

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

August 2005 CIRCULATION: 1019

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 will be appreciated, 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 the September 2005 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, August 28, 2005, 7:00 pm.

LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial 000 All Hours

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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 Scout Group	Peter Harrison	Contact Person	6238-3525
Wamboin Guides	Rosemary Riley	Contact Person	6297-7632
Wamboin Pony Club	Maureen Purdie	Contact Person	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

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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
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WAMBOIN CURRY NIGHT

Saturday, August 20, 2005 7pm - Bring a curry – enjoy many others
Enquires to Dave Hubbard on 6238 3308

WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION President's Paragraphs

At the Wamboin Community Association AGM for 2005/6 on Tuesday 19 July the members elected the following persons to the Executive of the Association:

President: Lofty Mason. Vice-Presidents: Helen Montesin and Pete Harrison.

Treasurer: Keith France. Secretary and Public Officer: John van der Straaten.

The AGM discussed the problem of not having any Council representation at our General Meetings on the third Tuesday of the month because of the clash with Palerang Council meetings and workshops. Accordingly, the Association members present agreed to trial General Meeting nights on the second Wednesday of the month. This will enable better communication with the Council through the attendance of a Councillor, or senior member of Council staff, and the attendance of WCA members to Council meetings.

Our next General Meeting is therefore scheduled for August 10 at 7.30.

Rates: An Extraordinary General Meeting was held at the conclusion of the AGM to discuss the rates for properties in the Wamboin area for 2005/6 as proposed by Palerang Council. Members of the Association expressed dissatisfaction with the consultation between the Council and the community and the quality of information made available by Council. Members also expressed concern that the various rate models used showed great disparity between the categories and that the methods of determination paid scant regard to equity. Including the waste levy we will be paying an extra 52% (that makes it a total of almost \$1000) per annum to Council with no change in services received. The following motion was passed unanimously: **"That the Wamboin Community Association has no confidence in the Palerang Council in respect of the model and management of the rates for 2005/6"**.

Two more working Bees on the Hall **storeroom extension** have achieved a completed north wall and an all but finished west wall. Hank Berlee, John van der Straaten, Pete Harrison and I have been amazed by the demands of the brickies; Charlie Montesin and Don Evans. The mud is always 'too wet' or 'too dry'. Of course anything that goes wrong can be blamed on the brickies labourers. However, I didn't say a word of complaint. (The main reason being such a sore throat I had no voice at all). Again, thanks to Sue Gane, Joan and daughter Cassie who fed the team.

The Bonfire Night is Saturday, September 17. Please bring bonfire type material to the Hall from the 13th of August. I am contacting the various stall holders to ensure an improved food supply. We will also organise better parking arrangements aiming to park most of the cars in the community grounds. Bonfire Night is the major, and sometimes only, fund raising activity by some of our groups.

A Safety Clearance Burn, weather willing, is planned for **Sun. August 28**. We will start at 1.00 pm with a Sausage Sizzle, Brigade information display and questions answered. The Brigade will then carry out a low level burn to clear the litter from the west of the Community Hall area. The Hall is the area refuge centre and must remain as a safe haven in event of a fire in the area. All residents are invited to watch your Brigade in action. A further question time and social drinks are scheduled after the burn at about 5pm. Check with your Fire Captain: Cliff Spong.

The **Wamboin Produce Markets** are due to start up again on **October 15**. Tony Power will have more information on these community social days.

Lofty Mason. ljmason@iimetro.com.au



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Bywong Community News

by Morag Cotsell

Annual General Meeting: The Community's AGM will take place at the Community Hall, Birrawa Road on Monday 15 August at 7.30 pm. The main business will be the presentation of President's and Treasurer's reports and the election of office bearers for the next year. The Community would love to see more residents attending these meetings, especially those willing to join the committee or help with activities. There is a vacancy for Treasurer: anyone volunteering would earn the community's undying gratitude in return for a small contribution in time and effort.

Trivia Night: (pictured) July saw another highly successful round in the ongoing Bywong Trivia Challenge. The XX team once again triumphed, although hard pressed on this occasion by teams from several out-of-town locations, including Wamboin. The community hall was once again packed to capacity, and contestants enjoyed an even greater and tastier variety of soups than last year.

Bush Dance: Musicians from the Monaro Folk Group will again provide the live music at the Community's Bush Dance - another traditional annual event which this year falls on 22 October.

Quarry Development: The Sutton Quarry development - a proposal of concern to residents in west Bywong, has again raised its ugly head since responsibility for the area passed from the old Yarrawlumla Council to Yass Valley Council. The developer (Tiocliff, a subsidiary of White Industries) is arguing that survey work it claims to have undertaken before the lapse date of the approval means that the approval is still valid. The Community is writing to Yass Valley Council seeking information.



The Council is holding a public meeting in Sutton on 18 August.

Financing the Greenways: The Community decided to investigate the possibility of donating all or some of maintenance money remaining in the Sugar Glider grant for planting of glider-friendly corridors in the Greenways.

