noted that the proposal for a service road through Hartley Historic Site has been abandoned, however the proposal for a pair of truck parking bays has been retained, despite community objections. The RMS is now proposing to seek the inclusion of the finalised concept design in the Lithgow LEP. It is noted that the initial safety enhancements for the Forty Bends section of the road is the addition of a third lane.



“A Moment in Time” each Saturday and Sunday from 18th May to 16th June 10am - 3pm

The exhibition A Moment in Time is the centrepiece of our activities. Open on weekends from 10am and last entry at 3pm, and by appointment midweek. Entry is \$5 per person or \$10 for families. Party viewing can be arranged at any time by contacting Barbara Johnson on 6355 2017. ‘A Moment in Time’ examines much more than the crossing by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth and their party. It begins with a consideration of the rich and ancient geology of the landscape into which the explorers intruded, and then moves on to explore many aspects of the crossing story. From the original inhabitants whose country was being traversed, through the explorers and the development of the Bathurst Road, to the first European visitors to Bathurst. It closes with a consideration of the life and achievements of some of the earliest settlers in the Hartley Valley, John and Jane Grant and Pierce and Mary Collitt who settled here in the early 1820s.

Music, Markets and Plane Spotting Saturday 25th May 10am till 3pm

A day of celebration at the Hartley School, there will be bands, market stalls, a Lions Club barbecue and much more. Presented by the combined service clubs of Lithgow led by the RSL, this promises to be a superb day out for the family. Maree Statham, the Mayor of Lithgow City Council, will be in attendance and will address the gathering at 12 o’clock. In addition to all that is happening on the ground, the school will be a flyover point for the Blue Mountains Crossing Bicentennial Flyover, an historic array of planes organised by the Blue Mountains as a principle element of their bicentenary celebrations.

Official Opening Saturday 1st June 12 midday

The governor of New South Wales Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO will attend the Hartley School to officially open and visit “A Moment in Time”. She will also dedicate a commemorative rock installation in the school grounds that acknowledges the bicentenary of the crossing of the mountains by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth and the contribution of the Hartley Valley and its peoples in the development of Australia’s inland traditions. An installation that stands for an awareness of what we have created, what we have lost and what we will yet do together.

Hartley Historic Site Walking track opening Saturday 1st June 11am Hartley Historic Village

The governor of New South Wales Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO will officiate at the opening of a NPWS walking track in the Hartley Historic Site, and the installation of a time capsule being deposited to provide future generations an insight into Hartley Valley life in 2013.

Walks on Coxs Road: Full or Half Day May 26th, 30th, June 2nd and 9th.

This walk provides a unique and stunning introduction to Cox’s Road through the Hartley Valley and the route taken by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth. The full walk covers 10 kilometres, and is moderately strenuous, while the half day walk is a gentler proposition. Walkers will be accompanied throughout by a local guide and will be bussed from the school to the walk start and back to the school at the end of the walk.

For bookings visit <http://www.hartleyvalley.org.au/hartleyrocks/walk-the-journey/>

Planned rides along Coxs Road have been cancelled following the detection of a streptococcal infection in several horses at a local property.

