

The Whisper

September 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 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 October 2006 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, September 24, 2006, 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 Montesi	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
Sutton School Playgroup	Laura Taylor	Convener	62369662
Landcare	Roger Good	President	6236-9048
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238-1333
Breastfeeding Assoc.	Belinda Dennis	Community Educator	6236 9979
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

Ashleigh Caird, babysitting	6238 0746.
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
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 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 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 38
Cassie Fisher	Clare Lane	11	Pauline Segeri North End - Clare Valley 42
Lyle Monetesin	Forrest Road area	60	Bungendore Shop Bungendore 10
194 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:			Ph 6238 3590
Sheryl Barnes	Quinn's Estate / Denley	20	Brian Higgison Deley/Kestral area 12
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Gum Flat	24	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	
214 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 22
Sue Gorham	Schofields/Brooks/Millyn	25	Thelma Martin Shinglehouse Rd area 20
Sue Aunella	Doust/Wyoming/Brooks	25	Judith Miller Wyoming Rd 40
TOTAL FOR WHISPER 1042			



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Don't forget

Wamboin Community
Association's
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Wamboin Community Centre,
112 Bingley Way, Wamboin

Saturday 16th September 2006

Food stalls from 5.30

Bonfire lit at 6.33 and

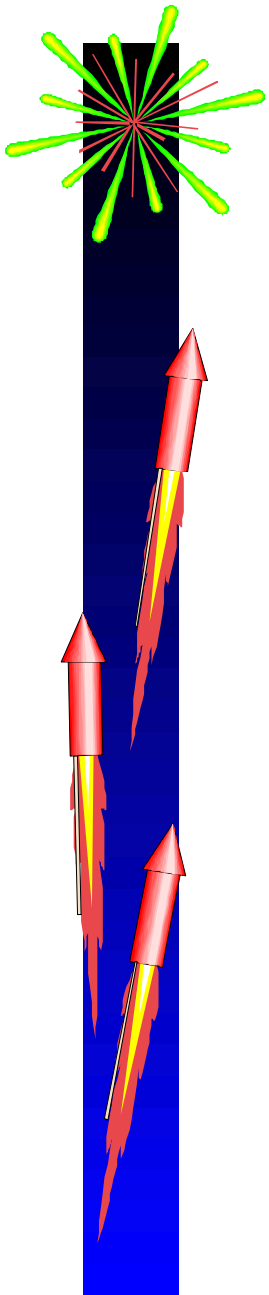
Fireworks light-up 7.03 precisely

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

Sausage Rolls, Steak Sangers, Bacon Egg
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Adults \$5, Children \$2 or
Family \$10

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



Bywong Community News

by Morag Cotsell

Molonglo Gorge Bushwalk John-Pierre Favre will lead our next bushwalk on Sunday 22 October. The walk follows a relatively easy but very picturesque track up the Molonglo Gorge. Meet at the Molonglo Gorge carpark off the Sutton Road north of Queanbeyan at 10 am. Bring a picnic lunch. For more details, contact Jean-Pierre on 6230 3573 or email him at jsfavre@gmail.com.

Attention stargazers The Community is planning an evening exploring Bywong's skies, with the assistance of a qualified astronomer. This will be later in November so watch the Whisper for details.

Christmas drinks All from Bywong and Wamboin are invited to join the Community for Christmas drinks on Saturday 2 December. This annual event will happen in the Community Hall from 6pm to 8pm, and we hope will offer a chance to meet local MPs, Councillors and friends. A local winery will provide free wine tastings.

General meeting The next General Meeting is on Monday 16 October at 7.30 in the Community Hall, Birriwa Road. All Bywong residents are urged to attend. Watch the Whisper for details.

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WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – JULY RESULTS – The GST Handicap

(Should have printed last month but did not due to a mistake on my part. – Editor)

July Golf Day is organised by Keith France in memory of the introduction of the GST. It is a team event with 2 players per team. After driving off from each tee you then swap and play your partners ball. (Just try explaining to your partner that you didn't deliberately hit into the rough!). The team captain selects the best placed ball, and both team members play from this position. Play continues as per the last rule until the hole is completed. A single team score is recorded for each hole and the total team's score is added. The team's handicap is deducted and the lowest net score is the winner.

