

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

October 2008

CIRCULATION: 1083

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 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 November 2008 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, October 26, 2008, 7:00 pm. The Whisper always goes to deliverers by the following Saturday, which 6 times out of 7 is the first Saturday of the new month.

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WAMBOIN FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	Helen Montesin	President	6238-3208
Bywong Community Assn	Nora Stewart	Acting President	6230-3305 or www.bywongcommunity.org.au
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
WonderfulWomenOfWambn	Claire Ayling	Convener	6238-3347
Lake George Day VIEW Club	Pauline Segeri	President	6238-1996
Wamboin Bookgroup	Alice Scott	Secretary	6238 3178

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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, babysitting and petsitting	6238-1335
Matilda Whitney, pet care	6238 3059

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WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - President's Paragraphs

Palerang Council Election – The election is over and we have a new council for the next 4 years. Congratulations to Judith Miller and the other councillors on being elected. Thank you to all the people who helped us out in the lead up to the election and on the day at the polling booths and also to all of you who voted for us. While we would have liked to get more members of our group elected, we achieved our aim of getting better representation for rural residents, particularly those in Wamboin and Bywong. We now have 2 local councillors – Judith Miller and Terry Bransdon. The WCA looks forward to working closely with the new Council.

Bonfire Night – Unfortunately I was unable to attend, but by all accounts I have heard, the Fireworks and Bonfire night were a great success with a larger crowd than previous years. Many thanks to all the hard working community groups and volunteers who were involved.

Wamboin Produce Markets – We were well rewarded for our long wait of the markets' return – the September markets were great. While it is still too early for some produce, there was still a wide variety of goodies. The next markets will be on **18th October** from 9:00am until noon at the Community Hall.

WCA Meeting – The next WCA meeting will on **21st October at 7:30pm** at the Community Hall and everyone is most welcome to attend.

Christmas Carols – The annual community Carols Evening will be held on **19th December**. Details will be included in the next Whisper.

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@yahoogroups.com.au**. The Wamboin Whisper is now available on the electronic noticeboard.

Calendar of events – If you have any events that you would like included in November's Whisper, please contact John van der Straaten (ph: 6238 3590).

- Helen Montesin (montesin@tpg.com.au)



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Bywong Community Association News

Important AGM Tuesday 28th October at 8pm: Following consultation with the community at a general meeting on 28th May, the Bywong Committee Executive had informal talks in late June with the Wamboin Community Association to discuss a possible merger of the two Associations.

As a result of these discussions, the Bywong Community Association would like to put the following formal motion that includes key issues raised in May:

"This meeting authorise the Community executive to undertake discussions with the Wamboin Community Association with a view to negotiating an amalgamation of the two associations, subject to the following provisos - that the name "Bywong" be included in the name of any new resulting new association, and that the name "Bywong" be retained, at least in the short term, in the events known as "Bywong Car Boot Sale" and "Bywong Trivia Challenge".

Any final proposal would be submitted as a Special Motion to a general meeting of Bywong Community. We remain open to your views about this proposal or any other issues affecting you in the Bywong community.

Please put this date in your diary. The meeting will be held at the Bywong Hall, Birriwa Road, Bwyong. If you have any queries, please call Nora Stewart on 62303305 or email nora@setdancing.com.au

Council elections: The Bywong Community Association congratulates all the successful candidates who were elected to form a new Council in the recent ballot on 13th September. They are:

Ian Marjason
Terry Brandsoon
Harold Crozier
Richard Graham
Catherine Moore
Judith Turley
Judith Miller
Paul Cockram
Walter Raynolds

Commiserations to those were unsuccessful, who put the effort in to stand and offer the community a choice.

The Bywong Community Association remains politically unaligned with any group or independent and as such, we can more effectively talk with all members of the new Council to put forward views on your behalf. We look forward to a more harmonious and productive Council in future. The first meeting of Council will be on Thursday 2 October.



Bywong Springs Donations on Local Organisations: On a beautiful Spring evening last Sunday, a small gathering of people came to the Bywong Community Hall to have a drink, a chat and to accept contributions from the Bywong Community Association. The Association raises money through the Bywong Car Boot Sale and the Trivia Night and much of this money is disbursed annually to help support the good work they do in the community. The Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade were given \$1,000, which was accepted by their Captain Cliff Spong, and the Bungendore Park Tennis Club and Wildcare both received \$200 each, accepted by Bruce Hughes and Suzy Watson respectively. All organisations indicated that these donations were important to their work and that most would be put towards buying new and essential equipment or capital works.

- Nora Stewart, Acting President, Bywong Community Association, www.bywongcommunity.org.au

Congratulations to the Wamboin/Bywong community

From Councillor Terry Bransdon

Efforts by Wamboin and Bywong candidates and the residents in electing Judith Miller and helping my re-election mean this area now has good local representation. While all the new and re-elected councillors represent everyone in Palerang shire, clearly it helps to have two people familiar with, and who experience, the problems that impact on people living on hobby farms in this area.

The Wamboin Community Association's efforts in mounting such a successful campaign need to be acknowledged and I want to single out the people who participated in the groups as well as their friends and relatives who worked behind the scenes and were helping out at the polling booths' coal face on election day.

