



# The Whisper

**September 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 October, 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, September 28, 2003, 7:00 pm.

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**WAMBOIN FACILITIES AND CONTACTS**

<b>Wamboin Community Assn</b>	Lofty Mason	President	6238-3258
<b>Bywong Community Assn</b>	Warwick Cathro	President	6236-9187
<b>Fire Brigade</b>	Bernie Broers	Captain	040-999-1340 bh 62383316 ah
<b>Landcare</b>	Jacqui O'Leary	President	6236-9157
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238-1333
<b>Breastfeeding Assoc.</b>	Lisa Whitney	Community Educator	6238 3059
<b>Emergency Services</b>	NSW Call Centre	Staff	132-500
<b>Emergency Services Admin</b>	Colin Brown	Controller	6238-1067
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<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Keith France	JP	6238-3596
<b>Wamboin Cubs</b>	Peter Harrison	Leader	6238-3525
<b>Wamboin Guides</b>	Rosemary Riley	Contact Person	6297-7632
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Maureen Purdie	Secretary	6238-3343
<b>Gearys Gap Pony Club</b>	Penny Gibson	Contact Person	6236-9363
<b>Play Group</b>	Rebecca Jefferys	Convenor	6238 3278
<b>Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason	Bookings	6238-3258
<b>Church, Anglican</b>	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238-3202
<b>Christian Prayer Group</b>	Steve & Imelda Taylor	Contacts	6238-3220
<b>Yarrowlumla Shire</b>	Peter Greenwood	Councillor	6238-3358
<b>Golf</b>	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238-3358
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	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

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## WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### President's Paragraphs

**Amalgamation.** The Boundaries Commission has opened further discussion on this issue. There is more information elsewhere in this Whisper

**Donation to Pony Club.** At our July meeting, following a presentation and a request from the Pony Club, it was decided to donate \$500 to assist in the purchase of materials required to build new horse yards.

**Bonfire Night.** The Bonfire Night is the main fund raising activity of the WCA. Last year was one of the best nights on record. We already have sufficient material to make a great fire. Red-Back Fireworks are co-sponsoring and are all set for the display. Local groups are preparing to run the various food and drink stalls. Saturday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of September is the chosen date. All we need now is suitable weather and lots of people.

**Road side Maps.** Three of these are now in position near the blackboards at either end of Norton Road and also at the intersection of Denley Drive and Macs Reef Road. Our thanks to Paul Brugden for his cartography and to Don Evans who managed this project.

**Grand Curry Night.** What a night! Sixty five people braved the weather and came along to see what Dave Hubbard had set up. Trent's RK&V drew a lot of interest, and culinary admiration until he said it was a basic 'roo curry (Road Kill & Vegetable). Don Evans bottle of '69 Grange was a subject of comment and Hank's mobile bar drew moths to the flames. Fortunately (in retrospect) my keeper convinced me it was time to pack up at 1.30.

**Meet and Greet.** This is a package containing information and useful hints about life in Wamboin. The WCA intends to present a package to new residents when they move to our area. Madelaine Neveu of Precursor Graphic Design has offered to put this package together. Madelaine has put forward some great ideas to make this a very useful handout. I plan to have pages of this package reprinted in The Whisper.

**Lights and Bins.** Trent has started on rewiring of the Hall and Fire Shed. The recycle bins are now lit by motion detection operated lights. At this stage they require the hall power to work however when completed these lights will be hot wired as will a bank of other security lights. - Lofty Mason.

## PROPOSED WAMBOIN PRODUCE MARKET

At the August WCA meeting the possibility of a monthly Market at which local residents could offer surplus produce for sale was discussed. It is intended to commence the market in October as detailed below:

**What** Home grown produce, Home made preserves, cakes and pies, Plants and seeds, Art and Craft. Livestock, And more...

**When** 9am-2pm Saturday 18 October  
15 November  
20 December

**Where** Community Hall, Bingley Way

This will provide a market opportunity for local residents who do not produce on a commercial level but have surplus home produce to sell. There would be a nominal charge for stallholders.

If you are interested and wish to support this idea or have any comments please contact Tony Power on 6238 3028 or email [poweraj@acslink.net.au](mailto:poweraj@acslink.net.au) before the next WCA meeting on 16 Sept.

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## Bywong Community News

by Morag Cameron

**The Great Insurance Question** At its last general meeting, Bywong Community members decided that annual premiums of between \$2000 and \$3000 were higher than the Community could or should pay. Following consideration of advice from the Department of Fair Trading and from private legal sources, they decided not to take out public liability insurance for the coming year.

**Lost in Wamboin/Bywong?** Bywong Community has piggy-backed on an initiative by Wamboin Community Association by buying at cost two of the all-weather maps produced by Wamboin to guide travellers through the intricacies of our localities. These will be erected at the community signs announcing Bywong at Yass River and Smiths Gap.



**Wine Tour** The Community's popular annual wine tour will take place on 20 September and will include a new winery - Lambert's - in Wamboin. There are still some places left. Sue Gorham (6236 9476) is taking bookings.




**Shire amalgamation** In the face of various proposals from other local government bodies, the Community decided to make submissions to the Boundaries Commission reaffirming its supports for the 'lifestyle' shire proposed by Yarrawlumla Shire. Members rejected the second proposal by Yarrawlumla for amalgamation with Queanbeyan.

**Business, Arts and Trades Day** The Committee as yet has no indication of whether the absence of insurance will affect this event. Members decided to conduct an informal poll of last year's participants to gauge the level of enthusiasm for repeating the event this year. Christa Rehwinkel (6230 3078) would like to hear from interested groups or businesses.

**Spring bushwalk** A wildflower walk is planned for October. Watch the next Whisper and Bywong notice Boards for details.

**New Executive** The Community's Annual General Meeting elected unopposed new executive members for the new financial year. They are Warwick Cathro (President), Jean-Pierre Favre (Vice-president), Judith Miller (Secretary), Sue Gorham (re-elected Treasurer), and Committee Members Julian Thompson, Morag Cotsell, Narelle Regan, Diana Dack, Warwick Dix, Christa Rehwinkel and Rodney Gibb.

