

February 2005 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. Contributions which readers may wish to make for the February, 2005 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, February 27, 2005, 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>Wamboin Playgroup</b>	Leanne Quick	Convener	6238 3435
<b>Landcare</b>	Roger Good	President	6236-9048
<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>	Julie Abbey	Secretary	6230-3129
<b>Play Group</b>	Leanne Quick	Convenor	6238-3435
<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
Alycia and Hannah Elword, Baybysitting, Petsitting	6236 9186
John Brennan, Babysitting and Petsitting	6238 3472

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

## Bywong Community News

Prepared by Morag and Guy Cotsell

### Car Boot Sale comes of age

Bywong's now-famous Car Boot Sale will celebrate its tenth anniversary this year. The date is Sunday 20 March, from 9 am till 1pm. Gates will open at 7.30 for sellers to set up their stalls. For those who haven't been before, expect one hundred stalls of local second-hand treasures plus craft, produce and plants, plus a full programme of entertainment and the usual popular teas and lunches. For more information, read the March Bulletin or ring Warwick on 6236 9187 or Judith on 6236 9321.

### Speakers for next Meeting - 21 February at 7.30pm at Community Hall

There will be two speakers at the next meeting, both of great interest to the Community. A Bywong-based telco company trading under the name YLESS4U is about to offer a wireless broadband internet service to local residents. Company head Anthony Goonan will be telling the Community what he can offer. And Bendigo Bank Steering Committee member Marita Grundy will bring the community up to date on developments in the proposal for a community bank in Bungendore.

### Calendar for 2005

(Events are at the Community Hall in Birriwa Road)

February 21 General Meeting 7.30pm (Guest Speakers)

March 20 Tenth Annual Car Boot Sale 9am

April 18 General Meeting (Guest Speaker)

May 1 Bywong Hill Bush Walk

June 20 General Meeting

July 30 Trivia Challenge

August 15 Annual General Meeting

October 22 Bush Dance

December 3 Christmas Drinks

Information on any of the events from Warwick (62369187) or Judith (62369321)



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## WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION President's Paragraphs

**The Carols at Wamboin** which was held on Friday December 17 was down on numbers due to conflicting events however I was pleased to be able to hand over almost \$300 to the Salvos plus a good collection of gifts from the 'Giving Tree'.

Late last year I heard that a lady had been in hospital for a long period and was worried about her lawns and yard. I mentioned this to a few people and the next day I was joined by Trent Abell, Hank Berlee, Don Evans and a collection of yard clearing devices. I was quite surprised how much we achieved in a couple of hours. Guess that is what makes our community so special.

The WCA will once again participate in the 2005 **Clean up Australia** day. Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March is the selected day. For insurance purposes there will be registration at the Hall from 9am. I will allot areas (normally a street in your area) at the time of registration. The Brigade will again be asked to arrange field control and to hand out drinks. So please come along. We only ask for 3 hours of your time.

Must be due to the TV coverage of the sport of 'flannel (or pyjama) fools' that I have had suggestions we make a suitable **cricket pitch** on our oval. I have even had an offer to supervise the construction. We will discuss this at our meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February. If we get enough support perhaps we could even get assistance from the Palerang Council? I would be interested in any thoughts on the matter.

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

## WAMBOIN PRODUCE MARKET Saturday 19 February 2005 9-12.00 Community Hall, Bingley Way

Local Produce & Plants Home made goodies Arts & Crafts Refreshments

There is always something different so come and be tempted!! It is a great way to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. New stallholders welcome. For details contact Tony Power on 6238 3028 or email [poweraj@acslink.net.au](mailto:poweraj@acslink.net.au).

### AAA WATER CARRYING DOMESTIC WATER LOCAL CARRIER

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- S/C Heaters Removed or Replaced
- Smoke Detectors Supplied and Installed

For appointments or further information please  
phone Brian

6258 1792



## Clean Up Australia Day

### WHEN

**Sunday 6 March 2005  
9am - Noon**

### WHERE

**Register at:**

**Wamboin Community Hall 112 Bingley Way**

**PUT RUBBISH AWAY FOR GOOD!**

**Clean Up Australia Day  
Sunday 6 March 2005**

## TREVOR BARKER & ASSOCIATES

SOLICITORS

Trevor J. Barker  
Solicitor

Mike Cramsie  
Solicitor

Caroline Bragg  
Property Clerk

**General law practice Canberra & NSW**

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Dickson Place Dickson ACT 2602

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(Bh) 0412 677 554 or (ah) 02 62381481 FAX: 02 62380308

**ATTENTION PARENTS AND CARERS OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS**

Wamboin playgroup meets on Tuesday mornings throughout the school term at the Wamboin Community Hall, this year at the new time of 1030-1230. Come and enjoy a cuppa with friends while your children play and socialise. All you need bring is \$2.00 for hall hire and a piece of fruit to share. The first playgroup for 2005 is Tuesday 1st February. Any enquires call Leanne Quick on 62383435.

**BRUCIC EXCAVATIONS**

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**Give a Gift of Massage Today – Vouchers Available**

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

free community owned newsletter.

