

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

# The Whisper

August 2006 CIRCULATION: 1042

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 September 2006 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, August 27, 2005, 7:00 pm.

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## WAMBOIN FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

<b>Wamboin Community Assn</b>	Helen Montesin	President	6238-3208
<b>Bywong Community Assn</b>	Warwick Cathro	President	6236-9187
<b>Fire Brigade</b>	Cliff Spong	Captain	040-999-1340 bh 6236 9220 ah
<b>Wamboin Playgroup</b>	Leanne Quick	Convener	6238 3435
<b>Landcare</b>	Roger Good	President	6236-9048
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238-1333
<b>Breastfeeding Assoc.</b>	Belinda Dennis	Community Educator	6236 9979
<b>Emergency Services</b>	NSW Call Centre	Staff	132-500
<b>Emergency Services Admin</b>	Colin Brown	Controller	6238-1067
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Peter Greenwood	JP	6238-3358
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Keith France	JP	6238-3596
<b>Wamboin Scout Group</b>	Peter Harrison	Contact Person	6238-3525
<b>Wamboin Guides</b>	Rosemary Riley	Contact Person	6297-7632
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Maureen Purdie	Contact Person	6238-3343
<b>Gearys Gap Pony Club</b>	Anne McInnes	Secretary	6236-9883
<b>Play Group</b>	Leanne Quick	Convenor	6238-3435
<b>Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason	Bookings	6238-3258
<b>Church, Anglican</b>	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238-3202
<b>Christian Prayer Group</b>	Steve & Imelda Taylor	Contacts	6238-3220
<b>Golf</b>	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238-3358
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare	Helpline	6299-1966

## THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS

Deanne Brucic, babysitting & Petsitting .....	6238-1884
Ellen Smith, petsitting (experienced with horses) .....	6238-3115
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
Elena Sutcliffe, petsitting and babysitting .....	6238-3228
Gabrielle Simpkin & Nicolette Neveu-Abramczuk, petsitting .....	6238-3600

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 Council** – The Council has adopted its Management Plan and Budget. The WCA made a submission to Council in which we took issue with the lack of vision and objectives in the Plan, the current and future staffing levels, the costings for waste and sewerage charges, the inadequate budgetary details and the refusal to address the inherent inequities in the rate model. Unfortunately, our submission was totally disregarded and never acknowledged. The WCA also wrote to the NSW Minister for Local Government (Kerry Hickey) and the Member for Monaro (Steve Whan) to express our lack of confidence in the Council. Following a motion passed at the last WCA meeting, a letter has been sent to the Premier, Kerry Hickey, John Turner (Shadow Minister for Local Government) and Steve Whan to express extreme disappointment in the Management Plan and Budget approved by the Local Government Minister, a lack of confidence in Palerang Council and a recommendation that an administrator be appointed by the NSW Government.

**Braidwood Rural Lands Protection Board** – The WCA has written to the NSW Minister for Primary Industries (Ian McDonald) to voice dissatisfaction about the extension of the 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.

**Meeting with NSW State Government Ministers** – The NSW Cabinet Meeting is being held in Queanbeyan on 1<sup>st</sup> August and the Ministers will be available for meetings with community groups. John van der Straaten and I have arranged meetings with Ministers Hickey and McDonald during which we will discuss our concerns about Palerang Council and Braidwood Rural Lands Protection Board.

**State Plan** – The NSW State Plan will be developed to set the priorities and goals for NSW for the next decade. Members of the public will be given an opportunity to contribute. Further details are available in the 28<sup>th</sup> June edition of the Bungendore Mirror or online at [www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan](http://www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan). The WCA will be following the process and make a submission. If you have anything that you would like the WCA to raise, contact me or another member of the WCA executive.

**Federal Electorate Boundary Changes** – The proposed changes to the Federal Electorate boundaries would see Wamboin and Bywong moved from Eden-Monaro to Hume. This would result in Wamboin/Bywong being segregated from the rest of Palerang with our local member in Goulburn. The WCA has made a submission to the Redistribution Committee in which we set out our commonality of interest with the Electorate of Eden-Monaro (particularly the centres of Bungendore and Queanbeyan), the importance of having a locally accessible federal representative and asked the Committee to review its proposal.

**WCA Electronic Noticeboard** – The Wamboin Whisper plays a vital role in community communication and we are very thankful to Ned for all the work he puts into it. However, in recent months we have had a number of issues arise which needed to be publicised in between Whisper editions. After discussions at the last WCA meeting, it was decided that an electronic noticeboard would complement the Whisper in disseminating community information. Many thanks to Pete Harrison for setting it up. I encourage everybody to subscribe – details of how to subscribe are included later in the Whisper.

**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. All enquiries to Dave Hubbard (ph: 6238 3308)

**Fireworks and Bonfire** – the annual Fireworks and Bonfire will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> September – see the ad later in the Whisper for details. We have requested slightly less noisy fireworks this year to minimise the impact on residents and livestock nearby. Suitable material can now be added to the bonfire pile on the oval.

