

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

April 2007

CIRCULATION: 1063

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 May 2007 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, April 29, 2007, 7:00 pm.

LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial 000 All Hours

Queanbeyan Police 6298-0599 Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre 6238-3396 Ambulance Bookings 131233

WAMBOIN FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Wamboin Community Assn | Helen Montesin | President | 6238-3208 |
| Bywong Community Assn | Judith Miller | President | 6236-9321. |
| 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 |
| Justice of the Peace | Margaret Fletcher | JP | 6238-1211 |
| Wamboin Scout Group | Peter Harrison | Contact Person | 6238-3525 |
| Wamboin Guides | Rosemary Riley | Contact Person | 6241-6565 |
| Wamboin Pony Club | Maureen Purdie | Contact Person | 6238-3343 |
| Gearys Gap Pony Club | Leigh-Anne Barlow | Secretary | 6238-3376 |
| 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 |
| Claire Ayling | WWOW Group | Convener | 6238-3347 |

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

Wamboin Community Association – At the AGM last week, the existing executive was re-elected unopposed. Our hardworking committee remains John van der Straaten (secretary), Keith France (treasurer), Pete Harrison (vice-president), Helen Montesin (president) and a few other non-executive committee members. Please come along to the next WCA meeting on **17th April at 7:30pm**. We are still trying to get Ian Peters from Telstra to come and speak at the meeting to give us an update on what is happening with regard to mobile phone coverage and broadband in Wamboin.

Land Valuations – Land valuation objections needed to be lodged by 23rd March. Now we have to wait and see what the outcome will be. When the dust has settled on the NSW election, the WCA will make a community submission to the Valuer-General, the Premier, the Department of Lands minister and Steve Whan.

Review of Rural Lands Protection Boards rating system – The WCA is liaising with the Bywong Community Association and Colin Brammal (Braidwood RLPB Director representing small land holdings) to make a submission to the review. Submissions are due on 13th April. Contact John van der Straaten (ph: 6238 3590).if you would like help to lodge a submission or you have material that you would like to be considered for the WCA submission.

Wamboin Produce Markets – The markets just seem to get better all the time. The next markets will be on **21st April** from 9:00am till noon and are sure to have lots of great local produce.

Fireman's Ball – Keep 2nd June free in your diary for the Fire Brigade's annual ball. The theme for this year is "007 – Your licence to come as whoever you secretly admire". Wow, the possibilities are endless!

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 May's Whisper, please contact John van der Straaten (ph: 6238 3590). - Helen Montesin (helen.montesin@canberra.edu.au)



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Bywong Community News

by Morag Cotsell

Car Boot Sale Once again the sun shone on the annual Car Boot Sale. Following a rainy Saturday crowds from surrounding localities and further afield packed the parking areas on a bright but fresh Sunday morning. The day, run by Bywong Community, raised a record amount for local organisations, and more than seventy visitors returned home with the added bonus of a prize from the Monster Raffle, an event solidly supported by a wide range of local businesses. More than eighty stalls provided a variety of treasures for bargain hunters.

During the day, Community President, Judith Miller presented a cheque for \$1,000 to Wamboin Volunteer Fire Brigade. Brigade Captain, Cliff Spong, accepted the cheque and thanked the Community for its support.

A new team led by local musician, Danny Velnaar, provided this year's entertainment, and riders from the Gearys Gap Pony Club displayed their abilities in the arena. Guides, whose meetings take place in the Bywong Hall on week nights, sold great numbers of raffle tickets. The Fire Brigade again provided essential services with their super-efficient work on the gate and parking. They proved no less efficient behind the barbecue lunch counter, and attracted numbers of spectators to a series of fire safety demonstrations. The Community again thanks Wagonga Coffee for a generous donation of coffee and brewing facilities, and Peter Garlick for providing the PA system. The Boughtons and Woods provided neighbourly support by opening their paddocks for parking. Willing volunteers and Community committee members worked hard to ensure the success of the day and the community stalls.

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Trevor J. Barker
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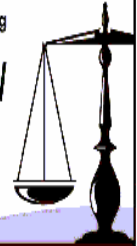
Mike Cramsie
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Caroline Bragg
Property Clerk

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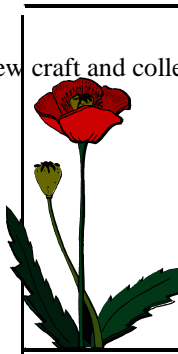
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Reserve the date Wamboin Rural Fire Service Annual Ball 007 Ball

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Come and join us and give us a thrill

WHEN: Saturday 2th June 2007
WHERE: Wamboin Community Hall
TIME: 7:00pm – 1:00 am
TICKETS: \$40
BAND: Fun on the Run
DINNER: Hot Pre Dinner Nibbles, Main Course, Dessert.
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THE STABLE DOOR

by Ian Collet

Come down from the ceiling yet?

(Editor's Note: Ian Collet sent this "Stable Door" in for the March Whisper, when it would have been more timely. I made a mistake and missed getting it in that issue, so it is being printed in this issue, with apologies for its lateness.)

By jeez that was a cracking thunderclap or six over Wamboin the other evening! I think I beat the dog into the kennel. That first clap seemed to land in my lap or was so close to my earlobe that ducking – followed by an expletive was my unavoidable reaction.

Dr Chris Smith is the force behind the website www.thenakedscientists.com

With appropriate reference to him and an old article from the Good Weekend, apparently, at any one time, all around the world, there are 2000 thunderstorms happening, producing more than 100 lightning strikes a second, and that doesn't even account for familial arguments or other forms of domestic bliss occurring around this great planet.

Each lightning flash is about five kilometres long but only about a centimetre wide. It discharges from 1 billion to 10 billion joules of energy and produces a current of some 30,000 to 50,000 amps, which heats the surrounding air to more than 20,000 degrees Centigrade, at least 3 times hotter than the surface of the sun (6000 degrees Centigrade). In fact, a single lightning bolt unleashes as much energy as blowing up a tonne of TNT. And although it might look like a single flash, a strike is actually made up of between three and 12 individual lightning "strokes", each lasting only a few thousandths of a second. This is what makes lightning appear to flicker.

