

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

March 2009 CIRCULATION: 1155

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 or dropped into his mailbox at 17 Reedy Creek Place. The deadline for the next issue is always the last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for the April 2009 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, March 29, 2009, 7:00 pm. The Whisper always goes to deliverers by the following Saturday, which is almost always the first Saturday of the new month.

LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial 000 All Hours

Queanbeyan Police 6298-0599 Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre 6238-3396 Ambulance Bookings 131233

WAMBOIN FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---|
| Wamboin Community Assn | Helen Montesin | President | 6238-3208 |
| Bywong Community Assn | Nora Stewart | 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 |
| Justice of the Peace | Tony Holland | JP | 6238-3907 |
| 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 | Lorraine Goldsmith | President | 6238-1953 |
| Wamboin Bookgroup | 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

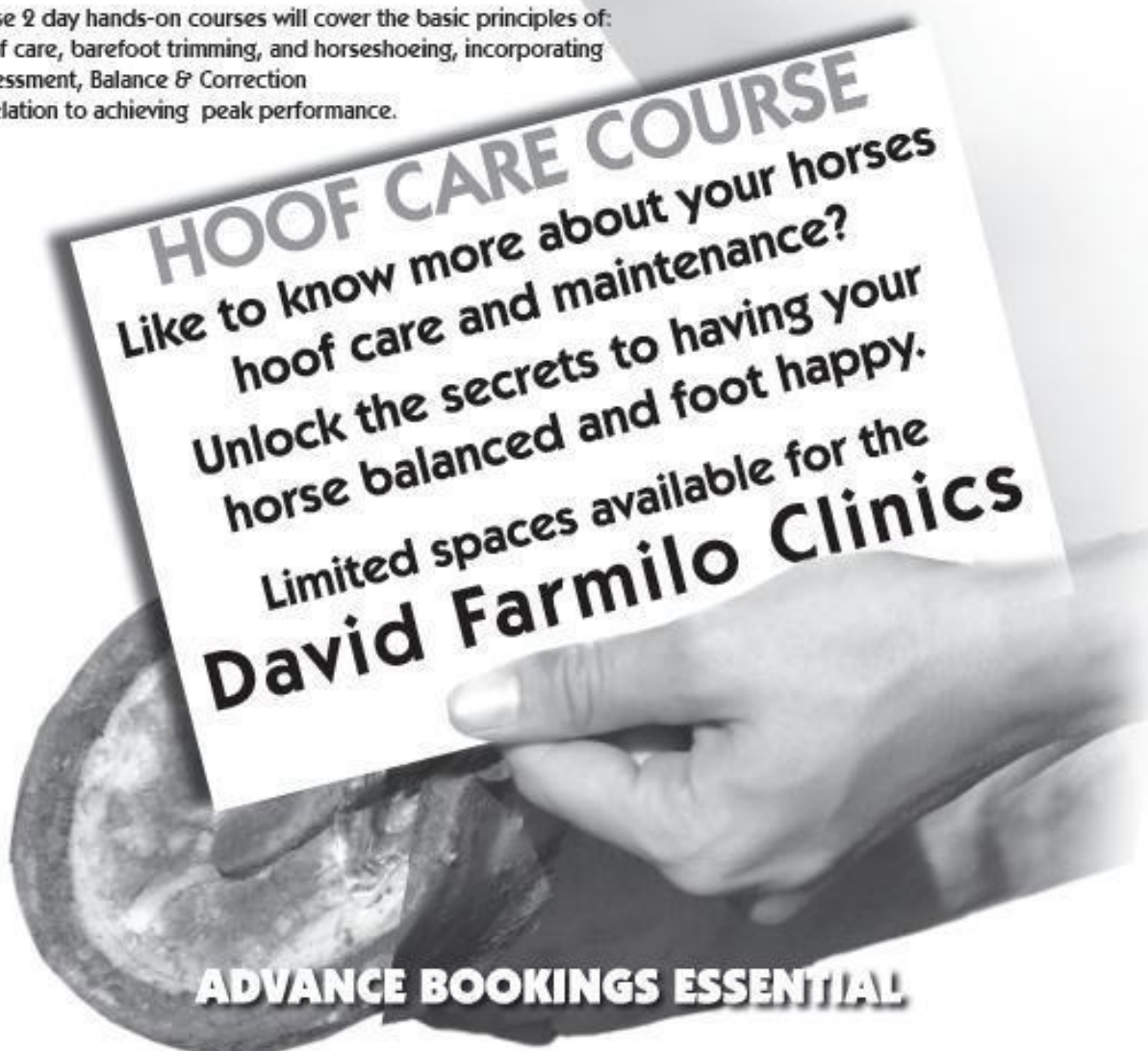
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MARCH 2009

