

Hartley District Progress Association

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Newsletter Winter 2012

Our next bi-monthly general meeting will be held in the Hartley School Hall, Mid Hartley Road, at 7.30 pm on **Monday 6th August**. All residents of the valley are invited to attend this meeting.

President's Report

And here we are in winter, the first frosts now weeks past, after one of the wettest autumns we've seen in years.

In our last issue we were mulling over the role of the HDPa and the expectations the community might have of the HDPa. As foreshadowed in our last newsletter, on 18th March we held a meeting of interested residents ably convened by our treasurer Barbara Johnson. That group came up with a list of some twenty things the HDPa might consider undertaking ranging from things like a growers market through to simple educational things like country skills courses. One element of conversation centered on the desirability of having more socially oriented functions, functions that in themselves might provide a forum for finding a way forward on what best the HDPa do. Consistent with this proposition we decided to proceed to hold in July one of the ideas that emanated from the workshop, a bonfire night and sausage sizzle on the evening of **8th July** - mid winter madness??

Thank you to everybody who participated in that workshop. One theme that did come out in discussion at the workshop was the fact that the school and the school hall is a community asset. It can be used without charge for community development activities and is also available for private and commercial hire as a venue for reunions, conferences and similar events. Hiring out the hall is in itself a positive activity, providing much needed funds for future maintenance of the facility.

In the same vein, we have recently been successful in respect of our application for a grant to further develop the Hartley School property. The Hartley Recreational Lands Trust

grant of \$20,000 under the New South Wales Government's Community Development Grants program. This funding will be used to build a shelter shed over the area that used to be shaded by the big old pine tree that was removed last year. The idea is that the shed should be of a design sympathetic to the existing buildings as another element in our long term plans for the site, which includes the replacement of the existing toilets and improvements to the hall. Anybody with ideas on designs please talk to me or any member of the building sub committee.

Continuing our musings on the role of the HDPa, I recently circulated a note around the executive suggesting that perhaps our role should just be:

- look after the assets,
- continue the newsletter,
- maintain the website,
- act as a platform for the debate of issues of concern to the community or the membership and
- enhance our meetings by making them more social events than business meetings

I'd be interested in hearing the views of others.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting on **6th august**.

Seamus Casey.
President, HDPa.

Contacting the HDPa:

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

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2012 Council Elections

As residents may well be aware there will be a general election for the nine councilors of the Lithgow City Council on **Saturday 9th September 2012**. After what we have seen in the last year with the evolution of the Lithgow Local Environment Plan, there is a pressing need for us all to take an interest in who we elect to represent us as councilors.

Under the Local Government Act 1993, non residents owning ratable land in the council electorate are entitled to vote in elections. In order to be able to vote, such ratepayers must register on the non residential role maintained by the Council. Application forms are expected to be available from council in May and must be lodged back with council by 6pm on **Monday 30th July**.

It should be noted that Non-residential voter rolls lapse after each Local Government election. Any person who appeared on this roll at a previous election will have to reapply for this year's election.

Jaguar Eye Candy 8th July

One of the local Car Clubs - featuring Jaguars - will be wrapping up an outing by arriving at the School from around 3.00 to 4.00 pm on **8th July**. They hope to have some fifty cars - should be a worthwhile sight.

Local Services Directory

Sometimes despite the best of intents things go wrong and that is what happened with the Business Directory ad for the **Mt Victoria Service Centre**. It should have been bigger! Fact is most people know that Sam is the person to talk to when they need to get their car serviced, their brakes fixed, their gearbox rebuilt or just for a simple rego check. Located in behind the Caltex station at the top of the Pass, you can't miss it! There you will find good advice and good service. **Call Sam on 4787 1811**

Another new entry in the business directory this month is the **Hartley Saddlery**. Located within Adam's Shed this new business is a welcome new service provider in the Valley. Whether you are looking for a new cobb sized halter or a pair of flash jodhpurs, Kristie is the one to see. Good luck Kristie, great to see another new business in the valley. You can call **Kristie**, a valley resident and experienced horsewoman on **6355 2165** or better still, pop in and see her.

