

The Whisper

August 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 September, 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 last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for next month the deadline is Sunday, August 31, 2003, 7:00 pm.

LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial 000 All Hours

Queanbeyan Police 6298-0599 Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre 6238-3396 Ambulance Bookings 131233

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
Frank Deveson, bicycle maintenance	6238-3294
Danielle Adams, babysitting, petsitting	6238 3558

Macs Reef Tip Hours 7:30 am to 5:00 pm Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon (to 7 pm Sat - Sun in daylight saving time) closed Tue-Wed-Thurs

CURRY NIGHT

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

STOP PRESS - AMALGAMATION

Gunning Shire has contacted Sutton, Bywong and the WCA and requested meetings to present their views on amalgamation. We have arranged to have a group meeting with some of the Gunning Councillors at the Sutton Hall on Monday the 29th of July starting at 7pm. Mary Read, the Sutton Secretary, extends a welcome to all Wamboin residents. Any queries to Lofty Mason. Ph 6238 3258.

WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

President's Paragraphs

Amalgamation. Not much more to report. Would you believe the Boundaries Commission met in the Parliamentary triangle to consider submissions? I am sure this gave them a feeling for our area! The WCA has done it's best to ensure maintenance of our lifestyle. We believe we will hear our fate some time in August.

Tax. At our last meeting Keith France enlightened us on how Capital Gain Tax could affect us when selling your home. For those who missed out I would recommend you talk to your tax agent as preparation for sale could save you heaps. Thanks Keith for your efforts. I am still a bit worried how accountants ensure work for other accountants. They must be taking lessons from lawyers.

Bonfire Night. The bonfire is building quite well and we are still 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. Local groups will again cater the various food and drink stalls. Red Back will be doing the fireworks display. More information elsewhere in this Whisper. This night will go off with a bang!

Road side Maps. Don Evans has been working with Paul Brugden on this issue and has put in the order for the maps. With a bit of luck and some 'get down and dirty' by Don, you should soon see the results of this effort.

The Entrance. It was pointed out that the entrance to Wamboin (Sutton Road/Norton Road) was pretty rough. The suggestion was that this area could be made much nicer with minimum effort. The WCA will pursue this thought and would appreciate any ideas and suggestions.

Grand Curry Night. This event is scheduled for Saturday the 16th of August. Dave Hubbard sets up tables and chairs at the Hall. You bring along your special curry dish plus rice, sambals etc. as well as plates, cutlery and preferred drinks. The curries are labelled and spread out on offer to the multitude. No need to nominate further actions! It's always been a great night and the cost is a gold coin donation. Do yourself a favour and mark this date on your calendar. - Lofty Mason.

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Bywong News

Bushwalk There will be a bushwalk in August to a small gorge in the Yass River, starting at Hogan's Drive and finishing at Fernloff Road. We will do a car ferry to get walkers back to their cars. This is a popular walk which we put on last year and there is time for a picnic at the river. The walk will be led by Julian Thompson and the date will be put up on our notice boards and on the website. Book with Morag on 62303523. This walk was to be held in July but weather and other commitments have postponed it until August.

Progressive Dinner Our winter progressive dinner will be held on Saturday 8 August and all details can be got from Sue Gorham on 62369476. We can only accommodate about 6-7 couples, so please call Sue soon.

Local Wine Tasting Tour The wine tour will take place on Saturday 20 September, starting at the Community Hall in Bywong where cars can be left. The coach will take you to five wineries including the newly-opened Lambert Winery in Wamboin. Book with Sue Gorham on 62369476

Greenways Greenways Committee members, Julian Thompson, Colin Johnson, Maria Taylor and Geoff Butler met Terry Bransdon, Yarrowlumla Shire Mayor, at the top of Millpost Hill on Saturday 19 July to discuss further plans for the extension of the greenways walking and riding tracks. Morag Cotsell, President of Bywong Community, also attended as Bywong and Wamboin residents use these trails regularly and the community would very much like to have more walking tracks. The next part of the project is to open up the northern part of Bywong. The Mayor expressed his interest in the whole project and will look at any proposals put to Council by the Greenways Committee. Thanks to the committee for a rather special picnic lunch with the most spectacular 180 degree views over Wamboin and Bywong. This worthy project should have the support of all residents who are interested in walking, bird watching, biking or riding. Information on the Greenways track can be obtained from Julian Thompson on 62369129.

