

The Whisper

February 2008

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 February. 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 March 2007 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, February 24, 2008, 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	Angie Matsinas	Convener	6238 0334
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	Robyn Slater	Senior Instructor	6238-3472
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
WW02 Group	Claire Ayling	Convener	6238-3347
Lake George Day VIEW Club	Pauline Segeri	President	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
Elena Sutcliffe, petsitting and babysitting	6238-3228
Gabrielle Simpkin & Nicolette Neveu-Abramczuk, petsitting	6238-3600
Matilda Whitney, pet care	6238 3059

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

Happy New Year to you all. It seems so long ago, but I hope you had an enjoyable festive season. All the very best for a great 2008.

Palerang Council Elections – The next local government elections will be held in September 2008. It is critical that Wamboin and Bywong get adequate local representation in the Council. The first step in achieving this is to get good local candidates to stand for the election. The Wamboin Community Association is keen to facilitate the formation of a local ticket. John Mitchell has written some informative articles in the Bungendore Mirror on the challenges facing the council and prospective councillors. I recommend you take the time to read them as they are very relevant to the future of our community. If you are interested in standing, or know of anybody who might be, please contact Helen Montesin (ph: 6238 3208) or John van der Straaten (ph: 6238 3590).

Wamboin Community Association – The first WCA meeting for 2008 will be on **19th February** 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 January markets were a success – the crowds weren't deterred by the welcome rain. The next markets will be on **16th February** and are sure to have lots of great local produce.

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 – The noticeboard 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 March's Whisper, please contact John van der Straaten (ph: 6238 3590). - Helen Montesin (montesin@tpg.com.au)

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How The Whisper Gets From the Printer To Your Mailbox

The 40 people below each spend time each month to make sure that Wamboin and Bywong residents own and receive a free community newspaper. If your deliverer has been on the job for a long time and you have a bit of time you could spare, think about offering to take over the job. If you already have too many tasks in your month, every now and then give your volunteer paperwoman/man/boy/girl a thank you.

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	Stuart Whitten	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	Ph 6238 3463		
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	32	Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Drive	17
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	Anne Gardner	Weeroona, Norton to Majors	31
Ned Noel	13 PalerancCn cl+41 Advtsrs	55	David Anderson	Weeroona, Majors to Denley	35
Kathy Handel	Yalana West	19	Penny Evans	Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley	25

227 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER:

Colleen Foster	Joe Rocks to Norton	20	Ph 6238 3489		
Deb Gordon	Yalana East	41	Rob Gorham	South End - Clare Valley	38
Cassie Fisher	Clare Lane	11	Axelby Family	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	Ph 6238 3590		
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Gum Flat	24	Brian Higgison	Deley/Kestral area	12
Ann Platts	Denley MacReef to Birchman's	26	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef /Nwngtn to FdHwy	12
Nora Stewart	Rovere Lane	12	Morag&Guy Cotsell	MReef /Newington/Harriot (A)	30
Joan Milner	Birriwa Road	30	Sandra Favre	MReef /Newington/Harriot (B)	20
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Lane	6	Ian & Esther Rudd	Mreef/Bankers to Fed Hwy	26

191 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON Ph 6236 9609

Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Snowdon Family	Hogan Drive	28
Len Parrish	Summerhill Rd Area	33	Diana+Keith Gascoine	Snow Gum Road	23
Sue Gorham	Schofields/Brooks/Millyn	25	Thelma Martin	Shinglehouse Rd area	20
Sue Aunella	Brooks	17	Judith Miller	Wyoming and Doust Rds	25

TOTAL FOR WHISPER 1074

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Charlie Montesin
(NSW Lic: 166627C)
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Mobile: 0409 224 901
Fax: (02) 6238 3165

Bywong Community Association

prepared by Nora Stewart,

Monday 18th February 2008 at 7.30pm. Living with Climate Change: Bywong Community Association presents Dr Karin Geiselhart who will give a short presentation about climate change at the next community evening on 18th February. The presentation will cover the science and current findings on how climate change is progressing, the predicted impacts on Australia, and how local communities are responding. We look forward to an interesting discussion after the presentation. Everyone is welcome.

Dr Geiselhart is a rural landholder, and has a particular interest in issues of community development and food security. Along with 170 other volunteers from around Australia, she was trained by Al Gore and the Australian Conservation Foundation last September to do community presentations based on Mr. Gore's Academy Award winning film "An Inconvenient Truth". Mr. Gore went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize, jointly awarded to him and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Calling Local Performers - can you sing, dance or play an instrument?

We are looking for local performers for the **Rotary and Bywong Community Car Boot Sale – Sunday 30th March 2008** between 9-12.30pm. We would like performances of between 5 – 20 minutes in length. If you are interested, please call Nora on 0431 862 853 or email nora@setdancing.com.au as soon as possible to book a place.

For more information, please contact Nora Stewart on 0431 862 853 or nora@setdancing.com.au.

THE STABLE DOOR

Ian Coillet announced in the last issue that he wouldn't be continuing his column, at least for a while. He has worked to create this column each month for several years now, entertaining and informing readers. I thank him for his hard work, creative energy and humor. – Ned Noel, Editor

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Thank you for our most successful year ever.

A more than 20% increase in sales volume over our previous best year is due to your support. 3 sales in excess of \$1,000,000 including a record of \$1,610,000 in Wamboin and an \$8,000,000 increase in sales turnover are just some of our successes. We look forward to serving you in 2008.

