

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

# The Whisper

July 2006

CIRCULATION: 1035

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 August 2006 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, July 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	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

## THE GREAT WAMBOIN CURRY NIGHT

Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> August 7:00 for 7:30

Blind Wine Auction to Aid Charity

Enquiries to Dave Hubbard on 6238 3308

# WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## President's Paragraphs

**Palerang Draft Management Plan and Budget 2006-7** – The Draft Management Plan and Budget has been the main focus of our attention in the last month. Notification of the public meeting at Wamboin came too late for inclusion in last month's Whisper. At very short notice, the WCA executive along with Bywong Community Association prepared a flyer for residents and conducted a letterbox drop of the area. I would like to thank all those involved with getting it done in such a timely and efficient manner. It was very successful, with almost 90 people attending the public meeting on Wednesday. See John van Straaten's report of the meeting later in the Whisper. The WCA executive is preparing a submission to Council objecting to the Draft Management Plan and Budget. We also intend to write to the NSW Minister for Local Government and the Member for Monaro.

**Braidwood Rural Lands Protection Board** – The WCA has written to the BRLPB to thank them for addressing the WCA May meeting and to voice dissatisfaction about the extension of their rating base, the lack of explanation or consultation, the lack of relevance to most of the residents on small properties and unnecessary nature of this extra layer of government.

**Drainage Work at Wamboin Community Hall** – Council have commenced drainage works at the hall. Thank you, Lofty and your team for putting in extra work on this project that the Council should have done.

**Wamboin Produce Markets** – After a successful season, the markets are now in recess until September.

**Annual Curry Night** – Make a date in your diary for Wamboin's gastronomical delight of the year which will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> August.

**Fireworks and Bonfire** – Another date to reserve is the 16<sup>th</sup> September, when the annual Fireworks and Bonfire will be held. Hopefully, this year the weather be kind to us.

**Calendar of events** – If you have any events that you would like included in next month's Whisper, please contact John van Straaten (ph: 6238 3590).

**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 **18<sup>th</sup> July**

-- Helen Montesin (helen.montesin@canberra.edu.au)



**Tom & Jessie**

These two cats lost their home on a small property in Bywong, when their owner moved overseas. Tom is a grey male with slight tabby markings, Jessie, a blue/grey female. They have been together all their lives and being very dependent on one another, it would be preferable for them to stay together in a new home. They are both well adjusted, vocal, friendly and affectionate, and would bond quickly to new owners, possibly with children. They have lived outside for most of their lives, sleeping confined in a large shed, but would adapt readily to a more domestic situation. Desexed, but not yet vaccinated. Ph: 62369189

THE BUSHIFIRE BRIGADE IS RECRUITING.

**WE NEED HELP.  
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Contact Ian Collett on 6238 3425.

Ring Now

Apology: The above ad should have run in the June Issue and did not due to a mistake on my part. It had nice graphics and layout, but for some reason I can't get them to thru word into a pdf, so the text reproduced above. - Editor

The 37 people below each spend a bit of time each month to make sure that Wamboin and Bywong residents own and receive a free community newspaper. If your deliverer has been on the job for a long time and you have a bit of time you could spare, think about offering to take over the job. If you already have too many tasks in your month, every now and then give your volunteer paperwoman/man/boy/girl a thank you.

130 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN:		Ph 6238 3208	
Dean Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West	18	Bill Owen Cooper Rd. 28
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	33	Cathy Abell Canning Close 17
Hank Berlee	11 Poppet Rd (for all on road)	34	
277 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:		Ph 6238 3463	
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	45	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 41Advtrs	55	Penny Evans Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley 25
Kathy Handal	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 38
Cassie Fisher	Clare Lane	11	Pauline Segeri North End - Clare Valley 42
Lyle Monetesin	Forrest Road area	60	Bungendore Shop Bungendore 10
204 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:		Ph 6238 3590	
Sheryl Barnes	Quinn's Estate / Denley	20	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	
197 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON Ph 6236 9609			
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Snowdon Family Hogan Drive 30
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 1035



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## **PALERANG COUNCIL'S DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN & BUDGET 2006-7**

Palerang Council's staff has prepared a draft Management Plan and Budget for Palerang for 2006-7 with projections for the next 5 years. The Council has authorised the public display of the Plan and Budget and the General Manager's letter to Palerang ratepayers of 1 June advised that these documents could be accessed on Council's web-site. He invited written submissions by 27 June. This letter also advised that Council had applied to the Minister for Local Government for a 9.9% increase for each of the next 5 years and considered that Palerang Council would not be viable without these rate increases.

Public meetings were held in Braidwood, Bungendore and Wamboin to discuss the draft Plan and Budget and you all were asked to complete a remarkable survey form which served as an example of Council's perception of "public consultation". Council's presentations at each venue were tailored to the audiences with the General Manager explaining the need for increases in rates and charges, comparing Palerang's rates with selected other Councils and outlining areas of expenditure. The Directors of Community Development and of Works also outlined their activities which required funding and indicated the areas for which funding would not be forthcoming. One of these was the inability to run the swimming pools at Braidwood, Bungendore and Captains Flat as it would require nearly \$190 000 to operate them all for a summer. This cynical exercise attracted the attention of many people at the Braidwood and Bungendore meetings and the emotion engendered distracted their attention from the details of the proposed rate increases and the measures to manage Palerang in 2006-7 and beyond.

