

November 2004 CIRCULATION: 992

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 December, 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, November 28, 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

Wamboin Community Assn	Lofty Mason	President	6238-3258
Bywong Community Assn	Warwick Cathro	President	6236-9187
Fire Brigade	Cliff Spong	Captain	040-999-1340 bh 6236 9220 ah
Landcare	Roger Good	President	6236-9048
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238-1333
Breastfeeding Assoc.	Lisa Whitney	Community Educator	6238 3059
Emergency Services	NSW Call Centre	Staff	132-500
Emergency Services Admin	Colin Brown	Controller	6238-1067
Justice of the Peace	Peter Greenwood	JP	6238-3358
Justice of the Peace	Keith France	JP	6238-3596
Wamboin Cubs	Peter Harrison	Leader	6238-3525
Wamboin Guides	Rosemary Riley	Contact Person	6297-7632
Wamboin Pony Club	Maureen Purdie	Secretary	6238-3343
Gearys Gap Pony Club	Julie Abbey	Secretaru	6230-3129
Play Group	Rebecca Jefferys	Convenor	6255-1225
Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	Bookings	6238-3258
Church, Anglican	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238-3202
Christian Prayer Group	Steve & Imelda Taylor	Contacts	6238-3220
Golf	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238-3358
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare	Helpline	6299-1966

THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS

Fiona Skea, babysitting	6238-3290
Rebecca Purdie, babysitting and petsitting	6238-3343
Damien Montesin, petsitting, odd jobs	6238-3208
Frank Deveson, bicycle maintenance	6238-3294
Elle Greet, fully experienced babysitter, loves children	6238 0129
Alycia and Hannah Elword, Baybsitting, Petsitting	6236 9186
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	

WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION President's Paragraphs

As per our normal agenda, the October WCA meeting received reports from all local groups. I find it very interesting to hear what the various groups are doing in our area. Discussion centred around problems with The Whisper delivery, the completion of the Fire Station, dates for future Produce Markets and the Christmas Carols. Check through your Whisper for these events and, by the way, if you have problems with Whisper deliveries, please put your hand up and volunteer to step in.

As well as attracting 600 people, our community **Bonfire Night** raised a total of just under \$5,000 for all our community groups. Helen and Charlie Montesin have suggested a 'Gourmet' Barbeque offering should be added to supplement the food shortage. Since we now own 3 large barbeques we have the capability. I am certainly looking forward to personally checking this one!

We are looking at some minor clearing on the western side of the Hall. This is necessary because the Hall is the designated '**Evacuation Centre**' for Wamboin. In the event of a major fire we must ensure the Hall and Fire Station are not under threat due to the bush being too close. The Fire Service Fire Mitigation Officer has been brought in to check this problem and is making recommendations to Council.

Allen Donnelly, who is a major player in the **Bendigo Bank** proposal for Bungendore will give a presentation on this project at our next WCA meeting which is at 7.30 on the 16th of November. All are welcome.
Lofty Mason. ljmason@austarmetro.com.au

WAMBOIN PRODUCE MARKET

SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER 9-12 AM

Community Hall, Bingley Way

Local produce and plants Home made goodies Art and Craft Refreshments

There is always something different so come and be tempted! It's a great way to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. If you have something to trade and would like a stall contact Tony Power on 6238 3028 or email poweraj@acslink.net.au.

CAROLS AT WAMBOIN Friday 17 DECEMBER 2004 at 7pm in the Community Hall

This annual event provides an opportunity for groups and individuals to present musical items or readings with a Christmas theme. It is an event for the whole community to celebrate the joy of Christmas. If you or your group would like to participate please contact Tony Power on 6238 3028 or any member of the committee.

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Bywong Community Christmas Drinks And Wine Tasting

The Bywong Community is having Christmas Drinks and a Wine Tasting for local residents on Saturday, 4th December. This year, the local winery Gidgee Estate will offer free tastings of their vintages, and their bottled wine will be available for purchase by order. Any wine that you purchase will be delivered to you. This function will start at 6 pm and will close at 8 pm. Guests are welcome to drop in between these times.

