

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

September, 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 6238-3484. Printer is Canweb Printing in Mitchell, ACT. Contributions which readers may wish to make for the October, 1997 edition of the Wamboin Whisper will be welcome, and should be submitted to the editor's mailbox (or sent by fax to 6238-3562 or by email to nednoel@acslink.net.au) by **Sunday 28 September, 1997, 7:00 pm.**

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

POLICE	6298-0599	BRIGADE INFO CENTRE	6238-3396
AMBULANCE	6297-1433	FIRES/EMERGENCY	6299-1502 (24 HRS)

WAMBOIN FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Community Association	Libby King	President	6238-3222
Fire Brigade	Bernie Broers	Captain	014-997-459 bh 6238-3316 ah
Emergency Services	Kevin Anderson	Controller	6236-9333
Wamboin Cubs	Paul Brugman	Leader	6238-3539
Wamboin Scouts	George Baum	Leader	6238-2308
Brownies	Gillian Parry	Contact Person	6238-1075
Pony Club	Maureen Purdie	Contact Person	6238-3343
Play Group	Jennie Hayward	Co-ordinator	6238-3517
Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	Bookings	6238-3258
Church, Anglican	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238-3202
Wamboin Store	Faiz and Suzanne Rizvi	Owners	6238-3484
Yarrowlumla Shire	Peter Greenwood	Councilor	6238-3358
Golf	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238-3358
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare	Roster	6299-1966

THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS

Ula Zammit, babysitting	6238-3230
Levi Zammit, lawn mowing	6238-3230
Nicole Skews, babysitting	6238-3403
Fiona Skea, babysitting	6238-3290
Rebecca Purdie, babysitting, odd jobs, and domestic services	6238-3343
Julia Noel, babysitting, petsitting	6238-3484
Michelle Montesin, babysitting	6238-1481
Alicia McCudent, babysitting	6238-3103
David Klemke, odd Jobs, computing, math tutoring	6238-3355
Mia Donald, babysitting	6238-3276
Andrew Barker, odd jobs, petsitting, baby sitting	6236-9012
Tammie Bachta, babysitting, odd jobs	6238-3496

Macs Reef Tip Hours 7:30 am to 5:00 pm (7:00 pm during daylight time) Thurs-Mon, closed Tues & Wed

WAMBOIN CORNER STORE

Phone: (02) 6238-3585

Thank you to the community of Wamboin for all your patience and support within the last few weeks while we were improving our store.

We now have available a greater range of products including GROCERIES, LIQUOR, VIDEOS AND STOCKFEED.

Our stockfeed supply includes:

Lucerne chaff, grains, horse pellets, cattle pellets, chook pellets, chicken grain mix, bran, pollard, dairy meal, stud mix and more. Our prices are comparable with town. If we don't have it, ask and we will try and get it. A discount will apply for a minimum pre-ordered stock. Free delivery service available.

Liquor variety has increased and includes:

A great range of spirits and wine also light beer is available at \$22.50 a carton and \$7.50 per 6 pack and full strength beer at \$28.50 a carton and \$8.50 per six pack.

Our range of videos is changed monthly and includes new releases:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| - First Wives Club | - The Island of Dr. Moreau |
| - Maximum Risk - Van Damme | - Crash |
| - Eye for an Eye | - Fear |
| - Fled | - Plus more to choose from |

There is also a good selection of children's and family videos.
Fortnightly and monthly accounts available.

Thanking you,
Suzanne & Faiz Rizvi

WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

You may have noticed as you travel along Norton Road that the building of St. Andrew's Anglican Church at the corner of Poppet Road has commenced. I have been informed that all local tradespeople are involved in the construction.

On the 31st of August I attended a tree planting service on the site. The building committee expect the church to be completed for opening on 30 November, St. Andrew's Day, when the Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn, the Rev. George Browning, will officiate. The Church is another milestone in the growing maturity of Wamboin from empty grazing land to a real community.

The next meeting of the Wamboin Community Association will be on Tuesday 16 September at 8.00pm.

- Regards, Libby King President

A working bee will be held at the hall from 10 am Saturday, 11 October. The Hall Management Committee desperately needs your assistance to progress some projects such as the replacement of the hall ceiling, veranda construction, connecting the new water tank, some electrical work, painting, cleaning and some concreting. We have some funds available so please keep part of the day free to help maintain your hall. Refreshments will be provided during the afternoon. More details next month. Enquiries to Peter Greenwood on 6238-3358.