And what about thunder? The intense heat of the lightning discharge superheats the surrounding air, causing to expand explosively. This creates a compression or "shock wave" – thunder – that spreads through the air in all directions, travelling about a third of a kilometre a second.

The flash and the thunder clap are produced simultaneously – as anyone unlucky enough to have ever got very close to a lightning strike can tell you – but the light from the flash travels much more rapidly than sound. The light thus reaches you first, then a short while later (depending on how far away the storm is) the thunder is heard.

Well, educated or not, thunder claps directly overhead can be quite arresting – to say the least – so much so, it's still going to be a race between my dog and me as to who reaches the kennel ahead of the other and who's best at arm wrestling and elbowing so as to be first inside.

Mind you, a little less noise and light show and heaps more of the wet stuff would be really good just now. The ground is finally a little softer underfoot, so methinks it really is time Huey let rip.



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News from Sutton School

Gay McNeill, Teacher-Librarian

Students have recently enjoyed two great visiting performances. The "Impro Show" provided an introduction to improvisation and practised theatre sports. "Snake Tails" was much more scary with a display of snakes and lizards and a presenter with lots of knowledge to share. Two teachers have already attended a training course in preparation for two Musica Viva concerts later in the year.



The school grounds are showing their potential with top dressing completed and underground irrigation installed. Next step is spreading the grass seed and mulch.

If the autumn rains continue we should have healthy green lawns by spring. Congratulations to Emma Lock and Victoria Evans who represented Sutton school at the Regional Swimming Carnival at Dapto. Our school cross country is on Friday and for the first time in months students will have puddles and muddy ground to navigate. Parents will help out as marshals.

Many parents took advantage of our Information Morning on Canberra Day. Classrooms were open and teachers discussed their teaching and learning programs, routines, assessment tasks and homework expectations. It was a great chance for working parents to see our school in action. Thanks to the dads who cooked us a sausage

sizzle lunch.

Teachers are busy looking at ways to remediate weaknesses highlighted by the 2006 Basic Skills Test for Years 3 and

5. The old favourites of spelling, sentences, paragraphs and punctuation are high on our list.

Don't forget the Sutton School Country Fair on Saturday 31st March from 10am – 2pm



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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Cool morning mists, mushrooms, softening light, sparkling dew covered grass.... these are the delights of our autumn, but there have been days, less welcomed, when we have been flung rudely back into summer. After the first rain early in the month I felt brave enough to poke my nose about in the garden. It was a shock. I felt like a Londoner emerging from an air raid shelter during the blitz with the "all clear" still ringing in my ears. What the drought hadn't napped, the rabbits, hares and kangaroos had conspired to destroy. But it's nothing short of miraculous what an inch of steady soaking rain can do. Suddenly you become aware again of the reason for living here.

But there's yet another reason to be here, and that's the almost total absence of junk mail in your letter box. Fortunately the local kids are too smart to be hoodwinked into believing that they can make their first million pedalling a bicycle around, posting advertising glossies in your box. However, the occasional brochure does fall out of the newspaper, and the other morning I found myself flipping idly through the pages of one. It was full of glamorous young things feigning exercise, lifting weights, walking treadmills and simulating jogging. Dressed in luminous, figure hugging lycra, skimpy shorts or colour coordinated outfits not one showed any sign of working up an honest sweat. It seemed in stark contrast to the fitness conscious types, seen, and unseen in the predawn blackness, around our neck of the woods.

There's a small group of determined walkers who are out on a Friday morning, pounding the roadside tracks. Disguised in sensible hats, and with not an inch of lycra stretched between them, their nearly middle aged legs appear to move in perfect harmony with their mouths. It's only when they chance upon a rotting carcass, peppered by an unusually hot autumn sun, that they can be observed quickening their pace and slowing their mouths. Oh! The sights and delights, and the overwhelming smells of a country walk.

I wouldn't live anywhere else.....where else could you enjoy good company and exercise, inhale the autumn air, albeit with caution, and not give a tinkers cuss whether your socks are a matching pair or not.

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Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin

32 year statistics from the Robertsons

March rainfall to 24/3 61.5mm
2007 rainfall to 24/3 -- 142.0mm
Average April rainfall -- 47.6mm
Wettest April day --42.0mm (13/4/94 and 5/4/99)
Coldest April day --10 degrees C (eight times)
Coldest April night -- 0 degrees C (27/4/99 and 23/4/06)



March 2006 -- 41.75mm
2006 -- 214.5mm
Driest April -- 0.5mm (1997)
Hottest April day -- 28 degrees C (3/4/86)
Wettest April -- 174.5mm (1989)

Wamboin 15 years ago....from the Whisper, April 1992

Editor: Judy Frazer-Jans Circulation: 265

From Yarrawlumla Shire news by Peter Greenwood (Mayor)

“In accordance with a policy to hold Council meetings around the Shire, the next meeting will be held at the Geary’s Gap Community Hall. An opportunity will be given to local residents including Wamboin to ask questions of Council. Your attendance is welcome. I envisage that a meeting will be held in Wamboin within the next few years.....
.....Our local tip supervisor is Kevin Hills and many people have commented that the tip is now much tidier under his control. Kevin is very approachable if you feel you need to make a withdrawal.”





