

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

# The Whisper

June 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 July, 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, June 27, 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	6255-1225
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
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## WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### President's Paragraphs

We had a great time last night at the Fireman's Ball. Must admit I feel a bit of an old crock today. Surely it wouldn't have anything to do with age?

The **EASTERN CAPITAL CITY LGA election** is scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> of June. Voting is compulsory. There will be a polling booth at the Bingley Way Hall. There are 22 nominees and as there are no ridings your vote will go towards deciding the best 9. Warwick Cathro and I are working together so that all candidates will be informed of our 'Meet the Candidates' evening. Residents of Bywong and Wamboin are invited to the Bingley Way Hall on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June at 7.30pm for a 'Meet the Candidates' evening. Don't worry, we will limit the presentations!

The **Wamboin Markets** will go into recess until the third Saturday in September. Although a great social event, this decision was made at the WCA May meeting due to insurance reasons, the weather, and lack of winter garden produce.

Our **Bonfire Night** scheduled for late September may have to be brought forward due to the dry weather. The drought conditions could cause the authorities to bring the fire season forward to early September. A decision will be made at our June meeting. It would be a shame if we were unable to run this event.

The **AGM** of the Wamboin Community Association is on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2004. All positions will be declared vacant. If you consider you would like to fill a position on the executive or committee, contact the returning officer; Trent Abell (6238 3390).

**Mobile Phone Towers** was the subject of a 'where we are at' presentation by Ian Coillet at our May meeting. The Geary's Gap tower will now remain at its present site while the Poppet Hill tower (which is the old microwave tower) could be commissioned next year. This tower will be of great benefit to Wamboin residents.

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

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

May rainfall to 29/5/04 8mm      2004 rainfall to 29/5/04 82.5mm  
(2003 rainfall to 31 May 135mm)      average June rainfall 58mm (June 2003 58.5mm)  
Hottest June day 17C on 7/6/01      Wettest June 138mm in 1997  
Coldest June day 4C on 28/6/93      Driest June 8mm in 1979      Coldest June night -5C on 20/6/01

**Wamboin 15 years ago – from the Whisper of June 1989 Circulation 205 Editors: The Masons**  
“1989 rainfall to end of May 605mm.”

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## MEET THE CANDIDATES

**This is your chance to meet the people who may be your new Councillors.**

Bywong and Wamboin residents are invited to the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of June at 7.30. There are no ridings and we have 22 Candidates, 5 of who are standing as Independents and the remaining 17 are grouped under 'Rural Group', 'NSW Greens' or 'Moving Forward Group'. The above/below the line voting system will be used on polling day, the 26<sup>th</sup> of June.

Since voting is compulsory this is your chance to see and hear the people who consider they should be our Councillors. Warwick Cathro and I have let the candidates know that all attending nominees will be given a set time to speak so that the total presentation, plus questions, will be about 90 minutes. At the conclusion there will be tea, coffee etc. which will give you a further chance to badger the candidates who hope to be elected so that they can serve you as Councillors. The Wamboin Hall will serve as a polling place on Election Day, the 26<sup>th</sup> of June. **There is no provision for absentee voting in this election.**

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**Notes from St Andrew's Church**

Services are held on the first and third Sundays of each month at 9am. Everyone is welcome, we hope you will want to be part of your local Church For more information please ring Robyn Robertson on 62383202 or Bronwyn Elliott on 62383359.

**WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – MAY COMPETITION RESULTS**

The May stroke competition was sponsored once again by Steve and Ruth Lambert and Lambert Wines. Naturally there were some great trophies on offer. Our thanks to Steve and Ruth and don't forget to support our sponsors. Ball winners on the day were; Dick Henley, Bob Mettam x3, Tim Barter, Rob Gorham, Steve Lambert, Ken Gordon, Bob Allan and Sue Gane. For this particular event each year there is a nice little imported wire sculpture for the NAGA award. Not sure why there is a good bottle of wine that goes with it, however Lofty obviously remembered from past years and played dead to take it home! The Nine Holers played and Deb Gordon won the event with Sue Gane in second place. (That's Wamboin golf; you can actually win an event by coming second last!) In the B Grade comp Steve Lambert came in with the best score but passed his own prize down to Bob Mettam with Charlie Montesin elevated to second. In A Grade the winner was John Whitney with Dave Hubbard in second place. Congrats to all.

