

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

# The Whisper

February 2009

CIRCULATION: 1103

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, which started the Whisper in 1981 and continues to own it. This Newsletter is distributed to all RMBs in Wamboin, Bywong, Clare, and Yalana at the beginning of each month, except January. Editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Contributions which readers may wish to make will be appreciated, and should be submitted by email to [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or dropped into his mailbox at 17 Reedy Creek Place. The deadline for the next issue is always the last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for the March 2009 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, February 22, 2009, 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.

**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

<b>Wamboin Community Assn</b>	Helen Montesin	President	6238-3208
<b>Bywong Community Assn</b>	Nora Stewart	President	6230-3305 or <a href="http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au">www.bywongcommunity.org.au</a>
<b>Fire Brigade</b>	Cliff Spong	Captain	040-999-1340 bh 6236 9220 ah
<b>Wamboin Playgroup</b>	Angie Matsinas	Convener	6238 0334
<b>Sutton School Playgroup</b>	Laura Taylor	Convener	62369662
<b>Landcare</b>	Roger Good	President	6236-9048
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238-1333
<b>Breastfeeding Assoc.</b>	Belinda Dennis	Community Educator	6236 9979
<b>Emergency Services</b>	NSW Call Centre	Staff	132-500
<b>Emergency Services Admin</b>	Colin Brown	Controller	6238-1067
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Peter Greenwood	JP	6238-3358
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Keith France	JP	6238-3596
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Margaret Fletcher	JP	6238-1211
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Tony Holland	JP	6238-3907
<b>Wamboin Scout Group</b>	Peter Harrison	Contact Person	6238-3525
<b>Wamboin Guides</b>	Rosemary Riley	Contact Person	6241-6565
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Robyn Slater	Senior Instructor	6238-3472
<b>Gearys Gap Pony Club</b>	Leigh-Anne Barlow	Secretary	6238-3376
<b>Play Group</b>	Angie Matsinos	Convener	6238-0334
<b>Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason	Bookings	6238-3258
<b>Church, Anglican</b>	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238-3202
<b>Christian Prayer Group</b>	Steve & Imelda Taylor	Contacts	6238-3220
<b>Golf</b>	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238-3358
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare	Helpline	6299-1966
<b>WonderfulWomenOfWambn</b>	Claire Ayling	Convener	6238-3347
<b>Lake George Day VIEW Club</b>	Lorraine Goldsmith	President	6238-1953
<b>Wamboin Bookgroup</b>	Alice Scott	Secretary	6238 3178

## THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS

Ashleigh Caird, babysitting .....	6238 0746.
Deanne Brucic, babysitting & petsitting .....	6238-1884
Jess, Ellen and Nicole Smith, petsitting (experienced with horses) .....	6238-3115
Fiona Skea, babysitting .....	6238-3290
Rebecca Purdie, petsitting .....	6238-3343
Gabrielle Simpkin, babysitting and petsitting .....	6238-1335
Matilda Whitney, pet care .....	6238 3059

Macs Reef Tip Hours 7:30 am to 5:00 pm Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon (to 7 pm Sat - Sun in daylight saving time) closed Tue-Wed-Thurs

## Wamboin Community Association -- President's Paragraphs

**Happy New Year to you all.** A bit late, but this is the first Whisper for the year. I wish you all the very best for 2009.

**Emergency Management Information Session** –Members of the Lake George Emergency Management Committee are co-ordinating an information session at the **Wamboin Community Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> February at 8:00pm** (following the WCA meeting) to ensure that Wamboin residents are aware of the emergency management arrangements for the area. They are proposing to have a range of emergency service representatives attending, including from the NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW State Emergency Service, NSW Fire Brigade, Police, Ambulance and the Palerang Council local emergency representative. The session will provide information on the emergency management arrangements for a range of possible incidences (e.g. bushfires and snow storms) that may require the opening of an evacuation centre. It is important that all residents know what to do in an emergency and I encourage you all to attend.

**Wamboin Community Association** – The first meeting for the year will be on **17<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm at the Wamboin Community Hall**. The meeting will be followed by an information session on Emergency Management Arrangements for Wamboin, as detailed above. This is an important issue for the community and I hope everyone will come – you never know when you might be faced with an emergency and will need to know what to do.

**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 **21<sup>st</sup> February** from 9:00am until noon.

**Wamboin Fire Station and Community Hall** – A \$25,000 grant to upgrade the power supply and provide an emergency generator for the Fire Station and the Community Hall has been recommended by the Council. The grant is part of the \$310,000 Federal Infrastructure Grant allocated to Palerang and the recommendation has been submitted to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government for approval. Many thanks to Peter Greenwood and John van der Straaten for their hard work in obtaining the grant. Peter put the initial proposal forward to Council and John's statement at the Council meeting was instrumental in getting the Council to form a sub-committee to consider applications from the whole of Palerang and not just the villages.

**Palerang Council** – WCA members attended the recent extra-ordinary Council meetings (the first was adjourned due to the lack of a quorum) to speak against the rescission motions proposed. The first motion was to rescind the December decision to hold a referendum on wards at the upcoming by-election. The WCA has been seeking a referendum on wards since the inception of Palerang. Pete Harrison made a statement at the December meeting that was pivotal in getting the referendum motion on the table and passed. It is very disappointing to have Council reverse the previous decision and the WCA will continue to lobby them on this issue. The second rescission motion, which was also passed, was to reverse the decision to consider other sites for the Bungendore Transfer Station. In our discussion with Council, we have managed to get the Council to review the Waste Management Strategy and, in particular, to consider the possibility of a transfer station at the Macs Reef tip site. The Bywong and Wamboin Community Associations have been invited to participate in a workshop with Council to discuss the options.

**Palerang Council By-election** – There will be a by-election on **14<sup>th</sup> March** to fill the vacancy left by Judith Miller's resignation from Council. Voting is compulsory and to assist residents in making an informed vote, the WCA is proposing to host a '**Meet the Candidates' information session**' on **3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7:30pm** at the Wamboin Community Hall.

**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 Lofty 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**. The Wamboin Whisper is now available on the electronic noticeboard.

**Calendar of events** – If you have any events that you would like included in March's Whisper, please contact John van der Straaten (ph: 6238 3590). -- Helen Montesin ([montesin@tpg.com.au](mailto:montesin@tpg.com.au))



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## Bywong Community Association News

We left 2008 with a great gathering at the community Christmas Drinks, with about 50 people attending including two of our finest Bungendore police. Thanks to our local Koonaburra winery for providing some Christmas cheer.

Even **bigger thanks to Morag Cotsell** who has recently resigned from the Bywong Association Committee. Morag has been kept busy keeping the Association running when there were few people available to help. She will continue to be involved in the Association and keep our website going.

**Welcome to the Whisper** to those Bywong residents in Donnelly Road and Donnelly Lane. This will be the first Whisper edition delivered to those areas by Phil Dawes. We are still looking for people to deliver to Wicks Road, Shepherd Road and Shinglehill Way. Please contact [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) if you are interested in delivering to this area on a monthly basis.

