

The Whisper

May 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 June 2007 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, May 27, 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
Lake George Day VIEW Club	President	Pauline Segeri	6238-1996

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

by Helen Montesin

Palerang Council Social Plan – The Draft Social Plan has been on public exhibition for about a month with submissions to be lodged by the end of April. The draft is Braidwood-centric with very limited information on western Palerang. WCA has lodged a submission suggesting improvements to the plan. Many thanks to John van der Straaten for preparing the submission.

Rubbish – The Wamboin Community Hall has a recycling station, but general rubbish has to be taken to the Macs Reef or Bungendore tips. The rubbish bins at the Hall are for the use of Hall patrons only. There have been a number of instances of inappropriate dumping of rubbish at the hall. The latest incident occurred during the April WCA meeting when somebody dumped used oil containers and other rubbish in the ute of a member attending the meeting. This type of behaviour is irresponsible and unacceptable in our community. Everybody needs to take responsibility for their own waste disposal.

Land Valuations – Landholders who objected to their valuation should have received acknowledgement of the objection by now. No time frame has been given for when the review of objections will be complete. Steve Whan has responded to the WCA community submission. In his letter, he acknowledged the discrepancy in the land valuations done on 14th November and 5th October and indicated that he has written to the Minister for Lands “pointing out that individual reviews will not address that appears to be a large scale problem with all the valuations carried out on 5 October”. To date, there has been no response from the Valuer-General, the Premier or the Minister for Lands.

Review of Rural Lands Protection Boards rating system – The WCA made a submission to the RLPB review (thanks again to John van der Straaten for preparing the submission). Richard Bull, who is conducting the review, would like to meet with Bywong and Wamboin residents. The date, time and place of this meeting has not been finalised yet, but is likely to be on or around 14th May. If you would like to attend the meeting, contact John van der Straaten (ph: 6238 3590) for further details.

Wamboin Community Association – The next WCA meeting is on **15th May at 7:30pm**. Everybody is welcome to come and be involved. Ian Peters from Telstra is still proving elusive – we’ll keep trying to get him to come and speak at a meeting to give us an update on what is happening with regard to mobile phone coverage and broadband in Wamboin.

Wamboin Produce Markets – The next markets will be on **19th May** from 9:00am till noon and are sure to have lots of great local produce.

Fireman's Ball – Tickets are now available for the Fire Brigade's annual ball on 2nd June. This is an event not to be missed, so call Charlie (62383208) or Deb (62383062) to get your tickets before they sell out. This year's theme is “007 – Your licence to dress as you dare!”

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@vahoogroups.com.au.

Calendar of events – If you have any events that you would like included in June'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 Guy Cotsell

Bywong and Wamboin, amongst others, have been short-changed in Palerang's Draft Social and Community Development Plan.

Bywong Community expressed this view in its response to the Draft Plan, prepared following a working session attended by Bywong and Wamboin residents, together with representatives of the CWA, Bywong Hall Committee and the Greenways Committee. The Community's response pointed out that Council's report contained little information about, or understanding of, the large rural residential areas in the west of its area. It recommended that Council include a section on Bywong in the report and that Council contact community associations in Bywong, Wamboin and other areas to obtain accurate information about these areas, and that the Plan address the matter of insurance, vital for the continual functioning of community associations.

The Community also recommended that Council provide locality signs and maps defining Bywong, signs for attractions and the Community Hall, and signage and support for the greenways.

The Community also recommended that Council

- seek a reduced speed limit on Bungendore Road,
- widen a verge on Macs Reef and Bungendore Roads to allow for walking
- provide appropriate signage at the intersection of Norton and Bungendore Road,
- upgrade the electrical supply at Bywong Hall, and provide a future recreational facility at the present site of the Macs Reef tip.

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WAMBOIN SCOUTS by Marita Corra

The Wamboin Scouts are still looking for 1, 2 or 3 man canoes to continue on with their water activity challenges. If anyone in the area has an unwanted or 'decommissioned' canoe sitting in their shed or paddock – the scouts will happily take over responsibility for it. Thank you so much to community members that donated a trailer and a canoe. Your generosity is much appreciated by the scouts and Leaders. Again if someone is looking to sell – the Wamboin Scout Group is in the market to buy. Please contact either Paul Brugman (62383539) or Marita Corra (62383246) if you have any of the above items you wish to part with.

Wamboin Scouts is held at the Community Hall every Monday evening from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Kids aged between 10 to 15 years are most welcome and experience challenges and activities that have a strong outdoor focus, plus establish a friendship group with kids of similar ages in the local community.



