

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

March 2008

CIRCULATION: 1052

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 April 2008 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, March 30, 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	Converner	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	Angie Matsinos	Convener	6238-0334
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
Liam Foley, computer repairs	6238 3154 liamorama@gmail.com

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

Clean-up Australia Day – is on Sunday 2nd March from 9:00am till noon. Please register at the Bingley Way hall to help out with this really important community event. I apologise for not including details of Clean-up Australia Day in last month's Whisper

Wamboin Community Association – The February meeting was attended by senior Palerang Council staff – Peter Bascomb (General Manager), Bill Ellison (Director of Infrastructure Planning) and Louise Menday (Director of Planning and Environmental Services). Mr Bascomb announced funding of \$200,000 for the rehabilitation and widening of Norton Road between Bingley Way and Merino Vale Drive and a further \$180,000 to upgrade Bungendore Road between Macs Reef Road and Federal Highway. Waste management, including options for recycling stations and roadside collection, were also discussed at length. Mr Bascomb also outlined the changes proposed for local government by the NSW state government. Many thanks to Peter, Bill and Louise for taking the time to come and engage in such informative dialogue with the local community.

The next WCA meeting will be the AGM on 18th March. All the executive positions are open for nomination. Please come along and contribute to the future of Wamboin. I would like to thank the committee and members for all their help and support throughout the past year.

Palerang Council Elections – The next local government elections will be held on **13th 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 WCA has been contacted by a few people who are interested in standing for Council and we are still keen to hear from others who are interested in standing (please contact Helen Montesin on 6238 3208 or John van der Straaten on 6238 3590).

Wamboin Produce Markets – The markets continue to thrive providing a great range of local produce and the opportunity to catch up with friends over a cup of coffee/tea and scones/muffins. The next markets will be on **15th March** from 9:00am until noon.

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

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Bywong Community Car Boot Sale

9.00am-1.00pm

Sunday 30th March 2008

Bywong Community Hall, Birriwa Road (off Macs Reef Road)

Come and support your local community for "Trash and Treasure in the Country". This is the annual fundraising event for the Bywong Community Association.

FREE ENTRY FOR BUYERS

**Refreshments: Sausage Sizzle: Cakes: Monster Raffle with over 50 prizes:
Entertainment - music and dance: Pony Club and Flyball Dog displays**

SELLERS

Car or Ute \$10: Larger \$20: Trailer \$5 extra : Gates open for SELLERS at 7.30am

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

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

02 6241 8888

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+41Advtsrs	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
196 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:					
Sheryl Barnes	Denley/Kestral to End	20	Ph 6238 3590		
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Gum Flat	7	Brian Higgison	Deley/Birchmans - Kestral	12
Ann Platts	Denley MacReef to Birchman's	26	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef /Nwngtn to Bankers	12
Nora Stewart	Rovere Lane	7	Morag&Guy Cotsell	MReef /Newington/Harriot (A)	30
Joan Milner	Birriwa & MacsR to Harriot	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
Kevin Anderson	BungRd - McRf to Smmhl	33	Diana+Keith Gascoine	Snow Gum Road	23
Kerrie Gougeon	BungRd - FedHy to Smmhl	25	Thelma Martin	Shinglehouse & Millyn	20
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	17	Judith Miller	Wyoming and Doust Rds	25
TOTAL FOR WHISPER 1048					



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

Bungendore SES Seeks More Members

by Jan Smith



The information night held recently by Bungendore SES proved highly successful with 18 people attending. During the evening members of the unit shared their knowledge and experiences with prospective volunteers. Equipment used to support the unit's main responsibilities of storm damage, general rescue and landsearch was made available. The photo (left) shows members Jack and David at work.

Prospective volunteers were invited to try the airbags which can be used to raise vehicles and to see the fall prevention kit and chainsaws used recently during a request for assistance in Bungendore and in the Blacktown area. Many expressed interest in joining the unit and will be attending induction training on Feb 23 at the Bungendore Emergency Centre corner of Ellendon and King St. If you were unable to attend the information night but are interested in volunteering with the SES please contact Jan Smith, Community Educator, on 02 6238 0106.