ALPACA MAGIC
2771 Sutton Road
Sutton NSW 2620

OPEN DAY
& 3rd Annual
REDUCTION SALE
11 am to 3 pm
Sunday 29th April 2007

- **Hands On** learning about Alpacas & Llamas & Donkeys
- **Meet** our Llamas, Alpacas, Llamas, New born Babies, Breeding females, Pets & “Sally the Pink” and our miniature donkeys and their foals
- **Inspect** our **Males standing at Stud** – 5 llamas and 8 alpacas, & our Donkey Jacks – Miniature & English/Irish
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- **Specials** on some alpacas & llamas, workshops
- **Bring a picnic lunch. Tea & coffee provided.**

Hands on workshop s coming up:
Alpacas & Llamas for Fun & Profit 6th May, 3rd June, 5th Aug
The Magic of Donkeys 5th May, 4th Aug
Raising Livestock – the Backyard & Beyond 1st Sept
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**GEARY'S GAP/WAMBOIN LANDCARE -
APRIL 2007 EVENTS**

Please note the following two Landcare activities coming up in April, including an opportunity to buy cheap and hardy locally-propagated native plants:

Propagation Session and Monster Plant Sale: Saturday 14 March 9.00-11.00am. Propagation sessions are held each month at Geoff Butler's place at 38 Birchmans Grove, Wamboin. Due to Easter falling on the first weekend, the date has been set back one week. Jobs this month include potting-up cuttings, pot washing and weeding. New participants are very welcome.

During the propagation session native plants will be available to Landcare members for a tiny **50c** for a tree and **\$1** for a shrub. Lots of variety will be available – there will be plants to suit all conditions. It costs just \$20 per financial year to join Landcare (and this will take your membership through to 30 June 2008). So do come along, bring your friends to join-up too and go home with a box of great plants that will thrive in our local area. For more information, please email Roger Good: roger.good@bigpond.com.au.

Tree Planting, Sunday 22 April, 9 am to 12 noon, Weeroona Drive (Norton Road end). We are going to replant this area, which has been stricken by the drought. **Bring:** Hat, gloves, long pants, sturdy boots, garden mattock or trowel, buckets and water to drink. Please advise Roger Good if you can attend, email roger.good@bigpond.com.au.

Kathy Cook, Secretary, Ph: 6236 9153, Email: kj.cook@bigpond.net.au

WWOW group - Wonderful Women of Wamboin

by Claire Ayling

The group continues to grow and enjoy friendship and companionship - I think we just about know all of the names of each other now, but it is a rare day when we don't welcome visitors from interstate or overseas, and these visitors have all commented that it is a great way to meet locals and discover more about the Wamboin way of life!

The walking group meet at 9am on Monday, prior to the craft group, and again on Fridays at 8am for a longer walk

The patchwork group is progressing with the words blocks and wadding and batting and backing all being used with a degree of knowledge and understanding. With the way the quilts are progressing, we will be able to have our own exhibition to rival Braidwood - maybe not this year! There are a number of ladies who are not quilting and we have knitting needles, crochet hooks and rug hooks all being used. Quite apart from the crafty things going on, the sound of



laughter and chattering demonstrates the fun that we are all having. The group meets at St Andrews Church on the corner of Poppet and Norton Road each Monday from 10am until noon. This month there is a fifth Monday when we stay on and enjoy lunch together.

If there are any ladies who would like to join us or have any queries please call Claire Ayling on 6238 3317



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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 FINISHED.

Even though fire permits are not required, please ensure adequate precautions are taken if a fire is lit in the open, notify your neighbours and the brigade Captain 24 hours before you light it and as a matter of courtesy – ring the brigade captain. RING 000 (Zero-Zero-Zero) TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS.

From the Captain's Desk

It is amazing the difference some rain can make. In a comparatively short space of time the landscape in our area has been transformed. What was once brown and crunchy underfoot is now green and growing. The transformation is very welcome and allowed your brigade to shift attention to other fire risks and the oncoming cooler months. While we haven't had to respond to any major fires there has been the odd report of smoke and a motor vehicle accident on the Federal Highway we have had to attend to.



The ending of the fire danger period means that fire permits are not required if you need to burn off any vegetation, or the like, until October. I use the word "vegetation" quite deliberately. Fire permits will only be issued from the next fire season for burning off vegetation on the property where the vegetation grew. Permits will not be issued to burn off building materials or "man-made" materials which would add to air pollution in our Shire. Even though fire permits are not required it would be a worthwhile practice to consider during the

off season.

If you need to undertake any fire hazard reduction of the vegetation around your property you should appreciate what could go wrong when you try to just burn off the odd patch of blackberries or the tussocks in the back paddock. If this current green period subsides and things brown off, you need to make sure you have the proper resources to deal with what could go wrong. This means having enough water on hand and operational equipment to put the fire out. This also means wearing appropriate clothing and understanding that it takes a lot of energy to put out a rapidly moving grass fire, for example. Over the past few years we do get calls to properties where a little burn-off has got out of control when exhausted property owners cannot cope. If in doubt, call for help before it might be needed.

We are continuing our efforts towards improving our community education efforts. The Brigade Executive recently endorsed an education plan which will focus on the 30 to 45 minute period just after a fire starts or is just reported. While we have not yet finalised our ideas on the most effective way we can deliver this program, it is likely that it will involve members of your brigade providing advice directly to residents and, in some cases, teaching some hands-on skills such as operating fire fighting pumps. The basic message is: Watch this space over the next few months.

At last month's evening training meeting we, and visiting members from other brigades in our zone, were shown some of the latest advances in fire fighting equipment to fight fires with better water efficiency and foam delivery effectiveness. Using these new hose nozzles will make our job that much more effective and importantly, should reduce the time we need to spend blacking out after a fire.

Even though the numbers of buyers and sellers at this year's Bywong Car Boot Sale were a little down on previous years, many people took the opportunity to see the Brigade's display, especially the hourly demonstrations of extinguishing fires often encountered in the home. My thanks go to the many members of the brigade who helped organise the day and helped the event run smoothly. I also would like to acknowledge the extremely generous financial support from the Bywong Community Association. The Association presented your brigade with a cheque for \$1000 at the event.

During the 27th to the 29th of April a crew from the Wamboin Brigade will travel to Gundagai with one of the Category 1 tankers to join many crews from many other brigades in the Region to take part in a major training exercise. The training activities during the weekend have been designed to sharpen skills needed in all elements of dealing with emergency scenarios. This will involve activities ranging from managing the overall incident, managing individual crews, or refining an individual's fire fighting skills. It promises to be a rewarding weekend, not only from the training point of view, but for the volunteer fire fighters to get together to renew acquaintances.

