

WAMBOIN

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

April 2005 CIRCULATION: 981

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, which started the Whisper in 1981 and continues to own it. 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 May, 2005 edition of the Wamboin Whisper will be welcome, and should be submitted to by email to nednoel@optusnet.com.au or dropped into his mailbox at 17 Reedy Creek Place. The deadline for the next issue is always the last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for next month the deadline is Sunday, April 24 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

Wamboin Community Assn	Lofty Mason	President	6238-3258
Bywong Community Assn	Warwick Cathro	President	6236-9187
Fire Brigade	Cliff Spong	Captain	040-999-1340 bh 6236 9220 ah
Wamboin Playgroup	Leanne Quick	Convener	6238 3435
Landcare	Roger Good	President	6236-9048
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238-1333
Breastfeeding Assoc.	Lisa Whitney	Community Educator	6238 3059
Emergency Services	NSW Call Centre	Staff	132-500
Emergency Services Admin	Colin Brown	Controller	6238-1067
Justice of the Peace	Peter Greenwood	JP	6238-3358
Justice of the Peace	Keith France	JP	6238-3596
Wamboin Cubs	Peter Harrison	Leader	6238-3525
Wamboin Guides	Rosemary Riley	Contact Person	6297-7632
Wamboin Pony Club	Maureen Purdie	Secretary	6238-3343
Gearys Gap Pony Club	Julie Abbey	Secretary	6230-3129
Play Group	Leanne Quick	Convenor	6238-3435
Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	Bookings	6238-3258
Church, Anglican	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238-3202
Christian Prayer Group	Steve & Imelda Taylor	Contacts	6238-3220
Golf	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238-3358
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare	Helpline	6299-1966

THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS

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

WAMBOIN PRODUCE MARKET

Saturday 16 April 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.

WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION President's Paragraphs

The state of the **Sutton Road repairs** was a major point of the March WCA meeting. We have contacted ACT Roads and requested better coordination of the lights. The WCA has also written to the ACT Police as regards the vehicles (probably due to frustration) running through the red light. Try meeting one at night!

I am disappointed to report that after the **Telstra Presentation** and promises by Ian Peters, there has been a deadly hush from the company. If you hope to get Broadband through Telstra, lodge your Expression of Interest (E of I) in Broadband by sending an E-mail to: capitalsoutheast@countrywide.telstra.com Nominate it as an Expression of Interest in Broadband ADSL for Wamboin and give your name and phone number. There is a snail mail 'E of I' form included in this Whisper.

The 2005 White/Yellow Phone Books. Like many others, I have not received my 2005 phone books. I have contacted Telstra who informed me that their computer indicated '*all Wamboin and Bywong residents have had these phone books delivered!*' If that was not bad enough, I was informed the only way to get the 2005 editions is for each resident to ring individually and let them know you have missed out. The number to ring, listed on page 1 of your old White Pages, is 1800 810 211. After a few numbers you get to speak to a person!

Clean up Australia day went quite well with 31 volunteers cleaning up 18 km of roadway. We collected 48 bags of rubbish plus extras, estimated to be a total of 900 kg. A special thanks to the Fire Brigade which provided field control and the pick-up service. 'Red face' for the day was Penny Evans who slipped down a bank and landed in a heap of fresh horse dung. Not quite sure why she had to walk home to change. Could be she knew it would be a waste of time to ask Don to give her a lift in his new car? Find of the day was a free voucher for 'one of those' Fyshwick videos.

The Store-Room Extension at the back of the Hall has made progress. Hank Berlee and I set up the boxing. It must have been OK as it all held up throughout the following activities. Next up Hank and I were assisted by Ted Evans to fix the plastic and mesh. Once the site was passed by Council, Charlie Montesin (on his Birthday) was 'The Boss' over tradies Don Evans and Hank with retirees John van der Straaten and me as assistants as we placed over 6m of concrete. Kenards Hire came to the assistance of our Community with a very acceptable hire rate of a concreting 'helicopter'. We must add our thanks to Joan for providing morning tea for the workers. At an after-work party we all agreed it was more a fun day than work! The 4.7 square meter raised slab floor is now completed for a total cost of \$3,718.82.

Chalk Boards. The Notice boards are an approved development by the Council and are controlled by the Community Association. They should not be used for long term or commercial notices. We have 'The Whisper' for these advertisements. The boards are designed for community notices and for urgent 'little dog lost' notices. To stop them becoming an eyesore, we have a team that clean them off early each week. Advertisements such as the recent 'Free Wreck Removal' will be removed ASAP as these are more suited to 'The Whisper'. Any problems? Air your concerns at the next community meeting.

Anthony Goonan, the guy behind **YLESS4U** will be our guest speaker at our next WCA Meeting on the 19th of April. To learn more about this local based Broadband before the meeting, it is worthwhile checking the **YLESS4U** Website.

Lofty Mason. ljmason@iimetro.com.au

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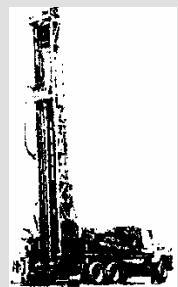
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6258 1792

Bywong Community News

Another successful Car Boot Sale. Last month's Car Boot Sale marked a decade of successes of this unique event. Once again about one hundred stall holders set up for business, and an estimated 1200 visitors browsed and bought. Once again the weather favoured the Community: in the ten years of its existence the weather has only once given anxiety, and on that occasion the rain obligingly stopped for the morning and began again as the Sale ended. The Community is particularly indebted to public-spirited neighbours of the Reserve whose generosity ensured that there were no parking problems for visitors, to the Guides who helped with the raffle, to musicians Andy and Til, to Peter Garlick for his time and use of the PA system and to the many local donors who make the raffle such a notable event. The next Car Boot Sale will be held on Sunday 26 March 2006

Bywong Community is now calling for **bids from local community groups for the funding** of worthwhile projects or activities. To make a bid, please write by 9 May 2005 to the Secretary, Bywong Community, PO Box 486, Dickson ACT 2602, or e-mail winjeell@cyberone.com.au

An encouraging aspect of this year's event was the fact that a number of local residents made approaches about joining the Community. For an organisation totally dependent on community membership and voluntary effort this was particularly good news. Prospective new members should contact the Secretary (Judith Miller) on 62369321 or the Treasurer (Sue Gorham) on 62369476.