We feel that this function will provide a convivial occasion that we would like to share with other organizations and members of our community. The relationship that we have with other community bodies is important to us and we see this as a great opportunity for members of these groups to meet and mix in an informal and relaxed atmosphere with others of the local community.

This letter is to invite you and members of your organization to join us on Saturday 4th December, between 6pm and 8pm, at the Community Hall, Birriwa Road (off Macs Reef Road just before the Denley Drive turnoff from the Federal Highway). We look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely Warwick Cathro, President Judith Miller, Secretry

Bywong Community News

by Morag and Guy Cotsell

Wamboin Fire Brigade The President Warwick Cathro reported attending the opening of the Fire Brigade's new premises in Wamboin, where he accepted a certificate of appreciation of Bywong Community's support of the Brigade.

Bush Dance More than 40 dancers - enough to fill the hall - attended the October Bush Dance. Music makers from the Monaro Folk Group again provided excellent music, as well as some experienced dancers to help the locals along.

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Annual Donations Drive for the Fire Brigade

Yes, it's on again – the annual fundraising drive for the Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade. Your local fire brigade volunteers will be out on the road-side around Wamboin, collecting donations on:

Saturday 27 November, 9am - 2pm.

Donations are tax deductible. Funds raised will be used to purchase maintenance equipment for the vehicles, base station radios, wet weather gear for the crews (for those lucky days when we get stuck in the rain) and running costs (eg: rations for the crews). We appreciate that many Wamboinites have made significant donations over the past 12 months (notable for the Fire Shed appeal). If this is you, just let us know and we'll send you on your way with a smile.

Wamboin Volunteer Fire Brigade - protecting you and your property this summer.

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

October rainfall to 30/10/04	53mm		
2004 rainfall to 30/10/04	276.5mm	(2003 to 31/10	431mm)
Average Nov rainfall	76.3mm	Hottest Nov day	39C on 27/11/97
Wettest Nov	146mm in '86	Coldest Nov day	10C on 16/11/78
Driest Nov	0mm in '82	Coldest Nov night	0C on 1/11/98
Wettest Nov day	77mm on 19/11/86		



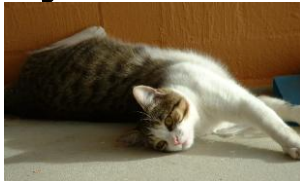
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Disappeared from his home in Kestral Place
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on the evening of Tuesday 28 September

Possible sightings since
on Weeroona Drive and Norton Road
- most recently near Bingley Way

Affectionate but sometimes timid with strangers
Please check sheds, shipping containers and
outbuildings as Tom is good at hiding

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Thanks to the persons below, Wamboin and Bywong residents have a free community owned newsletter.

150 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN:			
Dean Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West	18	Ph 6238 3208
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	29	Bill Owen Cooper Rd. 27
Hank Berlee	11 Poppet Rd (for all on road)	34	Max Klemke Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley 25
242 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:			
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	50	Cathy Abell Canning Close 17
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	28	Ph 6238 3463
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	Margaret Heleimin Merino Vale Drive 17
Ned Noel	13 YrCn 35Adv 10 NStks7Msc	62	Anne Gardner Weeroona, Norton to Majors 30
249 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER:			
Colleen Foster	Joe Rocks to Norton	20	David Anderson Weeroona, Majors to Denley 35
Antonette Stockdale	Yalana East	34	Ph 6238 3489
Bernie Reardon	Clare Lane	8	Ruth Lambert Yalana West 32
Lyle Monetesin	Forrest Road area	50	Rob Gorham South End - Clare Valley 43
Bungendore Shop	Bungendore	10	Pauline Segeri North End - Clare Valley 32
179 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:			
Sheryl Barnes	Quinn's Estate / Denley	15	Amanada Bryan Donnelly Road 20
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Birriwa	35	Ph 6238 3590
Ann Platts	Denley/Birchman's Area	26	Lachlan & Callum Whitford Hogan/Kestral area 11
Christa Rehwinkel	Macs Reef - Nwngtn to FedHwy	30	Rhett Cox Macs Reef /Nwngtn to FdHwy 12
170 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON Ph 6236 9609			
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Morag Cotsell Newington/Harriot 50
Len Parrish	Summerhill Rd Area	32	Rachel Gascoine Snow Gum Rd Area 23
Sue Gorham	Schofields Rd Area	25	Diana+Keith Gascoyne Hogan Drive Area 27
Sue Aunella	Doust/Wyoming/Brooks	25	Thelma Martin Shinglehouse Rd area 20
TOTAL 992			

