

The Whisper

November 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 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 December 2007 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, November 25, 2007, 7:00 pm. The Whisper always goes to deliverers by the first Saturday of the new month.

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

Meet the Candidates for Hume – Following the recent redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries, Bywong and Wamboin are now in the Federal Seat of Hume. The Bywong and Wamboin Community Associations are having a "Meet the Candidates" evening on 15th November at the Bywong Community Hall in Birriwa Road (off Macs Reef Road), starting at 7 pm. The meeting is public, and all residents are urged to attend to hear what the candidates have to say and make their concerns known to the candidates.

Community Noticeboards – You may have noticed that the Community Noticeboard at the Sutton Rd end of Norton Rd is missing. It was vandalised last week by some low-life who painted defamatory statements on both boards in white oil-based paint! Over the past few months, there has been considerable misuse of the noticeboards. There is no place in our community for this type of anti-social behaviour. If anybody has any information about the vandalism and misuse of the boards, please contact Lofty Mason (ph: 6238 3258). Many thanks to Lofty for sanding and repainting the boards. Thanks also to the vigilant community members who monitor the boards. The noticeboards are a very useful community asset and hopefully they will be back up in the near future. I urge everybody to use them appropriately and to report any suspicious behaviour to the WCA.

Greenways – There have been reports of unrestrained dogs on and around the greenways chasing livestock. This contravenes the conditions of use for the Greenways. Further information about the Greenways is available on the Bywong Community Association website (www.bywongcommunity.org.au).

Regional Telecommunications Review – The deadline for public submissions to the independent review of the adequacy of telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia has been extended until 7th December. The WCA will be making a submission. If you have any issues that you would like included in the submission, or you have any queries about the review, please contact John van der Straaten (ph: 6238 3590).

Wamboin Community Association – The October WCA meeting was well attended by residents keen to hear what Telstra has planned for Wamboin and Bywong. Thanks to Lara Billerwell (Customer Service) and Stephen Trump (Commercial) for outlining Telstra's plans and listening to residents' concerns. John van der Straaten's report of the points covered appears later in the Whisper. The next WCA meeting is on **20th November at 7:30pm**. Peter Bascomb, the General Manager of Palerang Council, will be attending the meeting. If you have any issues that you would like him to discuss, please contact Helen Montesin (ph: 6238 3208) or John van der Straaten (ph: 6238 3590).

Wamboin Produce Markets – The next market will be on **18th November** from 9:00am till noon. In addition to the usual goodies, Telstra have agreed to come out and demonstrate a range of Next G handsets to help residents (particularly those with CDMA phones) determine the best Next G options for the area.

Christmas Carols – The annual community Carols Evening will be held on **21st December**. The format will be updated this year to be more community oriented. Tony Power is co-ordinating it and would like to hear from anyone who would like to take part or has any suggestions (ph: 6238 3028).

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.

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

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160 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN: Ph 6238 3208

Dean Evans	Nrtin 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+41Advtsrs	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 Monetesin	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	30

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 Bngly	25

Ph 6238 3489

Rob Gorham	South End - Clare Valley	38
Axelby Family	North End - Clare Valley	42
Bungendore Shop	Bungendore	10

Ph 6238 3590

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

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

TOTAL FOR WHISPER 1074

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Charlie Montesin
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Mobile: 0409 224 901
Fax: (02) 6238 3165

Meet Your Candidates For The Federal Seat Of Hume

by Helen Montesin

The recent redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries has put Bywong and Wamboin into the Federal Seat of Hume. Bywong and Wamboin Community Associations have therefore invited the candidates for Hume in the forthcoming Federal Election to meet Bywong and Wamboin residents. The candidates who have accepted the invitation are: Jim Clark (Greens); Lindsay Cosgrove (Citizens Electoral Council); David Grant (Australian Labor Party); Geoff Peet (Christian Democrats). Alby Schultz, Liberal Party and Sitting Member, is unable to attend.

The date of the "Meet the Candidates" evening is the 15th November, the venue the Bywong Community Hall in Birriwa Road (off Macs Reef Road), and the time is 7 pm.

Wamboin President Helen Montesin will provide an independent chair for the meeting and will ensure that candidates have equal opportunities to make their case for election and to receive questions from the audience. She will invite candidates to address the meeting for a specified time and will provide a channel for questions from the audience.