Future speakers The Community 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.

Bushwalks The Community plans at least two local bushwalks each year. We are now planning a walk to the summit of Bywong Hill for 1 May, beginning at 10 am. For details contact Warwick Cathro on 6236 9187.

Les Reardon Reserve and Hall The Community Hall (Birriwa Road, Bywong) is available for bookings for birthday parties, weddings and other special occasions. For more information, go to the Bywong Community web site (www.bywong-community.org.au) and click on "Community Hall".

Next meeting This will be held on Monday 18 April at the Bywong Community Hall, Birriwa Road at 7.30pm. All residents are welcome.

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 are catered for. On 3 April the Club held a trail ride through the Wamboin greenways to Lambert's cellar café where takeaway gourmet pizzas were provided for lunch. The Club's next rally day will be held on Sunday 17 April 2005. It will be a combined training day (dressage and jumping) with local instructor Amanda Graydon. BBQ lunch will be available. Great activities are planned for later in the year including a Simon Kale eventing clinic and a weekend of trail riding in Namadgi National Park. New members and sponsors are always welcome – enquiries to the Secretary, Helen Blain on 6238 2467.



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Wamboin Rural Fire Service 20th Annual Ball

The Roaring Twenties!

WHEN: Saturday 4th June 2005 WHERE: Wamboin Community Hall

TIME: 7:00pm – 1:00 am

TICKETS: \$30

BYO DRINKS RAFFLE: \$1 per ticket (3 for \$2)

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CONTACT: Deb: 62383062 Charlie: 62383208

TABLE RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.


Wamboin 15 years ago from the Whisper, April 1990

Editors: Edwina Jans and Sue Bedford. Circulation: 265 From "Yarrowlumla Shire Council News"
"80 KPH Speed Limit for Wamboin. About four years ago the Community Association convinced the Yarrowlumla Shire Council that an 80 kph speed limit should be introduced into Wamboin... I am glad to report that all parties (the Police, RTA, WCA and YSC) have now agreed to the 80kph speed limit and hopefully signs will be erected in the near future. Those drivers who continue to exceed this limit are warned that the new speed restrictions will be policed. - Peter Greenwood

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WHISPER CLASSIFIEDS

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.

DO YOU NEED HELP IN THE GARDEN? Do you need help with Mowing, Weeding, Pruning or General garden maintenance? RING MICHAEL 0408400740.

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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.

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

Trestles and chairs are available from the Wamboin Hall in Bingley Way for private hire by local residents. The trestles are 2.4 meters long and seat 10. The hire rate is \$10 per trestle and \$1 for chairs. This price does not include delivery or pick up charges. Chairs and tables are to be returned in a clean and serviceable condition. To arrange pick-up and return, contact Joan Mason on 62383258.

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

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 nednoel@optusnet.com.au. And thanks if you have already done so.

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On a trial basis the Whisper can be emailed to you as a PDF file, sized at about 2 mb. If you want a copy in this way, please send an email to the editor at nednoel@optusnet.com.au



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Notes from St Andrew's Church

Services are held in the church on the first and third Sunday of each month at 9am. The "little church on the hill" is part of the parish of St John's, Canberra, and it is from the parish church that clergy and lay ministers come to conduct our services. It is a year of celebrations in the parish :

- at St Andrew's we marked 20years of Church services in Wamboin.
- the parish church is 160 years old this year (its birth date is the same day as the city of Canberra, but the church is much older),
- St Peter's at Sutton is celebrating the 80th birthday of the current church building (it is the third building in this part of the parish).

Happy Birthdays!!! Wamboin residents and friends are always welcome in every part of the parish. If you wish to know more about the church please contact one of the Church Wardens, Robyn Robertson 62383202, or Bronwyn Elliott, 62383359.

Lake George Day VIEW Club –April Luncheon Meeting

Lake George Day VIEW Club's next luncheon meeting will be on Tuesday 15 April 2005, commencing at 11.30am, at the Eagle Hawk Rydges Resort, Federal Highway, Sutton. The cost is \$20.00. We welcome new members and guests. Speaker will be Trudy Taylor, Editor of the Queanbeyan Age newspaper. For bookings please phone Kelly on 6230 3447 by Thursday 10 April. VIEW Club is a valued part of The Smith Family. Please phone Lesley (President) on 6238 3717 for further information about Lake George Day VIEW Club.



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Letter

Firstly I would like to say how impressed I am with the co-ordination, organisation and high standard of work involved in the upgrade. I know nothing about road construction, so, from a lay person's point of view, I find it a feat of some genius that the road is making the progress it is, and the time in which this is being achieved.

