

The Whisper

March 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, March 28, 2004, 7:00 pm.

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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 VOLIMO WAR		30

THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS

Fiona Skea, babysitting	6238-3290
Rebecca Purdie, babysitting and petsitting	6238-3343
Matt Montesin, petsitting, odd jobs	6238-3208
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WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION President's Paragraphs

Welcome to the **EASTERN CAPITAL CITY LGA**. I believe we finished up in one of the better situations that were on offer. I must admit I was shocked how the State Government can just sack our elected Councillors. However, not much point in looking back. I plan to ask the nominating Councillors to address the WCA meeting in April so we know who we are voting for at the May 1 elections.

We had a good turn up for the presentation that Don Evans gave on Septic and Aerated Systems. I am sure we all learned quite a bit on how to manage this aspect of rural living. If you receive this Whisper in time remember **Cleanup Australia Day** is the first Sunday in March.

We plan on **X-ing George's Bottom** for the second time on March 15. Yes, Rain (what's that?) willing, Larry King tells me the walk across Lake George is on again. Those who cycled, ran, walked or golfed the 8k across the lake last year had a great time. It may be your last chance. Full details are elsewhere in this Whisper.

The **Hall Management Committee** has been busy. We have an application for a Group Volunteer Grant which could see us with a new refrigerator, stove and microwave. We have made do with second-hand items with some functions missing so have our fingers crossed. At the Council meeting, the night before they were sacked, we obtained a grant towards building an extra room at the rear of the Hall. The ongoing use of this room will be as a store/committee room. During any fires or fire standby, it can be used as a rest room for visiting fire-fighters. A shower recess will also be incorporated in the extension.

The **Excess Local Produce Market** keeps growing. I know I promised not to mention her name, but the story how Rosemary Crane was only home from the markets for 5 minutes before she had to return because some of her purchases were already eaten, caused some amusement. Not only are there some good bargains, the markets are also a very good social occasion. We even have shoppers from town coming out to grab the fresh, and cheap, local produce.

Just a reminder that the **Hall recycling bins** are for the items listed on the front of those bins and the **Hall rubbish bins** are for rubbish generated only at the Hall. We were quite shocked to find someone had dumped bags of dirty disposable baby nappies over a period of weeks. Phew!!!!!

Despite a warning not to use tape, **the Notice Board** at the corner of Norton Road and Gallagher Crescent has again been damaged by a taped notice. The tape adhesive permeated the soft chalkboard paint and is often impossible to repair without sanding off and repainting. **Please do not tape notices to the chalk board.**

Bywong Car-Boot Sale is on March 29. It is also the day to alter our clocks. Which way? Remember, always put your clocks 'On to daylight saving - **Back** to normal time' and arrive at the car-boot without being embarrassed.

- Lofty Mason. ljmason@austarmetro.com.au



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Bywong Community News

2004 Car Boot Sale Acceptance of a new proposal for insurance will ensure the continuation of the ever-popular Car Boot Sale. Although the premium is still several times greater than in earlier years, the Committee felt that it could not abandon an event which has become so popular among Bywong and Wamboin residents. The date is Sunday 28 March. Sellers are welcome any time after 7.30 am, and the public is invited to attend from 9 am until 1 pm. Nominal stall costs have not increased, and public entry is free. The programme will retain all the popular attractions including morning teas, barbecue lunches, Flyball exhibitions, jumping castle, music from Andy and Til, and the chance to catch up with friends and neighbours..

Local businesses invited This year the Community is inviting local businesses to take part in the Car Boot Sale. Business sites larger than the normal stalls will be available (book with Morag on 6230 3523) and registration includes a year's entry on the Community's web site.

Web site The Community invites local businesses to renew their entries on its web site, and is also accepting new entries for the coming year. Ring Morag (6230 3523) for details of terms and costs.

Mobile phones A public meeting convened by the Community heard from Telstra officials details of proposals to locate a new mobile phone tower on the ridge above Lake George. Some local residents at the meeting opposed the location of the tower because of its effect on the visual amenity of the area, and others criticised the poor quality of the Telstra presentation. Most agreed that any improvement in mobile service was welcome, particularly because of its value to emergency services, but the presentation did not appear to offer any increase in service to Wamboin residents. Local resident Anthony Goonan presented results of his own research, which he said suggested that Telstra could achieve an equal of better result with a tower which was lower or in another location, in addition to using an existing and more acceptable site on Poppet Hill. This alternative would give greatly improved cover for Wamboin.

Improved access to broadband The Community continues to monitor encouraging progress by local residents in establishing high speed radio access to the internet in Bywong and Wamboin. Early trials are promising.

Bush Dance Although hot weather kept some away from this year's Bush Dance, the event was notable for a high turnout of families, including teenagers and children. An easterly change produced ideal temperatures, and there were smiles and laughter all round. The committee is considering a change to cooler weather in April.

