



# The Whisper

**October 2003 CIRCULATION: 950**

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 November, 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, October 26, 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
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Peter Greenwood	JP	6238-3358
<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

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

## Bywong Community News

**Finding Wamboin/Bywong** - Bywong Community has bought two of the all-weather maps of the Wamboin/Bywong area produced by Wamboin community Association. These are mounted on the Community notice boards at Yass River and Smiths Gap, to complement those erected at entries to the Wamboin area. We hope this will help visitors and tourists navigate around our two localities.

**Wine Tour** -- The Community conducted another highly successful tour of local wineries during September. Twenty-eight lucky participants enjoyed one of the best tours ever for what must be a record low price in the wine tourist industry. Organiser Sue Gorham as usual finished up with a lot of very satisfied customers at this annual event.

**Amalgamation** -- The Community has lodged submissions on each of the proposals made for new local government arrangements, which now number eight. The Community continues to support Yarrowlunla Shire's proposal for a "lifestyle" rural shire including both Wamboin and Bywong as well as areas to the east and north, but opposes and views with suspicion the Council's second proposal, given very little publicity, for an amalgamation with Queanbeyan.

**Website and businesses** -- Now is the time for local businesses to renew their listing on the Community's website. Listing is no longer linked to the Business Day, which will not be held this year. Listings can be arranged with the web manager Diana Dack 6236 9187.

**Bushwalk** -- The Community is planning a spring wildflower walk. Watch the notice boards or the website for details.

**Next meeting** -- The next general meeting of the Community is at 7.30 pm on Monday 20 October at the Community Hall, Birriwa Road ( off Macs Reef Road). Everyone resident in Bywong is very welcome to attend. -- Submitted by Morag Cameron

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## WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### President's Paragraphs

**Bonfire Night.** The Bonfire Night was a great night with just under \$1,500 gate takings. At our September meeting it was decided the WCA would absorb all costs and would donate the total gate takings to the Fire Brigade building fund. While the event is still fresh in your mind we would appreciate any ideas for next year.

My thanks to the people who made the night a success:

- Ian Cuthbertson who used his 'Anytime Hire' machinery to shape and clean up the bonfire,
- The Fire Brigade members who helped set up the night, collected the money at the gate, supervised parking, lit the Bonfire, ensured fire safety of the bonfire and fireworks, and helped clean up on Sunday,
- The people who ran the various food and drink stalls,
- Keith France who liaised with Red-Back Fireworks,
- RED-BACK Fireworks who, in support of our community, supplied over double the amount of fireworks that we paid for,
- The estimated 500 people who attended,
- The nearby residents who endured the activity, and
- The volunteer 'cleaner uppers' who helped on the Sunday.

**At the September WCA meeting** (attendance of 25) we were unsettled to hear of the number of **robberies** in the area. Certainly leaves you with a nasty feeling that so many break-ins are occurring. The Police have offered to send a Crimes Prevention Officer to address our October meeting. I will put up a notice to remind you closer to the event. Perhaps we need to start a 'Rural Watch' program?

Ian Coillet addressed the meeting as to the coverage (or lack thereof) of **Mobile Phone reception** in the Bywong/Wamboin area. Ian is now circulating a petition to collect names of unsatisfied mobile phone customers.

Tony Power was encouraged to continue his efforts to start up a monthly '**Excess Local Produce Market**'. On a personal note, I think this is a great idea however, due to the attention of kangaroos, my garden is off to a poor start this year. Maybe a 'roo meat stall would be the go?

Our thanks to Len Ivy who has given our hall mementos a smarten up which includes newly engraved signage.

**Meet and Greet.** This is a package containing information and useful hints about life in Wamboin. Now that Madelaine Neveu of Precursor Graphic Design has given the project a kick start, the package could come together in the very near future. - Lofty Mason. [ljmason@austarmetro.com.au](mailto:ljmason@austarmetro.com.au)

**Bonfire Night Raffle** The prizes of - a trailer load of wood, 2 bottles of Lamberts wine, a meat tray, and a box of organically grown produce were won by, and presented to: Alice Scott, the Aylings, Deb Gordon, and the Reeks Family. Since the trailer load of wood was organised by Dave Hubbard, the wine donated by Lamberts Vineyard and the produce donated by Jeff and Colleen Foster, the Community Association Raffle only had to outlay for the meat tray and so realised a profit of \$147. My thanks to the donors and to the purchasers of tickets. - Joan Mason.

## SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER 9AM FIRST WAMBOIN PRODUCE MARKET

### Community Hall, Bingley Way

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There is no charge for stallholders or entry. If you are interested in a stall please contact Tony Power on 6238 3028 or email [poweraj@acslink.net](mailto:poweraj@acslink.net) by 15 October.

## YARROWLUMLA COUNCIL NEWS

**Local Government Amalgamations** It's all getting too hard and complicated. The Government has now appointed a university professor to undertake a regional review of the structure of local government in the area surrounding the ACT. This regional review is aimed at examining the options for structural reform across a number of local government areas and is to take into account local needs and the provision of local government services on a regional or natural resource catchment basis. Extensive discussions with community groups, local government, unions, individuals and government agencies are to be undertaken as part of the review process. Following community consultation the facilitator will suggest options and develop a proposal for change for reference to the Boundaries Commission by the Minister.

**Council Elections** Local Government elections for NSW Councils has been set for the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2004. The Wamboin hall has been booked for a polling booth, but we just don't know what council structure will be in place at that time (if at all!!).

**Its Time** to upgrade the White Pages phone book and fix your address. I understand that amendments close in November.

**Check your hay** I have been advised that because of the drought this year there has been huge imports of hay as fodder for horses and other animals. Along with the hay comes seeds of all sorts of weeds and other undesirable plants. These are now starting to grow and unless detected could be the beginning of a serious infestation. Please check your paddocks and if in doubt the Council's Weeds Inspector can assist you.

**Sutton Development** During September the Council held a Council meeting in Sutton to consider for the first time the proposal for a major urban development just to the west of Sutton Village. This area has been identified for the past 30 years as an area for future urban development and as would be expected has attracted plenty of opposition (as does every development proposal considered by Council). Council considered that the proposal should continue to the next stage which is a comprehensive study and Environmental Impact Statement to look into all of the issues at stake. One of the major issues is the provision of water for such a large scale development. These studies could take as much as 12 to 18 months and will need to be very convincing on water, sewerage and social issues for it to proceed.

Peter Greenwood JP Your Local Councillor 6238 3358 [petergreenwood@actweb.net](mailto:petergreenwood@actweb.net)

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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.	27	
Dave Hubbard	Poppet Rd.	34	Max Klemke	Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley	25
<b>230 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:</b>					
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	50	Cathy Abell	Canning Close	17
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	28	Ph 6238 3463		
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Drive	17
Ned Noel	Yarr Cncl & Adv & 10 N Stks	50	Anne Gardner	Weeroona, Norton to Majors	30
<b>249 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER:</b>					
Colleen Foster	Joe Rocks to Norton	20	David Anderson	Weeroona, Majors to Denley	35
Antonette Stockdale	Yalana East	34	Ph 6238 3489		
Bernie Reardon	Clare Lane	8	Ruth Lambert	Yalana West	32
Lyle Monetesin	Forrest Road area	50	Rob Gorham	South End - Clare Valley	43
Bungendore Shop	Bungendore	10	Pauline Segeri	North End - Clare Valley	32
<b>297 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:</b>					
Rachael Gascoine	Brooks Creek Estate	22	Amanada Bryan	Donnelly Road	20
Sue Gorham	Schofield Road	25	Ph 6238 3590		
Ann Platts	Denley/Birchman's Area	25	Lachlan & Callum	Whitford Hogan/Kestral area	11
Laura Snowdon	Hogan Drive	25	Len Parrish	Summer Hill Rd /Bungendore Rd	32
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef /Nwngtn to FedHwy	12
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Birriwa	35	Morag Cotsell	Newington/Harriot	50
926 TOTAL			Thelma Martin	Shinglehouse/ilhouse/Schfield Rds	20
			Christa Rehwinkel	Macs Reef - Nwngtn to FedHwy	20

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### Memorial for David Robertson

Members of St Andrew's have thought long and hard about an appropriate way to recognise the contribution made to Wamboin and to St Andrew's in particular by the late David Robertson. David came to live in Wamboin in 1975 when he retired from the Royal Navy, and was a very active worker for the new community until his death in June, 2001. The Church building was his gift to the community. In view of his great love of gardens, it has been decided to construct a memorial in the church grounds. It will take the form of a traditional lych gate, leading to a pathway with a Memorial Wall where provision will be made for interment of ashes and placing of memorial plaques. With more promising weather in sight we should be able to make progress with the planned landscaping which was deferred during the drought. Ken Kelly, who built the Church, has designed a shelter with seats each side, in the same style as the Church. It is hoped to have the project completed for dedication at a service on St Andrew's Day, 30<sup>th</sup> November. If you remember David and would like to contribute to this memorial, or would like to know more about it, please contact St Andrews' Treasurer, Derek Carrington, or one of the Church Wardens.