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Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs

Clean-up Australia Day – is on Sunday 1st March from 9:00am till noon. Please register at the Bingley Way hall to help out – we need all the help we can get!

Palerang Council By-election – There will be a by-election on **14th March** to fill the vacancy left by Judith Miller's resignation from Council. There are three candidates standing for election: Anne Goonan, Richard Holding and Mark Horan. **Voting is compulsory** and to assist residents in making an informed vote, the WCA will host a **'Meet the Candidates' information session** on **3rd March at 7:30pm** at the Wamboin Community Hall. **The next WCA meeting will be the AGM on 17th March at 7:30pm at the Wamboin Community Hall.** All the executive positions are open for nomination. Please come along and contribute to Wamboin's future. Many thanks to the committee and members for all their help and support throughout the past year.

Wamboin Produce Markets – The February markets were really busy and vibrant with a wide variety of stalls, including some new ones, and lots of happy customers. The next markets will be on **21st March** from 9:00am until noon. There is sure to be a great range of local produce and plenty of opportunity to catch up with friends over a cup of coffee/tea and scones/muffins.

Emergency Management Information Session – Unfortunately, the planned information session by members of the Lake George Emergency Management Committee had to be postponed due to the unavailability of some of the key personnel. It is now planned for **19th May** (following the WCA meeting). Look out for the details in next month's 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 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 April's Whisper, please contact John van der Straaten (ph: 6238 3590).

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

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Bywong Community Association

by Nora Stewart, President

I wrote an article for the last Wamboin Whisper about the Les Reardon Reserve and the Hall at Bywong. This article contained a number of errors and I take responsibility for those. In an effort to correct the story, I have approached long-time resident Peter McCullagh to write of his experience of Les Reardon and the Reserve.

Les Reardon and his Reserve

by Peter McCullagh

Les Reardon served the people of Yarrawlumla Shire in many ways for many years. He was a Shire councillor for some decades and, for a substantial part of that period, the Shire President. His other formal contribution to the wider region was as the Yarrawlumla delegate to the Southern Tablelands County Council. County councils, which were based on a dozen or so shire councils, had responsibility for electricity reticulation, maintenance and supply. Les was President of the STCC for more than a decade, concurrently with his period of leadership of the Shire. Both of these responsibilities entailed many hours per week (nominally remunerated) but listing them fails to tell the full story about the man.

Les liked people and nothing made him happier than being able to help them. From the early 1970s on he was the last broad acre farmer in a district that was rapidly becoming home to the '40 acre farmers'. Many of these people had minuscule awareness of rural living. They frequently needed advice and/or 'hands-on' help and Les was extremely generous in providing both. It was often considered by those aware of these contributions that his own farm suffered, and this was almost certainly so on some occasions.

It is interesting to reflect, at this time of rediscovery of 'conflict of interest', on Yarrawlumla Shire Council practice in the 1970s. Les Reardon deliberately refrained from undertaking any subdivision during his period as President while much of the land in the district was subject to small acre development. Applications from family relatives would come to the Council table from time to time and, invariably, as soon as the paper hit the deck, Les would declare his relationship and potential conflict of interest. My impression, during 3 terms on the Council, was that Les' potential interests deliberately came off second best.

After standing down from the Council around the mid-1980s Les was subject to major illness for the remainder of his life but bore this with great fortitude. He continued to want to help people. I recall his discharge letter from the South Sydney Hospital where he had been recovering having had bilateral below knee amputations. The discharging doctor wrote to record how much Les, in his wheelchair had set out to encourage other patients in his ward.

