

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

April 2008 CIRCULATION: 1072

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 May 2008 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, April 27, 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	Nora Stewart	Acting President	6230-3305
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	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
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 Presidents Paragraphs

Wamboin Community Association Executive – At the recent AGM, the existing executive was re-elected with the addition of Rhona Gillespie. Our hardworking committee consists of John van der Straaten (secretary), Keith France (treasurer), Rhona Gillespie (vice-president), Pete Harrison (vice-president), Helen Montesin (president) and a few other non-executive committee members. I'd like to welcome Rhona and thank the rest of the committee for their continued support.

WCA Meeting – Ian Peters, Stephen Trump and Sarah Grady from Telstra attended the March meeting to give us an update on telecommunication services in the Wamboin area. The Bywong mobile phone tower is to be upgraded to enhance its output. However, there has been no further development on the proposed Wamboin tower. All residents are welcome to attend the next WCA meeting on **15th April at 7:30pm** at the Community Hall.

Palerang Council – WCA has become increasingly concerned about the delays in completing the Palerang LEP. It is now unlikely that it will be completed in this term of Council. John van der Straaten made a statement at the Council meeting last week to express our concerns about the delays and our dismay at the deliberate tactics taken by some self-interest groups and Councillors to stymie the attempts by Council staff to progress the LEP.

This disappointing performance by some Councillors, who are not acting in the interests of the wider Palerang, highlights the need to have adequate local representation on the next Council. WCA is keen to facilitate the formation of a local ticket for the **next local government elections** which will be held on **13th September 2008**. We have asked Peter Bascomb to come out to Wamboin and talk about how Council works and what being a Councillor entails. We will provide details of the talk when they are finalised. If you are interested in standing for Council, or know of anybody who might be, please contact Helen Montesin (ph: 6238 3208) or John van der Straaten (ph: 6238 3590).

Wamboin Locality Sign – The WCA has been discussing a suitable Locality Sign for our area. We have decided that the most suitable would be a sandstone block etched with 'WAMBOIN' mounted in a stonewall near the corner of Norton and Sutton Roads. Lofty Mason has volunteered to be the Project Manager for this project and is currently liaising with Council to get the process moving.

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 **19th April** 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 May's Whisper, please contact John van der Straaten (ph: 6238 3590).

Change of email address – Please note that I am changing jobs and my previous email address (helen.montesin@canberra.edu.au) is no longer valid. My new email address is montesin@tpg.com.au. -- Helen Montesin

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Bywong Community News

by Nora Stewart, with help from Guy Cotsell

Clean Up Day: It is both good and bad news that the Bywong team achieved some spectacular results on Clean Up Australia Day.

Again under the sure organisational hands of Warwick and Jenny Johnston, thirty-nine volunteers collected 95 bags of rubbish and a number of other major items too large or too numerous to go into bags. These additional items included numbers of roadside guideposts, and what appeared to be callous dumping on the Old Federal Highway of materials including 62 tyres, quantities of foam packing and about 300 kg of scrap metal. The dedicated team on the Old Highway deserves special mention for a sterling effort, as does the small team which managed to clean up more than 3 km of Shinglehouse Way.

Landcare as usual rallied to the call and took on the section of Macs Reef Road between the top of the hill and the highway - which seems to be a favoured littering ground for travellers to the coast. The rubbish as usual included quantities of McDonalds packing and beer bottles. Other trophies included a windscreen, a bedhead, a set of gold clubs and - for those who couldn't bear it any longer? - a bong.

We wonder whether Clean Up Australia Central - wherever that may be - assumes that local volunteers are cleaning up the local park. Do they know that the little band doing the work in Bywong is covering 60 km of road, and other localities are covering similarly vast territories?

Car Boot Sale: Is Bywong indeed the promised land? This seems the only explanation for the charmed life which the Bywong Car Boot Sale seems to lead in respect of weather. For the thirteenth time (not a Friday!) the sun shone on the annual event, and again records fell in terms of numbers of stallholders. The sun shone during much of a crisp cool morning. The festive feel of this year's event was boosted by the lively performances of Irish set dancers and a delightful mix of music from local instrumental and vocal group Honey Groove. The local Geary's Gap Pony Club and the dogs of the K-9 Crusaders Flyball Team again provided top line entertainment on a number of occasions, and the Fire Brigade gave displays as well as performing their essential role as marshalls and purveyors of fine food. The Pony Club provided top quality light refreshments.

As in previous years, Bywong Community is indebted to the many local businesses who supported the day with help and raffle prizes. Wagonga coffee as always came to the party, and for some jaded helpers the coffee was the party.