Secondly, it crossed my mind that perhaps at the completion of the construction, we should hold a "Road Opening" party for all the local residents and regular users of the road. This could be as a thank you to the construction workers for keeping the road safe under very trying conditions, and also to thank the drivers for their infinite patience and for avoiding any road-rage during many long minutes of waiting while the line of traffic filters through from the opposite direction. And perhaps there could be a prize of a car wash for the lucky ticket holder, sponsored by a local car-wash firm! I am sure most of us have held off washing our vehicles while so much dust is about on the road.

Perhaps the local community association would like to consider this proposal as a means of getting the residents together to celebrate a great job done! I would be happy to contribute a plate of edibles for the occasion! Just a thought!

- Valerie Watson, Bingley Way, Wamboin



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IF ONLY THEY COULD TALK -- DIABETES IN DOGS

This month's article was written by Dr Lauren McConnell BVSc (Hons)

Diabetes Mellitus is a common medical condition encountered in dogs. It is an endocrine disease that affects the body's ability to produce and utilise insulin. Insulin is responsible for the uptake of sugar from the blood. It allows the uptake of sugar by the liver, its storage and its later release by the body as needed. Sugar is also vital for brain function and survival. So if there is a lack of insulin, the body is unable to maintain energy production and eventually brain function.

There are several types of diabetes, the most commonly discussed types with respect to humans are; Type 1 (juvenile, insulin dependent), Type 2 (non-insulin dependent) and gestational diabetes. The diabetes found in dogs is usually Type 1. This means there has been destruction of cells located in the pancreas that are responsible for the production of insulin. Their destruction therefore results in a total insulin deficiency. The cause of this destruction is unknown but is thought to be the result of immune mediated processes and genetic predisposition.

Signs that an owner should look for in their dog include excessive thirst, excessive urination especially in the house or in abnormal places, weight loss, development of cataracts on eyes, lethargy and increased appetite.

Diabetes is more commonly found in females and in dogs from 7 years of age and older. If diabetes is not diagnosed early it can progress to a conditions known as ketotic acidosis in which the dog will become very sick. Clinical signs may include vomiting, anorexia and a very ill dog.

How is diabetes diagnosed? When you take your dog to the vet, they will be able to diagnose if it is diabetic. They can do this quickly and efficiently by taking small blood and urine samples. **How is diabetes treated and monitored?** Currently the most commonly used therapy for diabetes in dogs is a combination of injectable insulin, a controlled diet and a regular lifestyle. Most dogs receive two injections a day, each followed by a well balanced meal. There are many variations on diet and treatment regime; it is a very individual thing, which depends on the dog and owner. It can take some time to work out the best treatment for a dog and it relies on teamwork between the client, the veterinarian and the dog.

How will having diabetes affect your dog's life and yours? For a dog, being diagnosed with diabetes is not a death sentence. Most dogs live very happily with the condition and if properly controlled it does not decrease the quality or length of their life. The medical complications that can develop as a result of diabetes are minimal. Complications that are seen commonly in dogs are the development of cataracts and accidental insulin overdose.

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WOMEN DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

by Kathy Funnel, Publicity Officer, Bungendore Evening View Club

Dr Sally Somi is certainly a "woman who has made a difference". The Theme for the Bungendore Evening VIEW Club's Birthday dinner at which she was the Guest Speaker was "Women Making a Difference". Dr Somi both humbled and inspired those present as she spoke of her experiences in Rwanda. Dr Somi lives in Wamboin and works at Calvary Hospital in Canberra. Following the Massacre in Rwanda some years ago, she volunteered to go as a member of "Doctors without Borders" to support the people. Using slides and a detailed commentary, Dr Somi was able to convey a little of the devastation and human suffering that they found there.

The difficulties the doctors had to overcome to return many of their patients to good health while battling unsanitary conditions, lack of food and suitable clothing and the many rampant diseases that were in evidence was seemingly overwhelming. As Dr Sally said "many of us don't see that level of disaster and poverty", and she commented, "it was good to be able to recognise the happy moments". These included the very rapid response to antibiotics for some of the people and the care that one particular mother showed by nursing the baby of a mother who had been massacred as well as her own baby.

One great concern was the identifying of the younger children so they could possibly be reunited with family members or safely placed with other carers/guardians. This has also been a concern following the Tsunami devastation so struck a chord with those present. Keeping the children occupied when they were well was also a big issue and teaching dancing, clapping games and forming a soccer team helped. Her concluding words were "it was a privilege to have been able to go and help".

The night was also the occasion for a special rendition of "Happy Birthday" by the members as the Club celebrated its 4th Birthday. A delicious birthday cake was cut and shared by the members and guests. President Robyn Barter commented "Our meetings are always fun, but also thought provoking as well because of the commitment we make to support the work of the Smith Family and the inspiration we gain from our great guest speakers". A number of members attended the International Women's Day Breakfast in Canberra at 6.30 am the same morning and listened to the guest speaker, Wing Commander Heidi Yates MVVS, "another inspirational speaker". President Robyn commented, "it is important to participate in VIEW Club activities but also important to participate in other community activities working towards the same goals". Once again members and guests enjoyed a night of good food, friendship and support of The Smith Family.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 4th April at the Royal Hotel (new back dining room), 6.45 for 7.00pm. Guest Speaker will be Rosie Windsor who will speak about interior design. Visitors are always welcome to come along. Bookings: contact Debbie Hudson, 6238 1571 by 28 March.