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Reserve the date Wamboin Rural Fire Service Annual Ball 007 Ball

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Idol, Sportsman, Special Agent.
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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SHEEP MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The Bungendore and District Sheepdog Association (BADSA) has organised a sheep management workshop in conjunction with the Braidwood Rural Lands Protection Board (RLPB). **The workshop will be conducted by Dr Bob Templeton from the RLPB at the Burra Hall, Burra Road, Burra on Saturday 21 April 2007, from 10am to 3pm.** Entry is **FREE** but bookings are essential as places for this "hands on" workshop will be limited. Morning tea and a sausage sizzle will be available with proceeds going to cover costs. Any profits will go to the BADSA, a non-profit organisation which supports responsible sheep dog training and trialling in Bungendore and surrounding area.

"This is a hands-on opportunity for small rural landowners to learn more about sheep management, put practice to the theory and gain maximum benefit from their RLPB levy," Dr Templeton said. "We'll be covering topics such as establishing stock, general husbandry, land maintenance and regulatory aspects." Interested people can find details of the workshop at www.badsa.org.au and book their place by email flockmanagement@badsa.org.au or phone (after working hours) **0408 270 525** – please state name and number if leaving a message. -- Sabine Muller-Glissmann, BADSA, phone 0403 916 607 and Dr Bob Templeton, RLPB, phone 6238 0590



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Canberra Equine Hospital is located on the corner of the Federal and Barton H'way, Lyneham.

Your horse can be examined at the hospital or at your own property.

The hospital offers a reduced call out fee to the Wamboin region on Monday afternoons.

Please feel free to call with any questions about your horses health needs.

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Notes from St Andrews Church

by Claire Ayling

Easter celebrations were busy with visitors and locals all enjoying the services. Last month we also had an interesting congregational meeting which discussed the Da Vinci Code novel written by Dan Brown. Our minister the Rev'd Peter Grundy gave everyone food for thought and the 'sermon' has created interest which will bring further inclusive discussions.



The other important event last month was the joint farewell held with the congregation from St Peters in Sutton for our Rector - the Rev'd Greg Thompson. He has been appointed to be the Bishop of Darwin and the Northern Territory and has recently left to take up his appointment there. Greg was the Rector of St Johns Church in Reid and our churches in Wamboin and Sutton are part of that parish. A group of ladies from the two churches were busy for weeks creating a farewell gift. It took the form of a quilted 'picture' wallhanging which depicted the birds of the area on a background which took its design from the stained glass window in St Andrews with a few obligatory rocks incorporated to provide authenticity! The quilt was presented to Greg and his wife Kerry who were delighted and say it will take pride of place in the Bishop's residence in

Darwin.

The church welcomes all and it was particularly pleasing to see a number of children coming along for the Easter services. The congregation is an active part of the Wamboin community and our regular services are on the 1st and 3rd sundays of each month at 9am. We also enjoy coffee and dessert evenings and other social events and it is a wonderful way to feel connected with Wamboin. For further information please come along to our services or contact Robyn Robertson on 6238 3202.

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WWOW Group

by Claire Ayling

Calling all walkers!! Now that the days are cooler the walking group is calling for more people to join them . The group is called the Wonderful Women of Wamboin (formerly the Wobbles) but BOTH sexes are welcome to join this active group. They leave the church on Mondays at 9am and Fridays at 8am - there are a group of 'gazelles' which lead the group but we are encouraging walkers of all abilities to join in. There are always people to talk to and the fitness levels are going up all of the time. To join us just come along at the times shown or call Claire Ayling on 62383347 for further details.



The Craft and Social group which meets at 10am each Monday at St Andrews continues to grow and enjoy friendship and community. We have grown to realise that not only do we learn different crafty skills (the patchwork quilts are looking wonderful), but are importantly supporting each other and also others in the wider community. We have taken on tasks to knit little jumpers for African children with AIDS, and also some sewing tasks to support Breast Cancer. The group is a community one which meets in the church but is non denominational and welcomes all. It is interesting to note that some people have met their

neighbours for the first time in twenty years so we feel that we are going a long way to providing a vital part of the heart of Wamboin.

All interested ladies are assured of a warm welcome and if you are new to the area (or would like to meet your neighbours!) come along on a Monday. If transport is an issue there is always someone who lives nearby to help out. I would be happy to answer any questions. Just call Claire Ayling on 6238 3347.