24th June Boot and Ute Sale

Our next Boot and Ute Sale is set down for **Sunday, June 24**, commencing at 10.30 a.m. In the interests of safety, vendors are asked to have their vehicles in place no later than 10 am. Vendors- \$10 per car or small van, \$15 for a flat-top truck. Browsers and buyers- a gold coin at the gate. Kids free.

Sausage sizzle and refreshments will be on sale on the day.

More info or to reserve a spot, call Barbara Johnson 6355 2017.

Sunday 8th JULY Mid Winter Bonfire

Come and join in the fun of our community **Winter Madness Bonfire and Sausage Sizzle** in the Old School grounds at **5.30 pm on July 8th**. Soft drinks available or BYO.

Material for the bonfire will be collected at the School in the days leading up to July 8th, and the actual construction will take place on the day. If you have a couple of hours to help out, please call Mick Combs on 6355 2192 or Seamus Casey on 6355 2113.

Save Money and Save the World

Borrow a Save Power Kit from Lithgow library and learn how to save yourself a fortune. Kit has an easy to use meterage computer that measures real time and run time power usage and computes periodic running cost and green house gas emission implications.

A real eye opener of a toy, kids can learn and parents can be astounded. The kit comes with an array of tools including electronic thermometer, fridge thermometer, stop watch and other items for checking the power efficiency of your home.

Also in the kit is a comprehensive manual and a checklist to point you at savings of up to nearly \$2000 per year that might be achieved in the average family home. A real chance to save money whilst helping to save the world, and it's a free loan.

***'you make a living by what you get
and you make a life by what you give'.***

Winston Churchill

Open Garden Visit

Our thanks go to Kerry Mills and Di Pease for offering us the opportunity to visit their property on Sunday, March 25th. The garden was lovely, the weather was good, and it was an excellent social occasion. Plus we got to see a demonstration of Di's incredible minimum till eco fork. Thank you so much, Kerry and Di.

The Open Garden Visit program will go into recess over the Winter months, and will resume in Spring.

Welcome New Arrivals

Readers of our Autumn Newsletter would be aware that we're seeking the participation of newer and younger residents of the Valley community to help carry on the ideals and activities of the HDPa into the future.

We succeeded beyond all expectations at our "brainstorming" event of Sunday, March 18th when we were given the opportunity to welcome Daniel Stone, a new resident of the Valley, aged three weeks. Daniel is a little younger than we first had in mind but, having met him, we have every confidence that he could grow into the job. He was accompanied to the gathering by his mother, Kate, and his beautiful two year old sister Emily, another excellent potential recruit in times to come.

We welcome Kate, Neil, Emily and Daniel Stone into the Valley community.

Hartley Highway Action Group

Since our last newsletter there have been no material developments on the highway saga. The MRA (formerly RTA) continues with work on the top corner of the Pass however other safety upgrades in the valley have been put on hold till the Evans and Peck report on the Great Western Highway west of Katoomba strategy is released.

In February, the HDPa wrote to the NSW Minister for Roads pressing for the release of the Evans and Peck report and implementation of the proposal to install point to point cameras on the Pass. This month HHAG wrote to the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, pressing for the release of the Evans and Peck report in order to inform community debate. This action was taken after having received advice that the NSW Minister has agreed that the government would release the report subject to the approval of their

Back to Hartley Sunday 28th October

The **Back to Hartley** event commemorates two significant anniversaries: the 175th anniversary of the construction of the Hartley Courthouse - and the establishment of the Hartley Historic Site 40 years ago.

The Courthouse, designed in the Greek Revival style by Colonial Architect Mortimer Lewis was one of the earliest Courts of Petty Session constructed in New South Wales. It is also one of the earliest buildings conserved in NSW by Government because of its historical significance. The Courthouse and the land immediately around it were reserved for public recreation in May 1914 and it was subsequently managed by Blaxland Shire Council.