But wait, that's not all. To arrive at the team's handicap, add both players' handicaps, divide by 4 and then add the GST component of 10%! Is it any wonder Peter Greenwood, who normally checks final results, left me in the checkers chair as he was 'busy elsewhere'?

14 players plus Larry King went forth. A special mention for Jack Whitney who came to his father's assistance and holed out for an eagle 2 on Jim's Dam Hole.

After all the maths, team Charles Guscott and Tim Barter won the day with a net 59.475. Second was Ben and Dave Hubbard, assisted by Larry King with a 60.174. Keith France put on his accountant's hat and decided that team Mason could double their 9 hole score to be placed third. Keith then put on his cook's hat and he and Cathy supplied the nibbles.

Looking ahead, August Golf day is fed and sponsored by 'The Tradies'. Then we have The Spring Trophy in September. The first 'Open Day' of our Golf Club was on the 6th of October 1986. This year being our 20th anniversary, we plan to honour tradition and return our Open Day to October therefore 01 October is the planned date for 'The Open'. -- Lofty M.



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WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – AUGUST COMPETITION RESULTS

The annual August competition was sponsored once again by the Wamboin Tradies being Don, Trent and Hank and we thank them for the donation of trophies and the after game eats. We had a good rollout for the day including quite a number of visitors and friends playing in perfect Wamboin winter weather.

Encouragement awards were presented to juniors Matilda Whitney and Bryce Anderson with a senior award to Vic Talon. Visitor's trophy was won by Glenn Crafter. Ball winners for nearest the pins and long drives were Tony Fisher x3, Charles Guscott, Tom Ellis, John Whitney, Peter Greenwood, Alex Tacon, Andrew Vaz and Glenn Crafter. Nine Hole comp won by John Whitney. B Grade winner was Tony Fisher with Bob Mettam second. A Grade winner was Charles Guscott with Peter Greenwood second. -- Golf enquiries to Peter Greenwood 6238 3358.

Notes from St Andrews Church

Church services for this month are on September 3 (Matins) and on September 17 (Holy Communion) at 9am.

As reported previously plaques are now available for the memorial wall. The church is also available for weddings and baptisms and further information can be received from Robyn Robertson on 62383202. For your calendars the Annual Blessing of the Animals service will be on November 5th when all creatures great and small will be welcome.

CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF GOLF IN WAMBOIN
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Wamboin Playgroup

Every Tuesday morning during school term, a group of mothers...and sometimes fathers...meet, with their children, for a morning of fun and friendship at the Community Hall. The Playgroup operates under the umbrella of the ACT Playgroup Association, and the children, from infants to five year olds enjoy time together, playing outdoors on the equipment, in the sand pit, joining in a craft activity, a story telling session and music. As well as play and chat, we all share a great morning tea and a cuppa. As usual, the Playgroup will have a stall at the Bonfire night in September. We will be selling our renowned hot dogs, so come along, make yourself known to us and treat yourself to "dinner".

We have about eight regular family groups at each session, but we have room for more. If you have school age children, and would like to meet other parents in your community, please feel welcome to join us on a Tuesday morning at 10.30, in a safe, happy and friendly playgroup. -- Leanne Quick, Convenor

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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)

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

I am not sure if it is good news that we have had to attend a large fire recently but the facts speak for themselves. A few weeks ago a fire, which we believe started from a hazard reduction exercise by a landowner, got a little out of control and required help from the Rural Fire Service. Many brigades from our Zone responded over several days, including two crews from Wamboin in our large Cat 1 tanker and then the smaller Cat 7 truck. Our first crew was dispatched for the night shift early in the incident. It was a little ironic that as well as carrying out their firefighting duties during the night, the crew also had to stay warm in the cold conditions and cope with a frost early in the morning! The second crew spent a lot of time practising their waiting skills but as always, it is better to have to resources there, just in case. The photos below taken by Darrell Tipton show some scenes from the incident. We can but hope that this doesn't set the scene for next few months, especially as the fire season starts next month!



