

# Putty People

*The May 2015 newsletter of the Putty Community Association Inc.*

## *President's Report*

Rain, rain, rain. So far we have had approximately 80% of our average annual rainfall and it is only the beginning of May! Although we were flooded in for three days the damage has been far less than other areas have suffered, and our thoughts go out to them. One lesson that should be remembered by all is not to cross a bridge or causeway under flood unless you are fully aware of the depth, condition of the road and the capability of your vehicle.

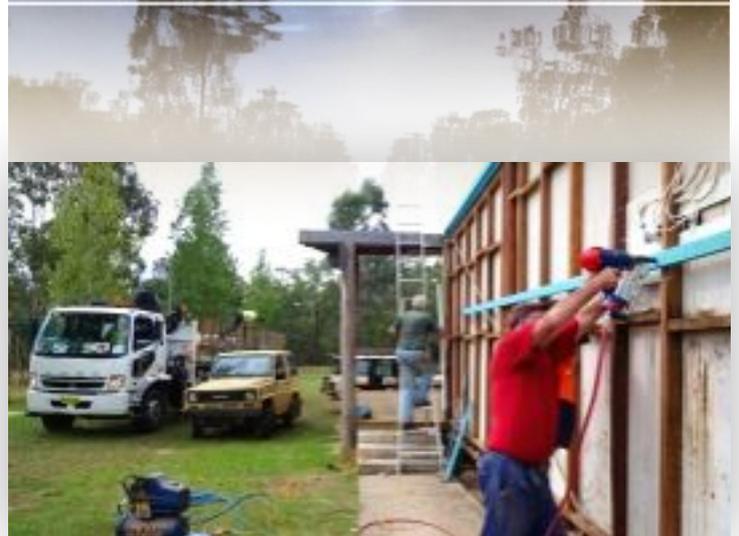
This month saw the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Anzac which was celebrated by both a dawn service and normal service at the hall with a remarkable turnout for a small community. Our thanks to Pam and Geoff for organising the ceremony, and to all the others who put so much time into making this a truly memorable occasion.

The coming of winter means that activities at the hall will slow down, however we still intend to have at least one function a month and continue with the building repairs weather permitting. This month there will be the Biggest Morning Tea in aid of cancer research and in June there will be a talk about bee keeping.

Finally a reminder that the deadline for late payment of subscriptions is 21<sup>st</sup> May and these can be paid by direct debit to:

Putty Community Association Inc. BSB 062622,  
Account 1044 4988

Tim Spooner



## **FIREY NEWS?** Margaret Ferguson

The fire season changed to the wet season. What can you do to avoid getting caught in this situation? Putty Creek was 1.8 metres deep when this car was washed off the bridge.



*Turn around and you won't drown*

**Most flood-related deaths and injuries could be avoided if people who come upon areas covered with water followed this simple advice.**

The reason that so many people are injured or drown when attempting to cross a flooded creek is because they don't understand the incredible power of water. An adult who attempts to walk across a fast flowing flooded creek, even if only six inches deep, is likely to be knocked over. A child stands no chance at all. Fast flowing water at a depth of only two feet or three quarters of a metre will carry away most vehicles, including 4WDs.

At the height of the flood on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, this vehicle was completely covered with water after it was swept off Putty Bridge. The person who escaped from it was very lucky to have survived.

When Putty creek is in flood, to ensure your own and your passenger's safety, if you can't see ALL of Putty Bridge it would be unwise to attempt to cross it.



**To cross  
or  
not to  
cross?**

**That is the  
question.**



## ANZAC CENTENARY AT PUTTY

Putty commemorated ANZAC day with a dawn and 10am service at the Putty Hall. A new plaque was added to the commemorative rock, where the ANZAC services are held each year and unveiled at ANZAC services.



Two other plaques on the rock bear the words, "LEST WE FORGET" and "THE PEOPLE OF PUTTY ANZAC DAY 2008" and it is at this rock and the flag pole, that ANZAC services are held each year.

Over thirty people attended the dawn service.



Both services included a recital of a poem written by Glenn Cuthbert for his grandfather, as well as a presentation by Margaret Ferguson dedicated to the local soldiers from Putty, Howes Valley and Bulga, who served during the First World War conflicts.



Jane Eggert made felt poppies which she placed around Lest We Forget letters nearby the commemorative rock.

Expressions of thanks went to Pam King for organising the services, recognising the amount of time and effort she had put in.

Descendants of the First World War soldiers joined the congregation.

Betty Hibbert, daughter of George Gibbs, who was a member of the Light Horse



brigade in Egypt, and Dianne Café, granddaughter of Clifford Halton attended. Also visiting were former residents of Putty, Enid Laut (nee Café) and Neville Merrick.

The children of Colo Heights Primary School, guided by their Principal, Glenn Ellis, made and painted poppies from paper plates and spent many weeks creating Anzac poster projects and stories, which were pasted on the hall walls.