	<h3>TAYLOR MADE PUMPS</h3> <h4>Your pumps not pumping?</h4>	1/8
	<p><b>PUMP REPAIRS TO ALL MAKES OF PUMPS</b></p> <p>- New Pumps Supplied and Installed - Home Pressure Systems - Bore and Irrigation Pumps - Bore Drilling and Water Quality Analysis - Fire Fighting Pumps - Sales and Repairs- Windmill Service, Repairs and New Sales - Water Softener Repairs - Premium Quality Water Softener Salt at Rural Prices</p> <p><b>Call Mark Taylor 0428 486 460 Mobile 6238 2357 Home 6238 2351 Fax</b></p>	

<p><b>QUEANBEYAN VETERINARY HOSPITAL &amp; BOARDING KENNELS</b></p> <p>94 Yass Road Queanbeyan, 2620</p> <p>Full 24 Hour Service available at Q.V.H. Phone 6299-2509</p>	<p>Dr. Garry McComb advise the continuance of their Wamboin/Clare Valley/Sutton area "Home Visit Days" on the 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month. This is in addition to our normal attendance, but with only nominal mileage charges.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1/8</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: right;">1/10</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Painters &amp; Decorators</b></p> <p><i>Aurora</i> For Added Value and Quality</p> <p>Free quotes References available on request No mess, no fuss Qualified City &amp; Guilds Tradesman</p> <p><b>Ph: 62411 727</b> <b>Mob: 0418 975 232</b></p>  </div>
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## YARROWLUMLA COUNCIL NEWS

**Local Government Amalgamations** The NSW Boundaries Commission has completed its first round of investigations into the possible dissolution of Yarrawlumla Shire and carving it up between Queanbeyan and Yass. They have recently advertised for submissions into other possibilities for amalgamation as proposed by our Council and others. The Yarrawlumla proposal for a “lifestyle” shire is gaining support. This current enquiry will take some time and I expect that it will be well into October before we get a decision.

**Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade** As reported last month construction of the extension to the fire station is well under way. We are working towards getting it to lock-up stage as soon as possible so that it can be used for this fire season which commences in only a few weeks. The current fire station was completed fifteen years ago and Wamboin/Bywong has virtually doubled in size since then and we now have an increased fleet of fire tankers and other vehicles needing accommodation. Fund raising for the project is continuing as well as for the normal running expenses of the Brigade. The Brigade is seeking support from the Council and will also be applying for a Government grant. However local support is vital and the Brigade will be collecting donations over the next two months. Your generous support would be very much appreciated.

**New Playground Equipment** Council will be spending about \$22,000 in September on replacing the playground equipment at the Bingley Way hall. Following a recent safety audit it was discovered that the existing equipment no longer met Australian standards and would need to be replaced. After consultation with the Playgroup (the most regular users) an option was chosen and an order has been placed.

**Wamboin Winery** Council has given final approvals and operating hours for the Lambert Winery on Norton Rd. This is a magnificent development and will be a great, high quality attraction for Wamboin and the wine industry in the Canberra region. Lambert wines have already had success with medals in recent wine shows and the winery and café should prove very popular with locals and tourists. I congratulate Steve and Ruth and wish them luck for their outstanding achievement.

**Robberies** We seem to continue to suffer burglaries in Wamboin and Bywong with recent reports of homes being burgled. If you have any information or perhaps think that we should have a neighbourhood watch program in this area then send me an email or a phone call. It is something we can take up with Wamboin and Bywong Community Associations. Peter Greenwood JP Your Local Councillor 6238 3358 [petergreenwood@actweb.net](mailto:petergreenwood@actweb.net)

	<p align="center"><b>IDEAL BUILDING SOLUTIONS</b> Licensed Builders NSW &amp; ACT “Servicing all areas of Canberra and surrounding districts” Specialising in –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Domestic Building</li> <li>❖ New Homes</li> <li>❖ Extensions</li> <li>❖ Renovations</li> <li>❖ Outdoor Living Areas</li> </ul> <p>Phone Paul Elword for an obligation free quote and building assessment on 0407 295 192 or Michele on 0427 007 223.</p>	 <p align="right">1/6</p>
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Thanks to the persons below, Wamboin and Bywong residents have a		free community owned newsletter.	
<b>150 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN:</b>			
Dean Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West	18	Ph 6238 3208
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	29	Bill Owen Cooper Rd.
Dave Hubbard	Poppet Rd.	34	Max Klemke Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley
<b>230 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:</b>			
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	50	Cathy Abell Canning Close
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	28	Ph 6238 3463
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	Margaret Heleimin Merino Vale Drive
Ned Noel	Yarr Cncl & Adv & 10 N Stks	50	Anne Gardner Weeroona, Norton to Majors
<b>249 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER:</b>			
Colleen Foster	Joe Rocks to Norton	20	David Anderson Weeroona, Majors to Denley
Antonette Stockdale	Yalana East	34	Ph 6238 3489
Bernie Reardon	Clare Lane	8	Ruth Lambert Yalana West
Lyle Monetesin	Forrest Road area	50	Rob Gorham South End - Clare Valley
Bungendore Shop	Bungendore	10	Pauline Segeri North End - Clare Valley
<b>277 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:</b>			
Rachael Gascoine	Brooks Creek Estate	22	Amanada Bryan Donnelly Road
Sue Gorham	Schofield Road	25	Ph 6238 3590
Ann Platts	Denley/Birchman's Area	25	Lachlan & Callum Whitford Hogan/Kestral area
Laura Snowdon	Hogan Drive	25	Len Parrish Summer Hill Rd /Bungendore Rd
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Rhett Cox Macs Reef /Nwngtn to FedHwy
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Birriwa	35	Morag Cotsell Newington/Harriot
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## Amalgamation of Shires

By Lofty Mason

Despite hands-off promises prior to the last election, the NSW Government is pursuing a policy of amalgamating smaller municipalities and shires. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2003 the Queanbeyan City Council requested the transfer of 155 sq km of the Yarrawlumla Shire to the City of Queanbeyan. The NSW Minister for Local Government then proposed transferring Western Yarrawlumla to the Yass Shire and Eastern Yarrawlumla to Queanbeyan City. At last count there were about 17 variations to this proposal including a Yass takeover of Sutton, Wamboin and Bywong. After the June meeting of the WCA, where we were addressed by the Mayors of Yarrawlumla, Queanbeyan and Yass, we made a written submission to the Local Government Boundaries Commission passing on the preferences decided at the meeting. The fact that our community orientated area would be far outnumbered (and thus outvoted) by Queanbeyan or Yass residents was cause for concern. The large 'Rural Lifestyle Shire' involving the amalgamation of Yarrawlumla and Tallaganda local government areas and boundary alterations to include the south and south-eastern portions of Mulwaree, Gunning and Yass local government areas, as presented by Mayor Bransdon was the favoured choice.

