

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

May 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 June, 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, May 30, 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 YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS

Fiona Skea, babysitting	6238-3290
Rebecca Purdie, babysitting and petsitting	6238-3343
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Bywong News

GREENWAYS BUSHWALK Sunday 16 May leaving the end of Newington Road at 10am. Julian Thompson will lead this popular walk through the Greenway track from Newington Road to Norton Road. It will take about 2 hours or so and please bring a snack to have en route. Julian will arrange a car pool and anyone happy to help him with this, please call him on 6236 9129.

TRIVIA CHALLENGE NIGHT It is on again on Saturday 31 July and open to all to challenge the winners from last year for the Challenge Shield. Call Warwick or Diana on 4239 9187.

WINE TOUR Sue Gorham is getting herself organised for her special local wine tour taking in at least 5 wineries and also a visit to the Rose Garden on Bungendore Road. The date is 12 September and call her for details on 6236 9476.

TALKING TERMITES There was a good audience for Jean-Pierre Favre's most interesting talk on Termites at the last meeting of the Bywong Community. He offered lots of ideas of how to combat this pest and as usual his talk was received with much acclaim.

NEXT MEETING The next meeting of the Bywong Community will be on Monday 21 June at 7.30pm at the Bywong Community Hall, Birriwa Road. Please come along and be part of this busy community.

PS WHOEVER TOOK OUR LOCALITY MAP FROM THE YASS RIVER SIGNBOARD, CAN YOU PLEASE RETURN IT. THIS WAS FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERYONE COMING INTO THE AREA AND IS BADLY MISSED. THEY COST A LOT OF MONEY TO REPLACE WHICH COULD BE GOING TO HELP LOCAL GROUPS. SO DO THE RIGHT THING AND RETURN IT PLEASE. – Morag Cameron

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WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION --- President's Paragraphs

The **EASTERN CAPITAL CITY LGA election** is scheduled for the 26th of June. There will be a polling booth at the Bingley Way hall. Residents of Bywong and Wamboin are invited to a meeting at the Bingley Way Hall on the 8th of June at 7.30pm where the nominating Councillors will be asked to convince us why we should vote for them. Maybe they can promise increased rainfall?

The **Rural Water** Management talk by Don Evans was well received with some good suggestions being added from the audience. No extra rain so far Don!

The **Wamboin Markets** will continue to function after stall holders were unanimous in their vote to keep them running. The next market will be on Saturday the 15th of May. Must admit they are a great social day. If they continue to be successful, we will continue to run them. Is anyone selling excess rain?

Some good news for the WCA Hall Management Committee: The Department of Family & Community Services has approved our request for a grant to purchase a new refrigerator, stove and microwave oven for the kitchen at the hall.

The **traditional Annual Ball** run by the Fire Brigade is on again. This is the 19th Ball they have organised. The theme is **Fame**. If you can guess how they arrive at a theme name you should get a prize. Details elsewhere in the Whisper.

The **Meet & Greet** package is resurfacing with Julie Easton applying some basic resuscitation. Pete Harrison has also joined the party and shown me how little I have been utilising the capabilities of my computer. *If only it would do what I want it to do rather than what I tell it to do.* Lofty Mason. ljmason@austarmetro.com.au

WAMBOIN PRODUCE MARKET

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BA (Hons), M. Clin Psych, LLB(G)
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PSY007220 (NSW)

704 Macs Reef Road

BUNGENDORE NSW 2621

Tel: (02) 6230 3623 (H); 0404 215 430 (mobile)

Email: kim_bolas@hotmail.com

EASTERN CAPITAL CITY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA NEWS

I have been out of the Council for almost three months now and like everyone else I have to rely on the grapevine for what's happening. It's a little disturbing to hear about plans for a wind farm along the Lake George Range near Forest Rd with 70m high towers plus blades! And where do Telstra now intend to put their mobile phone tower? There was a suggestion that they were looking at Millpost Hill. We do need phone coverage but not from Millpost!

