

October 2004 CIRCULATION: 990

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 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, October 31, 2004, 7:00 pm.

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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
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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
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THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS

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ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW.

You are all INVITED

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

Thanks to generous donations of cash and time and materials by the local Wamboin and Bywong communities and various businesses, plus grant funding by the Australian Government, the extension has been built by the members of the Brigade and will be opened by Mr Gary Nairn MP

**at the Fire Station, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin
at 2.00 pm on Sunday 10 October 2004**

Refreshments will be provided

The extension to the Wamboin Fire Station
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Atzheimer's Awareness

On Tuesday the 21st September to celebrate World Alzheimer's Day a "Simply Scintillating Sausage Sizzle" was held at Home and Community Care Centre. Over sixty people came to enjoy the atmosphere, munch on a sausage and learn about Dementia services in the Queanbeyan and surrounding area. The event was jointly sponsored by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and Alzheimer's Association, New South Wales. It was opened by the Manager of Community Services Greater Queanbeyan City Council, Jenny Grinlinton who said that "Australia is facing a Dementia epidemic. Currently 170,000 Australians have a diagnosis of Dementia, with that number expected to reach 500,000 by 2041. Nearly one million Australians already provide care for a person with Dementia....". Allan Neal and Gary Stephenson then struck a chord with the crowd as they sang mellow folk songs to the delight of all (Contact 6299 4628 for gigs).

The day was one of several events run in National Dementia Awareness Week by the Queanbeyan and District Dementia Working Group to raise community awareness about Dementia and its' impact on the community. This week will also see the launch of packs for General Practitioners to give to Dementia sufferers and their carers and the promotion of the next Living with Memory Loss course in March 2005 in Braidwood and an education program on Dementia for nurses and other health workers beginning in November. The Living with Memory Loss course is a seven week course for people in the early stages of Dementia and their carers.

Dementia Awareness Week is an initiative of Alzheimer's Australia, who are campaigning to reinforce that there is "no time to lose" in making Dementia an Australian health priority. In New South Wales over 57,000 people have Dementia and according to Lewis Kaplan, Chief Executive, Alzheimer's Australia NSW there are about 6000 new cases of Dementia each year in the state. During the week Alzheimer's Australia and the Queanbeyan Dementia Working Group encourages all Australians who have noticed changes in their own memory, thinking or behaviour, or those of a loved one, to talk to their GP or to Alzheimer's Australia.

For further information or referral on Dementia please call the Dementia Helpline on 1800 639 331 or visit www.alzheimers.org.au. Further information on Queanbeyan and District Services can be obtained by ringing Queanbeyan Community Health Centre Dementia Advisors on 6298 9233 or Queanbeyan Home and Community Aged Services-Day programs, HACC Services on 6298 0281.

Article prepared by David Nielsen, Community Dementia Worker RN, Queanbeyan Community Health Centre

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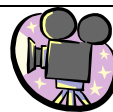
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Wamboin Muses
Jill Gregory

Layers of bird calls as the day unfolds, the background hum of bees as the air gathers warmth, frogs serenading, new shoots pushing up towards the sun from plants long abandoned, yellow wattles, powdery blossoms and stems bursting with bud under a limitless blue sky; seductive spring, brimming with life and promise. And so it seemed fitting, as a bush community, soldiering on under the shadow of drought, that we should have a celebration that reflected all the dazzle and energy of spring. I'm referring to the community bonfire, that once a year spectacle that brings us, young and old, together, to be young at heart again.

This home grown event is ours, and it embraces so many of our local cultural icons. They, the pony club, playgroup, cubs and scouts, the local church and the bush fire brigade, all ensured that we were well fed and watered while we were entertained. Even the monthly produce market got a berth and many of the optimists amongst us went home with dainty treats for the kangaroos and rabbits that we'd left behind to babysit. But one cultural icon, seldom heralded, was by its very nature, missing.the tip.