Group D's John van der Straaten, Ned Noel, Helen Montesin and Pete Harrison did a great job at the Meet the Candidates events, as did Group B's Mike McColl (who while from Bungendore, has a close connection with the horse community in Bywong/Wamboin as cook for Zone 16 and in catering for other equine and scouting events). Richard Holding and Keith France deserve an accolade and thanks too, to Wamboin's Simon Blake, number four on Group B. These guys were terrific and I'm sure that Judith, like myself, is much richer from the experience of working with them. Thanks go also to their partners who also deserve separate praise.

There's a lot of hard work ahead for us and the other councillors, but I expect this second Palerang Council will be up to the task. It's been noted that the majority population now has majority representation and that should put an end to the east-west factionalism that at times disrupted the last council or contributed to poor outcomes for Wamboin/Bywong and other rural residential areas of the shire.

I noted one local paper is already promoting its editor's defined majority and minority groups on the new council. Having editorialised during the election campaign about bad habits and bad manners being imported into the first Palerang Council, one would have hoped the editor would leave behind his past prejudices, bad habits and bad manners and start positively with a blank page in reporting on the new Council.

Instead I read that I'm a member of "the majority" (curious suggestion) and as such have a "past record of, or declared interest in, seeing subdivision as the salvation of the shire".

I am not a member of any majority but instead regard myself as one of the nine elected councillors. I do not acknowledge any majority or minority. Also, I do not see subdivision as "the salvation of the shire".

My position on subdivision or development is to support sustainable, sensible and good development, subject to availability of water and geographical considerations. Isolated pockets of rural residential development without existing infrastructure are inappropriate, in my view, and are unsustainable. Also if you can't find reasons that will stand up legally if taken to court it's very difficult to refuse some development applications.

Finally, I have to note the good humour displayed by voters at the Wamboin Polling Booth when accosted by more than half a dozen of us thrusting our how-to-vote flyers at you. It was perhaps a bit confronting, but at all times people were polite, although a few messages written on invalid votes may have suggested otherwise.

But that's all part of the election isn't it?

Don't hesitate to telephone me on 6236 9817 or 0428 621 624 if you have council issues, or need someone to listen to your problem and try to sort it out. My email address is: terry.bransdon@palerang.nsw.gov.au



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Notes from St Andrews by Claire Ayling

Following a gardening bee the church grounds are looking beautiful – the rosemary on top of the memorial wall is particularly spectacular.

Church services this month are on the 1st and third Sundays of the month starting at 9am.

On the 19th October we will have the Baptism Renewal service where all who have been baptised here in Wamboin (either in the church or previously in the Community Hall) are welcome to come back and join us for this special service.

Advance notice for the Annual Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday November 2nd. This is fast becoming a part of the 'Wamboin calendar'. All creatures great and small are invited to attend what is never a quiet service, but one where we give thanks for our four and two-legged friends. The service begins at 9am and is held in the church grounds for obvious reasons!

Any further details can be obtained from Robyn Robertson on 6238 3202

MISSING - CHOCOLATE LABORADOR

A chocolate coloured Labrador went missing from Clare Lane on Thursday Night, Sept 25. She is a much loved pet who is an indoor dog, so she would be stressed not to be with her mate. Her name is Mudcake. If you have seen her please contact Tracey on 6238 0448 or 0438 460 739.

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Wamboin 15 Years Ago: from the Whisper, October 1993 -- Circulation 360

Prepared by Robyn Robertson

from "Plans for completing Norton Road, based on an interview with Bill Ellison, Director of Operations and Works, Yarrawlumla Council" – "The unfinished section of Norton Road, linking Clare and Yalana, is about 750 metres in length. It will cost about \$190,000 to complete. ... The first step will be earthworks ... The road link will probably be completed over the next two years. The design for the 750 meters of road has already been done. ... The work will probably be done in two stages, and will be completed within two years."

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Another exquisite spring morning echoing with bird song and new colour. I'm always surprised by the onset of the new season, how quickly it comes and how extensive the transformation. Suddenly, the daffodils have gone and the crab apple is bursting with frothy pink blossoms. The mornings come earlier and the evening light stays longer.

For us, this year, the seasons seem to have blurred as summer merged into winter and winter seemed as if it would never end. For much of the time we have been numb. Our little grandson and his mum and dad have absorbed most of our time. Little Tom was on the rollercoaster ride of his life. Then he got off it, for a time, and went home and did all those things little babies do, but it wasn't to last. On a Monday morning, as the dawn painted the sky a brilliant red.... "Red in the morning, a shepherd's warning"....Tom gave up his fight....As the day unfolded out tears fell, loud and hard as the wind driven rain then softly like the gentle patter. Our tears for Tom brought life giving rain.

Politicians glibly use those emotive words "family" and "community" as if they will cure society's ills but we have been so fortunate to see real community and family at work here in Wamboin as summer became winter then spring. Little Tom didn't have the long life we had hoped he would have, but the life he had was buoyed by the wonderful people in this community who have supported him and us in so many ways over the past months.

The little church on the hill filled and overflowed on Saturday afternoon as we farewelled Tom, and that night the bonfire lit the night sky and the hundreds of smiling faces as the fireworks rained down.

Thank you Wamboin.....you make it impossible for me to live anywhere else.

