

# Newsletter of the Putty Community Association, Inc.

## PUTTY PEOPLE MARCH 2022



Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 7.30am just about 1.4 metres under water - Pix KIMMY STOKES

**Just a Reminder . . .**

### **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 accumulated extensive experience in flora surveys, plant and 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 and enjoy meeting some of our new residents.



**PUTTY VALLEY ROAD** near the old timber yards. PHOTO: LYNN NORTJÉ

### **RUN THE DRUMS CANCELLED**

The March Run the Drums Barrell Run has been cancelled.

The Racing Club, an affiliate club of Equestrian NSW, has been running since 2012.

There are barrels, poles and time trials with the whole family joining in to enjoy the day with the horses. Events are tailored to suit the ability of the rider and horse no matter how big or small.



**Emily Badior of Howes Valley** putting together a nice run in December's Run the Drums.





## AGM 2022

The AGM held 19 February at the Putty Hall was well attended also by many newcomers to the Valley.

The PCA Executive Committee for 2022/2023 is President: Jane Robinson, Vice President: Andy Edwards, Secretary: Lynn Nortjé, Treasurer: David Hope, Publicity Officer: Martha Babineau, Trust Officer: Ken Ferguson

Following the AGM was the "Meet and Greet," a get together where newcomers to the Putty mingled with locals over a drink and tasty dinner.





## COMPILE by Margaret Ferguson



Wednesday 2nd March - Pix: DORA



**BPOOTY BRIDGE**  
Thursday 3 March  
at 5pm  
1.8 metre mark -  
Pix: KIMMY STOKES



**GIBBS CREEK BRIDGE** 3 March at 5.35pm - Pix: KIMMY



**BURNT ARM ROAD / ROSEWILL DRIVE**  
bridge. Pix: Guillaume.

By mid- morning, on the 4<sup>th</sup> March Putty Creek level was starting to drop.



**PUTTY VALLEY ROAD** 8 March, 2022  
PHOTO: LYNN NORTJÉ

## LOSS OF COMMUNICATION FOR ISOLATED PUTTY RESIDENTS by Judy Hobson

March Putty People reports on the biggest flood in the memory of Putty residents who can remember floods of the 1980's and '90's. Rising on the afternoon of 2nd March, it peaked on the morning of 6th March with much of Putty Valley creek side under a sea of water. Added to this, Putty lost power the evening of 3rd March, landline telephone connection the next day, and mobile telephone the next. At the peak of the flood those residents here in Putty were without contact with anyone!

I sent the following email to Joel Fitzgibbon, Federal Member for Putty, on Sunday 6th March, and a reply was received immediately.

Joel Fitzgibbon MP  
Putty, Hunter Region NSW  
6 March 2022

Dear Joel,

I am a resident in the Putty Valley which is flooded and isolated by one of the highest floods I've witnessed over the past 33 years.

With the flood we have lost power supply which cannot be dealt with until the flood goes down, which may be at least a week, possibly more. It has already been out for three days.

We have generators, which will run until the fuel runs out.

The critical loss is the loss of communication.

Within a day of loss of power, Putty loses first its landline connection, closely followed by the loss of mobile communication.

This is a continuing situation with telecommunications lost with every power outage.

The infuriating thing is that so little is needed to prevent this life threatening situation, a second battery for the telephone exchange at Putty (we had one once, just a cost cutting exercise to never replace it), and attention to the Telstra Mobile Tower generator being refuelled. Not much to ask for.

I and all other residents are isolated without power, telephones and rapidly dwindling household and fuel supplies.

**This situation needs urgent attention.**

I am able to communicate by satellite connected internet and email.

Those without can't connect with anyone!

**We in Putty request Telstra** to attend to its telecommunications equipment here in Putty by:

1. Replacing the second battery to the small Putty landline phone exchange, the battery which was in place but not replaced on expiry.
2. Ensuring the backup generator for the Putty Mobile Tower is regularly checked and kept refuelled.

Yours sincerely,

Judy Hobson

Mobile telephone connections were restored that same evening. Residents are still waiting for the landline connection to be restored. Thursday 10 March the level of water over BPooty Putty Bridge was 200mm, and Ausgrid was able to cross over and restore power to homes in the first 11 km of Putty Valley Road. A large fallen tree over power lines beyond 11 km need heavy plant to repair and restore power, which is scheduled to take place Monday 14 March.

