

March 2005 CIRCULATION: 974

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, March 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, babysitting, 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

## NOTES FROM BYWONG COMMUNITY

by Warwick Cathro

Mareeta Grundy, a member of the Steering Committee for the Bungendore Community Bank, gave a presentation to the last meeting of the Bywong Community Association on 21 February, and answered questions from residents. Mareeta informed us that pledges of almost \$400,000 had been received from the local community, and that this was assessed as sufficient to move to the next stage – a feasibility study. Local households should receive a survey form, as part of this feasibility study, in the first half of March.

Anthony Goonan, Manager of the local company YLESS4U, was the other guest speaker at our last meeting. Anthony described the broadband Internet and voice services which will be offered by his company. Anthony also revealed the identity of his business partners, Nortel and TransACT. There was a lively question period following his address.

The Bywong Community Association is now actively preparing for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Car Boot Sale, to be held this year on Sunday 20 March. If past trends continue, we can expect over 100 stall holders and over 2000 visitors at this event. Music will be provided by the vocal duo “Andy and Til”. Our monster raffle will have over 60 prizes generously donated by local businesses and residents. Apart from being an opportunity to trade our trash and treasure, this event is a major fundraiser for the Association, and allows us to provide support to other local community groups. Come and join us at the Les Reardon Reserve, Birriwa Road, Bywong. Stall holders can set up from 7.30am, and the Car Boot Sale opens to visitors at 9.00am.

The Association is expecting two guest speakers from the Palerang Council to address its next meeting on 18 April. One of these will deal with the community services that are available in our locality, especially to people like the sick, the elderly and new mothers. The other will deal with the future of waste disposal services in the locality, including the future of the Macs Reef Road rubbish tip.

The Community Association aims to organise at least two local bushwalks each year. Last November, about 15 people enjoyed a pleasant walk along the Lake George escarpment. We are now planning a walk to the summit of Bywong Hill on 1 May.

Summary of major Bywong Community events in the next 6 months:

Sunday 6 March	Clean Up Australia Day (call Rodney Gibb 6236 9077)
Sunday 20 March	10 <sup>th</sup> annual Car Boot Sale (starts 9.00am, stall holders from 7.30am)
Monday 18 April	Bywong Community General Meeting (Community Hall, 7.30pm)
Sunday 1 May	Bush Walk to Bywong Hill (starts 10am)
Monday 20 June	Bywong Community General Meeting (Community Hall, 7.30pm)
Saturday 30 July	Trivia Night (Community Hall, 7.30pm)

For inquiries on any of these activities, phone Warwick on 6236 9187.

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## WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### President's Paragraphs

The formal part of the **February WCA Meeting** was cut very short to enable the Telstra presentation by Ian Peters. He spoke on **Broadband ADSL** Internet access for Wamboin and requested that people who were interested to fill in a petition. Telstra require at least 150 names/phone numbers to expedite the installation of this service. Interested? Lodge your Expression of Interest by sending an E-mail to: [capitalsoutheast@countrywide.telstra.com](mailto:capitalsoutheast@countrywide.telstra.com) Nominate it as an Expression of Interest in Broadband ADSL for Wamboin and give your name and phone number. Your 'E of I' need not be a request for purchase nor a binding contract.

There was discussion about re-commissioning the Poppet Hill aerial as a **mobile' phone tower**. You may remember this aerial used to be topped by two dishes and was our main phone line connection to Black Mountain Tower. A transmission footprint would indicate that using this aerial would bring much of the now shadowed areas of Wamboin into mobile phone contact.

Ned Noel is trying various ways of printing The Whisper now that The Canberra Times have withdrawn their service. Not sure when this issue will be delivered, however, if you receive this Whisper before Sunday March 6, please be advised that **Clean up Australia** day is on this Sunday. Please register at the Hall from 9am. I will allot areas (normally a section of street in your neighbourhood) at the time of registration. The Brigade will again be providing field control and handing out drinks. So please come along. We only ask for 3 hours of your time.

Due to the reduced meeting of the February WCA, the Executive held a Special Meeting to cover any outstanding business. Ned Noel briefed on The Whisper printing and made a recommendation that an offer from a Belconnen firm be trialled. Another major discussion was about the **Bonfire and Fireworks Night** which is our major fund raiser for the year. Two problems of lack of parking space and insufficient food provision were highlighted. These short comings must be sorted out for the night to continue to be a success. While the Fireworks display was voted by all to be most spectacular, there is again some concern as to the noise that is generated. Your committee is working on these aspects to ensure another enjoyable evening is appreciated by all members of our Community.