Wamboin Community Hall last Wednesday night, however, had a full house and after the presentations by Council's staff the subsequent discussion became very spirited in respect of the preparation and substance of the draft Plan, the accuracy of the figures, the composition (categories) and validity of the proposed rate model, the rates differentials between eastern and western Palerang and arrangements for the waste of Palerang. It was clear that there was much community dissatisfaction with significant sections of the Plan and Budget, not just the inequities of the current and proposed rate structures.

This article will be too late to encourage you to comment to Council in a submission. The Wamboin Community Association is making a submission and is writing to the NSW Minister for Local Government and the Member for Monaro on why this draft Management Plan and Budget is unacceptable in its current form. You too can write to the Hon. Kerry Hickey, MP, Minister for Local Government, Level 32 Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney, NSW. 2000 and set out your concerns about the draft Plan and the proposed rate structures. -- John van der Straaten

### **LAKE GEORGE DAY VIEW CLUB**

(Note from Editor: I apologise to Lake George Day View Club that their meeting invitation did not appear in the June Whisper due to my mistake.)

The next meeting of the Lake George Day VIEW Club will be on Tuesday July 18 commencing at 11.30a.m. at Rydges Eagle Hawk Resort, Federal Highway, Sutton. Come along and join us for lunch and hear our guest speaker, Jenny Horsfield, talk about her up and coming book Cost \$20. New members and guests welcome. For bookings please ring Kerry on 6238 0603 by noon Wednesday 12 July. VIEW - a valued member of The Smith Family. For more information about the Club please ring Bernie Greethead on 6230 3165 - Lydia Teodorowych

### **Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin: 31 year statistics from the Robertsons**

June rainfall to 25/6 -- 84.5mm (June 2005 84.5mm)	2006 rainfall to 25/6 -- 325mm
(2005 to 30/6 -- 234mm) Av July rainfall -- 54.1mm	Driest July -- -4.5mm (1982)
Wettest July -- 142mm (1993)	Hottest July day -- 15 degreesC (22/7/79)
Coldest July day -- 5 degrees C (7/7/90 and 18/7/04)	Coldest July night -- minus 5 degrees C 10/7/96)

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## **Wamboin Muse - June**

Jill Gregory

(This should have appeared in the last issue, but didn't through my mistake. – Editor)

One could almost believe that the weather man dozed off while his finger was still firmly pressed on the “fine and beaut” button. We have had seemingly endless days of perfect autumn weather; a light frost to put an edge on the new day, blue skies and barely a breeze to hurry along the last, lingering red leaves. Without fanfare, the purple blue winter irises have appeared and violets are poking through. An evening walk transforms the eucalypts from blue grey leaves to black lace on pale grey satin, and just for an instant you can glimpse the black silhouettes of a pen and ink sketch that an artist has carelessly thrown aside.

But you can have too much of a good thing, and even Pollyanna has her breaking point. Where is the rain. I thought last May was despairingly dry, but even with water in the dam, this May seems worse. The chooks are expressing their displeasure when I throw them lettuce leaves instead of a bundle of freshly pulled green weeds, the kangaroo is bringing her joey to the front door to trample and nibble violets because there is nothing to eat beyond the garden, and the frogs have all gone to ground. The last pool in the creek bed has disappeared. But as much as I feel for the animals, and the trees and bush, I feel for myself, too. I have a lists and lists of things, saved up to do on a rainy day. But it never rains! And while the sun shines, while the rain stays away, I have to be outside. I can't waste it. So cupboards stay crammed and unsorted, crates of photos sit alongside empty albums, and the family history grows more complex as it remains unchronicled. My sewing machine lies idle and the stack of books on my bedside table, grows. I never get beyond the first page of anything before I fall into an exhausted sleep.

I wouldn't live anywhere else....but where else would you complain about too much of a good thing. Would someone please rouse the weatherman....I desperately need at least a month of rain to bring some discipline back into my life .....and the animals and bush might welcome it, too.

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<b>ADVERTISING RATES:</b> Local classified advertisements are free, as are announcements from community organisations and clubs. Business advertisements attract a small fee (see below) which is donated to the Wamboin Community Association. Please make your cheque out to this association, but post it to the editor. Contact editor on 6238-3484 for information. Advertising rates: Full Page - \$100 Half Pg - \$50 1/3 Pg \$35 1/4 Pg - \$30 1/5 Pg - \$25 1/6 Pg - \$20 1/8 Pg - \$15
<b>FOR HIRE: WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL.</b> Bookings arranged by Joan Mason 62383258. Local Resident \$75-00, Bond \$250. Non Resident \$150, Bond \$300. The Hall is not available for teenage or 21st functions.
Trestles and chairs are available for hire by local residents. Hire rates are: Trestle \$10ea and chairs \$1.50 ea. Price does not include delivery or pick-up charges. Available from the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way. Must be returned in clean serviceable condition. All damages are responsibility of the hirer. Equipment must be tied securely on trailer etc. when taken (otherwise they don't go.) Time of pick-up and returned MUST be adhered too (I don't live at the Hall!) -Joan Mason, 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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## Nature Notes – June 2006