A tip is a wondrous thing, a final resting place for all that is unwanted, rejected, broken and unloved, yet it is a record of how we live. Like most of us here, we are dab hands at recycling. Whatever leftover that doesn't feed Mort or the chooks or the worms, is fed to the compost heap. Whatever can be mulched is mulched. But we still have to hitch up the trailer and every so often make a pilgrimage to the dump. I go to there with my nose wrinkled, my mouth hermetically sealed, and the windows up, not so much to supervise what goes out, but to monitor what comes back. But the tip is full of surprises. Each time there seems to be a new avenue, thoughtfully curbed with treadless tyres. Sometimes I'm greeted with potted geraniums or an honour guard of fridges standing stiffly to attention. Other times there has been a line of lolling couches that have seen many an afternoon snooze, or a contortion of tricycles and toys, but this time I was saluted by the Australian flag flying proudly, and a friendly nod.

I wouldn't live anywhere else....where else does the environment, natural and man made, live so comfortably togetherAnd Mort is quite taken with his latest acquisition..... a "new" trampoline bed from the..... Ssh, don't tell him!

<p>TREVOR BARKER & ASSOCIATES SOLICITORS</p> <p>Trevor J. Barker Solicitor Mike Cramsie Solicitor Caroline Bragg Property Clerk</p> <p>General law practice Canberra & NSW</p> <p>379 Weeroona Dr via Bungendore & Second Floor, Dickson Chambers, Dickson Place Dickson ACT 2602</p> <p>PH: 6248 8085 <i>Your local Legals.</i></p> 	<p>BUNGENDORE TAXI SERVICE</p> <p>CONVENIENT 7 DAY SERVICE RAILWAY & AIRPORT TRANSFERS COMPETITIVE RATES</p> <p>DROP AT AIRPORT MEET FLIGHTS ON ARRIVAL NO QUEUES LOCAL KNOWLEDGE PUNCTUAL</p> <p>0412 381 977 Cabcharge</p>
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Hank Berlee of 11 Poppet Road has offered to take over the job of delivering the Whispers for Poppet Road, relieving Dave Hubbard. If there was ever anyone who deserves a tiny bit of relief, it is Dave, who since long before I came to Wamboin in 1990 has been one of those people who helps everywhere – the fire brigade, the community association, the fire brigade, the curry night, hall maintenance, and probably in many other ways. Certainly he has been helped to ensure the Whisper survived for 20 some years by always delivering it and paying for ads in it. – Ned Noel, editor

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.
Hank Berlee	11 Poppet Rd (for all on road)	34	Max Klemke Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley
242 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 NStks7Msc	62	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
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THE STABLE DOOR by Ian Coillet

MOBILE PHONE RECEPTION UPDATE – WAMBOIN & BYWONG

My last update to the community on the mobile phone reception issue was in The Whisper in June following advice I had received from Telstra Country Wide Capital South East Region (TCWCSE) that funding for a base at Poppet Hill had not been secured in Qtr 4 (03/04). TCWCSE also said at the time that the bid would... "be resubmitted for Qtr 1 (04/05) funding where it is now higher up the list..."

I've maintained contact with TCWCSE via email since then to keep track on "developments" and to convey the continuing (and rising) unrest in the community (locals, tourists to the area and people transiting the locality) with the poor quality of mobile phone coverage in the region.

On 13 September the Investment Manager TCWCSE responded to my emails of 26/8 and 10/9 to advise that ... "Wamboin Mobile Base Station still has not been funded. It is very high on Capital South East Region's priorities and will continue to push for it. At this stage by the time the site is acquired with DAs (Development Applications - my insertion), environmental etc and the site is built it is likely that this site will be approximately 12 months away. If there are any further developments I will keep you informed."

I have no reason to doubt TCWCSE is doing its best. It advised us in December that our application presented a sound business case. But, after seeking clarification from TCWCSE about its 13 September email, it is clear that we were also unsuccessful in the Qtr 1 (04/05) funding round.

ACTION YOU MAY CARE TO TAKE BETWEEN NOW AND THE FEDERAL ELECTION

I am hopeful that we will ultimately see an improved mobile phone coverage across the locality. But there is no room for complacency. It's clear from this community's research that you, other residents, the fire brigade, police, tourists and others visiting or transiting the area, are concerned with inadequate mobile phone coverage in this locality. You may wish to write to or otherwise contact your local member to express your concern and urge them to take effective action. And, there are other, perhaps more effective, ways YOU can make improved mobile phone coverage happen.

