

# Putty People

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

## **A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Welcome all to another year of Putty People. I hope 2014 will be as successful for the PCA as the last year has been, mainly due to all your effort.

Margaret Ferguson commenced her tenure on the committee as Secretary, in 1986, remaining in this position for a number of years. Over more recent years, she has served as Treasurer but considers it is now time to move on and will welcome a new person to the role. Margaret, a founding member of the PCA has been a stalwart of the community, not only through her involvement with the PCA but also with the Putty Rural Fire Brigade and the Singleton Combined Rural Halls Committee. Margaret, on behalf of the community, I thank you for your dedication and effort over the years.

Also Barbara Kearns has found that her commitments prevent her from being able to produce the newsletter on a regular basis. We have enjoyed the well researched and written articles she has produced over the last year. Up until the AGM Kathy will keep you up to date with news and events in the valley.

Tim Spooner

## **ROADS**

The first Putty Valley Road Action Group meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 January at Putty Hall at 6:30pm. All welcome.

Singleton Council has advised the PCA in writing that its has resolved to:

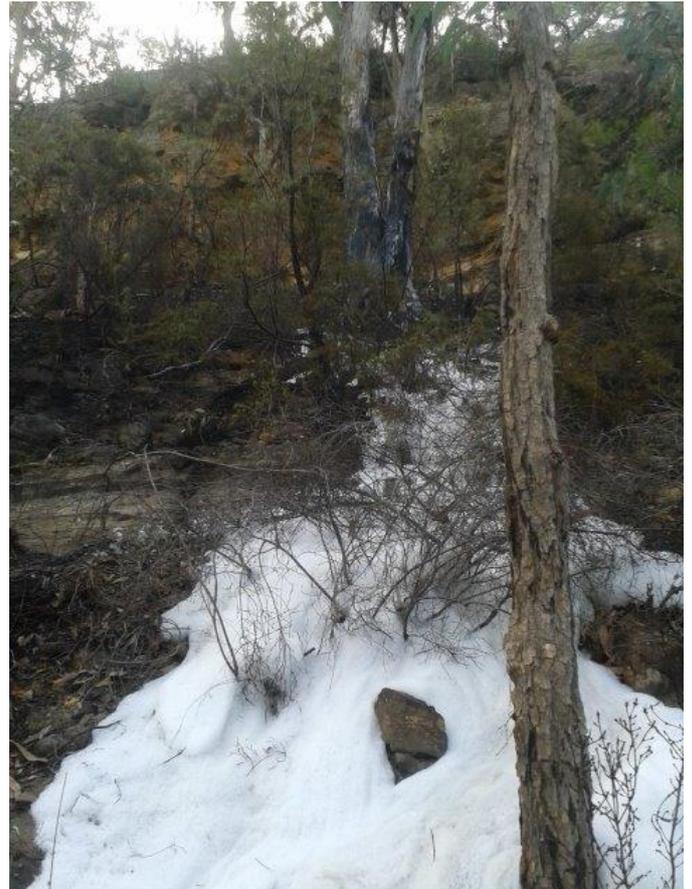
1. Not accept the maintenance responsibility for Crown Roads in the Putty area.
2. Install road signs along Putty Valley Road for all Crown and Public Roads.
3. Add Lilavale Road to Council's Unmaintained Roads Program.
4. Continue to maintain the unsealed section of Putty Valley Road as a Council unsealed road until such time as funding becomes available to further seal the road.
5. Seal 500m of Putty Valley Road under the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIS) with the local community being consulted to determine the best location for the use of these funds

The newly repaired bridge before the junction of Putty Valley Road and Bakers Road has had one of the kerb logs removed. The RFS did this to enable a semitrailer carrying a dozer to go up to the fire zone.

A pin board on the South wall of the hall will detail activities and correspondence for the Road Action Group. For the latest updates on the roads please contact Fr. Max at home on 6579 7168 or office 8211 0500

## **FIRIES NEWS JANUARY 2014**

Dry lightning storms across Wollemi National Park on the 20th and 21st of December resulted in the ignition of eight fires.



Snow on Kindarun Mountain in December? No, fire fighting foam being used to smother a burning log, close to the fire edge at the Rock Holes fire.

