

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

# The Whisper

September 2007 CIRCULATION: 1074

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, which started the Whisper in 1981 and continues to own it. This Newsletter is distributed to all RMBs in Wamboin, Bywong, Clare, and Yalana at the beginning of each month, except January. Editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Contributions which readers may wish to make will be appreciated, and should be submitted to by email to [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or dropped into his mailbox at 17 Reedy Creek Place. The deadline for the next issue is always the last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for the October 2007 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, September 30, 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

<b>Wamboin Community Assn</b>	Helen Montesin	President	6238-3208
<b>Bywong Community Assn</b>	Judith Miller	President	6236-9321.
<b>Fire Brigade</b>	Cliff Spong	Captain	040-999-1340 bh 6236 9220 ah
<b>Wamboin Playgroup</b>	Leanne Quick	Convener	6238 3435
<b>Sutton School Playgroup</b>	Laura Taylor	Convener	62369662
<b>Landcare</b>	Roger Good	President	6236-9048
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238-1333
<b>Breastfeeding Assoc.</b>	Belinda Dennis	Community Educator	6236 9979
<b>Emergency Services</b>	NSW Call Centre	Staff	132-500
<b>Emergency Services Admin</b>	Colin Brown	Controller	6238-1067
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Peter Greenwood	JP	6238-3358
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Keith France	JP	6238-3596
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Margaret Fletcher	JP	6238-1211
<b>Wamboin Scout Group</b>	Peter Harrison	Contact Person	6238-3525
<b>Wamboin Guides</b>	Rosemary Riley	Contact Person	6241-6565
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Maureen Purdie	Contact Person	6238-3343
<b>Gearys Gap Pony Club</b>	Leigh-Anne Barlow	Secretary	6238-3376
<b>Play Group</b>	Leanne Quick	Convenor	6238-3435
<b>Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason	Bookings	6238-3258
<b>Church, Anglican</b>	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238-3202
<b>Christian Prayer Group</b>	Steve & Imelda Taylor	Contacts	6238-3220
<b>Golf</b>	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238-3358
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare	Helpline	6299-1966
<b>Claire Ayling</b>	WWOW Group	Convener	6238-3347
<b>Lake George Day VIEW Club</b>	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

### (Vice) President's Paragraphs

In the absence of our illustrious president, responsibility for this month's Paragraphs has fallen to me, her deputy. There was a good turn-out for the August meeting of the WCA, with Council's recent proposal for **waste management in Wamboin** on the agenda. The meeting voted unanimously to reject Council's proposal (the installation of several arrays of roadside bins) in its entirety, and to request that Council give more serious consideration to locating a transfer station at the current Mac's Reef Road tip site.

Richard Bull's **review of the RLPB rating system** has been released, and is available from the RLPB web site: [www.rlpb.org.au](http://www.rlpb.org.au). In the short term, the only item that will affect most Wamboin residents is that the review recommends a return to a minimum 10 ha threshold for rating eligibility. Of course, if this recommendation is not adopted, other aspects of the report may become of interest.

Land holders whose **2006 Land Valuation** was made on 5 October 2006 should also have received a notice of amendment from the Valuer General. Apparently, it was agreed that the valuations in question were in error and all have been reduced accordingly. The effort that our WCA president, Helen Montesin, and her team put in to identify this problem and to help community members submit their objections, is very much appreciated. Valuations made on 14 November 2006 do not seem to have been affected.

Our major community fundraiser, the annual **Bonfire and Fireworks Night**, will be held on the evening of Saturday, 22 September (see main advertisement). **Now is the time to bring your combustible garden waste to the Community Centre oval, to help build the centrepiece of the occasion.** Many of our community groups will be in attendance, with their traditional culinary delights for the pleasure of the assembled masses. Please come along, join in the festivities and support your community.

Also, as advertised elsewhere in this month's Whisper, the **Wamboin Produce Markets** will be reconvening this month (September 15, 9:00–12:00), after the winter break.

The next meeting of the WCA will be on Tuesday, 18 September, at 7:30 pm. Ian Peters, Telstra's local service representative is currently booked for our October meeting, to provide an update on Telstra's plans for the Wamboin/Bywong area. --- Pete Harrison (Pete.Harrison@internode.on.net)

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#### 160 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN: Ph 6238 3208

Dean Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West	18	Bill Owen	Cooper Rd.	26
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	33	Cathy Abell	Canning Close	17
Hank Berlee	11 Poppet Rd (for all on road)	34	Alan Rope	Sutton Road	30

#### 278 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:

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 PalerancCn cl+41Advttrs	55	Penny Evans	Norton, Cmpbell to Bngly	25
Kathy Handel	Yalana West	19			

#### 227 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER:

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

#### 222 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:

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 Stewart	Rovere Lane	12	Sandra Favre	MReef /Newington/Harriot (B)	20
Joan Milner	Birriwa Road	30	Ian & Esther Rudd	Mreef/Bankers to Fed Hwy	26
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Lane	6			

#### 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 1074

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HIA Member

## Bywong Community News

Compiled by Morag and Guy Cotsell

President Judith Miller is to retain the reins of Bywong Community for the current year, after the Community's Annual General Meeting re-elected her unopposed.

In her report for the past year, Judith paid particular tribute to the work done by sister association Wamboin in achieving reductions in valuations of properties in Bywong and Wamboin. "BCI supported the great work done by Wamboin Community Association in challenging property valuations in Bywong and Wamboin. "This community action led to a declaration by the NSW Valuer General of the 'discovery' of a systemic error in valuations in Bywong and Wamboin ..... and the announcement of a review of those rates. This has led to large reductions in valuations in Bywong and Wamboin, with subsequent flow on to lower rates," the report said.

Judith's report also highlighted grants made by Bywong Community to local community groups, including Wamboin Rural Fire Service, Bungendore Tennis Club, Wildcare and the Guides/Brownies.

Other office bearers elected at the AGM were Nora Stewart (Vice President), Dennis Ryan (Treasurer), and Committee Members Jean-Pierre Favre, Morag Cotsell, Sue Gorham, Darryl Bourke, Bruna Romano and Guy Cotsell. The meeting decided that Committee Members would share the tasks of Secretary until a Secretary is appointed. Expressions of interest from any Bywong resident would be welcomed.

### The Looking Glass Newspaper WE BETTER LOOK OUT!!!!

Amalia Mills (Year 6)

25<sup>th</sup>, June, Earth, Australia, NSW, Wamboin, 5:09pm was when and where I found the aliens. I will tell you my story, but you mustn't tell anyone, this is secret and I don't want the aliens to know I've found them.

