

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

# The Whisper

May 2006

CIRCULATION: 1021

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](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or dropped into his mailbox at 17 Reedy Creek Place. The deadline for the next issue is always the last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for the June 2006 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, May 28, 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	Helen Montesin	President	6238-3208
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	Anne McInnes	Secretary	6236-9883
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
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

## YES THE WAMBOIN MARKET IS ON!

**Saturday 20 May 2006 9-12.00 -- Community Hall, Bingley Way**

Local Produce & Plants. Crafts. Home made goodies. Café Wamboin. The April market was great so don't miss out in May - there is always something different so come and be tempted!! It is a great way to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. New stallholders welcome. For details contact Tony Power on 6238 3028 or email [poweraj@acslink.net.au](mailto:poweraj@acslink.net.au).

# WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## Presidents Paragraphs

**Braidwood Rural Lands Protection Board** – Recently many Wamboin residents would have received advice from the BRLPB that they would be charged a levy of approximately \$65 pa. Previously, this levy was only applicable to properties of at least 10 hectares. It now applies to properties of 4 hectares and over. There was no explanation or public announcement of this “initiative”, neither has there been any forum for public discussion. The WCA contacted the BRLPB to invite the Board to address a WCA meeting. The BRLPB has accepted our invitation and two representatives (John Reardon – Deputy Chairman and Bob Templeton – District Vet) will address the WCA meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm. All residents are invited, and indeed urged, to attend this meeting and find out about this important issue and voice their displeasure at yet another slug on our hip pockets.

**Funding for youth activities** – Palerang Council has called for applications for grants from a \$10 000 fund to be allocated to organisations involved in youth activities. An advertisement on page 10 of the Bungendore Mirror of 19 April sets out the parameters. This fund was originally proposed for distribution to Braidwood, Bungendore and Captains Flat, but after representations from the WCA for Palerang-wide consideration, Council is seeking public applications. I would encourage those organisations involved in youth activities in Bywong and Wamboin to take advantage of this opportunity to obtain some extra funds for a worthwhile project or activity that would benefit the youth of our community. Please note that the closing date is 15 May.

**Rubbish** – Over the past couple of weeks there have been incidents involving the dumping of rubbish at the Community Hall and on the oval. It is unacceptable to have soiled disposable nappies and household waste put into the bins at the Hall, tiles and building material dumped and garden rubbish unloaded onto the oval. This anti-social behaviour is not what we are used to in Wamboin and measures are being put in place to monitor these areas around the Hall. Council has regulations to cover these activities and has indicated it will take action.

**Palerang rates** – At the Braidwood Council Meeting this month, Palerang Council voted to seek from the NSW Minister for Local Government an increase of 9.9% in the rates for 2006/7, ie an additional 6.3% increase over the current cap of approximately 3.5%. Council also indicated that there would be public consultation on the proposed rates and a survey of Palerang ratepayers. I would encourage all Wamboin and Bywong ratepayers to complete the surveys and make clear their views on equity and services Palerang-wide. The WCA is monitoring developments and will keep readers informed.

**Palerang Council Community Consultative Committee Meeting** – The next meeting of the CCC will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> May at Braidwood. John van der Straaten and I will be attending this meeting on behalf of WCA and will have the opportunity to address the meeting. If you have any issues or concerns that you would like raised at the meeting, please contact John (ph: 6238 3590) or me (ph: 6238 3208).

**Calendar of events** – There has been a suggestion to have a calendar of community events in the Whisper. If you have any events that you would like included in next month’s Whisper, please contact John van Straaten (ph: 6238 3590).

**Wamboin Produce Markets** – The Easter Saturday markets got off to a slow start, but ended up being very successful with stallholders selling out of produce early. The next market will be on 20<sup>th</sup> May from 9:00am till noon.

**Annual Fireman’s ball** – The Ball will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> June. See the ad later in the Whisper for details.

