

Putty People

The February 2014 newsletter of the Putty Community Association Inc



Putty Brigade Captain Scott Ferguson sits in the bush sharpening a chain saw during the Sheepskin Complex fire.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

January has been a quiet month for the PCA, with school holidays and the continual heat. The Australia Day celebrations provided some relief with the added surprise to most of us of Ken Ferguson being awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his services to the Putty Community. Congratulations Ken, I cannot think of a more worthy recipient.

I attended a meeting accompanied by Fr. Max and Debbie Payne with the Mayor, Councillor Sue Moore, Gary Thomson and Mursaleen Shah at Singleton Council to discuss the roads and obtain clarification of funding and the extent of existing council roads in the area. The result is that Council will review the priority of its spending on roads in Putty Valley for 2014 and will present us with options and comment prior to the AGM on Saturday 22 February at 5.30pm. At 6.30pm, the council road proposals will be discussed and all are invited to attend and contribute.

The more people who attend the more representative any decisions made will be, and don't forget there will be a BBQ to follow the meeting.

Tim Spooner

BUILDING REPORT

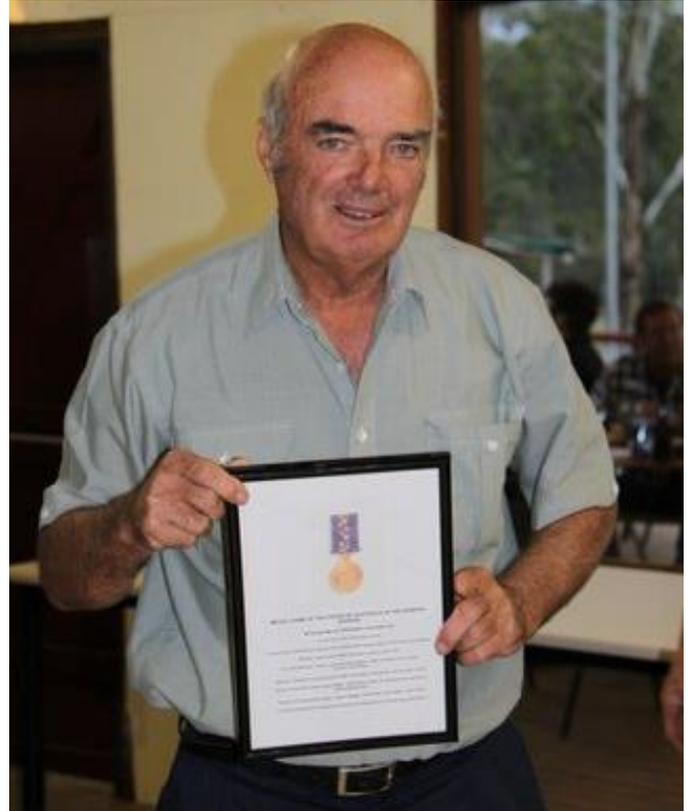
The working bees at Putty Hall have commenced again on Saturday mornings. The architraves around the façade's windows have been completed and the general purpose room and store rooms' floor boards have been cut and laid. Painting of trims and beams continues and the back wall on the deck is ready for cladding.

COUNCIL'S PROPOSED RATE RISE

Singleton Council is proposing to apply for a rate increase of 5% over the annual State Government rate peg limit of 2.3%. This money will be used for road and infrastructure maintenance and renewal only. You can have your say by Thursday 6 February by completing the online survey at

www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/essentials or by attending a community information session 6 February at 5pm at Singleton Library.

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS LIST



Ken Ferguson received a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the general division for service to the community of Putty. Ken is

- Current Crew Leader/Senior Deputy Fire Captain and Training Officer, Putty Rural Fire Brigade.
- Member, New South Wales Rural Fire Service, since 1977.
- Founding Member, Putty Community Association, 1986; Trustee, for 12 years; current Trust Officer.
- Member, Singleton Combined Rural Halls Committee; Chairperson, for the past 2 years.
- Mentor, University of New South Wales, 1997-2003; mentor for students who worked on solar-powered cars.
- Teacher of Engineering Trades, Ultimo College, TAFE New South Wales, 1981-2003.
- Currently training as NSW Ambulance Service; first responder for remote-area ambulance.

The award was acknowledged by the Putty community at the Australia Day celebrations at Putty Hall. His three children Brett, Scott and Michelle, who spent their childhood weekends at Putty, returned with their children for the occasion. Well done and thank you Ken.

AUSTRALIA DAY



Georgie Attard and James Ferguson raised the flag on Australia Day at Putty Hall.



