



JINDIBAH COMMUNITY
 174-176 FOWLERS LANE
 PRIVATE PROPERTY
 Visitors by appointment
 www.jindibah-community.org

2010: Action Stations at Jindibah

The most exciting thing that's been happening this year at Jindibah is feeling what it's like as more and more families finish their homes and move onto our 113 acres.

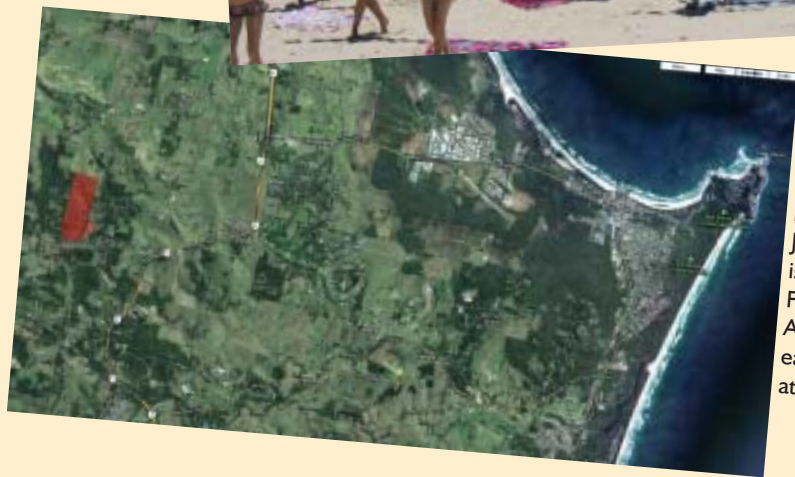
Now with **Community Title**, it is easier for families to obtain bank finance to build their homes, and it feels like the rush is on.

In mid-January 2010, **Kate Haynes** and **Alex Law** moved into their house on Lot 3, and promptly began giving the place an entirely different look and feel. Though both Kate and Alex are still on shiftwork (Kate is a doctor, Alex a paramedic), they have managed to revamp their kitchen to better suit their needs, fence off their lot boundary in order to be able to start an orchard, then establish the most luxurious chicken run that this property has seen, which has subsequently been populated with a selection of six handsome hens and one happy rooster.

Kate is looking forward to starting work - daytime hours - at **Bangalow Medical Centre** in January 2011, which will give her more time for yet more study, as well as helping with our regen projects.

Speaking of which, we have just been awarded a **Caring for Our Country** Grant of \$19,914 to fund the '**Sleepy Creek Riparian Restoration Project**'. It's to control weeds and erosion, and plant native species along the creek to create a wildlife corridor. Thanks and congrats to Jenny and Annette for making it happen!

Starting the year off with style and grace, Mark, Annette and Christobel take part in an almost spontaneous flash dance at Main Beach, Byron Bay. (We're the less gainly ones at the back, behind the teenage dance class.) Though the images didn't go viral, we had fun!



POSITIONING
 Red blob (left) is Jindibah. Blue blob is Pacific Ocean. Pointy bit is Australia's easternmost land at Cape Byron

WE'VE JUST GOT A GRANT

to convert the riparian zone around Sleepy Creek from this (below, in the early 1950s) to more like what we've done here (at right) in recent years.



Go grant team!



Jenny (left) and Annette (below her) were instrumental in obtaining the grant, aided by Christobel, and now Claudine, who will be making it happen in the coming 18 months.



Bettina uses yoga to make friends on her travels in India.



Jindibah E-News ...2

Though it was only in June that the **Kennedy** family moved onto the property, having bought Lot 10 in August 2009, they have become so much part of the community so fast, that it seems like they've been here forever.

With their boys **Louie** and **Dylan** attending the Bangalow Primary School, Jenny is very much involved in the P&C there, working towards getting funding for specialist teachers. As well, she's thrown herself into the team getting a grant for Jindibah, too, along with **Annette Kern**, who actually only moved onsite this year to help husband Mark's construction of their house on Lot 4.

Claudine and Craig Claridge, friends of the Kennedy's with kids **Ivy** and **Jet** in the same classes as **Sylvie** and **Louie Kennedy**, were very happy to hear when Lot 11 came up for sale, and their purchase was settled in July. Their house plans are in the works, with the intention for the Claridges to be living on their land in 2011. Meanwhile, both Craig and Claudine have joined the Regen team, and are often onsite at planting working bees and gatherings.

Sadly for us, circumstances have changed for **Steve and Emily**, who had purchased Lot 13 from Paul and Maggie Donovan in 2009, and their lot is now on the market.

