

WAMBOIN



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

July 2003 CIRCULATION: 900

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, which started the Whisper in 1981. This Newsletter is distributed to all RMBs in Wamboin, Bywong, Clare, and Yalana at the beginning of each month, except January. Editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Printer is Canberra Times Fine Print. Contributions which readers may wish to make for the August, 2003 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@optusnet.com.au) by the Sunday, July 20, 2003, 7:00 pm.

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WAMBOIN FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	Lofty Mason	President	6238-3258
Bywong Community Assn	Morag Cotsell	President	6230-3523
Fire Brigade	Bernie Broers	Captain	040-999-1340 bh 62383316 ah
Landcare	Jacqui O'Leary	President	6236-9157
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238-1333
Breastfeeding Assoc.	Lisa Whitney	Community Educator	6238 3059
Emergency Services	NSW Call Centre	Staff	132-500
Emergency Services Admin	Colin Brown	Controller	6238-1067
Justice of the Peace	Peter Greenwood	JP	6238-3358
Justice of the Peace	Keith France	JP	6238-3596
Wamboin Cubs	Peter Harrison	Leader	6238-3525
Wamboin Guides	Rosemary Riley	Contact Person	6297-7632
Wamboin Pony Club	Maureen Purdie	Secretary	6238-3343
Gearys Gap Pony Club	Penny Gibson	Contact Person	6236-9363
Play Group	Rebecca Jefferys	Convenor	6238 3278
Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	Bookings	6238-3258
Church, Anglican	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238-3202
Christian Prayer Group	Steve & Imelda Taylor	Contacts	6238-3220
Yarrowlumla Shire	Peter Greenwood	Councillor	6238-3358
Golf	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238-3358
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare	Helpline	6299-1966

THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS

Fiona Skea, babysitting	6238-3290
Rebecca Purdie, babysitting and petsitting	6238-3343
Emily Montesin, babysitting, petsitting, odd jobs	6238-3208
Mia Donald, babysitting	6238-3276
Frank Deveson, bicycle maintenance	6238-3294
Danielle Adams, babysitting, petsitting	6238 3558

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WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION -- PRESIDENT'S PAGE

WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

President's Paragraphs

Amalgamation. Due to the sudden news of impending Shire Amalgamation our promised Guest Speaker at the June meeting was changed so that we could get the news on Shire boundaries straight from the 'horse's mouth'. Close anyway, the ~~mares~~ Mayors of Yarrowlumla, Queanbeyan and Yass were the opening speakers at our June meeting. After some discussion, the members present requested the Secretary to lodge a submission favouring the amalgamation with adjoining Shires to form a new rural lifestyle shire. More information in this Whisper.

AGM. At the AGM of the WCA the following were elected: President: Lofty Mason, Vice President: Helen Montesin, Secretary: John Van der Straaten, Treasurer: Keith France.

Tax. At the next meeting of the WCA on the 15th of July, Keith France will enlighten us on how Capital Gain Tax could affect you when selling your home.

Bonfire Night. For the reasons of: the weather, the success of last year and the availability of the cracker man, the WCA has decided to continue to hold the Bonfire Night in mid September. We are now requesting suitable material to be brought to the Bonfire site near the Hall in Bingley Way. Saturday, the 20th of September is the chosen date. Groups are requested to start their planning for the various food stalls. The WCA will be contacting all groups to coordinate these stalls.

Sick Behaviour. Sad to report our sick friend is back with the revolting habit of leaving faeces around the Hall. The latest is to foul the kids playground and equipment. Yes, it is an offence and the police have been notified. The police were disgusted to hear of such behaviour and have promised their support. The WCA is considering security cameras, professional surveillance, locking the toilets, and other means of apprehending the culprit. Unfortunately, all these measures come at a cost to the community in money or inconvenience. - Lofty Mason

WCA Submission. The WCA has used the above discussion and voting to form a submission which has been forwarded to the Chairperson of the NSW Local Government Boundaries Commission. - Lofty Mason

BONFIRE NIGHT

The Annual Wamboin Bonfire Night will be at the Hall on the 20th of September. Fireworks display by REDBACK FIREWORKS. Food and drink stalls run by local groups. Always a great night. Mark it on your calendar. Suitable material for the fire is needed at the site. The Wamboin Community Association sponsor this event.

CURRY NIGHT

will be held in the Wamboin Hall on Saturday, August 16. Enquiries to Dave Hubbard on 6238 3308.

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Bywong News

Local Government The last Bywong Community meeting, attended by Community members and members of the public, protested at the NSW Government's move to absorb the Shire in Queanbeyan and Yass and resolved to send a submission arguing this view to the Boundaries Commission. The meeting supported the YSC's position in this matter.

Bushwalks The next bushwalk is planned for July along the Yass River gorge - a picturesque and rocky defile through Wamboin. Community notice boards will carry details. Wamboin residents should contact Morag for more details (62303523)

Trivia night The annual Bywong Trivia Challenge Shield will be up for grabs again on 26 July. Teams of six or maximum eight should contact Morag on 6230 3523. We should also be able to place would-be participants who don't have a team. Entry fees remain low and refreshments will be warming. This is a good winter's night out. We expect to get a good team from Wamboin this year.

Progressive dinner Sue is organising a progressive dinner for 9 August. Interest is already high, particularly from those who enjoyed it last year, so early booking is recommended (Sue on 6236 9476).