The next General Meeting of Bywong Community will take place after the AGM on Monday 15 August at 8pm. Guest speaker will be David Bellew, Regional Manager of Country Energy, who will speak on a range of local power issues, including reliability of supply and plans for service improvement in the region. All residents are welcome to attend this meeting at the Community Hall, Birriawa Road, Bywong.

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PALERANG RATES RORT

A year ago your property was revalued upwards by at least 20%. A week ago the Palerang Council informed you that your rural residential property had been re-categorised to residential general. On 1 August you will be told how much your rates will be for 2005/6. I doubt that you will be pleased with the result of this equation if you live on the western side of Palerang, particularly if you are living on a tight budget or are a self-funded retiree!

The Wamboin Community Association has been monitoring these developments since the shires amalgamation process commenced and has been disturbed by the hype and disinformation which has been featured in the Bungendore Bulletin and the Bungendore Mirror about the financial position of the Palerang Council and the ambit demand to the State Government for a 28.5% increase in rates to cover the proposed 2005/6 budget for Palerang. Fortunately, the NSW Minister for Local Government saw fit to question the basis of this special rate bid and rejected it in favour of a 3.5% capped increase. He also indicated that an investigative team from his Department would visit the Council to review Palerang's finances. The WCA has asked to be included in any community consultation.

The 3.5% across-the-board increase appears innocuous as we have incurred this increase in previous years to cover CPI, etc, but this year the rates model has been changed and there are new categories. We were shown rate Model 3 recently at the hurried information sessions at central points in Palerang but this was again a kaleidoscope of mesmerising figures and, without any further community consultation, "Model 16 Amended" was passed by Council on 12 July 2005. This model has not been made public but I am sure that it will be somewhat along the lines of the previous models which reduced the rates for the eastern margin of Palerang and hugely increased the rates for western Palerang. In his attempt to address the blatant inequity of the Council's models, the Mayor has stated that the Council has "struggled to find a fair rates model", there are going to be "discrepancies" and there will be "a lot of unhappy campers". Remember that in addition to the new rates there is to be a \$140 pa. waste management charge. When you calculate the percentage increase in your rates don't forget to include the waste charge which in the past has been included as a "tip" cost.

The Wamboin Community Association has met with Palerang Councillors, the Mayor and the General Manager to discuss the variety of models proposed by Council and representatives have attended General Meetings of Council. We have been dismayed by the elusiveness of the information and figures from Council and the evasiveness of the spin from the majority of the Councillors. The decision in respect of Model 16 Amended has been blatantly political and no weighting given either to equity or a balance between the services being provided to the former rural residential ratepayers in western Palerang in comparison to all categories in eastern Palerang. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the WCA was held after the AGM on 19 July specifically to discuss the problems which the WCA had encountered with the Palerang Council over the rates for 2005/6. At the conclusion of the meeting the following motion was passed unanimously: "That the Wamboin Community Association has no confidence in respect of the model and management of the rates for 2005/6". The WCA has conveyed these views to the NSW Minister for Local Government, our local member and the Council. The WCA is in contact with the other community associations in western Palerang and strategies are being considered.

At this stage we are unaware of the precise increases determined by the Council but anticipate that there will be a lot of more than "unhappy-campers" in Wamboin. The WCA Executive has already been approached by residents of Wamboin who have suddenly become aware of the impending increase in rates and the disparity between eastern and western Palerang and they want to do something about it. The hip-pocket nerve is likely to focus community attention on the bases for these issues. Regrettably, the die has been cast for 2005/6 – but 2006/7 could be different! Your constructive views would be appreciated as this subject is likely to be an Agenda item at future General Meetings of the WCA.

- John van der Straaten, Secretary, 6238 3590

NB. General Meetings are held at the Wamboin Community Hall at 7.30pm NOW on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month. Refreshments are served after the meeting - and there is always a good fire and good company.

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Lake George Day VIEW Club –August 1st Birthday Luncheon Meeting

Lake George Day VIEW Club's next luncheon meeting will be on Tuesday 16 August 2005, commencing at 11.30am, at the Eagle Hawk Rydges Resort, Federal Highway, Sutton. The cost is \$20.00. We welcome new members (over 18) and guests. Special entertainment for our First Birthday will be provided by Leigh Collier. For bookings please phone Kerry on 6238 0603 by Thursday 11 August. 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.

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		
276 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	32	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		
Deb Gordon	Yalana East	41	Rob Gorham South End - Clare Valley	43
Cassie Fisher	Clare Lane	11	Pauline Segeri North End - Clare Valley	42
Lyle Monetesin	Forrest Road area	60	Bungendore Shop Bungendore	10
199 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 Harriot	18	Esther/Ian Rudd MReef/Bankers/FedHwy	25
Joan Milner	Birriwa Road	12		
192 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON Ph 6236 9609				
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Snowdon Family Hogan Drive	27
Len Parrish	Summerhill Rd Area	32	Diana+Keith Gascoine Snow Gum Road	23
Sue Gorham	Schofields/Brooks	45	Thelma Martin Shinglehouse Rd area	20
Sue Aunella	Doust/Wyoming/Brooks	25		
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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.
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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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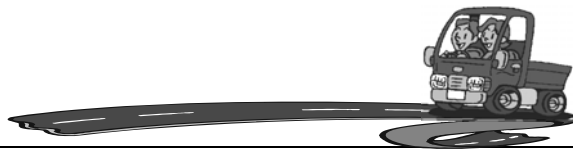
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HIA Member

Still hopeful that Tom may be found



Brown Tabby & White male cat desexed and microchipped

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Possible recent sightings near Gidgee Estate in Weeroona Drive.

