

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

June, 1997

CIRCULATION: 600

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, which started the Whisper in July, 1981. This Newsletter is distributed to all RMBs in Wamboin, Clare, and Yalana at the beginning of each month, except for January. Editor is Ned Noel, 28 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 238-3484. Printer Canweb Printing in Mitchell, ACT. Contributions which readers may wish to make for the July, 1997 edition of the Wamboin Whisper will be welcome, and should be submitted to the editor's mailbox (or sent by fax to 238-3562 or by email to nednoel@acslink.net.au) by **Sunday 29 June, 1997, 7:00 pm.**

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

POLICE	298-0599	BRIGADE INFO CENTRE	238-3396
AMBULANCE	297-1433	FIRES/EMERGENCY	299-1502 (24 HRS)

Wamboin Community Association AGM Tues, June 17, Community Hall, Bingley Way, 8 pm

WAMBOIN FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Community Association	Libby King	President	238-3222
Fire Brigade	Lyle Montesin	Captain	014-997-459 bh 238-1481 ah
Emergency Services	Kevin Anderson	Controller	236-9333
Brownies	Gillian Parry	Contact Person	238-1075
Pony Club	Maureen Purdie	Contact Person	238-3343
Play Group	Jennie Hayward	Co-ordinator	238-3517
Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	Bookings	238-3258
Church, Anglican	Robyn Robertson	Warden	238-3202
Yarrowlumla Shire	Peter Greenwood	Councilor	238-3358
Golf	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	238-3358
Wamboin Store	Derek&Trish Mavity	Operators	238-3585
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare	Roster	299-1966

THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS

(If you wish your name to appear in this section, please advise the editor on 238-3484)

Ula Zammit, babysitting	238-3230
Levi Zammit, lawn mowing	238-3230
Nicole Skews, babysitting	238-3403
Fiona Skea, babysitting	238-3290
Rebecca Purdie, babysitting, odd jobs, and domestic services	238-3343
Julia Noel, babysitting, petsitting	238-3484
Theresa Montesin, babysitting	238-1481
Alicia McCudent, babysitting	238-3103
David Klemke, odd Jobs, computing, math tutoring	238-3355
Mia Donald, babysitting	238-3276
Tammie Bachta, babysitting, odd jobs	238-3496

Macs Reef Tip Hours 7:30 am to 5:00 pm (7:00 pm during daylight time) Thurs-Mon, closed Tues & Wed
Wamboin Store Hours 8:00 am - 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 6:30 pm Sat/Sun/Hol

WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next meeting of the Wamboin Community Association will be the Annual General Meeting. The meeting will elect the committee for 1997/98 and consider any other business. Nominations will be called for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Committee Members. Items for the agenda should reach the Secretary at 7 Cooper Road Wamboin by 15 June.

The community association is looking for some "new blood" to serve on the committee (not that there is anything wrong with the "old blood"). Some long serving members deserve a break.

The Bonfire Night and Fireman's Ball are THE events of the month and worthy of your support. Please refer to the Whisper for further details.

THE AGM WILL BE TUESDAY 17 JUNE AT 8:00 PM.

Regards, Libby King, President.

M J

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Mowing Down the Prices!!

Don't Forget

Wamboin Community
Association's
Annual Bonfire and
Fireworks Display
Wamboin Community
Centre,

Bingley Way, Wamboin

Sunday 8th June

Food stalls from 5.30,

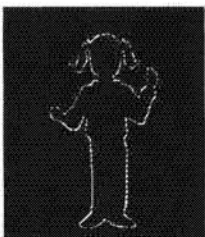
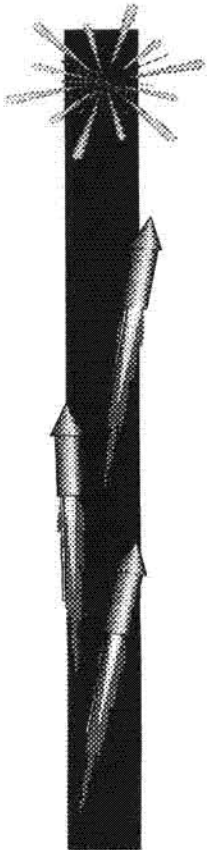
Bonfire 6.03 &

Fireworks light-up 6.33 precisely

Support local community groups
including Community Association, Cubs,
Scouts, Play Group, Fire Brigade

Come to the big bang of the year!