WAMBOIN OF YESTERYEAR – by Ian Coillet

Long time resident Robyn Robertson has been quietly carrying on the tradition of painting a picture of Wamboin in its youth by drawing excerpts from issues of The Whisper published 15 years ago. I enjoy the little snippets of history included in The Whisper. Interesting, that in many ways, the issues and challenges that existed then more often than not persist today.

As part of a little exercise to do with our local, yes, our very own, Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade, and the upcoming mega gala Official Opening of the Extension to the Wamboin Fire Station on Sunday 10 October (to which the whole community has been invited), I also have been browsing through some really old editions of The Whisper.

The very first issue of the Wamboin Whisper (Issue No. 1) hit the "streets" in July 1981. And guess what, first topic in the newsletter - the Bushfire Brigade. Even in those days, someone close to Robyn's heart, David Robertson was one of the drivers in the community, along with John Finn and others. These people were especially instrumental in the formation of the Bushfire Brigade. Community support, critical then, remains vital to the Brigade's continued functioning today. Wamboin in 1981 was, of course, a mere handful of roads and tracks. I don't know for sure but from Sutton road intersection, Norton road appeared to end around Bingley Way and the Merino Vale area.

The Wamboin Bushfire Brigade was, in a sense, to cut a long story short, a spin-off from the Sutton Brigade. The first fire shed for Wamboin was built in Cooper Road - completed around Jun 1981. In the community then, as is the case today, residents come and go. In August 1981, a community BBQ was held at the Fire Shed in Cooper Road to recognise the imminent departure of two families from the area. In Wamboin, the Bushfire Brigade was, and remains to this day, an important, if not pivotal, link in this community. It warrants everyone's support, in whatever way you can manage.

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WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION President's Paragraphs

Our **Bonfire Night** was a great success, attracting about 600 people. Bit of a scare when Trent Abell went to light the bonfire 30 minutes early however, all recovered to schedule. The material in the bonfire must have been just right judged by the magnificent result. The display by **'Fireworks Artistry'** (formerly Red-Back Fireworks) was nothing short of spectacular which was shown by the spontaneous ovation from the audience at the completion. Many people said it was the best fireworks they had seen. I was surprised and pleased to receive a substantial donation from Noelene and Rod Anderson who said they had enjoyed the display from their lounge room. All stalls sold out which is good in a way but disappointing to customers who missed out.

Problems: Parking is a problem with cars half a kilometre each side of the entrance. The long queue for the barbeque needs attention. Perhaps a second barbeque and a large backup of frozen sausages would be advisable next year?

My thanks to: The people who brought material for the fire,

Ian Cuthbertson who compressed and shaped the bonfire and also lent the para webbing and pickets used as a barrier for crowd control,

The Fire Brigade for controlling the parking, collecting the 'gate' and providing fire protection,

Raffle donors – Jeff and Colleen Foster (produce box), Lambert Vineyards (2 Bottles of wine).

Eureka Nursery (truck load of plants). Farmhouse Bakeries (custard tarts),

All stall vendors, and all the people who patronised the evening,

Fireworks Artistry for the spectacular display, and finally

The clean up team who made the area spic and span the next morning.

The ECCRC called a **Community Consultative Committee** meeting on Tuesday 21 September to provide a forum for interaction between Council and community groups. This caused the cancellation of our WCA meeting as both John van der Straaten and I were required in Braidwood and our Vice President, Helen Montesin, was swanning around in WA. The Council plans to hold these meetings twice a year. They will be at Braidwood in September and Bungendore in March. Lofty Mason. ljmason@austarmetro.com.au

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LIVER FLUKE

During the past month we have seen a number of deaths in cattle in the district caused by Liver Fluke. Deaths in cattle are not as common as in sheep however combined with the effects of the drought and inadequate supplementation, some cattle have become more susceptible to this parasite. One cow that I recently autopsied had the worst case of Fascioliasis that I have seen. Fascioliasis is a disease caused by *Fasciola hepatica* commonly known as liver fluke. The adult fluke live in the bile ducts in the liver of sheep, cattle, goats and other ruminants. It can also be found in the pig, hare, rabbit, beaver, coypu (haven't treated too many of those rodents!), elephant, horse, dog, cat, kangaroo and man. Sheep and cattle are the main hosts in Australia. In unusual hosts, such as man and the horse, the fluke may be found in the lungs, under the skin or in other tissues. To the best of my knowledge, liver fluke has not been recorded in the horse in Australia.

