

December 2003 / Jan 2004

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 February, 2004 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, January 25, 2004, 7:00 pm.

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

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WAMBOIN FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	Lofty Mason	President	6238-3258
Bywong Community Assn	Warwick Cathro	President	6236-9187
Fire Brigade	Cliff Spong	Captain	040-999-1340 bh 6236 9220 ah
Landcare	Jacqui O'Leary	President	6236-9157
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238-1333
Breastfeeding Assoc.	Lisa Whitney	Community Educator	6238 3059
Emergency Services	NSW Call Centre	Staff	132-500
Emergency Services Admin	Colin Brown	Controller	6238-1067
Justice of the Peace	Peter Greenwood	JP	6238-3358
Justice of the Peace	Keith France	JP	6238-3596
Wamboin Cubs	Peter Harrison	Leader	6238-3525
Wamboin Guides	Rosemary Riley	Contact Person	6297-7632
Wamboin Pony Club	Maureen Purdie	Secretary	6238-3343
Gearys Gap Pony Club	Penny Gibson	Contact Person	6236-9363
Play Group	Rebecca Jefferys	Convenor	6238 3278
Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	Bookings	6238-3258
Church, Anglican	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238-3202
Christian Prayer Group	Steve & Imelda Taylor	Contacts	6238-3220
Yarrowlumla Shire	Peter Greenwood	Councillor	6238-3358
Golf	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238-3358
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare	Helpline	6299-1966

THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS Fiona Skea, babysitting 6238-3290

Rebecca Purdie, babysitting and petsitting 6238-3343 Matt Montesin, petsitting, odd jobs 6238-3208 Damien Montesin, petsitting, odd jobs 6238-3208 Frank Deveson, bicycle maintenance 6238-3294 Danielle Adams, babysitting, petsitting 6238 3558

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Bywong Community News

Xmas drinks and Free wine tasting Bywong residents and neighbours from Wamboin are invited to Bywong Community's annual Christmas drinks at 6.30 pm on Saturday 6 December at the Community Hall in Birriwa Road. Wines for tasting come from award-winning vineyard Gidgee in Weerona Drive. The Community provides soft drink, nibbles and some beer. Bring anything else you fancy and a small plate.

The mobile issue The community at its last general meeting decided to back Wamboin Community Association's push for better mobile telephone reception in the area. Wamboin representative Ian Coillet told the meeting about the results of a survey conducted in Wamboin and asked that people with reception problems in the Bywong area let him know (his email is lodestar@ozemail.com.au). The meeting resolved to send letters to the appropriate authorities supporting the requests made by the Wamboin Association and suggested service to Wamboin/Bywong might be improved - without prejudicing Bungendore reception - by re-locating the Bungendore tower on the escarpment.

Wine Tour The annual wine tour again proved itself one of the Community's most successful annual events. Sue Gorham reported an excellent outing and paid tribute to the local wineries which generously support this community event.

Car Boot Sale The Community is still determined to hold its annual landmark event - the Car Boot Sale - and is now hopeful that inconsistencies in the operation of the government-sponsored consortium for community group insurance might provide a possible of overcoming insurance problems. It is also likely that next year's event will have to work around ground works designed to restore much-need grass and other cover to the grounds of the Les Reardon Reserve. The date is the last Sunday in March - March 28.

Annual Bush Dance The Community will hold its annual Bush Dance on 21 February. Watch the Bulletin and notice Boards for details. Everyone is welcome.

Bushwalk An intrepid group of spring walkers accompanied Jo Walker to Brooks Hill Reserve and saw the Purple Milk Wart, Bush Peas, Kangaroo Apple, Donkey Orchids, Pomaderris and a small quantity of hail. Watch for the next adventure!

Next Meeting The Community's next meeting is Monday evening 16 Feb at the Community Hall in Birriwa Road

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WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION President's Paragraphs

At the November WCA meeting we opened initial discussion as to trials of a Broadband system within Wamboin and Bywong. If interested in following this up, contact Paul Griffin who is heading up the project for Wamboin. While talking communication, Ian Coillet wasted no time in putting together a report on mobile phone coverage (or lack thereof) in the Wamboin/Bywong area. This report was forwarded to targeted addressees. To date we have nothing back so can only assume things move slowly. I will undertake follow up action.