Adults \$2, Children \$1 or Family \$5



(Please note that the only fireworks allowed will
be the display by the Community Association for
which a permit has been obtained)



YARROWLUMLA COUNCIL NEWS

Reconciliation Following a report from Cr Alan Walker, Council will be considering the vexing issue of aboriginal reconciliation. This followed Alan's attendance recently, on behalf of Council, at the Aboriginal & Torrens Strait Islander Reconciliation Meeting held at Exhibition Park in Canberra.

To say the least, some of the issues raised in Alan's report are quite controversial, including a recommendation to change the spelling of the name of our Shire to "Yarralumla" (from Yarrawlumla) which is apparently closer to the original aboriginal meaning. Other suggestions were to invite local aboriginal groups to meet with Council to discuss how Council can identify and integrate their concerns into planning and environmental issues and to discuss how Council can participate in the reconciliation process. One other suggestion, which is what this article is all about, is to inform community groups of the Reconciliation process and invite them to consider how their community could respond.

Whilst some Councillors were ready to adopt all the recommendations and others were willing to reject them totally, fortunately the majority decided to let the issue "lay on the table" at this stage for careful and considered discussion over the next twelve months.

This is an issue which at present is in the Federal arena, however it is something that should and will be considered by local government. I would be interested to hear of any views from anyone in our community.

Peter Greenwood
Your Local Councillor 2383358

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150 mm (6") pots \$4.00

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Dynamic Lifter, 40 kg bag \$18.00

**Kleenheat Gas Dealer, Wamboin, Sutton and Geary's Gap Area.
Also available; Rural Services, including Slashing, Ploughing,
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WAMBOIN

Ph/Fax 238-3308

All Creatures Great and Small **A Continuing Series by Dr Blair Lamont, BVMS, MRCVS**

Following recent publicity on TOXOPLASMOSIS in humans, several clients have requested a run-down on this disease, Toxoplasmosis is a coccidia (a protozoan type organism) that lives and breeds primarily in cats' intestines. It normally causes little or no upset to the cat, though some may get fever, pneumonia, liver problems, etc. However, the parasite produces millions of cysts ("eggs") which pass out into the cat's droppings. In most cases, these are produced over only a 10 or 12 day period, and this may happen only once in a cat's life or several times, depending on the cat's diet and resistance to re-infection. These "eggs" become effective within 2 to 5 days and then can survive for up to 18 months in shady areas. Cats get infected by eating these "eggs" OR by eating other foods which may contain toxoplasma cysts. This could be rodents or birds, or undercooked meat or chicken, but NOT dry or tinned cat foods.

The big problem is that the infected eggs, which then are passed in the cat's droppings, are very often picked up by humans, animals and birds. In the case of humans, it can be by cleaning cat litter trays, or any soils, etc, in which the cat may have defecated. Even the vegetables can be contaminated, as many cats use the garden as a toilet area. Another source of infection could be undercooked meat from an animal which had itself picked up infection and in which the Toxoplasma cysts had developed and been dormant, perhaps for years.

Another unfortunate aspect is that the Toxoplasma is not destroyed by chemical means or freezing, but is killed by heating above 66°C. It is therefore obvious that any contaminated area can remain dangerous for many months.

In animals and humans most cases of Toxoplasma pass undetected, as blood test surveys indicate quite a high % of infected humans. This is obviously highest among people who associate with cats which have access to any "food" other than tinned or dry cat food, or which roam outside in contaminated areas.

Unfortunately however, many humans (and animals) DO suffer symptoms and even die, from this widespread "parasite". These symptoms can vary from abortion to flu-type illness, to glandular lever-type signs, to brain and eye damage, liver and bowel problems etc, etc. The Toxoplasma travels all through the system and can form cysts anywhere.

In humans treatment is difficult, even though infection can usually be diagnosed on blood samples. It is seldom practicable to test or treat cats themselves, as the disease, if present at all, is very short lived and intermittent.

Prevention is the main aspect. This means keeping contact with dried cat faeces or contaminated areas to a minimum, especially in YOUNG children and PREGNANT women. Where possible, try to ensure that cats only eat tinned or dry cat food, and reduce roaming- Cook all meats thoroughly - certainly above 66°C, Treat any suspect articles, i.e. litter trays, by HEAT, not chemical disinfectants, and BURN faeces, do NOT bury them. Finally, be aware of Toxoplasmosis and mention it to your doctor in any suspicious illnesses - it is frequently overlooked.

