

THE NEVER NEVER NEWS

Gleniffer Community Association Newsletter No 2, 2013



CONTENTMENT

Thanks to Kathy Mortimer for this photo of her paddocks and contented cows, looking across to the misty Dorrigo hills.

President's Update

At the GCA meeting on 27th March, there was significant discussion regarding the Bellingen Shire Council's (BSC) response to the Association's proposals submitted in January 2013 (and later discussed at a meeting with the Mayor and senior staff) aimed at helping address the impact of the growing visitor numbers to the local area.

These proposals include the need for suitable toilet and rubbish removal facilities (directly linked to ongoing health concerns over the pollution of local streams) and the need to *not* promote visitation to the area until proper infrastructure is put in place. Issues were also raised regarding the work on Arthur Keough Reserve.

After discussing the BSC response, the meeting resolved that GCA should continue to engage with the Council and seek an early agreed timetable to address the issues identified.

A further issue raised at the GCA meeting, and discussed at length, was the widespread concerns about the impacts on local residents and safety risks to participants of illegal 'rave' parties being held in nearby state forest. The meeting resolved to write to the Mayor, Local Police Commander, Forestry and local members of parliament to participate in a joint round-table discussion co-ordinated by the Mayor, to explore practical options for addressing the issues involved. Letters have now been sent.

Neil Westbury,
President, GCA

GLENIFFER COMMUNITY ASSOC NEWS

We've had a great response to our first GCA newsletter, and now it also has a Name!

We received some interesting suggestions from local residents, and after considering all of them the unanimous choice was - *The Never Never News*. The name was suggested independently by two local bright-sparks: Cliff Schofield and Dennis Howard! So thank you everyone for your great ideas. And Cliff and Dennis will now go down in local history.

There are lots of interesting stories and news for you in this second edition. Thanks to people who sent in their ideas and contributions. Keep them coming.

We've also had a couple of generous offers to coordinate

special-interest columns. You'll see the new column coordinators and their contact details in the following pages.



The Gleniffer Hall is now listed as a "**Neighbourhood Safer Place**" for people during a bush fire. It is a place of last resort if all other options in your Bush Fire Survival Plan can't be implemented.

In the event of a bushfire, emergency-services people may not be present at the Hall, but it will be opened by a GCA member.

Luckily, the Hall has drinking water, toilets and ample space. And because of its NSP listing, safety screens have been fitted to all Hall windows to protect from debris and ember attack.

Gleniffer Community Association

News Update

The Secretary of the GCA, Dennis Howard and myself had a constructive meeting with the Bellingen Shire Council Mayor Mark Troy, General Manager Liz Jeremy and Deputy General Manager Michelle McFadyen on Thursday 13 June.

We discussed the Association's response to the Council's letter, proposing a number of measures aimed at addressing health, safety and inadequate infrastructure problems arising during peak visitation times at various locations adjacent to the Loop Road and in Gleniffer more generally.

We also discussed our Association's representations to NSW Police, Forestry Corporation of NSW, our local MP Andrew Stoner and the Bellingen Council regarding the significant health and safety issues that resulted from the conduct of illegal 'rave' parties in the area.

The Bellingen Council will be formally writing to us, setting out the results of the meeting, but in the interim, I can report some progress being made - including a proposal to compile Plans of Management (POM) for Capararo and Broken Bridge Reserves and to further implement the existing POM for Arthur Keough reserve.

All this will be undertaken in consultation with the Association and other local interested groups.

The creation of a POM is necessary to enable the Shire to access monies available under Section 94 of the *Local Government Act*. This is

already in place for Arthur Keough Reserve and will be used to expedite provision of toilet and other necessary facilities.

We have been assured that it will, of course, be subject to a public consultation process, including directly with our Association, and will ultimately require Council approval. This appears to be the best available option for securing the necessary funding to get the work underway that we have asked the Council to progress.

The second positive outcome is that consistent with our request, the Mayor is organising a meeting of Police, Forestry and other relevant parties for early July to examine some workable options by which 'rave' parties can be prevented in the Gleniffer area, before they occur. They suggested that due to health and safety considerations it is very difficult to close down such parties once they have commenced.

The Mayor also explained that Bellingen Council has already been active in this regard and has successfully prevented a number of events occurring.

The key, however, is securing early warning that such events are being organised, and he requested that we encourage local residents to notify the Council if they pick up the fact that a 'rave' party is being organised. If you do not want to contact the council directly, the GCA Executive are happy to confidentially pass on any such information to the relevant council staff.