Adult fluke are leaf shaped, grayish-brown in colour and may reach a size of 30mm x 13mm. They produce eggs (20000 – 50000 eggs per day over a long period) which are passed in the faeces. They hatch when temperatures are above 10°C (mid September to May). The larvae (miracidia) invade the intermediate host, a particular type of snail (in Australia it is *Lymnaea tomentosa*) and develop and multiply as sporocyst, rediae and cercariae. The tadpole like cercariae leave the snails and swim until they encyst on vegetation, forming metacercariae, which are the infective stage of the fluke. One miracidia hatching from a single egg can produce up to 4000 infective cysts (metacercariae). The entire cycle in the snail takes 2-3 months. These cysts attach to grass and are ingested by the host. The metacercariae excyst in the small intestine and the immature fluke penetrate the intestinal wall and enter the abdominal cavity. They then penetrate the liver capsule and migrate through the liver for 6-8 weeks before entering the bile ducts to become adults and commence egg production 8-10 weeks after infection. (my spell check has been working overtime in that paragraph!!)

Without the snail, the parasite cannot survive. The snail is found in slow moving streams with marshy banks, irrigation channels, seepage areas etc. It may be recognized by its dextral spiral – when the point of the snail is directed towards you, the spiral twists in a clockwise direction. Alternatively, when the snail is laid down with the opening uppermost and the point away from you, the opening is seen to be on the right. It has a maximum length of about 7mm and varies from brown to black in colour. One snail is capable of producing 1000 eggs per month. Snails are able to float and drift with a current for long distances, however they have been clocked at 50cm per hour against a water velocity of 15cm per second. Eradication or control of the snail is difficult. The best solution is to fence off known swampy areas. Stock are more likely to graze low lying areas in times of drought.

Fascioliasis may be acute, sub-acute or chronic. Signs range from weight loss, anaemia, chronic diarrhoea, jaundice and death. Oedema (fluid swelling in the tissues) develops in some animals and causes the characteristic “bottle jaw”. Diagnosis in the live animal may be by finding the eggs in the faeces however the eggs are heavy and do not float in normal floatation fluids. There is now a blood test which can be used to diagnose liver fluke.

Treatment or control of the fluke can be achieved with some modern anthelmintics – some will even kill immature fluke. A drench should be given in Spring and again in early Summer. On heavily infected properties, a third drench in autumn may be required.

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CLASSIFIEDS

<p>Bonfire Raffle Results: 1. Molly Wise. 2. Judith Evans. 3. Robert Gorham. 4. David Batho. – Lofty Mason, WCA Pres.</p>
<p>WORM JUICE TRIALS 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 gvagg@apex.net.au for details.</p>
<p>COACHING 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>IRONING - 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>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.</p>
<p>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</p>
<p>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.</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>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>Vocal & Guitar Lessons. 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>
<p>DONKEY FOAL for sale - very cute, make great kids pet. Maybe you'd just like to know more about donkeys? Come to our Hands on Workshop "The Magic of Donkeys" Sat 4/12/04. For bookings or more information visit www.alpacamagic.com.au or Phone Glynda 6230 3311</p>
<p>ALPACAS & LLAMAS Would you like to know more about them? Come to the Hands on Workshop Sun 31/10/04, Sun 7/11/04 or Sun 5/12/04. For Bookings and more information visit www.alpacamagic.com.au or Phone Glynda 6230 3311</p>
<p>Wormcastings Buying, giving or receiving plants? Improve their survival and growth potential with wormcastings, a top quality and brilliant organic growth stimulant (for plants). Wormcastings are a by-product of worm activity. The wormcastings are bagged and come with instructions. They are excellent for gardens, individual plants and vegetable plots. Many ecstatic customers. 25litre bag \$8.50. Ph Ian 6238 3425</p>

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Notes from St Andrew's Church

Services will be held in the Church on the first and third Sundays of the month at 9am. Please come, you will receive a warm welcome and will have the opportunity to chat with other "Wamboiners" over a cup of tea or coffee after the service.