Meetings: Watch the roadside noticeboards and check the website for details of next meetings and other activities.

Thank You: The Bywong Community car boot sale was a great success last Sunday 30th March, with over 100 sellers taking part and well over \$2000 raised for the community. The weather was mostly kind – sunny, windy and with the occasional sheet of dust flying past to coat everyone and everything in its' wake. I suspect that the change in daylight savings time might have accounted for a slower than usual start in the morning but by 10 o'clock, the Les Reardon Reserve was buzzing with people.

On behalf of the Bywong Community Association, I would like to thank our very everyone who attended. Particularly our very generous local businesses and individuals who contributed to our raffle – an important part of our fund-raising effort:

A Suitable Book	Gifted on Malbon	Ogilvie's Auto Repairs	I would like to thank the Kerry Cox, Cathy Burton and all at the Geary's Gap Pony Club for their great work with the refreshments stall and also for their eventing display in the arena. Thanks also go to the K-9 Crusaders Flyball Dog team who came from Queanbeyan to entertain us with their energetic dog show.
AB & M Bomboniere	Gunnadoo Bakery	Phillips Amusements Captains Flat	
Bungendore Cellars	Guy and Morag Cotsell	Royal Hotel	
Bungendore Country Butchers	Harp Inn	Rumah Bali Village Square	
Bungendore Park Tennis club	Heritage on the Square	Salon on Ellendon	
Bungendore Rural	Hunnyz Café Restaurant	Scented Rose Garden	
Bungendore Saddlery	Jean-Pierre Favre	The Wellbeing Centre	
Bungendore Veterinary Surgery	Kennard's Hire, Qbyn	Village Antiques	
Bungendore Woodworks Gallery	Landcare	Wagonga Coffee Wamboin	
Bywong Nursery	Lamberts Winery	Wicked Cackle Nursery	
Canberra Tulip Gardens	Lyn Randell Framing	Wild Rose Organics	
Foodlovers Markets	Me & You2	Woodworks Café	
Foodworks, Bungendore	Nuts About Bungendore		
Gidgee Wines	Odana Editions		

Honey Groove played and sang for us in difficult conditions (low power, mega-dust, etc!) and made for an enjoyable morning. Thank-you also to the Irish Set Dancers, many who traveled from Canberra to add a touch of dance to the proceedings.

To our fabulous Wamboin Fire Brigade for their tireless work at parking, collecting money, running the BBQ and giving useful information and demonstrations about all things fire, thank-you. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated bunch of people to help.

Finally, thank-you to the many individual volunteers who gave their time to help distributing flyers, putting up signs, selling raffle tickets, making announcements, collecting and counting money, cleaning the reserve and the hall, cleaning up....you know how it goes! To Phil Dawes; Carol & Clive Boughton; Lyn Cooper; Karl Burke; Kate Coop; Anne Goonan; Trevor Kirk; Joan Milner; Helen Tudor; Fiona David and many others – thank-you.

I would not be doing justice if I didn't mention my extremely hard-working fellow Committee members – Judith Miller, Dennis Ryan, Jean-Pierre Favre for all things signs and maps; Darryl Bourke for sterling work on the raffle and finally, to Morag and Guy Cotsell without whom, the event would not happen.

We look forward to more successful community events and would like your ideas, suggestions and help for other events, clubs or whatever you would like to see locally. Contact me at 62303305 or see our website www.bywongcommunity.org.au

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	Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Drive	17
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona, Norton to Majors	31
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	David Anderson	Weeroona, Majors to Denley	35
Ned Noel	13 Palerancn cl+41 Advtsrs	55	Penny Evans	Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley	25
Kathy Handel	Yalana West	19			
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	Brian Higgison	Deley/Birchmans - Kestra	112
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Gum Flat	7	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef /Nwngtn to Bankers	12
Ann Platts	Denley MacReef to Birchman's	26	Morag&Guy Cotsell	MReef /Newington/Harriot (A)	30
Nora Stewart	Rovere Lane	7	Sandra Favre	MReef /Newington/Harriot (B)	20
Joan Milner	Birriwa & MacsR to Harriot	30	Ian & Esther Rudd	Mreef/Bankers to Fed Hwy	26
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Lane	6			
211 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 Smmh l	25	Thelma Martin	Shinglehouse & Millyn	20
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	17	Judith Miller	Wyoming and Doust Rds	25
TOTAL FOR WHISPER 1072			TBA	Summerhil / Creekborough	20



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Would you like to be the postman?