-- Peter Greenwood, golfer 6238 3358.



<< Steve Lambert



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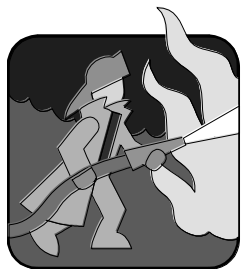
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# The Wamboin Firefighter

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

**Even though fire permits are not required now, 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



Several weeks ago, around 9:30 one Thursday night, the brigade was called out to a grass fire on Norton Road. The four crews who responded quickly extinguished the relatively small fire. Although the call out could be considered as a normal time at the office for the firefighters it was an anxious time for the residents. The fire could have caused some major damage if it reached a couple of sheds and houses. We got back to the fire shed around midnight and thought that was it for that incident. The following day we received another call to the same location where a small grass fire was well alight. It too was quickly extinguished. Before we were called four people, a young woman and three young men were seen leaving the area quickly in a blue station wagon after being challenged by a resident. Even though a similar incident has not occurred since, it is disturbing to think that we could have some arsonists in our area. We all need to be watchful and if you see anything suspicious call the police immediately on 000. Any other emergency services will then be called in

if required. If we are to catch these people the police need to be notified quickly.

After last month's regular brigade training night several of us in the brigade now believe in the existence of a malevolent gremlin with a poor sense of humour. We thought we should brush up our skills in tackling a chimney fire, revise some of our first aid procedures with an emphasis on burns, and practice our response to a motor vehicle accident. Things were going well when we received a phone call requesting our assistance at an incident in the Sutton brigade's area. One of our crews quickly responded in the Cat 1 tanker and the rest of us carried on with a slightly modified training program. After a short while we heard on the radio that our tanker was not required and was returning from the incident which had involved a chimney fire where the occupants of the house had received burns to their hands when they tried to deal with the fire. Given the universal law of things seem to happen in threes, some of us spend a tentative few hours waiting for the call out to a motor vehicle accident! Luckily the car accident didn't happen but the feeling was eerie. This month we will be practising for a house or structure fire. I hope the gremlin has the night off!

For those of you who like trivia, what company has made a very successful product that uses an adhesive that doesn't work? The answer is the 3M company, or for the trivia enthusiast, the Minnesota, Mining and Manufacturing Company, and the product is the Post-It note. Now you ask, what has this question got to do with your local fire brigade? These days we often hear a lot of bad publicity about many big companies and their reluctance to provide good customer service, especially when the customer is in the bush. Even worse we have probably heard some horror stories about the service provided by some large companies when you aren't even a customer. Well, please be seated because the 3M company has put those other companies to shame. I recently made some enquiries about how we could replace some of the old reflective stickers on the sides of the fire trucks without damaging the paintwork. After an email to the Sydney offices of 3M and a couple of phone calls later three representatives, Ian Shepherd, a Technical Service Specialist, Noel McLaughlin, a Sales Executive and Tuan Luu, a Technical Service Engineer, travelled from Sydney to our humble fire shed. Even though they had other business in the Canberra area they spent several hours experimenting with techniques that we could use to safely remove the reflective decals on the sides of our fire fighting vehicles. During their experiments they found that a new product, which was originally developed as a graffiti remover, also works as an effective adhesive remover! Although the product won't be released until later in the year keep your eye out for the non-toxic, water based spray. It looks promising. Thank you 3M.

The extension to the fire shed is progressing well, albeit a little behind schedule after our project manager broke his arm. The floor joists for the first floor and the windows are in and some modifications to the steelwork have been completed. We hope to put the roofing on and the cladding on the walls in the next couple of weeks. All of this work is being done by members of the brigade but if there are people out there in Wamboin or Bywong who have some skills they could offer - don't be bashful – come along and help. We will welcome the help.

We received some good news recently when we were notified that we would be able to use some grants to purchase pagers for our brigade members. This will drastically shorten the time it takes to contact our members during a call out.