I finished my breakfast and, kcapkcab slung over my shoulder, left in an Easterly direction. This is where I found the first signs of them- a pam. On it were lots of squiggly lines and letters, it was very confusing. But I was excited at seeing the sign, even if I didn't know what it meant.

I kept walking. I soon came to a strange animal! I pulled out my aremac and took a otohp, like I did with the pam, and then kept walking.

While I did, I glanced at my surroundings. Huge beetle things roamed around and things stuck up from the ground. I shivered. It was a weird place. I wish I could just sight a esuoh and take a otohp and be done with it. It was then when I looked up I saw my next sign of Aliens.

A esuoh!. I danced around and suddenly dropped my aremac. It smashed. I gingerly touched its pieces. I felt a great sadness come over me. I had dropped my aremac, broken its sesnel, ruined its sotohp and... I burst into sraet.

I picked myself up, this mission hasn't failed yet! That is why, I am trying to convince, but I have no proof *yet*, Snamuhs are real. So we better look out us Martians-they're real!!

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## LAKE GEORGE DAY VIEW CLUB

by Lydia Teodorowych

The next meeting of the Lake George Day VIEW Club will be on Tuesday September 18, 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. Cost is \$21. If you have drought pack items to donate please bring them along as this is the last month we are collecting before handing them over to those who are greatest in need. New members and guests are always welcome. For bookings please ring Kerry on 6238 0603 by noon Friday 14 September. visit our blog: <http://lgdviewclub.blogspot.com>

### NEW CLASSIFIEDS

**Horse Rug Repairs**-prompt, reliable and competitively priced. Urgent repairs possible-drop off in the morning and pick up in the afternoon. Contact Robyn Slater on 62383472.

**KITCHEN HANDS REQUIRED.** Capital Country Holiday Village (formerly White Ibis Holiday Village) at 47 Bidges Road Sutton is looking for kitchen hands. We have morning and evening shifts available, also some weekend shifts. Approximately 20 hours per week. If you are interested please phone Marilyn on 6230 3433 during office hours or send your résumé to the above address.

**HOUSEKEEPERS REQUIRED.** Capital Country Holiday Village (formerly White Ibis Holiday Village) at 47 Bidges Road Sutton is looking for housekeepers. Approximately 20 hours per week. If you are interested please phone Marilyn on 6230 3433 during office hours or send your résumé to the above address.

**Casual babysitter wanted** for a nine year old boy. Occasional evenings and perhaps after school sometimes if convenient. Please ring Shelley on 6236 9277.

### LONG RUNNING CLASSIFIEDS

**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.

**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](mailto: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

**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](http://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](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au). And thanks if you have already done so.

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## GEARY'S GAP/WAMBOIN LANDCARE GROUP- SEPTEMBER 2007 EVENTS

Your local Landcare group has been actively planting trees in the local area. The Group participated in National Tree Day in July, planting some 400 native trees and shrubs in Bywong. This was a continuation of local plantings which has seen the establishment of some 4,000 trees and many shrubs along roadsides and local government open space areas.

**Monthly meeting: Monday 10 September:** Our speaker will be *Jacqui Stol* from CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems. Jacqui will discuss: *The role of soil fungi in the restoration of agricultural landscapes*. Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at Bywong Community Hall – Birriwa Rd (Off Macs Reef Rd) at 7.30pm.

Fungi are among the many organisms needed to sustain ecosystems. Like many of the less charismatic ecosystem components, they operate mostly out of sight and consequently are out of mind to casual observers. That is unfortunate, because fungi or their absence can make or break restoration programs as they are extremely important to plant survival, providing greater access to nutrients and water and protection from pathogens and disease. Using the example of fungi that form mycorrhizal symbiosis with local eucalypts, Jacqui will outline a recent project with Emeritus Professor James Trappe from Oregon State University which investigated whether any mycorrhizal fungi is left in local paddocks where we undertake our revegetation work and a number of simple restoration techniques we can use, when propagating plants for revegetation, to help bring local fungi and all their benefits back into our landscapes.

Jacqui has been involved in ecological research at CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems for 17 years working on a diverse range of projects throughout Australia that investigate how we can conserve our native plant and animal biodiversity and maintain farm productivity in agricultural landscapes.

**Propagation sessions:** These are held on the first Saturday of each month at Geoff Butler's place at 38 Birchmans Grove, Wamboin. New participants are very welcome. About 300 cuttings of shrubs suitable for planting in the local area are propagated each month. Trays of seed of a number of species of Eucalypts and Allocasuarina etc are also sown on a regular basis from which the Group raises many thousands of trees a year for distribution amongst members, for sale to the public and for plantings along roadsides and other amenity areas in the local area. The next session will be held on 6 October. For more information, please email Geoff at [gbu22182@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gbu22182@bigpond.net.au) or phone him on 6236 9158.

Kathy Cook, Secretary, Ph: 6236 9153, Email: [kj.cook@bigpond.net.au](mailto:kj.cook@bigpond.net.au)



**SHEPHERDS RUN**  
AT WAMBOIN

### **Cellar Door, Café, Vineyard Shop and Function Room Opening late 2007**

After what seems like an eternity of planning and construction delays we can see light at the end of the vine row.

The licenced café will serve quality local seasonal food as well as coffee/tea and beverages in the modern Australian style. In the wine tasting area a wide range of Shepherds Run - Canberra District wines will be available for a sip and purchase. The vineyard shop will sell a range of wine related items, with the function room offering a space for up to 40 people.

Opening Thursdays to Mondays (or by appointment) from 9am for breakfast, lunch, morning and afternoon teas at 344 Norton Rd.

A big thank you to all of our patient neighbours for their support and we hope the strange noises were not too disturbing.

**Time for a competition!** We are looking for an imaginative name for our on-line Newsletter. The most creative person will receive a dozen of our wines. Please send all entries to the email address below. be announced at our opening.

If anyone would like to be kept up to date with the goings on via the Newsletter send an email to the address below.



and striking  
mixed half  
Winner(s) will

please also just

Thanks from Peter, Chris, and Elke Davies  
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[shepsrun@bigpond.net.au](mailto:shepsrun@bigpond.net.au) or 02 6238 3842

### THREE WISE MEN IN WAMBOIN

A Very Short Story by Steve Ayling (Adult Category)

The stage was set. We had the venue. We had the script. We had the donkey and the sheep. We had the artistic director and the shepherd. We had the enthusiastic crowd of extras. We had the virgin and even the baby. We had the inn keeper and the husband. But what about the wise men? Time was running short. There was no postponement possible, unless we wanted to wait for another year to go by. It was our first production and auditions were not really needed, or so we thought.