Community members will have a chance to meet candidates informally over a cup of tea after the formal meeting finishes about 9 pm.

The meeting is public, and both Community Associations urge all residents of Bywong and Wamboin to attend and make their concerns known to the candidates.

Further information from Judith Miller 6236 9321 or Helen Montesin on 6238 3208

THE CAPTAIN'S LIST	Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	
A'Hern Fitness at the Airport	Coolah Holdings Pty Ltd	Quick-Eze Towing
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Bingley Contractors (Water Carriers)	FH Office Services	Shepherds Run Wines
Bungendore Rural	France Harrison & Associates	Sherrin Hire
Bungendore Taxi Service	Gidgee Estate Winery	Sutton Real Estate
Capital Business Services	Inland Trading Co (Aust)	Tipton Shopfitters Pty Ltd
Capital Stainless Steel	Lambert Vineyards	Trevor Barker & Associates
Clare Valley Tree Services	LMS Consulting	Trevor Duncan Homes
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130 The Forest Rd Bywong Email – lylesue@bigpond.com

BYWONG NEWS

by Morag Cotsell

The annual Bywong Christmas Drinks is on again on Saturday 8 December 6pm-8pm. Come along and meet other residents. Bring a plate to share. There will be free wine tasting provided by Gidgee Estate Wines and an opportunity to celebrate Christmas early this year.

Music from the past in Bywong. Bushland in Bywong will shortly ring to the unaccustomed sound of music from earlier centuries. In a bush setting over the weekend of 3 and 4 November, the strains of harpsicord, organ, recorders, viola da gamba, violin and tenor voice will interpret a cantata by Alessandro Scarlatti and works by Senfl, Telemann, Bach, Cazzatti and Quantz. The occasion is the latest in the now-popular concerts given by the group Bush Baroque. The delightful bushland setting for the concert is the generous music room in the home of Bywong residents Richard and Joan Milner, who direct the concerts. Proceeds go to Hartley LifeCare who provide invaluable support for people with disabilities in and around the ACT. Over the past 5 years these concerts have raised over \$7000 for this charity. The concert will be followed by a convivial afternoon tea served on the deck - a great way to spend a relaxing afternoon. Seating is limited so you need to book (\$15 or \$12) by phoning 0262369212 or sending an email to richardandjoan@aanet.com.au"

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NEW CLASSIFIEDS
Help wanted in Poppet Road garden, 7-8 hours a week, good hourly rate, weekends preferred. Phone 6238 3360.
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL. Council will hold Council Meeting No 23 at the Captains Flat Community Hall, 53 Foxlow Street, Captains Flat on Thursday, 8 November 2007 Commencing at 6 pm.
Annie's Collectables. We would like to send a huge Thank You to all those people who phoned, dropped in or put notes in the Whisper to support us over the damage to the 'Annie's' sign. We unfortunately couldn't repair it - so had to get a new one made up - but we are reassured that the spirit of Wamboin lives on. Again - thank you, -- Joyce and David Nordsvan
For Sale: Moving overseas. Garage Sale every Sat in Nov 9am - 12pm. Furniture, computers, kitchen ware, fridge, etc. etc. Most of it has to go! 157 Newington Road, Bywong. Call 0411 881 137 with any inquiries.
To give readers a break, by custom, no Whisper edition is printed in January, so the next issue of the Whisper, the December issue, will be the last issue until the February 2008 issue comes out on the first Saturday of February, 2008.
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 .
CHOOKS WANTED - Any age & roosters. Phone Frank on 6297-3523 to arrange collection.
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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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Survey To Help Small Block Owners Manage Their Land

The Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee Inc (UMCCC) is a community landcare group focused on improving sustainable land management in the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment area. This group is undertaking a research project designed to help better understand how community groups and government can assist small block owners in managing their land. The study will focus on two case study locations in Murrumbateman and Wamboin. Volunteers assisting the UMCCC will be surveying residents at random in your area. The UMCCC would like to thank all residents who have already been involved in the survey, your assistance in this research is vital to improve the services provided to small block owners, not only in your area, but all over Australia. If you would like to know more about the survey, please contact Jo Harding, UMCCC Executive Officer on ph: 6207 2999 or e-mail: jo.harding@act.gov.au

