

PUTTY PEOPLE FEBRUARY 2022

Newsletter of the Putty Community Association, Inc.

PUTTY HALL PLAY EQUIPMENT GOES UP

By Margaret Ferguson

As part of the Bushfire Community Resilience and Recovery Funding the Putty Community Association was able to purchase a Moduplay children's playground.



The bits and pieces were recently assembled by Jed Skarstrom, Kim Stokes and Ellee Stokes, assisted by Ken Ferguson and Tim Spooner.

Ken used his tractor and post hole digger to make the ten support holes, and after they were filled with concrete and the poles went in.

The playground quickly started to take shape. **Ken and Tim were very happy to have Jed helping as he was able to do all the heavy lifting, having as much strength as the two of them put together!**

Many thanks, Jed.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY
KIMMI STOKES



PUTTY LETTER BOXES NEAR THE HALL

Our wonderful array of letterboxes near the Putty Hall reflect many years of different folk's addresses.

To make it easier for mail delivery, please put your property number rather than the lot number where applicable.

Just a reminder . . .

THE PCA AGM - Saturday 19 February, 3pm at the Putty Hall, followed by nibbles & drinks.

Members and visitors welcome.

Membership renewal to maintain our Putty Hall

\$20 Please Direct Deposit: BSB 062 622, A/C 10444988 and include your name.

FREE FIRST AID COURSE AT PUTTY 5 March, 8.45 - 4pm at the Putty Hall

A free first aid course is being offered by the State Government for isolated communities like Putty to improve local resilience. Please sign up at:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1euU4by3-0efiSCE4BReXw2YfZ75t1RFsLISPCevgilUMUJMWkI3N0g2SDc3QVpOWkhSSiWNk9BWS4u>

A small fee of \$15 will be charged for the snake bite kit although morning tea and lunch will be gratis. Bank details are: PUTTY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED, BSB 062 622, A/C 10444988

If you sign up and are unable to attend on the day, please call Margaret on 0427 282 246

PUTTY FIELD DAY 19 March

Upper Hunter Landcare Coordinator, Paul Melehan, will visit Putty on Saturday 19 March at Martha's at 1300B Putty Valley Road.

Paul has been playing about with native vegetation in the Hunter Region for over 25 years and has worked with Landcare, Local Land Services (and its precursors), Greening Australia, TAFE as well as private companies. He has accumulated extensive experience in flora surveys, plant identification, weed identification and control, seed collection and propagation and has a particular interest in bush foods and native pastures.



Join Paul for a walk through the scrub on Saturday morning, looking for seeds, bush foods and whatever else Putty may offer. After a delicious lunch (provided), there will be a short session from Paul on seed processing and plant propagation. Bring all your questions be answered.

RURAL ADDRESSING - SINGLETON COUNCIL

From Margaret Ferguson

Council's website provides guidelines for displaying your rural address number to avoid any delay in finding you when required. Whether you own or occupy a property, it is important that your address is displayed and is visible from the road. Odd numbers are on the left-hand side of the road, even numbers are on the right. You will find your correct rural address number on your rates notice.

REASONS FOR DISPLAYING YOUR RURAL ADDRESS NUMBER

Protection in case of an emergency - Protect your family, employees, customers, visitors and your premises. If you need an emergency service, your location will be found faster. A visitor, child or injured person may be unable to give clear directions. Emergency personnel unfamiliar with your area need to find you without delay. Phone, electricity, and other companies rely on an address to begin a new service or to respond to a maintenance issue.

Numbers on a letterbox, post, fence or other structure should be reflective or on a contrasting background, visible in the dark and in both directions. Avoid placing numbers on a gate and keep vegetation trimmed away from the numbers. If the shared driveway or access point leads to more than one property, post all numbers after the start of the driveway and then on each property.

HOW TO CHECK FOR YOUR AUTHORITATIVE RURAL ADDRESS NUMBER

If the number is different to what you have displayed at the front of your property OR if you don't have a rural address number, please contact Council's Land Asset Management Team on 02 6578 7290 and discuss it with them.