During October there will be two Baptism services apart from the usual Sunday service times. The Church will host a lunch for 6 Anglican brothers from the Solomon Islands, in Australia to strengthen ties between our two nations and cultures. It will also be the venue for the monthly Parish Council meeting for the parish of St John's, Canberra, of which St Andrew's is a part. It is good to see our small Church playing its part in the wider activities of our parish.

If you have any questions to ask about the Church please phone one of the Church Wardens, Robyn Robertson on 62383202 or Bronwyn Elliott on 62383359.

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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)

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.

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

From the Captain's Desk



Before I get into the news about the brigade I have acknowledge the help and good wishes from many people in the brigade over the past few weeks. It took some time to get the hint about what I really needed to do to get over some respiratory problems I was experiencing. Our Senior Deputy Captain and the Deputy Captains stepped in and quietly and efficiently managed things. It is times like these when one is reminded what a great brigade we have in and for our community.

Over the past month many people have requested fire permits to burn off rubbish piles which have been building up. We will endeavour to meet these requests whenever we can but as the weather warms up and the conditions aren't so favourable we may not be able to issue them as freely as now. Time and conditions will tell. Luckily there have only been a few reports of people burning off without a permit. We are obliged to investigate all of these reports and while these burn offs may not result in a large fine, in the first instance, an official letter will be sent from the Fire Control Centre. It is in everyone's interests to be alert to any signs of fire, and if in doubt, call 000 and report it.

It is a good time now to check all your fire fighting equipment. When was the last time you ran your petrol-powered pump? Can it still get water to where you might need it? Have you cleared the mudwasp nests from your fire hoses and sprinkler systems? Have you checked your emergency plans? When did you last check the batteries in your emergency radio? Where can you find more information? A good place to start, if you have access to the Internet, is the brigade's website. If you don't have Internet access, please give me a call and arrangements can be made for a visit to your property. Your brigade is but a phone call away, as always.

We have been fortunate over the past month, as things have been a little quiet. A stark contrast to the previous month, but we remain thankful. It has given us some time to carry out some maintenance on our vehicles and other fire fighting equipment in the shed.

It has taken us some time and a LOT of effort from MANY dedicated people in the brigade to build the extension to the fire shed. The end is in sight and the opening ceremony will be held on Sunday 10 October at 2pm. We are very pleased and proud of the results. The improvements and changes will really assist us in providing a better service to our community. It is also something everyone in the community can be proud of. A sophisticated alarm system has been donated and will be installed to help protect this important community asset. We would be pleased to see you at the opening. You will be able to see what your donations over the years have provided.

What is hazard reduction? For some people the answer is pretty clear but I have had a few questions recently and I thought that an explanation might help. Hazard reduction is any activity that reduces or removes fuel before the onset of a bushfire, so as to minimise damage to life, property and the environment if a bushfire does occur. Under the *Rural Fires Act 1997*, land managers and owners are responsible for conducting hazard reduction to protect existing dwellings, major buildings or other assets susceptible to fire.

A Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate or other environmental approval may be required to clear or burn. A permit to light a fire is required for burning hazards, during the Bush Fire Danger Period. Hazard reduction either significantly reduces fuel levels around assets so they are less likely to be affected by fire, or provides adequate space for people to work in while fighting a fire.

Complete removal of fuel means an area will no longer support fire, however, such a practice may be harmful to the environment. The more common practice is to reduce the amount of fuel, in which case the fire would:

- generate less heat and be less dangerous for firefighters and the general public
- travel more slowly
- have a lower flame height and be less likely to develop into a crown fire
- be less likely to produce embers that cause spot fires.

Methods of hazard reduction include:

- Hand clearing – raking up leaves, clippings, clearing out gutters.
- Mechanical clearing – mowing, slashing, ploughing, bulldozing or grading.
- Burning – pile burning or activities known as controlled or prescribed burning which use fire to reduce the amount of flammable fuel.

In many circumstances, hand and mechanical clearing methods should be considered, as they could be the best way to protect assets. These methods can be safer than burning, easier to organise and maintain.

Hazard Reduction burning should involve experienced landholders or qualified firefighters to ensure the fire does not escape and the operation is carried out safely. Adequate equipment and protection measures are needed.

Many factors need to be considered including:


- weather conditions, (wind, humidity, temperature)
- availability of personnel to work on the fire
- the impact the fire will have upon local residents and other stakeholders
- the impact of the activity on the environment.