Jo Walker

Well, the first month of winter has brought us all sorts of interesting weather – over 60 mm of welcome rain, some nice warm days, one or two exceptionally cold nights and one memorable day when the landscape was still white at midday and the temperature didn't rise much above zero. All of this has been enough to get some germination going in the plant world: little bright green swards of grass seedlings are filling up the spaces between red-brown expanses of Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*).

Not a lot is in flower at the moment, just the Early Wattle (*Acacia genistifolia*), the Urn Heath (*Melichrus urceolatus*) and the mistletoes. Early Wattle is a common plant in the Queanbeyan area and along the escarpment into Kowen Forest – it has dark green spiny foliage and pale cream-coloured flowers and grows into a medium to tall shrub. *Melichrus urceolatus* is in the heath family (Epacridaceae) and is a very common sub-shrub in Wamboin – it grows to about 30 cm high and has light green, sharply pointed leaves and cream, urn-shaped flowers. These flowers are attractive to honeyeaters as a food source during the winter, and Eastern Spinebills and White-eared Honeyeaters can often be seen feeding on them. The mistletoes are also a nectar source, and their flowers are worth a look if you have any growing on the lower branches of eucalypts or wattles. They are quite beautiful – clusters of cylindrical red and yellow blooms.

The little male Australasian Grebe who has been frequenting my dam for a couple of months has been joined by a female now, and they are there most days floating on, and diving in, the icy cold water.

The Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos paid a visit here the other day, noticed by their distinctive calls long before I saw them. Fortunately, they were confining their activities to food-gathering, tearing out large chunks of Silver Wattle wood to get to the juicy grubs within. They were regular visitors here a year or two ago, and, after they'd had a feed, would go in search of what must have seemed like cockatoo entertainment. They were particularly drawn to the out-of-area eucalypts and hakeas I'd planted, some of them by that time quite tall trees. As far as I could see, there were no insect tunnels in the plants they attacked with such relish – those big black birds just seemed to take a delight in tearing off branches and ring-barking the trees. Across the creek, I can see a hakea that, by now, should be a small tree but is instead a wide, flat shrub due to the cockatoos' attempts at topiary. I'd really like to know how they picked out the non-local trees which are very similar to those growing naturally here.

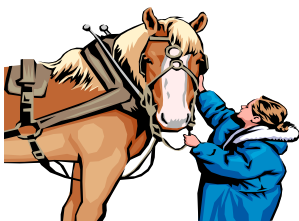
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## WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – JUNE COMPETITION RESULTS

The June competition was sponsored by Bob Mettam with some serious help from Cheryl at the after game eats. Many thanks to Bob and Cheryl for their efforts on the day. Googly ball was won by young Jack Whitney handling a troublesome crow. Jack also won the Juniors trophy for his nine holes.

Ball winners for nearest the pins and long drives were Charles Guscott x2, Paul Griffin, Charley Montesin, Dennis Walker, Bob Mettam, John Anderson and John Whitney. Nine Hole comp won by Lofty Mason. B Grade winner was Paul Griffin with John Anderson second. A Grade winner was Tim Barter with Charles Guscott second. -- Golf enquiries to Peter Greenwood 6238 3358.



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**6258 1792**



### CHILDREN NEED BOOKS! BUNGENDORE VIEW CLUB MAKING IT HAPPEN

Bungendore Evening VIEW Club has taken up the challenge to provide as many books as they can towards The Smith Family/VIEW Clubs Book Drive. The target is 2000 suitable books.

All children need books of their own to inspire their love of reading and learning. Books collected during the VIEW Book Drive will be distributed by The Smith Family at Christmas 2006

Diana Student and Dot Sillis volunteered to co-ordinate this for Bungendore Evening View Club.

Diana works at 'A Suitable Book' in Heritage Square and their staff will be more than willing to assist with a suitable book choice.. Dianna said that "the importance of books and the magic of reading cannot be underestimated" The Club has been collecting donations from its membership at its last few meetings as well as using money from raffles. The support offered by DI Dibble of 'A Suitable Book' is very much appreciated.

HOW CAN OTHERS WHO ALSO BELIEVE IN THE VALUE OF BOOKS AND READING IN ALL CHILDREN HELP AND GIVE INSPIRATION?