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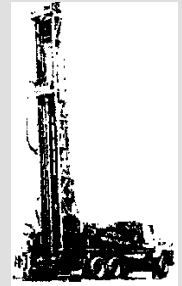
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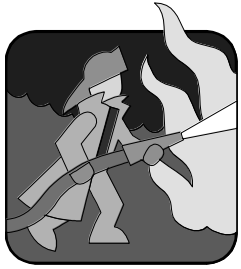
Call Mark Taylor ALL

HOURS 6238 2357 Home

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6238 2351 Fax





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.

From the Captain's Desk



It looks like our good fortune, as far as fire related incidents are concerned, continues. Apart from the odd report of smoke from properties where the residents haven't obtained a fire permit, the Brigade hasn't been needed in an emergency sense for a little while now. I realise that by stating this it will be the same as when you are driving in town and you get a good run of green traffic lights. When you comment on it, the next light will be red! However, even if our "luck" changes we will be ready to respond in our spruced up vehicles after the successful opening of the extension to the fire shed last month. As we dutifully remain alert most of our training programs continue as normal.

Three of our members, Andrew Dunn, Darrell Tipton and Tim Warren have been undertaking some arduous training over and above the normal programs. They have volunteered to be part of the reformed Remote Area Firefighting Team (RAFT) for this fire district. These teams are often flown in by helicopter to areas where fires have started or threaten where conventional vehicles cannot reach. The teams can be winched down from the helicopters and they are equipped to spend extended periods in these remote areas dealing with the fires or creating firebreaks, for example. It is hard, strenuous work and the physical demands are high. Apart from the medical checks to join these teams, one of the basic tests of endurance, traversing a course approximately 4.5 kms in under 45 minutes with a 20 kg pack, soon separates the candidates. Even after surviving this, the team members have to undertake more training to keep up their skills. The good news is that Andrew, Darrell and Tim all passed the initiation ceremonies with flying colours. It is worthy result following their informal training routines and demonstrates a fantastic degree of dedication and determination.

For those of you who request a fire permit an additional condition has now been included. Apart from the regular requirements about notifying your neighbours, the Fire Control Centre and the fire brigade Captain, 24 hours before lighting up, and the Captain one hour before AND the Fire Control Centre and the Captain when the fire is out, residents will have to demonstrate that they have adequate and serviceable resources immediately on hand to control the fire in all anticipated weather conditions.

I am not sure if I am getting a little jaded or cynical but it appears that many people in our area are suffering from a certain amount of memory loss, or maybe it is denial. It seems that some people have forgotten what happened during January 2003. We were all very alarmed and concerned when we could see and smell the smoke. We had graphic details shown on our televisions. We heard vivid accounts on the radio. I am sure most of us made secret plans to look at our properties and make sure things were as good as they could be to minimise problems if the fires came our way in the future. The fire danger season is now on us. It is getting warmer, the humidity will be decreasing, the grass will be browning off and everything will crunch underfoot. Prepare your property now. Run the pump. Check the fittings. Check your evacuation plans. Let's not let the memories fade too much. Your brigade is only a phone call away for advice.

As a final note we will be carrying out our annual fund raising activities this month in the area. Your brigade still needs your financial support to provide a high level of service to the community. This year we would like to use the money raised to purchase, for example, some additional UHF and PMR radios, some maintenance equipment and tools, wet weather gear, and crew rations.