We will continue to emphasize that better and more active engagement by the authorities needs to happen while such parties are actually occurring, as Gleniffer residents have legitimate concerns about the health and safety of participants, and the often adverse impact of the parties on the local environment.

Neil Westbury, President GCA
Dennis Howard, Secretary GCA



REGULAR ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES.....

A big congratulations from all of us to Di Ginis who won a Highly Commended at the Sydney Quilt Show this month!



Special Events

The Quilt & Craft Show

Saturday 31st August 2013

9.00am-3.00pm

at the Gleniffer Hall

A GCA fundraising activity



Enjoy a fantastic day in a lovely location.

Come along to see beautiful quilts and crafts, beading, polymer clay, and rug hooking demonstrations, craft products for sale.

As usual, there will be yummy food!



If you have some free time to lend us a hand, that would be wonderful - we need help with:

- cooking slices, cakes and scones at the Hall on Thursday 29th August;
- setting up on Friday 30th,
- craft items, jams, chutneys etc to sell on the GCA trading table
- operating the BBQ and generally helping out on the day.

For further details contact Jeanette Gosschalk by email at: jeanette.gosschalk@westnet.com.au

Gleniffer Rural Fire Brigade Membership Drive



To maintain effective fire protection for our community the Gleniffer RFB is seeking new members who are prepared to become active firefighters. This requires training to Bush Firefighter standard and the attendance at regular training sessions (1-2 hours/month)

Contacts:

- * Gleniffer RFB - 6655 0107
- * Email: gleniffer.rfb@gmail.com

Gleniffer Church

Uniting Church Services: 1st Sunday of each month at 2.00pm

Contact: Moira Franklin 66551723

Gleniffer Arts & Craft Group

9.30 am - 12.30 at the Hall

2nd & 4th Monday

Everyone welcome!

Bring along some craft or artwork to do. Gold coin donation, and a plate for morning tea is always welcome.



Local Critters:

Have You Seen This Ant?

As I've been out bushwalking, I've seen these golden bull ants occasionally over the past year at the junction of Holmes and Roach's Trails in the Tuckers Knob forest.

They're a normal-looking bull ant, about 15mm long, except for their striking golden colour.

Last time I saw some, I took a picture and sent it off to the Australian Museum to find out if they were a known species. The museum was very interested, but couldn't identify them. They asked if I could send in a specimen as they hadn't seen one before.

Forestry are now clear-felling the area where I took the photo, so I can't get in to look for specimens. And it may be hard to spot them again after the logging is over.



So if you have seen these on your property and can manage to get one into a specimen jar, please let me know on: phone - 6655 2883 and I'll send it off to the museum.

You never know. We might have a species living here that is previously undocumented.

Lesley Wickham

Photographs for *The Never Never News*

We know there are a lot of creative photographers in our neck of the woods.

Why not contribute one of your great local interest shots to *The Never Never News*?

Maybe you've got a favourite shot of the local landscape, the dog on the ute, the 'historic' contents of your shed, a family celebration down by the river, farming work in the paddock, your vegie patch in full glory, artwork creations, or flora and fauna captured on a quiet walk.

Send a good quality jpeg, along with a brief description to: Dianeesmith@bigpond.com

Photo: by Lesley Wickham



A Small Rehabilitation Project in the Promised Land

We'd like to tell you about a rehabilitation project we've just completed under the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority's *Small Incentive Program* for private landholders. You might be interested in doing something similar on your own property.

In 2012, we were lucky to be one of 6 successful applicants from the Bellinger region, who received a small grant (under \$5,000) to do weed clearance and native planting.

The small grants are available for such things as stream bank rehabilitation, restoring plant biodiversity and habitat for threatened species, as well as working with farmers on riparian fencing projects. Successful projects get funds under an agreement with NRCMA, and are generally completed within 1-2 years.

Our project was to eradicate the lantana, tobacco bush, crofton weed, and other weeds along a small spring and gully that flows into our dam, that contributes to waters flowing into the Never Never Creek. Then we replanted to restore the native riparian vegetation. Now we have to maintain the weed control.

We were very lucky to engage the services of Kim Cheny and his team of bush regenerators to work with us to kill and clear the lantana, and then plant over 400 small shrubs and trees. Kim is one of our local residents and has enormous experience and knowledge, so we learnt a lot about the native plants we already have under his tuition.

One thing that surprised us was that we found many small native plants growing under the 'nursery' that was created by the thick old lantana branches. We found small sandpaper figs, native aniseed, corkwoods, yellow carabeen, possumwood, beautiful native palms and small tree ferns.