Daffodowndilly by A.A. Milne

She wore her yellow sun bonnet,
She wore her greenest gown;
She turned to the south wind
And curtsied up and down.
She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head
And whispered to her neighbour:
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THE PALERANG ELECTION JOURNEY

Well, the 2008 Local Government Elections have come and gone for a further four years. Only six weeks ago there were about five or so hands up to contest the election then suddenly out of nowhere, as the cut-off date for nominations drew near, there were five teams above the line and seven individual contestants; a total of 35 candidates!

Group D, comprising Judith Miller, myself, Ned Noel, Helen Montesin and Pete Harrison, was formed out of members of the Wamboin and Bywong Community Associations after some intense discussion and later with negotiations with a group led by Terry Bransdon (Group B). Our mutual aim was to obtain better representation for the rural residential residents in Palerang and, in our case, a better gender balance on Council. We wanted to obtain at least one successful person from each of the two groups and hoped that, if preferences were exchanged, that, at least, a third person could be voted in. This would have been an improvement in representation on the previous Council and would have ensured greater influence in Council over concerns of residents in our communities and those of Carwoola/Stoney Creek and Burra/Royalla. However, this was not to be.

As you will now be aware, Judith Miller from Group D and Terry Bransdon from Group B were elected to Council but no one else from their teams was able to collect enough votes to be amongst the top 9 candidates. The new Council will meet on Thursday 2nd October and Group D will be there in support. Pete Harrison has written his observations on the voting patterns for the Palerang Bulletin and the Bungendore Mirror and is writing an analysis of the results and a different set of comments for the Whisper.

Participating in a community activity such as a Local Government Election has been a stimulating and demanding process. The multitude of evening sessions orchestrating slogans, policy statements, publicity blurbs and satisfying the requirements of the Electoral Commission united our team. It made me appreciate the strengths that we, in Wamboin and Bywong, have in our public spirited people who constantly volunteer to spend their time and take on responsibilities on behalf of our communities. I have likened the electoral process to a journey because Group D, as we became known to the Electoral Commission and to the Electorate, grew in confidence as we addressed a series of public meetings in Wamboin, Burra, Captains Flat and Braidwood, leafleted unfamiliar parts of Palerang and assisted each other to complete tasks new to us. There were costs, both financial and to our families, but the bond that resulted from the upsides and downsides made it all worthwhile. (Afterthought - we could have done without the problem of our posters being "acquired" by a collector!)

Finally, I'd like to thank all those members of the Wamboin and Bywong communities who voted for Group D and the people who helped throughout the campaign and at the voting booths on Saturday 13 September. It was a most interesting experience and a journey which, although only just unsuccessful for me, was one not to be missed. Bon voyage, Judith, you are on your way and I hope that you will achieve your aims. We will continue to support you and know that you will represent us well.

- John Van Der Straaten

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YOU AND YOUR VOTE AN ANALYSIS OF THE 2008 PALERANG LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION

by Pete Harrison

A description of the Proportional Representation voting system used in NSW Local Government elections is provided on the NSW Electoral Commission Web site at http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/local_government_elections/voting/counting_the_votes.

What follows is an attempt to explain the practical application of this voting system in determining the make-up of our new Council. Central to this analysis is the spreadsheet on the following pages, summarising the ballot counting process. The figures used to prepare this spreadsheet were extracted directly from the NSWEC Web site (<http://vtr.elections.nsw.gov.au/LgeFinalCountReports/Palerang/Council/>).

Candidates are listed in the order in which they were elected (or the reverse order of exclusion from the Count). The below-the-line vote for each candidate is listed first, followed by the above-the-line vote for each Group (against the names of the leaders of the respective Groups). Count 1, then, is the summary of the total first preference votes for all candidates. This allows us to determine the Quota for this election, calculated as follows:

$$\text{Quota} = \frac{\text{total formal votes}}{\text{councillors to be elected} + 1} + 1$$

In the 2008 Palerang election:

$$\text{Quota} = \frac{7300}{9 + 1} + 1 = 731$$

Under normal circumstances, a candidate must obtain a Quota of votes to be elected. The Quota remains unchanged for the whole Count. If there is a large number of exhausted ballot papers (those with no preferences for any continuing candidates in the count), it is possible for candidates to be elected without having reached the Quota.

If a candidate obtains the Quota on their first preference vote count, they are immediately declared elected. In the

2008 election, Catherine Moore, Ian Marjason, Richard Graham and Judith Miller were all elected in this fashion.

Votes accumulated by a candidate in excess of a Quota are known as surplus votes. When a candidate achieves Quota, any surplus votes are distributed according to the preferences on the individual ballot papers in the parcel that led the candidate to achieve Quota. When Quota is achieved on first preference votes alone, the parcel will comprise all the ballot papers currently held by that candidate.

