

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

# The Whisper

October 2006 CIRCULATION: 1047

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 November 2006 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, October 30, 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

<b>Wamboin Community Assn</b>	Helen Montesi	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>Sutton School Playgroup</b>	Laura Taylor	Convener	62369662
<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

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

## Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs

**Wamboin Produce Markets** – The first spring markets were very successful – some people said they were the best to date! There was a great array of merchandise with quite a few new stalls as well as the regular ones. Don't miss the next markets which will be on **21<sup>st</sup> October** from 9:00am till noon.

**Fireworks and Bonfire** – The annual Fireworks and Bonfire was a great success with a spectacular display seen by record crowds and the weather was perfect this year! The food stalls were excellent and raised much needed funds for community groups. Many thanks to Black Widow Fireworks for another excellent fireworks display and to Ian Cuthbertson of Anytime Hire for 'dressing up' the bonfire and providing the safety fence – Ian always generously donates his time and machinery to the community, so please support him when you need earthworks done. Thanks must also go to all the other people who contributed in so many ways to this great community event – there are too many to list individually but you all helped make it a fabulous night!

**A special thank you** – to all the people who assisted at the unfortunate accident on Norton Road last week. In particular, the first aid administered was commended by the ambos. The people who directed traffic, the fires and emergency personnel also played vital roles. Thank you all very much.

**WCA meeting** – Dave Odell gave a very interesting talk on his life experience of growing organically. Thank you very much Dave for giving us the benefit of your extensive knowledge – it was great to hear how we can help the environment while growing tasty produce. The next WCA meeting is on **17<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm** (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in the month) and everyone is most welcome to attend.

**WCA Electronic Noticeboard** – Residents are continuing to subscribe to the noticeboard. It is a great way to keep up with issues of community interest and I encourage everybody to subscribe. To subscribe, simply send an email message (doesn't need any subject or content) to **Wamboin\_Noticeboard-subscribe@yahoo.com.au**.

**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).

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

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## Bywong News

**New Executive Committee Members** Bywong Community's Executive Committee for 2006/7 was elected at the AGM on September 4th . The office bearers are:

President	Judith Miller (6236 9321)
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Bobbie Tkalcevic
Treasurer	Dennis Ryan
Committee Members	Jean-Pierre Favre, Darryl Bourke, Warwick Dix, Sue Gorham, Morag Cotsell

**"Bywong Stars"** - Monday 16th October. There is a theory that the males who live outside the metropolitan areas and rely on tank water for flushing the toilets are much more savvy about astronomy than city slickers. They spend quite a lot of time admiring our clear evening sky whilst saving precious water and at the same time fertilizing the lemon trees.

There are billions of stars in our Milky Way Galaxy and there are also billions of galaxies like ours. One of the most amazing figures in astronomy is that it is thought there are as many stars in the known universe as there are grains of sand on earth! Even if that statement were only half true, it remains beyond our comprehension. The odds are that it is probably an underestimation.

Steve Crouch is an amateur astronomer with a huge interest in deep space photography. He has taken interesting photos from his humble abode in Theodore, ACT. He spends most of his weekends as a volunteer guide at the Tidbinbilla tracking station and the rest of his time is spent at home ...doing nothing but astronomy! Come and meet Steve at the Community Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 16th October where he will give a fascinating talk about his hobby and answer questions. He'll certainly show some of his photographic work and you will be amazed.

**Molonglo Gorge Bush Walk** - Sunday 22 October Jean-Pierre Favre will lead this local bushwalk along the Molonglo Gorge on Sunday 22 October. Bring a picnic lunch and meet at 10am at the Molonglo Gorge Car Park off Sutton Road. Contact Jean-Pierre Favre for more details on 62303573 or by email on [jfavre@gmail.com](mailto:jfavre@gmail.com)

**Christmas Drinks** - Saturday 2 December All Bywong and Wamboin residents are welcome to join us in a tasting of local wines at our Christmas Drinks on Saturday 2 December between 6pm and 8pm at the Community Hall. Once again Kay and Cheryl from Gidgee Estate Wines will be offering tastings of their red and white wines. Orders for Christmas will be available during the evening. -- Morag Cotsell and Jean-Pierre Favre



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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 STARTED.