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HARD ROCK QUARRY UPDATE

Councillor David Needham, Yass Valley Council

Yass Valley Council will hold a public meeting about the Hard Rock Quarry at the Sutton Hall scheduled for Thursday 18th August at 7pm. Watch the noticeboard and the Bungendore papers for more details. Summary:

1. In the early/mid 90's, a company called Tiocliiff (a subsidiary of White Group and owner/operator of the Collector Quarry) submitted a Development Application or DA to Yarrawlumla Shire Council to extract rock (for concrete aggregate etc) from the Sutton Hard Rock Quarry ("HRQ" – its location is explained at the end.). YSC and a very active local residents group opposed this on the basis of (amongst other things) noise, traffic hazards, endangerment of the environment, visual impairment. YSC rejected the DA.
2. In 1998, after a successful appeal to the Land and Environment Court, Tiocliiff was granted consent to mine the HRQ. The Consent (i.e. an approved Development Application or DA) was contingent on a number of conditions being fulfilled to (a) protect endangered trees and parrots, (b) limit the hours of operations, (c) limit the hours of blasting, (d) limit the number of trucks, (e) monitor the noise, (f) construct an underpass or bridge at the Macs Reef Road end of the Old Federal Highway (ie near the Tulip Farm) to permit trucks leaving the HRQ to safely enter the south bound traffic on the Federal Hwy by crossing over or under the Hwy and then filtering into the slow lane, (g) Trucks leaving the quarry would all be required to use this bridge/underpass, with those leaving the HRQ to go north then using the Sutton Interchange Bridge to cross over the Hwy to change direction and head north. (h) Also empty trucks arriving from Goulburn direction would be required to come to the Sutton interchange to cross the Hwy and head back north, to access the HRQ by exiting the Hwy at the Tulip Farm.
3. A DA Consent will automatically lapse after five years if construction has not started. In the five years since consent was granted, Tiocliiff had put five concrete survey markers and a number of star pickets on the land in question. Yarrawlumla Shire felt this was not enough to constitute commencement and advised Tiocliiff that the DA Consent had therefore lapsed. Tiocliiff did not agree and sought legal advice.
4. The HRQ then passed into the hands of the Yass Valley Council after the boundary changes. At the December 2004 Council Meeting it was resolved that "*Council advises Tiocliiff Pty Ltd that the development consent granted to it on 12th February 1998 lapsed on 5th February 2003, as the works relied upon by Tiocliiff Pty Ltd to preserve the consent do not save the consent from lapsing*". Council received a letter from Tiocliiff on 11th January 2005 which included an opinion from its legal advisor, Mallesons Stephen Jaques, that they felt the survey work was potentially enough to constitute commencement.
5. This is a tricky point at law. Two other developers of residential housing were in similar positions with their respective councils and had taken them separately to the Appeals Court. Given the cases were very similar and contesting the same issue, the Court decided to hear them together – basically the question to be decided, does survey work constitute commencement of development. Yass Valley Council's lawyers (Minter Ellisons) advised them to wait for the outcome of the Appeals Court.
6. The Appeals Court recently (May/June 2005) ruled in favour of these developers – that survey work does constitute commencement - setting the precedent for similar cases.
7. If this same ruling were applied to the HRQ (and the Consent were deemed NOT to have lapsed) then the situation is back to exactly how it was when consent was originally granted in 1998 – i.e. nothing has changed apart from there being more houses in and around Sutton, and more traffic up and down the highway due to the new residences, and also due to the completion of the divided road all the way to Goulburn making it easier for people from Collector etc to commute to Canberra.

Council will hold the public meeting and has asked Minter Ellisons to also attend to answer your questions. We realise there are a lot of new residents in the area who were not around when this whole process started, some of whom are quite concerned. The 1998 ruling by the Land and Environment Court granting consent is a matter of public record and is available for you to study should you wish, to better understand the arguments put forward, how they were treated, and consequently what and why were the conditions of consent.

WHERE IS THE HRQ? Go up the old Federal Highway past the Tulip Farm. Approx half a kilometre before you reach the Donnelly Road intersection you will see a small brick telephone exchange building close to the left hand side of the road. Stop and look left and up. On the ridge line you will see a line where a wooded area on a property to the north ends, and cleared pasture on Mr Ken Hardy's property to the south begins. The HRQ is proposed to be in a bowl just beneath the ridge line on Mr Hardy's land. From the southern high point, i.e. standing on the ridge just above, and to the Sutton side of the proposed quarry site bowl, you can see forever - to Eagle Hawk, Mac's Reef Tip and so on. However, you cannot see Sutton village from this point because there is a lower intervening ridge on the northern side of the village. "Ground zero" of the proposed quarry is hidden from sight of the immediate road because of the topography and the vegetation. This might change once plant and equipment were erected and some clearing work undertaken to permit access to the trucks etc. It would likely be more visible from surrounding higher points in say Wamboin and Bywong.

