

PUTTY PEOPLE APRIL 2022

Newsletter of the Putty Community Association, Inc.



PHOTOGRAPH: LYNN NORTJÉ

PUTTY ROADS SITUATION By Tim Spooner

All the roads in the Putty Valley have suffered major deterioration, road slips and erosion in these last flood episodes, which has made them impassable in many locations. This has been exacerbated by the damage done during the 2021 flood which had not been repaired to date.

Council engineers and contractors carried out a full survey of Putty Valley Road, Box Gap Road and the commencement of Lilavale Track on the 15th and 18th of March.

Council have advised that they have engaged a contractor to carry out emergency disaster repairs to Putty Valley Road and Box Gap Road as soon as the weather permits and dry gravel becomes available. This emergency repair will only bring the roads back to the condition they were in before the floods, and so that they are safe to drive upon.

Work had been scheduled to commence last week, but rain and lack of dry gravel prevented them from doing this. The current program is to commence on Wednesday 6 April.

The program for the other major road works is:

- **Gibbs Bridge** – was programmed to start in early March but delayed due to recent weather. Work to commence in next 2 weeks
- **Putty Landslip** – tender being assessed for work.
- **Putty Seal of Unsealed Road** – project will commence once above projects are completed.

EASTER BUNNY FUN LET'S GET HOPPING !

Come and join the Easter fun at the Putty Hall on Saturday 16 April from 2pm for the Easter Afternoon Tea - fun for everyone!

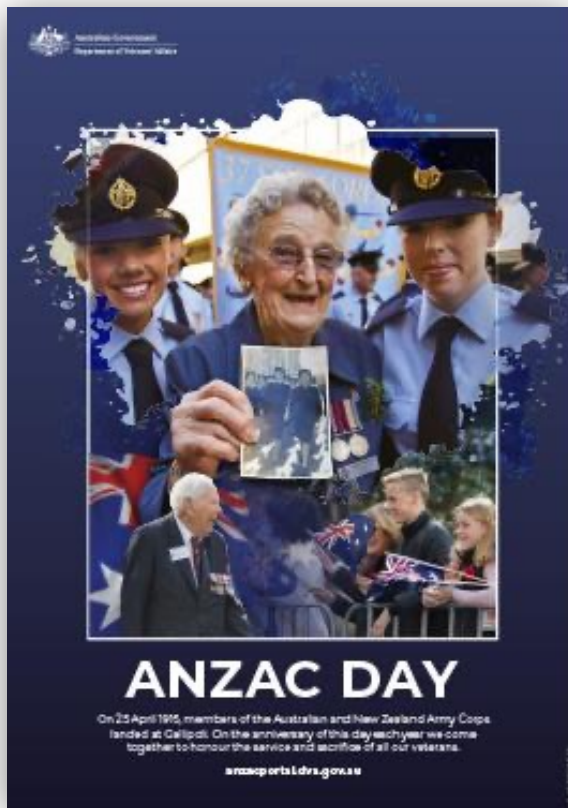


Children's Easter Egg hunt, games and craft, delicious afternoon tea and the bar will be open for Easter tipples.

Look forward to seeing you there!



GREY GUM DRIVEWAY



ANZAC SERVICE AT THE PUTTY HALL

We hope you can find time to join us on **Monday 25 April from 10.30am at the Putty Hall for an inclusive service followed by a “bring a plate” lunch.**
The bar will open following the service.

WARTIME SNAPSHOT

Australians commemorated the first Anzac Day on 25 April 1916, which was 12 months after the first landings on Gallipoli. The anniversary has been observed every year since. With few exceptions – when Australians felt themselves threatened by invasion in 1942 and during the COVID-19 pandemic of more recent years – Anzac Day commemorations have always included a publicly attended dawn service and march. In other respects, the day's form has varied through decades of war, depression and social change. **In our village of Putty it's a service commencing at 10.30am on 25 April at the Putty Hall.**

During its first 20 years, Anzac Day was solely dedicated to commemorating the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), Australia's volunteer army raised for World War I. A second global war revived and reshaped the Anzac story, which now honoured 2 generations of service personnel.

Since 1945, new chapters have been added as Australians have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations around the world.

In some eras, it has seemed that Anzac Day might fade. During the latter part of the 1960s as the war in Vietnam became increasingly unpopular, so did occasions associated with the military. Many felt that Anzac Day was becoming irrelevant. Instead, it underwent a resurgence. As World War I veterans entered old age, their wartime experiences became the subject of scholarly and popular literature, television shows and films, changing people's understanding of what they had been through and presenting war as a source of misery and suffering.