These were not speaking parts, but needed candidates who could weather the storm of anticipated helpful commentary from the familiar faces in the crowd. 'You call them wise – the donkey and the horse look wiser than them!' (The horse was actually the stand in for the camel, who it was decided at the last minute could not be trusted to behave on the day). Without a dress rehearsal there was inevitably going to be comment by the subject matter experts: 'I thought the east was that way and you would be heading west to get to the inn'. (No matter that it was a representative inn positioned on top of the septic tank). Who would have thought that finding wise men in Wamboin would be a challenge? The women of course! Once the right invitation was given, there was no shortage of willing volunteers. The fact that the Victoria Bitter beer was not technically available in Bethlehem in the year 1 BC was not really a major hurdle to maintaining the authenticity of the production. The wise men of Wamboin were found with Lance and Rowan Schultz and Steve Ayling, all coming forward to play the roles.

So there we were, all set for the first nativity play at St Andrew's Wamboin on Christmas Eve 2005. In front of a crowd of about 100 locals and all ready to go. Claire Ayling was the artistic director and narrator. Caroline Ayling was Mary, Rob Ayling was the inn keeper, and Tim Ayling was the minder for Lulu the donkey (the reader will note a certain trend here for the first production). Baby Jesus was played by Indira Carpenter who was enjoyed her first stage appearance aged 4 months. Joseph was played by Caroline's friend from Canberra who happened to call in unexpectedly, Jill and Richard Gregory's nephew played the shepherd and looked after their sheep Lena.

Costumes were not that hard to come by. Those spare sheets that are always kept 'just in case' are just the fashion for the cast of any nativity play. The wise men looked resplendent in their kingly outfits circa 1 BC, but were keen to change back into their less distinctive 2005 AD outfits as soon as was possible. The shepherd was in fact the most eligible member of the cast as he was still attending agricultural college at the time, and wore a Jackie Howe blue singlet under his sheet.

The narrator briefed the crowd on the program and members of the congregation handed out the song sheets. Older visitors were seated, children sat on the ground, standing room only for the others. Lights, camera, action. The story began.

Mary cleverly chose to walk beside the donkey and not ride to the inn. The inn keeper gave the full house sign and then provided Lu-Lu with a helpful boot to get her to move forward to the stable. Mary then sat with an unexpected drop on the loose bale of straw in the stable which had had the binding cut. Baby Jesus was handed to the proud new mother for a relatively easy birth, a point not lost on the assembled mothers in the crowd (but totally missed by most of the fathers). And then the scene was set.

The wise men were wisely listening to the narrator. Without prompting they set off of their great journey with perfect navigational skills. Also without prompting, they came to the right place, just past the inn and came to a stop at the stable. In a well coordinated move Lance and Steve proceeded to drop athletically down on one knee to give the gifts, and then sprang easily back to their feet and moved smoothly off as the narrator came to the end of the story. Just like 1 BC.

We had participated in a new Wamboin tradition.

(Postscript: New wise men are wanted for 2007. Please call Claire Ayling)

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## THE MISERABLE LOVE

by Liga Lukss

Old, rotten, timber walls of the deserted shack stood quietly listening to the cold hearted swagman muttering nonsense and obscenities.

The swagman was lonely. He was married and his wife thought that he was too rude and unforgivable so she had kicked him out of her house. He had found an old shack to live in.

He woke up early one day and he felt incredibly ill. He had no idea why. He found a box of medicine and he swallowed down everything. He went outside to find water. He ran and ran to find a water hole but it was a long time before he found water. He was sick and dizzy. He could see phantom horses gallop by and could hear whispering through the air. Finally he found a water hole, but collapsed on the ground next to the water he had lost his strength to drink.

He wished that he had been nice to his wiefie. He died on the red sand of the Australian earth. His bones remained, slowly dissolving and turning into dust. But scrunched up in his right hand was a letter for his wife. It said: "Dear my love, if I die I'll always love you and I will be there for you. I'll love you with all my heart. Extremely loved by Joe xxx"

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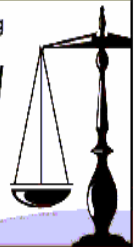
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6258 1792

## GOOD NEWS FOR WAMBOIN MARKET CUSTOMERS

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IF YOU ARE NOT A MARKET REGULAR YOU ALSO CAN CONTACT US TO PURCHASE CATERING SIZE  
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## VIRUS ALERT

by Jack dePruitt (Year 5)

Anthony sat down on the old, rotting log near the stream at the end of the greenway out the back of Mac's reef road. He thought that the trees looked fewer last time. Significantly. He thought he'd ride back home to tell his parents. He started riding. But, half way up the hill, a loose rock gave way and tripped him head over heels.

"Aw heck!" he exclaimed when he finally woke half an hour later aching. He tried to stand, but his legs wouldn't obey him. So he just lay there for about ten minutes. When he again tried to stand, his legs just held him up. He was still where he had fallen, but maybe he had rolled down the hill a bit. He looked around for his bike. It was lying a few metres down the hill. He went back to the log. Should he investigate further? Or should he just try to walk back home? He decided to just stay there and rest for a while.

When he again woke he explored the place. Again, he thought there was a massive difference between the last times he had been here. He decided to get home quickly.

\*\*\*\*\*

At home he contacted the police and requested that some tree specialists come round and take a look at the trees. They did, and they found an unknown virus wiping out trees. Anthony was put in the newspapers and an antidote was found.



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# 1<sup>st</sup> Wamboin Alpine Survival Weekend

by Marita Corra

Late July the Wamboin Scouts hit the Snowy Mountains for 3 days. Some had never seen snow before and all were excited about the fun filled days to come. However the focus on the weekend was not solely on fun and challenging activities. The main purpose was to demonstrate by experience Alpine Survival skills and how to react in all sorts of alpine emergencies.

The scouts quickly learned that the winter alpine landscape can be as dangerous as it is beautiful. One of the most difficult survival situations in the snow can be the cold weather. Every time the scouts ventured into the snowfields, they were pitting themselves against the elements.



**Protection, how to dress and equip yourself for winter travel and survival.** The average daily temperature was approximately --4 degrees, which was further lowered by wind chill to -14 degrees. The scouts experiencing this now realise that “dressing in layers” is essential. They learned how to adapt to blizzard conditions even during sunny and clear weather. Also how to treat hypothermia (exposure), snow-blindness and other winter related injuries.

**Shelter, how to use snow-tents, how to build snow caves, igloos and wind breaks.**

Scouts demonstrated skills in the construction of both a snow cave and igloo. These improvised shelters provide scouts with a hands on understanding of the ways to maintain body temperature in order to survive. Cold and wind chill is a far greater threat to survival than they appear. Having some form of shelter in the snow environment is critical to survival. Scouts on all future Alpine activities

will carry a trusty shovel.