**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 cover a wide range of topics with some lively debate. The executive has been very proactive in addressing community issues and I thank them for all the time and hard work they put in. As community members have become more aware of the issues facing our community, attendance at meetings has increased. You are all welcome at the next **WCA meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> August at 7:30pm** (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in the month).

-- Helen Montesin ([helen.montesin@canberra.edu.au](mailto:helen.montesin@canberra.edu.au))

THE GREAT WAMBOIN  
FIREWORKS  
AND BONFIRE  
NIGHT  
Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> September

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.
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	33	Cathy Abell Canning Close
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
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	32	Anne Gardner Weeroona, Norton to Majors
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	David Anderson Weeroona, Majors to Denley
Ned Noel	13 YrCn 41Advtrs	55	Penny Evans Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley
Kathy 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
Cassie Fisher	Clare Lane	11	Pauline Segeri North End - Clare Valley
Lyle Monetessin	Forrest Road area	60	Bungendore Shop Bungendore
194 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:		Ph 6238 3590	
Sheryl Barnes	Quinn's Estate / Denley	20	Brian Higgison Deley/Kestral area
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Gum Flat	24	Rhett Cox Macs Reef /Nwngtn to FdHwy
Ann Platts	Denley MacReef to Birchman's	26	Morag Cotsell MReef /Newington/Harriot
Warrick Cathro	Macs Reef -GumFlat to Harriott	18	Esther/Ian Rudd MReef/Bankers/FedHwy
Joan Milner	Birriwa Road	12	
214 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON Ph 6236 9609			
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Snowdon Family Hogan Drive
Len Parrish	Summerhill Rd Area	32	Diana+Keith Gascoine Snow Gum Road
Sue Gorham	Schofields/Brooks/Millyn	25	Thelma Martin Shinglehouse Rd area
Sue Aunella	Doust/Wyoming/Brooks	25	Judith Miller Wyoming Rd
TOTAL FOR WHISPER 1042			



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## Bywong Community News

Collated by Morag Cameron

**AGM - Change of date** Apologies to those who had locked an August AGM into their schedules: we have had to defer this important event. The new date is Monday 4th September. As usual, the meeting will take place at 7.30 in the Community Hall in Birriwa Road. We promise not to try and dragoon anyone into accepting office, but we would be thrilled to accept any new volunteers for minimal duties on our Committee. New Committee members can choose which activities they feel able to assist. We hope to have a speaker for the general meeting which follows. Watch the notice boards for details.

**Molonglo Gorge bushwalk** Encouraged by the success of our walk to the Big Hole, we are planning another walk for 22 October. John-Pierre will also lead this walk, which will be up the Molonglo Gorge (off Sutton Road). Bring a picnic lunch and meet at the Molonglo Gorge Carpark at 10am. Contact Jean-Pierre Favre for more details 62303 573 or email: [jsfavre@gmail.com](mailto:jsfavre@gmail.com)

**Bywong night skies event** We are hoping to have the services of astronomer and Tidbinbilla guide Steve Crouch for an evening dedicated to our night skies. We are proposing sessions both inside and outside the Hall, and people may bring their own telescopes, if they have one. Watch the next copy of the Whisper for the date and further details.

**Christmas drinks** Our annual Christmas drinks will take place in the Community Hall on Saturday 2 December. Keep the time free and drop in after your Saturday afternoon activities. Wine tasting, the odd beer and nibbles will be offered between 6pm and 8pm. Anyone resident in Bywong or Wamboin is warmly invited to attend.

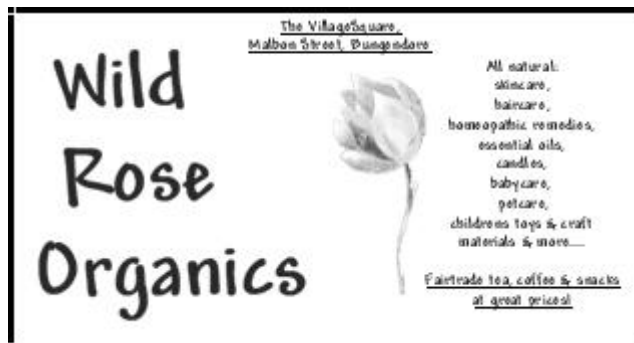


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## THANKS TO PAUL BRUGMAN FOR LAST MONTH'S MAP

The map of Wamboin and Bywong that appeared in last month's Whisper came to you courtesy of Paul Brugman of Poppet Road. This should have been stated in that issue, but wasn't due to a mistake on my part.

As most readers will know, an earlier version of Paul's map is posted at some of the area's entrances. Over a number of years Paul built and improved the map using a number of sources and by making GIS confirmations of locations. He has been generous in making it available and useful to those of us who live here and to those who visit, and on a number of occasions has allowed it to be printed as part of the Whisper. – Ned Noel, Editor

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## Do You Want a Voice on the Braidwood Rural Lands Protection Board?