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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 concluded next month – suggested for reprinting in the Whisper by Chris Powell)

Move your horses into your previously identified “safe” area. If you take horses out of stables, close the doors to prevent them running back into their perceived “safe” area. If you are shifting fractious horses when a fire is very close, a temporary blindfold over the eyes may help. If horses are still operational, wet tails and manes to drench the horse in water if it has to pass near or through fire. Early veterinary literature based on stable fires suggests that this will protect a horse from serious burns for about half a minute afterwards.

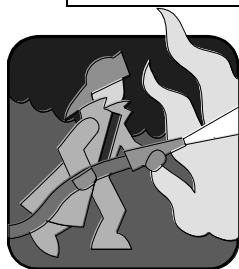
Remember to give your horse plenty of room to move. Past experience of bushfires indicates that horses will suffer minimal burns if given maximum space. They will gallop through flames or around their edges, and stand on the blackened, previously burnt area and remain there until the fire has passed. Do not shut horses in stables or small yards. Never turn them out on the road. They will be in danger from traffic and fire. There is also the risk that they may cause a car accident, leaving you legally responsible.

The main fire front usually passes relatively quickly (10-20 minutes in bushland and a few minutes for grass fires). There is little one can do during this time. While horses might gain confidence from the nearness of humans and a calming voice, you cannot provide this assurance when smoke is everywhere and the sound of the fire is deafening. Go inside the house and do not put your own life in additional danger. Your horse will cope well on its own if it has a chance to move in open space.

After the fire has passed, deal with the spot fires first. As soon as it is safe, check your horses for burns and other injuries to see whether veterinary attention is required. Horses commonly only suffer facial burns, presumably obtained when they turn and run through the fire front. Other possible injuries include burns to other areas of the body, smoke inhalation, damage to coronets, and burnt and swollen eyelids, which reduce effective vision in the short term. It is important to check for other injuries sustained during the fire such as lacerations from running into fences, etc. The nature and extent of burns can vary widely between animals of different species, depending on the nature of the fire and the degree of exposure. Some may be more severely burned than others in the same group.

Situations which may warrant emergency destruction on humane grounds include (1) severe burns to greater than 50% of the body surface with severe charring of the limbs, muscles, or facial tissues; (2) Animals suffering from severe smoke or flame inhalation resulting in acute respiratory distress, as shown by facial burns, laboured breathing, frothing at the mouth and nose, and coughing; (3) animals which are unable to rise due to injuries or burns sustained during the fire. If an insured horse has to be destroyed, make sure the insurance company is notified as soon as practicable.

(to be concluded next month)



# The Wamboin Firefighter

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

**THE FIRE DANGER SEASON HAS STARTED**

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**ARE YOU PREPARED?**

**IS YOUR PROPERTY PREPARED?**

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!**

## From the Captain's Desk



By the time you read this edition of the *Whisper* I may not be sure where the captain's desk will be, now that I have sold my place on Sutton Road. While we look for somewhere else to park my fire boots we will be taking advantage of some accommodation offers from members of my *small* family. It is quite possible that the idea of sitting at my desk and noting down my thoughts may be a distant memory until we can make the fresh start we have talked about for some time. It is also strange to think that after many years of having an established home and base to be of "no fixed address" for a while. Such is life! The pending move will also mean that my telephone number will now be disconnected. I can still be contacted on my mobile (0409 991 340) and I am sure that it will still ring at many ungodly

hours as it has during earlier fire seasons.

On behalf of my family I would also like to thank the many people who dropped in recently to enjoy a few drinks and a modest barbecue. While it was not intended as a farewell party your good wishes and support have given my family and I tremendous encouragement. The decision to sell up and make a new start has been one of the most difficult decisions we have had to make and to get the support and understanding from our friends has really helped.