HDPa Business Directory - Autumn Newsletter version

ALPACAS	Belgrave Park Alpacas	Alpacas, yarn and garments	6355 2477
ARBORIST	Andy Tree Man	Pruning, Lopping, Milling	0439 278 130
BATHROOMS	Blue Mountains Bathrooms	Scott Hunter	6359 3090
B and Bs	Glenroy Cottages	Cottages and camping grounds	6355 2186
	The Comet Inn - C1879	Greg or Cathy	6355 2247
BUILDING	Marjanac Design	Design/Construction since 1980	6355 0261
CAFES	The Lollybug	Lolly store	6355 2162
	Talisman	Wood Fired Pizza & Gallery	6355 2056
CAR SERVICE	Mt Vic Service Centre	Sam Millar	4787 1811
CARPENTRY	Mark O'Carrigan	New work, restoration& repairs	6355 2777
	Ben Dikic	Decks, pergolas, doors	0413 354 523
CINEMA	Mt Vic Flicks	Arthouse cinema at Mt Victoria	47871577
EDUCATION	Marie Majanac	Maths tutor all levels to HSC	63550261
ELECTRICIAN	Mark O'Toole	Bobcat & trenching machine	6355 2488
EARTHMOVING	B & R Barber Earthmoving	Brad Barber	6355 2186
	JDL Excavations	Excavator, Positrack, tipper hire	6355 2460
FIREWOOD	Ross Howard	Quality firewood	0418 344 344
G/DOORS	Hartley Valley Garage Doors	Sales and service	6355 2468
LANDSCAPING	Cliffords Landscapes	Design and construction	0410 552 294
	Grant Maundrell	Landscape architect/construction	0407 933 834
MOWER AND CHAINSAW REPAIRS			
	Hartley Chainsaw & Mower Repairs	Andrew Lawson	6355 2336
NURSERIES	Maple Springs Nursery	Fabulous maples and much more	6355 2140
PARTY HIRE	Lithgow party Hire	All the gear for a great party	6355 2438
PAINTING	Kay Decorating & Painting P/L	David and Catherine Kay	6355 2270
PLUMBING	Mick Linhart Plumbing	No job too small	6355 2251
PRINTING	C&W Print	All commercial printing	6351 4806
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE			
	Rob Jolly	Reliable Property Maintenance	6355 2278
RURAL SUPPLIES	Adam's Shed	Stock feeds, fencing, produce	6355 2096
SADDLERY	The Hartley Saddlery	For all your horse and riding gear	6355 2165
SHOW HORSE ACCESSORIES			
	Greg Watson and Hatitude	Show canes and millinery	6355 2044
SOLAR POWER	Hartley Green Power	Sun and wind power solutions	6355 2299
SOLICITOR	Le Fevre & Co	All areas of law since 1907	6352 2699
TILING	Mountain Top Tiling	Wall and floor tiling and paving	0413 077 121
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

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.

Chris Bird



It is with great sorrow that we note the passing of Chris, long time resident and friend of so many of us. The words of those who eulogised him at his funeral, held at his St Johns on April 12, provide a fitting tribute to this man who was held in warm regard by all who knew him.

Janice Hope, Chris' niece, wonderfully summarised the span of Chris' life;

Harry and Mabel Bird had an eventful day on 16th May 1928. Firstly, there was the birth of their first child, Chris, at Nurse Parker's Private Hospital in Lithgow. It was also Mabel's birthday and her sister in Queensland gave birth to her first son, Alf on the same day. Harry was walking up Main Street later in the day and people were stopping him and congratulating him. He assumed they had heard of Chris' birth, but no, it was because there was an article in the Sydney Morning Herald, the Melbourne Age and the Canberra Times announcing that a case of his prize winning apples had been presented to King George V at Buckingham Palace.

Chris lived his whole life at "The Range", Hartley Vale. He only had one sister, my mum, Mary, and they were always very close and great mates.

Chris and Mary did their primary schooling at Hartley Vale School, initially walking the two and a half miles each way. Eventually, Chris had a bicycle and doubled Mary to school until she received her bike. Their teacher was Mr Collett, whom they thought the world of.

During the war years they attended Lithgow High School, when it was in Mort Street. Together with their friend Ron Gurney they rode the eight miles each way. Of course, this included going up and down The Gap and there were no gears on bikes back then. If they were lucky and the timing was right, the Facchina boys or Angelo Butta would give them a lift home. They were the last to ride to school, as shortly after a bus run commenced.

There have been quite a few changes over the years on "The Range". In the early days, as well as the orchards, which had a variety of apples, Harry had a market garden producing cabbages, maize, tomatoes and peas. They were also commercial egg producers. Harry used to run a delivery service of his produce and Mabel's preserves to Lithgow each Saturday in the old 1928 Chev Ute. Of course, Chris accompanied him. When Chris was old enough to gain his drivers licence, it was no drama, as the policeman had seen him driving the ute around doing deliveries often enough before then.

Once Chris left school, he worked full time on the family farm. However, there was still time for socialising. Tennis was popular, as was attending the dances in Lithgow. He also, in his teens, became an active member of the Hartley Bush Fire Brigade, and later the Show Society, as well always attending church, here at Hartley.

Chris took on added responsibilities in his mid twenties, when Harry died suddenly. After then, Chris and Mabel continued to farm as a great team. One of Chris' great achievements was to fulfil Mabel's dream of a new home in her latter years.

Time moved on and the orchards no longer exist in the valley. Chris then became a familiar figure keeping the valley tidy with his tractor and slasher. And, of course, for many years Pam has been working alongside him and been a great friend to him.

