

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

# The Whisper

February 2004 CIRCULATION: 955

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, February 29, 2004, 7:00 pm.

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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

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Rebecca Purdie, babysitting and petsitting .....	6238-3343
Matt Montesin, petsitting, odd jobs .....	6238-3208
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## WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### President's Paragraphs

**Toilet Talk? Septic Sense? Or is that Septic Scents?** Don Evans has prepared a presentation on **Septic and Aerated Systems** for our next WCA meeting which will be held at the hall on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of February. Don is a licensed plumber who, dare I say, has looked into this rural disposal problem. The presentation should be of interest to all residents. The meeting starts at 7.30pm.

**Cleanup Australia Day** is the first Sunday in March. Registration, for insurance purposes, is at the Hall from 9am. I notice some roads of Wamboin really need a good cleanup. I will allocate roads to volunteers around their own home area. Drinks and nibblies supplied. The Brigade will help by running a control exercise.

**The Hall** has been all 'flushed up' by the Hall Committee over the holidays with a floor repaint, new carpet on the stage and new locks. Unfortunately the change of locks was required due to another break-in.

**Mobile phone coverage** (or lack thereof) in the Wamboin/Bywong area is being pursued from several fronts. At the moment Telstra are working on the repositioning of the tower at Gearys' Gap (I attended an on site inspection) and the installation of a new tower on Poppet Hill. Propagation charts indicate these changes will greatly increase coverage in the Wamboin/Bywong area.

**Super Shires**, bits of Shires and Realigned Boundaries (at the last count, 17 proposals) are still floating around. The goal posts are moving so fast that they are a blur to John Van der Straaten and self. The suggestion at the Boundaries Inquiry Hearing that neighbouring rural residents were regarded as 'parasites of Queanbeyan' certainly fired me to respond. We have put in yet another final submission. The Government's decision is as yet unknown. The thought that 'the Government never holds an inquiry unless it knows the answer' still frightens me.

The **Excess Local Produce Markets** organised by Tony Power, took off in December and January. This could have been due to the letter drop run by Penny and Don or perhaps it was repeat customers who knew a good deal when they saw it. Anyway there was a good turn up of buyers at both markets who chose from a remarkable array of great produce at cheap prices. It was definite proof that you can grow stuff in Wamboin. I was pleased to hand on a \$250 donation from the Markets to the Fire Brigade Building fund. If you have any excess garden produce you could sell, why not contact Tony Power who has organised the next market for February 21. When are the zucchinis going to arrive? I might try selling courgettes.

**Firearms Inspections** as required by Legislation have begun in the Wamboin area. Just thought I would advise you so that you will not be surprised when the Police knock on your door. If no one is home they will leave a letter.

- Lofty Mason. [ljmason@austarmetro.com.au](mailto:ljmason@austarmetro.com.au)

### Septic and Aerated Systems

Or

**All you wanted to know about Sewage Disposal and were afraid to ask**

Don Evans will give a presentation on **Septic and Aerated Systems** at the February WCA meeting which will be held at the Hall on Tuesday Feb 17<sup>th</sup>.

Don is a licensed plumber and your questions will be answered.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm.

### Help Make Wamboin Cleaner

**Volunteers Required**

**Cleanup Australia Day** is the first Sunday in March  
Registration, for insurance purposes, is at the Hall  
from 9am

You will be allocated a road near your home This is  
a Community activity

Drinks and nibblies supplied

Inquiries to Lofty Mason 62383258

A memorial service and tree planting for the late John Upton will be held at the Wamboin Fire Shed / Community Hall on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. All past and present members of the Brigade and the community are welcome to attend. Any enquiries to Dave Hubbard on 6238 3308.

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**Children very welcome and lots of prizes to be won**  
**BYOG and a supper plate to share. Soft drink, coffee, tea and cakes supplied**  
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**More details from Narelle on 62303021**

**Bywong Community news**

**The mobile issue.** The Community has become aware of objections to Telstra's proposal to relocate its tower to a prominent site on the Lake George escarpment. The planned tower is 40 metres high. Nearby landholders argue that such a tower would seriously impair the visual amenity of the area. The Community, which has already expressed support for Wamboin requests for improved mobile phone coverage in the region, hopes that a technical compromise will be found which will both produce better coverage and minimise visual impact by use of a smaller or alternative tower. The Community will pursue the search for an alternative through a public meeting, which will be attended by representatives of Telstra and Yarrawlumla Council, which is still to consider the application.

**Annual Bywong Bush Dance.** Sunday 21 February at 7.30pm Details are above and bookings and more information from Narelle 62303021

**Car Boot Sale - Sunday 28 March.** The Community has now obtained insurance - at a price - and this removes the difficulties which were threatening the annual landmark event - the Car Boot Sale. The date is the last Sunday in March - March 28, and the Community will be offering all the usual and now well-known attractions. Letterbox drops will soon be inviting sellers to prepare for the event. Stall charges will remain constant, and buyers will continue to enter free. Proceeds will go to the Bushfire Brigade and other deserving community groups.

**Next Meeting.** The Community's next meeting is on Monday evening 16 February at the Community Hall in Birriwa Road. Please come and be involved with our community.

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## WAMBOIN PRODUCE MARKETS 2004

Following the success of markets held in 2003 and January 2004 the good news is that the markets will continue. The next one is on :

# SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY 9-12 AM

At the  
**Community Hall, Bingley Way**

Local produce and plants  
Home made goodies  
**Art and Craft**  
Refreshments

Stallholders are welcome from Wamboin and the surrounding districts and there are no charges. The previous markets have offered a great range of quality items and there is always something different. Come and be tempted! It's a great way to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. For details contact Tony Power on 6238 3028 or email [poweraj@acslink.net](mailto:poweraj@acslink.net).