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6258 1792

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THE CHALKBOARD STORY

In 1984 it became apparent that a method of notification of urgent events was required for the inhabitants of Wamboin. At a WCA meeting it was agreed, and Council gave approval, for a fixed Blackboard. Hank Berlee constructed the bits and John Finn assisted me in the positioning at the Norton Road, Gallagher Crescent intersection. The approval from Council stressed that no commercial signs go on otherwise, approval for the board would be rescinded. As the traffic flow into Wamboin increased, Council moved the board a few meters north and constructed the lay-by for safety purposes. Throughout the years the board has been an instant spreader of local news. Little dogs lost, garage sales, meetings, bits and pieces for sale, community functions, Church services, Golf Days, Markets etc. We have also gone green. All good except for minor disagreements as to what constituted a commercial sign with people like 'Road makers', 'Wreck Removals' and 'Local Grader' insisting their message is non commercial.

Now for the bad news! About 4 weeks ago someone chalked up rude comments about 2 local lasses. This was quickly cleaned off. Next up an advertisement for the Fireworks Night was stolen. Then two weeks ago someone applied a polish to the board making it chalk 'no go'. This was washed off and a couple of days later the phantom polisher struck again. Again the polish was washed off. **Now for utter vandalism:** On Tuesday night, October 23 **some idiot daubed in paint** similar derogatory comments about the two lasses on both boards. Early Wednesday I removed both boards, sanded off the remarks and repainted the boards with Chalkboard green. This behaviour causes an unacceptable maintenance cost in time and money. Where from here?

If you want the boards to continue to serve a community purpose, please report any suspicious activity to any member of the Community Association. Council and Police have promised assistance. -- Lofty Mason

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WILDCARE GETS BUSY

“Hello *Wildcare*, can I help you?” Well, Thursday 25 October was one of those days when the phone didn’t stop ringing. As people drove off to work at 0630 the calls came in about a kangaroo hopping around a Queanbeyan suburb and there were two possibly injured kangaroos lying on the grass verge on Sutton Road and the median strip on the Federal Highway. *Wildcare* was able to despatch some of its rescuers to check out these incidents and whilst there was success in sorting out one of the injured kangaroos, the Queanbeyan roo was too quick to catch – and remains at large! Hopefully he will find his way out of suburbia and back into the wild.

As Lesley, *Wildcare*’s on duty roster person said, “We had 28 calls over a 12 hour period and what was surprising was the variety of species being dealt with and the area over which they were spread. A baby magpie was rescued at Murrumbateman and a swallow in Jerrabomberra; an injured turtle was picked up in Burra; a snake was caught and relocated away from a Bywong house; a mangy wombat was dealt with near Cooma; a Blotched Blue Tongue was rescued after a dog attack; and another injured kangaroo with a joey onboard was sighted in Wamboin. Another kangaroo was released from a fence. People rang in to get advice on wildlife matters, including from the ACT. Feedback was given to a member of the public who rescued an Echidna five weeks ago. And a call was taken to give a wildlife presentation to a local pre-school.”

“Whilst we were busy it was really pleasing to have so many members of the public contact *Wildcare* about wildlife issues and it shows more and more people are thinking about the safety of our animals” Lesley went on to say that “The lady who rang in about the injured Kangaroo on the Federal Highway spotted the animal again on her way home to Goulburn in the late afternoon and this time she had time to wait until the *Wildcare* rescuer could arrive. This was great, as it can often be difficult for a rescuer to find animals that are lying down injured in the undergrowth.”

If you are interested in becoming involved with *Wildcare* ring (02) 62991966 or check out the *Wildcare* website www.Wildcare.com.au. And keep up the good work! - by Phil Machin



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Notes from St Andrews

Hasn't the rain been wonderful - the grounds are looking so good in the church. We are almost ready for the annual Blessing of the Animals service which is to be held on the third Sunday - 18 November. The service is held outside and all animals large or small are invited to come along at 9am with their owners - carrots and snacks available and a sausage sizzle for the owners after the service.

As usual the first Sunday of the month will be Matins again beginning at 9am. For any queries you can contact Robyn Robertson on 62383202.