KERIN

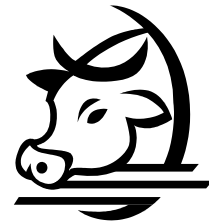
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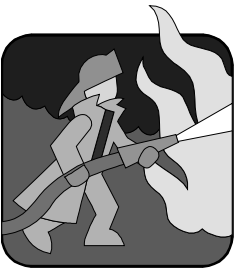
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The Wamboin Firefighter

A newsletter from YOUR volunteer rural fire brigade compiled
by Cliff Spong with help from many members of the Brigade
(Wamboin Brigade's website is www.wamboin-fireshed.com)

The Fire Season has now ended. Fire permits are not required to light fires in the open. However, adequate precautions should still be taken if fires are lit. Please inform your neighbours and your fire brigade Captain 24 hours before you light up.

From the Captain's Desk

I am sitting here before the keyboard on a glorious sunny morning during the Easter break trying to get inspired. I am trying hard to capture the breath-taking adventures, the split second decisions, the drama, the excitement, and the inevitable lows of the fire fighting battles waged by your valiant band of volunteers during the last fire season. The trouble is that it was a very quiet and benevolent season. We, like many other brigades in our region had few call-outs. Looking back over the past few months, and in spite of the ominous signs late last year, we spent more time training than attending incidents! The other good thing about the quiet season was that it gave all residents a bit more time to make sure their properties were properly prepared if fires did occur. Now be honest and ask yourself how well you were prepared. As we only had a few requests for advice about property protection we have to assume that you had done the right thing, took our advice, and had everything sorted out. We may have been often patiently waiting and preparing for incidents as all emergency services do, but our loyal reader may be amused to learn that we did have a slightly amusing reality check recently. More about that one a little later.



The fire season may have ended but I need to remind everyone that when a serious accident or incident happens or even if you notice something suspicious, ring 000 as soon as possible. Don't ring your neighbour. Don't ring your friends. Don't ring the SES. Don't even ring me. RING 000 and give as much information as you can about the incident. Tell the operator as much as you know – especially where the incident is. Why am I making a fuss? You may be surprised to learn that on a few occasions during the fire season the last number people thought to ring was the correct one. Friends and neighbours were called before your brigade was notified. This takes up precious time and also can create confusion about what services need to respond. Calling 000 means that other emergency services can be alerted if needed.

Earlier this month we conducted our annual training field day. This event has now become well known around the district. Several other brigades were invited to join us but only our friends from Bungendore were able to come. During the day nine crews were busy around Wamboin attending a simulated house fire (with lots of smoke and the added worries of LPG cylinders, petrol containers, electricity supplies and restricted access), a car accident where at least one vehicle was on fire, and a grass fire. They were also faced with the problem of having two minutes to prepare themselves and their vehicle for an imminent turnover when a fast running simulated fire was bearing down. A first aid session, navigation exercises and weather monitoring were added to keep the crews alert. To add to the realism on the day we made sure that all crews experienced the "hurry up and wait" syndrome! For the uninitiated this can often occur when we race off to an incident, lights flashing and adrenalin pumping, only to be told to monitor events or wait for further instructions. Such is the lot of a fire fighter. Each exercise presented different challenges for everyone involved. It gave several members of our brigade the opportunity to try their leadership skills as crew leaders under fire, as it were. From all reports it was a great day. Working alongside and with our friends and colleagues from Bungendore was invaluable. Lots of things were learned, no accidents or injuries occurred and many appreciated the realism of the events. The new facilities in our new training and communications area in the extension to the fire shed were given a good workout as well. Apart from a few minor additions the new facilities worked really well.

At the end of the field day we refilled the trucks with water and fuel, replaced wet hoses, checked everything was ready for our next call out and many black-faced, weary but generally content fire fighters made their way home for a shower, a cleansing drink and a good meal. A couple of hours later the pagers went off. A LPG cylinder was on fire at a local barbecue. Crews were mustered and we were back into it again, this time for real. A reality check, indeed. Fortunately the barbecue was not disrupted too much and little serious damage resulted. I think that the presence of our fire fighters in a big red truck with flashing lights added to the evening's entertainment for the partygoers.

The Brigade is thankful for the generosity of the Eagle Hawk Social Club. Several of our members, their families and friends spent an enjoyable evening at the pub, along with many members of the Ulysses motorcycle club, when the Social Club presented us with a very generous donation towards the new air conditioning unit installed in the fire shed extension.

We would also like to thank all those people who came to the Bywong Car Boot Sale and donated generously in the red buckets. Every little bit helps to keep your brigade operating.

Please remember to show some consideration for your neighbours and your brigade during the off-season. Even though you don't need a fire permit if you need to burn off, you should notify your neighbours and your fire brigade Captain. This could save an embarrassing visit from a fire crew. We are still obliged to check reports of smoke at all times, even if the fire danger is low.

Finally, if you need any advice about fire protection around your property please give me a call.

THE CAPTAIN'S LIST	Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	
A'Hern Fitness at the Airport	Cross Country Construction	Quick-Eze Towing
AAA Water Carriers	Eureka Plants Pty Ltd	Ratz Mobile Welding
Anytime Backhoe Hire	Horizon Real Estate	So Good Sausages Pty Ltd
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

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

March rainfall to 27/3	48.5 mm	(March 2004 to 31/3	7 mm)
2005 rainfall to 27/3	138 mm	(2004 rainfall to 31/3	70.5 mm)
Average April rainfall	50.2 mm	Driest April	0.5 mm in 1997
Wettest April	174.5 mm in 1989	Hottest April day	28 C on 3/4/1986
Coldest April day	10 C x 8 times	Coldest April night	0 C on 27/4/1999