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## YARROWLUMLA COUNCIL NEWS

**Local Government Amalgamations?????** I would like to be able to tell you what in the hell is going on; but no one knows!!! During January whilst most people were away on holidays the Boundaries Commission held public hearings (held in Canberra) into seven different proposals put forward by the Minister for Local Government. They included the two Regional Councils (Super Shires) plus five other ad-hoc proposals so full of errors and inaccuracies that the entire process has become a sick and very sorry joke. The Boundaries Commission took written and oral submissions from all the Councils involved plus quite a number of Community representatives and individuals. The Wamboin Community Association made one of those submissions. The Commission is due to report to the Minister early Feb and then who knows what??

In the meantime the Electoral Rolls close on 16 Feb for a possible election on 27 March. Nominations for intending Councillors for what ever Council are supposed to open on 9 Feb and close on some other date, possibly 25 Feb? If the Super Shire proposal is approved candidates for election will need to be able to cover a population of approx 58,000 people spread over a Local Government area of about 9500 square kilometres. (And I can tell you how difficult it is just to cover the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton area.) Candidates will need a very hefty budget and an army of family and volunteers to cover election day. Look out folks, here comes the Political Parties.

(I hope you don't detect a little cynicism in this report!)

And by the way may I, on behalf of Yarrawlumla Council whilst it still exists, wish every one a very happy, prosperous and safe 2004.

- Peter Greenwood JP Your Local Councillor (for about one more month.) 6238 3358

[petergreenwood@actweb.net](mailto:petergreenwood@actweb.net)



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Principal: Raymond Claydon, BA Dip Ed

**Enrolments for 2004 are now being taken**

Sutton Public School will begin the 2004 school year for students on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January. New enrolments will also be accepted from Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Highlights for 2004 programs will include a strong focus on quality teaching and learning, a highly effective learning support program, an enrichment program, a road range of sporting opportunities including gymnastics, full school involvement in the performing arts program, an instrumental music, program, innovative programs in using technology as a powerful and motivational teaching and learning tool, and a peer support and peer mediation program

Achievements in 2003 have included outstanding performance of students in literacy, numeracy and writing as reflected in State Wide tests, winning the NSW Discovering Democracy Project, a significant involvement of students in public speaking competitions, recognition of community support for the school, with a parent being awarded The Director General's Award for the support of public education.

School bus services operate from the Bywong, Womboin and Sutton areas and the on site Before and After School Care facility operates from 7.30am-9.20am and from 3.20pm-6.00pm. We welcome new families to our supportive and engaging school learning environment. - Raymond Claydon, Principal



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**Robyn Plummer**

**6230 3240**



**Wamboin 15 years ago – from the “Whisper”, January 1989 – circulation 205**

From “Council News” “GAOL The NSW Government has short listed the Yarrawlumla Shire for a site for a new maximum security gaol. This is despite the fact that the Shire wrote to the Government to advise that there were no sites in the Shire which met the stringent siting criteria. One would not have to be too cynical to suggest that the proximity of the ACT – which does not have a gaol – played any part in the short listing of the Shire. It would appear that no-one in the Shire wants to have a gaol as a neighbour and the Shire is currently carrying out an economic and social impact study which I hope will show that the Shire is unsuitable for such an institution.” - Peter Greenwood



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<b>ADVERTISING RATES:</b> 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 6238-3484 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
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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.
<b>Wormcastings</b> - top quality and brilliant organic growth stimulant (for plants). Bagged and come with instructions. Excellent for gardens, individual plants and vegie patches. 25litre bag \$8.50. Ph Ian 6238 3425
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# The Wamboin Firefighter

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

## Remember: No Fires without a Permit

### From the Captain's Desk

It has been a strangely eerie few weeks since Christmas. The Christmas and New Year's festivities were spent with the expectation of the pagers going off or a phone call heralding another incident or fire. The past couple of years, and especially the Canberra fires last year, did not let many of us celebrate in the usual way. Naturally we were not complaining. It is particularly good news when no incidents occur and we hope it will continue. Only time will tell.



The only incident we have been actively involved in the past few weeks was to assist the Bungendore and Ridgeway brigades at a car fire on Bungendore Road. Luckily no one was injured but the expensive car did not come off very well. There have been a few incidents in the Shire where we had crews available but fortunately our assistance was not needed.

The Brigade would like to thank Steve and Ruth Lambert for hosting a farewell dinner for Bernie Broers, his wife Carol and their large family. We managed to fill the entire establishment and it was a very enjoyable night. Apart from the customary rural fire service presentations a few people gave some short speeches from which we all learned a little more of Bernie and Carol's time in the area. The slightly tongue in cheek speech by Lofty Mason generated a lot of laughter as he recounted many stories of putting out bushfires without all this "new fangled equipment".

Representatives from many of the brigades in the Yarrawlumla Shire attended the remembrance service on January 18 at Commonwealth Park in Canberra. It seems a long while ago but we can only hope that many of the lessons about preparing properties before a fire approaches are applied by as many people as possible. Please remember that your rural fire brigade and other emergency services can only do so much. Residents in our area have to understand that fire protection is a joint responsibility between themselves and the rural fire brigade.