Blaxland Shire Council in the 1960's saw the potential to develop Hartley as an historic village and started to acquire individual properties. This occurred at the same time that the National Parks and Wildlife Service was established in 1967 and the Council lobbied the Government of the day to establish Hartley as an Historic Site under the National Parks and Wildlife Act in 1972.

During the past forty years several million dollars has been spent on the conservation of buildings at the site and the buildings are in an excellent state of repairs.

Planning for the October event is currently under way with a number of organisations already contacted and advised that it is occurring and invited to participate. The event will be used as a fund raising event for a charity that works and or benefits members of our community. Both the Minister for the Environment and the Governor of NSW have been invited to the event and we are currently awaiting their advice.

Both Ramsay and Seamus have been invited to represent the HDPa on the Hartley Advisory Sub Committee organising the event. However if anyone in the community is interested in helping on the day or organising a particular event please contact Steve Ring on 6355 2117. Anyone wishing to be kept up to date with the planning please email steve.ring@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Hartley School Hall Hire

Many residents of the Valley will know that a considerable amount of work has gone into the School, the Hall and the grounds over the past couple of years. The Hall has been painted inside, and new lights are being installed. Blinds have recently been installed to the windows, which expands the daytime use of the hall for showing films, Power Point, etc. The School building has been checked over by engineers and heritage people, and has been pronounced in very good health for an old lady a little over one hundred and thirty years of age. Following minor repairs, this building will be repainted in the near future using funds on hand. The western border of the grounds has been securely fenced, a number of shade trees planted, and arrangements set in place for regular mowing and grounds maintenance.

These buildings and their grounds represent a very special and unique community asset, and Progress urges residents to make the maximum use of them. Please call Barbara Johnson on 6355 2017 if you'd like further information or to make a hire booking.

The Rarest Dyke

Tucked down in a creek bed above the Hartley Village is a volcanic dyke. An intrusion of molten volcanic rock that has cooled and hardened after having been forced up into a crack or space in the surrounding body of bedrock.

The dyke is visible in a creek bed above the Hartley Village as a thin line of dark rock within the lighter coloured bedrock, having been exposed as the surrounding rocks have been eroded over millennia.

The Hartley dyke is special for two reasons, firstly it was discovered by a talented female geologist (Dr Germaine Joplin in 1936) at a time when geology was largely a male domain, secondly it is of world significance being the first recorded small dyke created by 'stoping'. It's so important that in 1990 when the Geological Society of Australia hosted the Second International Dyke Conference in Adelaide, a group of twenty or more international geologists visited the valley to view the dyke. Yet another Hartley Valley claim to fame.



A heritage gem the 1823 Collit's Inn is pictured here in 1846

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

In our next Newsletter, we will be reintroducing our Classified Advertising column - non commercial small entries by readers, free of charge. If you'd like to take advantage of this service - maximum of ten words, please call Barbara Johnson on 6355 2017.

The Hartley Valley a Heritage Treasure

The Hartley Valley is topographically defined and visually spectacular. It is historically and culturally distinct, as it marks the place, manner and moment of inland expansion. In this sense it occupies a unique place in the history of Australia. It is strongly associated with many of the key figures in the early development of New South Wales from 1813.

For hundreds of generations of Wiradjuri, Gundungurra, Dharug and other indigenous peoples, the spectacular and sustaining landscape of the Hartley Valley was country that they knew intimately, cared for, and passed through in travelling between the coast and the inland, over the Blue Mountains.

On 1 June 1813, everything changed. Three settlers had marked out a route across the Blue Mountains which connected the farmland of the colony with the fertile country inland. Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth reached the far side of the Hartley Valley, and determined that the natural pasture in the valley and the land beyond could support cattle grazing 'for thirty years' of colonial expansion.