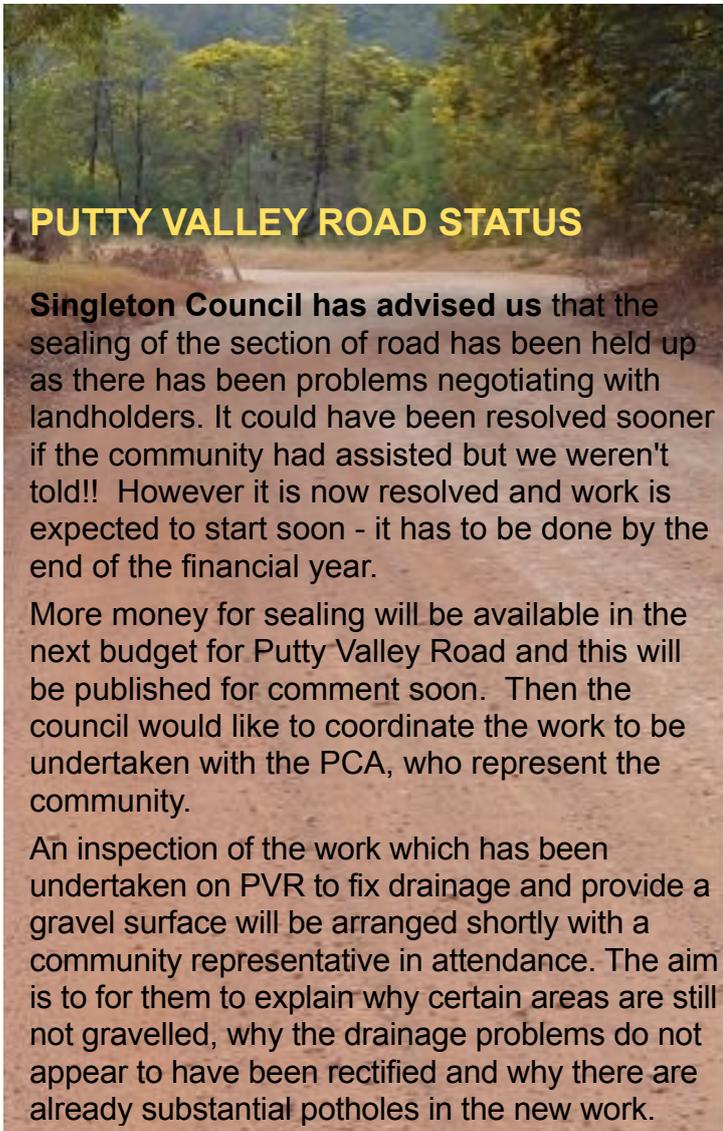


Our 10.00am service was attended by over sixty people, and children from the Putty Sunday school, under the guidance of Aleda Graham, sang the National Anthem and recited the poem, "Flanders."



Nicole Hewlett, a student of singing teacher Aleda Graham, honoured the congregation with her very moving rendition of "Angel".





## PUTTY VALLEY ROAD STATUS

**Singleton Council has advised us** that the sealing of the section of road has been held up as there has been problems negotiating with landholders. It could have been resolved sooner if the community had assisted but we weren't told!! However it is now resolved and work is expected to start soon - it has to be done by the end of the financial year.

More money for sealing will be available in the next budget for Putty Valley Road and this will be published for comment soon. Then the council would like to coordinate the work to be undertaken with the PCA, who represent the community.

An inspection of the work which has been undertaken on PVR to fix drainage and provide a gravel surface will be arranged shortly with a community representative in attendance. The aim is to for them to explain why certain areas are still not gravelled, why the drainage problems do not appear to have been rectified and why there are already substantial potholes in the new work.

## WILD DOG AND FOX BAITING COURSE

**A training course at the Putty Hall on April 18th**, conducted by Craig Crooks and Steve Eccles from Hunter Local Land Services (LLS), attracted twenty people.



They were trained and authorised to use 1080 baits which can be used to control foxes and wild dogs, and Pindone which is used to control rabbits. Attendees received a five year accreditation for the use of these products. LLS have indicated they are willing to make their training services available for other courses relating to bio-diversity, agricultural and animal production subjects.

After the attendees receive their certificates, they will be able to carry out any baiting with 1080 and Pindone to control feral animals.

## “WHAT’S IN MY Paddock?”

**Twenty people attended the workshop on 11 April at the Putty Hall.**

The topic covered the identification and management of native grasses and other species.

Paul Melehan, Senior Land Services Officer - Vegetation, identified grasses found in the paddock next to the hall. Sarah Giblin, an Agronomist, discussed pasture growth and small paddock grazing.

Doug Campbell, from Upper Hunter Weeds Authority, could not attend but we hope to get him here in the future to discuss weed control options for weeds in the Putty Area.

Some general information included horses being good for weed control - especially blackberries. If you cut them back the horses eat the new shoots and kill the plant. However if there has been a drought water blackberries before spraying.



## PLEASE SLOW DOWN AND PRESERVE OUR PUTTY WILDLIFE

We have some areas on the Putty Valley Road, including the lagoon near Dora's, formally Cobcroft's place, which support lots of native wildlife, an asset to our valley. This swampy area is home to beautiful little water hens who run around there.

Please slow down in this area so we can preserve our beautiful water hens and their mates.