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WILDCARE SNAKE HANDLERS GROW.....

by Philip Machin

Wildcare has recently increased the number of trained snake handlers available and it now has no less than 15 in the Bungendore, Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton area. So, there is even less need for you to take matters into your own hands when confronted by our slithery friends. Over the summer period *Wildcare* has been called out to over 150 incidents throughout the region. And advice has also been given by telephone. It is pleasing to see more and more people contacting *Wildcare* to sort out snake encounters in and around the house and yard.



The two main snakes in our area are Brown and Tiger Snakes. Both are highly venomous snakes with world rankings of 2 and 5. However snakes are misunderstood creatures, their main reaction when disturbed is to hide. They will only bite if threatened, surprised, picked up or cornered. Usually if approached they will flee. Unfortunately there have been some tragic accidents in NSW over the summer in which people have been killed and hurt. Please contact *Wildcare* on 62991966 for help – anytime day or night. Put it in your Mobile.....

Most snakes close to the house will just pass through. But if you leave the door or window open they may come in! This year *Wildcare* has rescued snakes from people’s bedrooms, lounge rooms and laundries. They are also partial to garages and sheds – particularly chook sheds. But don’t be alarmed. You can take precautions by ensuring the yard is clean and tidy, food bins are secure, wood piles away from the house, likely holes and gaps are blocked off and windows and doors are closed.

Fortunately reptiles are gradually hibernating, so unless we have an Indian summer we may not see too many around until next Spring. Be proud of all our wildlife and look out for it. Jake Annetts (pictured) of Wamboin is *Wildcare*’s latest snake handler recruit.

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	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	Alan Rope Sutton Road	25
278 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	31
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	David Anderson Weeroona, Majors to Denley	35
Ned Noel	13 YrCn 41 Advtsrs	55	Penny Evans Norton, Cmpbell to Bngly	25
Kathy Handel	Yalana West	19		
227 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: Ph 6238 3489				
Colleen Foster	Joe Rocks to Norton	20		
Deb Gordon	Yalana East	41	Rob Gorham South End - Clare Valley	38
Cassie Fisher	Clare Lane	11	Pauline Segeri North End - Clare Valley	42
Lyle Monetesin	Forrest Road area	60	Bungendore Shop Bungendore	10
212 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN: Ph 6238 3590				
Sheryl Barnes	Quinn’s Estate / Denley	20	Brian Higgison Deley/Kestral area	12
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Gum Flat	24	Rhett Cox Macs Reef /Nwngtn to FdHwy	12
Ann Platts	Denley MacReef to Birchman's	26	Morag&Guy Cotsell MReef /Newington/Harriot (A)	30
Nora Steward	Rovere Lane	12	Sandra Favre MReef /Newington/Harriot (B)	20
Joan Milner	Birriwa Road	30	Ian & Esther Rudd Mreef/Bankers to Fed Hwy	26
191 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON Ph 6236 9609				
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Snowdon Family Hogan Drive	28
Len Parrish	Summerhill Rd Area	33	Diana+Keith Gascoine Snow Gum Road	23
Sue Gorham	Schofields/Brooks/Millyn	25	Thelma Martin Shinglehouse Rd area	20
Sue Aunella	Brooks	17	Judith Miller Wyoming and Doust Rds	25
TOTAL FOR WHISPER 1063				

NEW CLASSIFIEDS

GARAGE SALE – 9am to 1pm. Saturday 19th May. 205 Fernloff Road. Moving. Workshop, household, garden and bushwalking items.

ATTENTION RENDERER'S - WORK AVAILABLE. RENDERER required to complete our house in Wamboin, ASAP. Must be qualified, interested and most importantly reliable. If this is you, please call Rick or Chris on 62369833.

For sale. Three-piece suite. Forest green with leafy pattern. Good nick (solid) for \$75. Telephone Lesley: 62383717

Wanted: Book-keeper in Wamboin/ Bywong area for approx 2-3 hours per fortnight for small business. Require experienced and organized person to assist with overhauling and maintaining accounts. Please call 02 62303305.

Babysitter Wanted: Babysitter wanted for occasional weekend nights for two children (aged 2 years and 9months) in our home on Macs Reef Road. Must have own transport and some experience with young children. If interested, please phone 6230 3228 AH.

LONG RUNNING CLASSIFIEDS

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)

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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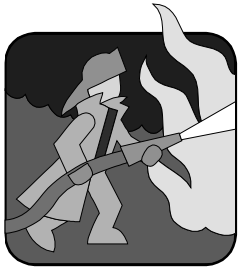
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The Wamboin Firefighter

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-freshed.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



Apart from a number of car fires last month, it is pleasing to report that things have been relatively quiet on the incident front. That doesn't mean to say that your brigade hasn't been busy but fortunately the pagers have not been activated too often last month. One incident however stands out. Not for the fact that it happened, but more notably, when it happened. It wasn't the first Friday the 13th that your brigade has been called out to an incident and last month was no different. Judging from the photograph below it is easy to see that it wasn't a good day for one car owner. It was lucky that it didn't involve any injuries, other vehicles or lead to an accident on Sutton Road.