Back - Samuel Kieta, Tegem Smits, Tamiaka Smits.
Front - Leighland Smits, Lachlan Smits, Natalie Gander

Sixty people attended the Australia Day celebrations at Putty Hall. The marinated chicken, corned beef and salads, combined with Dora's pickles and Marg's damper were quickly devoured. The cakes contributed by the ladies and the volunteers on the bar and in the kitchen ensured a good night was had by all. The cooler weather over the weekend was unusual for this time of year and jumpers were in high demand on the deck.



Kim Ewing and Nigel Pullen from Port Stephens

CHAINSAW ACCIDENT

Jimmy Stokes cut the inside of his left wrist with a chainsaw on Tuesday 4 February while trimming branches from a fallen tree up in the bush. John Stokes was with him and brought him down to the hall, calling 000 on the way.

The Westpac Rescue helicopter and the ambulance both attended. Fortunately Jimmy had wrapped his wrist tightly in his T-shirt and the bleeding had stopped. The ambos gave him a pain killer shot and then removed the T-shirt and re-wrapped it up before transferring him to a stretcher and the helicopter. He was supposed to go to Westmead Hospital but the weather was bad and they took him to John Hunter.

Jimmy runs the Putty Sawmill on Yengo Drive. We wish him a speedy recovery.

FIRIES NEWS

What a busy month January turned out to be for our fantastic firefighters. In the immediate Putty area, there were fires in three different locations. The Girribung to the south, which entered the Singleton area mid January, the Sheepskin to the north and the Rock Holes to the south east of Kindarun. (Part of the Sheepskin Complex fires).

The Girribung fire, when it moved close to Putty, was contained by local and out of area fire crews which commencing a back burn from the previously burnt Howes Swamp fire at Putty and Wollemi Creek. After a bulldozer access track was created, the burn was put in along Arthur Drive, Box Gap Road, Melaleuca Drive and down

to Swampy Arm, a distance of 17 Km. It also involved the asset protection of 6 houses and several sheds. The burn was completed in one day and patrolled over the following two weeks by the Putty Brigade and NPWS. In all, a very successful burn and praise is to be bestowed upon all of the people who worked so well together.



Ken Ferguson and Greg Pierce backburning along Arthur Drive

The Rock Holes fire, even though it was considered to have solid containment, broke out under the extreme weather conditions of Friday 17th January. These caused several Putty residents' properties to be under threat. Fortunately the quick action of the NPWS, Forestry, RFS Brigades and the extreme accuracy of the water bombing helicopters, the fire was brought under control the next afternoon. The NPWS and Forestry continue to monitor this and all other fires in our area.

The Sheepskin Complex fires continue to burn within containment lines and smoke is still being experienced. This fire is bounded by California Trail, Hunter Main Trail, Commission Road and Baxters Road. It has taken out over 15,000 Ha and has a perimeter of 197 Km. The total burn area of all fires finished up almost 70,000 Ha.

There are many people to thank for their efforts to protect our people and properties, during all the fires. We thank Singleton Fire Control Centre team, NPWS and Forestry for the joint co-ordination and allocation of resources, Catering at Bulga for keeping our fires well fed, Putty Brigade members, and our other local crews, many out of area crews, bulldozer and grader operators, water carriers, and the large number of water bombing helicopter pilots.

Several Putty residents have made very generous donations towards the Putty Brigade and its crews. Many people have asked that I pass on their appreciation to the fires and the patrons of the Grey Gum have expressed their thanks by dropping nearly \$400 into the Fire

Brigade donation box at the Café during the fires.

So many people to thank, so THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who has helped during these very trying times.

Margaret Ferguson

Fires near you is a mobile app which tells how far a fire is from you. See www.firesnearme.com

For further information, please look up 'Current Fires and Incidents' on the Rural Fire Service Website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

PUTTY ROAD TELEPHONE COVERAGE

On 29 January Louise Marcus MP, Federal Member for Macquarie, Paul Fletcher MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Minister for Communications, Police Hawkesbury Local Area Commander, a Hawkesbury Councilor and staff and the Telstra Regional Manager met with representatives of Hawkesbury resident associations to discuss the Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper released by the Minister on 16 December 2013.

Clint Jones, the leader of a campaign to kill the deadspots on Putty Road, attended the meeting and Terry O'Brien was invited to represent residents not in the Macquarie electorate.

Following the discussion Louise Marcus and Paul Fletcher met with local RFS at Colo Heights to discuss in more detail how the lack of mobile coverage impacts upon emergency services responses.

The Mobile Coverage Programme provides funding to improve mobile phone coverage along major transport routes, in small communities and in locations prone to experiencing natural disasters.

