

# Putty People

*The December 2014 newsletter of the Putty Community Association Inc*

## **A NOTE FROM THE PCA PRESIDENT**

Working bees on the hall will stop until further notice. This year has seen the roof in the hall insulated and lined, new electrics throughout, the bar, storeroom and multipurpose room lined and the southern wall clad. Grant funding has run out and we are awaiting to hear if other applications are successful.

Thank you to all those who have contributed by volunteering their labour, supporting our fund raising events and donating cash to our building fund. We now have a hall that is becoming easier to maintain and better appointed for functions for the community to enjoy.

To celebrate a successful year and the beginning of the festive season the PCA will provide free food for all at the Putty Christmas Party on Saturday 6 December. The bar will be open from 6.00 pm. Bring \$10-\$15 presents for your kids, Santa will arrive by fire truck and it is sure to be a fun night for all. See forthcoming events for further information.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe festive season.

Tim Spooner

## **ROADS**



Traffic lights at Putty! What next?

Singleton Council has commenced work on Putty Valley Road. A grid has been removed and the road widened after the first bridge. Work will continue over the next month so take extra care over this time as there may be vehicles and personnel on the road.

Safety improvements are currently underway on Putty Road south of Darkey Creek at Howes Valley and north of Boggy Swamp Creek at Garland Valley. The NSW Government provided \$1.5 million funding for safety treatments and \$478,000 to resurface the road to improve travel for all road users and reduce crash risk. The works include road widening, resurfacing, installing warning signs and line marking to improve safety at these locations.

[www.rms.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au)

## **FIREY NEWS**

November was a quiet month for the Putty Fire Brigade and the Community First Responders. There was only one Triple Zero call for the CFRs but they were stood down before arriving on scene.

Lightning strikes caused a number of fires in Putty and the surrounding areas during November. The Putty Brigade responded to a smoke sighting along Burnt Arm Road, put out a fire in a tree located at the far end of Putty Valley Road and also assisted other brigades at a fire in the Yengo National Park near Howes Valley. After a number of hours spent by all at the fire, good rain helped with its control.

A General Meeting of the Putty Brigade was held on the 29th November at which the casual vacancy of President was filled by Andy Edwards with Russell Griffin being elected to the position of Vice President. Congratulations to both Andy and Russell on their appointments.

With this last Firery News for 2014, the Putty Brigade would like to wish everyone a safe and happy time throughout Christmas and during the New Year.

## **MELBOURNE CUP**



A Melbourne Cup lunch was held at The Top Place with background entertainment from a fleet of helicopters picking up water to fight fires in the Wollemi National Park. Marg and Ken Ferguson won the best hat and best dressed. Julie Simons and Geoff King won the equestrian quizzes compiled by June Malmberg. Great time had by all.

### BOOK LAUNCH



L-R Neville Merrick, Marg Ferguson, Campbell McDonald, Front: Margaret McDonald, Dianne Pierce, Greg Pierce, Mavis Merrick, Back: Kathy McKenzie, Sophie Martin, Toby Martin.

Over fifty people attended the launch of Putty Tales and Trails at Putty Hall on Saturday 15 November. Relatives of the Merrick family came from Singleton and beyond and the Martin family came from Sydney.

Local author, Kathy McKenzie, acknowledged all those who had been interviewed for the book, sharing their tales of Putty – Neville Merrick from Singleton had told her stories of his grandparents - some of the first settlers at Putty. Also Neville and Campbell McDonald had recalled their years of logging and bulldozing fire trails around the Putty State Forest.

Campbell's wife Margaret had gone to Putty School, and had played her accordion at the Putty Hall dances. Her father Alf Ducros built many buildings at Putty, including the family home at Roswill. He also had maintained the hall and built bridges on Putty Road.

Mavis Merrick described to Kathy what it was like to be a young mother living in the bush during the 1960s.

Greg and Dianne Pierce had recalled stories of the local characters, fire fighting, living and working at Putty. Greg is now the resident who has been here the longest.

'Marg and Ken Ferguson's knowledge of the area and their booklets on Putty's history, the school and the fire brigade were invaluable,' said Kathy. 'Marg also gave the book its title.'

Contributors to the book who were not at the launch were Margaret Pierce, Vera Smith, Fay Macartney, Ray Merrick, Frank Hansen, Ron and Aleda Graham and Carol Gibson and Hans Knutzelious.

Toby Martin, grandson of writer David Martin, the inspiration for the book, played his guitar and sang Lament of the Gordons, a poem written by his grandfather and set to music. He then sang The Curve of the Earth, a song on his first solo album Love's Shadow. Toby's sister Sophie and their mother Judith also attended the launch.

The bar was open, food was served and people from all over caught up with each other after many years.

The Singleton launch of the book will be held on 4th December at 6pm at Singleton Library. Free wine and nibbles.