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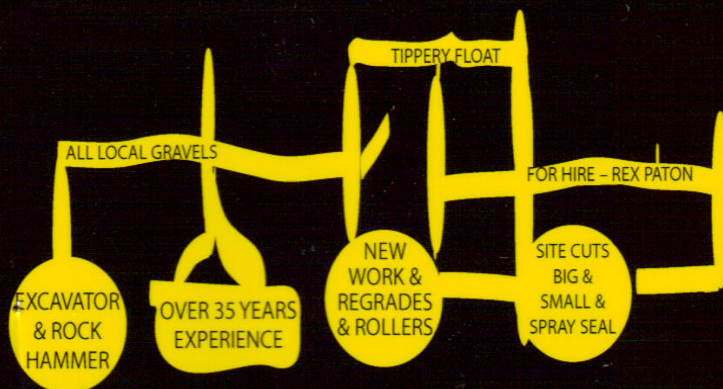
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Wamboin Pony Club Celebrates 25 Years

by Marion Whalan, President



Riders at the 1st Rally Day for 2008: Its official, Wamboin Pony Club turned 25 in November 2007. So this year the members will be celebrating the club's 25th anniversary. The birthday recognises the affiliation of the club with the NSW Pony Club Association in November 1982, but with a read of the club history.....well here is a bit of a summary. It all started in March 1981 when the residents of Wamboin received a questionnaire from Ross Clay, seeking an indication of interest in establishing a horse riding facility in the area. The following families responded: Jeffrey, Fairbairn, Brian, Padovan, Penway, White, Murray & Kelly. That was enough to get the ball rolling. Rally days were first held on private property (O'Brien family's property) with 26 riding members in regular attendance.

In August 1981 a proposal was sent off to Yarrowlumla Shire Council regarding the establishment of a pony club ground on the public reserve, Lot 121 Bingley Way. By February 1982 an interim Committee had been formed for the Wamboin *Riding* Club. President: R. Clay; Secretary: A. Lorimer; Treasurer: E. Gough; Instructor: R. Bartlett; Committee Members: A. Brian, M. Fairbairn & P. Bartlett. Rally days were confirmed as the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month (still the same today), starting at 1.30pm and running through til 4.00pm. The East Canberra Pony Club offered Wamboin their equipment on loan as their club was folding. The Club moved to Bingley Way in 1983. The Club Uniform was settled around this time - beige jodhpurs, navy jumper, white shirt and it had been planned to also have a navy tie. However, someone donated a swag of maroon and white striped ties to the Club and that was that. The same uniform is still worn by members in 2008.

In 1986 the Club relocated to Lot 50 Canning Close and with grants from the then NSW Dept of Sport & Rec, a small club house and full size dressage arena were constructed over the next three years. In its 10th year (1993) the Club was active across a wide range of horse riding disciplines and was strongly supported by the Wamboin Community. At the AGM that year, the following Committee were elected: President: Les Worden; Vice President: Peter Seddon; Secretary: Maureen Purdie; Assistant Secretary: Jackie Wassell; Publicity Officer: Jeni Worden; Treasurer: Bob Hodge; Chief Instructor: Jenny Millett and General Committee consisting of Cindy Bickerstaff, John Scicluna, Roz Gerrad, Dianne Maxworthy, John Kueter & Erica Maxwell. Current members of the Wamboin Pony Club warmly invite any former members of the Club to be involved in the 25th Anniversary celebrations.

As mentioned earlier, we still hold rally days on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month (except January & December), though we ride a little earlier these days, 10.00am to 3.00pm. It would be great if any former members still in the area dropped by on a rally day (join us for lunch at noon) and helped with filling in a little more of the Club's history as well as meet some of the current young riders. Plans are afoot for some form of celebration this year, possibly a bush dance, as the Club in years past used to run these on a regular basis. To get in touch with any member of the current Committee or to just find out more about what is happening at Wamboin Pony Club, including the achievements of the riders, take a look at our website www.wamboin.pcansw.org.au

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Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin 33 year statistics from the Robertsons

Feb rainfall to 21/2 – 69 mm
2008 rainfall to 21/2 – 117.25 mm
Avg March rainfall – 57 mm
Wettest March – 303 mm in 1989
Wettest March Day – 160 mm on 15/3/89
Coldest March Day --- 13 c on 14/3/94

Feb 2007 – 67 mm
2007 rainfall to Feb 28 – 80.5 mm
March 2007 – 62 mm
Driest March – 3 mm in 1986 and 1998
Hottest March Day – 35 c on 8/3/83
Coldest March Night – 3 c on 28/3/99

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Above ground pool. 9.5 m x 4.5 m. Pump, filter and accessories. Might need new liner on removal. \$200. Ring to view. 6238 0129.

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 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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Wamboin 15 Years Ago – by Robyn Robertson

There was no Whisper in March 1993. The April edition was produced 2 weeks earlier to enable the Whisper to report on Community Association meetings which changed from 4th to 3rd week each month.