So we ended up cutting and killing the lantana by hand with a bio-soluble glyphosate that is safe around frogs and other dam critters! It was hard work, but worth it to see many of the smaller natives plants quickly re-establish themselves.



One fantastic find was a small plot of *Hicksbeachia pinnatifolia* (see the photo above) - a member of the *Protoeaceae* family and also known as Monkey Nut, Bopple Nut. It is a rare plant listed as vulnerable, occurring only in sub-tropical rainforests from Tambourine Mountain to the Bellinger and Nambucca Valleys, including along the Never Never Creek area. So keep a look out for it.

We got started by attending an excellent NRCMA workshop held in town. We had great support from NRCMA staff in Coffs Harbor, as well as from the Colin Mathews, the Bello Landcare Coordinator. Colin was very generous in coming out to provide expert advice,

and then assisted us with the hard work of getting an electronic map of our property. So there is a lot of support if you are a newcomer to this kind of work, like we are.

Colin Broadfoot from Boggy Creek Nursery did a fantastic job identifying the plants that would be most suitable for the location, and he spent several months growing them to a good size for us.

It's been a great experience for us, and good to see the native plant resurgence and our new plantings survive despite the occasional flooding rain!

The small project grants are a great initiative for people who don't have a lot of bush regeneration experience, but want to contribute in a small way to maintaining the quality of the wonderful rivers and environment we have out here in the Promised Land.

If you'd like to find out more about these grants, have a look at the website: <http://www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au> or contact Colin Mathews at the Bellinger Landcare.



We are happy to talk to you more about our experience if you are interested in making an application.

Diane Smith & Neil Westbury

Gleniffer Women....

Aussie women have been getting a lot of flak in the media recently. Maybe they haven't heard about the amazing women living here in Gleniffer. Not only can they produce beautiful art, quilts and craft, gourmet cooking, while looking after kids and grandchildren, but they can also pull calves, treat their farm herds with homeopathic remedies, drive the tractor and quad bike, use a chain saw, grub out the lantana, and run a business. And they are generous-hearted volunteers.

The Preston women are a good case in point. No neighbour ever has to go without a helping hand when these women are around. Just read this clipping from the Bellinghen *Courier Sun* newspaper, March 6 1991:

"Quick action by Violet and Sylvia Preston averted a potentially dangerous grass fire at Roses Road last week. A tractor driven by Wayne Nicholson of Roses Road caught fire at about 2.45 pm last Wednesday. The fire spread to dry grass and was burning strongly when Violet and Sylvia arrived with the Gleniffer Bush Fire tanker. They quickly extinguished the grass fire. The Bellinghen town brigade put out the tractor fire using foam [when they later arrived]"



Above:
Violet Preston
putting in a
day's work



Left:
The wonderful
women from
the Hall

Muesli Slice

Moderate Oven (not fan forced) 180.

- 1½ cups Muesli (any brand that has lots of nuts, dried fruit, bran, coconut shavings, rolled oats.
- 2 tblsp sesame seeds (dry roast 2-3mins)
- 1 tblsp sunflower seeds
- ½ cup each dried apricots + sultanas – chopped
- ¾ cup castor sugar
- ¾ cup plain Flour & ¼ Tsp baking powder - sifted

Mix all the above ingredients in a bowl.

Put 150G butter + 2 tblsp honey in saucepan. Melt & cool a little. Add to the

FOODIES CORNER...

dry ingredients, mixing well until all combined.

Line the base of lightly greased tray with baking paper & press mixture into tray.

Bake for approximately 20mins or until golden brown.

Cool in tray but cut into pieces whilst still warm as they harden up once cool.

Chocolate Topping:

Combine 6oz good quality Dark or Light cooking chocolate (Not compound) with 2oz butter

Melt together over a water bath & whilst choc mix is warm, coat each muesli slice at one end, or drizzle over entire slab whilst cut pieces are still in the tray.

Barb
Moore's
prize winning
recipe from
the Bello
Show

In My Patch (of Paradise)

.....The Tawny Frogmouth

We share our little patch of paradise with a number of creatures. See one of our many Tawny Frogmouths below. These birds can be found throughout Australia & also in southern New Guinea. Many of us also call them 'Mopokes' but it is the Boobook Owl that actually calls out 'Mopoke' or 'Morpork'. The Tawny Frogmouth makes a reverberating noise which I have trouble describing. The bird books call it an '00-oom' sound.

