

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

# The Whisper

September 2004 CIRCULATION: 983

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 September, 2004 edition of the Wamboin Whisper will be welcome, and should be submitted to by email to [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or dropped into his mailbox at 17 Reedy Creek Place. The deadline for the next issue is always the last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for next month the deadline is Sunday, September 26, 2004, 7:00 pm.

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

Queanbeyan Police 6298-0599 Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre 6238-3396 Ambulance Bookings 131233

**WAMBOIN FACILITIES AND CONTACTS**

<b>Wamboin Community Assn</b>	Lofty Mason	President	6238-3258
<b>Bywong Community Assn</b>	Warwick Cathro	President	6236-9187
<b>Fire Brigade</b>	Cliff Spong	Captain	040-999-1340 bh 6236 9220 ah
<b>Landcare</b>	Jacqui O'Leary	President	6236-9157
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238-1333
<b>Breastfeeding Assoc.</b>	Lisa Whitney	Community Educator	6238 3059
<b>Emergency Services</b>	NSW Call Centre	Staff	132-500
<b>Emergency Services Admin</b>	Colin Brown	Controller	6238-1067
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Peter Greenwood	JP	6238-3358
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Keith France	JP	6238-3596
<b>Wamboin Cubs</b>	Peter Harrison	Leader	6238-3525
<b>Wamboin Guides</b>	Rosemary Riley	Contact Person	6297-7632
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Maureen Purdie	Secretary	6238-3343
<b>Gearys Gap Pony Club</b>	Penny Gibson	Contact Person	6236-9363
<b>Play Group</b>	Rebecca Jefferys	Convenor	6255-1225
<b>Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason	Bookings	6238-3258
<b>Church, Anglican</b>	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238-3202
<b>Christian Prayer Group</b>	Steve & Imelda Taylor	Contacts	6238-3220
<b>Golf</b>	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238-3358
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare	Helpline	6299-1966

**THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS**

Fiona Skea, babysitting .....	6238-3290
Rebecca Purdie, babysitting and petsitting .....	6238-3343
Damien Montesin, petsitting, odd jobs .....	6238-3208
Frank Deveson, bicycle maintenance .....	6238-3294
Elle Greet, fully experienced babysitter, loves children .....	6238 0129

Macs Reef Tip Hours 7:30 am to 5:00 pm Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon (to 7 pm Sat - Sun in daylight saving time) closed Tue-Wed-Thurs

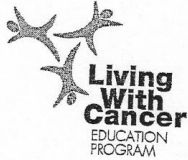


now

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## Living With Cancer

Queanbeyan Community Health, in conjunction with Cancer Council, Victoria, would like to announce the commencement of the "Living With Cancer Education Program". This free eight week programme provides information and support for people with cancer, their family and their friends.

The program provides the opportunity to improve skills in:

- coping better with treatments and side effects
- making informed decisions
- communicating with the health care team as well as with family and friends
- self care including diet, exercise and relaxation

Trained health professionals will facilitate the course along with guest speakers who are experts in their fields.

Enquiries welcome. Please phone Theresa, community nurse for Bungendore, on 6298 9233 or Southern Area Health Service on 6299 6199. – Heather Graham, Bungendore Community Nurse

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

August rainfall to 29/8 (2003 to 31/8)	26mm 76mm	2004 rainfall to 29/8 (2003 to 31/8)	139.5mm 316.5mm
Average Sept rainfall	66.1mm		
Wettest Sept	146mm in 1978	Hottest Sept day	24C on 18/9/81
Driest Sept	6mm in 1994	Coldest Sept day	5C on 4/9/82
Wettest Sept day	48mm on 19/9/85	Coldest Sept night	-2C on 4/9/00

### Wamboin 15 years ago – from the "Whisper" of August 1989.

Circulation 210 Editors – The Nordsvans (Reproduced by Robyn Robertson)

#### “WAMBOIN WASTE WATCH !!

Avoid plastic packaging. Toxic wastes are a by-product of plastics manufacture. And most plastics don't break down. We just can't keep burying our plastic. Take a shopping basket to the shops, or, if you already have a lot of plastic bags, don't throw them away, put them back in the car and re-use them next time you go shopping. If everyone planted just one tree we would reduce tons of the carbon dioxide which is currently adding to the greenhouse effect.”

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## Don't forget

**Wamboin Community  
Association's  
Annual Bonfire and  
Fireworks Display  
By  
RED-BACK FIREWORKS**



**Wamboin Community Centre,  
Bingley Way, Wamboin**

**Saturday 18th September 2004**

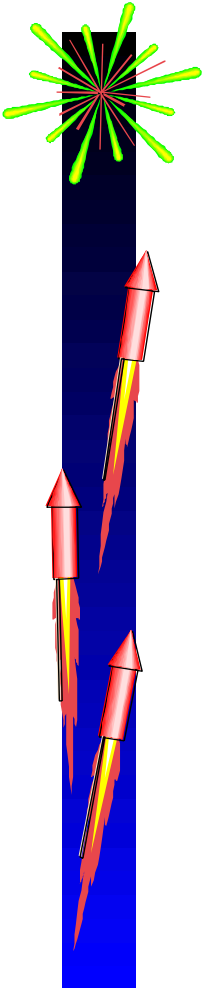
**Food stalls from 6.00  
Bonfire lit at 6.33 and  
Fireworks light-up 7.03 precisely**