### FIRE PERMITS ARE REQUIRED IF YOU WANT TO BURN OFF OR LIGHT FIRES IN THE OPEN.

#### From the Captain's Desk

Unless you have been out of the country or under a rock for the past few weeks you should know that the fire season is more than upon us. It has literally begun with a bang. Unseasonably blustery and hot conditions have already led to houses being lost, properties damaged and worse, in other parts of the State. All I can say, no, plead, is that that you make sure that you are well prepared for what is likely to be a bad fire season. Please make sure you have done everything you can to make sure your property is well set up so that any fire doesn't cause major damage. Please make sure all your fire fighting equipment runs properly and review any evacuation plans you need to make. The Brigade website has a lot of helpful information, as does the NSW RFS site. If in doubt please ring me (I live on Macs Reef Road), our Senior Deputy Captain, Andrew Dunn (Norton Road East) or one of the brigade's Deputy Captains, Richard Hobbs (Norton Road West), Nev Schroder (Central Norton Road), Geoff Foster (Bungendore Road East), Darrell Tipton (Fernloff Road) or Dave Cochrane (Snowgum Road). You can also get helpful advice from our Group Captain, Chris Powell (Weeroona Drive) and our Deputy Group Captain, Dave Hubbard (Poppett Road). As we are spread out throughout the Wamboin area, one of us won't be too far from you.



The call out history over the past month has had us at a small grass fire along Sutton Road near the Federal Highway and two motor vehicle accidents. We suspect that the grass fire was started by a tossed cigarette butt. The car accidents both appear to be linked to avoiding some hopping wildlife. In one accident some serious injuries were caused. In the other a ute with two dogs on board overturned. Both dogs were uninjured and the ute was practically a write-off. Oh, and yes I almost forgot, the driver was luckily uninjured too.

Over the years many people have asked about fire permits and total fire bans. The information below is from the NSW RFS website.

Fire permits are required for open burning during the Bushfire Danger Period. The Bushfire Danger Period runs from 1 October to 31 March, however, it can vary in different areas.

Permits are required to reduce the risk of burn-offs getting out of control and becoming major bushfires. The permit system informs fire authorities of exactly when and where landowners intend to burn.

- you need a fire permit from your RFS Fire Control Centre, permit issuing officer in your brigade or NSW Fire Brigades Station to burn off
- notify your neighbours and your brigade Captain at least 24 hours before you light the fire
- call your brigade Captain on the day you intend lighting the fire
- call your brigade Captain when the fire is out
- you will need to show the permit issuing officer that you have operational fire fighting equipment that could be used to put the fire out if necessary
- make sure someone is there all the time the fire is alight
- observe all conditions of the permit
- fire permits are suspended if a Total Fire Ban is declared

#### Cooking and Heating Fires:

- you do not need a permit for cooking and heating fires
- only light cooking and heating fires in an area surrounded by ground that is clear of all combustible matter for a distance of at least 2 metres
- make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the area

#### Some handy tips:

- don't drop or throw down any lighted cigarettes, match or anything burning on any land, bridge, wharf, pontoon or similar
- don't light or carry a lighted cigarette or match within 15m of stacked or standing crops
- there are penalties up to \$5,500 or 12 months imprisonment

During a Total Fire Ban no fire may be lit in the open. Fire permits are suspended during a Total Fire Ban. This includes incinerators and barbecues which burn solid fuel, e.g. wood or charcoal. You may use a gas or electric barbeque, but only if:

- it is on a residential property within 20m of the house or dwelling
- if it is a picnic area and the appliance is approved by council, National Park or State Forest
- it is under the direct control of an adult
- the ground within 2m of the barbecue is cleared of all materials which could burn
- you have an immediate and continuous supply of water available.