**WCA meeting** – Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in the month. Note that this is a change from previously. The next **WCA meeting** will be on 16<sup>th</sup> May and will be addressed by representatives from the Braidwood Rural Lands Protection Board (see details above). -- Helen Montesin ([helen.montesin@canberra.edu.au](mailto:helen.montesin@canberra.edu.au))

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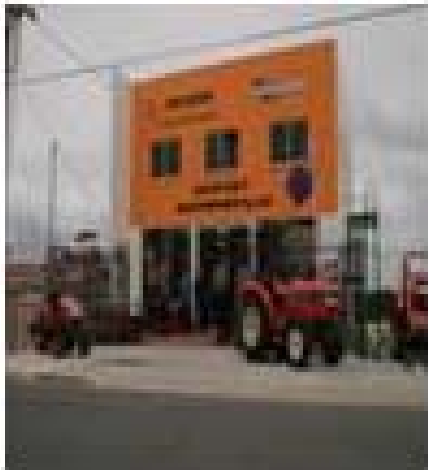
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# WAMBOIN RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL BALL

# FAIRY TALES & NURSERY RHYMES

WHEN: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2006

WHERE: Wamboin Community Hall

TIME: 7:00pm – 1:00 am

**TICKETS: \$40**

BAND: ACT SHARP

CATERING: u8one2

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**TICKETS: Charlie: 62383208**

Sue: 62383463

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Thanks to the persons below, Wamboin and Bywong residents have a free community owned newsletter.			
<b>130 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN:</b>			
Dean Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West	18	Ph 6238 3208
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	33	Bill Owen Cooper Rd. 28
Hank Berlee	11 Poppet Rd (for all on road)	34	Cathy Abell Canning Close 17
<b>271 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:</b>			
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	45	Ph 6238 3463
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	32	Margaret Heleimin Merino Vale Drive 17
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	Anne Gardner Weeroona, Norton to Majors 30
Ned Noel	13 YrCn 35Adv	48	David Anderson Weeroona, Majors to Denley 35
Kathy Handel	Yalana West	19	Penny Evans Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley 25
<b>227 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER:</b>			
Colleen Foster	Joe Rocks to Norton	20	Ph 6238 3489
Deb Gordon	Yalana East	41	Rob Gorham South End - Clare Valley 38
Cassie Fisher	Clare Lane	11	Pauline Segeri North End - Clare Valley 42
Lyle Monetesin	Forrest Road area	60	Bungendore Shop Bungendore 10
<b>204 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:</b>			
Sheryl Barnes	Quinn's Estate / Denley	20	Ph 6238 3590
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Gum Flat	35	Brian Higgiso Deley/Kestral area 11
Ann Platts	Denley MacReef to Birchman's	26	Rhett Cox Macs Reef /Nwngtn to FdHwy 12
Warrick Cathro	Macs Reef -GumFlat to Harriott	18	Morag Cotsell MReef /Newington/Harriot 45
Joan Milner	Birriwa Road	12	Esther/Ian Rudd MReef/Bankers/FedHwy 25
<b>189 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON Ph 6236 9609</b>			
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 FOR WHISPER 1021



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NEW WHISPER CLASSIFIEDS
Wanted House Cleaner, Wamboin, 4 hours per week, must have refs, ph: 0418994767
Found, ladies watch on Weeroona drive. May have been there for a little while, quite pretty. Please call Marty on 62369534ah
CHOOKS WANTED – Any age & roosters. Phone Frank on 6297-3523 to arrange collection.
LONG RUNNING CLASSIFIEDS
USED HARDWOOD FENCE PALINGS FOR SALE \$20 a trailer load. Phone Charlie on 6238 3208 or 0409 224901..
8HP MTD MULCHER FOR SALE \$1000 ONO. Phone Charlie on 6238 3208 or 0409 224901
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<b>MATHEMATICS COACHING:</b> All levels and all years catered for by an experienced teacher with special expertise in college levels, including the International Baccalaureate. Please contact Judy Dalla on 6236 9990.
SWARM BEES - Beekeeper happy to offer prompt service to the local community to collect and remove swarm bees that may arrive uninvited over the next few months. A small fee charged depending on distance I have to travel. Please call John 62383791.
Large Holiday house situated in Tuross, 180 degree Ocean views, opposite shops, 2 minute walk to beach, large block for parking,available now. Please phone Cherrie 0418 621 462 for further information.
Pilates for young and old, no previous experience required, just enthusiasm to enjoy yourself with some wonderful locals while strengthening your lower back, general posture and abdominals. All you need is a firm mat/towel, water bottle and \$3. When: 6-7pm Monday nights ONLY at the Community Hall on Bingley Way Wamboin.
FOR HIRE: WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL. Bookings arranged by Joan Mason 62383258. Local Hire \$65 per use - Bond \$200. Outside Hire \$125 per use - Bond \$250. Teenage/18 year old birthdays/parties (must be supervised by parents) \$160 - Bond \$1000.
ADVERTISING RATES: Local classified advertisements are free, as are announcements from community organisations and clubs. Business advertisements attract a small fee (see below) which is donated to the Wamboin Community Association. Please make your cheque out to this association, but post it to the editor. Contact editor on 6238-3484 for information.