Next meeting The next General Meeting of the Community will be at 7.30 pm on Monday 19 April in the Community Hall. Any resident of the area is very welcome to attend.

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EASTERN CAPITAL CITY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA NEWS

Local Government Amalgamations You are now well aware that the Government has made the decision that Yarrowlumla is to be carved up between Yass, Queanbeyan, Cooma and Tumut and what remains, including us, will amalgamate with Tallaganda Shire to form the new Eastern Capital City Local Government Area.

In a blatant political decision the Minister went against the recommendations of his own consultant and the Boundaries Commission and chose his own trumped up ideas so full of errors that he had to make corrections at the last minute. It could have been worse, we could have been part of Queanbeyan which told the Boundaries Commission inquiry that we were all parasites through its statement referring to "--a Shire which is parasitic on the City's services.".

The boundary of the new Shire generally is as follows; Federal Hwy from ACT to north of but not including Collector, east then south east to the south of Tarago, meets then follows the Shoalhaven River to well north of Nerriga, south east along the Endrick River to the top of the Budawang Range then south west, crosses the Kings Hwy at the top of the Clyde, continues south west to the south of Araluen, then further to the south and then west to Big Badga Hill, takes in part of Deua National Park before coming north then westward, south of Captains Flat to the ACT border at Williamsdale, then north around the new Greater Queanbeyan City thence back around the eastern border of the ACT back to the Federal Hwy at Eaglehawk. It includes very small parts of Gunning and Mulwaree Shires. Sutton and Wallaroo go to Yass, the Bridabellas go to Tumut, Michelago goes to Cooma and Queanbeyan collects the rural residential areas of Fernleigh Park, Little Burra, Mount Campbell and part of Royalla, plus the Ridgeway and Weetalabah on the Kings Hwy. In the new Shire, Bungendore by far is the largest town followed by Braidwood and Captains Flat.

The decision has been made so now a new Council to be elected on 1 May has to try to make a viable new Shire starting way behind the eight ball. Yarrowlumla's population has been reduced from 11,000 to about 8,000 which will now combine with about 2,800 from Tallaganda in a new area of 5,145 square kilometres (almost double that of Yarrowlumla). The new Council will have a workforce double the original and that alone is a serious problem for the Council and the staff to resolve. I certainly feel for the uncertain and unsettling times ahead for those existing staff members from both former councils. A new Council chamber and offices will be required probably in Bungendore, and that will cost millions. There's a big job ahead and I believe the Government should be meeting many of the imposed costs rather than the ratepayers of this new Shire.

We have been aware for many months now that change was coming so I have been busy finishing off outstanding Council projects in this area and seeking funding for others. Recently we have received a new modern and safe playground at the hall, we have a \$10,000 grant from the Council for the fire station extensions and another \$10,000 grant (from Section 94 funds) for upgrading the Wamboin hall. I have also requested and received major road improvements and repairs to Norton Rd. and I have been appreciative of the support from the Council and staff in these matters.

I have yet to decide if I will be standing again. I had intended to stand down and retire from Local Government after sixteen years but experience in this trying time could be helpful and I have received some encouragement in this regard. If I do bite the bullet I will need plenty of help?

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

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HIA Member

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin – 29 year statistics from the Robertsons

February rainfall 24 mm
Feb 2003 Rainfall 59 mm
2004 rainfall to 29/2/04 63.5 mm
Avg March rainfall 59.5mm
Hottest March day 35C on 8/3/83
Wettest March 303mm in '89
Coldest March. day 13C on 14/3/94
Driest March 3mm in '86 & '98
Coldest March. night 3C on 28/3/99

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WAMBOIN PRODUCE MARKET SATURDAY 20 MARCH 9.00 AM

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 for stallholders or entry. It is a great way to meet old friends and make new ones. For details contact Tony Power on 6238 3028 or email poweraj@acslink.net.



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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

I am sure that most residents would have learned that the Minister for Local Government has decided that we will now be living in the newly created Eastern Capital City Regional Shire after the Yarrowlumla and Tallaganda Shires were abolished. The decision also means that the Queanbeyan City Council's area has been extended. Parts of Yarrowlumla Shire to the west of the ACT have been amalgamated into Tumut Shire and the new Yass Valley Shire. Parts to the south have been amalgamated into Cooma-Monaro Shire. Parts to the north have been amalgamated into Yass Valley Shire. The remaining parts of the old Yarralumla Shire have been

merged with the old Tallaganda Shire to form the new shire. Maps of the new shires have been released but I will have to study ours more closely as I still can't find the eastern capital city yet!

The new boundaries will also mean that five brigades in the old Yarrowlumla/Queanbeyan region are

now part of different local government areas. These brigades are Wallaroo, Fairlight, Brindabella, Michelago



and Sutton.