The work in installing the water supply system from the dam to the outside of the Wamboin Community Hall and the fire shed is progressing, albeit a little slowly due to delivery problems for the water storage tanks. Two plastic tanks have now been installed behind the fire shed and will be plumbed into the overflow from the existing fibreglass tank. Now that the pump

house has been delivered, we will be organising working bees over the next couple of months to lay the concrete slab for the pump at the dam, dig the trenches and lay the underground pipes.

The raffle fund raising announced last month will be drawn after this edition of *The Whisper* goes to press. The results will be published in next month's edition.

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

During the cooler months when we often need to have our houses heated, it is well worth asking yourself when you last tested your smoke alarms. As smoke from a home fire is toxic, any early warning can assist in giving your family vital time to escape a smoke filled room. Also, when you are asleep you will not smell the smoke from a fire. The smoke will actually put you into a deeper sleep. A smoke alarm can provide the early warning you need. It is the critical first step in your home fire safety plan.

Tips on smoke alarms:

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

Please remember to show some consideration for your neighbours and your brigade during the off-season. Even though you don't need a fire permit if you need to burn off, you should notify your neighbours and your fire brigade Captain at least 24 hours before you light up. This could save an embarrassing visit from a fire crew. We are still obliged to check reports of smoke at all times, even if the fire danger is low.

Finally, if you need any advice about fire protection around your property please give me a call on 0409 991 340.

| THE CAPTAIN'S LIST | Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| 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 |

Notes from St Andrews Church

by Claire Ayling

Another busy month at St Andrews Church. It seems hard to believe that Easter is just around the corner. For information for locals and visitors our Easter services will be held on Good Friday and Easter Sunday beginning at 9am. This is a very important part of the church calendar and Easter Sunday is a particularly joyful service.

Our usual Holy Communion service will be on the 15 April and the Revd Peter Grundy will be talking about the Da Vinci Code and the way the church responds to this novel. Peter is a wonderful preacher and as the congregation have all been reading the book, the sermon should give us all food for thought.

As there is a fifth Sunday this month we share the service alternately with St Peters in Sutton. It is their turn to hold the service and it will take place at 5pm in Sutton on the 29 April.

The church welcomes all who attend and it is a wonderful way to meet fellow Wamboiners! For further information please call Robyn Robertson on 62383202.

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WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – MARCH COMPETITION RESULTS

Robert Gorham and Step to Step Couriers sponsored the Autumn trophy which was run and won on a hot and very muggy day in Wamboin. Twenty players teed off with more than half electing to play the nine hole event. Our Junior Encouragement prize was won by young Rachael Schroder on her first hit out ably assisted by dad Neville. Nearest the pin and long drive ball winners were; John Anderson, John Whitney , Rob Gorham x2, Tom Argaet x2, Ted Evans, Peter Greenwood and Bryce Anderson.

Junior winner for March was Tom Argaet.

The 9 hole event was won by Ted Evans with Dave Argaet in second place.

The 18 hole competition was won by John Anderson with Paul Griffin in second place.

Thanks to Rob and helpers also for the snacks.

Golf enquiries to Peter Greenwood 6238 3358.

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Lake George Day VIEW Club AGM

By Lydia Teodorowych, publicity officer

The first meeting of the year for the Lake George Day VIEW Club began with the election of a new committee for 2007. The new committee is keen to promote VIEW in the area and encourages new members to join the club. The club will continue to meet at Rydges Eagle Hawk on the third Tuesday of the month.



Committee members are: President-Pauline Segeri, Secretary-Bernie Greethead, Treasurer-Kerry Geoghegan, Assistant Treasurer-Helen Collin, Delegate-Anne Maria Lee, Publicity Officer-Lydia Teodorowych.

Zone Councillor of area AA03 Fiona Spottiswood congratulated the committee on their appointments and wished them well for the coming year whilst also encouraging other members of the club to remember to support the Club and consider taking up some of the support positions on the committee.

After an enjoyable lunch and successful AGM members chatted and exchanged ideas as to activities for the club to pursue. Now is the time for new members to attend and join so as to reap the benefits of a full and enjoyable year with our club.

The April meeting of the LGDVC will be held on Tuesday 17 April. Please respond to Kerry on 62380603 by Thursday 12 April in regards to your attendance. Seeing our meeting is close to ANZAC Day we will be celebrating our Aussie heritage so come

dressed with an "Australiana" flavour.

For more information about LGDVC phone Pauline on 6238 1996. Members and guests are always welcome. VIEW- a valued member of the Smith Family

How The Whisper Gets From the Printer To Your Mailbox

The 40 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.

155 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN: Ph 6238 3208

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|----|
| Dean Evans | Nrtn Area frm Campbl West | 18 |
| Helen Montesin | Fernloff Rd | 33 |
| Hank Berlee | 11 Poppet Rd (for all on road) | 34 |

278 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|----|
| Joan Mason | Bingley Way | 45 |
| Sue Ward | Norton, Bngly to Weeroona | 32 |
| Sue Gane | Majors Close | 20 |
| Ned Noel | 13 YrCn 41Advtrs | 55 |
| Kathy Handel | Yalana West | 19 |

227 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER:

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|----|
| Colleen Foster | Joe Rocks to Norton | 20 |
| Deb Gordon | Yalana East | 41 |
| Cassie Fisher | Clare Lane | 11 |
| Lyle Montesin | Forrest Road area | 60 |

212 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|----|
| Sheryl Barnes | Quinn's Estate / Denley | 20 |
| Don Malcomson | Macs R -- Denley to Gum Flat | 24 |
| Ann Platts | Denley MacReef to Birchman's | 26 |
| Nora Steward | Rovere Lane | 12 |
| Joan Milner | Birriwa Road | 30 |