Golf @ the Gordon's

March 14 brought a very warm day, 7 local players, 8 visitors & Hotel 19 to the home of Ken, Deb & Alexander Gordon for the second annual Golf @ the Gordon's, Summer competition held in Autumn. The three, par 3 holes were well presented and the gardens around the tees were in full bloom. We played the course three times with stops at H19 to discuss the day with tireless drink dispenser, Hank Berlee. Deb was away to a good start however Alexander let it be known he was very hungry which caused Deb to call a meal break in her game. The remaining 14 players were forced to sit in the shade and patronise the bar until Deb finished her solo round. Ken, as greenkeeper, kept his score a secret and presented prizes to the following: Junior: Vinnie Gorham; Ladies: Joan Mason & Mens: Lofty Mason. A good time was had by all. – Lofty Mason

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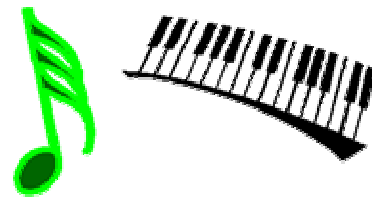
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THE STABLE DOOR by Ian Collet

AMAZING RACE

Like we humans, and largely because of us, the world's great apes are on the road to extinction. Tragically, in the case of the apes, given the current rate of decline, it's likely the light of the great ape in the wild will be snuffed out in your and my lifetime – possibly even within a decade.

“Look into the eyes of a gorilla, a chimpanzee or any of the great apes, and you'll experience a profound sense of connection”, says gorilla expert Dr Ian Redmond. “They share around 98 per cent of our DNA, and are so like us in lots of ways. You don't get the same feeling when you look into the eyes of a cat or a dog. You may be fond of the animal, but you're still aware of them as an animal.” But with a gorilla or a chimp, it's like making eye contact with another person. There is an uncanny sense of recognition. You realise we are human beings and they are gorilla beings and chimpanzee beings”.

I, along with many other people, seized the opportunity earlier this month to witness riveting presentations by Dr Redmond and two other leading experts Dr Birute Galdikas and Leif Cocks at the National Museum of Australia. Ian Redmond has been involved in research and conservation activities associated with mountain gorillas of Africa for some 28 years. Dr Birute Galdikas has spent a good part of her life studying the ecology and behaviour of the orangutans chiefly in Borneo and has fought many a fight to try and ensure preservation of the wild great apes and their habitat. Promotional material indicates that after 32 years, Dr Galdikas has conducted the longest continuous study by one principal investigator of any wild animal in the world and is today the world's foremost authority on the orangutan. Leif Cocks has worked with orangutans at the Perth Zoo for the past 18 years and has been involved with numerous field trips to Sumatra and Borneo.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Dr Dian Fossey's death. Dr Fossey was a pioneering primate scientist who was murdered at her research camp in Rwanda on December 26, 1985. Her in-situ studies of mountain gorillas dispensed the myth of their being aggressive and “King Kong” in nature. In fact, Dr Fossey established that gorillas were gentle, sociable and family-oriented vegetarians.

If you haven't read her biography, *Gorillas in the Mist*, do yourself a favour and get hold of a copy. If reading is not your fare, an account of Dian Fossey's years in Rwanda was portrayed in a film of the same title (made after her death). Sigourney Weaver played Dr Fossey. If you haven't seen the film, hire it out. I'm sure you will find the account informative and quite moving.

So, we have the folly of man – illegally slaughtering or trading in these animals for economic gain and/or personal aggrandisement. But, as the saying goes, “Wait there's more!”. Unfortunately, none of it is good news. Tragically, in the wake of the slaughter, young apes are often orphaned. And the forest habitat they've occupied since time immemorial, is also being pillaged and brought to its knees. Mining and logging. Africa, Indonesia, South America. There you go.

Just because Australia is an outpost geographically away from all of this, we shouldn't think the problem doesn't concern us. The apes play a vital ecological role in preserving the health of much of the world's great rainforests. I wonder whether you know where the timbers in your furniture come from?

If you'd like to learn more about the decline of the great apes, and this is a global problem that touches us all, please spend a few moments on the World Wide Web: www.grasp.org.au www.orangutan.org.au www.gorillafund.org

Amazing race the great apes? No doubt! Amazing race, us? Jury is still out but the verdict is possibly very close at hand. And, that extra bunch of steak knives that you never really needed ain't going to help neither!!

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

125 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN:			Ph 6238 3208	
Dean Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West	18	Bill Owen Cooper Rd.	27
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	29	Cathy Abell Canning Close	17
Hank Berlee	11 Poppet Rd (for all on road)	34		
272 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:			Ph 6238 3463	
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	50	Margaret Heleimin Merino Vale Drive	17
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	28	Anne Gardner Weeroona, Norton to Majors	30
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	David Anderson Weeroona, Majors to Denley	35
Ned Noel	13 YrCn 35Adv	48	Penny Evans Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley	25
Cathy Handel	Yalana West	19		
227 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER:			Ph 6238 3489	
Colleen Foster	Joe Rocks to Norton	20	Rob Gorham South End - Clare Valley	43
Deb Gordon	Yalana East	41	Pauline Segeri North End - Clare Valley	42
Cassie Fisher	Clare Lane	11	Bungendore Shop Bungendore	10
Lyle Monetesin	Forrest Road area	60		
187 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:			Ph 6238 3590	
Sheryl Barnes	Quinn's Estate / Denley	15	Whitfords Whitford Deley/Kestral area	11
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Gum Flat	35	Rhett Cox Macs Reef /Nwngtn to FdHwy	12
Ann Platts	Denley MacReef to Birchman's	26	Morag Cotsell MReef /Newington/Harriot	45
Warrick Cathro	Macs Reef -GumFlat to Harriott	18	Esther/Ian Rudd MReef/Bankers/FedHwy	25
170 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON Ph 6236 9609				
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Laura Sbowden Hogan Drive	25
Len Parrish	Summerhill Rd Area	32	Diana+Keith Gascoyne Hogan Drive Area	23
Sue Gorham	Schofields/Brooks	25	Thelma Martin Shinglehouse Rd area	20
Sue Aunella	Doust/Wyoming/Brooks	25		
TOTAL 981				

Nature Notes – March 2005

Jo Walker

Well, the first few weeks of autumn were a bit summery, but the last few mornings have had a decidedly autumnal chill to them. There are still a few plants flowering though – the most evident of these is *Cassinia quinquefaria*, still covered in clouds of feathery, straw-coloured flowers. Interestingly, although many of these plants have strongly honey-scented blooms, they don't seem to attract many insects – the most you see on them is an odd fly or two.