Grand Opening of the Extension to Wamboin Fire Station

In perfect weather, the grand opening of the extension to the Wamboin Bicentennial Fire Station was held on Sunday 10 October. The ceremony was an acknowledgment and expression of appreciation to the individuals, families, businesses and public authorities, who contributed donations, grant funding and other assistance to the Brigade. Gary Nairn MP – Member for Eden-Monaro, officially opened the extension.

Apart from providing additional covered parking space for the brigade's vehicles and additional storage space, the two-storey extension houses radio communication equipment, a permanent weather station, a training area and other advanced technology.

The Fire Station extension has taken about 5 years in planning and fund raising. Except for the erection of steelwork and pouring the concrete slabs, the extension has been built for the Brigade by the volunteer members of the Brigade. With the skills, financial and family support of local residents, businesses in the region, the former Yarrawlumla Council, the Australian Government under the Department of Transport and Regional Services' "Regional Partnerships" Programme, and others who have contributed in various ways, the extension and fit-out is now a reality.

The ceremony was well attended by around 200 people. Several Certificates of Appreciation were issued to the volunteers who worked on the extension as well as businesses and others who had contributed materials, time or money. The Brigade "widows" were also not forgotten. They are partners, wives, husbands, families of those volunteers who had spent much time away from home working on the fire shed. As a token of thanks, the Brigade presented each "widow" with a lovely potted rose.

As well as the opening, several members of the Brigade received acknowledgment from the NSW Rural Fire Service Acting Zone Manager, Superintendent Bruce J. Arthur OAM, for the long service they had given voluntarily to Wamboin and the NSW Rural Fire Service.

The President of the brigade, Peter Greenwood, singled out three Brigade members who will be nominated for life membership in recognition of their substantial contribution to the planning, progress and successful completion of the extension. They are Senior Deputy Captain Andrew Dunn, Deputy Captain Darrell Tipton and Crew Leader Don Evans.

As an aside, and fortunately it turned out to be just that, fires wait for no-one. They certainly had no respect for the finest of occasions like the opening ceremony. Just fifty minutes before the ceremony was to begin, a fire call came through and a crew and tanker were despatched toward Bungendore. Fortunately, the distraction was relatively short-lived and the tanker and crew were able to return in time to join in the celebrations.

For those of you who couldn't make it, and for those who did, you hopefully noticed the coverage in The Canberra Times, the Bungendore Mirror and The Queanbeyan Age. The event also featured on ABC television. If you missed all that, photos of the day, courtesy of Brigade member Kevin Rowe, are featured elsewhere in *The Whisper*. More photos will shortly be appearing on the Brigade's web-site, www.wamboin-fireshed.com

Thank you Wamboin and Bywong from the Brigade President, Peter Greenwood

On behalf of the Wamboin Brigade I wish to sincerely thank all the residents, families, individuals and businesses in Wamboin and Bywong who supported the Brigade over the last few years in our fund raising campaign for the extension to our Fire Station.

The work on the construction by many brigade members is an absolute credit to all involved and we now have a fire station which will house more vehicles and now includes a training and meeting room plus an area for fire operations planning and an up to date communications system. Along with the hall, toilet block and sports ground, this new complex was constructed by local volunteers.

We also have our "Giving Wall" mounted in the station as promised which acknowledges those people and businesses who have contributed to the Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade. My sincere thanks to all.