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

I awoke, a few Saturdays ago, to a sound that I couldn't readily identify. Then it hit me....the creek was flowing, and not just flowing, but rushing! Less than twenty four hours of steady rain had produced this. For a week I listened, with an inner glow, to that unaccustomed sound as it gradually died down to a steady flow and then a trickle, and finally stopped. But it filled the dam and left the creek pools brimming. The frogs sang praises to the heavens, the kookaburras chuckled and the wood ducks started quacking on about real estate and construction. Even the old girls seemed to rally, and popped out their first eggs to mark the new dawn.

Meanwhile, inside the house, we had gutted the kitchen and were retreating to an increasingly smaller space, living like two ancients as we hugged the hearth, awaiting the promised transformation. By demolishing the old kitchen, however, we had unwittingly upset the balance of nature. We discovered, not entirely to our surprise, a wonderful rats' nest, complete with former occupant. We did our own "carbon dating" which revealed the age of the nest. The rat, for our benefit, had carefully shredded a TV guide announcing the final episode of Sea Change. We also discovered that there had been a mice migration in a previous age, beyond the chook coop. And suddenly, from no obvious evidence of mice in the house, we began to see their tell tale trademarks. A brand, spanking new kitchen, sullied by mice dirt would never do! "Living way out here," the plumber replied laconically, "you would have rats and mice."

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IF ONLY THEY COULD TALK

The dog's got a headache

by Dr Garry McComb BVSc QDAH

(this was not printed last month due to my error – Ned Noel, editor)

Recently I saw a dog whose owner thought that the dog was in pain and he gave the dog a human adult dose of ibuprofen on the advice of his brother who was a medical practitioner. The dog did not survive. So often we see animals whose owners have administered human drugs and at "adult" doses because the cat or dog is fully grown. Most drugs are given on a weight basis and a 4 kilogram adult cat is very different to a 70 kilogram adult human. The Australian Veterinary Journal has put out a media release on this subject as follows: The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) is warning cat and dog owners against giving their animals human painkillers, particularly those containing ibuprofen, because they are potentially toxic to our pets.

AVA National President, Dr Norm Blackman, says that while there have been concerns amongst the medical profession about products containing ibuprofen being available over-the-counter to humans, similar concerns are held by the veterinary profession. "Ibuprofen belongs to a class of drugs called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and works to block the chemicals in the body that cause pain, fever and inflammation," says Dr Blackman.

"This drug is found in a lot of the anti-inflammatory products on the market and can be potentially toxic to dogs and cats, especially smaller breeds, if they consume even one tablet. Ibuprofen can cause gastric ulceration and kidney failure in both dogs and cats." The AVA has strong fears that the availability of this drug in supermarkets may increase the risk of toxicity if pet owners inadvertently administer these products to their pets thinking it will ease their aches and pains. "If your pet is ill it's always best to seek veterinary advice rather than try and treat the symptoms yourself," says Dr Blackman. "People don't seem to realise that animals have a different physiology to humans and what may be OK for us to use can be very harmful to our pets. There are drugs that are more appropriate for animals that have been tested and approved by the relevant authorities."

Products that contain paracetamol can also be toxic, especially to cats but dogs also don't tolerate this drug as well as humans. "Always follow the advice of your AVA veterinarian and never think that what is safe for you is also safe for your pet. Keeping toxic materials away from your pets is one way of making sure that your veterinary bills are small," says Dr Blackman.

IF ONLY THEY COULD TALK

Osteosarcomas

by Dr Fiona Cox BVSc Hon

(this month's scheduled veterinary article – NN, ed)

At work, I find that things tend to come in runs of threes. This week was urinary tract infections in cats, while last week was osteosarcomas in dogs.

Osteosarcomas are malignant bone cancers. This tumour most commonly affects middle-aged, large & giant breed dogs and the tumour has a predilection for the bones of the limbs and skull. These tumours do also affect cats, although they tend to affect other bones, such as rib bones and vertebrae.

For one of the dogs presented, the owner reported that the aged German Shepherd had a swelling on its leg and had been lame for a week. The owner assumed that the dog must have injured himself. This history of a lameness, swelling and rapid on-set is classic for osteosarcomas.

At the skin surface, these cancers sometimes appear to be due to a superficial injury rather than an underlying bone problem. The second case I saw was in a border collie that had a temperature and a sinus that was draining pus. The pus is the result of the rapid rate at which this tumour grows. As the tumour grows, the blood supply to the bone is out-stripped and some of the bone dies, creating pus.

Osteosarcomas are diagnosed by a combination of signalment (breed, age etc) radiographs (x-rays) and biopsies. Osteosarcomas have a relatively characteristic radiographic appearance. Biopsies of the bone are also used to support a diagnosis. The major differential diagnosis for osteosarcomas is osteomyelitis, which is a primary fungal or bacterial infection of the bone. Osteosarcomas spread (metastasise) to the lungs quite rapidly. At the time of presentation to the vet, an estimated 10-25% of dogs will already have metastases in the lungs. For this reason it is extremely important to take radiographs of the chest after an osteosarcoma has been diagnosed.