AGM The Bywong Community AGM will take place on Monday 18 August at 7.30pm at the Community Hall. All positions are vacant and we would very much like to see new faces on our Executive Committee. The vacant positions will be President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and 5 committee members. So please come forward and be part of our very active community. Call Morag Cotsell on 62303523 for more information. There will be our normal general meeting after the AGM. All residents are welcome to attend. -- Morag Cotsell, President

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 Montesin	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	Shinglehous/ilhouse/Schfield Rds 20
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Birriwa	35		
906 TOTAL				

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

July rainfall to 19/7/03	24.5 mm
2003 rainfall to 19/7/03	218 mm
(2002 r'fall to 19/7/02	333 mm)
average August rainfall	57.3mm
Wettest August	170 mm in 1985
Driest August	9mm in 1995
Hottest August day	20C on 31/8/82
Coldest August day	5C on 9/8/91
Coldest August night	-4C on 9/8/97

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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 - \$20 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.

Wanted grazing for 2 ponies in Bywong area. Call Michele on 62369186.

Gardener wanted: 1 day per week. Preferably with horticulture qualifications or a great deal of gardening experience. Please telephone Jo on 6238 3800

- 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

- 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 veggie patches. 25litre bag \$8.50. Ph Ian 6238 3425

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YARROWLUMLA COUNCIL NEWS

Local Government Amalgamations No decision has yet been made on the outcome of the possible dissolution of Yarrawlumla Shire. Council made a presentation to the Boundaries Commission on the 10th of July and our case was put on the options of a Regional Council and preferably a "Rural Lifestyle" Council through amalgamation of surrounding rural shires. These were the options I outlined in the July Whisper. Council also opposed the 120 square kilometre land grab by Queanbeyan City but we were prepared to cede enough land for Queanbeyan to expand to a population of about 80,000 (water permitting). The Boundaries Commission members were impressed by the support given in submissions by the various community groups across the Shire and expressed their view on the importance of that support given by residents. I thank those Community Associations and individuals who have taken the time and made the effort to protect the lifestyle we have chosen. I don't expect an outcome until well into August.

Rates Council has now adopted the 2003-2004 Management Plan and Budget. In line with Government rate pegging legislation the overall rate income for the Council is only allowed to increase by 3.6%. Because of the structure of the rating system which has a base rate plus an Ad-Valorem rate, we cannot simply adjust all rates by 3.6%. The Ad Valorem rate is cents in the dollar of the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) which was recently determined independently by the NSW Valuer General. For our own rural residential property the rates will be calculated on a base rate of \$110.78 plus the Ad Valorem rate of 0.003069xUCV ie 0.3069 cents in the dollar. (last year base rate \$99.47 plus 0.004023xUCV) The Rural Fire Service levy is \$5.25 plus 0.000153xUCV. If your UCV increased by more than the average then the rate increase will also be higher than the average. Looking at my own UCV I suspect that this will be the case in Wamboin and Bywong. Rate calculations are complex and are governed by NSW legislation.

Fire Station Extensions Commenced The long awaited extension to the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade's fire station in Bingley Way has commenced. The two storey extension with a double length tanker bay plus a training and meeting room on the top floor is being constructed with volunteer labour. If you have building experience and would like to help I would be delighted to hear from you.

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

Notes From St. Andrew's Church

St. Andrew's Wamboin is part of the parish of St. John's, Reid, together with St. Peter's, Sutton. Clergy and lay ministers from St. John's conduct our services on the first and third Sundays of each month at 9 am. Please join us. You and your family will be most welcome. For further information about the Church, baptisms, weddings and any way in which the Church can help you, please phone Robyn Robertson on 6238 3202 or Bronwyn Elliott on 6238 3359.

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New Neighbour for Wamboin and Bywong?

There are mixed feelings in the area over a proposed new development which could see 2000 new houses built on suburban blocks next to Sutton village. David Rouse, who some of us remember as Yarrawlumla Shire's chief planner, is project manager for the developer. He recently outlined the proposal to a meeting of a working group set up by Sutton and District Community Association.