Advertising rates: Full Page - \$100 Half Pg - \$50 1/3 Pg \$35 1/4 Pg - \$30 1/5 Pg - \$25 1/6 Pg - \$20 1/8 Pg - \$15

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

For Hire from the Wamboin Community Association: Gas Barbecue - Party Size, Portable \$25.00 per hire (includes gas) and \$25.00 cleaning bond, both payable on collection of barbecue. Cleaning bond is refunded if barbecue is returned clean - Bookings arranged by Joan Mason- 6238-3258

The Whisper is a community newspaper for Wamboin and Bywong. 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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# Greenways Survey

Are you/your family familiar with the greenways network in Bywong/Wamboin?

If you are, could you please take a few minutes to fill out the following survey and return it. Return address below.

1 Please estimate the number of times you/your family use the greenways for walking, for bicycling or for riding a horse *per year* and please name main activity e.g. walking

.....

1A. If horse, how many horses from your household are using the greenways?

.....

2. What section(s) of greenway do you use most often ( mark a,b,c,d):

(a) Norton Road to Denley Drive, includes access points along Weeroona Drive (please specify your route)

.....

(b) Denley Drive to Les Reardon Reserve .....

(c) Newington or Harriott Road to Les Reardon Reserve ....

(d) other (please specify the route).....

## Greenways, for community access and conservation, need friends

*Many parts of the greenways are on fragile soil and subject to water erosion, particularly with heavy use. So they need regular maintenance.*

*The greenways management committee (a committee of Council composed of local residents – see below) is developing a support network ‘Friends of Greenways’ and raising funds to buy in material and labour for ongoing trail maintenance – including the placement of gravel, log steps etc. Slashing of grassy greenways in summer is also desirable. Other greenways projects include native tree and shrub planting in some sections to strengthen or develop wildlife corridors and conservation of existing native flora. Funds from the ‘Friends’ network will help replace the need for voluntary labour on the greenways and “Friends’ will also enjoy guided greenways walks and other activities.*

4. I would like to join ‘Friends of Greenways’ support and activity network (annual base donation \$30 per household; more is gratefully accepted;)

Contact details:

.....

5. I would like more information about greenways; ‘Friends of Greenways’ (such as):

..... Contact details .....

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### Greenways Management Committee

Jan Day – ‘Friends of Greenways’ Coordinator – tel 6238 3531 or 6205 6622

Maria Taylor – Secretary – tel 6236 9386; email media@iimetro.com.au

Morag Cotsell – committee Chairperson; Jean Pierre Favre – Maintenance Coordinator; Sam Woodford – Geary’s Gap Pony Club representative; Geoff Butler – Landcare adviser;

Terry Bransdon and Catherine Moore, Councillor representatives

**Please send surveys to Maria Taylor, Box 5241, Lyneham ACT 2602**

**Contact Jan for ‘Friends of the Greenways’(evenings or weekends best)**

**Maria for general enquiries**

## WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – THE MINI MASTERS

April Golf Day is traditional Mini Masters. All golfers play 6 holes the result of which determines the cut. All golfers then play the same 6 holes again. The players above the cut qualify for special prizes. After playing the 12 holes there is a pitching competition back at the Hall where the competitors play 4 restricted (and often amusing) tee shots towards The Hall 'green'. Our thanks to Don Evans who 'controlled' this event.

Compared to Tim Barters total of 94m, (maximum possible 120m) Paul Griffin was by far the best Restricted Pitcher with an aggregate of 28.35m for his 4 shots. Ted Evans took out the Handicap Competition with a net 43.8.

Making the cut with 30 or less for the first 6 holes were: Peter Greenwood, John Whitney, Tim Barter, Len Ivey, Joan Mason, Charles Guscott, Dave Hubbard Steve Miners and Nev Schroder.

Equal second placing in the Masters off the stick were John Whitney and Tim Barter Both 52). Winner of the Masters and 'wearing' the Green Jacket was Peter (*I never win anything*) Greenwood with a (49).

