

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

October 2005 CIRCULATION: 1025

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 November 2005 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, October 30, 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 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

THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS

Deanne Brucic, babysitting & Petsitting	6238-1884
Ellen Smith, petsitting (experienced with horses)	6238-3115
Sarah Dunn, babysitting, cooking	6238 1849 or 0424 023 841.
Fiona Skea, babysitting	6238-3290
Rebecca Purdie, petsitting	6238-3343
Damien Montesin, petsitting, odd jobs	6238-3208
Frank Deveson, bicycle maintenance	6238-3294
Alycia and Hannah Elword, babysitting, petsitting	6236 9186
John Brennan, babysitting and petsitting.....	6238 3472
Gabrielle Simpkin & Nicolette Neveu-Abramczuk, petsitting	62383600

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

THE MARKETS ARE COMING!

Our own monthly Produce and Craft Market will resume on: **Saturday 15 October 2005**

Now is the time to start planting and crafting so that there are plenty of tempting items on offer. New stallholders are always welcome. For details contact Tony Power on 6238 3028 or email poweraj@acslink.net.au.

WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

President's Paragraphs

Unfortunately the weather for the **Bonfire Night** on Saturday, September 17 was a bit on the wet side. Over 200 did turn up and the Bonfire did burn nicely but a shower at the wrong time made the Fireworks display unsafe. To refund the admission charges would have been very difficult and most of our stalls were left with quite a lot of their wares. Black Widow made the offer to try again on October 8 and the decision was made to accept. You could hardly call September a dry run so let's call it a rehearsal. **The Bonfire Night is all on again on Saturday, October 8.**

The WCA Raffle prizes were two \$30 meat trays, 2 Bottles of wine donated by the Corras of the Inland Trading Company, 2 Bottles of wine donated by the Lamberts, a trailer load of wood cut by Dave Hubbard and a box of vegetables donated by Colleen and Geoff Foster. The WCA Raffle winners were: 1. M Wise, 2. Bruce & Jenni, 3. Tony and Judy Smith, 4. Joan M., 5. The Whitneys, 6. K Crowe. All prizes were collected.

For helping set up the night my thanks to: all those who brought material and stacked up the Bonfire, to Ian Cuthbertson of Anytime Hire for the loan of pickets and safety webbing, to Hank Berlee for his help in marking out the parking area, to the Fire Brigade members who collected admission and directed parking, to all stall holders, to those hardy folk who braved the weather, and finally to the team who cleaned up the area the following day.

The Bonfire Night is on again on Saturday, October 8. The entry fee will be waived for those who paid in September, and is by donation for others. To answer questions on costing, the entry fees pay the cost of the Fireworks, with any excess funds divided between the WCA and Fire Brigade. The various Community Groups do not pay for stalls and retain any/all profits they make. Any local commercial stalls make a donation to the WCA. I have asked for, and accepted, an offer by Guideline to deliver a couple of loads of bonfire material. I request that individuals continue to bring and stack bonfire type material to ensure a good one. Parking areas will again be marked out and the Fireies will guide you to these spaces. Please remember that fireworks may upset pets so ensure your animals are safe. There is an advertisement elsewhere in the Whisper. Fingers crossed weatherwise!

Lofty Mason. ljmason@iimetro.com.au

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Let's try again

Wamboin Community
Association's
Delayed Bonfire and
Fireworks Display
By
Black Widow Fireworks



Wamboin Community Centre,
112 Bingley Way, Wamboin

Saturday October 8, 2005

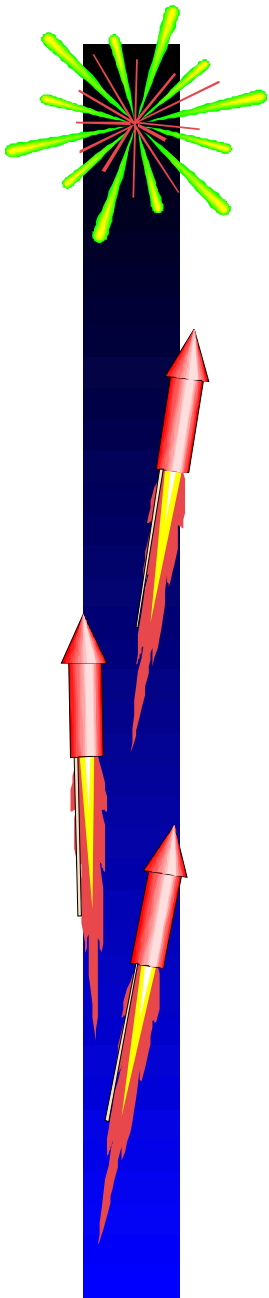
Food stalls from 5.30
Bonfire lit at 6.33 and
Fireworks light-up 7.03 precisely

Support local community groups,
Including: Wamboin Community Association,
Church, Fire Brigade, Cubs, Guides, Scouts, Pony
Club, Play Group, - with their traditional Stalls of
Hot Dogs, Gluhwein, Soups, Chips,

Sausage Rolls, Steak Sangers, Bacon Egg
Sangers, Pies, Baked Spuds, Gourmet BBQ,
Glo Sticks, Soft Drinks, Tea, Wagonga Coffee
and other Beverages.