By Don Evans

Having lived in Wamboin for over 32 years I have seen many changes in the mail delivery service. Back in the early days, all the letterboxes for the whole of Wamboin properties were positioned on the corner of Norton Rd and Gallagher Crescent. You had to apply to the PMG for a roadside mailbox number. You were then allowed to install a box providing it complied with placement and design guidelines. Since then, people have installed basic to elaborate brick monoliths for the postman and other "deliverers" like the Whisper volunteers, to attempt a drop off. Unfortunately, we do not have a postie on a "Honda step through" motorbike to make deliveries, but an Australia Post contractor who generally has to tender for this position. He or she would use their own vehicle for the job, having to drive on the wrong side of the road, avoid potholes, guideposts and ditches as well as any vehicles on the road. Probably the best guide to the perfect letterbox is to try and deliver a letter to your own box, without reversing or creating a dangerous situation for other road users. Below is a copy of Australia Posts publication on roadside mailboxes.

DESIGN:

- Boxes should be large enough to hold the items of mail you expect to receive. Remember that many publications are bulky
- The front opening should be large enough to receive all items other than parcels. If you plan to receive a newspaper, provide a large slot. Articles too large for the box are returned to the post office from where you will have to arrange collection during business hours.
- The box should be robust to withstand normal use and sometimes abnormal weather conditions, and should be free of sharp projections and edges.
- The box must be identified with your Rural number and your name and/or Property Name.

SITING: The Mail Contractor is expected to be able to stop in front of the box, and where possible without reversing, deliver mail without alighting from his or her vehicle. Therefore, the box should be:

- Facing the road, as close as practicable to the road alignment
- Accessible from a car window, unobstructed by trees, posts, gates, ditches etc.

A simple test to see if your mailbox is suitable. Next time you take mail from it, drive up to it from the road, and without leaving your vehicle reach from the driver's window, and extract the mail from the box, then imagine you have to drive to the next mailbox on your road. If you cannot then think of what the Mail Contractor has to go through each time.

Should you have any problems with the design or siting of your mailbox please contact your local Delivery Centre or Post Office for more details. Or call the Country NSW/ACT Mail Contract Centre on 1800 026 245 (toll free).



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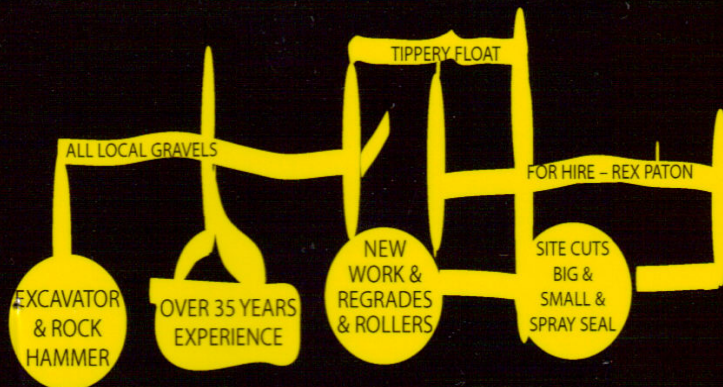
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Wamboin Playgroup Update

The year has started rather quietly for the Wamboin Playgroup. We farewelled many members who have now well and truly started their first school year. They include Georgia, Matt, Lizzie, and Liam. We hope you are all having a great time at school, we miss you!

Playgroup also farewelled our long running convenor, Leanne Quick, who has done an outstanding job for many years. Opening up the doors for playgroup every Tuesday morning, organising fundraising events, and generally creating a great community environment for local kids, parents and carers to meet each week. You are sorely missed Leanne! And also a big thankyou to Megan, for supporting Leanne in her role as convenor.

Last year we finished up with a big Christmas party, complete with jumping castle, balloon creatures, and presents from Santa, It was a perfect ending to the year.

This year we hope to sign up many new members, as numbers are very low! So, if you have time on a Tuesday morning between 10.30am and 12.30pm, please join us at the Wamboin Community Hall (next to the rural fire station). For a cup of tea or coffee, craft and outdoor activities for the kids, and a general community catch up! We also invite members from Canberra and Bungendore to join as well, so if you enjoy a rural setting please come and join us! Playgroup is for children between 0-5years and their parents/carers.

Ring me on 02 62380334 or 042 357 3955 for more details. - Thank you, Angie Matsinos

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We had three offers, we accepted the final offer being very close to our asking price, and Contracts were exchanged prior to Christmas.