This can be done at 'A Suitable Book' by purchasing a recommended book at a discounted price , giving a donation towards the purchase of more books. or contacting Diana at home on 62380616. Ladies from Bungendore and the surrounding area are invited to come along to VIEW Club be part of such worthwhile projects as well as meeting ladies from the area in fun and friendship. – Ros Welch

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## GREENWAYS

The Greenways Committee is currently planning a number of maintenance jobs to be undertaken over the next few years. These include weed removal, erosion repair and protection, slashing and signage. If you would like to contribute to this important community and environmental work through the 'Friends of Greenways' please contact Jan Day on 62383531 or Maria Taylor on 62369386. – Jan Day

## FENCES AND WILDLIFE

**Fences and wildlife:** Two friends came across a distressing scene on a recent greenways walk. On a section where there are high and 'wildlife unfriendly' fences on both sides of the trail, they saw from a distance that a kangaroo was being chased by two dogs. She was dodging this way and that – seemingly unconfident about clearing the fence in either direction, and the human appearance had removed the 'straight ahead' option. Finally she backed up, made a big effort and went over one of the fences, almost catching a foot in the process. The two dogs continued chasing her across the property, now joined by three or four others.

The friends walked on and saw a lone joey, frozen against a ringlock fence, presumably waiting for dark and the possibility of Mum's return. Around the bend where the action had been, they found a newly dead joey on the trail. That pretty well doused the nature walk. This was on a trail section where, at least once before, a dead kangaroo was found caught in a ringlock section of fence it couldn't clear.

The greenways are designated officially as both access for humans through the countryside and also as conservation areas for native flora and fauna. Therefore fences facing the greenways that block wildlife migration pathways or escape from marauding pets defeat the purpose. Very few neighbouring properties appear to have such heavy stock loads (or stock deer?) that fences higher than 1.2 metres with added barbed wire and ringlock are necessary. The problem can become severe for wildlife, particularly where this type of fencing is on both sides of the greenway.

**Please take another look at your fences next to greenways:** Landholders are asked to please take a look at fences bordering the greenway and consider removing barbed wire and top strands that are more than four feet (1.2 m) high. Ringlock or wire at ground level can also cause problems for echidnas and other native wildlife. Six wire fence or horse-sighter wire fence design are the most wildlife friendly – starting 15 cm off the ground to 1.2 m height, with the top two strands at least 30 cm apart so roos can't catch their legs and become entangled. In regard to dogs, there can be animal welfare considerations as this story shows, and in general unleashed dogs are prohibited on the greenways.

-- Maria Taylor, Secretary, Greenways Management Committee (a community committee of Palerang Council)

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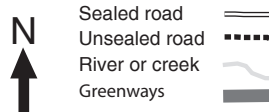
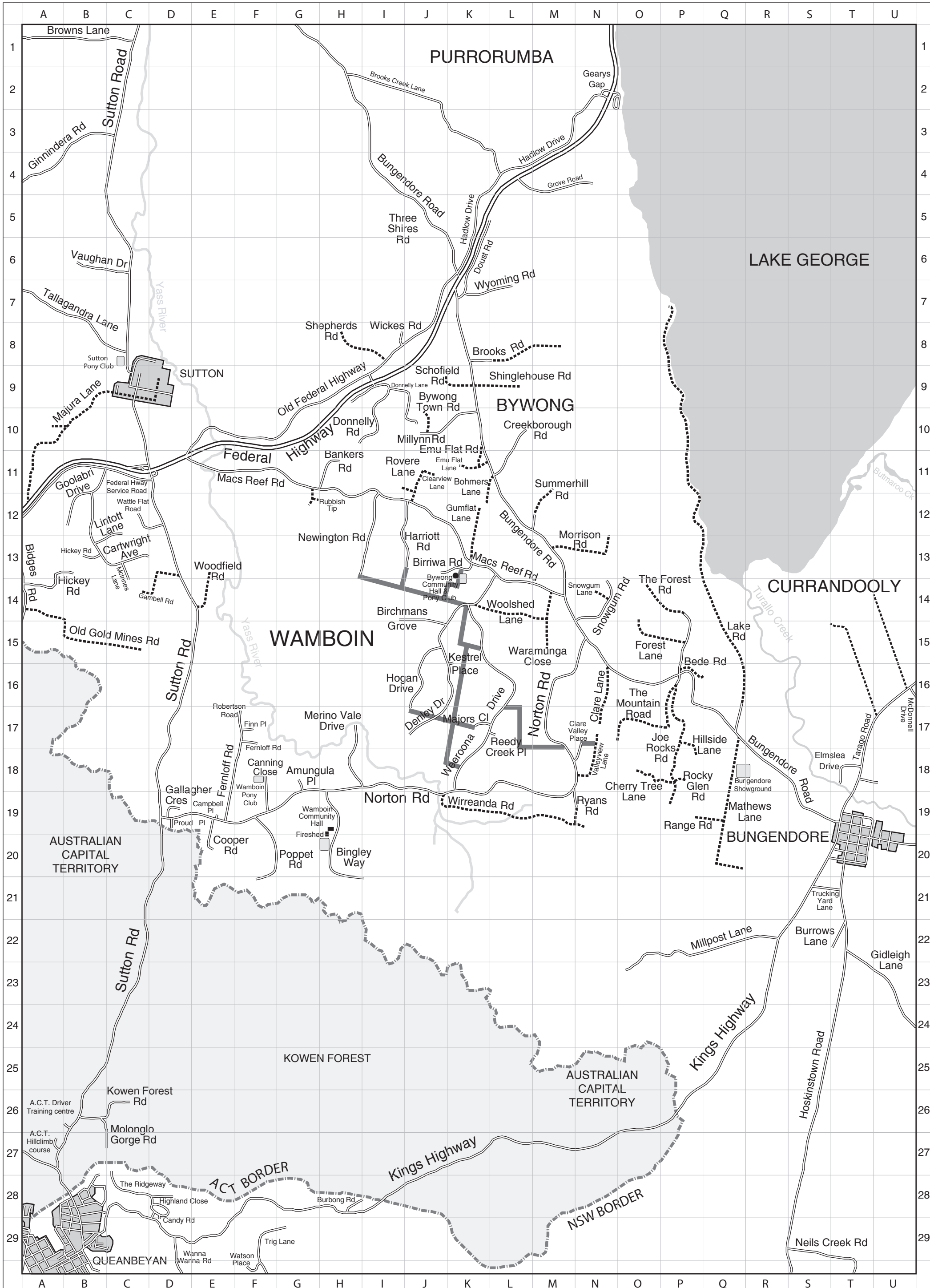
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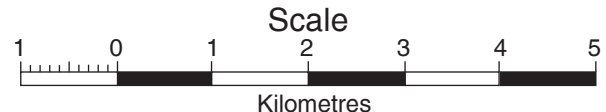
# 6236 9609