ElectionsThe Local Government elections for our new shire will be held on Saturday 26 June. As usual the Wamboin Hall will be a Polling Booth. The Electoral Roll will close on 17 May. Nominations for intending Councillors open 17 May and close at 5pm on 26 May. Postal voting applications open 28 May and close 5pm 21 June. Closing time for return of postal votes is Monday 28 June at 6pm.

Note: I understand that there will be no absentee voting. If you expect to be away you must put in a postal vote. Voting is compulsory. This time there will be "above the line" voting making it easy for the introduction of political parties, single interest groups and power groups.

And, after 16 years in the job, I do not currently intend to stand for this election.

Peter Greenwood JP (just a concerned local resident) 6238 3358 petergreenwood@actweb.net



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Wamboin Rural Fire Service 19th Annual Ball

FAMME

WHEN: Saturday 29th May 2004

WHERE: Wamboin Community Hall

TIME: 7:00pm – 1:00 am

TICKETS: \$30

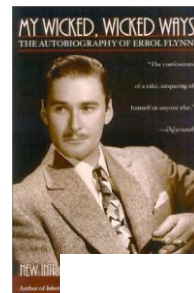
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Barb: 62383501



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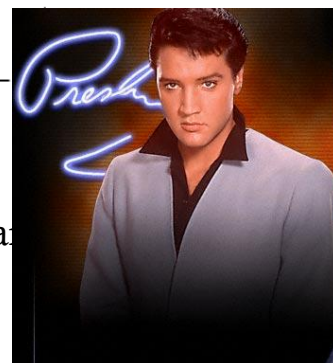
The Wiggles

Bill & Ben Flowerpot Men

Elton John

Humphrey B Bear

Da



IF ONLY THEY COULD TALK

A series by local vet, Dr Garry McComb BVSc QDAH

THE DEBATE ABOUT TAIL DOCKING

A few hundred years ago in England, a tax was introduced on dogs. I don't know why. Perhaps the Government of the day needed to raise some money - sounds familiar, doesn't it! However working and hunting dogs were exempt and to identify these dogs their tails were cut off. The "working" dogs of those days must have been very different to our working dogs of today. I can't imagine the Queen's Corgies being great workers. Tradition has continued as it does and now we seem to accept that certain breeds have their tails chopped off - "they just seem to look right".

For many years there has been a great debate over the pros and cons of tail docking of certain breeds of dogs. There have been many claims, some of which have been greatly exaggerated, made by both the pro-docking and anti-docking supporters. As of 1 April 2004 this debate should be finished. However I believe the debate will go on for a long time but the forum may change - to the law courts. Australia follows Norway, Sweden, Greece, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Finland, Germany and Switzerland in banning the practice. As you can see, many major countries have not and probably will not consider banning tail docking. Certainly I do not think England will ban tail docking while the Queen has her Corgies!

At the Primary Industries Ministerial Council meeting in Perth, 2003, the NSW Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Ian Macdonald, MLC, moved that there be a national ban on tail docking. All Ministers representing the Federal, State and Territory Governments agreed to this and the national ban was proposed to take effect from 1 April 2004. However, a national ban can only take effect if all the States and Territories enact legislation outlawing the practice. The Federal Government has no jurisdiction to impose a national ban.

Tail docking of dogs was originally banned in ACT in November 2000, followed by bans in Western Australia (April 2003), Queensland (October 2003), South Australia (February 2004), Victoria (March 2004). Northern Territory, Tasmania and New South Wales have introduced legislative amendments banning the practice.

Unfortunately the legislation in each State and Territory is different and in some there are loopholes. Currently the ACT allows tail docking for "prophylactic reasons", WA allows it for "therapeutic or prophylactic reasons", SA for "therapeutic reasons only" and in QLD tail docking may be carried out if it is reasonably considered to be in the best interests of the dog's welfare. What a mess!

Only a registered veterinary surgeon is allowed to perform the procedure. Other persons who are caught tail docking can be fined from \$2,000 to \$10,000 depending on the State. The preventive or "prophylactic" clause means that dogs tails can be docked to prevent a perceived possibility of them being damaged sometime in the distant future. Perhaps we should consider amputating a leg on the perceived possibility that it may be broken in 10 years time!