Within the next six years, the route to the inland plains had been surveyed and a rough track constructed, Governor Macquarie had brought colonial administration to the banks of the Macquarie River where Bathurst now stands, and settlers were occupying land at Bathurst and in the Hartley Valley.

The interest of the newcomers was pastoral, with little understanding of the profound science, law, rights and needs of the traditional owners. They would be progressively dispossessed and marginalized. There was little realization that the culture being displaced had a history of more than forty thousand years.

This period of six years was arguably the most momentous in Australia's history. Before, a few convict settlements clung to the coast, possibly ready to sail away. Afterwards the entire continent was notionally open to colonial expansion, and settlement would now be permanent. Grazing would become a way of life, the bush would capture the imagination of every colonial, especially those who continued to live in the coastal cities. Australian culture as we know it began then.

The Hartley Valley was the first locus of ongoing contact and conflict with the Wiradjuri people, and was the place where generations of settlers completed their crossing of the Blue Mountains, arriving at farmland and villages, before going on to the interior.

The valley itself is a memorial to the inland settlement of Australia. It has come to represent significant national values and myths about the inland, settlement, pastoralism and later mining and horticulture. It has maintained exceptional continuity in patterns of life and industry and as a result has a cultural landscape of integrity and authenticity, enriched with a large number of places of exceptional heritage value from prehistory and first settlement until now.

All these things add up to making the 2013 bicentenary of the Crossing of the Blue Mountains by Europeans an important anniversary event for the valley.

Images for Posterity

One of the principal projects of the **1813 Commemoration Committee** of the HDP is to mount an exhibition in 2013 of drawings, paintings and photographs showing the Hartley Valley and happenings in the Valley since the original crossing of the mountains by Europeans in 1813. The valley has made a significant contribution to the development of the bush psyche that so informs the Australian personality and much of this story is locked away in old photos and other records. We would like to develop a register of historic photographs (and paintings and sketches) held in the valley, in order to honour both the taker and the taken. Photos of grazing, agriculture, mining, metallurgy, Aboriginal artefacts, the road and transport along it, represent some of the obvious themes.

Assembled in conjunction with a specialist adviser from the Power House Museum in Sydney, material will be scanned for up loading to a comprehensive digital archive that will provide a remarkable record for future generations. Scanning will be undertaken on site meaning you will never lose sight of precious records whilst at the same time ensuring their preservation

HDPa Business Directory - Winter Newsletter version

ALPACAS	Belgrave Park Alpacas	Alpacas, yarn and garments	6355 2477
	Bonny Belle	Producers of fine alpaca	6355 2372
ARBORIST	Andy the Tree Man	Pruning, Lopping, Milling	0439 278 130
BATHOOMS	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
CAFES	Ambermere Rose Inn	Sat & Sun & Fri & Sat evenings	6355 2266
	Full Throttle Diner	Eat in and take away	6355 2275
	Hartley Valley Teahouse	Serious coffee, quality meals	6355 2048
	The Farmhouse	Cafe and 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
CINEMA	Mt Vic Flicks	Arthouse cinema at Mt Victoria	47871577
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
FENCING	Cap Fencing P/l	Domestic and rural fencing	6355 0296
	Gilles' Fencing Ent.	Specialising in Colorbond	6355 2095
G/DOORS	Hartley Valley Garage Doors	Sales and service	6355 2468
HANDYMAN	Moonhill	Window cleaning, painting	6355 2241
LANDSCAPING	Cliffords Landscapes	Design and construction	0410 552 294
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			
	Reliable Property Maintenance Rob Jolly		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
WATER TANK MAINTENANCE			
	Pristine Water Systems	All water problems - call Phil	0437 578 199
WEDDING RECEPTIONS			
	The Briars	Receptions and special events	6355 2265

The Hartley District Progress Association is proud to be associated with these local businesses and encourages resident to consider 'Hartley First' when acquiring any of the services they offer..