Till next time - Good Health! Blair Lamont.

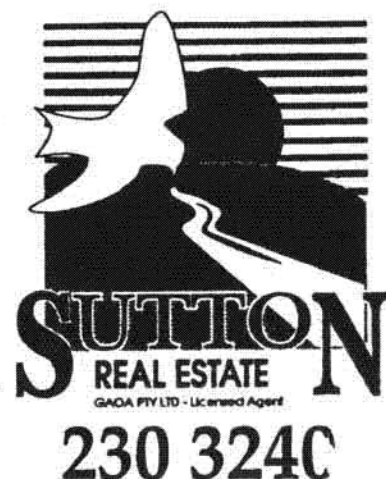
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Ron, Nancye, Jill or Leanne to discuss your needs. Phone (06) 2303 240



Playgroup

Playgroup Awareness Week at Wamboin Playgroup, 13 May 1997. Our playgroup has just finished celebrating Playgroup Awareness Week. First of all we organised a visit by our Bush Fire Brigade. This was a lot of fun. Most of the kids (and some mums!) had a ride in the truck and also had the chance to use the siren and fire hose. We would again like to thank Dave Hubbard for doing this. Next we had a teddy bears' picnic inside the hall, complete with teddys, balloons and squeals of delight. Finally, at the end of the day, each child was given a certificate of participation (kindly and very cleverly made by Chris Anderson on her computer) to remember our lovely day at Wamboin Playgroup. Playgroup is held every Tuesday morning (school term) from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. Bring along a piece of fruit, a cup (tea/coffee/milo/biscuits provided) and \$1.00 each week. We would like to see you there! If anyone has any unused toys or puzzles lying around, the playgroup would always appreciate them. Any questions, ring me on 238-3517 - Jennie Hayward.

Riding Instruction

**Local riding instructor available for beginners and more experienced riders and can come to your property.
Improve your dressage, learn to jump or just increase your confidence.
Available weekends or week days.**

Phone Leanne on 238-3435.



Family service and Sunday School is held in the Wamboin Community Hall at 9am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Please feel welcome to attend the Sunday Services, which are conducted by the clergy and lay readers of St. John's, Reid. Come and share our time of worship and enjoy a cup of tea afterwards.

BUNGENDORE FOODTOWN SUPERMARKET

Free assembly and delivery of groceries, meat, fruit and vegetables and delicatessen, to the Wamboin and Clare Valley Area.

This service is available Monday to Friday. Orders phoned in by 12 noon will be delivered mid-afternoon.

Phone 238-1178 for friendly, helpful service.

THE GREAT WAMBOIN CURRY NIGHT.

An open invitation to Wamboin. It's on again. Bring your own everything and share the gastronomic and intestinal experience of the year. Saturday, 9th August, 7 pm, at the Community Hall. Enquires to Dave Hubbard on 238-3308.

QUEANBEYAN VETERINARY HOSPITAL & BOARDING KENNELS

94 Yass Road, Queanbeyan, 2620

Dr. Blair Lamont and Dr. Gary McComb advise the continuance of their Wamboin/Clare Valley/Sutton area "Home Visit Days" on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month. This is in addition to our normal attendance, but with only nominal mileage charges.



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Wamboin Fire Brigade News

The last month has been very quiet for the Brigade with no call outs. The AGM of the Brigade will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, 3RD June. Elections will be held for all executive positions. Remember the annual fire brigade ball will be held on Saturday, 28th June, at the Community Hall, Bingley Way. Tickets are now available. See the ad below for details. The next meeting of the Brigade will be Tuesday, 3/6/97. - Regards, Graham Heathcote, President

WAMBOIN VOLUNTEER BUSHFIRE BRIGADE

Fireman's Christmas in Winter Ball

Community Hall, Bingley Way, Saturday 28th June, 7 pm for 8 pm Christmas Dinner
Music by "Red Hillbillies", Full Fire Brigade Bar Facilities
Surprises! Dancing! Fun! Ticket Price: \$28.00 per head



Tickets Available from:
Helen 238-3208
Kerry 238-3489
Graham 238-3458 (h) 238-1178 (w)
Marylou & Rob 238-1913
Chris & Nev 238-3592

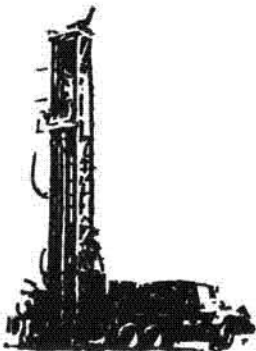


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WAMBOIN COUNTRY GOLF CLUB - MAY RESULTS

A good day was had by all 22 golfers in the Stableford competition held on 4th May. Our many thanks to Robert Gorham for the donation of trophies and also to Robert and Marylou for the eats.