In dogs, the treatment of choice is amputation of the affected limb followed by chemotherapy. In cats, adjunct chemotherapy is often not needed due to the significantly lower incidence of metastasis. Survival times post-treatment are short, with dogs surviving on average 1-year post surgery & chemotherapy. Survival times for cats are longer as the tumour tends to be less aggressive.

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BUNGENDORE VIEW CLUB

"VIEW Club is lucky to have Linda Crebbin Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Legal Aid based in Canberra as Guest Speaker"said Club President Robyn Barter in her introduction". Comments heard from club members afterwards endorsed this view.

Certainly a woman of today, Linda a vivacious, articulate and consummate professional enthralled and informed those present at The Royal Hotel. She had worked for eight years in a law practice before joining Legal Aid in 1988 where as she put it "one gets to see the realities of life and not always happiness" The service in one year dealt with 11,983 telephone calls and over 2,500 face to face consultations. It was interesting to hear that lawyers joining Legal Aid need to as Linda put it "be prepared to get out of bed early on a Saturday morning to deal with many of the problems which have occurred". They deal with criminal law, family law, child welfare and domestic violence. Linda herself as well as her CEO duties handles children's case loads and represents parents. Having such a career Linda claimed "does make me think about the importance of ones own values". She was very complimentary about the work VIEW does for The Smith Family especially The Learning for Life Program as some of their clients children are assisted by this program in their daily learning. As part of her conclusion Linda said "Thank goodness for women who do so much good for others and realise that their connection with others is important" Dianna Studdert a club member thanked Linda for making us aware of the wonderful work Legal Aid does in the community.

VIEW functions in the near future will be: August Meeting at Cafe Woodworks
Guest Speaker, Chris Pearson from Active Travel Canberra. Bookings can be made with Debbie Hudson 62381571 or email dhudson2@vtown.com.au.

For your Diary - An Elegant Evening of Fashion by Perri Cutten at the Carrington on 10 October, Theme Dress in Black & White with a Touch of Red' and our big event of the year "Art Show in the Beautiful Gardens of The Old Stone House" 18/19/20 November. Artists interested in this should get in touch with either Ros Welch 62380769 or Helen Newton 62380154.

Notes from St. Andrew's Church

The little church on the hill is here for everyone in Wamboin and you will be given a warm welcome when you come to check us out. We especially welcome baby Jaiden Jari Warwick-Okkonen, son of Chris Warwick and Kristy Okkonen, who was Christened in the church on Saturday, 30th July.

GEARY'S GAP/WAMBOIN LANDCARE

Meeting, 'Show and Tell' Our next meeting will be a Members night on Monday 8 August. Local residents will discuss the highs and lows of growing trees and shrubs in Wamboin – what works, what doesn't. There will also be a 'sound and light' presentation of some of the local migratory bush birds which will be returning here in Spring. Come along, ask questions or contribute your ideas. The event will be at 7.30pm, Bywong Community Hall – Birriwa Rd (Off Macs Reef Rd).

Tree planting: There will be a tree planting on Weeroona Drive (Norton Road end) between 9.00am and 12 noon on Sunday 28 August. Bring protective clothing, gloves, sturdy shoes, mattocks or trowels, buckets and water to drink.

Other diary dates for 2005:

- Propagation sessions will be held on the first Saturday of each month at Geoff Butler's place at 38 Birchmans Grove, Wamboin
- Meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month at the Bywong Community Hall
- There will be a site visit to Lyndfield Park, John and Jan Weatherstone's property at Gunning (an environmental success story in landscape transformation, visited by Prince Charles earlier this year) on Saturday 15 October.

Looking forward to seeing you at a Landcare happening soon. -Kathy Cook, Secretary, Ph: 6236 9153

WILDCARE TRIVIA SUCCESS

On Friday 29 July *Wildcare* held a Trivia Night and buffet at the Rydges Eaglehawk Hotel. The night was a great success with over 100 *Wildcare* members, locals and a few Canberrans getting together. As well as trivia questions, raffles and games the participants were entertained by the *Sylvie Mitchell Jazz Trio*. The evening raised over \$2,000 for *Wildcare*. Local businesses, including our wineries, strongly supported the event by providing many of the prizes. The winners on the night were 'The Wallabies'! If you are interested in finding out about more about *Wildcare* contact their 24 hour rescue number 6299 1966. – Phillip and Leslie Machin

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THE STABLE DOOR

by Ian Collet

Boys, their toys, and their “babble”

Just before my bride and I tootled off for a month’s stint in Vietnam earlier in the year (possibly a feature for a future edition of Wamboin’s world class community magazine) I replaced the Paj. And in its stead, I bought a new, slightly smaller but equally feisty kosher 4WD. I enjoyed the Pajero but as it was 14 years old and had nearly 300K on the clock it was time for it to go. And (oh, it’s such a long story that to lay it down here would likely give Ned the Ed apoplexy) – suffice to say, because of Mitsubishi Australia’s p. poor customer support over the years (2 gearboxes – at my expense) I vowed I would never buy a Mitsubishi vehicle again. And I won’t. I don’t like the current style Pajero anyway!