Mr Rouse said he was co-ordinating a submission to Yarrawlumla Council to re-zone the land from "rural" to "village", but that little had yet been done on design concepts or layout. The developer hoped for 2000 - 2500 blocks, but 1500-2000 blocks of 800-1200 square metres was a more likely outcome. Work was unlikely to start before about two years. The Sutton working group aims to give local residents an opportunity to have a say in formulating a community position on the development. This position will be the basis for any response to government agencies involved in land use decisions and their related impacts.

While the working group continues to collect information about the planning and infrastructure implications of the proposal, the lack of detail about the proposed development makes this difficult. There is further uncertainty because of the proposed merging of Yarrawlumla Council with Queanbeyan City Council and/or Yass Shire Council, as no one now knows who will be responsible for a decision on the development.

Some Sutton community members have already expressed concern that the area could not sustain an additional 5000 people and that approval for the development could trigger further such proposals. They question whether adequate water and sewage services can be provided, and point out that previous planning documents have assumed that development could not take place in Sutton without a piped water supply. The working group has already begun a study of water resources and will be looking at the outcome of similar developments elsewhere.

Residents of neighbouring localities who wish to have an input could contact Sutton and District Community Association or Guy Cotsell (62303523), a Bywong resident who is a member of the working group. - Guy Cotsell

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During Term 4

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- Parents will attend an information session in the Hall followed by Morning Tea.

Bungendore Evening VIEW Club - Our Guest Speakers

Tracy Greer, Publicity Officer

It certainly is that time of the year when its hard to get the winter woollies on and get motivated to get out for a dinner to meet up with old friends or make some new ones. Bungendore Evening VIEW Club members and their guests however, keep the home fires burning with their continued efforts for the Smith Family.

The Club meets on the first Monday of each month at a local Bungendore restaurant for some good food, good company and to listen to an interesting guest speaker with excess funds from the evening going to the Smith Family.

Our August dinner speaker is Gabrielle Jess from the Department of Juvenile Justice. For those horse lovers, in September we will have Michelle Spence and Toni Crompton, local horse handlers who will no doubt point out where we are all going wrong (luckily I will have my Spring Hat to hide under) October is our annual election of Committee Members so no time for a guest speaker but we will be having fun at our "Halloween Night" (everyone has something black in their wardrobe) and we intend to have our biggest ever "Trade Table Evening" with Books, Food, Candles, Plants and Crafts, all donated and sold on the night.

Our September meeting will be held at the Woodworks Café on Monday 1 September starting at 7.00pm. Bookings can be made with Lauren Greer on 6238 0263, cost is \$22.00. We would like to catch up with both current and past members and of course guests are always welcome.



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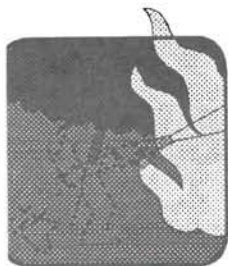
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The Wamboin Firefighter

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

There are many times when I think the message we try to get across about fire protection is just like a broken record, or in more up to date terms, a CD stuck on a track. We have no choice but to continually repeat ourselves in the faint hope that it will be heard. Everything local residents can do to reduce the impact of a fire on their property increases the chance that it will survive a fire. You cannot expect your local fire brigade to do everything for you. You have a responsibility in this area to prepare the passive defence of your own property. It is our job to put fires out and to protect life and if we can, protect property. A joint effort between residents and the volunteers in your local fire brigade is necessary to minimise the impact of fires in our community.

This time of year presents the perfect opportunity to get outside and prepare our properties for the coming fire season. It is only about eight weeks away! Our memories of the fires last January can't be that short. Can you remember the anxiety you felt with the news of how the fires were moving towards Canberra and the southern areas of this Shire. There was a reasonable expectation that the fires would turn and push north towards us. We should learn the lessons we learnt at the beginning of the year. Most houses and property in Canberra were lost because of embers attacks and not as the result of direct exposure to flames. If more people who were physically able to stay with their houses, and if the right preparations had been taken, more houses could have been saved. If you need advice about what you can do please contact me, or any field officers in the brigade. We will be only too pleased to give you some advice.