Smoke being experienced in the Putty area is coming from two fires to the south-west of Putty, the Girribung and Gaspers creek fires, which both expanded significantly under severe weather conditions on the 22nd and the 23rd December, when the total fire area grew from around 3500 ha to 11000 ha. These two fires are being managed as one and reported on the RFS website as the Girribung fire.

The closest fire to Putty is known as Rock Holes. It is on the eastern side of the Putty State Forest and adjoining private lands in the lower Kindarun area. Initially it was brought under control by 13 fire-fighters in six tankers, with the assistance of helicopters and a grader establishing containment lines.

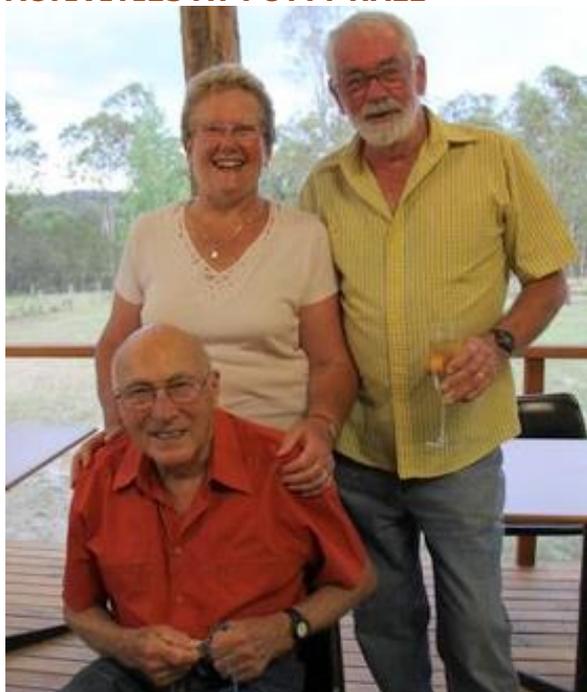
The cool change and drizzle late on the 23rd slowed all the fires significantly and around 20 mm of rain across the fireground on Christmas day extinguished most of the fire edges.

However, since the rain, drying conditions have resulted in a number of re-ignitions and the Rock Holes fire continues to be monitored by crews from Putty and several other Singleton brigades. By comparison, this fire is small, 147 Hectares, but still of concern to nearby residents.

Thank you to all the fire-fighters who have selflessly volunteered their time and effort, especially over the Christmas and New Year holiday period, to once again, kept us safe.

For further information, please look up 'Current Fires and Incidents' on the Rural Fire Service Website at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)  
Margaret Ferguson

### ACTIVITIES AT PUTTY HALL



At the last Friday Night Detour for 2013 three December birthdays were celebrated on a very hot evening. Margaret Ferguson and Tim Spooner's 70th and Ron Grahams 87th. 'There are three signs of getting old,' said Ron, memory loss and I can't remember the other two.' A wonderful fruit tart was made by Dora for Ron's birthday and it was tasted by all. One never knows what delicacies may be produced at Detours. Detours will commence again on 17 January.

This year Midnight mass was celebrated on Christmas Eve by Fr. Max and a small congregation. The Hall was festooned with over 80 candles and the roof was nearly taken off with some very robust carol singing.

### NEW PCA LETTERBOX



The PCA letterbox was too small and had become dilapidated so has now been replaced. Let's hope by the end of 2014 the hall looks as good as the PCA's new letterbox.

### PCA AGM & MEMBERSHIP

The Putty Community Association's (PCA) annual general meeting will be held on Saturday 22 February at 5.30pm at the Putty Hall. The bar will be opened after the event. 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.

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.

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.

Application 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](http://www.putty.nsw.au/pca/membership) or ring Kathy McKenzie on 6579 7047.

At the last meeting of the PCA committee Marg Ferguson resigned as Treasurer. Barbara Kearns who has done a fantastic job writing the newsletter in 2013 has also resigned as Publicity Officer due to other commitments in 2014. The other committee members announced their intentions to stand for the following positions –

Tim Spooner – President  
Andy Edwards – Vice President  
David Hope – Treasurer  
Kathy McKenzie – Secretary  
Ken Ferguson – Trust Officer

Nominations for committee positions will open from 23 January and must be made in writing. Nominees must have been a financial member of the PCA for the twelve months prior to the election.

### **PUTTY FLORA & FAUNA**



Apple gum trees, a common tree found near Putty creeks, blossom in December and January.