# WAMBOIN/BYWONG



- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- River or creek
- Greenways

DISCLAIMER: The information on this map is as accurate as possible. However, there is no guarantee that the information is totally accurate or complete. Therefore you should not rely solely on this information when making decisions. If inaccuracies are noted please contact: paul.brugman@anu.edu.au



### THE GREENWAYS

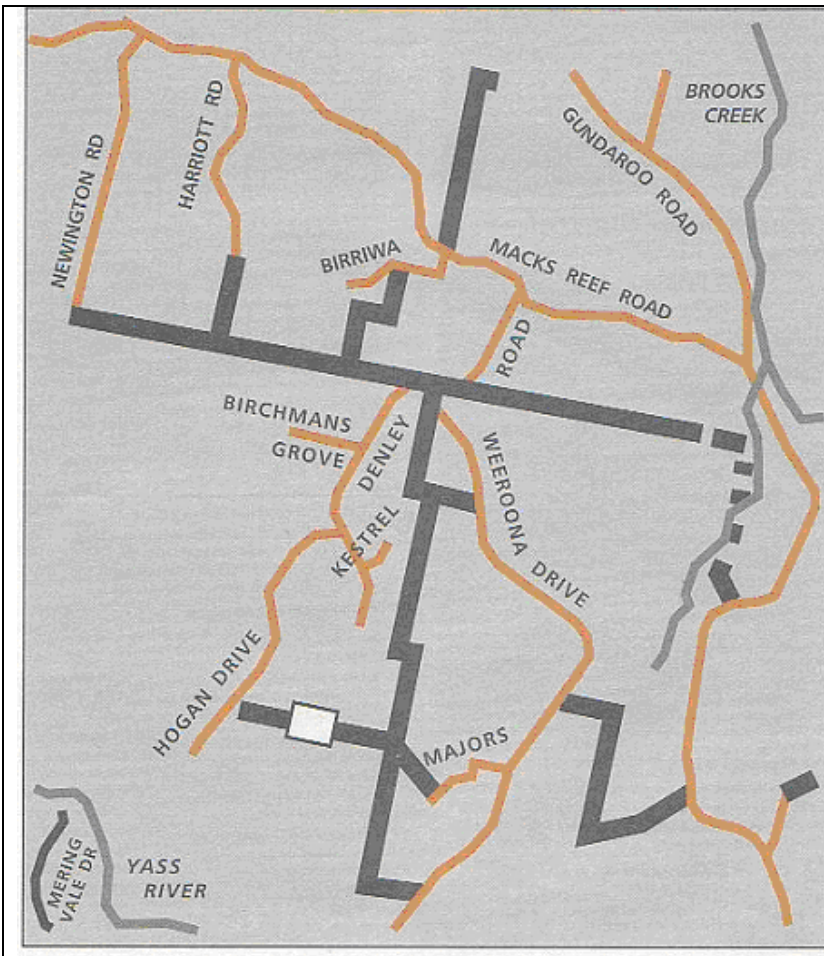
Local residents have lobbied over the years for the conversion of old crown roads to a linked series of "Greenways" to provide a trail access across the countryside for pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists (no motorised vehicles allowed). They also want to conserve and re-establish native vegetation on these rights of way. The vegetation o the greenways offers important permanent vegetation links.

This concept has been adopted by council and is now a recognised model state-wide. Management committees are a joint resident-council affair.

The first officially opened section of greenway is in the Bywong / Wamboin area.

There is still a lot of work to be done to complete the greenways network in Palerang Council.