The Wamboin community's annual bonfire is taking shape in front of the community hall. Many residents have been using the opportunity to clear their properties and put the cuttings and flammable organic rubbish on the pile. The bonfire is scheduled for the 20th of September. It should be a fun night and it will also be an opportunity to collect some literature about fire prevention and preparing your property. It will also be an opportunity to view some of the fire brigade equipment and the work on the fire shed.

The extension to the fire shed is progressing well. The foundations for the ground floor slab have been prepared. I would like to thank those people who have spent the past few weekends helping with the work. Even if people can only spend a few hours, it all adds up in the long run. The more people who help means less effort per volunteer. It is good to see many helpers. I realise that this is only the start of this project and we have a lot of work to do, but I am sure all the hard work will be greatly appreciated by the entire community.

As a reminder to all residents, the time for our annual subscription drive is rapidly approaching. Every dollar you donate to your brigade will help you and the community. Better facilities and better equipment can be obtained which means your fire brigade is better able to help our community.

Fund raising committee We have had some interest from local people who would like to help the brigade by organising a fund raising committee but more interest would be greatly appreciated. As was stated last month, there are many, many things that need to be done to keep the brigade operating and this includes raising funds to keep the brigade operationally viable. If you are interested in this important work, please contact me. I look forward to your call.

Hazard Reduction Certificates In a previous edition of the Wamboin Whisper we included some information about hazard reduction certificates. From 1 July 2003 these are necessary before any hazard reduction work can be undertaken on a property in our community. The certificates can be obtained from the Fire Mitigation Officer, Jeff Shalders, at the Fire and Emergency Centre in Queanbeyan, on application. He can be contacted on 6297 1840 during business hours. As well as advising residents about the legalities of hazard reduction activities on their properties he can provide several pamphlets on the subject. There is also a lot of information about the new system for hazard reduction on the NSW Rural Fire Service website, "www.rfs.nsw.gov.au." Remember, reducing fire hazards can be achieved in many ways; burning is not the only solution.

Work has started but help is still needed The work has started on the extension to the fire shed, but we still need more 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**.

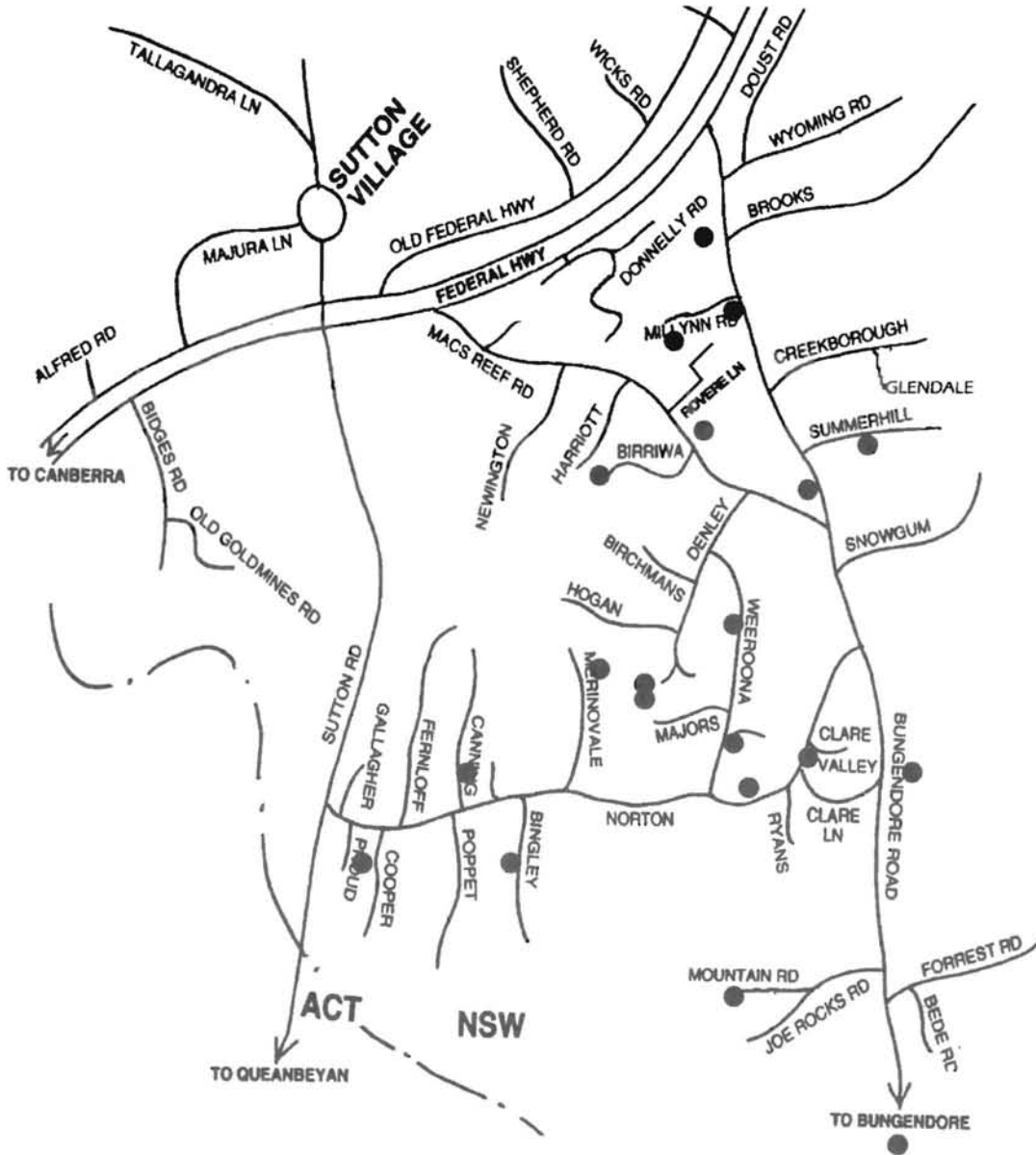
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Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare The Right Tree in the Right Place?