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Yours sincerely

Graham Heathcote

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Fridge Freezer for Sale - Kelvinator No Frost 500. Upright 2 door. Very good condition. White. Joe Rocks Rd. \$200 ONO. Phone Peter 0413-126110
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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 .
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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.
FOR HIRE: BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL. Suitable for smaller functions and seminars, groups etc. Check availability and booking information on www.bywongcommunity.org.au .
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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Avoiding Kangaroos on the Road

by Phillip Machin

Kangaroos have been in the news lately, but the ACT kangaroo problem at the Belconnen Defence site is not the purpose of this article. Love them or hate them, all motorists want to avoid having an accident with a kangaroo. But how often do we consciously think about reducing the risk of having an accident?



Skippy can be very unpredictable and they are camouflaged too. If you are travelling in a car in rural areas where there are likely to be kangaroos, then everyone in the car needs to be on the lookout – particularly at dawn and dusk and throughout the night hours. Locals get to know where kangaroos are likely to be and where they cross the road, but that is of no use if a motorist is simply going too fast to stop. At 80 km/h, allowing for thinking and braking distance, you will need 54 metres to stop the car before impact. However at 60 km/h one only needs 33 metres to stop. Older cars will take a longer distance to stop. Just because you can legally travel fast down our rural roads, think about what a safe speed may be. Looking ahead and matching visibility with braking distance is very important if the risk of hitting a kangaroo is to be reduced. A ‘Shoo Roo’, which is available from auto accessory shops, can also help to stop kangaroo accidents happening.

Hitting a kangaroo or any other animal can be traumatic and shocking. Please do the right thing and stop and check the animal. If necessary, contact *Wildcare*, so they can send someone out to help both you and the injured animal. Don’t just drive off – it is unlawful not to report an accident involving injured wildlife. *Wildcare* is not in the blame game and everyone knows accidents happen. What is unforgivable is a motorist driving away and leaving badly injured animals by the roadside.

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.

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Nature Notes – March 2008

Jo Walker

March gave us a warm start to autumn, and the 30 mm of rain that fell last week was more than welcome. The landscape has returned to shades of green without much in the way of colourful flowers, although there are still a few daisies blooming. The autumn-flowering Pale Everlasting (*Helichrysum rutidolepis*) is sporting its lemon-yellow flowers: this attractive daisy is a suckering plant usually found in moist areas (although it has tolerated very dry conditions here for several years). The local form has soft green leaves, but, slightly further afield, this species can cover areas of roadside with smaller, silvery leaves and shorter flowers. As daisies, as well as many other groups of plants, are constantly undergoing botanical revisions, the two forms may eventually be classified as different species or, at least, different varieties or sub-species.

A *Cassinia* that has been intriguing us for several years (it didn't quite key out to any of the species listed in the NSW Flora) has just been given a name of its own – *Cassinia hewsonii*. This daisy bush grows in Wamboin – quite prolifically along Fernloff Road. It's a rather spindly bush with thin, shiny green leaves and clusters of tiny cream flowers and is one of five *Cassinia* species growing in this area.

It's interesting to see that new plants are still making an appearance on my piece of land. A couple of years ago, *Juncus fockei* and a grass, *Lachnagrostis* sp., began to grow in the little pond below my dam. This year, I discovered the purple-flowered *Solanum linearifolium* (the Mountain Kangaroo Apple) and *Einadia hastata* (Berry Saltbush – so-called because of its profusion of tiny red fruits) – just one plant of each – growing along the creek. The latter two species probably arrived via bird dropping, and the pond plants as seeds in mud on the feet of ducks or other water-birds.

Last week, I found four Black Mountain Midge Orchids (*Genoplesium (Corunastylis) sp. aff. rufum*) high on the hillside growing in heavy clay soil amongst some scrubby Burgan bushes. This was another first – although orchids often flower sporadically, not making an appearance for several years at a time (and you need to be wandering around in just the right spot when they are flowering), so these may have been there for many years without being noticed. The flowers are tiny, yellowish-green and maroon, with about ten flowers to a stem; the plants here were less than 10 cm tall, another reason that they may have been previously over-looked.

A beautiful Macleay's Swallowtail Butterfly was flitting around here the other day, taking nectar from the flowers of the thistles I was about to chop out. As its name suggests, this beautiful insect has tail-like extensions to its hind-wings. Its appearance is predominantly lime-green and cream with shades of brown along the edges of its wings. Although it is more common in mountain areas, it is a fairly regular visitor here. Its larvae feed on the leaves of Sassafras trees (*Doryphora sassafras*) along the coastal ranges and also on the Mountain Pepper (*Tasmannia lanceolata*) which can be found further inland. The larvae must have tough stomachs! I can remember it being a bit of a joke to get new members of the plant society to which I belong to taste a leaf of one of these plants when found on a bushwalk. At first it tastes, well, just leafy – but, after a minute or so, it's quite evident where the plant gets its name!