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WAMBOIN PONY CLUB

Wamboin Pony Club is looking forward to a fresh start to 2008, following 5 months of enforced “unmounted” activities due to the equine influenza outbreak in NSW.

Activities with horses/ponies and riders are set to recommence from Sunday 10th February 2008. There will be a few new requirements for attendance at club days to make sure the Club complies with both PCA NSW and DPI requirements, but all current members are looking forward to being able to meet again on horse back.

Wamboin Pony Club holds rally days usually on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month (except for January and December). The club conducts activities at the Canning Close Reserve, which is located at the end of Canning Close Wamboin. Facilities include car and float parking, a small club house, a sand dressage arena, a sand/sawdust show jumping arena, a large flatwork arena and cross country training jumps.

Rally days commence at 10.00am (members usually arrive around 9.30am to get ready to ride at 10.00am) and run til 3.00pm with an hour lunch break. Riders must be a financial riding member of pony club. Riders must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times if under the age of 18 years. **Riders MUST wear:**

- A well fitting approved helmet AS/NZS 3838
- Smooth soled elastic sided riding boots. Boots may have a front zipper, but no laces. Only riders 17 years and older may wear long boots.

The club encourages all riding members to wear the club uniform at rally days. Generally 2 sessions are held in the morning with a break for lunch around 12:00 noon. Then there are two more sessions after the break. This format relies on four instructors being available on the day. There are lots of different activities that riders may participate in at rally day including show jumping, dressage, cross country, troop drill, mounted games, sporting, polocrosse, horse care and theory.

Wamboin Pony Club caters for all levels of riders, from beginner through to the experienced, aged from 5 years through to 24 years of age. Existing members will receive more detailed information on the new requirements for attending a rally day by email. Just to remind existing members that membership is now due. Membership paperwork for 2008 can be completed at the first rally day on 10th February, just remember riders cannot ride on the grounds until all monies (including insurance) are paid and all forms completed.

Potential new members should contact one of the following people prior to the rally day. Unfortunately the current situation with EI does not allow for new members to simply turn up with horses on the day, so it is important that anyone interested in visiting the first rally day in February contact one of the following people:

PRESIDENT: Marion Whalan 6238 3115 (and author of this article)
SENIOR INSTRUCTOR: Robyn Slater 6238 3472

The club also has a web site which is full of additional information about the club and the achievements of its members. Take a look at www.wamboin.pcansw.org.au

Geary's Gap and Wamboin Landcare Activities for February 2008

Saturday 3rd February 2008. Our first propagation session for 2008 will be on this date between 9 – 11 am, at Geoff Butler's place at 38 Birchmans Grove, Wamboin. There will undoubtedly be a great deal to catch up on so a good attendance will be useful. New participants are very welcome. For more information, please email Geoff at gbu22182@bigpond.net.au, phone him on 62369158, or contact the Secretary.

Monday 11th February 2008. The speaker at our first monthly meeting for the year on Monday 11th February will be Dr Adrian Manning (ANU) who will give a talk on the rehabilitation of Goorooyaroo woodlands and woodland ecosystems. Meetings are held at the Bywong Community Hall – Birriwa Rd (Off Macs Reef Rd) at 7.30pm. A reminder with any extra detail will be forwarded later in the month.

Sunday 16th March 2008 and thereafter. Geary's Gap/ Wamboin Landcare group will make a big contribution to local revegetation in the Bungendore area, with a major planting of some 2500 trees in the new Birchman's Grove sub-division off Denley Drive in Wamboin. Plantings will take place on all roads in the area commencing Sunday 16th March 2008. Local residents who are interested in becoming involved with this project, or who would like to offer assistance on the day, are invited to contact the Secretary on 62369189, E: chrisft@spitfire.com.au, or Geoff Butler 62369158, E: gbu22182@bigpond.net.au

– Chris Fowler, Secretary, ph 6236 9189

LOW ACT OF THE MONTH, THIEF IN WAMBOIN AREA

Would the person who stole a brand new swag from a property in the Wamboin area return it promptly, as it was my son's birthday present. He is devastated by its disappearance. It was stolen during the holiday period. The police will be informed. Please phone if you have any information as to its whereabouts, or if a brand new swag has mysteriously appeared in your garage or yard. If it is promptly returned, no further action will be taken.

Thanks. – Shirley, 0414 904 033

Editor's Note: Shirly asked that her surname be withheld to lessen the chance of another theft.

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WILDCARE GRAPEVINE

by Philip Machin

Our local wildlife group *Wildcare* reports that it has been a quieter than normal Christmas and New Year period. That's not to say there hasn't been a good number of call outs for the *Wildcare* volunteers, including for snake handlers, just not as many as in previous years. Perhaps this is an indication of the better spring and summer weather in many areas that has given more options for wildlife to stay away from danger areas such as our roads and properties where out of control cats, dogs and the occasional human makes life difficult.



Wildcare often encourages people to do the right thing, and a growing number are doing just that, but there have been a few stories on the grapevine where not everyone has got the message. Like the lady who had the best intentions by trying to feed an injured bird bread and milk and an adult wombat that had been fed cat food over a long period. Birds and animals need to be fed the right food and have the right care to do well. Good intentions need to be tempered with good advice from organisations like *Wildcare*. It's illegal to hold and care for wildlife without a licence, which is a good reason to join a wildlife group and do it right.

Photo at left: Jake of *Wildcare* prepares to catch a tiger snake.