Geoff Butler

The NSW Government has recently re-introduced a land tax on small acreage blocks in the Braidwood Rural Lands Protection Board (BRLPB) area. The land tax is collected by the BRLPB, and is used to fund RLPB staff and services. It is a tax that was queried by many small acreage owners over 15 years ago and for good reason was withdrawn. The financially strapped NSW Government (thanks Mr. Whan) has decided to re-introduce the tax to fund what should be funded either by the users of services, or more equitably across the whole NSW community through the Dept. of Agriculture, as it is done in other states.

I think most of you have read or heard the various grumblings about the land tax. The gripe I have about the reintroduction of this land tax is not so much the amount, though it would normally cover some costs of the management of my land. The tax is probably not an onerous sum for most residents of small acreages. My concerns are related to its inequity, the way it was introduced, the general lack of any need of small acreage owners to avail themselves of any of the services provided, subsidy of private industry, and what appears to be a rather awkward BRLPB electoral system.

My perception of the electoral system is that it could be greatly improved so that all taxpayers are able to at least understand it! If we have to pay this legislated land tax, I feel that the 1200 odd small block owners impacted by this tax are at least deserving of a voice on the BRLPB.

The way you enroll to vote is to ensure you fill out section 2 of the recent Land & Stock Return form. It is not essential to fill this section out, and if you do not, it appears to me that your name may not go onto the electoral role. The BRLPB has told me they are quite happy with this method to enroll taxpayers. My reading of the form is that if you do not enter names into the spaces provided in section 2, you may not be on the electoral role, despite the landowners printed names appearing above in section 1. If this was not filled in, you may not receive an electoral form.

After querying this aspect with the BRLPB, I received a rapid response from them. The document attached to their email was a "*Special Enrolment Application Form*". A copy of this form appears elsewhere in this Wamboin Whisper, in order that you may enroll if you wish to do so. I would encourage you to fill it out and send it to the BRLPB if you have not enrolled, noting that up to two people per land holding are entitled to enrollment.

The reason for encouraging enrolment is that many people were very disgruntled about the land tax. Some have finally paid it, and others I know are refusing to pay it. In the end it is a legislated land tax. At the very least, given the numerous small landholders involved in subsidizing the funding of the BRLPB, we should be entitled to a voice on its Board. The only way we will get that is if we are able to vote. Some were so disgruntled they were prepared to consider standing for the BRLPB. One of those people, Colin Brammall, has nominated to represent the Bywong/Wamboin area, so keep reading all the local papers for further news from him.

This information may not reach you by the due date for enrollment of the 9<sup>th</sup> August. If it does you can fax the completed form to the BRLPB at 4842 2790. However, I would hope that the BRLPB would accept them in good faith for the election on the 20<sup>th</sup> September.



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Schedule 2 Clause 13(1)

**SPECIAL ENROLMENT APPLICATION FORM**

**NOTE: The Act allows for up to two persons to be placed on the Board’s electoral roll per holding. However, a person is not entitled to be enrolled in respect of more than one holding in the same division of the Board’s district.**

I, (name) .....

of (address) .....

Hereby (TICK ITEM 1 OR 2) –

**NOTE: TICK ITEM 1 IF ONLY THE APPLICANT IS SEEKING ENROLMENT**

**TICK ITEM 2 IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE OCCUPIER (INCLUDING A COMPANY) OF THE HOLDING INVOLVED.**

**ITEM 1.** Apply for enrolment in respect of the holding described on this form: or

**ITEM 2.** Nominate the following persons to be enrolled in respect of the holding described on this form.

1. (name) .....

of (address) .....

2. (name) .....

of (address) .....

I certify that I am authorised to make this nomination for enrolment by virtue of (tick appropriate box) –

Being a co-occupier of the holding: or

Holding the position of .....with (name of company, etc)

.....

**DESCRIPTION OF HOLDING:** Name of holding .....

Located at .....

Property identification code (if any) .....

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SIGNED BELOW –**

Signed ..... Date...../...../20....



**WCA Meetings with NSW Ministers  
for Primary Industries and Local Government**


On Tuesday 1 August the NSW Government Cabinet met in Queanbeyan and provided local community organisations with the opportunity to meet with Ministers and discuss issues of concern within their portfolios.

WCA President, Helen Montesin, and Secretary, John van der Straaten, met with the Minister for Primary Industries, Ian Macdonald, MLC, and the Minister for Local Government, Kerry Hickey, MP. The Ministers were provided with portfolio Issues Briefs, copies of correspondence (unanswered) to them and the July edition of the Wamboin Whisper.

Minister Macdonald recognised that the extension of the rating base by the Braidwood Rural Lands Protection Board could antagonise small property owners not involved in a commercial enterprise and he stoutly defended the need for an organisation like an RLPB to be supported by rural-style communities. He would not accept our arguments on the irrelevance of the BRLPB tax and levies on unproductive properties, the lack of communication by the BRLPB and the anachronistic additional tier of rural administration. We informed him that the WCA would be making a submission to the Premier's State Plan recommending that the responsibilities and activities of the BRLPB be undertaken by the Palerang Council and State Departments. The Minister did accept our comment on the undemocratic voting system employed by the BRLPB and has asked that the WCA write to him on this issue.