- Maria Taylor,  
Greenways Committee



### Wamboin 15 years ago from the Whisper of July, 1991, Circulation 265, Editor: Suzanne Frazer

from the President's Paras.... "Welcome to the new financial year. At the June meeting, a proposal to establish monthly markets at the community hall was discussed. It would provide an opportunity for local groups to raise funds by hiring stall sites and selling food. This would involve a considerable amount of work from those involved, commitment of time, and some financial outlay for advertising. As an alternative, it would be possible to just hire the hall to an organiser, reducing the work and risk to the community, but also minimising the potential returns. In either case, a development application will need to be lodged with the council and approval obtained. The proposal will be further discussed at the next meeting."

- Malcom Harrington, President (at the time)

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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 pleasing to report that we have had a quiet month, but only as far as incidents are concerned. We have been busy with our training program as well as a well attended working bee at the fire shed. One recent incident though, could be a good excuse for one lucky motorist to buy a lottery ticket. What would the odds be for a motorist driving a small car towing a large trailer with a large car on it losing control and crashing outside the only property on a major road where a fire crew lives and has a fire truck garaged on the property? Those odds have to be comparable with winning Lotto!

Last month we held our annual general meeting which was well attended despite the cool evening temperature. We were pleased to welcome several distinguished guests including the Mayor of Palerang, Councillor Jim Maclachlan and Superintendent Nick Turner.



As the Brigade President, Peter Greenwood said in his report, "The past twelve months has seen a period of catch-up and consolidation for the Brigade. The Executive has been meeting regularly and I believe that we are in a sound financial and administrative state. Our Budget and Business Plan has been established which clearly sets out our goals not only for the short term but also for the future. One of our plans that is coming to fruition is the establishment of a major Community Emergency Refuge Centre at the Wamboin Hall. We have committed funds and will be working closely with the Wamboin Community Association and the Hall Management Committee to complete an extension to the hall. This extension will include a meeting room, which can double as sleeping area for visiting fire fighters plus a small shower and change room. We are about to commence work on the provision of an additional rain water storage tank at the rear of the fire station plus a fixed large capacity fire fighting pump on the dam with underground reticulation and hose outlets adjacent to the hall and fire station for fire protection during bush fire emergencies and also for quick water replenishment of fire tankers.

Recruiting has been a targeted activity and I welcome on board sixteen new members to the Brigade.

I acknowledge and sincerely support the members of our community in Wamboin, Bywong and our newer areas of responsibility in Sutton Park and the Bidges Rd area, who have responded to our donations drive and given generously to the Brigade. Our members have also responded magnificently to fund raising activities such as car parking at EPIC, grape picking, letter box drops and manning our road-side collection points."

Our outgoing and hard working Training Officer, Nev Schroder, who provided interesting and challenging training exercises during the year, made an interesting observation during his report. He said that "more than 1,000 person hours had been clocked-up in local brigade training and that this did not include the Zone training which has ramped up significantly".

The meeting provided a memorable opportunity to recognise the long and dedicated support provided to the brigade by one of our stalwarts, Charlie Le Lievre. Much to the appreciation of all brigade members and our guests, our President took great pride in admitting Charlie as a Life Member of the Brigade, in recognition and appreciation of his meritorious service.

During the meeting training and proficiency awards were presented to Dave Cochrane (Crew Leader), Nev Schroder and Phil Sadler (Rural Fire Driving (Light and Heavy vehicles)), Chris Murdock (Advanced Fire Fighter), Cattlin Hubbard, Bob Pearson, Cliff Spong, Andrew Dunn, Scott Foster, Peter Greenwood, David Cochrane, Ian Coillet, Adrian van Prooyen (First Aid), Andrew Dunn and Darrell Tipton (Helicopter Winch Skills), and Tim Ayling and Riccardo Della-Torre (Bush Fire Fighter).

The meeting also provided an opportunity to present the inaugural Annual Captains' Awards to Tony Fisher and Charlie Le Lievre, the Brigade's Principal Driving Instructors. The awards were in recognition of them comfortably dealing with a level of terror quite possibly beyond the call of duty. This year's awards were suitably titled "The Captain's "White Knuckle" Award".

Our elected officials for our next year are President, Peter Greenwood; Vice-President, Cliff Spong; Secretary, Ian Coillet; Treasurer, Larry King; Captain, Cliff Spong; Senior Deputy Captain, Andrew Dunn; Deputy Captains, Geoff Foster, Neville Schroder, Richard Hobbs, Darrell Tipton, and David Cochrane; Support Crew Leader, Wendy Downs; Communications Officer, Pat Dickson; Equipment Officer, Brad Arrowsmith; Maintenance Officer, Charlie Le Lievre; First Aid Officer, Sandy Sedgewick; Training Officer, David Doblinger; Community Safety/Education Officer Keith Wrench and Fundraising Officer, Fiona David.

The photos below were taken during our recent working bee at the fire shed where we carried out some much needed work. This was followed by a great end-of-fire-season barbecue put on by Wendy Downs.