During the 27th to the 29th of April a crew from your Brigade took part in a regional training exercise at Gundagai. From all accounts of the wet weekend, the training went well and allowed our crew to get some valuable experience in a major incident scenario. The activities ranged from managing the overall incident, managing individual crews, and refining fire fighting skills.

Our regular training programs have continued. These have ranged from some hands-on exercises in keeping our skills honed as well as opportunities for the senior members of the brigade to increase their skills. I should hasten to point out that by senior members I am naturally referring to those brigade members whose experience warrants the description rather than their age! The picture below shows one of our training exercises where fire fighting foam making capabilities are being explored one afternoon. The session also provided the opportunity for many new recruits to come along and experience many of the things they

could be asked to do as full members of their brigade. The other picture shows our Group Captain, Chris Powell, providing the benefit of his fire fighting experience and wisdom to many fire fighters from all parts of the Shire during a prescribed burn supervisor training course in March. As several members of your brigade took part in this course, we will be in a better position to plan and conduct a number of prescribed burns during the "off season" at a number of properties in our brigade area. Several planned burns have had to be held over from last year because of the fire restrictions during the last fire season.

During last month your brigade's Secretary, Ian Coillet and I had the pleasure of addressing a meeting of the Sutton Park Resident's Group. As well as talking about the many things that can be done to help protect our properties before and during a fire, and the benefits of joining the brigade, we fielded quite a number of questions from the attentive and patient audience. With a brigade area of almost 200 square kilometres the interest and support of our three community groups helps us spread important fire protection messages to many residents.



Friday the 13th on Sutton Road

During last month members of the brigade and their families spent a couple of pleasurable weekends helping two of the brigade's generous supporters, Steve and Ruth Lambert bring in this year's harvest. Even though one picking session was a little damp it didn't hold up things too much. The donation the brigade receives from Steve and Ruth in return for our work is always gratefully appreciated as is the opportunity to sample some of the vintages we have helped bring in.

Over the next few weeks a letter from your brigade should appear in your letter box. It will provide you with a short description of some of your brigade's activities during the past 12 months as well as how to become a member. It also forms our major annual fund raising drive and lists the projects we need your help to complete as well some much needed equipment.



Several new members of the brigade observing fire fighting techniques during a recent training session

Your continued supported ensures an active and well equipped brigade.

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 and knowing where the smoke is coming from helps to determine what we need to respond to.



Group Captain Chris Powell instructing participants in the recent Prescribed Burn Supervisor course

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	
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B & B Tree Surgery	Horizon Real Estate	Sotech Pty Ltd	
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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	

SUTTON SCHOOL BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Submitted by Gay McNeil and Denise Brown

The school has registered to participate in the 'Back to School' program which will be held on 17th May and coincides with Education Week. This is an initiative that supports and encourages past students to return to their former schools and talk about their school days to current students, share their stories of success since leaving school and celebrate their education. This will form a valuable part of our 'Values Education' in 2007. We are trying to contact any past students who might be interested in participating in this program through completing a brief questionnaire, and decorating a small square of fabric depicting memories of their time at Sutton School. The completed questionnaires will be compiled into a booklet to be presented and displayed during Education week while the squares of fabric will be joined together to form a wall hanging to be proudly displayed in the Hall. It would be appreciated if you could pass on the contact details of any past students, who you think might be interested in participating in the program, to the school office so that we can personally contact them.

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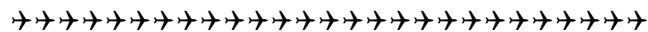


THE STABLE DOOR

by Ian Collet

The Great Grape Harvest

Over the past few Saturdays, members of the Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade and their families, supporters and other helpers have been beavering away at Lambert Vineyards in Wamboin bringing in the current harvest. Reason? To help ensure continuity of much needed funds so the Brigade can maintain and build its community protection capability. In recent times the Brigade's area of responsibility has been extended to include Sutton Park as well as its traditional patch of Bywong and Wamboin. I understand from Steve and Ruth Lambert that, although the birds "kneecapped" the chardonnay grapes this year, and the drought has been a challenge, this year's vintage of reds and remaining whites is looking pretty damn satisfactory. I believe other vineyards across the region have also fared okay although there are a few that suffered very badly from frost late last year "nipping new growth in the bud". So come on all you consumers, if you didn't or couldn't help your volunteer Brigade secure a few more funds for its community operations – at the least "drop down to you local" vineyard for a tasting – and support our fledgling industry by buying a bottle or 12 for those special occasions.