Annette McKenzie and Matt Cumming are the proud new owners of Lot 6 on the mezzanine level. With their girls **Maya** and **Indigo**, they'll be camping by Sleepy Creek over the summer holidays and making house plans.

Our new friends and partners



David Kennedy watches Sylvie at a Christmas celebration in the community shed.



Ivy and Jet Claridge



Annette Kern (above) gets ideas for her kitchen garden from landscaper Dietmar Sobczak, while Louie Kennedy (left) pretends he's a lot like Rudolf at the Jindi Christmas gathering.



Annette and Matt Cumming with Maya and Indigo.



The tractor to the rescue! Bugged by the community hall, Bettina is saved by Stephan.



Claudine Claridge



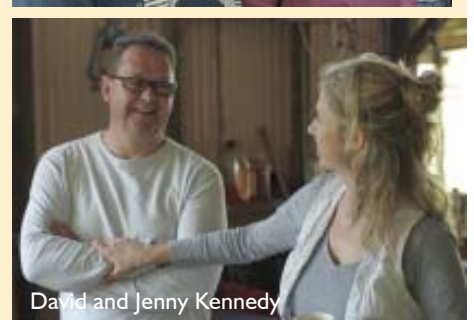
Claudine and Craig Claridge



Alas Steve and Emily are selling Lot 13.



Bamboo inspection by Sleepy Creek



David and Jenny Kennedy



Jindibah E-News ...3

Once new community members adjust to the complexities of preparing house plans, submitting them to Council for approval, and generally settling in, it doesn't take long to leap into life on the farm. Usually the kids are the ones who are eager to explore creek-side life.

This year, **Alex and Kate** donated a gratefully received ping pong table to the community hall, which last year was populated with fine quality Bentwood chairs and tables, once living in the **Kern's Bush Rock Cafe** in Blackheath.

Thanks, folks!



After completing many years of service elsewhere on the property, an old fibreglass water tank was recycled, cut in half, and turned into a waist-high veggie garden by **Christopher**, giving him (and his back) great satisfaction and pleasure, as well as countless carrots, parsnips, onions and heaps of green veggies.

This year **Christobel** extended her orchard and now has an interesting selection of nearly 100 sub-tropical fruit and nut trees. There's a 'spice gardens' with cinnamon, galangal, turmeric, taro and gingers growing among the tropical figs and palms; an avocado grove, Andean and other walnuts, macadamias and pecan nuts; about 10 varieties of citrus; dragon fruit, Davidson's plums and jaboticabas, pomegranate and jackfruit; mangoes and grapes; passionfruit, blueberries and raspberries; custard apples and kaffir lime. And that doesn't even touch her herb and flower collection...

Let the good times roll



Kennedy kids and friends at the creek celebrating Dylan's birthday (below).



Didi and Chris (above) setting up the waist-high veggie garden. The finished product, seen below.



(Above left) Stephan and Alex ping and pong in the hall after a working bee.



A Christmas get-together in the hall (above left) gives all residents the chance to catch up.



Christobel finally makes it to Uluru this year, a long-held dream.



Fresh from the veggie garden



Stephan drinking chai at a roadside Indian stall



Dreams coming true

Jindibah E-News ...4

In May 2010, **Rebecca and Roland Dickson** settled on their purchase of Lot 8. For the last 18 years, the family has been living on 7 acres in nearby Binna Burra, with their teenagers **Angus** and **Alexandra**. So that they could start planting trees without being eaten by cows, Roland fenced off the lot and got planting. Now house planning is happening.

Back in the U.K., **Pippa Markham** (Lot 2) is completing the final months with the theatrical agency she established decades ago, in preparation to move into the original Fowler farmhouse in 2011. We look forward to meeting **Antony George**, the new man in her life.

Definitely in the lead position for the title of Jindibah **PIONEERS OF THE YEAR** are **Mark and Annette Kern**. Mark always dreamed of building his own home, and this year has been slugging away, apparently little daunted by the massive task. Daily as we drive down our internal road, we observe progress as it happens on Lot 4, cheering them on from the (safe and dry) sidelines.

With more community members living on site, we've spent a great deal of time in meetings. Together we've worked out our budgets for the financial year, and are in an ongoing process to review and refine our **Vision**. This August's tweaking has our vision in a nutshell as follows:

Vision The intention of the Jindibah Community members is to achieve a sustainable balance between social, environmental, and economic life. We value collaboration, mutual respect, support and diversity, and endeavour to create an enjoyable and fulfilling environment for all.

At right (top), the kitchen wing of the Kern's house, seen from the south-west.

Below, Lot 4 house construction viewed from the internal road.

Below that, Annette's hot bath.



Below, Pippa with Tony. Coming in 2011.