191 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON Ph 6236 9609

| | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|----|
| Trevor Kirk | Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd | 20 |
| Len Parrish | Summerhill Rd Area | 33 |
| Sue Gorham | Schofields/Brooks/Millyn | 25 |
| Sue Aunella | Brooks | 17 |

TOTAL FOR WHISPER 1063

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|----|
| Bill Owen | Cooper Rd. | 28 |
| Cathy Abell | Canning Close | 17 |
| Alan Rope | Sutton Road | 25 |

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|----|
| Ph 6238 3463 | | |
| Margaret Heleimin | Merino Vale Drive | 17 |
| Anne Gardner | Weeroona, Norton to Majors | 31 |
| David Anderson | Weeroona, Majors to Denley | 35 |
| Penny Evans | Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley | 25 |

Ph 6238 3489

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----|
| Rob Gorham | South End - Clare Valley | 38 |
| Pauline Segeri | North End - Clare Valley | 42 |
| Bungendore Shop | Bungendore | 10 |

Ph 6238 3590

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|----|
| Brian Higgison | Deley/Kestral area | 12 |
| Rhett Cox | Macs Reef /Nwngtn to FdHwy | 12 |
| Morag&Guy Cotsell | MReef /Newington/Harriot (A) | 30 |
| Sandra Favre | MReef /Newington/Harriot (B) | 20 |
| Ian & Esther Rudd | Mreef/Bankers to Fed Hwy | 26 |

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----|
| Snowdon Family | Hogan Drive | 28 |
| Diana+Keith Gascoine | Snow Gum Road | 23 |
| Thelma Martin | Shinglehouse Rd area | 20 |
| Judith Miller | Wyoming and Doust Rds | 25 |

NEW CLASSIFIEDS

Occasional Babysitter - Mature adult available most evenings and some daytime for occasional babysitting in the Wamboin /Bywong area. Phone Nora 6230 3305 or 043 1862 853

Wanted house sitter for May and June for house and rural block in Wamboin. If interested please call 6238 3028.

Basic Gardening service – keen, reliable person available to mow lawns, tidy gardens and develop and maintain compost. Phone Martin 6230 3305 **Wanted: Chook wire** in reasonable condition that is no longer wanted– not rusty or too damaged. Can collect. Phone Martin 6230 3305.

For sale — Champion bloodline labrador pups. Chocolate, gold and black labrador pups; male and females available. Registered breeder - All pups vet checked, micro-chipped, wormed, vaccinated and registered. Five generations of this line can be viewed. Puppies have been raised in a loving family home environment. They are show quality and will suit breeding, showing, agility or pets. Cost ranges between \$890 - \$990. For more information phone 0427 406337 or 62303900 (home) or 62807511 (work)

BOOK KEEPER WANTED to do books for working stud farm at Sutton, around 6 hours per month, day(s) negotiable. Running Quick Books program. Ph 0422 733 064

LONG RUNNING CLASSIFIEDS

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**.

CHOOKS WANTED – Any age & roosters. Phone Frank on 6297-3523 to arrange collection.

Maths and Science tutoring K-10. Diagnostic testing. Encouraging, expert coaching. Please contact Judy Shellard, [BSc(Hons) Dip Ed], Phone 62383050

SWARM BEES - Beekeeper happy to offer prompt service to the local community to collect and remove swarm bees that may arrive uninvited over the next few months. A small fee charged depending on distance I have to travel. Please call John 62383791.

Large Holiday house situated in Tuross, 180 degree Ocean views, opposite shops, 2 minute walk to beach, large block for parking, available now. Discounts apply for Wamboin/Bywong residents. Please phone Cherrie 0418 621 462 for further information.

ADVERTISING RATES: Local classified advertisements are free, as are announcements from community organisations and clubs. Business advertisements attract a small fee (see below) which is donated to the Wamboin Community Association. Please make your cheque out to this association, but post it to the editor. Contact editor on 6238-3484 for information. Advertising rates: Full Page - \$100 Half Pg - \$50 1/3 Pg \$35 1/4 Pg - \$30 1/5 Pg - \$25 1/6 Pg - \$20 1/8 Pg - \$15

FOR HIRE from the Wamboin Community Association: GAS BBQ - Party Size, Portable, \$30 (includes gas) together with \$30 cleaning bond, both payable on collection. Cleaning bond will be refunded if BBQ is returned clean. Enquiries - Joan Mason 62 383 258.

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: WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL. Bookings arranged by Joan Mason 6238 3258.

Local Residents \$70, Bond \$200. Non Resident \$125, Bond \$250. The Hall is not available for teenage or 21st functions.

The Whisper is a community newspaper for Wamboin and Bywong. If you live in the area and have something to say about living here that is informative, thoughtful or entertaining, think about writing it up for the next issue. For more information contact the editor on 6238-3484 or email nednoel@optusnet.com.au. And thanks if you have already done so.

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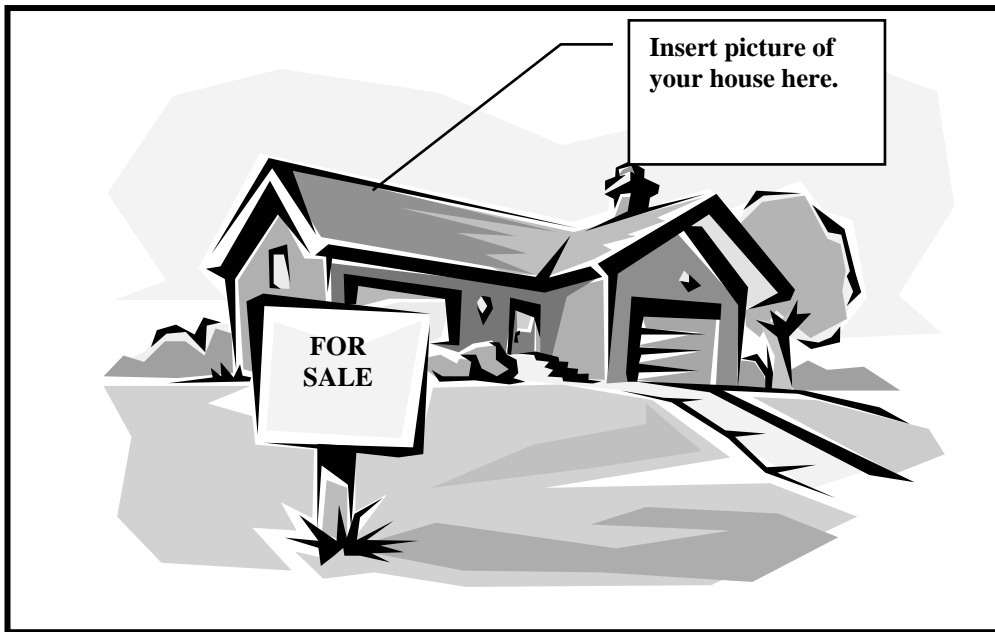
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RAIN FROM NOWHERE