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

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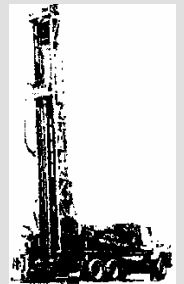
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## Whisper Operations

by Ned Noel, editor

Thanks to Canon Australia's Fyshwick Office, the Whisper is in your hands again this month. Canon and its Fyshwick Office Manager, Mario Grech, have offered their powerful 70 A4 page side per minute photocopier to us to print the Whisper's 20,000 A4 page sides this month for a price comparable to what we were paying Canberra Times Fine Print while we ponder the best way to print the paper reliably and economically for the future.

I wish again to thank Canberra Times Fine Print and to Tony Fisher, who oversaw Whisper printing there for the last several years. Tony also helped get the Whisper out while working at the Queanbeyan Age back in the 90s. The Canberra Times turns us away now only because they no longer have a sheet feed printer. The large printers there, to set up, need to print out about as many trial and preliminary copies as we need altogether, so it is not economical for them to print the Whisper's small volume of 1000 copies x 20 A4 sides. For the many years they did print the Whisper they always did a very good job, were helpful and charged a price below what we have been able to secure anywhere else.

Quotes to print our 1000 copies x 10 double sided A4 range from about \$900 to around \$1300. Canberra Times Fine Print was charging \$760. Because the ads have always been set at a price that covers printing costs, because various approaches appeal, and because many businesses seem willing to give community organisations attractive terms, it is likely that we will work something out. There are a number of options which I am examining with help from the Community Association President, Lofty Mason, and its Treasurer, Keith France, as well as from suggestions by various Wamboin community members. (The Community Association owns the Whisper.) These options include an ongoing arrangement with Canon or some other photocopying or printing business or buying our own photocopier or printer.

Thanks seem appropriate this month to Max Klemke, who has distributed the Whisper in the Norton Road Area for a dozen years or more. Starting even before that, Max was the Whisper's printer. He asked Bruce CIT if he could use their photocopiers and for many years produced the Whisper month after month through his own hours of volunteer labour at the photocopier. Don Evans has offered to take over Max's Whisper mailbox drops on Norton Road between Campbell Place and Bingley Way. THANKS MAX.

## FOR SALE

Locally grown Native and Exotic shrubs and trees, suitable for this area.  
150 mm (6") pots \$5.00 200 mm (8") pots \$9.00 Fresh Cut Flowers



Kleenheat Gas Dealer, Wamboin, Sutton and Geary's Gap Area. - Slashing & Rural Services  
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<p>Pilates for young and old, no previous experience required, just enthusiasm to enjoy yourself with some wonderful locals while strengthening your lower back, general posture and abdominals. All you need is a firm mat/towel, water bottle and \$3. When: 6-7pm Monday nights ONLY at the Community Hall on Bingley Way Wamboin.</p>
<p>TENNIS ANYONE? – Aspiring players wanted to form social tennis group to play on our court in Wamboin, probably once a fortnight. Day and time to be decided. Standard of play not important. If interested please phone 6238 3270 evenings.</p>
<p>DO YOU NEED HELP IN THE GARDEN? Do you need help with Mowing, Weeding, Pruning Or General garden maintenance.? RING MICHAEL 0408400740.</p>
<p>TRACTOR FOR SALE: Fiat, 40 hp with 3 foot slasher and harrows. Excellent condition. \$4800, Ph: 62383472.</p>
<p>HORSE RUG REPAIRS: Summer and winter rug repairs at competitive prices. No lengthy waiting. Phone Robyn Slater on 62383472.</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 <a href="mailto:gvagg@apex.net.au">gvagg@apex.net.au</a> for details.</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>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>ROOM FOR RENT - in Bywong. Person wanted to share 2 b/r cottage with one other. \$100/w+exp. Phone 6230 3638.</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 Pg - \$50 1/3 Pg \$35 1/4 Pg - \$30 1/5 Pg - \$25 1/6 Pg - \$20 1/8 Pg - \$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>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>WATERBED - Queen size:</b> Soft-sided. Well cared for and maintained. Mattress less than 12 months old. Everything is in first class condition. A bed that is a joy to sleep on. Asking \$350. <b>CD Storage Towers (3):</b> Each capable of holding 62 CDs. Metal (two black and one grey). As new condition. \$25 each or the 3 for \$60. <b>Office/Students Desk:</b> Excellent for computer work or studying. Height adjustable. \$100. <b>Sofa Bed:</b> 2 seater. Lovely fabric and in top condition. Unfolds to a comfortable double bed. \$300. Ph Ian or Loretta 6238 3425.</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 &amp; 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>Peacocks available to good home. Young male and female and 5 chicks. These birds survive well in the open as they roost in high trees.</p>
<p><b>Wormcastings</b> 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>
<p>Avon - if you are interested in receiving an Avon Brochure please phone Debbie 6238 3193.</p>

## CLEAN WATER TANK SERVICES

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 Crack repairs - flexible reinforced membrane  
 Metal Covers supplied & fitted  
 Water treatment - tank & house lines  
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**CALL FOR STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
QTY BEREAVEMENT PROJECT**

Funded by the Caring Communities Program, Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing,  
auspiced by Southern Area Health Service

This project seeks to identify and draw together existing community resources and services, improve ongoing support for bereaved people and develop community and professional education about sacred issues surrounding the care of people when someone has died. For more information about this initiative or if you would like to participate in its development, please contact: Victoria Jones, Bereavement Project Officer, Queanbeyan Community Health Service, 6298-9233, email victoria.jones@sahs.nsw.gov.au

**Bungendore Riding Club**

Bungendore Riding Club is a 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. 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 next rally day will be held on Sunday 27 February 2005. Bungendore Polocrosse Club have invited our Club members to "have a go" at polocrosse. There will be instruction and a chance to play a game. BBQ lunch will be available, so come along and meet some fellow riders and have some fun. Club membership costs \$70 which will be current until 30/9/05. New members and sponsors are always welcome – enquiries to the Secretary, Helen Blain on 6238 2467.