For public safety, a Total Fire Ban is declared for days when fires are likely to escape and be difficult to contain. The extreme fire danger is caused by a combination of dry vegetation and hot, dry, windy weather.

The Bureau of Meteorology provides advice on forecast weather conditions and fire danger ratings during the Bushfire Danger Period. The RFS Commissioner declares Total Fire Bans based on this advice and other information. This decision is generally made at around 5pm each afternoon during the Bushfire Danger Period and the Total Fire Ban applies for the following day, starting from midnight and lasting 24 hours.

The RFS Commissioner is also responsible for exemptions to Total Fire Bans. A range of activities may be exempt from Total Fire Bans, such as emergency infrastructure work or ceremonial fires. These are detailed in the NSW Government Gazette each time a ban is declared. Check the RFS website Current Fire Danger Map or call 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737), or the local RFS Fire Control Centre. Announcements are also made in newspapers, on the radio and on television.

Since August 2004 a new process for declaring Total Fire Bans and delivering fire weather information has been used. The declarations were previously based on Bureau of Meteorology Weather Forecast Districts. Declarations are now based on NSW Fire Areas. NSW Fire Areas are smaller and based on local government area boundaries. This means fire weather information and Total Fire Bans are more specific to local conditions. To find out what NSW Fire Area you are in, check the fire danger map on the RFS website.

Lighting a fire on a day of Total Fire Ban attracts a fine of up to \$5,500 and/or 12 months gaol. Penalties for a fire that escapes and damages or destroys life, property or the environment can attract much greater fines and gaol terms with maximums at \$100,000 and/or 14 years. Civil law suits can also be brought against the person responsible for a fire by those seeking compensation for losses sustained. For public safety, a Total Fire Ban is declared for days when fires are likely to escape and be difficult to contain.

As our faithful reader will know, The Captain's List appears each month as an acknowledgement of many businesses, both in and outside the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton areas, which have provided some most welcome support to your volunteer brigade over the past few years. This was especially so when we were building the extension to the fire shed. We in the brigade have encouraged you to show your appreciation by supporting those businesses. Although we have added several businesses since its inception, we in the brigade feel that the list should now be an annual list. Therefore, if you would like your business to be in our list please let me or the brigade President, Peter Greenwood, know how you can support the brigade in 2007.

<b>THE CAPTAIN'S LIST</b>		<b>Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade</b>
A'Hern Fitness at the Airport	Coolah Holdings Pty Ltd	Quick-Eze Towing
AAA Water Carriers	Cross Country Construction	Ratz Mobile Welding
Anytime Backhoe Hire	Eureka Plants Pty Ltd	So Good Sausages Pty Ltd
B & B Tree Surgery	Horizon Real Estate	Sotech Pty Ltd
Bingley Contractors (Water Carriers)	FH Office Services	Shepherds Hut Wines
Bungendore Rural	France Harrison & Associates	Sherrin Hire
Bungendore Taxi Service	Gidgee Estate Winery	Sutton Real Estate
Capital Business Services	Inland Trading Co (Aust)	Tipton Shopfitters Pty Ltd
Capital Stainless Steel	Lambert Vineyards	Trevor Barker & Associates
Clare Valley Tree Services	LMS Consulting	Trevor Duncan Homes
Coates Hire, Fyshwick	Manuka Childcare Centre	Wagonga Coffee
Congari Bookkeeping & Business Services	Marloc Engineering	Westpac Banking Corporation
	Overdene Excavations Pty Ltd	YLess4U

The 37 people below each spend 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
199 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:			Ph 6238 3590
Sheryl Barnes	Quinn's Estate / Denley	20	Brian Higginson 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 (A) 30
Warrick Cathro	Macs Reef -GumFlat to Harriott	18	Sandra Favre MReef /Newington/Harriot (B) 20
Joan Milner	Birriwa Road	12	Esther/Ian Rudd MReef/Bankers/FedHwy 25
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 1047			

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### WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – SEPTEMBER COMPETITION RESULTS

September brings Spring and with it comes Wamboin Golf's "Mason's Spring Trophy".