CAROLS AT WAMBOIN

21 December 2007

Appeal for participants

This is an appeal to our younger readers to take part in a dramatized reading of the Christmas story. The reading is a modern version of the story that is easy to read and understand. We are looking for young people who are interested in being involved. There will be several rehearsals in the week before the Carols. If interested please contact Tony Power on 6238 3028 or at poweraj@acslink.net.au



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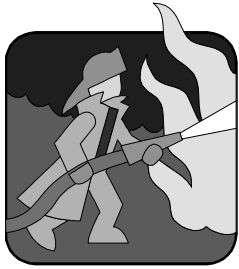


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The Wamboin Firefighter

A newsletter from YOUR volunteer rural fire brigade compiled
by Cliff Spong with help from many members of the Brigade

**THE FIRE SEASON HAS NOW STARTED.
NO FIRE PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
THIS MEANS NO BURNING OFF IN THE OPEN WILL BE PERMITTED UNTIL
FIRE PERMITS CAN BE ISSUED.
RING 000 (Zero-Zero-Zero) TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS.**

From the Captain's Desk



While it could be argued that some people may not be in a position to keep abreast of current information all the time, it is sometimes difficult to accept that people, especially those living in rural areas, do not appreciate the risks of fire. Added to that, it is also difficult to fathom some people's lack of knowledge about fire danger periods, given the media attention every year and the occasional large fire. Have the catastrophic events in January 2003 on our community's doorstep faded that far from many people's consciousness that some residents can afford to be complacent about the ever-present hazards of fire in our community? Why, you ask, am I on my soapbox? The fire danger season is aptly named and anyone lighting a fire in the open at this time of year needs a permit from their local fire brigade BEFORE they light up. However, NO PERMITS ARE BEING ISSUED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. This means that a fire cannot be lit in the open. If fires are lit in the open, penalties can be imposed under the NSW Rural Fires Act. Pleading ignorance is no excuse. Responding to fires is what your brigade is here for but when it is for fires that should not have been lit in the first place, this gets volunteer firefighters and other members of the community annoyed, especially if those fires were to get out of control.

If we are called to a fire that has not been authorised, we will have no option other than to take down the details of those concerned. A warning letter will then be sent to those people by the Zone Manager of the Lake George Zone. If another incident involving the same people occurs the police will be notified.

During the past month your brigade has again been active. At the beginning of the month the Wamboin brigade worked with other brigades at a number of fires in the Nerriga area. It was a rapid introduction to the start of this fire season and there is no truth to the rumour that our brigade gets called to fires whenever I am away! We also attended some motor vehicle accidents along the Federal Highway as well as supporting our colleagues in Bungendore by having vehicles and crew available when they are totally committed to incidents and training commitments in their own area.

During the past few months a lot of work has been carried by several extremely dedicated members of the brigade to ensure the new pump and stand pipes near the Wamboin Community Hall and the fire shed were ready for the start of this fire season. This has involved laying a concrete slab near the dam, installing the pump and pump house, digging about 90 metres of trenches, laying and welding the high pressure plastic pipes, and then installing the above ground fittings near the fire shed and the Community Hall.

The system has now been tested and works extremely well. Not only will it allow a crew to defend the assets in and around the Hall but it will allow us to refill fire brigade tankers more easily, especially late at night after returning from call outs. The pictures below show a small group of firefighters being instructed by Col Prest on how to best operate the pump, Richard Hobbs about to test one of the above ground standpipes and three of our firefighters testing the system to its maximum. The third picture is a little confusing as the hoses are not connected to the fire truck but to the new standpipes. There is a little fine tuning to be done on the system but it is really pleasing that all the planning and hard work has paid off.



Asset Protection Zones: Creating effective asset protection zones, firebreaks and undertaking appropriate hazard reduction will increase the chances of managing a fire outbreak. An Asset Protection Zone is an area surrounding an asset that is managed to reduce bushfire fuels to a level that will minimise the impact of fire and provide an area for firefighters and homeowners to defend their property.

On the RFS website see the sections on:

- [Guidelines for Asset Protection Zones, available in PDF format from their Publications Area](#)
- [Asset Protection Zones](#)
- [Preparing Your Property for Bushfire](#)
- Hazard Reduction



Hazard Reduction: Hazard reduction seeks to reduce the fine fuel load but not to remove vegetation completely. Hazard reduction can be achieved through:

- removal or pruning of trees, shrubs and understorey
- raking or manual clearing of fine fuels
- mowing of grass
- slashing and trittering
- ploughing and grading
- burning off (hazard reduction burning)
- pile burning.