The courts have yet to determine what the legal test is for "perceived possibility" and what is considered to be in the best interests of the dog. I don't intend being involved in a test case. I have been docking tails for 30 years - under local anaesthesia and in surgical conditions without any problems, however I have seen many botched backyard jobs. I am sure that we will see more of these. Regrettably I am aware that some pups especially Rotties have been euthanased because the breeders were not able to sell them with tails. The whole issue is going to be around for a while.

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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

The Fire Season officially ends on 30 April 2004. Even though fire permits are not required, please ensure adequate precautions are taken if fires are lit in the open, notify your neighbours 24 hours before you light it and as a matter of courtesy – ring the brigade captain.

From the Captain's Desk

The end of this month marks the finish of an extended fire danger season. Admittedly we have been more than fortunate this time. We have only had to respond to surprisingly few emergencies in our area and assist with one fire northeast of Bungendore. The emergencies usually involved motor vehicles being made perform outside their design specifications performing rollovers or the vehicle being a little slow to respond when it was on its roof. Even though some accidents caused some injuries it is pleasing to note that these were not life threatening. In all cases members of the brigade performed a valuable role in the emergency response teams.



Even though this fire season has ended it doesn't mean that the risk of fire is completely eliminated. We all need to stay alert when fires are lit in the open and make sure that the fires are well contained, controlled and unlikely to travel – especially into your neighbour's property. If you need clear areas around your property you will still need to get a hazard reduction certificate. If you intend using fire to do this you will not need a fire permit, but please be careful. You should advise your neighbours in advance. It is also a good idea to let me know. I often get phone calls from your diligent neighbours or other residents of our community reporting the smoke coming from your property. If I know about your fire I can allay their concerns and I hopefully won't have to organise brigade crews and vehicles to pay a visit.

The end of the fire season should also be a timely reminder to everyone who intends using wood fires or slow combustion stoves in their houses. Make sure the chimney or flue has been swept to remove as much creosote as possible. It is also a good idea to check inside the stove, especially if it hasn't been used for some time. You never know what you could find that may block the entrance to the flue or chimney! A chimney or flue fire is sometimes hard to detect and can cause a lot of damage in the roof space before it becomes obvious to the occupants of the house. If your neighbours can see your house it is often they who will notice the fire before you do!

The brigade's website (<http://www.wamboin-fireshed.com>) is becoming a popular place to visit when residents are surfing the Internet. It has a wealth of information for everyone. From tips on how to protect your house and property to games for the little'uns. How well does your place fare after you assess your mess? The question will mean more after you visit the website and take the test. There are many links to lots of other sites concerned with fire safety and property protection. There are also links to allow you to contact members of the brigade with questions, comments, suggestions and for making enquiries about joining the brigade. More work still needs to be done on the website and progress has slowed a little because the website administrator has moved to Melbourne. However, we have discovered that the Internet can be accessed there and work should recommence shortly.

On the 17th of April your brigade, ably assisted by the brigades from Bungendore, Queanbeyan and Stoney Creek, carried out a hazard reduction burn on two properties on Norton Road. Saturday turned out to be a long day for everyone and I, and the owners of the properties are very grateful for the long hours everyone put in. It was slow going in the morning trying to get the fires to move at something more than a snail's pace but as the day warmed up and the relative humidity dropped things got faster and a more interesting. I think there were many firefighters there who were able to overcome their withdrawal symptoms from not being called to attend fires recently! The owners also put in a fantastic effort during the day in making sure that everyone was well fed. They asked that I not only pass on their thanks but also mention their admiration for the dedication and professional approach shown by all the volunteers. The work continued for some on the Sunday making sure that a few smouldering areas inside the containment lines were completely blacked out.

Just to prove that a volunteer firefighter's lot can get a little complicated, members of the brigade and many members of their families took part in the now traditional grape picking at Lambert's Vineyard on the same weekend as the hazard reduction burn. More grapes were also picked on the following weekend. It was a fun time for all concerned and several tonnes were harvested. The brigade is grateful to Steve and Ruth Lambert for their continual support with a generous donation for this work.