by Murray Hartin, February 21, 2007 (muz@murrayhartin.com <muz@murrayhartin.com>)

Poem Suggested for Whisper by Glynda Bluhm and Murray Hartin's Kind Permission Received to Reprint It
Lifeline, 13 11 14 Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636 The salvos 1300 363 622

His cattle didn't get a bid, they were fairly bloody poor,
What was he going to do? He couldn't feed them anymore,
The dams were all but dry, hay was thirteen bucks a bale,
Last month's talk of rain was just a fairytale,
His credit had run out, no chance to pay what's owed,
Bad thoughts ran through his head as he drove down Gully Road
"Geez, great grandad bought the place back in 1898,
"Now I'm such a useless bastard, I'll have to shut the gate.
"Can't support my wife and kids, not like dad and those before,
"Crikey, Grandma kept it going while Pop fought in the war."
With depression now his master, he abandoned what was right,
There's no place in life for failures, he'd end it all tonight.
There were still some things to do, he'd have to shoot the cattle first,
Of all the jobs he'd ever done, that would be the worst.
He'd have a shower, watch the news, then they'd all sit down for tea
Read his kids a bedtime story, watch some more TV,
Kiss his wife goodnight, say he was off to shoot some roos
Then in a paddock far away he'd blow away the blues.
But he drove in the gate and stopped – as he always had
To check the roadside mailbox – and found a letter from his Dad.
Now his dad was not a writer, Mum did all the cards and mail
But he knew the writing from the notebooks that he'd kept from cattle sales,
He sensed the nature of its contents, felt moisture in his eyes,
Just the fact his dad had written was enough to make him cry.
"Son, I know it's bloody tough, it's a cruel and twisted game,
"This life upon the land when you're screaming out for rain,
"There's no candle in the darkness, not a single speck of light
"But don't let the demon get you, you have to do what's right,
"I don't know what's in your head but push the bad thoughts well away
"See, you'll always have your family at the back end of the day
"You have to talk to someone, and yes I know I rarely did
"But you have to think about Fiona and think about the kids.
(continued on next page)

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1816

*"I'm worried about you son, you haven't rung for quite a while,
"I know the road you're on 'cause I've walked every bloody mile.
"The date? December 7 back in 1983,
"Behind the shed I had the shotgun rested in the bragalow tree.
"See, I'd borrowed way too much to buy the Johnson place
"Then it didn't rain for years and we got bombed by interest rates,
"The bank was at the door, I didn't think I had a choice,
"I began to squeeze the trigger – that's when I heard your voice.
"You said 'Where are you Daddy? It's time to play our game'
"I've got Squatter all set up, we might get General Rain.'
"It really was that close, you're the one that stopped me son,
"And you're the one that taught me there's no answer in a gun.
"Just remember people love you, good friends won't let you down.
"Look, you might have to swallow pride and take that job in town,
"Just 'til things come good, son, you've always got a choice
"And when you get this letter ring me, 'cause I'd love to hear your voice."
Well he cried and laughed and shook his head then put the truck in gear,
Shut his eyes and hugged his dad in a vision that was clear,
Dropped the cattle at the yards, put the truck away
Filled the troughs the best he could and fed his last ten bales of hay.
Then he strode towards the homestead, shoulders back and head held high,
He still knew the road was tough but there was purpose in his eye.
He called his wife and children, who'd lived through all his pain,
Hugs said more than words – he'd come back to them again,
They talked of silver linings, how good times always follow bad,
Then he walked towards the phone, picked it up and rang his Dad.
And while the kids set up the Squatter, he hugged his wife again,
Then they heard the roll of thunder and they smelt the smell of rain.*

