

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

July 2007

CIRCULATION: 1069

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 August 2007 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, July 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
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

New Residents – If you are new to Wamboin, or know someone who is, Lofty Mason has collated a “Meet and Greet” package. It contains useful information about Wamboin, including a map. It has details of the diverse range of community groups in the area. Please contact him on 6238 3258 for a copy.

Palerang Council – The 2007-8 Draft Management Plan (DMP) and Budget was discussed at the June WCA meeting. John van der Straaten, Pete Harrison, Charlie and I attended the public meeting outlining the key points of the plan held by the Council in Bungendore last week. Unfortunately, the meeting was very poorly attended, which was very disappointing for the Council staff and councillors who put a lot of effort into the informative presentation. We discussed our concerns for Wamboin, particularly with respect to Norton Road and other local roads, waste management, and open and transparent communication with ratepayers. Many thanks to John van der Straaten for preparing a submission to the DMP and Budget on behalf of the WCA.

Land Valuations – If you lodged an objection to your land valuation, you should be contacted by an independent valuer soon, if you haven't been already. The valuer who visited us a couple of weeks ago said that he was reviewing 30 in the Wamboin/Bywong area and knew of at least one other valuer who was reviewing objections in this area. The objection process may not be completed before the 2007-8 rates notices are issued. If it isn't, your rates need to be paid as specified on your rates notice. However, your valuation subsequently changes, the rates will be adjusted accordingly and a refund given if one is due.

Review of Rural Lands Protection Boards rating system – We attended the public meeting of BRLPB ratepayers conducted by Richard Bull at Bungendore on 8 June. Despite being very cold and the start of the long weekend, the meeting was well attended and very lively. Mr Bull was left in no doubt about the feelings of the community towards the RLPB and its rating system. His options report will be available soon.

Wamboin Community Association – There won't be a WCA meeting in July unless any urgent matters arise. So the next WCA meeting is on **21st August at 7:30pm.**

Curry Night – Make a date in your diary for Wamboin's gastronomical delight of the year which will be on the **18th August.**

Wamboin Produce Markets – The markets are now in recess for winter. The next markets will be on **15th September** from 9:00am till noon.

Bonfire Night – Wamboin's annual fireworks and bonfire will be on **22nd September.** Please come and support this major fundraiser for many local community groups and enjoy the great display by Black Widow Fireworks.

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 August'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 and Guy Cotsell

Trivial Soup. All soup gourmets will again be winners at Bywong's annual Trivia Challenge, scheduled this year for Saturday 28 July. Bywong Community will be serving its annual supper treat of a selection of home-made soups with rolls, followed by tea and freshly brewed Wagonga coffee. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

The now-famous challenge will again accept entries from as many teams as can fit into the Community Hall. Entry remains at \$10 per person and the Community is looking for entries to make up tables of 6-8 people. The Community is happy to make up tables for people who don't have the numbers.

Lamberts Winery has again generously agreed to sponsor the event, and will donate the prize for the winning team, as well as a "Dinner for Two" raffle prize.

The evening will begin at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, Birriwa Road (off Macs Reef Road).

For information or bookings, ring Morag on 6230 3523 or email cotsell@moraguy.net.

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 PalerancCn cl+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

222 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 Stewart	Rovere Lane	12
Joan Milner	Birriwa Road	30
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Lane	6

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

Bill Owen	Cooper Rd.	26
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

TOTAL FOR WHISPER 1069

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WHISPER MUSIC LINK

By Angela Hunter & Jake Annetts

Winter is on its way out now and this weekend we hosted a Winter Solstice party, which again showed us what a great abundance of talent we have here in Wamboin.

During the winter Jake has been busy in the workshop repairing a load of broken guitars he recently purchased. He's hoping to use these guitars for regular workshops where guitarists (experienced or inexperienced) can come and learn new techniques or just jam with other players – all of which helps build guitar skills. So if you're looking for someone to play along with to help hone your skills then contact us. Depending on the level of interest we'll advise in later editions as to when and where the workshops will occur.