Entry: by Donation or Free, if paid
in Sep.

Please note: by law the **only fireworks allowed** will be
the display by 'BLACK WIDOW FIREWORKS'.



Bywong Community News

by Morag Cotsell

Website: Our website has changed its name to bywongcommunity.org.au (now without the hyphen). It will however, continue for some time to be accessible through the old name.

Member participation: The Community is now planning its activities for the new financial year, so it is a good time for anyone able to help with any Community activities to contact the President, Warwick Cathro, on 6236 9187. We are looking for helpers at functions such as the Car Boot Sale, Trivia Night and the Bush Dance or to take part in our interaction with Council and other authorities.

Bushwalk: We anticipate that our next local bushwalk will be on 6 November. Watch the Bywong notice boards for details.

Sutton Quarry: The Community has a general concern with a current proposal by the developers to re-activate the Sutton Quarry proposal. Community members will be adversely affected if this goes ahead, some directly and personally and others by the general effect on the locality. It has therefore decided to take part in a presentation to Yass Valley Council, and to act in association with the re-formed Quarry Committee. Members of the Quarry Committee will make a presentation to the Community's next meeting on 17 October. Members and residents are urged to attend, particularly if they live in the Macs Reef/Bankers Road/Donnelly Road area or west of the Federal Highway. Quarry information will appear in due course on the Community's website.

Next meeting: The next general meeting is at the Community Hall in Birriwa Road (off Macs Reef Rd) at 7.30 pm on Monday 17 October. All local residents are very welcome .

BYWONG BUSH DANCE SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER AT 7.30PM

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**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ASKED
AT THE SEPTEMBER
WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEETING**
by Terry Bransdon, Palerang Council Mayor

1. Logging operations and trucks on Norton Road: There is a 10 tonne load limit on Norton Road and it is signposted at both ends. This load limit does not however stop heavy vehicle movement along the road where the destination or departure point is an address off the road and where there is no alternative access to that location. This logging operation coming out of Ryans Road onto Norton Road does not need a DA approval (accepted as 'farming'). It can therefore use any trucks that meet the configurations and weight limits generally applying across NSW including semi-trailers and 19 metre B-Doubles carrying less than 50 tonne. With no DA being necessary, Council does not have the power to enforce S94 contributions. Notwithstanding the above, following discussions with Kenoss who own the logs we reached agreement on 'conditions' that would be followed for them to be a responsible corporate citizen during the haulage operations. This has involved agreement to the requirements of the attached copy of permit and the payment of \$20,000 to Council to address damage caused to the road including broken edges and the odd surface failure. The Director of Engineering services has spoken to the haulage company last week and they say that most of the timber is gone and the haulage will cease within I-2 months.

2. Bus stops and traffic counts on Norton Road: The school buses typically stop where there are children to be picked up. It is done without reference to Council. Council with some funding assistance from RTA has provided 5 bus bays over the years on Norton Rd where the community had brought safety concerns to Council's attention. Many of the other bus stops are at the intersections with branching roads.


Sometimes it is difficult to determine whether it is safer to have fewer bus stops and make the children walk along a heavily trafficked road with no footpaths or to have the bus stop at driveways with it's 40 kph flashing lights operating. In the last month I have received a new set of guidelines for school bus stops which was prepared by one of the ROCs. It is supported by RTA but it has not become one of it's approved set of Guidelines (probably because they did not prepare it). I will be putting it up to the next Traffic Committee meeting for its consideration for recommending to Council as the adopted practice in the Shire. If this occurs it is envisaged that a working group consisting of RTA, Council staff, and bus company staff will be formed to go around the Shire and look at all bus stops with a view to dealing with the safety issues. This could involve adopting specific sites for bus stops or making existing bus stops safer by installing signs or constructing bus bays etc. Obviously some back up funding will be required.

In relation to the request for traffic counts the latest of these were taken in March/April 2004 and are provided as follows:

1. Norton Road near Sutton Road	-	1708 vpd AADT
2. Norton Road near Bungendore Road	-	556 vpd
3. Norton Road south of Clare Valley Lane	-	485 vpd
4. Norton Road east of Weeroona Drive	-	629 vpd
5. Norton Road west of Weeroona Drive	-	958 vpd
6. Weeroona Drive south of Denley Drive	-	338 vpd
7. Weeroona Drive north of Majors Creek Close	-	303 vpd

Based on the cycle of doing the traffic counts around the shire we expect that the next traffic counts in this area will be in about 3-4 months.