Firebreaks: The correct location of firebreaks is the key to their effectiveness. Ensure firebreaks are maintained properly throughout the year. Firebreaks are needed in the following areas:

- paddock boundaries to isolate flammable crops
- around wood lots or windrows where ground vegetation accumulates
- along fence lines to reduce fuel and provide access for vehicles
- around haystacks and outbuildings
- beneath high-voltage powerlines
- along road and railway boundaries
- around rubbish dumps, incinerators, fuel storage areas.

When constructing a firebreak:

- consider if fire permits and environmental approvals are required
- consider the best way to create the firebreak – slashing, trittering, mowing, burning
- grazing paddocks and planting and maintaining lawn can provide firebreaks
- a Lucerne paddock may provide an effective firebreak, protect key improvements or provide refuge for livestock
- ensure that firebreak construction will not cause erosion.

Finally, the brigade website will be deactivated soon while it is rebuilt, but if you need any advice about fire protection around your property please call 0409 991 340.

Telstra meeting with Wamboin Community Association

It is two and a half years since our local Telstra Country Wide chief, Ian Peters, attended a General Meeting of the Wamboin Community Association to promote Telstra's technology. He promised an improved Broadband and CDMA mobile phone service for the Wamboin and Bywong areas. Unfortunately, he was unaware that Telstra's "3 Amigos" had other plans and a couple of weeks later they put ADSL on hold and announced that from 28 January 2008 CDMA and 3G networks would cease. Next G would be Telstra's sole mobile service. With the January 2008 deadline approaching, the WCA repeatedly has asked Telstra to up-date their plans for the Wamboin/Bywong area and, finally, on 16 October Lara Billerwell (Customer Service) and Stephen Trump (Commercial) attended to outline Telstra's plans and to field questions. In the ensuing lively discussion and questioning session the Telstra specialists made the following points:

1. Broadband:
 - (a) Telstra will continue to maintain the existing ADSL 'copper' coverage and, in the Wamboin area, has only 58 services left to fix up as it has removed recently 18 'pair gain' services.
 - (b) Telstra is not interested in competing with other providers of wireless Broadband, eg YLess4U, and will leave these services to the smaller enterprises.
2. Mobile Phones:
 - (a) On 28 January 2008 Telstra will close the CDMA and 3G services and only the more powerful Next G service will operate from existing towers. If arrangements are not made with Telstra beforehand your number will be lost and it would not be available to you, should you request it, for at least a month;
 - (b) The life expectancy of the Next G service is likely to be not much more than 3 years as a new technology will be introduced;
 - (c) Telstra is planning to increase the number and spread of towers to ensure footprint coverage. A recurring problem is that the newer more powerful systems can interfere with each other so testing is undertaken carefully and this takes time with limited technical staff. A new tower on the Federal Highway at Bywong became operational on 8 August and Telstra is searching for a suitable site in central Wamboin which will not interfere with the Bywong tower. Telstra now has the funds for the Wamboin tower and Telstra intends to have it operational by the end of the financial year.
 - (d) Handset reception varies according to the type of phone and the location. Nokia LG TU 550 gives best overall coverage currently but before the end of the year two very good handsets will be available targeted to rural areas, eg Telstra ZTE 165. Telstra is to offer some 'good deals' by Christmas to encourage 'migration' to Next G.
 - (e) People who experience difficulty in reception/transmission should contact Telstra's Black Spot Register on 125111, ask for mobiles and arrange for an engineer to be sent out to make tests.
3. Sensis: It is an umbrella company of Telstra which is responsible for the White and Yellow Pages. Better attention is to be paid to telephone details and to the accuracy of the maps in the Yellow Pages, eg Wamboin is not in the ACT.
4. Billing: Telstra is installing a new billing system for each innovation and from the November change-over some people will experience a delay in receiving their bills.
 - John van der Straaten, Secretary WCA

LAKE GEORGE DAY VIEW CLUB

by Lydia Teodorowych

The next meeting of the Lake George Day VIEW Club will be on Tuesday November 20, 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 the luncheon meeting and guest speaker Gina Collins from 'Silk on Cork'. Cost is \$21. Thank you to all the generous souls who have donated items for the drought packs to help our local farmers in need. Charity always begins at home. New members and guests are always welcome to our luncheon meeting and to join our ever growing VIEW Club. For bookings please ring Kerry on 6238 0603 by noon Friday 16 November.