At a recent meeting of fire brigade captains and senior deputy captains, the Fire Control Officer for the Yarrowlumla/Queanbeyan region, Bruce Arthur, stated that it will probably take at least 12 months for all the new administrative arrangements flowing on from the new boundaries to be developed. He went on further to say that these were political boundaries and although it meant, on paper at least, that many brigade boundaries have changed, the reality as far as delivering fire fighting services for our communities, nothing will change for some time. In other words, the Wamboin brigade area will remain as is until we are told otherwise. Considering each brigade's limited resources, it is to be hoped that arrangements will be made between the new shires to try and make sure that brigade boundaries do not change too much in the future.

There is some good news to report. This fire season has had all the makings of a bad one but we remain fortunate as we have only been called to a few false alarms and to assist at a fire north east of Bungendore. Firefighters are naturally frustrated when they can't get to use their skills and equipment but are understandably thankful that they don't have to. It is a credit to everyone in the brigade that they remain keen and motivated despite the lack of action. Even our hot training programs have had to be restricted because of the high fuel loads and poor weather conditions.

It is pleasing to hear that some residents are getting together to talk about how they could collectively deal with bush fires near their homes. The reality for our community is that residents cannot totally rely on their fire brigade to deal with fires. It has to be a partnership between residents and the brigade. It takes a certain amount of time for the brigade to respond to emergency calls and if properties are better protected passively and actively the chances of successfully stopping fires is all that much greater. Passive defences are measures we take to reduce or remove fuel and fire hazards around our properties. In other words, the things we can do to improve the chances of our properties withstanding a bush fire if no one is there to fight it. Active measures involve having the skills, willingness and resources to fight a fire. The field officers in the brigade would be happy to talk to any of these groups. Over the next few months we will be developing training and information programs to help them and other residents in our area.

Over the next couple of months we will be continuing to survey our brigade area and identify fire hazards and acquaint ourselves with the many developments in our community. We have surveyed about two thirds so far and we are busily updating our maps.

On Saturday 28 February many people attended a memorial service held for John Upton at the Wamboin Community Hall. John was the captain of our brigade in 1994. Following a moving service his ashes were placed under a newly planted tree in what will be known as Firefighters' Grove. Four other trees have been planted to remember Peter Flynn, Brian Perry, John Finn, and David Robertson. Small plaques with their names have been put on memorial stones in front of each tree. The picture below shows members of the local brigade and other RFS personnel behind John Upton's tree and memorial stone.

On the Friday of the Canberra Show people were entertained by and grateful to see a large contingent of fire trucks and RFS personnel in a massed drive past around the trotting track. Wamboin was represented by one of our Cat 7 trucks and crewed by Darrell Tipton, Cattlin Hubbard and Chris Murdock.

The website for the brigade is undergoing testing over the next few weeks and will be officially released shortly. The first part of the website has lots of useful information for our community. The next part, which has been developed for the members of the brigade, is still being finalised.



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

Gidgee's "Bush Fire Red" is a sell-out!

Gidgee Estate Winery's "Bush Fire Red" has been a huge success. The first bottling of "Bush Fire Red" has sold out, raising \$1200 for the Brigade. Kay and Cheryl from Gidgee have bottled another 150 bottles of "Bush Fire Red" -but be quick, they have several large orders in already. All profits go to the Brigade.

Bush Fire Red" has been a team effort from members of our local community. Kay and Cheryl from Gidgee came up with the great concept and the wine, Alan from Weeroona Drive designed the fabulous label, Uriarra Printing in Queanbeyan printed the labels for free, LJHooker Bungendore donated the colour leaflets and Michael our local postie did the mail-out free of charge. Thank you to all of these people.

Recent donations

Thank you to Bungendore Rotary who have recently donated \$500 towards the shed extension. This is money they raised from their "Bowls and Golf Day" in 2003. Thanks also to the Wamboin Community Association who, over the past few months, have donated around \$1850, the proceeds from markets and the bonfire night. We very much appreciate this support.

Car-boot sale

You will see us out in force at the car-boot sale on 28 March at the Bywong Community Hall and the Les Reardon Oval in Birriwa Road (off Macs Reef Road). We will have a bucket at the gate for donations and running a sausage sizzle with sausages provided by Sutton Real Estate. We look forward to seeing you there.

THE CAPTAIN'S LIST	Local businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade				
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SUTTON SCHOOL NEWS

Sutton Public School Playgroup The Sutton School Community is very keen to establish a playgroup on a regular basis. It is planned to link the playgroup with the school's Kindergarten Orientation Program, and to provide an extended school experience for pre-schoolers as well. The school has an excellent facility in the Before and After School Care building. It is planned to use the building from 9.30-11.00 am once a week for interested parents. The school is also examining all avenues to provide a permanently staffed co-ordinator for the centre. If you would like to make enquiries please ring the school on 62303215. The school's drawing area includes the Bywong, Womboin and Sutton communities. Once we gauge community interest we will decide upon a starting date. If all goes to plan the playgroup will start in term 2.