You have no doubt heard about the large numbers of fires raging in many areas of the State. I expect that we may be called on to help and send some crews from this Shire. This is not an unexpected thing for brigades to be called in from other areas but it is a little surprising that it should be happening this early in the fire danger season. However, if crews are called away from this Shire it only goes to emphasise the need for everyone to look at their own properties now to make sure that everything has been done to ensure the risks from fires are minimised. Please take heed of the messages we have been publicising for many months. The simple information in last month's edition makes good sense. Your brigade, even with all members ready to be called, can only do so much. You have to take responsibility and play your part. I don't know about your place but we haven't had anything like the average rainfall this year. When it gets warmer soon it means drier fuel than normal. Let's not forget what happened earlier this year! Together we can improve the odds of being able to get through another potentially bad season.

We are a volunteer organisation, with an active membership of around 70 volunteer firefighters. Our area of responsibility is roughly 170 square kilometres centred at the Wamboin area. There are now more than 1000 households in this area and plenty of bush. There are also several places posing reasonable fire risks because of work being undertaken there. There are also several places posing reasonable fire risks because of their location or surrounding vegetation. The bottom line is that we need your help to get through each fire season.

If you would like to volunteer your time and energy as a volunteer fire fighter, come along to a training night. They are held on the first Tuesday night of each month at 7:30pm at the fire shed (112 Bingley Way). In addition to helping your community, the training you will get will help you to identify risks and prepare your property for a fire season.

Volunteering is not for everyone. If you are not able to volunteer your time, you can still help the fire brigade. As I mentioned earlier you can prepare your property but you can also make a donation to help us finish the shed extension so that we can build better facilities to help the community better.

I encourage you to fill in the form in the *Whisper* and send us a donation. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Household donations over \$25 will be recognised on a "giving wall" on the new shed. Business donations over \$100 will be recognised also, along with businesses who make donations of goods and services or who offer other forms of assistance.

We will also be collecting donations on the roadside around Wamboin/Bywong, on Saturday 11 October and Saturday 18 October. I hope you will stop and make a donation and have a chat with us about any local issues. We are always keen to know about any particular hazards in the area and we can tell you more than you ever wanted to know about how to prepare your property, or volunteer with the brigade. Another advantage in donating to the brigade is that you will get a distinctive bumper sticker. What better way of identifying local vehicles when we are experiencing a spate of burglaries in the area!

I am pleased to report that four community-minded businesses have already dug deep into their pockets and sent in donations. They are:

1. Sutton Real Estate, \$500.
2. AAA Water Carriers, \$150.
3. A'hern Fitness, the gym at the Airport, \$50.

Another local business that does not wish to be named has generously donated \$100. A big thank you to each of these businesses for their support.

If your business would like to make a donation, please fill in the form in the *Whisper* and send it in.

If your business is interested in making an on-going contribution to the Brigade, you may be interested in sponsorship. For example, we are currently looking for sponsors to cover the costs of maintaining the brigade's vehicles.

We are always looking for donations of particular goods. For example, we currently need sets of hand-held UHF radios (currently volunteers buy their own). Please give Fiona David, our Fundraising Coordinator, a call to discuss the options (AH: 6236 9331, WORK: 6250 6583).

Now that the fire danger season is here you will need a permit to light a fire in the open unless it is a properly constructed cooking fire with a clear area of 2 metres around it. I need to warn everyone that before you approach me for a permit you may also need a hazard reduction certificate from the Fire Mitigation Officer, Geoff Shalders, from the Emergency Management Centre in Queanbeyan (6297 1840). However, there is no guarantee that a fire permit will be issued even if a hazard reduction certificate has been obtained. If conditions are not suitable to safely light a fire, a permit will not be issued.

Please don't hesitate to call me, or one of the deputy captains, if you need advice on any fire related matter.

# Fire season is here!

We need to raise \$40,000 to finish the fire shed extension.

Please support the Wamboin Bush Fire Brigade so that they can protect *you* and *your* property this Summer.

Household donations over \$25 will be recognised on a 'Giving Wall'.

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible

You can donate using the form below, or look for members of the Wamboin Bush Fire Brigade on the side of the road on **October 11 and 18.**

*Please send your donations to:*

The Treasurer  
Wamboin Bush Fire Brigade  
112 Bingley Way  
Wamboin NSW 2620

Name (for receipt).....

