

# Putty People

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

## *President's Report*

My President's Note this month is one I had hoped never to have to write.

The Friday Night Detour has been running successfully for two years without any major problems and has been enjoyed by most members of the community and their friends. However over the last month there has been a change of attitude and behaviour by a small number of people. This has seen windows in a volunteer's car smashed, loud arguments, fighting outside the premises after closure and finally one of the volunteers being foully and viciously abused, again after closure of the premises. This behaviour will not be tolerated and the Committee has therefore decided that for the safety of the volunteers and the wellbeing of all, the Friday Detour will be cancelled until further notice.

We realise that this will be a disappointment to most of you who enjoyed the opportunity of a pleasant social gathering, but the actions of an inconsiderate few has destroyed it for all.

The Balalaika Orchestra again provided a superb



concert which was enhanced by an impromptu dancing display by Max and Annie Bryant.

We will all be looking

forward to the orchestra's return in two years.

Anzac Day this year is a special event celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and both a Dawn Service and Morning Service will be held. Details are shown below.

Finally I would like to thank Glen Cuthbert who has expertly cleaned all the Hall windows for us.

Tim Spooner  
President

## **ANZAC DAY REMEMBRANCE SERVICES 25 April**



**5.30am Dawn Service** - followed by egg and bacon muffin and tea and coffee

### **10am - Service of Remembrance**

This will highlight those, from the Putty area and surrounds, who served in the Great War.

Please bring something to share for morning tea following the service.

**All Putty children will be performing at the Anzac Day Service.** They will sing the National Anthem and recite the poem, "Flanders Fields." School uniform is to be worn for the Service.

We had a wonderful roll-up for the first children's rehearsal on Sunday, 29 March 2015. We will meet again at 10.30am on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2015, for our next rehearsal. All children are welcome.

The children of the Colo Heights Public School will be doing



special projects leading up to Anzac Day. The Putty Community Association, with the support of Mr Glenn Ellis, Headmaster of the school, will provide three Encouragement Awards to pupils to recognise their contributions.

We will be preparing the hall for the service on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April in the morning. Please bring any family memorabilia you wish to have displayed at that time.

**Please contact Pam King, 6579 7177 for further information**

## **FIREY NEWS**

**Daylight Saving ends Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April** so adjust your clocks one hour back.

The NSW Rural Fire Service and Fire and Rescue NSW would like to remind residents that hopefully when they changed their clocks they also checked and changed the battery in their smoke alarms. For the latest information on smoke alarms and general home fire safety, visit the FRNSW website <http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=879>

### **NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE IS ON FACEBOOK.**

Want to know about all NSW Rural Fire Service events? Then go to the following Facebook pages. It's all there! <https://www.facebook.com/RFSHunterValley>

## **BUSH FIRE PERIOD**

**The 2014 - 2015 Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> March**, nicely rounded off by the rain on the day. During the seven months the BFDP was in force, Putty Brigade was called to attend only a few small fires, so it was a safe and unconcerned time for the community.

From now until the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 - the last day before the next BFDP commences, will be a safer time to burn off or set fire to the piles you have made. Although Permits to Burn are not required, burning during the month of August can also cause problems. Over the past few years, fires started in August have caused major concerns due to changing weather conditions, including high winds. No matter what time of year a burn is conducted, applicable NSW RFS rules remain the same. Neighbours, including the National Park and Forestry, Hunter Valley Fire Control and the Putty Brigade must be notified of your intent to burn, whether it is an agricultural burn or a pile burn. You must have control lines in place and remain with your fire until it is extinguished.

The fire is your responsibility and if it escapes your property you could be liable for any damage it causes. When attending a fire, make sure you and anyone helping wears non-flammable clothing, including a long sleeve shirt, long pants, a hat, scarf, gloves and sturdy footwear. It is also a good idea to have a water supply available should your fire start to spread in an unplanned manner.

**Contact Phone Numbers: Putty Rural Fire Brigade 65797077 or 0419 689 466**

**Bulga NPWS 65745555, Hunter Valley Fire Control 65751200**



## **CANCELLATION OF EXPLORATION LICENCES**

**The Minister for Resources and Energy, Anthony Roberts announced the cancellation of three Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs)**, following buy-backs from resources company Dart Energy. One was PEL 460, which covered 352,362 hectares north west of Wisemans Ferry, surrounding Wollemi and south of Bylong and was the one, south of Putty Valley Road at the Putty Road turn off. It included all the blocks off Box Gap Road and the blocks south along Putty Road, including where Dart Energy drilled in 2011.