Over the decades, Anzac Day has also been a vehicle of protest, from World War I veterans who felt that promises made to entice them into uniform were not being honoured to bereaved women who sought their own place in commemorations. In the 1980s, other groups, including First Australians, sought to have their role in the Anzac story recognised. Today, the occasion has become more inclusive, reflecting the diversity of the modern Australian Defence Force (ADF).

Heightened interest in the history of Anzac and what it means to today's service men and women culminated in large crowds attending ceremonies during the centenary of the Gallipoli landings. What the future holds for Anzac Day remains to be seen, but for more than 100 years, it has been one of Australia's most significant public occasions.

We look forward to seeing you at our service.



PUTTY FIELD DAY . . . SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE!

The Upper Hunter Landcare Coordinator, Paul Melehan's visit to Putty Is just waiting for clement weather so keep watching this space!



FALLEN TREES OVER POWER LINES



LARGE TREES WHICH FELL ACROSS LLOYD WILLIAMS' ACCESS ROAD ALSO BROUGHT DOWN OVERHEAD WIRES; A REAL HEADACHE FOR AUSGRID AND THE NEIGHBOURS, WHO ARE STILL WITHOUT POWER.

PUTTY HALL RECEIVES A WELCOME DONATION

Story and photos courtesy of The Singleton Argus, by Louise Nichols

By Margaret Ferguson



REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SINGLETON LGA'S 13 RURAL HALLS WERE PLEASED TO RECEIVE THEIR DONATIONS



KEN AND MARGARET FERGUSON WERE THERE TO REPRESENT THE PUTTY HALL

Singleton's thirteen rural halls were given a fabulous financial boost this week with each of them receiving a \$5000 donation thanks to the efforts of the hard working volunteers at the Singleton District Community Op-Shop.

The no-strings-attached donation from the Op-Shop was made possible due to the successful operation of their two retail outlets in John Street Singleton. Located next door to each other one sells clothing and materials and other furniture, household goods and other assorted wares. Formerly operating as Father O'Reilly's Op Shop the new committee took over the management in 2020.

President Phil Reid said they decided to give the donation to the rural halls as maintenance and insurance and all other running costs were made so much harder for their committees thanks to COVID.

"Fundraising due the last couple of years with the pandemic has been very difficult so we hope these funds will assist the halls to continue to be the centrepiece of their communities," he said.



LONG-TIME VOLUNTEER AT THE SINGLETON DISTRICT COMMUNITY OP-SHOP MAURICE MAHER ACCEPTS A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FROM GLENDON BROOK HALL'S REPRESENTATIVE MAUREEN JOLIFFE AND COUNCILLOR SUE GEORGE.

The halls are located at Whittingham, Glendon, Glendon Brook, Broke, Bulga, Elderslie, Mitchells Flat, Mt Olive, Hebden, Mirannie, Putty, Warkworth and Jerrys Plains.

Mr Reid wanted to thank all the volunteers who made the Op-Shop such a success before adding he was very keen to see more come on board and help run the facilities. "Our lease runs out in July and we are now struggling to run the two outlets with the number of regular volunteers we have available,"

Mr Reid said, "I would love to see more people come and assist us and we have a variety of roles to fill from truck drivers, to sorting through the donated goods, to working in the shop,"

WHAT IS THE SINGLETON COMBINED RURAL HALLS COMMITTEE?

The SCRHC is made of from thirteen halls in the Singleton LGA which are located at Whittingham, Glendon, Glendon Brook, Broke, Bulga, Elderslie, Mitchells Flat, Mt Olive, Hebden, Mirannie, Putty, Warkworth and Jerrys Plains.

It was formed in 1997 by hall committee members concerned about the conditions of their local halls and the ongoing maintenance of them, to provide a means for discussing problems associated with the upkeep and to have a committee which could lobby as a whole, state and local government bodies, for assistance with associated costs. It is now constituted by Singleton Council and is a committee of Council. Thirteen rural halls each has a representative on the committee with voting rights. Other people are welcome to attend and take part in discussions. Council also has one person on the committee.

Meetings are held four times a year to share information in relation to the operation of halls and fundraising opportunities. Singleton Council donates annually, \$8,000 for the maintenance of halls in their Local Government Area. At the July meeting, which flows on from the AGM, submissions are called for from halls and the committee allocates funding according to maintenance needs. Matters of safety are given priority and the Putty Hall has been allocated funding on a number of occasions which has allowed maintenance of the hall to continue.

ISOLATED AND HUNGRY

By Julie Simons

After eleven days, getting hungry and unable to get out of our property, our friend Carolyn Henley offered to get us some supplies.

The only problem - how to receive them? "We decided we could borrow David Hope's little boat



from his dam, but it had no oars or motor, so I waded through the creek with a large rope which we tied to a tree on the other side so we could pull the boat with supplies.

Carolyn came with some welcome goodies we had been missing, including fresh bread and Graeme brought the boat across by

pulling along with the rope, We then piled the provisions into the boat and pulled ourselves back."