I was in (my old home town) Melbourne a couple of weekends ago – a "flying visit" to join in engagement and housewarming celebrations of one of my 4 favourite nieces. Just to be clear, all my nieces, ie all 4, are favourites. While there, I was distressed to read in The Age newspaper of the impact smoke haze has apparently wrought on grapevines in northern Victoria and no doubt elsewhere across that and other States. One wine grower reported that the first of his white aromatic grape varieties were ready to be picked but they tasted flat and stale. The fruit flavour was muted. The grape's aroma and aftertaste were like – "an ashtray piled with day-old dead ciggies". Yukkk!! Tests later confirmed his suspicion: smoke taint.

Smoke haze in December from one of the biggest bushfires in Victorian history had apparently penetrated and undermined the transference of sweet, juicy flavours in his grapes and, at vintage its effect was horribly clear. Many winemakers in the King and Alpine valleys have, according to the article, decided not to make wine from the smoke-damaged fruit, with the final tally of discarded fruit possibly as high as 20,000 tonnes.

As I prepare this burst for The Stable Door – thankful for the 28mm of wet stuff that has fallen in the past 36 hours - it occurred to me that the current vintage has seen several wine regions across Australia affected by smoke haze – from Mt Barker to Adelaide Hills, Tasmania and parts of north-east Victoria, Strathbogie Ranges, Yarra Valley and Gippsland. According to The Age article by Jeni Port, the detection of smoke taint in wine is new and was noticed widely following the bushfire affected vintage of 2003 – wine growers in the north-east including the King Valley picked up an unusual taste in their wines. Wonder what the impact of the 2003 fires in the Canberra region may have been, if any? In Western Australia, it is even alleged by some that in the industry that "out-of-bushfire season" organised backburning may also contribute to the "taint" phenomenon. Apparently a research project into the phenomenon by Western Australia's agriculture and food department and Curtin University will be released in the coming months and the Victorian Wine Industry Association has applied for funding to study whether smoke taint has affected the physiology of vines. Guess we'll hear more on the grapevine as I'm sure those in the industry including in our region, will have an interest and may have more to say on this.

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Lake George Day View Club

The next meeting of the Lake George Day View Club will be held on Tuesday 15 May at Rydges Eagle Hawk Federal Highway Sutton at 11.30 for a 12 noon start. Luncheon cost is \$21. Our guest Speaker will be Christina Mulligan who will provide a presentation about "SUPERannuation" and the changes to it that will be coming in from JULY 1 this year and how this will affect those who are already on super and those who are not quite there yet, and how best to utilise your super in light of the new changes. This is a wonderful opportunity to find out how to provide the best financial security for yourself.

We expect a FULL HOUSE for this free presentation so as numbers are limited be early to ring Kerry to reserve your luncheon space. As usual there will be raffle prizes galore and lucky door prize. Please respond to Kerry on 62380603 by Thursday 10 May in regards to your attendance. For more information about LGDVC phone Pauline on 6238 1996 Members and guests are always welcome. VIEW- a valued member of the Smith Family – Lydia Teodorowych

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GEARY'S GAP/WAMBOIN LANDCARE - MAY 2007 EVENTS

Propagation Session: Saturday 5 May 9.00-11.00am. Propagation sessions are held on the first Saturday of each month at Geoff Butler's place at 38 Birchmans Grove, Wamboin. New participants are very welcome. Please bring any spare washed pots – particularly round ones for propagating cuttings. For more information, please email Geoff at gbu22182@bigpond.net.au or phone him on 6236 9158.



Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group Trivia Night, Saturday 5 May, 6.30 pm start, Bungendore School Hall. The aim is to raise funds for our Landcare Group for use in community projects following the theft of our takings at the recent Car Boot Sale. There will be lots of prizes, a raffle and musical entertainment. Adult entry is \$10.00 (8 people per table) (under 16s free). BYO food and drinks. Supper (coffee and cakes) will be provided. Bookings: email Elizabeth at thurbonpe@lightningpl.net.au or telephone on 62956254 or email Jenny at jcave@vtown.com.au or telephone 62381478

Meeting, Monday 14 May 7.30pm: Brooks Creek Restoration Project and Plant Identification. Local landscape architect Jennie Curtis will discuss recent work undertaken to replant and restore Brooks Creek. Tips for local landholders in restoring riparian vegetation will be included. There will also be an opportunity for you to bring along a

cutting of any native plant growing in your garden that you would like identified. The meeting will be held at Bywong Community Hall – Birriwa Rd (Off Macs Reef Rd).

