

# Putty People

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

## President's Note



Spring is here! We can now come out of hibernation! I hope all your winter coughs and colds are clearing.

We are looking forward to re-establishing the Friday Night Detours.



If you are able, please volunteer to help.

The PCA committee is considering the proposal for a Smoking Shelter. A temporary alternative may be provided in the interim. Plans have been prepared for an extension to the Smoke Free zone around the hall.

The Singleton Library is providing books and a study guide for the Book Club. A group of people read a book and, as a social activity, come together to discuss it. This would most probably include food and drink. We need readers – we have 4 people and are looking for more.

A youth disco has been suggested for the hall. I would like to see a Euchre night. How about a dance? I'm sure that each of you has ideas as to the sort of activities you would like to see at the hall - and the drive to implement them! Please let the committee know your ideas so that we can work towards

Working bees are needed to finish the work started at the hall. You will be advised about these in due course.

I look forward to this period ahead as your President.

Sincerely  
Geoff King

Section of the newly sealed  
Putty Valley Road



## LANDCARE INVITATION

**Why not become part of a voluntary community organisation** that helps protect and improve our environment in many diverse ways? The (Three Valleys) Landcare Group can advise land owners on the following:

- . Identification and management of weeds
- . Sustainable & profitable farm management
- . Fencing off creeks, waterways and vulnerable areas to avoid erosion
- . Offstream watering for stock
- . Revegetation
- . Applications for government grants to help finance Landcare sponsored environmental activities

Please contact our President Carol Gibson 6579 7014 or our Secretary Jane Robinson 0407 953 353 if you would like more details about joining (Three Valleys) Landcare or just print out a membership form at the link [www.putty.nsw.au/landcare/membership](http://www.putty.nsw.au/landcare/membership) Annual membership is \$10 per person. Renewal of membership for 2015/16 for existing members is now due -

please ignore if you have already paid.



## FIREY NEWS from Margaret Ferguson

**SEPTEMBER** is here already and along with it, the **Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP)** which will continue until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. **PERMITS TO BURN** are required during this time.

Along with all conditions relating to the lighting of fires at any time, permits must be obtained for any fire other than a camp fire or the burning of rubbish in a purpose built incinerator.

Total Fire Bans (TOBAN) may be enforced by the NSWRFs Commissioner on days of extreme fire risk and that is exactly what is meant. No camp fire, no incinerator, no exposed flame, **NO FIRES** at all on these days!

Twenty four hours before you intend to have a pile burn or hazard reduction you must notify Hunter Valley Fire Control on 6575 1200, your neighbours, including NPWS and Forestry and the local brigade. To ensure your fire does not leave your property, control lines must be put in to contain your fire prior to lighting up. For the safety of those attending the fire, suitable clothing, boots, gloves, hats, goggles and a scarf should be worn. The fire must be attended until it is extinguished.

Permits can be obtained from Greg Pierce on 6579 7037, Tim Spooner on 6579 7047 and Scott Ferguson on 0419 689 466, who will explain the conditions of the permit.



The end of burning off season



## COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Ambulance NSW volunteers

**Putty CFRs completed their 'Annual Sign Off for Resuscitation'** on August 8<sup>th</sup> along with CFR's from Howes Valley and Bulga units. With monthly training continuing for the more experienced members, newly enrolled CFR's have recently joined the volunteer team. During the last few weeks, Putty CFR's have attended to a female patient with chest pains, two motor cycle accidents and a car accident. In total, they have assisted Ambulance NSW with their attendance at twenty two medical related incidents during the last twelve months.

Margaret Ferguson

## FRIENDS OF COLO REMOVE PRIVET FROM OUR CREEK BANKS

**The Friends of Colo, Inc., all volunteers,** have been coming up to Putty for the last twelve years to eradicate privet along the Putty Creek.

They camp on Carol Gibson's and enjoy a good BBQ.

From Carol's place they follow the Putty Creek north into the National Park and south to Payne's Crossing,

cutting and poisoning the noxious weed. This visit the group celebrated it's fifteenth year anniversary!



The Friends of the Colo is arguably Australia's first self-managing volunteer "adventure conservation" group which was formed in 2000 to undertake remote area weeding in the Wollemi National Park and Wilderness. The key to the group's success is that its activities have been planned, managed and reported on by a core of volunteers with a diverse background and skill base, a strong sense of ownership of the project and perhaps above all, a love of the area they operate in.



Friends of Colo eradicate privet along the Putty Creek



**WomSAT is a new resource for communities to record sightings of wombats across the country.** The data collected will be used to aid conservation of the species by mapping mange incidence throughout Australia, and identifying other threats to these unique animals. The aim is to improve our understanding of wombat biology and ecology.