During the next month we will complete the annual inspection and review of our area to check any fire risks and hazards to update our maps, knowledge and help us plan fire suppression tactics. We are also mapping all significant sources of water in our area. Larger water sources suitable for use by water-carrying helicopters as well as those having clear and visible access for fire tankers are of most interest. These sources in particular can be marked with "SWS" (Static water Supply) plates on posts at the front of properties, given approval by the residents. Even though, under the *NSW Rural Fires Act*, designated officers of a rural fire brigade can obtain water without the consent of a landholder or resident, it will improve our operational capabilities if we identify and arrange for these water sources to be used before the need arises.

A different approach is now being used for the brigade training program. We will still be having a brigade training session at 7:30pm on the first Tuesday of each month. Crew training for each crew will be held on the weekend the crew is rostered on for duty. The weekend training sessions will be organised by each deputy captain. Every two or three months a weekend training session for the entire brigade will be organised. It is likely that the brigade training may involve other brigades or emergency service organisations.

It is with a touch of sadness that I have to report the death of one of the previous Captains of the brigade. John Upton, who was Captain during the early nineties passed away recently. He had moved to Queensland a number of years ago but still found time last year to come and help his old brigade as we helped fight the Canberra fires. A memorial service to commemorate John's life will be held at the Wamboin Rural Fire Service Station on Saturday 28 February 2004 at 2pm. In lieu of flowers his family would appreciate donations to the Queensland Cancer Fund.

If you need to discuss anything about bushfire protection or to get a fire permit please give me a call on 0409991340 or 6236 9220.

**Progress of the Fire Shed Extension** Thanks to the efforts of our Brigade volunteers and the generosity of our community, we have now raised approximately \$30,000 towards the fire-shed extension. We have ordered the frame for the extension and it is expected that it should be ready to be assembled in February. This is a result of: \$1600 from raffle ticket sales (thanks to Bungendore Rotary for allowing us to participate in the 'Community Chest' raffle); \$2000 from a weekend we spent parking cars at the Home and Leisure Show; \$12,500 collected on the roadside from individuals and families in the local area; approximately \$3900 in donations mailed in from local families, individuals and businesses; and a \$10,000 grant towards materials from Yarrawlumla Shire Council.

The Giving Wall list is now very long! Due to space restrictions, we will re-publish the updated list in a future issue of the Whisper. Thanks to everyone who has donated. We've made the corrections that you've told us about.

Our Captains List of business donors is: A'hern Fitness at the Airport, AAA Water Carriers, Clare Valley Tree Services, Congari Bookkeeping and Business Services, Horizon Real Estate, FH Office Services, France Harrison and Associates, Inland Trading Co (Aust), Overdene Excavations, So Good Sausages, Sutton Real Estate and Trevor Barker and Associates Barristers and Solicitors. Please support the businesses that support us.

We still need to find another \$15,000 to finish and fit out the extension. We are happy to receive donations and names for the Giving Wall (mail to The Treasurer, Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade, 112 Bingley Way).

We would also like to hear from businesses that may be able to donate materials or provide them at cost price. We need everything from plaster-board to insulation. Contact Fiona David on 6236 9331 for more information.

### **Drink more red wine!**

Our latest fundraising effort is 'Bushfire Red', a very tasty 2002 cabernet sauvignon from Gidgee Estate Winery, 441 Weeroona Drive. 'Bushfire Red' is \$14 a bottle and can be purchased from Gidgee (6236 9506) or using the order form in the Whisper. All profits will be presented to the Brigade. Kay and Cheryl are happy to deliver locally.

### **Be a Pet Buddy**

**Being a Pet Buddy is one of the most important jobs during a Fire. Unlike most possessions, which can be replaced – pets never can be. A fire is very scary for you so it is easy to imagine what it would be like for the little animals of the family.**

Each pet in the family needs someone to be responsible for them in an emergency. If you choose to evacuate your home, someone needs to be in charge of collecting the animal and their Bushfire Dash Stash. Having someone talking to them and being with them does amazing things for keeping them calm.

Like you, your pets need their own Bushfire Dash Stash – or more basically, a pack put together that will look after their needs in an evacuation.

### **Who should be a Pet Buddy?**

To be a Pet Buddy, you need to be close to the animal. The pet needs to trust and obey you. You need to know that if you call their name – they will come to you! If you do not feel comfortable with them, they will know and it will make evacuating them extremely difficult.

If you want to be a Pet Buddy, remember to not overload yourself with all the family pets. If you have 4 pets and 4 people in the family, try to spread the pet buddy relationship to a pet per person, or at the very least, 2 pets each for 2 people if the other 2 are busy looking after other things.

### **What does your Pet need?**



For this fact sheet, we will use an example of Scruffy. Scruffy is a young male pup who is very jumpy and excitable. However he also gets nervous when the family is stressed. Like most pets, Scruffy needs a variety of things to help him have a safe time throughout a fire. He will need food, water, somewhere to sleep and identification if you get separated.

Before you even think about the specific needs of your pets, they each need their own bag or container that all their possessions can be put into. But remember it needs to be something that **you** as the Pet Buddy can carry.

Pets need food. Luckily their food generally comes in cans and is easy to store for long periods of time. To be doubly sure of your pet's safety their Bushfire Dash Stash will need:

- Canned food for 3 to 4 days
- Biscuits for 3 to 4 days
- At **least** 4 litres of bottled water
- A dish or container for the water
- A dish or container for the food

You may want to add a packet of their favourite treats like meat chews – Scruffy loves these! This may be a way to help them relax or you for you to play a game with them to take their mind off the situation. Pets will depend on you for their safety so don't take this preparation lightly!