3. Moratorium on rezoning for rural residential development in the former Yarrawlumla Shire: The Department advised Yarrawlumla Council by letter dated 20 July 2001 that it would generally not support rezonings providing for additional rural residential settlement without first having in place an agreed rural settlement strategy. The department confirmed this on 29 December 2003 in response to a proposal from Mr Vern Drew for his property at Royalla – to quote "I reiterate, the Department will not consider any site specific proposals for rural residential rezonings whilst an appropriate Rural Lands/Rural Residential Strategy is lacking." We understand that similar advice was given to Tallaganda Council about this time. The same principle is stated in the Department's Rural Lands Policy (October 2000) which states: The Council may prepare a draft LEP for land that is zoned rural, non urban or environmental protection to allow rural residential purposes or urban purposes where the land has been identified in a current Rural residential strategy or Urban settlement strategy prepared by Council and approved by the Director General. The only exception to a strategy will be where Council can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Director General. · That the objectives for settlement listed above can be satisfied and · The alteration or removal of zoning or development control provisions is of minor significance. This policy has not been revoked as far as I know.



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

129 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	33	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	Brian Higgiso 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
Joan Milner	Birriwa Road	12		
194 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/Millyn	47	Thelma Martin Shinglehouse Rd area	20
Sue Aunella	Doust/Wyoming/Brooks	25		
TOTAL 1023				

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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)

FIRE PERMITS ARE REQUIRED IF YOU WANT TO BURN OFF OR LIGHT FIRES IN THE OPEN.
You will also need to notify your neighbours and your fire brigade Captain 24 hours before you light up.

From the Captain's Desk

It has been another quiet month, thankfully. As for last month no major fires or motor vehicle accidents occurred in our area. However your brigade has still been busy training,



practising attending raging bonfires, ending a chapter of history, helping residents with hazard reduction burns, and generally quietly waiting for the start of the next fire season.

Several of our members have been spending their recent weekends at the fire control centre in

Queanbeyan taking part in a course to train them as advanced firefighters. I have it on good authority that the "Wamboinites" have been setting the standard at the course with their excellent understanding and appreciation of the new skills they are acquiring. Mark Watson, Lemmi Briedis, Erik Hughes, Keith and Beth Wrench are to be congratulated. They will now spend several months working

on applying the skills they have learnt through a series of structured programs they can work on in the brigade.

A different sort of training program took place last weekend for two of our members who are part of the region's Remote Area Firefighting Team (RAFT). They had to undergo their annual physical test. It involved a 4.2km walk/jog/run in 45 minutes with a 20 kg pack. I think the exercise could have been billed as "Survivor – Bungendore" but as the cameras weren't there to record the tribal acceptance of our two representatives, I can't see the endurance test making it to the small screen. Andrew Dunn and Darrell Tipton were again successful. It is hard to keep a fit Wamboinite from doing well! Congratulations Andrew and Darrell.

If you were one of the brave and hearty few and came along to watch the annual bonfire and fireworks you would have seen some interesting things. One sight was your fire brigade watching over a raging, or should I say eventually raging, bonfire, in the rain. All dressed up and no party to go to! Better that way I suppose than the other. Unfortunately another sight didn't eventuate as the fireworks crew were worried that the rain could cause a massive short-circuit which could have created one BIG firework. We just have to put it down to practice and we will repeat the exercise on the 8th of October. We will be there to help again. We have been assured that another bonfire will be there, the fireworks should go off as planned and the excellent food and refreshment stalls should be available. Entrance this time, however, will be free.

A few weekends ago a chapter of the Wamboin brigade was finally closed. For many, many years our old Dodge has been a faithful and mostly reliable asset. The old truck represented a time when fires were fought without all the gee-wizardry technology taken for granted these days. It has been an institution in our brigade. Many brigade members, both past and present, have learned much about firefighting, waged and won campaigns and battled small fires with the old truck. There are many stories that people can recount about the Dodge, in both its colours – white and later red. Unfortunately the verdict had been brought down that petrol engined vehicles presented too great a risk on a fireground. All these vehicles had to be pensioned off. We had managed to keep the truck for a long time after this decision was made, being careful how and where we deployed it. The pity was that time has caught up with the old truck and repairs were becoming more serious and costly. A few weeks ago I reluctantly had to make the decision to "surrender" the Dodge to Fire Control and so, one bright and sunny Saturday afternoon, I had the honour and privilege of driving the "old girl" into town for the last time. I had images of transporting many memories and experiences on the back of that old vehicle as I reverently changed gears and bounced along



down the road. The Dodge had a fitting escort with a fire brigade vehicle fore and aft as we made our way into town. I think we made a very dignified and reverent convoy. Although we didn't get above 80 kilometres per hour during the trip none of the many cars following us overtook. Some might think it strange, but I believe that due respect was being shown on that day.