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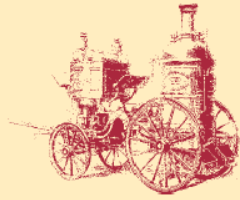
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**Wamboin 15 years ago – from the “Whisper” of November 1989 Editors The Nordsvans
Circulation 225 (Prepared by Robyn Robertson)**

A report from the Editors: “WAMBOIN WINS AGAIN AT THE 1989 YARROWLUMLA SHIRE BUSH FIRE BRIGADE COMPETITION FIELD DAY. 28 teams from all around the Shire took part. The results: Geoff Wines team – 2nd over all, 2nd and 3rd from 4 events. For a relatively inexperienced team a top effort! Peter Greenwood’s team – 1st over all and winner of the Cedric Southwell Trophy for the best tanker team. This trophy has only ever been won by Wamboin; 2 x 1sts and a 3rd from 4 events. To win the Phil Hardy Perpetual Trophy, the times for each group of teams are added together then divided by the number of teams to get an average time, so this is a real brigade event. Wamboin won for the third time in a row, more than 4 minutes ahead of the nearest team. Well done”!

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 is holding its inaugural One Day Event “Chicken Run” on Sunday 24 October 2004. This event is not just for Club members but also for the public. There are 2 classes of entry. One class is designed for those who would like to “have a go” at eventing. The rules are more relaxed, the showjumping course is designed so that the jumps can, at least, be stepped over and the jumps on the cross country course feature a “chicken” option. Dress is neat and tidy. The other class caters for more experienced riders looking for the experience to step up to official eventing. There will be great prizes! Entry costs \$40. Entries are limited and close on 14 October 2004. Entry forms available from local produce stores/saddleries and from Marty Walsh on 62 36 9534 or martywalsh@bigpond.com. 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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<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>
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0719 Wamboin Fleet



0724 Captain Cliff Spong talking with former Captain Bernie Broers (up from "the Bay" for the day)



0743 Some of the 200 odd crowd



0747 Local Federal Member Eden-Monaro: Gary Nairn MP, Mayor ECCRC: Terry Bransdon and NSW RFS: Acting Zone Manager NSW Rural Fire Service Lake George Zone, Superintendent Bruce J. Arthur OAM

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WVRFB President & Master of Ceremonies Peter Greenwood and Capt Cliff Spong behind counting up the number of welds he did.



Warwick Cathro Pres. Bywong Community Association acknowledging receipt of a Certificate of Appreciation from the Brigade



Fiona David receiving a Certificate of Appreciation acknowledging her efforts in taking charge of the Brigade's fundraising activities.



Peter (Ratz) Cullerne receiving his Certificate of Appreciation for all the welding he (and his "lackey") undertook.

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Chris and Nev Schroder with the Brigade mascot daughter Rachel



After cutting of the tape by local Federal Member Eden-Monaro: Gary Nairn MP and with the extension officially opened President WVRFB: Peter Greenwood invites everyone into the new building. Captain WVRFB Cliff Spong just can't stop admiring his fabulous welding work.



0809 Lara Smigielski from the Australian Government Dept of Transport and Regional Services ("Regional Partnerships" Program with President WVRFB: Peter Greenwood



0810 Upstairs in the new extension is President WVRFB: Peter Greenwood and Hewlett Packard's Malcolm Hobbs (hp has donated 2 desktops and a multi-function printer.

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0811 3 members of the WVRFB who contributed immensely to the planning and construction of the extension to the fireshed and as a consequence are to be nominated for life membership of the WVRFB: Senior Deputy Captain Andrew Dunn (left), Crew Leader Don Evans (centre) and Deputy Captain Darrell Tipton (right). Each received a Certificate of Appreciation plus a bottle of the now famous and very rare Wamboin Bushfire Red from Gidgee Estate Wines who is an important supporter of the WVRFB.



Charlie Montesin – blowing kisses (to everyone and anyone) after he, one of ten brigade members, received special mention from NSW RFS: Acting Zone Manager NSW Rural Fire Service Lake George Zone, Superintendent Bruce J. Arthur OAM for long service to the volunteer rural fire service

Bungendore and Region Parish Assembly to address Catholic Church Issues

By Dennis Puniard

On Sunday 21st November the Catholic community of Bungendore and region covering Tarago, Gundaroo, Hoskinstown and Captain’s Flat will be holding a Parish Assembly. This gathering of the parish community will address issues arising from the Synod of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn held in May this year. With a diminishing number of clergy in the church the lay community is being called to a “Partnership in Ministry”. Bungendore already shares its Parish priest (Fr Mark Croker) with Braidwood and has a pastoral assistant (Br John O’Shea) helping with the care of the parish and its needs.