The news about the recommendation for **Super Shires** had just been released the afternoon of our meeting. Peter Greenwood relayed the Shire brief. Given the huge area of the recommended proposed shire, I can see major problems because of the lack of commonality of interest by the wide range of residents.

The number of buyers who turned up for our second 'Excess Local Produce Market' organised by Tony Power, was a bit disappointing. There was a remarkable array of great produce at cheap prices but very few buyers. Tony will organise another one for December 13 and we will increase the advertising signage however, we must have more people interested in buying if these markets are to continue.

Our traditional **Christmas Carols and Christmas Party** evening is set for Friday, 19 Dec 03. Carol singing, a giving tree, Santa with gifts, Charlies famous 'free' (donation only) sausage sizzle and all the rest will be underway with all proceeds, donations and gifts to the Salvos. Come on down for a 7pm start.

- Lofty Mason. ljmason@austarmetro.com.au

CAROLS AT WAMBOIN

Friday 19th DECEMBER 2003 at 7pm

in the Community Hall Bingley Way

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YARROWLUMLA COUNCIL NEWS

Local Government Amalgamations I'm sure you have by now heard the news about the creation of a new Regional Super Council. The government has announced that it is sending the proposal from Professor Maurice Daley to the Boundaries Commission. The main (claimed) features of the proposal are;

- a partnership of former councils creating a totally new entity by merging eastern Yarrowlumla, all of Tallaganda and Queanbeyan, and parts of Yass, Gunning and Mulwaree;
- includes Queanbeyan, Bungendore, Braidwood, Yass, Michelago, Captains Flat, Sutton, Collector, Gundaroo, Murrumbateman and other small villages.
- a nine-member regional council elected by the whole electorate and limited to two consecutive terms;
- a popularly elected mayor limited to two consecutive terms;
- opportunity for better local government covering the NSW communities adjacent to Canberra that have such a unique relationship with the ACT;
- an area of approx 9500 square kilometres with a population of around 58,000 split fairly evenly between metropolitan and rural areas, mostly removing electoral imbalance;
- savings estimated at more than \$2.2 million which, with economies of scale, will enable the regional council to provide new and improved services;
- a budget in excess of \$65 million for a very secure and sound financial base;
- retained workforces in each of the present centres;
- seven precinct committees with defined responsibilities and a supporting budget focusing on distinctly local issues at Queanbeyan, Queanbeyan River, Bungendore, Braidwood, Gundaroo, Yass and Murrumbateman;
- a councillor chairing each precinct committee with membership of four other persons nominated by the community;

For purposes of discussion the new Council is currently called the National Capital City Regional Council but a new name is to be chosen. Still much water to flow under the bridge but I would suggest that this will be very close to the real thing. Yarrowlumla has given it support because it is similar to our own Life Style Council and Regional Council model submitted to the Boundaries Commission. More to come.

Playground Equipment I am very happy to advise that the new playground equipment for the Wamboin Hall has now been completed and looks pretty good. I hope the kids get many hours of enjoyment in the playground. I wish to recognize and thank Gordon Cunningham, one of the Council's engineers, for arranging the contract.

Council Office Christmas Closure Council offices will be closed for the Christmas break from close of business on Christmas Eve re-opening on Monday January 5.

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



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





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Whisper advertising revenue, at around \$750 per issue, is dropping down to the level of its printing costs. This is partly because when I am putting the Whisper together late at night, and unsure of the size of ads, I have downsized them to avoid taking more out of advertisers' pockets than they might have to give, which has somewhat diminished total revenue.

Because the Whisper has to pay for itself, and hopefully to bring in a little profit to the community association, advertising prices need to go up a little bit. An ongoing problem has been to fairly size 1/10 and 1/8 page ads, priced at \$10 and \$15. One way to raise revenue a bit and to solve this sizing problem is to combine the two categories and charge the higher rate, with the size to be at least 1/10 page, and sometimes a bit more depending on space on the page. I regret asking advertisers running 1/10 page ads, many of whom have kept the Whisper going for years, to pay more.