Fund-Raising Shopping Tour to Sydney: Girls, it's a fabulous day of shopping at a selected range of discounters, wholesalers, and warehousemen. As well as buying all of your goodies at prices way below retail and saving heaps of money you will be helping us to raise those much needed dollars for the Paul Baker Quadraplegia appeal. Paul Baker is a 25 year old assault victim. The date is Saturday, 25th October, 1997. Tour includes travel by luxury coach to Sydney, morning and afternoon teas, lunch, and much more. Call Sandy Huckstepp on 238-3430 or Leonie Hart on 238-3485 for details.

WAMBOIN - 15 YEARS AGO by David Robertson from the "Wamboin Whisper" of October, 1981

Our District Name: "Wamboin" has now been officially gazetted as our District name so please use it in all your written and oral communications and discourage the use of "Canberra Country Estate". Telecom has advised that all local telephone numbers will be changed before March 1982 and that the new numbers will appear with a Wamboin prefix in the next issue of the Canberra District Telephone Directory. If you haven't received advice of your future number, contact Telecom ASAP.

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YARROWLUMLA COUNCIL NEWS

Street Numbers New residential street numbers are on the way. The study has now been all but completed and by mid September you should expect a letter from the Council advising you of your new residential street address. As advised in previous editions of the Whisper these new numbers will indicate the distance of your gatepost from the beginning of your street or road. This makes it easy to find your gate for visitors and mail delivery but particularly for emergency vehicles.

New numbers will be issued by the Council and these should be fixed to your gate post. The size of these numbers is quite large at 100 mm for each numeral, but they will make identification of your property very easy. You can put other numbers on your road side letter box if desired. When you get your new numbers in an aluminium holder please give them a go and fix them to your gate post. Rural NSW and the ACT will then be in line with Victoria which has already adopted this scheme.

Statistics The Australian Bureau of Statistics recently released some statistics for Yarrowlumla Shire, from the August 6, 1996 census. Some of the more interesting facts are as follows:

- **Population** As at 6 August 1996 there were 9,186 people (4,626 males and 4,560 females) in the Shire. This represents an increase of 1,196 people or 15% since 1991 and 52% since 1986.
- **Age** In 1996 the median age of males was 35 years and 34 years for females. In 1991 it was 32 and 31 years respectively and in 1986, 30 and 28 years respectively.
- **Children** In 1996 there were 2,407 persons under 15 years of age compared with 2,098 in 1991 and 1,779 in 1986.
- There were 50 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, up by 8 people since 1991 and 37 since 1986.
- **Birthplace** The number of people born overseas was 1,449 (15.8%) Of these 72% were born in Europe (incl UK, Ireland and former USSR). 6.8% were born in Asia and 0.7% were born in the Middle East and North Africa.
- **Religion** 6053 people, or 65.9% stated they were Christian. Down from 69% in 1991 and 70.3% in 1986. Of these 38.2% were Catholic, and 38.7% were Anglican. There were 0.9% who identified themselves as non-Christian.
- **Individual Income** In 1996, 2,432 people aged 15 years or more (35.9%) had a yearly income of less than \$15,600. In contrast, 12.7% or 863 people had an income of \$52,000 or more. The median individual annual income was \$22,680 in 1996 compared with \$21,408 in 1991 and \$15,071 in 1986.
- **Dwellings** Of the 3,081 occupied private dwellings, 1,285 were owned, 1,183 were being purchased and 468 were being rented. Of the 1,183 being purchased, 564 or 47.7% had mortgage payments of \$1,000 or more per month. The median monthly housing loan repayment was \$997 per month.
- **Motor Vehicles** There were 2,876 (93.3%) occupied private dwellings which had one or more registered vehicles owned or used by household members. Approx 21.5% of dwellings had three or more motor vehicles garaged at the house compared to 23.3% in 1991 and 21.3% in 1986.

So there you are, in there somewhere!

Peter Greenwood, Your Local Councillor 6238 3358

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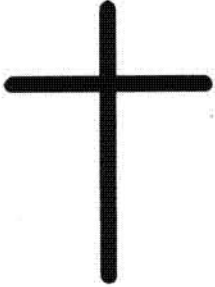
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ST ANDREW'S CHURCH



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.