We received some good news recently when a grant was approved for the brigade to purchase additional pagers for our members. This will now mean that more members of the brigade can be alerted more quickly when an emergency arises.

Our training and maintenance programs continue into the "off season" so don't be too surprised if you see fire trucks and people in yellow overalls around the area over the next few months. Even though the fire risks are reduced we still have maintain our skills through almost constant practice.

Now that the steel work for the extension to the fire shed has been erected work will start shortly on installing the roof, windows and wall cladding. Some more brickwork will be laid in the front of the shed between the two aprons. Members of the brigade will carry out most of the work but if any local trades people would like to help your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Andrew Dunn on 6238 1849.

Remember the Annual Ball! Tickets are still available. Information about this great occasion can be found in this edition of *The Whisper*.

The annual general meeting of the brigade will be held on 22 June 2004 at the Wamboin Community Hall in Bingley Way at 7:30pm. Refreshments will be provided and everyone is welcome to come along.

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 (AH).

THE CAPTAIN'S LIST	Local businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	
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=====

Stretch / Strength / Pilates Class

Seeking interest from people who would like to participate in a Stretch / Strength / Pilates class at the local Wamboin Community Hall, Mon / Thur 6-7pm. These sessions would be under the guidance of Joy Terry, a local resident and qualified Physical Education Teacher of 14 Yrs, plus self-confessed fitness guru with personal interest in this specific area. The general concept would be: -enjoyment and relaxation amongst friends. -Improved core strength, base flexibility and general body toning. -increased self-confidence on how to maintain your fitness at home with the right knowledge on safe procedures. You would need to bring along \$2 per session, your own mat + towel and water bottle and wear comfy clothes. If this sounds like something you would genuinely like to be involved in please leave a message on 6238 3023. If there is enough interest within the community, I would like to start before the end of May.

TREVOR BARKER & ASSOCIATES
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Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin

April rainfall to 25/4	3.5mm
2004 rainfall to 25/4	74mm
(2003 to 30/4	109.5mm)
Driest May	1mm in 1982

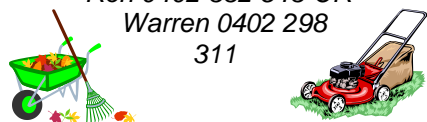
29 year statistics from the Robertsons

Hottest May day	20C 3 times
Coldest May day	3C on 29/5/00
Coldest May night	-5C on 28/5/01
Wettest May	171mm in 1995

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FOR HIRE: WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL. Bookings arranged by Joan Mason 62383258. Local Hire \$65 per use - Bond \$200. Outside Hire \$125 per use - Bond \$250. Teenage/18 year old birthdays/parties (must be supervised by parents) \$160 - Bond \$300.
ADVERTISING RATES: Local classified advertisements are free, as are announcements from community organisations and clubs. Business advertisements attract a small fee (see below) which is donated to the Wamboin Community Association. Please make your cheque out to this association, but post it to the editor. Contact editor on 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 SALE: Chaff - lucerne or wheaten. Average 30kg bags - lucerne is \$21.50 and wheaten is \$18.50. Whole oats also available at \$14.50 for a 35 kg bag. Ph: 6238 0717 and leave a message if we don't answer. Single bag orders okay.
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.
Shared accommodation, furnished, required by single business woman from September. Phone 02 6027 1887

SCOUT JOB WEEK

The annual 'Scout Job Week' is on again—May is the month (in spite of the name 'Job Week') when Scouts lend a hand to raise money for their local Scout Group. The annual event has served communities in New South Wales for over 50 years and gives Scouts and members of their local community a unique opportunity to interact and show support for each other. The 1st Wamboin Group will be out and about during May doing jobs for the community. All money raised in the local community stays in the community, to benefit young people through youth programs at Scouts. Cubs (aged 8–10) and Scouts (aged 11–14) from the 1st Wamboin Group are willing to undertake appropriate jobs anyone may have around their home or property. Scouts have even washed trains, planes and fire engines. Cubs and Scouts can undertake jobs individually or collectively, as required. Originally known as 'Bob-a-Job Week', 'Scout Job Week' is a unique community fundraising event used by Scouts to fund the purchase or maintenance of equipment, or to help fund Scouting activities such as annual camps and Jamborees. Scouts Australia recognises the enormous community support that ensures the success of Scout Job Week every year and asks families and local business to assist Scouts by providing small jobs wherever possible. If you have a job suitable for Scouts please contact Pete Harrison on 6238 3525 to organise the 'Scout Job Force'.