Well, with a new toy comes new things to play with. An altimeter for example. Hey, do you know that it’s an 80 metre climb up Norton Road from the Sutton Road intersection to the crest of the hill and into Wamboin proper? No? Well it is – according to the altimeter gizmo on the roof. And, if that little stat. didn’t blow you away, cop this. From the same intersection all the way down to Piallago Avenue (for the dreamers or automatons among you, that’s the T-intersection you reach when you head south to the bottom end of the Sutton Road and turn left for Queanbeyan or right to duck under the shortly to be arriving international aircraft!!) it’s a fall or climb if you’re coming t’other way of some 140 metres. One hundred and forty metres! INCREDIBLE? Yep! And far more exciting than wedging a mobile phone between shoulder and ear for a conversation while simultaneously making a play for corn chips in the centre console with your free hand and at the same time locking the steering wheel with your knees while contemporaneously craning your neck to check out the community notice board as you swing by! So, next time you climb Norton Rd hill into Wamboin, if you think it’s getting a little harder to breath, you’re possibly right, ‘cos the air is probably a bit thinner 220 metres above Queanbeyan.

Funny Business: Was wading through some back issues of the Canberra Times recently and spotted what I thought, and you may or may not agree with me on this, are some absolutely on-the-mark or absolutely so far astray observations recorded in Karen Hobson’s “Funny Business” column. The article is titled “Fine lines through sexual mutters”. With full acknowledgment to Karen Hobson and the Canberra Times, I’ve included an extract below.

“So MEN are from Mars and women are from Venus. Two different planets, two different languages. It’s not that surprising is it?

Fine. This is the word women use to end an argument when they feel they are right and you need to shut up. Never use “fine” to describe how a woman looks – this will cause you to have one of those arguments.

Five minutes. This is half an hour. It is equivalent to the five minutes that your football game is going to last before you take out the rubbish, so it’s an even trade.

Nothing. This means “something”, and you should be on your toes. “Nothing” is usually used to describe the feeling a woman has of wanting to turn you inside out, upside down and backwards. “Nothing” usually signifies an argument that will take five minutes and end with “Fine”.

Karen apparently also consulted a couple of girlfriends for their thoughts on men’s language and (allegedly) – my insertion - it took them just five minutes to come up with a further ten phrases of which I list 3 below.

It’s OK, honey. I’ll drive. This means “You! Drive my car. Over my dead body. There is no way you are getting your hands on my ignition.” Whatever you think. Don’t be fooled into thinking this means he trusts your judgment. He just can’t be bothered concentrating on two things at once. Besides, no matter what you think, he’ll disagree.

Is this new? What a ridiculous question! Doesn’t he know? Just how much attention does he pay to what you are wearing? This is usually accompanied by the “and how much did it cost us” stare and ends with him going to the pub to have a quite (sic) one.” Shame all blokes seem to be tarred with the same brush by the other gender. It’s so unfair! “Wot?..... Dinner?.....NOW?..... be there in five, hon!!

Another beaut Bywong Trivia Nite – Last night, Sat 30 July, once again was a triumph for the Bywong Community Association’s sponsoring of its incredibly enjoyable Trivia Nite. Around 100 people came along (from the local community and further afield eg Captains Flat, Canberra and even the UK I believe) and went head-to-head in what as we have come to expect was a keenly fought but friendly contest. All credit to members of the Association who very clearly work so hard developing the questions, atmosphere and sustenance. And the Association’s Hall in Birriwa Road is such a great venue. Congrats to the organisers. An excellent event where it seems everyone’s a winner on the night.

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WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – JULY COMPETITION RESULTS

The July competition was sponsored by the “Long Drivers” who donated the trophies and provided the 19th hole eats. Ball winners for the long drives and nearest the pin holes were; Ken Gordon x3, Tony Fisher x3, Ted Evans, Charles Guscott and Peter Greenwood.

Nine hole competition won by Sue Gane on a count back from Lofty Mason.

B Grade won by Steve Minors on count back from Ted Evans.

A Grade won by Ken Gordon on a count back from Peter Greenwood.

On a day of “count backs” we once again thank Don, Hank and Trent for their annual sponsorship.