Your pet will also need a few other items in their Stash. This includes things that will help keep them calm, warm and safe. These items include: a blanket, a strong harness, leash or lead rope, a toy or two like a ball or chew toy, a spare collar with a tag on it with their name and your contact details engraved on it, any medicine (if they are currently on medication), and a basic pet first aid kit like antiseptic, bandages and the like – talk to your local vet or the RSPCA for more information.

### **FINALLY....**

One of the most important things to do in preparing for a bush fire is being able to identify your pets if they run away. You need to consider having nametags on your pet's collar with their name and your contact details. A better option is to have your pet microchipped by your vet. There are now some legal requirements for some dogs to be microchipped. That way even if they lose their collar they can be identified if handed into the RSPCA or an animal shelter.

FIRE  
BRIGAGE

FULL

PAGE

FLYER

GOES

HERE



### Notes from St Andrew's Church

Services are held twice each month at 9am on the first and third Sundays, in the church on the corner of Norton and Poppet Roads. We welcome all residents of the district, especially our newer residents. To find out more about the church, come to a service or ring Robyn Robertson (62383202) or Bronwyn Elliott (62383359). St Andrew's is part of the parish of St John's, Canberra, and we join with all parish members to congratulate our Rector, Archdeacon Allan Ewing on his appointment as Assistant Bishop in this diocese. Allan's consecration service takes place in the cathedral in Goulburn on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> February, after which he will be based in Wagga Wagga. After 8 years in the parish we shall miss him, but we'll not lose touch, and our good wishes go with Allan and Tricia.



### The Anglican Parish of Bungendore



*inc. Bungendore, Captains Flat, Carwoola, Currawang, Hoskingtown, Lake Bathurst and Tarago* St Philip's Churchyard Fete in the grounds of St Philip's Church, Bungendore, Saturday 20 March 2004 - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. a wonderful selection of: cakes, jams and preserves, plants and produce, second-hand books, pre-loved items, handmade items.

Also: (1) Children's Art competition for Primary School students .... Tel 6238 1075 for details *1st Prize: \$50 worth of art materials*, (2) Raffles with fabulous prizes donated by the businesses of Bungendore *1st Prize: \$1000 worth of goods and services*, (3) Morning Tea and Sausage Sizzle and (4) Entertainment by The Gospel Singers of Canberra and popular local identity, Andy Burbidge. – Lauris Turley

### Bungendore Evening VIEW Club (Voice, Interests and Education of Women)

The next meeting is our birthday meeting and the dinner will be held at the Arte cafe and gallery on 1st March at 7pm. The cost will be \$23. The guest speaker will be Libby Lloyd from UniFem - the United Nations Development Fund for Women (please see <http://www.unifem.org.au/>). The theme will be celebrating International Women's Day. Please call Debbie Hudson for bookings on 62381571. Memberships are due and new members are always welcome. – Robyn Barter

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 <b>Bungendore Videos</b> <i>Your local video store</i> <b>Shop 2/30 Ellendon St Bungendore</b> <b>Phone : 62381068 Fax : 62380105</b> <i>Offering you the latest in video and Dvd rentals, along with games to hire for playstation 1 &amp; 2 &amp; N64. Consoles for hire, Playstation 2 &amp; N64 Accessories for TV and video Blank tapes and head cleaners.</i> 1/10	 <b>NUTRIMETICS</b> Nutrimetics offers an outstanding collection of high performance, naturally enriched products that nurture, beautify and protect the skin. The range includes skincare, cosmetics, bodycare, haircare, suncare, familycare, fragrances, health supplements & cleaning products. I am happy to send you the <b>Nutrimetics</b> sales brochure each month, or, if you would like to have a fun evening with a few of your friends to try out the products and earn yourself some free gifts, give me a call or send an email: <b>Sue Barker Phone: 6236 9046 ah</b> <b>Email: sbarker@justinternet.com.au</b>
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## Rock 'n Rollin Sutton Fair SATURDAY 3rd APRIL

### 10am-2pm at the school in Sutton Village

Be sure to mark this date on your calendar:. Why not dig out those 50's & 60's clothes hidden in the back of the wardrobe (or grandma and grandpa's wardrobe) - you know the ones - flared skirts, bobbie socks and ponytail ribbons for the girls - tight trousers or flares, dress shirts and plenty of Bryll Cream for the boys. Maybe you could come along as an Elvis lookalike! There will be prizes for best-dressed (although it's not compulsory to dress up)

The fair is the biggest fundraiser for the P&C each year and the more attendees/helpers we have, the more money we are able to give the school towards educational and sports items for our children that aren't subsidised or provided by the government.

So come along and enjoy a great day. There will be a juke box filled with 50s/60s music, loads of free entertainment, lots of stalls, fabulous raffle prizes and plenty of food stalls. It's a great chance for the community to get together and support our little school.

If anybody requires more information or wishes to have a stall at the fair - local produce, hand-made crafts, etc. please phone Sue Barker on 9236 9046 ah or email sbarker@justinternet.com.au.