**Macs Reef Road tip closure – community consultation regarding alternative waste management options.** Council has now agreed that the Bywong / Wamboin / Sutton East area should have a local waste management facility when the Macs Reef Road tip closes at the end of 2009. The alternative was going to be for residents to drive to Bungendore to the waste transfer station. The Council has also agreed to consult with the local community to assist in developing a suitable option. More information on the consultation will be made available in coming months.

**Federal \$ money for Bywong facilities.** Bywong has been shortlisted to receive local government infrastructure funding of \$42,000 to build composting toilets at the Bywong Hall and to build a bus shelter, location to be determined. This funding is yet to be confirmed. All projects are to be completed by 30 September 2009 and will be co-ordinated by Council.

**Bywong Hall (Les Reardon Reserve) – would you like to help run the Hall?** The Les Reardon Reserve and Community Hall - Bywong Hall -is administered by a committee of dedicated local volunteers and is one of 24 Section 355 committees of Palarang Shire Council. This committee is separate to the Bywong Community Association, although the Association has membership on this committee along with other residents and regular hall users. The committee is seeking Bywong residents who are interested in having a say about the Hall and are available to give some time on a long-term basis. Meetings are held approximately every 3-4 months and the time involved including meetings would be 2-4 hours per month maximum, depending on what activities the Committee decides to take on. *More information about the history and other details of the Hall is at the end of the Bywong News bulletin.*

If you are interested in being part of the Bywong Hall Committee, please send an expression of interest as soon as possible to:

Debby Ferguson  
Executive Services Manager  
Palarang Shire Council  
Bungendore NSW 2621

All successful nominees will be confirmed by Council and then notified.

**Upcoming Council by-election.** The upcoming by-election to replace Councillor Judith Miller will be held on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March**. Watch the next issue of the Whisper and the other local papers for more details.

**Be informed about your Council - Palarang.** You can keep up to date with what is happening at the Council by subscribing to email updates via their website. Go to [www.palarang.nsw.gov.au](http://www.palarang.nsw.gov.au) and follow the instructions on the left hand column "Subscribe to our mailing list".

### Upcoming events for your diary

- **Clean Up Australia and BBQ – Sunday morning 1 March 2009**

Rubbish is upon us again and we are looking for volunteers for the annual Clean Up Australia Day event to clean along the main roads in and around Bywong. There will be a **BBQ** at the Bywong Hall following the clean up for all volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jenny and Warwick Johnston via email [jen55@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jen55@optusnet.com.au) or leave a message on 62369107.

- **Car Boot Sale – Sunday 29 March 2009**

Planning for the annual car boot sale is underway, so start digging out your unwanted goodies to make some quick cash and help your community at the same time. See the website for more details [www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au)

### Contact Your Bywong Association Committee

Nora Stewart	President	6230 3305	<a href="mailto:nora@setdancing.com.au">nora@setdancing.com.au</a>
Darryl Bourke	Vice-President	6230 3055	<a href="mailto:darryl.bourke@team.telstra.com">darryl.bourke@team.telstra.com</a>
Anne Goonan	Secretary	6230 3399	<a href="mailto:anne.goonan@yless4u.com.au">anne.goonan@yless4u.com.au</a>
Clive Boughton	Treasurer	6230 3195	<a href="mailto:boughton@yless4u.com.au">boughton@yless4u.com.au</a>
Guy Cotsell	Public Officer	6230 3523	<a href="mailto:moraguy@yless4u.com.au">moraguy@yless4u.com.au</a>

Kerrie Gougeon	C'tee member	6236 9841	<a href="mailto:dragonfloss@inet.net.au">dragonfloss@inet.net.au</a>
Jean-Pierre Favre	C'tee member	6230 3573	<a href="mailto:jpfavre@gmail.com">jpfavre@gmail.com</a>
Bernie Greethead	C'tee member	6230 3165	<a href="mailto:greethead@hotmail.com">greethead@hotmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au">www.bywongcommunity.org.au</a>



**About Les Reardon Reserve & Community Hall (Bywong Hall).** Les Reardon Reserve, which is the property of the Eastern Capital City Regional Council, is managed by the s.355 Les Reardon Reserve Facility Management Committee of Palarang Shire Council. The membership of the Committee includes a local Councillor, representatives from regular hall users such as Bywong Community, Geary's Gap Pony Club and the local Landcare Group and also residents of Bywong.

**History.** Mr. Les Reardon gave a parcel of land dedicated to the new community of Bywong, now known as the Les Reardon Reserve. The Geary's Gap Pony Club applied to have use of the grounds for their activities and the concept of the Hall was developed. The Hall was designed by architect Tim Haldon-Brown and was built by a group of dedicated local residents, spearheaded by Andy Burbidge and Jan Donald, who volunteered their time and expertise one Sunday each fortnight. Events held at the Hall in the past have included local bush dances and the Bywong Field Day, similar to the car boot sale but more for local business people to show their products. The Geary's Gap Pony Club also holds regular events at the Hall and grounds, along with the annual Car Boot Sale, the Trivia night in July and other community social events organized by the Bywong Community Association.

**Facilities.** The Hall has cooking facilities and there is ample parking at the rear of the building. The capacity of the Hall is around 50 for seated dinners and meetings and 75-100 for standing functions.

**Hiring the Hall.** The hiring of the Hall is done through the Les Reardon Reserve Facility Management Committee. The rates of hire for casual (private) users of the Hall are:

- \$75 for evening period up to midnight
- \$125 per 24 hour period
- Instructional use of the grounds may be arranged direct with the Geary's Gap Pony Club - [www.gearysgap.pcansw.org.au](http://www.gearysgap.pcansw.org.au)
- Weekend use by arrangement

A refundable bond of \$100 is payable at the time of booking. Should any cleaning, repairs or replacement of broken items be required at the end of the hire period, that part of the bond required to pay for such cleaning or damage will be not be refunded.

**Further Information and Hall Bookings.** You can view availability by going to the Bywong hall's calendar - <http://calendar.msn.com/bywonghall@hotmail.com>

Fees for organisations using the Hall for regular meetings may be negotiated.

Further information and booking the Hall can be obtained from:

Guy Cotsell 62303523 or [cotsell@moraguy.net](mailto:cotsell@moraguy.net)

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## WWoW Whispers

by Claire Ayling

2009 is here and January almost over; is it my imagination or do the days seem to be getting shorter and time passing faster?

The WWoWs have been meeting throughout the festive season and have amazing things planned for the upcoming year. Probably one of the most exciting is the first WWoWS overseas trip to Bali in March, when 12 intrepid travellers set forth. The photograph shows the twelve at the first planning session – a pina coloda afternoon when sarongs were tried on, Bahasa Indonesian phrases learned, and we all started to get excited.