This annual event sponsored by Lofty and Joan Mason brings an additional difficulty (simplicity in the view of some players) of playing with only two golf clubs plus a putter. We all once again thank the Masons for the trophies and Joan for the delicious spread of 19<sup>th</sup> hole snacks.

The game commenced in very threatening weather with storms just over the hill. Because of rain the game was reduced to a ten hole event only to find that the storm soon passed leaving a beautiful sunny day. Many golfers continued on to play the full 18 holes.

Visitor's trophy was won by Phil Burch. Ball winners for nearest the pins and long drives were; Tony Fisher, Charles Guscott, Vincent Gorham, Andrew Vaz x3 and Peter Greenwood x2. 10 hole event was won by Andrew Vaz with Peter Greenwood second. 18 hole event was won by Tony Fisher with Charles Guscott second.

-- Golf enquiries to Peter Greenwood 6238 3358.

## GARAGE SALE

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, from 7am 413 Norton Road**

New bathroom fittings, plumbing and building materials, some electrical appliances, crockery, some home furnishings, a gas barbecue, an exercise bike, garden pots, clothes, shoes, handbags, plants, fresh eggs and vegies.

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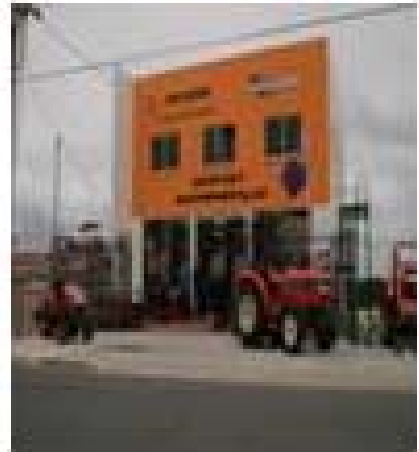
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## GEARY'S GAP/WAMBOIN LANDCARE - OCTOBER 2006

At our September meeting and AGM our convenor Roger Good reflected on another successful year by our local Landcare group. One highlight was the propagation of 4,800 trees and 3,000 shrubs, both for sale to local residents and for roadside plantings, for example on National Tree Planting Day. Propagation sessions continue to be held on the first Saturday of each month from 9.00am-11.00am at Geoff Butler's place at 38 Birchmans Grove, Wamboin. The next session is on 7 October. New participants are very welcome. Email Geoff at [gbu22182@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gbu22182@bigpond.net.au) or phone him on 6236 9158.

Our next monthly meeting is on **Monday 9 October at 7.30pm**. The speaker will be Ken Bromley, Environmental Manager at Palerang Council. Ken will give a short introductory talk, to be followed by a constructive question and answer discussion on important environmental issues in the Council area. One issue we will discuss is how our Landcare group can contribute in a planned way to some Council programs, such as construction site plantings. Come along to gain a better understanding of local environmental issues. The meeting will be held at Bywong Community Hall – Birriwa Rd (Off Macs Reef Rd). -Kathy Cook, Secretary, Ph: 6236 9153, Email: [kj.cook@bigpond.net.au](mailto:kj.cook@bigpond.net.au)

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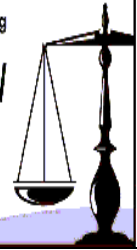
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Caroline Bragg  
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The next meeting of the Lake George Day VIEW Club will be on Tuesday October 17 commencing at 11.30am for a 12 noon start at Rydges Eagle Hawk Resort, Federal Highway, Sutton. Join us for lunch and hear our guest speaker, Robyn Seagar from Learning for Life. Cost is \$20. New members and guests are always welcome. For bookings please ring Kerry on 6238 0603 by noon Wednesday 11 October. VIEW - a valued member of The Smith Family.  
 -- Lydia Teodorowych, Publicity/Program Officer LGDVC, 0400 991 871

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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 servicable 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 <a href="mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au">nednoel@optusnet.com.au</a> . And thanks if you have already done so.