COMMUNICATION DURING FLOODS COULD BE CHALLENGING AT BPOOTY BRIDGE

Thanks Carolyn and David

SOLAR SYSTEMS

By Tim Spooner

Following the recent floods and the problems a lot of people have had with power and communications, I thought it may help if I shared our experience with the Community.

I originally purchased my property as a weekend getaway for the family, and in particular to take my children away from TV and electronic devices so that they would learn to entertain themselves. The property had no mains power and the closest power was 6 kilometres away, so obviously we had to rely on kerosene lamps, candles and eventually battery powered lights.

As time went by the system became more sophisticated and solar panels were added and eventually, an inverter. This system was upgraded and increased in size as our needs increased and when we decided to live here permanently it was again updated to allow for running a full house.

Since that time we have had no problems with the system (apart from a direct lightning strike which blew up every connected electrical item in the house as well as the solar regulators and inverter), and have not had to run a generator during the extended rain periods or even over the last few months where there has been extremely limited sunshine.

We have achieved this through having a system which was designed to cater for our electrical usage for 5 days without sunshine, and also by being sensible about our usage of electrical equipment when we knew that bad weather was coming.

Having this, and also wi-fi calling through our satellite, has meant that we have been able to maintain communication throughout the flood and fire periods, even when the mobile tower and land lines were out of service. This means that we can successfully continue to work from Putty and contact emergency services if needed.

We have a gas stove and an evacuated tube solar hot water system which also helps reduce the electrical load.

For reference we have the following solar equipment:

5 Kw of solar panels
30 Kwh of battery storage
6 Kw inverter

These run the following items:

LED lights
2 Refrigerators
Dishwasher
Assorted kitchen equipment – Toaster, Jug, Air Frier, Single Induction Hotplate, Mixer
Washing Machine
Vacuum Cleaner
TV
Stereo sound system
5 Kw Air Conditioner
Ceiling fans
Satellite internet system
2 computers with 4 monitors and 2 printers
Occasional power tools

Should anyone wish to discuss this you are welcome to contact me on 0418 299 377



BUSH FIRE DANGER PERIOD

While we were battling floods, ground waters, mud on our properties, huge holes in the roads and watching with interest the depth of the water over bridges and creek crossings, the Bush Fire Danger came and went.

Perhaps Putty may dry up again and you want to have a fire, then between the 1st April and the 31st August, you don't need a Permit to Burn certificate. You still need to let Fire Control and your neighbours know you intend to light up.

If there is no rain during the winter months, the scrub and long grasses may dry out or be burnt by frosts so take the opportunity to burn before the weather heats up again.

If you miss the opportunity, remember to get a Permit from the 1st September though to the 31st March.



KEVIN IS LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME . . .

From Lynn Nortjié

This beautiful chap, Kevin, is looking for a new home in Putty!

I'm not sure of his age, but he's quite the stud. He's an intact male.

Asking price \$450



JED ... WHAT A MAN!!! HE'S RIGHT THERE TO ASSIST A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS - CAROLYN HENLEY. WE CAN CERTAINLY COUNT ON LOCAL ASSISTANCE IN PUTTY!



PUTTY SCHOOL BUILDING SAT EMPTY BESIDE PUTTY HALL

By Margaret Ferguson

From 1957 until 1962, Putty and Howes Valley parents were unsuccessful in sourcing a teacher for Putty School. There were eleven children of school age in the district but a teacher would not be appointed by the Education Department unless the enrolments numbered fourteen, so parents taught their children by correspondence with lessons held in between other necessary work.

This arrangement didn't work for every family. The Merrick brothers, Rodney, aged five and Neville, aged nine, travelled 65Km to Bulga each Monday to attend school returning home on Saturday, while some of the Ellis children boarded with relatives in Singleton.

In 1960, Mrs. Richard Chapman of Burrowell Creek near Howes Valley wrote to the Department of Education again requesting a teacher for the children. Later that year she received a reply which indicated that a subsidised school could be established on application where there are insufficient children available to justify a Departmental school. She was invited to arrange the establishment of such a school for Putty.

The Department paid a wage subsidy towards each pupil but parents were totally responsible for providing the school building and the teacher. Subsidised schools were permitted the use of former government school buildings.

REBUILDING THE SCHOOL

A letter, dated 15th August, 1962, from Singleton Sawmills Pty. Ltd, to Mr. Merrick, (who was the Hon. Secretary of the Putty P & C at the time), indicates that the parents wished to demolish the existing school and rebuild it. Mr. Arthur Parkes, District Inspector of Schools, said that the Department would raise no objection to the demolition and re-use of any materials of value.