The Gunning Shire contacted Sutton, Bywong and Wamboin Associations and a meeting with members of the Gunning Shire Council was arranged for the 29<sup>th</sup> of July. The Gunning Mayor, Laurie Willett, presented a proposal which varied from the Yass and Queanbeyan plan in that the new shire (the present Gunning Shire plus Sutton, Wamboin, Bywong, Bungendore and Lake George area) would comprise of three wards each with 3 Councillors. With everyone chasing us as though we were the 'prodigal son' why this feeling that we were more like the 'fatted calf'?

Why is our area so in demand? I believe Gunning Shire is worried about being taken over by Yass or Goulburn. Yass Shire claim is that they want control of their water catchment area however I suspect the amount collected in rates has a lot to do with us being so vigorously courted. In return for our considerable rates we get road upkeep and...and...and...and... just a minute, I'm thinking.

We received a letter back from the Boundaries Commission acknowledging receipt of our submission and saying how they would 'make recommendations as to whether either Queanbeyan City Council's proposal or the Minister's proposal should be implemented'. This was a bit of a shock and left us wondering if any of the other proposals had received a hearing. We were assured that the Commission could only make recommendation on these set proposals and others would follow.

John Van der Straaten and I arranged a visit to the local member, Steve Whan, where we discussed our concern. He said he would look into the matter however he pointed out he considered the Queanbeyan amalgamation option was well accepted. Judging from the WCA vote Wamboinians don't agree with him!

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of August two notices from the Boundaries Commission in the Canberra Times requested comment on the Yass & Gunning Proposals. Both Shires propose taking over the Sutton, Wamboin, Bywong areas with the Yass option extending to Wallaroo and the Gunning one extending to take in Bungendore and Lake George.

At our 19<sup>th</sup> of August meeting the WCA decided to respond to the Boundaries Commission to again make it clear that we preferred to maintain our community orientated way of life and thus the 'Rural Lifestyle Shire' was our preferred option.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of August a notice from the Boundaries Commission in the Canberra Times requested comment on the 'Rural Lifestyle Shire' and an alternative 'Regional Council'. This alternative option involves the amalgamation of Queanbeyan, Yass, Tallaganda and Gunning local government areas. Written submissions from persons with an interest in putting forward points of view relating to the proposal were invited. The WCA will respond as decided at our recent meetings.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel. (Hopefully it is not a train coming the other way!) The Wamboin Hall has been booked for local government elections for the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2004. Perhaps by then we will know **who** is standing for **what** council?

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**Wamboin Community Centre,  
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**Saturday 20th September 2003**

**Food stalls from 6.00  
Bonfire lit at 6.33 and  
Fireworks light-up 7.03 precisely**

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the Wamboin Community Association.**





# The Wamboin Firefighter

A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR VOLUNTEER RURAL FIRE BRIGADE COMPILED  
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## From the Captain's Desk



Even though we spend a lot of time organising regular training sessions during the year, the response from some of our members has not been ideal. We all need to start thinking seriously about our own level of training and preparedness for the next fire season. I encourage all members of the brigade to take advantage of any of the three training sessions this month and get back into it. The memories of January this year are still very vivid. We need to think that it could happen again and get some practice. We need to get familiar with the trucks and all the associated equipment. Contact your Deputy Captain and make sure you are ready.

Property owners in our community should be looking at their properties and asking some serious questions about being prepared. Advice has been included in this month's article about some of the things that can be done. If you need advice please contact me or one of the field officers listed below. We will be only too happy to pay a visit. If you need to undertake any hazard reduction on your property you will need to contact Jeff Shalders, the district's Fire Mitigation Officer, beforehand to arrange a hazard reduction permit. These permits are required now at any time of the year. If you then wish to reduce the hazards by burning you will also need to get a fire permit next month. Your neighbours will also need to be notified whatever time of the year you undertake a hazard reduction by burning. A potentially embarrassing visit from your fire brigade can be avoided if you also contact me before your burn this month even though you will not need a fire permit. A lot of information about hazard reductions is available from the Rural Fire Service website, <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au>. Residents are warned that several fires have occurred in the past few days on the South Coast. Over 200 RFS volunteers recently attended more than 40 separate fires in the Bega Valley, Eurobodalla and Shoalhaven Districts. Many were private property hazard reduction burns that escaped under strong wind conditions. These winds were forecasted and were widely advertised.

## Brigade Donation Drive

Even though we all pay a levy in our annual rates for the rural fire brigade service in our Shire, the amount of money raised does not fully cover all the costs of running the brigades. The money collected from the rates is supplemented on a ratio of 8 to 1 by the State Government and it is this money that buys fire brigade vehicles, buys fuel, provides personal protective equipment for the fire fighters, pays for vehicle maintenance, and funds the purchase of other equipment. However, there are many things that still need to be provided so that your brigade can help protect this community. Things such as better radios, new first aid kits, tools, rations and supplies, security systems, a winch for the hose drying mast, and the extensions to the fire shed still have to be funded by us, the members of this community. We will be out on the roads collecting your donations this year on 11 and 18 of October this year. Please give generously because in the end the whole community benefits from a better fire brigade.

## Is Your Property Prepared Against Bush Fire and Grass Fires?

### Check that:

- Ground fuels are kept clear around the house (long, dry grass, dead leaves and branches, thick undergrowth)
- Gutters are cleared.
- Roofing is firmly fixed (cleaned of dry leaf debris).
- Firebreaks are prepared, (a well watered lawn can act as a firebreak).
- Screens or shutters are installed and underfloor areas enclosed, if possible.

- Vents into roof space are screened with fine wire mesh
- Flammable items are removed from around the house, (eg. woodpiles, and obvious flammable materials such as paper, boxes, crates, hanging baskets, wooden garden furniture etc).
- LPG gas tanks are vented away from house. Emergency 000 telephone number is placed near the phone.