There is still the odd story of people taking matters into their own hands in dealing with snakes, which turn up in the wrong place. Unless it's a dire

emergency, then snakes need to be handled by trained people. Dealing with venomous snakes on one's own is a dangerous activity both for you and anyone else in the vicinity. So, step back, give the snake some room, keep an eye on it and if necessary call *Wildcare* to get some help. Chances are a snake will sort itself out and clear off. A recent call out to a late night house party saw a tiger snake bailed up in the kitchen. Left alone and with people out of the way, it quickly found the open door and slithered away. It was later picked up by a *Wildcare* snake handler from underneath the hot water system where it had gone to hide. Killing snakes is against the Law. If you find yourself with someone who wants to be a hero tell them to think again.

Wildcare is available to give advice and help sort out injured and rescued wildlife, so get in touch and call 6299 1966, 24 hours a day. If you are interested in joining *Wildcare* to help rescue and care for native animals, give them a call or visit their Website: www.wildcare.com.au.

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Position Vacant. I am having a function at my home in Wamboin on Sunday February 24. I need someone to help serve nibbles etc. and help in the preparation of platters for a cold buffet lunch. (I will prepare the food). Also required will be general cleaning of the kitchen area, washing glasses etc. Starting time is about 11am and I think should finish about 4 or 5pm. Payment will be at an hourly rate. If this interests anyone please call Lynn on 62383455 to discuss details.
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.
Maths and Science tutoring K-10. Diagnostic testing. Encouraging, expert coaching. Please contact Judy Shellard, [BSc(Hons) Dip Ed], Phone 62383050
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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 to (I don't live at the Hall!) -Joan Mason, 62383258.
FOR HIRE: WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL. Bookings arranged by Joan Mason 6238 3258. Local Residents \$70, Bond \$200. Non Resident \$125, Bond \$250. The Hall is not available for teenage or 21st functions.
The Whisper is a community newspaper for Wamboin and Bywong. If you live in the area and have something to say about living here that is informative, thoughtful or entertaining, think about writing it up for the next issue. For more information contact the editor on 6238-3484 or email nednoel@optusnet.com.au. And thanks if you have already done so.

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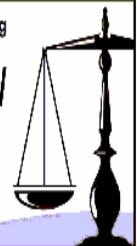
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WAMBOIN GUIDES TURN 21



Wamboin guides celebrated its 21st birthday in November 2007 many old girls came and helped our current guides celebrate this special occasion. Wamboin Guides currently have two units Brumby guides for 5-10 year olds and Bullimen Guides for the 10 plus. There are over 20 girls all enthusiastic about guiding.

Rosemary Riley who has run the units for the last 16 years is retiring and unfortunately the unit will close unless we find women prepared to be guide leaders. Training is provided and is paid for by our very active support group and Rosemary aka Wombat will be around to help and advise. Anyone interested in Guide leading could you call Rosemary on 62416565 or Ros Sim on 62882519. – Judith Anderson



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What is Happening

There will be a short term interruption to road traffic near 344 Norton Rd while Palerang Council required road-works to widen the road shoulder and pavement, are in progress. We will aim to avoid any disruptions to traffic during peak times. Work is expected to take 2-3 weeks commencing early in Feb 08. We regret any potential pain to the Wamboin community.

We would also like to take this opportunity to ask for expressions of interest for front of house and kitchen staff. Positions include chef/cook, kitchenhand, wait staff, and manager 2IC. Please contact Elke at info@shepherdsrun.com.au for the job descriptions.



And don't forget our competition! We are looking for an imaginative and striking name for our on-line Newsletter. The most creative person will receive a mixed half dozen of our wines. Please send all your entries to the email address below. Winner(s) will be announced at our grand opening.

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

Thanks from Peter, Chris, and Elke Davies
Shepherds Run at Wamboin

info@shepherdsrun.com.au or 02 6238 3842

The Vigneron's Lot

A short but, unfortunately, true story by Phil Elliott

One should never tempt the Gods. If I have learnt nothing else since embarking on my new found life as an apprentice vigneron, it is that one simple fact - never tempt the Gods.

The vineyard was looking resplendent. The chardonnay vines were loaded with flowers and this was to be the year of my first crop. The vines had grown so well that I even had to fit and use the foliage wires, so named to keep the foliage from shading the grapes as they matured; allowing the sunlight to convert the grape juices into sugars, nay nectars, from which I would extract my first vintage from MY grapes. Since the grasshoppers of 2005 and the late frost of 2006 I had been on my guard against whatever pestilence I was to encounter in 2007. I had prepared for light brown apple moth and vine moth. My fridge was loaded with biological agents to combat grasshopper plague. I had sprayed the vines with a multitude of fungicides to neutralise every type of mildew known to man.

I had become confident. I had become very confident as I walked amongst the vines each evening with a glass of wine from someone else's vines in my hand. Not like this next year. It would be a glass of wine from MY vines then. I was confident. I was smug.

It rained on and off during the afternoon: that hot oppressive type of rain that said "It isn't over yet." There was more to come. Humidity was 100% but I didn't worry about that - there was so much anti-fungal spray on my vines they would not be affected. But then it started to blacken in the north-west and the forecast of heavy rain and flash flooding was starting to materialise. Still not a problem - the vineyard is on the side of a hill - no prospect of flooding there.

The black line approached, slowly at first but gathering speed as it came into perspective, now rolling, moving faster. And you could hear the rumbling as the Gods stamped their feet further down the valley. This storm cell had a bit of power in it - you could feel it. I also felt something else as the downburst reached us; the ice cold breath of something hidden within the approaching curtain of rain.