If it helps, you can know that Whisper circulation has grown to around 900, and, thanks to many volunteer contributors, the content has made it more readable and longer. My hope is that this change can take effect with the February, 2004 issue. Between now and then there is only the single end of year Dec 2003 / Jan 2004 issue. If any advertriser with a \$10 ad decides the price hike to \$15 is too rich, I do wish to thank you for running your ad until now. Alternatively, if anyone wishes to discuss this proposed price hike please phone me on 6238 3484 or Lofty Mason, Community Association President, on 6238 3258. Also, to every advertiser, thanks for running your ad. Readers, please think of Whisper advertisers when you are looking for services and products. — Ned Noel, editor, phone 6238 3484



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THE STABLE DOOR

By Ian Coillet

GOT SOME THING TO CONTRIBUTE? INSTANT NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

If memory serves me correctly, the next edition of the Whisper won't hit your mail box till February. Seems like an appropriate time to reflect upon and thank the efforts of the many people who voluntarily give their time and energy in bringing to life this valuable and much valued community initiative each month.

Perhaps it is also a time for others who don't yet contribute an article or in other ways to wonder and ponder what additional strength the newsletter would have were they to do so. It's been said before, and I'm sure you'll see it referred to in the future – there's those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who wonder what happened. So, if you are looking for a really practical new year resolution you might like to consider contributing a snippet to one, two or more monthly editions of The Whisper. I see circulation is up around 950 in number. With all the comings and goings across Bywong and Wamboin over the last 12 months or so, I'll bet there's a fair bit of new blood out there just bursting to let loose with their scholarly works.

As for progress on the mobile phone issue hopefully el Presidente will have some news. As we struggle through to years end - thought you may like to ponder on these: The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue. (Hmmmm...) Americans on average eat 18 ha of pizza every day. (Okay - plough the olive trees in and plant pizzas!) The male praying mantis cannot copulate while its head is attached to its body. The female initiates sex by ripping the male's head off. ("Honey, I'm home......What the...?") (source: the world's very best e-mails)

For November;

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

Average November Rainfall 76.4 mm

Wettest Nov. 146mm in 1986 Hottest Nov day 39C on 27/11/97 Driest Nov 0mm in 1982 Coldest Nov day 10C on 16/11/78 Wettest Nov day 77mm on 19/11/86 Coldest Nov night 0C on 1/11/98

WAMBOIN / BYWONG CLASSIFIEDS

Christmas is coming and if you are going away, who will mind the horses, dogs, cats, chooks, plants and house? Call Handy Anne on 6236 9147 for reliable daily care in their own paddock, yard and pots. Can also clean windows and mow the lawn so things look spruce when you get home. Daily visit rate for beasities, pre-agreed rate for grass and windows. I have my own equipment.

Horse float for sale Double Unfinished \$1,100.00 Phone Julie or Dan on 62369673

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

Hoof trimming, professional and prompt service, ponies a specialty, ph 6230 3833 to make an appointment

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

Wanted, Wamboin area, gardening or handyman work. Contact Ray on 6238 3047.

Pensioner seeks place to rent. Contact Carol Riddell, 62994534.

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Wormcastings If you are giving or receiving plants for Xmas, improve their survival and growth potential with a top quality and brilliant organic growth stimulant (for plants). The wormcasting are already in their Santa sack (ie bagged) and come with instructions. Excellent for gardens, individual plants and vegie patches. 25litre bag \$8.50. Ph Ian 6238 3425

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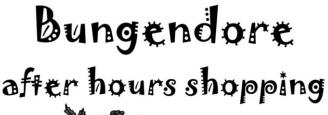
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BUNGENDORE PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUND

What a difference two weeks, a government grant, some creative thinking, two dedicated co-ordinators, and an army of volunteers can make! The Bungendore Preschool playground has undergone some major renovation, but has lost none of it's rural flavour. The design incorporates the natural features of the site, including mature trees, contoured landscaping – gracefully grassy slopes, rugged mounds with tunnels, water feature down a rocky embankment, a huge running field, large sandpit and plenty of equipment. There is also a cubby with it's own paved courtyard for the quieter play times. Due to it's popularity the car has been upgraded and remains, plus the Rotary are upgrading a boat to become a part of a seaside feature. Some wheelchair access has been incorporated into the design. The addition of plants will be a gradual exercise.