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

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6258 1792

## Nature Notes – February 2005

Jo Walker

I was reading an article in the paper a few weeks ago about intelligence in birds. I'd always thought that parrots were probably the most intelligent birds, but actually corvids (crows and ravens) apparently have the highest IQ. Parrots didn't do too well, but it was observed that Australian parrots were, on the whole, more intelligent than others. Our sulphur-crested cockatoos certainly seem to be pretty bright – and to have what appears to be a sense of humour, too. There was one here a few years ago that used to walk up behind one of the female kangaroos grazing near the house and neatly nip the end of her tail. She would leap into the air and move off a few yards. The cockatoo would wait a minute or two and then sidle up to her again and give her another nip. It always chose just this one female to pester (Spook' Roo was one I'd reared and easily recognizable), and it seemed to have no other reason for picking on her than, in its little parrot brain, it was a fun thing to do. Then, last year, towards the end of the drought when there was nothing for the 'roos to feed on, I was putting out pellets and horse-feed for them. The cockatoos very quickly had their eyes on this source of food. I noticed that one would occasionally hop up quietly and nip a 'roo on the tail and assumed that this was the bird that had been bothering Spook. It probably was, but what had previously been a bit of fun now had a purpose, and this behaviour was soon mimicked by about half a dozen of the cockatoos who could quickly drive the 'roos away and claim the food for their flock. They also became adept at grabbing the edge of a food bowl and dragging it away from any of the more stubborn 'roos.

Ravens occasionally fly over my place or sit in the trees for a while calling mournfully, but I haven't seen them exhibit any peculiarly intelligent behaviour. However, a few years ago, I was visiting Wilson's Promontory in Victoria with some friends. As we were leaving the Park, we stopped to have some lunch at one of the picnic areas – where, of course, birds are used to picking up scraps of food. We were soon joined by a large raven who sat watching us intently. Someone tossed it a bit of food. It picked it up, but didn't swallow it. Instead, it carried it off and dropped it on the ground. Then it pecked around a little grass tussock and pulled it out of the ground, picked up the piece of food, dropped it into the hole it had made and replaced the grass and soil. It repeated this procedure with several more offerings. Then someone threw it a piece of rather dry bread crust. After it had removed another grass tussock, it stood for a while looking at the rather unappetizing item of food, then picked it up, dropped it into a shallow puddle, retrieved it and buried it. This really happened, although none of the birdwatchers with us had seen anything like it before. It would have been interesting to have stayed around for a day or two to have seen if it managed to locate its hoard again. It certainly seems that birds are really a lot more intelligent than we often give them credit for.



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**Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin**  
30 year statistics from the Robertsons

February rainfall to 20/2	35.5mm	Hottest March day	35 degrees on 8/3/83
2005 rainfall to 20/2	67mm	Coldest March day	13 degrees on 14/3/94
Av March rainfall	57.7mm	Coldest March night	3 degrees on 28/3/99
March 2004	7mm	Wettest March	303mm (1989)

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
218 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	48	
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	
187 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:		Ph 6238 3590	
Sheryl Barnes	Quinn's Estate / Denley	15	Whitfords Whitford Deley/Kestral area
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Gum Flat	35	Rhett Cox Macs Reef /Nwngnt to FdHwy
Ann Platts	Denley MacReef to Birchman's	26	Morag Cotsell MReef /Newington/Harriot
Warrick Cathro	Macs Reef -GumFlat to Harriott	30	Esther/Ian Rudd MReef/Bankers/FedHwy
170 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON Ph 6236 9609			
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Laura Snowden Hogan Drive
Len Parrish	Summerhill Rd Area	32	Diana+Keith Gascoyne Hogan Drive Area
Sue Gorham	Schofields/Brooks	25	Thelma Martin Shinglehouse Rd area
Sue Aunella	Doust/Wyoming/Brooks	25	
TOTAL 974			



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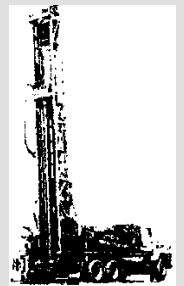
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### Letter

There are some good community facilities already in Wamboin. We have a hall, fire shed, children's playground, pony club ground and church, but I was wondering if there is any interest in establishing tennis courts. If there are any supporters, where do we go from here? - Jill Gregory

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### Wamboin 15 years ago

March 1990 was a quiet month, marked by the transition to new editors of the Whisper, Sue Bedford and Edwina Jans. Retiring editors, Joyce and David Nordsvan thanked the community for support and enthusiasm and wished the new editors well, predicting a "new profile" for the Whisper under these young people. - prepared by Robyn Robertson

### Notes from St Andrews Church

Services are held in the Church on the corner of Norton and Poppet Roads at 9am on the first and third Sundays of each month. As Easter comes early this year there will be 9am services on Good Friday (25th March) and Easter Day (27th March) conducted by the Revd Peter Grundy.