On Saturday the 8th of October, the day of the Bonfire and Fireworks II, your fire shed will be open from 10am as part of the NSW Rural Fire Service State-wide Open Day. Everyone is welcome to come to the fire shed to look at and over the equipment, and ask any questions to do with fire fighting and fire protection. We will be pleased to see you and to help, as always.

Over the past few weekends we have been helping residents with some hazard reduction work. This has helped us practice some of our skills as well as making sure our equipment is working properly. We have also discovered skills that will not be found in any training manual. If you take a close look at the photo below you will be able to see that we take property and asset protection very seriously. So much so that some of us will put our bodies on the line to make sure. The major issue with the hazard reduction burn was protecting the blossoming plum tree. Two of our crew put themselves between the fire and the plum tree to make sure the heat radiating from the fire didn't harm the tree. Although it appears a little spectacular, by careful use of the hose they were able to safely keep themselves and therefore the plum tree cool. Thanks to the "Blossom Patrol" the plum tree will see many more fruitful seasons.

The fire season has now started and it means that if you want to light a fire in the open you will need to contact me or the Senior Deputy Captain, Andrew Dunn, and convince us that you really need a fire permit. When the weather becomes drier and more severe, it is more than likely that we may not be able to issue the permits for when it is convenient for you to carry out the burn.

There is much information on the brigade's website about property protection and things to do when fires approach. I encourage you to look it up, if you have access to the Internet. Failing that, please come to the fire shed on the 8th of October and talk to us. If all else fails, give me a phone call on 0409 991 340 or 6236 9220.

THE CAPTAIN'S LIST		Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
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B & B Tree Surgery	FH Office Services	Shepherds Hut Wines
Bingley Contractors (Water Carriers)	France Harrison & Associates	Sherrin Hire
Bungendore Rural	Gidgee Estate Winery	Sutton Real Estate
Bungendore Taxi Service	Inland Trading Co (Aust)	Tipton Shopfitters Pty Ltd
Capital Business Services	Lambert Vineyards	Trevor Barker & Associates
Clare Valley Tree Services	LMS Consulting	Trevor Duncan Homes
Coates Hire, Fyshwick	Manuka Childcare Centre	Wagonga Coffee
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HIA Member

Sutton Road Fiasco

As we approach the anniversary of the commencement of the Sutton Road upgrade I wonder if other Wamboin Residents are starting to feel like I do. It is hard for an ordinary punter like me to comprehend the complexities of modern roadmaking but it is pretty clear that something unusual must be taking place. The relatively short section of road being modified has been sealed, ripped up, re-sealed, and is now being ripped up again. Even the re-alignment appears to have been a waste of time because where once we could overtake safely there are now double lines. Instead there is a short overtaking lane on a bend near the top of the hill. If the Romans built roads this slowly there would never have been a Roman Empire.

What is going on? Is it deliberate procrastination by the contractor to consume available funding? Is it the biggest engineering debacle of all time? Whose fault is it: the contractor or the ACT Government?

If commuters had been accorded a modicum of consideration I would be more patient, but we have been subjected to outrageous delays by traffic lights set up with absurd timing (many minutes of no traffic in either direction). When there were two sets of lights they were set up independent of each other to ensure that the second set always got you. Most of the time there has been no need to narrow the traffic to one lane, especially on weekends and after hours. The total time cost of this project to Wamboin residents must run into the thousands of hours.

It would have been quicker, easier, and probably cheaper to have left Sutton Road as a dog track, and to have built a new road from the Norton Road corner through to Majura Road north of the airport. -- Bob Allan, Poppet Rd

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THANK YOU WAMBOIN

BY KATIE SLATER

On the 20th-22nd of September 2005 I recently completed 40 hours without electricity as part of a major fund raising activity for World Vision Australia. A friend, Jacinta Durr, and I camped on our property and all ran smoothly apart from a slightly sprained ankle!! The reason I did this was to raise money for the children starving in Africa, world disasters (like the tsunami) and helping to re-establish communities in great poverty.



We were inspired to do this as many kids in poorer countries only get one small meal of maize a day. Also every \$40 raised will help feed six kids for 1 month. I managed to raise \$750 by myself which will feed roughly 6 kids for 19 months. The total amount raised by my friends and I was \$960. I would just like to express my thanks to all those who very generously sponsored me. Nearly all the money I made came from Wamboin residents! Without these very kind donations I couldn't have reached the amount I did!

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Palerang Forum supports rate reference group

A community forum last week supported creation of a rates reference group to provide additional input into future ratemaking in Palerang shire. Representatives of seven community groups and progress associations, the Braidwood and Bungendore Chambers of Commerce, the NSW Farmers Association and Van Heythuysen Trust (which looks after the interests of young people in Bungendore) who were at the meeting all supported the move. Thursday night's Palerang Community Consultative Committee forum was the second held since the shire was formed.