Notes from St Andrew's Church

It has been good to welcome some of Wamboin's newer residents to the Church recently and we hope others will come too. Services are held on the first and third Sundays of each month at 9am in the Church on the corner of Norton and Poppet Roads. We are part of the parish of St John's, Canberra and our services are conducted by clergy and Lay Ministers from St John's. If you would like to know more about the Church, please ring Robyn Robertson on 62383202 or Bronwyn Elliott on 62383359.

WAMBOIN COUNTRY GOLF CLUB - MINI MASTERS

Seems to me April is coming around faster than ever. Anyway, it was time for our annual Mini Masters event. We experienced our first play off in this, our Third Masters with Peter Greenwood head to head with Ken Gordon. After the first hole they were still even; both with a pressure bogey on the 'Hall NTP' so it was off to 'Up the Creek'. Ken's drive was a shocker, nearly taking out Hank Berlee who was officiating on another fairway. Peter made up for this by splashing his drive in the dam. He took his third shot off the tee and smacked it into the escarpment. Ken then played his groupie flash shot (with the audience watching) by hitting the near perfect 100m approach to hit and hold on the sand scrape. Two putts by Ken started the fat lady singing. The green jacket fitted Ken to perfection. As well as Ken and Peter, the following players also survived the midway cut: N Jans, G Crafter, L King, D Hubbard and T Barker.

Who else started? In the pitching competition, Larry King won a sympathy prize for the worst result (73.8m). Keith France: NTP off the mat and Ian Picker: NTP off the high tee. Trevor Barker pitched to 1.4m off a tyre and 5.1m from the bunker to take out the overall best pitching result (23.9m). In the handicap competition, Larry King posted an (handicapper take note) 11 under handicap result to take out the 'above the cut' prize. There was a welcome back to Ian Picker who took out the 'under the cut' handicap prize. I won't mention that Joan Mason (after a 6 stroke crash) was awarded the (Easter) bunny prize. Excellent trophies and meal sized nibblies were presented by Graham and Barb Heathcote from **Bungendore Foodworks**. A hard act to follow! Our thanks to Hank Berlee and Don Evans who ran the pitching competition. Lofty Mason



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Wamboin Muses by Jill Gregory

What a glorious day! The trees and shrubs were sparkling, refreshed from last night's shower, and with my arms brim full of luscious Wamboin produce from the last Saturday market of the season, and a bottle or two from the local winery clinking in my calico bag, the next step was to summon our dear neighbours from across the creek to join us for yet another long lazy Saturday afternoon lunch on the deck. In no time they had thrown off their gardening hems and swapped them for crisp, white linens and snappy, wide brimmed hats. I knew, as they stepped across the gurgling brook, following the trails carefully landscaped by the kangaroos, that they would tread lightly lest they disturb the bunnies, tucked up below, sleeping off their night's excesses. I set the table, country chic, with a bowl of tumbling roses, still sparkling with the morning dew and.....Dream on.....

It is indeed a marvellous autumn. The sky is clear, the mornings crisp, a whiff of wood smoke in the night air. The sun has lost its sting, and as the day draws to a close the sky is an artist's palette; galah sunsets one evening, rose pink and grey, and the next, mustard puffs against a blue rinse sky. But one vital element eludes us. Oh rain! Why dost thou forsake us!