The European invasion and settlement of Australia has wrought many and sometimes irreversible changes to the Australian landscape. As a result of our requirement for food and fibre and to support our current living standards, immense tracts of native vegetation communities have been destroyed or greatly modified to fulfill our needs for urban, industrial or agricultural development. This has been done with little regard for human long-term sustainability, let alone the many other animal species that live with us.

To achieve long-term sustainability in Australia, there will have to be some significant attitudinal changes within the community. One area in which change could be achieved with minimal fuss, cost or inconvenience is by planting the right tree in the right place.

Exotic trees are unfortunately being widely planted in rural residential subdivisions and farms, with little thought to the long term repercussions of their use. Some of these repercussions are:

Weed invasion Some exotic species currently being widely used are Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*), White Poplar or Cottonwood (*Populus alba*), Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra* 'Italica'), various willows (*Salix* spp), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), various Brooms and Tree lucerne (*Genista*, *Cystisus*, and *Chamaecytisus* spp), Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster* spp), Firethorn (*Pyracantha* spp) and Privets (*Ligustrum* spp) amongst others. These species are proving highly invasive of natural vegetation communities and neighbouring property, including public lands. It is strongly recommended that any invasive species such as those mentioned not be used in rural areas.

Landscape Changes A major factor in surveys taken of international visitors to Australia is that they come for our wide open spaces, rural vistas and our different plants and animals. Our landscapes, flora and fauna and natural heritage generally earn us immense amounts of overseas income, just because it is there. However, we need to recognise the value of landscape as an asset, and repair and enhance it where we can. The establishment of exotic trees throughout rural Australia is greatly compromising this asset.

This is not to suggest that no exotic trees are useful or should not be planted, but we really need to consider maximising the benefits from every tree we plant. Some rural residents find the dryness and "rough" nature of the local natural landscapes too harsh, and embark on "softening" programs, and extend this over their whole properties. The benefits are dubious, and are certainly environmentally damaging in the longer term. Surely the benefits of the "green oasis" are best confined to the near surrounds of the residence, where they can fulfill the need for softer surrounds. Utilise native species for shelterbelts around the edges of paddocks or property, designed to link with neighbouring remnant vegetation or plantings. This will contribute very significantly to retaining that unique "Australianess" of our rural landscapes, a feature that is rapidly being lost to landscapes not dissimilar to those in parts of Europe.