To see how this works, let's look at a specific example. Note that an above-the-line vote is the same as a below-the-line vote that simply allocates preferences down the nominated Group (*i.e.* first preference to the first member of the Group, second preference to the second, and so on). In the first Count of the Palerang election, Count 1, Catherine Moore received a total of 1342 first preference votes. The Quota for this election was 731 votes, so there will be 611 surplus votes to pass on as preferences. But which ballot papers should we look at to determine where these 611 preferences should flow? In the present case, with 35 candidates, there could be as many as 34 different second preference choices. This problem is overcome by considering the second preference nominated on *all* 1342 ballot papers, but allocating each preference as only a fraction of a vote. The fractional multiplier, called the Transfer Value, is calculated as:

$$\text{Transfer Value} = \frac{\text{number of surplus votes}}{\text{total number of continuing ballot papers}}$$

where a continuing ballot paper is one indicating a preference for at least one candidate still in the Count (*i.e.* a ballot that has not exhausted). In the present case then, the transfer value for Catherine's surplus votes is:

$$\text{Transfer Value} = \frac{611}{1342} = 0.4552$$

Thus, each of the second preference votes on Catherine's 1342 ballots will be passed on as 0.4552 of a vote. If your maths is up to it, you will see that with 1342 ballot papers, we will then be allocating a total of:

$$1342 \times \frac{611}{1342} = 611 \text{ votes}$$

which is exactly the number of surplus votes that we have to pass on.

Since all the above-the-line votes will implicitly nominate Judith Turley as the second preference, Judith will be the primary recipient of Catherine's surplus votes. But Catherine also received 408 below-the-line votes, and these votes could have nominated any other candidate on the ballot paper to receive the second preference. You can see how these preferences were distributed by scanning the column below Count 2 in the spreadsheet. Note that only whole vote increments are recorded. Partial votes are held over until they add up to a whole vote, and are then added to the tally of the respective candidate. Judith Turley did indeed receive the majority of the preferences, a total of 513. The other 98 were distributed to other candidates.

Counts 3 – 5 are the distribution of surplus votes from the other candidates who achieved Quota on their primary vote. Note that surplus votes for Group candidates will flow mostly on to the second member of the respective Group, since most of the votes will have been above-the-line votes that implicitly allocate preferences down the Group. Surplus votes from Richard Graham, an ungrouped candidate, flow more widely because the preferences are all individually specified (below-the-line).

The next phase of the Count is the exclusion of candidates, starting with the candidate who received the least number of primary votes. In the present election, the first candidate excluded was Allan Schmidt. In Count 6, the five ballot papers that nominated Allan as their first preference are then distributed to the candidates listed as second preference. Note that these preferences are distributed with the same value that they were received. In this case, they are all whole votes, and not subject to a Transfer Value. By scanning up the relevant column of the spreadsheet, you will be able to see how Allan's five preferences were distributed—two to Nerrida Hart, one to Mike McColl, one to Kev Fiebig and one to Terry Bransdon.

Palerang 2008 Local Government Election Vote Count

Candidate	Count		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	
	BTL	ATL																																	
Moore, Catherine	408	934	1342	*																															
Marjason, Ian	245	1039	1284	1284	*																														
Graham, Richard	919		919	919	919	*																													
Miller, Judith	79	801	880	880	880	880	*																												
Crozier, Howard	155		155	161	682	694	695	695	695	695	696	696	696	696	696	697	700	700	704	704	715	715	716	719	761	*									
Bransdon, Terry	57	560	617	626	636	638	639	640	640	640	641	641	642	642	644	651	653	653	653	656	657	664	666	667	667	708	710	715	728	731					
Turley, Judith	40		40	553	554	558	558	558	559	559	559	559	565	566	571	571	579	579	581	588	588	591	604	608	608	615	616	648	659	663	690	695	726	726	
Cockram, Paul	338		338	356	357	375	375	375	375	375	375	375	376	376	379	380	381	382	386	386	387	389	402	403	403	407	411	430	434	479	498	559	564	564	
Raynolds, Walter	241		241	243	244	256	256	256	256	256	256	256	256	257	257	258	258	258	258	258	258	258	262	264	266	268	291	304	308	371	374	558	559	559	
Goonan, Anne	184		184	197	197	302	303	303	303	305	306	306	306	307	307	307	308	309	311	314	315	317	317	327	329	337	339	344	363	377	400	439	454	x	
Fiebig, Kev	53	250	303	307	308	309	309	310	310	310	311	314	314	321	321	322	322	322	322	322	323	323	329	337	339	339	339	339	339	348	353	x			
Horan, Mark	184		184	186	189	201	201	201	201	202	202	202	202	203	203	203	204	204	205	205	205	206	211	211	211	214	228	238	238	324	337	x	301		
van der Straaten, John	56		56	59	60	62	206	206	207	209	210	210	210	210	210	210	211	213	213	213	223	225	225	227	227	235	236	237	301	306	x	43			
Bateman, Bill	172		172	173	174	178	178	178	178	178	178	178	178	179	179	180	180	180	183	183	184	186	189	189	189	189	226	232	233	x		212			
Montesin, Helen	58		58	60	62	63	65	65	68	69	69	69	69	69	69	69	73	74	77	77	96	105	106	107	107	115	116	121	x	13					
Casey, Angela	54		54	63	63	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	65	66	66	68	70	70	78	78	78	78	93	94	94	96	101	x	5						
Wallace, Rodney	86		86	86	87	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	91	93	93	93	94	94	94	94	x	5								
McCull, Mike	73		73	74	75	76	76	77	77	78	78	79	79	79	79	80	81	82	82	83	83	91	92	93	93	x	4								
Sullivan, Rick	54		54	55	57	58	58	58	58	58	58	62	62	62	62	62	62	64	64	71	71	71	71	x	18	8									
Gordon, Forbes	45		45	56	56	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	58	58	61	61	61	61	62	x												
France, Keith	32		32	32	32	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	34	34	34	38	38	39	39	39	40	x	2												
Harrison, Peter	26		26	28	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	34	34	34	x														
Mason, David	21		21	21	27	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	32	32	x															
Merriman, Sarah	16		16	19	19	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	22	23	28	28	28	28	x																
Brien, Greg	20		20	20	21	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	x																	
Taylor, John	14		14	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	21	21	22	22	x																		
Holding, Richard	18		18	18	18	19	19	19	19	20	20	20	20	20	21	x																			
Moy, Ian	14		14	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	18	18	18	x																					
Hart, Nerrida	8		8	8	8	9	9	11	11	11	12	14	14	x																					
Harden, Fred	13		13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	x																						
Jaggard, Mike	10		10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	x																						
Lau, Nivan	8		8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	x																							
Blake, Simon	5		5	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	x																								
Noel, Ned	5		5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	x																								
Schmidt, Allan	5		5	5	5	5	5	x																											
Totals (Formal Vote)	3716	3584	7300																																
Informal			422																																
Electoral Role			9349																																
Quota			731																																

