



# Jindibah 2013 e-news 'Community connections'

The 46ha Fowlers Lane property that is **Jindibah Community** (a.k.a. Neighbourhood Association DP286220), is located in the 2479-postcode, which is Bangalow. There are 12 distinct areas of 2479, namely Coorabell, McLeods Shoot, Possum Creek, Coopers Shoot, Binna Burra, Bangalow, Nashua, Newrybar, Brooklet, Fernleigh and Knockrow and Eureka (though that's borderline). It's debated whether Jindibah falls into **Coorabell** or **Possum Creek**, but either way, we're still Bangaloids.

As members of that community, many of us are actively involved in ventures outside the property. Our 13 resident kids (and four not-yet- resident kids) attend schools in Bangalow, Ewingsdale and Mullumbimby, and both parents and kids are actively involved in local school life.

Hopefully, we're following on in the footsteps of our predecessor on this land, the legendary Bangalow identity, **Harry Fowler**, who had his finger in countless community pies.

In late 2013, we were sad to learn of the death of Harry's brother **Joe**. His niece **Yvonne**, a nurse, works with GP **Bronwyn Hudson** (lot 2), so there's still an active Fowler-family connection. Joe is shown here at right, singing at Harry's 80th birthday party, held in the community hall.



Right: Alex and Kate (lot 3) were in the team which surveyed residents of Fowlers Lane in the 2013 Gasfield-Free Byron Shire campaign. At right are representatives of some of the Bangalow survey teams. 99% of Fowlers Lane residents voted to keep the lane Gas Field Free, with Bangalow just one of hundreds of small communities around the country united in their opposition to the mining of gas on our lands. 97.1% of Bangalow and 97.4% of Byron Shire residents agreed.



Left: Harry Fowler, for many years actively involved in the Bangalow Show Society, pictured with Mr & Mrs Vic Moller, (at right) who donated the money to build the Moller Pavilion in the Bangalow Showgrounds in the 1960s.



Bangalow Weir , 1920s, (above left) and Bangalow Weir Group & friends (below)

Christobel (lot 7) has been involved with the **Save the Bangalow Weir** campaign for several years. The Weir (above) was built in the early 20th century, around the same time that Harry and his brothers created the swimming hole by the community hall, in the south-west corner of our property. At right, she celebrates a victory in the long process at Byron Shire Council in October 2013.



Above: Indigo Cumming (lot 6) displays form and style at a Nett Set Go junior netball introductory class held in Mullumbimby.



# At work



## Jindibah E-News ...2

Most of us work either onsite, or in the local community. But some of us (like Craig, lot 11) need to travel around the world for their work.

The Kennedy's (lot 10) operate their business **Bun Coffee** from the Byron Industrial Estate, and also pop up at all kinds of local events such as the Bangalow Show.

We have two doctors living on site, and Alex is a paramedic, should those skills be needed. There's also a chef/baker, an academic, a social worker, a make-up artist, a graphic artist, a few consultants, some health food importers, yoga teachers, animated filmmakers, a librarian, etc etc.



Above: **Matt Cumming** (lot 6), who manages the Farm group, has taken to driving the tractor like a duck to water since moving onto the community. You'd hardly know he'd spent decades in advertising.



Right: **Jenny Kennedy** (lot 10) manning the Bun Coffee stand at the Bangalow Show.

Below Left: **Stephan** (lot 12) doing what he does best, discoursing on yoga philosophy.

Below right: **Alex** (lot 3) at work as a paramedic based in Casino. **Kate's** just dropped in to see him at work.



## 'Beautification'

Some work on the community is done by community members, on working groups or in working bees. Other tasks are performed by non-lot owners. For example, **Sue Graham's** role includes maintenance and landscaping of the entrance area to the community, from the community hall to the office building; from the rock wall to the 'Welcome Centre' (mail room.) Sue's transformed what was our overgrown, scraggly entrance, planting and maintaining the area with care and dedication. Where there were once weeds, flowers now bloom.