I suggested setting up the rate reference group, as there been disquiet in the shire about rating inequities. These had been caused by very large increases due to new high valuations in areas close to Canberra and the impact of using a minimum rate on properties with low valuations. Both problems had hurt residents. I'll now be taking this issue to Council to have the rate reference group formally approved and set up. Judging by the support given by Councillors attending last week's forum we should be calling for nominations from community groups and individuals at the beginning of October. The Rate reference group also aims to help the community become more informed through feedback of the complexities in statutory requirements for the making of council rates. Similar groups operated in some Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia councils and had tapped community knowledge to help avoid anomalies in rate making. The rate reference group, which would probably meet about five or six times between October and May would investigate and assess how comparable councils solved similar rates issues, analyse Palerang's rate model, consider options and solutions and make recommendations to the Council.

- Terry Bransdon, Mayor, ph 02 6236 9239 or 0428 621 624

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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
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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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<p>1/6</p>	

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Bungendore Evening View Club

Her current career is in the field of nursing. However it was on another topic that Debbie Dowling came to speak at the September meeting of the Bungendore Evening View Club. Debbie was the guest speaker at a dinner held at The Harvest Restaurant on Monday, 5th September. Some years ago, Debbie owned and ran an African Violet Nursery and it was her knowledge, skill and helpful hints that she had come to share with the 40 ladies present. As a very successful exhibitor of African Violets at many shows, she was well qualified to speak on the nurturing and propagating of this beautiful plant. Amidst much laughter Debbie assured members and guests that it was "just like raising children. They need to be fed, watered, have a good environment and be spoken to nicely and regularly".

Debbie has always grown her plants hydroponically as she has never had success growing them in soil. The beautiful photos showed the vast variety of her plants and are a testament to her skill. Among the handy hints she shared with the group were:- groom the leaves with a soft brush every couple of weeks; add warm water not cold; grow in a mixture of vermiculite and perlite and a window sill site is not always the best spot as the plants do not like direct sunlight. In a final hint she added, "the only way to kill them is to over water". Happy planting and nurturing ladies!

The next meeting of Bungendore Evening View Club will be held on Monday, 10th October, at "The Carrington", Bungendore, 6.15 for 6.45pm. Members and guests will enjoy a Fashion Show by Perri Cutten and are urged to book early as this is a very popular event. Bookings; contact Debbie Hudson, 623815751 or email to dhudson2@town.com.au. Bookings close Monday, 3rd October.

On Monday, 7th November, the Bungendore Evening VIEW Club are meeting at the Café Woodworks for dinner from 6.45pm and will hold our Craft Trading Table. Get in early and find a unique hand made gift for Christmas and enjoy a great meal. The cost is \$23 and from this we make a contribution to fundraising for the Smith Family. Bookings please by 28 October to Debbie Hudson by phone 6238 1571 or dhudson2@vtown.com.au. New members and guests are always welcome.

– Kath Funnell and Robyn Barter

Lake George Day VIEW Club - October Luncheon Meeting.

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Lake George Day VIEW Club

The next luncheon meeting will be on Tuesday 18th October 2005, commencing at 11.30am, at Eagle Hawk Rydges Resort, Federal Highway, Sutton. The cost is \$20. We welcome new members and guests. There will be an election of some office bearers, trading tables and bingo. For bookings please call Kerry on 62380603 by 14 October. VIEW Club is a valued part of The Smith Family. Please call Lesley (President) on 6238 3717 for further information about Lake George Day VIEW Club.

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

In the last month, a blank canvas has been transformed into a masterpiece, and I have sat back in awe. And while the painter has been applying his brush, the conductor has been summoning his orchestra. The ground beneath the prunus is covered in a pink confetti that has drifted down from the frothy blossoms above. There's a blue wren dressed in the new season's colours, and a watchful lizard soaking up the sun on a warming rock. An echidna bumbles through the violets on a very important mission, a polished ebony shingle back slides under the bushes, eyes averted, and a pair of frogs rehearse all night outside my bedroom window to the accompaniment of massed choirs. And everywhere there is a fresh greenness. When I wander through the garden, deadheading the crumpled daffodils, secateurs in one hand, glass in the other, I am reminded of an old entry in the Canberra Times gardeners' column, which exhorted us in the "Things to Do" section, to "fill the bird baths". It seemed somewhat trite and indulgent at the time, but this week I did just that. Everything else seemed to have been done for me. It's a garden of "goodwill".