**Support local community groups,  
including Wamboin Community Association,  
Church, Fire Brigade, Cubs, Guides, Scouts,  
Pony Club, Play Group, - who will run their  
traditional**

**Stalls of Hot Dogs, Gluhwein, Soups,  
Sausages, Chips, Steak and Bacon  
Egg Sangers, Pies, Baked Spuds,  
Glo Sticks, Cold Soft Drinks, Tea,  
Coffee and other Beverages**

**Adults \$4, Children \$2 or  
Family \$10**

**Please note: by law the only fireworks allowed will be  
the display by RED-BACK FIREWORKS.**



## IF ONLY THEY COULD TALK

A series by local vet, Dr Garry McComb BVSc QDAH

Recently the editor of one of the newsletters that we contribute to asked me to write an article on kangaroo behaviour. Suggestions for topics are always welcome, however initially I was very reluctant to become involved in the great controversy of the Googong cull. My decision was changed a couple of weeks ago when The Canberra Times published a story about "unprovoked attack by a killer roo" on a woman whose dog "loved to chase the kangaroos". At the time of the unprovoked attack the dog had a mouthful of kangaroo tail and the woman was "bashing the roo's head with a branch" - unprovoked????

I have had almost 50 year's association with kangaroos and have seen both sides of the coin - and also the rough edges. As a child I hand reared several joeys and have kept them as pets. I certainly understand and appreciate the time, enjoyment and satisfaction that raising a joey involves. I also recall the great sadness when a joey died. In 1969, *on a working trip around the outback*, I worked with professional shooters in Western Queensland. On this particular property they had been very selectively shooting for either skins or meat for 10 years and had not noticed any difference in numbers.

Every so often a wet dog with extensive skin and muscle lacerations is presented at our Hospital. The owners are usually very puzzled as to the cause. The answer is that the dog was chasing a kangaroo. Usually when roos are under stress they seem to lose the plot and even forget how to jump over a fence. However if they are able to get to water they are good swimmers and if the dog follows, the roo will attempt to grab the dog and drown it, if not just rip it up.

The ACT Government has some interesting theories and policies regarding Eastern Grey Kangaroos which are so abundant that each year thousands are shot under permit on rural leases in the ACT. Meanwhile there is a strong interest within the community in rearing orphaned joeys of Eastern Greys. To shoot the mothers, rear the joeys, then release them to be shot makes no sense ecologically. Here then is an apparent conflict between on one hand, animal rights and the interests of the individual animal, and on the other hand, ecologically based management of the population. In the ACT, permits may be issued to rear any kangaroo or wallaby species except Eastern Grey Kangaroos. In NSW only Wildcare or WIRES carers are permitted to rear native animals including Eastern Greys.

Hand reared animals sometimes behave toward humans as if the humans were members of the animal's species. This includes hand reared male kangaroos which may show such behaviour when the animal reaches sexual maturity or is in its final years. Descriptions of the kangaroo behaviour associated with some so-called "attacks" on humans by male kangaroos corresponds better with pre-copulatory behaviour rather than aggressive behaviour. Rearing and releasing male roos may be creating a danger that may not be evident for many years. During the recent Googong cull, the ACT relaxed its policy and issued permits for some 10 - 12 female orphaned joeys to be reared by Wildcare members.

Due to the severe drought many native animals are hungry and weak. Just because they don't hop away doesn't mean that they want to be approached. If their space is invaded, they may launch an attack which is more fear related than an expression of aggression. Because of the shortage of feed and water, roos are coming into our gardens and onto our road sides and thereby into closer contact with us. Kangaroos don't understand rotational grazing and will always find the best feed. The situation is not going to improve while there are so many roos. Never have we seen so many dead roos by the roadside - at an average damage bill of \$3000 per "hit" (another \$2000 - 8000 if your airbag is activated), panel beating is a trade with a future. Always keep a safe distance from roos and don't turn your back on them, especially large males. And remember, always keep your dog under control or it may bite off more than it can chew.

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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 (Wamboin Brigade's website is [www.wamboin-fireshed.com](http://www.wamboin-fireshed.com))

**The Fire Season has started. Fire permits are now required if you want to burn off or light fires in the open. Adequate precautions must be taken if fires are lit in the open. Your neighbours and your fire brigade captain need to be notified 24 hours before you light up.**

## From the Captain's Desk



It's that time of the year again folks! Even though we have just had the best rainfall for many months, the fire season has been declared a month earlier than normal due to the unfavourable weather and fuel conditions. All the signs point to a potentially busy season this time and people should not be surprised if we do not issue fire permits whenever a request is received. The permits will not be issued automatically. A hazard reduction certificate will also be required before a fire permit is issued if the burn involves creating firebreaks or limited land clearing, for example. Please contact Chris Quinn, the Fire Mitigation Officer at the Lake George Emergency Control Centre on 6297 1840 about the hazard reduction certificates.