Please note that there will be no monthly meetings in June or July.

Tree planting: Landcare members successfully planted a large number of trees and shrubs outside the Palerang Council offices in Bungendore on Sunday 22 April. Many plants were sourced locally from the Wicked Cackle nursery. It is hoped that this will provide an opportunity to showcase the use of appropriate native plantings to the wider community.

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

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Nature Notes – April 2007

Jo Walker

Finally, at the end of April, the weather is getting cold enough to bring thoughts of cutting firewood to mind. The rain over the last day or two has been welcome after another dry spell and fell gently enough to soak into the ground. And the Red-leg Grass (*Bothriochloa macra*) is living up to its name at the moment, forming patches of pink along the roadsides.

Not much is in flower at the moment apart from a few daisies. *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*, the Clustered Everlasting, is having a late flush of flowering, its heads of small, deep yellow button flowers brightening up the autumn landscape. Some of the *Cassinia quinquefaria* bushes are still sporting their straw-coloured inflorescences, and the little *Vittadinia muelleri* seems to bear its tiny blue flowers most of the year. This dainty little daisy, with the rather uncomplimentary common name of Fuzzweed (because of its profuse fuzzy seed heads), has spread over parts of my place during the last few dry years. It grows on dry, shallow soils in full sun, and is a compact little plant seldom more than 10 cm tall with bright green 3-pronged leaves. The kangaroos don't seem to feed on it, so it is probably unpalatable to stock. However, the Crimson Rosellas spend quite a bit of time some evenings pulling off and eating the seeds.

At the beginning of the month, a pair of Leaden Flycatchers were here for a day or two. They are uncommon in this area, but will breed here during the summer, leaving before the end of April. They are smallish birds, about 15 cm long, and are one of the few species to have more colourful females than males. The male bird is a dark leaden grey on its head, back, wings, tail and upper chest – the underparts are white. The female is a similar colour, with a brownish tinge on the wings, but her upper chest is a pale buff-orange. Both have small crests on their heads which they will raise slightly if excited. A similar bird is the Satin Flycatcher – the plumage is darker than that of the Leaden Flycatcher and has an attractive blue sheen, and the female has a darker orange upper chest. Another Flycatcher, The Restless Flycatcher, is often called the Scissor Grinder as one of its calls is a harsh buzzing sound. Both the male and female of this species are similar and are distinguished from the males of the previous two species by having a totally white throat and chest. I haven't seen a Satin Flycatcher in Wamboin (although they are probably here, at least occasionally), but when I lived in Queanbeyan there was a pair in my garden once for a day or two. The Restless Flycatcher has turned up here a few times, but doesn't seem to be a regular visitor – at least not on my place.

Walking up along the creek yesterday, I found the large old *Eucalyptus rubida* that was leaning out over the creek defying gravity when I came here twenty years ago had finally fallen. It is lying parallel to another *E. rubida* that fell a few years ago – that one made heart-rending groaning noises all one afternoon as its roots dragged out of the ground. Another even older tree close by died slowly over the last few years of drought. This species usually grows in damp areas (that part of my place was once running with water for weeks at a time – a long time ago!) and a lot of them are probably not going to last much longer without really good rains.

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**Wamboin 15 years ago:
from the Whisper of May, 1992 (Circulation 300, Editor Judy Frazer-Jans)**

From the President's paras: "Golf used to be a quiet pastime enjoyed on the first Sunday of each month until a bunch of budding media starlets took over the course. The results of this phenomenon were evidenced on Prime television during April. Soon they might even want grass on the greens." - Malcolm Harrington, President (prepared by Robyn Robertson)

**Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin
32 year statistics from the Robertsons**

April rain -- 19mm to 29/4 (2006....12.5mm)	2007 rain to 29/4 -- 161.5mm (2006 to 30/4....227mm)
Average May rain -- 50.4mm (May 2006....13.5mm)	Wettest May -- 171mm (1995)
Driest May -- 1mm (1985)	Hottest May day -- 20 degrees C (3 times)
Coldest May day -- 3 degrees C (29/5/00)	Coldest May night -- 5 degrees C (28/5/01)



NOTICE

**Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade
2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade will be held on Thursday 14 June 2007, Wamboin Community Association Hall, 112 Bingley Way Wamboin.