The droplets hit us like miniature snowballs - big, wet and sloppy - as the parched earth tried in vain to absorb the moisture now pelting down upon it. Rivulets began to run off the surrounding hillside, gathering pace and growing in size as they ran towards the dry river bed. And then we heard it - the sound of the one thing I could not prepare for - the sound of hail.

For fifteen minutes the Gods pelted us with rain and hail. Fifteen minutes in which we received 25 millimetres of moisture - and about 20 percent of that in solid form.

It went as quickly as it had arrived, leaving behind the roaring of the torrents coursing down the surrounding hills. And my vineyard looked as if a mechanical harvester had been through it. The young tendrils had been cut, as if by a knife. The flowers had disappeared and the ground was covered with shredded vine leaves. Vintage 2008 littered the floor of the vineyard.

I had tempted the Gods, and they had accepted the challenge.

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Wamboin 15 Years Ago

The February 1993 edition reported an extension of school bus services to Queanbeyan, but nothing else of significance now. Everyone was quietly busy building up the community which we appreciate so highly. – Robyn Robertson

Rainfall + Temperatures in Wamboin

33 Year Statistics from the Robertsons

Rainfall Dec 07 – 85.5 mm December Average – 57.4 Total Rainfall 2007 583 mm Annual Average 694 mm
Jan 08 to 27/1 – 40.75 mm January 2007 – 13.5 mm Avg Feb Rainfall – 51.7 mm Wettest Feb – 153 mm 2002
Driest Feb – 1 mm in 1986 Wettest Feb Day 48 mm on 10/2/89 and 5/2/01 Hottest Feb Day – 37c on 5 occasions
Coldest Feb Day – 20c on 10/2/96 and 4/2/05 Coldest Feb Night – 5C on 17/2/98

Apology to the Fire Brigade and to Ian Coillet

The Fire Brigade asked to run an announcement of its Christmas Party in the December Whisper. Ian Coillet prepared it and sent it in plenty of time. In the last step preparing the Whisper for printing – changing it from a Microsoft Word document to an Adobe PDF document – this item failed to transfer for some reason. I did not properly scan the Adobe PDF file before emailing it to the printer. Readers may have noticed the large white space at the top of one of the pages (page 7). I apologise to the Brigade and to Ian for not properly printing this important notice. – Ned Noel, Editor.

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Do you own a property in Murrumbateman or Wamboin?

The Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee Inc (UMCCC) in partnership with Griffith University is conducting a social survey until mid February 2008 of landholders in Murrumbateman and Wamboin. The purpose of this research is to improve the way the UMCCC and other organisations assist owners of small acreage blocks to manage their properties. If you can spare 15 minutes to complete this survey and return it to the UMCCC Inc your help with this research would be greatly appreciated. If you provide a postal address (it will not be used for any other purpose) we will send you a free Bird ID book or Native Plant ID book and the new publication "Living with drought" (for small acreage landholders). Until stocks last!!!

Go to www.molonglocatchment.com.au to download your survey now!!

If you would like to know more about this research, please contact me.

- Jo Harding, Principle Researcher ph: 6207 2999 or e-mail: jo.harding@act.gov.au

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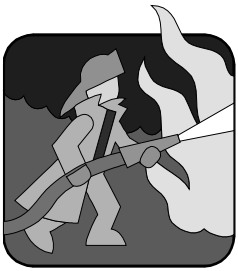
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The Wamboin Firefighter

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



Before I get into all the news about the activities your brigade has been involved in over the past two months, let me, on behalf of everyone in the brigade, wish our reader a happy, safe and wet 2008.

There was a special social event during December that deserves special mention. Our annual Christmas party early in December was a great success. Many people came along for an enjoyable evening. It was especially pleasing to meet some of our new Wamboinites who dropped in for a few quiet ones, some fine food and a chat. A special visitor did make a surprise visit and arrived in a big red fire truck instead of his sleigh. Many children of all ages enjoyed his visit. I and all members of the Brigade owe a big vote of thanks to Wendy Downs and all her helpers for making the evening a great success. The spread was excellent.

I am not sure how many people in our community realise, but medical history was made recently by a well known identity in Wamboin. We have it on the very best authority that medical tests have categorically disproved a long held belief that the Treasurer of our brigade, Larry King, does not have a heart! The tests not only showed that Larry had been fooling many of us for years, but his ticker was not in as good a shape as it should be. We all sincerely hope that the bypass operation goes well and the revised plumbing serves him faithfully for many years to come.

We would like to thank the Bywong Community Association for a generous donation recently which we will be able to put towards purchasing some new equipment. We would also like to express our thanks to our local member of State parliament, Steve Whan, shown in the picture taken by Ian Coillet, for his work in securing a grant from the State Government to purchase some much needed pagers for our new members as well as a special high-powered backpack blower to help us clear fire breaks and control small fires.

During the past two months only a few incidents have required your Brigade's attention. A few motor car accidents, the odd torched vehicle (one shown below near the Wamboin Community Hall) have created some excitement. We were also



involved in controlling a large haystack fire outside of Bungendore with other brigades from our zone. It was estimated that fire destroyed \$70,000 worth of hay and it took a number of days work to secure the site.