Minister Hickey appeared well informed on the financial problems of Palerang Council and the effect on our community through the imbalance of Council's representation. He accepted our concerns over the shortcomings of Palerang's Draft Management Plan and Budget for 2006/7 and the failure by Council to take account of the inequities of the previous rate model but was taken aback when we mentioned that Council had ignored his direction for sub-categories to be employed in Council's rate model. He was surprised that this year the WCA had passed two motions of no confidence in the Council but accepted this position as other community groups, which had met with him earlier, had also expressed deep dissatisfaction with aspects in the performance of the Palerang Councillors and Council staff. The Minister agreed that the Palerang Council appears to be hobbled by poor finance and planning management and assured us that his Department would be monitoring Council's financial, management and environmental plans. We also discussed the issues of increased usage and projected usage of local roads associated with the Defence establishment off the Kings Highway and the endeavours of the NSW Government to monitor public liability insurance costs for small community groups.

We found both Ministers most approachable and interested in the activities of the Wamboin community and understanding of the issues we raised. They complemented us on our briefs, the standard of our representations - and the quality of the Whisper! -- John van der Straaten

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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



Now is the time to start getting rid of all that rubbish around the house, tree prunings, piles of leaves, dead trees, and even the odd dead animal on bonfires or just a small fire in the back paddock. What is wrong with that I hear our faithful reader say? Nothing at all, I say, so long as you think of what could happen at 2am. A lot of people in our community have been clearing up around their properties and taking advantage of the good weather and burning off. A lot of those people are letting their neighbours and their local brigade know about these burn offs and the occasional celebratory bonfire. There are at least two good reasons we ask people to do this. The first is to not alarm your neighbours and allow them to make plans if there are any issues with animals or if smoke could be a problem, among other things. It may even be a good way to meet your neighbours! The second reason is by informing your fire brigade and our Fire Control Centre it can avoid a call out of the brigade or the one of the field officers at 2am when a 000 call is received. This happened recently and because of the difficulty of judging distances at night, it took nearly two hours of searching to be sure that the reported fire wasn't serious or likely to cause problems. Even though it is a peaceful time in the wee small hours and some interesting wildlife can be seen, I can think of better things to do, especially at this time of year. Admittedly this problem isn't widespread and it is probably the lot of your firefighters to chase fires wherever and whenever they are reported. All I can ask is that you call before you light. It can save a lot of time and sometimes some embarrassment.

Fortunately last month was another relatively quiet one for your brigade. The odd motor vehicle accident and some fire sightings were well taken care of. Our training program continues despite one of the usual problems we experience as a volunteer emergency service organisation. When there aren't a lot of fires or other emergencies some volunteers can lose some interest in continuously training and keeping their skills honed. Often basic and repetitious training activities can quickly lose its excitement and appeal if there aren't any real incidents to contend with. However, we are making sure that there is variety in our training to contend with this problem. Perhaps the only thing I can say is that it is one of things we have to accept in volunteering for this sort of work. We never know when we will need to use our skills and so we just have to keep practising and training.

This time of year is when the brigade's fleet undergoes the annual servicing and inspection routine. All vehicles have now been inspected and a few repairs are being carried out during the workshop service. The issue here is that as residents of Palerang Shire you will need to come to terms with some real consequences of the financial situation our Council is in. As you know the Council is now restricting its expenditure program. This will now have an impact on what funds will be made available to your fire brigades in the Shire. It is unlikely that ageing fire fighting vehicles will be replaced in the short to medium term. This means that maintaining the vehicles we have takes on a greater urgency. All we can hope for is that the limited maintenance funds can cope.

Many members of the brigade have spent time, effort and money in repairing and modifying a small four wheel drive vehicle provided to us last year. The plans we had were to create a rapid response vehicle equipped with supplies, rations and other amenities which was also capable of towing our quick fill trailer. The unit could then be used at any incident in the Shire and be used as a command post or a relief point for fire fighting crews. Our initial plans have suffered a setback as the vehicle has been "repossessed" and allocated elsewhere in the Shire. However, we have now slightly changed our operational plans for incidents to ensure that either one of the other two personnel carriers we have will be used in this role. Our response capabilities should not be adversely affected.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our friends and colleagues in the Bungendore Brigade, especially their Captain, Duncan Campbell-Wilson, for their help and understanding each weekend for the last month or so in allowing us to use one of their more modern tankers to instruct a couple of our budding truck pilots. This invaluable experience is a lead up to their truck licence tests. All of us wish them the best for their tests and hope that they will soon be going solo.

The Wamboin Hall Management Committee has approved the brigade's plans to improve the fire fighting capabilities around the Hall and to increase the water storage behind the fire shed. Over the next few months we will be setting up a

permanent pump near the dam behind the Hall which will be plumbed into pipes connecting to two outlets at the Hall. This will allow us to pump water to the Hall during an emergency if we need to combat any fires as well being able to be used to fill any firefighting vehicle. The trucks will be able to be filled faster than at present. We also plan to install two water tanks behind the fire shed to catch the runoff from each roof. The extra fresh water will help if we have to use the community hall as an evacuation centre.