n	Total votes accumulated to this Count
*	Surplus Vote Distribution (Preferences distributed as per column counts)
x	Excluded Candidate (Preferences distributed as per column counts)
n	Exhausted Ballots this Count

Raw Data: <http://vtr.elections.nsw.gov.au/LgeFinalCountReports/Palerang/Council/>

This same process is followed for each Count through to Count 22, the candidate with the least number of votes being excluded at each round. Before proceeding to Count 23, note that in Count 21 we see our first exhausted ballots. An exhausted ballot is one that contains no preferences that can be allocated to continuing candidates, that is candidates still in the Count. This may be because all the remaining preferences on the ballot are for candidates who have already been excluded, or it may be because no more preferences have been nominated. Although there is no way to tell for sure, the exhausted ballots in the present case are most likely below-the-line ballots that have nominated the minimum number of candidates (5), all of whom have now been excluded.

In Count 22, Howard Crozier achieves Quota, and Count 23 is the distribution of his surplus votes. Note now that only the parcel of votes that caused the candidate to reach Quota is used in the distribution of, and to calculate the Transfer Value for, surplus votes. In the present case, there are 30 surplus votes, although 18 of them exhaust. While again there is no way of knowing for sure, these are most likely to be above-the-line votes [for Group A] that did not specify any second preference [above-the-line]. No other Group A member is still in the Count, so the only way an above-the-line vote can be passed on is if there had been a second above-the-line preference nominated. Most of the remaining preferences are passed on to Kev Fiebig, at the top of Group E, since Group A had recommended nominating Groupe E as a second preference. *Note also that the eight votes passed from Group A to Group E at this point are the only preferences actually exchanged between Groups in the entire Count, an interesting observation in light of all the fuss over preference deals in the lead up to the election.*

In Counts 24 – 28 we continue the exclusion process. We are now seeing a steady trickle of exhausted ballots. Remember that a ballot will exhaust when it has no preferences for candidates that are still in the Count. By Count 28, we've excluded 22 candidates, so there's plenty of scope now to have actually nominated quite a few candidates but to still exhaust.

In Count 28, Terry Bransdon achieves Quota, with 731 votes. The fact that this is exactly a Quota is simply a

coincidence. In fact, we know that Terry received some fractional votes in the surplus distributions from Catherine Moore, Ian Marjason and Judith Miller, and it is probably in the attempt to allocate the fractional surplus vote that we find 18 more exhausted ballots. The jump in the number of exhausted ballots is once again probably due to [Group B] above-the-line votes that did not specify a second preference.

Now we get to the business end of the Count, and the point at which we find that the rural residential candidates in Groups D and E, and Anne Goonan, have snookered themselves. When John van der Straaten is excluded in Count 29, 212 of his votes exhaust. This spells disaster for the remaining rural residential candidates. Up to this point, the three of them, John, Kev Fiebig and Anne, were sitting, collectively, on 1022 votes, enough to have any of their supporters feeling comfortable about success for at least one of them. Their rivals at this point, Mark Horan and Walter Reynolds had only 695 votes between them. The exhaustion of so many of John's ballots was not the end of the road, but it was the sign of things to come.

When Mark Horan is eliminated, in Count 30, most of his preferences go on to Walter, taking him from some 50 votes behind Anne to more than 100 votes in front of her. Only 43 of Mark's votes exhaust. As an ungrouped candidate, all of his votes will have been cast below-the-line, and the preferences that he has inherited will be less likely to have passed through many of the (predominantly Group) candidates who have already been excluded.

Now comes the crunch. Kev Fiebig's exclusion, in Count 31, follows the same pattern as John's before him—301 of his votes exhaust and Anne picks up only a handful of preferences, leaving her in 10th place as the axe falls for the last time.