This Assembly is an opportunity for all members of the Parish community to raise issues in relation to the Synod outcomes and to be involved in the future direction of the parish and the parish communities. The proceedings on the day will commence with a Mass at 9am, Sunday 21st November (Feast of Christ the King) followed by a morning tea with the Assembly proper commencing at 10:30am. It is anticipated proceedings will conclude by 1pm. All Catholics in the parish and region are invited to participate. For more information contact the Parish office on Ph 6238 1247

Whisper Late This Month

On Tuesday, November 2, the day of Melbourne Cup and the US Elections, I forgot to remove the phone line connected to my computer and the lightning strikes that day came up through the phone line and visited my computer. It took about forty eight hours for a skilled person at a Fyshwick computer shop to make a new computer using the old hard disk as a second disk. This preserved the lightning struck version of the Whisper that was underway, as well as a fair number of incoming items in emails that were intact. As a result of these problems, the Whisper is coming out about 5 days late. I apologize to those of you who have been inconvenienced. - Ned Noel, editor

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WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – SEPTEMBER COMPETITION RESULTS

Spring already and with it comes the Mason's Spring Trophy competition sponsored by Lofty and Joan Mason and not forgetting Joan's extra special after match snacks.

And with Spring in the air comes the Spring baby, Wamboin Golf Club's first baby to golfing couple Ken and Deb Gordon. (also their first.) We all wish the Gordon family all the very best and welcome **Alexander** as our youngest junior member. Nearest the pin competitions won by; Tony Fisher x4!!!, visitor Brian Gallagher x2, Joan Mason, Charles Guscott and Len Ivey x2.

9 hole winner was Joan Mason but donated her sponsored trophy to next best being Ken Gordon.

B Grade winner on count back was Bob Mettam from Tony Fisher.

A Grade won by Dick Henley with Charles Guscott in second place.

Congratulations to all and special thanks to sponsors Lofty and Joan.

Peter Greenwood, golfer enquiries 6238 3358

(September results not published last month due to my error. Apologies. – Ned Noel, editor)

WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – OCTOBER COMPETITION RESULTS

The October competition was sponsored once again by Larry and Libby King.

Ball winners were Ken Gordon x3, Ted Evans x2 and Charles Guscott.

9 Hole comp won by Joan Mason

B Grade was won on count back by Ted Evans from Larry King.

A Grade was won by Ken Gordon with Charles Guscott in 2nd place.

Another successful October comp and our thanks to Larry and Libby.

Peter Greenwood, golfer enquiries 6238 3358



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Geary's Gap / Wamboin Landcare Group

At the October meeting Alison Treweek from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources spoke on the new **Native Vegetation Act** and its objectives in terms of conserving remnant native vegetation, particularly communities such as the native grasslands of the Southern Tablelands and the Yellow Box / Blakely's Red Gum woodlands that occur in the Canberra and SE region. Alison also outlined the implications of the Act for both small area farms and for large area primary production holdings. Check out the details at www.dipnr.nsw.gov.au

Further information on either of these previous presentations can be gained from Stuart Johnston, at Transgrid, Yass; Nicky Taws at Greening Australia, ACT and Alison Treweek at Dept. Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources in Queanbeyan. (or contact the Landcare Group convenor Roger Good – 62369048).