Hopefully the little Putty Exchange (on Bruce & Dixie Mott's place) will be restored to working order in the next day or so. Telstra is offering credit for this disruption. Phone Telstra Disaster Line 1800 888888

Oh what a good feeling it is to have the mobile phone and be able to contact each other, and for those who have the power and not the shuddering of the generator.

Finally, to be able to drive out for our own needs,

Flood affected properties now face the *horrendous* job of patching up what has been damaged by the flood waters, broken fences, broken roads, dam walls collapsed, vehicles and machinery stranded and damaged. If there can be a best part at a time like this flood week, it's when neighbours offer help to those who need it, reaching out to see if you are OK,, helping with management of the generator, helping with getting in supplies and fuel, at times like this it's a good feeling to be here in Putty.



**Putty, Howes Valley, Garland Valley****Outage Classification**[View details](#)

\*Estimated based on customer reports

Customers affected:

**81****Start time:**

Thu, 3 Mar, 9:10pm

**Max estimated restore time:**

Wed, 16 Mar, 5:00pm

**Status:**

Ongoing network repairs

[How we restore power](#)**Reason:**

Flooding

Feedback

**During the night of Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 9.10pm the power through Putty failed**

Ausgrid issued a report that it would be fixed by 3pm on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Then another report was issued - Monday 3.30pm

An early flood warning had been issued to Putty residents by the Putty Fire Brigade Emergency Hub House system on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Residents were prepared, had food, medicines and fuel to see the flood out.

But having to run generators for more than four days because of an unexpected power failure and with no way to buy more fuel made life difficult. Not only that, with the price of fuel rising at a dramatic rate the cost added to the household bills.



**WINDSOR BRIDGE UNDER WATER**  
(FACEBOOK)

**PUTTY'S EQUESTRIAN COMPETITOR**

Eleven year old Kallie Hasselmann of Putty competed in the Summer Vaulting Competition at Sydney International Equestrian Centre on the 19th and 20th of February 2022. Kallie won her Preliminary Horse Individual and also won her partnered barrel routine with Partner, Holly Maher of Cumberland Reach. During this event Kallie also received the 2021 NSW Preliminary



Champion trophy. She will continue to train over the coming months for both the state and National competitions coming up later this year.





## FROM CATRINA CRUICKSHANK



**CATRINA: GETTING A LITTLE CLOSE TO THE HOUSE . . .**



**FROM JUDY HOBSON  
"My Bonnie lies over  
the Putty,"**



**Putty Valley Road near  
Condon Clear: DORA**





**FROM JESSICA CARPENTER**



**FROM KATHY MACKENZIE**



**DON'T VISIT MARTHA OR DAVID TODAY**



**FROM KENN MACKETT - LOOKING TOWARDS PUTTY BRIDGE 6 March**



## PUTTY PALEIS' TWO NEW ARRIVALS

BY LYNNE NORTJÉ



**Well, it sure is a very wet time in Putty isn't it!** Amidst all of this rain, I've welcomed two new arrivals to the Putty Paleis. So, the first little girl, **Little Suzie** was born on the 24th February.

The second, a little boy, Marlow was born somewhere between the afternoon of the 27th Feb and the morning of Tuesday, 1st March ... not as simple as Little Suzie.

I left Putty on the 27th Feb and returned on Tuesday 1st March. At 5pm on Tuesday I had moved all of the animals up to the house in preparation for the big storm coming. On Wednesday one of my cows is making a big fuss. She's not happy. Mooing on and off all day. Running up and down the hill.

I look to see what's going on and see nothing. I wonder if she'd had a calf, but figure she wouldn't have had it while I was away and I've been keeping a close watch on her. I've closed the bottom gate as the creek is rising quickly from all the rain so she can't get into there. She eventually stops and settles down.



Thursday morning I go out onto the verandah to make my coffee, as I do every morning. While I'm waiting for the kettle to boil I see something moving in the paddock on the other side of the creek. I'm curious, is that a wombat?!?