**NUTRIMETICS**

**Nutrimeritics** offers an outstanding collection of high performance, naturally enriched products that nurture, beautify and protect the skin. The range includes skincare, cosmetics, bodycare, haircare, suncare, familycare, fragrances, health supplements & cleaning products. I am happy to send you the **Nutrimeritics** sales brochure each month, or, if you would like to have a fun evening with a few of your friends to try out the products and earn yourself some free gifts, give me a call or send an email:



**Sue Barker Phone: 6236 9046 ah**  
**Email: sbarker@justinternet.com.au**

**Still looking for Tom**



**Tabby & White male cat desexed and microchipped**

Disappeared from his home in Kestral Place off Denley Drive during thunderstorm on the evening of Tuesday 28 September. Thank you to all who have contacted us with possible sightings of Tom. A cat matching his description was seen crossing the intersections of Norton Road and Merino Vale Drive, and Bungendore and Macks Reef Roads in late November. If you have any information - please call  
**Ph: Gina 6236 9479 (AH) or 6243 4588 (BH)**

<p><b>Lorraine Bird</b> BA (Adult Education) Civil Clebrant (A6261) Member of the Australian Federation of Civil Celebrants Mobile 040 126 7851 Home 02 6230 3321 email dbird@bigpond.com</p>		<p>Weddings Namings Commitment Ceremonies Renewal of Vows</p>	<p>Wedding Anniversaries RMB 1747 Gundaroo Road Sutton NSW 2620 ABN 68 729 109 108</p>	 <p><b>LAMBERT VINEYARDS</b> <i>Cheers</i></p> <p>CAFÉ : Thursday, Friday &amp; Saturday evenings Friday, Saturday &amp; Sunday lunch CELLAR DOOR : 10 – 5pm weekends &amp; public holidays Other times by appointment 810 Norton Road Wamboin NSW 2620 T (02) 6238 3866 F (02) 6238 3855 E wine@lambertvineyards.com.au</p> <p><b>WINERY , CELLAR DOOR , CAFÉ</b></p>
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### **Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin – 30 year statistics from the Robertsons**

Total rainfall for 2004	425.5 mm	(yearly average	706.9mm)
Dec '04 rainfall	58mm	(Dec average	59mm)
Jan 2005 to 30/1/05	31.5mm	(Jan average	63.3mm)
Average Feb rainfall	51.1mm	Hottest Feb day	37C 5 times
Driest Feb	1mm in 1986	Coldest Feb day	12C on 10/2/96
Wettest Feb	153mm in 2002	Coldest Feb night	5C on 17/2/98
Wettest Feb day	48mm on 21/2/87 & 5/2/01		

### **Caroline Hatch Bungendore View Clubs ‘ Youngest Member May Be View Clubs Of Australia’s Youngests Member Too**

At 21 Bungendore Evening VIEW Club’s member Caroline Hatch may be the youngest member in VIEW Clubs of Australia Nationally? Caroline, who lives on a property close to Bungendore, joined BEVC in 2004. Caroline initially went to the club as a guest of “one the girls from the Woodworks Gallery”. This dinner meeting was held at Lamberts Winery and Restaurant. The guest speaker was the charismatic and entertaining Mark Carmody of the ABC Saturday morning Gardening Show with his insistence that you have to remember the 3 P’s in your garden “Poo, Phosphate and PH! and the way he told this caused much hilarity.

ALL ARE WELCOME. Details of the next meeting are: Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February at 6.45, Café Woodworks, Malbon Street, AGM & Committee Changeover Dinner, Entertainment by Andy and Tilly \$23 (two courses plus coffee), book w. Debbie Hudson 62381571 - Ros Welch, President

**Wamboin 15 years ago – from the “Whisper” of February 1990. Editors – The Nordsvans, circulation 265 From the President’s Paras** “During the weekend 23/24/25 February the Canberra Astronomical Society will be using the Wamboin Hall to indulge in a bit of stargazing during the hours of darkness, and conducting various workshops during the days. All are welcome to come along for a chat and perhaps have a close encounter with the planets. Young children should be well under control!” - Peter Thomson

### **St Andrew’s, Wamboin – the first 20 years**

The first church service in the young community of Wamboin took place on 20 January 1985 in the newly-completed Community Hall. The rector of St John’s was keen to provide a third service each month at St Peter’s, Sutton. However an early Wamboin resident, David Robertson persuaded the rector that the Wamboin Community Hall would be an appropriate venue for the extra monthly service, and until 1994 St Peter’s was known as St Peter’s Sutton – Wamboin.

During 1994 the congregation at Wamboin adopted St Andrew as our patron and became a separate entity within the parish of St John’s. Then, thanks to the generosity of its members, land was provided, the church building was erected, beautifully furnished and equipped, and it has been occupied for 7 years.