As always we are keen for more people to join the brigade in any capacity. As well as needing firefighters we have just as much need for people to help the firefighters do their job. We need people to help with the administrative functions, catering, transport, repairs, maintenance, fund raising, distributing information around the community and other important activities. You can help us help you! If you are interested please give me a call.

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.

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Bungendore Taxi Service	Inland Trading Co (Aust)	Tipton Shopfitters Pty Ltd
Capital Business Services	Lambert Vineyards	Trevor Barker & Associates
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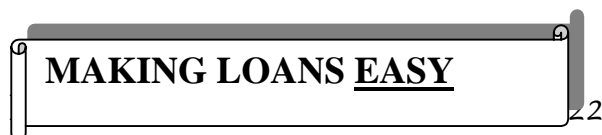
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## No Administrator — Minister

From Cr Terry Bransdon

Having missed the last deadline for the Wamboin Whisper I'd like to thank the 100-plus people who attended the local community briefing by Council management on the proposed 2006-07 Budget. It was a demonstration of the community's concern over the raw deal ratepayers are getting in our part of the shire.

We lost the round on the rates model but now I've hopefully succeeded in stopping the Council staff plans to make us pay more than village residents to dispose of our household rubbish after the Macs Reef Road tip closes and a transfer station opens at Bungendore.

When the transfer station actually opens in July 2008, rural residents will now be paying \$240 waste charge plus \$130 (for weekly \$2.50 fees/ it was to have been \$5) – a total of \$370. Urban dwellers will pay about \$281 for village collection and a reduced waste charge of \$170. Total cost \$451. Had the charge of remained at \$5 we would have been paying \$500 with petrol and personal time costs on top of that!

The council now has agreed to workshop this issue, hopefully to make it more equitable, with the first session held on August 3.

We've also lost out on any chance of an independent Administrator replacing the current council, a move receiving considerable comment around Wamboin / Bywong since I suggested in May that all councillors should quit to force this.

I wrote to the Minister over this and received the following reply in late July.

Dear Clr Bransdon,

I am writing in reply to your letter of 29 May 2006 regarding Palerang Council and your request for the appointment of an administrator.

I have noted your comments about council's performance and your request to remove all councillors and appoint an administrator. The *Local Government Act 1993* provides for two levels of examination into a council's operations.

The first is a formal investigation under section 430 of the Act undertaken by representatives authorised by the Director General of the Department of Local Government. The investigation power is used to intervene in cases of a serious breakdown in council operations or where there are major flaws in a council process.

The second is a public inquiry conducted under section 740 of the Act, and is generally only undertaken where there are serious questions over whether the council should be dismissed. They are ultimately accountable to their electors for their actions.

It is the responsibility of the elected council to direct and control the affairs of the council in accordance with the Act. This role includes participating in the optimum allocation of the council's resources for the benefit of the area. Councillors, as members of the governing body, have a responsibility to review the performance of the council and its delivery of services, and the management plans and revenue policies of the council.

This role includes the setting of rates. It is council's responsibility to adopt rate strategies that achieve equitable outcomes for its residents and ratepayers.

Thank you for bringing your views to my attention. Both the Department of Local Government and I will continue to monitor the situation at council.

Yours sincerely, Signed Kerry Hicky MP, Minister

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*Fleur*



*Tom* ↩

Tom and Fleur were both found in early July, lost, cold and hungry in separate locations. Each shows great affection and gratitude for their new warmth and regular food, and would certainly continue this with new owners. Available separately, they are de-sexed, vacc. and micro-chipped. Get their stories from:

Ph: 62369189

### **A Letter to Wamboin and Bywong Residents**

I am writing to you to appeal for a fair go and some respect for the administrative staff at the Braidwood RLPB. Since the new rating area has been announced the staff has been subjected to a lot of underserved personal attacks laced with obscenities when they answer the phone. These workers did not ask for the rating area to be reduced to 4 hectares. They are only the shop front of the Board. They do not deserve to be abused nor have they earned it.

The Deputy Chairman of the Braidwood RLPB John Reardon and myself addressed the Wamboin Community Association a few months back. At the meeting we were subject to a lot of pointed questions about the Board but they were never personal. After the meeting we were invited to share supper with the association members and the discussion continued in good spirit. In some cases we got agreement and in others we agreed to disagree.

I left the meeting with the impression that the association members were not happy about the situation. However, I was very impressed with the standard of behaviour shown by the members.

If you are angry about the changes and you want to do something then ringing the Board and abusing someone will not achieve anything. If you are sufficiently upset then write to the Board and tell us. You may also write to your local state member and/or the NSW Minister for Primary Industries. If the Board receives a written complaint then it has to be considered by the Board.

Not all the abuse is coming from Wamboin. But a lot of it is coming from Wamboin and Bywong. If everyone could please consider the health of the administrative staff then the level of abuse will drop dramatically.