Trophy winners (on the apparent Lambert Family Golf Day) were:

Encouragement award shared by Daniel Jobson and Ian Barter

Visitors trophy to John Erikson and Keith Jobson

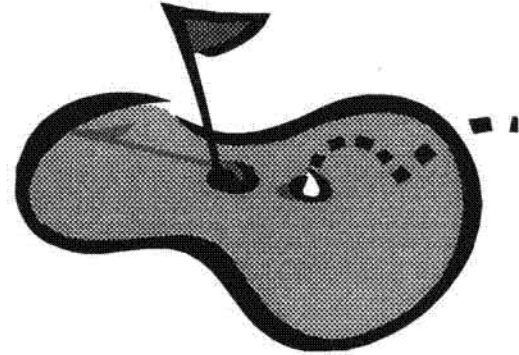
Ball winners for nearest the pin and long drives were:

Jonathan Greenwood x2, John Erikson, **Simon Lambert** x2, Neville Schroder x2, Tony Fisher, **Steve Lambert** and Daniel Byers.

Nine Holers trophy won by **Ruth Lambert**.

B Grade won by **Steve Lambert** with Tony Fisher 2nd.

A Grade won by Matthew Justin from Jonathan Greenwood.



Peter Greenwood
Golfer 2383358

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- decaying leaf matter?
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WAMBOIN - 15 YEARS AGO by David Robertson

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS: Unfortunately we have had little success in getting speed restriction signs for Norton Road. There is a spare pole on the left just as you enter Norton Road. If anyone can obtain a "Wamboin Welcomes Careful Drivers" sign or the like, and install it, we would all be very grateful. In the meantime, let everyone set a good example. Never drive faster than 50 kph in the Wamboin area. From the Wamboin Whisper No. 4 - August, 1982.

Thanks to the one of the persons listed below, a copy of the Whisper gets into your mailbox each month

Dean Evans	Norton Area from Cmpbl west	18
Max Klemke	Norton -Bngly to Cmpbl	35
Dave Hubbard	Poppet Road	36
Cathy Abell	Canning Close	17
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	40
Carol Olgilby	Norton -Bng to Yalana	42
Bill Owen	Cooper Rd	27
Mary Loft	South End - Clare Valley	38
Janine McPherson	North End - Clare Valley	32
Roberta Rentz	Weeroona Norton-Majors	28
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20
Ruth Lambert	Norton in Yalana + 10 Gry Gap	60
David Anderson	Weeroona Majors-Denley	35
Anthony Whitford	Hogan/Denley Area	22
Lyle Montessin	Forrest Road & Joe Rocks Road	50
Bernie Riordan	Clare Valley Lane	8
Ann Platts	Denley/Birchman's Grove Area	12
Anne Reardon	Creekborough Road Area	10

WAMBOIN CLASSIFIEDS

ADVERTISING RATES: Local classified advertisements are free, as are announcements from community organisations and clubs. Business advertisements attract a small fee (see below) which is donated to the Wamboin Community Association. Please make your cheque out to this association, but post it to the editor. Contact editor on 238-3484 for information.

Advertising rates: Full Page - \$50 Half Page - \$25 1/4 Page - \$15 1/6 Page - \$10 1/10 Page - \$5

For Hire: Wamboin Community Hall - Bookings arranged by Joan Mason - 238-3258
Local Hire \$55 Bond \$120 Outside Hire \$85 Bond \$150
Teenage Parties (must be supervised by parents) \$125 Bond \$250 Gas Barbecue Extra

For Hire from the Wamboin Community Association: Brand new Gas Barbecue - Party Size, Portable \$20.00 per hire (includes gas) and \$20.00 cleaning bond, both payable on collection of barbecue. Cleaning bond is refunded if barbecue is returned clean - Bookings arranged by Kerri Fisher- 238-3489

The Whisper is Wamboin's community newspaper. If you live in the area and have something to say about living here that is informative, thoughtful, entertaining, or interesting, think about writing it up for the next issue. For more information contact the editor on 238-3484.