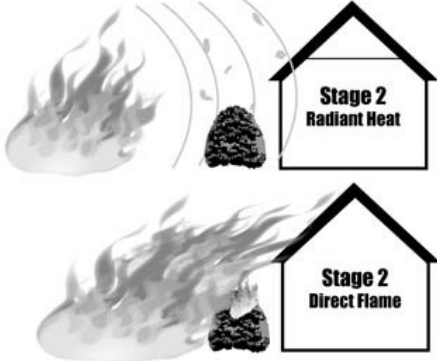

Although we have had a very quiet introduction to the official fire season, the traditional danger period for our community is just around the corner. The next couple of months have often proved to be our most active. The grass is curing, the ground litter is drying out and with the relatively high fuel loads due to the recent rain, we have the makings of some potentially disquieting times ahead. Although what follows is repeating some information we published some time ago, the

message is just as important now as it was then. There is some valuable information on the NSW Rural Fire Service website (<http://www.bushfire.nsw.gov.au>) and the information below can be found there. It should help you to consider what the possible fire threats are to your property. Knowing this information should then help you plan what you need to do to minimise any threats should fire threaten.

How bushfires affect houses

Three ways houses are set alight by bushfire

Houses are set alight through embers, radiant heat and direct flame contact.

 <p>Stage 1 Ember Attack</p>	<p>Embers (sparks)</p> <p>Embers (sparks) are the main cause of houses catching alight during bush fires. Extreme fire weather days are accompanied by strong to gale force winds, which carry burning debris. Embers therefore gain entry to houses through broken windows or gaps in and around walls or roof cladding and ignite the contents. Embers also lodge on and ignite horizontal timber decking, guttering, steps and window sills. They can be blown up against and ignite timber used for supports, underfloor battens, posts and steps.</p>	<p>ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a Bushfire Survival Plan. • Have a portable battery operated AM/FM radio to receive information during the fire. • Don't enter the bush if smoke or fire is in the area. • Stay calm and report all fires on 000! • Check if elderly neighbours need assistance. • If possible, block your gutters and fill with water. • If you choose to self-evacuate, do so early. • If ordered to evacuate by the police you must obey, so have pets and valuables packed and ready to go. • Wear long sleeves and long pants, natural fibres and sturdy footwear. • Close all windows and doors, block spaces beneath doors with wet towels or blankets.
 <p>Stage 2 Radiant Heat</p> <p>Stage 2 Direct Flame</p>	<p>Radiant Heat + Direct Flame</p> <p>The hotter a fire the greater the amount of radiant heat and the faster the fire will spread by radiation.</p> <p>Direct flame impact usually occurs when something combustible is near the house. eg. shrubs, wood piles or outbuilding.</p>	<p>ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear long sleeves and long pants made from natural fibres and sturdy footwear • Have eye and breathing protection available for everyone • Keep a torch and portable AM/FM radio at hand, in case power fails, to monitor weather • Turn off gas and power • Hose down walls, gardens etc before the fire arrives • Block downpipes and fill gutters with water • Fill all sinks, baths etc with water to use on spot fires in case mains water supply or domestic electric water pumps fail • Bring hoses/fittings and other fire suppression tools inside, so they can be used later • Close all doors and windows and block gaps with damp towels • Move flammable curtains and furniture away from windows • Shelter in a part of the house most distant from approaching fire front until fire has passed then actively put out spot fires • Once fire front has passed, go outside to check for spot fires and ember attack
 <p>Stage 3 Spot fire</p>	<p>After the Fire Has Passed</p> <p>Ember attack is the biggest threat to houses. This can last for several hours after the fire front has passed. Unattended houses are very susceptible during this stage. People who have relocated can return during this stage. <i>Experience shows that people and houses that are well prepared will survive the passage of a bush fire.</i></p>	<p>ACTION</p> <p>It is the owner's responsibility to secure the site following a fire.</p> <p>After the fire has passed and for several hours after the fire front has passed, patrol your property and put out spot fires started by flying embers.</p>

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

THE CAPTAIN'S LIST		Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	
A'Hern Fitness at the Airport AAA Water Carriers Anytime Backhoe Hire B & B Tree Surgery Bingley Contractors (Water Carriers) Bungendore Rural Bungendore Taxi Service Capital Business Services Capital Stainless Steel Clare Valley Tree Services Coates Hire, Fyshwick Congari Bookkeeping & Business Services	Coolah Holdings Pty Ltd Cross Country Construction Eureka Plants Pty Ltd Horizon Real Estate FH Office Services France Harrison & Associates Gidgee Estate Winery Inland Trading Co (Aust) Lambert Vineyards LMS Consulting Manuka Childcare Centre Marloc Engineering Overdene Excavations Pty Ltd	Quick-Eze Towing Ratz Mobile Welding So Good Sausages Pty Ltd Sotech Pty Ltd Shepherds Run Wines Sherrin Hire Sutton Real Estate Tipton Shopfitters Pty Ltd Trevor Barker & Associates Trevor Duncan Homes Wagonga Coffee Westpac Banking Corporation YLess4U	



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We were pleased that the new house we bought was also through you and we could experience the same level of professional service as buyers.

I would not hesitate to recommend the services of yourself and your team at Ray White Bungendore to anyone looking to sell their treasured home quickly, smoothly and for the right price.

Yours sincerely

*Simon Holloway
27/12/2007"*

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FREE SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP FOR HOBBY FARMERS



NSW Department of Primary Industries, are running two free Soil Health Workshops.

The workshops will be held on properties near Canberra –

- one at Uriarra, on Saturday 9th February 2008, and
- another at Burra, on Saturday 23rd February 2008.
- Both sessions will run from 9:00am – 2:00pm (morning tea and BBQ lunch provided).