When we first moved here we were looking for a bit of land with a creek and a dam, but nothing that would compel us to toil and produce a useful crop. But we did toil, and we did produce, and I bottled fruit and made jam for the first time and created 101 recipes to use the silver beet that grew and grew. We even invested in a slasher to keep the grass down and adopted two cute lambs, Lena and Bert, to help keep nature's bounty in check. However, it was not long before we were buying lucerne to feed Lena. Bert, sadly, had been attacked and killed by marauding animals. So we were buying feed for our pet lamb, and paying Dave to have her shorn each year. Each Christmas another fleece was bundled up and stored next to last years, in the loft. Then I discovered a friend who loved to spin. The other day she presented me with a bag full of beautiful soft, dark brown balls of wool. I wouldn't live anywhere else.... where else would you be forced inside, when it rains, to knit and crochet, scarves, shawls, jumpers, hats, coats, blankets..... all from the wool grown on your own land.....Dream on!

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Thanks to the persons below, Wamboin and Bywong residents have a		free community owned newsletter.	
150 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN:			
Dean Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West	18	Ph 6238 3208
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	29	Bill Owen Cooper Rd. 27
Dave Hubbard	Poppet Rd.	34	Max Klemke Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley 25
245 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:			Cathy Abell Canning Close 17
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	50	Ph 6238 3463
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	28	Margaret Heleimin Merino Vale Drive 17
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	Anne Gardner Weeroona, Norton to Majors 30
Ned Noel	13 YrCn 35Adv 10 NStks7Msc	65	David Anderson Weeroona, Majors to Denley 35
249 CO-ORDINATED 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 Montesin	Forrest Road area	50	Amanada Bryan Donnelly Road 20
Bungendore Shop	Bungendore	10	
297 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:			Ph 6238 3590
Rachael Gascoine	Brooks Creek Estate	22	Lachlan & Callum Whitford Hogan/Kestral area 11
Sue Gorham	Schofield Road	25	Len Parrish Summer Hill Rd /Bungendore Rd 32
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 Shinglehouse/ilhouse/Schfield Rds 20
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Birriwa	35	Christa Rehwinkel Macs Reef - Nwngtn to FedHwy 20
926 TOTAL			

The Stable Door By Ian Coillet A Few Ramblings

Hooray!! The sun has finally burst its warm rays this Sunday of the Anzac weekend. And yesterday, right on cue, along with the more meaningful recognition and remembrance aspects of this special period, came the familiar exclamation from the (two) four legged boys, "Come on Dad, crikey it's cold, time to fire-up the heater!". And so it came to pass, the inaugural lighting of the slow combustion heater for 2004. Apart from their moving from one site (in front of the fire) to another (on Mum & Dad's QSWB) and finally to their sheepie (formal boudoir in the laundry) – our two little dachshunds remain ensconced fireside with interruptions only for whittles, meals and walks. Just 24 hours ago, the ritual had been to follow the sun as it rotated east to west around the full length northerly oriented windows. Not so now. As winter approaches, the heater weaves its soporiferous magic. A finer artistry of Yin and Yang in front of the fire one could surely never see.

Alas, and the rabbits outside, no longer fearing for their safety, go more comfortably about their business – digging holes, dropping droppings, rapping sweet roots as they scour for scarce food and a little moisture. A while back there seemed to be large numbers of hares. In recent times I guess many of us have noticed rabbit numbers rising. Back down their ancestral line, dachshunds, being of Germanic origin, were bred to hunt badgers. For the uninitiated (including our boys), badgers look a little like a raccoon but build their home underground similar to a wombat. I expect that not too many people would know that a gathering of more than one badger is called a cete – a cete of badgers. Things being proportional, miniature dachshunds were bred for hunting rabbits and to a lesser extent foxes. Observing our boys – it's clear that the hunter's mind though willing – even with 8 dachshund feet pedal to the metal – it's hardly a match for a fleet of foot rabbit let alone a fox. Bit like a 4WD at a set of lights I expect– can drag anything off over the first 5 metres but after that..... In any case, out foxing a fox or out running a rabbit is not something we necessarily endorse on our property.