The amalgamation of the local shires has now produced a new zone for the rural fire brigades in this area. It appears that it will be called the Lake George Zone and all the administrative processes are well underway. While this will not adversely

affect the operational capabilities of the brigades, the downside is that local brigades will have to self-fund some of their operations, namely some of their telecommunication requirements.

The brigade's annual general meeting will be held on 22 June at 7:30 pm at the Wamboin Community Hall in Bingley Way. Everyone is welcome to attend, especially for the drinks and nibblys afterwards.

It is great to report that some residents are notifying their neighbours and their brigade captain before doing a hazard reduction burn. It makes life a little easier for all involved, especially when people ring to report smoke in the area. However, please consider the weather conditions before lighting up. Even though it is cool this time of year and the humidity is relatively high, be ever mindful of the wind! It could get embarrassing when the wind picks up and spreads a small fire further than you can cope with. Even though the threat of bush fires is low at this time of year, it is the perfect time to look around your property and start thinking about preparing yourself for the next fire season. Equipment needs to be checked or repaired as well as clearing around your houses and sheds. Please don't leave it to when you see smoke on the horizon.

**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).**

<b>THE CAPTAIN'S LIST</b>	<b>Local businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade</b>	
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**GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES ACT 1966 -- NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO AMEND LOCALITY BOUNDARIES WITHIN EASTERN CAPITAL CITY REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA**

PURSUANT to the provisions of section 8 of the Geographical Names Act 1966, the Geographical Names Board hereby notifies that it proposes to amend the boundaries between address localities Bungendore, Wamboin and Bywong, as shown on map GNB3822/A. The map, shown above, may be viewed at Eastern Capital City Regional Council Office at Queanbeyan, Bungendore Library, the Community Centre at Bungendore and the office of the Geographical Names Board, Land and Property Information, Panorama Avenue, Bathurst. (Note from editor: the XXX's show the old boundary - the heavy dotted lines the new one.). Any person wishing to make comment upon this proposal may within one (1) month of the date of this notice write to the Secretary of the Board with that comment. WARWICK WATKINS, Chairperson, Geographical Names Board, PO Box 143, BATHURST NSW 2795

**ANGLICAN PARISH OF BUNGENDORE WORSHIP IN JUNE 2004 -- prepared by Mike Welch**

SUNDAY 6 JUNE - TRINITY SUNDAY  
 9:00 am, Holy Communion - Bungendore  
 11:00 am, Holy Communion - Hoskingtown  
 SUNDAY 13 JUNE - SECOND  
 SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
 9:00 am, Holy Communion - Bungendore  
 9:00 am, Holy Communion - Carwoola  
 11:00 am, Holy Communion - Tarago

SUNDAY 20 JUNE - THIRD SUNDAY  
 AFTER PENTECOST  
 8:00 am, Holy Communion - Bungendore  
 9:30 am, Holy Communion - Bungendore  
 5:00 pm, Holy Communion - Captains Flat  
 SUNDAY 27 JUNE - FOURTH SUNDAY  
 AFTER PENTECOST  
 9:00 am, Holy Communion - Bungendore  
 11:00 am, Holy Communion - Lake Bathurst



## THE STABLE DOOR

By Ian Coillet

### Mobile Phone Reception – Update

To cut a long story short – Telstra is the only telco to have responded to the Association’s submission last year in any way – and I especially thank Telstra Country Wide for doing so.

While progress is frustratingly slow, the latest I can advise is that in an email to me late April from Telstra Country Wide, a copy of which I presented to the Wamboin Community Association at its meeting in May, they advised that though funding for Poppet Hill was not secured in the last round (Qtr4 03/04), the bid...”will be resubmitted for Qtr1 - 04/05 funding where it is now much higher on the list having missed Q4 – 03/04 funding.”

So that there are no misunderstandings in the community, I would point out the Telstra email notes that “funding” typically means provision for “site acquisition, and development application approval which in some cases can take forever depending on local communities, local councils, environmental studies, land owners etc.”

The email goes on to say that...”Poppet Hill is still high on Telstra Country Wides (sic) agenda and we will be doing our utmost to ensure that it is in service as soon as practicable to provide enhanced mobile coverage to the Wamboin valley.”

So far so good. But don’t just keep your fingers crossed. With the smell of elections in the wind, and there being aspiring councillors, politicians, etc.....this is one outcome the local community needs to continue to press ahead on.