## **Our Lady of the Valley Sunday School Annual Easter Egg Hunt by Father Max**

### **Question**

**How long does it take our Sunday School Children to find 427 chocolate Easter eggs hidden in the grounds of the Hall?\***



It was all great fun beginning with craft activity constructing fabulous Easter bunny masks carefully painted and adorned with sparklies to be worn with pride – by the girls of course and the boys, being boys, converting them into weapons of mass destruction.

With great anticipation, and not a little of complex child corralling, post the craft activity, the Egg hunt got underway with special section for the littlies who spent more time consuming their finds than looking for further eggs. Older children did well discovering eggs craftily concealed in trees, under rocks and in the bracken. Joseph won the secret egg prize closely followed by Tameka and Samuel. Warning note to parents - We definitely have some committed underage chockaholics in the Valley.

Then games on the hall green ensued including teams for blind man's hat, bowl the kitten and playing a mean game of Putty basket ball. Games specifically cunningly and carefully concocted to tire exuberant children and thus capture some kind of kindie calm post the chaos of the exciting and competitive egg hunt.

Eager shouts announced how the Easter event would finish with the beating of the traditional Easter piñata strung up on the Hall rafters. Two strikes each soon revealed even more Easter eggs and lollies with all the children showing off their rugby scrum potential and with screams of delight loud enough to announce world war three.

And so it was a good time was had by all; then after saying the Our Father with hands together and a blessing from Fr. Max our community priest, the children returned contented and not a little exhausted to their parents.



\*Answer – 17 minutes and 32 seconds

## A TOP SPOT FOR CHRIS SPOONER'S 70th BIRTHDAY BASH



**Local icon, Chris Spooner celebrated his 70th birthday in style.** He first came to Putty thirty years ago from Newcastle visiting as a weekender then about twenty years ago settled here, building himself a unique mud pisé house.

### UPCOMING EVENTS



**Not many folk have two birthday cakes!**

#### **BIGGEST MORNING TEA**

**Saturday 30 May at 10.30am Putty Hall fundraiser for Cancer Council.**

Bring a plate or if you can't come on the day, please leave donations in the PCA mail box.

Every single dollar makes a difference! All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and will receive a receipt.

Make every cup count for cancer research.



#### **BEEKEEPING PRESENTATION**

**20 June, 11am-12 noon, Putty Hall**

Putty landowner, Andy Lowry is a backyard beekeeper with about 5 years experience in Sydney and Putty. He will give a one hour Powerpoint presentation about beekeeping and will have some necessary equipment on display.

Please contact Kathy McKenzie on 6579 7047 to make a booking. Free morning tea available.

#### **COBCROFT FAMILY DESCENDANTS CELEBRATE 225 YEARS IN AUSTRALIA**

Date: 27-28<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Place: St John's Church Grounds, Wilberforce.

For Further information Contact:

Warren J Luxford: luxfordw@bigpond.com

4471 3230 or 0408 468 148 or

Anne Cobcroft: annecobcroft@yahoo.com

0423 954 880

or Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/131206405531/>



**Chris' bicycle now goes faster.**

**Pity about the chainsaw!**



## WORKING BEES

**Fridays 9am - 3pm.** Painting and re-cladding the western wall.

## PRAYERS AND BIBLE STUDIES

**Our Lady of the Valley services for 2015** will be held at Putty Hall with resident Anglican Priest, Fr. Max.

**2nd Sunday and 4th Sunday of the Month:**  
Eucharist at 8:30am, Prayer and Bible Study 9:30am, Sunday School 11am - noon.

## PUTTY RAINFALL

	SOUTH	FAIRVIEW	NORTH
April 2015	229.20mm	205.50mm	305.00mm
April 2014	85.10mm	100.25mm	142.00mm
April 10 yr average	61.93mm	68.60mm	

**YTD15 577.00mm 528.65mm 686.00mm**  
**10 yr av 387.22 mm 368.20mm**

Recordings were taken at Fairview, Putty, with reference to the Bureau of Meteorology [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

Recordings were also taken at Mellong Grove, Putty Road (south) and The Top Place, Putty Valley Road, north.

If it rains at Putty, residents are encouraged to post their rainfall on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/PuttyCommunityAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/PuttyCommunityAssociation) so weekenders will know if they need to water their gardens.

**Place an ad in our advertising section**  
**Local Advertising works well!**

### FOR SALE

**Double swag, good mattress, used twice \$90**  
**Towball 16cm with 3x push bike rack \$50**  
**Double wooden garden seat with table in the middle, needs work \$20**  
**Call June on 6579 7003 or 0418 417 147**



## PUTTY PEOPLE ADVERTISING

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

## TRADES & SERVICES

### Munro's Meats

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

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

### 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)

### LEC AIR & ELECTRICAL

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

### SHOD by SHEILA

Horse shoeing and trimming  
**Ph: 0421 867 775**

## NEWSLETTER CONTACT

Please call with any news, activities or photographs to include in our monthly newsletter.

**Martha Babineau, phone 6579 7000**  
[mailtroika@gmail.com](mailto:mailtroika@gmail.com)