Which brings me to another goodwill story that I'd like to share with you. A local chap made a quick dash to Queanbeyan for some supplies, leaving his sick wife at home in bed. Now we all know that a "quick trip to Queanbeyan" is pure fantasy, these days, with our Sutton Road workers' motto, "If at first you don't succeed.....dig it up." So imagine his chagrin when he got to the checkout with his trolley, slapped his back pocket and realised his wallet was still on the dressing table. "Never mind," said the obliging woman on the checkout, "Leave your stuff here while you nip home and get it." "But I come from Wamboin," he groaned, and only someone from Wamboin could understand the full impact of that admission!

"So do I," came an unknown voice from behind. "I'll pay for it and you can fix me up later."

I may complain about some of my neighbours, at times.....those tunnelling bunnies, trampling kangaroos, tip pruning cockies, and everything else that goes munch in the night...but a spirit of good will and true neighbourliness, engendered by our environment, is surely alive and well in our community.

I wouldn't live anywhere else.....and maybe next time I'll be able to smile warmly at the fellow making music with his shovel as his mate paints white lines around the latest hole on Sutton Road.

Temperatures and Rainfall in Wamboin

30 year statistics from the Robertsons

Sept rainfall to 24/9/05 57.5mm (Sept 2004 36.5mm)

Av October rainfall 66mm

Wettest Oct day 59mm (16/10/76)

Hottest Oct day 31 degrees C (27/10/97)




Coldest Oct night - 1 degrees C (19/10/82)

2005 rainfall to 24/9/05 421mm (2004 to 25/9 227.5mm)

Wettest Oct 199mm (1976)

Driest Oct 5mm (1977)

Coldest Oct day 9 degrees C (19/10/82 and 2/10/04)

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St Andrew's Church: Wamboin

Sunday 6 November at 9am. St Andrew's invites you to join us for a blessing of the animals outside the church on the corner of Poppet and Norton Road on Sunday 6 November at 9am. Bring your pets - dogs, cats, axolotls, goldfish, rabbits, white mice, ferrets, horses, donkeys, alpacas and any other animal large or small that you may have on your property are all welcome! The Reverend Peter Grundy will bless them all! Horse husbandry workshop 11 -12.30am. Come and find out all about care for your horses, first aid, feeding and more!

After you have returned your pets to the safety of their homes, there will be a free workshop held at the church and run by Wamboin resident and equine veterinarian – Rebecca Forrest BVSc(hons). We especially hope that all those young people riding at Pony Club and around Wamboin will come and join us for this workshop. (A gold coin donation will be collected for Pegasus, Riding for the Disabled. ACT)

Anda free sausage sizzle – looking after pets is hard work for both parents and kids. We will make sure you do not go hungry! NB: Owners are asked to take responsibility at all times for the safety and well being of their pets! The fenced paddock adjoining the churchyard will be available, if required, for tethering animals.

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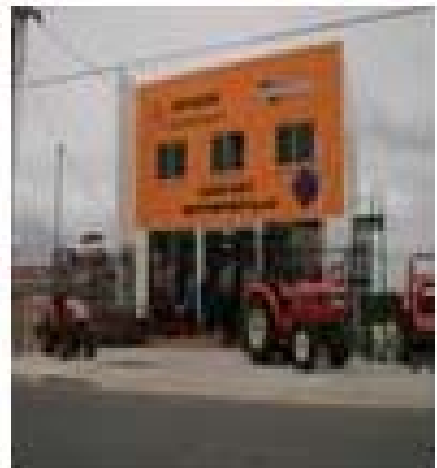
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RATES - AGAIN!

by John van der Straaten

The Wamboin Community Association – and the other Community Associations in western Palerang – were caught napping when the Council developed its series of rate models for 2005/6 and future years. Before we had time to focus on the figures we became enveloped in the spin and the moving goal posts and, despite representations to Council, had to accept that the voting block in Council would win the day.

Since 1 August the issue of the Palerang rate notices has touched the hip pocket nerves of many western Palerang community members and the telephones of the Councilors, the Council staff and our community leaders have run hot. The Carwoola Community Association even had to work through a motion for secession to the Queanbeyan Council! The WCA General Meetings in August and September have been very lively forums especially as we have had attendances by the Mayor, Terry Bransdon, and a number of influential Councilors. Their individual views have been worthy of consideration and have been recorded. Some of the questioning has been spirited and the interaction kept under control by President's, Lofty Mason, bell. In short, those Palerang Councilors who have attended have all publicly agreed on the inequity of the adopted Model 16+ and have indicated the need for a thorough review for subsequent years.

The WCA has raised at Council and with the Mayor and individual Councilors the need to improve communication and consultation between Council and the Palerang community. We also have suggested the use of working groups on specific issues which would include expertise from within the community. At the Palerang Community Consultative Committee meeting on 8 September, the Mayor proposed a Palerang Rate Reference Group with an anticipated outcome of "a rating model that provides transparency, simplicity, inexpensive administration, efficiency, fairness, equity and flexibility"....!! The review process is scheduled to involve five or six meetings. The WCA has indicated its interest and support – and our 'very numerate' members, hopefully, will be able to participate.