If you have any old guitars you would like to donate (in any condition/size) then please let us know. Phone: 6238 3969 or email: jakeandange@optusnet.com.au.



MUSO'S OF THE MONTH 'EAGLE MEDICINE'

Eagle Medicine is a recently formed 3-piece band featuring singer/songwriter Dave Argaet, guitarist Paul Cameron and keyboard player Sylvia McNickle. The trio has performed to appreciative audiences in Bungendore and Canberra with a mix of blues and rock covers and some gritty, emotional songs written by Dave Argaet. Eagle Medicine recently entertained crowds at the protest day organised to save the Turallo Creek Bridge and their performance showed they've built a strong band in a short time. Their collective talent ensures Eagle Medicine is set to soar.

LAKE GEORGE DAY VIEW CLUB

by Lydia Teodorowych

The next meeting of the Lake George Day VIEW Club will be on Tuesday July 17, 2007 commencing at 11.30am for a 12 noon start at Goolabri Country Resort, off Federal Highway, 202 Goolabri Drive, Sutton. Come along and join us for lunch, trading tables and bingo. This is our major fund raising event for the year. Cost is \$21. New members and guests are always welcome. For bookings please ring Kerry on 6238 0603 by noon Wednesday 12 July. VIEW - a valued member of The Smith Family.

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NEW CLASSIFIEDS

Wanted: House-sitter from 30 June to 20 July, including walking, feeding and loving two kelpies. Call 0427248 005 Beth.

Recycle your egg cartons & rubber bands. Just drop them off at 413 Norton Road - In the letter box or just inside the gate is fine.

FOR SALE: Three 'Metal Mart' dog panels each 2.2m x 1.8m and one gate panel same size, plus hinges. Can be added to for larger run. As new, cost \$665, sell \$300, no offers. Phone 0418315156.

Garage Sale: Moving and downsizing, ride-on mower, chest deepfreeze, trailers, two BBQ's, single bed, firemans pump, pot belly stove, Triton mk 3 work centre, garden tools, fencing tools, some furniture, wheelbarrows, kitchen overflow and much more. Saturday 21 July 10am - 2pm at 134 Bingley Way Wamboin. Call 6238-3266 with queries.

Going away in September? House & Farm sitter available to look after your pets, stock and property. I am a 50 year old professional man available from early September. Fit non-smoker; independent and capable man, graduated from both Hawkesbury & Orange Agric Colleges and was a jackaroo/farm-hand.in 1970s. Have owned hobby farms & horses in NSW and now working in & around ACT with own car. I enjoy pets & happy look over livestock. References available. Email John mortz@spitfire.com.au or 0414824448 for more details

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@yahoogroups.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

Beekeeping Services Prompt removal of swarm bees and hives that are no longer wanted. Can also remove feral hives depending on location. Fee charged depending on distance travelled and the type of job required. Happy to discuss your requirements. Award winning local honey for sale. Wamboin Yellow Box \$8 kg. Available in 1 x kg or 500gram glass jars while stocks last. - Phone or see us each month at the markets! Call John - Ridgiedidge Apiary 6238 3791.
www.ridgiedidge.net.au

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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Bywong and Wamboin Short Story Competition

The competition is closing on Friday 29 June and we have received a number of stories to date – thank-you to those who have contributed. We expect to receive more on Friday to meet the competition deadline. Judging will take place in early July and all winners will be contacted prior to the August publication of *The Whisper*. We anticipate that publication of all winners' entries will be over a number of months. We hope to publish all entries, depending on space in the newsletter.

We would be pleased to receive comments and feedback from readers on the stories and competition itself. These can be forwarded to the Editor of *The Whisper*.

Thanks again to all who have contributed and good luck!

Nora Stewart on behalf of the organising group (Nora Stewart, David Evans-Smith, Colin Brammall and Stan Melville).