If St Andrew's can do something for you or if you have any enquiries, please phone the Revd Mara Di Francesco, at St John's parish office on 62488 399 or Robyn Robertson on 62383 202.

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WAMBOIN BUSHFIRE BRIGADE

Incidents. The month of August was similar to its predecessor in that the Brigade attended at four grass fires. All had originated from an intentional burn-off of rubbish and had spread from there. Remember please that grass which has hayed-off remains a volatile fuel even in winter and although a permit is not required to burn rubbish out of the fire season, there is always an attendant risk, however small! Please take care and implement precautions prior to commencing burning.

Training. Two Brigade Members, Lane Brian and Scott Foster, have successfully completed their Heavy Duty Tanker Four Wheel Drivers Course. This is a welcome addition to the range of talents available to the Brigade. Well done Scott and Lane.

Vehicles & Equipment. "Wamboin 6" the Isuzu tanker is in the news again. This time it has had four new tyres fitted. We have taken delivery of three Foam Proportioner kits to be fitted to Wamboin 6, Wamboin 7, and Wamboin 11. These kits will allow us to apply the special Bush Fire Fighting Foam (BFFF) to fires at carefully metered rates. This has two advantages (1) by increasing the effectiveness of water, lesser quantities are used, and (2) by applying only the required amount of BFFF on demand there is a financial saving too.

Brigade Captain. The Brigade Captain, Mr. Bernie Brouers, has returned from holiday and has resumed his responsibilities. Welcome back Bernie and grateful thanks to Chris Powell, the Senior Deputy Captain, for standing in for an extended period during Bernie's absence.

Telephone Contact Lists. During September the Brigade will be distributing a reprint of the lists of Brigade field officers and emergency numbers. Please place this by your telephone(s); we have attended at least one fire recently where the owner was delayed in raising the alarm because the list was not available anywhere in the house.

Erratum. Tony Fisher's name is incorrect in the new list. It should read Tony Martin. The phone number is correct however.

Subs Drive. The annual Subscription Drive will be held over the weekend of 11 and 12 October.

- Richard Hobbs, President

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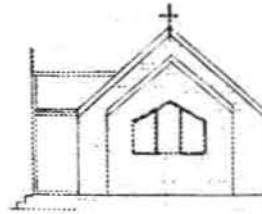
If you are considering selling, buying or renting a property contact:

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



NOTES FROM ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Many Wamboin residents will have noticed the beginning of building work at the church site on the corner of Norton and Poppet Roads. After almost 13 years in the Community Hall this is a new step in the development of the church. It is entirely due to the generosity of church members and we hope the Wamboin community will accept the gift and welcome this addition to community life and facilities.



To celebrate the commencement of building, the children will plant a Christmas tree on Sunday 31 August. Bishop George Browning has accepted an invitation to consecrate the church on St Andrew's Day 30 November.

The building of the church is very much a Wamboin project. The work is being done by Wamboin tradesmen and we thank you all for the work done so far, and for the enthusiastic support you have given.

Perhaps there are others who could help. Do you have an unused pulpit in your attic or shed - or any other appropriate fittings? We'd love to give a new home to something with a history of church service, and we can promise lots of TLC. A particular need, is a kitchentype table and chairs for the Sunday School. If you can help, the Robertsons would love to hear from you.

FERNLOFF ROAD REVEGETATION PROJECT - BY John van der Stratten

The Wamboin Community Association and the Geary's Gap - Wamboin Landcare Association will hold a working bee from 9 am on Sunday morning, 12 October, along Fernloff Road. We will be planting trees and sowing seed along the verges to replace the trees and shrubs cut down last year. It will be the first occasion for landcare activity in this part of Wamboin, so hopefully there will be a good turn out of families to get this project underway before summer. Please bring your own favourite digging implements and buckets for seed distribution. Every little bit helps the Wamboin environment.

SCOUTS

1st Wamboin Scouts have started up again. George Baum is the new leader and is offering his experience and expertise in Scouting to the youth of Wamboin and surrounds. George was the Scout Leader for Bungendore for the past 3 years. If you are between the ages of 11 to 15 and looking for some excitement and adventure, give George a ring or turn up to the Wamboin Community Hall on a Monday evening from 7 pm to 9 pm. - Many Thanks, Marita Corra

Scouting in Wamboin has started up and we are looking for youth members. Scouts are from 10 ½ up until they are 14 years old. Scouting is all about having fun and lots of it. We go camping, bush walking, night walking, etc. There is also the serious side of scouting - learning different knots and knowing how to use these knots when constructing towers, shelters, camp gadgets and lots more -- first aid, building self esteem and courage, being better citizens, and helping others to help themselves. This is just a small portion of what scouting can do.