A Lenten Study Group is meeting in the Church each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm, led by Peter Grundy. Everyone is welcome at the services and the study group, especially new residents.

If you would like to know more about the Church in Wamboin, or if the Church can help you, please phone one of the Wardens, Robyn Robertson, on 6238 3202 or Bronwyn Elliott on 6238 3359.

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<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>
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<p>Homes wanted (separately) for two cats. Currently living Bywong. <b>Chi-Chi</b> - Grey/white, small female, DSH, 3 years, family friendly and affectionate, but wary and independent. D/s, Vacc., chipped. Likes children but not other cats. Suit single, caring owner. <b>Sassy</b> - Tabby/white, female, slight build, five years(?), D/s, believed vacc. No chip. Very quiet, sociable and affectionate. Owner moved to Cambodia, and Sassy lost her brother, her carer and her home. Would suit most circumstances. No charge, just someone to look after them. <b>Also:</b> S/hand Vanity, 600mm, white; taps, waste, one door, three drawers, white handles. Condition - not bad. \$25.00. Ph: Chris - 62369189, 0438591098.</p>
<p><b>IRONING</b> - Don't have time. I will pick up and deliver. If this sounds like it will help you call me on 6238 3193</p>
<p><b>FOR HIRE: WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL.</b> Bookings arranged by Joan Mason 62383258. Local Hire \$65 per use - Bond \$200. Outside Hire \$125 per use - Bond \$250. Teenage/18 year old birthdays/parties (must be supervised by parents) \$160 - Bond \$300.</p>
<p><b>ADVERTISING RATES:</b> Local classified advertisements are free, as are announcements from community organisations and clubs. Business advertisements attract a small fee (see below) which is donated to the Wamboin Community Association. Please make your cheque out to this association, but post it to the editor. Contact editor on 6238-3484 for information. Advertising rates: Full Page - \$100 Half 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>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, think about writing it up for the next issue. For more information contact the editor on 6238-3484 or email <a href="mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au">nednoel@optusnet.com.au</a>. And thanks if you have already done so.</p>
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<p>Avon - if you are interested in receiving an Avon Brochure please phone Debbie 6238 3193.</p>



## SUTTON SCHOOL FETE

Sutton Public School is holding its "Mystical and Magical Fair" on Saturday 2nd April 2005, between 10am to 2pm. There will be many attractions and demonstrations to delight one and all. In keeping with this year's theme our special attractions will include Border Morris Dancing by the Molonglo Mayhem Border Morris and Medieval Combat Display by the Ancient Arts Fellowship. This will be a family fun day with an international food stall, games, rides and lots of other events to keep everyone entertained. Come join the wizards, witches and magicians galore at Sutton Public school. Further information regarding the Fair may be provided by contacting Lisa on ph 02 6236 9615". – Narell Regan, for Sutton P&C Assn



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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



A strange thing has been happening in many brigades in our area. Many firefighters are puzzled that they haven't been called out to many incidents or haven't heard of any fires here. I can almost hear the stories now. Back in my day during the fire drought of '05.... This season so far has been amazingly quiet. The chips on the stove haven't caught fire. The hay stacks haven't spontaneously combusted. The lightning strikes haven't created major problems. The bush hasn't mysteriously burst into flame after people on motorbikes or four wheel drives are seen rapidly leaving the scene. The lighted cigarettes tossed out of moving vehicles haven't started the raging infernos. Even the motor vehicle drivers are keeping their vehicles on the right side of the road and the trees that have been reported jumping out from the bush and hitting moving cars seem to be staying in the bush. We can only hope that this irregular pattern continues for as long as possible. I am sure that we firefighters will cope with our now almost chronic withdrawal symptoms. It is possible that some of

the drug companies are now working on some new skin patches for us to help us reduce our dependence on experiencing the heat and eating smoke.

It is pleasing to report that some positive progress has been made in Cooper Road in regaining access to Kowen Forest. Many residents were upset and dismayed when some large rocks were put across the access track making it difficult for many people to get into the forest area from Cooper Road. We in the brigade were very concerned because it stopped us from getting into the forest area behind Cooper Road in the event of an emergency. After several phone calls, emails and meetings the Council has come to the community's aid and had the rocks moved. Access to the forest is available again.

Thanks to the generous donations we have been receiving and from our recent donation drive we can now go ahead and buy some much needed portable radios, Global Positioning System (GPS) units and binoculars. We are also investigating the purchase of wet weather gear. All this equipment will not only make things safer for our members, especially at the sites of motor vehicle accidents, but it will help us communicate, navigate, and watch things more clearly. All members of the brigade are very conscious of your help and support and are grateful to get this equipment.