A majority of the work was carried out over the school holiday period, and finishing touches will be made over the coming weeks. Special thanks to Tom Gordon (Art Gardens of Australia) and Tobias Downe for putting it all together. If your child is 3 years old or older, and would like to take advantage of this wonderful playground in 2004, please phone Jennie on 62381423 for details about enrolments.





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Thanks to the persons	s below, Wamboin and Bywong r	esidents have a	free community ow	rned newsletter.		
150 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN:		Ph 6238 3208				
Dean Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West	18	Bill Owen Cooper Rd. 27		27	
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	29	Max Klemke	Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley	25	
Dave Hubbard	Poppet Rd.	34	Cathy Abell	Canning Close	17	
240 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:		Ph 6238 3463	Ç			
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	50	Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Drive	17	
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	28	Anne Gardner	Weeroona, Norton to Majors	30	
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	David Anderson	Weeroona, Majors to Denley	35	
Ned Noel	13 Cncl 30Adv 10 NStks7Msc	60		•		
249 CO-ORDINATE	D BY KERRIE FISHER:		Ph 6238 3489			
Colleen Foster	Joe Rocks to Norton	20	Ruth Lambert	Yalana West	32	
Antonette Stockdale	Yalana East	34	Rob Gorham	South End - Clare Valley	43	
Bernie Reardon	Clare Lane	8	Pauline Segeri	North End - Clare Valley	32	
Lyle Monetesin	Forrest Road area	50	Amanada Bryan	Donnelly Road	20	
Bungendore Shop B	ungendore	10	•	•		
297 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:		Ph 6238 3590				
Rachael Gascoine	Brooks Creek Estate	22	Lachlan & Callum	Whitford Hogan/Kestral area		11
Sue Gorham	Schofield Road	25	Len Parrish	Summer Hill Rd /Bungendore Rd 32		32
Ann Platts	Denley/Birchman's Area	25	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef /Nwngtn to FedHwy		12
Laura Snowdon	Hogan Drive	25	Morag Cotsell	Newington/Harriot 50		50
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Thelma Martin	Shinglehous/ilhouse/Schfield Rds		20
Don Malcomson	Macs R Denley to Birriwa	35	Christa Rehwinkel	Macs Reef - Nwngtn to FedHwy		20
926 TOTAL	·					

To all our Bungendorian – Bywongite – Wamboinese friends and associates.

May your Christmas be as merry as possible & your 2004 New Year be humungously prosperous in both material and non material ways

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Theresa Hackett and Trevor Kirk

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Quite deliberately published in the Wamboin Whisper to aid the Wamboin Bush Fire Brigade

AND

to drum up business at the same time.

Take Part In A Meeting About The Redevelopment Of The Queanbeyan Health Campus!

Share your thoughts about what services you have used and whether they could be improved in the redevelopment of the Hospital, Community Health & Mental Health services. Southern Area Health Service would like to consult with people who live in the Queanbeyan, Yarrowlumla and Tallaganda local government areas about their use of health services in Queanbeyan now and in the future. We would like to hear your ideas about how services planned for the new health campus could be planned so that they are more suitable for the needs of local people. This is also an opportunity to hear about the steps in the planning process for the redevelopment of your health service.

A series of discussion groups will be held in the first two weeks of December at: Bungendore (2 December), Braidwood (4 December), Queanbeyan (8-10 December). Each discussion group will last for approximately two hours. Some meetings will be held during the day and others during the evening.

We are particularly interested in hearing from people who use health services related to: Chronic conditions or The elderly or Young Families or General health services. Contact: Southern Area Health Service, Community Liaison Officer Kathy Ollerenshaw, Tel: 6124 9864, Fax: 6299 6363, Email: Kathy.Ollerenshaw@sahs.nsw.gov.au The number of places in each discussion group is limited to enable sufficient time for discussion of the issues raised. There will be further opportunities to be involved in consultation early in 2004 about the new Health Campus.

Bungendore Evening VIEW Wins National Award

BEV recently won a national award, the "2003 increased membership award winner" Area Category for Area AA. This award shows that women in Bungendore and surrounding areas not only enjoy getting together once a month for a great dinner at local restaurants and some light entertainment but also see The Smith Family as an important and worthwhile charity to support. The result of this increased membership and the BEV fun dinners and other fundraising efforts have enabled BEV to sponsor an extra "Learning for Life" student through the Smith Family moving into 2004. These are both achievements that we as a community can all be proud of.