It's been raining for days, no doubt his little wombat cave is flooded! I try to take a photo to get a better look but I can't make it out. I'm thinking its too small to be Flash (Yes, the damn Ass is still down there, I tried for two and 15 mins to move him!! Another story....)

It's moving, it's a bit wobbly and then I realise that it has got to be a little calf! I try to call Richard (my neighbour) to come and help me; he's not answering.

I call Jeff and tell him what's happening. I ask him about driving across the now pretty fast flowing creek as that is the only way to get to this baby! He tells me to take it on! There's no other choice.

I'm shitting myself but I did do a quick risk assessment and figured, worst case I'd end up in Richard's paddock caught by the fence, and he'd find me pretty quickly, possibly tipped over but not likely.... I'm fairly calm, trying not to panic as my bakkie hits a section where the water rises right up to the front grill. I accelerate to get through quickly! I park at the gate as the paddock is too wet to go in and I don't need to get bogged! I start walking up the steep hill looking for this baby. He's nowhere to be found. I'm scanning the creek praying he hasn't fallen in.

Finally see him right on the edge and the water's moving pretty quickly. Eventually I get close and spook him and he stands up and runs! Straight to the water! I'm trying not to scare him and I slowly manage to get around him and start to shoo him in the direction of the yards. He's scared and running up and down. Eventually I manage to grab hold of his back leg! He's putting up a good fight and he's crying. I hear his mother calling out up the driveway on the other side. My back is killing me! I pick him up and start walking. It's a couple hundred meters back to the car. It's pouring rain. The calf is fighting. I am in agony. He pees on me. He poops on me. I stop, put him down, try to shift positions. Pick him up. I'm not letting go! Get to the car, get him on the back. Now for the ride back and across the damn creek.



Don't even get a quarter of the way up the driveway and mommy is waiting! She's been hearing all the ruckus and crying out too. All the cows come running, excited to see the little guy safe and back with mommy.

The little guy somehow survived two nights out in that paddock without getting washed away, but now he is back with his mommy and the rest of the gang. And such a handsome chap he is too! Full of life and energy at the moment.





**GUILLAUME'S  
ROAD ....**



**MICHELLE'S TANK AFLOAT**



**A ROO JUST HOPPED ACROSS  
THE CREEK TO VISIT MICHELLE**



**WASHOUT UNDERNEATH  
PUTTY VALLEY ROAD NEAR  
JUNE MALMBERG'S PLACE**



**MORE PROBLEMS KEEP PUTTY SCHOOL CLOSED.****FLOOD DESTROYED 300 YARDS OF A PUTTY ROAD.**

(a report from the Singleton Argus, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1952)

**The Deputy Shire President, Mr. Pankhurst, and the Shire Engineer, Mr. McIntyre, have completed an inspection of the Putty Creek Road (now called Putty Valley Road) which was badly damaged during the recent flood.** It is understood that 300 yards of this road have been completely destroyed. The damage done to this road was the greatest done to any road in the Patrick Plains Shire. The river has eroded to an extent that the bed is now where the road was.

The teacher, Mr. Charles Hawkins, left Putty and once again the children were without a teacher. The main school building was still located near Turnbull Creek but because of the floods of 1949 and 1952, children were often unable to get to school. Parents thought that if the school building was moved to a more convenient location, it might attract teachers.

George McDonald and his son Campbell came to Putty to haul logs out of the forest, taking them from Putty to Windsor. They had a large bulldozer and after the major flood in Putty, had brought their machinery out of the bush to repair the damaged roads.