Putty Road has been identified as a prime contender for access to the new funds. Paul Fletcher mentioned the two main criteria for how troubled spots will be identified are:

- Major Transport routes
- Areas prone to Natural Disaster

The Discussion Paper and details on how to make a submission can be found at www.communications.gov.au/mobile_services/mobile_coverage_programme. The closing date for lodging submissions is 5:00pm Friday 28 February 2014.

Louise Marcus will be writing to people who have contacted her about this issue to encourage them to make a submission. She will make a submission also and requests you send any

helpful data to Rebekah.Faith@aph.gov.au

See also www.facebook.com/PuttyRoad

Terry O'Brien has advised that the NSW Government's Roads & Maritime Services have a program to install public telephones in a number of locations along Putty Road in 2014. They have surveyed areas at Boggy Swamp and at the Grey Gum Café.

PCA MEMBERSHIP

PCA memberships are renewable on 1 February each year and lapse on 31 May of the following year if not paid. Membership from 1 February 2014 to 31 January 2015 costs \$20. **The PCA moved its accounts to the Commonwealth Bank last year. The new direct debit details are BSB: 062622 ACC: 1044 4988.** Please email pca@putty.nsw.au when payment has been made.

Any person who is a resident and/or landholder in the Putty district, or any other person who has a substantial connection with the Putty community, is eligible to apply for membership.

Applications for membership must be made on the membership form and sent to the secretary of the Association. As soon as practicable after receiving an application for membership, the secretary or treasurer will refer the application to the committee for approval. Download the application form at www.putty.nsw.au/pca/membership or ring Kathy McKenzie on 6579 7047.

Nominations for committee positions are open and must be made in writing and sent to the secretary by 15 February. Nominees must have been a financial member of the PCA for the twelve months prior to the election at the AGM on 22 February 2014. See Events.

DRILLING A BORE

A group of people are considering sinking bores on their properties. If anyone else wishes to use the same contractor while they are here it will reduce their costs. It takes 3 – 4 weeks to get the necessary licence from the Office of Water. Please call Marian Streicher 6579 7020.

HISTORIC PUB DESTROYED BY FIRE

A fire destroyed the historic Jolly Frog Hotel in Windsor on 20 January. A crime scene was established at the site the following day.

WEDDING



Jim and Michelle Donovan

Almost a year after their engagement at the Country Music Festival, Jim and Michelle returned to Tamworth to finally tie the knot on the 16th of January. The service was held at the Bush Chapel in the Tamworth Botanical Gardens.

In keeping with the country theme, Michelle wore a beautiful white lace shirt over blue jeans and boots, while Jim, not to be outdone, wore a brand new hat.

If you think that marriage won't change them after 23 years together, think again. As part of their vows, Michelle has promised to feed Jim's sheep when he's away and to take a keen interest in cattle prices so she can advise local farmers when they ring. Jim, on the other hand, will take a renewed interest in Michelle's cats, rug her horses and push the supermarket trolley without asking any questions.

After the formalities Jim put on his old hat, and everyone gathered at the Tudor Hotel in the centre of town to celebrate the event with a drink (or two) and plenty of dancing to a rousing Country and Western duet. Festivities continued long into the night at various live music venues around town including Uncle Bob's Jug Band at The Locomotive.

A great time was had by all, and everyone in Putty, Howes Valley, Reedy Creek and beyond wishes a long and happy life together for two of the most generous, genuine and deserving people in the district.

David Hope

LOCAL LAND SERVICES UPDATE

As of 1st January 2014 Local Land Services has replaced Catchment Management Authorities, Livestock Health and Pest Authorities and the extension arm of Department of Primary Industries. Local Land Services will deliver natural resource management, agricultural advice, biosecurity and emergency management.

As these services are managed by region not by catchment, Putty is now situated in the Hunter. Each region is accountable for delivering services that add value to local industries, enhance natural resources, protect industries from pests and disease and help communities respond to emergencies like flood, fire and drought.

Four board members have been appointed to the Hunter Local Land Services and three will be elected by landholders from the region on 12 March 2014. To read more about the organisation and how to vote visit: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/localandservices

FIREARMS

People shooting on properties without permission can be asked to produce a firearms licence. If a licence is not produced and you have their name or vehicle registration number go to a police station and make a formal complaint. The police can then check if they have a firearms licence and a registered gun.

UNLICENCED UNREGISTERED DRIVERS

Reports of unlicensed drivers in unregistered cars on Putty Valley Road on the long weekend have concerned some residents.

Unlicensed riders/drivers in unregistered vehicles may ride/drive on private property as long as they have the owner's permission. Landowners who give permission for people to ride/drive on their property should check with their insurance company that their Public Liability insurance covers them if an incident occurs.