Yours sincerely, Dr Bob Templeton District Veterinarian, RLPB, 21 July 2006

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Warren 6236 9191 or 0402 298 311

### Notes from St Andrews Church

Church services for this month are on August 6th - Holy Communion and then on August 20th - Matins. The services are held at 9am, and the church is lovely and warm and the welcome even warmer. For more information, please ring Robyn Robertson, 62383202, or Bronwyn Elliot, 62383359. For information of all local people the memorial wall is now complete. Bronze plaques can be affixed in memory of family members and more information can be received from the above numbers. The newly landscaped grounds make the area a wonderful place for reflection.



**THE BRIGADE IS RECRUITING.  
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**Wamboin's Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade**  
needs new volunteers (and it's not just fireys).



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**HOMES.** ....All officers who do not desire to live in a hotel or boarding house, i.e. those who desire to live in homes of their own, will fill in Form B.

**HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES.** Officers who desire to live in one of the Hotels or Boarding Houses may make their selection from the following....

**SUCH OFFICERS WILL FILL IN FORM C** All officers to be transferred must have a form filled in and in the hands of the Commission by 30 June 1926." -- Aaaagh! So this is where the form-filling fetish was founded.



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## THE STABLE DOOR by Ian Collet

**Q: How many "Real Men" does it take to change a light bulb?** A: None. "Real Men" aren't afraid of the dark.

Be that as it may, the world's reliance on old fashioned light globes sucks more power than is produced by the world's 440 odd nuclear power plants. According to information provided during a launch by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris of its new publication, *Light's Labour's Lost – Policies for Energy Efficient Lighting*, without rapid action the amount of energy used for lighting is predicted to be 80% higher in 2030 than today. If we simply make better use of today's efficient lighting technologies and techniques, global lighting energy demand need be no greater in 2030 than it is today.

The Report found that if every light globe were replaced with an energy efficient one, it would avoid more than 16,000 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions between now and 2030. That's the equivalent of taking every car in the world today from the road for 6 years.

Lest there be any complacency among Whisper readers, Australia reportedly has one of the highest per capita rates of lighting consumption in the world. Our consumption is exceeded only by – yep, you guessed it – that country that excesses in most things except constraint – good old USA (101 million hours) and the Japanese (72 million hours). Australia? 62 million hours. Europe consumes just 42 million hours. For further info. check out [www.iea.org](http://www.iea.org)

**Now, to last month's "The Mudball and the Leaf" story competition...** Well, reader response to last month's challenge was absolutely underwhelming! Not one response, that is to say zip all, nought, nuffink, zilch. No emails. A deafening silence. Nothing on the ground. Astonishingly the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - Around Australia - went wanting. Perhaps the challenge was too great, or stupid? Maybe it was too easy? Perhaps everyone is too busy? Maybe the community is losing its ability to interact or to lighten up? Who knows.

But all is not lost. Post the deadline, one person (Kate) took up the challenge – and I'm delighted to include her version of how "The Mudball and the Leaf" story might end. For those of you who missed the story's beginning which appeared in last last month's Whisper – the story so far....

### **The 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?** This is how Kate Pickering sees the story ending... (*I've included Kate's response as is – with the Mud ball and the Leaf's organic grammar and spelling*).

"From under mud ball leaf squealed

'We are both going to die!'

Mud ball was shaking from the gust of wind and as the lightning struck we could see the rain beginning to pelt down. With the next strike of lightning it came to mud ball like a flash of inspiration.

Mud ball spoke in a very loud but calm voice

'Leaf do not be afraid, trust me and we will be safe'

As the rain softened mudball he rolled harder onto leaf very quickly leaf was well and truly stuck to Mud ball.

'Now'

screamed mud ball

'Hold on tight'

with the next flash of lightning mud ball and leaf made a dash for the hollow in the tree where they rejoiced as they watched the rain and lightning show."

Kate's final remark – "If nothing else I had fun writing this and hope you enjoy the read."

I think we can expect to hear more from Kate who says she is about to move to Wamboin.

Kate – while you didn't win the "Around Australia" prize, you have scored 2 bags of premium wormcastings to help you achieve the best blooms in your soon to be Wamboin garden. Just send me an email and let me know when you are ready to collect the goodies.

Finally, if you or anyone else want to get more into the community spirit the Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade is recruiting. To anyone interested in joining the Fire Brigade and be trained in time for the rapidly approaching fire season you'll need to act NOW!! Please give me a bell on 6238 3425.

# THE MARKET IS COMING!

## on Saturday 16 September 2006

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Stallholders please register with me - Tony Power on 6238 3028 or email [poweraj@acslink.net.au](mailto:poweraj@acslink.net.au) so that we can plan a grand opening to the new season of the Wamboin Markets..

### HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR?

Living in this wonderful rural area, it is easy to forget that we have neighbours who may be ill, lonely or perhaps new to the area. A group of ladies has recently been involved with making a community quilt and we have had such fun and laughter we are keen for the momentum to continue in some shape or form,

Therefore we are hoping to start a group of ladies who would meet monthly. Its primary purpose would be to get to know each other and enjoy company. The group would undertake craft projects ( and we all know there are hidden talents in the area), have speakers who would talk about subjects relevant to our lives here and also respond to all other suggestions.