Amount \$..... (cheque enclosed)

Details for Giving Wall (eg The David Family)

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Since the registration of the breed over ten years ago, Australian Lowline cattle have continued to build on their reputation as the ideal animal for small acreage farmers that are interested in breeding cattle or simply finishing some steers for their own use or for sale.

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Lowlines continue to be the breed of choice for many hobby farmers as they are small, easy to handle, easily managed cattle and are perfectly suited to a hobby block or small farm.

The cows have been joined to champion Murrumbong bulls and they are due to start calving in December. With this combination of Brambletye and Murrumbong genetics, it is very likely some unborn champions will be sold at the sale.

Murrumbong will have all classes of stock available for inspection at the Murrumbateman field day's. People not familiar with the breed will have the opportunity of getting up close and personal with them right from newborn calves to full sized bulls and cows.

# **THE BIG LITTLE CATTLE SALE**

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House-sitting - Professional couple available to housesit in the Wamboin/Bungendore/Sutton area whilst awaiting house to be built. References available. Have been in the Wamboin area for 20 years. Please call 0409 788 168.
IRONING - Don't have time. I will pick up and deliver. If this sounds like it will help you call me on 6238 3193
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 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
Regional Development - Opportunity or Environmental Disaster? Options for further development in the NSW/ACT region. Forum dinner, Murrumbateman Inn, 6.30 pm, Tuesday, 7 October. John Stanhope, the ACT Chief Minister will be the keynote speaker. The Mayors of Yass, Queanbeyan, Yarralumla, Tumut and Gunning will join him in a panel discussion dealing with issues most likely to affect the region. A representative of the NSW government is also expected to be on the panel. Sponsored by ALP - Contact Greg Shannon for details on <a href="mailto:gshannon@apex.net.au">gshannon@apex.net.au</a> 02 6236 8226(H) 02 6264 3531(W)

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IS TAKING ENROLMENTS NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN 2004 - Enrolment forms are available from the main office at Bungendore Public School, Bungendore Preschool or Kids Zone. All children planning on starting Kindergarten at Bungendore Public School in 2004 are welcome to participate in the following Orientation activities.

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION MORNING: -- Tuesday 21 October 9:45 – 11.00am. Children come and spend the morning in the Kindergarten classroom while parents attend an information session in the Library. The meeting concludes with morning tea for the parents and they can collect their children from Kindergarten rooms.

KINDERGARTEN “GETTING TO KNOW YOU” INTERVIEW: --- Monday 27 October and Tuesday 28 October. An informal interview between parents/kindergarten student/supervisor or support teacher (approximately 10 minutes). Please contact Bungendore Public School Office on 6238 1317 to make an interview time most suitable for you.

KINDERGARTEN ACTIVITY SESSIONS: - Tuesday 11 November 2:30 – 3:00pm and Wednesday 19 November 2:30 – 3:00pm. All children beginning Kindergarten come to the Kindergarten rooms for extra orientation and fun activities. Parents can drop them off at 2:30pm and collect them at 3:00pm.

New enrolments for all grades are also welcome, please contact the school on 6238 1317 or email bungendore-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

**Bungendore Spring Ball**

Here it comes. Our Night of Nights. The Bungendore Spring Ball is the event of the year and this year it promises to be bigger and better than ever. It is a night where you can really let your hair down with new and old fiends. White linen draped tables drowned in candlelight; pre-dinner champagne with soft classical music upon arrival; sensational entertainment from the talented live band “Itchy Feet”, and a sumptuous meal all for just \$50 per head (BYO drinks). There will be prizes for the most elegantly dressed lady, handsome gentleman, and most fetching couple. It doesn’t matter if you are 25 or 55 we all have a terrific time. This year it will be held on Saturday 1 November, so make a note now in your social diary to avoid clashes and start organising your table of 10. Show off the hospitality of our wonderful region to “out of town” friends or family. You won’t regret it. Tickets are available from the Bungendore Post Office or through Mareeta Grundy on 6236 9258 or Phillip Dean on 6238 1743. If you are new to the community and would like to come a long and meet some new friends we would be only too pleased to help you onto a table of like minded party goers. So give us a call now

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## THE STABLE DOOR

By Ian Coillet

### WAMBOIN / BYWONG Mobile Phone Survey (continued)

#### Stage 1: "Gathering The Facts"

Over the last couple of issues of The Wamboin Whisper, I've been running a survey encouraging residents to respond with comments on the quality of mobile phone reception on their property. In last month's Whisper with the generous help of another Wamboin resident (I was in Melbourne for the last half of August) and Ned the Ed(itor), you were able to read an update on resident comments. Due to my absence in Melbourne, 4 responses didn't make it into last month's update. The responses appear below. In total, 17 people have now taken the five minutes required to provide their experiences (good and bad). Thanks guys.