On the **21st November** there will be a **weed control** day at the **Yass River Bridge** on Macs Reef Road starting at **10.30am**. We would like to support the landowners straddling the bridge who have done extensive work in trying to eradicate the gorse invasion along the river banks. Any members and friends who can give an hour or so of their Sunday morning would be most welcome. For those participating, please bring leather gloves and protective clothing. Long handled secateurs would help. - Roger Good : - Convenor - Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare Convener, ph 6238 9048



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The Stable Door: Vale Bob Collis

by Ian Coillet

If you've ever travelled through the little rural village of Sutton, it's unlikely you will have passed by, and not noticed, Bob Collis Rural a small rural service and supplies business that fronts Gundaroo Road just behind the Sutton Store. Similarly, if you live in one of the rural villages on Canberra's outskirts, chances are you will have met Bob Collis. For Bob Collis Rural was set up in 1985 as a stock and station agency catering for hobby and professional farmers. You might have bought a property from him ("don't call me a real estate agent" - he preferred the title stock and station agent), he might have helped save your house or other assets from fire (he was a stalwart of the Sutton volunteer bushfire brigade), he probably sold you some feed for your animals and, more than likely, he told you a really bad joke - another quality for which he was famous. But the one thing everyone seemingly agrees on is that "Bob Collis was a good bloke". Indeed.

Regrettably, Bob Collis died in September this year after a titanic battle with cancer. Bob, as many came to know - and very much appreciate - was a superb example of a buoyant, life-loving, warm, honest, community-minded person; a wonderful human being. He was a shining star whose absence will be much felt by those who knew him, by those who were touched by him and by others who will follow him. We know Bob will, is already, being missed by many not just in Sutton but also the wider community. The Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade was, in a sense, a spin-off (in the very early '80's) from the Sutton Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade (or the Sutton Bush Fire Brigade as I believe it was known in those days). I attended Bob's funeral and celebration at the Sutton Fire Station - along with Peter Greenwood (President of Wamboin's Fire Brigade). We were both much moved in joining with the Sutton Brigade, Bob's family, his friends, business associates and the enormous number of others whose lives have been touched by the magic of Bob Collis.

As Sally Hopman noted in her article in The Canberra Times (29 Sept) "Bob Collis knew exactly what he wanted at his funeral. There was no black hearse: he wanted a fire truck." And so, at the conclusion of the public commemoration, Bob atop one of his beloved fire trucks was away - rolling slowly down toward the Reserve named in his honour by the Sutton community just two weeks prior to his death - en route to his next appointment. Bob Collis' influence, the sunshine he exuded, and his spirit will live on.

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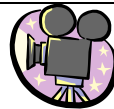


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The Bungendore VIEW Club

Next meeting will be held on Monday, 1st November at the Café Woodworks from 6.45pm. The theme will be "Australian Magic" and will feature a short talk on Norman Lindsay. There is a full evening planned with Trading Tables (books, craft, food) stalls to raise money for "Learning for Life" students to support the Smith Family, elections for VIEW Club positions as well as a terrific meal from the Café Woodworks. The cost will be \$23 plus contributions for drinks. We look forward to welcoming members and guests. Look for our VIEW Club Information Table at the Bungendore School Spring Fair on Sunday, 7th November. The next meeting will be a Festive Evening held on Monday, 6th December at Lamberts Winery. For dinner bookings please contact Debbie Hudson on 6238- 1571.

Lake George Day VIEW Club –November Luncheon Meeting

Lake George Day VIEW Club's next luncheon meeting will be on Tuesday 16 November 2004, commencing at 11.30am for 12.00 midday, at the Eagle Hawk Rydges Resort, Federal Highway, Sutton. The cost is \$20.00. We welcome new members and guests. Speaker: Wildcare member will talk about local wildlife including snakes. For bookings please phone Lesley (secretary) on 6238 3717 by Thursday 11 November. 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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IF ONLY THEY COULD TALK CROCODILES AND SNAKES!

A series by local vet, Dr Garry McComb BVSc QDAH

Two consecutive items on the news recently (12/10/2004) highlighted the dangerous contact that can occur between man and reptiles in Australia. The first story was about a very courageous lady who jumped on the back of a 4.2 meter crocodile that was dragging off a fellow camper – no doubt saving his life. Her life was in turn saved by her son who was fortunate enough to have very rapid access to a suitable firearm and the ability to use it in such extremely difficult circumstances. Without that firearm at least 2 and possibly more lives could have been lost. Firearms may be very dangerous in the hands of some people but at times they remain a necessary item of survival in the Australian bush.