BEV does not have a January meeting but would love to welcome any new members or guests to our February meeting on Monday 2 February at The Stonehouse with our guest speaker Bill Southwell from Red Heart Photography. The meeting starts at 7.00pm and dinner will cost \$23. All members are reminded that renewal of annual memberships will be due that evening as well. Bookings can be made with Gabrielle Jess on 6262 9057.

The BEV committee would like to thank our members and our local businesses for all their support during 2003 and wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Tracy Greer, Publicity Officer

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Bungendore Park Tennis Club

The Spring Competition is progressing well with the young team of Teenagers currently near the top. This is great news for those who have benefited from the coaching of Matt McDonald. The Autumn Competition will commence in the week of 9 February 2004 with entries closing on 30 January 2004 at: Bungendore Park Tennis Club, PO Box 126, Bungendore, NSW, 2621. We are pleased that Court 1 will be upgraded to the standard of the other two by the Yarrowlumla Shire Council. Work is expected to be undertaken in early 2004. There will be a small increase in membership fees in 2004. All members will be provided with details. Eric J. Martin, Secretary, 6238 1892

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1st Wamboin Scout Group News

As part of the world-wide fellowship of Scouting, the 1st Wamboin Scout Group offers children and young adults the opportunity to participate in a range of indoor and outdoor activities which are designed to help develop a sense of responsibility and community leadership.

There are currently two active Sections within the 1st Wamboin Group. The Cub Scout Section caters for boys and girls ranging from 8 to 10 years of age. Meetings are held each week, during NSW school Terms, on Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, at the Wamboin Community Hall. The Scout Section caters for boys and girls ranging from 11 to 14 years of age. Meetings are held each week, during NSW school Terms, on Monday evenings from 7:00pm to 9:00pm, at the Wamboin Community Hall.

Both Sections have been recognised, at the District level, for their respective achievements in 2003. Two of our Cub Scouts, Katie Slater and Eleanor Dean, earned their Yellow Cord, the highest achievement award in the Cub Scout Section. Our Scout Section again earned recognition as the top Group in the District. Two teams from 1st Wamboin attended the annual District Standards Camp, a weekend of challenges for scouts from the local District, and came away with first and second places after scoring highest in all but one of the weekend's events.

Anyone with children interested in joining the Scouting movement should contact one of the Leaders listed below. At this point in the year we would like to thank all members of the community who helped by assisting at meetings and events, offering their services as achievement badge examiners, providing jobs for our members during the annual Scout Job Week, or simply patronising our stall at the annual fireworks evening. Your involvement with your local Scout Group is appreciated.

Finally, we once again find ourselves short of Leaders for next year. In order to continue running our Cub Scout Section effectively, we will need a second 'uniformed' Leader. With only a single Leader, we must cancel our weekly meeting if, for any reason, he is unable to attend. It would be greatly appreciated if anyone within our community who is interested in becoming a Cub Scout Leader could contact Pete Harrison to discuss this opportunity.

Other Sections that may be activated, if any member of the community would like to volunteer their services as a Leader, include Joey Scouts (ages 6-7), Venturer Scouts (ages 14-18) and Rovers (ages 17-26).

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For further information, please contact one of the leaders listed below.

Marita Corra Paul Brugman Pete Harrison Ph. 6238 3246 Ph. 6238 3539 Ph. 6238 3525 Scout Leader Scout Leader Cub Scout Leader



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Remember: No Fires without a Permit

From the Captain's Desk

I don't think that Bernie expected much fuss when he resigned from the brigade but we have had an interesting few weeks since. For a number of reasons it became clear that the brigade would need to approve a revised constitution and then have elections for all officer bearers. This was achieved on 25 November at a special meeting. The people elected were President: Peter Greenwood. Vice President: Sandy Sedgewick. Secretary: Marion Sheldrick. Treasurer: Larry King. Captain: Cliff Spong. Senior Deputy Captain: Andrew Dunn. Deputy Captains: Dick Henley, Neville Schroder, Richard Hobbs and Geoff Foster. Support Crew Leader: Charlie Montesin. Training Officer: Neville Schroder. Maintenance Officer: Charlie Le Lievre. Equipment Officer: Chris Murdock. First Aid Officer: Sandy Sedgewick. Communications Officer: Peter Greenwood.