We also tend to mistakenly call them owls. However, although they are related to owls, they are more closely related to other birds such as nightjars. Owls have strong legs & talons with which they snatch their prey during active hunting.

The Tawny Frogmouths like to quietly position themselves on a good vantage point & wait for their dinner to pass by. (They have wonderful camouflage). They then grab their prey with their beak.



Tawny Frogmouths like to eat mainly insects & sometimes other small prey such as frogs & mice. Males & females look similar & are around 35-53 cm in length. A pair stays together until one dies.

My photo was taken a couple of days ago. Because of his/her camouflage, it took awhile for me to realise it was there, despite being in a fairly exposed area.

I was trimming some nearby branches with a chainsaw but it didn't seem to be perturbed. For the last 2 nights it has settled on top of one of the cut limbs - as if to say 'thanks for that, this is a great viewing position, & very comfortable too!'

Kathy Mortimer



To find out more information about Tawny Frogmouths go to:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/buddies/backyardbuddiestawnyfrogmouth.htm>
<http://australianmuseum.net.au/Tawny-Frogmouth>

"In My Patch (of Paradise)" will be a regular column in the newsletter.

The column will be about your stories about the Gleniffer environment - the rivers, the landscape the plants, animals and birds. Whether they are cute and cuddly, rare and endangered, poisonous or a pest.

If you have some interesting information and a photo, a useful website, a few tips about how to protect (or eradicate if it's a weed!) then this is the column for you!

Kathy Mortimer has kindly 'volunteered' to coordinate the contributions for this new column. Send your written items and jpeg photos to Kathy at: kbmortimer@bigpond.com

Days Gone By

The Weather Then, and Now

July 1950: "The Worst Flood in Memory; 150 homes, 300 farms ravaged, over 700 head stock lost" (Bellingen Courier Sun)

A personal story from **Barry Keys** about the 1950s flood as it affected him, his family and others who were then living on farms at Tallowwood Point.

"It was the biggest flood on record in 1950. George Johnston was living out at Tallowwood Point where the farms used to be. He was called Bowie because in the early days when he was ringbarking the big trees, he couldn't ringbark straight, it was always like a bow. In the 50s flood during one night we had a 12 inch rain gauge - it started raining at 9pm and at 12 midnight Cliff (Barry's father) went out and the gauge was overflowing.

The next day, in the morning, Bowie was down near the creek that ran between the properties but it was too flooded to get over. He was waving something and Barry went down. He lived on the top of us with no river between and he asked could I go up and feed his chooks as he couldn't get over the creek. He was at his son's place milking their cows. That afternoon we had just finished milking and Cliff noticed "Gran"(Bowie's wife) waving a white shirt at the creek bank. Cliff went down and she said Bowie, who was always shooting, went up in the back paddock where there was a lake of water from all the rain and a flock of ducks had landed there and he shot one of these ducks and came back to the backyard of the house holding the duck and was very excited showing "Gran". But he had a heart attack right there on the ground and died. She couldn't move him to get him inside, so Cliff followed the creek right up to nearly the mountain so he could get across. He went up and got him inside, came home and rang the police in Bellingen. They said, 'You have to get him in here tomorrow'.

Well, the bridge coming out of Tallowwood was washed away (we called it Lavender bridge back then, but there is no bridge there these days); the approaches had all washed out so neither car or tractor could get across. So Cliff got a door off the house, put Bowie on the door on the slide pulled by a draught horse, then went down and across Tony Capararo's bridge (that's the one near Cliff and Pat Schofield's) and somewhere along the road he picked up a tractor and more people to help.

They went up around Preston's and down that way to Gleniffer and eventually got to Wattles Hill which is the last hill before the flats, but a big tree had come down across the road. So they got saw and dynamite from the Shire to clear it. Late in the afternoon they got down to where the Bellinger Bridge had been. They took the body across the river in the boat, and because the bridge had been washed out, he was buried at Fernmount Cemetery instead of Bellingen. The only person who is still alive from that expedition is Reg Haig, and he is in a nursing home in Coffs Harbour and still has a clear mind.

January 2013: The Wind!

Remember the big wind that went through the Gleniffer crossroads and forest in January? Well **Leslie Wickham** was walking through the forest shortly afterwards and took these photos of the devastation created by the twister across the road at Deadman's Corner on the way into town.