The next item on the news was about a man who presented at a Southern Highland human hospital having been bitten by a snake. After convincing the hospital staff that he was not suffering from delusions, the only vial of antivenene in the hospital was administered. According to the media reports the patient was “clinically dead” at some stage. He was transported to a Sydney hospital which had more vials of antivenene – however some of these had passed their expiry date and could not be used. Fortunately the man survived.

A couple of years ago another man was not so fortunate. Following a snake bite he was treated with the single vial of antivenene at his local hospital. When it became evident that he required more and the hospital did not have any left, he was transported to Canberra. He did not survive the journey.

Snake antivenom is very expensive to produce and I find it frustrating that so much is wasted. One or more vials are in most hospitals where it usually sits until it expires (I have been told that at times it may have been sent back to the manufacturer, tested for potency and relabeled with a new expiry date). The incidence of snake bite in humans is very low compared to animals, especially dogs and cats. Veterinary hospitals treat many animals for snake bite each season and therefore have a high turnover of antivenene. Our hospital maintains a stock level of 6-8 vials. It would make economic sense for human hospitals to on sell short dated stock to veterinary hospitals for rapid use before expiry and thereby reduce wastage. For many years I have been trying to promote this idea with the manufacturers however the idea has not been well received – I guess they make more money with the current system.

The reverse should also be allowed to occur. When a human hospital requires more vials to treat a patient, they could readily be obtained from a local veterinary hospital thereby saving transporting critically ill or dying patients to other hospitals.

This system could have worked well up until a couple of years ago. The antivenene that is used for humans is exactly the same as that used for animals – made by the same manufacturer. Previously there was no distinction between the vials supplied to human hospitals and that supplied to veterinary hospitals. Now we have two different registrations and labels. The veterinary product is labeled “For Animal Treatment Only”. Same product – just a different label. Legally it could not be used to save the life of a human. If I had to make the choice of a ride in the back of an ambulance from one hospital to another or having a product labeled “For Animal Use Only” used to save my life, I wouldn’t have to think about it for very long.



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Wamboin Muses

Jill Gregory

October has been spring at its best, and when it is also a month of family gatherings and celebrations, it is even better. Even a couple of light frosts and a few days of those dreaded winds couldn't spoil the overall picture. Perfect sunny days backed up by some good soaking rain, and we had the added delight of a visit from some little people, and I saw spring through new eyes.

Each day there seemed to be a new colour in the garden and the promise of more with rose bushes covered with buds. As one crab apple faded another burst into colour. The garden was alive. But it wasn't only the plants that were emerging. Shy little creatures like lizards...and snakes...were coming out to soak up the sun. We've seen shingle backs sliding over the ground like visitors from another era, and blue tongues slipping away, fearful that they might have been noticed. The little sun lizards have been popping up all over the place like cleverly placed garden ornaments, some grey patterned, some brown and some black. Of course the blow flies have discovered spring too, and they are out in force, especially when there are good smells emanating from the kitchen. We put a fly trap on the back step to try to stem the invasion, and discovered an enterprising lizard positioned itself there. It was untroubled by our comings and goings and seemed to grow fatter by the minute. It came back for several days. On one evening "toddle" with the little one, where we stopped to investigate every ant hole and determine whether the scats belonged to kangaroos or rabbits, we counted ten different types of birds. Our noisy progress probably disturbed another ten before we could see them. As we passed, the kangaroos stood up to watch us and a couple more curious of the mob hopped towards us.

Wamboin seems to attract friends and family like blowflies to a fly trap, and we prepared for a busy weekend gathering to mark the christening of a grandson. We'd had a wedding here on the last day of summer, so a christening in glorious spring would be like a walk in the park. People began arriving from afar, the garden was looking beautiful, plumped out by some timely bloomers from the monthly produce market, and we were set for a garden party. And then it rained!

I wouldn't live anywhere else....where else would you find people rejoicing because a garden party was washed out and a fire had to be lit to keep warm. Rain on!

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