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Lake George Day VIEW Club scores a direct hit!

by Lydia Theodorowych

Our speaker for March was JUNE MCCLUSKEY. You may have seen her photograph in the Canberra Times on the morning of her presentation to the Lake George Day VIEW Club in relation to her topic: The Sinking of HMAS Sydney in 1941. We had a large and enthusiastic attendance of members and guests for June's presentation at Hunnyz in Bungendore.



June lost a cousin, Bill Menzies, on the Sydney when it was lost with all hands off the Western Australian Coast on 19 November, 1941. This was Australia's largest maritime disaster. At the time the HMAS Sydney sank it was a dreadful time for Australia, as we already had large numbers of men engaged in the war in Europe and in the second half of 1941, it was well known that Japan was preparing for war. But it still came as a shock when Pearl Harbour was bombed on 7 December 1941. The HMAS Sydney had been sunk just two and half weeks earlier, though official confirmation to Australians was delayed until 30 November. June belongs to the Friends and Family of the HMAS Sydney and has provided a lot of information on the topic of the sinking of the HMAS Sydney through the thoroughness of her research. How synchronistic is it to have the Prime Minister announce that the remains of the HMAS Sydney were found after 66 years of mystery on the day prior to her presentation at our Club meeting.

Lake George Day VIEW Club will hold its next meeting on Tuesday April 15, 2008 at Hunnyz Restaurant Gibraltar St Bungendore. Arrive at 11.30am for a 12 noon start. Lunch will cost \$21. Join us for our meeting, lunch and guest speaker. Bring along a friend and get a free raffle ticket. To book your lunch phone Lorraine on 6238 1953 by Friday April 11. We are currently accepting new members into the Club. Be a part of the growing number of women interested in making new friendships, supporting each other and helping the Smith Family by supporting the 'Learning for Life' program. For membership details or any info on the Lake George Day VIEW Club phone President Pauline on 6238 1996. For a snapshot of our club's activities visit our blog: <http://lgdviewclub.blogspot.com>

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News from Sutton School

Term 1 included three major events when parents could be involved in school activities. Many parents and grandparents joined us for the Infants' Picnic at Lake Ginninderra. This provided a social time for adults and an opportunity to watch their children in a variety of creative, social and physical activities. Our Open Morning on Canberra Day gave working parents a chance to meet their child's class teacher and get an overview of the expectations and programs for 2008. Our Sutton Country Fair to be held on Saturday 5th April is organised by the school's P&C and relies on parent and community support.

Primary students have completed their annual camps. Years 3&4 went to an outdoor adventure camp near Bowral whilst Years 5&6 visited Sydney for the Botanical Gardens, Aquarium, Powerhouse Museum, Aquatic Centre and even a Zoosnooze. Children had the amazing opportunity to sleep over at Taronga Zoo, observe animals in the evening and early morning, help staff prepare meals for the animals and discover what goes on 'behind the scenes'.

In our Pastoral and Values Education program with school chaplain Robyn Robinson, students are looking at the three aspects of caring for ourselves, for other people and for our environment. After examining the school value of *Caring* students will move onto *Friendship*.

We welcome student teachers Leah McInerney and Lauren Hancock from the Australian Catholic University. They will be working at Sutton School over the next six weeks.

The week before Easter was busy with students visiting St Peters Church for an Easter church service. The traditional Easter Egg Hunt involved all children working in peer support teams to solve the clues and find the eggs. In the afternoon infant children and their parents enjoyed the Easter Hat Parade whilst primary students heard from visiting scientists and participated in experiments. This year is our first involvement in the *Scientists in Schools* program.

-- Jenny Cooper and Gay McNeill



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CLEANING UP AUSTRALIA 2008

Perhaps we may think 'That is too big a job for me' however 23 Wamboinians did their bit on CUA day to clean up Norton Road. Guess we were all a bit disappointed in the following days to see more rubbish dumped along our roads but just imagine how much there would be if we had not collected about a tonne of rubbish along Norton Road. Next year we plan to hit up local groups to 'Adopt a Road'. It is our home. Let us be proud of our Wamboin. We may not ever keep our roads litter free but surely we don't want to have our primary access look like a rubbish tip?