Our thanks to the sponsors, Graham and Barb Heathcote of The Foodworks in Bungendore. They supplied great prizes and great nibbles. -- Lofty Mason

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For appointments or further information please phone Brian  
**6258 1792**

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<p><b>STOP PRESS</b>                  Brand New Corporate 10 Seat Transporter                  Now Available</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em;"><b>C-B-D</b></p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;"><b>Chauffeured Transport</b></p>	<p>Locally Owned and Operated                  On Time - Every Time</p> <p>Compare Our Rates</p>
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# The Wamboin Firefighter

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

**The fire season has now ended. Fire permits are not required if you want to burn off or light fires in the open, but please notify your neighbours and your fire brigade Captain 24 hours before you light up.**

**Ring 000 to report fires or smoke sightings.**

## From the Captain's Desk



It is hard to believe that yet another fire season has come and gone without a major incident. We have been fortunate that the dire forecasts were not realised. Luckily the high fuel loads and the relatively dry weather did not create too many problems in our Shire. The nearby coastal regions did have some scares early on and regions immediately to our south and west did have some major fires where brigades from our Shire were able to help. In most cases your brigade had to respond to several motor vehicle accidents, some small grass fires, several smoke sightings, and the odd fire without a permit. I would like to thank all members of our brigade for their dedication, support and quick response during the past fire season. You remain an inspiring group and our community continues to show its support and appreciation.

The most notable incident was undoubtedly the most recent. It also serves as a very timely reminder for all of us. Last week at around midnight one evening the brigade was called to a structure fire where a large workshop was engulfed by fire. A vehicle very close to the workshop was also on fire. The workshop was full of timber, chemicals and other highly combustible materials, including acetylene gas cylinders. Several vehicles and a house close to the workshop were under threat from the fire. Access to the property and finding water were major problems. I would like to congratulate members of our brigade and our colleagues from the Bungendore Brigade who responded to the fire. They spent several hours getting the fire under control and were able to stop the fire spreading beyond the workshop. Several brigade members stayed at the scene until daylight ensuring the many hot spots did not flare up. I would also like to thank our Senior Deputy Captain, Andrew Dunn, for his leadership and controlled management of the incident. Your brigade dealt with this incident extremely well and without injury. It was a pity that I couldn't be there but my paid job had me out of town that night. The incident was a perfect example of the saying "Fires can happen at any time when the conditions are right". Because we may not know when these conditions are right we can make it harder for them to occur if we take time to look at our own situations and then take all the precautions we can. If you don't know what precautions you can take, please ask. The field officers in your brigade are only too happy to provide advice. Our website can also provide some guidance.

The end of the fire season should also be a timely reminder to everyone who intends using wood fires or slow combustion their houses. Make sure the chimney or flue has been swept to much creosote as possible. It is also a good idea to check inside especially if it hasn't been used for some time. You never know what you could find that may block the entrance to the flue or chimney! A roof or flue fire is sometimes hard to detect and can cause a lot of damage before it becomes obvious to the occupants of the house. If your neighbours can see your house, it is often they who will notice the fire before you do!

**The following important information has been reproduced from the NSW Rural Fire Service website.**

From May 1, 2006, all NSW residents must have at least one working smoke alarm installed in their homes. This includes rental properties, owner occupied and temporary accommodation.

Smoke from a home fire is toxic, only early warning can assist in giving your family vital time to escape a smoke filled room. Also, when asleep you will not smell the smoke from a fire and the smoke will actually put you into a deeper sleep. A smoke alarm can provide the early warning you need and is the critical first step in your home fire safety plan.



reminder stoves in remove as the stove, what you chimney damage in house. If notice the

Tips on smoke alarms:

- Install at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home
- Use only Australian Standard 3786 smoke alarms
- Replace alkaline batteries when daylight savings changes (2 April 2006)
- Test smoke alarms once a month
- Clean smoke alarms every six months – use a vacuum cleaner
- Get new alarms every 10 years, or earlier if they need replacing
- Ensure you have a home fire evacuation plan.

More information can be found on the RFS website, <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au>.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of June we will be holding our Annual General Meeting. All residents in the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton areas who are in our brigade area are cordially invited. As well as the usual formalities where we elect the our brigade Executive, field officers and other important support positions, it will be a great opportunity to come along and meet those among you who choose to spend much of their time quietly watching over our great community and reacting quickly to its defence when fire or other emergencies threaten. It also has been known that some humorous tales are shared over drinks and nibbles after the meeting!

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 give me a phone call on 0409 991 340 or 6236 9220.

<b>THE CAPTAIN’S LIST</b> <span style="float: right;">Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade</span>		
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## GEARY'S GAP/WAMBOIN LANDCARE - MAY – JULY 2006

There are a number of events of interest to Landcarers coming up in the next few months:

**Saturday 6 May 9.00-11.00am Propagation Session:** Propagation sessions are held on the first Saturday of each month at Geoff Butler's place at 38 Birchmans Grove, Wamboin. New participants are very welcome. Email Geoff at [gbu22182@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gbu22182@bigpond.net.au) or phone him on 6236 9158.