Wine tour This popular annual event - a local tour of local wineries at less than half the price of commercial equivalents - will take place on 20 September. The itinerary now includes visits to five leading local wineries, including the newly opened Lambert Winery, and provides an enjoyable way of supporting local enterprise.

Annual General Meeting The Community's AGM will take place at the Community Hall on Monday evening 18 August. At last month's meeting the President announced that she would not be seeking re-election and appealed for local residents to join the Community's committee. Nominations may be made on the night, or can be sent to Morag Cotsell (62303523) before the AGM. The AGM agenda will include the President's Report, the Treasurer's Report and the Election of Office Bearers. This meeting will be followed by a general meeting of Bywong Community.

BYWONG TRIVIA NIGHT

(Now in its third year)

Enter a team (6-8 members) and compete for the

BYWONG TRIVIA CHALLENGE CUP

(won last year by Geary's Gap and Wamboin Landcare Group)

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YARROWLUMLA COUNCIL NEWS

Local Government Amalgamations It seems that Local Government amalgamations are a certainty and Yarrawlumla Council will be the first cab off the rank. This decision follows the land grab request to the NSW Government by Queanbeyan City Council for 120 square Kms of Yarrawlumla Shire for the so-called necessary expansion of Queanbeyan.

Your Council has been busy and has attended meetings all over the Shire to inform residents of the situation and to seek opinions and support from the various Community Associations in the preparation of submissions to the NSW Minister for Local Government and the NSW Boundaries Commission. I thank those many people who attended these meetings in Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton and also for the support shown and the preparation of submissions by those Community Associations.

Following these meetings we have gained the support for a couple of proposals for amalgamations and these have now been submitted to the Commission and the Minister. At the Council meeting on Tuesday 24 June the Council resolved to:

- 1 Formally oppose the request by Queanbeyan Council for the ceding for 120 km2 of land from the eastern side of Yarrawlumla Council area and submit to the NSW Boundaries Commission an alternate reduced area based on greenfield land available for development. (This will provide enough land for Queanbeyan to expand to a population of about 80,000 people – water permitting, and will keep the already developed rural residential areas of Fernleigh Park, Mt Campbell and Little Burra in a rural shire.)
- 2 Formally oppose the proposal by the Minister for Local Government for the dissolution of Yarrawlumla Shire as other alternatives, which achieve the NSW Government's objective of reform of local government, are available and are considered more suitable to both the residents and staff.
- 3 Submit to the Minister for Local Government a separate proposal of two options that Council considers are more suitable than the west/east split as proposed by the Minister:
 - a. A "Regional" council consisting of the whole of Yass, Gunning, Tallaganda and Queanbeyan Council areas **and that** part of Yarrawlumla Council area excluding the land proposed to be ceded to Tumut Council on the western side of the existing Yarrawlumla Council area.
 - b. A "Rural Lifestyle" council consisting of parts of Yass, Gunning, Mulwaree Council areas, the whole of Tallaganda Council area **and that** part of Yarrawlumla Council area excluding the land proposed to be ceded to Tumut Council on the western side of the existing Yarrawlumla Council area **and** the land proposed to be ceded to Queanbeyan Council on the eastern side of the existing Yarrawlumla Council area. (This could be called Lake George Council or perhaps Weereewa.)

Keep your fingers crossed and I will keep you informed.

- Peter Greenwood JP, Your Local Councillor 6238 3358, petergreenwood@actweb.net

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WAMBOIN PONY CLUB SEEKS ASSISTANCE

Wamboin Pony Club are in the process of putting a submission in to the Dept. of Sport and Rec. to build some horse yards at the grounds in Canning Close. Many of our members ride to Pony Club and during lunch and unmounted

sessions they have to tie their horses to trees. This, of course, is not very safe or good for the trees or horses. The members of the Club propose to build ten yards to alleviate this problem. We are looking for donations of money or materials to assist us. Each yard will cost about \$200 for materials - perhaps your business could sponsor a yard? (we could advertise the donation on the yards) Or perhaps you could donate or assist with payment for any of the following materials?

32 coppers logs- 125mm x 1.8m long. 110 x 3/8" galvanised bolts - 150 mm long.

42 coppers logs- 100mm x 3m. long. 32 holes - 600mm deep for uprights for yards.

20 coppers logs- 100mm x 2m. long.

The Pony club grounds are one of the most frequently used community facilities. If you can provide any assistance please do not hesitate to contact Robyn Slater on 62383472 - I look forward to hearing from anyone who can help us. - Robyn Slater