**Travel, how to travel on the snow by skis, snowshoes**

With a little knowledge of the environment, proper plans, and appropriate equipment, time spent in the alpine environment can be very exciting and fun. The ski touring was a real challenge and experience for the scouts. Mind you a few of us ended up with bruising from one too many falls!!!



**Navigation; how to safely find your way in blizzards and white outs using map, compass and GPS.**

Prior to heading to the mountains the scouts sourced maps of the area and plotted the course they would ski tour on. Due to heavy crowds the course was changed and the scouts had to use a GPS to determine the course for the day, and in the event of a blizzard how to get us safely back to the cars. Being away from the main ski fields taught the scouts that they are in fact responsible for their own safety and well-being – navigation skills are essential for ski touring.

With the focus on the above points the scouts now have a clear understanding that if you are not prepared appropriately for an Alpine environment, survival becomes increasingly difficult. They understand that winter weather is highly variable, and that getting cold is an insidious enemy.



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## WAMBOIN PRODUCE MARKETS

The markets resume on Saturday 15 September from 9.00 am to noon. There will be the usual stalls for produce, craft and plants. Refreshments will be available at Café Wamboin. New stallholders welcome. Please contact Tony Power email [poweraj@acslink.net.au](mailto:poweraj@acslink.net.au) phone 6238 3028.

The markets are a great opportunity to meet friends and make new ones.

### Wamboin 15 years ago: from the Whisper of September 1992

Circulation 300 Editor Judy Frazer-Jans Wamboin was quietly busy.....Scouts Job month, After School Kids Club, WCA hosted representatives from the Hydatids Control Campaign, preparations were made for the Wamboin Country Fair in October, Wamboin Field Naturalists met at the Hall for "Sky gazing", the Golf Club and Pony Club, Brownies, Play Group, Church and Fire Brigade were all busy.....but there was nothing "momentous to report!" (prepared by Robyn Robertson)

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## Short Story Competition

Details Supplied by Colin Brammal and Gay McNeill

Pictured are ten of the short story competition winners. All are Sutton School students. Front row left to right: Adrian Schmidt 5, John Burgess 6, Hamish Driver-Rae 5, Fergus Conn 5, Middle row: Josh Slarke 6, Wade Fuller 6, Kristie Skriveris 6, George Davis 5, Back row: Liga Lukss 6, Jack De Puit 5, with judges Nora Stewart and Colin Brammall behind the students.

### Apology To Gabriella Penna (year 10), Christina Penna (Year 8) , Stefan Penna (Year 5) and Renato Penna, their Father

Gabriella, Christana and Stefan worked to prepare short stories for the contest well before the June 30 deadline. Their father emailed them to me before the deadline. I somehow missed or inadvertently deleted the email. This meant they were not considered for the contest, even though they should have been. Their stories will appear in the October Whisper. I apologise to them for not handling their work properly and am glad that their stories, thanks to a gentle investigation by their father, will appear next month so they can get the positive recognition they deserve. – Ned Noel, editor

## Abducted School Kid In Wamboin

By Amalia Mills (Year 6)

It was a cold winter. The worst season of the year. I wrapped my scarf more tightly around my neck. Then, checked my watch, 8:27, it said. I sighed, looking down the road to see if the bus was coming.

I hated catching the bus. It was fine when I was on the bus, but catching it was horrible. But mum had to get to work early to get paid and we need the pay to live. Whenever I had complained about it I had got that reply.

For a while I watched some kangaroos across the road. One mother had a Joey in her pouch and it was cute. I watched them until they hopped away. 8:30 my watch said. I swear that watch goes extra slow when I don't want it too.

I searched around for something to do. I wish something exciting would happen, I thought. Maybe a kangaroo would come up to me and would start talking. In the distance a kookaburra laughed. I agreed with it, it was a stupid thought.

Or what if, a great roo hopped across the road right in front of a truck and I quickly jumped in front to save it. I grinned, yes, it was possible, at least I would have something to boast about at school.

I glanced at my watch, then at the road, 8:40, gee, the bus *was* late.

Suddenly, a huge shadow fell on me. I felt the colour drain out of my face and I looked up. I fainted.

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## WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – AUGUST COMPETITION RESULTS

It was the annual Tradies Day at Wamboin and a very good attendance for a cold winter's day. We thank Don, Trent and Hank for their continued long term support for Wamboin golf.

Long drive and nearest the pin ball comp winners were; Danny Blundell, Dave Hubbard, Tim Barter, Rob Gorham, Larry King, Steve Miners, Tom Argaet and Dave Argaet.

Visitor's trophies won by Dean Southwell and Peter Perkins. The nine hole competition was won by Lofty Mason.

The B Grade stableford competition was won by Tom Argaet with a "get run out of town" score of 46 points beating his dad Dave into second place with 38 points. The A Grade stableford was won by Steve Miners, 43 points from Charles Guscott with 38 points. Golf enquiries to Peter Greenwood 6238 3358.

## Bywong Gold Field

by Adrian Schmidt (Year 5)

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of March Year 5 went to the Bywong Gold Field. I traveled with Leigh and Daniel. When we arrived we were told that we were one of the last groups to arrive.

We looked at the ways to find gold. There were gold veins, rust spots and quartz. Next we went to the abandoned Gold Mine. Then we went to pull a bucket up. When you spun the lever around the bucket would come up. After that we did almost the same thing but it was designed to work with a horse. The horse would walk in a cricle and the bucket would rise.

Next we looked at the stamper which was a lever that you spin. When you put quartz in and turned the lever it would crush the quartz. Then we had lunch.

After lunch we had to try and chuck an awkward horse shoe on to a stick. Hamish was the only person to get it on the stick. Then we went to the blacksmith. We all got to bend metal and use a giant bellow.

Next we panned for gold. First of all we had to crush up some rock in a dolly with a stamper stick. Then when the rock was crushed up completely we got our pans. We had to dip the pan into the water and stirred it around in the pan and emptied the water out. We kept on doing that until the water was clear.

Next we had to scoop out some black stuff made out of gold, quartz and many other materials. Afterwards we went to a village and there were many houses and huts and there was a well.

Then we walked back to the cars and came back to the school. It as a great excursion and I had lots of fun.



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## Whisper Music Link

By Angela Hunter and Jake Annetts

This month saw the sad departure of the Gib St Café music and poetry night as a result of the café being sold. It's believed the music and poetry night will be moving to the Heritage Square Café. Check your copy of the Bungendore Mirror for details. We're still finalising details for the Wamboin open mic night and will announce details in the next issue. This month also saw the annual Wamboin Curry Night, which for the first time saw attendees entertained by local musicians – newcomers Honey Groove and solo performer Steve Ball. A great night was had by all.