Our Working Bee volunteers, from left to right: Geoff Foster, Tim Love, Andrew Dunn, Brad Arrowsmith, Tony Fisher, Peter Greenwood, Nev Schroder, Peter "Rat" Cullerne, David "Doubles" Doblinger, Ian Coillet, Charlie Le Lievre, Wendy Downs, Dave Cochrane and Albert Zehetner. (Not in the picture was the photographer, Cliff Spong)



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.

Tony Fisher (left) and Nev Schroder (right) supervising the apprentice cable installer, Peter Greenwood.



## THE CAPTAIN'S LIST

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### Notice To All Residents of the Wamboin / Bywong Area

We have been residents of Wamboin for 22 years, residing at 557 Norton Road. We have always run 30-40 head of sheep and newborn lambs on our 30 acre property. Over the past 2-3 years (we believe since the opening of Denley Heights) we have had an increasing number of dog attacks.

The Christmas of 2006 we arrived home from holidays to witness horrendous carnage. Our sheep had sustained inhumane injuries inflicted by dogs. They had been either run up and down the high paddocks and dropped from exhaustion and couldn't get up, run into the river (which had water at that time), or had a number of deep wounds inflicted to various areas of their bodies. These attacks left 20 of our sheep dead, and lying around our paddocks. It was a sickening sight.

We called the Queanbeyan Police. We gave a statement to two detectives who stated we were well within our rights to shoot on the spot if we witnessed such attacks. We have experienced at least two more dog attacks with more dead and wounded sheep as recently as last week. We have reported these attacks to the police.

The problem with dog attacks is that they occur at night and in silence. We bring this to your attention because we know that there is more than one dog involved in these incidents. The sheep are often dragged down from behind and attached around the face. It could be your dog! Dogs travel in packs. Once they have tasted blood -- they will re-offend. For all those who believe it couldn't be my dog because it plays with little Johnny and is so docile - then yes it could!

We ask this of you all: **RESTRAIN YOUR ANIMALS AT NIGHT - DON'T ALLOW THEM TO ROAM.** Because otherwise **WE WILL SHOOT TO KILL - NOT BY CHOICE BUT BECAUSE THESE ATTACKS ARE INHUMANE AND SO SICKENING.** If anyone has any information that may assist us or has experienced dog attacks, please don't hesitate to contact us. Many thanks for your attention. -- Chris & Rose Lyons, Ph 6238 3386.

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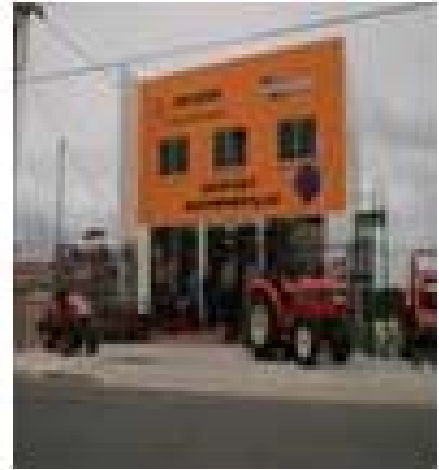
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**THE STABLE DOOR**  
by Ian Collet

The bride and I have lived in Wamboin for around 12 years now. Regrettably, my pile of Wamboin Whispers dates from just February 1998. Staggeringly, the Editor of Wamboin's and Bywong's monthly newsletter way back then was...yep, you guessed it.... the present incumbent, Ned Noel. I takes me hat off to you Ned – a fabulous community contribution by you over such a long period of time. But way back then, Ned as he is today, was on his bended knees, imploring people to contribute their thoughts, experiences, ideas, even dribble of my own kind to the Whisper. Fortunately, some do – and it's been recently quite refreshing to read articles by several new contributors. But as is the case with the Fire Brigade, and no doubt the key Community Associations, the region would be richer were a few more people to participate. So, as a gentle starter, I thought I'd throw out a challenge – let's find out where the untapped imagination is out there in Wamboin and Bywong and maybe Sutton Park land. Set out below is the beginnings of a story – an unfinished story that I grabbed from the www. How do you think the story should end? Resolve the story. The ending judged to be the best by the bride and me will win a prize. To be in the running you'll need to submit your response to me at [lodestar@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lodestar@ozemail.com.au) by Sunday 23 July. Your storyline should be no more than 100 words. Below is the story so far.

**Mud ball and the leaf**

Once a mud ball and a leaf set out to see the world.

As they were walking they came across a stream.

"Oh dear!" said the mud ball, looking worriedly at the water.

"I cannot cross the stream!"

"Of course, you can," replied the leaf cheerfully.

"Just hop on to my back and I'll take you across."

And so the mud ball climbed on to the leaf and the two reached the other side of the bank. A little later it began to blow.

The leaf quivered and said sadly, "If this wind gets any fiercer, I will get blown away!"

The mud ball gallantly stood on her until the wind subsided. All was well for a while.

Then all of a sudden there was thunder and lightning... accompanied by gusty winds and a heavy downpour.

**What happened then? Did the mud ball and the leaf survive?**

**The Meaning of Words**

Once again, The Washington Post has published the winning submissions to its yearly contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternative meanings for common words. An extract from the winning offerings:

1. Coffee (n.), the person upon whom one coughs;
2. Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk, and
3. Frisbeetarianism (n.), (back by popular demand): The belief that, when you die, your Soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.