Thanks to the persons below, Wamboin and Bywong residents have a		free community owned newsletter.	
150 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN:		Ph 6238 3208	
Dean Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West 18	Bill Owen	Cooper Rd. 27
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd 29	Max Klemke	Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley 25
Dave Hubbard	Poppet Rd. 34	Cathy Abell	Canning Close 17
230 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:		Ph 6238 3463	
Joan Mason	Bingley Way 50	Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Drive 17
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona 28	Anne Gardner	Weeroona, Norton to Majors 30
Sue Gane	Majors Close 20	David Anderson	Weeroona, Majors to Denley 35
Ned Noel	Yarr Cncl & Adv & 10 N Stks 50		
249 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER:		Ph 6238 3489	
Colleen Foster	Joe Rocks to Norton 20	Ruth Lambert	Yalana West 32
Antonette Stockdale	Yalana East 34	Rob Gorham	South End - Clare Valley 43
Bernie Reardon	Clare Lane 8	Pauline Segeri	North End - Clare Valley 32
Lyle Monetesin	Forrest Road area 50	Amanada Bryan	Donnelly Road 20
Bungendore Shop	Bungendore 10		
277 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:		Ph 6238 3590	
Rachael Gascoine	Brooks Creek Estate 22	Lachlan & Callum	Whitford Hogan/Kestral area 11
Sue Gorham	Schofield Road 25	Len Parrish	Summer Hill Rd /Bungendore Rd 32
Ann Platts	Denley/Birchman's Area 25	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef /Nwngtn to FedHwy 12
Laura Snowdon	Hogan Drive 25	Morag Cotsell	Newington/Harriot 50
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd 20	Thelma Martin	Shinglehou/ilhouse/Schfield Rds 20
Don Malcomson	Macs R - Denley to Birriwa 35		
906 TOTAL			

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin – 28 year statistics from the Robertsons

June rainfall to 29/6/03	57 mm
2003 rainfall to 29/6/03	192 mm
(2002 r'fall to 30/6/02)	317 mm)
average July rainfall	56 mm
Wettest July	138 mm in 1997
Driest July	5 mm in 1982
Hottest July day	15 C on 22/7/79
Coldest July day	4 C on 7/7/90
Coldest July night	-5C On 10/7/96

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FOR HIRE: WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL. Bookings arranged by Joan Mason 62383258. Local Hire \$65 per use - Bond \$200. Outside Hire \$125 per use - Bond \$250. Teenage/18 year old birthdays/parties (must be supervised by parents) \$160 - Bond \$300.

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 - \$100 Half Page - \$50 1/4 Page - \$25 1/6 Page - 420 1/8 Page - \$15 1/10 page- \$10

If there is anybody interested in table tennis and or chess in the Bywong Wamboin area, please contact Ivan on 6230 3649.

Wire tree guards - preloved. Great for tubestock and small bushes. Assorted sizes - 20 at \$1 each. Last lot went quickly so don't dilly-dally. Ph Ian 6238 3425.

Tomato Stakes - preloved. Perfect for securing tree guards and plants. Fair condition. About 70 at 0.60c each. Ph Ian 6238 3425.

- For Hire from the Wamboin Community Association: Gas Barbecue - Party Size, Portable \$25.00 per hire (includes gas) and \$25.00 cleaning bond, both payable on collection of barbecue. Cleaning bond is refunded if barbecue is returned clean - Bookings arranged by Helen Montesin- 6238-3208

Queanbeyan & District Dog Training Club is commencing its new term on 22nd July, 2003. Please phone Mr Ritchie Butler on 6236 3154 for more information

- 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 or entertaining or have led any major expeditions of exploration, think about writing it up for the next issue. For more information contact the editor on 6238-3484. And thanks to so many of you who already have done so.

Wormcastings - top quality and brilliant organic growth stimulant (for plants). Bagged and come with instructions. Excellent for gardens, individual plants and vegie patches. 25litre bag \$8.50. Ph Ian 6238 3425

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AMALGAMATION OF SHIRES

by Loft Mason

History. The NSW Government is pursuing a policy of rationalising the administration of local government by amalgamating smaller municipalities and shires. A number of amalgamation and boundary adjustments have been approved by the NSW Local Government Boundaries Commission.

On 12 May 2003 the Queanbeyan City Council submitted a boundary adjustment request to the NSW Minister for Local Government, seeking the transfer of 155 sq km of Yarrowlumla Shire to the City of Queanbeyan. This request seems to be the catalyst of further ideas, beginning with a proposal by the Minister to dissolve Yarrowlumla Shire by transferring Western Yarrowlumla to Yass, and Eastern Yarrowlumla to Queanbeyan.

WCA Meeting. The Wamboin Community Association held a public meeting on the 17th of June to discuss this proposal. The Mayors of Yarrowlumla, Queanbeyan and Yass addressed the meeting in the Wamboin Community Hall and stated their respective positions. After some discussion the 57 residents of Wamboin who attended the meeting voted on the various options which affect our area.

We found it difficult to understand why there is any necessity for our Shire to be amalgamated because the population of Eastern Yarrowlumla exceeds 10,000, and its revenue exceeds \$10 million - the total revenue of Yarrowlumla Shire in 2001/02 was \$14.4 million. (The Premier of NSW recently identified councils with a population of less than 6,000 [and revenue of less than \$10 million] as candidates for amalgamation.) This was pointed out in our submission however, should the Minister continue with the dissolution of Yarrowlumla Shire the voting was as follows:

- The meeting was overwhelming in favour of amalgamation with neighbouring country Shires to form a 'Rural Lifestyle' Shire.
- There were some votes in favour of becoming part of the Yass Shire. This amalgamation of Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton with Yass was raised by the Mayor of Yass (Nic Carmody). The purpose is to place all of the 'Yass River catchment' in control of the Yass Shire. He stated this option was favourably received when put forward to the Minister. The Yass Mayor said that due to a severe water problem, the control of the Yass River catchment was a very important issue for Yass. To maintain the flow of the Yass River they needed to clear all the willows from the rivers and streams and their intention would be to stop any further development or building of dams in the catchment area.
- Some residents spoke up for a hands off, status quo.
- The proposed amalgamation with Queanbeyan City Council was soundly rejected by all residents who attended the meeting.