Biodiversity protection. By planting native vegetation we can make some reparations for the cost of our "environmental footprint" and improve foraging and breeding habitat availability for wildlife into the future, as well as meeting all farm/recreational block requirements for shelterbelts and aesthetics. Remember, it takes 4-5 human generations (100-120 years) for most Australian trees to begin forming hollows suitable for habitat for many fauna species, and some species are totally dependant on native vegetation to survive.

Further advice on suitable plant species is available from Yarrawlumla Council or your local Landcare Group. (Article from the Landcare publication 'Look After Your Natural Assets')

Upcoming Activities: Propagation: 9.00 Saturday 9 August 38 Birchmans Grove, Wamboin. Ring Geoff on 62369158 We will be potting up and washing pots.

MEETING: 7.30 Monday 11 August Venue: Bywong Community Hall, Birriwa Rd (Off Macs Reef Rd) Guest speaker - Warren Saunders from Seeds and Plants Australia will talk about cultivating and harvesting Native Grasses for landscaping and restoration. ALL WELCOME!!!!

The full Landcare calendar can be found at www.bywong-community.org.au



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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)

Wear Safe Attire

In the event that a fire threatens you, whether you decide to evacuate or stay, the right clothes can help shield you from radiant heat, burning embers and flames:

Cotton fabrics are essential. Synthetics can melt and cause serious burns. Wear long pants, a long sleeved shirt with sleeves down or a woolen jumper, and a wide brimmed hat. Sturdy leather gloves, while cumbersome, are essential to protect your hands from painful and disabling burns. Wear a damp cotton scarf or handkerchief "bandit-style" to shield your nose and face. Goggles will help protect your eyes from smoke and burning embers. A word to the wise: condition your horse to strange appearance ahead of time!

Fire-Safe Gear for Horses

The same applies for fire safe clothing for your horse. Don't use synthetic (nylon or plastic) halters or lead ropes. These may melt and cause serious burns to your horse and its handler. Leather halters and cotton lead ropes, while generally not as strong as nylon, will be safer. Don't use nylon fly masks or other synthetic tack or equipment.

When Fire Strikes

You should plan on the basis that you will receive no official warning that a fire is coming. You must be aware that firefighters will be concentrating their efforts on controlling the fire. When the fire comes your way, your personal safety and that of the people working with you must be your first concern.

Try to remain calm and alert. Think clearly and act decisively. Pay attention to weather conditions and fire behaviour. Watch for a sudden change in wind direction or speed, a dramatic change in air temperature or humidity, or smoke and ash or burning embers dropping around you. Monitor weather forecasts and media broadcasts, especially ABC radio and local community radio stations for emergency information. Maintain good communications with the people you are working with. Give clear instructions and make sure they are understood.

Co-operate with firefighters and other emergency services. Your safety and the safety of other civilians and emergency personnel are their paramount concern. If your property is closely threatened by a bushfire and you cannot move your horses to a safer district, then: fill troughs, baths, sinks and metal buckets (plastic ones melt) with reserve water for later use. Turn off power and gas and disconnect electrical fences. Remove all equipment from your horse. Rugs burn, plastic headstalls melt, and metal buckets get hot.

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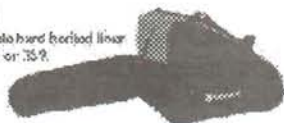


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WAMBOIN COUNTRY GOLF CLUB - JULY COMPETITION RESULTS

July brought outstanding golf weather and the "traditional" GST anniversary challenge sponsored by Keith and Kathy France from local Accountants France Harrison and Associates.

The competition was Canadian foursomes which took quite some rule explanation let alone the combined handicap adjustment of +10% GST compensation. (Whew!!!) Our thanks anyway to Keith and Kathy.

However it was all sorted out and the following were the winners for the day.

Ball winners were Bob Mettam x2, Rob Gorham x2, Ted Evans, Keith France, Tim Barter, Steve Lambert and Vincent Gorham. Second in the Canadian Foursomes were Ted Evans and Bob Mettam and the winners were the team of Tim and Iain Barter.