Remember the (Peter Sellers) movie ....The Mouse That Roared.....**WAMBOIN CLASSIFIEDS**

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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
<b>Trestles and chairs</b> 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.
<b>FOR SALE:</b> 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.
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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.
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### The Bungendore VIEW Club

July meeting will be held on Monday, 5 July at Artes Café from 6.45pm. The Guest Speaker will be Ros Madderall a youthful historian from Braidwood. Ros arrived in Braidwood some 50 years ago as a nurse and has remained in the district. She has compiled a history of "letters from the front" between family members servicing in the war and those that stayed in Braidwood. We look forward to a good night's entertainment and welcome members and guests. Cost is \$23 and bookings need to be made with Debbie Hudson on 62381571 by 25 June. The VIEW Club proudly supports the Smith Family. -- Robyn Barter

### VIEW CLUB comes to Bywong, Sutton & Wamboin

Join now and become part of a unique organisation for women devoted to friendship and community service. VIEW, stands for Voice, Interest and Education of Women - and is a national organisation of 27,000 women with 22 clubs in the ACT and Surrounding Region. VIEW provides an opportunity to meet other women, exchange ideas and share interests, join forum for discussion and social change, enjoy a meal, listen to a guest speaker, use leadership skills, support the disadvantaged through The Smith Family, and to have fun and build friendships. So why not come along to the Interest & Formation Meeting for a Day VIEW Club in the Bywong, Sutton & Wamboin Area, and learn more about VIEW, be involved in the decision making and naming of the new club. **WHAT: Morning Tea - Information & Formation of Day VIEW Club**  
**WHEN: Tuesday 15 June** **WHERE: Eagle Hawk Rydges Resort** **TIME: 10.00 for 10.30am.** For further information about VIEW Club or if you are unable to attend the Morning Tea but wish to join and become an Innaugural member of the new Bywong-Sutton-Wamboin Day VIEW Club --- please contact National Councillor Rhonda Spottiswood 62303338.



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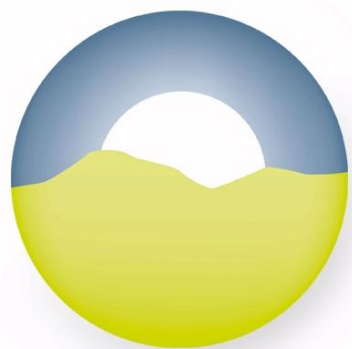
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### CANDIDATE PROFILE: TERRY BRANSDON

I'm standing to complete the unfinished business of making the Eastern Capital City Regional Council (ECCRC) a success. I'm well placed having worked for more than a year now to get a positive outcome for our residents in the Government's misguided amalgamation process. This is helping me pressure the State to honor its promises of support to make this council a "going concern".

Members of our Moving Forward Group -- Group C -- have differing political affiliations but we all are opposed to party politics in local government. We unanimously agree it's time to "move forward".

I joined Yarrawlumla Council at the 1999 elections thanks to votes from many Whisper readers, was Deputy Mayor in 1999-2000 and Mayor from September 2002 until February, then being appointed Administrator. I'll be working very closely with Mareeta Grundy to represent the Wamboin/Bywong area which has almost a third of the new council's population.

We are both part of the Group C team which is balanced with Ian Marjason and Julie Rayner also from old Yarrawlumla and Kerry Schneider and Murray Harrex from the former Tallaganda Shire. ECCRC needs a progressive, evenly-balanced council to serve you. We intend to represent the whole area fairly and aim to make this Council the best in our region, providing improved services.

Some candidates from the old Tallaganda Council claim they can ignore the legislation that requires the Queanbeyan offices to move to Bungendore and which stops the former Yarrawlumla staff moving to Braidwood. They can't. It is also illogical to suggest the smaller Braidwood office with just a couple of the Council's managers and specialists, a fraction of the new council's workload and merely a quarter of its population should house the Council's headquarters. You need your Council near you, with offices at Bungendore close to 8000-plus of our 11,000 residents.