You can make numbers yourself or buy them but if you prefer, rural address numbers can be purchased from Council. Costs can be found on their website or call Council on 02 6578 7290.

LYNN'S CHEESE MAKING EPISODE

By Lynn Nortje

Goats, milk Cheese

We know farm life doesn't always go as planned but this particular day was an Epic fail!

Woke up in the morning with cheese making in mind and today was to be my first crack at it! But first.... I needed to milk the goat... A goat I had recently acquired from a chap who assured me he'd been milking her daily and was receiving a bounty of 2.5 litres!! I remember how happily I handed over my money and was excited to finally be getting closer to my cheese making goal!



Nanna - Let's just say she's a feisty one!

Takes me a couple minutes to snag her. She's new, not very friendly, not yet accustomed to our ways at the Paleis.

She's putting up a fight from the get go.

I'm literally dragging her up the hill, 10 min battle and tug-o-war.

Tie her to the post - 20 min battle! Starting to sweat...

Tie her legs so she can't run up and down the stairs - 10 mins, sweat now running down my back and into me crack!

Get head butted... again!

Take warm cloth try to clean her teats.

She tries to bite me! I dodge!

Give her more food to distract her.

She tries to head butt me! I weave.

Luckily I hail from a family of Pugilists so I have inherited some skills.

She misses me!

Arms tired, water literally running off me.

Finally, she too is tiring so I get to try and milk her.

Alas, as soon as I go in, she starts moving around,

just won't stand still like a Good Goat Should!!

Keeps trying to go at me.

Eventually I concede, this is going nowhere and I'm about to pass out from physical and heat exhaustion.

About 1 hour of struggles and 5 min of actual milking time for this much milk

the bounty. I wonder how much cheese I can make



I'm definitely going to need to acquire a proper stand and head bale or I'm going to get myself killed....

Later however, I did make my first cheese using store bought milk,

A ricotta and it wasn't half bad!!



THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY (Monsieur Google)

Februarius was named after the Latin term *februum*, which means "purification" via the purification ritual **Februa** held on **February 15 (full moon)** in the old lunar Roman calendar. January and February were the last two months to be added to the Roman calendar since the Romans originally considered winter a "monthless" period. The two extra months were added by Numa Pompilius ca713 BC.

In AD 496 the Feast of Saint Valentine was established by Pope Gelasius I and celebrated on February 14 in honour of Valentine of Rome who died on the same date in AD 269 and became a martyred saint.

However it was in the 14th Century that the day became associated with romantic love.

CHILDREN SAVE PUTTY HALL FROM FIRE - 1951

By Margaret Ferguson

In May 1950, while Richinda Martin continued to teach the children, the school was inspected and Mr. Charles Hawkins was appointed as an extra teacher. With no accommodation available, Mr. Hawkins boarded with the Ducros family until he left Putty at the end of 1954.

From 1947 to 1957, children of varying ages attended the school and they were Enid & Ronald Café, Margaret & John Ducros, Neville Halton, Beryl Harris, Jan Martin, Jack, Valda, Neville, Ray, Rodney and Sue Merrick and Neal Ninness.

An article from the Singleton Argus dated Wednesday 22nd August 1951 tells the story about the quick thinking and brave action of children of that era.

But for the presence of mind of two young school girls and the fearless conduct of four others, a fire which broke out at the Putty Hall on Thursday would have caused considerable damage and loss.

The girls, whose prompt action prevented what might have been a disastrous fire are Valda Merrick, aged 14 and Margaret Ducros, aged 12. The girls were just leaving the local hall after taking piano practice, when they saw the grass at the rear of the building was ablaze. Without delay, they rushed to their school to give the alarm.

Quickly mustering his four other pupils, the school master, Mr. L.C. Hawkins, armed them with whatever he could lay his hands on and led them out to fight the blaze.

By this time, the fire had taken hold and was sweeping down towards an unprotected timber workers camp, where there was several cars and a number of tents containing among other things, a refrigerator, radios and clothing. The men were away felling timber.