Editor's Note: For a copy of the Wamboin Community Assn submission contact John Van Der Straaten, secretary, on weeroona@austarmetro.com.au or 6238 3590

EDITOR'S NOTE: John Wright, member of the Queanbeyan City Council, sent to the Whisper a letter on the Amalgamation Issue. I had hoped to publish it in this issue, but was unable to get an electronic copy of the letter from him or to find the hour of time required for me to retype what would be around one very full page in the Whisper. It may be that the letter can appear in a future issue, or, that the Bywong Community Association can put it on their website if we do get an electronic copy. In the meantime, if you wish to see a copy, please call me on 6238 3484 or John Wright on 6297 8031.

Wamboin 15 Years Ago - From the Whisper, July, 1988, circulation 200, from the President's Annual Report

"The monthly meetings of the Community Association have seen fluctuating attendances over the year. It is pleasing to see that we always manage to get more than a quorum. It is also very pleasing to see fresh faces, particularly people new to Wamboin. Each month after the business meeting we usually manage to introduce a speaker on a wide range of topics. In the next few months you can expect to hear about the VFT - Very Fast Train - which is expected to come through our region in the next few years." - Peter Greenwood

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WAMBOIN COUNTRY GOLF CLUB – JUNE

The threatening weather cleared away and 14 golfers (some the worse for wear) registered in on the day after the Fireman's Ball for the June competition. Ken and Deb Gordon supplied the prizes for the day and were responsible for the nibblies and the strange competition rules. For their first stroke, players were required to throw the ball from each of the par 3 tees. Because that rule negated the Par 3 nearest the pin challenges, and since all players were certain they would have won at least one ball prize, I had little choice than to award one ball to each player. Ken and Deb have been suitably counselled and won't do that again. Dave Hubbard instigated a limp wrist award. More about that next golf day. Not sure how to put this but Trent Abel tried to sneak in unnoticed without his hair dye, moustache, lipstick, tight top, short skirt, fishnet stockings, suspenders and high heeled boots. Not kidding, that's what he wore at the Ball. Onya Trentabel.

Ball winners were Dave Hubbard (2), Les Worden (2) and Robert Gorham. The encouragement award went to Vince Gorham who was reported to consistently out throw his father on the par three holes. (What limp wrist award?). Steve Lambert was awarded two balls for turning up and coming second out of the 2 players in B grade. Great effort Steve. Lots more fortitude than his late night singing partner Larry King, whose body told him it was too crook to play. Sue Gane took out the 9 hole event with Les Worden winning B grade, and the Ned Kelly trophy, with a 53. Now I am not one to stir but if this score does not attract the attention of the handicapper I will be very surprised. In A grade Charles Guscott with a 60 pipped Dave Hubbard by one stroke and Tim Barter filled third place with a 65. No matter how I tried I could not massage my par equalling 66 into the prize money. – Lofty Mason.

WHISPER DEADLINE FOR AUGUST ISSUE IS SUNDAY, JULY 20, 7 PM

Unfortunately the editor has to be away the following week, so the deadline will be a week earlier than scheduled. If this is not possible, items can be submitted after this date and will appear in the September Whisper. For more information contact Ned Noel, editor, on 6238 3484 or by email to nednoel@optusnet.com.au



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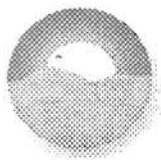
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HORSES AND BUSHFIRES

(Taken from Agriculture Notes by Patricia Ellis & Hilary Pope, Attwood for the State of Victoria Department of Natural Resources & Environment, 1999 -- Will be reprinted in the next few issues of the Whisper. -- suggested for reprinting in the Whisper by Chris Powell)

Maintain a fire cache

Tools to have on hand at your property:
a ladder long enough to reach the roof of building in case of a roof fire; a minimum of 30 metres of pre-connected garden hose (or adequate length to reach all parts of your buildings) with a spray nozzle; a shovel for clearing vegetation and throwing dirt; a rake for clearing vegetation; water buckets; torch; a battery-powered radio for monitoring news.

Keep these items together in an easily accessible place. Don't let the tools be used for any purpose other than fire fighting. Mark them with red paint if necessary.

Make sure everyone who lives, works, or agists at your property know where the cache is located.

Prepare an evacuation kit

Equip a plastic rubbish bin (with lid) with the following: wirecutters and a sharp knife; torch, portable radio and fresh batteries; water bucket; extra lead rope and head collar; woollen blankets and towels; equine first aid items; whatever else you feel is essential for the first 24 hours.

Store the kit in an easily accessible location and don't use it for anything but emergencies.

Identify your horses

Permanently identified horses (microchipped, branded or identified by a drawing, which includes whorls and white markings) will be more speedily reunited with their owners if separation occurs during a disaster.

In an emergency at the very least be prepared to "paint" your name and phone number on the horse itself using livestock grease crayon, like the ones used to number horses in endurance rides, or clip similar details on its coat. Neckbands, hip stickers and identification tags on leather head collars can also be useful.

If fire threatens- decide quickly

If you decided to evacuate with or without your horse/s, this decision must be made very early. Late evacuation is a deadly option. Once the fire is close, visibility will be very poor and travel will be hazardous. Fallen trees, powerlines, abandoned cars and even fire fighting vehicles can easily block roads. Even quiet horses may panic in a float filled with smoke or when exposed to the noise of sirens.