Three of our members, Andrew Dunn, Darrell Tipton and Tim Warren continue to spend what little spare time they have from family, work and other brigade commitments training with the Remote Area Firefighting Team (RAFT). This has recently included several days hiking through some pretty inhospitable country after being dropped from helicopters.

We have recently learned about a recall involving Mitsubishi trucks with cracks appearing in a cross member of the chassis in some models. The brigade has two Mitsubishi Canters and one of them is now off the road and waiting for the cross member to be replaced. The other truck has been inspected and luckily is not affected by this recall.

It is a little ironic that although the current fire season hasn't finished and there is still a reasonably significant risk of bush fires in our area, and we need to ensure our properties are prepared, it is that time of year when we have to look ahead a few months and start thinking about the colder weather and its consequences.

A wood fire is something that can be enjoyed on a cold winter night. That is the time of year when your brigade could be called for chimney fires. Chimney fires are no fun, and we're sure you don't want to experience one on your own.

Like any fires, chimney fires vary in size and severity. On one extreme, it is possible to have a chimney fire without even knowing it. While this is uncommon, it does happen. On the other extreme, a chimney fire may leave nothing more of your home than a pile of ashes around the chimney.

The average chimney fire will make a loud roaring noise, often described by people as a train or jet going through the home. The roaring noise is caused by the sudden rush of air going into the chimney to feed the fire. Flames will usually be seen coming out of the chimney. Pieces of creosote will often be seen flying out the top of the chimney, and these may ignite the roof or other nearby combustibles. You could also hear popping or cracking noises inside the chimney indicating damage to bricks, mortar and the flue liners.

The items below are the things you should do if you have a chimney fire:

If a chimney fire does occur, in all cases call 000 immediately from a neighbour's house or, if the reception is good enough, from a mobile phone away from the house. It is best to leave the fighting of fire to the Fire Brigade.

If you have a fireplace with glass doors, close the doors and vents.

If you have a wood stove, close the doors and the air inlets.

Do not close the damper of either a wood stove or a fireplace.

Have the chimney cleaned before using the chimney again. Don't be misled into believing that a chimney fire is a good way to clean a chimney. A chimney fire is a serious occurrence and can be very damaging to a chimney.

Never use flammable liquids or excessive amounts of paper to start a fire.

Never leave a fire unattended and keep children away from the heat sources.

Always keep a metal or glass screen in front of the fireplace opening.

Burn small, hot fires to cut down on creosote build-up in the chimney and deposit all ashes in a metal container with a lid.

Never hang clothes to dry too close to a wood-burning stove.

Check your smoke detectors and have a portable fire extinguisher (ABC) close at hand.

THE CAPTAIN'S LIST	Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	
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### Lake George Day View Club – March Luncheon Meeting

Lake George Day VIEW Club's next luncheon meeting, to celebrate International Women's Day, will be on Tuesday 15 March 2005, commencing at 11.30am, at HMAS Harman. The cost is \$20.00. We welcome new members and guests. For bookings please phone Kelly on 6230 3447 by Monday 7 March.

VIEW Club is a valued part of The Smith Family. It was originally created in 1960 to bring together women in isolated communities. VIEW provides a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas, develops friendships and supports disadvantaged Australians. Our club meets monthly, usually at Eagle Hawk Rydges Resort, Federal Highway, Sutton, for lunch. We invite enlightening guest speakers and normally have a theme. We visit other VIEW clubs on special occasions and have varied social outings. Some of our members recently attended the wedding of our youngest member (Kelly from Sutton). For more information about VIEW, please contact Lesley (President) on (02) 6238 3717. - Angela Vagg


### The Bungendore Evening VIEW Club

March next meeting is on Monday, 7th March from 6.45pm at the Arte Café and Gallery in Malbon Street Bungendore. We are pleased to have as our guest speaker Dr Sally Somi. Sally is representative of VIEWs theme of 'Women Making a Difference' and will speak of her experiences in Africa. Dinner will cost \$23 plus extra for wine. Catch up with old friends and meet new friends at BEVC. Proceeds assist the Smith Family fundraising. For bookings please contact Debbie Hudson on 6238 1571 or dhudson2@vtown.com.au

April meeting will be held in the new back dining room at the Royal Hotel on Monday, 4th April from 6.45pm. Our special guest will be Rosie Windsor who will speak about interior design. For bookings please contact Debbie Hudson on ph 6238 1571 or dhudson2@vtown.com.au. Dinner will cost \$23 and funds raised support the Smith Family.