According to my register the following families thought a clean up was worth-while: Ken & Deb Gordon; Keith & Kathy, The Gillespies; Don & Penny; The Montessins; The Whitney's; John Van der; Joan & Lofty; Pete Harrison & Son; The Schroeder Family and Hank Berlee. Also thanks to Palerang Council for their assistance. -- Lofty Mason.

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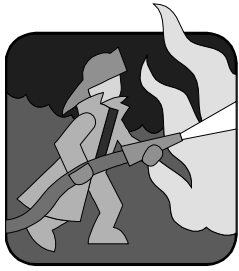
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The Wamboin Firefighter

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

**THE FIRE DANGER SEASON CONTINUES.
 FIRE PERMITS CAN NOW BE ISSUED.
 THIS MEANS BURNING OFF IN THE OPEN WILL BE PERMITTED IF A FIRE PERMITS HAS BEEN ISSUED.
 RING 000 (Zero-Zero-Zero) TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS.**

From the Captain's Desk



As the weather conditions and fuel loadings in our area remain of concern from a fire prevention point of view, the fire danger period has been extended to 30 April this year. This means that until the end of April, fires cannot be lit in the open without a fire permit. If you need a permit please call 0409 991 340 to arrange an inspection of your intended burn area and what needs to be burnt. We will also need to ensure that you have adequate facilities to control or put out the fire. A permit will only be issued to burn off vegetation, but not for burning building or "man-made" materials.

I would like to devote the remainder of this month's article to what could be described as a pictorial affirmation of the fantastic support your brigade receives from our community and businesses in our area. It is nothing short of brilliant and helps ensure that your brigade is equipped to provide the level of service we all expect. While the Rural Fire Service provides us with a lot of equipment, fuel, safety equipment, etc the support we receive from our own community helps us purchase extra equipment to help us do our job even better. Over the past few weeks we have received extremely generous donations from the Eagle Hawk Hotel Social Club, our local Landcare group in appreciation for the assistance the brigade has provided to their group, and visitors to the now famous Bywong Car Boot Sale. As an aside I would also like to acknowledge a generous donation to the brigade from one of our members. Each month we have a social event at the Eagle Hawk Hotel when brigade members and their families come along and have an enjoyable and relaxed evening. The food is also great. As is the accepted custom in many pubs, a raffle is run. This raffle though goes beyond the usual meat tray prizes. Often, other prizes, such as DVD players are also offered. At our last gathering Dave Cochrane won the DVD player. He then presented the player to the brigade for use in our ongoing training program. Thank you Dave. We are also raising money for our brigade in helping Steve and Ruth Lambert bring in what seems to be a bumper group of grapes, as we have done for a number of years. Not only do we get financial support from Lamberts Vineyard, but our members and their families can enjoy a pleasant social event in and around the vines. It is also good feeling that the brigade can help one of our largest local businesses help the brigade! Last month we presented a certificate of appreciation to Hewlett Packard for the support HP has provided in making our fire station one of the best equipped in our Zone.

THE CAPTAIN'S LIST	Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	
A'Hern Fitness at the Airport	Coolah Holdings Pty Ltd	Quick-Eze Towing
AAA Water Carriers	Cross Country Construction	Ratz Mobile Welding
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The Wamboin Captain accepting a generous donation from the Eagle Hawk Hotel Social Club



The Wamboin Captain presenting a certificate of appreciation to Hewlett Packard



Brigade members still find time for training!



Our local Landcare group presenting a generous donation to the Wamboin Brigade at the recent Bywong Car Boot Sale



A demonstration of how to deal with a cooking oil fire at the recent Bywong Car Boot Sale

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

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Landcare

by Chris Fowler, Secretary

The first stage of a major planting of native trees at the new Birchman's Grove sub division in Wamboin was completed with great success on 16th March 2008. A group of 19 members and helpers [pictured] of the Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group and Wamboin Community Association planted some 800 trees in ground previously prepared by contractors on the development. Initial watering was provided by the Wamboin RFS who, with Landcare members, will undertake follow up watering. Full responsibility for the planting will then be taken over by the developers of the site.



Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group, as part of their ongoing contributions to the local community, will make a generous donation of \$500 to the Wamboin RFS, with thanks for their assistance.



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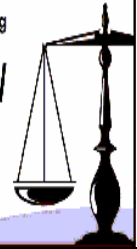
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Wamboin 15 years ago
From the Whisper, April 1993

The Whisper of April 1993 suggests that the people of Wamboin were busily being a great community. 67 of the local population took part in the "Clean Up" day....the most active in the Shire and better than the ACT. The Bushfire Brigade thanked residents for taking care over the bushfire danger period....there were no fires in our area. Most exciting was the birth of a baby boy at home in Bingley Way, contributing to the population growth of our wonderful locality.