We aren't planning to build a Taj Mahal. So don't be fooled by claims of huge debt. The new Bungendore offices will be funded from the sale of the Queanbeyan Council offices and sale of some excess council land in Bungendore. The building will be modestly similar to the existing community centre. - Regards, Terry Bransdon

### CANDIDATE PROFILE: MAREETA GRUNDY

Regarding the upcoming Council election. Of note to date, approx 70% of prospective candidates reside in the immediate Braidwood region, with only 2 candidates from the Bywong, Wamboin area. With the new Boundaries now in place, more than ever before it is critical to get a good cross sectional representation on the council. In addition there have also been recent changes made to the voting procedure for the election. There is probably a good story in this and your June issue is the last opportunity as the election is on 26 June 2004. As a resident of Bywong and a candidate for the up coming election I thought readers may be interested in reading a little about me, therefore I have attached some information.

I have worked as a senior nutritionist in public health and clinical practice until changing careers recently to become mum to Harrison 4 and Amelia 2. A country girl from western NSW, I have lived in Bywong on a small property with my family for the past 8 yrs. Having worked with consumer groups, government legislators, health authorities, and more recently children, I believe I have the right mix to represent you well with accountability and sincerity. I am a keen community participant. eg. key organiser of the Bungendore Charity Ball for the past six years, and have been an active voice in local issues over the years. My fundamental belief is that ratepayers deserve independent representation on Council so that the assets of a rural lifestyle can be protected while *real* opportunities for the *whole* community are recognised. I believe that I can achieve this balance for all of us. My objective will be to ensure I successfully address the issues that drive you, the community. Issues such as

- Streamlining customer service from the council
  - Ensuring financial stability
  - Targeting Inefficiency and waste
  - Ensuring sensible and sensitive development, and
  - Promoting community cohesiveness
- As a newcomer to local government, I won't be making blind electoral promises. But I will bring to the job -- honesty & integrity  
 a willingness to listen -- an inquiring, independent and analytical mind, and -- a vigorous debate style



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Some 1st Wamboin cubs who attended a Scout Job Week Activity - rockpicking, at Glynda Bluhm's property, Alpaca Magic during May. In the photo from left to right are Mitchell Keenan, Alana Aunela, Connor Sadow, Graeme Searle.

**Bungendore Park Tennis Club**

Club championships report for doubles competitions. The doubles championships were held on Sunday 16 May. The increased field of entrants saw play begin at 10.00 am and continue through until after 4.00 pm, with events contested for Ladies, Men and Mixed pairs. The contests were tight and lengthy and the shadows were growing longer. The lights nearly had to be turned on. The ladies club champions are Jenny Harrison & Donna Bayley on 24 points, from Rebecca Wheeler & Mel Mears scoring 14 points in a round robin format. The men's champions are Dean Wheeler & Keith Foulds who defeated John Windsor & Damien Robinson 6-1, 6-0. The plate competition was won by David Watson & Bruce Hughes over father and son combination Gordon and Tony Harrison 7-5, 6-3. In the mixed competition, Rosie Windsor & Lance Rees scored a win over Dean & Rebecca Wheeler 6-1, 6-0. Unfortunately Rebecca was all "tennis-ed-out" by this stage and she retired hurt during the second set. The mixed plate competition saw Ros & Bruce Hughes prevail over Donna Bayley & Andy Burbidge 6-3, 6-0. The President, Bruce Hughes thanked the players for their participation and said that the day was a success because of the way people shared all the jobs on the day. A presentation/social tennis day will be organised in the near future. - Bruce Hughes

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Thanks to the persons below, Wamboin and Bywong residents have a

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150 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN:		Ph 6238 3208	
Dean Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West	18	Bill Owen Cooper 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-ORDINATED 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-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 Monetesin	Forrest Road area	50	Amanada Bryan Donnelly Road 20
Bungendore Shop	Bungendore	10	
323 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	26	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 30
Sheryl Barnes	Quinn's Estate / Denley	15	168
926 TOTAL			

# IF ONLY THEY COULD TALK

A series by local vet, Dr Garry McComb

## INTRODUCED SPECIES

Since European settlement of Australia there have been many introductions of foreign plants and animals. Some of these have been beneficial to us and the environment however many have been ecological disasters. In the 1800s rabbits were introduced to provide a species for sporting hunters. The rabbits, having no natural predators, soon multiplied and overran the country. Foxes were also introduced for the benefit of fox hunters. Prickly pear was introduced as an ornamental plant and became so established that it ruined millions of acres of Queensland in the early 1900s. Fortunately an insect called cactoblastis which ate the prickly pear was a controlled successful introduction. Paterson's Curse was another disastrous ornamental plant introduction.