- by Robyn Barter


		
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**Wamboin responds to the Tsunami  
by the Schultz Family, Norton Rd**

Following the tsunami disaster of 26 December 2004 in South East Asia, Kiri and Rohan Schultz, their family, their Church community (St Andrew's Wamboin) and their friends set about fund raising. Kiri and Rohan were both adopted as babies from Sri Lanka through *International Children's Aid Inc* and their birth families come from Kalutara, just south of Colombo. This was one of the worst hit coastal areas. You may recall the 'before and after' photos of this small town on the front of the Canberra Times. At least three families from the Wamboin and Sutton communities have adopted and also sponsor children through International Children's Aid and are familiar with the work of the organisation.

**THANK YOU WAMBOIN for your response.** Here are some Wamboin responses – and we are sure there are others too.

St Andrew's Wamboin raised over \$1000.00 at their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary service in January. Many members of the congregation and of the wider Wamboin community also gave additional individual donations, which went directly to International Children's Aid.

As well as monetary donations, Wamboin and the wider Sutton and Wamboin community (and Sydney friends too!) have contributed a large amount of good quality clothing, linen and household goods. A first batch has been shipped to Sri Lanka through the Sri Lankan High Commission and a second load will be going in early March. Thank you everyone (even those who thought polar fleeces count as 'lightweight clothing!' – these went to St Vincent de Paul instead).

Kiri's boyfriend Tom Corra, organised a car rally and cruise to the Cotter which was sponsored by two Wamboin businesses, Inland Trading Company and LMS Consulting (yes we know that means Tom and Kiri's parents but they convinced us pretty easily that it was a just cause). The rally raised over \$3000.00. Well done Tom. These funds have been forwarded to the International Red Cross as part of their work rebuilding Tsunami affected communities.

We are all familiar with the work of the Red Cross but do you know about *International Children's Aid*? This small organisation originated in Sydney some 25-30 years ago and established strong ties with the Sri Lankan Government and several local communities in Sri Lanka. Originally, the work of the organisation focused around inter-country adoption and in setting up and supporting orphanages for abandoned or orphaned children as well as for those needing long-term, out of home care. Today, adoption is largely an internal Sri Lankan matter but ICA continues to sponsor children and support the orphanages, including a nutrition centre for babies and toddlers and a children's village (established as part of the local community at Rambukkana). These orphanages are now run by Sri Lankans with assistance from Australian volunteers.

Recent news from Sri Lanka indicates that ICA orphanages and the village at Rambukkana are all undamaged, as they are all situated away from coastal areas. However, other orphanages and other families living in coastal areas were less fortunate. As a result ICA orphanages are expanding their services to accommodate displaced children. For some, this is a temporary measure and for others who are known to have lost family, it is sadly a longer-term prospect.

ICA has now raised more than \$12,300 through its members, their families and their friends. All proceeds have already gone directly to Sri Lanka to assist with caring for and reuniting children with families where possible or within their local communities. However, there are known to be at least 1000 children in Sri Lanka who are orphaned as a result of the tsunami and many more whose families have been affected and who have lost their homes and livelihood. In the future, ICA expects sponsorship of these children to be one of the most useful ways to ensure sustainable funding and allowing these children a decent life with access to secure housing, good nutrition, education and (hopefully) reintegration within their local communities. ICA has run a sponsorship scheme for many years and is well placed to expand their current sponsorship activity, working towards these outcomes. If you want to know more about sponsorship and the work of ICA check out their website at [www.internationalchildrensaid.org.au](http://www.internationalchildrensaid.org.au)

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by Ian Collet

## THE STABLE DOOR Farewell Julian

I was very saddened to read in today's paper (1 March) of the passing of Julian Thompson, a member of our community. While I did not know him well, Julian, a Bywong resident, was one of the "doers" in the community. Loretta and I first met Julian, shortly after our arrival in Wamboin in 1994, when he, and others and we became involved in the imbroglio surrounding the planning and implementation of the "Greenways" system that runs through Bywong and Wamboin. For members of the community who are unaware, the Greenways is a network of corridors through remaining schlerophyll dry forest and open grassland which has been set aside, zoned and constructed for non-motorised, equestrian, walking and cycling purposes. Julian was Secretary of the Greenways Management Committee and it was largely in that capacity we came to know him. They were heady times in 1994 and Julian endeavoured to ensure broad acceptance of a sensible outcome and a responsible attitude by all in the community to the opening-up of these fragile areas for public access. Ultimately, with Julian's stewardship, commonsense prevailed and the people who wanted to drive a bulldozer blade down the middle of these strips of land for their horse carriages and motorbikes and four wheelers finally understood the insanity of their way. As the Greenways proposal progressed from paper to actuality, Julian, almost without exception, would be out there with others with the plans and the posts and the wire and strainers – along with wife Judy. I know Julian will, is already, being missed by many in Bywong and Wamboin and, I am sure, also in the wider community. Thank you Julian, and farewell.