Although we have one fewer deputy captains than previously the change will not adversely affect the operational capabilities of the brigade. It will just mean a few changes to the administrative procedures and a different system for vehicle maintenance.

The brigade has been fortunate over the past few months, as we have been able to provide many members with new overalls and other personal protective equipment in time for the busy part of the year. Although we have been continuing our regular training programs for our members, it is great to see that more people are coming along to hone their skills and get familiar with the equipment and vehicles before the summer months. We may be changing the training schedules shortly to better suit our members. We will publicise this if it occurs.

We, as a community, have been fortunate; so far over the past couple of months, as no incidents of any great significance have occurred. It would be good to think that this could continue but we remain alert and will respond when the need arises. In the meantime we will be making sure our equipment remains up to standard and our members are ready for a call-out.

As usual if you would like any advice about preparing your properties for a fire please don't hesitate to call. You can reach me on 0409 991 340 or 6236 9220.

If you need to burn off anything on your property you will also need to call me for a fire permit. You may also need to get a hazard reduction certificate from Geoff Shalders, the Fire Mitigation Officer, at the Queanbeyan/Yarrowlumla Emergency Management Centre before you can request a fire permit. There are some special conditions with the fire permits and it is important to follow them. We have heard that some people in the north of the State have been prosecuted for not adhering to the conditions. The fines are fairly large.

The work on the extension to the fire shed has been stalled for a little while, as we needed to raise more money. Through the generosity of many people we have now been able to place an order for the structural steelwork. It should now be erected early in the New Year. In the meantime we have had some generous donations of equipment and fittings for the extension which will make things better for our members during the many long hours spent at the fire shed during emergency operations.

As this edition of *The Wamboin Whisper* goes to press the brigade will be preparing for our Christmas party at the fire shed. The brigade has a lot to celebrate and our members should feel proud of their efforts and dedication during the year. The odd cleansing ale or glass of wine among friends and colleagues will be most welcome.

At this time of year it may be worth knowing that we in the fire brigade are a thoughtful bunch. We know how hard it can be to find a really good Christmas present. So, we have joined forces with Cheryl and Kay at Gidgee Estate Winery to come up with that perfect Christmas gift.

Gidgee Estate Winery has produced a quality 2002 Cabernet Sauvignon called "Bush Fire Red". It comes with a particularly posh looking label and will be perfect for Christmas presents, drinking on Christmas day, or when friends drop by. The Winery is kindly donating all profits from the sales to the Wamboin Fire Brigade. "Bush Fire Red" is available for \$14 per bottle from the Winery. Please see the order form in the Whisper, or drop in to Gidgee Estate at 441 Weeroona Drive Wamboin.

We are about half way to raising the money we need to finish the fire shed extension. In addition to their usual training duties, brigade volunteers have been busy organising car parking at EPIC for the home and leisure show. Brigade volunteers have also spent several Saturdays selling raffle tickets in Bungendore and Queanbeyan. Thanks to Bungendore Rotary who provided us with the tickets.

Our president, Peter Greenwood, has secured a promise of \$10,000 towards the extension from Yarrowlumla Shire Council. The Brigade has also applied for a grant through Regional Partnerships. We are hopeful this will have a positive outcome

Businesses in the area have been particularly generous. We have decided to start a "Captain's List" of the businesses that have donated. We ask you to support the businesses that support us. If you or your family or business would like to make a donation, send a cheque to The Treasurer, Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Service, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin. Household donations over \$25, and business donations over \$100 will be recognised on the giving wall once the shed extension is complete. The businesses that have provided generous support to your fire brigade are:

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So, until next time when we hope things will be just as quiet for your brigade, and on behalf of all our members, I hope that you have merry, peaceful, safe and satisfying Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Notes from St Andrew's Church

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas there will be some special services and we hope you and your family will come to the Church and the Community Hall to share in some of them. Sunday 7 December, the second Sunday in Advent – Morning Prayer in the Church at 9am Friday 19 December – Carols in the Community Hall – (see details elsewhere in the Whisper) Sunday 21 December, the fourth Sunday in Advent – Baptism and Holy Communion in the Church at 9am. Wednesday 24 December, Christmas Eve – a family service in the Church at 8pm Thursday 25 December, Christmas Day – a service at St Peter's, Sutton at 8.15am. Best wishes to everyone in Wamboin for a safe, happy and peaceful Christmas and holiday.