Seventeen responses is around 2% of the (900) addressees to whom the Whisper is delivered. A two percent bite is pretty pleasing, I guess, when compared to the typical response rate generated by a business promoting its products or services via a pamphlet and letterbox drop. If national figures are to be believed, it's likely that not all Whisper addressees have a mobile phone. Accordingly, the response rate at this point may well be better than first appears. But, the survey is not a business. It is a community-based initiative supported by the Wamboin Community Association to draw out resident attitudes and experiences with mobile phone coverage on their property. This being the case, a two percent response rate appears a little light. I'm not into bludgeoning, but I reckon a ten-fold or more increase on the current response rate should be achievable. So, if you haven't responded and would still like to, please drop me an email at [lodestar@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lodestar@ozemail.com.au) addressing the heads below.

The 4 latest responses:

Nearest road intersection to your property	Telco Provider	Quality of mobile reception at home	Want quality of mobile reception improved	Comments/Suggestions
Norton/ <i>Gallagher</i>	Optus	Most of the time it is less effective than two cans with a string between them – at least with two cans you can feel the other person tug! To make a call, I need to wander towards the front gate and this at best yields patchy results and it's common for the call to drop. Incoming calls rarely ring.	Yes	
Norton/ Amungula  (3 mobiles)	1x gsm Telstra 1x cdma Telstra 1x gsm Vodaphone	Zero bars in the house  One/two bars in house/rings but drops out  Nothing at all. Totally useless.	Yes	Two locations near the house give some usage with Telstra. I get reasonable coverage using an external 3db antenna on the roof. Not very portable though!
<b>Norton/ Weeroona</b>	Telstra	Reception is OK, but only just. Helps if you stand outside on top of the rise. There must be a channel across our property. From visitors, we find no reception at all from Optus or other providers.	Yes, could definitely be improved.	No comments – as I do not know the technical stuff.
<i>Norton/ Weeroona</i>	Optus	Our house is reasonably high up on a hill. We can even see Black Mountain Tower down the valley. However, I get absolutely no reception from my Optus mobile. It doesn't cut in until I get nearly to Sutton Rd in one direction or Macs Reef Rd the other way.	Yes	I think this is unacceptable and would be happy to join in any action aimed at getting something done about it.

#### Summary findings from the survey (so far)

- 17 residents responded (about 2% of Whisper circulation);
- with few exceptions, respondents expressed considerable displeasure at the current standard of service (poor signal strength, unreliability, call drop out, lack of reception);
- the performance of all key service providers (Telstra, Optus & Vodaphone) is reflected in resident comments;
- approximately 1/3 of respondents use more than one service provider;

- ❑ Telstra and Optus are the service providers most commonly (equally) relied upon, followed by Vodaphone. (Ratio of patronage was 1:1:0.3);
- ❑ generally no one service provider performed better than another;
- ❑ the performance of all providers is considered to be inadequate;
- ❑ sub-standard reception appears not to be limited to hollows and valleys. Residents living on the higher elevations also suffer poor reception;
- ❑ for most residents, mobile phone reception could not be accessed within the home;
- ❑ in some cases, residents need to be positioned outside (and often substantially away from) the home to have any chance of a signal and/or phone conversation;
- ❑ respondents rely on their mobile phone service variously for business, domestic, social and safety reasons;
- ❑ a plotting of the residential location of respondents suggests a sub-standard mobile phone service is widespread in the Wamboin and Bywong localities and specifically along all key arterial thoroughfares;
- ❑ respondents called for a substantially improved mobile service for the region.