25 June 2007

**THE BRIGADE IS RECRUITING.
WE NEED MORE HELP.
WE NEED IT NOW!!**

Wamboin's Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade
needs new volunteers (and it's not just fires).

Community-minded?
Keen to use existing or learn new skills?

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02 6241 8888

WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – JUNE COMPETITION RESULTS

by Peter Greenwood

Good numbers turned out on a fine cool afternoon for Wamboin golf sponsored by Larry and Libby King. Young Jack Whitney played his first full 18 holes with dad John and turned in a very respectable score to take home the junior trophy.

Long drive and nearest the pin winners were Warren Smith x2, Charles Guscott, Steve Miners x2, Paul Griffin, Len Ivey, John Whitney and Jack Whitney.

Nine hole comp winner was Peter Greenwood.

Winner of B Grade was Paul Griffin with Larry King in second.

Winner of the A Grade competition was Steve Miners by two strokes from Len Ivey.

Next month is our annual GST Anniversary competition with the usual 10% confusion factor!

Golf enquiries to Peter Greenwood 6238 3358.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas in July 16 - 22 July
Enjoy Christmas Fare with the trimmings around the log
fire - can't guarantee snow!

Rugby Bledisloe Cup 21 July
View the Game on the big screen telecast from NZ from
5.30pm followed by a Christmas in July set menu

Fireside Festival - Flavours & Friends
For details www.fireside.com.au

Shiraz and Wagyu Degustation Dinner 4 August
Enjoy Dean's culinary skills matched with some startling
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Dinner & Dance 25 August
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News from Sutton School

by Gay McNeill

From time to time, students go on excursions to complement school programs. Recently Year 5/6 visited Bywong Town to learn about the history of goldmining in the area. Also Year 4/5 visited the Indonesian Embassy then had a guided tour of the new sculptures at the National Gallery. Next week Kindergarten and Year 1 students are off to the Dinosaur Museum. Sometimes we are fortunate and a guest speaker can visit the school. For example, Luke Bond from National Parks and Wildlife Service in Queanbeyan who came and spoke to Year 3 students about his work as a ranger.

With the onset of cooler weather, our daily primary sport is concentrating on athletics. Students are training for track events and completing field events ready for the school carnival on 27th July. Congratulations to James Allen who came 14th in the 11 year old boys' district cross country race.

At our Kindergarten Open Day on 20th June, parents and their 4 year olds heard about school programs and looked around our wonderful facilities. Earlier in June Ms Cooper had taken Year 5/6 for a buddy morning at Bungendore Pre-School, where they could meet future students.

For the last Wednesday of Term 2, Mr Petchell and our Student Council organised a mufti day to raise money for our World Vision sponsorship. Staff and students wore old-fashioned dress and played games and activities from the time.

To celebrate a term of hard work by our piano students, parents and pupils were treated to enthusiastic performances at Friday assembly on 22 June.

Recently, the staff enjoyed an informal breakfast with Mr Graeham Kennedy, the Director of Education for Illawarra and South East Region. Then Year 6 students showed him around the school and explained their special responsibilities.

Thanks to the rain and General Assistant Tobias Downes, the school grounds are looking fantastic with new garden beds and green lawns. With Federal funding for a submission prepared by our P&C, last week our much anticipated pirate ship playground equipment was installed on the old volleyball court. Once Astroturf is laid around it students can 'set sail' or 'walk the plank'. Check it out between the main gates if you are driving past.



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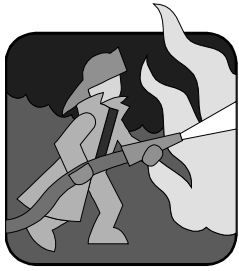
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The Wamboin Firefighter