Both workshops will cover issues promoting healthy soils and healthy landscapes by training landholders in diagnosing and addressing soil health problems on their property.

Attendees will get access to heavily subsidised cheap soil tests and will learn techniques for drought proofing small properties / rural residential landholdings.

The hopeful outcome of these workshops, is that over the next 10 to 20 years, as land managers adopt the practises learnt through the workshops - this will see a significant improvement in soil structure and organic matter levels, a lowering of soil acidity, and a more calculated and sustainable approach to fertilizer use. This in turn will have a major impact on the productivity of properties and the long term sustainability of the catchment.

Attendees should also bring a Pen, Chair, 1kg of topsoil from your property, Hat, Sunscreen, Water, and suitable Clothes for a Paddock walk.

The Benchmarking Soil Chemistry Project is funded by the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, and Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority, and is presented by the Department of Primary Industries

If you are unable to attend either days, but are still interested in attending, please still make contact with the organiser's below, as they are gauging interest for further workshops, and may even be able to organise one in the local area.

For more information and to register, please RSVP by contacting Susan Orgill or Jennifer Hardwicke at the NSW DPI: Phone: 62980806, or mobile 0428424566 E-mail: susan.orgill@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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Win prizes and be published!

This competition is to provide encouragement and publication to writers and to provide stories for the reading pleasure of residents of Bywong and Wamboin.

Judging Criteria for Your Stories

- Bywong and/or Wamboin are a part of the story – *e.g. mention of a local landmark, actual place name or a road would be considered sufficient.*
- Uses words, ideas and has a title that makes the writing interesting for readers.
- Correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.



Entry Categories

Primary school students Years 4-6 including students being schooled at home	250 words maximum	Year 4 –four prizes Year 5– four prizes Year 6– four prizes
High school students – open category included students being schooled at home	500 words maximum	Three prizes
Adult – open category	750 word maximum	Three prizes

Conditions of entry

- Entries should observe the maximum word limit.
- All entries must be legible and the original work of the author.
- Multiple entries from the same person will be accepted.
- Closing date for entries will be **5pm Friday 28th March 2008.**
- All winners will be announced in the May 2008 edition of the *Wamboin Whisper*.

Submitting an entry

All entries must attach a separate document containing the following information:

Name:

Address:

Phone contact:

Email:

Entry Category:

Primary school – please include the name of your school and your year - Year 4 / Year 5 / Year 6

High school- Open category - please include the name of your school.


Adult - Open category

Please email your entry to wordnerd@yless4u.com.au or send a hard copy to **19 Clearview Lane, Bywong NSW 2621** before **5pm Friday 28th March 2008.**

We suggest that you make a copy of your work as entries will not be returned. Good luck! 😊

Lake George Day VIEW Club by Lydia Teodorowych

The first meeting for 2008 will be meeting for 2008 is on Tuesday February 19 at the Goolabri Country Resort, 202 Goolabri Dr, Sutton 11.30 for a 12 noon start. AGM will be held with new committee members being introduced to their roles. Join us for the first meeting of the year. New members and guests are always welcome. For bookings phone Pauline on 6238 1996 by Friday February 15. For a snapshot of our club and our activities visit our blog: <http://lgdviewclub.blogspot.com>

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BUNGENDORE SES THANKED

by Jan Smith, Community Liason Officer

Members of Bungendore SES recently traveled to the Blacktown area of Sydney in response to a request for out of area assistance following the hailstorms on the 9th December. David Fileman and Jack Miller teamed with 2 members of the Queanbeyan Unit departing Bungendore on Monday 10th December. On their departure from the area the following email was received.

“To whom it may concern.”

“I would like to forward my thanks to the team that was sent up to help in the recent Blacktown hailstorm.

The team that was in the Bungendore Response 2 vehicle came to my house on the date of the 12th December, 2007 and assisted in the “tarping” of my roof, and this was done with professionalism and were always happy and polite, which was a great uplifting moment during a time of despair and hardship. You should be proud of your members that you sent to help. These four members outshined in the way the worked, as well as the politeness, compared to some of the local SES members.

“Being a retired RFS member, I was hoping to be able to tarp my roof by myself, but it was too dangerous and when the Bungendore crew arrived we were able to have 2 tarps on the roof and tired down in 45 minutes. Allot quicker than some other teams working in the area, and at the same time not compromising there safety, or that of others. I would like you to pass on a heart warmed thanks to those four members. They have done you proud and represented your area with dignity.”

A further team of 3 members of the Bungendore unit departed Bungendore on Friday 14th returning late on Sunday. Bungendore SES will be holding an information meeting for any one requiring information on volunteering with the SES on February 7th at 1930 at the Emergency Centre, Malbon Street Bungendore. Further information can be obtained from Jan Smith, Community Liaison Officer, on 62380106.

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Community News Items

by Lofty Mason

Wamboin Carols. Thanks to all who helped organise the Wamboin Carols. A good crowd sang along and enjoyed the new format. Well-done Tony Power. Charlie and Helen Montesin did a great job with the 'free' barbeque and the donations from their effort came to a healthy \$205. I felt good handing that to the Salvos plus a \$100 donation from the Fire Brigade. This cash donation from Wamboin was very much appreciated.

Recycling Bins. You may have noticed that the Palerang Council has added another 9 bins to the recycling centre at the Hall. This should allow the Council to control the area with once a week servicing. We have been complimented for running the cleanest recycling centre in the Council area. Keep up the good work and please crush any 'crushables' (eg empty cardboard cartons) to save space.