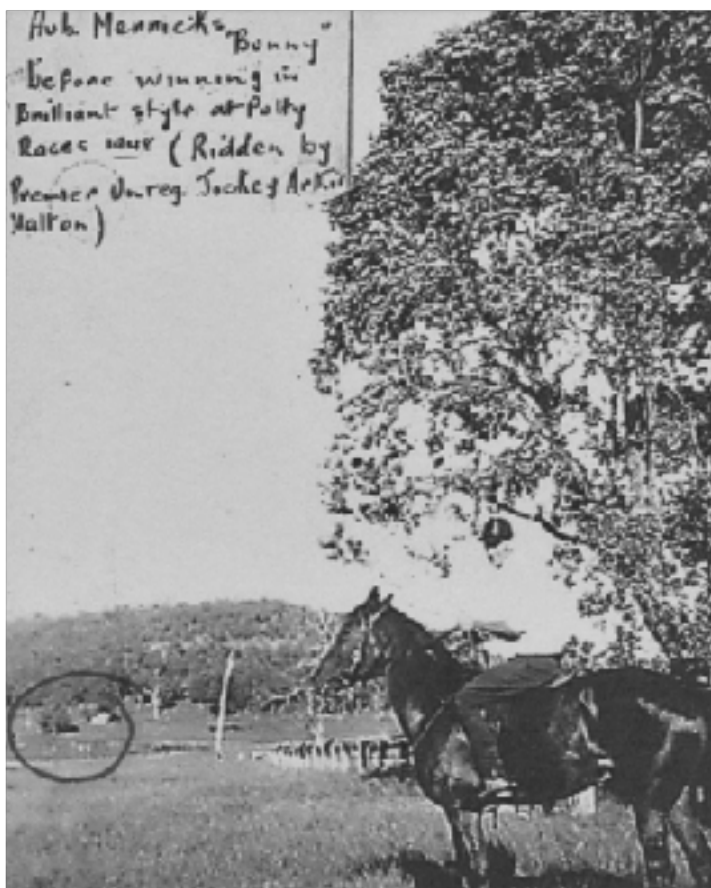
While they were available to do so, they and Mr. Alf Ducross, moved the school building to the Department of Education site beside Putty Hall.

They maneuvered it onto a slide built for the purpose and began to tow it across Putty Creek. It was a straight run, but as the chimney had been left behind, the building was a little unstable. After being strengthened with extra timber the move continued without further problems.

With the school building now in a better location, in 1955, Mrs. G.D. Starke began to teach the children, followed by Miss Jocelyn Wills in 1955 and 1956 and finally Miss Berris Wiggan from 1956 to the end of term 1 in 1957.

Putty was flooded again in 1956, but this time the children had no excuse to stay home.

From then on, children were either home schooled or sent away to live with relatives where a school was nearby. Some of the boys were sent to Boarding School at Orange and Tamworth. Parents were not happy with these arrangements and approached the Department of Education asking for a solution which would keep the school operating.



Alf Merricks "Bonny"  
Before winning in  
brilliant style at Putty  
Races 1948 (Ridden by  
Premier Unreg. Jockey Arthur  
Halton)

**Photo Caption reads:**

*Alf Merrick's "Bonny" before winning in brilliant style at Putty Races 1948. Ridden by Premier Unreg. Jockey, Arthur Halton.*

**This photo was taken in 1948** from the racecourse behind Putty Creek. Circled is Putty School and the flooded Turnbull Creek.

**PHOTO COURTESY OF NEVILLE MERRICK**





## JANE'S SINGAPORE VISIT DURING CHINESE NEW YEAR. By Jane Robinson

The very strict Singaporean social distancing requirements took its toll at the enmasse gatherings to celebrate Chinese New Year for the second year in a row.

A night time stroll through the market area revealed many colourful and beautiful art and light installations celebrating the Year of the (Water) Tiger -

known as the king of all beasts in Chinese Culture.

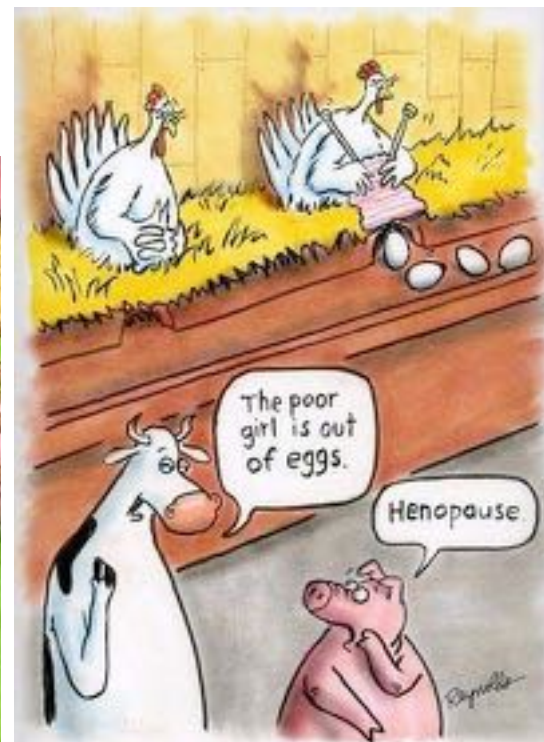
The zodiac sign Tiger is a symbol of **strength**, **exorcising evils**, and **braveness**. Many Children wore hats or shoes with a tiger image for good luck. "Water" Tiger comes from Tiger's five elements (Gold, Wood, Water, Fire and Earth).