And of course we're always looking for donations: items for the trash & treasure stall, potted plants for our plant stall, items for our food stalls (potatoes, bread, eggs), little prizes for the kid's games, prizes for the raffle - absolutely anything!!! We'll be able to use it. Any business that donates something will receive plenty of free advertising in our school's newsletter

### Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin

2003 rainfall	577mm
Dec '03	76mm
Jan. rainfall to 25/1/04	36mm
Average February r'fall	52.1mm
Driest Feb.	1mm in 1986
Wettest Feb.	153mm in 2002
Wettest Feb day	48mm on 21/2/87 and 5/2/01

### 28 year statistics from the Robertsons

annual average (28 years)	716.9mm
Dec average	59mm
Jan. average	64.1mm
Hottest Feb. day	37C on 5 occasions
Coldest Feb. day	12C on 10/2/96
Coldest Feb. night	5C on 17/2/98



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1/4

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**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	Wettest Dec day 48mm on 26/12/99
Coldest Dec night 3C on 9/12/99	Hottest Dec day 37C on 21/12/94
Coldest Dec day 13C on 3/12/87	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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& ASSOCIATES  
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**Mike Cramsie**  
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**WAMBOIN COUNTRY GOLF CLUB – DEC & JAN RESULTS**

The **Christmas cup** was sponsored again by Ted and Judith Evans and we thank them for their continued support. Nearest the pin winners were; Bob Allan, Dennis Todd x3, Keith France, Tim Barter, Ken Gordon and Laurie Madden.

Ken Gordon won the 9 hole comp.

B grade won by Joan Mason on count back from Paul Griffin.

A grade won by Nev Schroder from Charles Guscott and Tim Barter.

The **New Year competition** was reduced to a 10 hole event due to the extreme temperature. Dave Hubbard from Wyagiba Trading sponsored the traditional 3 club event, thanks Dave. Visitors were Chris Kinghorn all the way from England and Phil Sheahan all the way from Bywong. Ball winners were Iain Barter, Len Ivey, Joan Mason, Tony Fisher x5!!!, Bob Allan and Dick Henley.

B Grade won by Ted Evans from Tony Fisher

A Grade tied by Dick Henley and Dave Hubbard with Bob Allan second on count back.

- Peter Greenwood Golfer 6238 3358.



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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
			Cathy Abell Canning Close
<b>245 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:</b>			
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	50	Ph 6238 3463
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	28	Margaret Heleimin Merino Vale Drive
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	Anne Gardner Weeroona, Norton to Majors
Ned Noel	13 YrCn 35Adv 10 NStks7Msc	65	David Anderson Weeroona, Majors to Denley
<b>249 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER:</b>			
Colleen Foster	Joe Rocks to Norton	20	Ph 6238 3489
Antonette Stockdale	Yalana East	34	Ruth Lambert Yalana West
Bernie Reardon	Clare Lane	8	Rob Gorham South End - Clare Valley
Lyle Montesin	Forrest Road area	50	Pauline Segeri North End - Clare Valley
Bungendore Shop	Bungendore	10	Amanada Bryan Donnelly Road
<b>297 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:</b>			
Rachael Gascoine	Brooks Creek Estate	22	Ph 6238 3590
Sue Gorham	Schofield Road	25	Lachlan & Callum Whitford Hogan/Kestral area
Ann Platts	Denley/Birchman's Area	25	Len Parrish Summer Hill Rd /Bungendore Rd
Laura Snowdon	Hogan Drive	25	Rhett Cox Macs Reef /Nwngtn to FedHwy
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Morag Cotsell Newington/Harriot
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Birriwa	35	Thelma Martin Shinglehous/ilhouse/Schfield Rds
			Christa Rehwinkel Macs Reef - Nwngtn to FedHwy
<b>926 TOTAL</b>			

## IF ONLY THEY COULD TALK

A series by local vet, Dr Garry McComb BVSc QDAH

### ALPACAS - AN OVERVIEW

Many primary producers and hobby farmers are discovering the joys and advantages of owning alpacas. In this area they are becoming popular in the rural subdivisions. Alpacas, **Llama pacos** are members of a group of animals collectively known as South American camelids. There are early reports of alpaca being introduced to Australia in the nineteenth century however nobody is sure what became of those animals. It was not until the late 1980's that they were reintroduced.

A male alpaca is called a macho (seems appropriate !!!), the female is a hembra, a newborn is cria and a weaner is a tui. Alpacas are farmed for their fibre production however in this country they are becoming very popular as protectors of our sheep and goats. Dogs provoke anger in alpacas and they actually chase dogs and foxes. For this reason many graziers are keeping a few alpacas in with their sheep and goats. Significant increases in lambing/kidding percentages are being recorded because the alpacas are keeping foxes and dogs away.

Alpacas produce two to three kilograms of greaseless fibre with an average micron count of 28 in a good fleece. The best quality fibre is grown on the body. In poor quality fleeces, guard hair may be present.

They require no special handling facilities. They do not jump or charge at fences - conventional four strand plain wire fencing is adequate. They have very strong herd instincts and are best moved in groups. To round them up, simply have two people with a single strand of rope held between them as a barrier and move the group to where ever you desire. A single handler just needs a couple of long sections of thin poly pipe. Alpacas can be easily trained to lead on a halter. Yards are usually small pens - 3 x 3 metres or less. It is best to have the lower metre of the fence as a solid panel in areas where close handling is carried out as they have thin legs that can get caught in mesh.

Virtually all procedures with alpacas can be effectively performed with manual restraint by one or two people. They rarely kick however they often spit, especially pregnant females. They spit stomach contents with great accuracy. When annoyed by handling procedures they often simply lie down - an effective strategy of non-cooperation.

Alpacas have many unique behavioural and physiological characteristics. Their first stomach has three compartments and functions as a modified rumen. Their feet have a unique cloven hoof, padded with a claw. They are obligate nasal breathers. Social behaviour has strong patterns. There is a herd structure based on dominance and subordination - spitting and charging used to achieve dominance. A communal dung heap is used by all, and urinating and defaecating are part of territorial behaviour. They have a split upper lip and feed by browsing.

More of this interesting animal in the next edition.