Meet and Greet. I am still getting quite a few requests for the 'Meet And Greet' booklet directly from new residents. This booklet was originally designed for residents to hand over when meeting a new neighbour. If you have a new neighbour give me a call and we will go from there. I will be contacting group leaders in the near future to ensure the booklet is up to date.

Tomatoes. If your tomatoes are all growth with minimum flowers and fruit take heart, this complaint is very general this year. Despite picking my first tomatoes on the 22nd of November (had to sneak that in) it is only mid January that we are getting a reasonable harvest. This is a general complaint in Wamboin, Bungendore and the ACT. I bravely predict an inundation of tomatoes at the Wamboin Markets on the 16th of February!



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Young and old writers wanted: what secrets do you know about Lake George?

Calling all aspiring writers: the Weereewa Festival committee is calling for submissions in its short story competition for 2008. And this year there is an added incentive for entrants - the winning story in the Open section of the competition will be awarded the Milton Simms Literary Medal. This will be the first time the medal is to be awarded, and it is hoped that it will be an ongoing part of the festival's literary program. The medal will be hand-made of silver and designed by X Gallery's Xanthe Gay. The Open section of the 2008 competition is for writers of all ages and abilities, and has its focus on celebrating Lake George (Weereewa) located to Bungendore's east. A lake that is thought to be among the oldest inland lakes in the world, and famous for its vanishing waterline and scientific intrigue. The theme for the 2008 festival is "Shorelines" and writers in the Open section are asked to consider the following statement as a basis for their stories: *shorelines – a start or finish of place, scope, extent, story?* Your interpretation of this theme is limited only by your imagination. The competition closes on February 29, 2008, and prize winners will be notified by post. It is hoped the medal will be awarded by one of Australia's leading authors at a literary dinner to be held in late March during the festival.

The medal is named in honour of Milton Simms – a former Australian National University librarian and former long-time Bungendore resident who lobbied in his position as Yarrowlunla deputy mayor to secure funds to build the Bungendore Library and school hall. He is fondly remembered by festival committee members as a learned man with a love of books, who spent the latter half of his life living on his family property which overlooked Lake George.

Stories in the Open section should be no longer than 2000 words and sent to P.O Box 170, Bungendore, NSW, 2621. The writer's name and full address should be written on a cover note and attached firmly to the submitted story. Names should not appear anywhere else on the story.

In addition to the Open section, there will also be an opportunity for local school children to compete for prizes for themselves, as well as their school, in a junior writers' section. The theme for the junior competition will be "Secrets of the Lake". Children are asked to submit stories or poems up to 800 words based on their thoughts about the secrets abounding the shores of Lake George. The junior section is divided into two sections: Kindergarten to Year 2 (as at February 29, 2008) and Year 3 to Year 6. The children's stories can be sent to the P.O Box listed above. Students lucky enough to attend Bungendore Public School in 2008 will be treated to a number of guest speakers next year who will regale the children with tales about the lake and its mysterious history in a bid to inspire some great stories.

But that doesn't mean that you can't start thinking about and writing your stories right now!

- Katrina Iffland, Weereewa Festival Committee

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

The Christmas crowds had departed and I had some time to wander around my neglected garden. It's been a kind summer, to date, and the garden looks surprisingly good from a distance thanks mainly to the saviours of a summer garden, agapanthus, gladioli and daisies. But a closer inspection revealed many holes. I decided to fill a few of them with lettuce seedlings. Sadly the lettuces failed to thrive. I later discovered, while flicking through a magazine, that I had misguidedly planted them at the wrong phase of the moon....and then realised that the hen that ate them must have read the same article!

Animals are part and parcel of why we live here. The reason we moved in the first place was because we had a dog, not any old dog, but a "free to good home" gem. When I saw the ad in the paper all those years ago, I immediately conjured up the image of a small, short haired, non dribbling little thing to sniff and shuffle around our suburban back yard. Mort was everything but. He was large, pure white, except for a few dalmation spots on one ear, long haired and performed the most amazing airborne tricks. And he didn't dribble, he slobbered. He was definitely unsuitable....but he captured our hearts.

Very quickly Mort realised that we were being stifled in the "burbs" and needed space for our spirits to grow. So he moved us to Wamboin and settled in as if born to the life. He led our walks through the bush, he retrieved logs of wood, bounding back to us with them in his mouth and then kindly dropping them **on** our feet, swam in the dam regardless of the season and slept on the Turkish rug beside the fire at night as was his due. Once he rescued a gosling that had been caught in a thunderstorm and carried it to safety in his mouth. He allowed the kangaroos to have free run of the garden, only feigned annoyance when a magpie tried to share his bone and kept a firmly closed eye on our property while soundly asleep. We took him to a kennel for a holiday on one, and only one occasion. He walked around sniffing the enclosures with interest, cast a pitying eye on the incumbents and then wagged his tail as if to say the inspection was over. We left with misty eyes and the sound of his indignant yelps ringing in our ears.

Mort taught us about youth, middle age, and then what it was like to grow old. His eyes and ears dimmed, but he kept his dignity and trusted us to ensure that his well earned rights and privileges would be upheld. But Mort had one habit that was to be his downfall; he loved cars. He loved riding in cars and greeting cars. And on this occasion we let him down.

And so we have to create another garden, a garden where Mort's spirit can run free, where the kangaroos and wallabies will visit under the cover of darkness, where birds can build their nests and feed, and where the only holes will be those that Mort has left in our hearts.