## **RABBIT CALICIVIRUS ALERT**

**Greater Sydney Local Land Services will be releasing Calicivirus across northern Sydney** between late March and April to reduce the wild rabbit population. Rabbit Calicivirus is a disease that damages the rabbit's internal organs, and also causes haemorrhage or bleeding.

"The virus is not harmful to native animals or other domestic pets, but will kill domestic rabbits that are not vaccinated against it," says Dr Jayne Weller, exotics, avian and aquatic veterinarian from the Animal Referral Hospital in Sydney.

The virus spreads quickly through rabbit-to-rabbit contact as well as by mosquitoes. "It progresses very quickly, killing the rabbit within 48 hours, and there's no treatment for it," she says. Please ensure your pet rabbit's vaccination is current. A booster vaccination is required every 12 months to maintain immunity.

## PUTTY RECOGNISES THE FIRST WORLD WAR SOLDIERS

*by Margaret Ferguson*

Putty was a well-established little village with about one hundred residents when Britain declared war on Germany in August 1914.

The "Roll of Electors Voting at Putty," dated 1912-13, listed only twenty eight males over the age of twenty one. Although the age requirement for enlistment was between 18 and 35 years, young men between eighteen and twenty one years were unable to vote so were not listed on the roll. They were, however, old enough to go to war.

Putty Soldiers enlisted in 1915, 1916 and early in 1918. Gallipoli had been evacuated by the time they reached Europe. Australians and New Zealanders were still involved in conflicts in France, Belgium, the Sinai Desert, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Mesopotamia and remained there until Armistice was declared.

Of the five Putty men who enlisted, only three served overseas.

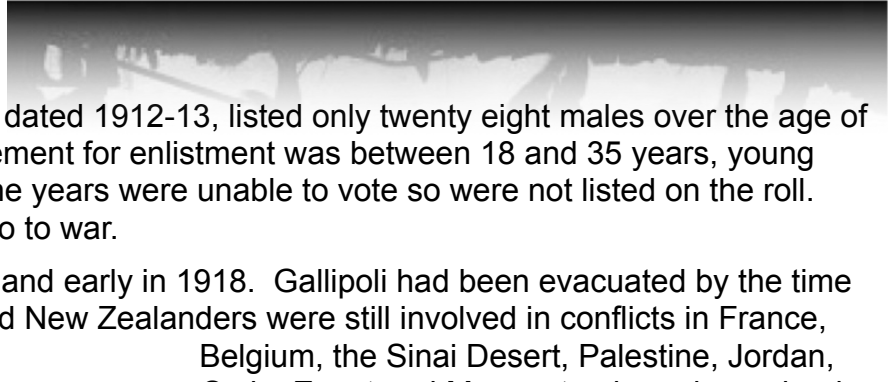
**Clarrie Cross**, Regimental No. 3214, lived at "Ferndale", Boggy Swamp, and was twenty nine years old when he enlisted on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 1915 in Newcastle. He served as a Private with the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment in Alexandria and France and returned home on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1918, medically unfit as a result of an appendectomy. He was discharged on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 1918.

**William George Gibbs**, Regimental No. 50319, lived at Long Swamp, Putty and was twenty when he enlisted on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1918 in Singleton. He served as a Trooper with the General Service Reinforcements, 1st Light Horse Regiment in Suez, Port Said, Egypt, Ismalia and Moascan. George returned home on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1919 and was discharged on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 1919. After he returned home to Putty he married and lived for many years with his wife and family.

**Jonas (Jack) Robert Medhurst**, Regimental No. 5780, lived at Putty and was twenty two when he enlisted on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1916. He served as a Sapper with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tunnelling Companies Reinforcements on the Western Front in France (Omer & Bologne) and returned home on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1919 and discharged a month later.

But not all who enlisted were sent overseas. **Cardinal Laycock**, Regimental No. 88811, lived at Putty and was twenty seven when he joined up. He enlisted on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1918 in Singleton and was discharged on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1918, medically unfit due to Myocardial Degeneration. He later joined the NSW Police force and served as Sergeant, 2<sup>nd</sup> class in Singleton for many years. He was well known in the district as Cardy Laycock.

**Roland Dural Merrick**, Regimental No. 2439, lived at Putty and was thirty four and married with six children when he joined up. He enlisted on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1916 in West Maitland and spent six months away from home training for service. At the end of this period, he requested that he be returned home stating that his wife and six children needed his support. He was discharge on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 and declared "over age".