Position Vacant - La Normandie Restaurant, Bungendore - for waiter or waitress with knowledge in bar work - previous experience required - wages negotiable - casual - call the restaurant afternoons 3-6 except Tue/Wed - or in the morning call 286-1757

Japanese Tuition, student, conversation, or business. Phone Michelle Jackson on 238-0440.

FOR SALE: Queen size bed & mattress, black timber look, Freedom bed with good mattress, \$200. Bookcase, black Freedom timber look, medium size bookcase, 900 long x 1200 high, \$60. Mini wardrobe/drawer - antique style timber, small wardrobe with 3 drawers and mirror attached, \$100. Phone 238-3435.

Gearys Gap-Wamboin Landcare Group

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Landcare Group will be held on Monday 9 June in the Gearys Gap Community Hall, Birriwa Road (off Macs Reef Road). New members welcome. Meeting commences 7.30 pm. Light supper provided. **Annual Subscriptions:** Members are reminded that annual subscriptions of \$20 per family become due on 1 July. Payment may be made at any meeting of the Landcare Group, or forwarded direct to the Treasurer, Rosemary Hurley, at 10 Clare Valley Place. - Hilary Kent

SNIPPETS FROM SUTTON SCHOOL

Term 2 has brought with it some new and exciting programs at Sutton School. All the children from K-6 are busily and enthusiastically involved in a new and innovative enrichment program which is being held on Thursday afternoons. We have professional people from not only within the school but also outside of the school community teaching the children skills which are varied as pentanque and croquet, drama, photography, and archery and circus skills. We all look forward to Thursday afternoon. This program will run for the whole of Term 2.

With the help of our supportive and hardworking parent body the landscaping around our new classroom has been completed and it is beginning to look fantastic! Primary children, in particular years 4 and 5, have learnt a great deal about horticulture as they have dug and planted our vast supply of plants to complete the landscaping.

We were all entertained by the performance "Be a Sport". A highly talented group of dancers demonstrated to the children how the actions used in sport can be developed into dance routines and gave the children an opportunity to help "choreograph" their own dance routine.

Sporting activities are continuing with a group of children training hard to represent the school at the district cross country being held at Gundaroo. The school was very proud of the achievements of Charles Featherston who represented the Region at the State Swimming Titles. Well done Charles.

TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL IN WAMBOIN

(21 year statistics by David Robertson)

Average June Rainfall	45.9 mm
Wettest June	134.5 mm in 1981
Wettest June Day	38 mm on 25/6/81
Driest June	8 mm in 1979
Coldest Night	-5c on 20/6/86
Hottest Day	14c 21&22/6/79 & 10&12/6/87
Coldest Day	4c on 27&28/6/83 & 28/6/90
April 97 Rainfall	0.5 mm
1997 rainfall to 30/4/97	142.5 mm
Average annual rainfall (1976-1996)	760.00mm

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A Bit of the Area's History As Told by Mr. Bill Cartwright of "Woodbury" on Sutton Road

and written down by the Editor

Mr. Bill Cartwright's great grandfather settled in this area in 1862. In about 1935 Bill's father, Jack Cartwright and his father's brother, Frank Cartwright, lived in portions of the family grazing property "Woodbury", in the area of Sutton Road and Macs Reef Road. Bill Cartwright and his wife Fay still reside there today.

As a way to have an extended area for grazing, the brothers bought 1400 acres of land in the area now traversed by the western portion of Norton Road. Roughly, the area was a rectangle extending north from Kowen Forrest to a couple miles north of the present Norton Road, bounded on the west by the ridge just east of Sutton road and extending eastward to about the present Canning Close. The Cartwright brothers were given the money to start the purchase by their uncle, Jimmy Dunn, who won the Queensland golden lottery prize of 50,000 pounds. They bought the land from Tom Gallagher, a man who had owned it for a long time, perhaps since before 1900. By 1935 he was getting too old to carry on with the work of managing sheep on the land. Some members of the Gallagher family lived near the Molonglo River crossing on the Kings Highway about 10 km west of Bungendore.

The 1400 acres of land they purchased in the Wamboin area was good wool growing land, as it had already been cleared. It supported 1000 to 1100 wethers.