Perhaps there is too much competition from the eucalypts. Some of the Brittle Gums (*Eucalyptus mannifera*), Scribbly Gums (*E. rossii*) and Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*) have had spectacularly heavy flowering this year. The Yellow Box trees on my place have finished flowering and are beginning to develop seed capsules, but up on the higher slopes the *E. mannifera* are still carrying heavy loads of flowers. And the insects are certainly attracted to those – you can hear the loud humming of hundreds of bees and flies many metres away.

Two winter-blooming plants in the Epacridaceae (Heath) family are also flowering – *Styphelia triflora* and *Melichrus urceolatus*. *S. triflora* can grow to about a metre in height and is a rather upright, rigid shrub with lots of pendulous, narrow, bell-shaped cream flowers. *M. urceolatus* is a small sub-shrub, usually less than 30 cm tall around here, with short, bell-shaped cream flowers crowded along the stems. Both species produce copious quantities of nectar, which pools as a clear liquid in the base of the flowers. It is extremely sweet, and attracts the smaller honeyeaters, such as the Eastern Spinebill, and helps sustain them through the winter when not much else is flowering.

Last week, I saw three finch-like birds feeding on the heads of some thistles that came up along the creek this year. They were a pale, speckled brown on head, breast and back, and their wings were black with a broad yellow band with patches of white amongst the black feathers. I hadn't seen them before, but remembered that thistle seed were a favourite food of the introduced European Goldfinch. And that's what they turned out to be. The three I saw were juvenile birds that hadn't yet developed adult plumage. Adult birds have quite different facial plumage – a black band over the top of the head, a white face, and a patch of bright red feathers around the beak. European Goldfinches were introduced into New South Wales and Victoria in the 1860s, but don't seem to have become as much of a pest as some other introductions.

Up along my creek, there is a huge and very old Yellow Box log with hollows and nooks and crannies in it. It is home to some Cunningham's Skinks – quite large lizards (adults are often more than 30cm long) that live in groups of variously-aged individuals. In this log, there is at least one fully-grown skink, two younger ones and, this year, at least two young were born (Cunningham's Skinks don't lay eggs, they give birth to live young). These lizards are brownish-black in colour, with scattered white spots and white scales around the eyes. The scales along the back and tail are distinctly spiny. They inhabit rock piles as well as logs and feed on insects and vegetation. I've never actually seen them feeding - they seem to spend a considerable amount of time lying on their log sunning themselves, lucky creatures.

WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – MARCH COMPETITION RESULTS

The March competition was sponsored by Step to Step Couriers and we for the trophies and the eats. Ball winners for the long drives and nearest the King x2, Charles Guscott, Steve Cremerius, Bob Perkins, Ken Gordon and won by Sue Gane. B Grade won by Larry King from Vincent Gorham. A from Len Ivey. -- Peter Greenwood Golf enquiries 6238 3358



thank Rob and Marylou Gorham pin holes were; Len Ivey x2, Larry Paul Griffin. Nine hole competition Grade won by Charles Guscott

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Hold this thought

David Nielsen, Community Dementia Worker RN, Queanbeyan Community Health Centre

The Queanbeyan Dementia Working Group are kicking off 2005 with a bang by assisting Queanbeyan Senior Citizens with a snazzling sausage sizzle on Friday March 18th at the Queanbeyan HACC centre. This is to launch the Queanbeyan and District Dementia Services Poster which has been developed with the kind support of The Queanbeyan Rotary Club. During the same week on Thursday the 17th of March the Queanbeyan Dementia Working Group will be at Riverside Plaza to discuss the issues of Dementia and ageing with shoppers. These events are to highlight the growing difficulties that dementia causes families. In New South Wales alone there are over 57,000 people who have been diagnosed with Dementia and there are 6,000 new cases of Dementia each year in New South Wales alone.

For those who have problems with a family member with Dementia, practical help is available. The Community Dementia Support Services are running a Living with Memory Loss Program in Braidwood. This education and support program aims to maximise the health and well-being of people living with early stage dementia, and their carers. The national Living with Memory Loss Program is an initiative of Alzheimer's Australia and is funded by the Australian Government. The course will run every Friday from 10:00-12:00 at Braid wood Multipurpose Service (Braidwood Hospital) from April the 8th to the 27th of May.

The Queanbeyan Dementia Working Group and Alzheimer's Australia encourages all people who have noticed changes in their own memory, thinking or behaviour, or those of a loved one, to talk to their General Practitioner and ask them for an Informational pack which has been distributed to all GPs in the area. Is your memory letting you down? What about your memory? Is it letting you down? Call now for help. Before you forget, ring me on 62989270 during business hours or for more information on the above events.