(To be continued in August 2003 Whisper)

whatever else you feel is essential for the first 24 hours.

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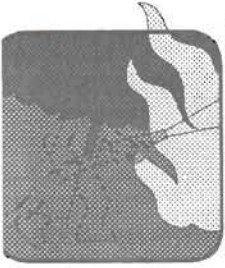


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The Wamboin Firefighter

A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR VOLUNTEER RURAL FIRE BRIGADE COMPILED
BY CLIFF SPONG WITH HELP FROM MANY MEMBERS OF THE BRIGADE

From the Captain's Desk



First of all let me welcome the members of the new executive of the brigade. The new team is **Peter Greenwood**, (President and Communications Officer), **Dick Henley** (Vice President and Deputy Captain), **Marion Sheldrick** (Secretary), **Larry King** (Treasurer), **Cliff Spong** (Senior Deputy Captain and Newsletter Editor), **Richard Hobbs** (Deputy Captain and Training Officer), **Neville Schroder**, **Andrew Dunn**, **Darryl Parker** (Deputy Captains), **Sandy Sedgewick** (First Aid Officer), **Charlie Le Leivre** (Maintenance Officer), **Dave Hubbard** (Equipment Officer), **Charlie Montesin** (Support Crew Leader) and myself as the Captain.

The brigade has received two generous donations from the Lions Club organisation. One cheque from the Canberra City Lions Club was for \$1000 and one from the International Association of Lions Clubs was for \$1000. The Brigade would also like to thank the Bywong Community Association for the donation of \$500 following the annual car boot sale. The money will certainly help the brigade with the extension to the fire station.

Residents are reminded to take care this winter using woodfires indoors. There is nothing better than settling down in front of a crackling and warming fire but unfortunately they are also a notoriously good way of starting house fires. Don't take your fireplace for granted. The fire is like a caged animal, docile while contained but can easily get out of your control when released. We all need to remember that in the time it takes for a fire truck to reach your location it may be too late to save the property and so some prior planning around the home should be undertaken. For example, it is a good idea to see if the battery in the smoke alarm is working properly. We all have operational smoke detectors fitted in strategic locations in our homes, don't we?

Some people are concerned to see bushfire fighting vehicles travelling around the area in the winter months. There is still a lot of work to do, even in the "off" season. We still get regular calls to attend motor car accidents and to investigate the odd smoke sighting. All of these activities are logged and it is interesting to tally the distances we travel. It is also another way to ensure that our vehicles are well maintained and capable of responding around the clock. Recently we held the first of several practice sessions in off-road tanker driving for our brigade drivers and several other brigades in the Shire. We are grateful to **Frank Watson** for letting us use his property for these practice sessions. Before the start of the next fire season we need to make sure that our drivers can practice their skills in both off-road and on-road situations. The wild and hazardous challenge of negotiating peak hour traffic in Queanbeyan also awaits us!

I would like to thank and congratulate those members who spent a Friday evening and a weekend attending a First Aid course recently. We can only hope that they don't have to use this knowledge but it is a reassuring feeling to know that they have it.

The brigade has been provided with a new facsimile machine on 6236 9220. Please feel free to contact us on any fire-related issue by using the fax or by telephoning 6238 3316 (my home phone), 0409 991 340 (my mobile phone), 6236 9220 (Cliff Spong's home phone) or his mobile phone 0402 010 942. Work is continuing on developing a website for the brigade. Once some improvements are made to the brigade's computerised record systems the website design can be finalised. The website will serve as an information resource and access point for residents as well as a limited record base for brigade members.

As a timely reminder, if any suspicious vehicles are seen in the area notify the police as soon as possible. There has been some criminal activity in our area. We need to stay alert.

Fund raising committee

It has probably become evident to most readers of our community paper that operating an emergency service, like the fire brigade, takes a lot of continual effort by many people in what we laughingly call "spare time". There are many, many things that need to be done to keep the brigade operating. As equally important to putting out fires and responding to emergency incidents is the job of raising funds to keep the brigade operationally viable. This task is becoming increasingly difficult because it usually falls to the firefighters themselves to raise money and collect donations. We need to spread the work of running the brigade to more people than the usual few. It would be fantastic if we could get help from people in our community who could establish and run a permanent fund raising committee for the brigade. This way we could have some fire brigade members who fight fires and others who work to ensure that firefighters can continue to fight the fires. If you could help us please contact me. I look forward to your call.

Static Water Supply During the fires in January this year, we had to identify many water sources in our area in case we needed to resupply firefighting vehicles or helicopters. This type of contingency planning is a normal practice during any firefighting emergency. Most residents would be aware that under the New South Wales *Rural Fires Act*, an authorised officer of a fire brigade could use any water from a property during an incident. However brigades from other areas called in to help local brigades can be at a disadvantage in knowing the location of these local water supply assets. The Rural Fire Service is now implementing a scheme where these assets can be identified by markers fixed to fence posts, for example, given the consent of the property owners. Over the next few months members of the brigade will carry this work. At the same time we



will be updating our records to identify and catalogue any fire risks, hazards and local information which could help us plan and respond to local emergencies.

Work has started but help is still needed!!