What happened here?! Well, there were actually two 'problems'. The first was simply that too many voters didn't nominate enough preferences. In the case of John's and Kev's exclusions, it was primarily above-the-line votes that fell short, and most likely not because they didn't nominate a second preference but because they didn't nominate a third, fourth or fifth preference. The second problem was that there was no way that

Anne, as an ungrouped candidate (without any above-the-line voting square), could ever receive any above-the-line preferences from anywhere, regardless of how many a voter nominated. That meant that as the Count drew to a close, even though the three 'rural residents' had 1022 votes between them, Ann could never accumulate more than 628 of them, since the remaining 394 originated above-the-line. That would still have been enough, but in the end, she picked up only 24 (below-the-line) preferences from the 659 votes held by the other two.

A large enough proportion of Anne's preferences may have gone to John and pushed him over the line, had Anne been excluded first, but she wasn't, and the rest is history, as they say.

According to the NSWEC Counting Sheets, 1065 ballot papers in the Palerang election exhausted *i.e.* they ran out of preferences. That's more than 14% of the formal vote, and a significant number of voters who, although their votes were entirely valid, ultimately made no practical contribution to the election process. Much of the problem here is simply a lack of understanding of how the voting system used in Local Government elections works, and I hope that this analysis has gone some way towards rectifying that problem. The short of it is that, whether voting above- or below-the-line, you should allocate a preference to every Group or candidate that you consider worthy of consideration. This is all the more important if you vote below-the-line and include any number of the candidates who appear towards the bottom of the list on a Group ticket, those most likely to be excluded early in the Count. The alternative is simply that you will have to live with a Council that other voters elect.

I trust that, if you've read this far, you've found this exercise worthwhile. The election result may not have been the one many of us were hoping for, but it has certainly been an education. Rest assured that I'll be dusting off this account in just under four years time, and reminding everyone of what they need to do to avoid this sort of problem at the 2012 election.

BASIC WILDCARE

by Phillip Machin

Spring is a great time of the year. Everything in nature is on the move. Birds, mammals and reptiles are becoming much more active. And for lovers of wildlife there are many basic things we can do to help them be healthy and safe. An absolute must, and on top of the list, is taking control of domestic cats and dogs. There are enough dog-attack stories hitting the media for owners to get the message. It's not just farmers that rightly complain about domestic dogs mauling their stock animals. Many of *Wildcare's* rescues deal with the effects of avoidable dog attacks on kangaroos, lizards and other animals. Unless well trained and in the company of their owner, dogs on the loose will have a go at anything that moves – including venomous snakes. Kangaroos that are chased may appear to escape, but will then die a lingering death through the effects of stress and shock. Joeys in the pouch can be bounced out and be separated from its mother. Please take charge of your dog. And cats do most of their damage at night. The answer is simple – when not under your direct control keep dogs in a secure dog run; and bring cats inside at night.

Lovers of wildlife can place shallow bowls of water in the garden for birds and lizards. This has to be in a quiet area and with cover for lizards, so that the animals feel safe. Birdbaths can provide a ready source of water for birds and provide a great focal point in the garden. Clearing up the back yard and removing any rubbish will not only remove unsuspecting wildlife snags and traps, but will let you see what is around – particularly snakes that get too close. If you encounter a snake and are worried about your family's safety, then simply contact *Wildcare* for help. *Wildcare* has several trained snake handlers who can quickly help you out. Snakes are shy creatures and they will move away if left alone, so observe them from a safe place and odds are they will disappear never to be seen again!

If possible avoid swooping Magpies and other birds intent on protecting their territory by going a different way for a few weeks. As we all know, one of the sad sights at this time of the year is to see so many squashed snakes, lizards and turtles on the roads. All they are doing is warming themselves up or crossing to another part of their habitat. Motorists and their passengers just need to be vigilant, slow down and avoid them. Better still stop and move lizards and turtles off the road in the direction they were going. Either pick them up directly, supporting their body or if you are worried use a towel or other material to pick them up.

If you come across wildlife that needs help contact *Wildcare* (NSW bordering the ACT and locally) for advise on their helpline - 6299 1966, 24 hours a day. If you are interested in joining *Wildcare* to help rescue and care for native animals in distress, give them a call or visit their Website: www.wildcare.com.au.



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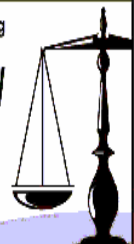
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WAMBOIN PRODUCE MARKETS

by Joan Mason

The monthly markets resumed on September 20 and what a wonderful successful morning once again. Stallholders and cliental were all happy to be back catching up with each other, seeing neighbours, friends, meeting new locals, buying wonderful goodies, enjoying lovely bacon and eggs rolls, and lovely cups of coffee. If you think this sounds good, - it is - come along to our next market morning and enjoy this time with us on -

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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 PERIOD HAS STARTED.

A FIRE PERMIT WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ANY BURNING OFF IN THE OPEN. EVEN IF YOU ARE ISSUED WITH A PERMIT YOU WILL ALSO NEED TO NOTIFY YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND YOUR BRIGADE CAPTAIN AT LEAST 24 HOURS BEFORE YOU LIGHT THE FIRE.
RING 000 (Zero-Zero-Zero) TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS.