### Update on Mobile Phone Coverage

Ian Peters (General Manager for Telstra - Capital South East Region) addressed the 50 or so people present at the Wamboin community meeting on 15 Feb. His tenor was "we would see some action very soon". He covered 4 areas on the night: (1) service issues, (2) mobile phone reception, (3) mobile data *and* (4) ADSL (internet broadband) and associated stumbling blocks for some localities.

I believe President Lofty Mason has covered Telstra's presentation in his Report. Accordingly, I shan't prattle on – SUFFICE TO SAY – the signal propagation charts for mobile phone coverage which Ian Peters undertook would be with the community association "within 10 days" had not been received by either the President or the Secretary as at Tues morning 1 March.

One very important point of difference between discussions with Telstra in 2003/04 and its present plan is that the mobile phone coverage it proposes to boost in the Capital Region (yes, that's us) is CDMA – not GSM. Accordingly, many in the community will need to think again about what and where their mobile phone/data needs are. It follows that for GSM users (the majority of mobile phone users in this community) reception issues in this area are unlikely to get any better. From Telstra's perspective, CDMA is the way to go.

### A local (wireless) broadband offering

Been perusing the Bungendore papers in recent times? Perhaps you went to the Bungendore Show? Maybe you read the lead article on the front page of the IT section of The Australian on 22 February? Or, just possibly, you attended the last Bywong Community Association meeting? If you did any of those things you will have read or heard about or spoken to or seen a Bywong local company, YLESS4U, and its plans to roll out a range of wireless broadband services. If you want to know more about this local initiative, you might like to check out [www.yless4u.com.au](http://www.yless4u.com.au)

*While all care has been taken by me in presenting these notes, I do not offer a guarantee as to their accuracy. Accordingly, readers or other users should not rely upon these notes as a basis for any action they may or may not take. I make no recommendations in relation to any of the persons, corporations or products which are or may in the future be offered.*

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**Palerang Council News**  
**Sent in By Terry Bransdon**  
**Mayor and Bywong Resident**

**Wamboin rural residential lots approved.** A 41-lot hobby farm subdivision in Wamboin was approved by Palerang Council in February on a large tract of land earmarked for rural residential development since the 1970s. The development off Birchmans Grove and Hogan Drive has rural residential lot sizes ranging from 2.9 to 13.5 hectares and two larger rural zoned allotments. The development first was brought to Council in December when 28 submissions expressing concern about the subdivision were received, including a petition with 30 signatures. Twenty-three of the submissions dealt with road access to the land and a motion to approve the development at the December meeting failed to get sufficient Councillor support. But when the development came back to Council at the request of the developer it was approved. Some concerns over road access had been resolved. The remaining objections centred on tree removal on the road reserve and on two other issues – that the blocks were too small and the second concern focussing on non potable water, how it was being supplied and on the impact on the Yass River catchment. On lot size the local plan required the average size of lots had to be 6ha and this subdivision meets that requirement.

The Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) which is the State Government body governing water use imposed strict controls co-agreed by the Council. Under the former Yarrawlumla Council's Local Environmental Plan which is the control over the area, each house is required to install a 90,000 litre rainwater tank. DIPNR's water plan also involves licensing a central 34.25 megalitre dam to service the blocks for fire fighting, watering stock and gardens and tree planting. Recent approvals of subdivisions like this one and another urban development in Bungendore approved at an Extraordinary Council Meeting in December demonstrate the difficulties Councillors face when wearing the two hats of elected community representatives and as members of the development approval body. It means Councillors could face conflict because they may have campaigned in last year's election to implement planning changes endorsed by the community but then learn that changing the old rules is a three-year process.

Development generally is an emotive issue where some residents want their environment to stay the way it is because that's what attracted them to move into Palerang. But others may want more or better facilities that only come with larger population. That becomes difficult to balance. But nothing stays still or frozen in time. For Palerang Council, perhaps the most important issue is to manage any change cautiously, to avoid it being too fast, and to make sure development is good development. You can contribute to management of change by telling council about your vision for the future Wamboin and surrounding community. Please email me or your other councillor representatives at our council email addresses (e.g. [terry.bransdon@palerang.nsw.gov.au](mailto:terry.bransdon@palerang.nsw.gov.au) – substitute my name for which councillor, several or all councillors you want to contact), or write or telephone us through the Council listings in the telephone white pages directory.

**Rezoning moratorium rejected** It was against that background that Council also rejected on Tuesday a proposal to impose two moratoriums on rezoning for development in Palerang. The first was to defer any rezonings of land around Bungendore until the town's water and sewerage study is completed in a few months. The second moratorium proposed to delay all other rezonings across the shire until the new single LEP is completed in about three years' time. Councillors argued that the second moratorium was too long to put all development on hold. It also could result in demand for infill blocks in the old part of Bungendore, changing the large block concept of the old village.