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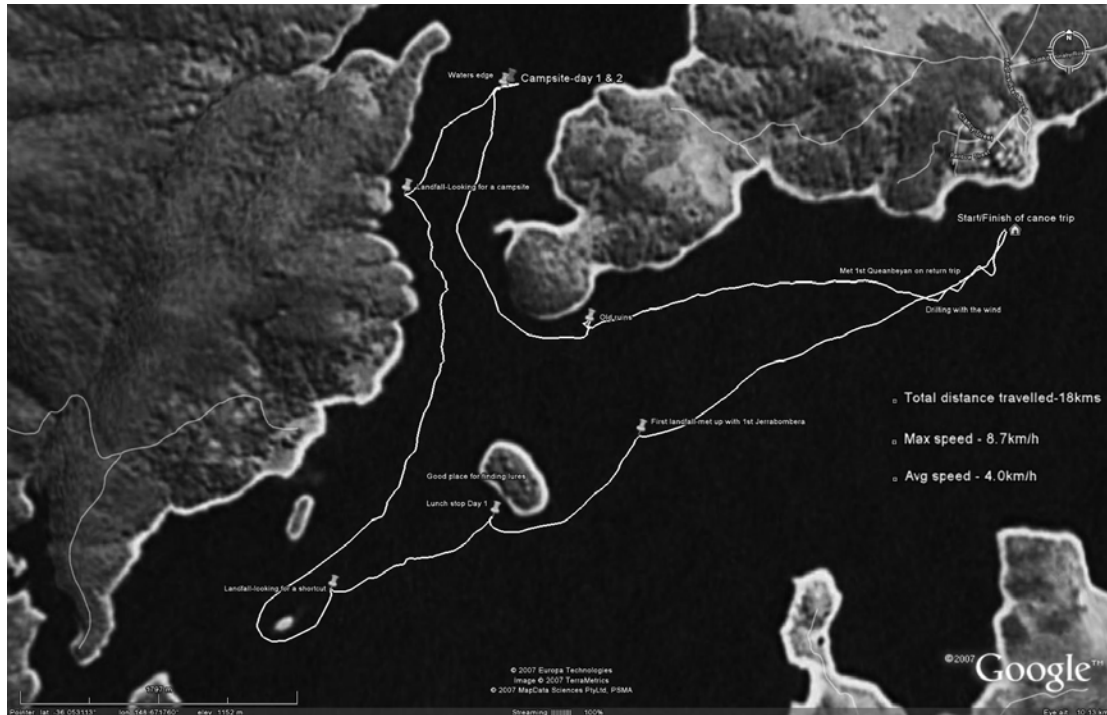
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1st Wamboin Scouts Lake Eucumbene Canoe Trip 2007

by Josh Brugman, Jack Muston and Andrew Oliver

We set off at 8 am in the car towards Eucumbene. It took 3 hours to get there. Soon we were unpacking the canoes. About half an hour later we had the canoes packed as light as possible. We then carried the canoes into the water and we set off for 2 hours. Later we stopped for lunch. Where we stopped we found lots of fishing equipment due to how low the water was.



GPS track in Google Earth

After lunch we paddled until we found a nice spot to stay. The camp was great, I loved finding the fishing tackle and lures that were tangled in the trees, and the knives and old bottles we found at old housesites. It was pretty tiring on the way back to camp, the worst bit was not having a motor on the canoe.. A really hard bit of the camp was having to keep on stroking when you were really tired. Making the chairs out of the dried up clay lakebed was fun. We had spaghetti bolognese for dinner and hot milo for desert. Swimming in the lake was very muddy but refreshing. All of our gear was in the canoes with us so we had to pack light. Over all, the camp was fun and I hope to do it again with many more people. (continued next page)

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Currently Wamboin Scouts is hoping to purchase some second hand canoes and a trailer. If you have a canoe or trailer that we could purchase please contact: Marita Corra 0418493615 (M) Paul Brugman62383539 (H)

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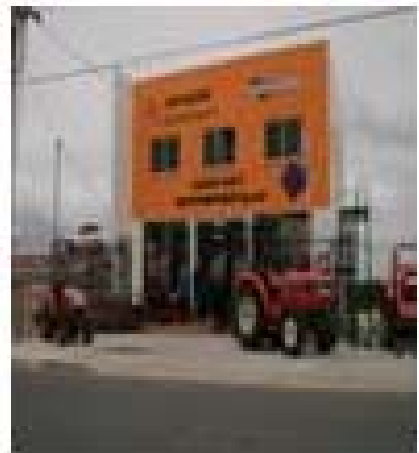
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Nature Notes – March 2007

Jo Walker

It is wonderful to see shades of brilliant green appearing throughout Wamboin again after the recent good rainfalls. This colouring of the landscape seems to be mostly attributable to the Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*), but we have a wealth of other native grasses growing in our part of the world. The most noticeable are the tall, tufty grasses. Red-anther Wallaby Grass (*Joycea pallida*) grows extensively here on dry hillsides and areas of shallow, rocky soils: during the summer flowering of this species, the orange or red anthers are clearly visible on the silky flowerheads. *Poa labillardieri* is another large, tufting grass, but has softer foliage and usually grows along creek-lines or in soakage areas, often in quite dense stands.

A grass that seems to be on the increase locally is *Bothriochloa macra*, the Red-leg Grass, which is flowering along most roadsides in Wamboin at the moment. It gets its name from the reddish stems which carry the flowerheads of up to six spikes which are clustered tightly together so that they often appear like a single dark spike.

There are several species of *Austroanthonia* (the Wallaby Grasses) common in the area, including *Austroanthonia carphoides*. This is one of the smaller species in this genus – it grows in dry areas, and is most noticeable when carrying its short, dense, cream-coloured seed-heads. *A. carphoides* is the food-plant of the rare Golden Sun Moth, although I don't think this attractive little insect has ever been recorded here.

Several species of *Aurolistipa* grow here. My favourite is *Aurolistipa densiflora*, the Foxtail Speargrass: the leaves are a frosty grey-green and very fine, and the flowering stems (which can be up to a metre tall in a good year) carry beautiful large flowerheads, silky-green to begin with but turning pinkish and opening into a wide panicle as they age.

Microlaena stipoides is a suckering grass that can form extensive swards of bright green in damp areas. It's often called Weeping Grass because of its delicate drooping flowerheads. This is one of our local grasses that would make a good lawn.

Another attractive little grass is *Enneapogon nigricans* – here, it only grows to about 10 cm tall and is usually found in minimal soil or clay pockets amongst the rocks. The flowerheads are short and dense and an unusual silvery dark grey colour.

Usually in shaded areas amongst eucalypts, you should be able to find *Echinopogon*, the Hedgehog Grass. As its name suggests, the round green flowerheads are covered in dense but softish spikes. This species seems to occur only as scattered individual plants or in small, open groups.

An intriguing grass I found years ago, at the top of the hill on my place, was *Hemarthria uncinata* (Matgrass). It's a low-growing, glabrous grass that can, as its common name implies, form a solid, bright green mat. It was hard to identify, because it didn't flower, and, as it turned out, was growing in an unusual place for this species. There must have been a bit of a soakage area on that dry hillside, because *Hemarthria* should grow in swamps or other moist areas. Later, I found another, more typical patch down by the dam – and identified it by the flat-sided, green, spike-like flowerheads (an inflorescence unlike that of any other grass in this area).