From the Captain's Desk

I am sure that if I ask a number of people what the beginning of October means I will hear a number of things. Grand finals time, school holidays, the real beginning of spring would probably rate quite highly. I am also sure that our faithful reader would not be fooled though. The fire season is on us again. There was a great rush of burn offs, both very large and otherwise towards the end of September. Most people did the courteous thing and notified their neighbours and let their fire brigade know where the smoke could be coming from. We have not heard yet if fire permits cannot be issued during the fire danger period. If you *really* need to burn off that pile of vegetation you will need to arrange for an inspection of the pile, have the means to put the fire out yourself if needed as well as ensuring that someone will be in attendance at the fire for the time it is burning.

Fire permits will not be issued to burn building materials or man-made materials. It is also worth considering that over the past few years, with improvements in mobile phone technologies, more and more smoke sightings are being reported. When a 000 call is received we are required to investigate it at any time of the year. The big difference during the fire season is that lighting a fire without a fire permit can bring with it some embarrassment as well as the prospect of financial penalties.

For many brigades in our zone the fire season started two weeks early this year. A number of reasonably large fires to our East have needed the Rural Fire Service's attention, including members of your brigade. We can only hope that this will not be the trend over the next few months.

September also marked a significant event for your brigade. We held the first street meeting for a small number of residents on the Western boundary of our brigade area. The occasion was also a perfect opportunity to "launch" a new RFS publication in our brigade area, the RFS Farm Firewise series of booklets which provide a clear guide in assessing our properties and helping us develop an effective plan in preparing for or dealing with a fire related incident. It was also a pleasant opportunity for residents to meet one another and members of their fire brigade while enjoying a freshly made scone, a cuppa or a sausage sandwich. I believe that the people who took the couple of hours out of their Sunday morning appreciated the messages about property protection in a rural community being a partnership between the residents and their local brigade, about preparing themselves and their



properties for the vital 30 to 40 minutes before local emergency services can attend their properties, and also about preparing a rational strategy to either stay with their properties or leave well before it becomes dangerous to do so. The picture shows Lemmi Briedis discussing various aspects of the program with the group of attentive residents. We are developing a program for these meetings during the 2008/2009 fire season. The next meetings are planned for Sunday 19 October 2008 and 16 November 2008. Residents will be notified by a notice in their mailboxes.

Our training program continues relentlessly with many members participating in programs at both the brigade and zone levels. A number of people will be assessed during October for their Basic Firefighter and Advance Firefighter qualifications. We all wish them all the success they deserve as it takes considerable focus and dedication to take part in these training courses. During September a number of people achieved their qualifications in several areas. Geoff Foster qualified as a

Prescribed Burn Supervisor; Lemmi Briedis is now a qualified Community Safety Assistant, while Darrell Tipton, John Taubman, Jane O'Brien and Richard Hobbs passed the Safety Induction course.

I cannot finish this month's article without mentioning the now-famous annual Wamboin Community Bonfire and Fireworks extravaganza, but rather than use the customary one thousand words, I will let the pictures below convey the message about a very successful and safe evening. Finally, and as always, if you need any advice about fire protection around your property please call 0409 991 340.



The Wamboin Bonfire & Fireworks 2008 (Clockwise from top left) – The activity inside the fireshed fortifying many of the visitors, some of the many happy children exploring the big red fire truck under the supervision of several patient brigade members, some of the large crowd enjoying the show, and one of the brigade's safety crews in attendance that night making sure things went according to plan.

THE CAPTAIN'S LIST

Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

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 Congari Bookkeeping & Business
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 Horizon Real Estate
 FH Office Services
 France Harrison & Associates
 Inland Trading Co (Aust)
 Lambert Vineyards
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 Ratz Mobile Welding

So Good Sausages Pty Ltd
 Sotech Pty Ltd
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 Tipton Shopfitters Pty Ltd
 Trevor Barker & Associates
 Trevor Duncan Homes
 Wagonga Coffee
 Westpac Banking Corporation
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WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – SEPTEMBER COMPETITION RESULTS

September brings Spring and with Spring comes the annual Mason's Spring Trophy, sponsored by Lofty and Joan Mason. Apart from those who came for the usual delicious home made after game treats produced by Joan, some people even came for the golf as well! Our many thanks to Lofty and Joan for their generous sponsorship. Very good numbers in the welcome warm weather with the players equally split between the 9 hole and 18 hole competitions. Nearest the pin and long drive ball winners were; Tom Argæet, John Whitney x4, Ben Hubbard, Jack Whitney, Nev Schroder x2 and Denis Todd.

The 9 hole competition was won by Rob Gorham and a 9 hole teams event was won by a team led by Denis Todd. In the 18 hole competition Jack Whitney won the B Grade 102/57 and his dad John won the A Grade 78/61 from Dave Hubbard 84/64. Isn't it a pity to damage your handicap so close to the November Wamboin Open!! Needless to say the Whitneys went home with the Ned Kelly trophy!