My involvement with Scouting has been for a lengthy time. I have spent 10 years as a leader in Cubs and also in Scouts. I joined Cubs at the age of 8 years and have been through to Venturers. At that time I decided to become a Leader, so that what I had learned I could pass down to the future generation. Being a leader has been very challenging, but at the same time rewarding, with the scouts seeming to have a lot of fun and achievement from my leadership. Scouting in my mind is a form of education with lots of fun and it also allows scouts to teach responsibility to others in their age group. If your child wishes to join Scouts and they are 10 ½ years old please give me a call on 0412-059687. - George Baum

SUTTON

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Geary's Gap Wamboin Landcare Group - by Maria Taylor

September 8 meeting of the Geary's Gap Wamboin Landcare Group: featured speaker Bob Allison Fire Control Officer Yarrowlumla Shire Council on 'Fuel management in the rural residential zone'. When and where: 7.30 in the community hall on Birriwa Rd.

Acacia fuelwood trials: If you're interested in inspecting fuelwood Acacia trials in the Kowen Forest or learning more about eucalypts for farm forestry, contact the Southern Tablelands Farm Forestry Network (STFFN) about its field day on September 28. Contact person is Sophie Clayton 207 2494 or fax 207 2544.

Landcare Fact File: The Landcare group is starting an information service for residents of the Geary's Gap/Wamboin area. The goal is to share information on local successes and failures in plantings and other landcare issues and to provide some basic background information for decision-making on land management on the block.

Watch for the Landcare Fact File in your mailbox over the coming season and also in the pages of this Bulletin and in the Wamboin Whisper. To kick off, on page 11 are some facts you should know if you're contemplating growing willows.

SNIPPETS FROM SUTTON SCHOOL

AS usual Sutton School has been a hive of intellectual and physical activity during the month of August. July finished on a high note with grade 5 winning a Sydney City Mission competition with their excellent essays on Homelessness. They won a new T.V. and a trip to Wonderland.

Koala day was greatly appreciated by all the children participating in it. A major outcome was a Koala friendly grove of trees, and a donation to the Koala foundation.

As regular learning activities proceeded, day by day highlights for some children and/or some classes were occurring throughout the month such as NSW English Competition, Yr 6 Human quality, Usic Skills Testing, Intensive Swimming program at the AIS, Religious Education classes, the Identikid program, Maths Olympiad, Child Protection lessons and World Vision.

Kindergarten Open day was a success. The new kindy children involved themselves in activities while their parents socialised and discussed aspects of school. The Performing Arts Festival at the Bicentennial Hall in Queanbeyan involved participation of our school choir and a drama class performing C J Dennis' "Romeo and Juliet".

Book Week was appreciated by all children with author Karen Sutcliffe presenting a program on her book, and teacher/librarian Debbie Keenan from the ACT Library Service involving children in activities based on short listed books. Congratulations to Jessica Brent who won her section in the Multi Cultural Public Speaking regional finals at Wollongong.

Year 3 to 6 students, parents and friends had a wonderful day in the snow at Mt Selwyn on Friday August 22. - Molly McDonald

Bungendore Public School

Kindergarten Orientation Morning on Thursday, 20th November, 9:30 am. Morning tea will be provided for parents while children eat their recess with the other children.

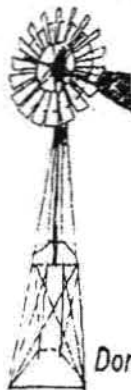
Pre-Schoolers Recess Visit on Thursday, 13th November, 1:00 - 1:40 pm.