< ---- The Before and After School Facility



Teaching and Learning Project Staff at Sutton School will be taking part in major training initiatives this year in teaching/learning and technology. During term one staff will be attending a training course at Apollo Parkways School in Melbourne. Apollo Parkways is a lighthouse school in technology. Sutton school plans to develop quality teaching programs that challenge student's thinking skills and to develop an overview that describes how children learn at Sutton School. Early in term 2 staff will also be attending training in Gifted and Talented Education.

Opportunities at Sutton Major excursions have been planned for Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6. Years 3 and 4 will take part in an excursion to Camp Attunga, near Goulburn on the 1st and 2nd of April, and Years 5 and 6 will be visiting Sydney from the 17th to the 19th of March. Both excursions have an action packed program.

The school also runs The Peer Support Program. Year 6 students will be taking part in training during term 1. This also follows the class's training in Peer Mediation. Year 6 children support students in the playground by mediating in minor conflict situations.

The school was proud to gain a number of places in the Regional Swimming Carnival team to be held in Wollongong later this year. Students competed with enthusiasm at the Queanbeyan District carnival and are to commended for their efforts. The Parents and Citizens' Association has recently purchased a team uniform and the students looked outstanding in their green and gold colours.

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MONDAY 15 MARCH 2004

8.00am Register at Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way

9.00am sharp Bus departs for Rocky Point

2.00pm approx. Bus departs Geary's Gap for Wamboin Community Hall

Entry fee \$5 per person (donation to Bushfire Brigade) Bus fare* \$10* per person

BBQ lunch \$10 per person – food only, drinks purchased separately Souvenir T shirts \$15 each

All profits go to the Wamboin Bushfire Brigade fire shed extension, Numbers limited, golfers welcome

Our grateful thanks to Peter and Beverley Keatley of "Luckdale" Questions to Steve Lambert (6238 3414) or Larry King (6238 3222) *subject to change

WAMBOIN / BYWONG CLASSIFIEDS

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.

Road Bicycles - (2) both in absolutely excellent condition. A great way to thrill somebody (yourself and/or another), to get fit and see the country-side. Spokesman 23" - white, 10 speed. Asking \$110 - as new. (includes brand new tyres and tubes at a cost of \$100). ProAce 23" - lightning blue, 14 speed. Asking \$120 - as new. (includes brand new tyres and tubes at a cost of \$100). Please call Loretta or Ian - ph 6238 3425.

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 6238-3484 for information. Advertising rates: Full Page - \$100 Half Page - \$50 1/4 Page - \$25 1/6 Page - \$20 1/8 Page - \$15

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.

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

House sitters wanted for 3 bedroom house in Bywong from mid-May to mid-July. Great views and easy to live-in house. Two very friendly Australian kelpies, some hens and a few fantail pigeons to look after. Six sheep who look after themselves on our 35 acre property. Phone: 6230 3523

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 Buying, giving or receiving plants? Improve their survival and growth potential with wormcastings, a top quality and brilliant organic growth stimulant (for plants). Wormcastings are a by-product of worm activity. The wormcastings are bagged and come with instructions. They are excellent for gardens, individual plants and vegetable plots. Many ecstatic customers. 25litre bag \$8.50. Ph Ian 6238 3425



THE STABLE DOOR Bibs & Bobs

The Dingo Fence

BY IAN COILLET

Every few years or so, we've packed the Paj and off'd outback. For those of you who've done something similar, you'll appreciate the magnificence of the interior and nether regions of Australia. For me, one of the more fascinating manmade features one comes across while traversing rural and remote is The Dingo Fence. But for a relatively small tract of land between the east coast and Dalby in the south-east corner of Queensland you'll come across the fence at some stage or another if you are crossing the north-western border of New South Wales, or north and west through Queensland and South Australia. For the Dingo Fence stretches nearly six thousand kilometres across Australia – from the cliffs of the Great Australian Bight in the west to a paddock gate near Jimbour in Queensland's green south-east. Parts of it were built at the turn of last century, variously to contain the explosion in the rabbit population and subsequently dingoes. That said, it was not until the 1940s that the fence was linked into a continuous structure (bit like the national railways really). The fence separates semi-arid cattle country from sheep raising areas and runs through some of the most inhospitable territory. It skirts desert and dry lake beds, crosses flood plains and mountain ranges; and connects some of Australia's most stunning landscapes. Easily the longest fence in the world, it passes through country that few Australians ever see. While the fence seeks to be a division between cattle country and protected sheep country – it is also a link between people. If you can't get out there yourself, there are some great books around that record pictures and portraits of the people who live on or near the fence and those who have been involved with or are currently working on the fence.