Editor: Judy Frazer-Jans, Circulation: 300

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin
33 year statistics from the Robertsons

March rainfall to 30/3	48.25mm	March 2007	62.00mm
2008 rainfall to 30/3	178.50mm	2007 to 31/3	142.50mm
Av April rainfall	46.50mm	April 2007	23.50mm
Wettest April	174.50mm (1989)	Driest April	0.50mm (1997)
Wettest April day	42.00 mm (13/4/94 and 5/4/99)	Coldest April day	10 degrees (8 times)
Hottest April day	28 degrees (3/4/86)	Coldest April night	0 degrees (27/4/99 and 23/4/06)

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Based on Information Provided By David Rouse
Principal Consultant / Project Manager to the Owner / Developer
Mr. Neil and Mrs Marie Quinn
by Ned Noel

The last major release of new blocks of land in the Bywong / Wamboin area is about ready after five and a half years of preparation and development. The 39 lot rural residential Estate is divided in two by a parcel of land linked to the existing greenway network. This land is to be dedicated to Council as a public reserve. The northern portion, taking in 16 lots is accessed through an extension of Birchman's Grove. The southern portion taking in 23 lots is accessed from Hogan Drive. The blocks vary in size from 2 hectares to 15 hectares.

Neil and Marie Quinn, purchased the land along with adjoining property in the 1970's. The land shows some evidence of earlier use, with many of the trees felled under 1930's tree clearing policy still in evidence.

Road construction commenced June last just when the "drought" broke as a result one of the challenging aspects of the development has been dealing with deep erosion gullies at some points on the land. One stretch of the extension of the Birchman's Grove road rests on a geo-fabric rock "mattresses".

As with most rural blocks, block owners will also be expected to have their own water tanks to collect rainwater falling on the roof for household use. Non-potable water for all the blocks will come, through a reticulated system, from the one dam allowed on the estate. It can capture 17 megalitres per year from runoff and the same amount through a bore. This amount is based on regulations which restrict new developments to capturing roughly 10% of the annual rainfall in a dam and extracting the same amount from ground water supplies via a metered bore. Further dams and bores can not be constructed or developed on the new lots.

Considerable effort was expended to save the trees on the site. Covenants over the land will ensure that the native grasslands and established tree cover is protected. The developer has made a donation to the local landcare group. Members have in turn donated time to put in many more trees, as explained by Landcare in a separate article in this issue of the Whisper. Historically in this area almost every rural residential purchaser has greatly increased the number of trees on land formerly used for pasture.

A 30 metre wide public reserve has been created over Birchams Creek downstream from the water supply dam.

The main contractor for the road works has been Pybar, an Orange based construction company. Ecowise has been the contractor for the installation of the power supply. Telstra has put in the telephone cabling to each block. A number of local contractors and subcontractors have also contributed to the work.

All the blocks, in addition to having reticulated water, are fully fenced. Building precincts have been defined for each lot.

The 5.5 hectare public reserve of treed bush land separating the north and south groups of blocks will be linked to road reserves that will enable a connection, partially via walkway and partially via roadway verges, connecting the existing Newington Road railway endpoint to the existing trailway from Hogan Drive to the top of Millpost Hill.

The development provided a Section 94 Road improvement contribution of \$402,500 to Palerang Council and a Section 94 Community Services contribution of \$7,500 to meet the additional requirements for roads and other infrastructure in the area.