The WCA intends to maintain its monitoring stance on the rate determination and will keep the Wamboin community informed on developments.

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**GEARY'S GAP/WAMBOIN LANDCARE -
OCTOBER 2005 EVENTS**

There are several interesting events are coming up this month:

Propagation Day: Saturday 8 October 9.00-11.00am. There will be a propagation session at Geoff Butler's place at 38 Birchmans Grove, Wamboin. New participants are very welcome. Email Geoff at g.butler@iimetro.com.au or phone him on 6236 9158.

Meeting: Monday 10 October, 7.30pm. Peter Thrall, CSIRO: Use of Native Legumes and Rhizobia in Revegetation of Native Landscapes. Peter will talk about recent research at CSIRO on the benefits of using native Australian *Acacia* species and associated root-nodule bacteria to revegetate degraded landscapes. The overall focus of the project is on low-cost practical approaches that require little maintenance but that can substantially enhance reliable establishment and growth of native trees and shrubs. Positive results have led to the development of a commercial granular seed inoculant for native acacias in direct seeding applications. Further research is being undertaken on salt-affected soils. The meeting will be held at Bywong Community Hall – Birriwa Rd (Off Macs Reef Rd).

Site visit: Saturday 15 October, 9.45 am-1pm, Lyndfield Park, John and Jan Weatherstone's property, Gunning. John will tell us about and show us the transformation of his property following the disastrous drought of 1982-83 from a degraded sheep farm to a native-plant and seed farm with a beef-cattle enterprise. Since 1982 he has established more than 80,000 trees and shrubs and has achieved a more productive and sustainable future based on trees and native vegetation, healthy soil and biodiversity. We will meet in the main street next to the Gunning School by 9.45am, and then drive in convoy to Lyndfield Park. Feel free to bring your lunch. Contact me to register your interest in coming and for any further information.

- Kathy Cook, Secretary, Ph: 6236 9153, Email: kj.cook@bigpond.net.au

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WAMBOIN COUNTRY GOLF CLUB

September Spring Trophy

With long time Golf Manager, Peter Greenwood seeing green in the Land of the Long White Cloud I was dobbed in to sit behind the official table.

An encouraging feature of the day was to see John Whitney bring his family along for a round of Golf. Lisa, Matilda and Jack had never played golf before but certainly seemed to enjoy their day. Another first time golfer was Andrew Sibra who played off a provisional 20 to record a net 65.

Junior winner was Vince Gorham with a neat 71. The Nine Hole trophy was taken out by Peter Evans with a 27 which meant my brilliant 30 fell by the wayside. In **B Grade**, Dave Argeat recorded an **outstanding 58** to relegate Paul Griffin, with a steady 65, to second place. *Robert Gorham, who marked for Dave Argeat, has been searching for the Ned Kelly Trophy to present to Dave but only finished up with the dummy spit trophy.* **A Grade** saw Tim Barter score a **streets-clear 60** to leave second place getter, Bob Mettam, (67) and the rest of the field in his dust. Tim claims it was a one off Purple Patch but the handicapper may have a different view?

Thanks to Sue Gane we have some bright new flags round the course. Sue also assisted Joan Mason in the presentation of nibbles which of course included Joan's traditional Spring Rolls. Joan and I would also like to thank the Corras of Inland Trading Company for supplying prizes of great bottles of wine. – Lofty Mason.

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THE STABLE DOOR

by Ian Collet

Historic walk around..... During a lull in proceedings at a recent business and community expo, I took the opportunity to wander over to a local council display, 'avachat with the reps and a lookie at a little of the vast range of reports, brochures and guides on show. A brochure that caught my eye outlined a little of the history of a particular place the Council administers and set out a suggested walk through the area which offered a further insight to the area's history. I'm referring, of course, to the place that was declared a Township in 1838, a Municipality in 1885 and in 1972 was proclaimed a City. Any ideas? Yes? Well good on you. But for those still flummoxed, read on – I'm continuing with an abridged version of the material in the brochure.

With the founding of the colony of NSW, a rush to take up good pastoral lands around the Port of Sydney and its environs forced late-comers to turn their attention inland past the mountainous ranges to the isolated land beyond. By the 1820s settler-tracks led to the small village of Goulburn, Lake George and the eastern limits of the southern Tablelands. In December 1820, an exploration party consisting of Messrs Wild, Vaughan and Throsby-Smith, while searching for the Murrumbidgee River, came upon two small streams flowing from the hills to form a single river winding through a snug little valley at the eastern end of the Limestone Plains. The area became a natural halting place for travellers crossing into the Monaro.