Speaking of one continuous line hell...hello....whoops my internet/email phone line has just dropped out.....Yep, once again the landline went down for a good portion of we residents in Wamboin (including at the Wamboin Fireshed) during February. That the locality-wide fault occurred on a day of high fire risk was especially disturbing. And once again, most of we locals had to fall back upon our poor and unreliable mobile phone service. So much for working from home via email, landline or internet for the rest of the day. Not sure how you were feeling but I was amongst the contingent of volunteer firefighters considerably concerned for the safety of Wamboin and Bywong and residents that day. As it turned out, I understand there were no fire nor non-fire dramas that day, thankfully. To complete the loop, though many hours passed where there was no phone/email/internet connection, thanks Telstra for eventually giving our locality the appropriate priority on the day and getting the landline back up on the same day well before the time originally promised and without the seemingly interminable weekend and two working day turnaround.

How long is a piece of string? Paul from the UK appears to have the answer – at least he has passed on the findings of a group of learned people who have researched this most vexing question. Paul says – I have read somewhere that a group decided to answer this question by cutting various lengths of string, then letting them drop to the floor. The length was the distance between the two ends, and it was (approx) 75% of the linear length.

So, when anyone asks "How long's a piece of string?", his answer is "about 75%".



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Sue Barker Phone: 6236 9046 ah Email: sbarker@justinternet.com.au

IF ONLY THEY COULD TALK

A series by local vet, Dr Garry McComb BVSc QDAH

SNAKES

As usual during the warmer months of the year, veterinarians in the district have treated many animals (mostly cats and dogs) for snake bite - many successfully but some unsuccessfully. Many animals are presented with no known history of being bitten especially cats who owners are wondering why their cat is paralysed or has a "funny bunny hopping" action. Sometimes the owners have seen their pet fighting with the snake and are able to tell us what type of snake they think it was. Sometimes the owners bring in the snake as well as their animal - sometimes the snake is still alive. The last 2 snakes that were brought in to us were considered by the pet owners to be Brown snakes however we identified them as Copperheads.

Snake identification keys have their limitations and there can be great variation even within a species. Scale counts vary considerably within a species and indeed can vary even on one specimen. Colour and markings are generally not a reliable guide and can be fairly meaningless eg the Tiger need not have stripes and the Brown may be black. Ideally, to correctly identify the snake we need the whole snake and not just the head.

Mainland Tiger Snake. Active on warm summer evenings along river banks and dams. Average length 1 metre (up to 2 metres). Broad headed. Light grey to dark green, brown or orange or almost black. Crossed with about 45 yellowish stripes. The colour may vary from one district to another, and sometimes the snake has no bands. Has a wide shield which is the central one of three between the eyes. Has 19 rows of mid-body dorsal scales, ventrals may be 140 to 190, subcaudals are 35 to 65 and single, as is the anal plate. Generally not aggressive unless provoked. Tends to strike low to the ground. Victims may be treated with Tiger Snake antivenom.

Common or Eastern Brown. Active during the day and prefers dry country. Average length 1.5 metres (2.4 metres has been recorded). Head is not distinct. Adult is usually uniform in colour, being light brown, orange or black. The young (up to 3 years old) may have as many as 50 dark grey or black bands. Scales are smooth and there are 17 mid-body dorsal scales, 185 to 235 ventrals, 45 to 75 paired subcaudals and a divided anal plate. Very ferocious and attacks high off the ground with its mouth open (probably because it has very short fangs). Second most toxic land snake in the world. Treat with Common Brown snake antivenom.

Red-bellied Black Snake. Active during the day and prefers well-watered areas. Very good swimmer. Average length 1.25 metres (2.5 metres). Small head. Shiny purplish-black with red or bright orange sides. 17 rows of dorsal scales, 180 to 215 ventrals, 48 to 60 subcaudals (sometimes all the subcaudals are single, but usually only the front ones are single and the remainder are divided), divided anal plate. Treat victims with Tiger Snake antivenom.

Copperhead. Prefers a cool climate and may be out on very cold days. On hot days it will hunt at night. Prefers swamps and creeks. Length 1.2 metres (1.83 max). Small head with characteristically striped upper lip. Body colour is very variable - may be dark brown or black or a rich light copper. May have a dark stripe on the back. The two outer rows of large scales on the flanks may be pink or red giving the appearance of a Black snake. Belly may be bright yellow, cream or light grey. Scales are smooth and usually 15 rows, (rarely 13 or 17), 140 to 160 ventrals, 35 to 55 single subcaudals, entire anal plate. Sluggish and slow inaccurate striker. Treat victims Tiger snake antivenom.

Finally a couple of words of warning - don't try to count scales on a live snake (unless Steve is holding it). And if you do drive over a snake (illegal - they are protected), be aware that they can flick up and wrap around the suspension - just ask a lady in Burra!!