Enrollment forms can be picked up at the Pre-School, Kids Zone, or Bungendore Public School and returned on Orientation Morning. Phone 6238-1317 if you have any questions or enquiries. All children who are starting Kindergarten in 1998 are welcome to attend any or all of these school visits. - Ray Gentles, Principal

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Wamboin Playgroup

Wamboin Playgroup welcomes everyone back to enjoy term 3 of the year. 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, and biscuits provided) and \$1.00 each week. We would like to see you there! If anyone has any unused toys, puzzles, or books lying around, the playgroup would always appreciate them. Any questions or suggestions, please ring me on 238-3517

Many thanks to **Andrew Dunn of Cross Country Constructions** for promptly volunteering to draw up plans for an awning linking the Community Hall to the playground. Andrew also provided us with a very detailed Bill of Materials which has greatly simplified the collection of building supplies for the job. We certainly appreciate his professional and generous assistance with the project. A **working bee** to construct the awning will occur on Saturday 18 October. Anyone wishing to help with this activity, please contact either Barbara Harrison on 6238-3525 or Jennie Hayward on 6238-3517. - Jennie Hayward.

WAMBOIN COUNTRY GOLF CLUB - AUGUST RESULTS

The popular ambrose teams event was held in August and we had 21 players competing for a variety of prizes donated by the Navy. My thanks to Charles Guscott and Tim Barter for the arrangements and also for the eats following the game.

The NAGA was won by Larry King and Georg Sorensen collected the googly ball. I apparently won the spit the dummy, but still can't imagine why! Our encouragement trophy was won by Alyssa Guscott for her first game and our visitors trophy went to Andrew Barker. Ball winners were Neville Schroder, Ben Hubbard x2, Luke Austin x2, Simon Lambert, Rob Gorham, and Larry King x2.

Second team in the ambrose consisted of Matthew Justin, Jonathan Greenwood, Luke Austin and Daniel Justin. The winning team was captained by Joan Mason with Tony Fisher, Robert Gorham and Peter Greenwood.

The Golf Club's very popular Curry Night was held on 23 August with close to 100 people in attendance. A great success and our thanks for the arrangements to Dave Hubbard and his helpers.

Peter Greenwood, Golfer, 6238-3358



WAMBOIN TENNIS

The next tennis will be held on Sunday 14 and Sunday 28 September at 2 pm. We have a friendly social game and new players are welcome. For details call Catherine Potter or Rick Beviss on 6238-3393.

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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 - \$70 Half Page - \$35 1/4 Page - \$20 1/6 Page - \$15 1/10 Page - \$10

- **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.
- **FOR SALE: Two tractor ties - 14.9 - 24 - Offers. Phone 238-1510.**
- **FOR SALE:** One second-hand Kent slow combustion heater - offers? Slate heat resistant hearth and wall shield to go under and behind slow combustion heater - \$100 ea. Phone 238-3350 (h) or 299-1088 (w).
- **Wanted:** Anyone interested in getting together occasionally to play piano duets and/or chamber music? Please contact Pam Larkin 6238-3462.
- **SILK RIBBON EMBROIDERY CLASSES IN WAMBOIN:** (1) Starting Thurs 23rd October for 5 weeks - create a beautiful garden of spring bulbs. (2) Starting Tues 11th November for 5 weeks - create a work of art with Australian Wildflowers. No previous embroidery skills required. Both classes will run from 7:30 pm until 9:30 pm at a cost of \$10 per class. Class size limited to 5. Please ring Robyn Slater on 6238-3472 to book your place.
- **Wanted:** Does anyone have any old wooden pallets lying around that they don't want? If you have please ring Chris Slater on 6238-3472.
- **For Sale:** XC Ford Fairmont '76 automatic, registered 10/97, good tyres. Make an offer. Ph 6238-3222.

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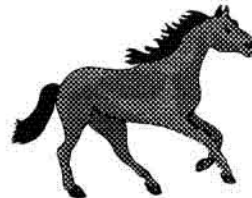
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Dr. Blair Lamont and Dr. Gary McComb advise the continuance of their Wamboin/Clare Valley/Sutton area "Home Visit Days" on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month. This is in addition to our normal attendance, but with only nominal mileage charges.



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WEED WILLOW SEX TURNS AN OLD FAVOURITE INTO A MENACING

Willows have been a favourite along Australian watercourses for many decades. Until now they've been nice and celibate, mainly either male or female, content to be propagated by cuttings and keeping their seed to themselves. Unfortunately, recent species imported to Australia have changed all that, with both males and females introducing the demon SEX.