Why not join us on Sunday 3 August for the Long Drivers Tradies Trophy?? 12.30 at the hall.

- Peter Greenwood Golfer 6238 3358.



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THE STABLE DOOR

By Ian Coillet

Mobile Phone Reception in the Wamboin/Bywong area

Given the shorter timeframe for preparation & publication of The Whisper this month, I thought I'd pop in the responses to date to the mobile phone reception questionnaire in July's STABLE DOOR.

First, thank you to the 3 families who did respond – your comments are featured below. The response rate (0.33%) isn't exactly overwhelming, eh. But, one is to be grateful for small mercies. The responses (plus mine) are pretty unequivocal - mobile phone reception for the respondees is hardly/not worth a cracker. As for the silent majority, ie the 99.67% of the 900 people to whom The Whisper is delivered (or at least those of you who have a mobile phone and pay money to a telco for the service) we don't know what you think about your mobile reception. Guess we won't that out until you or somebody close to you has an accident or other emergency on a property or walking track and the only way to seek help is via your mobile phone.

So, if you haven't yet put forward your views and would still like to, please email me at lodestar@ozemail.com.au or drop a note in the letterbox at 62 Majors Close Wamboin (off Weroona Drive). Of course, for balance, we are just as keen to establish a pattern for where reception is good as we are to identify where reception is sub-standard or zilch.

<i>Nearest intersection</i>	<i>Telco Provider</i>	<i>Quality of mobile reception at home</i>	<i>Want improved?</i>	<i>Comments/Suggestions</i>
Majors Cl/Weeroon a Drv	Optus	Not acceptable. Unpredictable, patchy, regular fallouts. Tested family & friends with different providers and systems, including CDMA – none fare any better.	Yes	Whatever it takes to provide a seriously sound system across the region. 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?
Norton Rd/Weeroon a Drv		Can't receive at home. Can receive on road fronting property. Tested family & friends with different providers and systems, including CDMA – none fare any better.	Yes	Not sure whether boosting the current system will help? Perhaps more a matter of suitably located towers?
Clare Valley Pl/Norton Rd	Telstra GSM	Rarely works. Falls out when it does.	A necessity in this day and age.	Technically an easy problem to fix, however telcos must be convinced of the profitability of the service, or given a push by the Federal Government. The question of new tower location verses boosting an adjacent tower(s) is probably in the hands of the engineers. High speed internet connections would also be beneficial.
Ryans Rd/Norton Rd	Telstra	Zero. Nothing. Not even static.	Yes Yes Yes Yes please.	Definitely would like to see boosters on existing stations as a minimum.

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Wamboin Muses

Jill Gregory

July is not my favourite Wamboin month, eclipsed only by dismal August. It's not so much the bone chilling temperatures or the cutting winds, it is more the general greyness. It's a time when I need to escape, and I have done just that. I spent a week at the coast, smelling the salt air and watching the waves collapse, sending the water fussing and foaming at its edges but going nowhere. It was a time to feast my eyes on green expanses, crossed by a churned up chocolate path trodden by a line of cows heading home. But then it was time for me to head home, and come back up the hill.

And once home I started to see that even July had a few pleasant surprises. I hadn't beaten the winter grey, as planned, with my pansies or wallflowers, because the rabbits had discovered them. But the first pink of the flowering quince was there, and a Lenten rose, ahead of all the others, had begun to flower. There were more winter irises, their tissue thin mauve petals peeping shyly through a tangle of ribbon leaves, and there was the perfume of violets in the cold air. And the daphne bush, that had somehow survived summer by an irregular dousing with a bucket of shower water, is covered with buds.

Grey July, however, is not really a time for the garden. It's better spent indoors, curtains drawn, with a cheery fire, good food, good wine and good company. It's a time for Coq au Vin, Duck a l'Orange, Moroccan lamb shanks and "retro is new" French Onion soup. It's the smell of wood smoke, and the sound of a cork pulled from a bottle. It's laughter and banter and well oiled debate.

I wouldn't live anywhere else....where else would you find a better excuse for such indulgence but I fear that rabbit may soon be on the menu if those pretty little cotton tails don't mend their ways and leave my "bouquet garni" alone.



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