The new Kennedy house on Lot 10 (above and below) neatly incorporates the existing guest wing built earlier by Martin and Inge Lass.





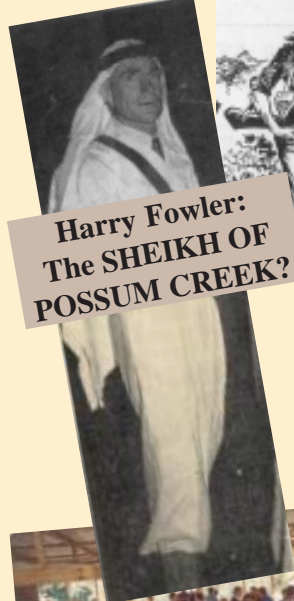
Jindibah E-News ...5

Harry Fowler's pioneering father Thomas moved to the district in about 1885. At the time he and his wife Selina moved onto the property in about 1903, it was covered with 'standing scrub'. Harry was born here on 26 July 1904 and lived here until his death at 83 years. He left a fabulous and rich legacy of works he performed for the wider community of Bangalow as a 'sportsman, dancer, soldier and horseman', truly a man of diverse interests and skills.

The "official organ of the 2/2nd Australian Infantry Batalion" newspaper dated Feb-Mar 1974 featured a lead article on Harry's life and exploits. To illustrate the article is the photo of Harry, (top left pic) dressed for a local ball as **The Sheikh of Possum Creek**.

We hope Harry would approve of what's been happening this past year in the open-sided community hall which he had built here in the 1950s. This year the hall has seen our community meeting there to discuss budgets, work on our vision, celebrate birthdays, have our monthly community breakfasts (and other feasts), meet with friends from the Bangalow Land and Rivercare Group, and with Fowlers Lane neighbours regarding the state of the lane itself. Re the road, **Alex and Chris** put together a petition, and Alex cycled up and down Fowlers Lane to get 38 signatures on it regarding the state of the road. This was sent to the **Byron Council General Manager** and all Councillors. Later **Alex, Christopher and Christobel** met with Byron Councillors **Patrick Morrisey** and **Basil Cameron** to discuss tactics in dealing with upgrading the road.

Past and present hall stories



Harry Fowler: The SHEIKH OF POSSUM CREEK?



Harry Fowler joined the Australian Army (the 2/2nd Australian Infantry Battalion) at a mass sign-up at the Lismore Showgrounds on Oct 25, 1939. As a corporal, in 1941 he was wounded, taken prisoner in Greece, then spent four years as a German Prisoner-of-War, where his friends say, he was "one of the great morale-builders". Returning to Bangalow in 1945 (his father had died in his absence at war) he purchased the Fowler farm from the estate. Harry learned to ride a horse at the age of four, later becoming a jockey, and was secretary of the Bangalow Pony Club, staging 11 successful gymkhanas.

The Fowler hall was "the scene of some lively times with dancing to the tune of Mrs Fowler's accordion", he said. It was also the venue of Harry's early dancing success, training there to win trophies for ballroom dancing from the 1920s on. Later, he taught hundreds of children to swim in the pool he made with his brothers in Sleepy Creek. Other interests included Legacy, the Ewingsdale Junior Farmers Advisory committee, in which he coached a young team of debaters and "took them to Canberra to win the final of the NSW State Debate for Junior Farmers". He was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his work with the Bangalow Show Committee, and with a team of volunteers, erected the

poultry pavilion at the Bangalow Showgrounds, named after him.

Harry - we salute you!



A 1970s celebration in the hall

At a monthly breakfast in the hall



Harry's 80th birthday cake



A barbecue after a planting working bee



A Fowlers Lane Community Group meeting about the condition of the lane



Working on our Vision

Byron Shire Councillors Patrick Morrisey (left) and Basil Cameron (centre) discuss Fowlers Lane with Alex



A budgetting planning session





Jindibah E-News ...6

Our 'Environmental Enhancement and Management Plan' (EEMP) was written in 2002 by **Mark Dunphy** and **Rob Fleetwood** from **Firewheel Rainforest Services**. It guides and directs our 10-year EEMP program, including specifying species. In 2010, we undertook to plant 1400 indigenous seedlings on the steep, eroded south-facing slope designated **R6**, 'R' standing for 'Revegetation'.

To start, the area was an open slope of worn-out pasture. As well as planting the new seedlings - sourced locally from **Liz Gander** at **Ragged Blossom Native Nursery**, the supplier to the **Bangalow Land and Rivercare Group** - the 1000 R6 trees planted in 2009 along our western boundary urgently needed maintenance too, as did the R5 unit.