**Do you have sufficient Water Supplies and Fire Fighting Equipment? Check that:**

- Hoses are long enough to reach all sides of house, and attached to taps.
- Heavy-duty hoses are fitted with wide-spray nozzles, if possible.
- Reserve water supplies from tanks, dams, or swimming pools, are available, if possible, since mains water will be in high demand. Try to store water during winter months.
- Gate valves are fitted to water tanks. (a 38mm Storz coupling will assist the Rural Fire Brigade).
- Have a gate valve to fit portable pump as well
- Regularly check petrol or diesel portable pumps, if you have one, to ensure it starts easily.
- Install a sprinkler system in your garden and on roofing, if affordable.
- Gather buckets (preferably metal), mops, spray backpack units, ladders rakes and shovels and store them in one place for ready access during a fire.
- Battery operated radios and torches should be kept in case of electricity failure.

**Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade**

**Contact Numbers for 2003/2004**

**In the event of FIRE or EMERGENCY Ring 000**

For information on Fire Permits, Fire Restrictions, Training, or Brigade matters ring  
**Bernie Broers, Captain of the Brigade, on 6238 3316 or 0409 991 340**

*Contact details for the Brigade Field Officers are:*

<b>Bernie Broers</b>	Captain	Sutton Road 6238 3316      0409 991 340
<b>Cliff Spong</b>	Senior Deputy Captain	Macs Reef Road 6236 9220 or 0402 010 942
<b>Andrew Dunn</b>	Deputy Captain	Norton Road (East) 6238 1849      0428 621 038
<b>Dick Henley</b>	Deputy Captain	Poppet Road 6238 3036      or 0418 673 010
<b>Richard Hobbs</b>	Deputy Captain	Norton Road (West) 6238 3505      0417 483 978
<b>Darryl Parker</b>	Deputy Captain	Bungendore Road 6236 9424      or 0419 471 112
<b>Nev Schroder</b>	Deputy Captain	Norton Road (Central) 6238 3592      or 0414 952 766

*To Contact:* Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade Station – Phone: 6238 3396 Fax: 6236 9220  
Bungendore Police - 6238 1244  
State Emergency Services Controller - 6236 9333

*Please address all rural fire brigade correspondence to:*

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade Shed  
112 Bingley Way  
Wamboin NSW 2620

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## A MAP OF WAMBOIN AND BYWONG

A New Edition Provided by Paul Brugman

Thanks to many hours of unpaid labour by Paul Brugman of Poppet Road, Wamboin and Bywong will soon have maps at several key intersections. Paul has also created the new edition of the A3 sized area map which appears on the previous two pages.



### RIDING INSTRUCTION

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Local riding instructor available for beginners and more experienced riders. I will come to your property, or have sand arena available. Improve your dressage, jumping or just increase your confidence. Available weekends or weekdays.

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Wanted: Gardening, handyman, Wamboin area or near area. Contact Ray 6238-3047.

For Sale: Two Great Danes Female Desexed and Vaccinated 2 years old Suit property Reluctant sale, owners moving \$250pair includes kenned, freezer, food Please phone Julie or Dan on 62369673

House-sitting - Professional couple available to housesit in the Wamboin/Bungendore area whilst awaiting house to be built. References available. Have been in the Wamboin area for 20 years. Please call 0409 788 168.

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

FOR SALE – TELESCOPE Don't miss Mars while it is so close! 112mm Astronomical Reflector. Three interchangeable eyepieces, 22mm/41X, 20mm/45X, 4mm/225X plus a 2X Barlow lens to double the magnifications. Features equatorial mount, finderscope, moon filter and adjustable wooden tripod. As new condition with manuals and charts, \$320 ono. 6238 3358

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

FOR SALE - "ARID ZONE DOCS SWEETHEART" 6 year old liver chestnut Quarterhorse Mare, approx. 15.1hh. professionally trained in Western Pleasure, but will suit any discipline, requires experienced owner to continue education, wasting in paddock. Reluctant sale/work commitments (good home only). \$4,000 neg. Phone: 02 6238 0552 or 0416 081 031. Thank you Yvonne Pittaway PO Box 466 BUNGENDORE NSW 2621

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### BUNGENDORE RURAL SERVICES

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### Sutton Residents Doubtful About Proposed Development

Sutton residents who answered a survey are not keen on a plan to develop 2000 house sites next to their village. Of 102 Sutton and district residents who responded to the survey, 62 opposed the development, 20 supported it, and 21 were undecided.

Following the survey and a workshop held in the village, Sutton and District Community Association is advising Yarrawlumla Council that it opposes the current proposal for the rezoning of the 800 hectare site which a developer has bought and is seeking to re-zone.

The Community Association will ask all regional shires to defer any rezoning action until a vision and management plan are completed. The Association will also ask the developer to arrange a presentation to a general meeting on the proposed development before Council considers the rezoning application.

Members of a working group of the Association are disappointed that the developer has not provided more specific details about the proposed development to the community. They have urged all members of the community to attend the proposed public meeting with the developer. - Guy Cotsell

<h1>FIRE</h1>	<h2>Remember?</h2>
<h3>It's easy to forget with all the recent ...</h3>	<h1>RAIN</h1>
<h3>WE NEED YOUR HELP TO RAISE \$40,000 TO FINISH THE FIRE SHED EXTENSION.</h3>	<p>Please support the Wamboin Bush Fire Brigade so that they can protect you and your property this Summer.</p> <p>Household donations over \$25 will be recognised on a 'Giving Wall'. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.</p> <p>For business sponsorship, please call Fiona on 6236 9331.</p>
<p>Please send your donations to:                  The Treasurer                  Wamboin Bush Fire Brigade                  112 Bingley Way                  Wamboin NSW 2620</p>	<p>Name (for receipt).....</p> <p>Amount \$..... (cheque enclosed) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Details for Giving Wall (eg The David Family)</p> <p>.....</p>

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 HIA Member



## Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare -- NATIVE GRASSES

Preserving and restoring our native grasses can be of benefit not only to our own properties but also to the wider environmental region. They work for us in many ways, helping to prevent erosion and provide soil stability while increasing rainfall infiltration into the soil. They help ensure a catchment filtration system for water before entering dams and creeks, provide understory habitat and combat salinity. They also offer low-cost landscaping, a microhabitat for other native flowers and used wisely and sensitively can provide more than adequate grazing especially during drier seasons.