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## Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare

**Wamboin horse owner wins award:** Cornelia Bachor winner of the 2003 Landcare Property Award, pictured below talking to Landcare, hosted our last meeting showing how her property has been set up and explaining her philosophy of keeping horses in this environment. She began by admitting that the block of land they bought for its beautiful setting was not really suitable for horses and "if she knew then.....". Like many properties in this area, it consists of largely treed, undulating terrain with fragile pasture, little topsoil and shaly outcrops. She soon discovered that keeping horses on this type of land entailed a lot of hard work.

Given the conditions, management became the crucial factor in order to keep both the horses and the environment healthy. She decided to retain the native pasture rather than introducing exotic grasses because although native grasses may have a smaller growth rate, they sustain it for a longer period. Her aim was to have 70-80% grass cover at all times to avoid erosion, weed infestation and lessen the risk of species being 'eaten out'. To achieve this she divided the property into smaller paddocks around which the horses could be rotated for periods of between 1 and 4 weeks. One paddock would always be left for a year in order to allow it to regenerate.

An unconventional method of fencing is used which consists of two strands of plastic 'wire' plus one strand of electric 'rope'.

This does not require the use of strainer posts and can be set up quite easily without the use of specialized tools. The fencing follows the contour lines wherever practical, and most corners of the paddocks are rounded to reduce the amount of paddock wear as horses love to gather in corners.

For times when adverse conditions prevail such as drought, prolonged rain, etc she has set aside a small paddock she



refers to as the 'exercise' paddock in which the horses have plenty of room to move around but are hand fed. This takes the pressure off the grazing paddocks and reduces the risk of any damage on the ground. All feeding of hay takes place in a restricted area to avoid the risk of spreading weeds.

Cornelia claims that one of the worst but most important jobs she does is the regular collection of the horse manure so the paddocks don't become 'horse sick'. If this is not done the pasture becomes sour, bald patches occur and subsequently less grazing area is available. Having collected the manure it is stockpiled and composted in an area well away from waterways or dams to avoid contamination and at a later date it is broken up and thinly spread on the pasture as fertilizer.

The work and thought that Cornelia (together with her husband Hans) has put into the property is evident and the superb condition of the natural environment is testament to what a deserving winner she is. Congratulations!

**Library Donation:** This month's donation to the Bungendore Library is *The Mountain Pygmy-Possum of the Australian Alps* by Ian Mansergh & Linda Broome. It is a delightful little book illustrated by Ross Goldingay and containing maps and charts to help give an understanding of this precious little creature which until 1966 was thought to be extinct. The first living specimen was found hiding among firewood at a ski lodge on Mt Higginbotham, Victoria. Small numbers are now known to exist in Kosciuszko National Park and south to Mt Buller where they have recently been discovered. This book describes all that is known about the possums from its physiology, mating habits and behaviour to how they can be best managed and protected from human activities in the ski fields. - Jacqui O'Leary, Convener



**It's the Flies' Fault**  
**"The Stable Door" – by Ian Coillet**

*Many Australians are mumblers.....being a little deaf, I am frequently at a loss as to what they are talking about. - Lord Casey, 1970*

It's summer and, apart from the "s" words, there's an influx of the "f" word - and I mean "flies". Have you ever noticed that many Australians, including residents in our locality who speak through their teeth. Yes? No? Well, there's a widely held belief they do this because of the prevalence of flies in the country. The fly problem has been around for a long, long time. As far back as 1629 the Dutch explorer Francois Pelsaert was obliged to record of his visit to the west coast of the continent: ... we also found such multitude of flies here, which perched on our mouths and crept into our eyes, that we could not keep them off our persons.

The fly problem hadn't gone away some seventy years later when William Dampier landed on the same coast (1699).

So, from the time of the first settlement flies bothered the new settlers just as they had for centuries plagued the Aborigines, and early settlers to these shores were loud in their complaint about the nuisance. The early settlers took defensive action against the flies by developing a constant movement of the hands to brush the pests away. Since all things and all actions in Australia have to be assigned a nickname, the fly swatting action quickly became known as THE AUSTRALIAN SALUTE.

It was not long before visitors to the country began to associate the prevalence of flies with the fact that most (Anglo-Saxon) Australians speak through their teeth.

An alternative theory was advanced by Dr Halliday Sutherland in 1940: .....the colonial accent in Australia is due to the effects of an inflammation of the nose, a complaint from which most Australians seem to suffer. The prevalent nose inflammation is probably due to pollen in the air. There are thousands of grasses in Australia which produce this pollen.

Another theory on Australian speech patterns focuses on them being influenced by climate. Hector Dinning in The Australian Scene (1939) expressed the view that: ...the slovenly speech of Australians is no doubt bound up also with the physical lassitude induced by their climate...their speech gives an impression of tiredness.

Not unexpectedly, this proposition was challenged with yet another proposition that slipshod Australian speech ..... "may in part be produced by a species of national sloth".

In other words laziness. But this begs the question, because the laziness of which Australians are so frequently accused in itself may well be caused by the severe summer climate.

In one of his newspaper columns in 1979, Max Harris claimed that the situation was not improving but getting worse, and that the younger generation had adopted as their national symbol the sulphur-crested cockatoo. He went on to make the following observations: "Any Australian under the age of 50 can be identified within a distance of 400 metres by the voice. This is ejected through the nasal passage, leaving mouth and lips free to masticate bubble-gum. A querulous upward inflection of the ultimate word of each sentence guarantees an exact resemblance to a tree full of garrulous cockies. Every couple of years one hears the educated Australian intonations which were universally in use in the 1940s. This species of elderly Australian is now becoming extinct and it would be in the national interest if the last specimens of the literate Australians were posthumously bottled in formalin and displayed beside the sacred carcass of Phar Lap."