There is a old building site on the land, now located west of Cooper road and south of Norton Road, called the bark hut. Only a stone chimney remained in the 1950s. Bill Cartwright remembers camping there for six weeks in the winter in 1947, with his cousin Jerry and a pack of dogs. They were there to carry out rabbiting and scrubbing. One night a snow storm came and left six inches of snow.

One problem of the Gallagher's block was that it was "landlocked". The Cartwrights could only get into it "through the grace of others" either by way of the Kowan Forrest Road or through Bob Denley's property to its north. Bill remembers that to get the 1000 or so wethers sheared and dipped they had to be run all the way northward to Bob Denley's property, then out onto Sutton Road about halfway between the present Norton Road and the Federal Highway, then north along Sutton Road to the shearing shed at Woodbury on the east side of Sutton road about two kilometres south of the Federal Highway.

In the 30s, 40s, and 50s Macs Reef road was a very rough gravel road. It carried only about 20 cars a day. The road was not fenced, so the sheep roamed on the road and cars stopped for them.

FIREWOOD

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BERNARD REARDON

Carinya Park, Clare Lane Wamboin
RMB 201 Gundaroo Road

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Mobile 018-632-054

Formerly there was a large property called O'Halloran's along the east side of Sutton road from the ACT border to about the spot of the shearing shed. The shearing shed can also be located as being opposite the Cooper's house on the west side of Sutton Road. Mr. O'Halloran owned the property, but a shearer named Glen Smith leased it from O'Halloran from about 1935 to about 1980. O'Halloran also bought other land close to the ACT boundary, including large tracts near the present Queanbeyan railway station and at Inverona near Hume. Blocks at Inverona were sold to people from as far away as England and South Africa. The property on Sutton Road north of Norton Road was purchased around 1980 by Athol Morris, a panel beater from Canberra.

The Cartwrights would go onto Gallagher's, the large Wamboin block, only about once a month to muster or to build or repair sheepyards. The area was very quiet, with the only sound coming from birds and a few airplanes a day. It was "an isolated area, completely quiet and still." In the whole area bounded by Sutton Road on the west, Kowen Forrest on the south, Macs Reef Road on the north, and the Lake George Range on the east, there would only have been about ten houses well into the 1960s. These included Jack Welch, the bulldozer driver, a couple of houses on the Watson's land, Glenn Smith's house on Sutton Road, 3 or 4 houses on Sutton road belonging to the Bingleys, the Cartwrights' houses, Gordon Bingley near Kowen Forrest on land he bought around 1950 from the Hyles family, Bob Denley and the Harriots in blocks just south of Macs Reef, and the Riordans in Clare.

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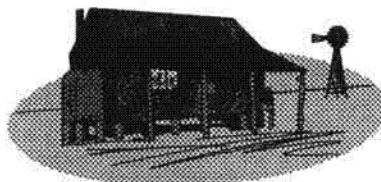
FIREWOOD



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or 018-627-554 or 014-997-459

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- Ridge Capping Repairs
- Rubbish Removal

The Cartwrights when working their Wamboin (Gallagher's) block would sometimes run into a sawmiller named Raynor who used to take out logs. There is in the area a creek called Sawpit Creek, flowing northeastward from the west side of the ridge just east of Sutton road to the Yass river, meeting it about 6 km south of the present Macs Reef bridge. Timber logs were taken from this area and this may have been the reason for the name of the creek. Raynor was a sawmiller at Queanbeyan and collected logs from Gallaghers. Bill Cartwright doesn't know whether Raynor had a sawmill there or not. A short little railway was ported into the bush near the cutting areas to use for running the logs into a saw operated by Les and Herb Bingley to cut timber for the Cartwrights about 1950. Various woodcutters took a lot of wood, especially stringybark and redbark, out of the area to customers in Canberra and Queanbeyan. Much of it went to a woodyard near the War Memorial. Some persons involved in woodcutting were Stan White, who used to live in Sutton, and the Webbers of Queanbeyan. Trees were cut into 6 foot lengths using axes, with the bigger logs split to make them lighter. In Canberra they were cut down further into fireplace logs. Bill believes that all of Wamboin, now bare of trees in many places, was once quite forested.

In the 20s, 30s, and 40s the Cartwrights used to allow Sutton residents to get firewood from the parts of Woodbury closest to Sutton. There was plenty of wood in the area, so this arrangement helped cut fire risk and also was a way of showing "a bit of community spirit."