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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 DANGER SEASON CONTINUES.
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RING 000 (Zero-Zero-Zero) TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS.**

From the Captain's Desk

It is again a wondrous thing to be able to say that your brigade services have not been required at any major incidents last month. I am having trouble remembering such a green February as we have just experienced. While memories of crunchy grass underfoot during other Februarys are reasonably vivid, last month was indeed a good thing. However, we all should not be considering the situation too lightly. Even though the fire danger hovers around the moderate level, grass and vegetation fires will still cause some concerns. For example, during a hot training exercise last weekend flame heights of between 3 and 5 metres were experienced during a controlled burn of some vegetation. Even though the flames quickly quietened down, the heat generated was significant and this would result in pre-heating other fuel nearby causing a fire to run further than expected, if not monitored or controlled. Yes, there is a lot of green vegetation around at ground level, but there is also a lot of dry fuel above it. Please be cautious out there!



The other notable and pleasing thing about the training exercise was that several residents called 000 to report the smoke. Remaining alert at this time of year remains a priority for all of us living in rural communities. Thank you to those people who reported the smoke sightings. The speed with which these reports were logged means that if the fire was a real incident we would have been alerted and responded quickly.

A possible downside to our fortunate season is that our volunteer members' individual enthusiasm levels get a little low and we see less of them at some training exercises. It is difficult to get enthusiastic about bush fire training when things appear to be so green and relatively lush but we need to remain vigilant. Our training program rolls on regardless and the more members we get to our sessions makes it easier to keep our skills up to scratch.

It is pleasing to report that over the past few months there have been a number of people who have joined the brigade. Even though your brigade has a lot of active members it is important to have new members coming along to offset the natural attrition that occurs in any organisation.

On Sunday the 30th of March the famous Bywong Car Boot Sale will be happening again. Your brigade will be assisting with the organising the parking as well as some other important functions. A number of fire fighting demonstrations will be conducted during the morning and while you are hunting for bargains and enjoying some of the gastronomical delights from the brigade's barbecues extraordinaire, you should make time to visit our display to learn more about fire protection around your property.

Now that he is a fully paid up member of the "Zipper Club" our Treasurer, Larry King, continues to make good progress following his little op recently.

Following on from last month's article, the following information from the NSW Rural Fire Service website will give you some more ideas about what can be done to reduce the fire risks in and around your property.

How to carry out Hazard Reduction

Reduction of fuel does not have to be as drastic as removing all vegetation. Environmentally this would be disastrous and often trees and plants can provide you with some bushfire protection from strong winds, intense heat and flying embers.

There are three main methods of hazard reduction:

- hand clearing
- mechanical clearing
- burning

In many circumstances, hand and mechanical clearing methods should be considered the best way to protect assets. These methods can be safer than burning, and easier to organise and maintain:

- Raking or manual removal of fine fuels will remove fuels such as fallen leaves, twigs and bark on a regular basis.
- Mowing the grass will keep grass short, green and well watered.

- Slashing and trittering is an economical and effective method of fuel reduction. However it's best if the cut material must be removed or allowed to rot before summer starts. Slashing and mowing may leave grass in rows, increasing fuel in some places. Trittering, or turbo mowing, also mulches the vegetation leaving the fuel where it is cut.
- Ploughing and grading can produce effective firebreaks, however, the areas need constant maintenance. Loose soil may erode in steep areas, particularly where there is high rainfall and strong winds.
- Removal or pruning of trees and shrubs involves selective fuel reduction (removal, thinning and pruning) and retention of vegetation, which may have beneficial effects by acting as windbreaks and radiant heat barriers. If, after considering the above, burning remains the best method, low intensity burns are preferred and should be carefully planned.

Hazard reduction burning removes excess ground litter and hazards through use of fire. Controlled burning or prescribed burning of vegetation is more often used for strategic bushfire management by land management agencies. Before burning any vegetation the type of fire should be determined. Is it a pile burn or a burn of an area of bushland? Advice can be sought from the RFS Fire Control Centre in Queanbeyan or from your brigade. Bear in mind you may require a Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate or other environmental approval to clear or burn. A permit to light a fire may also be required for burning hazards, particularly during the Bush Fire Danger Period.

Hazard reduction burning should involve experienced landholders or qualified firefighters to ensure the fire does not escape and the operation is carried out safely. Adequate equipment and protection measures are needed.