Given, as it seems, what goes around comes around, next time you hear a screeching cocky, don't bother looking to the trees because the source of endearing or aggravating sound may be a lot closer to home than you think.

Produced with a little bit of help and appropriate acknowledgement to The Australian Slangage by Bill Hornadge.

**Progress on improvement to Mobile Phone coverage?**

Hopefully Lofty Mason - President WCA can provide more detailed update, suffice to say, useful discussions occurred with Telstra just prior to Christmas.

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## LOCAL EMERGENCY SUPPORT GROUP

by Jacqui O'Leary

Birchmans Grove is a small street and like many areas in Wamboin, the residents' lives go on without a great deal of interaction with each other. It's not that we're unfriendly, it's just that usually the year flies by often without us running into each other and contact can be as limited as a wave from a passing car. However the fires of last year got us thinking.

What would happen if a fire was heading in our direction? The local fire brigade does a great job and no doubt would be there supporting us in our hour of need. But what if they were elsewhere deployed? What if it came suddenly, as happened several years ago when a lightning strike started a grass fire on adjacent unoccupied land?

Other questions arose. What if there was a huge rain storm or wind storm? What if a disaster befell one of us? A snake bite? A fall? Who would be around to help? How would we contact them? So many 'what ifs...'

We decided that we were in an ideal situation to form a loosely structured support group in case of emergencies. All property owners were invited to be involved and the majority agreed. The idea was that without infringing privacy, we all should know certain facts about each other.

- Who lived on each property?
- Who was likely to be at home during the day?
- Who was likely to be away on holidays?
- What ways could people be contacted?
- Did anyone have any disabilities?
- What was the situation with stock or pets?
- Who owned what machinery/equipment/vehicles which could be useful?
- What fire-fighting set-up is in place?
- Who was likely to stay with their house in case of fire?

All the information was collated into a Contacts' Details Sheet with all families included and each was given a copy.

Address	Names	Phones	Email	Concerns - Chn, pets, disabilities, guests etc	Transport/Machinery	Home-based
76 Birchmans	Joe Bloggs	63369000(h) 04280428(m)	<a href="mailto:joe.bloggs@hotmail.com">joe.bloggs@hotmail.com</a>	Joe would stay with house Grandma in shed	1 tractor, 1 trailer with water tank	Yes
	Jane Bloggs	62081122 (w)		Horses in stable - let loose	1 4WD	No

We began by setting aside a Sunday afternoon when we did a quick tour of each property culminating in a 'bring-a-plate' dinner. The main aim was to familiarize ourselves with:-

- the layout of the property – buildings, dams, hoses, gas cylinders, woodpile, etc
- how pumps worked
- any other emergency set-ups in place eg mobile water tanks

The only other things to do were to find out who was going to be away on holidays, check that all the details on the Contact Details Sheets were accurate and set a date for the next meeting in late spring or early summer. There are many **advantages** to this simple procedure.

- **Everyone is re-acquainted with their neighbours.** This is particularly significant when new residents move in. Sometimes even with the best intentions, making contact with new neighbours remains simply a good intention.
- **Early preparations.** Because a definite date is set for an 'inspection', we are all more likely to start making our properties bushfire-safe eg, clearing away debris, cleaning out the gutters, checking the pump for wasp's nest etc.
- **New ideas.** Each place is different and owners have employed various techniques to safeguard their own properties, eg gravity-fed sprinklers on the roof, proper fire-fighting hoses on reels etc. Seeing what others have done can provide ideas which can be adapted for your own situation
- **Security.** Familiarity with the neighbours and a system of indicating who will be away when in effect sets up a 'Claytons' Neighbourhood Watch. Also the Contacts' Information Sheet given to each person provides a quick reference.
- **Social event.** Because everyone gathers for dinner and drinks it provides an enjoyable end-of-year function where we can catch up on the year's events and discuss any other issues which may effect us as a group.

Admittedly, our situation lends itself easily to this idea. However, in reality any small group of neighbours could get together and do the same thing. It just takes someone to get the ball rolling.

## Trestle and Chair Hire

**Trestles and chairs** are available from the Wamboin Hall in Bingley Way for private hire by local residents. The trestles are 2.4 meters long and seat 10. The hire rate is \$10 per trestle and \$1 for chairs. This price does not include delivery or pick up charges. Chairs and tables are to be returned in a clean and serviceable condition. To arrange pick-up and return, contact Joan Mason on 62383258.