**Other general comments (outside the results of the survey)**

Although not highlighted in the survey, a serious blackspot is known to exist at the Wamboin Community Association hall **and the Wamboin Fire Shed!!!!**

**Whereto from here ?** At its monthly meeting(Tuesday 16 September) of the Wamboin Community Association (WCA):

- ❑ members expressed support for the survey, and its continuation;
- ❑ WCA resolved that a Petition be prepared and made available at the WCA Annual Fireworks for members of the community to register their dissatisfaction at the present quality of mobile phone reception in the region. (Since done: 50+ signatures recorded);
- ❑ WCA resolved that a submission targeting the key telecommunication service providers be drafted requesting improved mobile phone coverage in the region. (I have offered to prepare draft – in due course).

Warwick Cathro, President of the Bywong Community Association (BCA) has undertaken to arrange for the mobile phone reception issue to be covered at the BCA's next meeting on Monday 20 October - 7.30 pm at the Bywong Community Hall in Birriwa Road. If you haven't yet had your say, and would like to, and/or you'd like to place your name on the petition for improved mobile phone coverage, come along.

To the silent majority out there – this is a community issue. Good or bad reception, we are interested in knowing the quality of mobile coverage at your place. If you have good reception, that's great. If you don't, remember, NOTHING HAPPENS, IF NOTHING HAPPENS! -- **Ian Coillet** (I'm just the messenger)

## 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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but with only nominal  
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## Botanical painting exhibition shaping up to be an annual highlight

Spring is a time for admiring the beauty around Canberra. It is a perfect time of year as we look forward to the floral displays at Floriade and to the gorgeous avenues of blossoming trees around our suburbs. Another event that will certainly shape up to be an annual spring highlight is the Canberra Botanical exhibition.



A group of keen local botanical artists are the driving force behind this exhibition. Helen Fitzgerald, one of the region's most respected artists, is the leader of the group that meet each month at the Bungendore School of Arts. Their individual talent, as well as the increasing quality and quantity of their work, gave the group the impetus to arrange for more public showings of their works. Hence, the Canberra Botanical was born.

The inaugural exhibition, titled 'Discovering plants through art', will be held from Friday 11 to 19 October at the CSIRO Discovery centre, Black Mountain. All members of the public are invited to view the exhibition during the opening hours of 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

This exhibition will capture the best botanical paintings from artists of the ACT and NSW region. All artworks are for sale. While some of the artists are at all levels of experience, the final collection on display will offer an outstanding opportunity to acquire works by talented and emerging artists as well as from those with well-established national and international reputations. For instance, the special guest artist is the world renowned wildlife and botanical illustrator, William Cooper.

Dr Judy West, Director of the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research, will open the exhibition on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October. For details please call 6246 4601. The exhibition is being made possible from the generous sponsorship of Flash Photobition and Goanna Print. This long-awaited exhibition is not to be missed!

## Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare

**Next meeting** 7.30 Monday 13 October at Bywong Community Hall, Birriwa Rd (Off Macs Reef Rd) Topic: Can Landcare groups halt the spread of the Common Myna Bird? Guest speaker: Dr Chris Tidemann of the ANU. Come along and find out why this bird has been named the "Flying Cane Toad" and learn about the techniques Chris has developed to try to eradicate them. Check out further activities on the Bywong Community Website [www.bywong-community.org.au](http://www.bywong-community.org.au)

## WAMBOIN PONY CLUB HORSE YARDS

As many people in the area might know, Wamboin Pony Club is attempting to raise funds to erect much needed horse yards and a boundary fence. An appeal for funds was made to local businesses a couple of newsletters ago and has had an excellent response. Wamboin Pony Club would like to thank: Rick Reeks of Capital Business Services, local author Kaaren Sutcliffe, and individuals Douglas Armer and Roger Tregear for their donations. We would also like to thank Ian Cuthbertson of Anytime Backhoe for donating his time.

If any other local businesses or individuals would like to assist us by donating funds towards this project, please contact Robyn Slater of Wamboin Pony Club on 62383472.

## Notes from St Andrew's Church

Services will be held in the Church on the first and third Sundays of the month at 9am. Please come, you will receive a warm welcome and will have the opportunity to chat with other "Wamboiners" over a cup of tea or coffee after the service. Please phone Robyn Robertson on 62383202 or Bronwyn Elliott on 62383359, the Church Wardens, if you have any enquiries.