### JOHN STOKES 10<sup>th</sup> MEMORIAL



John, Jimmy, Mary, Kimberly, Cooper, Jack, Jason and Oliver Stokes

Over fifty people attended the Friday Night Detour on 21 November to remember John Stokes, who died on 22 November 2004. His wife Mary and the Stokes family provided delicious home-made vegetable bakes as well as Hawkesbury River prawns from Munro's Meats in Wilberforce, which complimented the usual Detour food.



A visiting bush poet, Lawrie Webb from Melbourne, performed some of his poems to great acclaim. With the hot weather and the happy crowd the hall nearly ended up as the pub with no beer.

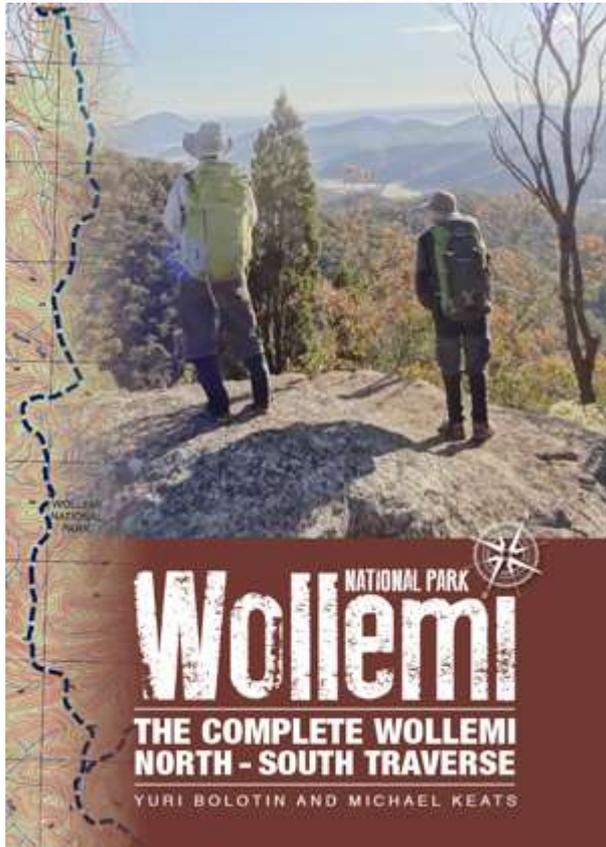
### FR. MAX BIRTHDAY PARTY



Fr. Max celebrated his 71<sup>st</sup> birthday with friends from near and far at his house at Putty on Saturday 22 November. A sumptuous lunch of seafood, cold meats and salads was served followed by a trivia

competition about Max conducted by Jane. Lawrie Webb recited famous bush poets' works as well as his own and then dessert was served.

### WOLLEMI NATIONAL PARK TRAVERSE



In September 2012 Yuri Bolotin and Ian Thorpe walked for 18 days from Bylong Valley Way, the most northern tip of the Wollemi National Park, to Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights the southernmost point of the Park. Recently Yuri stayed with Michelle and Roland Leggatt and spoke about and showed photographs of his adventures at an impromptu event at the hall. In September Yuri and Michael Keats released the above book which details their preparations and the walk through mostly off-track wilderness areas. [www.bushexplorers.com.au](http://www.bushexplorers.com.au)

### PUTTY'S LATEST DOCTOR



Barbara Kearns of Mount Kindarun, has finally been awarded her PhD from the History Department of Sydney University, after 7 years hard slog. Doctor Kearns' dissertation was an exposition of the relationship between Australian writer, Mollie Skinner, and English writer, D H Lawrence, who together published 'The Boy in the Bush' in 1924. The dissertation was also, Barbara likes to think, the first truly 'Buddhist' style biography ever written, that is, a biography in which there is "no-one there". She is hopeful, nevertheless, that it will eventually be published in some tangible form!

### WILD DOG ASSOCIATION

The Lower Hunter Wild Dog Association was established to assist land owners in controlling wild dogs on their property. The Association liaises with Local Land Services Hunter and provides support to local land owners. All land owners are deemed to be members of the Association.

The 2015 AGM will be held in February 2015 to elect office bearers who will drive the Association for the next year. The positions of President, Secretary and Community liaison Officer will need to be filled. Over the last two years there has been a lack of interest in the Association and we have now reached the stage where greater effort is needed to control the wild dogs in the area. Land owners are reminded that they have a legal responsibility to control and destroy wild dogs breeding on or transiting their properties. The Association provides land owners with knowledge, baits and coordinated dog eradication programs. The Association needs your support if it is to be effective.

Those land owners or residents who attended the last 1080/Pindone Authorised User license training will note their license will expire this year. Mark Watson of Local Land Services is planning a renewal training Course to be conducted immediately after the AGM. The AGM date and the details of the training and costs will be advised after agreement has been obtained from Land Services.