<p>QUEANBEYAN VETERINARY HOSPITAL & BOARDING KENNELS</p> <p>94 Yass Road Queanbeyan, 2620</p> <p>After hours Emergency Service available at Q.V.H. Phone 6299-2509</p>	 <p>Consultations by appointment. Please phone if you would like a "shared mileage" home visit the next time we are in the Wamboin/Clare Valley/Sutton area."</p>	 <p>Painters & Decorators <i>Aurora</i> For Added Value and Quality</p>  <p>Free quotes References available on request No mess, no fuss Qualified City & Guilds Tradesman</p> <p>Ph: 62411 727 Mob: 0418 975 232</p>
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Sutton Road Upgrade - Progress Report

Based on an Interview with Nick Zardo, Guideline A.C.T. Director on March 14, 2005
with introductory paragraph information supplied by Geoff Farrer of Roads ACT
by Ned Noel

An additional \$1m of funding under the commonwealth's "Roads to Recovery Program" became available after project start. This supplements the original \$4.6 m for 3.3 km, and allows for upgrade, now well in progress, of a further 900m at the south end of the project. It also contributes to pushing out project completion from mid April to mid July of this year.

Drainage is a key part of the roadworks. If excessive water gets into the earthen or rock layers of the roadbed they can loose firmness. As with a waterlogged paddock, this would allow the weight of passing vehicles to redistribute the underlying materials unevenly, leading to depressions and elevations in the road surface. Much of the construction is along the roadside, and aims to keep water away from the gravel and earth layers under the road surface. Deep down, beside the pavement edges, there are also drains to carry the water away.

The gabion baskets of rocks are used where the land slopes down to the roadside at fairly steep angles. The space between the rocks allows water coming off the hillside to fall through the wall into underlying gutters that route it toward the next culvert under the road. Along the roadsides a 1 in 4 rise or fall is ideal, as then grass can be sown, alleviating the need for structures like the gabion baskets.

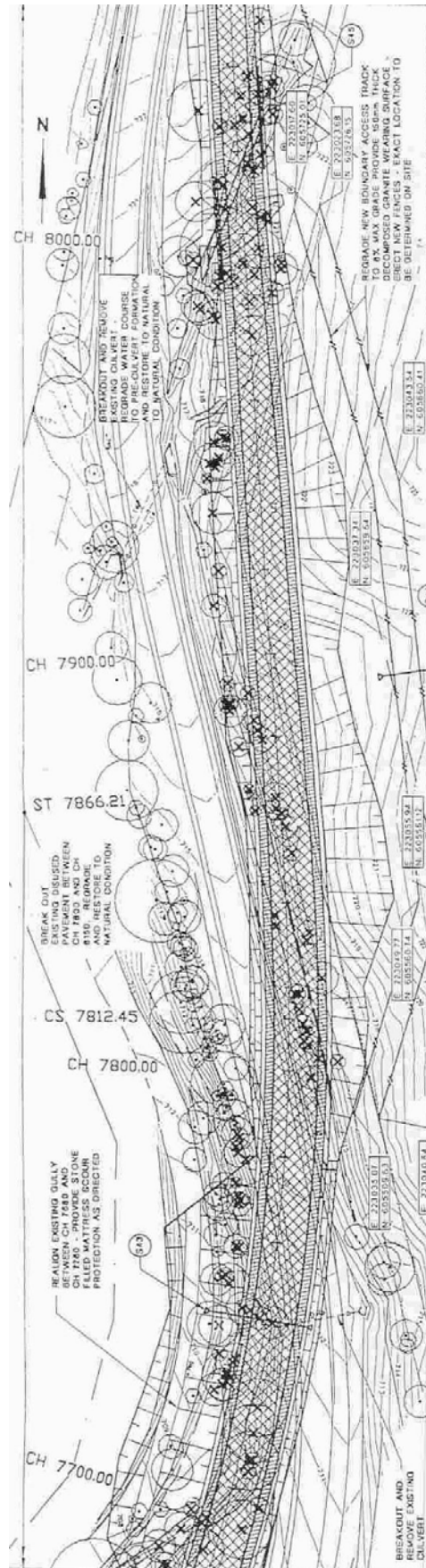
Lesser slopes on the east side of the road still generate runoff, as does the road itself in sections with any significant fall along the length of the road. For these situations the curbs alongside the road direct the water into pits where culverts take it under the road.

Drainage is hardest where the road is cut into the land, as at the southern end of the work, because there are fewer opportunities to route the water out. In these areas the use of subsoils is very important

Safety is another key issue in the roadworks. Wire rope barriers are being installed between the road shoulders and the guttering in many stretches. They are placed wherever roadside trees, culverts or significant drop offs present safety hazards. The wire ropes are specially pretensioned and then erected with about 2 tonne of tension in each rope. Thus the ropes act in an "elastic" manner being able to stretch when impacted and absorb the kinetic energy of the vehicle, then return to the original length at the fence line once the vehicle has exited the impact zone. There is little damage to the vehicle and very rarely injury to the occupants. The photo atop the next page, courtesy of manufacturer Brifen, show the wire ropes trapping a rogue vehicle.