Led by Mr. Hawkins, the children set to work with bags and old coats to beat out the fire. Getting the fire under control before it could take hold at the back of the local hall, the children fought the blaze, foot by foot as it swept towards the camp.

Needing more help, Valda Merrick rushed to the Post Office while the others beat down the flames to keep them from spreading too rapidly before assistance could be had. Help came at the critical stage. The flames were within inches of the tents and unprotected cars. The fire was brought under control and finally extinguished. At one stage, the schoolmaster, Mr. Hawkins, who was wearing crepe soles had one shoe alight.

Their faces scorched and blackened by the heat and smoke, the children did a magnificent job. But for their fearless efforts to quell the blaze, there is no doubt but that the timbermen would have lost everything they had. The outbreak is believed to have been caused by windblown embers from an untended camp fire.

The four other pupils were Johnny Ducros, aged 6, Rod Merrick, 8, Neville Merrick, 11, and Neal Ninness, 13.

Only Johnny Ducros had any complaint to make. A small boy for his age, Johnny felt he could have done even better that he did if only the sugar bag he was using had not been so small.

The behaviour of these Putty children in a time of crisis is not only a credit to their parents and teacher, but an example for children anywhere in the world.



One forgets that the fire fighters of the late 1940's and fifties fought fires in a different way from our present uniformed protected folk.

RESIDENTS FLOOD PREPAREDNESS STUDY

BY WILLOW FORSYTH, Research student, University of Newcastle.

Many of us live on floodplains. What stops us from learning more about how large floods will behave in our local neighbourhood? What will help us? This research aims to find out.

Safer people know more about how minor, major, and large floods behave locally. EG,

- ~ safer drivers understand the need to "Turn Around, Don't Drown" on local roads
- ~ safer households keep valuables safe by Storing & Stacking, Treasures on Top
- ~ safer homeowners protect property by Waterproofing, Wetproofing, or Dryproofing when they renovate or rebuild
- ~ safer communities use one-way valves and bungs to keep chemicals and sewage out of floodwaters
- ~ evacuating residents protect everyone by Shutting off Gas & Electricity, stopping Property Fires.

Around the world, flood preparedness campaigns generally have not worked. This is disappointing for everyone. Until people who live within reach of floods are given the opportunity to explain to researchers what helps and what hinders learning more about local flood behaviour, education campaigns won't match what they need.

Please, share your views on what helps you and what hinders you from learning more about local floods. Share your stories, or take me on a walk and point out your local flood features. It's a conversation with me about floods in the place you live. Together we may learn more about local floods that help us keep ourselves, friends, family, or neighbours safer and better protect our belongings.

By taking part in this research study, you will help change flood education campaigns for the better. No one needs to have any prior knowledge or experience of floods to join the study, but you need to be over 18 years of age. The form below explains the study, lets you check if you are eligible, and then register to join the study.

[LINK](#)



LOCKDOWN CARTOONS



By Sunil Agarwal & Ian Baker

LOCAL LAND SERVICES

Dear Landholder,

Hunter Local Land Services along with **Singleton Wild Dog Association** would like to invite you to their next meeting, information session and BBQ at the Singleton Golf Club.

Date: Wednesday, 2nd March
Location: Singleton Golf Club
Time: 5:30 pm

Guests speakers for the evening will include:

- **Dave Worsley, Centre for Invasive Species, Wild Dog Coordinator**
- **Peter West and Emma Sawyers, Feral Scan**



The evenings structure will be as follows:

5:30-6:00 pm	BBQ meet and greet	6:20-6:30 pm	Aerial baiting discussion
6:00-6:10 pm	Welcome introduction from NESWDA committee	6:30-7:10 pm	Presentation: Coordinated Wild dog Control (Dave Worsley)
6:10-6:15 pm	Update from Local Land Services	7:15-7:30 pm	Presentation: Feral Scan and its application (Peter West and Emma Sawyers)

Some benefits of joining your local wild dog association include:

- ✓ Frequent updates on local wild dog movements, sightings and livestock attacks
- ✓ Participation in community wide, coordinated wild dog control programs (Autumn and Spring)
- ✓ Free 1080 baits (meat baits)
- ✓ Registration on a local web-based monitoring and reporting system to be notified instantly when something occurs locally e.g. WILDDOGSCAN – Singleton North East WDA
- ✓ Free Online Vertebrate Pesticide Training Accreditation - 1080 products, Pindone (rabbits) and Canid Pest Ejectors (CPE) training. Allowing you to use and pick up baiting products
- ✓ Professional Wild Dog Controller Program - receive assistance from a professional trapper to target problem dogs on your property
- ✓ Potential inclusion in aerial baiting campaigns held in May each year
- ✓ Your membership and participation is critical to the success of this program

Membership is only **\$25.00** and meetings are held twice a year.

We hope to see you there



Please RSVP to:

Cameron Bartrop, Biosecurity Officer
 Hunter Local Land Services, Singleton
 Phone: 0429 342 995
 Email: cam.bartrop@lls.nsw.gov.au

Richard Ali, Senior Biosecurity Officer
 Hunter Local Land Services, Scone
 Phone: 0429 722 944
 Email: richard.ali@lls.nsw.gov.au

Heath Brock, Secretary
 NESWDA, Singleton
 Phone: 0488 026 151
 Email: hcb@activ8.net.au

FOR SALE Dixie 0408 246 019



Kleenmaid dishwasher
20 yrs old but only used for
18 months then been in
Storage
\$100 ono



Pump for 2 single blowup beds,
1 double - \$20.
Trail master sleeping bag
80mm x 190mm - \$10
2 x single beds based on castors
\$10 each

FOR SALE Martha 0404 014 374



DRICLAD POOL with
pump, never used.
Pool 3.05m x 76cm
(10 x 30")
water capacity at 80% is
3.638n Litres
\$40



Six solid leather and wood comfy
chairs In good condition \$120 ono

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hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library



EXHIBITION: UNCOVERED

ON DISPLAY NOW

Archaeological excavations near Thompson Square between 2016–2020 revealed Aboriginal tools for hunting and fishing, maritime objects, as well as everyday items from colonial life. These artefacts divulge more than 27,000 years of human history. Also included in this new exhibition are intricate sections of the brick drainage system dating to 1814–1816 and a digital recreation of some of the earliest remains of a colonial carvel built timber vessel. Come and discover these stories and more in UNCOVERED.



museum@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

PUTTY RAINFALL January

	FAIRVIEW	NORTH
Jan 2022	182.90mm	208.00mm
Jan 2021	48.20mm	84.00mm
Jan 10 yr av	107.70mm	117.00mm

Recordings were taken at Fairview-Putty Central
(with reference to www.bom.gov.au)

"The Top Place" Putty Valley Road North
"Fairview" Putty Valley Road Central

If it rains at Putty, residents are encouraged to
post their rainfall on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/PuttyCommunityAssociation

so weekenders will know if they need to water
their gardens.

PUTTY VALLEY ONLINE

Putty's Community Website contains many
interesting links including:

Putty People

<https://putty.nsw.au/putty-people>

where you will also find Putty events and links to
newspapers local and national.

Trades & Services Directory

<https://putty.nsw.au/whereis/>

PCA

This has several links including one to the
membership form.

<https://putty.nsw.au/pca/membership/>

Post your pictures and stories!

ADVERTISING: pca@putty.nsw.au

PRAYER, BIBLE STUDY

Due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic and
social distancing practices all in person
services have been cancelled for the
foreseeable future.

We will be doing services via Zoom meeting
so if you would like to receive the Zoom
meeting link invitation please email jane
directly on jane.robinson@ku.com.au

Every Blessing in this difficult times and
remember the first Easter taught us that; Life
never ends and Love never dies.

TRADES AND SERVICES

PUTTY PEOPLE ADVERTISING

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

FULL POWER

OFF THE GRID SOLAR SYSTEMS

0455 120 544



WORK WANTED - Reliable House
cleaner inside and out, light garden duties.
Phone Rachel on 0467 336 250

NEWSLETTER CONTACT

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

Martha Babineau, phone 6579 7000