Enquiries to Peter Greenwood 6238 3358

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin -- 33 year statistics from the Robertsons

Sept rainfall to 28/9 – 48.25 mm
2008 rainfall to 28/9 – 396.5 mm
Average October rainfall – 63 mm
Wettest October day – 59 mm on 16/10/76
Hottest October day – 31 C on 27/10/97
Coldest October night – 1 C on several occasions

Sept 2007 rainfall – 18.25 mm
2007 rainfall to 30/9 – 392.75 mm
Wettest October – 199 mm in 1996
Driest October – 5.6 mm in 2006
Coldest October day – 9 C on 19/10/82 & 2/10/04

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160 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN: Ph 6238 3208					
Dean Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West	18	Bill Owen	Cooper Rd.	26
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	33	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 Monetessin	Forrest Road area	60	Bungendore Shop	Bungendore	10
196 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:					
Sheryl Barnes	Denley/Kestral to End	26	Ph 6238 3590		
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Gum Flat	7	Brian Higgison	Deley/Birchmans - Kestra	112
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
216 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON Ph 6236 9609					
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	21	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 1083			David Featherston	Summerhil / Creekborough	24



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Lake George Day View Club

by Lydia Teodorowych

Lake George Day VIEW Club celebrated it's 4th birthday in style at the Carrington in Bungendore. The ladies were entertained by singer Brian Butler and enjoyed a delicious meal and celebratory birthday cake. In the photo Zone Councillor Marie Daniel is on the left President Pauline Segeri in the middle and National Councillor Fiona Spottiswood on right all dressed appropriately in the spirit of the birthday celebration - "Olympics".

Lake George Day VIEW Club will hold its next meeting on Tuesday October 21, 2008 at Logan's Cafe Gibraltar Street Bungendore. Arrive at 11.30am for a 12 noon start. Lunch will cost \$20. This is an important meeting as we will be holding our elections and if you would like to stand for a committee position make sure you are a financial member and hand in your



nomination form to Marie Daniel our Zone Councillor who will be running the elections. New members are always welcomed and encouraged to nominate for committee positions so that we have a full committee this coming year. Although our elections are in October the new committee will not be taking the reigns till February next year as VIEW is closed over the month of January. To book your lunch phone Lorraine on 6238 1953 by Friday October 17. Please note that if you are unable to attend you must give Lorraine at least 48 hrs notice otherwise you will be charged for the meal that was prepared for you even though you did not attend as we have to pay the caterer for the number of meals booked.

VIEW Club is a charitable organisation and ALL money raised after covering our meal cost is donated to the Smith Family for their Learning for Life program.

For more information on the VIEW Club ring President Pauline on 6238 1996 or visit our blog: <http://lgdviewclub.blogspot.com> to see what interesting things we have been involved in.

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WWoW Whispers

by Claire Ayling

The wonderful Women of Wamboin are now two years old!!! We celebrated our second birthday last month, with a great lunch at Run Shepherds

Membership is up to 45 with over 25 coming along each week on Mondays at 10 am. Newcomers to the area are welcome to come along and join us at St Andrews Church on Mondays from 10am. We meet in the church but the group is purely community based and we enjoy some crafty activities, guest speakers, outings (the rumours of the WWoWS trip to Bali are true!!), walking groups on Mondays and Thursdays, and a recent sub group enjoying golf (or maybe it is called 'find the missing balls').

Basically we try to accommodate the many interests of the group and encourage the friendships and sense of community. The WWoWs made curries for the Wamboin Bonfire Night and thankyou to all who purchased from us – we made over \$750 profit and we are donating this to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Canberra Hospital.

Please call Claire Ayling on 62383347 for any further details or just come along and find us . We are still waiting for the formation of the BoWWoWs (Boyfriends of the Wonderful Women of Wamboin)-we think it would be a great idea!

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Centenary Celebrations at St. Peter's Church, Sutton

On Sunday 26 October 2008 there will be a celebration of 100 years of the Anglican Church Services on its present site. The celebrations will commence with a church service at 11.00am, followed by a Community BBQ Lunch at the Sutton Community Hall. We would be happy to receive any information regarding previous parishioners who have worshipped at St Peter's and may like to know of this celebration. Contact either Peter Cartwright, ph.6230 3202 or Yvonne Barrett ph. 6230 3539.

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Bonfire and Fireworks

by Lofty Mason.

As the guy dobbed in by the Community Association to co-ordinate the night I have prepared this report for the Whisper. Once again the Bonfire and Fireworks Night was a great success with just on 2000 people turning out on a warm night to see a great show. This is an event that only a community acting together can stage. I won't try to nominate individuals but concentrate on a big picture report.

Financially, this 28th annual Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks Night was a success with nearly \$3,000 taken at gate entry. Local groups who ran stalls took about the same total amount. Customers were generally complimentary as to the quality and pricing of the goodies offered. However, the overriding feeling for me was that it was a great Community night. This Community feeling is one of the reasons we have lived here for 26 years. Clean up next morning was somewhat quieter. One other thought. Those who missed out on Ian Cuthbertson of 'Anytime Hire' as he manoeuvred his backhoe to pack the bonfire missed out on a breath taking acrobatic display worthy on its own of the admission fee.

To continue to be a great night, our Bonfire and Fireworks Night depends not only on good weather but also on the following: Residents bringing bonfire material, the organization of the fireworks display, the organization at the Community Centre, effective advertising, the packing/lighting of the bonfire, the great efforts of the stall holders, the entry collection and parking control and finally the support of the community. Take away any of these and the night fails.

The WCA raffle was sponsored by: Lambert Wines, Shepherds Run, Keith France and Wagonga Coffee. The winners were: 1. R. Buckman. 2. Hung. 3. D Bowman. 4. B Morrison. 5. T Boaden. 6. M. Guilfoyle. 7. Geoff.

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