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### MURRUMBATEMAN FIELD DAY

NSW Agriculture, Dept of Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources (DIPNR) (previously DLWC) and Landcare will again have a combined display at the field day. Officers from each of the organisations will staff the tent, so come in and see the displays at Site 124 and speak to staff in attendance. This year's theme is "Implementing the Murrumbidgee Catchment Blueprint". The various displays and activities planned will address the five target areas identified in the Blueprint; Water Quality & Flow, Salinity, Health, Biodiversity,

Landholders wishing to obtain a coloured plan for farm planning purposes can come into the tent and enquire about a farm plan with a DIPNR officer. Preference will be given to properties larger than 80 hectares or properties in salt affected catchments, but if time permits, others will be done.

The base plan will be printed on A3 paper with a scale bar and the land management units. Landholders will be able to see remnant vegetation areas that they may wish to connect with wildlife corridors of native plants. Sections of the steeper, rocky country could be targeted for trees for recharge control, decreasing the potential for waterlogging or saline outbreaks on the lower slopes.

Landholders will be able to draw their fences and other developments on the base plan. Having a plan at a specified scale will assist with determining lengths of fencing or areas for land management practices such as fertilising or establishing perennial pastures. By covering the plan with clear plastic a landholder can record information such as stock movements. Anyone with enquires on usage of both ground and surface water should speak with the Water Licensing officers on site.

NSW Agriculture will be presenting two informative lecture series, in the morning and afternoon. "Calibrating a handgun" will cover the importance of correctly calibrating spot spraying equipment in order to minimise chemical spread onto desirable pasture species. The second session will cover "Identification of pasture & weed species". A range of pasture and weed species will be on display. Information will also be available on two practical workshop series, "Prograze" and "Landscan". NSW Agriculture will have an extensive display of their saleable publications. These publications will be available for purchase at the field days. Representatives from the Yass Landcare Network will be available to discuss what activities are occurring in the region and how to join the local Landcare Group nearest you.



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## Wamboin Muses

by Jill Gregory

Spring seems to creep up on you and before you know it the lengthening days have teased out new life ... a patchwork of soft pinks, bright blues and lively yellows spreading over the garden. But I had hardly noticed all this, too busy preparing for the vagaries of the impending summer.

For several years we had taken for granted the wattles that brightened the end of winter and filled the spaces between the trees, and were unaware that our screen had thinned with time and drought and in its place were dead trees, stark and untidy; a ready fuel for any bushfire. And so we began the task of pulling down the dead trunks, breaking off the kindling, and chain sawing the bigger pieces for next year's firewood. Much of it was useless stuff, although the slaters and wood grubs may have disagreed, and we piled it up in raggedy heaps to load onto the trailer for the Community Bonfire. What was left behind fuelled a blaze that burned all day and left nothing but a scorched circle of bare earth.

About this time I spent a day or so rattling a tin outside a shopping centre, helping to raise funds for a uniquely Australian charity. Soliciting funds, even for a worthy cause, is not my favourite pastime, but it made me think how essential the charity dollar is for our society, and how important our volunteers are. Volunteers are the essence of our community.

As the spectacular bonfire crackled and roared into life in Bingley Way the other night, and the assembled throng, big and small, tucked into greasy sausages wrapped in bread, I knew I couldn't live anywhere else... where else would you find such a crowd, warmed, not just by the blaze of dead wattles and unwanted timber, but by the spirit of community.... and perhaps just a little gluhwein!

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

2003 rainfall to 28/9/03	361,5 mm	September rainfall to 28/9/03	45 mm
(2002 rainfall to 28/9/02)	422.5mm)	Wettest Oct day	59mm on 16/10/76
Average October rainfall	66.4mm	Hottest Oct. day	31C on 27/10/97
Wettest Oct.	199mm in 1976	Coldest Oct. day	9C on 19/10/82
Driest Oct	5mm in 1977	Coldest Oct. night	-1C on 19/10/82

### WAMBOIN COUNTRY GOLF CLUB - SEPTEMBER COMPETITION RESULTS

Spring brings the annual Mason's Spring Trophy which was contested this putter! The club thanks Lofty and Joan for the sponsorship of the event and

Ball trophy winners were Peter Evans, John Whitney x3, Len Ivey, Nick Barry Kilmister and Peter Greenwood. Nine Hole event won by Lofty by Nick Ivey from young Ted Evans. A Grade won by Tim Barter with Len **forget the WAMBOIN OPEN in November.** - Peter Greenwood Golfer



year with two sticks plus a the great eats at the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Ivey x2, Vincent Gorham, Mason. B Grade comp won Ivey in second. **Don't** 6238 3358.



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