Until recently native grasses were thought to have little value for grazing or conservation and were replaced with introduced pastures. Their excellent resistance to drought and low temperatures went largely unacknowledged as was the fact that they are generally better suited to acid soils. Native grasses like those listed below respond to grazing, are green either year-long or in dry seasons and have good forage value.

Identifying native grasses can be difficult especially with some pest species such as serrated tussock bearing a strong resemblance to some of our local species. Four dominant local species are **Kangaroo Grass** (*Themeda australis*), **Wallaby Grass** (*austroranthonia*), **Corkscrew Grasses** (*Austrostipa*) and **Snow Grass & River Tussock** (*Poa spp*). When revegetating, try to select the species that already grow on your property and therefore suit your soil and environment.

There are several good resources available to assist in identification. Try NSW Agriculture, DLWC, CSIRO who have a valuable reference CD called 'AusGrass' or specialized outlets such as the Botanic Gardens bookshop. I noticed that Bungendore's very own bookshop, 'A Suitable Book' is also stocking some valuable environmental resources for this area. When all else fails, bring along a specimen (with flowers, fruits or seed heads if possible) to a Landcare meeting and one of our 'experts' will give you a hand.

Cultivating and harvesting native grasses for their seed is a relatively recent development, prompted by demand initially for potted plants by the nursery trade for landscaping and use in water purification schemes such as wetland rehabilitation, dams and along new roadsides. At the last Landcare meeting, **Warren Saunders** from **Seeds & Plants Australia**, talked about the business of collecting seeds either for personal use on our own properties or for commercial gain. There are issues with taking seed from the bush, so collecting from existing plants on your own property is suggested. The actual harvest time may vary from season to season with both seed set and ripening depending on day length, moisture availability and temperature, however most seed is 'ripe' around Christmas time. Use the 'crunch' test for determining if the seed is ripe – the seed should be white and nutty inside. Even within a limited area, some swards will be slower to set seed than others. The *Florabank* publications detail principles of collection and storage.

There is a market being established for native grass seed. See [www.stipa.com.au](http://www.stipa.com.au) for information about growing and selling. Perhaps there is some scope for someone setting up a small "garden" where seed can be commercially harvested?. *Poa* seed fetches about \$70 /kg and a single plant can produce about 100g each season. Careful selection of species may mean that you can harvest successive crops from an area containing mixed species which ripen at different times.

Acknowledgements: Lynton Bond, Carwoola Landcare and 'Look after your natural assets', Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare

Calendar -- Propagation Session – 9am Saturday 13 September, 38 Birchmans Grove, Wamboin ph 62369158

Meeting – 7.30 Monday 13 October, Bywong Community Hall – Birriwa Rd (Off Macs Reef Rd), Guest speaker: Chris Tidemann ANU Topic: **Can Landcare stop the spread of the Common Mynah bird?**

-- Jacqui O'Leary, Convener

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### Entering Wamboin

Hello. I live on Norton Road. The front entrance to Wamboin could be made nicer by putting up a brick or stone entrance with large lettering, funded by donations from people living in Wamboin. If you would be interested, please advise the community association or the Whisper or contact me by email at [jp@jpautoparts.com.au](mailto:jp@jpautoparts.com.au). I am willing to start the fund raising by donating \$200 if others are interested as well. - Peter Hall

### 2003 Bungendore Spring Ball -- 1 November

Just arrived in the area, or a local now and need a great night out? Then throw on your very best threads and treat yourself to the year's big event. The Bungendore Spring Ball is *the* night of nights where you can really let your hair down with new and old friends. It's a night of white linen draped tables drowned in candlelight; pre-dinner champagne with soft classical music upon arrival; sensational entertainment from the talented live band "Itchy Feat", a sumptuous meal, and prizes for the most elegantly dressed. It's a terrific night to be held on Saturday 1 November.

Tickets are \$50 a head with BYO drinks, and all proceeds going to the local churches of Bungendore. Its terrific value and great fun so start organising your table of 10 now. If you are new to the community and would like to come a long and meet some new friends and neighbours we would be only too pleased to help you onto a table. All bookings can be made through Mareeta Grundy on 6236 9258 or Phillip Dean on 6238 1743 so give us a call now.

### Police Action

The Bungendore Police, have made several fruitful patrols of the area. These patrols were initiated after they received a report of minor vandalism at the Hall. Some lads have had the error of their ways explained in detail. The Bungendore Police have requested that all acts of vandalism and/or petty theft be reported as soon as it is noticed. If these incidents are not reported, the Police can't do anything about them. Their response to the latest reports is praiseworthy.

### Wamboin 15 years ago – from the "Whisper", September 1988, Circulation 200

"GRAND OPENING --- WAMBOIN BICENTENNIAL FIRE STATION -- 5.30PM SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER 1988. The local Member, Mr Peter Cochran, will open the new Fire Station in Bingley Way on Saturday, 29 October at 5.30pm. The Wamboin Bush Fire Brigade cordially invite all members of the Wamboin community to join Brigade members in celebrating this event. Please come along and join the Chairman and Secretary of the NSW Bushfire Council, Shire President and Councillors, Fire Control Officers, Bush Fire Brigade Captains and other local dignitaries....." This event was followed later in the evening by the Wamboin Community Association Bicentenary Bush Dance.

## 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](http://www.wagongacoffee.com.au)

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**WAMBOIN COUNTRY GOLF CLUB - AUGUST COMPETITION RESULTS**



During August each year the club competes for the Long Drivers Tradies Trophy. How that name came about is another story but we thank Hank, Don, Trent and Dave for their sponsorship and provision of the "afters eats".

Ball trophy winners were Tony Fisher x3, Len Ivey x2, Rob Gorham x2, Iain Barter and Steve Lambert. B Grade comp won by Tony Fisher from young Vincent Gorham.

A Grade won by Lofty Mason with Rob Gorham in second. -- Peter Greenwood Golfer 6238 3358.