I wouldn't live anywhere else.....I never had a choice.

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WWoWs Whispers!!

by Claire Ayling

Monday mornings are once again seeing the carpark at St Andrews filled to capacity, and the building resounding with the sounds of chattering and laughter. The WWoWs (Wonderful Women of Wamboin for the uninitiated!) have begun the new year with a welcome to two newcomers and great plans for the year ahead.



The walking group continues to sally forth on Mondays and Fridays (9am on Mondays and 8am on Fridays - leaving from the carpark) - newcomers of both sexes and fourlegged friends on leads are welcome to join in.

The WWoWs are also encouraging newcomers to join in with another fitness activity - Tai Chi. Classes begin on 31 January at 8.30 am in the Community Hall in Bingley Way. Thanks to Rhona Gillespie for organising this and for all information and to book in, please call Rhona on 62383661.

Monday mornings at St Andrews Church is the main focus for the group. Primarily, it is a very relaxed community group - meeting for social activities and friendship.

Each month we plan to have a guest speaker and learn one new craft activity. We are also planning theatre visits and are open to any suggestions - in fact the year seems to be filled with ideas. In February our guest speaker is Sally Saunders who is the President of Bosom Buddies and will be giving a 'Breast Awareness' talk. This will be on 18 February and is open to anyone in the area who would like to hear her speak.

I would encourage any newcomers to our area to come along and join us - our welcome is HUGE and it is a great way to find out about the wonderful place we live in, and what is available and where to find it!

The photograph shows two members Beryl Sipes and Margaret Ferett who modelled the newspaper creations which were part of the Christmas celebrations - it was a day of laughter and happiness which seemed a fitting end to our first year. For any information please call Claire Ayling on 62383347.



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Nature Notes – January 2008

Jo Walker

The downpour a week or so before Christmas filled the dams and brought impressive torrents of white water hurtling down my creek. One good day's rain and several showers since have left the countryside green – so restful after those brown, dusty summers of the past few years.

That big, fruit-eating cuckoo, the Koel, seems to have departed early this year – I haven't heard its loud call since the beginning of January. There are still other cuckoos around though. Earlier, during spring, there was a Pallid Cuckoo here – not often seen, but making his presence known with a call of six or seven loud notes on a rising scale. He must have found a mate who, in turn, discovered a convenient host nest because their offspring was sitting in a tree recently being fed by an attentive White-eared Honeyeater. Pallid Cuckoos use the open cup nests of a range of birds with eggs similar to their own brown-spotted cream ones. They lay a single egg, and the cuckoo nestling, as soon as it hatches, quickly ejects any eggs or young of the host species.

A Sacred Kingfisher spent a few moments in front of the house a few days ago. This attractive little bird (green back and head, blue wings and tail, buff-coloured collar and front, dark facial line and long kingfisher beak) feeds on aquatic creatures but will also dive on beetles and grasshoppers and small lizards on dry land.

It's years since I've seen Emperor Gum Moths around, but recently found caterpillars of both local species feeding on young eucalypts – *Eucalyptus melliodora* (Yellow Box) and *E. dives* (Broad-leaved Peppermint). These stout caterpillars are large – up to 8 cm long just prior to pupation. *Antheraea eucalypti* is bluish green with a pale stripe along either side and lines of brightly coloured tubercles along its back while *A. helena* is plain bright green with a pink stripe along either side. Both construct large oval cocoons to pupate in - and pupation may last several years, presumably depending on weather conditions. The adult moths are large, robust insects with a striking eyespot on each of their four wings.

Walking past a flowering shrub the other day, I was struck by the number and variety of insects feeding on the nectar and pollen – flies, wasps, beetles and at least five species of native bees. The one that caught my eye (in fact, there were four or five on closer inspection) was a Black Resin Bee, *Chalicodoma* sp., the first time I'd noticed this species here. This bee is almost as big as the introduced honey-bee, and is black with a band of white hairs on the first segment of the abdomen. It is a solitary bee, often nesting in abandoned borer holes in the stems of trees or shrubs where it lays several eggs and leaves them to develop into the next generation. The holes are sealed with a mixture of leaf pulp and resin, hence the name of this little insect. The nesting cavities are un-lined, unlike those of the closely-related Leafcutter Bee which excises circular pieces of leaf from soft-leaved plants, native and exotic, and carefully folds them around the inside of the tunnel forming its nest. Both of these bees are solitary, but there are some species of Australian native bees that live in social colonies and produce honey.

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Notes from St Andrew

by Claire Ayling



Christmas was celebrated at St Andrew's in fine style on Christmas Eve. The annual Nativity Pageant was enjoyed by a large crowd with many local children participating in the event as shepherds, angels and wise men. Thank you to all who came along, and to the mums who dressed the little ones so magnificently. Lulu and Godfrey (the donkeys) behaved extremely well and Angus the alpaca and Lena the sheep gave faultless performances! After the service the little church was filled to capacity to celebrate with a service of Holy Communion.

January has come and gone, and the services this month are Matins on February 3 and Holy Communion on 17 February. This service will be conducted by the new Rector from St John's Church in Reid, Rev'd Paul Black - for those that don't know we are part of the parish of St John's along with St Peter's Church in Sutton. The services are held at 9am and we follow with coffee and cake. The congregation welcomes visitors and newcomers to the area and for more information

feel free to call the Rectors Warden, Robyn Robertson on 62383202.

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