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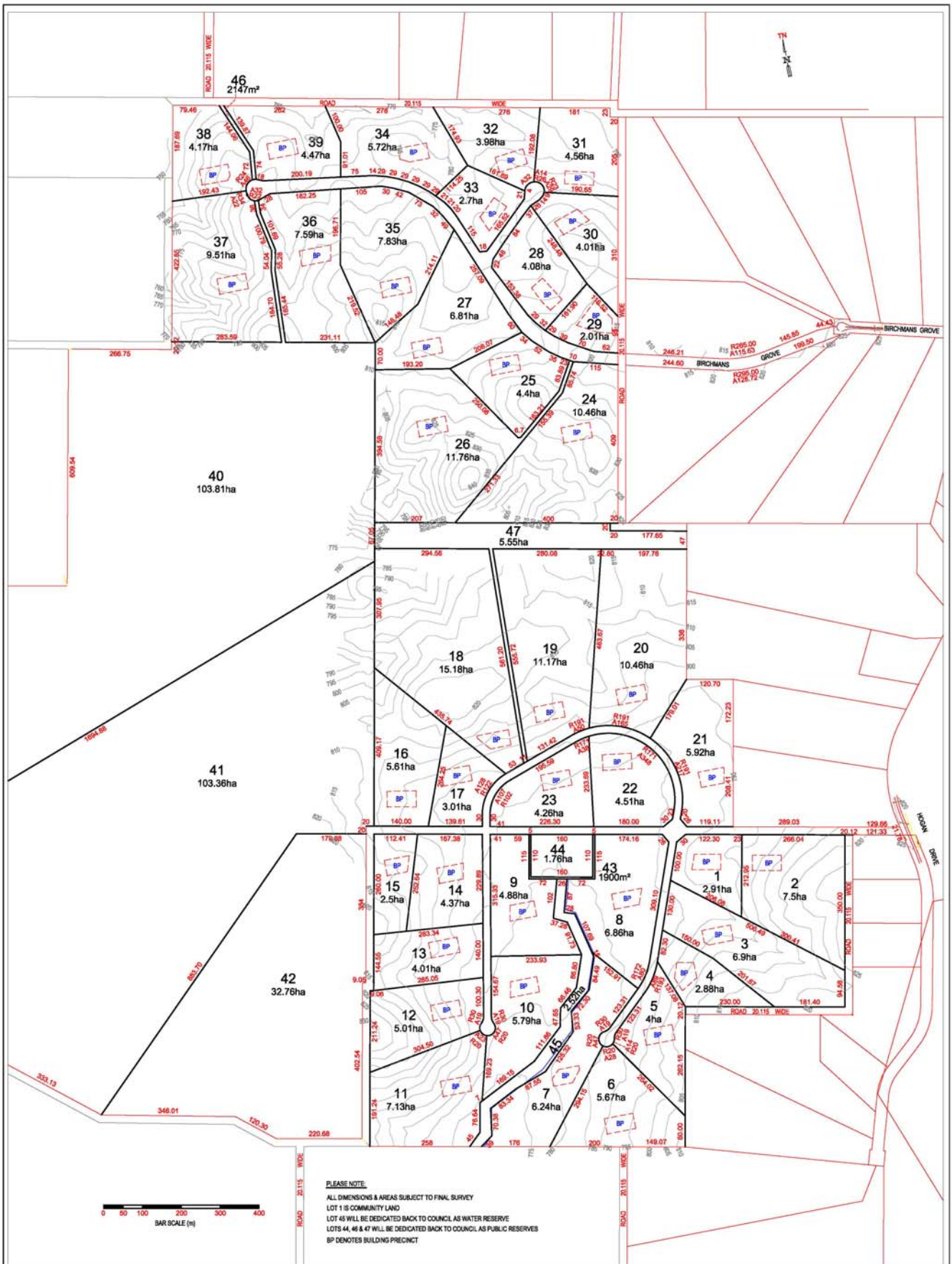



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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Easter is a special time of the year. For me it is the watershed between summer and winter. This year, with Easter being so early and summer refusing to go away, I thought the Easter bunny might have been very hot and sweaty getting about his deliveries. But we were all saved. Good Friday dawned respectfully bleak, and it got colder as the day grew longer. We lit our first fire for the season and kept it stoked all weekend wondering why we began to feel uncomfortably hot. The moon was at its brightest, whitest best and suffused the garden with a light that made the last of the roses at the front steps glow. Saluting the end of summer, the gums stripped off their brown and tattered coats and left them in an untidy mess on the ground. But in the moon light their naked creamy trunks shone with brilliance. By day and by moonlight we did our best to pay homage to the rampant cocoa bean but I drew the line at chocolate hot cross buns. I would have preferred the cockatoos and rosellas to have developed a taste for chocolate, but they ignored the little eggs in the garden, forgotten from the Easter egg hunt, and quietly set about shredding the Chinese elms until there was a thick carpet of green on the ground below. It was a beautiful Easter, and then it got even better; it rained!

Autumn started, then faltered and now it seems to be with us again. The leaves that hung on are starting to change from green to yellow and red, and the rosehips on the briar roses are already bright splashes of red and orange. I feel a little guilty admiring them, and the exquisite scotch thistle and other noxious plants that provide colour and charm but despite our efforts to remove them they still appear in unexpected places. And it seems churlish, in this mellow season, to condemn anything that has made it through summer. Easter time is indeed a special time of the year. I wouldn't live anywhere else....

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Please direct enquiries to Roxane Atkinson

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