In the absence of submissions from other performers we're going to indulge in a little self-promotion and introduce ourselves as this month's Muso's of the Month.

### Muso's Of The Month 'Honey Groove'

With backgrounds from Blues, Rock, Folk and Classical, Honey Groove is a combination of talents drawn together to form a unique harmony group. Originally two separate duos, Honey Groove features Emmett and Mandy Hengst, Jake Annetts and Angela Hunter. Performing a mix of classic harmony based songs and originals, Honey Groove are working towards more local performances and ultimately recording an album together.

## A Winter Morning in Wamboin

by Lemmi Bredis (Adult)

On a mid June morning we awoke to snow gently falling all around us-the flakes fell softly onto the already white ground. Dawn heralded an even better view of the white carpet as the sun shed light onto the peaceful scene. The dog and I rugged up and, with camera in hand, set out from the warmth of the house.

At first the quiet patter of flakes continued, and soon we were covered in flakes, although these melted quickly. Three ducks were swimming in the dam, seemingly oblivious to the change of weather. There was firm cover on the open ground and as we walked we left imprints of our path in the snow. Underneath the trees there was a circle of sludge as snow resting on branches turned into water and dripped onto the ground. Walking through the woodland was slippery. This already magical place was transformed with the fresh albescent covering on the arching branches creating beautiful sculptures. Neighboring grass tussocks had white caps on them. Usually upright, isolated blades were bent from the weight of the snow. We heard a kangaroo and later saw its tracks leaving furrows where it had been. Judging from the size of the footprint it was a large animal.

For a moment the sun burst through the fluffy cloud, shining brilliantly, and the air cleared. It was gloriously serene. Then the birds started their cacophony, perhaps warning of another fall. Soon the blanketing started again, silently calming the landscape.

To appreciate this occasional event I had delayed going into town and was rewarded for this choice with revived spirits. Not only do I have wonderful memories, some captured in photos, the uplifting feeling from this walk stayed with me all day.



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## Wildcare

Provided by Philip Machin

So how did Donatello, the eastern long-necked turtle, end up spending winter in 5-star luxury accommodation? Donatello was no match for the car that ran him over and seriously dented his shell in Bywong in late March this year. A good Samaritan found him in the middle of the road, stopped, picked him up and took him home. The turtle's unique fragrance did not deter the rescuer and he passed the animal onto *Wildcare* to see what could be done.



Donatello's shell was severely cracked, but there was no major damage to his internal organs, so a repair job had a good chance of success. The wound was cleaned, antibiotics given, and a temporary patch was placed across the cracked shell with paper tape. Later the edge of the crack was wired and a final repair made with dental paste and a touch of Araldite. Using dental paste allows the shell to grow and heal, whereas fibreglass and super glue prevent the shell from growing back together.

Prior to the 'operation', Donatello was kept in a quiet, clean, dry area, but was given access to a shallow bowl of water twice a week in order to relieve himself (which turtles only do in water). Turtles also only eat in water. However once he was fixed up he was moved onto a large heated water-tank with all mod cons to over winter. Very soon he will be released back into the wild in a safe area.

So, next time you pass injured wildlife on the road, please stop and check. As Spring warms us all up we will again start to see many lizards and turtles on our roads. Pick them up and move off the road in the direction they are going. For injured wildlife call *Wildcare* telephone (02) 62991966 for help – anytime, day or night. Put it in your Mobile too. Check out the *Wildcare* website [www.wildcare.com.au](http://www.wildcare.com.au).

## News from Sutton School

Students in Years 3 and 5 have just completed the NSW Basic Skills Tests. These tests identify strengths and weaknesses for each child in Maths, Writing and English (including reading, comprehension, spelling and grammar). Our writing now concentrates on specific text types including procedures, explanations, recounts, expositions and information reports. The Basic Skills results provide teachers and parents with a summary of how each child is performing, as well as how our school compares with the other NSW schools. Teachers at Sutton school use these results to identify students who need extra help and to guide teaching programs in English and Maths.

Our school has received funding under the Federal Government's National Chaplaincy Program. This will enable Robyn Robinson to be employed for one day a week over the next three years conducting programs with students and staff.

Students from Gundaroo Public School and some parents recently spent the afternoon with us to enjoy a Musica Viva performance. The Song Company performed a repertoire ranging from Renaissance vocal music to arrangements by contemporary composers. Pre and post concert activities are an important part of the school's music program.

Congratulations to Breanna Reynolds, Minette Du Plooy, Zac Cockburn and Donna Laughter who represented the school at the Yass Talkfest public speaking competition. Breanna earned first place in the Year 2 section. Our student of the Month for July is Ella-Caitie Campey from kindergarten. Her sister Jemima Campey recently won the Yass Valley Council's 'Discover ways to save water' colouring competition. Well done to all these students.

In August we farewelled Al Petchell who had taught at Sutton for ten years. Al is off to Cranbrook in British Columbia, Canada where he will be working as an itinerant teacher of deaf children in Years K to 12. Sutton School welcomes Stacey Hodgson who will be teaching Mr Petchell's class until the end of the year. One of our school assistants Sue Hardwicke has decided it's time to pursue other interests and we are pleased to have Kim Gantebein back on our staff as Sue's replacement. At present Kim will be assisting in the library. -- Gay McNeill, Teacher -Librarian

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## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

A glorious spring day, the sort that tugs and tugs at you until you give in and find yourself in the garden, idly pulling a few weeds and marvelling at the change a few warm days can make. It's still officially winter, but you wouldn't know it. Suddenly the yellow daffodils are out with their cheeky smiles, gladdening hearts, and the lenten roses have emerged, almost bashfully, in the middle of last years fraying leaves. Despite the winter ravages of our resident wallaby, the purple, pink and white violets have held on and are everywhere now, their sweet perfume blending with winter honeysuckle to fill the warming air. But there's another garden smell, heavy and pervading that dispels romance and yet is part of spring. One needs a discerning nose and determination to filter out the rich aroma of pelletised chook poo and only smell the violets!

And while I've been busy with the secateurs, assisted at times by my over enthusiastic sulphur crested friends, I've noticed that the kookaburras are back, the bees are humming and the little twittering wrens are dipping into their spring wardrobe. There's a wonderful feeling of timelessness and renewal in the natural world at the moment and it feels good to be part of it. But I still like to think I'm part of the twenty first century, too. Telecom has a way, however, of reminding you of who really is the boss.