Vehicles not subject to NSW registration provisions are listed at www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_reg/rtrr2_007478/sch1.html

HUNTER VALLEY NEWS

Hunter Valley News arrives in Singleton on Wednesday and is currently brought to the Putty hall letterboxes on Saturday. Anyone traveling between Singleton and Putty earlier than Saturday, who can deliver them to the red parcels box at the letterboxes, please ring Judy Hobson on 6579 7067.

PUTTY RAINFALL JANUARY 2014

According to the Bureau of Meteorology's records, January had 23 of its 31 days with no precipitation at all. Of the 8 days with precipitation half of these had less than 1 ml. Most of the rain fell between 21-25 January.

In December the pattern was similar with 24 days of no precipitation, and 3 days of less than 1 ml. The highest recorded day was 26th with 14.8ml.

Judy Hobson

	South	Fairview	North
Jan 2014	16mm	16mm	19mm
Jan 2013	213mm	172mm	174mm
10yr Avg	101mm	86mm	

Recordings taken at Fairview, Putty, with Reference to the Bureau of Meteorology 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.

If it rains at Putty residents are encouraged to post their rainfall on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PuttyCommunityAssociation so weekenders know if they have to come to Putty to water their gardens.

OUR WEBSITE

Putty Valley Online contains many interesting links including:

- **Trades & Services Directory** at www.putty.nsw.au/whereis
- **Weekly cattle sale prices** from the Meat and Livestock Authority (MLA) at www.putty.nsw.au/rural/cattle-hotline
- **Putty Rainfall Charts** from 2005 – 2013 at www.putty.nsw.au/weather.
- **Articles** are posted on Voice at 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: <https://www.facebook.com/PuttyCommunityAssociation>

NEWSLETTER CONTACTS:

Kathy: 6579 7047 or pca@putty.nsw.au

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY NIGHT DETOUR

Every Friday 6-10pm at Putty Hall



Stop by at the Putty Hall for supper and a yarn. Bar open and home-cooked food on the menu! The standard menu includes steak sandwiches, marinated barbecued chicken, salad, pies, and cheese & ham toasties. Specials are announced by email. If you

are bringing a large group please contact Kathy on 6579 7047 to help with catering preparations.

PUTTY HALL WORKING BEES

Every Saturday 8.30am – 1pm.

All help appreciated. Contact Tim on 6579 7047 if you have any queries or can offer any materials or particular skills.

PRAYERS AND BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday 9 & 23 February

Putty Hall, with resident Anglican priest Fr. Max. During 2014 the Sunday services for Our Lady of the Valley will be held every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month.

8:30 Eucharist

9:30 Prayer and Bible Study

11:00am Sunday School

All denominations welcome. Ph: 6579 7168

VALENTINES DAY

Friday 14 February

Take your Valentine on a Detour to Putty Hall for dinner by candlelight!

HORSES ON SMALL PROPERTIES SEMINARS

Saturday 15 February – Dural

Saturday 22 February –Kurrajong

Managing horses on small properties is a one day indoor seminar presented by Jane and Stuart Myers. It covers the sustainable management of a horse property, pasture management, grazing management, how to avoid land degradation, how to keep the waterways clean, water conservation and supply, manure management, property planning and design and the benefits of trees and plants. www.equiculture.com.au

PUTTY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC AGM

Saturday 22 February 5.30pm

Putty Hall. See above

ROADS MEETING

Saturday 22 February 6.30pm

To discuss Singleton Council's proposals for Putty's Roads and make a community decision. All welcome. The bar will be opened after the meeting. The standard Friday night menu will be

available or bring your own barbecue meat. Plates to share of pre-dinner nibbles or home-made dessert will be appreciated. Everyone is welcome to attend but only members can speak or vote.

EARTH HOUR

Saturday 29 March 8.30 – 9.30pm

For those with power, join lots of others and turn your lights and electric appliances off.

PUTTY PEOPLE ADVERTISING

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

FOR SALE

Real Estate

Jo Mendoza 0418 609 777 or 6579 7139

Licensed real estate agent 141982 with over 40 years experience has a portfolio of customers wanting to move into the area. Free market appraisal. Justice of the Peace.

Vegetables

Rhubarb, onions, parsnips, zucchinis available now.

Sweet corn coming soon. Ph: Russell 0409 718 894

TRADES & SERVICES

Butcher

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

Catering

Susan Cuthbert

0425 319 152

Effortless Catering 'makes throwing a party easy'. Catering for all occasions, weddings, 18th and 21st birthdays etc

For Hire

Tipper Truck with driver

Tye

0457 078 892

Also, drop your aluminium cans and car and truck batteries in at 695 Putty Valley Road for recycling.

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