

Hartley District Progress Association

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Newsletter Winter 2014

Our next bi-monthly general meeting will be held in the Hartley School Hall, Mid Hartley Road, at 7.30 pm on **Monday 2nd June**. All residents of the valley are invited to attend this meeting.

President's Report

During the past three months there have been three significant events to which our Association has contributed.

Clean Up Australia day is always the first Sunday in March. This year a team of some fifteen Hartley Valley folk covered most roads from The Gap to Hartley Vale, and all roads then to the southern side of the Highway and down to Cox's River including Blackheath Creek Road, and made a great impact on our environment. We welcome any ideas from our community on how we can reduce this less than desirable habit of waste disposal. Sadly the waste packaging from passing motor vehicles is already reappearing on the verges. GWH is another difficult area - due to the issue of our volunteers' safety we did not attempt to cover it. We are currently negotiating with Lithgow Council so that they secure all of the bags, gloves, etc from the Clean Up Australia warehouse at Smithfield rather than individuals having to do it online separately. We are hopeful that LCC will act as coordinators for the whole of the Municipality.

On a more positive note we convened a community meeting on 29th March to hear a presentation of a proposal to extend the Operating Licence of Austen Quarry by 30 years to 2050. A Management team representing Hy-Tec, the operators of the Quarry, gave an excellent presentation and took many questions and comments from a packed hall of some 70 local residents. They have subsequently met with many residents to consider their concerns, most of which relate to the visual impact from their properties. When the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to a stage where it can be presented to the relevant authorities it is envisaged that a further public meeting will be held, possibly in August.

Members of the Lithgow City Council visited Hartley on 1st May to present their Operational Plan for the financial year July 2014 to June 2015. The delegation from Council was led by General Manager, Mr Roger Bailey and four senior personnel together with Mayor Maree Statham and Councillors Ray Thompson, Colin Hunter and Peter Pillbeam.

The presentation was informative and provided an opportunity for our community to ask questions and make comment. The only downside to the evening was that it was not as well-attended as it deserved. Perhaps it was not sufficiently publicized.

Dates to put in your forward planner now -

- Clean Up Australia - 1st Sunday in March 2015
- Lithgow City Council presentation early May 2015. With a few more volunteers we could letterbox our Valley when the date is known to ensure we can achieve a much better representation of local residents. Some Hartley hospitality afterwards would undoubtedly add to the evening
- Future events include a working bee to tidy up the grounds on 15th June, preparatory for a bonfire night on the 19th July and a Boot Sale on a date to be advised

I again invite you to attend our meetings - the next will be at the Old School on Monday 2nd June at 7.30pm - and participate with a group of local residents to achieve our simple objectives of connecting community and protecting and improving this special place, the Hartley Valley, that we all cherish so much.

As a postscript may I add our congratulations to the Hartley Historic Site for their New South Wales Heritage award announced last week (14th May) acknowledging their revitalisation plan.

Tom Kent
President

Contacting the HDP:

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

Dates for your Diary

Monday 2nd June Next HDPa gen meeting
Saturday 15th June Working bee
Sunday 19th July Winter madness bonfire

A Moment in Time II

As previously announced, a Moment in Time II will be open at the Historic Hartley Schoolhouse in Hartley, 10am-4pm on weekends from Saturday 13th September to Sunday 12th October and by appointment, for large groups, on any week day in that period. Guided Cox's Road walks (Mt York to Glenroy) will be conducted on Sunday 14th September, Sunday 21st September, Thursday 2nd October, Saturday 4th October and Sunday 12th October; again with bookings accepted for large parties on any day between 14th September and 12th October.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the delivery of our 2014 program please contact Barbara Johnson who will again act as coordinator of our volunteer team. Barb can be contacted on 0458 552 017.

Hartley School Working bee

We are having a grounds maintenance day at the historic Hartley School site in Mid Hartley Road on Saturday 15th June. Come along for a chat and a cup of tea or better still bring your gloves hat and pruning shears to spend an hour or so convivially pruning. We will work from 10 am to 3pm the billy will be on from 11, any enquiries ring Seamus Casey 6355 2113.

Heritage

Following our earlier report we note that Lithgow City Council has effectively reversed it's earlier decision to defer the listing of some six hundred heritage properties that had been proposed for listing in the Local Environment Plan. At its 24th March meeting Councilors voted to list the five hundred and eighty or so properties that accepted listing, retaining on the deferred list only those twenty or so properties where owners had expressed concerns.

Well done

Congratulations are due to new recruits to the Hartley and Kanimbla Brigades Reece Gurney, Geoff Scott, Jennifer Simpson, Gary Stokes, Clay Windle, AJ Jack and Ron Forrester. All successfully completed their basic Bushfire fighting BF training at the Hartley fire shed last month. Well done guys and welcome to the team. A further BF training session will be held in August for a number of additional volunteers that have recently signed up to join the local brigades.

Thanks are due to the Kanimbla brigade for a joint Hartley Kanimbla training day recently held at the Kanimbla fire shed. The day provided a practical opportunity to work on real fires in a car, an electric transformer and a burning domestic gas bottle, a series of remotely possible scenarios that firefighters can come up against. Basic training was also provided in CPR resuscitation and in the mounting of a standpipe to access street fire hydrants found in suburban areas.

Thanks go to Jim Commens, Kanimbla Captain, ably supported by Chris Mills and Warren McPherson with David Peters as Group Captain playing a supporting role on the gas bottle. A great day of doing stuff, making mistakes and learning; at the same time building rapport between the two brigades.