- Peter Greenwood, Golf enquiries to 6238 3358

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin (30 year statistics from the Robertsons)

July rainfall to 29/7 65mm (July 2004...13mm)	2005 rainfall to 29/7 299mm (2004 to 31/7...113.5mm)
Av. August rainfall 58.6m (Aug 2004...77.5mm)	Wettest August 170mm (1985)
Driest Aug 9mm (1995)	Hottest Aug day 20 degrees (31/8/82)
Coldest Aug day 5 degrees (9/8/81, 25/8/03, 4/8/04)	Coldest Aug night - 4 degrees (9/8/97)

Wamboin 15 years ago-from the Whisper, September 1990

(there was no August 1990 Whisper) editor: Edwina Jans Circulation: 265 "Spurred on by the concerns of the printer, Sally and I conducted a telephone based readership survey for the Whisper. We phoned 80 randomly selected telephone numbers over two nights and spoke to 58 people. Three lived on Sutton Rd and did not receive the Whisper, (one said they would very much like to get it) four were house sitting for friends or were new residents and had not seen it, and the remainder read it. Almost everyone read it "from cover to cover" and most people looked forward to each new edition. Every part was read by a majority of people, though some did not read the Scout/Cub report if they did not have children or the Pony Club if they did not have a horse. Each copy was read by an average of three people. Many had the last copy within reach of their telephones. Nobody we spoke to discarded it before reading it. Several people said, unprompted, that they would rather pay for the printing of the Whisper than see it disappear. There was a general opinion that the Whisper was an important part of Wamboin's culture and that its role of creating an identity helped to build and consolidate the community. About ten people asked me to pass on their appreciation to the present and past editors for the great job that they are/were doing." -- from the WCA President's Paras.....Malcolm Harrington.

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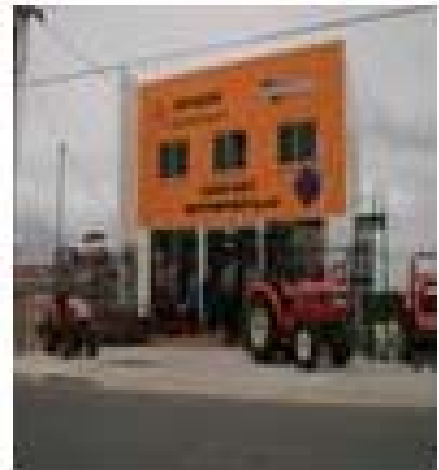
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Nature Notes – July 2005

Jo Walker

How wonderful it was, at the beginning of the month, to finally hear water flowing down the creeks – enough to fill the dams with water and lots of croaking frogs.

About a week after the welcome rain, there appeared to be what looked like strands of black netting along one end of the dam. A closer look revealed thousands of minute, velvety-black Collembola or spring-tails which had fallen (or leapt) into the water and had been concentrated into drifts by the slight currents in the dam. Spring-tails are tiny (2-3 mm), wingless and soft-bodied insects known to inhabit moist places – waterways, sea shores and sometimes snow – throughout the world.

With the almost spring-like warm weather the grasses and lots of herbaceous plants are beginning to grow again. In the damper areas, leafy rosettes of Billy Buttons (*Craspedia variabilis*) and Scaly Buttons (*Leptorhynchos squamatus*) are coming up along with lots of buttercups (*Ranunculus lappaceus*).

Around the grevillea bushes, which are in flower at present, there is a lot of activity amongst the honey-eaters and other small birds. The Eastern Spinebills seem to spend more time aggressively chasing other birds and each other than they do feeding. Spring and nesting time is approaching, so territory protection is on the agenda it seems.

The White-eared Honeyeaters are apparently building their nest already. Last week, I was watching the kangaroos on the hillside when I saw one of the honey-eaters fly down onto the back of one of the 'roos. I got out the binoculars to see what it was doing, and was surprised to find it was actually collecting some fur. The 'roo occasionally reached round with a forepaw to dislodge it, but didn't appear too worried. Friends at Widgiewa told me they had seen this happening at their place, and another friend at Bywong had seen White-eared Honeyeaters attempting to remove hair from her dog, so it appears to be a well-established behaviour for this species.

A few weeks ago, I was walking with a group of friends at Googong Reserve. Afterwards, we took our lunch down to a picnic area above a steep rocky gorge where the Queanbeyan River has created a series of deep pools and small waterfalls and where our attention was soon caught by a slight movement in the water. It was a Water Rat – which entertained us for over an hour, swimming along the surface of the water, diving, then climbing out onto the warm rocks to clean its fur and whiskers. It was a beautiful creature – about the size of a platypus but with thick, dark brownish-black fur on its back, head and legs, pale orange fur on its stomach and chest, and webbed, very pink hind feet. Its thick, furry tail had a distinct white tip. Water Rats, unlike other rodents which are usually nocturnal, forages during daylight hours - for large insects, crustaceans, fish, frogs and other small prey. They build a nest at the end of a burrow tunnelled into the river bank, and seem to prefer a habitat of flowing water. Our encounter with this little mammal wasn't quite on the scale of whale-watching, but it was an enchanting experience nonetheless.



We are proposing to open a licenced Child Care Centre in Sutton Village.

(Approximately 15 – 20 children, birth to school entry age)

We will be providing a professional service with qualified caring staff.

Our service will give families the opportunity to leave their children in quality care in Sutton close to home.

The proposal for Child Care facilities will go ahead depending on the feedback of your expression of interest.