There are actually three species of wombats in Australia, the Bare-nosed wombat,



Southern Hairy-nosed wombat, and the Northern Hairy-nosed wombat. They can grow up to one metre in length and weigh up to forty kilos.

You can easily help by recording where and when you observe a wombat, either dead or alive on the WomSAT Google Map. <http://womsat.org.au>

## LANDCARE INFORMATION GATHERING MEETING



**On 15 August at the Putty Hall,** Marg and Ken, Carol, Anna, Dora, Geoff and Pam perused literature on weeds and regeneration in the the Valley with the view in assisting local residents. They formulated a welcoming information pack, which could be helpful for newcomers.

## UPDATE ON HAMANIE-MAY MURLEY

**Hamanie - May Murley has spent the last week at Westmead Children's**



**Hospital** undergoing a series of operations on her foot. It's all looking hopeful and she looks forward to coming home.

## OPENING OF HUNTER VALLEY CONTROL CENTRE at BULGA - Margaret Ferguson

**On the 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, the official unveiling of a plaque to mark the opening of the Hunter Valley Fire Control Centre at Bulga** was a highlight of the day, along with the presentation of National and Long Service awards to seventy four dedicated volunteers by Deputy Commissioner, Rob Rogers AFSM and Upper Hunter MP, Michael Johnsen.

Between the volunteers there was a combined total of 1842 years of service with the longest service member (now deceased) amassing an amazing seventy four years of service.



National Medal recipients were Errol Smith, John Hedley, John Cox, Alan Doak, Col Scriven and Superintendent Paul Jones. Putty Brigade members have been honoured to have worked closely with these people during fire seasons in the past.

Amongst the long list of award recipients were members of the Putty Brigade.

Congratulations to David Bayliss, Lesley Bayliss, John Bickle, Sue Casey, Brett Ferguson, Joanne Ferguson, Geoff King, Pamela King and Debbie Payne for achieving ten and more years of service to the NSW RFS and the Putty Community.





## THE USEFUL NETTLE [www.gardenersworld.com](http://www.gardenersworld.com)

The common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) doesn't have a great reputation among gardeners. Although nettles sting and are invasive if left unchecked, there are numerous ways they can be put to positive use, e.g. in your garden, where they attract beneficial wildlife, as beneficial plant food and in the kitchen, where they are a surprisingly versatile ingredient. Nettles are a perennial plant, full of iron, calcium, magnesium, and nitrogen, as well as containing vitamins A, C, and D, which makes it incredibly nutritious for other plants, animals and humans. Dorothy Hall, in her Natural Health Book, suggests growing nettles among herbs, under rose bushes or among vegetables. This increases the flavour, quality and quantity of flowers and fruit. Nettles grow well in soil rich in phosphates and nitrogen and the nettles increase the essential oil content of other nearby plants, thus making them more resistant to insect pests. Below are some suggestions to use nettles.



**A Hearty Nettle Soup** For a basic soup you'll need about 200g of fresh nettle tips. Add 450g of potatoes, peeled and cubed, a dash of cream and one litre of stock. Boil the potatoes until soft and steam the nettles. Drain the spuds and add the nettles and stock. Bring to the boil, whisk with a hand blender and add a dash of cream and season to taste.



**Spring Greens** Nettles can be used in exactly the same way as spinach. For a simple side dish, they're best steamed for around five minutes using the fresh young tips.



**Reviving Nettle Tea** As well as being delicious, nettle tea is reputed to help combat several ailments, including eczema, asthma, hay fever and muscle aches. Just steep a few fresh tips in boiling water, removing them when the water goes slightly green to avoid bitterness. Mix with other herbs like lemon balm, lemon verbena or mint for variety.



**Survival of butterflies** Nettles are the primary food source for many caterpillars, including the Australian Admiral butterflies, which lay their eggs in the nettles. Without nettles, caterpillars would go in search of alternative food sources - probably one of your favourite plants.



**On the compost heap** Chopped nettles act as a natural activator and speed up the decomposition process in compost heaps. Make sure the nettles are thoroughly mixed with lots of different materials - dry, wet, soft and woody - otherwise they become slimy.

## DORA'S NETTLE SOUP AND PIZZA

**SOUP** Sauté onion/s, add chopped carrots, diced potatoes, stock or leftover water from boiling vegetables. Even juices from a roast, chopped bacon - really anything suitable can be added.

When all is cooked, add washed and chopped nettle tips and wear gloves. Blend for a smooth soup if desired and add salt / pepper to taste.

You can add cream and nutmeg and reheat. Enjoy!