The RFS has several publications available on living in bushfire prone areas:

- [Planning for Bushfire Protection](#)
- [Building in a Bushfire Prone Area](#)
- *Before you Light that Fire*
- *Standards for Asset Protection Zones*
- *Standards for Low Intensity Burning*
- *Standards for Pile Burning*
- [Standards for Windrow Burning](#)
- *Application and Guidelines for Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificates*
- [These publications are available in PDF format from our Publications Area](#) and from RFS Fire Control

Centres

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

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Tai Chi In Wamboin

The new Tai Chi session will commence on the 27th of March. The classes will meet on Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 10:15 in the Community Hall on Bingley Way. The group is open to all ladies and gentlemen, who wish to increase their relaxation, reduce stress levels and enjoy greater agility of joints. Tai Chi is a series of smooth flowing movements leaving you feeling refreshed, invigorated and full of energy. If you feel this program might fit your exercise/relaxation needs, please contact Rhona Gillespie 6238 3661.

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GEARY'S GAP / WAMBOIN LANDCARE

Sat. 1st March. Our first propagation session for the year. Very important preparation for the two forthcoming plantings and to get the year off to a good start, so a good attendance will be useful.. 9 – 11 am, at Geoff Butler's place at 38 Birchmans Grove, Wamboin. New participants are very welcome. For more information, please email Geoff at gbu22182@bigpond.net.au, phone him on 62369158, or contact the Secretary.

Sunday 2nd March. Clean up Australia day. We usually have responsibility for part of one of the major roads in the local area. Contact Roger Good, 02 6236 9048 or email roger.good@bigpond.com to be part of the effort.

Monday 10th March. Monthly meeting. This meeting will be a diversion into different territory than our usual plants and trees. John Feehan from the CSIRO has very kindly agreed to speak to us outside his normal presentation dates. As an acknowledge expert on dung beetles and their efficiency as a 'tool' in pasture management, his one hour presentation should give us all something new to think about. The information in the attachment should wet your appetites, so to speak. Meetings are held at the Bywong Community Hall – Birriwa Rd (Off Macs Reef Rd) at 7.30pm.

Sunday 16th March 9.00am. Birchman's Grove planting - An all day project. It is absolutely vital that participants tell either Geoff Butler, Roger Good, or the Secretary, of their intention to attend. Planning for the day will be dependent on knowing the numbers of participants. Please bring the usual tools that are normally use for planting – spades, trowels, gloves etc. The tree lines will have been ripped, so hard digging should not be necessary. Geoff proposes to conduct a short planting demonstration so that everyone knows what is required. The success rate of trees in these situations often depends on how well they are put in the ground. The work will involve laying out the plants, planting, assembling and installing tree guards and watering. Participants may be involved in one or more of these activities as the day progresses. Bring your own food and drink - hopefully there will be time to eat it!

This planting is one of the biggest projects the group has undertaken in recent years. Fund raising for the purchase of seeds and equipment, and to help with the propagation of the very large number of trees and shrubs that the Group uses during the year, is an essential part of it's operation. The fund raising [the Car Boot Sale is an example] also greatly assists in the provision of either - moneys to local schools, or the actual purchase of reference books for their libraries as well as other similar charitable actions. At a recent committee meeting it was decided to continue and even attempt to expand, the practise of planting road verges and other public land such as the Palerang Council Chambers, as well as attempting to meet the many requests of private landholders for assistance with plantings. The Group is always grateful for the assistance of members of other organisations and sees these activities as making a strong contribution to the revegetation and restoration of the local environment.

Sunday 30th March. Car Boot Sale. Held at the Bywong Community Hall – Birriwa Rd (Off Macs Reef Rd). Organised by the Bywong Community Association. Our stall will be one of the regular attractions and we need volunteers to man it throughout the day.. This is normally our major fund raising activity for the year, as well as being a part of our contribution to the local community. The Group sells about a 1000 trees and shrubs at this annual event, the funds from which go towards further propagation programs and improvements in our nursery. It's amazing who you meet at this event, and if you can resist going home without a bootful of things you don't need, you'll have done well.

Dung Beetles: For every 100 head of cattle there is a potential loss of 387 kg of Nitrogen and 108 kg of Phosphorous per annum. 108 kg of Phosphorous per annum. These figures reflect the nutrient loss that occurs from unburied dung and natural return to the soil through leaching and weathering, which is estimated to account for 24 to 34 per cent of the deposited dung. Dung burial allows these nutrients to be incorporated into the soil at the plant-root zone where microbial activity makes them readily available to plants - leading to healthier pastures and improved meat/milk production. Dung burial also reduces the quantity of nutrients and other organic matter from entering our river systems by an estimated 15%. Such run-off chemicals can increase the incidence of algal blooms in aquatic environments.