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.

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

And finally: 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 Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade		
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Wamboin 15 years ago – from the Whisper of October, 1989 Editors – the Nordsvans circulation 225

From Alan Rope's account of a Scouts' weekend of camping at the foot of the Macquarie Pass; the 2 leaders and 8 scouts from Wamboin arrived after dark, and "Ages later (so it seemed) we had four tents which appeared to be capable of accommodating us, so we ate our food (those of us who had not eaten in the car on the way), heated milk, had Milo then went to bed. Saturday morning, bright and early (5.30 to be precise) most of us were up and surveying the campsite. It was immediately obvious that we need practice in setting up camp in the dark. Of our four tents, we left two standing and pulled down and repositioned the other two. We then put up our marquee and dining shelter, got out the barbeque and by 9 o'clock had finished breakfast, finalised our campsite, and were ready for the day." – prepared by Robyn Robertson

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

September rainfall to 25/9/04	36.5mm	(Sep 2003 was 44mm)	
2004 rainfall to 25/9	227.5mm	(2003 to end of Sept.	361.5mm)
Average Oct rainfall	69.5mm	Hottest Oct day	31C on 27/10/97
Wettest Oct.	199mm in 1976	Coldest Oct day	9C on 19/10/82
Wettest Oct day	59mm on 16/10/76	Coldest Oct night	-1C on 19/10/82
Driest Oct	5mm in 1977		



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BYOG (Coffee/Tea provided) AND A SUPPER PLATE TO SHARE
\$20 (FAMILY OR COUPLE) - \$12 PER PERSON
More Information from Morag 62303523

BYWONG NEWS

Wamboin Subdivision The Community to decided write to Council about various aspects on the proposed 42 block Wamboin Subdivision in particular drawing Council's attention to the size of blocks, environmental threats to the Greenway and the possibility of unauthorised access through Newington and Harriot Roads.

Spring Bushwalk - Sunday 7 November The Community is organising a bushwalk to the trip point on Smalley's Hill overlooking Lake George on Sunday 7 November. Meet at 10am at the end of Brooks Road (off Bungendore Road) where it reaches the Thomas' property. Bring a snack and drinks. We should return by 2pm and more information can be obtained from Morag (62303523)

Next Community Meeting The October General Meeting will be held on Monday 17 October at 7.30pm in the Bywong Community Hall, Birriwa Road (Off Macs Reef Road). All residents are welcome.

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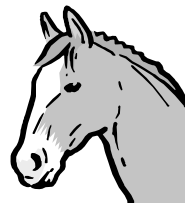
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Wamboin Community Association's Fireworks Display

- Alan Hutchinson, Norton Road

I have just paid my Vet's bill for \$245.00, and I am not happy. I had to call the Vet out last Sunday (19th September) because on an injury sustained by one of my horses, caused by the noise of the fireworks display on the previous evening. I was aware that the fireworks display was to be held on the Saturday evening, because of the great deal of publicity which preceded the event. At the appropriate time, I locked my dogs inside the house and gave them all a sedative, because they hate fireworks and go berserk. There was not much I could do about my horses, apart from stay with them whilst the display was running. From experience gained from previous years' fireworks displays, I was concerned for their safety, as fireworks terrify them, even though we live over a kilometre from the Community Centre.

The first part of the display which could be seen from my property, was not too bad, although the horses were nervous and jumpy. However, the last few explosions which, I assume provided the finale, were outrageously loud in my opinion. My horses became terrified and bolted down the far end of the paddock. It took me about 30 minutes to pacify them, but by then the damage had been done. One of my mares had seriously injured one of her hind legs, and could barely walk.

I called the Vet the next day, and he spent over an hour with her. Luckily, no permanent damage appears to have been done, but the animal still cannot walk properly, although she is improving.

The reason for this letter is to ask why we hold fireworks displays at all in a rural area, where so many people have horses, dogs and other animals, most of which are terrified of the sight and sound of fireworks. It seems crazy to me. I understand that the Community Association rates the fireworks display as one of their best fund raisers, and it has been held annually for the last 20 years. That may be so, but I think it is about time that we grew out of fireworks, considering the pain and suffering inflicted on animals which have no idea of what is happening to them. The ACT seems to have outgrown such displays. I will happily contribute to whatever function the Community Association wishes to hold, provided we forget about the fireworks.