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Carol Concert

You are invited to a Carol Concert to be held at 6pm on Friday Dec 14th in the grounds of 60 Majors Close. Kaleidoscope – a Queanbeyan based choir which sings to raise money for A Home in Queanbeyan - will be performing and there will be carols for everyone to join in too. The concert should last for around 1 ½ hours. BYO everything – chair, tipping, nibbles etc. Carol sheets will be provided. A Home in Queanbeyan is a project for the building of a twenty bed residential facility for homeless men with mental health problems. A voluntary collection for this charity will be taken.

Enquiries to Vivien Arnold on 62383456 or comwork@tpg.com.au

News from Sutton School

The last day of Term 3 saw a Pyjama Mufti Day organised by Mr Scott and our Student Council. Money raised will support our sponsored World Vision child. Mrs McNeill will be Student Council mentor for Term 4.

Teachers have been busy updating their skills. Mrs Birch and Mr Scott attended a one day seminar titled *Making school a better place for boys*. Also during the holidays four staff went to Sydney for a 2 day *Innovations in Technology Course*. A combination of keynote speakers and workshops highlighted ways to include technology in workplace and classroom practice. Information from such courses is shared with other teachers during our Tuesday and Wednesday morning staff meetings.

The teaching position vacated recently by Mr Petchell will be filled on a permanent basis at the beginning of 2008. As we are expecting many quality applicants it is a great opportunity for the interview panel to select an outstanding teacher who also matches the school's needs.

On 17th October the boys in Years 3-6, accompanied by Mr Scott, competed in a Cricket Gala Day at Gunning whilst the girls took part in special activities at school.

Student teachers from the University of Canberra have just finished practical work at Sutton school. Caren Hepworth worked with Mrs Birch and her Kindergarten class whilst Brendan Briggs was with Mrs Campbell and Year 2/3.

This term Year 6 will complete a series of lessons on personal development and, in preparation for high school routines, undertake a *You Can Do It* program led by our school counsellor Kylie McPhee. At the younger end, Kindergarten and Year 1 students have started a Science and Technology unit based on toys. Their work will culminate in a visit to Questacon later in the term.

Inspired by our new playground equipment, teachers are planning a Pirate Day for November 8th. Students will work in their peer support groups to complete a variety of challenges.

As Sharon Priestly is currently on leave, Mrs Carol Blair will manage the school office for Term 4.

-- Gay McNeill

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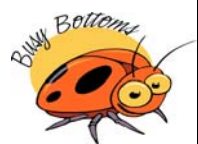
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THE STABLE DOOR by Ian Collet

A TAD MORE RESPECT FOR THE LITTLE GREEN THUNDERBOX

By golly, some of the stories entered in the recent short story competition have been a bit scary. Must admit, every time I now approach the little green thunder/sentry box at the intersection of Weeroona and Denley it is with a wee sense of trepidation. And the content of some of the other stories – SCAAAARY! - not the sort of thing to read last thing at night. Makes me wonder what parents are feeding their kids these days given WEIRD and SCAAAARY themes seemed to dominate the stories appearing in the Whisper. Good thing Jill Gregory hasn't read the stories, lest her theme "...I wouldn't live anywhere else..." might do a quick one-eighty. Anyway, my hat goes off to all contributors for their efforts. I'm sure *Ned the Ed* would be very pleased to have a few more stories, real-life experiences, thoughts, tid-bits etc come in on a regular basis or even haphazard basis.