In February, our local brigade of the RFS are coming along on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to hold one of their successful street meetings and to instruct on bushfire awareness and preparedness; we have invited BoWWoWs (Boyfriends of the Wonderful Women of

Wamboin) to join us for this important presentation and if there are any other interested locals who would like to come they are most welcome – 10am on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

Also this month we are having a workshop to learn the art of scrapbooking and hope to archive the many great moments in the two and a half years since the beginning of the WWoW phenomena! On the creative front we are also putting together two spectacular patchwork quilts we have made in order to donate to charity.

For the year ahead, we plan to have a guest speaker each month; our first is a local entity who has just celebrated a birthday by riding in the Rift Valley in Kenya encountering game and Masai tribespeople.

I would like to extend a warm invitation to any newcomers to the area or indeed to any ladies who would like to join

us. The WWoWs are a community group who meet each Monday at 10am in St Andrews Church (the group is not church based). The group does not have committees or bureaucracy – just a large group (well over 50 now) of like-minded ladies who love living in Wamboin and the strong sense of community which has evolved since we began. There aren't really any set agendas – rather someone has an idea and we then run with it. We also have a walking group who walk each Monday and Friday and there is now a group of keen golfers who meet each week. Really, in this group there is always someone who will join in an idea or a project.

Please call me for any further information on 62383347 -- Claire Ayling



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## A MESSAGE TO ALL RESIDENTS

**YOUR COMMUNITY FIRE  
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**WE NEED MORE HELP.**

**WE NEED IT NOW!!**

### **Wamboin's Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade**

needs more volunteers (particularly budding fireys aged 18 years or more).

- are you fit and fairly agile?
- community-minded?
- keen to use existing or learn new skills?

Training programs for 2009 are open for a very short period, so please act NOW!

**Don't just think it. Do it. Ring NOW!**

*(Our Brigade area includes Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Park so we are looking for volunteers throughout the area)*

Contact Ian Coillet on 6238 3425 NOW.

## Sutton Landcare Group

by Gay McNeill, Secretary

Our first meeting for the year will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th February in the Sutton School library. Note the change of day but this is to fit in with our guest speaker. David Vincent has organised for Johnathon Banks (an ex-CSIRO entomologist and now an organic orchardist in Piallago) to speak about *Beneficial Insects for the Garden, Orchard and Farm*. Visitors are always welcome. Enquiries to David Vincent on 6230-3584.

## Pilates

by Joy Terry

Classes will begin again for 2009 on **Wednesday 4th February at 6.30pm-7.30pm**. No experience necessary, just enthusiasm. Bring along your own soft mat and towel (concrete floor is too hard on the back), water bottle and Fitball. The classes are a combination of stretching, gentle pilates / core strength exercises and fitball challenges. We start at 6.30 with the classes lasting 1hr min. Cost \$4 per class. Location: Community Hall Wamboin, Bingley Way.

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## Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare

Think global, act local

**Wamboin Market Plant Sale - Saturday 21 February.** Landcare will have LOTS of native plants for sale at the next Wamboin Market. We have so many that are ready for planting right now, that we just can't leave it till the annual Bywong Car Boot Sale! All plants cost \$3 and will grow in this area.

**Meetings:** In 2009, we will have only a few meetings and instead, we will have a range of other activities such as field trips and rambles, and we will extend the propagation sessions to include education on plant identification (especially weeds), propagation methods and other topics of interest. The next two field trips for Landcare members are:

**Field trip – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009, 6-7pm.** This will replace our first monthly meeting. It will be held at the home of Kathy Handel and Keith France. RSVP to [kukinya@bigpond.com](mailto:kukinya@bigpond.com), ph 6238 3596 by Sunday 8 February. This field visit will show how a bare hill is gradually being transformed into a woodland, methods of planting that worked and those that failed, and how to create a house garden that attracts wildlife.

**Field trip - Sunday 1 March, 4.30-6.00pm.** The owners of this property are attempting to transform a bare paddock into a refuge for local wildlife. Around the house, this is achieved by using nest boxes, rocks, water points and a wide range of mostly native plants. Almost 130 different species of birds have now been recorded, over a period of more than 20 years. Plantings in the paddocks have been less successful, and have been hampered by drought, feral animals and incorrect planting methods. In recent years ripping has improved the success rate, and in 2005 they employed Greening Australia to sow 15 kms of native plants specifically selected for the Wamboin area, using direct seeding. After a slow start this is starting to show results. This field visit will show both recommended and inappropriate methods of tree planting and tree selection, and ways to increase habitat for our local fauna. RSVP to Kathy – [kj.cook@bigpond.net.au](mailto:kj.cook@bigpond.net.au), ph 6236 9153 by Friday 27 February for further information. As there is limited parking around the house, please park out the front on the nature strip.

**Propagation sessions** are held on the first Saturday of each month at Geoff Butler's place, 38 Birchman's Grove, 9am – 11am; enquiries to Geoff on [gbu22182@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gbu22182@bigpond.net.au) or ph 62369158. The next sessions will be on **7 February and 7 March.** We will put labels on plants to be sold at the Wamboin market and Bywong Car Boot Sale as well as potting up cuttings and seedlings.

**Membership is free.** Activities are notified to members via email and also advertised (where possible) in the Whisper. If you wish to be added to the email list, send a message to the secretary, Chris Fowler, [chrisft@spitfire.com.au](mailto:chrisft@spitfire.com.au). Likewise, if you wish to be removed from the list, send a message to the secretary.

*Landscaping tip:* If you buy landfill, ask where it comes from. It could be full of noxious weed seeds.

-- Kathy Handel, Ph 6238 3596, email: [kukinya@bigpond.com](mailto:kukinya@bigpond.com)

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### TGIF for Wamboin / Bywong Military Service Personnel

Birds of a feather flock together. For military service personnel this is a very true statement, as our monthly gathering has been filled with rewarding camaraderie. So call it what you will; TGIF, Happy Hour, Beer Call, and now a new term, Wamboin Wine Down. Let's flock together again on, yes, Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> at Shepherd's Run. Bring a friend, or two. - Bill Gillespie

### Rainfall and temperatures in Wamboin

#### 34 year statistics from the Robertsons

Rainfall in Dec 08 --116.5mm	Dec average -- 59.2mm	Total rainfall 08 -- 649.0mm
Annual average -- 692.7mm	Jan 09 to 25/1 --61.5mm	Jan 08 -- 48.25mm
Av Feb rainfall -- 52.6mm	Wettest Feb -- 153.0mm (2002)	Driest Feb -- 1.0mm (1986)
Wettest Feb day -- 48 mm 10/2/89 5/2/01	Hottest Feb day - 37 C on 5 occasions	Coldest Feb day - 16 C on 29/2/08
Coldest Feb night -- 5 C 17/2/98		



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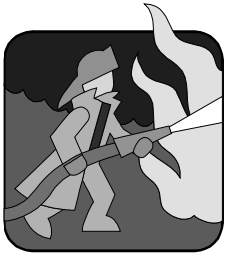
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# The Wamboin Firefighter

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

## THE FIRE DANGER PERIOD HAS STARTED.

A FIRE PERMIT WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ANY BURNING OFF IN THE OPEN. EVEN IF YOU ARE ISSUED WITH A PERMIT WILL ALSO NEED TO NOTIFY YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND YOUR BRIGADE CAPTAIN AT LEAST 24 HOURS BEFORE YOU LIGHT THE FIRE.