There are strict conditions to be adhered to if a fire permit is issued. When a request is made the Senior Deputy Captain, Andrew Dunn, or I will make an assessment of the proposed burn site, what has to be burnt and the available fire fighting equipment, as well as the predicted weather conditions. The permit will be only issued for the day of a proposed burn and the person who is issued the permit must contact their neighbours 24 hours **BEFORE** the burn. In addition they must ring me before lighting up and when the fire has been extinguished. The person will be required to stay with the fire at all times and if the fire gets away and travels into adjoining properties the person lighting the fire will be responsible for any and all damage. The person must also completely extinguish the fire. The permits can be cancelled at any time if conditions become unfavourable. There are substantial fines if the conditions are breached. I cannot apologise if this all sounds a little harsh but recent local history should remind everyone of the consequences of bushfires in our region.

If you notice a fire at any time please call 000. Phoning 000 is the quickest way to get the right help for any type of emergency in rural areas. The 000 emergency number is first answered by Telstra with the question "...which service do you require Police, Fire or Ambulance? In the case of a fire or incident requiring a fire service, the call is put through to one of 4 control centres run by NSW Fire Brigades. These call centres have direct lines not only to their own stations, but to the 140 Rural Fire Service Districts across NSW. Public calls for assistance should not be made directly to a NSW Rural Fire Service district office or Fire Control Centres or to rural fire brigades of their volunteer members. This action, has not as yet, but could, lead to a delayed response or inappropriate resources being sent.

New membership procedures have come into effect for anyone wishing to join the Rural Fire Service. When someone applies there are the inevitable forms to be filled in, representatives of the local brigade will interview him or her, the members of the brigade will have to approve the application, and a criminal record check will be carried out. I should stress that the results of the criminal record check will never be released to anyone in the local brigade or the fire control centre. This new process should not put anyone off from joining a brigade, as apart from the criminal record check, the new procedures are just formalising what has been done in the past.

A grant the Brigade recently received was made available through NRMA Insurance and their 2004 Community Help Grants Program. The Brigade received \$4032 to upgrade our emergency callout system through the purchase of 25 pagers and batteries. These pagers are being issued to active members of the Brigade who wish to be able to quickly respond to fires and other emergencies.

Within 10 days of the issue of the pagers they were used for callouts on three occasions, the first two on Monday 9 August, of which one included a semi-trailer fuel tanker which overturned and exploded on the Federal Highway, part of our new area of responsibility. The callout to this incident was at 11.30 at night and the Brigade was able to respond with three tankers and three other vehicles fully manned within a record time for such a major incident. The members were out until about 3.30 am before returning to bed. Generally, depending on the number of vehicles needed to respond to any incident, response times have improved by about 8 to 15 minutes over our original phone callout system. This is a remarkable improvement in an emergency response activity. A much improved response time to a fire or motor vehicle accident in a rural area is a tremendous bonus to the local communities.

The Brigade is very appreciative of the NRMA Insurance 2004 Community Help grants program for their assistance with providing these pagers.

The new pagers were given another workout on Sunday 29 August following a bad car crash on Sutton Road (shown here in a picture taken by Peter Greenwood). Just as the crews were returning home from that incident the pagers went off again following reports to 000 of a suspected house fire. The new pagers allowed us to quickly respond to both incidents and have members in reserve if either incident escalated.

Please check the brigade's website ([www.wamboin-fireshed.com](http://www.wamboin-fireshed.com)) for timely advice, helpful hints, and a few laughs.



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).  
**REMEMBER: EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE GRAND OPENING OF THE EXTENSION TO THE FIRE SHED**  
 – 2pm ON SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER, 112 BINGLEY WAY, WAMBOIN.

THE CAPTAIN'S LIST			Local businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade		
A'Hern Fitness at the Airport	Congari Bookkeeping & Business Services	Inland Trading Co (Aust)			
AAA Water Carriers	Eureka Plants Pty Ltd	Overdene Excavations Pty Ltd			
Anytime Backhoe Hire	Horizon Real Estate	Ratz Mobile Welding			
Capital Business Services	FH Office Services	So Good Sausages Pty Ltd			
Clare Valley Tree Services	France Harrison & Associates	Sutton Real Estate			
Cross Country Construction	Gidgee Estate Winery	Tipton Shopfitters Pty Ltd			
		Trevor Barker & Associates			

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.
Dave Hubbard	Poppet Rd.	34	Max Klenke Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley
235 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:			
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	50	Cathy Abell Canning Close
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	28	Ph 6238 3463
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	Margaret Heleimin Merino Vale Drive
Ned Noel	13 YrCn 35Adv 10 NStk7Msc	55	Anne Gardner Weeroona, Norton to Majors
249 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER:			
Colleen Foster	Joe Rocks to Norton	20	David Anderson Weeroona, Majors to Denley
Antonette Stockdale	Yalana East	34	Ph 6238 3489
Bernie Reardon	Clare Lane	8	Ruth Lambert Yalana West
Lyle Monetesin	Forrest Road area	50	Rob Gorham South End - Clare Valley
Bungendore Shop	Bungendore	10	Pauline Segeri North End - Clare Valley
179 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:			
Sheryl Barnes	Quinn's Estate / Denley	15	Amanada Bryan Donnelly Road
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Birriwa	35	Ph 6238 3590
Ann Platts	Denley/Birchman's Area	26	Lachlan & Callum Whitford Hogan/Kestral area
Christa Rehwinkel	Macs Reef - Nwngtn to FedHwy	30	Rhett Cox Macs Reef /Nwngtn to FdHwy
170 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON			
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Morag Cotsell Newington/Harriot
Len Parrish	Summerhill Rd Area	32	Ph 6236 9609
Sue Gorham	Schofields Rd Area	25	Rachel Gascoine Snow Gum Rd Area
Sue Aunella	Doust/Wyoming/Brooks	25	Laura Snowdon Hogan Drive Area
TOTAL 983			Thelma Martin Shinglehouse Rd area