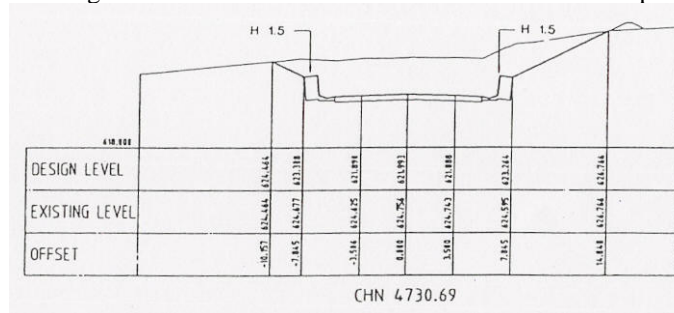
Tree placement along the road is carefully planned. Before the contract was issued to Guideline A.C.T. a design survey was done to mark each tree that requires removal and to specify the location and type of many new trees to be planted. Sometimes road placement is altered to save trees. In this area of tree removal and tree planting Guideline A.C.T. simply carries out the specification. The diagram on the right side of this page shows the design of the road near the top end of the construction. If you look carefully you can see the width decreasing at the top of the drawing as the three lane section drops back to two lanes. You can also see the new road (hashed) cutting through the old road's S curve. The drawing shows circles with an X indicating trees to be cut and circles without an X indicating trees to be planted.

The cut at the southern end has been the most difficult portion of the job. As is true for the project as a whole, the work could be done in half the time if it were not vital that traffic continue to flow. The cut presented the special challenge of major elevation differences between the excavated and unexcavated sides of the road. This required taking considerable care to keep the road safe for the ever present traffic.



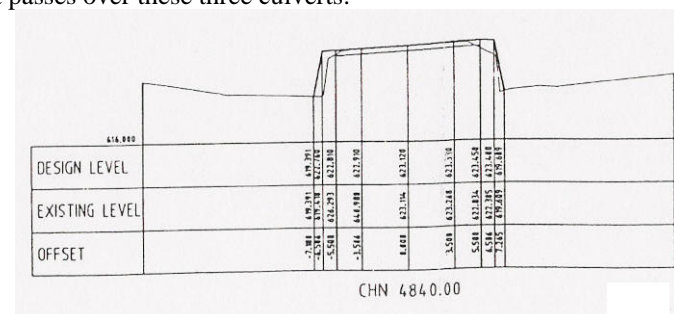


Cutting out the rock and soil is not particularly difficult, but only because enough budget is allocated to bring in a sufficiently powerful bulldozer. The elevation drawing below shows a cross section of the road at the deepest part of the cut.



The cut was designed because it is necessary if the improved road is to meet the upgrade's standards for sight distances and elevation changes. No special features were found in the rock when the cut was made. However, before the project started a survey for aboriginal artefacts was conducted in this area, thought to be of some significance, and some items were identified and removed.

At the northern end of the cut three parallel culverts, each approximately 1m x 1m in cross section, will be run under the road. They are engineered for the 100 year maximum runoff from the hillsides that accumulates at this point. They will allow for this volume of water to move under the road and into Reedy Creek, which runs along the west side of the road. The drawing below shows a cross section of the road where it passes over these three culverts.



The plan is to have two more 500 meter sections complete by the end of March. One is the top 500 meters at the north end of the upgrade. The other starts 500 m in from the south end of the work and ends about 1000 m in, at the start of the completed 1km upgrade section. This will leave the southernmost 500 m of the 4000 meters (including the deep cut) still under construction, as well as the section 500 to 1000 meters in from the northern upgrade start. Construction on the section 1000 to 2000 meters in from the north end will soon commence.

The two traffic light sets are not synchronised, but both are adjusted for the morning southbound flow and the evening northbound flow. The plan is to complete the southern 500 m section with the cut in mid May. The cut means there will be stone walls on each side at this point, and kerbs, gutters and wire ropes on each side between the road verges and the guttering. When this bottom section completes, only the set of traffic lights on the northern construction will remain.

As with any construction project, the costs fall into three large groups: labour, plant, and materials. The materials include gravels from the Boral quarries at Mugga Lane and from the Hall quarry, and sand from other local suppliers. The pipes and culverts are sourced from New South Wales, and a subcontractor supplies the aggregate and the asphalt.

When all four kilometres are complete the second layer of bitumen seal will be laid down over the whole length to give it a smooth surface. Some landscaping may be done after the road itself is complete.

Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Gum blossom, the first morning fog, Easter Sunday church bells, soft pink sunrises and a house bursting with B&B and L(unch)and D(inner) guests. It's that wonderful time of the year, a time when Wamboin is truly at its best.

But it is the sunsets that have been most captivating. The other evening, returning from a busy time in Sydney, and feeling a little piqued, we were treated to forty minutes of the most spectacular western sky. It was in turn a garish red, orange, gold, pink and grey. Puffy clouds shot through with spikes of light against a back drop of blue so deep it seemed to go on forever, and at its fringes shades of grey blue merging into green. Fatigue, speed and alcohol may be currently "targetted" by our highway police, but a sunset such as that eclipsed those driving hazards. Never mind the road, I wanted to capture the spectacle above, and keep it forever in my mind.

A week or so previously, such a red sky would have filled me with terror, but the threat of bush fire seemed to have receded, ...or so I thought. We were out for the day, the weather was mild, and our watchful neighbour was home...or so we thought. So you can imagine how stunned we were to arrive home to the smell of soggy smoke and the sight of the Wamboin Fire tanker and four local heroes. The threat had passed, but the old, ailing tree, perched perilously close to the dry creek bed was still smouldering. It may have been a different scenario, however, if the watchful eyes in the Kowen forest tower had not alerted our local "boys", and they had not responded so speedily. That night, when I went out to check the old tree, I looked up into its thinning branches. It seemed, for all the world, to be strung with fairy lights; a myriad of twinkling stars shining through in a cloudless sky.

And so we mark another Easter season in Wamboin. I wouldn't live anywhere else.....where else would you find guardian angels in yellow, fire proof suits and big boots.

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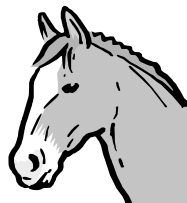
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