A significant number of Wamboin’s children have been christened here during this 20-year history, and three weddings have been held in the church. Plans are being drawn for the construction of a memorial wall with provision for the interment of ashes, so St Andrew’s will be able to share in the major events of each person’s life.

These 20 years have given us much to celebrate and this was done in a memorable service on 16 January, which began in the church and moved “back” to the community hall. The service was conducted by Revd Peter Grundy who cares for St Andrew’s now, with a stirring sermon from Revd Paul Woodhart, now of Bathurst, who led the inaugural service.

Our attention was captivated by Matilda House of the Ngunnawal community, who generously welcomed us to the land of her people and hoped she will be invited to come again. Four members of the congregation spoke of the significance of St Andrew’s and its people in their lives, emphasising the focus on Christian teaching and worship, the warmth of the welcome they had received and loving support in the difficult times which come to all of us, fun and friendship and shared endeavours.

The little church on the hill is not an inward-looking group of people, its members have been involved in most of the local community organisations and activities. Beyond Wamboin, significant support has been given to a small congregation, also St Andrew’s, in Lolobivunge Village in Vanuatu, providing them with silver communion vessels, the roofing material for a new and permanent church building, and some relief following a “big blow” last Easter when every building in the village except the new church was badly damaged.

Sunday 16 January was Australia’s Day of Mourning for victims of the Boxing Day tsunami, and we, along with every church in the country, observed a minute’s silence. The offertory on that morning was donated to an inter-faith children’s charity in Sri Lanka with which the Schultz family has had a connection for many years. Over \$1000 was sent to assist in the work of recovery.

Wamboin should be proud of its church and the part it has played in the development of our special community. The church is there for all of us, and your interest and involvement will bring rewards for you and for the church. We thank God for the little church on the hill, and for the Wamboin people who stepped out in faith to build this place of beauty and tranquility where we can meet to find and experience the grace and goodness of God.

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## THE STABLE DOOR by Ian Coillet STILL SUMMER NIGHTS

There are many joys in living, as we do, on a ridge above a valley. Uninterrupted views, taking advantage of breezes particularly the soothing easterly as it kicks in late afternoon or early evening. Refreshingly, the breeze and the view take away the swelter and stress of a hot summer's day.

And it used to rain in Wamboin! Remember? In our early days here, some 11 years ago now, I recall a big wet, not mine. Houses in the valley isolated by moats where once there was dry land. And the headwaters of the Yass River which begins in the Kowen Forest. Some residents have an intimate knowledge of this, when the meek Yass River tributary becomes a raging torrent. In some cases, properties abutting the river had driveways that no longer had that connectedness.. Access and egress for some residents became problematic if not impossible . In fact, many driveways ended up long way down stream. Travelling along Norton Road after ten or more centimetres of rain has been dumped in a relatively short time is a spectacle to be seen. Like fire, heavy rain needs to be respected – and planned for.

Downside to living above the valley? Well, I must confess, I can't think of too much. But there's one sometimes niggly little issue – especially on a still summer's night and particularly on a full or otherwise largish moon. On occasions, perhaps around ten-thirty or eleven - just as one is (seemingly) drifting into pleasant slumber or falling down the abyss – ALL HELL breaks loose. Maybe it begins with a mouse scratching around in a yard or in a roof; perhaps it's a possum scowling in a nearby tree. Who knows? Maybe it's absolutely nothing other than an animal (generally a dog) thinking or reacting to "gee it's quiet outside". And/or, it could be the aura of a full moon. But, sometimes, late at night, and what's worse, around 2.30 - 3am, all hell seems to break loose. For off in the distant a veritable cacophony lights up. One dog, two dogs, ten dogs, a couple of cows, shortly, it seems, a herd, in fact the whole bloomin valley seems to light up in a veritable crescendo. Dogs, cows, foxes, possums – in fact the entire animal kingdom, and probably some of the more hedonistic humans as well, seem to have responded. Noisy as the streets of Calcutta!!

Nothing more weary making than being backed out of a sound sleep at a speed faster than travelling light. Fortunately, for me, because the brouhaha is off in the middle distant, a return to slumber land is possible. And, in any case, it seems not at all long before the cacophony dies to a few "Lleyton Hewitt" types. Shortly, even the most persistent fade to a whimper and then to nothing.

At last, the animals and this human re-enter the land of nod. Then.....then, before you know it, another wake up call..... it's that old cock and his wife "Mr Rooster and Mrs Hen" (who we agreed to agist here "just for a short while" thanks to the pleading on bended knee performance of my s.i.l. Ah, he's not too bad really. Neither is my s.i.l!

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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))

Fire permits are 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

Although it is that time of the year when dry warm winds are regularly blowing from the north-west, the temperature is high and what grass there is crunches underfoot, the brigade has had mercifully few callouts so far. There have been calls to assist at a grass fire on Tarago Road, a small grass fire in Poppet Road and a motor vehicle accident on the Federal Highway, but these either didn't take too long for things to get under control or else we weren't needed. It would be great to think that this situation would continue, but as the old cook with the questionable sense of humour was reported to have said, "Thyme will tell!"



Thanks to all the generous donations from the community during our recent donation drive has meant that we can now go ahead and get quotes on purchasing more hand-held Private Mobile Radio (PMR) sets and investigate the purchase of wet weather gear for our members. Now that our rural fire district has several PMR repeater stations operating successfully, radio communications throughout our area should be better than ever. Having the extra hand sets will dramatically improve the brigade's capability to stay in touch and be informed.