 <p><b>D &amp; K</b> CONCRETING 0410 021 097</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- driveways</li> <li>- footpaths</li> <li>- garages</li> <li>- house slabs</li> <li>- footings</li> <li>- spray on</li> <li>- stencil</li> </ul> <p>Reliable, friendly service</p>	<p>★ <b>Designer Kidz</b>                  New to Bungendore                  2004 Spring/Summer range of                  quality clothing for children (000–16)                  and ladies (6–20)                  To find out more, please contact                  Gleana Frost on 6238 0090</p>
<p><b>Garden Design and Installation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brand new gardens and existing garden makeovers</li> <li>• Specialising in native and low water use gardens</li> <li>• Supplying quality plants, materials &amp; labour at good prices</li> <li>• Qualified, Insured and Experienced</li> </ul> <p>Jonathan White, The Ecological Gardener                  Phone: 6238 2342</p>	<p><b>Quality Lucerne Hay                  For Sale Local Area                  Phone 0408 486799</b></p>

**The Stable Door – by Ian Coillet -- WHAT'S IN A NAME?**

Came across a little book a few months back called **The Meaning of Liff** by Douglas Adams and John Lloyd. It's a weird antic these guys are up to but one that offers the reader lots of opportunities for a chuckle.

As the authors observe, "there are many hundreds of common experiences, feelings, situations and even objects which we all know and recognise, but for which no words exist. On the other hand, the world is littered with many thousands of spare words which spend their time doing nothing but loafing about on signposts pointing at places. Our job as we see it, is to get these words down off the signposts and into the mouths of babes and sucklings and so on, whereby they can start earning their keep in everyday conversation and make a more positive contribution to society." Now most of the words that follow have a distinct Anglo Saxon flavour but your enjoyment hopefully will be no less.

"Does the sensation of Tingrith make you yelp? Do you bend sympathetically when you see someone Ahenny? Can you deal with a Naugatuck without causing a Toronto? You are almost certainly familiar with all these experiences, but just didn't know that there are words for them. Well, in fact there aren't – or rather there weren't, until Douglas Adams and John Lloyd decided to plug these egregious linguistic lacunae by getting a few beers and a notebook and sitting on the beach for a couple of weeks. They quickly realised that just as there are an awful lot of experiences that no one has a name for, so there are a lot of awful names of places you will never need to go to." Here's a few more examples and explanations from the book:

LIFF	A common object or experience for which no word yet exists
TINGRITH	The feeling of silver paper against your fillings
AHENNY	The way people stand when examining other people's bookshelves
NAUGATUCK	A plastic sachet containing shampoo, polyfilla, etc, which is impossible to open except by biting off the corners
TORONTO	Generic term for anything which comes out with a gush despite all your careful efforts to let it out gently, eg. flour into a white sauce...
BEDMINSTER	Whoever has first choice of which side of the bed they sleep on
DUTCH NECK	The turtleneck you only wear after getting a hickey
EWAN	Brown snow hanging from the bottom of the car
GWATT	The kind of person who says "Crikey!" or "Righty-ho!"
LOWER SQUANKUM	A chair squeak that you hope everyone will realise came from the chair
MANTUA	A surprisingly large intact potato chip hidden at the bottom of the bag with the crumbs
NETAWAKA	Someone who, despite reassuring everyone that of course they have an e-mail address, checks their e-mail only once a month, and rarely, if ever, uses the world-wide web. If so, then mostly on a friend's computer or via their own 14.4 modem

Drawing things back to a local level, here's one suggestion (got this off the Web):

To do a NORTON	To take the last one of something someone else was queuing up for or to be the victim of the same
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If you've seen a signposted name in the Bywong/Wamboin area which appears to have no official meaning (or you'd like to offer an alternate meaning) please submit your effort to me via email at [lodestar@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lodestar@ozemail.com.au) I'd be happy to include your contribution/s in a future edition of The Stable Door. (Only proviso is your explanation not be offensive as adults sometimes read The Wamboin Whisper.)



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**Email: sbarker@justinternet.com.au**

### Notes from St Andrew's Church

Services are held at 9am in the Church on the corner of Norton and Poppet Roads on the first and third Sundays of each month. Morning tea after the service gives us the opportunity to know each other better. We would be very pleased to see you and your family, especially if you are new to Wamboin. Services are held at St Peter's in Sutton at 8.15am on the second and fourth Sundays. If you would like to know more about the Church please phone Robyn Robertson on 62383202 or Bronwyn Elliott on 62383359.