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### Sutton School Snippets

It's going to be a busy Term 3 with special programs for Child Protection, Gymnastics, Scripture and Swimming. Students from Years 3 and 5 also have the Basic Skills Tests to complete. We welcome Mrs. Kim Thomason as our Year 5 teacher whilst Mrs. Suzanne O'Callaghan is on leave. Congratulations to the new SRC councillors and to Tom Studholme who is our Student of the Month for July. Tom won his award for being a great student role model.

To reinforce values education from the key learning area Human Society and Its Environment all staff and students participated in our Fair Dinkum Day. After an introductory talk by Sue Britton, the principal of Gundaroo Public School, students worked in their Peer Support Groups to complete eight varied activities. These examined the standards and qualities we value in ourselves, our friends and our society.

Hannah Dunn and Kate Chandler participated in a Student Leadership Program held in Queanbeyan. Sessions involved public speaking, communication, motivation and organisation. A highlight was their visit to Parliament House where the girls met Senator Natasha Stott-Despoja. Student teams are busy preparing for the Engineering Games and Tournament of Minds whilst individuals have the challenge of the Yass CWA/Rostrum Public Speaking Competition. -Gay McNeill

### NSW Cervical Screening Program

Women between the ages of 50 and 69 years living in the Yarrowlunla Shire are under-screened for cervical cancer, according to data collected by the NSW Cervical Screening Program. There could be many reasons for this. Some women may not have accessed the services offered due to lack of information; some may lack access to these services and yet others may have decided they do not need a test. Although death rates from cervical cancer have decreased steadily since the Australian Government introduced the screening program in 1972, the reality is that women are still dying from this and other cancers. It is now well established that the earlier abnormal cells are detected via a quick, simple and effective test known as a 'Pap smear', the easier it is to prevent cancer developing. Stephanie Williams is the Southern Area Health Service's Cervical Screening project officer. She wants to make contact with women aged 50-69 years in your area who are interested in looking after their good health, learning more about cervical screening tests, and promoting their own wellbeing. Stephanie is organizing a "Learning Circles" workshop for women in the Queanbeyan area in the next couple of months, so if you'd like to know more and/or take part, please email: [Stephanie.Williams@sahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Stephanie.Williams@sahs.nsw.gov.au) and make sure you include the following information: Your name, age and contact number, Your email address, Your preferred time and day of the week for a workshop, The date of your last Pap test where it was done (not compulsory) or state if you have never had one. Alternatively you can telephone Stephanie at the Batemans Bay Community Health Centre on 02 4472 4544. - Stephanie Williams

### Casual Child Carers Required

Do you get on well with Kids? Do you have free time before and after school hours? Have you got a current first aid certificate?

Kool Kidz Inc. is Bungendore's before and after school child care service. We are currently seeking the services of carers for both our morning and afternoon shifts. The positions offered are casual and attract award wages. Hours and days worked will vary depending upon demand for the service.

A current first aid certificate is essential, however no formal child-care qualifications are required for this position. For a full job description and conditions of employment please contact Tania Willis 6238 1007.

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## MOBILE PHONE SURVEY RESPONSES TABULATED - BY Ian Coillet

Wamboin 1	Weeroona/ Majors Cl	Optus	Reception rarely works. It is unpredictable, unreliable, patchy and 99.99% of time the line falls out. We can get absolutely nothing but more commonly a sniff of a signal from either Bywong Hill, Lake George Sth or Bungendore. Which tower seems to vary according to the weather, time of day, and how earnestly we pray. No tower offers a signal of sufficient strength to conduct a sensible conversation. Other phone users with different providers and systems, including CDMA, have tested their reception from our property – none performed any better.	Yes	We rely on our mobile “service” for business and private purposes.  To fix it? Whatever it takes to provide a seriously sound system across the region. New tower(s) strategically placed to provide a stronger signal to a bigger part, if not all the region, or at the least, boosters on existing towers?  On another matter – the internet/email, we can upload/download at a whopping max. of 28.8kbps, but mostly it’s a little less than this which makes for frustratingly slow networking. A high speed communication service would be most welcome.
2	Weeroona/ Reedy Ck Pl	Optus & Telstra	No signal is received within the house. A signal can be obtained by walking “up the hill” and increasing the elevation by about 100 feet. But reception is patchy.	Yes	Our goal should be to have the same access to those living in the major centres, eg; Canberra/Queanbeyan.
3	Weeroona/ Norton		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? (Re internet /email):...but it is not just the mobile phone folk, it is the quality of our copper out to people. From what I understand, any subscriber who is more than 4 kms from the telephone exchange will have poor service, ie; a service that deteriorates the further you are from the exchange. We are 5.9kms from the exchange and our modem speed is 22.3kbps as against our modem capability of 56kbps.
4	Clare Valley Pl/Norton	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.
5	Ryans/Norton	Telstra	Zero. Nothing. Not even static.	Yes Yes Yes Yes please	Definitely would like to see boosters on existing stations as a minimum.
6	Weeroona/ Denley	Optus (but not for much longer)	I have purchased a metre long aerial which gives me 2 bars. When used, I sometimes (most times) have to grab it and move it around but that is not always successful. When not connected, it has one bar in various spots around the house and property. On the main, it is a waste of time.	Absolutely. I work from home and it is essential.	After Gary Nairn opened Jindabyne’s new tower, I telephoned his office and invited him to open Wamboin’s in the very near future. So far, no response. Mobile coverage is (alleged) to be 98% of the population. How can we be in the remaining 2% considering our proximity to Parliament House? We need to have a Federal Polly live out here, I suppose. I had a Telstra technician out recently. He had to wander out into the paddocks to make a mobile call – on his CDMA phone!
7	Weeroona/ Denley Phone # 1	Telstra	None whatsoever. Lucky to get 1 bar where we can check if text message.	Yes	Disgusting, considering the landline drops out so often, and that there was no contact at all during the fires of January, and that Telstra said we were low priority. Another tower, and booster to Vodaphone (sic) (currently 10km radius of zero reception).
	Weeroona/ Denley Phone #2	Vodaphone	Have to drive to Macs Reef Rd or Norton Rd for reception	Yes	Not so good on some days even at drive-to point. Booster to Vodaphone tower.
8	Weeroona/ Denley  5 Mobiles	Optus Telstra Vodaphone	We live on Weeroona about 1 kilometre from Denley, and there is mobile reception to approximately this intersection and then it fails. With 3 teenagers, we have 5 mobile phones between the 5 of us. ...we have tried them all (the providers) and none are any better than the other. We can receive text messages OK and can send at the front (There is often a delay between messages sent from town and received by us.) Talking on the mobile is almost impossible.	Yes	Rumour had it that Vodaphone allowed for better reception but this was not the case.
9	Hogan/ Denley	Optus	We moved down here in Feb 2002, and were running our own business from our office at our home in Wamboin (Hogan Dr), but due in part to the woeful mobile coverage, we now have an office in Manuka where we can talk to our clients and they can call us! (Quality of mobile reception is) not acceptable – no signal most places, or signal	Yes absolutely.	We employ a number of people at home and at our office at Wamboin – none of whom are contactable by mobile when they are here.