It is pleasing to report that during the past month several brigade members have been successful in improving their



knowledge and skills. Keith Wrench, Lemmi Briedis and Erik Hughes have now passed their field assessment phase of their Advanced Firefighter (AF) course. It was a busy month for Keith as he and Jake Blight also successfully passed their truck driving licence tests.

As well as having members of your brigade to fight fires and other incidents we also need a lot of help in making sure that the brigade can attend these incidents. Our Support Crew provides the assistance to the brigade to make sure the many things that need to be done away from the incident can be done. Our Support Crew needs your help to make sure our communications system operates, our incident management and control systems work properly, our rations and supplies are available, our administrative support supports our operations; the list goes on. Without this essential help the capabilities of your brigade will not be as good as they can be. If you can help, even in a small way, please let me know. Our Support Crew Coordinator, Wendy Downs, will appreciate being able to spread her responsibilities and large work load among other volunteers. Remember, members of your brigade volunteer their time to assist you and protect your assets and property. The more of us who can do this eases the loads on all members of your brigade.

This month marks a change in our training program. As the fire season starts next month we will be concentrating on grass fire training in each of our three training sessions this month. As we haven't had a lot of hot incidents recently it is important that as a brigade we take advantage of the time before the fire season starts to get wet, get hot and get focused on what we volunteered for.

We are also taking a new approach to our brigade training programs from this month. Our new approach will help our members who are qualified as Basic Firefighters learn more of the skills of the Advanced firefighters and ensuring our Advanced firefighters can apply and revise their skills and knowledge. We will also be making sure that all our qualified Crew Leaders can revise and refine their crew leading skills. This new approach promises to be challenging for many, a good opportunity for some to improve their extensive skills, and help the field officers work on improving the brigade's capabilities.

Did I mention that the fire season starts next month? Considering how little rain we have had over the past couple of months and the high level of ground fuel, the checklists below, from the NSW Rural Fire Service, should help everyone in our community.

Get Prepared for the Fire Season

- ✓ Ground fuels cleared around the house (long, dry grass, dead leaves and branches, thick undergrowth)
- ✓ Gutters cleared.
- ✓ Roofing firmly fixed (cleaned of dry leaf debris).
- ✓ Firebreaks prepared, (a well watered lawn can act as a firebreak).
- ✓ Screens or shutters installed and underfloor areas enclosed, if possible.
- ✓ Vents into roof space screened with fine wire mesh
- ✓ Flammable items removed from around the house, (eg. woodpiles, and obvious flammable materials such as paper, boxes, crates, hanging baskets, wooden garden furniture etc).
- ✓ LPG gas tanks vented away from house.
- ✓ Emergency telephone number, "000", placed near the phone.

Do you have sufficient Water Supplies and Fire Fighting Equipment?

- ✓ Hoses long enough to reach all sides of house, attached to taps.
- ✓ Heavy duty hoses with wide-spray nozzles, if possible.
- ✓ Reserve water supplies from tank, dam, or swimming pool, if possible, since mains water will be in high demand. Try to store water during winter months.
- ✓ Gate valve fitted to water tank. (a 38mm Storz coupling will assist the Rural Fire Brigade).
- ✓ Have a gate valve to fit a portable pump as well
- ✓ Regularly check petrol or diesel portable pump, if you have one, to ensure it starts easily.
- ✓ Install a sprinkler system in your garden and on roofing, if affordable.
- ✓ Gather buckets (preferably metal), mops, spray backpack units, ladders rakes and shovels in one place for ready access during a fire.
- ✓ Battery operated radio and torches in case of electricity failure.

Personal Protection

Plan for the safety of all family members: special plans need to be made for young children, elderly persons, disable persons and those unable to handle the trauma of bush fires.