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### Council Decides its Choice for New Name

Eastern Capital City Regional Council has decided to recommend Palerang Council as its new name. Proponents said Palerang is succinct, simple and taken from a mountain in the Great Dividing Range that separated the former Yarrawlumba and Tallaganda Shires. They say Palerang rolls off the tongue and it certainly is easier to say than the interim name given to us on February 11 when the former councils were dissolved. It will be great having a name that relates to our area and we look forward to being able to market Palerang Council to our residents and more widely across the State. Not a lot of people know the Palerang Mountain, but a bit of branding will soon overcome that. We'll be recommending Palerang Council to the Minister for Local Government Tony Kelly, who makes the final decision. – Terry Bransdon, Mayor

### Bungendore Riding Club

Bungendore Riding Club is a recently formed Club for horse riders aged 18 years and over. The Club meets once a month at the Bungendore Showgrounds and provides activities including instruction in riding/dressage/showjumping and cross country by qualified local and regional instructors. All standards of riders from beginners to advanced are catered for. The Club enjoys a close relationship with Bungendore Pony Club who generously allows us to use their equipment. As well as providing quality instruction at very reasonable prices, the Club organizes other fun activities and from time to time, trail rides. The Club's rally day on 22 August 2004 was a great success. Simon Kale provided the Club's first clinic on eventing. Simon is a NCAS EFA level 3 instructor as well as one of Australia's top international 3 day eventers and successful coaches. As well as providing quality instruction, Simon was entertaining and encouraging. Members had a chance to socialise over a sausage sizzle lunch put on by the Club.

The next rally day is on 26 September 2004. The activities for this day include showjumping instruction and fun activities. Club membership for the next 12 months falls due on 1 October 2004. The Annual General Meeting will be held on 9 September 2004. The Club will be holding its inaugural "Chicken" One Day Event on 24 October 2004. This event will be open to the public. Contact Marty Walsh on 62 36 9534 or [martywalsh@bigpond.com](mailto:martywalsh@bigpond.com) for entry forms. With thanks to our sponsors – John Shortt Custom Saddler, Canberra Tradesman's Union Club, Horizon Real Estate and Bungendore Veterinary Hospital. New members and sponsors are always welcome – enquiries to the Secretary, Helen Blain on 6238 2467.

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## GearysGap/Wamboin Landcare

by Jacqui O'Leary

At last month's meeting, **Ross Bennett, Director of the Australian Reptile Centre** educated us with a slide show and talk about the frogs in our local area. The first time I met Ross was almost 20 years ago when I lived in Holt. We discovered in our garden a large goanna. Not knowing what it was or indeed if it could be as dangerous as it appeared, we trapped it with an up-turned shopping trolley and called the ACT Parks and Conservation Service. Ross arrived feeling very sceptical about the size we had claimed our lizard to be.

Scepticism turned to delight when he discovered that what we had found, was in fact a **Rosenberg's Monitor** (*Varanus rosenbergi*) previously thought not to exist in the area. This monitor is one of the rapidly disappearing species in our region. The pressure of rural sub-divisions fragmenting their habitat -range and the threat from dogs, foxes and feral cats is having a devastating effect. Being a large species they need a range of up to 1000ha, making connected wildlife corridors all the more important to allow them free range. They are listed as being a vulnerable species in NSW and Warwick Smith -of the ANU is interested in any sightings in this area. You can contact him at [warwick.smith@anu.edu.au](mailto:warwick.smith@anu.edu.au)

Ross gave us an excellent presentation about local frogs in the area. Frogs are a good indicator of the health of the environment, and frog species and numbers are declining throughout the world. Possible reasons include increasing ultra violet and pollution, loss of wetlands and the widespread chytrid fungus. We can encourage frogs simply by fencing off part of our dams, thereby encouraging the growth of native vegetation.

One species calling loud and clear at the moment is the tiny Common Eastern Froglet (*Crinia signifera*). Just 20-30mm, it has a repetitive 'crick crick crick crick crick' call. Like most frogs it shows a great deal of variation in colour,



markings and size. It can be predominantly grey or brown or black, with dark bands, irregular patches or vertical stripes of any of these colours. Other common frogs in this area include the Spotted Marsh (or Grass) Frog, Striped Marsh Frog, Peron's Tree Frog and Eastern Banjo Frog or Pobblebonk. Ross told us that this large frog (over 70mm in size) has been mistaken for a cane toad (which is not found in this area). The distinctive loud 'bonk' of calling males is commonly heard both day and night.

**Plant propagation** takes place at 9am on the 1st Saturday morning of each month at 38 Birchmans Grove, Wamboin. These mornings provide an ideal opportunity to learn about growing native plants and what is suitable for your property and your particular needs. Come when you

are able and stay only as long as you have the time. Next sessions are: 4 September, 2 October, 6 November and 4 December.

**Next meeting + AGM – 7.30 Monday 13 September.** Community Hall, Birriwa Rd Bywong (Off Macs Reef Rd). TOPIC: Corridors for Birds. GUEST SPEAKER: Stuart Johnson who has worked for TransGrid in conjunction with Greening Australia will talk about planting up powerline easements and other native vegetation corridors to provide habitat for birds. He will explain which plants are suitable to be planted in these easements and which birds particular plants might attract.

**Donation to Bungendore Library** Following our last meeting's talk on frogs by Ross Bennett, it is appropriate that our contribution to the Bungendore Library this month is his book Reptiles and Frogs of the Australian Capital Territory published by National Parks Assoc in 1997 [This beautifully presented book combines concise descriptions with superb photography to allow accurate identification of all fifty reptiles and fifteen frogs found in the region. Additional information describes their distribution and gives an insight into their private and often complex life-histories.](#)

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### Bywong Community News

by Morag Cotsell

**Car Boot Sale donations** The Community has made donations to Wamboin Bush Fire Brigade (\$1,000), the local Girl Guides (\$200), Sutton Bush Fire Brigade (\$200) and the Bungendore Park Tennis Club (\$100) from the proceeds of the March Car Boot Sale. The date for next year's Car Boot Sale has been moved to Sunday 20 March to avoid a clash with Easter.