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## Whisper Operations, Another Chapter

by Ned Noel, editor

This month's Whisper has been printed by Instant Colour Printing in Belconnen. Alice Scott of Cooper Road has relied on them for years for work for her bookshop. Alice phoned them and got a quote considerably below what we have been paying at the Canberra Times. My thanks to Alice and to Instant Colour Printing.

Mario Grech of Sharp Direct, who let the Whisper be printed for a low price on his photocopiers in Fyshwick, also offered to provide this service for as long as we required it, and I appreciate his generosity.

John Talent, a recent Wamboin arrival from Bungendore, also offered the Community Association a donation of a high speed OCE photocopier, courtesy of his businesses, which include handling ex government equipment and running the Gorman House Markets. Uncertainties about the best way to house and maintain such a large and good quality machine made me want to be a little careful about accepting it, especially after the low cost printing quote came in.

Thanks very much to Alice, Instant Colour Press, Mario and John for offering the Whisper three different lifelines. Any one of the three would have been a good solution, and all three come from persons who seem willing to look after more than their own needs.

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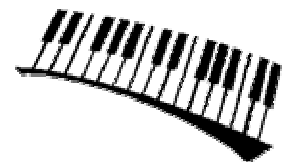
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## IF ONLY THEY COULD TALK

### Tetanus

by Dr Fiona Cox BVSc (Hons)

When I was a Veterinary student I was told that once you see a case of tetanus you never mistake it again. This was the case for me when a dog was presented for 'a strange stare and salivation'. The owner told me that 'Backa' was fine the night before but this morning had a wild look to him. The owner said he was concerned about him in the back of the car on the trip down as the dog was staring strangely and looked like he was about to attack!

The dog had a very characteristic 'tetanus' appearance with retracted eyelids, wrinkled forehead, erect ears and a grinning appearance (lips retracted). Also he was salivating and had difficulty eating. Other signs of tetanus (not present in this case) can include: tail out-stretched, 'sawhorse' stance, convulsions, difficulty breathing, difficulty opening the jaw ('lock jaw'), fever and hypersensitivity to touch, movement & sound. In dogs tetanus is usually fatal when treatment is not sought, with dogs dying of asphyxiation (suffocation).

Tetanus is caused by *Clostridium tetani*, a bacteria that lives in the soil & gut of livestock. When the bacteria enter deep wounds and germinate they produce a potent toxin. Tetanus is found worldwide, but particularly in the tropics and areas with large numbers of livestock.

After quizzing the owner about the past couple of weeks it was discovered that the dog had grazed himself on the fence 2 weeks ago in a storm. Surprisingly the dog had no history of being on a farm or going near livestock, so I have concluded that the dog got tetanus in his own backyard.

Tetanus can be prevented by vaccination and avoided by early and thorough wound cleaning and administration of penicillin for all deep contaminated wounds. Dogs and cats are rarely vaccinated against tetanus except in districts where environmental levels of tetanus are high, such as in cattle-country in central QLD (where I am from) as tetanus is usually uncommon in dogs and unheard of in cats.

Horses (& people!) on the other hand are very sensitive to tetanus and even in low risk areas should be fully vaccinated against tetanus. Foals should be vaccinated at 12 & 16 weeks of age, then 12 months later, then every 4-5 years. To be sure that older horses are fully protected new owners should vaccinate twice 4 weeks apart, then 12 months later, then every 4-5 years. Mares that are fully protected (as above) should be vaccinated 2-4 weeks before foaling.

'Backa' went home after one week of hospitalisation, however hospitalisation and treatment for up to 3-4 weeks may be necessary in some cases.

### ALPACA MAGIC 2771 Sutton Road Sutton NSW 2620 AUTUMN OPEN DAY Sunday 3 April 2005 11 am to 4 pm

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llama

without having to own a farm (ask us how). **Ask about our Ezy Payment Plan** – you too an exotic and valuable alpaca or llama. **Specials** on some alpacas & llamas, workshops **Bring a picnic lunch. Tea & coffee provided. Hands on workshops coming up:** *Alpacas & Llamas for Fun & Profit* 8<sup>th</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> June. *The Magic of Donkeys* 7<sup>th</sup> May. For directions & further information: [www.alpacamagic.com.au](http://www.alpacamagic.com.au) or Phone Glynda 6230 3311

**an Alpaca** ask on the day or visit [www.alpacamagic.com.au](http://www.alpacamagic.com.au). **Hands** Alpacas & Llamas. **Explore** their environmental, management & potential (even for town dwellers). **Meet** our Llamas, Haucaya & Suri Babies, Breeding females, and Wethers. **Inspect** our **Males standing at** alpacas, and our potential stud males for sale. **De-stress** - Cuddle an for a walk **Feel the luxury** of alpaca and llama fleece. **Become a llama**



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## WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – FEBRUARY COMPETITION RESULTS

Our many thanks this month go to Tim and Robyn Barter for their sponsorship of the Feb comp.