			drops out, and person at the other end can't hear and we can't hear them.		
10	Norton/ Cooper  (6 mobiles)	2x Telstra 2x Optus 2x Vodaphone	In this position, close to the top of the big hill, you would think that reception would be really good, but it has always been useless. We have changed the sim cards from phone to phone, so we get a fair reading of each phone service. We found that: - all telcos signal strength is similar though each was different from the other depending on the time of day. - in-house – predominantly 0-1 bar signal – unable to make calls. - outside house – varies according to your position on the property but mostly 0-2 bars and calls drop out.		A new tower at the top of Kowen Forest, or similar area would greatly boost signals to Wamboin and to motorists travelling along the Sutton Rd.
B'do re 11	Bungendore/ Clare Ln  (5 mobile phone users)	3x Telstra 2x Optus	We cannot ring out but sometimes receive messages at a certain point in the house.  My husband was trying to run his business from home when we originally moved here last year, but it became pressing to get an office in town because he could not conduct business by mobile and alternative arrangements such as a virtual office just didn't work efficiently.  The lack of a mobile is always a problem with people delivering goods who can't use a mobile to ring us!	We would definitely support a move to gain access by mobile, eg; more towers – we talk about remote areas in Australia needing access, and we, 30kms from Australia's capital, don't have access!!	We were driving home the other night (turned from Macs Reef Rd into Bungendore Rd – late, dark and raining) and a woman was desperately flagging some one down because her car had stopped and she had no mobile coverage to call for help!  (An)other issue is landline – we constantly have problems with the internet being slow and I have been told this is due to the Bungendore exchange being so ancient (as opposed to the upgraded Bywong exchange).
12	Norton/ Gundaroo	Optus  3 mobiles	We live on the ridge at the end of Norton Rd and have always (over 6 years) had patchy reception with Optus. The mobiles do not work in the house but will receive in various locations outside the house if standing in exactly the right spot. We see (on the display) either the tower at Lake George, Bungendore, Gunning or Bywong. The signal strength rarely rises above one to two bars, and always reduces when raining or wet. As you can see, there are no tower locations near Wamboin. I choose Optus because Telstra did not work on the property or in many places along Norton Rd. My neighbour uses Vodaphone and gets slightly better reception in and around their house. Our mobile phones will not work at the bottom of the drive (Norton Rd) at all (which upsets many taxi drivers who get lost in the dark and winter fogs).	Yes PLEASE.	I have installed an external aerial on my vehicle and it made almost no difference to the reception. I bought the phone so that I would always be contactable by the children when they arrive home on the school bus and for my daughter when she was out riding the Greenways but this has never worked well. I was interested to read that one of the respondents had tried CDMA and it was no better. This will save me the trouble of giving it a go as I was planning to.  More towers, probably located on Millpost, required.
By wo ng 13	Bungendore/ The Forest Rd	Telstra	Reception is patchy or non-existent. Quite useless from the intersection to at least one (1) kilometre along the road (where we live).	We would like to have it improved.	Granddaughter is amazed that her mother in Strathfield can receive text message, as written, from friend in Wales, when "we can't even text Gran on her mobile at Bungendore". Visitors are surprised that we get TV reception but not mobile phone. For me, it is simply irritating and silly, and makes my mobile phone just that bit more useless and used less!
14	Bungendore/ Macs Reef	Telstra & Optus	No Telstra reception. The Telstra coverage map indicates that no coverage for this area is planned! Optus has a weak to moderate signal indoors but doesn't appear to suffer drop-outs. Outdoor signal strength is reasonable.	Happy with what we have.	I don't know that more power would solve any problems. The signal is highly directional and the coverage is more likely to be horizon-limited than power limited, although trees etc do absorb some signal. On internet access, I remember a message from Telstra some time in the last year that indicated their idea of high speed internet was about 9.6kbps! So they calculated their "adequate coverage" in the bush on the basis of this figure. There have been times when we only just qualified. Before a lightning strike destroyed it, I had a Maestro Woomera modem which reported connection speed and there were a few times when it connected at 11.2kbps. It never exceeded 28.8kbps. I now use a satellite downlink.

**IF ONLY THEY COULD TALK**

A new series by local vet, Dr Garry McComb BVSc QDAH

It is Sunday 24 August 24 and this morning I was supposed to be going horse riding for the first time in months however it was raining and so our ride was cancelled. Instead I wrote an article on rumen overload for the various newsletters. As the day progressed the weather deteriorated to the point of being one of the most miserable we have had in years - and don't we just love all this rain. We have had so much today that Margie just went down to the dam to check the level. We have a fire fighting pump stationed under the jetty and this afternoon it became a submersible pump! I have retrieved it and hopefully it will be working before next fire season.

Because of the weather I decided to write a different article for this month (at least I will be early with next month's article). It is this type of weather that causes us to see so much pregnancy toxemia - commonly known as twin lamb disease. This is a very serious and often fatal disease of sheep and goats. It occurs only in pregnancy, usually during the last month of pregnancy in ewes/nannies carrying more than one lamb/kid, although a single large foetus may be enough to promote the condition. The most common precipitating cause is a prolonged and gradual fall in the plane of nutrition as we normally see in this environment at this time of year. Cold inclement weather and absence of shelter also markedly increase the incidence. Other forms of stress such as crutching, shearing or trucking can also cause an outbreak of the disease.