A short time ago we conducted interviews for two new members of the brigade. I am not really sure who was more nervous about this, our new members or the interview panel. This was the first time we have used the new membership procedures which involves probity checks, interviews and some study by the prospective members. All seemed to go well and we hope that the paperwork can be processed quickly so that these keen people can get on with their training programs.

Everyone shouldn't forget that the success of your rural fire brigade depends on people. People from our community who are prepared to volunteer their time to help and protect their own community. Admittedly the pay is well below any award wage but the benefits are fantastic. Good friends, many good times, a few nervous times, a few frustrating times, but on the whole, experiences which leave you with a really great feeling of self worth and pride. This is especially true when you can look back and see that you helped make a positive difference to someone else's life or helped save someone's property. We can't always rely on the same people to be there for the community year after year. Given that it takes a couple of years to get people trained, we need to have more people joining the brigade to make sure that the community has a continual supply of volunteers. The success of your brigade depends on it. I am always available to talk to anyone who is interested in joining.

We had thought that we would be able to replace our aging red pumper with a newer yellow model which had been deemed surplus to the Bungendore brigade's requirements. We had started getting the new one fitted out and painted. We even started appreciating some of its idiosyncrasies and began to feel that this "new" truck would be a worthy addition to our fleet. What we hadn't counted on was intervention by the red pumper gods. They probably felt that the yellow pumper gods needed to be put back in their places. After our last training session with the yellow pumper we noticed that the main water pump was leaking in a major way. It looked like the main seal had failed. We arranged to take it into town to be repaired but when we tried to drive it out of the fire shed one of the front brakes locked on and wouldn't release without some encouragement from a crow bar. When we eventually got it into town I had to negotiate a deal where we would provide the labour to repair the pump and the parts would be supplied. However, the brake system failed again and the yellow pumper is parked forlornly at the Fire Control Centre. It won't be returning to Wamboin. Triumph for the red pumper gods! We are now getting the red pumper fitted out again.

Andrew Dunn, Tim Warren and Darrell Tipton, while already active members of the brigade, have continued their training as part of the district's Remote Area Firefighting Team (RAFT). As the old joke goes they have continued to throw themselves out of perfectly good helicopters and insisting on trekking, not walking, through some inhospitable terrain and then riding back home in the choppers from pre-arranged extraction sites. All joking aside though, this type of firefighting is hard yakka and these guys are putting in a terrific effort to support this additional resource.

Many members got a new perspective on their community recently when we were able to organise a visit to the Kowen Forest fire tower. In times of high fire danger these towers are manned by ACT Forests staff. It isn't particularly exciting work but I am glad they do it. The view from the tower was excellent and one member was overheard saying that they could see their new tennis court and we were many kilometres from their home.

Some finishing touches to the fire shed extension have now been added. The new alarm and security system has been installed and functions well. The Senior Deputy Captain and myself will receive an SMS message whenever the system detects an intrusion. Luckily it hasn't detected one of our regular inconvenient visitors, a large lizard which leaves messy calling cards all over the floor! Some new blinds will cut down the glare in the upper level and the new air conditioning unit will be very welcome.

Over the next few months several long anticipated training courses are being held for our members, as well as for other brigades in our zone. These courses include basic firefighter, village firefighter, and advanced firefighter. Many members will be taking part.

Our fire danger period is just getting into full swing with 90% curing of grasses, low humidity, north westerly winds and higher temperatures. We all need to look to our properties and get ready. The checklists below should help people work out what they need to do. If in doubt, call me or one of the Deputy Captains. We will be only too pleased to offer our advice. And don't forget your animals!

**Is your property prepared against bushfires and grass fires?**

- Clear ground fuels around the house (long, dry grass, dead leaves and branches, thick undergrowth)
- Reduce Fire Fuels - Take a trip to the tip
- Plant a combination of fire resistant plants on your property
- Clear gutters
- Ember-proof house and sheds
- Join the Static Water Supply (SWS) Marking System
- Ensure roofing is firmly fixed
- Prepare firebreaks (a well watered lawn can act as a firebreak)
- Keep pasture growth down
- Install screens or shutters and enclose underfloor areas if possible
- Screen vents into the roof space with fine wire mesh
- Remove flammable items from around the house (eg. door mats, woodpile, and obvious flammable materials such as paper, boxes, crates, hanging baskets, wooden garden furniture etc)
- Vent LPG gas tanks away from the house
- Compile an emergency phone list and leave near phone

**Check your supplies and firefighting equipment** Things to consider include:

- Check water, taps and hoses. Ensure that hoses with metal fittings are long enough to reach all sides of house when attached to taps.
- Heavy duty hoses with wide-spray nozzles, if possible.
- Reserve water supplies from tank, dam, or swimming pool, if possible, since mains water will be in high demand. Try to store water during winter months.
- Gate valve fitted to water tank (a 38mm Storz coupling will assist the Rural Fire Brigade).
- Have gate valve to fit portable pump as well.
- Regularly check petrol or diesel portable pump, if you have one, to ensure it starts easily.
- Install a sprinkler system in your garden and on roofing, if affordable.
- Gather buckets (preferably metal), mops, spray backpack units, ladders, rakes and shovels in one place for ready access during a fire.
- Battery operated radio and torches in case of electricity failure.