It is pleasing to report that work has started on the extension to the fire shed. As the *Wamboin Whisper* is going to press it is planned that the footings will be inspected and poured. The photograph below from **Andrew Dunn**, shows the site being prepared for the footings. What can't easily be seen is the large pile of rocks and earth that was removed to get the site to this stage! However we still need more help for this project. Even a few hours would be a great help. Most of the work doesn't need any prior experience and we can show you what is needed. If you would like to offer any building or construction related skills please contact the project coordinator, **Andrew Dunn**, by telephone on **6238 1849**.

WAGONGA COFFEE

We now operate Monday – Saturday 8.30am to 3.00pm at The Fresh Roast Coffee House, 30 Kemble Court Mitchell ACT 2911.

Wamboin residents can still collect their coffee supplies from 371 Weeroona Drive on most Saturdays between 11.00am and 3.00 Call on 6236 9369 to place your order.

More details available at our website at www.wagongacoffee.com.au

18th Annual Wamboin Fireman's Ball

What else would you do to celebrate your 18th birthday other than look forward to an R-rated celebration? And people came from all walks of life to help us celebrate. We had the local Road crew, the Rugby team, Robin Hood, Little Red Riding Hood, Raging Bull, 'Rob', Reg Reagan, a Rubiks cube, the Ring Master and even Royalty ate, drank and danced the night away.

The Fireman's Ball is held each year as an opportunity for the community to get together after the fire season for a night out. This year around 120 locals and visitors braved the conditions, some for much longer than others thanks to the two outside fires, raising money for the local brigade and having a great time into the process.

The R-Rated theme was taken up by the crowd, with the vast majority dressing up to create a sight to behold and much to talk about. Freddy Mercury (from the Royal table), never had an empty dance card all night. Much more was revealed than can be shown in these photos. It has even been rumoured that a certain firebrigade member has offered a variety of bribes to keep a certain photo under wraps. Our masterly MC, Larry King ensured proceedings went smoothly.

The live band "Hit Parade" returned to keep us dancing all night with hits from the 60's to the 90's. Our thanks go to the sponsors of the door, costume prizes and raffle - Clare Valley Tree Service, Bungendore Cellars, Lamberts Vineyard, AC Pets and Aquarium, Milimani Estate Winery, Foodworks Bungendore. Also thanks to John Roycroft, Wyagiba Trading, & Tony Fisher for chairs, tables and heating.

And lastly, thanks to the organizing committee, Charlie Montesin, Nev Schroder, Barbara Rowe, Tony Martin, Ken & Deb Gordon for all their efforts. Also thanks to Chris Schroder and Helen Montesin for putting up with the extended deliberations and varied discussions of the aforementioned committee. Keep an eye on the Whisper for details regarding the 2004 ball. - Ken Gordon



NOTES FROM ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Services are held in the church at 9 am on the first and third Sundays of each month. Morning tea follows the service, giving us the opportunity to get to know each other better. We would be pleased to see you and your family and especially welcome new residents. Enquiries to Robyn Robertson, 6238 3202, or Bronwyn Elliott, 6238 3359.



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GOOD DOG OR BAD DOG? Each year in Australia about 20% of urban dogs are surrendered to pounds and animal shelters and of these, 80% are euthanised. Most of these dogs (up to 80% in some surveys) were surrendered because of behaviour problems. The most common problems seem to be boisterousness, aggression directed towards people and interdog aggression. It has also been found that if dogs had not attended obedience classes they were almost 70% more likely to be surrendered.

Other common problems include behaviours such as digging, jumping up, barking, destructiveness and chewing. These are all normal behaviours and as such cannot be eliminated entirely. However they can be modified to a more socially acceptable behaviour. The owner needs to understand why the dog may be behaving in this way and how to respond accordingly. Bad behaviour is often exacerbated by boredom, confinement and lack of activity. Dogs are highly intelligent, active, social animals who need activity, company and stimulation.

It has been demonstrated that dogs who have been isolated during the sensitive socialisation period of 4-16 weeks of age are more likely to be hyperactive, aggressive, difficult to train, antisocial and fearful. Behaviours learnt in this socialisation period, be they good or bad, will carry over into the dog's adult life. It is important to try to introduce your puppy to as many people, objects and situations as possible during this time.

The best way to achieve this is to attend a Puppy Preschool. These are conducted by some veterinary practices. The aims of Puppy Preschool are to :

- Socialise puppies with other dogs and people.
- Start basic obedience training.
- Identify any potential behaviour problems early so that measures can be introduced to modify that trait.
- Educate owners on all aspects of puppy development, pet care and living with a dog in the family.
- Help make trips to the vet more enjoyable for dogs and owners (and veterinary staff!) - dogs that have been to Puppy Preschool definitely do enjoy coming back to the veterinary hospital.
- Get puppies off to a good start so that they become controlled, well behaved and socially acceptable adults.
- Teach good manners to dogs so that they can live happily with their owners and others.

If you have a pup or are thinking of getting one and would like to know more about Puppy Preschool contact your veterinarian.

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HELLO.....HELLO.....HELLO...!?

by Ian Coillet

Caller: "H.....hello...HELLO...HELLO.....is...that...Hello.....Ian? HELLO ...you.....me? H..... Ian can youwhat?...million dollar deal,...you/me yes....I.....can't.....what..... hear...."

Me: "Yes, I can hear you....what?... (silent expletive).....say.....who is it.....HELLO (another silent expletive)...okay. I'll ring you back on the landline."