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-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 with considerable regret that I have to inform you about a house fire that occurred on the first day of winter. At 10pm on that Friday evening your brigade was called to the fire at a house on Bungendore Road. Although I live only a few kilometres from the scene the picture below and on the left shows what confronted me and Group Captain Chris Powell. Chris had arrived at the incident a short time before me. This was also a little while before the Wamboin firefighting crews and the Queanbeyan Fire Brigade arrived. As we say in firefighting parlance, the house was fully involved and there was little anyone from any fire brigade could have done to save the house. It was extremely fortunate that the sole occupant of the house was not inside or injured. He had left the premises and returned to find the house in flames. During the night 4 rural fire brigades from Bungendore, Queanbeyan, Stoney Creek, and Ridgeway as well as a NSW Fire Brigade crew from

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Queanbeyan assisted in controlling the fire. We were fortunate that the local SES crew was able to assist the fire crews by providing lighting and catering. The incident involved almost 50 firefighters, the SES crew as well as our Rural Fire Service chaplain who assisted the owner of the house and his neighbours during those very stressful hours. We spent many hours subduing the fire and around 3am on Saturday morning all the crews had left the scene. In the early daylight hours a little later a small crew from your brigade and I returned to the scene to continue any needed mop-up operations. We also observed the fire investigation team examining the desolate scene. Later that afternoon another Wamboin crew extinguished the last remaining embers and ensured everything was completely backed out.

I suggest that some lessons can be learned from this regrettable incident. In previous editions of the *Wamboin Whisper* I have mentioned that as we live in a rural community it is almost impossible for any emergency service to get to our properties in time to save any dwellings or sheds once a fire has taken hold. Those first twenty to thirty minutes are critical. It is often the time in which fires do take a hold. Please, please do not leave fires, especially fires in open fire places, unattended. Have a fire extinguisher near your fireplaces. Make sure you have properly fitted fire and smoke alarms that work. If you are confident in using it, make sure you have other fire fighting equipment available. This includes having a supply of water identified for the fire brigade. Seriously consider how effective your evacuation plans are.



Other brigade activities continue unabated. The pictures below show some of the activities and some of the helpers, both canine and human, during our recent working bee at the fire shed. We have made a good start installing the pump system at the dam even though the recent rain, although VERY welcome and which filled the new water tanks, caused some flooding in the excavations and spoiled Charlie Montesin's expert work! Our resident plumber, Don Evans, capably assisted by his apprentice-for-the-day, Darrol Dykes, performed his much respected magic with pipes and other things plumbing to make sure we captured the water from the roof of the shed extension.

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Other brigade members spent their time reorganising the storeroom in preparation for a much needed refurbishment of our storage facilities. This work did involve some gut-wrenching decisions to work out if some long stored “stuff” could be thrown out. After many agonising hours several self-confessed hoarders did manage to fill a utility and ceremoniously cart the “stuff” to the tip. Several other members are now considered as candidates for counselling however! Thank you to everyone who gave generously of their time and a big thank you to Wendy Downs for the magnificent catering. We all also hope Peter Greenwood’s tractor has not suffered too much damage.



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.

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

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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
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1st Wamboin Bungonia Camp

By Matilda Whitney, 1st Wamboin Scouts

Last month the 1st Wamboin Scouts went on a 2-day camp consisting of walking and.....walking! We camped in amongst trees at a National Park on the other side of Goulburn. We all cooked our own food on mini cookers and then walked to a near by cave. Marita got a shock when we turned all the torches off whilst in the cave although we only went down two ladders!

During our lecture about wild pigs (by Baggy) we roasted marsh mallows and then went to bed. Most of us slept outside under a tarp but those who didn't ended up the lucky ones when we had an unexpected (well not that unexpected) visit from wild pigs! I didn't get much sleep that night because I was so uncomfortable and was awoken once by Josh screaming in his sleep!!!

The next morning we ate breakfast but mainly ate all Baggy's left overs that he couldn't eat himself (cheese and biscuits, sugar, chocolate and tea) to lighten our packs. The walk that day was magnificent. We walked down an incredibly steep hill then along the river. We had to make our way across boulders; that was the best part! Climbing over, under and through these gigantic rocks was incredibly tiring but was definitely worth it.