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WORKSHOP ON NATIVE PASTURE IDENTIFICATION, PRODUCTIVE PASTURE SYSTEMS AND WEED MANAGEMENT

Saturday 11 April 10 - 1pm, Putty Hall



The Hunter Local Land Services, LLS, will present **Paul Melehan**, Senior Land Services Officer - Vegetation, to discuss the identification and management of native grasses and other species; "What's in my paddock".

**Sarah Giblin**, Senior Land Services Officer – Extension Officer/Agronomist, will discuss pasture growth management for optimal grazing to achieve productive and profitable pasture systems and sustainable management of the feedbase.

**Doug Campbell**, Upper Hunter Weeds Authority – Works Coordinator, will discuss weed control options for weeds in the Putty Area.

Book your place by Wednesday 8  
<https://hunterlls.wufoo.eu/forms/pastures-and-weeds-workshop/>

Alternatively, contact Hunter Local Land Services Muswellbrook office on (02) 6542 4444.



### UPPER HUNTER OPEN COMMUNITY SESSION

**Wednesday 15 April, 5 - 6.30pm, Singleton**

This casual event will give attendees the opportunities to discuss their priorities and have a say on what matters to them.

RSVP by 8th April with numbers and dietary requirements to Michelle Cummings on 6542 4444 or email [michelle.l.cummings@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:michelle.l.cummings@lls.nsw.gov.au)

We look forward to seeing you there.

### COLO FAMILY PICNIC DAY

**Sunday 19 April at Colo River Park**

Venue located just under the Colo River Bridge.

There will be plenty of fun and entertainment - Bake off (cakes etc), Tug-O-War, the Famous "Throw the Flabbit," wheelbarrow races (BYO barrow), a busking competition, raffles, stalls, displays, races with medals and lots more.

For information contact Sue 0410 146 221

### BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY TO PUTTY HALL

**Do you need to brush up your techniques on your computer, tablet or phone?**

Then join the classes which are run regularly at the Putty Hall by the staff from Singleton Library. Whether you are a beginner or even someone who has been using electronic technology for a while now, you are welcome to bring your problems, large or small.

**The next class will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 11.00am to 1pm.**

Morning tea will be provided. Contact Margaret Ferguson on 6579 7077 to book.

**While you are there, check out the books which are available to borrow or exchange and also find out more about the book club, which has been recently set up.**



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SEE MORE INFORMATION ABOVE

## ANNUAL HAWKESBURY SHOW 24th to 26th April at Hawkesbury Showground

The 129th Show and is presented by the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association, whose aim is to provide a traditional family orientated country Show that will cater for all ages. With a range of competitions, entertainment and that timeless show magic for all to enjoy, it will showcase some of the district's finest livestock, produce, photography, art, flowers, handicrafts, dogs, cats, poultry and so much more. In addition, there will be a diverse range of commercial and industrial exhibitors out in force to show you their businesses and products. And for the young, and young at heart, a trip down sideshow alley, one of the biggest in the country, complete with fireworks at night.

**Call 4577 3591 for more information**

## BIGGEST MORNING TEA

**Saturday 23 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.

For further information ring Pam King 6579 7177

### DOG BAITING

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is undertaking a 1080 dog and fox baiting from now until 1 July.

Ground baiting programs are proposed for Wollemi and Yengo National Parks.

## WORKING BEES

**Saturday 18th April and 2nd May from 9am - 1pm.** Painting and preparation for 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.

## CAROL'S SEASONAL TIPS

April is the time for planting so that plants can become established before the heavy frosts and in order to cope with a hot dry summer.

Wattles need to be cut down before the first frost and never after the third. By then the sap has stopped rising and the plant has gone dormant for winter, ready to shoot again in spring.

It's also time to spray the blackberries.

## PUTTY RAINFALL

	SOUTH	FAIRVIEW	NORTH
Mar 2015	97.70mm	94.10mm	75.40mm
Mar 2014	267.90mm	195.75mm	283.50mm
Mar 10 yr average	82.37mm	96.60mm	

**YTD15 342.20mm 323.15mm 381.20mm**  
**10 yr av 284.50 mm 299.60**

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.

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

**LAND FOR SALE**

**130 ACRES** tucked away in a beautiful verdant area of three valleys. Seclusion and privacy absolutely guaranteed, narrow entrance ensures great security. **\$220,000 ono. Call Joanie 0417 202 381**

**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)