### From the Captain's Desk

As I sit here on a quiet Australia Day evening the cooling Easterly has brought more than just a drop in the temperature. The almost regular wind change has also brought something else with it. Over the past few days, a few minutes after the Easterly arrives, many residents have called to ask where the fires are. It may seem difficult to appreciate but the smoke and smell of bushfires are not local fires. The smoke is coming from a fire in the Budawang National Park on the state's south coast. It is likely that the smoke will be a regular occurrence for some time as the Rural Fire Service has reported that "rain is the only way that the fire will be put out. The fire, sparked by lightning nearly a week ago, has burnt out 1,200 hectares of bushland, about 30 kilometres north-west of Batemans Bay. The fire on the northern side can only be water bombed, as the nearest road is 47 kilometres away."



The smoke and smell is also a timely reminder for all of us to get prepared. Although the official fire season started last October it often is closer to February and March that conditions change in our area and the fire danger starts to rise. You should have noticed that the five fire danger signs around our brigade area have been hovering around High for some time. Please consider the messages below and prepare yourselves and your property.

In case you missed the last public meeting to discuss how you can prepare for the fire season on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December last year, and due to the fantastic attendance, we will be conducting another meeting on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of February at the Wamboin Fire Shed. The session runs from 10:30am until 12:30pm with refreshments and sausages sandwiches afterwards. From all accounts the many people, as shown below, appreciated the opportunity and learned much at the December meeting. We would be pleased to see you there on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

While the call-outs have been few, your brigade is busily preparing for a major training exercise to be held in and around the Lake George escarpment area on March 14. Several other brigades have been invited.

It isn't often these days that brigade numbers increase from inside our ranks and so I cannot let the opportunity pass without sending my sincere congratulations to Col Prest and Sam Pavitt following the birth of their second child, Ewan. Their daughter, Abi, is a regular visitor to the brigade and it won't be long before her little brother joins her to find a large collection of honorary aunts and uncles.

Although what follows is repeating some information we published some time ago, the message is just as important now as it was then. There is some valuable information on the NSW Rural Fire Service website (<http://www.bushfire.nsw.gov.au>) and the information below can be found there.

### How to carry out Hazard Reduction

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

#### There are three main methods of hazard reduction:

- hand clearing
- mechanical clearing
- burning

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






Some of the many residents at the Fire Preparedness Meeting held at the Wamboin Fire Shed on 20 Dec 2009.


- Raking or manual removal of fine fuels will remove fuels such as fallen leaves, twigs and bark on a regular basis.
- Mowing the grass will keep grass short, green and well watered.
- Slashing and trittering is an economical and effective method of fuel reduction. However it's best if the cut material must be removed or allowed to rot before summer starts. Slashing and mowing may leave grass in rows, increasing fuel in some places. Trittering, or turbo mowing, also mulches the vegetation leaving the fuel where it is cut.
- Ploughing and grading can produce effective firebreaks, however, the areas need constant maintenance. Loose soil may erode in steep areas, particularly where there is high rainfall and strong winds.
- Removal or pruning of trees and shrubs involves selective fuel reduction (removal, thinning and pruning) and retention of vegetation, which may have beneficial effects by acting as windbreaks and radiant heat barriers.

**How bushfires affect houses**

*Three ways houses are set alight by bushfire* Houses are set alight through embers, radiant heat and direct flame contact.

 <p><b>Stage 1 Ember Attack</b></p> <p><b>Embers (sparks)</b></p> <p>Embers (sparks) are the main cause of houses catching alight during bush fires. Extreme fire weather days are accompanied by strong to gale force winds, which carry burning debris. Embers therefore gain entry to houses through broken windows or gaps in and around walls or roof cladding and ignite the contents. Embers also lodge on and ignite horizontal timber decking, guttering, steps and window sills. They can be blown up against and ignite timber used for supports, underfloor battens, posts and steps.</p>	<p><b>ACTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a Bushfire Survival Plan.</li> <li>• Have a portable battery operated AM/FM radio to receive information during the fire.</li> <li>• Don't enter the bush if smoke or fire is in the area.</li> <li>• Stay calm and report all fires on 000!</li> <li>• Check if elderly neighbours need assistance.</li> <li>• If possible, block your gutters and fill with water.</li> <li>• If you choose to self-evacuate, do so early.</li> <li>• If ordered to evacuate by the police you must obey, so have pets and valuables packed and ready to go.</li> <li>• Wear long sleeves and long pants, natural fibres and sturdy footwear.</li> <li>• Close all windows and doors, block spaces beneath doors with wet towels or blankets.</li> </ul>
--	---

 <p><b>Stage 2 Radiant Heat</b></p> <p><b>Radiant Heat + Direct Flame</b></p> <p>The hotter a fire the greater the amount of radiant heat and the faster the fire will spread by radiation.</p>  <p><b>Stage 2 Direct Flame</b></p> <p>Direct flame impact usually occurs when something combustible is near the house. eg. shrubs, wood piles or outbuilding.</p>	<p><b>ACTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear long sleeves and long pants made from natural fibres and sturdy footwear</li> <li>• Have eye and breathing protection available for everyone</li> <li>• Keep a torch and portable AM/FM radio at hand, in case power fails, to monitor weather</li> <li>• Turn off gas and power</li> <li>• Hose down walls, gardens etc before the fire arrives</li> <li>• Block downpipes and fill gutters with water</li> <li>• Fill all sinks, baths etc with water to use on spot fires in case mains water supply or domestic electric water pumps fail</li> <li>• Bring hoses/fittings and other fire suppression tools inside, so they can be used later</li> <li>• Close all doors and windows and block gaps with damp towels</li> <li>• Move flammable curtains and furniture away from windows</li> <li>• Shelter in a part of the house most distant from approaching fire front until fire has passed then actively put out spot fires</li> <li>• Once fire front has passed, go outside to check for spot fires and ember attack</li> </ul>
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 <p><b>Stage 3 Spot fire</b></p> <p><b>After the Fire Has Passed</b></p> <p>Ember attack is the biggest threat to houses. This can last for several hours after the fire front has passed. Unattended houses are very susceptible during this stage. People who have relocated can return during this stage. Experience shows that people and houses that are well prepared will survive the passage of a bush fire.</p>	<p><b>ACTION</b></p> <p>It is the owner's responsibility to secure the site following a fire.</p> <p>After the fire has passed and for several hours after the fire front has passed, patrol your property and put out spot fires started by flying embers.</p>
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## The Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade invites **YOU** to the Fire Shed

To help you get prepared for a bushfire the brigade will lead a discussion about:  
the stay and defend or leave early decision  
property preparedness  
personal protective equipment.