Putting a dollar value on the potential benefits of an efficient dung beetle population is a relatively simple exercise – for every 100 head of cattle, unburied dung is equivalent to the cost of approximately 0.8 of a tonne of Urea and 1.2 tonne of Single super per annum. Add to this the expense of parasiticides to control pest species which live, breed and feed in the dung, and the price paid for a colony of introduced beetles is clearly worth every cent. There are several CSIRO dung beetle scientists who feel the above figures are a minimum. In grazing systems such as dairying and intensive beef production in which large herds are grazed for short periods and large tonnages of bovine dung are concentrated over a small area, this dung can be buried in two to four days by a single species, *Bubas bison*). The benefits dung beetles generate by increasing sustainable yields and the general health of a grazing system is clearly considerable.

- Chris Fowler, Secretary, Ph: 62369189

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WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – FEBRUARY COMPETITION RESULTS

A 3 person Ambrose teams event was the Wamboin Golf Club's competition for February, sponsored by Nev and Chris Schroder with some serious help in the kitchen from Rachael.

Nearest the pin and long drive winners were Nev Schroder, Vincent Gorham x3, Jack Whitney x2, Len Ivey, Dave Hubbard, Ken Gordon and Ron Shepherd.

The team of Ken Gordon, Joan Mason and Lofty Mason were the winners of the 9 hole competition.

The 18 hole competition was won by the team of Len Ivey, John Whitney and Jack Whitney with Charles Guscott, Ralph Wittwer and Mark Fairleigh second.

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BATS SNARED

by Phil Machin

Something strange has happened. In the past five years *Wildcare* has been called upon to deal with just two Flying Foxes. But in two weeks there have been callouts to no less than nine Little Red Flying Fox incidents. These Bats are common throughout the Eastern States, but they rarely come into care. They are delightful animals and are typically about 20cm long and weigh less than a kilogram.

The *Wildcare* Mammal Coordinator, Coralie Tarlinton says, "Why there have been so many callouts to the Little Red Flying Foxes is baffling. Whilst Bats have very good eyesight, they are prone to getting caught on barbed wire. Some of them



were also caught in netting used to cover fruit trees. Barbed wire is particularly dangerous, as it tears the membrane of their wing, which can be slow to heal. Sadly six of the Bats we rescued died from their injuries, but we have rehabilitated three of these lovely animals, including one noticeably pregnant girl and released them to continue their journey north. In caring for the Little Red Flying Fox we need to be careful not to stress the animals too much and keep them warm and well fed. Flying Foxes are extremely intelligent animals and soon realise that we are helping them and actually become quite friendly. It is very rewarding though to see them released and continuing their migration." (The photo shows the Little Red Flying Fox in care.)

Wildlife lovers can help to make their properties more wildlife friendly by not using barbed wire and start to remove it where it is already in place. It's not just Bats that get caught – birds, possums and kangaroos get trapped too. As we all know barbed wire simply isn't very pleasant and perhaps in 2008 it should be banned. Removing barbed wire is a big task, but a starting point is to take it down in known wildlife areas. And if netting is used in gardens and orchards, keep a good eye on it to make sure wildlife has not become trapped. As well as Bats, snakes can get trapped by netting if it is too close to the ground, so raise it off the ground or you may get a surprise.

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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Nature Notes – February 2008

Jo Walker

Some scattered showers and storms, with the pleasantly cool weather, have kept the grass green for another month. A few of the storms were a bit too close for comfort, though. There was a simultaneous flash and crash as lightning struck something just the other side of Poppet Road one afternoon, then, a few seconds later, another crash from behind my house. Walking up along the creek the next day, I found lots of long, spear-like pieces of wood and what looked like coir matting hanging from the trees. It took a while to see where it had come from, as the lightning strike had hurled the material for some distance from the large stringybark tree it had struck, gouging a deep groove from treetop to roots.

All that sound and fury didn't result in enough rain to get the creek running and the dam topped up – but this doesn't seem to be worrying the Swamp Lily (*Ottelia ovalifolia*) which is covering the edges of the dam with its large elliptical leaves. It isn't flowering yet, but should soon be showing some buds. The white, three-petalled flowers are small – a few centimetre across – but quite attractive with purplish or maroon centres.