A recent, theatrical thunderstorm, that was the sole justification for the rain gauge this August, also wiped out our telephone line. Now there have been times when I have dreamed of a telephone free world, and longed for a day unsummoned and undisturbed to just potter in the garden, but I've wanted it at my convenience. This silence occurred just when we desperately needed a phone, and it went on for four days. Fortunately we had email, but I felt like a deaf mute, perched atop a hill, sending off smoke signals into a thick fog. I guess I should have been grateful that we had mobile coverage if we drove to the top of the next hill!

I wouldn't live anywhere else....the natural world keeps me happily shackled and I've already filled my calendar for the afternoon, spreading mulch in the garden. But there's the telephone.....and there goes my mulching . Thank you Mr Telecom for your efficiency and service!

## CAROLS AT WAMBOIN 2007

21 December 2007

The annual Carol Evening was discussed at the August CWA meeting. It was agreed that the format for this year should be more community oriented. I am seeking input from members of the community on how this can be best achieved. For instance, we could have it by candlelight, on the oval with live music. I would also like to hear from individuals or groups who wish to take part. I look forward to hearing your suggestions. Please contact Tony Power and either by email [poweraj@acslink.net.au](mailto:poweraj@acslink.net.au) or by phone 6238 3028. There will be further discussion of the format for the event at the September WCA meeting.

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## Wamboin – beautiful one day, ?????????? the next ??

Much has been written in the whisper about life and living in Wamboin. We moved into Wamboin with our 2 children on 5 January 1985, so probably would consider ourselves established in the area. We certainly can't find anywhere else we would prefer to live. We love the view, the privacy, the peace and, most of all, the sense of 'live and let live'.

Over the years we have been involved in the fire brigade, editing the Whisper, curry nights, fire brigade balls and fireworks nights. Our involvement was curtailed by personal circumstances and a resulting reorganisation of priorities, but the sense of community remained, and we know we could call on any number of people for assistance if necessary. We have had discussions about kids and cars/bikes, fence lines, water, dogs and chooks. But each of these discussions has been generally amicably resolved and we move on.

Over the past two years we have tried to make the ultimate decision – to stay – or not to stay. We have looked and looked and the answer really was easy – there's no place like home in Wamboin. So, another decision, if we stay, what could we do when we retire – so Annie's Collectables was born out of our hobby of collecting beautiful things and talking to people. It's been surprising the number of things that have appeared from under beds, on top of shelves, in the roof cavities etc. And it's gratifying that so many people from within Wamboin and from other parts of Australia are happy to come and browse, and talk, and share their collecting stories.

Eventually this might turn into a business, at the moment it could only be called a hobby.

A lot has been written lately by Don Evans about businesses trying to make it work in Wamboin, and drawing more people into the area. People that may keep Lambert's and Lark Hill and the other winery's going. Annie's may just contribute a little to those drawcards.

We have, however obviously upset someone/s with our sign against the tree at the corner of Norton Road and Gallagher Cres.. I can understand and support the Community Association maintaining that area near the notice board, but would not have thought my sign near the tree was impacting on any right of way, or road or footpath, or kangaroo track, or line of sight. If it was, then my address was printed on the sign to let any person who did have an issue with it, know where we were to come and discuss it.

Yesterday (Sunday 26 August) someone saw fit not to come and discuss the sign, but to graffiti it instead – probably saved time in turning the corner into Cooper Road and coming up our driveway – but the cost of petrol would have been cheaper than the cost of the can of spray paint and the \$150 for me to replace the sign.

It has to make you wonder, what sort of person/people do we now have living in Wamboin if they are not prepared to face you and say 'hey mate, that sign down there, its not on you know?' The people I know and that come to chat have only been supportive and wished for something like this ages ago.

So the question now is, does the person who destroyed the sign have the intestinal fortitude to ring 6238 3284 and discuss their issues in person ???? -- Joyce and David Nordsvan, 39 Cooper Road, Wamboin



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## WWoWs News THE WWOWS CELEBRATE FIRST BIRTHDAY!

by Claire Ayling

We don't know where the time has gone but this month the WWOWS are celebrating their first birthday. From an idea and a short article in the Whisper entitled 'How well do you know your neighbour?' - the group has grown to a membership of 40 people who meet each week in the church building on the corner of Poppet and Norton Roads.

We enjoy all types of 'crafty' things -knitted stripey socks seem to be the fashion accessory of the moment. We also have helped local and overseas charities but most of all have created a group of like-minded ladies who are there to enjoy each other's company and friendship. Recently one of the group lost her dear husband and this wonderful group of ladies were there to help her throughout - the true meaning of community. The WWOws will be supporting the WCA at the annual bonfire with a gourmet food stall - so make sure you come along and say hello.

Newcomers are assured of a warm welcome and it really is a great way to become involved in Wamboin. Ideas for activities are shared by all - we are only limited by our imagination - and there is a great deal of that! For any queries just come along and join us at 10am each Monday, or alternatively phone Claire Ayling on 62383347.

The WWOws walking group has survived the winter chills and are now striding forth on Mondays and 8am on Fridays leaving from the church car park. There are a group of gazelles who travel very quickly, but there are a group of remedial walkers who are just beginning the spring keep fit challenge. All are welcome to join us including 4 legged friends on leads. It would help if drivers in the area travel at the designated 80km limit as the roads aren't very wide and we have no footpaths.

### Notes from St Andrews

The winter months have been busy in St Andrews with our twice-monthly services taking place on the first and third Sundays. The congregation have also enjoyed fellowship in social occasions taking place in the church building which is always very cosy and warm. This month Morning Prayer will take place on the first Sunday at 9am and on the third Sunday we will have our service followed by a gardening bee - gardening clothes to be worn!! This will be followed by a sausage sizzle. St Andrews extends a warm welcome to all Wamboiners and if anyone requires any further information please call Robyn Robertson on 62383202.

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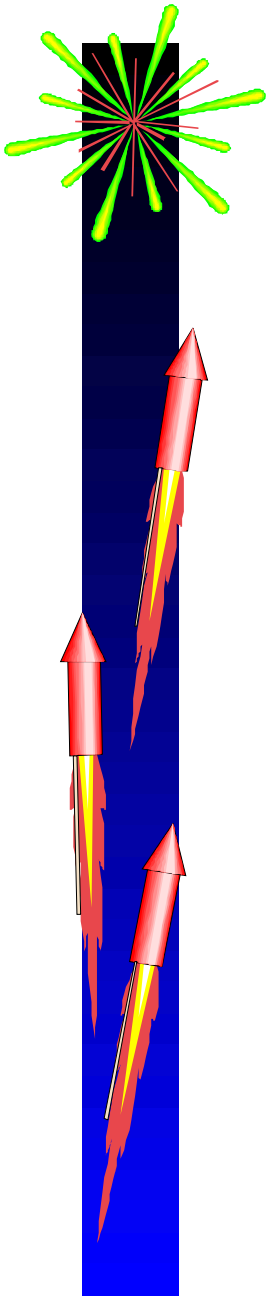
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**Saturday 22nd September 2007**

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## BUNGENDORE ROTARY “BACK TO BUNGENDORE” WEEKEND

“BACK TO BUNGENDORE” weekend will be held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>/Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

BUNGENDORE was proclaimed a village in 1837 so what better reason to celebrate. The weekend celebrations will be held at the Bungendore Public School, Gibraltar Street, commencing at 11 am Saturday. The celebrations will be officially opened at 11.15 am. Enjoy a dinner-dance on Saturday evening from 6.00 pm A combined church service will be held on Sunday commencing at 11.00 am in the multi-purpose hall.