If you intend to evacuate any members of the family, plan well ahead of time where to stay, how to make the decision to leave, and how to travel (remember, leave well before the fire front arrives)

For those who remain, ensure each has suitable clothing, including sturdy leather footwear, long pants and long sleeved shirt or jumper,(wool offers the best protection from sparks and cinders), a broad brimmed hat, goggles for eye protection, handkerchiefs to tie over nose and mouth, wet towels to drape over neck, and bottles for water. (continued next page)

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If ordered by the police to evacuate, you must comply

What to do when fire approaches

- ✓ Listen to the radio for news of the fire's progress, rather than calling emergency services for information.
- ✓ Dress in protective clothing, drink water frequently.
- ✓ Wet-down roof of the house and garden, especially on the side of the approaching fire. Turn on sprinkler system, if you have one.
- ✓ Stop downpipes and fill gutters with water.
- ✓ As the fire approaches, go inside and remain inside until the fire has passed.
- ✓ Fill baths, sinks and buckets with water.
- ✓ Place wet towels and blankets against gaps under doors and windows.
- ✓ Close heavy curtains, close shutters, if you have them.
- ✓ After the fire has passed and for several hours after the fire front has passed, patrol your property and put out spot fires started by flying embers.
- ✓ Check roof cavity frequently for spot fires.

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. It appears that our regular feature about your brigade has succumbed to the high technology gremlins in the past few issues. Our acknowledgment of the great assistance provided to your brigade by Anthony Goonan and his team at YLess4You with our Internet and email access inadvertently disappeared. This has been fixed. My apologies Anthony.

THE CAPTAIN'S LIST		Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
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IMPACT OF ACT SCHOOL CLOSURES ON NSW KIDS

by Jane Caruana, Sutton

As part of its 2006-07 Budget, the ACT Government announced proposals to close Dickson College and to extend Campbell High to so that it is Years 7 to 12. Families from the Sutton, Gundaroo and Wamboin, as well as other NSW areas have traditionally sent their children to ACT high schools and colleges, in particular Campbell and Lyneham High Schools and Dickson College. The Government's proposals state that the projected enrolment figure for the year 2010 for Campbell High (Years 7 -12) is 800 enrolments. This figure is approximately 300 fewer students than are currently enrolled at both Dickson College and Campbell High. If the ACT Government proceeds with these proposals, then it appears that NSW children's access to ACT schools will be drastically reduced.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP Make a submission in response to the ACT Government's proposal. The proposals can be found in the ACT Government Report Towards 2020 at <http://www.det.act.gov.au/2020/index.htm>. A cover sheet needs to be completed and included with your submission. The cover sheet can be found at http://activated.act.edu.au/2020/Word/Submission_cover_sheet.dot. Submissions must be received by 3rd November 2006 with the consultation period concluding on 6th December 2006. Email: 2020Submissions@act.gov.au

Post: Towards 2020 Submissions PO Box 1584 Tuggeranong ACT 2901

Many, short personal submissions are most meaningful.

Write to and meet with your state and federal Member of Parliament to raise your concerns:

Steve Whan MP

Member for Monaro
Shop T5, Citylink Plaza
30 Morrisset St
Queanbeyan NSW 2620
Phone: 6299 4899
Email: monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Katrina Hodgkinson

Member for Burrinjuck
133 Comur St
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burrinjuck@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Gary Nairn

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Alby Schultz

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Write to the Premier of NSW

Morris Iemma Premier of NSW
Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000
Phone: 02 9228 5360
Email: thepremier@nsw.gov.au

Write to the NSW Education Minister

Carmel Tebbutt
1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000
Phone: 02 9228 5360
Email: minister@det.nsw.edu.au

Some Points You Might Like To Make

Many New South Wales children and/or parents: 1) work in the ACT 2) consider themselves part of the ACT inner north community 3) shop, buy petrol, use services such as doctors, optometrists, dentists and solicitors in the ACT 4) participate in sport in the ACT (and may even be in ACT teams or competitions) 5) attend and support entertainment and the arts 6) have businesses, employee people and pay payroll tax in the ACT.