Like most graziers, the Cartwrights removed many trees, as it opened up the land for sheep. At least one of the local graziers tried to remove all trees. The Cartwrights did not follow this approach. They felt that leaving some trees was wise. Trees provided protection for the sheep, so that they did not use as much of their energy to keep warm, needed less feed and stayed in better condition through the winter. Trees also prevented the land from drying out as fast in hot summer winds, and hence kept the pasture in better condition. Mr. Cartwright's grandfather paid a man to ringbark most of the trees in one area, and asking him to leave some untouched for these reasons. The man later boasted to other people that he had ringbarked every single one.

Mr. Cartwright's father, Jack Cartwright, died in 1966. His mother and his sisters owned the land, and Bill Cartwright and his brother worked it for them for about three years until 1969. They then sold it to a developer. The developer had previously bought the O'Halloran's block, along the east side of Sutton Road just north of the ACT border. The two blocks together provided sufficient land for subdivision, the beginning of the new subdivided Wamboin. Norton Road was started in 1970 or 1971, and extended up the big hill from Sutton Road and a bit further after passing over the hilltop. Bill Cartwright believes it was always sealed, and he does not believe the shire would have allowed such a steep road to go in without being sealed.



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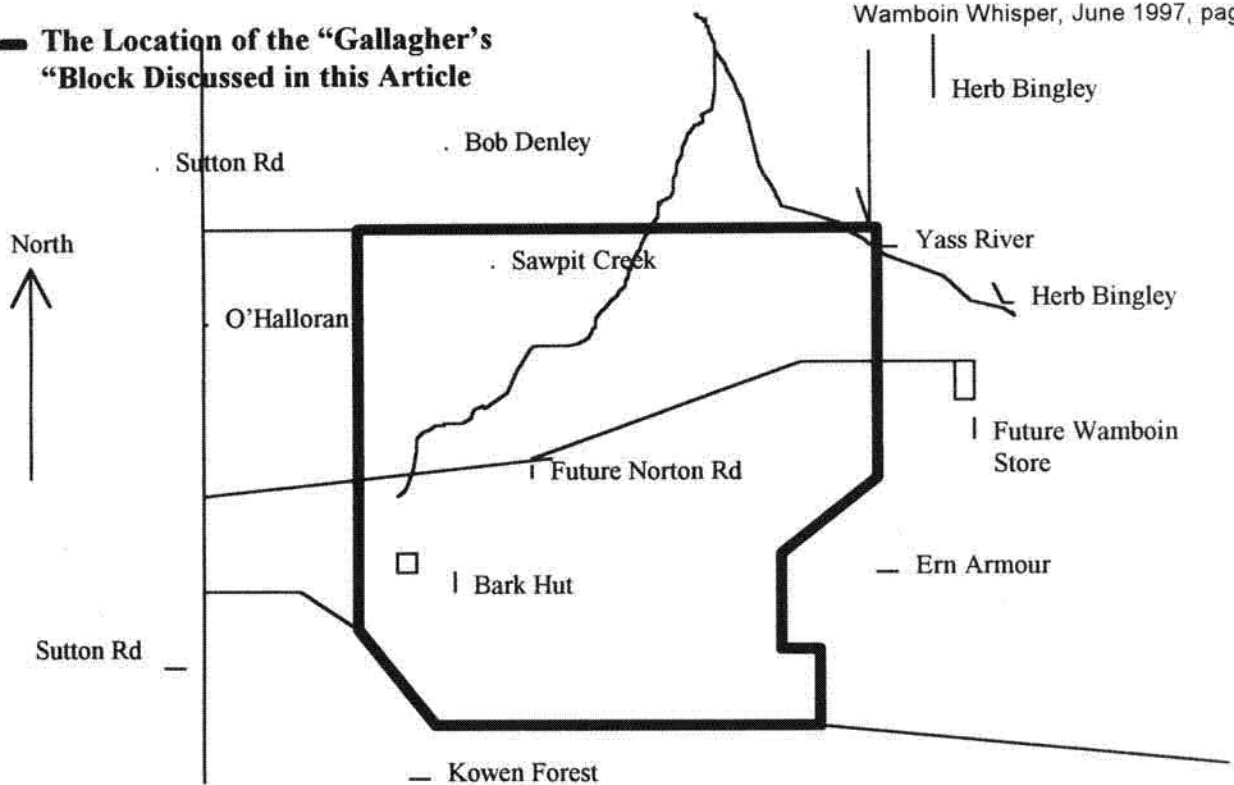
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— The Location of the “Gallagher’s
“Block Discussed in this Article



The Cartwrights knew the Hyles Family and the Watsons, but had little contact with them. “We were Sutton people and they were Queanbeyan and Bungendore people.” The Hyles would come into the land from the Kowan Forrest or Kings Highway end, and, like the Cartwrights, only occasionally when required for mustering, sheepyard construction, or other grazier’s work.