**PIZZA** Cook or steam nettles for a few minutes, like spinach, drain.



Dora's soup and pizza

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUSTAINABLE HOUSE DAY

On 13 September 10 to 4pm, tour the EarthCare building in Richmond.

The EarthCare building is solar passive and consists of a variety of building materials and techniques to demonstrate sustainability options in domestic and commercial construction. Henry Doubleday Research Association has established an extensive permaculture garden featuring organically grown fruit and vegetables and demonstrating ecologically sound farming methods.

Sydney West Branch of the Alternative Technology Association and HDRA will each have a stall on the day selling plants, seeds and books. The venue is located corner of Beefcattle Way and Campus Drive, Richmond.

For information: Jenny Dibley 6238 1665 or [jdibley2003@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jdibley2003@yahoo.com.au) [www.earthcare.org.au](http://www.earthcare.org.au)

### 1080/PINDONE AND EJECTOR TRAINING from Terry O'Brien

On Wednesday 16 September 9.30 to 2pm (lunch included), Mark Watson, the Biosecurity Office for Hunter Land Services, will conduct the training at the Singleton office, 98 John Street Singleton. Mark is seeking reports on all wild dog and fox sightings, which should be reported to him to assist Land Services monitor wild dog and fox activity in the region and allow them to develop more effective management plans.

Register or contact Mark for more information: [mark.watson@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mark.watson@lls.nsw.gov.au) or call 0428 686 178. There may be a small cost.

### CREATING BIRD ATTRACTING GARDENS

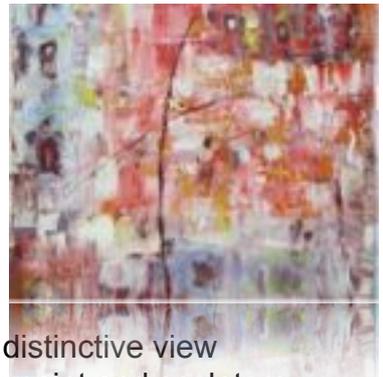
On Thursday 17 September at 6 to 8pm Shelomi Doyle, from Muswellbrook Forest Nursery and an expert on gardens and plantings that provide habitat for fauna and that boosts biodiversity, will give advice on plantings using natives for projects such as windbreaks, shade, shelter and corridors regeneration.

Bookings essential:  
[www.singleton.nsw.gov.au](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au)  
8-10 Queen St, Singleton  
02 6578 7500

### ART EXHIBITION - Erwin Z - An alternate view

Thursday 1 October  
6pm to 8pm  
Exhibition Launch

Erwin Zehentner is an artist with a strong and distinctive view expressed through both paint and sculpture. Bookings Essential: [www.singleton.nsw.gov.au](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au) 8-10 Queen St Singleton, Phone 02 6578 7500.



### “GET READY”

On 17<sup>th</sup> October 2 to 4pm the Putty Rural Fire Brigade will be hosting a “Get Ready” meeting at the Putty Brigade station. It will be advertised as a community meeting in readiness for any bush fires which may lie ahead.

The Putty Brigade Community Safety Team and the Hunter Valley Fire Mitigation Officer will be presenting at the event. Bush Fire Survival Plan booklets will be available for completion to suit individual circumstances, bush fire awareness for property, people and animals will be discussed. Afternoon tea will be provided.

### A CONCERT SHOWCASING NICOLE HULETT

On 18 October at 2pm there will be a concert at the Putty Hall showcasing Nicole Hulette, with Elise Lewis and Madalyn Crismale performing songs from shows - old and new, popular songs and monologues.

All performers are students of our local singing teacher, Aleda Johnsen.

Lunch and drinks may be purchased at the hall from 12.30pm and the concert will begin at 2 pm. Tickets: \$10 with 16 year olds and under free.

### 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 at 9:30am and Sunday School at 11am.

## AUGUST PUTTY RAINFALL



	SOUTH	FAIRVIEW	NORTH
August 2015	22.50mm	23.25mm	32.00mm
August 2014		65.25mm	69.50mm
August 10 yr average	35.10mm	31.90mm	

### Year to date

August 2015	681.90mm	623.65mm	819.00mm
August 2014	550.10mm	489.35mm	424.10
10 yr av	512.65mm	527.50mm	

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.

## PUTTY WEBSITE 'Putty Valley Online'

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)

## PCA FACEBOOK

For news as it happens. If you haven't already signed up to our Facebook page, you can do so by clicking *Like* at:

<https://www.facebook.com/PuttyCommunityAssociation>

**Post your pictures and stories!**

**ADVERTISING:** [pca@putty.nsw.au](mailto:pca@putty.nsw.au)

**Something to sell?**  
Place an ad in our advertising section  
**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

### 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**

## 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)