Chris was a wonderful uncle and Godfather to Trevor and I. We always looked forward to our time spent at "The Range". Many school holidays were spent helping to pick and pack apples, move mobs of sheep, draft sheep and

feed poddy lambs, as well as collecting the eggs for Grandma. Looking back, I don't know how much "help" we were, but Uncle Chris always included us and was always patient. He would get out and kick a ball around and have a hit of tennis with us as well.

In more recent times, we always enjoyed sitting and listening to his yarns of the goings on in the Valley and the people that live here. He was a friend to so many.

Mum came across the following text that was read at Harry's funeral, held here at St John's back in 1953. It applies equally to Chris : "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold." Proverbs Chapter 22, Verse 1. Chris was a kind man and a good man. He will be missed by many.

Friend and neighbour David Peters went on to further reflect on Chris' active life in our community;

Hartley Progress Association presents an award for Community Service – The Spirit of Hartley. Chris was that Spirit of Hartley. Service to the community was his life and the community was his family. It wasn't a proper event unless Chris was there. His commitment was life long as was his membership of Hartley Bush Fire Brigade, Hartley Progress Association, Lithgow Show Society, The National Party, St Johns Church Hartley, Hartley Fruit Growers Association, the list goes on. Last month he clocked up 60 years of hard work for the Lithgow Show, much of it as Chief Pavilion Steward and Senior Vice President. Had he been here, in June he would have been presented with an award from the Rural Fire Service for 70 years service. For many years he was the Senior Deputy Captain of Hartley. He held the position of President of Hartley Progress Association and was awarded the actual Spirit of Hartley award. Last year he was presented with a National Party service award for 40 years. He took very seriously the membership of every organisation he belonged to, not being content with occasional involvement but preferred to play a major role in most community events. It won't seem right to hold a Federal, State or Council election without Chris handing out "How to Votes" at the Vale of Clwydd Hall.

Chris's passing was the end of an era for Hartley Vale. He was the last of his generation who were born and raised here, who heard all the stories from this valley back to the 1800's and in his way was happy to pass them on. Most of us have heard stories told by Chris and while yes we did often hear the same one more than once, even three weeks ago he told me one I hadn't heard before. To my knowledge he never embellished a story nor could they be considered as gossip, just reflections of happenings in and around Hartley.

My families association with Chris began when in 1952 when Dad bought the block of ground that separated the two Chris held. Neighbours became good friends. Throughout the years the friendship continued through to my generation, enduring broken fences, escaping stock and all the things farming neighbours often fall out over. Machinery and equipment was often borrowed either way with the occasional malfunction being repaired without re-percussions.

If I were asked to come up with a statement that defined Chris it would be:

" He always looked for the good in people".

Friend and fellow member of the congregation of St Johns Hartley, Carol Crossman said;

Chris has told me of being baptized here at St John's, and as his birthday was soon to be in May, I would think that was nearly eighty-five years ago. He had memories of coming to Church by horse and cart. Records given to me by Chris prior to the Sesquicentenary of St John's, show that he was elected to the position of Warden at the Vestry meeting of 2nd May, 1965. At the February Vestry meeting this year Chris was elected to be a member of a newly formed Committee. He was quite delighted with that position.

People here may recall the Hartley Happening of 2004, in which Chris, Olga Martin, Ian Campbell and Doreen Peters related stories of growing up in Hartley. Chris was eager to contribute as always, telling stories of Rev Dorph for whom he held great admiration and respect.

I guess most of you here would recall Chris' greeting "How are ya" and "Did I ever tell you about": and then relate a story of Hartley of long ago. His recall was remarkable, his wry sense of humour delightful and his love of Hartley, its people, its history and any planned events, equal to none.

On any occasion when St John's was open for inspection Chris would willingly spend hours relating stories to visitors. His welcoming smile and cheery greeting did much to welcome people to St John's and the Hartley community in general. He gave generously to causes such as The Cancer Council Morning Tea and to support St John's, always quietly, refusing recognition for the donations.

In the later years of Olga Martin's life, Chris would bring her to Church. Always the gentleman, Chris would remove his tool box and put a bag over the seat of his old ute for Olga's comfort. They would arrive in good humour and in the enjoyment of each other's company.

Chris gave of his time willingly, would never ask for help, but if it was given would be touchingly grateful.

Chris worshipped at St John's and contributed to the Fellowship over the eighty four years of his life. His significant presence will be sadly missed; however we will treasure the legacy he has left with lasting love and admiration.