Recently I saw an interesting program on TV about feral cats. Apparently thousands of cats were deliberately released in rural areas of Australia in the mistaken belief that they would control mice plagues. Cats have no natural predators in Australia and our own native species have no or very little defenses against these carnivores. Hence we have a significant feral cat problem and as a result, a declining population of native animals and birds.

The American giant toad (known to us as the cane toad) is a native of Mexico and was introduced into north Queensland from Hawaii in 1935. It was introduced for the biological control of the cane beetle prior to the development of suitable chemical controls. Once again there are no natural predators and the cane toad's spread across Australia is a very serious problem. It seems that the only threat to the cane toad is that very small space between the bitumen and the tyres of a vehicle.

Wild pigs are another serious problem and a source of a potential disaster if Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) reaches our shores - perhaps that should not be "if" but when FMD invades our country. We frequently have to suture pig dogs (usually in the middle of the night). They can be nice dogs but some of their owners are rather lacking in the brain department. Many years ago a pig hunter told me that when they catch a litter of piglets, they bring them back and release them closer to town. That way the hunters won't have to drive long distances for their night of entertainment in the future. Ecological vandalism.

The dingo, Australia's only native dog, will be extinct within 50 years due to cross-breeding with domestic and feral dogs. Hybridisation leads to bigger dingoes which are less afraid of people and potentially more of a threat to humans. They also produce larger litters and consume greater numbers of native wildlife.

Why am I so annoyed about these introductions? Because it is still going on. Apparently foxes have now been introduced to Tasmania, no doubt by "sporting" shooters wanting a new target. I find it hard to understand the mentality of such people. I suppose the foxes will help clean up the remains of the dwindling Tasmanian Devil population - two thirds of which will be gone by 2006 because of a new disease causing facial tumours. But that's another story.



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### Wamboin Muses -- Jill Gregory

I have spent the last couple of weeks on the other side of our "wide brown land", helping my mother, just this side of ninety, move from her retirement home of thirty plus years to a compact unit in a beautifully landscaped "village" where autumn had barely touched the gardens and the roses still bloomed. My parents had downsized when they retired, moving from a roomy "hills" house to a cottage on five acres in the bush. At the time of their move they were too busy to do much sifting and sorting and so took everything with them. Thirty years later, being the original "greenies", they had all that they'd taken, and much more. They'd always believed that everything, in time, could be recycled, and I helped complete the task they'd begun!

So I was a little weary when I left, mission accomplished, but eager to be home. I was greeted by a tangle of grey green bush, in stark contrast to the more vibrant greens of the marris and jarrahs of the Perth hills. And as I walked down the garden path I was taken aback to see that the flower beds had been over run by something akin to a rampant Victa. Nothing, save the stalks of some violets and a few strands of aromatic rosemary stood above the closely cropped plants. The ravenous rabbits and consuming kangaroos had had a picnic. I could have fallen into deep despair, but was saved by the golden glory of the crab apples and elms, and a sprinkling of red and russet from claret ash and prunus. And over the next few days I saw two robin red breasts, my first blue wren of the season flitting from bush to bush, and a black bird with its brown mate scattering the wrinkled leaves under the shrubs. On one morning walk I disturbed a flock of black cockatoos in a tree, and they screeched indignantly, lifting themselves lazily and sliding across the sky like folds of black velvet. The elm suddenly dropped all its leaves, spreading a circle of gold beneath its boughs, and I saw my first winter Irises peeping through. Autumn is never half hearted in our part of the world. So we've been busy raking leaves and mulching long forgotten cuttings, filling compost bins and recycling natures treasures.

Having the space to store and eventually find a new life for something is one of the great joys of living here. You see, we downsized and moved here when my husband retired and being much too busy at the time to sift and sort, brought everything with us.

We couldn't live anywhere else.....where else could you simply add on another shed to store all your treasures and more, so that one day your children, too, may experience the joys of recycling!



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