The group would welcome all ages ( although unfortunately we couldn't offer crèche arrangements at this time). We have been offered the use of St. Andrews Church on the corner of Norton and Poppet Roads, which is a lovely warm venue. Although held in the church, it is important to stress that EVERYONE is welcome and the opportunity is there for the whole community to become involved, and in doing so bring the community closer together.

Our first meeting will be on September 11th at 10am. At this meeting we will hope to find out the level of interest and to work out initial projects. For further information please feel free to call (ideas gratefully received!). Claire Ayling 62383347 or Moira Power on 62383028



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- Dr Richard Lam..

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## Lake George Day View Club

by Lydia Teodorchowych

Lake George Day VIEW Club celebrates it's second birthday! The LGDVC is celebrating it's second birthday in August. Throughout the two years we have been running we have had interesting speakers on diverse topics ranging from organ donation to wildcare representatives to life as a woman in the navy and many other topics in between. We have belly danced, sung along, visited various countries in travellers tales and just chatted.

For our second birthday we will "Run away with the gypsies for a day". Come dressed as a gypsy and have your fortune read. All fortunes come with a friendly smile and a good dose of fun. There will be a special cameo appearance by our most celebrated belly dancers and a chance for those ladies who were too shy to dance before to join in. It's your opportunity to wear those long dangly beads and colourful scarves along with the long satin skirts rolled up at the back of the cupboard. There will be an exciting raffle and door prize and gypsy music galore.

The LGDVC August Second Birthday luncheon will be held at Rydges Eagle Hawk, Eagle Hawk Hill Federal Highway Sutton on Tuesday 15 August at 11.30 am for a 12noon start. Cost is \$20. For your attendance ring Kerry on 6238 0603 by Wednesday 9 August. For additional information email [lgdvc@hotmail.com](mailto:lgdvc@hotmail.com) Members and guests are most welcome to come and join the fun and be part of our second birthday celebration!

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## Nature Notes – July 2006

Jo Walker

The temperature has dropped a bit today and there's a cold wintry wind blowing, but, over the last week or so, it has been decidedly spring-like with temperatures up to 15 degrees. The birds have certainly noticed – the magpies are picking up twigs and other nesting material, and the Wood Ducks were high in the big yellow box tree at the end of our driveway the other day, examining it for a suitable nest site. Wood Ducks nest in tree hollows, often a considerable height from the ground. Pacific Black Ducks often use similar nest sites, but will also use dead tree stumps, the old nests of other water birds or will build their nests in a scrape on the ground. It always seems a bit incongruous to see a duck nesting high in a tree. It does have the advantage of safety, but only until the ducklings are fledged. Then they have to flutter to the ground and have no safe place to return to – both species will often get ten or more ducklings to this stage, but, after predation and road kills, are lucky to see two or three of their offspring reach adulthood.

The Urn Heaths (*Melichrus urceolatus*) are still flowering and providing the honeyeaters with nectar, but not much else in the plant world is showing any colour. *Styphelia triflora* is still carrying a few long greenish-cream flowers, but is also fruiting. The edible fruit are about a centimetre long and green, turning darker (sometimes with a purplish hue) as they ripen. They are quite sweet, but there isn't a lot of soft fruit round the hard stone. Quite a lot of plants in the heath family (Epacridaceae) have sweet edible fruits, and several of these are local plants. Like *Styphelia triflora*, *Astroloma humifusum* (Cranberry Heath) produces greenish fruit (often streaked with purplish markings); and *Monotoca scoparia* and *Lissanthe strigose* bear pale pink or white fruits. *Monotoca* seems to seed only sporadically here, but *Lissanthe* bears fruit most years – however, the fruit are only 3 or 4 millimetres wide, so you need quite a few for a taste!

On a sad note, one of the little red-necked wallabies I've mentioned previously came to a nasty end a week or two ago. I found the little body up along my creek, freshly dead and half-eaten. It was probably a bit big for a fox to tackle - I suspect a roaming dog as I regularly see large canine paw-prints in the mud near the dam or in the creek at the top of my place. If you own a dog, do *please* keep it on your own property.

While on this subject, I've seen dogs feeding on dead kangaroos at the roadside twice in the past week. Now, although sheep are the main carriers of the immature stages of hydatid worms, kangaroos can also carry them. Humans can't pick up an infestation from either of these two animals, but, if a dog eats infected dead animals, the hydatid worms can complete their development and lay eggs which are passed in the dog's droppings. These can contaminate the ground or the dog's coat or tongue. If one of us then ingests some eggs (pat the friends' dog at a barbecue, then eat some chips!), these can hatch and the immature stages of the hydatid worms will disperse and form cysts, potentially very dangerous if they occur in the brain or other vital organ. A good enough reason to keep the dogs safe at home, perhaps.