<b>THE CAPTAIN'S LIST</b>	<b>Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade</b>	
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B & B Tree Surgery	FH Office Services	Sotech Pty Ltd
Bungendore Rural	France Harrison & Associates	Shepherds Hut Wines
Bungendore Taxi Service	Gidgee Estate Winery	Sherrin Hire
Capital Business Services	Inland Trading Co (Aust)	Sutton Real Estate
Clare Valley Tree Services	Lambert Vineyards	Tipton Shopfitters Pty Ltd
Coates Hire, Fyshwick	LMS Consulting	Trevor Barker & Associates
Congari Bookkeeping & Business Services	Manuka Childcare Centre	Trevor Duncan Homes
Coolah Holdings Pty Ltd	Marloc Engineering	Wagonga Coffee
	Overdene Excavations Pty Ltd	Westpac Banking Corporation

**Note**

**s from St Andrew's Church**

Services are held twice each month at 9am – on the first and third Sundays – in the church on the corner of Norton and Poppet Roads. St Andrew's is a "daughter" (or son) of St John's, Canberra and a "sister" (or brother) of St Peter's, Sutton, and the Revd Peter Grundy and Lay Ministers from St John's conduct the services here. Everyone is welcome, especially newer residents of Wamboin. During Lent a group will meet in the church at 7.30pm each Tuesday for study and reflection led by Peter Grundy. The group is open to anyone who is interested. If you wish to know more about the church please come to a service or phone Robyn Robertson (62383202) or Bronwyn Elliott (62383359).



## Nature Notes - January 2005

by Jo Walker

The most obvious bit of nature at the beginning of January (in Poppet Road, at least) was a Koel. This bird is a large parasitic cuckoo that lays its eggs in the nests of large honeyeaters such as Friar Birds (or possibly Red Wattle Birds, which are much more common around here). The male Koel has iridescent blue-black feathers, and the female and juveniles are mottled dark brown and white. The most distinctive thing about this species is its loud, persistent call. When I first heard it, and before I'd identified it, I thought it must be a much larger bird because of the volume of its voice. It is the male bird who calls - books tell me it makes a 'koo-eel' noise, but it sounded more like 'coo-wit' to me. The call is repeated several times on a slightly rising note, and it could be heard here from quite early in the morning, throughout the day and into the evening. The female, according to Michael Morcombe's "Field Guide to Australian Birds" usually calls only during the breeding season, and gives a series of shrieking whistles. Koels are fruit-eating birds, which might explain why, for the first week of its presence, this bird was calling from the orchard up the road! Judging by the direction of its calls, it began to move around after that, and was probably feeding on the fruits of the Native Cherry or Cherry Ballart (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*). *Exocarpos* is a cypress-like small tree with rather bright green foliage - it looks rather like a small conifer, but is actually in the Sandalwood family (Santalaceae). The 'fruit' is yellow, orange or dark red and succulent with a small round green 'seed' attached to the end. The 'seed' is actually the fruit, and the 'fruit' is really a swollen pedicel. The 'fruit' are not only edible, but palatable too, with a pleasant sweet flavour. Early settlers are supposed to have used them to make jam, but I've seldom seen enough of them on a tree to do this. Getting back to the Koel - these birds usually inhabit rainforest margins or areas of dense foliage (which doesn't sound much like Wamboin, does it?), but it occasionally reaches this area as a vagrant.

There were other unusual visitors this month. Two years ago, after the Canberra bushfires, a male King Parrot turned up here one day. He immediately flew off, and, as I didn't see him again, (and, as they are birds more usually seen in tall, moist forest) I assumed he was just a displaced bird passing through. But, a few weeks ago, two more King Parrots came in and sat for a while in a tree close to the house. They seemed to be juveniles, so it seems possible they are breeding nearby. They are beautiful birds with bright green backs and wings and crimson breasts. The male's red feathers extend to cover his head, but the female has a yellowish-greenish upper breast and green head. Both have pinkish beaks. (For those of you who get the Canberra Times, there was a colour picture of King Parrots on the cover of the ANU Continuing Education booklet included in Saturday's edition (29 January)). These birds, too, are fruit eaters, and may have been taking advantage of the *Exocarpos* fruits.

A non-feathered visitor also turned up a few weeks ago. I was musing at the window, with a cup of tea in my hand, when a Red-necked Wallaby hopped down the creek and began to graze near the house. There have always been Swamp Wallabies here, but it's only in the last two years that I've seen the Red-necked Wallaby -- and only three sightings so far. The latter have reddish fur around their ears and the shoulder area and rather soft greyish fur on the body, sometimes with a reddish undercoat showing through. Swamp Wallabies also have reddish fur near their ears, but it's less extensive and their body fur is usually much darker and coarser.

Like the Koel and the King Parrots, the Red-necked Wallabies are more common in areas of tall, moist forest and are common in Namadgi National Park. Wamboin is hardly in that class, but it certainly does have a lot more tree cover and under-story vegetation than were here twenty years ago, so it is likely that the fauna will also change a bit with the landscape.

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## IF ONLY THEY COULD TALK

A series by local vet, Dr Garry McComb BVSc QDAH

### WATER INTOXICATION

Almost every day in mixed veterinary practice is different and every so often a very different day comes along. Some days we see things that we wish we could have recorded on video. However usually when these things are happening we are very busy trying to save an animal's life. Most owners would not be impressed with a vet behaving like a Japanese or American tourist with a video camera - though it would certainly be great to record some of these rare events especially for teaching purposes. During December I had one of these times when I saw cattle intoxicated or drunk on water.