Your contribution of family/local history will be displayed. Please “dig out” those old photos and stories to make this a memorable weekend. Food and beverages will be available plus community activities will feature during the weekend. Camping facilities available at the Bungendore Showground - for bookings phone Michael Blore 0407 236 360 Profits from the weekend will used to help fund the Rotary Club project for an amenity block in the Bungendore Park.

For further information contact – Norma Luton 02-62381367 [nluton@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nluton@bigpond.net.au) or [jackie@nepean.net.au](mailto:jackie@nepean.net.au) or [lynnbrogan@optusnet.com.au](mailto:lynnbrogan@optusnet.com.au)

## Braidwood Rural Lands Protection Board

by Colin Brammal (Small Landholder Representative)

For small landholders, the news is that Bull recommends a return to 10ha as the minimum land size. This is a return to the situation of two years ago, and is designed to remove the howl of complaints from lifestyle landholders. There are many other recommendations for the remainder of ratepayers (he calls them traditional ratepayers) to make the rating system fairer. Bull suggests in his report that the changes could be implemented by the end of the year, so small landholders would be removed from the system and not get bills from Braidwood RLPB next year.

## Sutton Public School -- Kindergarten Orientation Morning

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 9.30 – 11.00. Bring your children who are enrolled for Kindergarten in 2008. They will have organised activities whilst you: (1) Learn about our school curriculum & routines (2) Hear from the bus operators & community nurse (3) Meet the Principal & 2008 Kindergarten teacher (4) Look around the school (5) Have your questions answered. For enquiries please ring the school on 62303215 - Gay McNeill

## Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin

32 year statistics from the Robertsons

August rainfall to 26/8 -- 14.25mm (Aug 06....19.25mm) 2007 rainfall to 26/8 -- 365.75mm (2006 to 31/8....385mm)  
 Average Sept rainfall -- 64.80mm Wettest Sept --146.00mm (1978) Wettest Sept day - 48.00mm (19/9/85)  
 Driest Sept - 6.00mm (1994) (2006....10mm) Hottest Sept day - 24 degrees C (18/9/81)  
 Coldest Sept day - 5 degrees C (4/9/82) Coldest Sept night minus 2 degrees C (4/9/00)

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## THE STABLE DOOR

by Ian Collet

**Another (interationally renowned) Wamboin Curry Night wafts by.** 7pm for 7.30...by which time I reckon there were around 100 or so lip-smacking, savoury-sensing, curry-making, curry-consuming connoisseurs, congregating comfortably in the community hall in their caps, capes, designer drizabones, drill dress and jaunty jeans. The 2007 curry night last Sat 18 August, a wonderful Wamboin tradition was, again, a stunning success. Great night. Wamboinians, Bywongians, and others from further afield, all age groups, all sexes (well, the two that I'm most familiar with anyway) – you name it, all there, ie here. Yes, even my brides and my dear next door neighbour who'd only just returned from a wee visit to hospital couldn't be kept away.

Pretty quickly, a vast range of exquisite culinary delights traversed the trestle tables – an eclectic array of curried concoctions. I tasted many .....and one or two haunted me for the next 24 hrs or so. Chicken curries were popular – chicken done just about any way possible including: green chicken, chicken jalfrezi Pakistani recipe (spicy curry – chillies and peppers), chicken, potato and beef, thai chicken. The red meats – well, there was beef massaman (I believe this to be a thai muslim curry), indonesian meat balls with yoghurt (v. subtle), malaysian beef and, of course, the old vindahloo.

For the vegetarians, or for those seeking to balance their meal, the range of offerings included cauliflower and chickpea, jasmine and coconut rice(s), vegie curry with rice, rice with vegie curry, just plain rice, just curry, and I suspect just to fool everyone, there may well have been even a fake meat or chicken or fish curry made entirely from bean curd.

But then we move to the more exotic end of the market – local Wamboin fare. Curried Bungendore rabbit courtesy Dave Argæt I believe – very mild he claimed – and it was; only to be pipped by kangaroo curry, which in turn was overrun by what I expect was probably the freshest offering of the lot – roadkill curry.....mmmmm. Think somebody might have hit on to something there. Given its intrigue, perhaps we can expect to see a new stall setting up at Wamboin's monthly produce market very shortly.

Washed down with a responsible drop of favourite plonk, lots of warm, stimulating conversation, a few chords from a local band – no-one could help but have a great night. Oh, and with the gold coin donation – a little help for a well deserving charity.

To the organisers et al - *you've all done very well*. Coincidentally, ABC's Radio National this evening had a short run on what may be a fledgling new line – cat curry.

**BACK TO THE BEARS MYSTERY.** Aha, finally, I've had a response to the bears in trees mystery that's had me on my knees begging y'all to tell me what its all about. Have just received an email from a chappy I've met a couple of times in the past, we'll call him Chris from Bywong. Chris writes..."no doubt, I see from the Wamboin Whisper, that you may still be looking for an explanation for the bears in the trees on the Queanbeyan Road." Yep, that's right, Chris.

The story, he says, as it was related to him, was that back in the days of the (now former) Yarrollumla Shire there was a single tree with a bear in it [the reason for this Chris does not know]. Apparently, the tree was marked for removal by Council. Pleas for the bear to be re-located were ignored and it disappeared. Word has it that Bungendore residents were so displeased with this Council action that a host of bears appeared very quickly and the practice has continued to this day.

Chris' email to me finished with "More power to the bears, I say!" Well, thanks Chris. Sounds pretty good to me. Now what about the bears in trees along and near the intersection of Weeroona and Denley Drives. Same reason? Come on somebody must know something.

## The Haunted Mansion

by Kaitlin Scott

Horrid rays of drenching heat streamed in early on a Sunday morning. Megan and her friend Abby were sitting out the front of their house enjoying the unusual heat of the morning. Abby had her pet dog Boxer with her and Abby's parents said she had to take him for a walk. So they left off towards the hill.