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Sept rainfall to 23/9 ...10.75mm (Sep'05 ... 120mm)    2006 rainfall to 23/9....395.75mm ('05 to 30/9 ...483.5mm)  
Av Oct rainfall ....66.3mm                                    Wettest Oct ...199mm (1996)                                    Driest Oct ...5mm (1977)  
Wettest Oct day ... 59mm (16/10/76)                                    Hottest Oct day ... 31°C on 27/10/97  
Coldest Oct day ... 9°C on 19/10/82 and 2/10/04                                    Coldest Oct night ..... - 1°C on 19/10/82

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## Nature Notes – September 2006

Jo Walker

After two weeks in South Australia at the end of August, the first thing I noticed as I drove back into Wamboin was how quickly the local plants were coming into flower. When I left, only a single Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) was flowering on Norton Road: when I returned, most of the wattles were sporting clouds of yellow blossom. *Acacia rubida*, the Redleaf or Red-stemmed Wattle, has done exceptionally well this year, flowering profusely. The little Ploughshare Wattle (*Acacia gunnii*) is also carrying an abundance of cream flowers – this triangular-leafed wattle rarely grows to more than 60 cm tall and is often considerably smaller than that.

The pea plants have been providing colour for the last few weeks. The striking purple flowers of *Hardenbergia violacea* (False Sarsaparilla) are evident on the dry cuttings along Norton Road on the first hill up from Sutton Road and *Indigofera australis* is just beginning to flower. *Daviesia genistifolia* is blooming too – there is a large patch of these low, prickly shrubs on the corner of Norton and Sutton Roads. The brown and yellow flowers are plentiful this year, although not very noticeable. That, perhaps, is a rather anthropocentric comment – half a dozen of these little plants are growing in the open area at the top of the hill on my place, and, at present, masses of small native bees have certainly noticed them and were buzzing about in their hundreds a few days ago. It is intriguing to see how different species of plants attract different insects. The native bees are attracted to a number of the brown, orange and yellow pea flowers (and not just the local ones: a Western Australian *Eutaxia obovata* in the garden usually draws four or five different species of native bees when it flowers in October). The introduced honey bee is, at the moment, concentrating on the Grevilleas, and clouds of zig-zagging Hover-flies (Syrphidae) are homing in on several species of Pomaderris that I've planted here.

There was an unusual bird sighting in the last week of August. Just after I returned from my holiday, David Argæ rang to say he'd seen the "reverse-coloured" Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo out at Bywong. Due to some genetic error, this cockatoo (instead of being mainly black) developed into a beautiful pale yellow bird with just a few black feathers. I remember seeing photos of it some years ago taken, I think, by one of the local Landcare people, but hadn't heard anything of it since. It's good to know it is still in our area.

Another unusual sighting was the dark chocolate-brown macropod lying dead halfway down Sutton Road towards Queanbeyan. It didn't seem to be a Swamp Wallaby, was too uniform in colour to be a Red-necked Wallaby, and certainly wasn't an Eastern Grey Kangaroo. A quick look revealed a hairless, rather dog-like rhinarium (the nose area) which classified it as a Common Wallaroo. They are not all that common around here, although I have previously seen one dead on Sutton Road – and a couple of live ones in ACT National Parks. Usually their fur is dark grey and rather shaggier than that of the local kangaroos unlike this little animal's magnificent brown coat. It was sad to see it lying by the roadside instead of bounding along the rocky slopes this species inhabits.

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### NOTES FROM ST ANDREWS CHURCH

We have had a busy month in the 'little church on the hill'. We have had our usual services which are Matins at 9am on the first Sunday of the month and Holy Communion held on the third Sunday of the month. Last Sunday we had our second Gardening service which saw the congregation dressed in overalls and boots. After the service we spent a couple of hours pruning and mulching and we should all be able to enjoy the fruits of our labour with displays over spring and summer. You can all be assured that rain was prayed for!!

Calling ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL ! Following on from this service last year the Blessing of the Animals service will take place on Sunday November 5th at 9am. Even if you are not a regular churchgoer this is a Wamboin event to be enjoyed by all. It is held outdoors ( for obvious reasons) and all animals are blessed whether they be large or small. We hope to see as many and varied animals as possible. The service will be followed by a sausage sizzle.