***This meeting is for those who may have missed, or not yet had, their street meeting***

Do come along to:  
have your questions answered  
talk about these issues with your neighbours, and  
receive the NSW Rural Fire Service Farm Firewise checklist and plan

**Time: 10.30am start – 12.30 pm**  
**When: Saturday, 21 February 2009**  
**Where: At the Fire Station**  
**112 Bingley Way, Wamboin**

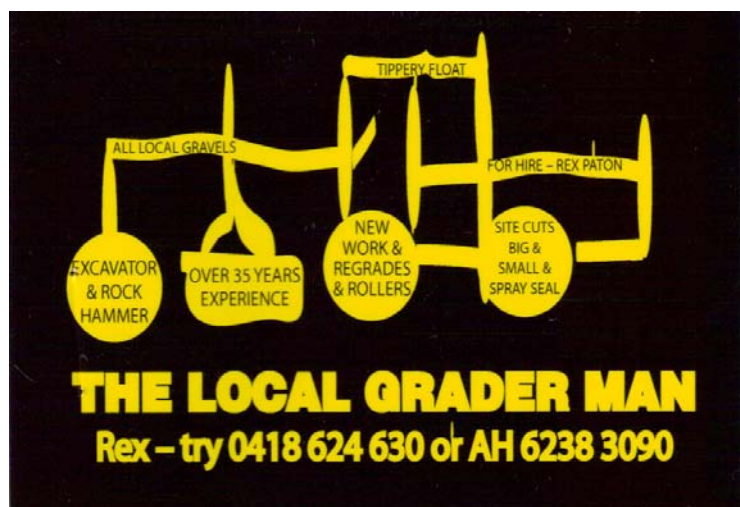
Refreshments will be provided, and a chance to win a very helpful lucky “door” prize.  
We look forward to meeting you.

<b>THE CAPTAIN'S LIST</b>		
<b>Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade</b>		
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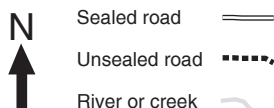
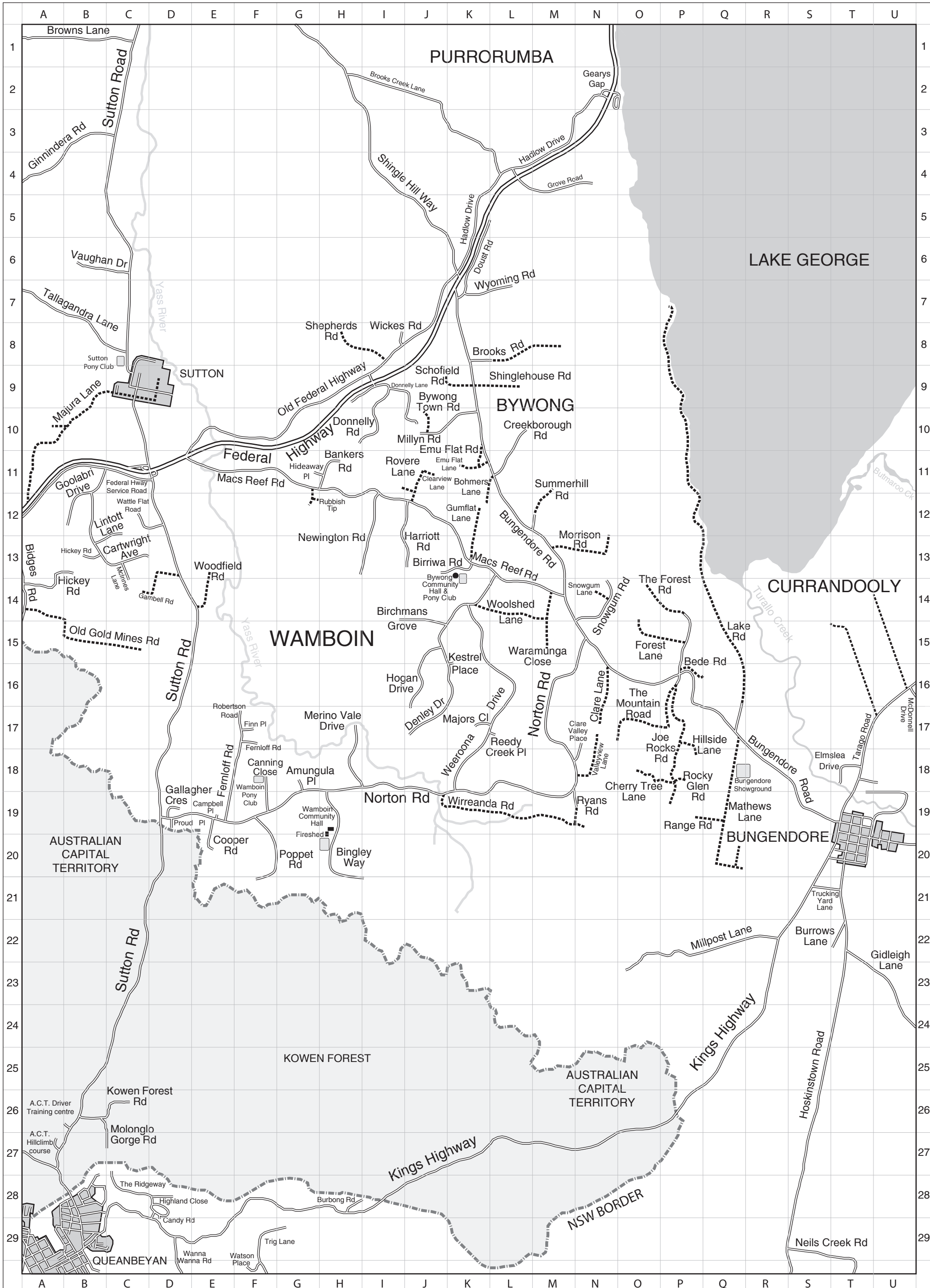
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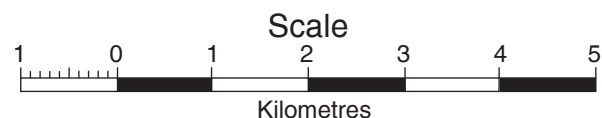
# WAMBOIN/BYWONG



Sealed road ———  
 Unsealed road - - - - -  
 River or creek ~~~~~

DISCLAIMER: The information on this map is as accurate as possible. However, there is no guarantee that the information is totally accurate or complete. Therefore you should not rely solely on this information when making decisions. If inaccuracies are noted please contact: paul.brugman@anu.edu.au

VERSION 13 - November 2007



## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

The sweet sound of running water against a backdrop of uncontrollably happy frogs, a smudge of soft green below rain washed, blossom covered gums, honeymooning king parrots and hot days building to spectacular storms.....what a welcome to the New Year!

I have enjoyed cutting and filling vases with blue and white agapanthus, gladioli and roses, and watching as my tomatoes fruit on the bushes. Agapanthus is much maligned across the border in Victoria, being declared a noxious plant. I'm glad I don't live there. These hardy annuals make a spectacular show when there is often little else to provide life and colour. This season is an exception but unfortunately some of the bright yellow comes from one of our noxious weeds...St Johns Wort. Bottled, and in pill form, there are claims that it helps to treat depression. A cheaper cure for depression may come from trying to grub out the wretched stuff. And then there is the conflicting presence of the many different thistles; tenacious, spiky invaders with exquisite flowers. And if St Johns Wort and thistles aren't enough, add briar roses and blackberry, and throw too many rabbits and hares into the invasion equation.