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A more unpleasant time was when Josh and I were chasing after Lyre birds and ran straight through a patch of stinging nettles. Luckily I didn't get much but poor Josh took a blow! We used our pocketknives to get rid of the barbs. Obviously by walking down steep hills to get to a valley of boulders some time on the walk you would need to walk UP steep hills and so; that's what we did! If it weren't branches and rocks sticking out in all different directions (not to mention Pawnees head bopping music) I would have never made it up that death hill.

When we eventually did reach the end of the walk everyone jumped in the cars and we headed of to McDonalds! Not the healthiest way to end camp but it was well earned!

All in all it was the best, first scout camp I've been on.

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Wamboin 15 years ago

from the Whisper July 1993 Ed: Judy Frazer-Jans Circulation 300

President's Paras

..... "The Community Hall now has a larger and more functional kitchen as a result of the hard work and perseverance of a group of people who have contributed their time and skill to the task. Hall hire rates have been revised to reflect the improvements. Joan Mason has continued to do a good job managing hall hiring.

We have built and maintained a good relationship with the Council, participating in the Community Consultative Committee, becoming involved in the discussion about recreational trails, and corresponding on matters that have impact on our lives. This relationship with Council has been assisted by the efforts of Peter Greenwood who continues to represent us well as Councillor and Shire President. The value of this relationship has been demonstrated by the Council's willingness to contribute financially to the extension of the kitchen and the purchase of chairs for the hall....."

-- Malcolm Harrington, President

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin 32 year statistics from the Robertsons

June rainfall to 24/6 - 53.5mm	(June 2006.....84.5mm)
2007 rainfall to 24/6 -268.25mm	(2006 to 30/6....325mm)
Av July rainfall - 53.7mm	Driest July - 4.5mm (1982)
Wettest July - 142.0mm (1993)	Wettest July day - 50.5mm (11/7/91)
Hottest July day - 15 degrees C (22/7/79)	Coldest July day - 5 degrees C (7/7/90 and 18/7/04)
Coldest July night -5 degrees C (10/7/96)	

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See You There

Nature Notes – May 2007

Jo Walker

Editor’s Note: Due to a mistake on my part this article was not included in the previous issue as it should have been.

A nice drop of rain two weeks ago (30mm here) has got the winter grasses greening up again, but there was no run-off for the dams. Talking of grass, just after I wrote in the April Nature Notes about the Red-leg Grass turning bits of our roadsides into patches of pink, Palerang Council decided to spray the invasive African Lovegrass and other grasses around roadside infrastructure with pink herbicide. Hope this wasn’t too confusing!

While I was standing at the window having a cuppa this morning, a flock of over a hundred Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos flew over. About twenty of them returned later and spent most of the morning calling excitedly to each other and pulling chunks of wood out of the Silver Wattle stems in search of grubs. This often damages the trees to such an extent that they fall over in the next high wind. This is a natural process though, and there are always young wattles coming on to replace the fallen trees. Not quite so acceptable is the Black Cockatoos’ habit of ring-barking non-local eucalypts I’ve planted! There are no grubs in these trees, and the birds don’t seem to do this to local eucalypts – another one of those mysteries of bird behaviour.

A few weeks ago, I was watching a small flock of Varied Sitellas flitting from tree to tree and then searching for insects under the bark – spiralling downwards along the branches, their distinctive feeding behaviour. Soon a couple of Speckled Warblers came into view hopping quietly along the ground. Both of these species are becoming uncommon, so I felt it had been worth standing still and watching for ten minutes on a busy day. But then I saw a flash of an unusual bright pink in a nearby shrub, and a little bird hopped towards me until it was in clear view. I’m pretty sure it was a Pink Robin, as it was a slaty black colour on its back and head and its breast was a brilliant pink. There is a similar bird, the Rose Robin, but its colours are somewhat paler and it has white markings on its outer tail feathers. Both species are usually birds of fern gullies or wet sclerophyll forest rather than drier areas like Wamboin.