Signs of this disease may include some or all of the following: Separation from the flock, Apparent blindness - alert bearing but disinclination to move, Head pressing, Constipation, Teeth grinding, Drowsiness, Nervous signs - tremors, circling, salivation, convulsions, "star gazing" and other abnormal postures, A smell of ketones on the breath. The affected animal becomes recumbent for a few days and will die without treatment. Treatment needs to be early and aggressive and in valuable animals may include a Caesarian section. Mildly affected animals usually have difficulty with parturition.

As with most diseases prevention is more effective than cure and consideration should be given to all of the following: Providing shelter; An increasing plane of nutrition in the last 6 weeks of pregnancy - providing extra concentrates if necessary and especially during periods of bad weather; Reducing stress; Regular exercise especially for well fed animals.

On our farm we have found another way of preventing Pregnancy Toxaemia this year - we did not join. So on nights like tonight Margie and I will not be lying awake worrying about goats succumbing to this depressing disease. The down side to this approach is that there will be no kids bounding about our front paddocks this year however with the drought and the cost of lupins, I am glad that we and our herd are not under this stress. Our apologies to all who enjoy seeing our kids as you drive by.

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

July 2003 rainfall	47mm	September average	66.9mm	Hottest Sept day	24C on 18/9/81
August 2003 rainfall	76mm	Wettest Sept	146mm in 1978	Coldest Sept day	5C on 4/9/82
2003 rainfall to 31/8/03	316.5mm	Driest Sept.	6mm in 1994	Coldest Sept night	-2C on 4/9/00
(2002 rainfall to 31/8/02)	369.5mm	Wettest Sept day	48mm on 19/9/85		

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## BUNGENDORE VIEW CLUB

**VIEW CLUB BIGGEST EVER TRADE TABLES:** Bungendore Evening VIEW will host its biggest ever Trade Tables evening on Monday 13 October at the Woodworks Café commencing at 7pm. We are also having a Halloween theme that evening so if you have something black in your wardrobe (who doesn't?) wear it if you can. All proceeds from the Trade Tables will go to The Smith Family so dig deep and donate or bring your money and bags to take your goodies home with you! The cost for dinner is \$22 including two courses, tea or coffee and it promises to be a fun night. So get the lead out, get into the garden, get baking, get making or just clean out those bookshelves, its Spring! If you would like to donate something before the night or have any questions you can contact the following people: **PLANTS** - Ros Welch or Stephanie Parker on 6238 0769 (Ros) **DECORATED CANDLES** - Marlene Dodge or Maureen Fitzgerald on 6236 9337 (Marlene) **BAKING** - Laureen Greer or Anne-Maria Lee on 6238 0263 (Laureen) **CRAFTS** - Debbie Hudson or Fiona Spotiswood on 6238 1571 (Debbie) **BOOKS** - Lisa Whitney or Tracy Greer on 6238 3059 (Lisa) If you would like to make bookings for dinner contact Laureen Greer on 6238 0263. Members and guests always welcome. -Tracy Greer, Publicity Officer

**DAYTIME MEETING:** I am National Councillor for Area AA which is ACT and Region with clubs as far as Bombala, Cooma, Crookwell, Yass, Goulburn, Braidwood, Canberra, Queanbeyan and Bungendore. At present the Bungendore Evening club is one of the fastest growing in my Area and with the great community spirit you all have VIEW would like to give the ladies an opportunity to have a day club as well as the Evening. I will be holding an interest meeting on Monday the 8th September in the meeting room at the Royal in Bungendore at 11.30 am. VIEW stands for Voice, Interest, Education of Women and we celebrate our 43rd Birthday this year. We are a valued part of The Smith Family. We were established by George Forbes, since then we have grown to over 27,000 members with 420 clubs throughout Australia. We are a governess organisation. Our clubs enjoy a monthly meal in friendship. Through these meetings our members assist with donations of clothing, blankets, toys for The Smith Family. We support and many clubs sponsor student/s on the Learning for Life program. If any lady is interested but unable to attend on the 8th Sept you can contact me on 62311344. - Marilyn Newham

## Wamboin Muses

Jill Gregory

I was driving to work the other morning, just the wrong side of eight o'clock, when I encountered one of my least favourite Wamboin commuters. This little truck has a certain rustic charm, but it's a charm that I find more fascinating from my rear vision mirror. I was forced to slow down and my eyes wandered beyond the road. It was then a little ditty surfaced, one whose origins I've long forgotten, but it brought a smile to my face, and goes something like this.....

Wattle, golden wattle, the emblem of our land.

You can stick it in a bottle...or hold it in your hand.

And there it was, poking through the stiff green pines, the golden wattle, glowing under a leaden sky.

I love winter, but my enthusiasm for it begins to wane about this time. However, in the last few weeks it seems as if nature has been conspiring to change my mind. Not only was the wattle smiling, but on the first day of the month I was delighted to find that our ageing girls, the feathered remnants of a once mighty henhouse, had started to lay. Shortly afterwards I spotted my first blue wren, then a tawny frogmouth chose to roost, one night, on our garden arch, and the daffodils opened their yellow trumpets. The air was filled with the busy twitter of wrens, punctuated by the single, hollow, repetitive mating call of a pigeon. A lone thrush thrilled me with its morning scales, frogs set up a backdrop chorus near the growing puddles in the creek, and the sulphur crested cockatoos, that rag tag gaggle of unruly choristers, reconvened for rehearsals. The numbing cold seemed to be loosening its grip. There was energy and music all around. Even August has its champions!

Then the winds blew in from the north and west, and blew the birds and wattle away. But this time they brought us some precious, long overdue rain, and the puddles linked up and the creek began to flow, and the dam began to fill.

I wouldn't live anywhere else....where else would you be forced by inclement wind, rain and sleet to spend a weekend inside, and yet be glad.

## Notes from St Andrew's Church

Services are held in the Church at 9am on the first and third Sundays of each month. Morning tea is served after the service, giving us an opportunity to get to know each other better. We would be very pleased to see you and your family, especially if you are new to Wamboin. Services are held at St Peter's in Sutton at 8.15am on the second and fourth Sundays. If you would like to know more about the Church please phone Robyn Robertson on 62383202 or Bronwyn Elliott on 62383359.

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