Bill Cartwright supports a story from James Bingley about shooting wild pigs in the area. He also remembers many occasions, especially during the winter, when kangaroos were culled. Kangaroos ate the same grass that the sheep ate, and hence cut into the graziers’ livelihood. The shoots never killed off all the kangaroos, but kept their numbers down to about 20% of what they are today. The kangaroos were also deterred then by the absence of water. Today Mr. Cartwright notes, on a morning plane flight from Canberra to Sydney the area glitters with reflected sunlight from hundreds of dams, which the kangaroos use for water.

In addition to the Wamboin fire of 1985 Bill remembers the big fire that hit Sutton in 1979. It burned 72,000 acres in 24 hours. It started in Hall when electricity lines touched, and was pushed by northwesterlies to the Sutton area, where it burned several outlying houses as well as large areas of grass, trees, and fences. Then the wind changed to a southwesterly, and the fire moved from the Sutton area towards Lake George. On Woodbury, their property just south of Sutton, the Cartwrights lost about 300 sheep and most of their fencing. “It was a big disturbance in our lives.”

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Bill can also remember a smaller fire that burned around 50 acres around 1948. It was started by a wood carter boiling a billy beside a dam.

On the Woodbury property Bill also remembers many floods on the Yass River. The property is about a kilometre above the Macs Reef Yass River Bridge. The Cartwrights and their neighbors on the eastern side of the river, the Rudds, have fences that cross the river to allow stock access, in this pattern:



Floods often took out the fences. The biggest flood Bill can remember was in 1982. As in most of the floods, the river rose quickly and dropped quickly. Mrs. McGlaughlin, who was living at the Rudds at the time, woke up in the middle of the night and went into her kitchen and looked out the window. The rain had ended and the sky had cleared. Mrs. McGlaughlin was amazed to see, lit up by the moon, an enormous body of water between her and the Cartwrights. The next morning the river had already receded substantially but the line of sticks left by the flood crest went 200 meters into the Rudds' land on the east side of the river and 100 meters into the Cartwrights' land on the west side of the river.

Bill wonders about the new bridge. Because it is an arched bridge rather than a shallow crossing, in a really big flood it may act as a dam. It could force water back over his farm and the others just upstream of the bridge. The really big floods happen very quickly, lasting only 30 minutes to an hour, but in that amount of time the new bridge could cause considerable damage by damming up the river if there is so much water that it cannot all fit under the arch.

Bill thinks the Rehinkles, who ran the animal farm until a couple years ago, bought their land about 20 years ago. The same land was once part of Woodbury, owned by his grandfather and his grandfather's brother.

Bill has never heard any stories about aborigines in the area. The only accounts he has ever heard about aborigines deal with the Orroral and Urriara areas now in the ACT.

The Sutton Fire Brigade was officially formed in 1951. Before then firefighting was done by private people, usually with beaters, and, as time went on, with their own pumps and trucks. Getting help was in some ways easier, because in those days everyone's phone was plugged into the Sutton exchange. All the plugs could be plugged in at once and then all the phones in the area would ring simultaneously to allow the news to be quickly spread. A number of people could arrive within ten minutes, surround the fire, cut fences where necessary, and follow the line of the fire.

Bill thinks that in many ways the increased population has made firefighting more dangerous. In earlier times there might be only one house on two thousand acres, and so it could be protected. Now there might be 50 or a hundred houses on the same amount of land, so a fast moving fire could endanger them much more quickly. It might be that only 4 or 5 trucks could be available in the first half hour, and 15 or 20 in two hours. He points out that people should take care to keep grass and brush away from the house, as this increases opportunities for trouble in a fire.

The Cartwrights had always maintained a tip of their own on their land on a little stony knob. The Shire put in the Macs Reef Tip about 20 years ago. "It's something that's got to be."

All the settlement has in some ways made life more difficult for graziers. Some of the problems that have increased with settlement are increased numbers of kangaroos, roaming dogs, higher rates, and a greater bushfire risk.

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