They are also known as the rough-barked apple, apple box and widow-makers as they tend to drop their limbs. The tree regenerates after bushfire by regrowing from epicormic buds lying underneath its thick bark. Trees grow up to 30 metres high and live for more than a hundred years.

Waves of mating songs from male cicadas have been disturbing the usual quiet of the Putty Valley this summer. Cicadas live underground for most of their lives, then emerge and shed their shell. They have a life cycle of several years and the last time they were this loud is believed to be in 2008. Varieties seen this summer in Putty are the Greengrocer, Yellow Monday, Black Prince and Redeye. The Greengrocer is one of the loudest insects in the world.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cicada>

In December the Putty rabbit population increased due to high temperatures, which reduces the spread of the calici virus. Wet weather helps myxomatosis to spread.

### **NEW WINDSOR BRIDGE APPROVED**

The NSW Government announced on 20 December that the historic Windsor bridge will be destroyed and replaced by a new two lane bridge. Community Action for Windsor Bridge (CAWB) was shocked by the announcement so close to the Christmas break. CAWB are campaigning for a bypass to save Thomson Square, the oldest square in Australia. Committed volunteers have occupied the square 24/7 since 21 July 2013. They say the new bridge is an ineffective solution to traffic congestion on the way into and out of Windsor.

<http://cawb.weebly.com/>

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **ROAD ACTION GROUP MEETING**

**Tuesday 7th January 6:30pm at Putty Hall**

All welcome.

### **PRAYERS AND BIBLE STUDIES**

**Sunday 12 & 26 January**

Putty Hall, with resident Anglican priest Father Max. During 2014 the Sunday services for Our Lady of the Valley are changing and increasing. They will be on every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month.

8:30 Eucharist,

9:30 Prayer and Bible Study and

11:00am Sunday School.

All denominations welcome. Ph: 6579 7168

### **FRIDAY NIGHT DETOUR**

**Start again 17 January then 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 Marg on 6579 7077 or Kathy on 6579 7047 to help with catering preparations.

### **PUTTY HALL WORKING BEES**

**Start again on Saturday 18 January, 8.30am – 1pm.** All help appreciated. Contact Tim on 65797047 if you have any queries or can offer any materials or particular skills.

### **AUSTRALIA DAY**

**Sunday 26 January at Putty Hall**



Bar open at 6pm. The standard Friday night menu will be available or bring your own barbecue meat. Bring a plate to share of pre-dinner nibbles or home-made dessert.

## CHINESE NEW YEAR

### Friday 31 January

Celebrate Chinese New Year and the beginning of the year of the horse at the Detour. Dragons welcome.

## VALENTINES DAY

### Friday 14 February

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

## Putty Community Association Inc AGM

### Saturday 22 February 5.30pm

Putty Hall. The bar will be opened after the AGM. 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 see above PCA AGM & MEMBERSHIP.

## PUTTY RAINFALL JANUARY 2013

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

	South	Fairview	North
Dec 2013	29mm	24mm	32mm
Dec 2012	52mm	53mm	67mm
10yr Avg	87mm	82mm	
Annual Rainfall			
2013	898mm	803mm	905mm
2012	715mm	682mm	817mm
2011	784mm	860mm	1148mm
2010	1065mm	990mm	1316mm
10yr Avg	788mm	792mm	

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: 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 Voice at [www.putty.nsw.au/voice](http://www.putty.nsw.au/voice) Directory at [www.putty.nsw.au/whereis](http://www.putty.nsw.au/whereis)

## PCA FACEBOOK PAGE

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

## NEWSLETTER CONTACTS:

Kathy: 6579 7047 or [pca@putty.nsw.au](mailto:pca@putty.nsw.au)

## 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

Ruhbarb, parsnips and onions available now. Sweet corn coming soon. Ph: Russell 0409 718 894

## TRADES & SERVICES

### Architect

#### Tim Spooner

6579 7047

Site selection, design advice, preparation of plans, submission to council, administration of contracts, Putty or Sydney.

### 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

### Catering

#### Susan Cuthbert

0425 319 152

Effortless Catering 'makes throwing a party easy'. Catering for all occasions, weddings, 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.fitzgeraldmotors.com.au)

## FREE

### Classical Records

Over 100 classical records to give away some new. Ph: Jason Bomski 6579 7122 or 0407 216 258.