The meeting will begin at 7.30pm.

The AGM is the Brigade's most important formal event of the year. All members are encouraged to attend. Aspiring members, families, and other visitors are welcome. The Brigade's area covers Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Park.

Ian Coillet, Secretary, 6238 3425

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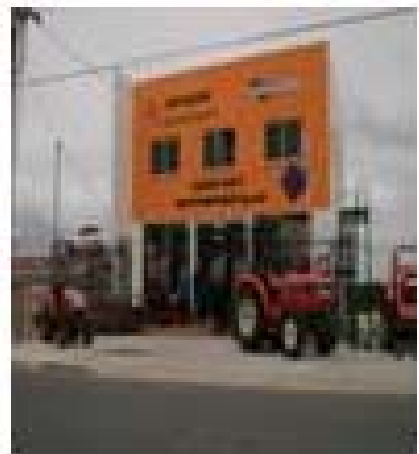
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GEARY'S GAP PONY CLUB

What is Pony Club? Pony Club is a voluntary youth organization for riders up to 25yo. It's aims are to "...promote the physical, mental and spiritual development of young people,...sportsmanship and citizenship... (while) assisting them to become proficient in their chosen sport."

To see how this translates to real life you are invited to come along to one of our rally days (2nd Sunday of the month between 10:00 – 3:00) and see us in action, or come and be a spectator at our annual One Day Event on 6 May. Our grounds are at the Les Reardon Reserve, Birriwa Rd, off Macs Reef Rd.



Also, if you have experience in some aspect of horsemanship and would like to pass your knowledge onto the next generation, we would love to hear from you. We gladly welcome members of the community to instruct at our rally days and we can guarantee an appreciative audience. Coming up in June 2008 GGPC will be celebrating its 30 year anniversary. We hope to hold some special activities and hear from as many former members as possible.



If you would like more info on our club contact the Secretary, Leigh-Anne Barlow, on 62383376, or visit our website www.gearysgap.pcansw.org.au

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WAMBOIN HISTORY AND LEGENDS No.2 -- THE "HALL"

By Don Evans

The building of the Community Hall would be one of the most important and frequently used assets in Wamboin. The "Hall" as we most refer to it, has been used for so many situations that many may not even know of its past uses. Weddings, memorial services, polling booths, balls, birthdays, fashion parades, community meetings and all the other "user groups" (fire brigade, golf, playgroup, Scouts & Cubs, art classes, pilates) which meet regularly to use the facility. When the 1985 fires which swept through, Wamboin used the Hall as a coordination / refuge centre and now it is designated by the Council for that purpose in times of emergencies. When those fires occurred, Norton Road went only as far as the Yass River, so Wamboin became a "trap" as far as fires went, with only the one access being from Sutton Road.

Back in 1982, 134 families living in the Wamboin area were in need of a meeting place. A public meeting on 3rd April 1982 agreed for a "Hall" to be built on a block which had been put aside in Bingley Way for "Local activities".

The original plan for the building was to be a brick or block structure, with a costing of over \$80,000 at the time. The funds available from the "Section 84 funds" (monies put aside by developers for community projects) was about \$12,000, so a farm shed on a concrete slab was agreed on. The shire gave a donation of \$1,000 for a water tank and septic system. The community would raise additional money for lining of the walls, electrical and a kitchen. The site was leveled by Geoff Rudd with his mini dozer. As usual, the frame arrived 3 weeks late, so there was a great rush to start assembly. Unfortunately a partial collapse of the framework occurred about 4PM on the Saturday. Fortunately nobody was injured. (The twisted steel memento hanging in the hall today is a reminder of that event.) Two damaged columns were taken home by Hank Berlee for immediate repairs while the instructions were read, stating that the wall cladding was to be installed prior to the roof timbers. By Sunday night, the walls, cladding and trusses were back in place. Hank and Lofty Mason took over the supervision after that, and the rest of the construction continued incident free. (continued on next page)

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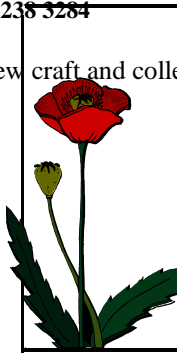
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31 Ellendon St Bungendore

(continued from previous page)