## EVENTS CALENDAR 2004

## GEARY'S GAP/WAMBOIN LANDCARE

EVENT	DATE	INVOLVEMENT	CONTACT DETAILS
Propagation sessions	9am – 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of <b>every month</b> 38 Birchmans Grove, Wamboin	All welcome – Ring/email Geoff Butler No experience needed Grow for Landcare and/or your own needs	Geoff Butler (Deputy convener) Ph: 62369158 Email: g.butler@austarmetro.com.au
Meeting 'THE GOOD LIFE'...in Theory	7.30pm Monday 9 Feb  Bywong Community Hall – Birriwa Rd (Off Macs Reef Rd)	Guest speaker: <b>Mark Carmody</b> from ABC Radio's Gardening Show All welcome	Jacqui O'Leary (Convener) Ph: 62369157 Email: <a href="mailto:jacquellyno@hotmail.com">jacquellyno@hotmail.com</a> URL: <a href="http://www.bywong-community.org.au/2001/landcare.html">www.bywong-community.org.au/2001/landcare.html</a>
Clean up Australia Day Weeding and other rubbish removal	9am Sunday 7 March  Macs Reef Road Meet at the clearing on the top of the hill east of the tip. Look for sign!	All welcome Wear protective clothing. Bring bags, saws, secateurs etc. Trailers and utes would be helpful	Jacqui O'Leary (Convener) Ph: 62369157 Email: <a href="mailto:jacquellyno@hotmail.com">jacquellyno@hotmail.com</a>
Meeting 'THE GOOD LIFE'...in Practice	<b>6.30</b> Monday 8 March  'Summervale' 1178 Bungendore Rd, Bywong	All welcome A visit to the property of <b>Roger Good</b> (NSWNPWS)	Jacqui O'Leary (Convener) Ph: 62369157 Email: <a href="mailto:jacquellyno@hotmail.com">jacquellyno@hotmail.com</a> Roger Good Ph: 62369048 Email: roger.good@bigpond.com
<b>Weeding Willows</b>	9am Sunday 21 March	All welcome Wear protective clothing Bring hatchets/axes	Roger Good Ph: 62369048 Email: roger.good@bigpond.com
Weeding Willows	Gum Flat Creek on the Bungendore Road. Look for sign!		
<b>Car Boot Sale</b>	10am– 2pm Sunday 28 March	All welcome	Jacqui O'Leary (Convener) Ph: 62369157 Email: <a href="mailto:jacquellyno@hotmail.com">jacquellyno@hotmail.com</a>
Landcare will be selling native plants at this annual Bywong Community Event	Bywong Community Hall Grounds, Birriwa Rd (Off Macs Reef Rd)		URL: <a href="http://www.bywong-community.org.au">www.bywong-community.org.au</a>
<b>Planting session</b>	9am Saturday 17 April  Hogan Drive Greenway, Wamboin. Look for sign!	All welcome (indeed encouraged!)	Tom Nelson Ph: 0428 255188 or Geoff Butler Ph: 62369158
Meeting <b>Alternative Sources of Energy</b>	7.30 Monday 10 May  Bywong Community Hall – Birriwa Rd (Off Macs Reef Rd)	Guest speaker <b>Richard Elliot</b> – President of the Alternative Technology Association	Tom Nelson Ph: 0428 255188 or Jacqui O'Leary Ph: 62369157

### Wamboin Muses

Jill Gregory

Summer, if you believe popular culture, is one long, lazy carefree day, a time to put your feet up, relax and indulge yourself. But as summer unfolds I begin to feel more care worn, than care free. Despite the refreshing summer showers, it's been simply weeding, watering, white ants, wabbits and wedding.

It was grey July, with the cold disguising the drought, when our pair announced the heart warming news that they were engaged, and the shattering news that they would like their reception at home, at the end of February...."because we love Wamboin so much". Well I love Wamboin, too, but a garden wedding party in Wamboin at the end of summer, hot on the heels of a period of drought seemed akin to madness! But we set about to create a "suitable setting", not quite the stuff of glossy magazines, but a Wamboin approximation at least. After all it requires a touch of madness to live here, anyway.

The spring garden was a picture and it held up well into December, but the wedding was still a long way off. Then everything wilted, plants and people, in the post Christmas heat, but I took heart knowing that I could at least, after balancing dam levels, tank levels and fire threat, turn on a sprinkler, unlike our Canberra compatriots. The winds worked against me, but I got up earlier and earlier each morning to get in some hand watering before the day heated up. And the garden's living sculptures were popping up everywhere...little lizards sunning themselves on rocks, as well as a less than welcome brown snake which would hardly delight our city guests. And the wildflowers are brilliant, the bright yellow paper daisies and kunzias covered in powdered snow. I planted drought tolerant sedums, and developed a new respect for rock gardens, and filled more holes with gazanias. I shouldn't have bothered; the rabbits made short work of them.

And as the wedding date draws nearer, and we head into the last "lazy, carefree" days of summer, we know we have the white ants under control and the sturdy new front and back steps in place, the petunias are invading the weeds, the watering is being managed and the wabbits look almost cute in the dying light when viewed with a glass in hand. I think we'll get there....

I wouldn't live anywhere else....where else could you work so hard to turn popular culture on its head.

### WAMBOIN PONY CLUB

The first rally day for the year is scheduled for Sunday 8th February. Registration will commence at **10.00am**- any rider wishing to ride needs to have completed all the necessary insurance forms before being able to ride.

**Please be on time as we would like to commence riding at 11.00am.**

Rally days are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from 10.00am until 3.30 pm. Pony Club is open to any rider under the age of 25. We cater for all ages and abilities. Riders are involved in an interesting and varied program which includes showjumping, cross-country, sporting, games, flatwork, dressage, mounted games, horse care and certificate work. Wamboin has a number of instructors ensuring that instruction occurs in relatively small groups of between 5 and 10 riders. New members are always welcome. We look forward to seeing both old and new members on Sunday 8th February at 10.00am.

<p><b>MJ PLANT HIRE</b></p> <p>Dozer 4WD Backhoe  Earthmoving Soil Conservation  Tree Planting Clearing</p> <p><b>Phone John 0417 221 773</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">1/8</p>	<p><b>AAA WATER  CARRYING  DOMESTIC WATER  LOCAL CARRIER</b></p> <p>SERVICING THE AREA SINCE 1984  ATTRACTIVE RATES - 7 DAYS  GARRY &amp; LESLEA GRUBER</p> <p><b>ON (02) 6297-3648 or 0428-626-838</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">1/8</p>
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