Guessed the name of the place yet? In 1828 an ex-convict, Timothy Beard, who was known to be an inn-keeper from Campbelltown, had a squattage called "QUINBEAN" (which means "clear waters") on the Molonglo river. Beard was credited with having the first settlement close to the present site of Queanbeyan, though his occupancy was illegal.

The first Post Office was established in Crawford Street in 1836. In 1837 Captain Alured Tasker Faunce of the 4th (King's Own) Regiment was appointed resident Police Magistrate. Queanbeyan was officially proclaimed a township in 1838 with a population of approximately 50 persons. "The Golden Age" the town's first newspaper, was printed in 1860 by John Gale. 1851 saw the discovery of gold traces in the area; lead and silver mines also flourished briefly. John Tennant, Jacky Jacky, Frank Gardiner and Ben Hall were some of the more notorious bushrangers to have harassed settlers and the establishment in the area.

Queanbeyan, prospering as a primary producing area, was proclaimed a Municipality in 1885 and was granted city status in 1972. William Farrer, the wheat experimentalist, established Queanbeyan's reputation as an agricultural district with his famous "federation" rust-free strain.

Apparently, the town sported sixteen public houses operating at one time or another, with six flour mills powered by wind, water, horse and steam. While sadly many of the pre-20th century buildings have gone, there is a growing interest in retaining and using remaining original features which make Queanbeyan different, and in many ways an attractive contrast to Canberra.

The 38 items highlighted in the "Historic Walk Around Queanbeyan" brochure include sites and buildings for us all to check out. I'm sure more copies of the brochure are available at the Visitor Information Centre on the corner of Lowe St and Farrer Place which itself is in an historic building built in 1925 as the town's third Municipal Council Chambers.

Hey! Stop Rubbishing the Greenways I'm a frequent user of the wonderful walking trail network that are the Greenways. In case you don't know, these are the trails that wind their way through the remaining dry sclerophyll forest and open lands etc of Wamboin, Bywong and further afield. The Greenways are wonderful for a leisurely walk, fitness run, and ever popular horse and mountain bike riding. The Greenway which runs on a north-south axis between Denley Drive and Weeroona Drive is the trail I use most frequently. And, I've got to say, there are a couple of sections of the trail where litter is mounting up. There's one stretch, at the rear of Kestral Place, where the quantity of litter and other refuse is an absolute disgrace. I'm not normally a finger pointer but I don't believe users of the Greenway would carry their litter with them (sheets of iron, polystyrene, plastic, wood, nails, old buckets, papers etc) to collectively deposit all at this spot. I also know this particular site has been a problem area for several years. It's time the offending property owner cleaned up his or her act.

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Nature Notes – September 2005

Jo Walker

After even more good rainfalls, plus those warm sunny days, the countryside has greened up remarkably and spring has truly arrived. The dam is full and vibrating with frog calls, and the sedges around the edge of the water are decorated with the frothy egg masses of the Spotted Grass Frog.

The magpies are rearing their second lot of nestlings, and the honeyeaters are still busy around the grevillea bushes. Although there have always been a few Yellow-faced Honeyeaters here every spring, this year there seem to be flocks of them. They are migratory – moving north along the Dividing Range and coast to over-winter in northern NSW and southern Queensland and then back to the southern forests to breed in spring – so they may be just passing through at present. A pair of Spotted Pardalotes are building a nest along the creek, flying down with copious quantities of bark fragments and dried grass in their beaks. These tiny colourful birds nest in tunnels, up to 90 cm long, constructed in the vertical banks of creeks and rivers. Their close relatives, the Striated Pardalotes, are already calling monotonously from the yellow box tree further up the creek, and will probably use their previous nesting hole, a hollowed branch stump in the old tree.

The Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) and the little triangular-leaved Ploughshare Wattle (*Acacia gunnii*) have almost finished flowering, but Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*) are blooming all over the hillsides. This species is one of those that bears male and female flowers on different plants – if you look carefully at the little white flowers with the maroon circle around the centre you can clearly see either stamens bearing yellow pollen or a dark purplish ovary. *Lissanthe strigosa*, a suckering heath plant with small, sharp, dark green leaves, is also flowering. Pink buds are followed by masses of pinkish or white tubular flowers. Occasional plants have much darker red buds – very attractive.

Because the ground is still wet from the recent rains, it's a good year for the local Sundew, *Drosera peltata*. Sundews gain part of their nutrition from a carnivorous diet, trapping tiny insects on sticky hairs covering the orbicular bright green leaves. They are only tiny plants a few centimetres tall, but in seepage areas can occur in sizeable patches.

With the days warming up, reptiles are on the move again. Little Grass Skinks are skittering around on rocks and under shrubs in search of insects and, last week, a Cunningham's Skink was sunning itself on the old fallen log that is its family home. And, while I was driving along Norton Road a few weeks ago, I saw my first Brown Snake of the season soaking up the warmth by the roadside.

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