A long time Fowlers Lane resident, Sue has had a variety of 'work experiences'. On moving to Byron Bay in 1980, first she co-owned and operated the taxi business when there



were only three taxis. (Now, there's 42.) She's driven taxis, school buses, and was Byron's first woman coach driver. In 1982, she started her own driving school. Following that, she ran a catering business for weddings based at the Everglades (now the Byron@Byron).

An enterprising woman, she's been executive housekeeper at the Byron Beach Resort, later becoming their Food and Beverage Manager, then Conference Coordinator. She's managed the All Seasons Motor Inn, then the Byron Pacific Apartments, before training in property management at Millers Real Estate in Bangalow, later working in that capacity for George & Fuhrmann R.E. in Bangalow.

Currently, Sue is waiting to hear final test results for her oesophageal condition to see if further treatment is needed.





# Coming, going...

## Jindibah E-News ...3

This year, for family reasons, Pippa Markham and Tony George realised they needed to sell the original Fowler family farmhouse, and return to the U.K. for the foreseeable future.

Though very sad to see them leave (for now at least), we are delighted that **Bronwyn Hudson**, together with her kids **Buster and Maya**, have, since March, melted so fast into community life as the new owners and residents of Lot 2.

And once again the lure of the wild has captured yogis **Stephan and Bettina Kahlert**, who bought into Jindibah in October 2001, and who have made significant contributions to the community since. They moved onsite in late 2002, and into their new house on Lot 12 in 2004.

Now Thailand is calling, and everyone's keen to book time at their new house in Koh Pan Gan. Will we miss the gentle purr of the Harley Davidson or the Combi leaving for the 6am yoga class?



The original Fowler farmhouse (above) passed from Pippa Markham and Tony George to Bronwyn Hudson. Above right: Bronwyn (centre) bids farewell to Pippa and Tony. Centre below: Maya (left), Bronwyn, Buster. Below Right: Maya plans her quadbike riding future...



Yogini **Bettina** (Right) on the beach, with coconut, in Thailand. Below: East deck of their house on lot 12. Bottom left: Poolside view from Lot 12.



**Stephan & Bettina**



## From Jindibah to Thailand



Will the Kahlert's 'love-in' ever be the same again?



Below & Right: View from their new Thai house.





# Blasts from the past!

## Jindibah E-News ...4

This property came pre-loaded with indelible memories of fun & funky community activities. Music festivals for example...



Community Hall (a.k.a. 'The Dance Hall')



The Fowler Farmhouse

Sleepy Creek

Yes, these old images are faded and some what obscure, but you can just make out masses of festival-goers crowded onto the hillside and valley between the old Fowler farmhouse and Sleepy Creek.

We've all lost track of the number of people - from all walks of life - who wax lyrical when recalling attending the pop concerts held here in the 1970s and 1980s.

(For the record, our Council Consent Conditions don't allow us to hold mass public gatherings like this here any more. So don't expect any repeat performances of Split Enz, INXS, MiSex, Rose Tattoo, Midnight Oil in the dance hall - though it would be rather fun....)



# Fowlers Lane will rock on

**FOWLERS LANE** — a farm tucked away in the hills near Bangalow — will explode to the sounds of rock and roll over the next week.

Since 1976 the farm's natural amphitheatre has been used for an annual music concert — never failing to pull in large crowds.

And it looks no different this year for the December 28 Summer Madness concert, when top bands such as Mi-Sex, Jimmy and the Boys, Rose Tattoo and Dutch Tilders hit the hills for a 'farm rage'.

Last year 2700 people flocked to Fowlers lane for a concert starring Split Enz. The concert promoter, Roger Danne, said that he was expecting up to 2500 for the Summer Madness concert.

"We have decided to make the concert an annual event, and we also are looking at putting on a three-day concert if we can find the right venue," Danne said yesterday.

"At last year's concert we had problems with parking and the toilet facilities. But now we've got these all ironed out."

"Outdoor concerts have a charisma about them because of the large amount of people who turn up."