It is impossible for the ACT to accommodate all the people who work in the ACT. Community doesn't start and stop at the border – we have friends, family, work, entertainment and so on in the ACT. Some NSW families may previously have lived in the ACT. Does moving in one particular direction mean they should have less access to ACT schools? For many NSW families, the inner north schools are the closest public schools – this appears to be about limiting access to public education. If this is the case, why can't appropriate solutions be worked out between the NSW and ACT governments? If you have other points you'd like to make, please do so, this is only meant to provide a starting point. **For further information**, email nsw.school.kids@hotmail.com See www.freewebs.com/savedickson/index.htm for information on saving Dickson College.

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See our website www.setdancing.com.au or www.setdancingnews.net for more information about this special type of dancing!

Turning Wave Festival at Gundagai on 15 – 17th September has a range of set dancing workshops, demonstrations and dances. This is a huge new Irish and Australian cultural festival – see www.turningwave.org for more information. Nora Stewart and Martin Largey

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Wamboin 15 years ago (prepared by Robyn Robertson)

from the Whisper, September 1991 (circulation 265 ed: Suzanne Frazer)

From the President's Paras: "Winter seemed unusually mild this year. It's rather a shame when not one day of work in town is missed because of snow on the roads." Malcolm Harrington, President

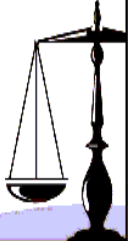
Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin

31 year statistics from the Robertsons

Aug rainfall to 24/7 -- 2.0mm (Aug 05.....64.5mm) 2006 rainfall to 24/7 -- 368.0 mm (2005 to 31/8.....363.5mm)
 Av. Sept. rainfall -- 66.7mm Wettest September -- 146.0mm (1978) Wettest Sept day -- 48.0mm (19/9/85)
 Driest Sept. -- 6.0mm (1994) Hottest Sept day -- 24 degrees C on 18/9/81 Coldest Sept. day -- 5 degrees C on 4/9/82
 Coldest Spt. night -2 degrees C on 4/9/00

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Wanted - a reliable dog-minder who is available to mind two dogs for occasional nights and weekends to mind dogs at our home – Rovere Lane, Bywong. Please call 0431 862 853.

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It's spring - time to give our garden a boost! We have composted **horse manure** available for collection - no smell, looks and feels like soil and you'll get some earth worms as well. Why not bring your trailer and we'll fill it up for you, \$10 per load. 62369152

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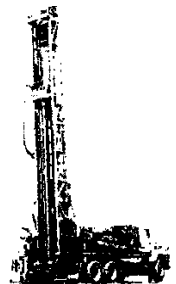
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by Ian Collet

THE STABLE DOOR

On yer bike mate!!

According to Road Facts 2005, a publication prepared by Austroads that provides an overview of the Australian and New Zealand road systems, Australians drove a total of 202 billion km in 2003. Cars accounted for three-quarters of the distance travelled, representing 416 million kilometres per day. The average distance travelled per car was 14,600 km a year, with each articulated truck travelling 92,700 km. On average, passenger buses travelled 31,500 km and motorcycles 3,700 km.

Roads is Australia's dominant domestic transport mode. Sixty-five per cent of the freight carried, including most of the high value products, is transported by road. Australian vehicles consumed 27.6 billion litres of fuel in 2003. Australia maintains one of the most extensive road networks in the world. The Australian road network comprises more than 800,000 km of public roads – from tracks to local roads, arterials, highways and major freeways. There are more than 37,000 bridges in Australia.

Road transport is a significant contributor to noise and air pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions. Domestic transport accounts for about 14 per cent of Australia's carbon dioxide emissions. Within the transport sector, road transport contributes 84 per cent (cars 64 per cent and trucks 20 per cent) of emissions. There were fewer than 380 cars per 1,000 Australians in 1971. Now there are more than 670. Of course, one road death is one too many. Small consolation but according to Austroads, in 30 years, Australian road fatalities have fallen from 30.4 to 7.9 per 100,000 people.