**Spring Bushwalk** A bushwalk is planned for early October along the Lake George escarpment. Watch the Community's notice boards for details.

**October bush dance** The Community has decided to schedule this popular event for spring. Saturday October 23 is the day, and the live music starting at 7.30 pm will again be provided by a full range of musical instruments played by the now well-known Monaro Folk musicians. This is an occasion for all the family. Bring drinks and a supper plate to share. We provide tea and coffee. Watch the Community notice boards for reminders, or ring Morag on 6230 3523 if you want more information.

**Trivia night** July again saw stiff competition from local and regional trivia teams for the Bywong Challenge shield - won not for the first time by "XX" from Bungendore. The Wamboin table did not disgrace itself and judging by the noise emanating from their table, they appeared to enjoy the evening.

**Election of office bearers for 2004/5** The Annual General Meeting held on 16 August re-elected Warwick Cathro as President, Jean-Pierre Favre as Vice-President and Judith Miller as Secretary. Sue Gorham agreed to continue serving as Treasurer until someone can be found to take on this job. The meeting elected the following committee members: Morag Cotsell, Diana Dack, Warwick Dix, Mareeta Grundy, Sue Gorham, Erwin Feeken. Guy Cotsell will continue as Public Officer.

**Next meeting** The next general meeting of the Community will take place at 7.30 pm in the Community Hall on Monday 18 October. The Community welcomes attendance at any of its meetings by anyone who lives in the locality.

You are all invited

**The Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade  
invites all residents of Wamboin and Bywong  
to the  
GRAND OPENING  
of the extension to the Wamboin Fire Station.**

The extension has been built by the members of the brigade thanks to the generous donations of cash, time and materials by the local Wamboin and Bywong communities and various businesses.

Our local Federal member, Gary Nairn, will open the extension at the Fire Station, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin at 2.00pm on  
Sunday 10 October 2004.

Refreshments will be provided.

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## Spring Fair 2004

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When : Sunday 7 Nov 2004

from 10am – 2pm

Where : Bungendore Primary School

What : Auction (incl. Antiques)

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**2. Advertising** – don't pay separately for advertising. Many agents lower their commission rates but ask you to pay for advertising. If they don't sell because they have been ineffective at their job or they suggested an inflated marketing price then they have nothing to lose, you pay their advertising bill. **We, on the other hand, will list your home on five web sites and advertise your property in the Canberra Times every week, with a photo, until sold and we do not charge for advertising. Our commission covers all costs, but if we fail to sell your home you don't pay a cent.**

**3. Commitment** – don't sign an agency agreement that locks you into an extended marketing period. Why would an agent need to lock you in if they were competent at their job. If they don't perform you can't fire them, you are committed for the 1, 2 or 3 month period you have signed up for. **At Sutton Real Estate you can give us same day notice at any time for any reason, no strings attached.**

**4. Service** – How many salespeople are you employing to sell your home? With all other agencies that we are aware of, the answer is **one**. That one salesperson that lists your home also takes the photo's, puts up signs, writes the ads, writes the editorial, attempts to answer every enquiry from prospective purchasers, tries to follow every possible lead, does every open day, deals with the valuer, pest inspector, council, solicitor, etc, etc, etc, and occasionally tries to take a day off. **At Sutton Real Estate all four of our sales people are employed to sell your property. We share your listing and the commission.**

**5. Reputation** – Talk to your friends, neighbours, and acquaintances in the area. Our reputation is our biggest asset. Established in 1990, Sutton Real Estate is known for hardwork, reliability, innovation and above all, ethics. Our motto is to "always say what we'll do and do what we say". We treat you with respect and we understand that parting with the family home and/or a valuable asset can be one of the most emotional and difficult times in your life. **We will stay in close contact every step of the way.**

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## SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER




### From 9 to 12

**Community Hall Bingley Way**

**Home Produce Plants Craft Refreshments and more**

This is the first market of the season. As previously markets are planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month. For details please contact Tony Power on 6238 3028