Eradication will cost the community millions. The new recruits not only breed with each other, they can also tempt other long-standing willow species. The upshot: in the past five years millions of willow seedlings have been germinating themselves along Australian rivers and watercourses. Fisheries are suffering as the natural stream environments are choked by willows. Eradication will cost the whole community millions. Recent imports of male and female versions of the New Zealand hybrid, *Matsudana x alba*, is threatening to make the problem worse in a cancerous way. The female boasts abundant seed and the male can fertilise even the Weeping Willow. The safest thing to do is not to plant any willows. If you feel you must, make sure you can positively identify males and females. Never plant both sexes. And keep them well clear of watercourses, creek lines and dams in the headwaters of catchments. The following table, prepared for the ACT 'weeds list' shows the worst offenders, with the species in bold being of most immediate concern.

NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
Salix alba var caerulea Salix alba var vitellina Salix babylonica	Cricket Bat Willow Golden Upright Willow Weeping Willow	Viable seed produced with <i>S fragilis</i> syn S vitellina. Hybridises with S. fragilis (see S X rubens) Original clone female (probably from <i>S. matsudana</i>). First species introduced and only one of real heritage value. Known to hybridise with <i>S. alba</i> , <i>S. fragilis</i> , <i>S. matsudana</i> hybrids and <i>S. humboldtiana</i> . Vigorous seeding in Australia. Has hybrids with S. caprea, S. viminalis etc.
Salix cinerea ssp. Oleifolia	Grey Willow, Pussy Willow	Hybridises with <i>S. alba</i> var <i>vitellina</i> , <i>S matsudana</i> 'Tortuosa', <i>S alba</i> . A major problem in both New Zealand and many Australian rivers by detached branchlets taking root Vigorous seeding in Australia. Has hybrids with S. caprea, S. viminalis etc.
Salix fragilis	Crack Willow	Hybridises with <i>S. alba</i> var <i>vitellina</i> , <i>S matsudana</i> 'Tortuosa', <i>S alba</i> . A major problem in both New Zealand and many Australian rivers by detached branchlets taking root
Salix glaucophylloides	Broadleaf Willow	Breeding with S. X. reichardtii and spreading in the Molonglo below Scrivener Dam.
<i>S. humboldtiana</i> var. <i>pyramidalis</i> Salix matsudana "Tortuosa"	Pencil Willow Tortured Willow	syn <i>S. chilensis</i> . Mainly in warmer areas. Female clone. Hybridises with <i>S. fragilis</i> and <i>S. matsudana</i> X <i>alba</i> clones.
Salix matsudana X alba	Matsudana Hybrid Willow	Clones released from New Zealand. Three female clones that should never be planted are NZ 1001 "Cannock", NZ 1003 "Te Awa", NZ 1040 "Tangoio". Male clones should not be planted near rivers. Now breeding between themselves and other species, especially S babylonica.
Salix nigra	Black Willow	Introduced by seed in 1960's. Highly invasive. Spreads readily in moist areas. Regenerates most years. Airbourne seed travels tens of kilometres.
Salix purpurea Salix viminalis	Purple Osier Common Osier	Males and females present. Of concern May breed with S purpurea and S cinerea. Male and female clones present. Major threat to lowland rivers if it reaches these areas.
Salix X chrysocoma	Golden Weeping Willow	syn (<i>S. alba</i> var <i>vitellina</i> X <i>S. babylonica</i>); (<i>S X sepulcralis</i> var <i>chrysocoma</i>); (<i>S vitellina</i> var <i>pendula</i>); (<i>S alba</i> var <i>tristis</i>). Crosses with <i>S alba</i> and <i>S. fragilis</i> in New Zealand. Hermaphrodite. Produces seed in Tasmania.
Salix X rubens	Gold-crack Willow	(S alba var vitellina X S fragilis); (S alba X S fragilis). Now the major source of seedlings.

TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL IN WAMBOIN (21 year statistics by David Robertson)

Average September Rainfall	66.9 mm	Coldest September Nights	0c - frequent
Wettest September	1978 - 146 mm	Hottest September Day	18/9/81 --24c
Wettest September Day	19/9/85 - 48 mm	Coldest September Days	3/9/82 - 5c
Driest September	1994 - 5.5 mm		
July 96 rainfall - 61 mm	1997 rainfall to 31/7/97 -342.5 mm	Average annual rainfall (1976-1996)	- 760 mm

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A Bit of Wamboin's History

Provided by Ray Murphy, Bernie Reardon, and Tony Reardon

put together here by the editor

Much of the land just west of the Lake George Escarpment in the Smith's Gap area was owned in the early 1900's by the Leahy Family. The Leahy's name for their property was Clare. It included the present Clare Valley area, the present Forest Road Area, the present Brooks Creek Estate, and a good bit of the land along Gundaroo Road between Macs Reef Road and the Federal Highway including the present Summer Hill Area. They built a house on Clare in about 1915. They also owned and lived at Elmslea in Bungendore.