Terry O'Brien  
Secretary  
Lower Hunter Wild Dog Association  
[terry@tmobrien.com](mailto:terry@tmobrien.com)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### SINGLETON BOOK LAUNCH

**Thursday 4 December 6-8pm**

#### Singleton Library

Author, Kathy McKenzie and some of her interviewees will discuss the writing and content of Putty Tales & Trails.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY



**Saturday 6 December  
Putty Hall**

- 6.00pm Bar opens
- 6.30pm FREE Dinner – sausages, chicken and ham donated by Munro's meats served with salad and bread rolls, followed by fresh fruit salad and ice cream.
- 7.30pm Christmas Singalong
- 8.00pm Santa arrives
- 8.15pm Kids disco
- 8.30pm Raffle draw
- 8.45pm Dance music
- 11.00pm Bar closes

#### ALL WELCOME

#### Raffle Prizes include

- Sprayer Backpack donated by Fitzgerald Motors
- Box trailer of firewood donated by Jimmy Stokes
- Pet Care Products donated by Box Hill Veterinary Clinic
- Hamper donated by community
- \$20 Detour Voucher donated by PCA
- Carton of Toohey's New cans donated by PCA
- Putty Tales & Trails book and map donated by Kathy McKenzie
- Icecream Voucher donated by Windsor Icecream Café

### AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS

**Monday 26 January 6pm**



Celebrate Australia Day at the Putty Hall. The standard Friday Night menu will be available. Please bring a plate to share of pre-dinner nibbles or home-made dessert.

### FRIDAY NIGHT DETOUR

**Fridays from 6pm at Putty Hall  
Last Detour for 2014 on 19 December  
Restart in 2015 on 23 January**

Stop by at the Putty Hall for supper and a yarn on the deck. Bar open and delicious home-cooked food on the menu! The standard menu includes steak sandwiches, marinated barbecued chicken, salads, pies, and cheese & ham toasties, complimented by home-made pickles and relishes. Specials are announced by email. If you are bringing a large group please contact Kathy on 6579 7047 to help with catering preparations.

After ten weeks the members draw went up to \$110 before being won by Jane Eggert. The following week \$20 was won by Tim Spooner. The draw is now back up to \$40.

### PRAYERS & BIBLE STUDIES

Putty Hall, with resident Anglican priest Fr. Max. Our Lady of the Valley services held:

#### Sunday 14 December

Eucharist at 8:30am,  
Prayer and Bible Study 10am,  
Sunday School 11am.

#### Wednesday 24 December

Candlelight Eucharist 11.30pm.

No services after Christmas in December but Fr. Max available if anyone requires spiritual support. Ph: 6579 7168

## PUTTY RAINFALL NOVEMBER 2014

	South	Fairview	North
Nov 2014	17mm	16mm	25mm
Nov 2013	195mm	107mm	114mm
10 Yr Avg	81mm	96mm	
<b>Year to date</b>			
Nov 2014	609mm	549mm	698mm
Nov 2013	869mm	779mm	873mm
10 Yr Avg	695mm	704mm	

Recordings taken at Fairview, Putty, with Reference to the Bureau of Meteorology [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au). Recordings also taken at Mellong Grove, Putty Road, to the south, and The Top Place, Putty Valley Road, to the north.

### OUR WEBSITE 'Putty Valley Online'

contains many interesting links including: Trades & Services Directory at [www.putty.nsw.au/whereis](http://www.putty.nsw.au/whereis)  
Weekly cattle sale prices from the Meat and Livestock Authority (MLA) at [www.putty.nsw.au/rural/cattle-hotline](http://www.putty.nsw.au/rural/cattle-hotline)  
Putty Rainfall Charts from 2005 - 2013 at [www.putty.nsw.au/weather](http://www.putty.nsw.au/weather).  
Articles are posted on [www.putty.nsw.au/voice](http://www.putty.nsw.au/voice)

### PCA FACEBOOK PAGE

For news as it happens. If you haven't already signed up to our Facebook page you can do so by clicking Like at [www.facebook.com/PuttyCommunityAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/PuttyCommunityAssociation)  
Post your pictures and stories.



**Something to sell?**  
Place an ad in our section below.  
Local advertising works well!

### PUTTY PEOPLE ADVERTISING

In publishing these ads, the PCA is not endorsing or recommending any product or service advertised below

## TRADES & SERVICES

### Butcher

#### Munro's Meats

Fresh Food winner of the Australian Small Business Champion Awards 2013. Royal Easter Show award winning ham. Order today for Christmas.

**King Road, Wilberforce Shopping Centre**  
**Ph: 4575 1961**

### Electrician

#### LEC Air & Electrical

Aircon, refrigeration, electrician, heat transfer kits, Lic 167542C  
Ph: **Matt Ward 0413 850 298**

### Equine Services

#### Shod by Sheila

Horse Shoeing & Trimming  
**0421 867 775**

### Mowers Sales & Service

## Fitzgerald Motors

Sales and service of mowers, ride-on mowers, chainsaws, trimmers, mulchers, water pumps, generators, posthole diggers, sprayers etc

**9 Fitzgerald Street, Windsor Ph: 4577 3401**  
[www.fitzgeraldmotors.com.au](http://www.fitzgeraldmotors.com.au)



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