If the Community Association continues to hold fireworks displays, there will come a time when somebody's horse or other valuable animal is seriously injured and will sue the Association because of it. I hope that the Association has a good liability insurance policy because I suspect that they will need it. I would be interested in other residents' views on the topic.

CANBERRA BOTANICAL 2004

www.canberrabotanical.com Phone 6294 3222

An exhibition of botanical paintings from artists of ACT and NSW, will be held at the gallery of CSIRO Discovery, Clunies Ross Street, Black Mountain, Canberra from Saturday 2nd to Sunday 10th October and will be open from 10am to 4pm each day. Entry is free and all works of art will be for sale as well as prints and cards of the works on exhibit, and a raffle (including paintings, videos, artist travelling palate etc) will be drawn on Sunday 10th October.

Guest Artist: Bronwyn Van de Graaff, the most recent gold medal winner at the RHS, London, UK, with an exceptional group of painting of wine grapes and vines. These portraits I am sure would appeal to the many wine produces in our region as well as those who appreciate excellence in botanical illustration. These paintings are quite exquisite.

This exciting event has grown from a small group of local botanical artists who meet monthly at the Bungendore School of Art and from their passion and commitment to excellence in botanical art. - Katrine Scott-Findlay

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Bungendore View Club

"Glitz and Glamour" comes to the Carrington on Monday, 11 October. Dinner and a Fashion Parade by the Gumnut Gallery at 28 Malbon Street in Bungendore and Absolutely Fabulous from Federation Square at Gold Creek Village. This will be a great night out and will support the Bungendore VIEW Club's fundraising for the Smith Family. Entry is from 6.15pm for a start at 6.45pm. Please phone Debbie Hudson on 6238 1571 by 4 October to reserve your place. Cost is \$26.

Lake George Day View Club

October Luncheon Meeting Lake George Day VIEW Club's next luncheon meeting will be on Tuesday 19 October 2004, commencing at 11.00 for 11.30am, at the Eagle Hawk Rydges Resort, Federal Highway, Sutton. The cost is \$20.00. We welcome new members and guests. Speaker: Floriade Organiser about preparation and planting of gardens. For bookings please phone Lesley (secretary) on 6238 3717 by Thursday 14 October. 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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- *The Magic of Donkeys* 4th Dec
- *Raising Livestock – the Backyard & Beyond* 6th Nov



For directions & further information www.alpacamagic.com.au

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Sutton Road - Proposed Road Works

by Geoff Farrar, A/g Capital Works Coordinator, Roads ACT

Road safety improvement works have been proposed on Sutton Road for a number of years. The Federal Government have provided \$4.6m to upgrade Sutton Road through the "Roads to Recovery" program and works have now commenced on a project to implement some of these proposals.

The first stage of the project works was to remove hazardous trees from close to the road and clear trees to enable future road realignment. The contract for this work was awarded to local contractor Contour Constructions and occurred over the weekends of 11/12 and 18 September. Closure of the road was originally notified for three weekends to allow for wet weather and any other unforeseen delays, however with good weather and excellent progress the works were completed early and the road opened ahead of schedule.

The main road works contract has been awarded to local contractor Guideline ACT Pty Ltd. on 9 September and allows for complete rehabilitation of the road for 3.3km south of the ACT Border. Works include provision of a 2m wide shoulder on both sides of the road, installation of guard barriers, realignment of the "S" bends on the hill just south of the border and provision of a 600m long northbound overtaking lane approximately 1km south of the border. A further \$1.0m may become available for the project in which case the rehabilitation will be extended to cover a further 900m south of the current limit of works.

The works are scheduled to commence on 12 October for completion in April 2005 weather permitting. There will be intermittent delays to traffic during the construction period with traffic control generally by temporary traffic lights with half the road closed for lengths of up to 1km. This may cause delays of up to 10 minutes and road users are encouraged to allow for delays in expected travel times or use alternative routes where possible.

If you have any questions regarding the road works please contact John Husband at Roads ACT on 6207 6879.

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WAMBOIN PRODUCE MARKET

SATURDAY 16 OCTOBER 9-12 AM

Community Hall, Bingley Way

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