I was half listening to a discussion on the radio, with my holiday brain still engaged, about the validity of celebrating Australia day on the 26<sup>th</sup> January. I couldn't help thinking that Captain Arthur Phillip and the pitiful, ill prepared First Fleet chose a convenient time, at least for his successors, to arrive at Sydney Cove. Putting aside the debate about the appropriateness of his landing in the first place, a public holiday to mark the end of summer holidays and the resumption of the serious side of life seems reasonable to me. And life beyond my garden will certainly present some serious challenges to many in the coming years with the northern hemisphere economies reeling and ours following in their wake. However, looking out of my window, strolling around the garden, walking through the bush, reading joyful announcements on the notice board and watching the happy throng at the local winery on a Friday evening, one can only feel that we still have much to celebrate.

Advance Australia Fair....and with it, Wamboin....but not too much!

I wouldn't live anywhere else.

## Bywong and Wamboin Map

Paul Brugman, as many of you know, is responsible for a helpful map of the area. He has allowed it to be re-printed in the centre of this Whisper.



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Enrolments are now being taken for Term 4, starting 13<sup>th</sup> October. Classes will be held in the cottage at: 215 NORTON ROAD, WAMBOIN on Monday nights 6.30- 8.00p.m, as well as Friday and Saturday mornings, 9.30 - 11.00a.m.

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Roxane Atkinson.

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## Ice on the Road at Christmas?

by Grant Boree, 832Norton Road

After having rescued a beautiful Husky from death row at the pound on Christmas Eve we promptly lost him the day after Boxing Day – excellent parenthood! The newest furry member of the family decided to take off during a walk and headed up over our neighbours paddocks to the greener pastures of the Weeroona valley. Despite all efforts at trying to chase him my sled dog racing days are sadly over and he was gone-gone. In desperation we erected a sign at the gate and chalked up each of the Norton road boards. However nature was against us as the rain (yes rain, you remember where you driveway went that day?) washed away every attempt to alert the neighbourhood. At the end of the day a final plea was advertised and we return home rather forlorn and upset.

The next morning we were pleased to get a number of calls from friendly neighbours regaling us with stories of a Husky frolicking in dams and running amok but unable to be cornered. By afternoon we had become quite distressed so the call from Weeroona Drive to tell us that they had caught the intrepid adventurer and he was awaiting transportation back home was indeed a relief! The rescuers had made a special trip to the Community Notice Board to see our sign.

Thank you Wamboin, your community spirit and helpful assistance in finding our wayward fur-bag has brought back the Festive smiles! Now that "Ice" has cased the joint I hope he doesn't return for seconds!  
Grant, Astrid, Morgan, Carter, Oskar, Vuk, Oči and of course Ice (the three fur-kids) Boore

	<b>Dad's Property Maintenance</b> 6238 1071      0417 494 283 <a href="http://www.dadspm.com.au">www.dadspm.com.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Home Make-overs</li><li>• General Maintenance</li><li>• Security doors, Screens, Locks</li><li>• Energy Efficiency Modifications</li><li>• Decks and Verandahs</li><li>• Aged &amp; Disabled Access Modifications</li><li>• Big and Small Jobs</li></ul>
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## WAMBOIN GOLF RESULTS XMAS and NEW YEAR

Wamboin Golf Club's annual Christmas Cup was once again generously sponsored by Ted and Judith Evans.

The course is drying out so long bounces, sometimes unpredictable, were the norm for the day!

Ball winners for 1-o-n-g drives and nearest the pins were; John Whitney, Ron Shepherd, Nev Schroder, Jack Whitney x2, Rachel Schroder x2, Rob Gorham and Tim Barter.

Nine hole Stableford event won by Peter Greenwood 21 points from Ron Shepherd 20 points.

B Grade won by Jack Whitney 48 points (with another appointment with the handicapper!!) from Larry King in second place.

A Grade won by Neville Schroder with 41 points from Tim Barter with 39 points.

Wamboin golfers wish everyone the compliments of the season.

The 4th of January was the commencement of Wamboin golf for 2009. The game was our traditional new year Stableford event using only 3 clubs and once again was sponsored by Dave Hubbard and Wiyagiba Trading.

We had a number of visitors and the first golf game for youngster Taylor Miners who went home with the first encouragement award for the year.

Long Drive and nearest the pin awards were won by; Larry King x2, Dave Hubbard, Jack Whitney and Ken Gordon x2.

Nine hole competition was won by Ken Gordon (20 points) from Larry King (19) and Ted Evans (18 points).

The eighteen hole competition was won by Dave Hubbard, our gracious sponsor who passed his trophy to second place getter Tim Barter, and Len Ivey came in third. - Golf enquiries to Peter Greenwood 6238 335

## Wamboin 15 years ago: from the Whisper Feb 1994, Circulation 360

From a page by Linda Hong, a resident of Clare Valley.

".....Last night as we drove into Clare Valley from the Gundaroo Road, we were just stunned by the beautiful night sky, which made us feel that we could reach out and touch the stars. The air was clean and fresh, and house lights shining in the distance and the trees silhouetted against the evening sky made a very beautiful sight. My husband and I are going to be away overseas for the next few weeks and in our minds we will carry the image of that night sky.

It is at times like this we realise just how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful place. We leave this morning with some trepidation and pray that all who live here will be safe on our return."

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## DEVELOPMENTS IN WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR WAMBOIN

by John Van Der Straaten, Wamboin Community Association Secretary

Last year I wrote a couple of articles in the Wamboin Whisper and the Bungendore Mirror on the Palerang Council's 20 Year Waste Management Strategy and the Council's proposals for the future management of waste from Wamboin. In short, Council's plan was to establish a waste transfer station in Bungendore and, once it became operational, Council would close the Macs Reef tip. It was also proposed that a series of recycling stations would be located on suitable sites around Wamboin and Bywong. A further option offered by Council staff was a roadside collection service.

Wamboin residents have indicated clearly, in a survey and at public meetings, their dissatisfaction with these proposals. A roadside collection service was considered unmanageable for many people, particularly the older generation with long and rough driveways. Council has found that the recycling stations pose legal (& environmental) difficulties so, I understand, the program is unlikely to be extended. That leaves the residents of Wamboin, Bywong and parts of Sutton with the only option of transporting all their waste to the Bungendore transfer station on the closure of the Macs Reef tip.

The recent rescission-motion turmoil at Council focussed the Wamboin Community Association on Council's waste management strategy and, in particular, the Macs Reef tip situation. The WCA Executive took the opportunity to make representations at Council's Extraordinary Meeting on 15 January 2009 on the inflexibility of Council's thinking and implementation of the waste management strategy and for the Councillors to seriously consider the needs of the residents of Wamboin and Bywong with the withdrawal of the service to the communities provided at the Macs Reef tip. Together with the WCA's arguments for a transfer station at the site, Councillors were reminded that these communities comprise over 25% of the population of Palerang and provide a larger percentage of the rates. The Bywong Community Association made similar representations at this Meeting on the proposed closure of Macs Reef tip.