More than 13 million vehicles, including motor bikes, are registered in Australia. This includes half a million trucks and over 70,000 buses. Passenger cars consume almost two-thirds of all fuel used by road vehicles. Consumption of unleaded fuel comprises 92 per cent of all petrol sales. Total fuel consumption of all road road vehicles in 2003 was 27.6 billion litres. Passenger vehicles averaged 11.4 litres of fuel for every 100 km travelled, compared with the national average of all vehicles of 13.7 litres per 100 km.

Well, I think all that should satisfy the statisticians in the Whisper readership. Seems like a good place for me to stop here. My head hurts and I fear I need refuelling. But what about New Zealand, I hear some of you cry?!!! Interesting – at 92,500 km of roads it has a tad over 11 per cent of our road coverage but a whopping number of bridges – 17,300 compared to Australia's 37,000.

Austroads is an association of Australian and New Zealand road transport and traffic authorities. If you are salivating for more, check out the Austroads website at www.austroads.com.au

And finally, before I call it stumps.....Guy goes into the doctor's. "Doc, I've got a cricket ball stuck up my backside. "How's that?" "Don't you start." Incidentally, you won't find that in the Austroads' Report.



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Neighbourhood Social Group (to be renamed after first meeting)

The venue is warm, the time is set and the welcome will be HUGE. The inaugural meeting of the Wamboin ?????? will be held on Monday September 11 at 10am. As I wrote in last months Whisper we are hoping to bring our community one step closer together by starting a group which will comprise like-minded ladies who enjoy crafting, chatting and are interested in the reasons of living where we live. We have ideas and are open to others and hope this will be the start of community togetherness.

For the first meeting just bring yourselves and others. We will be offering coffee and tea and something to complete in the first morning. The venue is St Andrews Church on the corner of Norton and Poppet Roads, although I stress the group is open to everyone. For more information please call Claire Ayling on 62383347 or Moira Power on 62383028



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Dementia Awareness Week

.... is an initiative of Alzheimer's Australia, who are campaigning to reinforce that there is "no time to lose" in making Dementia an Australian health priority. During the week Alzheimer's Australia and the Queanbeyan Dementia Working Group encourages all Australians who have noticed changes in their own memory, thinking or behaviour, or those of a loved one, to talk to their GP or to Alzheimer's Australia.

On Wednesday the 20th September to celebrate Dementia Awareness Week a day of reminiscing will be held at the Historic Braidwood Theatre. People are invited to join in with the screening of a Laurel and Hardy movie a luncheon and learning more about preventing memory loss. The event is jointly sponsored by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and Alzheimer's Association, New South Wales. Dr. Mary Anne Kulh a geriatrician from Canberra will be present giving a talk and answering questions. Australia is facing a Dementia epidemic. Currently 170,000 Australians have a diagnosis of Dementia, with that number expected to reach 500,000 by 2041. Nearly one million Australians already provide care for a person with Dementia

The day is one of several events run in National Dementia Awareness Week by the Queanbeyan and District Dementia Working Group to raise community awareness about Dementia and its' impact on the community. During this week we promote the Living with Memory Loss course an education program on Dementia for people with dementia and their carers.

For further information or referral on Dementia please call the Dementia Helpline on 1800 639 331 or visit www.alzheimers.org.au. For those wanting to attend this event please ring the lovely Therese at Queanbeyan Community Health Services Centre Dementia Advisors on 62989233 by the 11/9/2006 for catering purposes.

-- David Nielsen, Dementia Clinical Nurse Consultant/Specialist, Queanbeyan Community Health Centre, 26 Antill St Queanbeyan NSW 2620, Phone 62989270

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1/6

A HISTORY OF WAMBOIN - IS THERE A HISTORIAN IN THE COMMUNITY?

by John VanDerStraaten

The August General Meeting of the Wamboin Community Association discussed a proposal that there should be a documented history of the Wamboin area and the development of the community. It was agreed that there is considerable anecdotal history that could be lost with the passing of early settlers and older residents and that it should be recorded. I understand that there are relevant papers and documents in a cabinet in the Community Hall – but where is the key?