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<p>Term 4 Pilates: New additions welcome to join a wonderful group of community folk as we learn the basics of core strength and how it can improve your posture and cranky backs. <b>ONLY ONE NIGHT PER WEEK</b> as we head into the hot summer days, <b>THURSDAYS 7-8PM</b> at the Fire Brigade/ Community hall. Bring a mat, drink bottle and comfy clothes plus \$2 per session. A special thanks to Lofty for lighting 'our' fire during the winter months. Hope to see you all there. Joy</p>
<p><b>Nanny required</b> for delightful young child in Wamboin 3 days per week commencing week of 27 September 2004. Rates negotiable depending on qualifications, experience and scope of duties. Possibility of full time placement in 2005. Contact Elisa on 6238 3368 or 0418 647 206.</p>
<p>Wanted cleaning lady in the Wamboin area for 2-3 hours per week. Please call Michele on 62369186.</p>
<p><b>WORM JUICE TRIALS</b> for Natural Soil Improvement. Wamboin residents are invited to test our Worm Juice concentrate Free on samples of any locally grown plants. Please save clean surplus plastic bottles or small drums to hold liquid concentrate. Worm juice may be applied by hand watering, spraying, via irrigation sprays or hydroponic systems. We also make custom worm farms or provide compost worms. Please contact Graeme on (02) 6238 1850 or e-mail <a href="mailto:gvagg@apex.net.au">gvagg@apex.net.au</a> for details.</p>
<p><b>HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING TRIAL</b> Would you like to take part in a 3 month trial to assess the feasibility of a rural recyclable collection service? We will collect glass, plastics, tins and aluminium from your property and take it to a recycling centre. This is an important service, both for the community and the environment, and your participation in the trial will help to determine it's future viability. To take part, or simply get more information, call Jon &amp; Narelle on 6238 2342.</p>
<p><b>COACHING</b> in Mathematics and Science (K-12) Extensive experience in school and individual tuition. Individually tailored learning programs. Assessment \$50, Tuition \$20 half hour/ \$38 hour. Wamboin. Judith Shellard BSc (Hons) DipEd Phone 02 6238 3050</p>
<p><b>IRONING</b> - Don't have time. I will pick up and deliver. If this sounds like it will help you call me on 6238 3193</p>
<p><b>FOR HIRE: WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL.</b> 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.</p>
<p>Wanted - person with chainsaw to cut some firewood on my property. Mostly already felled. Cutting only required, I will haul, split and stack. Contact: Steve 6238-0341.</p>
<p><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</p>
<p><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.</p>
<p><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.</p>
<p>Wanted: Flute, clarinet or oboe player living in local area who would like to join a small social music group who meet monthly for social playing. High standard not necessary. Call Jan on 6238-1654 or Kaaren on 6236-9256</p>
<p>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</p>
<p><b>Hoof trimming, professional and prompt service, ponies a specialty, ph 6230 3833 to make an appointment</b></p>
<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Shared accommodation, furnished, required by single business woman from September. Phone 02 6027 1887</b></p>
<p><b>Vocal &amp; Guitar Lessons.</b> One on one tuition with Canberra School of Music trained musician. 20 years full time live musicianship and performing arts experience to draw from. For individually tailored tuition call Adam on 6238 36 77.</p>
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<p>Avon - if you are interested in receiving an Avon Brochure please phone Debbie 6238 3193.</p>

**WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – AUGUST COMPETITION RESULTS**

August brings the annual Tradies Day event proudly sponsored by Don, Hank, Trent and Dave.

Specialty of the house was the home made hot soup with the optional pie floater!!

We also played a game of golf with the following results.

Ball trophy winners were; Tony Fisher x2, Gary Stilling x3, Len Ivey, Dave Hubbard, Peter Greenwood and Neville Schroder x2.

Winner of the 9 hole comp was Deb Gordon. (Obviously two people involved in that round??)

B Grade won by Ted Evans from Tony Fisher.

A Grade winner was Dave Hubbard with John Whitney in second place.

Congrats to all winners and thanks once again to the long drivers!

Peter Greenwood, golfer 6238 3358



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## WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### President's Paragraphs

The main thrust of our July meeting was to ensure all details of our Bonfire Night had been covered. The Bonfire Night is our main fund raiser for the year and we want to get it right. It was good to have Councillor Jim Maclachlan in attendance as he was able to give an update on Council activities. I hope the questions he fielded will not frighten Jim from future meetings.

**Road Closures.** Guess you have all received the advice that Sutton Road will be closed from Pialligo Avenue to the border over three weekends in September. This is to enable the clearing of trees for the road upgrade. Entry/exit Wamboin will be via the Sutton interchange, Macks Reef Road or Bungendore Road. The dates: 11/12, 18/19 & 25/26 Sep). I will contact ACT Roads to try to get some leeway for visitors for our Bonfire Night on Sept 18. I would suggest that during these periods you carry your licence to prove your address.

Our **Bonfire Night** is scheduled for Saturday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. The PM was kind enough not to call an election on that date, wonder if ACT roads will also co-operate? The Fire Brigade will attend to ensure there are no spot fires breakouts.

**Hall Extension:** With the help of Hank Berlee, John Van der Stratten and Ted Evans the footing steel was fixed in place and passed Council inspection. A special thanks to Charley Montesin who as team boss, with Peter Greenwood and self as assistants, surprised all (including me) by pouring the footings after the inspection was finished. Lofty Mason.

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



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### SUTTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

#### Kindergarten Orientation Program for 2005 Enrolments

The staff and community of Sutton Public School invites you to the 2005 Kindergarten Orientation Day.

This year's program includes: --The Kindergarten Orientation Session from 9:30am to 11:00am on 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2004.  
--The 2005 Kindergarten children working with school staff in the Kindergarten room while parents meet in the school hall.  
--Parents having the opportunity to learn about the Kindergarten program, school routines, school uniform, discipline and student welfare.  
-- Guest speakers will include the School Counsellor and Community Nurse Members of the School Council and Parents and Citizen's Association explaining how these groups support the school and how you could become involved.