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## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

I haven't spent much of the past month in winter. I've been in T shirt territory, an empty land of red sand, blue skies and spinifex. But it was good to come home and be greeted by the kookaburra's perverse sense of humour, just before dawn, and the magpies apologetic carol as the mercury, and I, struggled to rise. Then it was off to feed the chooks, and by default half the bird population of the southern highlands. Before I could turn my back, the chook run was full of feathers...pink and grey, brown, black and white and traces of yellow. And then the magpie chorale was drowned out by the harsh, strident squawks of the cockatoos; magnificent birds, clever, comical, mischievous, but sadly never destined for the school choir. Although not musically gifted, however, they sure know where to find us.

Cockatoos don't seem to need a letter box number or a street sign or even balloons on a sign post to find an address, yet letters and friends quite often get lost coming here. Maybe it's time, after ten years, to give our little patch a name. Somehow Rose Cottage, Honeysuckle Lane, didn't ring true. Perhaps Briar Rose Cottage, Wattle Way was more authentic, but even that is a little too sweet, and Shale Quarry, though apt, is too brutal. I looked around for inspiration, and then it hit me. "The Repository".

There, beside the old shed rests an ancient VW, donated by a friend who thought we needed a "scrub basher" for our block! Then there are the assorted trailers, tricycles and bicycles similarly bestowed. There are remnants of furniture from shared student houses, the students having long moved on, and second hand cats and dogs and the spoils of several renovations. All this, sitting comfortably beside the treasures of a career bower bird. And, as children of parents conditioned by the Depression years, we know that whatever it is, it "might come in handy one day". This was borne out.

Early one morning we had a phone call from a shivering family member. The hot water system had died and what could be done. It was then I remembered that a year or so ago we had retrieved from a family renovation, a hot water system, destined for a Sydney tip. It was only two years old, almost new, and it "might come in handy one day". It came home on the trusty old trailer, along with a former front fence, and disappeared up into the loft. It did indeed 'come in handy', saving that day.....and many more! This was not the first time "the Repository" had come to the rescue.

So, whether our little bit of Wamboin is called "Rose Cottage" or "the Repository", there's no place like home. I wouldn't live anywhere else.....and name or no name, the cockies, at least, will continue to find us.

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### Wamboin Community Association Electronic Notice Board

Following a suggestion at a recent meeting, the Wamboin Community Association has set up an electronic notice board to assist with the distribution of community-related information to residents of Wamboin and Bywong. The notice board has been set up as a group mailing list, hosted by Yahoo. To subscribe to the WCA Electronic Notice Board, simply send an email message to:

**Wamboin\_Noticeboard-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.au**

The email message does not need any subject or content. The 'system' simply reads the sender's address and assumes that this is to be added to the subscription list.

After you send in your subscription request, the 'system' will send back a message asking you to confirm that you want to subscribe. This is to guard against people sending in a bogus request on your behalf. You need to reply to this message as directed. Your subscription request will then be sent to the notice board administrator for authorisation, and thereafter you will receive a message confirming the success of your request.

To post a message on the notice board, after you have subscribed, simply send your message to:

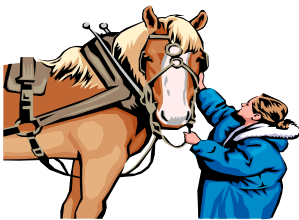
**Wamboin\_Noticeboard@yahoogroups.com.au**

Subscribers will receive messages as they are posted. Messages can only be posted by subscribers, and will be sent only to subscribers. Please note that the WCA Electronic Notice Board is intended for the dissemination of community-related notices. It is not intended for exchanges between subscribers, nor for any material that would not be acceptable on any public notice board. Any attachments to a message are stripped off before the message is posted (to minimise the risk of virus transmission), so messages should be entirely contained within the text of the relevant email. Notice board postings are monitored by the moderator, but are not currently vetted before they are forwarded. Please observe standard email etiquette, assume that you are addressing a mixed audience of all ages, and avoid any comments of a personal nature. If you have any problems subscribing or using the Electronic Notice Board, please feel free to email me at [Pete.Harrison@internode.on.net](mailto:Pete.Harrison@internode.on.net).

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**Wamboin 15 years ago: from the Whisper, August 1991. circulation 265 editor Suzanne Frazer from the President's Paras**

"The Wamboin Community Fair is scheduled for 22nd September. This will be similar to last year's with a fun run, stalls, competitions and prizes. It's a great opportunity to have fun, meet other locals and show off your neighbourhood to your town-dwelling friends." Malcolm Harrington, President, WCA

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

July r'fall to 28/7 -- 42mm (July 05....65mm)	2006r'fall to 28/7 -- 367mm (2005 to 31/7....299mm)
Av August r'fall -- 58.8mm	Wettest Aug -- 170mm (1985)
Driest Aug -- 9mm (1995)	Hottest Aug day -- 20 degrees C (31/8/82)
Coldest Aug day -- 5 degrees C (4 times)	Coldest Aug night -- minus 4 degrees C (9/8/97)

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