It was on a large sheep and cattle property which had already suffered enough stock losses and expenses associated with *lack* of water from the drought. Ironically this problem was caused by *too much* water. The owner phoned me late morning and told me the history. 45 cows with calves at foot were in a paddock which had a reticulated water system powered by a pump. We don't know exactly when the pump failed but the owners had noticed a change in the water pressure to their home a few days earlier. The cattle had been without water for at least a couple of days and the weather was very hot. Lactating animals require a lot more water than non-lactating.

When the problem was discovered, the cattle were mustered and shifted to a paddock with a dam. The cattle rushed the water and drank until the owner could "hear the water sloshing in their rumens". When I arrived in the evening the scene was very grim. There were many cows flat out on the ground scattered all over the paddock and many that were very intoxicated. They were walking (more like staggering) like drunks and just as some drunks, were very aggressive. While we were treating these cows we often had to run to escape the charging beasts. We treated the ones on the ground then mustered the standing cows and slowly walked them to the yards so that they could be treated throughout the night by the owners.

The pathology of this condition is too complex for this article however basically it is caused by an excessive loss of salt then rapid ingestion of water which causes the brain and other tissues to swell with fluid. The condition also occurs in man especially marathon runners when they lose an excessive amount of salt through sweat. This condition is called 'Hyponatraemia' which means a dilution or deficiency of sodium and this occurs when a dehydrated person drinks excess water without electrolytes. Infants under 6 months of age are also prone to water intoxication from drinking several bottles of water or milk that has been diluted too much. Deaths in humans caused by water intoxication have also occurred following "bad trips" with drugs such as ecstasy.

Treatment consists of diuretics (drugs which cause us to urinate to remove excess fluid and restore a normal fluid balance), sedatives (to calm the animals down) and intravenous administration of hypertonic saline solution. With the number of cattle involved it was not possible to setup intravenous fluids in the paddock. All but 12 were saved. We know our treatment was successful - 2 cows which appeared to be normal escaped during mustering and did not receive any treatment. They were found dead the next morning.

There are many old cattle droving stories of cattle rushing water after traveling long distances without water - I remember a movie with Chips Rafferty trying to keep a mob of thirsty cattle off a water hole. Now I have seen what Chips was preventing.

### Lake George Day View Club - February AGM Luncheon Meeting

Lake George Day VIEW Club's next luncheon meeting will be on Tuesday 15 February 2005, commencing at 11.30am, at the Eagle Hawk Rydges Resort, Federal Highway, Sutton. The cost is \$20.00. This will be the Annual General Meeting for 2005. We welcome new members and guests.

Trading Table - please bring along craft, home cooked biscuits, slice, jams, pickles, plants, second hand books and anything else to sell ... even those unwanted Christmas gifts. Someones trash is someone else's treasure.

For bookings please phone Lesley (secretary) on 6238 3717 by Thursday 10 February.

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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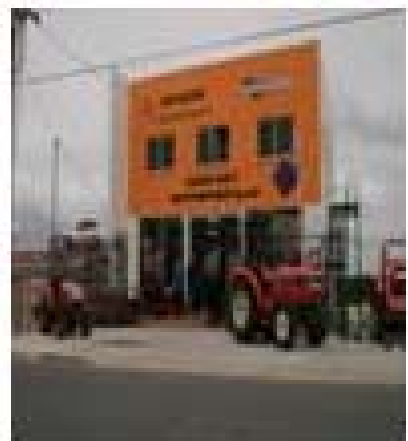
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# 1<sup>st</sup> Wamboin Scout Group News

The 1<sup>st</sup> Wamboin Scout Group will start meeting again, for the 2005 year, in February. The Cub Section, for boys and girls aged between 8 and 10, meets on Wednesday evenings, 7:00 – 8:30 pm. The Scout Section, for boys and girls aged between 11 and 14, meets on Monday nights, 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Both Sections were recognised, at the District level, for their respective achievements in 2004, and two more of our Cub Scouts, Stevie Harrison and Graeme Searle, earned their Yellow Cord, the highest achievement award in the Cub Scout Section.

Anyone with children interested in joining the Scouting movement should contact one of the Leaders listed below.

Once again, however, we find ourselves short of Leaders. In particular, our Cub Scout Section will not be able to continue operating beyond the end of first term if we cannot find a new Cub Scout Leader. Our current Leader has agreed to stay on for first term (and subsequently provide support for any new Leader), in the hope that we can find a replacement for the future. It would be greatly appreciated if anyone who is interested in becoming a Cub Scout Leader could contact Pete Harrison to discuss this opportunity to help. For further information, please contact one of the leaders listed below.

Marita Corra  
Ph. 6238 3246  
Scout Leader

Paul Brugman  
Ph. 6238 3539  
Scout Leader

Pete Harrison  
Ph. 6238 3525  
Cub Scout Leader

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## WAMBOIN PONY CLUB- GIBBER GABBER

Welcome to the new year for Wamboin Pony Club. We missed the last Whisper for 2004 and would just like to recap on what a great year the club had. We held 3 major events at our grounds, 2 gymkhanas and a Zone Sporting Championship. We also held rally days each month. All this could not happen without the commitment of all our members and the committee would like to thank all those involved, too many to mention individually.