If you look carefully on the eastern end, you can see the original hinges on the permanently fixed huge double doors, which you could drive through a couple of tractors side by side. The 2nd columns from the eastern end shows signs of the rigging used to hold the curtains for the production of Cinderella, which played to an audience of 180! The flag pole, also on that side was donated by the Kowen Forest and was ingeniously “debarked” by dragging it around on the gravel roads by the “Bedford” fire truck. The timber cladding inside finished off the rough sawn timber framing and painting of the floor was enough to make it a respectable building. The hall was built entirely by the locals (with the exception of the slab) over many, many weekends and finally completed in 1984. Unfortunately all the years of painting the floor has not been thick enough to cover the dog footprints which remain from the original concrete slab pour. (Lofty’s Dog?) There have been plenty of ongoing working bees to improve such things as the ceiling linings, painting the floor extending the kitchen etc. but the most recent is the new room on the western end. Under project manager Lofty, the regular gang of tradies and others has completed to lock up stage this addition, which will further improve the building. Unfortunately, the hall is now starting to show its age like us all. It has been maintained all these years by all the “life members” of the hall committee, without outside help, we have fixed all those little things that go wrong and vandalized and try to keep it usable for all those that rely on it each week. I feel quite attached to it now, looking back on all the hours I have spent working on it over the years, like the Masons, Trent, Hank, Peter and others, but now it is in need of some repairs, in particular the gutters, attention to a few leaks on the roof and some painting. Feel free to contact the community association if you are a “Tradie” or you have the time to donate your skills.

The hall has resurrected itself as a great meeting place, with the huge success of the Wamboin Produce Markets. The only complaints being that you have to wait 4 weeks for the next one to come around. For many of the regular users, the most important icon inside, is the “Bar”. Many a tall story has been told over the red laminex bench top, with scars from a runaway circular saw (so they say) It has survived in the corner silently absorbing stories and spills over the years, where most of us remember the great times living in Wamboin, and why we wouldn’t live anywhere else.....

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Wamboin Rural Golf Club

By Lofty Mason ...

... while Peter Greenwood is away checking the number of rabbits on each side of the Great Wall of China. The Club staged the annual Mini Masters on the 1st of April. A special thanks to Graham and Barbara Heathcote of Bungendore Foodworks who supplied the great meat tray prizes and also the delicious nibbles for the day. Also our thanks to our Tradies who were brave enough to judge the pitching competition.

The main competition was 'off the stick' over 6 holes (played twice). Players who make the cut after the first six holes are eligible for the major prizes. All players play the same 6 holes again. A secondary competition for all players is based on 2/3 normal handicap.

On return to the 'Clubhouse' a pitching competition is held. Players are handicapped over the 4 shots by 1st playing with feet together; 2nd standing on a tyre; 3rd from a 300mm high tee and 4th from a sand trap. Ken Gordon recorded the best result but as each player can only win one prize Tim Barter took home the pitching prize.

The handicap event was a family victory. Tom Argaet (37.4) beating his Dad (39.4). At the end of the day, on top of the leaders board, the winner of the Masters and proud wearer of the Green Jacket was Peter Greenwood (48) over Ken Gordon (51). Junior golfer, Vincent Gorham, won an encouragement prize for being the most featured player in 1 off the most prizes.

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See You There

Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

According to Wamboin folklore, you light your first fire for the season on ANZAC day. This year we had a fire on ANZAC's eve, but we did have a false start a few weeks earlier when I had to scramble to remove the long forgotten Christmas decorations from the firebox and scratch around for kindling. The tinsel and baubles, which had sparkled and been ignored for most of summer had to be packed away in a box probably to be forgotten entirely by next Christmas. The year is rolling on.

It has been a perfect autumn if one can overlook the obvious lack of rain. The reds, maroons, oranges and golds of the northern hemisphere trees are spectacular, especially when sprinkled amongst the straggly, undisciplined green greys of the local bush; bold and transient in contrast to the unassuming and resilient. And as the warm colours spin and flutter to the ground and are replaced by naked branches, we are reminded that winter is not very far off.

But here's a story to warm the cockles of your heart and numbing toes as the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer and colder. It's a story that could only happen in the Vicar of Dibley's parish.....or in Wamboin. Two souls, both in their autumn years, one like a sudden summer heatwave, the other like the glow of a warm winter's fire, met, chatted over a good cup of coffee at our markets, and have discovered the joys of spring. One is a champion of all "down on their luck" creatures, whether feathered or furred, and the other more interested in bloodlines and breeding, and making fine cheese....but both have a smile on their faces.

We might never again achieve our average monthly rainfall, and an early winter's chill might spell the end of my still ripening tomatoes, but nothing can detract from a good love story.

I wouldn't live anywhere else.....not even in Dibley where I'm sure it still rains.

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