Ball winners for the long drives and nearest the pin holes were; Steve Miners x2, Tony Fisher x3, Ken Gordon x3, Ted Evans and Ian Picker (who???? welcome back Ian!)

Nine hole comp won by Ken Gordon.

B Grade won by Ian Picker 42 points from Tony Fisher (ocb) 40 and Larry King 40 points.

A Grade won by Bob Mettam 43 points from Steve Miners (ocb)38 and Charles Guscott 38 points

### TRY NINE HOLES OF GOLF - ALL WELCOME

**Why not try a newish Wamboin course for the annual 9 hole Summer Comp (held in Autumn)**

**Sunday 13 March at 879 Norton Road.** Ken, Deb and Alexander's place.

**Game starts at 1.30 sharp and consists of 3 rounds of 3 holes.**

This is a pleasant social game and a good introduction to the "REAL" monthly Wamboin golf.

- Peter Greenwood

Golf enquiries 6238 3358

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## Wamboin Muses

Jill Gregory



One golden February it rained and rained. Soft, soaking rain that fell for days and days and filled the rain gauge several times. I thought we had eight inches but I may have been dreaming. Nevertheless, it was enough to render the clay pliable, and I had an idea. We would dig a hole and create a fish pond. Fish ponds will encourage frogs, some warned, and frogs will attract snakes, but we went ahead with our plans and sure enough we did find snakes at our front steps, but we also had the joy of tinkling water, darting fish, serenading frogs and a myriad of birds. Fantails, wrens, pardalotes, honey eaters, rosellas and magpies would take turns to splash in the water, flash their colours and twitter or trill a "thank you".

This month I have again enjoyed the birds around the pond, the second flush of roses and the smooth, creamy trunks of the unclad eucalypts. There have been bonuses in the garden; self sown tomatoes that have ripened among the flowers and a pumpkin that grows plumper by the day. It is indeed a treat to get something for nothing in a Wamboin garden. But everything comes at a price, the knockers say.

I was on the verandah the other night captivated by the sight of lightning bathing the garden with flashes of mauve light while the rain drummed on the metal roof and thunder grumbled and rumbled around the hills. We had been promised rain for days. The ants had been busy, building pyramids beside the paths and scurrying along in their thin black lines. A few black cockatoos appeared, spreading the glad tidings of imminent rain, and the frogs were in full voice. It had to come, and it did, and I was pleased. But they were right. There was a small price to pay.

Just as we were about to sit down to a lazy lunch of garden greens and cherry tomatoes, we realised that the ant bait, beside the path, was missing. Its plastic container was there, albeit a little chewed, but the bait was gone. It couldn't have been the duck or the rooster, because they don't have teeth. Where was Mort?

I couldn't live anywhere else....where else would you gain so much pleasure from summer rain. And the Vet's bill is in the mail!

<p><b>QUEANBEYAN VETERINARY HOSPITAL &amp; BOARDING KENNELS</b></p> <p>94 Yass Road Queanbeyan, 2620</p> <p>After hours Emergency Service available at Q.V.H. Phone 6299-2509</p>	<p>Dr. Garry McComb advises the continuance of their Wamboin/Clare Valley/Sutton area "Home Visit Days" on the 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month. This is in addition to our normal attendance, but with only nominal mileage charges.</p>		 <p><b>Painters &amp; Decorators</b> <i>Aurora</i> For Added Value and Quality</p> <p>Free quotes References available on request No mess, no fuss Qualified City &amp; Guilds Tradesman</p> <p><b>Ph: 62411 727</b> <b>Mob: 0418 975 232</b></p>
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<p><b>TREVOR BARKER &amp; ASSOCIATES</b> SOLICITORS</p> <p>Trevor J. Barker Solicitor      Mike Cramsie Solicitor      Caroline Bragg Property Clerk</p> <p><b>General law practice Canberra &amp; NSW</b></p> <p>379 Weeroona Dr via Bungendore &amp; Second Floor, Dickson Chambers, Dickson Place Dickson ACT 2602</p> <p><b>PH: 6248 8085</b> <i>Your local Legals.</i></p> 	<p><b>BUNGENDORE TAXI SERVICE</b></p> <p>CONVENIENT 7 DAY SERVICE RAILWAY &amp; AIRPORT TRANSFERS COMPETITIVE RATES</p> <p>DROP AT AIRPORT MEET FLIGHTS ON ARRIVAL NO QUEUES LOCAL KNOWLEDGE PUNCTUAL</p> <p><b>0412 381 977</b> Cabcharge</p>
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