Thanks to the persons	below, Wamboin and Bywong re	esidents have a	free community ow	vned newsletter.		
150 CO-ORDINATE	D BY HELEN MONTESIN:		Ph 6238 3208			
Dean Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West	18	Bill Owen Cooper l	Rd.	27	
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	29	Max Klemke	Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley	25	
Dave Hubbard	Poppet Rd.	34	Cathy Abell	Canning Close	17	
245 CO-ORDINATE	D BY SUE GANE:		Ph 6238 3463			
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	50	Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Drive	17	
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	28	Anne Gardner	Weeroona, Norton to Majors	30	
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	David Anderson	Weeroona, Majors to Denley	35	
Ned Noel	13 YrCn 35Adv 10 NStks7Msc	65				
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-ORDINATE	ED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAA	TEN:	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 R	.d	32
Ann Platts	Denley/Birchman's Area	25	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef /Nwngtn to FedHwy		12
Laura Snowdon	Hogan Drive	25	Morag Cotsell	Newington/Harriot		50
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Thelma Martin	Shinglehous/ilhouse/Schfield Rd	S	20
Don Malcomson	Macs R Denley to Birriwa	35	Christa Rehwinkel	Macs Reef - Nwngtn to FedHwy		20
926 TOTAL						



GEARY'S GAP/WAMBOIN LANDCARE

Windbreaks: With the arrival of autumn and hopefully favourable weather conditions, now is time to begin planting out multifunctional windbreaks. These will form a protective barrier for crops, animals and of course, people. Planting now will mean that the plants will put down strong roots, establish themselves throughout the winter months and be ready to put on a burst in spring.

Apart from their protective function, windbreaks can assist in environmental rehabilitation through contributing to biodiversity and therefore the stability of the area. To achieve this, it is important to plant a variety of species from trees to understory plants. Using a mixture of fast-growing species like wattles, longer-living trees like eucalypts and smaller draught-stopping shrubs like grevilleas, the windbreak will be effective long-term.

These plants, along with some hakeas, banksias and bursaria (known for its spiteful nature) will provide birds with nesting sites and protection from feral cats and foxes. They also provide flowers almost year-round thereby keeping the birds in the area. A list of plants suitable for growing in the area can be found on the Landcare page of the Bywong Community website www.bywong-community.org.au

Local Birds: The Landcare group plans to produce a list of local birds for the community website. Eventually we hope to link these birds with descriptions and photos in order to assist people in identifying what they see on their properties. To get the ball rolling Kathy and David Cook have provided us with a list of what they have seen from their place. If anyone can add to this list with a definite sighting, we'd love to hear from you. If the sighting is questionable we might form a 'Maybe' list. Contact Kathy and David at glendar@austarmetro.com.au

For more information about birds of this region refer to the Canberra Ornithologists Group website, www.canberrabirds@dynamite.com.au Some good reference books are:- *Field Guide to Birds of Australia*, by Pizzey & Knight; *Field Guide to Birds of Australia* by Slater; and *Field Guide to Australia Birds* by Morecombe - Jacqui O'Leary