One of the few plants flowering at present is the beautiful heath-plant, *Styphelia triflora*. It’s one of the larger heath-plants, growing into a dense shrub to a metre tall. Its narrow, long bell-shaped, cream flowers carry a lot of nectar and are a source of winter food for honey-eaters. Last year, hardly any Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*) flowered, but we might see more this coming spring as lots of these little plants are beginning to show their narrow, dark green leaves (very similar to small onion seedlings) amongst the grasses. If we get just a little more rain, we might, just might, get a more colourful spring this year.

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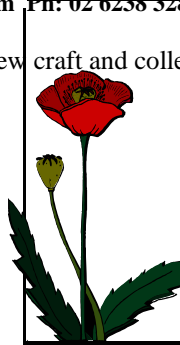
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Nature Notes - June 2007

by Jo Walker

The snow was a wonderful surprise – especially as the weather forecast had been expecting only a possibility of a shower. It was more useful than a downpour of equal volume, as it melted slowly into the soil – there were still patches of white remaining late into the afternoon on the higher parts of Wamboin. The kangaroos were a bit nonplussed, especially the younger ones. There were five or six does and yearlings clustered around the trunk of a large dense Cherry Ballart tree near the house where there was a patch of dry, snow-free ground. They seem to be enjoying the results of all that moisture though – grass springing up on even the rockiest hillsides.

The last week has been typical winter weather – heavy frosts overnight followed by still, warm days. Because there is still so little water in the dam, the whole surface freezes over. The patterns in the ice are intriguing – lots of absolutely straight lines and triangles plus other geometric shapes. While I was admiring nature's ice-artistry this morning, a male Magpie-lark came down to the dam (identifiable because the males have black feathers around their beaks, the females a circle of white feathers), and walked all around the edge where the ice had melted, paddling in the water and occasionally stabbing at some small aquatic insect or water snail. I don't know how long Magpie-larks live, but there has always been a pair here (possibly the same two) and they seem to collect most of their food along the shallow edge of the dam.

A yellow-tufted Honeyeater has turned up again this winter, and is usually busy in a group of grevillea bushes at the top of the hill. This bird will also search under loose bark for insects. It is about the same size as the more common white-faced Honeyeater, but has a bright yellow chin and a black facial stripe (widening from the beak to behind the eye) ending in a tuft of golden feathers.

An interesting (and mysterious) bird event happened here the other day. I was walking up past the large Eucalyptus rossii tree at the back of the house to check the rain gauge when something fell out of the tree behind me with a loud thump. Lying on its back on the ground, clutching a piece of twig in its beak, was a Galah. It looked okay, if a bit stunned and unable to get to its feet, so I picked it up (not something to be attempted without a pair of sturdy leather gloves) and put it in an enclosure. It seemed to recover – after an hour or so it was perched on a pile of wood looking around – but when I went out later to release it it had died. It looked perfectly healthy, and I am still trying to work out why it didn't use its wings when it started to fall.



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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

At long last....a real winter! What a thrill to wake up to an icy morning sparkling with a million diamonds, listen to the steady drum of rain on the iron roof, drive through an eerie, unreal world of fog and watch snowflakes, like whispers, fall to the whitening ground. It's the season for red cheeks, damp noses and warm woolly jumpers. I've even been forced to clean out a few cupboards and drawers and spend some time indoors.

However, I've also spent a little time this month in waiting rooms, flicking through glossy and some less than glossy magazines. I now think I've caught up with who is in love, who is out of love, who is sporting a baby bump and who has the current trophy child. But I am still puzzled as to how these beautiful people can possibly get out of bed in the morning, let alone hold down a job and look after their garden. And I'm getting mighty tired of hearing that sixty is the new forty. It makes me want to tear out my grey streaked hair!