A few weeks ago, I saw a beautiful Wanderer (or Monarch) Butterfly in a friend's garden at Tarago – this colourful butterfly is a North American species, which, over the last hundred or so years, has slowly spread across the Pacific Ocean to Australia. The larvae feed on plants in the Asclepiadaceae family which exude white milky sap containing toxins. These substances remain in the insect to maturity, making the butterfly unattractive to predators. It was surprising to see it here, as its food plants occur most commonly in wetter and warmer areas. This one was busy laying her eggs on a group of wallflowers which were about to be cut back, so I collected a few to rear. Unfortunately, when the larvae hatched, they made no attempt to feed on the wallflower leaves, and, although I introduced them to a few other plants that contained similar milky sap to their usual food-plants, they eventually died. A lot of butterfly and moth larvae will feed on a range of food plants, but obviously the Wanderers are more fastidious feeders.

There seem to be a lot of day-flying moths about this summer, in particular the beautiful orange and black *Cruria donovani*, its bright colours appearing not only on the wings, but also as banding on the body. At present, they're spending a lot of time feeding on the flowers of my Bottlebrushes. Their larvae feed on the local Guinea Flower, *Hibbertia obtusifolia*.

Another prevalent moth, or at least its larvae, is the Cup Moth – named for the small, egg-shaped pupal cocoon which looks like a tiny cup after the moth has emerged. The larvae are more noticeable than the adult moth – especially if you brush against a eucalypt on which they're feeding. They have a nettle-like sting inflicted by several extensible tubercles topped with stinging hairs. Apart from this, they are attractive little slug-like caterpillars – pale green with a broad strip of patterned colours (black, cream and orange) along the back. The sting isn't dangerous, but can be felt for several hours.

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Appendicitis Warning

I had always thought that appendicitis was a problem for younger people. On Tuesday evening, February 19 as I was wheeled into the theatre of Queanbeyan Hospital I was proved wrong! How did it happen? I am writing this to warn others not to take risks with unexplained pains and to seek medical attention early. I was lucky!

About 11PM on Monday night I was woken up with very strong wrenching pains in my lower abdomen. Believing 'it was something I had eaten' I put up with it until about 2AM when the feeling subsided into something that felt like I had been punched several times in the gut. (Not that I ever have been but I think that is how it would feel). At 9AM I rang my doctor but couldn't get an appointment until 3PM. Too crook to wait 6hours, Joan drove me in and I presented to the Queanbeyan Hospital. I was quite impressed by the speed I was checked, bedded and examined by a doctor. Next an X-ray but because the pain was spread right across my abdomen I was taken by ambulance into Canberra for a CT scan. The scan clearly showed appendicitis so back to Queanbeyan and into theatre.

It seems the appendicitis had started about 3 weeks ago and on removal was very swollen and had started to leach. Thus the pain but fortunately my appendix hadn't burst. I was asked why hadn't I presented earlier? Simply because I had not felt any discomfort before the Monday night. However it was explained to me that I was lucky, even 10 hours could have made a lot of difference! A burst appendix and the resultant peritonitis at my age is a tricky business.

So that was it. A couple of nights in hospital being injected by 3 types of anti-biotic to fight possible infection and on my way home. Only problem there is strict limits on my lifting and labour for 3 weeks. My wife and daughter being strict monitors. At this point I should take the opportunity to apologise to those who have ordered copies of the Community Association 'Meet and Greet'. I will fix soon time.

Thoughts at the moment: The staff at Queanbeyan Hospital – very professional. My family – very supportive. Friends – my thanks for their concern. And a special thanks for the professional care and attention from the night nurse, Sandy Sedgewick who is a local Wamboinian. -- Lofty Mason.

Irish Set Dancing in Bywong

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The Macs Reef Tip Based on an Interview with Len Manser, Tip Manager

by Ned Noel

Len started working at the Mac's Reef Tip eight years ago. His duties are to open and close the tip, to check that tip users have a pass, to direct traffic, to recycle materials that don't have to be part of the landfill, and to keep the tip as orderly as possible. Another ongoing task is maintaining all the signs to guide tip users. Len makes them himself, using stencils and spray paint



He has had some help with all the work over the years. This has come from tip users, from friends who have volunteered, and from community service workers organized by the council. The council has also provided training to Len in areas including chain sawing, OH&S, first aid, and traffic control.

At the tip many types of recyclables don't go into the hole but instead have their own separate areas. Much of Len's time is spent moving things from the hole to these separate areas. He appreciates and tries to help tip users who take the trouble to properly place these items. They include green waste, building materials, plastic batt bottles, glass, tin and cans, and oil. There are a number of more

specific groups located close to the manager's shed. They include furniture, plant pots, exercise equipment, push bikes, lawn mowers, computers, bbqs, and hardware materials. Len decants the oil every week into the tip's 4000 liter tank. Last year enough oil was recycled to fill it twice. When it is full, a truck comes to transfer it from the tank into the truck's larger tank. The truck takes it away for the next recycling step.