Poet's Corner:

“When Garner Sold His Bull”

by Olive Smith (Allan Germon's aunt)

Have you o'er heard the riot
When Garner sold his bull,
To load him on a lorry
He needed some men who could
pull

He enlisted the aid of Charlie
Of Ray, of John and of Bill
While the driver watched
proceedings
From a safe spot on the hill

Soon they had him captured
With a rope around his head
And Bill and Charlie retained him
But only by mere thread

Then, head down, tail extended
The bull raced up the rise,
Slap bang into the middle
Of a whopping big bee-hive

The two boys hung on gamely
Tho tossed from side to side,
With a host of fiery demons
A stabbing their wreathing hide

The other men came to the rescue
But bees were everywhere,
They came at faces, hans and noses
And were even in their hair

They did their best to dodge them
But each man gained a lump,
Yet, they kept that bull in order
With rope wrapped round a stump

With bees as a veil behind him
Ray dashed into the truck,
And hoping to elude them
He wound the windows up

But escape was not so simple
And he found, to his dismay,
He'd locked those brutes in with him
And his nerves began to fray

He swiped at them with hammer
But Dad was not amused,
“You'll smash the glass, you
numbskull”
he yelled and he abused

At last the bull was loaded
And the bees had settled down
Our heroes' fluffy faces
Would rival any clown

They laughed and jeered each other
And Charles, I've heard it said
Was plucking stings, like whiskers
From one man's trussless head

Now someone's hat is resting
Beside that shattered hive
It's a symbol of adventures
He's no wish to revive



Olive Smith (deceased) was married to Hedley Smith. She was the sister of Allan Germon's mother, Mary.

Before they moved to Urunga, Olive and Hedley lived in the property next door to the Germon farm, and which was later owned by the Eggleton's. Olive was a great poet, and a keen observer with a great sense of humour.



The people mentioned in the poem were all local Gleniffer residents, including:

Charlie Boswell - the brother-in-law of Hedley, and Anthony Boswell's dad

Ray Jeffreys - the son of the man who owned the Gleniffer shop down at the intersection before it was burnt down, and

Bill Germon - Allan Germon's dad

Bert Garner - used to live on the Promised Land Loop Road

“Poet's Corner” will be a regular part of The Newsletter.

Cliff Schofield and Anne Cannon have offered to coordinate your contributions to this column. While they have a ready supply of ditties, poems and bush ballads they've penned themselves, they are keen to get your contributions - either a piece of your or others' own poetry.

Email your contributions to Cliff at: clifford.schofield@westnet.com.au
or drop it in Anne's letterbox at 115 Promised Land Loop Road.

GLENIFFER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Gleniffer Community Association Executive are all local residents:

President: Neil Westbury
Secretary: Dennis Howard
Treasurer: Jeanette Gosschalk

Exec Members: Rod Keers and Diane Smith

If you'd like further information about the Association, and how to become a member, **Email:** glenifferhall.nsw@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEVER NEVER NEWS

The Newsletter is a volunteer effort by local residents and members of the Gleniffer Community Association, so it comes out when we have the time and when there are enough items of interest.

It is circulated electronically to everyone on the GCA list as we do not have the people, funds or time to print, collate and do a letterbox drop. To make sure you get your copy, become a member of GCA by providing your email address along with a small membership fee to the Secretary at: glenifferhall.nsw@gmail.com



We'd love to have your ideas for the newsletter, a written story, a regular column, your reminiscences, a poem or photograph, and forthcoming events - send them all along to us.

The News production team (so far):

General editor: Diane Smith: Dianeesmith@bigpond.com

Copy Proofreading: Dennis Howard:

Column coordinators:

Kathy Mortimor - "*In My Patch of Paradise*": kbmortimor@bigpond.com

Cliff Schofield & Anne Cannon - "*Poets Corner*":



The views expressed in *The Never Never News* are not necessarily those of the GCA. Unfortunately, all mistakes are those of the editor!



Trade Swap



A few residents have suggested we have a Trading/ Swap column in *The Never Never News*.

Would you find this useful?

We'd have to agree on some basic rules. For example:

the service would only be for local residents of Gleniffer;

each person would need to take full responsibility for their own transactions. The GCA would not be involved in handling cash. That would be up to the people involved;

while the emphasis would be on trading, swapping or giving away items, the column could also advertise items for sale;

If it's a free trade or giveaway, it could be advertised for free. If an item is 'For Sale' at a price, we might have to think about a basic price for advertising, or an 'honour system' donation to the GCA.

Let us know what you think

Barb Moore has kindly volunteered to be the contact person for such a Column, if you think it's a good idea.