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IF ONLY THEY COULD TALK

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PATERSON'S CURSE

No doubt you are all aware of this purple flowered plant that is now very widespread and has resulted in the death of many horses in this district. Echium lycopsis or E. plantagineum, also known as Salvation Jane, Lady Campbell or Riverina Bluebell, may be very popular with beekeepers but has become one of the worst poisonous plants in Australia.

This plant has a tremendous ability to spread and take over pastures. It loves bare and disturbed ground (eg following the bushfires) and after germination forms a rosette which spreads out over a large area of ground thereby choking out all other plants trying to re-establish themselves. Once it has destroyed its competitors it shoots up to form an erect plant. It has the ability to germinate all year round. The seed is hard coated and may sit in the soil for many years - hence the expression "One year's seeding - seven year's weeding". It has the ability to produce up to 30,000 seeds per square metre.

The poisonous agents in the plant are pyrrolizidine alkaloids which mainly affect the liver but can also affect other organs. Horses are most susceptible followed by cattle then sheep and goats who possibly have the ability to detoxify the alkaloids in the rumen. The poison is cumulative and so animals that survive this year may not survive next year. We have never seen such a large number of horses affected and at first it was thought that it was only on pastures that had been burnt out. Certainly most of the deaths have occurred in these now Paterson's Curse dominant paddocks, however we have affected horses in paddocks that were not burnt.

Some horses seem to eat more of it than others - perhaps it is addictive to some horses. The plant becomes less palatable when fully grown and dried out. Plants that have been sprayed become more palatable for a while and indeed this is the most effective way to get rid of it. This technique is called "spray grazing" whereby the paddock is over stocked with sheep following spraying. Spraying is of no use at this time of year after the plant has set seed. The most effective control now is to pick it, bag it and bury at the tip. I would urge all landholders to do as much of this as possible before there are purple paddocks everywhere.

We can identify horses with damaged livers by blood tests and affected horses should be removed from contaminated paddocks. Many of these horses may not show any signs until some other drugs are administered eg a worm paste. Even eating clover can kill a liver damaged horse. Clinically affected horses show weight loss, anorexia, ataxia and depression. Some will show jaundice. There is no known effective treatment. Once a horse is showing signs it should be euthanased. Horses with damaged livers confirmed by blood tests should be fed a bland diet and given vitamin supplementation. Horses not exposed to further liver damaging substances (especially more Paterson's Curse) may recover with time.

Please do everything you can to eradicate this plant.

RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES IN WAMBOIN - 28 YEAR STATISTICS FROM THE ROBERTSONS

Nov. 2003 rainfall to 30/11 74mm 2003 rainfall to 30/11 460mm (2002 - 452)

Average Dec rainfall 58.5mm Driest Dec. 0mm in 1979

Wettest Dec 164mm in 1988

Coldest Dec night 3C 0n 9/12/99

Coldest Dec day 13C on 3/12/87

Wettest Dec day 48mm on 26/12/99

Hottest Dec day 37C on 21/12/94

Average Jan rainfall 64.1mm

 Driest Jan
 6mm in 1979
 Wettest Jan
 197.5mm in 1995

 Wettest Jan day
 74mm on 21/1/95
 Coldest Jan night
 7C on 1/1/00

 Hottest Jan day
 39C on 3/1/90 & 19/1/98
 Coldest Jan day
 19C on 2/1/03

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WAMBOIN COUNTRY GOLF CLUB - WAMBOIN OPEN RESULTS

The 2003 Wamboin Open Golf Championship has been run and won. This was the 18th Wamboin Open and for a while was under the threat of hail and rain, however players were not deterred and the skies cleared and play got under way on time at 12.30. This event was sponsored by the Golf Club and there were heaps of prizes to be won. The 19th Hole eats once again were provided by Joan Mason and Robert Gorham (with some serious help from Marylou,) our sincere thanks to the ladies.