The tip also has a library. It is located near the manager's office. It shelves thousands of books, some placed there by tip users and some rescued by Len from the hole. One elderly woman used to come each week and borrow some of the books. She said it was easier than driving to the Dickson Library.

The current plan of the Palerang Council is to close the Macs Reef Tip in about a year. It is almost full. Building the landfill up any higher would make it too visible and too vulnerable to winds. The plan is to make the Bungendore Tip a transfer station for the town and the surrounding areas, including Bywong and Wamboin. Material from that tip will travel to some other larger waste area, possibly to closed portions of the mine near Tarago.

Many animals make their homes at the tip. They include ibises, cockatoos, chuffs, an echidna, snakes, rats, mozzies, fleas and bees.

There used to be a couple of cats, but no regulars recently, just an occasional wandering stray. The ibises spend their working time poking around in the pile for anything that looks good. Len says that managing the tip is an acquired taste. He knows most of the users by now and has worked with many of them in the joint effort to keep it operating as a place to welcome both landfill and recyclables.



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Notes from St Andrews

by Claire Ayling



St Andrews will be very busy this month - our usual services will be on the 2 March (Matins) and 16 March (Holy Communion). This is Palm Sunday and also marks the 10th anniversary of the consecration of the church. The plan is to attend church at 9am and then return at 12.30 for lunch.

Our Easter services will be on Good Friday March 21 at 9am, and Easter Sunday March 23 at 9am.

Advance notice for the annual Harvest Festival on 6th April. All produce used to decorate the church will be donated to St Johns Care and given to people in need.

Any queries can be answered by our Rectors Warden, Robyn Robertson on 62383202.

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WWoW Whispers

by Claire Ayling

The title is probably a contradiction as one of the husbands who picks his wife up on a Monday morning reckons he can hear the laughter from Norton Road!

A great start to the year from the WWoWs. we had a surprise visit from Lesley Machin from Wildcare with Ellie and Eric - her two orphaned wombats who provided much entertainment as they explored their surroundings and enjoyed many cuddles. It was also a great insight into the wonderful work that the local Wildcare workers do in the area.

We also had a second visitor this month with Sally Saunders who is the President of the Bosom Buddies organisation. Sally gave a presentation which provided much food for thought, and I'm sure gave everyone a necessary boost to guard our individual health with vigilance.

Our craft activity has been to cover boxes and learn to make tassels!! A week's activity which seems to have lasted for three. A lot of ladies who come say they are not 'crafty' - don't be put off - there is always a lot of other things going on. Over the last weeks we have been enjoying the excess produce which everyone seems to be enjoying this summer with some of the generous girls bringing in plums, peaches, nectarines and zucchinis (a cookbook is planned!).

14 ladies also made a trip to Canberra to the theatre to see Menopause - the musical (no sniggers!!). The ideas for activities just seem to grow and grow.

During March we have a guest speaker from Bungendore - a very talented young lady called Kellie who is decorating cakes with much success. She will be demonstrating and also hopefully a bit of instruction. This will be on 31 March which is also a fifth Monday - and therefore will be a lunch day.

For newcomers to the area - the WWoWS meet on a Monday morning at 10am at St Andrews Church on the corner of Poppet and Norton Roads and we welcome everyone. Any information can be got from Claire Ayling on 62383347.

As an aside there has been an idea put forward for a sub group to the WWoWs -- the BoW WWoWs - the boyfriends of the Wonderful Women of Wamboin!!!! - any takers?

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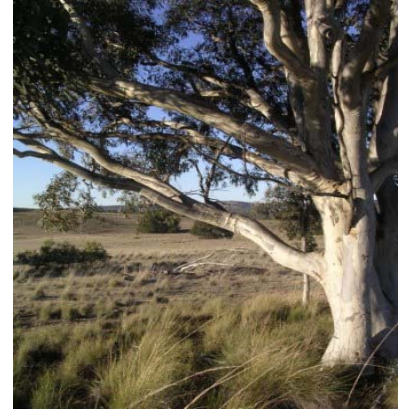
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2008 Bywong & Wamboin Short Story Competition

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

\$500 in prizes to be won!