The Year of the Water Tiger indicates **a prosperous year** due to the Tiger's auspicious signs (strength, exorcising evils and braveness).

We painted red and gold calligraphy good luck symbols to decorate the entrances to the house, exchanged "red packets" with the younger and older members of our family and ate a Yu Sheng – good luck meal (lots of noodle tossing - for good luck). However by far the star of our Chinese New Year was my Granddaughter, Elizabeth and her Dragon Puppet who constantly did the dragon dance for our little family group.

Wishing you all .... **"GONG HEI FAT CHOY"**

Traditional New Year greeting which means, "Wishing you prosperity and good fortune!"





## Letter has been received by Putty residents



### PROPOSAL BY OPTUS – CORRESPONDENCE TO LANDOWNERS

Recently, landowners in Putty have received correspondence from CPS Global which acts on behalf of Optus in identification, acquisition and deployment of network throughout Australia.

The Federal Governments Mobile Blackspot Program has chosen to fund a site in Putty in partnership with Optus. This is due to numerous complaints from within the community regarding poor coverage. The Government seeks to improve safety, telehealth, and wellbeing (among many other benefits) by providing coverage to areas in need.

The abovementioned property has been identified as a potential candidate for the installation of a facility in this area.

#### Key points of this proposal:

- Optus would propose to install a monopole together with a small associated equipment shelter (10 x 10m Lease Area).
- The exact location, size and layout of the facility will be determined by our Engineer and agreed with the land owner following a site visit
- A lease area encompassing the above equipment would be required, typical terms of which include;
  - 20 year term
  - make good clause upon expiry of the agreement
  - separate electricity metering
  - access for Optus' suppliers and employees as required
  - Gross Annual Rental: \$15,000 (negotiable)
  - over the course of the term this would generate an income of approx. \$364,460.55

Please could you advise if you have in principle interest in this proposal? Subject to your acceptance please contact the undersigned to discuss next steps on 0415 416 534 / [will.munro@cpstech.com.au](mailto:will.munro@cpstech.com.au).

"Growing up I thought that governments would always do the right thing. Now I know they don't. Our voices are needed. Every voice counts."

## Want to help shape the future of The Hunter?

Join In a Voices for The Hunter **Kitchen Table Conversation** to share your views, concerns and what's important to you. Kitchen Table Conversations are currently being held over Zoom on **Wednesdays and Thursdays** throughout March.

**VOICES FOR THE HUNTER**

[voicesforthehunter.org/events](https://voicesforthehunter.org/events)



Craig Browne  
Co-founder





**PUTTY RAINFALL February 2022**

	<b>FAIRVIEW</b>	<b>NORTH</b>
<b>Feb 2022</b>	<b>158.00mm</b>	<b>152.00mm</b>
<b>Feb 2021</b>	<b>72.15mm</b>	<b>119.00mm</b>
<b>Feb 10 yr average.</b>	<b>105.80mm</b>	<b>117.00mm</b>

**Year to date**

<b>Feb 2022</b>	<b>340.09mm</b>	<b>360.00mm</b>
<b>Feb 2021</b>	<b>120.35mm</b>	<b>203.00mm</b>
<b>10 yr av</b>	<b>213.50mm</b>	<b>243.00mm</b>

Recordings were taken at Fairview-Putty Central  
(with reference to [www.bom.gov.au](http://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](https://www.facebook.com/PuttyCommunityAssociation) so

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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**