For any further information on this service or any other queries please contact either Robyn Robertson on 62383202 or Bronwyn Eliot on 62383359

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## **WAMBOIN LADIES SOCIAL GROUP - AKA THE WAMBOIN WOBBLERS**

The name could well be changed!!! This group had it's inaugural meeting on the 11 September. It was absolutely fantastic to see so many people who are keen to be involved ; we have 23 ladies on our list. What we thought was going to be a Craft/Social group held once a month has quickly evolved. We are now meeting on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in St Andrews church at 10am for craft and social activities. There will be coffee and cake and lots of fun and laughter on offer. An activity is planned for each session but everyone is welcome to come along and bring whatever is presently 'on-the-go.' The talent list of members will ensure we all have the opportunity to learn new skills. This month the dates to remember are October 9th and October 23rd. If there is a 5th Monday, which there will be this month on the 30 October, we will have social lunch where we all bring a plate and enjoy the company.



**THE WOBBLERS WALKING GROUP:** As another activity for the above group we have started a walking group. As we live in such a wonderful environment and are surrounded by wonderful walks, it was decided that we would walk twice a week . Every Monday we will do a short walk (about 45minutes) which will be suitable for all on a flat terrain. This will start at St Andrews at 9am enabling us to return for the Craft Group. On Fridays the group will start out from the church at 8am and this will generally be a more challenging walk so 2 hours should be allowed. Last Friday we walked to the top of Poppet Hill and then skirted the edge of Kowen Forest returning via Cooper Road. Everyone is encouraged to come along and join us .We start out as a group and return as several groups but it is a great way to exercise safely and meet others.

**THE WOBBLERS BOOK CLUB:** This was a further idea which many were keen to embrace. At this time the idea is to make this an evening and mixed group which could possible move around the group's homes. The books are chosen from a list at the beginning of the year and can be loaned for a fee from the Victorian College of Education. You have a month to read the book and then meet as a group (perhaps over a glass of wine) to discuss. This idea is in early stages and I would be grateful for other ideas or expressions of interest.

**FIRST AID:** The group also expressed the need for first aid training in Wamboin. If you are interested please call Claire or Moira on the numbers below.

As you can see this is the start of a really vibrant and exciting group within the Wamboin Community. Please feel free to come along to any of the events above or for any further information call either Claire Ayling on 62383347 or Moira Power on 62383028

**Wamboin 15 Years Ago: from the Whisper of October 1991 – Prepared by Robyn Robertson**

**Editor: Suzanne Frazer Circulation: 265 From: Yarrowlumla Shire News:** Our Wamboin representative, Peter Greenwood, warmly thanked Wamboin residents for his “marvellous election vote” from this area. Not only was our councillor Greenwood re-elected to the Council, but at their first meeting his fellow Councillors elected Peter to the position of Shire President. Peter wrote: “This position is one which I only intend to occupy for one year because of the immense time demands which are difficult for someone fully employed. However it is a challenge and I will give it my utmost”. And he did!



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**FROM FABULOUS LANDSCAPE GARDENING ONE MONTH  
TO FABULOUS FASHION & FASCINATORS**

by Ros Welch

TOM GORDEN OF THE ROYAL HOTEL gave a talk to the Bungendore Evening VIEW Club at their dinner meeting held recently at Hunneze Restaurant. Tom, well known in the village because of his connection with the Royal Hotel wore a hat of a different kind when he talked about his profession and passion of landscaping gardening.

The VIEW club scene will be really changed next month when the theme of the Fashion Show will be Fantastically Fabulous, Fashionable Fashion Show to be held at The Carrington Hotel. Ladies attending are encouraged to wear a Fascinator on their heads to add to the favour of the evening. Time: 6.15 for 6.45 pm Cost will be \$26 per head, numbers please to Ros Welch on 62380769 no later than 2 October. Come along ladies and join in the fun. Bungendore Evening VIEW Club encourages newcomers to the village to join them.