Pat Reardon purchased Clare from the Leahys around 1930. Pat Reardon had four sons, Bede, Paul, Frank, and Les and three daughters, Therese (Girlie), and Patricia, and Jean. The land purchased by Pat was divided up for the children. Les Reardon had the southwest portion including Clare Lane and Clare Valley. Les' portion was about 2200 acres. Bede had the northeast portion, including the present Forest Road Area. Paul had the southeast portion, between the escarpment and the present Carinya Park / Clare Lane. Frank had the northwest portion, including the present Summerhill Road Area. Paul had the southeast portion between the escarpment and the present Clare Lane, including the Highland Valley area. Girlie married Trevor Milligan and owned the present Weerona area which adjoined the Denley property whilst they lived in the ACT. Patricia married Jim Darmody lived in Bungendore whilst owning land adjoining Weerona and the Denley property. Jean married Frank Hallam and was given the original Reardon home and property "Lumley" on Macs Reef Road near the Yass River. Paul Reardon's portion was purchased in the late 1960's by Les, Moira, and son Tony Reardon, this including the present Highland Valley.

Ray Murphy's father, Fabian Murphy, in the late 1940's, owned 300 acres including all but the westernmost portion of the area along Norton Road presently called Yalana. He ran about 600 wethers there. This land was not as rich as that in Clare Valley. To support himself Ray's father also did contracting, mining, shearing, wood carting, and ran a butcher shop in Bungendore. Ray remembers working in the present Yalana area. They cleared some of the trees and superphosphated some of the land, trying to increase the value of the land for woolgrowing. They would remove trees from some areas but leave them in others, as trees provided valuable protection for the sheep.



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The area was good for very fine wool, anything from 16 to 20 microns. Colder, harsher areas tend to produce this very fine wool because the feed is less luscious than on better lands, and the wool is cleaner because there is less dust. This sort of wool has been prized by people like the Italians who use it to make fine wool garments. In the 1960's this very fine wool was worth "a pound a pound". Thicker wool is less valuable. For example, at 24 microns it is classed as carpet wool

Ray Murphy started working in the Wamboin area after leaving school at age 14 in 1949. His first job was a two year stint working for Les Reardon. Pat Reardon, Les's father, used to live at Lumley, on Mac's Reef Road near the Yass River, but came out to Clare Valley almost every day. Les moved into the Clare house around 1938 and was joined by his wife Moira in 1942 after their marriage. The house still stands today, just south of Bernie Reardon's home, "Carinya Park".

Ray Murphy, in 1949-50, did shearing, fencing, and rabbiting for Les. At that time the Reardons were running about 11,000 sheep in the area now roughly covered by Clare Valley, Summerhill, Weeroona and Darmody's and Elmslea, Bungendore. Other local graziers such as the Donnellys, Taylors, and Southwells used the Clare woolshed for shearing. Part of the Donnelly property, the present Brooks Creek Estate, was purchased by Les and Moira Reardon in the late 1950's. Donnellys also owned the Creekborough area.

In about 1954 Ray's father sold his land in the present Yalana to Vic Southwell of Queanbeyan. Ray moved with him and worked in that area for a few years. Vic Southwell then sold the land to the Ryans and moved to the Forbes area.

Ray came back to the Bungendore and Geary's Gap area in about 1957 when he was 23. He earned his living through shearing and fencing work. In those days the fencing work was done with a crowbar and a shovel, and later on with tractors and kang hammers.

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Ray remembers that while shearing for Bede Reardon in the Forest Road area, a real estate agent approached Bede and proposed subdividing some of that area into 40 acre blocks. This proposal went through and produced one of the first rural residential subdivisions in the area. This was in the early 1970s.