Caller: "What?...oh"

I finish the mobile phone charades by hanging up, then let forth with an appropriate expletive or six (curious how much better one feels having done that), pick up the landline and dial....

Me: "Hello, was that you Pete?"

Pete (the unsuccessful caller) responds affirmatively followed by a "What the hell happened.....?"

Me: "Oh, well, just one of the joys of a "rural lifestyle". Yes this line is much better isn't it?" No, I don't have the mobile any more, I've just turfed it into the (expletive) dam!"

Know the experience? I'm sure many of you do. And, I've gotta tell you, solid mobile phone coverage ain't one of strengths of living in or visiting the Wamboin & Bywong localities. For some, it's probably a sufficient reason for not deciding/continuing to live out here.

And there's something else. It doesn't appear to matter which telecommunication carrier you are with out here. Some days you've got mobile reception of sorts; but most times reception is either non-existent or so suspect the line falls out part way through a conversation. Hence the kind of quality conversation exemplified above.

Our property is elevated and sits a little east of Millpost Hill. The aspect is north-east and we look across Wamboin and the Clare Valley to Lake George escarpment. So, we're not exactly in a ditch. But, surprisingly, we sure as hell seem to be in a mobile communication vacuum. On a really "happy" day – perhaps when the gods are as one, the planets are in alignment, wind is breezing in the right direction, etc, we can, according to the mobile screen, "lock in" (read "sniff") either Bywong Hill or Lake George Sth. Pretty impressive, eh?!

"So, what's your beef?", I hear you exclaim.

Well, it's just this - if your mobile phone rings, you can be fairly sure the caller is wanting to conduct a "sensible" conversation with you, and naturally it's vice-versa. Right? Right! Well, on a really, really, good day, to have any hope of a reasonable conversation with the caller we must present to the sliding door which faces NNW. We find that standing on one leg helps (right leg appears to work best). With one's nose all but pressed against the window, and remembering always that you cannot have too animated a conversation while on the phone lest you breach the 1mm tolerance (1/4 degree in longitude) and, guess what, the call drops out. So, when the phone rings the idea is to grab it, position yourself quickly at the sliding door and as your heart beats expectantly, answer the call with an optimistic but somewhat hesitant "Hello?". So, having taken the long way round, the beef is this, if you use a mobile phone service out here, at best reception is intermittent but it's mainly zilch.

"Ever thought of purchasing a CDMA phone or switching provider?", I hear the phone marketing people bleat. CDMA? What's the point? Why go there when those who have gone before have found it no better (in their area) than digital. As for the other providers? Again, what's the point? Quality of the digital airwave service appears to be the same regardless of the provider. We've covered the spectrum, so to speak, thanks to the help of friends who have visited and who utilise networks other than ours. None of our friends utilising a different network appears to fare any better than us. Thus, the assertion that our reception would be improved were we to switch to a different provider appears to be but a furphy. Experience suggests a change in provider (at our place) would make not a skerrick of a difference!

Perhaps the quality of coverage varies in the region – most probably it does. It may be that most of you already have great coverage and are therefore content. After all, when you hang a rightly from Sutton Road into Norton Road the digital display really begins to get excited. Have you ever noticed the plethora of repeater stations that pop up on the mobile phone display as you climb the escarpment into Wamboin? Talk about "beam me up Scotty", there's Hume, Fyshwick, Jerrabomberra, Oak Hill (don't know where that is), Cook – yes Cook, Mt Majura (that's reasonable), and A.I.S (surely not the Institute of Sport?). And not long after cresting the escarpment the Bywong Hill signal kicks in as you're dipping and lurching and weaving and possibly heaving your way eastbound along Norton Road. No shortage of repeaters it would seem, at least on the western perimeter of the region. But why can't we get a more reasonable coverage right across the region – a quality (strong, even - no surprise drop-out) reception. I'm sure the mobile phone signal is blissful close to Bywong Hill (wherever that is) and Lake George Sth. Bungendore appears to have reasonable coverage. I appreciate Bywong and Wamboin are somewhat more undulating than Bungendore. But with over 900 families in the Wamboin/Bywong area, where properties (improved and raw acreage) are turning over at a seemingly prodigious rate, isn't it time to expect a less fickle, stronger and more reliable mobile telephone coverage across the region?

Millpost Hill sits among the highest nobs in the area and it's fairly central. What about a communication tower atop Millpost? Ooh, that pulled a few of you out of the woodwork! Would it be an eyesore? Probably, I don't really know – but as long as it's not painted Mission Brown it should be okay? Houses are rising all around Millpost so what's a tower between friends. There's already a trig point atop Millpost - why not also a tower – Millpost could become (for most of us) Wamboin and Bywong's main earway to the airway. Alternatively, 'cos communication towers don't come cheap and, truthfully, they

you cannot have too animated a conversation while on the phone lest you breach the 1mm tolerance (1/4 degree in longitude)

makes jack a dull boy are somewhat unsightly, perhaps existing telecommunication towers located nearby can be boosted for our benefit? Is this possible?

So many ideas. So many unanswered questions.....!

If you have any thoughts on the subject, please put them forward. Perhaps you'd like to share your experience? Is mobile reception poor for you? Does anybody know what the picture is across the Bywong and Wamboin localities? Is there one? Is lousy reception an issue for the area? Has somebody already done some work on this?