The club had a number of riders who successfully competed at not only Zone events but State events. The State representatives were Ceilidh Armer at Equitation, and a team made up of Rebecca Purdie, Katie and Lauren Slater, Nicole Smith and Hannah Brugman competed at Mounted Games. We also had Kathryn McDougall and Lizzie Barter who competed in a mixed Zone Associate team. Jessica Mitchell in January 2005 competed in the Dressage.

For 2005 we are planning on holding at least 2 gymkhanas at our grounds in June and December. We will also be hosting the Zone Equitation and Showjumping Championships at Equestrian Park, Curtin in March.

Rally days are planned for the second Sunday of each month, and we hope to run a second rally each month on the fourth Sunday. The first rally for 2005 is on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February commencing at 9 am due to the hot weather. New members are always welcome. Please contact Maureen Purdie on 6238 3343 or Robyn Slater on 6238 3472 for more information. Looking forward to an enjoyable and successful 2005.

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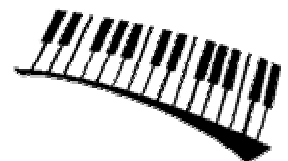
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### WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – DECEMBER XMAS COMPETITION

After the big turnout at the Wamboin Open numbers were down somewhat in December competition, must have been the start of the silly season?

Trophies of magnificent Christmas hampers were donated by Ted and Judith Evans and we thank them for their usual generous Christmas sponsorship.

After game eats were prepared by Joan Mason and Mary Lou Gorham with some family help, thanks to the ladies.

Nearest the pin winners were Bob Mettam x2, Colleen Fogarty, Lofty Mason and Peter Greenwood.

Nine hole comp was won by Joan Mason.

B Grade winner was Paul Griffin,

A Grade winner was Peter Greenwood (42 Stableford points) with Charles Guscott (39 points) in second and Tim Barter third on count back from Keith France, both with 37 points.

### WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – JANUARY NEW YEAR COMPETITION

The numbers were up again for the new year opening round and as usual in January we thank Dave and Jane Hubbard from Wiyagiba Trading for their sponsorship.

Long Drive award went to visitor Dick Berlee who came out all the way from Holland to witness golf Wamboin style.

Ball winners were; Len Ivey, Dennis Walker, Ken Gordon x2, Tony Fisher, John Whitney, Larry King, Joan Mason and Charlie Montesin x2.

Nine hole event won by Ms Larry King who beat Joan Mason off her own tee!!

B Grade won by Charlie Montesin, 39 points from David Steele, 30 points.

A Grade won by Len Ivey, 39 points from Ken Gordon, 35 points. - Peter Greenwood , Golf , enquiries 6238 3358

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## Wamboin Muses

Jill Gregory

So far this summer my garden has given generously, its bold splashes of colour contrasting with the faded grasses beyond. There are dahlias and gladioli, petunias, geraniums, hydrangeas and agapanthus; brash blues and reds and purples, bursting with life. A stroll to the orchard, across the nearly dry creek bed, revealed more. Mother and father Wood duck, once regular callers at the chook coop, were swimming proudly ahead of seven lively balls of downy brown. Closer to the house, the sweetest little bunny, eyes unblinking and ears too big for its head, hopped out to greet me, then had a sudden change of heart. A polished black goanna, of ancient lineage, moved silently away, clinging to the shadows of the rock edged garden. It had come for its morning feed of plums that the cockatoos had thoughtfully plucked for him and left scattered on the ground. I counted four fish in the pond, two large and two small, and watched the mother magpie, with all the patience of a born teacher, instructing her little one in the art of survival. Spring growth, now summer harvest.

But summer in Wamboin offers layers of reality. Once again I scan the horizon for those tell tale clouds that herald the forecast thunderstorm. They puff and bubble and foment, and look wonderfully threatening, only to part, almost biblically, and slip around us. Watering becomes the daily ritual yet again. I dip into the dam, reasoning that if I don't, the wind will surely scoop it up. The Yass river has long forfeited that precious run off. But watering has to be slotted in between dusk and dawn, when the wind is not up, and it seems to be blowing all the time. I water, and the plants flourish, and suddenly those sweet rabbits and kangaroos, now with their babies, abandon their spartan bush diet and come to my table. A smorgasbord of treats. Word spreads of the fine fare on offer, and the grasshoppers descend. Not even the feasting magpies can put a dent in their numbers.

And when the day ends and I sit on my front verandah, above the high water mark, I tally the score. Our little hiccups, our small battles with nature are insignificant when compared to the tsunami catastrophe that has swamped our fellow man. My little plot gives generously to me, and now it is my turn to give to those so desperately in need. I can only hope that my small offering may ease a little of the pain for someone over there.

I wouldn't live anywhere else....where else would your focus on a few (hundred) grasshoppers be your biggest concern.



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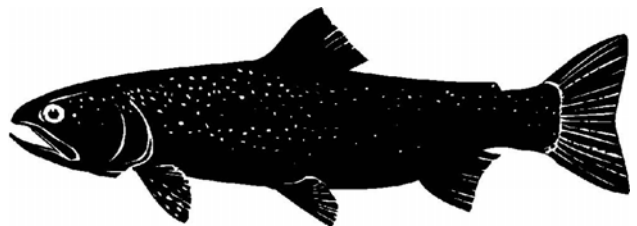
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