Chloris truncata (Windmill Grass), *Aristida* spp., *Dichelachne* (Plume Grass), and the Panic Grasses (*Panicum* spp.) are a few other local grasses found here.

Isn't it wonderful, when not much else is going on, to be able to sit and watch the grass growing again!

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WAMBOIN HISTORY AND LEGENDS

By Don Evans

My first recollection of the Wamboin area was in late 1972. The area as we know it now was originally known as "Canberra Country Estates". The name changed in 1981 to "Wamboin", after a meeting of the locals decided it needed to be changed. My parents Sally and Dene made a deposit on a block of land in Gallagher Crescent in February 1973. I remember the power poles lying on the ground around the various roads, waiting to be installed, and supply power to the new estate. Things were very different back then. Most of the blocks averaged about 5 acres, covered in wattle trees and you almost could get bogged in your vehicle at any time of the year. The nature of the ground was that a "crust" covered this hazard, and when driving around your property, you broke through, you were well and truly stuck in the mud.

We would drive out on the weekends, my father fencing, me riding my motorbike on the various tracks, exploring the area with no one around, and only the sound of chainsaws cutting the felled trees from where the new roads had just been built. It was rare to see a Kangaroo back then, but there were plenty of rabbits and birds.

We decided to build in 1976, the third house to be built in the area. Two others had been already built in Cooper Road. In those days, Norton Road was only 2km in length. It came to a dead end where it joined Fernloff Road. Back then, there were various building covenants, for example, a house had to be a minimum of brick veneer construction and have a tiled roof. You may notice that most of the older houses still have tiled roofs. As for your mail, you had to install a mailbox on the corner of Gallagher Crescent and Norton Road. I can remember about 20 in a row. You had to apply to the PMG for a mailbox number and the address was "... Sutton Road". That was as far as the postman went in those days.

As I was attending Campbell High School and wanted to finish my secondary schooling there, the problem of attending an ACT School while living in NSW existed. We were told at the time that I must now attend a NSW school. I stayed at Campbell High and was eventually able to get on a school bus exclusively for students who lived in the Kowen Forest settlement and the McKeahnie kids who lived in the ACT section of Sutton Road. (The one just before the driver training complex) The only problem being that the bus was not allowed to drive over the border into NSW, so I had to walk home from the NSW border on the Sutton Road.

Back in Canberra Country Estates days, the only fire trucks were stationed on established farms, the closest were Jackie Coopers place (the old farm house right up against the fence, about 2 km towards Sutton from the Wamboin turnoff) and other trucks located at Stan Bingley's (another 3km north). Most were owned by the farmers, and were two wheel drive neglected looking vehicles with a handrail running around the back end of the truck. We had no pagers, mobile phones, overalls and helmets then, but the smell or sight of smoke would certainly raise alarm bells. Everyone in the area became involved. I remember jumping on the back of Jackie Cooper's truck in the middle of the night with my father, and disappearing off towards Sutton and Gundaroo to a raging fire, we would even pick up volunteers on the side of the road if there was standing room on the back. It must have been a big fire as I remember many farmers had stock losses in the thousands. Thinking back, if we had an accident, there was no record of who was on a truck. The envy of all the truck owners was a WW2 "Blitz", a six wheel drive truck stationed somewhere in Sutton. It would go anywhere, but it was slow.

The community started to grow over the following years. If you wanted to get something done in the area, everyone was involved, and I mean everyone. Probably one of the first things done was to form our own Bush Fire Brigade. Although originally we were part of the Sutton Brigade, the need to be independent increased, and before long we had built our own fire shed in Cooper Road and through our many resourceful members, we had 2 well equipped trucks ready to go.

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See You There

People still living in the area such as Lofty Mason, Hank Berlee, Ron Shepherd, Trent Abell, Peter Greenwood, Chris Powell, myself, and others have spent endless hours constructing buildings such as the Community Hall, toilet block and Bicentennial Fire Station, all located in Bingley Way.

Sadly, two people no longer with us of special mention are of David Robertson and John Finn. David was the person who got things started in the brigade. He acquired our first vehicle the famous "Dodge" he was also on the Council and was active in community projects. David funded the building of St Andrews Church in Poppet Road, on the land donated by the Shultz family. John was the first Captain of our new Brigade. While still in the Army, he acquired our second vehicle "the Inter" I think it was bought for \$1.00! John was a great leader, and a person who got things done. He is well remembered for his contributions to our area and I was privileged to know him as a friend.

Peter Greenwood has been involved in about everything that has and is still happening with the Community Association and Fire Brigade in the Wamboin area. Representing us as a Councilor in the old Yarrowlumla Shire for so many years, his efforts to help us get every grant, asset or assistance possible over the many years must not go unmentioned.

Everyone knows Joan and Lofty Mason, or should. These two have worked tirelessly nonstop since they came to Wamboin. It's unfortunate that most people don't know all the work that they do unnoticed. Amongst other things, Joan has cleaned and managed the Community Hall as if it was her own. Lofty has been President of the Community Association, Editor of the Whisper and instrumental in almost all the projects you see done in the area. When Lofty was Captain of the Fire Brigade I served under him as a Deputy Captain, back in 1989. The recent "working bees" down at the hall have resurrected the good old days where active people get together to do one thing... Build a better place to live. There are still many people who deserve mention, if you are a regular reader of the Whisper, their names come up over and over. Without the Whisper (keep up the great work Ned), there would be little record of how the place has changed, for without leaders in the community, nothing gets done. So get involved with the local activities, Community Association, walking club, Fire Brigade etc, it gives you a good feeling!

I think in conclusion, that being involved in the Community has been the reason that I have stayed in Wamboin so long. My involvement with a great bunch of people over the years has been very rewarding experience. As Jill Gregory always finishes....

I wouldn't live anywhere else.

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