**Monday 8 May 7.30pm Meeting:** 'Local soil conditions and problems and their management', by Jennifer Hardwick and Sue Tate. Both speakers are from the Department of Primary Industries. They are keen to discuss soil problems of the Wamboin / Geary's Gap area, and the CMA project on soil issues in this area. Come along to better understand and manage your soils. The meeting will be held at Bywong Community Hall – Birriwa Rd (Off Macs Reef Rd). (Note: there will be no monthly meetings in June and July). Other events for your diary include:

- **Sunday 14 May 10.30 to 2.00pm Field day:** *Murrumbidgee CMA Yass River Targeted Salinity and Water Quality Project.* Lunch provided. Contact Kathleen Harvey on 6226 1433 or email [kathleen.harvey@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kathleen.harvey@cma.nsw.gov.au).
- **Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 May 10am to 4pm:** *Capital Region Small Area Farming Expo* Queanbeyan Showground. See [www.smallfarm.com.au](http://www.smallfarm.com.au).
- **Monday 5 June:** *World Environment Day – 'Don't Desert Drylands.* Visit <http://www.unep.org/wed/2006/english>.
- **Saturday 17 June, 2.00pm to 4.30pm:** *Friends of Grassland lecture – 'Grasslands and Southern Tablelands palaeoecology'*. Mugga Education Centre, Narrabundah Lane, Symonston. Presenters Prof Geoff Hope and Greg Baines, Project Officer Natural Temperate Grasslands Recovery Team. Free event and afternoon tea provided. Contact Margaret Ning on 6241 4065.
- **Sunday 30 July:** *National Tree Day.* Further details of our local tree planting closer to the date.  
- Kathy Cook, Secretary, Ph: 6236 9153, Email: [kj.cook@bigpond.net.au](mailto:kj.cook@bigpond.net.au)

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**NOTICE**  
**Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade**  
**2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade will be held on  
Tuesday 13 June 2006  
Wamboin Community Association Hall  
112 Bingley Way Wamboin.

The meeting will begin at 7.30pm.

The AGM is the Brigade's most important formal event of the year.  
All members are encouraged to attend.  
People who are currently not members are also welcome.

Ian Collet  
Secretary  
Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade  
6238 3425

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Works by Debra Giuliano  
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**Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin - 31  
year statistics from the Robertsons**

April rainfall -- 12.5mm (April 2005 -- 9.0mm)

2006 rainfall to 30/4 -- 227mm  
(2005 to 30/4 -- 147.5mm  
Average May rainfall -- 51.6mm  
(May 2005 -- 2mm)  
Wettest May 1995 -- 171mm  
Driest May 1982 -- 1mm  
Hottest May day -- 20C- 3 times  
Coldest May day -- 3C on 29/5/00  
Coldest May night -- -5C on 28/5/01

**NOTES FROM ST ANDREWS CHURCH**

It has been a busy and joyful month at St. Andrews with our Easter services attracting locals and visitors. We always enjoy meeting new faces and visitors are more than welcome.

Services are held on the first Sunday of the month (Matins) and the third Sunday of the month (Holy Communion). The services begin at 9am and we conclude with coffee and cake. With the onset of the colder months you can be sure that the church is beautifully warm and the welcome even more so.

For more information please ring Robyn Robertson, 62383202 or Bronwyn Elliot, 62383359 and information is also posted on the blackboard at the bottom of Norton Road. – Clare Ayling

=====

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Ashby Drive, Bungendore**

### **Chooks & Roosters Unwanted?**

Do you have a problem with your chooks? – Frank (recently retired) can help by taking them in. At present he has 10 chooks, but has had up to 30 hens, free-ranging in his backyard. His grandchildren pamper them, making pets, and they are kept in a stress free situation.

Every now and then one is euthanased for the pot, to make soup (in the traditional way). This is given to his extended family, or taken into the nursing home (where his mother-in-law now resides), and to given to a few close friends. Frank only likes to use hormone-free chooks, without growth inducing antibiotics, hormones, or other chemicals.

Frank takes a pride in the care of his chooks (which has now become an extended family affair), and when they get old, or the time comes, they are quietly and humanely euthanased to ensure that the chooks do not suffer at all. Frank has already helped a few people in this area with a chook problem to find a place for their chooks that have become unwanted through changed circumstances. There is no commercial interest in this, as Frank just likes to help people (and chooks).