Incidentally, and finally, if the calci-virus ever did come through here, it seems we need another burst. Rabbit numbers appear to be rising. The environmental damage these critters are causing is increasingly apparent and problematic. Whatever you call the collective: a bury, colony, down, drove, husk, leash, trace, trip or warren – more than one rabbit is probably too many. I lied.....

And finally, collective nouns hold a somewhat perverse fascination – for example, the cete of badgers, a colony of rabbits. Some of the other things you may see around the district (like it or not) – a cluster of grasshoppers, a clowder or clutter of cats, a business of flies, a bunch of grapes, a buffoonery of orangutans (no names mentioned), a brood of hens (also no names mentioned), a blur of bicyclists, a blush of embarrassments, an autumn of leaves, a company of parrots, a constituency of voters (presently with a clean slate), a convention of tongues, a crash of software, a titanic of telephony, a mirage of mobile phone reception, a freeze of Northerners, a hamper of helpers, a mob of kangaroos, a pile of dung, a brigade of fireys, a raft of ducks, a round of drinks, a sprig of vegetarians, an intrigue of council members (were there any) and, of course, a wallop of Wamboinites and perhaps a bevy of Bywongonians. Perhaps you'd like to add to or modify this list? Must be a pan of critics out there?!

GIDGEE Estate Wines Oh, and finally absolutely finally – notice Kay Brett and Cheryl Lane have their vineyard Gidgee Estate Wines up for sale. You produce some great local wine – love your Janette Murray Riesling, your Ensemble and although I'm not a big Chardonnay fan, your bottling is extremely good. You've both given wonderful support to the local community. I am sure others will join me in again thanking you very much for this and particularly for your targeted contribution to the Wamboin Bush Fire Brigade to whom you donated all profits from the sale of Gidgee Estate Wines Bushfire Red Cabernet Sauvignon. That it was a sell-out is testament to the quality of your product and your marketing efforts. So, if anybody out there knows of someone in the market for a vineyard – let them know one of Wamboin's treasure troves is up for grabs. To Kay and Cheryl - go well in whatever is to be your next chapter.

Wamboin 15 years ago – from the "Whisper" of April 1989. Circulation 205 From the President's Paras :

"Last month the Community Association wrote to Telecom explaining the problems we have with our telephones. The Manager of Telecom has been in touch both by letter and phone. A lot of work is being done, and has been done recently to upgrade our facilities. I would like to hear your comments on whether your phone problems have lessened, increased or stayed the same. Telecom are interested to know and are going to keep in touch with me." - Pam Padovan.



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Hollows are used by birds, bats and tree-dwelling mammals like possums for roosting and nesting. Native grasses, rushes and sedges are important shelter and feeding areas for small ground dwelling reptiles and mammals. Understory shrubs are important feeding areas for some birds and mammals. Termite mounds are essential (not only for the termites!) but for our local goanna – the Rosenberg's monitor to lay her eggs in.

What's in it for you? Conserving habitat rewards you with natural pest control. One Straw-necked Ibis eats about 200grams of insects every day. The Sugar Glider will eat 25 scarab beetles a day, and 40-60% of the diet of crows and ravens is insects. Small insect-eating bats eat up to half their own body weight each night. Small native birds (such as robins, fantails, weebills, pardalotes, honeyeaters and butcherbirds) in a healthy habitat will control aphids, thrips, scale, lerps, flies and locusts. Source: VegNotes – NSW Dept of Land and Water Conservation, Notes for Landholders

Meeting – 7.30 Monday 10 May Community Hall – Birriwa Road (Off Macs Reef Rd) **Guest speaker** – Richard Elliott, Convener, Alternative Technologies Association ACT **Topic** – ENERGY EFFICIENCY IDEAS FOR RURAL PROPERTIES Richard, who lives on a rural property himself, will discuss practical ideas for installing renewable energy, water conservation, building a sustainable home and saving energy. For more information on solar panels, wind generators, storing electricity – batteries and making mains power etc check out the Alternative Technologies Association website at www.ata.org.au

Propagation session – 9am Saturday 5 June, 38 Birchmans Grove, Wamboin, Ring Geoff on 62369158, All welcome!

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