The WCA Committee wonders whether there is a historian - or amateur historian - interested in undertaking such a project? We know that there are members of the community with very good writing skills and others who could research the subject efficiently. Perhaps it could be a joint challenge for a small group from the community who would enjoy interviewing former residents, older residents, long-term residents, ploughing through old papers, documents and maps in libraries and former Council records to create a readable history of Wamboin.

I know that we are all busy people – even those fully retired people ostensibly with time to spare – but busy people have competencies which would be very useful in a project like this. So, if there are any historians, or budding historians, who are interested and could find the time to participate in researching and writing a history of Wamboin, please contact the WCA Secretary, John van der Straaten, on 6238 3590 or e-mail: jnpvds@bigpond.net.au.



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David and Robyn of Sutton Real Estate did more than sell property last week. Whilst routinely assessing a Sutton property, they noticed a dog chasing a mob of kangaroos in an adjoining paddock. The roos escaped, but a joey was seen to have bounced out of its mother's pouch. Fearing the worse David and Robyn ran over to the animal and found it alive. They picked it up and kept it warm. They then got in touch with *Wildcare* and passed it on to be raised and released.

Lesley, a member of *Wildcare*, is now caring for the joey and has named it "Sutton" after the Sutton Real Estate rescue crew! Lesley says "Sutton doesn't appear to have any major injuries, but there is some bruising. Hopefully he will do OK, but serious injuries can be hidden from view. *Wildcare* often receives orphaned joeys and other animals from dog incidents and it would be good if owners could be more aware of this problem and take full control of their domestic animals." Not everyone is aware that the Law protects all of our native animals, including Skippy, so please watch out for them.



Well done to David and Robyn for doing the right thing. *Wildcare* can be contacted on their helpline - 6299 1966, 24 hours a day. If you are interested in joining *Wildcare* to help rescue and care for native animals in distress, give them a call or visit their Website: www.wildcare.com.au. – by Bec Little, Wildcare Communications Officer

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

I've long believed that if you can weather a Wamboin August, you can weather anything. I think of it as the greyest, bleakest month of the year, but once again fickle nature has proved me wrong. This year it has been a glorious preview to spring, surpassing all previous Augusts in my experience, if you can ignore the small matter of rain. Golden daffodils and creamy jonquils bring cheer to the garden, fringed by the blue tritellias, and there is the sweet perfume of winter honeysuckle and violets on the breeze. The wattles are bursting with puffs of yellow and the flowers of the Manchurian pear trees are swelling with promise. Colour has at long last returned to my garden. Spring is about to take flight.

With the lengthening days, the girls have decided that it's time to earn their keep and contribute to gross domestic product. I introduced Ralph, a fine young fellow, to redress the gender imbalance, but they've shown scant interest in him. They are career girls, born and bred, driven to achieve, goal oriented, with no time for dalliances. But one, though duty bound, is different. She's a good layer, but an habitual escaper. Despite her clipped wings, she manages to fly the coop and savour her freedom in the garden. With great dedication she has succeeded in turning over the beds, scattering my frost ravaged pansies and primula seedlings in her wake. It seems as if some creatures are simply born escapers.

Long ago, a bright green budgie flew in through an open window. Deciding he was tame, and lost, we trapped him in the room then set off to buy the Rolls Royce of cages, complete with mirrors and bells. But he was restless, forever tugging at the door. He was obviously lonely, so we bought him a blue friend. The friend proved to be a complete dud. It huddled in the corner, pale and self absorbed, ignored by the green one who continued to worry the door tirelessly. Finally, despite our best efforts, he escaped and we were left with a smart cage and a miserable bird that we had not really wanted in the first place! The green bird was never meant to be a prisoner, and neither is my spirited hen.

I wouldn't live anywhere else....but I've often wondered why I never get to finish, or even start half those inside jobs I set myself. Could it be that I, too, am an habitual escaper....When Wamboin produces sunshine in August, the good earth beckons and I flee the confines of four walls and get amongst it all.

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