Not everyone can, or is prepared to keep their chooks into their dotage. Are you moving somewhere that does not permit chooks? Have the kids grown up and left their pets behind? Do the roosters disturb the ambience of your place, or are your neighbours loosing their tolerance to the inevitably inflicted pre-dawn crowing? If you have a chook problem call Frank on 6297 3523, and there is no fee, as he takes pleasure in helping people resolve this difficult sort of situation.

- Simon Scott-Findlay, Norton Road

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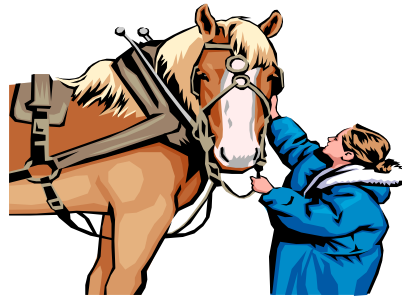
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## Lake George Day VIEW Club

The next meeting of the Lake George Day VIEW CLUB will be held on Tuesday 16th of May, the meeting commences at 11.30 at Rydges Eagle Hawk Resort, Ferderal Highway Sutton. The cost for lunch is \$20.00. Our Guest, Morgan Gi-Morincome will be entertaining us by demonstrating Belly Dancing. And, for those who are enthusiastic, participation will be very welcome. Come and join in the fun, meet people in your neighbourhood and make new friends. Interested? Phone Kerry with your booking on 62380603 by Thursday 11th of May. Lake George Day VIEW Club welcome new members and guests. For more information about the Club, Please phone the President, Bernie Greehead on 62303165. VIEW - Voice Interest and Education for Women is a valued member of the Smith Family.

## Bungendore View Club

The next meeting will be held on Monday the 1 st May from 6.45pm for 7 pm at Hunnyz Cafe, Gibraltar Street, Bungendore. Our guest speaker is Jacqueline Kopievsky who will share her experiences on travelling to Iraq, Kuwait and Paris - a woman's perspective. Dinner will cost \$25.00 plus extra for wine. New Members and guests are always welcome but bookings are essential so please contact Ros Welch on tel 623 80769, mobile 0417 297 754 or email [mjwelch@alphalink.com.au](mailto:mjwelch@alphalink.com.au) by 26 Apr 06. Theme for this month's meeting is books so bring one on travel or anything of interest for sale. All funds raised go to the Smith Family.

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### WILDLIFE – ‘BACKYARD’ THREATS

How can we help wildlife to do better? Apart from natural predators, animals, birds and reptiles get injured and killed through a variety of ways, but particularly in vehicle accidents, shootings, being chased and/or caught by domestic animals or simply being victims of people doing the wrong thing.

In the current drought conditions, animals are congregating on the grass verges in search of food, so the risk of hitting an animal on the road has increased significantly. Most people would be aware that the danger time on our roads is between dusk, overnight until dawn. Many animals sleep during the day, getting mobile again in the evening. Reducing our speed during this time can help reduce the chance of an accident.

Domestic cats routinely target birds and lizards and it helps greatly if this threat can be removed by keeping pets in at night, bird feeders should be placed in a clear area to give birds warning of the approach of a cat. Wandering dogs can also be a threat, not only to farmers and their stock but also to our native wildlife. Domestic dogs which chase wildlife cause death and injury. Dogs that are allowed to roam may end up costing the owners a lot of money.

If you do come across injured wildlife in the local NSW area, then please contact Wildcare Queanbeyan Inc. on 6299 1966 for advice or to have us come and rescue an injured or orphaned native animal. – Submitted by Bec Little, Communications Officer

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## Nature Notes – April 2006