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## Found

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## Wamboin Winners

1<sup>st</sup> Wamboin Scouts and the Leaders celebrate yet another triumphant win at a regional competition. The 2006 Black Range District Standards Camp, held last week in Kowen Forest, is a skills competition where patrols compete in navigation, mapping, construction, bush survival, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid, emergencies and initiative bases.



Patrols from Jerrabomberra, Bungendore, Braidwood, Burra, Queanbeyan, and Goulburn and of course the victorious Wamboin worked diligently to achieve the best results. Competition was fierce and every member of the Wamboin Patrol challenged themselves both physically and mentally throughout the weekend. The team completed the most bases and accumulated more bonus points than any other patrol and finished the day with only one and a half minutes to spare. This is especially inspiring considering Wamboins average age was a little over 12 years and for most other groups this was much older. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year that Wamboin Scouts have been winners in this competition.

Congratulations to Andrew Oliver (Patrol leader) and the crew of the Wamboin Scout Group.

Currently, Wamboin Scouts is fund raising for the replacement of old equipment and for the purchase of a covered trailer to enable them to travel further afield and compete in Regional competitions. Donations or sponsorship of any kind would be much appreciated in helping these kids in attaining some quite achievable goals.

For further details pls contact:

Pete Harrison  
62383525(H)

Marita Corra  
62383246(H)  
62383882(W)

Paul Brugman  
62383539(H)  
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## THE STABLE DOOR

by Ian Collet

Fairly blow the dog off the chain....!!!

As Tosh – our beloved long-haired black and tan dachshund and I awoke this Sunday morn, the bride of course still in deep slumber, from the weather outside it was obvious the morning at least would be one of those “other kind of days” for which Wamboin is renowned – WINDY!!!

Timing my movements to coordinate with the sounds of heavy slumber on t’other side of the KS bed, I reached for and slipped on the headphones just in time to catch the 5.30 news. “Very high to extreme fire danger” ventured the broadcaster. Shortly thereafter followed a grab with Phil Koperberg the NSW fire boss.... Sydney and surrounding areas of NSW chiefly and extensively to the west and north were placed on high alert. Very high to extreme fire conditions were predicted – so early in the year. Oh my!!

I’m not his most ardent fan but sometimes I don’t mind listening for a while to Makka (Ian Macnamara) in the morning on 666. He, and I, have our moments. And some of those truckies who call in with their stories can be real cards. Anyway, so this morning while the beloved dachshund sought to make best use of the remaining time on the bed, lying flat on his back, all four paws in the air, blowing bubbles and daring to rip face were I to desist with the occasional, nay constant tummy rub – I listened on. Serendipity perhaps; maybe good planning – maybe neither but Makka kicked off with one of Eric Bogle’s poignant classics – “Bushfire”.

For those within The Whisper’s readership who have not the foggiest - by his own “Bogleography”, Eric is “roundish, shortish, baldish, fiftyish and Scottish. An Australian resident for 35 years”...he “has been taking his music around the world for the last 25 years or so, in spite of warnings to ‘stop it or you’ll go blind.’ He is a warm and engaging staged performer. And his songs have a knack of getting straight to the heart of the matter with intelligent and well crafted lyrics.” And so, with appropriate acknowledgment to Eric Bogle and his publisher Larrikin Music, I thought I’d reproduce the lyrics of ‘Bushfire’ here. In doing so I seek not to cause you stress or anxiety. For some, probably most of us, Bogle’s lyrics may rekindle the memories of “Canberra 2003”. For others they may not. As for the probability of a testing 6 months ahead – here’s Eric Bogle’s reality check:

*“Bushfire”...*

About nine o’clock we saw the first smoke stain the far horizon  
A soft rolling shroud of shifting white cloud above the mountains rising  
Uneasy and afraid we watched and we prayed as the clouds grew ever higher  
And round about noon they’d blocked out the sun and the mountains were on fire

Refrain:

Bushfire - ah, ah, bushfire

And all through the gloom of that long afternoon the fire fed and grew stronger  
Driven by the wind it danced along the mountain rims roaring out its anger  
Fed by the breeze and the helpless trees, consuming those who bore it  
It raced pell-mell from the mouth of hell, destroying all before it

Or farm, or home and all that we owned lay in the path of that firey river  
We prayed for rain and we cursed the wind as it drove our destruction nearer  
But no words of men can bring down the rain or set the wind to turning  
And around midnight we’d lost the fight, and our whole farm was burning

Through the smoke and the heat came the crying of sheep as the flames set them on fire  
They ran terrified, they roasted and they died, their own fleece their funeral pyre  
So we packed up and ran while the fire’s red hand reached hungrily out to find us  
While so long and hard to build and so quick and easily killed our home burned down behind us

Arrogant man he squats upon the land, he buys and sells and zones it  
Cuts down the weeds, plants his seeds, and imagines that he owns it  
For 40 years our land we’d cleared, we ploughed and sowed and tamed it  
Now where the bushfire’s passed, here’s only black ash,  
And nature has reclaimed it.

Written by Eric Bogle pre 2003 – in fact even before Sept 2001.



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## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

It might be dry, almost desperately so, and it might be blowing a gale, but somehow it is hard to put a dampener on the face of spring. Each day in the garden produces a new delight. The daffodils have gone and the wattles are fading, but the crab apple, buzzing with bees, looks like a mass of pink frothy lace against the bright new leaves of the chinese elm. I'm enjoying wisterias camellias and the first irises and the soft, fresh leaves on the rose bushes. And in amongst the shrubs, the smartly dressed blue wren boys are chasing their tittering brown girls and the magpies are singing, unable to contain their joy. Lizards and goannas can be seen stretching their legs in the sun, and even their less favoured cousins have emerged, gliding noiselessly by. Everything seems to have woken from its winter sleep and found new vigour.

We have had two early morning bonfires, cleaning up in readiness for what promises to be a long, dry summer. While we were feeding the flames with dead wattles, some kangaroos hopped by, and stayed, curious to see what we were doing. I counted seventeen watching us nonchalantly from the hill. Seventeen, minus one, is sixteen, double it is thirty two, then add one, and my tally seems more accurate. Each doe has a joey, and bigamy seems quite acceptable. Sometimes you see a tiny face poking out, sometimes just a tangle of long legs.

We didn't get our trailer loads of dead wood and prunings to the Community Bonfire this year, but our contribution was hardly missed. The pile was huge and so was the crowd that gathered for the Wamboin spectacle of the year! The **Bonfire** was well ablaze when the excitement began. It was a fabulous display, and every face was smiling, lit by the flames. I saw two little girls, their faces silhouetted against the light, thrilling at their first fireworks. One had brown and the other had blonde curls. With the first burst of brilliance, they clasped hands and beamed, "Isn't this gorgeous!" Then one little hand grabbed mine and holding it tightly whispered, "Grandma, have you **ever** seen anything like this before?" I had to admit that I had, many times in fact, but each occasion is like the first. It never loses its magic.

Perhaps it's spring, perhaps it's the first market of the year, or the Bonfire or the new craft group, but for whatever reason, all things seem to be buzzing in our little patch at the moment. People are out there meeting and doing.

I wouldn't live anywhere else....it may never rain again, and the polar ice caps may well melt, but for the moment I feel pretty happy up here at 800 metres.

### WILDCARE TRIVIA NIGHT – DATE FOR THE DIARY

*Wildcare* will be holding its annual trivia night at the Jerrabomberra Community Hall on Saturday 18 November 2006 between 6.30 and 10.15 PM. And its not just trivia...there will be lucky door prizes, raffles, lucky dip, dinner & light entertainment. All this for \$20 per head (\$10 for children). BYOG, nibbles & glasses. Support *Wildcare* and get your table of eight together or just come along. Bookings are essential, so contact Lesley & Philip Machin on 6238 3717.

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