The WCA holds that the best solution would be the establishment of an appropriate transfer station at the Macs Reef site which could complement a more comprehensive transfer station at Bungendore. Council already has established a transfer station at Captains Flat and is proposing one for Nerriga to cater for populations very much smaller than those at Wamboin and Bywong. The NSW Department of Environment and Conservation published in 2006 a Handbook for the Design and Operations of Rural and Regional Transfer Stations which provides a series of case studies of transfer stations for small and large communities. This Handbook can be downloaded and is recommended reading should you wish to compare the policies, procedures and practices of Palerang with other Councils. The aim of the WCA is to have the Macs Reef tip rehabilitated into a transfer station employing new technologies and best practice. Other Councils have done so effectively and it is within the competencies of Palerang's engineers to do so too.

The current situation is that Council staff has offered to meet with representatives from the Wamboin and Bywong Community Associations in a workshop forum to discuss the options for our communities. This proposal was given the seal of approval by the Councillors at the 15 January Extraordinary Meeting. Palerang Councillors have asked that Council staff report the results of their discussions to a General Meeting of Council. It is the intention of the WCA to schedule a community meeting immediately following these discussions so residents can be informed of the results from the workshop(s) and decide on a course of action to meet their needs. Your views on waste management for Wamboin are welcomed by the WCA Executive. You can contact me on 6238 3590.



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## Clean Up Wamboin Day

Volunteers needed on Sunday, the first of March  
Register at the Wamboin Hall. Free drinks and nibblies

Start at 9am. Finish by mid-day

Rubbish bags and gloves provided

We are Targeting our Roadways

The Fire Brigade will patrol. Rubbish bags will be collected

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**How The Whisper Gets From the Printer To Your Mailbox**

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

160 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN: Ph 6238 3208					
Dean Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West	18	Bill Owen	Cooper Rd.	26
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	33	Stuart Whitten	Canning Close	17
Hank Berlee	11 Poppet Rd (for all on road)	34	Alan Rope	Sutton Road	30
278 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:					
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	45	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 PalerancCn cl+41Advtsrs	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 Monetessin	Forrest Road area	60	Bungendore Shop	Bungendore	10
222 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:					
Sheryl Barnes	Denley/Kestral to End	26	Brian Higginson	Deley/Birchmans – Kestra	12
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	Phillip Dawes	Donnelly Road & Lane	20
216 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON					
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	Richard Holding	Wyoming and Doust Rds	25
TOTAL FOR WHISPER 1103			David Featherston	Summerhil / Creekborough	24



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## Notes from St Andrews

by Claire Ayling

Happy New Year to all.. St Andrews had a busy time celebrating the birth of Christ; the highpoint being the fourth Nativity Pageant on Christmas Eve. This year we were so pleased to see residents and visitors to Wamboin joining us for this occasion. We had a host of 10 angels, 7 shepherds and a large cast including Lulu and Godfrey the donkeys. Angus the alpaca and Lena the sheep. It was a wonderful evening, giving everyone the chance to see the true meaning of Christmas unfolding through the re-enactment, and culminating in a service of Holy Communion inside the church.



We would love to welcome newcomers to the area. Services are held on the first (Matins) and third (Holy Communion) Sundays of the month beginning at 9am, at St Andrews Church on the corner of Poppet and Norton Roads.

Any further information can be obtained from our Rectors Warden, Robyn Robertson on 62383202

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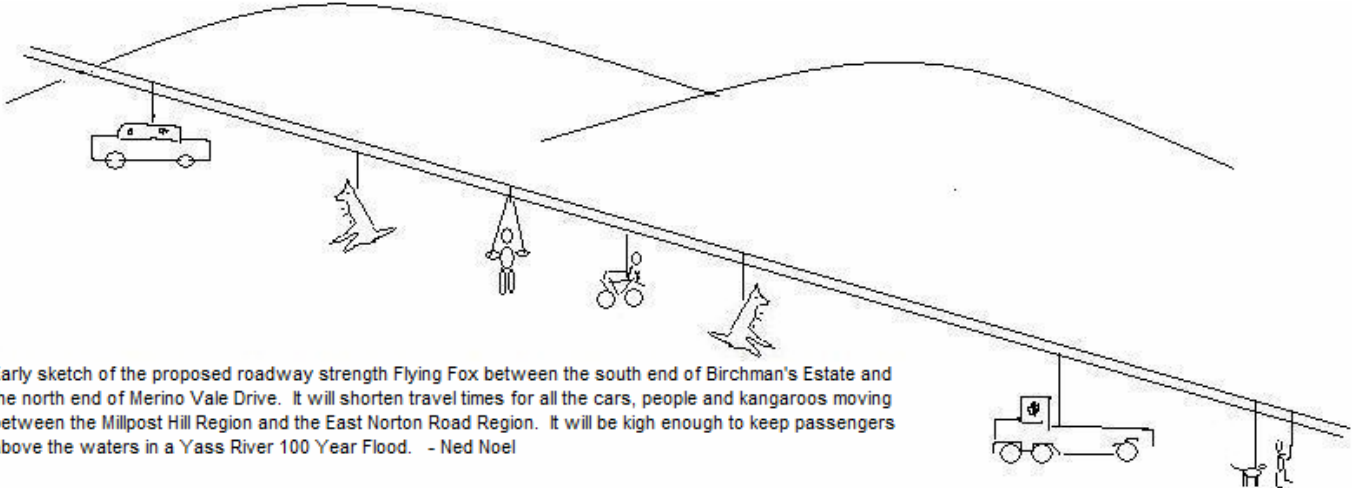
## WAMBOIN PRODUCE MARKETS

The January markets were surprisingly busy for a holiday period. 'Ye Olde Coffee Shoppe' held in the Hall extension area again drew many customers to enjoy the Wagonga brew. Seems that quite a few people also rely on the 'bacon and egg roll' stall for their late breakfast! We should have a lot of local garden produce in February. For more information contact Joan Mason 6238 3258.

Thanks again to all the stall holders who make this market what it is: great for our Community. And of course thanks to all our customers.

Entry: Free. Stall holders \$5. The next markets are:

**SATURDAY 21st February 2009 -- 9AM – 12 NOON**



Early sketch of the proposed roadway strength Flying Fox between the south end of Birchman's Estate and the north end of Merino Vale Drive. It will shorten travel times for all the cars, people and kangaroos moving between the Millpost Hill Region and the East Norton Road Region. It will be high enough to keep passengers above the waters in a Yass River 100 Year Flood. - Ned Noel

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## LAKE GEORGE DAY VIEW CLUB

**VIEW = Voice, Interests and Education of Women or as we like to say  
Very Interesting and Exciting Women**

**by Lydia Teodorowych**

The Lake George Day VIEW Club is a **day** club that meets at 12.00 noon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month for a luncheon meeting at Logan's Cafe Gibraltar St Bungendore. Monthly guest speakers expand members knowledge provide entertainment and encourage new interests. LGDVC also provides a programme of additional activities for our members such as tours, parties, coffee mornings and theatre trips. Our Club provides financial and material support to the Smith Family through the Learning for Life program.