Hello, Hello, Hello....anyone there? Appears it was a wee-while back...July 2003 precisely when I used this caption to kick-off an article in the Whisper. No 3 guesses as to what the theme was.....that's right....MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE. That article kicked off a survey inviting people to share the mobile phone experiences. Not a pretty sight was the picture built up over the ensuing months. Residents across the width and breadth of the Whisper's distribution responded - even included visitors to the region. The Associations petitioned for improved mobile phone coverage (strong, reliable and locality-wide). The findings were presented to the Wamboin Community Association and together with the Bywong Community Association and with their endorsement forwarded (Nov 2003) to the major telcos and other stakeholders eg government, ministers and council. And there's a long chronology of activity (visits, statements, false starts, discussions, hopes built, hopes dashed, changes in telephony platform etc. FAST FORWARD to 2007 - bottom-line? - we're still here and strong, reliable and locality-wide coverage still ain't. Well, if you were among the several other concerned and committed "squeaky wheelers" in the community who attended the October WCA meeting, you'll know the message from Stephen and Lara of Telstra Countrywide is... well.....positive.....but there are many more sleeps to go. (check out the WCA update elsewhere in the Whisper).

Barry's Prawn (& Finger) Soup (Barry is moi BIL – good guy)

18 medium uncooked King prawns (we used 250 grams green peeled prawns)
 3 teaspoons peanut oil
 100g Shitake mushrooms (thinly sliced)*
 2 sticks lemon grass (sliced)*
 2 shallots (thinly sliced)**
 1 long red chilli seeded and thinly sliced (round)
 1 litre chicken or vege stock
 1 cup water
 2 tablespoons fish sauce
 1 teaspoon caster sugar
 140ml coconut milk
 150 g snow peas (halved length ways) or sideways if you want to be able to pick the buggers up on a spoon.
 4 spring onions (thinly sliced). We just used more shallots.
 1 cup roasted peanuts or cashews (roughly chopped)
 *carefully **very carefully

DESTRUCTIONS:

Peel prawns (leave tails) – or be smart like us and use peeled prawns.
 Heat oil in large pan (we used saucepan) – add mushies, lemon grass, shallots, chilli and prawns. Stir for 2 minutes. Add stock, water, fish sauce, sugar and coconut milk and bring to boil, cover and simmer for 8 minutes.
 Remove from heat; stir in snow peas and spring onions/shallots.
 Serve topped with nuts.

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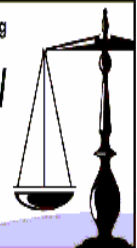
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WWoWs News

The group continues to enjoy meeting once a week at 10am in the church building. Our task for this month is to produce aprons for our local bushfire brigades to be used by the support group. Patchwork quilts are nearing completion and are stunning and the sock knitters have completed over a dozen pairs. The group has a lunch organised on the fifth Monday and we are organising yet another mixed party for the partners for December. New members are welcome to join us - we even have people making the trek from Canberra so our fame is growing. I am writing this from Shanghai so life in Wamboin seems to be a long way a way - it's certainly a little busier! Feel free to contact me on 6238 3317 for any other details.
- Claire Ayling



Carolyn and Stuart are delighted and proud to welcome our little son Aubrey Jesse William Whitten to Wamboin. Born 6th October 2007. Thanks to all the midwives and staff at John James Calvary Hospital.

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WAMBOIN PRODUCE MARKETS

The markets will be held at the Community Hall in Bingley Way on Saturday, 17 November 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 phone 6238 3028. The markets are a great opportunity to meet friends and make new ones.

Wamboin Golf Results from Sunday 7 October.

Good numbers turned out last month with people obviously getting in practice for November's 22nd Wamboin Open. The game was sponsored by Dave and Joanne Argaet for an Stableford event. Visitors trophies won by Peter and Mitch Perkins.

Junior award won by Tom Argaet. Long drive and nearest the pin ball winners were Tom Argaet, Nev Schroder, Dave Argaet x2, Lofty Mason, Len Ivey, Paul Griffin x2 and Charles Guscott x2. Nine Hole event won by Nev Schroder, second Peter Greenwood. B Grade won by Vincent Gorham with Paul Griffin second. A Grade won by Len Ivey from Tim Barter in second place. - Golf enquiries Peter Greenwood 6238 3358

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin

32 year statistics from the Robertsons

Rainfall in October to 28/10/2007 -- 15.3 mm	October 2006 -- 4.5 mm
Jan 1 to Oct 28 2007 -- 408 mm	Jan to Oct 2006 -- 399.5 m
November Average -- 76.1 mm	November 2006 -- 43 mm
Driest November -- 0 mm in 1982	Wettest November -- 146 mm in 1986
Wettest November Day -- 77 mm on 19/11/86	Hottest November Day -- 39c on 27/11/97
Coldest November day -- 10c on 16/11/78	Coldest November Night -- 0c on 1/11/98



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Nature Notes – October 2007

Jo Walker

Well, after all that hot, dry, windy weather, we finally had some rain - although the promise of a decent drenching evaporated as the system got closer to us and there was only about 9 mm in my rain gauge.