The music will kick-off at 1.30 p.m. with local bands Bottom Line and Double Trouble.

They will be followed by Hands Off, Dutch Tilders, Mi-Sex and Rose Tattoo. Jimmy and the Boys will take the stage for the final performance of the night.

Mi-Sex are scheduled to perform at 6.30 p.m. They will be travelling to Brisbane for a concert later that night.

A market place will be set up on the farm, pony rides will be running, and there is also a swimming hole.

An outdoor concert will also be held tonight at Fowlers Lane. Sydney vocalist and pianist Tim Meakes will take to the stage with his group, the Tim Walker Band. Local duo, Pot Lukk, also will be playing. Pot Lukk recently returned from playing in Sydney hotels, where they have been drawing large crowds.

The six-man Sydney rock group, Moving Pictures, will be playing what they describe as 'full on rock and roll' at the concert tonight.

More than 1000 people from Sydney are expected to arrive by bus at the concert.

The Sydney promoters said that the busloads who had organised to travel to the North Coast were 'regulars' at the Sydney hotels where the visiting bands play.



**Above:** Mookx Hanley provided copies of these tickets from a 1976 Bahloo Country Music Festival here. Mookx (above) in 1998 with poster for that event. He and Shanto lived onsite for years in our M.O. days, instigating many musical happenings. **Left:** Constructing the performers' stage. **Right:** More crowds pack the valley. Note the wall of speakers!





# New moves

## Jindibah E-News ...5

**D**uring the months of 2012-2013 that Stephan and Bettina Kahlert were wandering the world searching for new adventures, **Annette McKenzie, Matt Cumming** and their girls **Maya** and **Indigo**, stayed in the Kahlert's house on Lot 11.

Having decided to relocate a Queenslander to Lot 6, then adding a new back section, this opportunity to live onsite gave them time and space to get it all together.

As it happened, it would have been one of the wettest days of the year when the first sections of the house arrived from Queensland in April. For a while there, it didn't seem possible that the two segments would be able to get off the trucks and through the mud to the site.

During the long months of relocation and new construction, Maya and Indigo settled quickly into community life with the other kids on the farm and at Bangalow School, with Maya moving up to high school at Trinity in 2014. Billie arrived too, and scored second prize at the Bangalow Show as the dog with the waggiest tail.

By the very end of 2013, their house was completed and the family moved in.





# On the land

## Jindibah E-News ...6

**A**lpacas, koalas, rare breed chickens, cows, horses, snakes, tawny frogmouth owls, echidnas, platypus - lots of us live here at 176 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow.

This year, having completed the major planting in our **Environmental Enhancement and Management Plan**, our working bees and maintenance sessions focussed on looking after all the indigenous trees we've planted, mending fencing, replacing weed matting where needed, and sometimes planting extras, like a row of 34 lillypillies bordering the R1 section planted in 2003.



Above right: Craig Claridge planting lillypillies at a working bee at R1 in February.



Above left: Craig Cumming and friends on the quad bike, setting out for a day's maintenance work.



Above: Special fencing was erected around 12 semi-advanced figs planted along Sleepy Creek. Keeps hungry cows away from the emerging trees.

Below left: Diamond Python at rest.

Below right: 'Runaway' billygoat mower.



Above: Newly hatched araucana chickens who will eventually lay blue eggs on lots 3 and 7.



Above: Emerging rainforest on R3 and R4.



At right above: New weedmats aid growth of replacement seedlings.



# Out in the world

## Jindibah E-News ...7

Every couple of years, representatives of intentional communities from around Australia gather together for a conference to discuss matters of mutual interest. From 5-8 December 2013, the theme of the conference held at the **Moora Moora cooperative community**, near Healesville, 90 minutes from Melbourne, was **'Energising Community Spirit'**. See ([www.mooramoora.org](http://www.mooramoora.org)) Nearly 80 people contributed to discussions on such topics as sharing resources, cohousing, legal structures, financing the establishment of communities, living sustainably, and how overseas communities operate.