Singleton Sawmill agreed to supply the timber free, drawn from old stock where possible, and machine 3x1 for the flooring. This offer was on condition that the sawmill be allowed to continue to rent the Association cottage for the local sawmill workers .

Mr. Parkes also indicated that the Department would not supply any furniture, but he would try to obtain some desks, etc., from some other school where they maybe surplus. This would be unofficial, but he could not supply a blackboard.

Any person over the age of 16 who had the Intermediate Certificate or equivalent qualifications was eligible to apply for the position of teacher at a subsidised school. The parents would choose the prospective teacher and an application for recognition was sent to the Department for approval.

In 1962, Miss Betty Pinkerton was appointed as teacher. The Education Department would send out correspondence courses suitable for each child and Miss Pinkerton would correct the work. Once a term a sample of the work of each child would be sent to Sydney for checking and a school inspector would visit Putty once a year.

In 1962, if there were over nine children in daily attendance, the subsidy by the Department of Education, was One pound, Nine shillings per day, or Seven pounds, five shillings per week, which equates to \$14.50 cents per week now. Any additional payment was by arrangement between the parents and the teacher. Not all parents paid willingly, some not at all, so Miss Pinkerton's wage was not very generous. Fortunately, she was a very dedicated teacher and remained at the Putty School for a full three years.

Enrolment forms for prospective students had to be sent to the Department of Education for approval. There were about seventeen children enrolled over the years, 1962 and 1966. The Putty school had a Parent & Teachers Association, but to operate the school, the Department of Education required that two persons be elected from the parents to act as "promoters", whose duty it was to sign the teachers claim vouchers for pay, etc. and be generally responsible for the school. Mr. S.A. Merrick and Mr. S.J. Ellis were these persons.

One day the school house caught fire around where the chimney flue went through the roof. Pat Garland from the sawmill was first on the scene with a bucket and mop. The school was saved and the flue moved further away from the stud it had ignited.

On a very windy day, another exciting time was had by pupils as they watched the roof lift and finally blow off the Putty Hall. That roof has since been replaced and fixed down substantially.

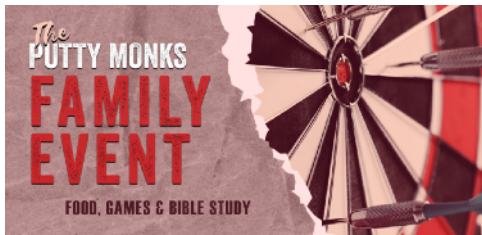
As the teaching year closed on 15th December, 1966, Miss Pinkerton resigned her position and the Putty School closed for the last time.

The empty building remained near the hall until the early 1980's when it was moved on logs by Owen Ellis and helpers to its final location at "Fairview"

As for the old and twisted pine tree near the Putty Hall, this was planted while Miss Pinkerton was the teacher at the school and serves as a reminder that there was, through the years from 1884 to 1966, a Putty School.

ERRATA. The school story last month included a photo of a horse and rider. With apologies to the Merrick family this was Aub Merrick's horse, Bonny, not Alf's as incorrectly written.

FORTNIGHTLY MONASTERY COMMUNITY EVENT - 1 May. Fr ANTHONY



As promised at our last event, the St Shenouda Monastery will continue to run events - family activity + bible study on a fortnightly basis at the Putty Hall.

The next event will take place on May 1st.

The purpose of these events is to bring people

together over a tasty meal and enjoy some fun activities for the whole family including kids of all ages. There will be different activities ranging from a dart - throwing competition to a scones bake off. If you are like me, not much of a cook, you can join me with the extremely difficult job of being the judge!



After the food and activities we will have an optional Bible Study where we will be discovering who Jesus really is. We hear so much about Him from movies and social media yet many of us don't know who He was or at least claimed to be and what His followers said about Him.

Why, you ask, are we doing these bible studies about Jesus? Simply because many people throughout the last 2000 years, from every culture and language, have had their lives changed by His teachings and the monks of Putty are no exception and we feel it would be very selfish if we didn't share something so life changing with our neighbours.

So we challenge you to come to five of these upcoming bible studies and find out about who Jesus is. If you are still not convinced you are very welcome to our social event before the bible study and to enjoy a tasty meal together.

The upcoming dates on a fortnightly basis will be 1, 15 & 29 May and the 12 & 26 June.

We look forward to seeing you and your family and ask you to help us spread the word around.

PUTTY RAINFALL March 2022

	FAIRVIEW	NORTH
March 2022	440.40mm	474.00mm
March 2021	330.40mm	351.00mm
March 10 yr average.	175.00mm	138.00mm

Year to date

March 2022	781.30mm	834.00mm
March 2021	450.75mm	554.00mm
10 yr av	388.50mm	

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

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

**NEWSLETTER CONTACT**

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

Martha Babineau, phone 6579 7000