However, the eucalypts seem to have found enough moisture somewhere to put on a lot of new growth this spring. It's always heartening to see the striking red, russet or bright green new foliage of the various species of eucalypts we have growing here. The Silver Wattles are also providing a bit of colour, some of them bearing huge quantities of developing seed-pods which are a beautiful pinkish colour at this stage.

A few other plants are also flowering right now. The sweetly-scented cream flowers of *Pomaderris angustifolia* (one of the larger shrubs growing along Sutton Road) are making themselves noticed. And lots of different yellow and orange pea plants are in flower – these range from the tall fragrant-flowered *Daviesia mimosoides* to the low-growing *Dillwynia sericea* and *Pultenaea procumbens* - along with the beautiful little white daisy, *Leucochrysum albicans*, which is putting on its usual fantastic display at the corner of Weeroona and Denley Drives.

The birds are very busy too. A Brown Thornbill has built a nest low in a Correa bush which is almost completely surrounded and protected by a very prickly wattle. It's a neat, domed nest, made out of dry grass, strips of what look like Stringybark strands, all bound together with spider webs and with an entrance hole in the side. An Eastern Spinebill also built a nest in a Grevillea bush at the top of the hill – a small round cup of dry grass and bark strips well-lined with feathers and other soft material. It had two pale, brown-spotted eggs in it when I found it but is empty now. I don't think enough time has passed for the eggs to have hatched and the birds to have flown, so it's possible a predator found them. The little nest was suspended in the top of the bush and very easy to see. The Magpies are doing better and are busy feeding two hungry youngsters in a nest dizzyingly high in a Stringybark along the creek. And the Galahs have managed to enlarge a hole in the old Yellow Box tree sufficiently to rear some noisy nestlings.

Some time ago, I mentioned a Galah that fell out of a tree close to me and later died. Well, a few weeks ago while I was watching a pair of Gang Gangs feeding on the seed from the gumnuts in a Stringybark tree, another bird crashed to the ground beside me! Alarmed that I might be becoming a magnet for falling birds, I was relieved to see it flutter through the grass and fly off again. Actually, this one was a Nankeen Kestrel so intent on diving on a lizard or some other piece of mobile food that I think it failed to notice me. The Gang Gangs weren't a bit perturbed, and continued munching on the gumnuts for several days until the ground beneath was littered with hundreds of chewed capsules. It seems an awful lot of work for these patient birds to get out the small eucalypt seed, but the seeds are probably very nutritious as they seem to be a favourite Gang Gang food.

Garden Time

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Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group

Local residents and landholders interested in the planting and propagation of native trees and shrubs. Activities include monthly meetings, propagation sessions, nursery work, and tree and shrub plantings on public and private land in the area.

New Committee. At the recent AGM the following Committee members were elected:

President: Roger Good Vice President: Geoff Butler Treasurer: Kathy Handel Secretary: Chris Fowler Committee members: Brian Higginson, Jacqui O'Leary, Graeme Harris, Kris Nash, Kathy Cook.

Propagation session. *Saturday 3 November, 9.00-11.00am.* Activities at these sessions involve members in the general maintenance of the nursery, and particularly with the development and growing of seedlings for use or sale by the group in plantings all over the Bungendore/Wamboin/Bywong area.. The sessions, which aim to be both educative and fun, are held at Geoff Butler's place at 38 Birchmans Grove, Wamboin. New participants are very welcome. For more information, contact the Secretary.

Monthly meeting: Monday 12 November. Dr. Andrew Claridge is now not available for this meeting, and sends his apologies. In replacement the group will conduct a plant identification session at which members bring cuttings from trees, bushes, [and we hope this time] grasses, which they have growing on their properties, or have seen in the district and which they either cannot identify, or about which they have some knowledge to share with the assembled multitude. These meetings are usually overseen by Roger Good and Geoff Butler's extensive experience and never fail to be entertaining and informative. Contact – Secretary, Chris Fowler 62369189



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