An extension of our Orientation Program will include three further visits to the kindergarten room early in term four. Sutton Public School invites you to take advantage of a primary education in a rural school which accesses the best of Canberra educational opportunities. We offer: --Highly effective and positive Student Welfare including Peer Support and Peer Mediation. -- Strong focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Technology within a challenging curriculum. --Active sporting programs including swimming and gymnastics. --Students have opportunities to represent the school at district, regional and state levels --Outstanding results in Literacy, Numeracy and Writing as reflected in NSW Basic Skills testing programs and national competitions. Full range of camps, excursions and visiting school performances. --The music tuition program. -- On site Before and After School Care and the Sutton School Playgroup every Wednesday morning. --A reliable bus service to Bywong, Wamboin, Federal Highway, Macs Reef Road and Darmody Place.

If you have any questions about your child's enrolment and transition to school, please contact Ray Claydon, principal on 6230 3215.

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150 mm (6") pots \$5.00 200 mm (8") pots \$9.00 Fresh Cut Flowers



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## Wamboin Muses

Jill Gregory

The snarl of chainsaws and a whiff of eucalypt smoke on the breeze suggests that this Wamboin winter is on the wane. With the fire ban deadline fast approaching, we decided that it was time for our big burn off. The forecast was for afternoon showers so we felt confident that there'd be no rain to hamper our efforts! We notified the Fire Brigade captain and our neighbours, as all good citizens do, and burnt huge piles of rubbish that could not be used either for firewood or mulching. We had already taken a load to help build the Community bonfire. It was an exhausting day but as I threw sticks and brambles onto the blaze, I thought of our wonderful local firefighters, volunteers who give our community a feeling of security as winter turns to spring and summer quickly follows. All our community volunteers... ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

A walk around my garden confirmed that spring is just around the corner. I haven't watered my garden all winter, not even a bucket of shower water. That has been going into the toilet cistern. And yet, within a week of warmth, suddenly there were violets, blue rosemary, pink flowering quince blossoms on angular spikes, instant Ikebana arrangements, winter iris and tiny puffs of yellow wattle, lenten rose and daffodils and daphne. One day, it seemed, there was one golden daffodil and almost overnight there appeared a "host"; forgive me, spring does that to me!

Not only the plants, but the animals, too, sensed the change. Our two old girls began laying and their combs are now scarlet. Magpies could be seen stealing away with tufts of Mort's hair in their beaks. Some lucky chick is going to wake up to a white, fur lined world. And the wrens are busy, twittering coquettishly, with the boys looking splendid in their blue caps and vests.

What a chameleon this August has been. I went to bed the other night despairing that we'd ever see rain again, but last night I was lulled to sleep by the sound of steady, gentle rain on the iron roof.

I wouldn't live anywhere else.....Perhaps this will be a spectacular spring, after all.

### Lake George Day VIEW Club – September Luncheon Meeting

Lake George Day VIEW Club's next luncheon meeting will be on Tuesday 21 September 2004, commencing at 11.30am, at the Eagle Hawk Rydges Resort, Federal Highway, Sutton. The cost is \$20.00. The guest speaker will be Dr. Sally Somi, a local Wamboin resident who will speak about her experiences working in Rwanda and other Third World countries. We welcome new members and guests.

For bookings please phone Lesley (secretary) on 6238 3717 by Thursday 16 September.

VIEW Club is a valued part of The Smith Family. Please phone Fiona (President) on 6230 3336 for further information about Lake George Day VIEW Club.

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## Retirement Ramblings

by Lofty Mason

I didn't realise until the other day how much I have changed my work attitude since retiring. Soon after retiring I slipped into the mind set of not really planning or worrying about what I was going to do each day. This approach to life soon left me dissatisfied with what I was (or was not) achieving. I then adopted the system of setting targets of achievable tasks for each day. Sort of like the office worker who never looked out of the window in the morning because then they would have nothing to do all afternoon. This leads me to the point of this story.

On Tuesday August 10, my major task was to have the footings for the Hall extension inspected by Council at 1.40. I had planned to get some guys together and pour the footings later in the week. Arriving at the Hall at 1255 I was told by Charlie Montesin, who was working in the Fire Shed, the Inspector had already been. The footings had been passed and he had left a certificate! My days work was done! Yeh!

Charlie said - let's call up and get the concrete to do the footings **now**. All I had to do while waiting was to clear the footing debris so the truck could deliver direct to the trench! Unlucky for Peter Greenwood, he dropped by and was roped in to help. Anyway, 3.5m of concrete arrived from Bungendore at 2.30 and the next few hours were pretty hectic. We poured the extension footings plus, a pad at the Bingley Way entry to the Hall plus, an infill in the Fire Shed and used the remaining concrete to form a drain between the car park and the oval. Just goes to show what you can achieve with Charlie Montesin cracking the whip. Thanks? Charlie.

I admit I went down to the Hall next morning to make sure it wasn't a dream.

## Bob Collis Reserve

The naming of the Bob Collis Reserve will take place on Sunday, 12 September 2004 at 11.30 a.m. The actual unveiling of the sign will be at 12.00 noon. This will be followed by a free sausage sizzle and tea and coffee put on by the Sutton and District Community Association Inc. until 1.30 p.m. Please bring a plate (cake/slice/biscuits) to share, with tea and coffee. Everybody is most welcome. Do come and show your support. Enquiries: Geoff Strang (President, SDCAI) - Tel. 6230 3124.

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