Judging Criteria

- 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.
- Has correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Entry Categories and Prizes

Primary school students Years 4-6 including students being schooled at home	250 words maximum	Year 4 – four \$25 book vouchers Year 5 – four \$25 book vouchers Year 6 – four \$25 book vouchers
High school students – open category included students being schooled at home	500 words maximum	Three \$35 book vouchers
Adult – open category	750 word maximum	Three \$35 book vouchers

This competition is supported by the Bywong Community Association, the Wamboin Community Association and *A Suitable Book*, Bungendore.

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! ☺

News from Sutton School by Jenny Cooper and Gay McNeill

We welcomed many new families and some new staff to Sutton School for 2008. Mr Nigel Trethowan is from Griffith Public School, Mrs Anne Hull is our full-time School Administration Manager and Mrs Kerry Gougeon our part-time School Assistant in the office and library. We have started the year with five classes. Mrs Birch is teaching Kindergarten, Mr Scott has Year 1, Mrs Campbell has 2/3, Mr Trethowan has 3/4 and Ms Cooper is teaching 5/6. Mrs McNeill continues in the library, Mrs Szeremet as Special Teacher Aide and Mr Downe as General Assistant. All staff are excited about the year ahead and are looking forward to helping all children achieve their personal best.

School chaplain Miss Robinson has begun our 'PAVE Program', an acronym for Pastoral and Values Education. This term we are starting with the values of courage and caring. Miss Robinson is available on Wednesdays to talk with students, staff and parents. We are extremely fortunate to have someone of the calibre of Miss Robinson for this role.

Year 6 students have completed their Peer Mediator training and are available to help sort out any playground problems. All teachers have completed their annual CPR update course.

On 20th February the Questacon Science Circus visited to present their Slime Show and Liquid Nitrogen Show to all students. It was an informative and enjoyable performance.

Our Open Day will be held on the morning of Canberra Day, Monday 10th March. Parents have an opportunity to come and talk to teachers about their class programs.

Years 3 and 4 enjoyed three days at Wamboin adventure camp near Bowral and this year the Year 5/6 camp to Sydney will include a sleepover at Taronga Zoo! The popular Infants' Picnic will be held on Thursday 28th February at John Knight Park.

Playgroup has resumed on Thursday mornings from 9.30am. With lots of new outdoor equipment this group is for children 0-5 and their carers. All welcome. For more details contact Laura Taylor on 62369662.

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Sutton Public School Country Fair

Saturday April 5th 2008
10am – 2pm



Bywong Street, Sutton

Wamboin Muse

by Jill Gregory

There's no point pretending that I can sleep any longer. The kookaburras have noisily proclaimed a new day and their enthusiasm is catching. They've stirred a distant magpie into life and upset a tone deaf cockatoo. Now the little music makers have joined in, trilling and twittering. Another day has dawned, ending the last of our official summer and heralding sweet autumn. Not that we can complain about the summer we've just had. The beautiful crisp mornings of late have felt more like autumn, anyway, but there could yet be some surprises in store. I'm never confident that summer is over until we've had our first frost.

Life can turn up some surprises, and challenge you in ways never imagined. In recent months I've heard myself saying, quite often, "but that's life!" It's not the stuff of television. It's real and sometimes raw and it's what is happening now. In the last few weeks I've spent some time travelling to and fro. I almost feel like Snow White awaking from a hundred year sleep. Suddenly, Sutton Road is throbbing with huge trucks, snarling along the tarmac without a trace of humour or goodwill. They seem oblivious to anything but the strip of black tar ahead. And that black tar hasn't much to recommend itself, either. It looks like a poorly conceived patchwork quilt thrown over a lumpy unmade bed, and feels as comfortable as the princess' bed with the pea under the mattresses.

But driving our lumpy, frayed edged, cluttered and narrow roads made safe by lowered speed limit signs, I have had occasion to think about what makes our little neck of the woods so special. I may be a little odd, but I love the notice board at the bottom of Norton road. I like to share someone's birthday greetings, alert myself to be on the lookout for the lost loved family pet, ponder about the next resting place for the lounge suite or the new stable for the aged car. I've even known someone who bought a house after responding to a for sale notice for a piano. And the monthly markets are another of our treasures. A chance to catch up with friends, fill your baskets with fresh local produce and buy a few more roses for the kangaroos. There's also the church, the community hall and fire shed. All places where the community comes together.

My tomatoes are finally getting some colour, those thorny feral blackberry bushes are yielding sweet berries for jam, there are mushrooms to be gathered and apples falling off trees. The timely rain has kept the garden fresh and the birds saved me from having to make plum jam. Life is full of surprises. I wouldn't live anywhere else!



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