Christobel facilitated a group where seven communities - some established, some forming - spoke about their individual set-ups, or goals, while Christopher was one of three speakers at an extremely popular session on **Communities in a post-carbon world**, a subject close to his heart.

Another speaker in that session, **Matt Daly**, an environmental engineer and researcher from UTS, screened graphs of the carbon footprint of a range of intentional communities worldwide to demonstrate what's already achievable. Follow-up sessions were animated, seeking to share information about what communities are currently doing really well to reduce their carbon footprints, and **how intentional communities can become pivots for social change**.

A feeling predominating discussions was that people living in rural landsharing communities were well placed to work collaboratively to develop the resilience that will be vital in dealing with climate change in future decades.



**Above:** Laurie Kane (left), from Moora Moora, with Matt Daly (UTS) and Chris Sanderson (right) at the Moora Moora intentional communities conference in December..

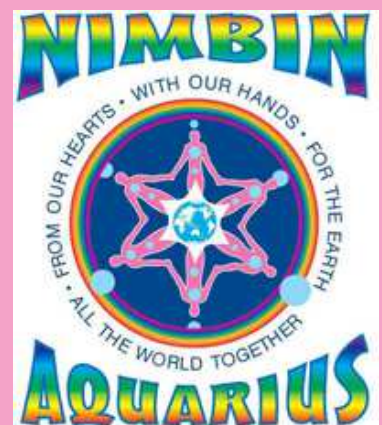


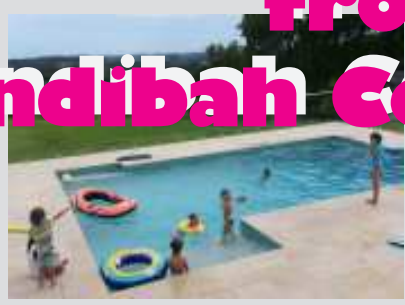
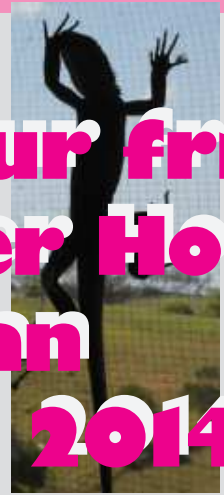
**Above & Left:** Friends at the **Aracuria Community** in Blackbutt Lane, Broken Head, held a mid-winter field day on the results of their Environmental & Enhancement plan. After a preliminary briefing in Broken Head Hall, where their many years of planting were also meticulously documented, more than 70 people braved the rain to walk through the parklike community to observe the impressive results.

### Not a new phenomenon

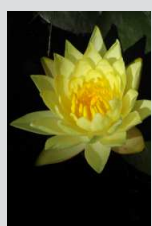
Griffith University academic **Dr Bill Metcalf** (author of many books on the subject), keeps exhaustive records of the rise and fall of intentional communities in Australia, and says they have been in existence here since 1827: religious and secular, single sex and multi (?)

**At right:** May 2013 marked the **40th anniversary of the Nimbin Aquarius Festival**, which triggered an explosion of communities in the Northern Rivers of NSW, paving the way for the establishment of legal structures for first Multiple Occupancy communities, then more recently, Community Titles. Without our Nimbin predecessors, would Jindibah have been able to be founded?






**JINDIBAH COMMUNITY**  
 174-176 FOWLERS LANE  
 PRIVATE PROPERTY  
 Visitors by appointment  
[www.jindibah-community.org](http://www.jindibah-community.org)



**Jindibah Community, Bangalow**  
 is a 12-house-site **Community Title** intentional  
 46ha farm in Fowlers Lane, Bangalow, in the Byron Shire of Northern NSW.

**NSW 2479, Australia**  
 community located on a

For more information, see [www.jindibah-community.org](http://www.jindibah-community.org)

E-newsletter written and compiled by Christobel Munson ©NOT JUST WORDS Dec ember 2013  
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 Matt Cumming, Bettina, Stephan, Mookx Hanley, the Fowler family, Bangalow Historical Society, Aracauria Community,)