Megan and Abby walked over the hill with their dog Boxer. They noticed an abandoned ancient mansion. Suddenly a piercing squeal split the morning air. Abby screamed. Boxer bolted into the distance towards the mansion. They raced towards the mansion and could hear whining. They knew it was Boxer.

They followed the whining and found an entry to an old cellar. The whining was now louder and they could also see Boxer. Suddenly the ground collapsed and they fell screaming into the dark cold moist air. Megan knew she was all right as she felt Boxer's wet smelly tongue licking her face. But what had happened to Abby?

Megan looked around the room to find a staircase. Boxer and Megan made their way up the staircase and found themselves in a very tight hallway. They walked up the hallway towards a very bright light. When they got to where the light was they found that they were standing in front of a door. All of a sudden Megan and Boxer were pushed into the room where, to their surprise, Abbey was. Before they knew it the door was locked ...

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## Nature Notes – August 2007

Jo Walker

Spring has arrived a bit earlier than its official date: Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) are painting the hillsides with patches of yellow, birds are singing, chasing competitors and carrying twigs and softer materials to nest sites, and the kangaroos are stretched out contentedly on the green grass. We could do with a fair bit more rain, of course, but right now it's very pleasant to see everything coming back to life after winter.

*Hardenbergia violacea* (False Sarsaparilla) got damaged by some of the harder frosts (although it is a local plant, it isn't entirely frost tolerant), but its purple flowers are adorning some of the cuttings on Norton Road. The first Early Nancies (*Wurmbea dioica*) are just beginning to bloom – these are the little white flowers with maroon circles at their centre. *Cymbonotus lawsonianus* (Austral Bear's Ear) is showing its first bright yellow daisy flowers – this plant gets its name from the rather ear-shaped (you may need a bit of imagination here!) ground-hugging leaves which form a rosette in the middle of which are the almost stalkless flowers. And the ground is still moist enough for sundews (sticky-leaved insectivorous plants) to exhibit their rosettes of bright green, round leaves.

The birds are very busy, now the days are getting warmer and longer. The Magpies are picking up sticks – and beakfuls of coir matting from an old hanging basket - for their nests. Two pairs are building on top of mistletoe clusters, high in eucalypt trees. They started to do this a few years ago after a nest in an exposed position in a Stringybark tree failed to produce any young. I suspect Currawongs or some other predator took the eggs or young birds and the Magpies found that the mistletoes camouflaged the nests and offered more protection. The Yellow-tufted Honeyeater has left the group of Grevilleas he'd commandeered for the winter, and White-eared Honeyeaters and Eastern Spinebills have taken over his territory, spending more time chasing each other than feeding.

A pair of King Parrots made a brief visit to the bird-feeding area a week or two ago. They come in occasionally, but appear to be intimidated by the Sulphur-crested Cockatoos. A female (or juvenile) Satin Bower-bird has appeared several times recently. The females and juveniles are very similar – greenish on the back and head, with a pale throat and underside. In flight, the wings are a distinct tan-brown. The juveniles and females both have blue eyes, a rather unusual colour amongst birds. So far, I haven't seen an adult male – a distinctive blue-black satiny-plumaged bird – or any sign of a bower.

I haven't seen an Echidna yet, but they are obviously on the move, and hungry – there are already deep holes dug into the meat ants' nests where the spiny friends have been feeding on the ants' young.

The dam is vibrating at the moment with frog calls, and some frog-spawn is visible near the water's edge. Unfortunately, this year, there seems to be a problem: the frog eggs are turning grey or cream and very few are developing into tadpoles. Maybe they were laid too early and caught one of the later frosts or perhaps they were not fertilized, but possibly they are suffering from some disease.

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### Poor Utilities Service In Bywong And Wamboin

I am writing to express my increasing outrage at the poor utilities services here in Bywong and Wamboin. As I sit here writing, my telephone landline has been dead since Friday. I contacted Telstra this morning (Monday) and I am advised that my landline will be re-connected "sometime between now and next Friday". The service disappeared after the heavy rain on Friday, as it has done a number of times before. So, a week without a landline, no internet and pretty poor mobile reception. Coupled with intermittent and expensive power supply, this makes doing ordinary things difficult. I have consulted the latest Census figures and our population here is 2,766 people – just 40 people less than Bungendore at 2,806. I think that if the services in Bungendore were as poor as they are here, there would be some swift action. I would be pleased to hear from others in Bwyong/ Wamboin who have had similar experiences and would like to get together to work on this problem.

- Nora Stewart, 41 Rovere Lane, Bywong NSW 2621, 6230 3305 or 0431 862 853, [nora@setdancing.com.au](mailto:nora@setdancing.com.au)

### ROTARY

(Bungendore, Bywong and Wamboin)

Rotary meet every Tuesday evening @ 7pm for 7.30pm start. This week our guest speaker was Peter Hugonnet he delivered a very interesting talk About The Silent ANZAC Legend " Australian Submarine HMAS AE2. Her mission was to create a diversion to the landings by " running amok in the Narrows" and then enter the Turkish inland Sea of Marmara to cut the supply lines of the Ottoman army. Two other Allied submarines had tried and failed the same task, resulting in their destruction. Her Campaign and where she is now 80years on. We hope to have Peter back in the future to talk on other interesting topics.

Next week our guest speaker : Rod Corrigan : Subject - Nuclear energy & power. Tuesday 28/09 guest speaker Paul Darmody : Subject – Sheep dog trails in NZ We invite any of the Public that would like to listen to our speakers or interested in Rotary to come along and enjoy our evening. - Geoff Kelly 0418 432 931

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## ---National Tree Day

by Chris Fowler

The Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare group celebrated National Tree Day on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July with a roadside planting of more than 200 native plants on Millynn Road, Bywong. [Pictured are members engaged in the work]. The purpose of these plantings was to provide some low to medium height habitat along the road verge, as well as some screening for the residents. These revegetation projects are a regular feature of the group's activities, primarily using plants propagated in their own nursery. With the permission of the Palerang Council, successful plantings in recent years have included Weeroona Drive [2004 and ongoing], Smith's Gap and Valley View Lane [2005], and more are planned in association with local landholders. In addition the Landcare Group will be working with Council on several other tree planting programs along Shire roads and open space areas. New members are always welcome to help with this important work.



New participants are very welcome to help with potting cuttings, seed sowing and planting projects which are advertised in this publication. General meetings are also held throughout the year,

Contact the Secretary, Kathy Cook [[kj.cook@bigpond.net.au](mailto:kj.cook@bigpond.net.au)] to be added to the e-mail contact list.

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