Ray read the article in the April 97 Whisper by Frank Watson. He thinks he knows the identity of M. Flannigan who in 1925 wrote the letter that was reproduced in that article. He says that a John Flannigan worked for him as a fencer and shearer for many years, and had an extensive knowledge of the Wamboin area. John's father was Mick Flannigan, and Ray thinks he is probably the author of the letter. John Flannigan is about 70 now. He left this area a number of years ago and then worked for a wool classing outfit in Sydney.

In the 1950's, 60's, and 70's there were only three northern entrances into the land just north of the ACT border, presently part of Central Wamboin and Yalana. These were the right of ways along Joe Rock's Road, Clare Lane, and the present Greenway east of Weerona Drive. The Hyles and Watsons could access their portions of this land by coming in from entrances off the Kings Highway between Kowan Forrest and Bungendore. Landowners were reluctant to permit additional entrances, partly because by law any regular access through a section of land eventually becomes yet another legal right of way. For instance, there was no right of way into the central Wamboin area from Sutton Road until Norton Road was built by developers in about 1971.

Ray Murphy has continued with contract shearing and fencing to this day, and now employs about 16 men during the shearing season. His wife Helen organises the cooking. Her father, Bill Allen, who recently passed away, worked all his life on the land and managed several properties in the Bungendore area.

There are several large flocks in the greater Bungendore Area for which the Murphys generally do the shearing. Woolcarra and Foxlow on the Captains Flat Road and Currandooley on the Bungendore-Tarago Road each have about 18,000 sheep. Outside the shearing season Ray organises crutching and fencing work. He has also trained and used numerous sheep dogs over the years.

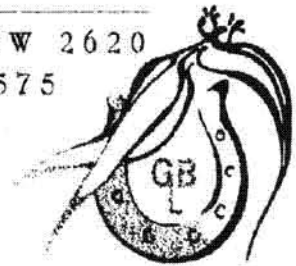
Ray notes the enormous increase in Kangaroos in recent years and believes there should be more culling, as the kangaroos cause many car accidents and consume much of the available grass. He says that previously kangaroos were culled, but there was never a desire to eliminate them altogether.

He also remembers spending time rabbiting in his earlier years. The rabbits were a pest because they consumed pasture and dug holes. It was possible to make a living trapping rabbits. Good trappers would set a line of 100 traps. Most of these would catch a rabbit by mid afternoon. They could be emptied and reset to catch another by morning, giving a total of about 150 rabbits per day. Buyers would come in once a month to buy the skins for a cent a skin. Many of the skins went into Akubra hats.

Wild pigs have also been plentiful in the Wamboin, Geary's Gap area, and Ray Murphy says there are still some around today. He has never heard of any koala sightings in the Wamboin area.

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The Majors in the early 1960's bought the land in the present Norton Road, Merino Vale Drive area from the Harriotts who lived on Macs Reef Road.. Ray Murphy remembers introducing Cecil Guy to them. Cecil built the shearing shed which now sits alongside the old cottage just northwest of the Weeroona Drive Norton Road intersection. The cottage had already been there for many years by that time. Ray also did the shearing for the Majors, and remembers they had about 1800 sheep at Merino Vale. The Majors lived in Canberra, but stayed in the cottage occasionally.

Ray also notes that much of the Wamboin / Geary's Gap shearing was done in the shearing shed that still stands just south of the intersection of Macs Reef Road and Gundaroo Road. The flocks from the Ryans, the Taylors, the Donnelleys, the Reardons, and from Lumley were brought there.

Ray has watched over the years as subdivisions sprout up on lands previously used for grazing. The money to be made from subdividing often outweighs the ever increasing cost of wool growing, where costs keep increasing in areas like wages, selling costs, drenches, and insurances.

Les Reardon served for many years as a Shire Councillor. In about 1990 he sold the present Clare Valley area to Asset Developments Pty Ltd, who developed the 70 rural residential blocks in the valley.

The Ryans kept the land in the present Yalana and ran stock on it until about 1990. Around that time Bill Ryan bought the westernmost portion of Yalana from the Majors so that he could extend Norton Road eastward from its then terminating point at Weeroona Drive in the land subdivided by the Majors. This enabled the rural residential development of the Yalana area. Eventually the stretch of Norton Road in Yalana was linked at its western end with the stretch of Norton Road for the rural residential development in Clare Valley.

Les Reardon died a few years ago. His wife Moira lives in the area, as do several of his sons and one daughter.

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