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	Species	N	Br		Species	N	Br		Species	N	Br
1	Stubble Quail		✓	42	Eastern Rosella		✓	83	Rufous Whistler		✓
2	Australian Wood Duck		✓	43	Red-rumped Parrot			84	Grey Shrike-Thrush		✓
3	Hardhead			44	Pallid Cuckoo		✓	85	Leaden Flycatcher		✓
4	Pacific Black Duck		✓	45	Fan-tailed Cuckoo			86	Satin Flycatcher		✓
5	Australasian Shoveler			46	Brush Cuckoo		✓	87	Restless Flycatcher		
6	Grey Teal			47	Horsfield's Bronze- Cuckoo		4	88	Willie Wagtail		✓
7	Australasian Grebe		✓	48	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo			89	Rufous Fantail		
8	Hoary-headed Grebe			49	Southern Boobook			90	Grey Fantail		✓
9	Darter			50	Barn Owl			91	Black-faced Cuckoo- Shrike		
10	Little Black Cormorant			51	Tawny Frogmouth			92	White-winged Triller		
11	Little Pied Cormorant			52	Australian Owlet- Nightjar			93	Olive-backed Oriole		
12	Australian Pelican			53	White-throated Needletail			94	White-browed Woodswallow		✓
13	White-necked Heron			54	Laughing Kookaburra		✓	95	Dusky Woodswallow		
14	White-faced Heron		✓	55	Sacred Kingfisher			96	Grey Butcherbird		✓
15	Straw-necked Ibis			56	Dollarbird			97	Magpie-Lark		✓
16	Australian White Ibis			57	White-throated Treecreeper			98	Australian Magpie		✓
17	Black-shouldered Kite			58	Superb Fairy-Wren		✓	99	Pied Currawong		✓
18	Whistling Kite			59	Spotted Pardalote			100	Grey Currawong		
19	Collared Sparrowhawk			60	Striated Pardalote		✓	101	Spangled Drongo		
20	Brown Goshawk			61	White-browed Scrubwren		✓	102	Australian Raven		✓
21	Little Eagle			62	Western Gerygone			103	Little Raven		
22	Wedge-tailed Eagle			63	White-throated Gerygone			104	White-winged Chough		✓
23	Swamp Harrier			64	Brown Thornbill		✓	105	Richard's Pipit		✓
24	Brown Falcon			65	Buff-rumped Thornbill		✓	106	Red-browed Finch		
25	Nankeen Kestrel		✓	66	Yellow-rumped Thornbill		✓	107	Diamond Firetail		
26	Australian Hobby			67	Striated Thornbill		✓	108	Double-barred Finch		
27	Eurasian Coot			68	Weebill			109	European Goldfinch		
28	Latham's Snipe			69	Red Wattlebird		✓	110	House Sparrow		✓
29	Black-fronted Dotterel			70	Noisy Friarbird			111	Mistletoebird		
30	Masked Lapwing		✓	71	Yellow-faced Honeyeater			112	Welcome Swallow		✓
31	Common Bronzewing			72	White-eared Honeyeater			113	Tree Martin		✓
32	Crested Pigeon		✓	73	Fuscous Honeyeater			114	Fairy Martin		
33	Yellow-tailed Black- Cockatoo			74	White-plumed Honeyeater			115	Golden-headed Cisticola		✓
34	Gang-gang Cockatoo			75	Brown-headed Honeyeater		√	116	Silvereye		
35	Galah			76	White-naped Honeyeater			117	Common Blackbird		✓
36	Little Corella			77	New Holland Honeyeater			118	Bassian Thrush		
37	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo		✓	78	Eastern Spinebill		✓	119	Common Starling		✓
38	Rainbow Lorikeet			79	Flame Robin		✓	120	Common Myna		
39	Little Lorikeet			80	Scarlet Robin			121			
40	Superb Parrot			81	Varied Sittella			122			
41	Crimson Rosella		✓	82	Golden Whistler			123		1	1





advertisement Bungendore now has its own Country Town Lolly Shop Tracys Treats

If you want to know where all the local kids are don't look any further than our new local Lolly Shop – Tracys Treats. With its bright yellow walls and pristine white shelves full of treats, not to mention the grubby finger and nose marks on the outside of the glass its pretty easy to find.

Just in front of the new Doctor's Surgery in Ellendon Street (it has been said a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down!), Tracy, a Wamboin local, opened her shop on 24 January this year.

"I try to have lots of goodies for all ages so that you get that overwhelming feeling when you walk in. In fact some local children have been known to spend 45 minutes to spend their weekly treat allowance," said Tracy. "They just love the fact that there are lots of 5 cent choices to make"

Apart from keeping the young and young at heart happy, Tracys Treats also carries a range of Belgian Chocolates, gourmet preserves and biscuits and loads of party goods including some very colourful piñatas and helium balloons.

Tracy has apparently taken the "Lolly Shop Owners Hippocratic Oath" and has assured us that everyone's secrets are safe with her.

BUNGENDORE ANGLICAN CHURCH – SERVICES FOR MARCH

Sunday 7 March 2004, The Second Sunday in Lent
9.00 am St Philip's, Bungendore Holy Communion
Sunday 14 March 2004, The Third Sunday in Lent
9.00 am St Philip's, Bungendore Holy Communion
9.00 am St Thomas', Carwoola Holy Communion
11.00 am St Andrew's, Tarago Holy Communion
Sunday 21 March 2004, The Fourth Sunday in Lent
8.00 am St Philip's, Bungendore Holy Communion
9.30 am St Philip's Bungendore Holy Communion

9.30 am St Philip's, Bungendore Holy Communion 5.00 pm St Luke's, Captains Flat Prayer & Praise Sunday 28 March 2004, The Fifth Sunday in Lent 9.00 am St Philip's, Bungendore Holy Communion 11.00 am St John's, Lake Bathurst Holy Communion

Wamboin 15 years ago – from the "Whisper" of February, 1989

Editors: The Masons, Circulation 205 From the President's Paras: "Letterboxes Is yours the type of letterbox that demands a bionic arm in order to deliver the mail without getting out of the car? There are a few of that variety around. The authentic rural gem of a milkcan/letterbox half hidden under a gum tree or a work of art halfway down the driveway looks lovely but it makes life difficult for the postie. Please make your letterbox accessible by having it placed along the side of the road at a reasonable height."