Jo Walker

A couple of nice white frosts this month have reminded us that it is mid- autumn, even though the weather is still very mild. Most of the local plants have finished flowering, but just a few are still showing a bit of colour. *Styphelia triflora*, a tall, prickly heath-plant, is still carrying the tubular cream flowers that attract some of the smaller honeyeaters. *Xerochrysum viscosum*, the Sticky Everlasting Daisy, is still sporting a few yellow flowers, and the little Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans*) is producing a final flush of its yellow-centred white flowers. And, of course, there is the *Correa reflexa* up near my fence-line. Although *Correas* don't produce much seed, I'm fairly convinced that this plant must have been the result of a seed deposited in a bird dropping, as I'm pretty sure I didn't plant it there. *Correa reflexa* is a very widespread species, occurring in all states except the Northern Territory; and it varies widely in growth habit, leaf forms and flower colour. But, our local one is fairly uniform – it grows to about a metre in height and has reflexed cordate leaves. The foliage is a light green colour and covered in stellate hairs, with a few tufts of hairs giving the leaves a rather warty appearance. The tubular flowers are 2-3 cm long and usually pink or reddish with greenish-yellow tips and protruding yellow anthers. Some local forms have pale greenish flowers. The local *Correas* usually grow in rather rocky areas, often near watercourses – there are some in Molonglo Gorge and along the Murrumbidgee River and also on the slopes of Mt. Tennent in Namadgi National Park. The flowers of this and other *Correa* species are very attractive to honeyeaters, especially Eastern Spinebills, and are a good source of winter food for them.

Before we had the recent small amount of rain, I was out watering the garden one morning when the trees and shrubs nearby were suddenly alive with a swarm of little birds. I went and got my binoculars and stood for a while identifying them. Just in that little group, there were a total of twelve different species! There was a Grey Shrike Thrush, a White-eared Honeyeater, several Eastern Spinebills, Thornbills (Yellow-rumped, Buff-rumped and Brown), a pair of White-browed Scrubwrens, a White-throated Treecreeper, a Spotted Pardalote, a family of Grey Fantails, a Speckled Warbler and a small flock of Varied Sitellas. The Sitellas hadn't visited for some time, so it was good to see them again. They are very small tree-creepers (about 12 cm in length) with slender yellow beaks which are up-turned at the ends. When they are feeding, usually on the trunks and branches of large eucalypts, they always move in a downwards direction. They have a band of dark orange feathers on their wings – very noticeable as they fly from tree to tree. But the most interesting bird in this little group was the Speckled Warbler, because I hadn't seen one here for a year or two. Years ago, there always used to be a few around, but they are very vulnerable little birds as they feed largely on the ground and nest under small shrubs or grass tussocks, which makes them easy prey for foxes and cats. They are attractive, quiet little birds, with olive and brown backs and - their most distinctive feature - pale yellow underparts streaked heavily with black. These warblers are the favourite host species in eastern Australia of the parasitic Black-eared Cuckoo, a bird (fortunately for our Speckled Warblers) not often seen in these parts.

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Ian Coillet

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You, like I, may have read the articles in the Canberra Times and the Bungendore Mirror around mid April announcing the unearthing after 44 years of the mine entry facade of the Lake George Mine at Captains Flat. Heard of Captains Flat? Of course you have. Know where it is? Some of you will. Ever been there? I wonder. Is it worth a trip? Yep.

The bride and I have ventured out to this historic little town of some 500 people a few times over the years. And, of course, with the spectacular news of the uncovering of the entry to the mine, the Sunday following publication of the news seemed like a good occasion to hop in the wagon and head out to “the Flat” for a sticky beak.

Captains Flat is a quaint little village best got to from the Bungendore - Queanbeyan road where the turn-off to “the Flat” is encountered shortly after leaving Queanbeyan. But given this was also the weekend of Canberra’s Balloon Festival I suggested we pop into Canberra and check out the Scottish piper and the bumblebees. Into Canberra around 9.30am – lots of people but nay a balloon in sight let alone a bumblebee or piper. Bummer.

After stoking up on a fine cup of coffee we motored over to Old Parliament House for a spot of culcha to check out the “Prime Minister’s Wives” exhibition. We had a little more success on this one but the less I say here the more intact I remain.

Picked up a great little publication prepared by the then Federal Capital Commission titled “Canberra – General Notes for the Information of Public Servants”. It’s a booklet originally published in 1926 to inform those members of the Commonwealth Public Service who were being transferred from Melbourne to Canberra in the following year...”in regard to how they will get to Canberra, and how they will get on when they get there”. For fear that Ned the Ed will get ansy should I take up too much space with rantings and ravings in this month’s column, I best leave appropriate extracts from this wonderful publication for a future article.

So, booklet in hand, it was off to Captains Flat which I decided we should tackle from the south via Michelago. Out along the Monaro Highway we went, quickly (thankfully) leaving suburbia behind. The day was one of those pristine autumnal varieties the region is known for – blue sky, sunshine and no wind.