Ministerial Award

At a ceremony in Sydney last month representative of the Hartley District Progress Association's 1813 committee accepted an award from the New South Wales Government. As outlined by Doctor Tracey Avery Head of the Heritage Branch of the Department of Environment and Heritage NSW, the various projects undertaken by the volunteers of the Hartley District Progress Association and the community volunteers that worked with them, represents an outstanding example of a community promoting their local heritage. Our sincere thanks to all who have supported these works, the award is really recognition of a good job well done for all of those who were involved with the various 2013 bicentenary activities.

Hytech Austen Quarry Meeting

Saturday 29th March saw more than sixty people attend the public meeting to hear details of the Hy-tec quarry expansion proposal. At the meeting the Hytec Manager Darryl Theidike, National Planning and Development manager outlined the proposal, following which Darryl and General Manager Ian Boxall answered questions from the audience. Questions ranged widely from concern about river pollution, traffic noise and hours of operation. A suggestion by one attendee that the quarry should access the Highway via a private road through Hartley Pastoral company lands was popularly acclaimed but was said to be unacceptable to the RMS. The meeting concluded with a commitment by Hy-tec that once their Environmental Impact Statement is completed they will return for a further meeting later in the year (probably August) where they will review the detail of their EIS with the community. Details will be announced on the HDPA website once the date is settled.

Winter gardening

Going into winter it is a good time to learn from the hot dry summer we have just had. We have had some good autumn rain but that alone won't prepare us for another dry summer. Now is the time to mulch your gardens and start to build up organic matter in the soil. Remember to use a mulch that has a variety of organic material in it. With evaporation levels dramatically reduced in winter, it is much easier to decompose organic material despite the slower decay rate due to lower temperatures. This is simply because the moisture is held in the mulch and soil and not baked away as it can during a dry summer. This moisture brings the soil to life which is of benefit to plants directly but furthermore it will recharge soil moisture to a useful depth. That way, going into spring and summer, you have the moisture levels to take advantage of a rise in temperature without heavy watering. This among other strategies can drought proof your garden but it requires preparation in anticipation of dry events not a reaction to them.

Grant Maundrell Landscape Architect

Winter Bonfire and BBQ

The Hartley District Progress Association will again host its Winter Bonfire and BBQ at the historic Hartley school mid Hartley road commencing 5.00 pm on Saturday 19th July. Come along and keep warm by the biggest hollow log fire you may ever see. Sparklers and fluoro bangles for kids. Sausage sizzle, soft drinks and hot drinks will be on sale. Entry by gold coin donation to help fund building maintenance.

Enquiries Seamus Casey 6355 2113

Fire Brigade Membership

The Rural Fire Service is governed by the Rural Fires Act 1997. This Act brought to an end the opportunity for spontaneous volunteering of untrained firefighters, requiring that volunteers need to join the RFS and be appropriately trained before they are allowed to fight fires. So what is the process?

In the first instance volunteers make contact with their local brigade captain. Enrolment paperwork is completed and the member enters a period of probationary membership. The member then attends an intensive 16 hours Firefighting (BF) training program. On completion they are issued their uniform of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and are eligible to attend call outs. As full members, recruits are expected to attend say six local brigade training sessions a year.

Many members are happy to maintain just their basic BF level of training but many more courses are offered to those seeking broader firefighting skills, these include Advanced BF, Crew Leader, Village Firefighting and a range of useful skills eg first aid and chain saw use. If you are interested in joining your local brigade contact Hartley Captain Brad Collins on 0425 240 342 or Kanimbla Captain Jim Commens on 0417 273 438.

Open Garden Day

In March we enjoyed the garden hospitality of John and Hilary James. What a lovely day in a garden that is truly inspiring in regard to the food it produces. Thanks J and H.

Our next garden visits will be announced in the Spring newsletter. We have a couple of special spring gardens to visit, so watch this space.

HDPa Business Directory - Autumn Newsletter version

ARBORIST	Andy Tree Man	Pruning, Lopping, Milling	0439 278 130
AUTOMOTIVE	Lithgow Auto Wreckers and Repairers		6351 2367
	Mt Vic Service Centre	Sam Millar	4787 1811
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
	Alchemy	Wood Fired Pizza	6355 2056
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	6355 0261
ELECTRICIAN	Mark O'Toole	Bobcat & trenching machine	6355 2488
EARTHMOVING	B & R Barber Earthmoving	Brad Barber	6355 2186
FIREWOOD	Ross Howard	Quality firewood	0418 344 344
	Rob Jolly	Great firewood	6355 2278
G/DOORS	Hartley Valley Garage Doors	Sales and service	6355 2468
GALLERY	Talisman Gallery	Metal art and jewelry	0407 723 722
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
PAINTING	Kay Decorating & Painting	David and Catherine Kay	6355 2270
PARTY HIRE	Lithgow party Hire	All the gear for a great party	6355 2438
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
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	Michael Campbell 0400 277 818	4787 1340
	Heritage Stoneworks	Bill Holmes- Stone Mason	0421 367 257
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

Hall Hire - the Hall and facilities at the Old Hartley School 1881 are an outstanding community asset that is available for private use for conferences, family reunions, parties, club and other social gatherings. For enquiries regarding availability please phone the Hall Booking officer Barbara Johnson 0458 552 017