We welcomed a number of visitors with Allan Schroder taking the visitor's prize. Long drive and nearest the pin winners were; Bill Redpath, Rob Gorham x2, Tony Fisher, Larry King x2, Trevor Barker, Richard Heath x2 and Barbara Ryan.

Wamboin Junior Golf Champion for 2003 is Vincent Gorham.

Eclectic Champion for 2003 is Dave Hubbard on a count back from Peter Greenwood and Len Ivey.

B Grade Club Champion is Ted Evans with Larry King in second place.

A Grade Club Champion is Lofty Mason with John Whitney in second place.

Ladies Open Champion for 2003 is Joan Mason from Maureen Schroder and the

Men's Open Champion for 2003 is Neville Schroder on count back from Richard Heath.

Congratulations to all winners. (and countbackees!!) - Peter Greenwood Golfer 6238 3358.

Development Doesn't Have To Be Ugly

A recent issue of the Whisper reported the concern of Sutton residents at a proposal for a 2,000 lot development next to the village. Sutton residents are now reassured that not all development is bad after hearing of a new 70 hectare cluster development proposal. The last meeting of the Sutton and District Community Association heard a presentation on the proposed development from planner Graham Moseley, who owns the 70 hectares..

Unlike many recent and planned developments, Mr Moseley's development is based on biodiversity, empathy with the land, and shared amenity for all residents (including the present village). Mr Moseley stressed that he had let the nature of the development come out of the land. The result is a proposal which "treads lightly" on the site, providing house lots in seven clusters with surrounding land owned in common. Although the land and the water availability would support 60 dwellings he proposes only 34.

Mr Moseley said the development would offer a lifestyle for people who wished to live among untouched open spaces. House sites would complement the contours of the land, and a tennis court, BBQ area and open recreational space would be part of the land owned in common. A panel of architects had agreed to a design code sensitive to the site. Yarrowlumla Council has agreed to proceed with re-zoning of the land.

Some community members felt that Mr Moseley's sensitive plan is an indictment of profit-driven mass developments such as that planned adjacent to Sutton village. - Guy Cotsell

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Wamboin Muses by Jill Gregory

Recently my time has been divided between Wamboin and Sydney, where I've been doing a spot of "hands on" grandmothering. Each time I return it's dark and so I have to wait until the new day to see what has been happening while my back has been turned. While I watch the little one grow and change in Sydney, I am always amazed by what has been growing and changing here. One week it will be the incessant racket of the baby galahs, a sound I didn't hear at all last year, the next time the majestic spikes of the hollyhocks will grab my attention and then I'll notice that the lavender has faded and the marigolds are now stealing the show. The hills that were green are being bleached pale gold by the strengthening sun, while the eucalypts have freshened up with new growth. But it's not just in the garden that there have been changes. The little church, tucked away on the corner of Poppet Road, has obviously succumbed to nature's spring challenge and produced a little one!

The new Lych gate, as it turns out to be, has been erected in memory of someone to whom all who reside here should feel indebted. David Robertson was one of Wamboin's founding fathers. He was instrumental in establishing the Wamboin Volunteer Bushfire Brigade as a separate entity, and setting up a training programme for volunteer fire fighters. He served on the Yarrowlumla shire council, and the little church was his gift to the community. This very English gentleman was passionate about his adopted land....and he was passionate about lych gates. But, even more importantly for some, he was responsible for rejecting the name "Canberra Country Estate" for our little bit of heaven, and calling the place, Wamboin, meaning grey kangaroo. Perhaps, some may think, that the original owners have been just a little too enthusiastic in endorsing the name, judging by their current numbers!

So, although at the moment I am travelling to and from Sydney each week, I am always ready to swap the bright city lights for the night stars of Wamboin. I wouldn't live anywhere else.....and.... thank you, David Robertson, not just for your benevolence to the community, but for your insistence on calling us Wamboin. Imagine musing about a Canberra Country Estate!!

Wamboin 15 years ago - from the "Whisper" of December 1988. Circulation 200

An excerpt from an article by Police Sergeant Bob Munday, from Queanbeyan, following a spate of burglaries in Wamboin: "Recently, the NSW Police has adopted community based policing as a strategy to combat the increase in offences against the person and property. It is believed that with community involvement in the policing process, and by police being responsive to community feelings, an integrated approach to crime solving will assist in police providing a service which is more efficient and effective."

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