For more information please do not hesitate to call
0437501127



The Wamboin Firefighter

**Fire permits are not required if you want to burn off or light fires in the open. Please notify your neighbours and your fire brigade Captain 24 hours before you light up.
RING 000 TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS.**

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)

From the Captain's Desk

The weather continues to keep us guessing. It was only a short while ago there were predictions of gloom if the long awaited rain didn't fall. Even though the annual average isn't looking healthy, the rainfall over the last two months has left the rain gauges looking much better. The rain has meant that there have been plenty of opportunities for residents to burn off many piles of rubbish. More and more people are contacting their neighbours, Firecom and me before they burn off, no matter how small the fire is. This courtesy is very welcome and appreciated. It means that we don't have to dispatch crews unnecessarily if we receive calls. However, we did have to respond to a reported grass fire on a rainy weekday afternoon recently! It was a 000 call from a motorist travelling on the Federal Highway. We don't have any option with 000 calls. We have to investigate. Two vehicles were crewed and one was dispatched down Bungendore Road. The other truck remained on stand-by. Lots of smoke had been seen and the lack of wind and the low air temperature meant the smoke had built up. When the first crew got to the scene it must have been an absolutely awesome spectacle. Huge flames of about 20 cms were roaring and copious smoke was billowing up from a pile of rubbish about half a metre in diameter. The response was the lot of a firefighter. As we have only had to respond to a few incidents of this type so far, it is encouraging that the message is spreading about letting the right people know.



This month we will be starting a program of practising our response plans if we are called to any of the major facilities in our area. The first will be at the Lambert Vineyards. Over the ensuing months we will be doing the same thing at as many locations as we can. It won't just be aimed at tourist attractions, although this does have the added complication of having many visitors to consider. We will be trying to plan our responses for the many large workshops, hostels, farm-based industries and other facilities presenting a significant challenge for an emergency service.

We will also be starting a program of driver instruction for many people in the brigade who want to rekindle that childhood fantasy of being able to drive around in a big, red fire truck. We will be running these sessions each Sunday morning from 9 o'clock. If you see the fire trucks on the road during these times, please be patient and try to remember what you were experiencing when you learned to drive.

Over the last few weeks we have had all the Brigade vehicles serviced as part of the regular annual program. This is addition to the maintenance work carried out by brigade members. The vehicles also had to go in for the annual registration checks. All brigade vehicles have now been fitted with extra lights. Driving lights have been fitted to make the vehicles safer to operate at night and working lights have been fitted on the roof of each vehicle to help crews working outside the vehicles.

One of the targets for the last subscription drive was to raise funds for improved wet weather gear for brigade members. We thought that this purchase would be relatively easy but things are not going smoothly. The original equipment we had planned on getting proved to be of poor quality and the sizing regime was beyond belief. We are now investigating other brands and we hope we will be getting the first sets soon. I am sure that Murphy will intervene when the sets arrive and keep the rain away!

The brigade is now close to adopting the business plan and budget for the oncoming year. Thanks to a lot of work by Richard Hobbs, with help from many people in the Brigade Executive, we will be in a better position to plan our activities over the next year. And people ask us what we do in our spare time!

Plans have changed a little for the open day and hazard reduction burn at the Community Hall on the 28th of August. As it is likely that the ground will still be damp in the morning we have postponed the start until the afternoon. The festivities will begin at 1pm with a sausage sizzle and a chance to inspect the facilities at your fire brigade. It will also be a perfect opportunity for you to ask lots of questions about fire protection and reducing the fire risks on your property. If everything



Jake Blight, Andrew Dunn, David “Doubles” Dobliger and Ian Coillet pictured at a recent training session finalising the setup for a water pumping exercise

goes according to plan we should be lighting up around 2pm to demonstrate hazard reduction and fire fighting techniques, including the right personal protective equipment needed.

Until more news next month, please remember to contact your brigade if you need or intend to burn off. S always, if you need to discuss anything about fire prevention please give me a call on 6236 9220 or 0409 991 340.

THE CAPTAIN’S LIST		Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
A’Hern Fitness at the Airport AAA Water Carriers Anytime Backhoe Hire B & B Tree Surgery Bingley Contractors (Water Carriers) Bungendore Rural Bungendore Taxi Service Capital Business Services Clare Valley Tree Services Coates Hire, Fyshwick Congari Bookkeeping & Business Services Coolah Holdings Pty Ltd	Cross Country Construction Eureka Plants Pty Ltd Horizon Real Estate FH Office Services France Harrison & Associates Gidgee Estate Winery Inland Trading Co (Aust) Lambert Vineyards LMS Consulting Manuka Childcare Centre Marloc Engineering Overdene Excavations Pty Ltd Quick-Eze Towing	Ratz Mobile Welding So Good Sausages Pty Ltd Sotech Pty Ltd Shepherds Hut Wines Sherrin Hire Sutton Real Estate Tipton Shopfitters Pty Ltd Trevor Barker & Associates Trevor Duncan Homes Wagonga Coffee Westpac Banking Corporation

	<p>IDEAL BUILDING SOLUTIONS Licensed Builders NSW & ACT “Servicing all areas of Canberra and surrounding districts” Specialising in –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Domestic Building ❖ New Homes ❖ Extensions ❖ Renovations ❖ Outdoor Living Areas <p>Phone Paul Elword for an obligation free quote and building assessment on 0407 295 192 or Michele on 0427 007 223.</p>	
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