At forty I didn't have a retired husband, grandchildren, decrepit animals and twenty acres for the sole pleasure of mobs of kangaroos and marauding rabbits. I did have a couple of teenagers, but on the plus side, I had a job that gave me status, someone to clean the house and energy to burn. I didn't need to invest much time or money at the hairdresser, shopping for clothes was fun, I could and did eat anything I fancied without dire consequences and a pleasurable run around the block with the dog was just that....a pleasure. And now I think I've earned my stripes. I feel the same inside as I did when I was forty, but I don't look forty anymore and I don't feel forty, and neither do I wish to. I've had my turn and now it's time to bow out gracefully and let the real forty year olds have their turn.

The frost has thawed, the fog has lifted and the rain has given way to a brilliant blue sky. I can't wait to get into the garden, pull a few weeds for the idle chooks, shovel some dirt and get a wheelbarrow load of wood for the fire tonight. And at the end of another wonderful day I'll share dinner with our grandchildren and feel truly sixty!

I wouldn't live anywhere else.....

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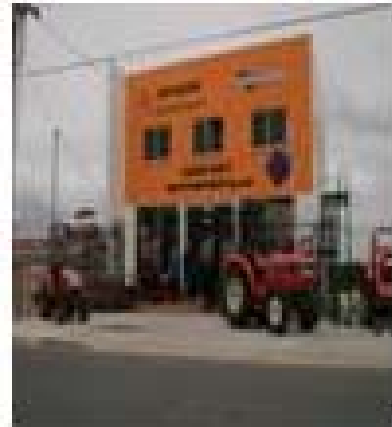
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THE STABLE DOOR

by Ian Collet

Watt'l we do: When the World Wildlife Foundation or WWF as it has been known for some time now, released its Living Planet Report late last year, having examined the state of the natural world and the impact of human activity upon it, the Report confirmed, we humans are living further and further beyond our means: humanity's footprint has more than tripled since 1961. Nineteen eighty-four is the year when the Earth reached the limits of its capacity to provide for us. Since then we have been using the Earth's natural resources at a rate that increasingly exceeds what it is able to replenish. The consequences of our growing demands and rising consumption are both predictable and dire – much more than any Orwellian novel.

According to WWF International Director General James Leape, collectively we are consuming 25 per cent more than the planet can sustain in the long-term. In other words, we now need at least 1.25 planets to meet our present natural resource demands. The way energy is generated and consumed – particularly over-reliance on coal, gas and oil – accounts for almost half of our ecological footprint. Climate-changing emissions from these fuels pose a growing threat, already manifest in rising temperatures and melting glaciers.

The challenge that faces us all – whether we live in New York, Paris, Beijing, Bywong or Wamboin – is how people everywhere can enjoy and continue to strive for a higher quality of life, given the limited resources of our one planet. We can meet the challenge, but the sooner we get started, the less costly it will be. First and foremost, we must change the way we use energy, and the ways we produce it.

If you watched the insightful ABC TV's 4 Corners tonight (Monday 25 June), you will have learned, electric hot water can cost approximately 1/3 of your total energy bill. Conventionally, the fridge is the biggest energy user in a home. The new power guzzler is the super wide-screen TV – they can use more power than the average family fridge.

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As with everything else in this world, we need a strategy and a long-term goal. Don't let anyone else try and tell you otherwise.



In Life*, there are many hundreds of common experiences, feelings, situations and even objects which we all know and recognize, but for which no words exist. On the other hand, the world is littered with thousands of spare words that spend their time doing nothing but loafing about on signposts pointing at places. Douglas Adams and John Lloyd saw it as their job to get these words down off the signposts and into the mouths of babes and sucklings and so on, where they can start earning their keep in everyday conversation and make a more positive contribution to society.

Many editions ago I presented a small first extract from their *Meaning of Liff. As a little light relief, I thought I'd educate you a wee bit more with this second instalment.....

JAWCRAIG (n. medical) A massive facial spasm which is brought on by being told a really astounding piece of news. **KALAMI (n.)** The ancient Eastern art of being able to fold road-maps properly. (*My observation is that women in particular need better skilling in this.*) **DILLYTOP (n.)** (*I'll leave you to ponder on this till next month.*)

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