Wasn’t too long before we arrived at Michelago, another quaint little village with an historic railway station (in fine order). Out through the back of the village and we quickly began to climb up into the Tinderry Mountains. This section of the 50 odd kilometres of road to Captains Flat is stunning – heavily wooded and extremely scenic. It’s dirt pretty well all the way but the road is in excellent condition. You leave the Tinderrys and grazing fields open before you. In a short time you are into the Tallaganda National Park. Eventually the bitumen arrives as you near the outskirts of Captains Flat. It’s dramatic entry to the village from the south as you crest the hill the village opens before you a hundred metres or so below.

How did Captains Flat get its name? Folklore has it that the town was named after a bull. Apparently there was a large white bullock, part of a bullock team, who used to slip away from the rest of the lads and make for the grassy flatlands near the Molongolo River. These flatlands are now part of the town’s football field. The old bull loved the area so much that drovers passing through invariably found him on “the flat” and, as the bull was nicknamed “Captain”, the area became known as Captains Flat’.

Oh yes – back to the mine – I understand Captains Flat was established in 1883. The town formed as a result of mining for gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper and iron pyrites in the hills surrounding the upper reaches of the Molongolo River. The halcyon days for the town were from 1881 to 1899. I believe there were two mines, Koh-i-noor and Commodore. In 1894 the two companies operating Koh-i-noor and Commodore merged and formed the Lake George United Mining Company. From 1899 mining went into a decline until 1937 when Lake George Mines built a 39 kilometre railway to Bungendore and with new drilling techniques and flotation plants reopened the whole area and revived mine activity for another 23 years. By the end of the 1930s it was second only to Broken Hill as its mines produced vast quantities of gold, silver, lead, zinc (especially), copper and iron pyrites. Apparently, by 1962, the resurgence was over. The railway line had closed and the town which, at its peak, had a population of 3000 in the late 1890s, returned to a sleepy hollow once again.

Perhaps the uncovering of the original mine entry façade which reads “Lake George Mine 1937” will see Captains Flat in boom-time once again. Now, quickly, where did I last put my old fossicking pan?

## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

With the first frost and the first warming fire of the season it is farewell to the dahlias and welcome to the snarl of the chainsaw. Like fortresses, wood piles are built to ward off the coming winter. Dew drops sparkle on a morning cobweb, a towering golden ash glows in the late afternoon sun, and the chill air of evening, lit by a brilliant Easter moon, carries the scent of wood smoke. Despite the shrinking black pools in the creek bed and the clouds scurrying by, out of reach, the scribbly gums, in their fresh white trunks, stand tall above the powdery ground, their leaves filling the spaces between the reds, and oranges and honey colours of autumn.

I immediately became aware of honey when I bent down to walk under one of the chinese elms the other day. It was alive with bees. I had forgotten that our shearer friend had put some of his bee boxes at the top end of our block to catch the last of the stringy bark blossom. Those blossoms hadn't lasted but those busy bees had found this new source of nectar and descended like a cloud. I watched them for a while and thought of a different "busy bee" that I had been part of, recently.

The local church announced a "gardening bee". Everyone came in their best working gear, armed with gardening skills and well used secateurs and clippers, rakes, shovels and mattocks. They set to with a common purpose, determined to redeem the grounds. At the end of the day they had achieved their goal, but in so doing revealed a range of gardening styles. There was the kind and gentle, sensitive, nurturing "snipper", who gave every leaf and petal just one more chance. Then there was the "creative cutter", short on horticultural skills but with an artist's eye for form, who followed. Next came the "academic pruner", with a store of botanical names and scientific advice. Finally, there was the "slasher and burner". She came through like a whirlwind, casting sentiment aside, and left in her wake a garden that will grow and flourish in the spring. And backstage were the drudges, who shovelled and dug and raked and sweated and earned their ice cold beer.

Autumn is the perfect time for being outdoors, for toiling and idling, for buzzing around or merely looking on. I wouldn't live anywhere else....and where else would you find a jar of golden Wamboin honey, labelled "Stringybark", that had a hint of the orient.



### Bib

Like so many other abandoned waifs in the area covered by the Wamboin Whisper, Bib appears to have lived on his wits in the company of an older, wilder male for his first year of life. Now rehabilitated, he has many more years to offer to someone [perhaps a small family], his boundless affection. Good with other cats. Hopefully that new owner will share the cost of desexing, vacc. and microchip.

Phone: 62369189



**WE ARE RECRUITING  
AND WE NEED YOUR  
HELP!!**

### Wamboin's Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade

needs new members.

If you are community-minded and  
want to learn new skills,  
please contact  
Ian Coillet  
on 6238 3425

*(Brigade area includes Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Park)*