If you would like to be an active and supportive member in your local community while enjoying the company, friendship and support of like minded women join the Lake George Day VIEW Club. New members are always welcome. We have members of our club coming from Bungendore, Bywong, Wamboin, Sutton going out as far as Tarago as well as from Queanbeyan and Canberra. The Lake George Day VIEW Club is a young and diverse club with members who have young children in primary school through to grandmothers, retired and working women, farming and business women. Everyone can find their own niche in this club.

To get more information on the Lake George Day VIEW Club or to make a luncheon booking contact President Lorraine on Ph. 6238 1953. If you would like to join the LGDVC or become a committee member phone President Lorraine or email the Publicity Officer Lydia on: [lgdvc@hotmail.com](mailto:lgdvc@hotmail.com) Visit our blog for a snapshot of functions that we have organised and been involved in over the past year on <http://lgdviewclub.blogspot.com> Our first meeting of the year is going to be held on Tuesday 17 February 2009 at Logan's Cafe Bungendore 11.30 for a 12 noon start and will be the AGM followed by the regular monthly meeting then lunch and as such there will be no speaker for this meeting.

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## Letters Received

### Council Communication Improving

Moves to improve the communication between the Palerang Council and the residents of Palerang need to be applauded. The Palerang website, [www.palerang.nsw.gov.au](http://www.palerang.nsw.gov.au) now offers the option for residents to subscribe to its mailing list and receive emails regularly. This is a huge move forward for residents connected to the internet as they will now receive updates on Council activities.

When the council takes actions, as recently occurred, where it called an extra ordinary meeting at short notice, the people on the email list received advice of the meeting. The other amazing thing is that I received an email today, a day after the extraordinary meeting, updating me on the results of the meeting. It takes weeks for the minutes from council meetings to be released, so this is a great improvement in communication for the Palerang Council.

Yesterday's meeting passed two rescission motions on matters previously approved by the council. The matter of rescission motions, and the lack of certainty of decisions these bring, is a matter of concern. At least now with the email list, residents will be better informed of the actions of the council that make decisions on their behalf, and may have a better chance to influence the decisions of the council.

- Richard Holding, 43 Wyoming Road, Bywong

### Kangaroo Shooting

I read with interest the comments made by Nora Stewart, President of the Bywong Community Association (*Wamboin Whisper* Bywong Community News, Dec 08), about the killing of kangaroos close to houses in Bywong. Nora pointed out the legal and licensing requirements for people intent on shooting kangaroos. But it occurs to me that there is a much more subtle aspect than simply allowing landowners in rural residential areas to unilaterally kill off the wildlife.

This area is no longer a broadacre clapped-out sheep station with just a smattering of housing. There is an ever growing population with all the infrastructure, stock and domestic animals that go with it. Safety is a primary concern for all of us. A licensed landowner and shooter are responsible for their actions. Can we assume they have fully appreciated the risks to other property, stock, companion animals and people? In another newspaper (*Pallerang Bulletin* Rural Residential Wildlife Under the Gun, Dec 08) Nora described how one shooter was discovered using a spotlight to identify animals at 2.30 in the morning and just 150 metres from her house. How does a shooter using a spotlight in the dead of night see what is beyond the target he is aiming at and the pool of light? The risk of hitting something down-range or either side may not be great, but the consequences if the unexpected should happen is severe. Bullets can go a long way - even if they go through an animal's body first.

Most of the people I know in the Bywong/Wamboin district want to keep the wildlife. Its one of the reasons people ventured out here in the first place. There is no need for us to kill it off. If it is a worry to some property owners, then non lethal methods should be employed rather than reaching for the gun. It is a great disappointment that some property owners cannot bring themselves to forewarn their neighbours about their intended clandestine acts - perhaps they are worried they would have to justify their actions.

It seems the National Parks and Wildlife who issue licences to kill wildlife and the NSW Police who are responsible for firearm safety have some work to do to decide how broadacre culling policies can be safely applied in rural residential areas. In the meantime, I suppose wildlife friendly people will have to remain vigilant and try to stop their neighbours killing wildlife that belongs to everyone.

-- Philip Machin, Wamboin

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**6258 1792**

### The Wamboin Christmas Carols

... went over really well. Helen (MC) Montesin lead the way with music supplied by Bill Owen on keyboard and Adam Conroy on guitar. The Playgroup kids started the evening with a performance of Jingle Bells. The singing of traditional Carols then filled the hall. To give the carollers a break, Pam Bakrer worked a wonder by having the kids perform the Christmas Story. Tony Fisher stood in for the red suited man and then it was time for the Montesin family to fire up the free (by donation) barbeque. Major Deb Hindle of the Salvos was very pleased to take away the large amount of toys and food donated under the giving tree. She was also very appreciative of the substantial donation from the Wonderful Women of Wamboin. The following day I was proud to take in to the Salvos the \$360 raised by the Montesin family barbeque and the \$100 from H19 (A Fire Brigade fund raiser). I pass on the Salvos heartfelt 'Thankyou Wamboin'. Lofty Mason.

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## RURAL LANDS PROTECTION BOARDS

Over the last couple of years the Wamboin Community Association has been instrumental in protesting to the New South Wales Government over the rating system employed by the former Braidwood Rural Lands Protection Board. In particular, the WCA considered the reduction of the minimal rateable area to 4 hectares from 10 hectares, without any community consultation, to be unacceptable.

Representations were made by the WCA to the Ministers for Primary Industries and Local Government and to the consequent Review of the RLPB system by the Hon Richard Bull in 2007. This Review recognised the validity of the case which the WCA put to it and to the Government and the Government undertook to make a number of reforms to the existing system. On 2 December 2008 the NSW Parliament approved major reforms to the RLPB system. These reforms make substantial changes to the structure and governance of the system and include:

- renaming boards as “livestock health and pest authorities”;
- replacing the State Council with a State Management Council;
- amalgamating the 47 boards into 14 livestock health and pest authorities;
- replacing the annual conference with a State Policy Council, made up of representatives from the 14 livestock health and pest authorities; and
- providing a more equitable and clearer method of calculating rates.

For many properties in Wamboin, particularly those under 10 hectares which do not carry stock, it means that from 1 January 2009 the owners will not be required to pay rates. Also, the method for calculating rates will be based on a per hectare basis rather than on a notional carrying capacity. This change to a rate per hectare will be introduced from 1 January 2010.

I understand that Wamboin now comes within the jurisdiction of the South East Livestock Health and Pest Board. Some staff from the former Braidwood RLPB will still be located at Braidwood but the financial administration will be based at Orange. -- John van der Straaten, Secretary, WCA.

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