The Washington Post's Style Invitational once again asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here's a selection of this year's winners:

1. Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating; The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future;
2. Sarchasm (n): The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it;
3. Inoculatte (v): To take coffee intravenously when you are running late – *my favourite*
4. Karmageddon (n): It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer;
5. Decafalon (n.): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you, and
6. Caterpallor (n.): The colour you turn after finding half a grub in the fruit you're eating.

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### Obituary – Vale Diamond!

Our much loved family pony Diamond (aged 36) whom we think may have been the oldest pony in Wamboin, passed away at the end of May. Diamond lived on the corner of Poppet and Norton Road for nearly 30 years and was well known to many in Wamboin. He patiently taught our four children and their friends to ride and gave many other people a comfortable and safe ride around Wamboin and in the Kowen Forest. In his early years, with our eldest daughter Sophie, he delivered Sunday papers to families in Cooper and Norton Road – that was in the days that Norton Road ended at our property on Poppet Road. He was a keen pony clubber and attended many pony club camps in the 80's and 90s. His final public performance was at the St Andrew's Nativity Tableau last Christmas. Many thanks to Rebecca Forrest and Canberra Equine Hospital for their care and consideration of an old pony in his last few years. Diamond was exactly the kind of pony that every family dreams of – safe, reliable and fun to ride. He will be missed. -- The Schultz Family



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## Arthritis in Animals

by Rebecca Forrest, Local Vet

Osteoarthritis or degenerative joint disease, a type of arthritis, is the most common form of joint disease affecting humans and in animals. Osteoarthritis is the result of cartilages, the shock-absorbing smooth tissues at the end of bones, wearing thin leaving the bones to rub against each other causing pain and stiffness. Arthritis affects all ages although it mainly occurs in middle-aged to older animals.

**Symptoms:** Dogs or cats may be slower to get up or down, reluctant to jump or climb stairs or cry when picked up. Horses may show varying degrees of lameness. As winter approaches and the temperature drops, symptoms may be more pronounced. The arthritis can be most noticeable in the morning when the joints have not warmed up sufficiently and it improves with exercise.

**Diagnosis:** This includes a history of problems associated with movement, a physical examination by the vet to determine the range of motion in the joint, swellings, pain or crepitus. X-rays may be required to rule out other problems such as infection or cancer of the bones or joints. A number of risk factors can cause osteoarthritis. These include previous injury to the joint, inheriting abnormal joint conformation such as Hip Dysplasia, excessive exercise, and being overweight.

**Treatment:** There is no cure for arthritis. The mainstay of the treatment is to slow the progression of the disease and to relieve pain for the animal to maintain a good quality of life. The prognosis depends on the severity of the disease and the intended use of the animal. For example, racehorses often have a worse outcome than a pleasure horse. Many treatment options are available but this will depend on the species and the individual animal. Some examples include medications such as oral anti-inflammatories, injections into joints or muscle, and surgery. It is highly recommended that you consult your vet to tailor the appropriate treatment for your animal. Note: it is important not to use human medications for animals unless advised by the vet as they can cause kidney failure and gastrointestinal ulcers.

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**Wamboin Muse -- July**

Jill Gregory

It finally rained and then everything froze! But for one glorious night and day soft, soaking rain fell, filling the hollows in the creek bed and encouraging a trickle of water. The frogs responded immediately and a few worms stirred. I even felt brave enough to venture into the garden before the frosts began to bite, and grubbed around in the damp soil and sodden leaves. To my delight, I found a few forgotten hellebores and bulbs. Then I discovered a silent invader.

During the driest spells I had looked at the periwinkle almost benignly. It survived with its shiny green leaves and blue purple flowers, and like magic, spread over dusty spaces. "Care: nil", the gardening book had said, which had convinced me that it was indeed suited to Wamboin. But while I had been preoccupied, looking to the heavens for rain, it had been creeping into areas "off limits". Suddenly I realised that it had taken over, and was determined to keep its foothold. I pulled at it and dug and followed the trail under bushes and shrubs, but the more of it I pulled out, the more I seemed to find. What had seemed like a garden bonus a few dry months ago now seemed like a nightmare. Are there no "free lunches" in a garden? Alas, there is no magic.....I even began to question the existence of the tooth fairy.

But all doubts and cynicism were dispelled on Saturday night when I arrived at the Firefighters' Ball. The glittering ballroom was filled with characters who looked as if they'd tumbled from the pages of a fairytale book. Gumnut babies, some lofty, some able, gained credit for their costumes, and there was even a banksia man! Frogs, princesses, pigs, wolves and witches gyrated on the dance floor, dodging blind mice that became more afflicted as the night wore on. It was a wonderful, warm, wacky Wamboin occasion. But at the stroke of midnight, or thereabouts, the fantasy ended and we spilled out into the arctic night, with ice covering the puddles and frost reaching to the top of the trees.

I wouldn't live anywhere else.....I don't think they'd let me.

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