One particular challenge at R6 was to select the right mulch. If we'd used heavy woodchip (normally good for steep slopes), it would have made the job of mulching all 1400 seedlings extremely costly, not to mention labour-intensive, pushing a wheelbarrow up and down such a steep slope. Finally we decided to trial metre-square weed mats, pinned to the ground. Stay tuned to hear about results!

We are very happy to have **Craig Cumming** supervising our regeneration and maintenance program, a long-time friend of the Kerns. He has worked extensively on the R5 and R6 units this year, as well as supervising our working bees. Our seedlings and young trees are showing the benefits of his tireless care. (His brother **Matt+Annette** bought Lot 6 here this year too.)

'Environmental Enhancement'



Tawny frogmouth owls found on the property, the inspiration for the name, 'Jindibah'.



Bettina (left), Kate (R)



Alex digging



Craig Cumming (above/below) weed matting.



Penny planting



Stephan watering



Craig (+ his dog Saxon) at freshly brushcut R5



One of several working bees on R6 this year, planting, mulching, weedmatting. At right, the steep south facing slope.



The weed matt kit





Jindibah E-News ...7

This year, just about everyone living here who could apply to the NSW State Government for the Feed-In Tarrif before it was withdrawn, did so. Our motives for buying solar panels for our houses range from wishing to reduce our carbon footprint, reducing the amount of fossil fuel that's being burned, moving towards energy-self-sufficiency in a climate changing world, and saving money.

In June, **Lisa, Michio, Isabelle, Moby and Hapi McMullen** moved into their new home on Lot 5. The skillion-roofed home is situated on a saddle protected from the heavier winds, with excellent views of the largest oldest native fig trees on the property growing just south of the top dry-stone wall.

Late this year, we learned about a program being run by Byron Council called **Land for Wildlife** for which we have just been approved. It relates to conserving and properly managing an area of High Conservation Value for wildlife habitat.

As part of a process to better understand the likely impact on our lives of climate change, **Christopher** has been keeping watch on the state of the planet, attending seminars and meeting as many influential authors and leaders in the field as he can, absorbing the scientific evidence and blogging his summaries to friends and family. This year he met Tom Blees (*Prescription for the Planet*), Dr James Hansen (*Storms of my Grandchildren*), Clive Hamilton (*Requiem for a Species*), Guy Pearse (*High & Dry*), Bill McKibben - founder 350.org, David Holmgren (*Future Scenarios*) and others.

Who's doing what



Following in the footsteps of Harry 'Chook' Fowler, **Kate** (at left) has collected a selection of rare breed chickens on Lot 3, including Chick Pea and Cotton Tail (both **Light Sussex**), Hetty (a **Barred Plymouth Rock**), Missy (an Australorp) and Speckled Hen (a **Speckled Sussex**). She also has her eye on an ancient breed called **Malay Game**, which grows to a metre tall and lives to about 10 - 15 years. When not clucking round their poultry Kate and Alex have also started an orchard this year to the north of their palatial chook run.



Left, Lisa and Penny.
Right: Isabelle McMullen celebrates her 11th birthday



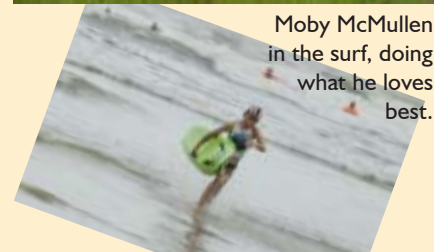
The 10kW ground-mounted solar panel installation at Chris and Christobel's



The McMullen's new home on Lot 5.



The Kahler's solar-panelled roof



Moby McMullen in the surf, doing what he loves best.



Bill McKibben founder 350.org, speaking in Brisbane

Christobel



Tom Blees with Chris



Dr James Hansen (centre) with Prof Barry Brook and Christopher (right) in Adelaide



At a Climate Change Summit in Canberra



Christobel and Christopher staged a Renewable Energy Forum in Bangalow (below) with the Green Coast Catalysts



Chris at a Solar Energy conference in Alice Springs



Flowers on this page, and the Christmas wreath, from Christobel's garden on Lot 7.

**Wishing all our friends
Happy Summer Holidays and a great 2011
from Jindibah community**



Jindibah Community, Sleepy Creek, Bangalow NSW 2479 Australia
is a 12-house-site **Community Title** intentional community.

It is located on a 46ha farm in Fowlers Lane, Bangalow, in the Byron Shire of Northern NSW.
For more information, see www.jindibah-community.org, or email DIY@jindibah-community.org
E-newsletter written and compiled by Christobel Munson,

© NOT JUST WORDS, Jindibah Community, December 2010

Photographs by Christobel Munson; some supplied by residents and lot owners (thanks Matt, David and Lisa!)