Notes from St Andrew's Church

Services are held in the Church on the corner of Norton and Poppet Roads at 9am on the first and third Sundays of each month, followed by a cup of tea or coffee and time to get to know each other better. Easter comes early in April this year and you may wish to note that there will be a service at 9am on Good Friday and on Easter Day, in addition to the regular Sundays. Everyone is welcome and we are always particularly pleased to welcome new residents. If you want to know more about the Church in Wamboin, or if the Church can help you, please phone Robyn Robertson 62383202 or Bronwyn Elliott 62383359.



CAFÉ: Thursday, Friday & Saturday evenings

Friday, Saturday & Sunday lunch

CELLAR DOOR: 10 - 5pm weekends & public holidays

Other times by appointment

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WAMBOIN COUNTRY GOLF CLUB – FEBRUARY RESULTS

Many thanks to the February sponsors, Dick and Meg Henley for the trophies and eats. Ball winners were; Nev Schroder x2, Keith France, Ted Evans, Dick Henley, Tony Fisher, Bob Mettam, Joan Mason and Ken Gordon. Nine Hole event won by Deb Gordon. B Grade won by Larry King from Joan Mason. A Grade won by Dick Henley who donated first prize to Dave Hubbard and second prize to Nev Schroder. The OFFICIAL Wamboin Golf is played on the first Sunday of every month starting at 12.30 from the Bingley Way hall. -- Peter Greenwood Golfer 6238 3358.



BUNGENDORE JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

Are you aged between 5-15yrs and wish to play Rugby League. Games are held every Sunday, with every second game held at Bungendore. Registration for the 2004 season can be done at Development Training which is held Tuesdays from 6-7pm at Mick Sherd Oval, Bungendore. NEW PLAYERS ARE WELCOME TO COME AND TRY. Enquiries can be directed to either Peter Wiggins - 0411 647 834 or Sharon Lovelock 0143 917 520.

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Auras of heat

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The cliches catch and flare then melt away

Like Roman Candles in amniotic fluid

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Our lungs are medium rare

Baste in a mod. oven (Gas Mark 5)

A dog's imprint on the slate, ours on the bed

A lava bed

Turin or Pompei

Antipodean Groundhog Day

Vladimir, Estragon, Job, Bill Murray and we

Waiting, waiting

Job is restless

The Fourth Comforter takes six chapters to be of no help at all Our prayers unanswered, demands rebuffed, requests denied

He will not send it down now

So we must lie within imaginary cascades

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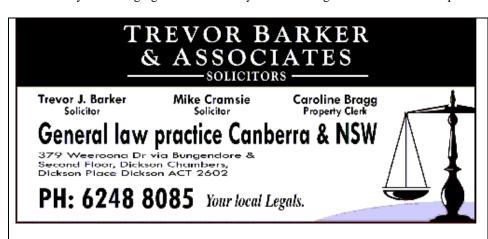
Wamboin Muses Jill Gregory

It's been hot, baking hot. The bleached grass is crisp underfoot, the eucalypts have been flinging off their bark coats, exposing creamy flesh, in an apparent attempt to beat the summer heat, and one of our old girls in the coop called it quits the other day. I suspect she heard the forecast maximum and just decided that enough was enough.

It's always sad to lose an animal, especially one that has been part of the scene for so long. We started our feathered menagerie with four, day old chicks, two balls of yellow fluff and two of red. I naively chose one of the red ones because it looked more robust than the rest. It never produced an egg, but Roderick Senior, as he became known, produced many successors. Our flock grew, and we added two ducklings, Victoria and Albert. They became firm friends, but we had to rename Albert when she started laying. And so we were blessed with beautiful chook eggs and duck eggs and serenaded night and early day by many and varied roosters. Our reds and whites produced the most amazingly coloured offspring. And as we prospered we became more adventurous and responded to a "needs a good home" sign on the notice board. Now we had six geese or ganders or a mix of both. And they multiplied, too. Alberta died and was replaced by Mr Brown and I seemed to spend my days making 5 egg cakes that nobody really wanted, and playing lady bountiful with cartons of eggs. Meanwhile the trips to town to purchase chook and duck food became more frequent, and chook yards were extended and reinforced as they out grew the coop. Then tragedy struck!

It was a night rather like the one we've just had; cool, misty rain and moonless. We were woken to the sounds of silence. A sinister, foreboding quiet filled the morning air. And then we discovered the carnage! A cunning fox had struck under cover of darkness and the only life that remained of our dear feathered flock was one crazy social misfit, perched dumbstruck on the highest branch of a trembling wattle, and two drakes, the last of an inbred line, huddled and quivering in a corner. So we were left with the "duck boys", harmless but hopeless, and the fiercely independent black hen who had to adapt to life in an enclosed coop with two fractious girls and a droopy eyed great grandson of Roderick. They tolerated each other, and life went on until the other day when the white hen simply expired.

The cool change came too late for the white hen, but just in time to save me. I couldn't live any where else. Where else would you be flinging off coats one day and searching for winter woolies to put on the next.



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