If you have an opinion, experience or suggestion, please put pen to paper or hit the tabulator. You can send your contribution to me at 62 Majors Close Wamboin or, preferably, to my email address, lodestar@ozemail.com.au Alternatively, please direct your response to Ned the Ed(itor). His contact details appear at the front of the Whisper. It would be helpful if you could at least briefly address the following (see Table below). I'll kick off:

Locality	Nearest road intersection to your property	Telco. provider	Quality of mobile reception at home	Want to see the quality of mobile reception improved	Comments/ Suggestions
Wamboin	Majors Cl & Weroona Dr	Optus	Not acceptable. Unpredictable, patchy, regular fallouts	Yes	New towers strategically placed to provide a stronger signal to a bigger part, if not all the region, or at the least, boosters on existing towers

Time, etc permitting, we'll prepare a summary report from your responses and, in the first instance, include it in a future edition of the Whisper. Note: personal details are not being sought. Of course, if you want to submit an article (on this issue) under your name for publication in The Wamboin Whisper, please make this clear to the Editor.

Oh, and finally, please remember..... Nothing happens if nothing happens .“H..lo Hel. any.....out.....there?”



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Wamboin Muses

by Jill Gregory

Mists are out, fogs are in; winter is now our constant companion, but not the old friend that once dazzled despite the chill, rather one more pensive and brooding, dismal and damp.

Our faithful hound took me for a walk the other morning, when the world was grey and smudged. I became wrapped in an eerie silence, still and calm, with a solitude that seemed to fill my ears and veil my eyes. Everything was in soft focus. The trunkless trees seemed to float gently in the milky air. Then, suddenly, the silence was pierced by the knife song of a lone magpie. It's burst was short and sharp, a ten second grab with no operatic trills, and then it was gone. It was as if the magpie had been stunned into silence by its own audacity. I walked on in this timeless world, and because there was little else to see, began looking at fences.

I have been trying to build a fence, or perhaps I should say, a stone wall, in my garden of late. As I struggled with huge rocks and tried to position them, I started thinking about the first line from one of Robert Frost's poems, "Something there is that doesn't love a wall..." and much further on he says, "before I built a wall I'd ask to know what I was walling in or walling out..." I recalled some of the fences I'd seen on my walks through the fog. Some stood proudly, some sagged and others were but poor metaphors for a fence, a wire straggling along the ground with a forlorn stick, scarred by fire, despairing of holding anything up. But do good fences make good neighbours? I wonder. Certainly if they restrain a ferocious dog or rooster, or prevent livestock from escaping, they have their place, but they are ignored by the kangaroos that tread their heritage tracks through the bush, regardless, and they limit our options for rambling or riding. I heard someone say the other day that it's a pity there are so few places to walk around here.

I wouldn't live anywhere else...where else can you walk and enjoy nature so close to home...but it is, indeed, a pity that you have to enjoy it from the edge of a busy road.



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Razor Blades and Other Cutting Edges

Now that I have your undivided attention, I would like to inveigle you into an introduction to the often private world of the creative songwriter/musician. Contrary to may perceived assumptions, there are actually many of us about, covering the total spectrum of perceived talent, ie some of us are struggling with barely a clue of how to go about expressing the need-to-get-out-what-lies-within, some of us are smug and secure in formula, some of us are strung out desperados wrenching our guts through our brains and hearts to ease the pain and frustration, some of us are so up ourselves that we are almost turned inside out with self-aggrandisement. Some of us are shy and self-effacing, needing only a nudge of encouragement to unveil our light to the world, and some of us have no choice but to keep on keeping on. The more successful of our genre actually make money out of this most unpredictable of life choices - the right place, the right time, the right contacts, the right product, the right looks, the right....!

Arte Cafe and Gallery in Malbon Street, Bungendore is the home of the above heading, an underground slash in a pretty classy establishment that isn't scared to cater to an artistic smorgasbord that would be shunned by those of lesser vision. Every unit exposed at the gigs on the first Friday of the month at Arte is a risk - a risk for the performer, a risk for the audience. What you hear, what you see, is what you get. There is a tremulous, stubborn, iron sensitivity there on the stage, full of disguised and undisguised passion whether gliding on the comedic or confusing and shattering on unavoidable tragedy. This is not about commerce, even if it leads to it. This is about reality, about unrequited need, about muscle and thistledown.

Razor Blades and Other Cutting Edges is a concept designed to provide a performance outlet for original songwriters/musicians in a convivial setting, with flexibility of feedback and suggestion inherent for those who might wish to invite it. The concept aims to showcase the works of the Originals in Bundgendore, the Wamboin/Bywong/Sutton/Hoskinstown/Gidleigh/Stony Creek catchments, and including Goulburn, Braidwood, Queanbeyan and Canberra.

The instigator of Razor Blades and Other Cutting Edges has been driven by personal angst and that of other like-minded ravers to establish this staunch eon for the presentation of original songs/musical works. Members of the public are most welcome to attend. The \$5.00 entry fee covers venue cost, venue staff remuneration, and incidental costs of the performers. Light snacks and beverages are available through the evening, and the venue is fully-licensed or BYO.

The next three gigs are on Friday 4 July, Friday 1 August, and Friday 5 September. Doors open 7pm for 7.30 start. Arte Cafe and Gallery is situated at 40 Malbon Street Bungendore, or for out-of-towners, next to Krackers Cafe and the Caltex Service Station on the Kings Highway, otherwise known as the Coast Road.

For more information call Danny on 6238 1673.

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