So much for the man: what about his Reserve? Yarrawlumla Shire Council applied a policy of obtaining, from anyone submitting a development application which would create new blocks, a contribution towards providing additional community services commensurate with the extra demands likely to be generated by the consequent increase in numbers of residents. The form of the contribution could be either in cash, on a *pro rata* basis determined by the number of new blocks created or, less frequently, as a block of land which could be developed by Council to serve future community needs. The choice between these alternatives would generally depend on the location of the proposed development and its proximity to any land already reserved for community use. Obviously, other factors such as topography and accessibility also influenced the decision between cash and land.

The size of the contribution extracted from the developer was quite substantial. Taking the Birriwa Rd development as an example, one block out of 8 or 9 went to the Council. One can assume that this cost was factored into the sale price of the remaining blocks. In the late 1970s, the Council had been searching for a block that would be suitable for general community purposes in the rapidly developing Bywong district. I recall that we were considering buying land on the open market, or asking for some from the Lands Department but, despite quite a few excursions, nothing could be found. The arrival of the subdivision application relating to what was to become Birriwa Rd was welcomed as an opportunity to obtain suitably located land for any future community use. It also provided the Council with the opportunity to recognise Les' contribution.

Before writing this note, I checked that my memory about the origins of the Les Reardon Reserve were accurate by talking with Howard Doust, who served the Shire as Engineer for many years (a service recognised in the naming of Doust Rd). In negotiating the transfer of the Reserve block to the Council, it was explicit that it was to be dedicated to general community use, which could be determined over future years by residents in the area. Howard remarked that he was aware of only one instance in which a developer's contribution of land was allocated for other than general community use (that occurred in Wamboin when, of two blocks simultaneously available, one was earmarked for equestrian use and the second for other use).

As a postscript to recalling Yarrawlumla's performance in relation to subdivision, I remember instances in which development was undertaken involving the sale of existing portions. Council had no power to prescribe the nature of any access road that was constructed to service these portions, nor could it extract any contribution towards future community use. Consequently, the blocks may have sold for less than others in subdivisions which had incurred a contribution to the Council. The downside was that the Council, I believe very reasonably, did not accept any future responsibility for maintenance – an ongoing case of *caveat emptor*.

Please use and enjoy Les' Reserve. That is what he wished.

**BYWONG COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
GIANT CAR BOOT SALE - SUNDAY 29 MARCH
Bywong Community Hall
Birriwa Road
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Are you into recycling? Do you have lots of “stuff”? You know, all those things that you have kept for ages “just in case they might come in handy”! Now is the time to take a hard look at them and decide that turning them into cash while supporting your local community is the way to go. Here is the perfect opportunity.

On the other hand, do you have an eye for a bargain? The Great Car Boot Sale is the place on Sunday 29 March! Stallholders can begin to set up at 7.30 a.m. and the gates will be thrown open to buyers at 9 a.m.

But wait! There’s more! There will be a number of stalls selling local products and promoting our local businesses as well as representatives of our community organisations and clubs. The Pony Club will be there and refreshments will be available as well as amusement rides and other entertainment for the children. Those stalwarts we all rely on, the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade will also be there.

The Cost? \$15 per car, \$5 per trailer or \$25 per truck.

Are you the owner of a local business who would like to raise the profile of your business? Please consider becoming a sponsor of the Great Car Boot Sale. Feature in our advertising while supporting an event where all the profits flow to the local community. For details please contact or Bernie Greethead on 6230 3165 or at greethead@hotmail.com or Anne Goonan on Anne Goonan on 6230 3399 or at anne.goonan@yless4u.com.au . It’s not expensive but it’s effective.



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This is our schools major fund raiser for the year and we hope lots of people will join us to make the day a success.

When: Saturday April 4th 2009

Where: Sutton Public School, Victoria Street, Sutton.

Time: 10am til 2pm.

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Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare

Think global, act local

Victorian Bushfire Appeal. Our local Landcare group has donated \$500 to Landcare Australia's Bushfire Recovery Appeal and \$500 to the Victorian Wildlife Rescue and Protection group. We wanted to respond to the immediate need for assistance with injured wildlife as well as the longer term Landcare operation. Landcare Australia's website states that it will work with affected communities to begin the environmental recovery. Monies raised may go towards re-fencing to allow natural regeneration; erosion control; replacing lost tools and equipment; re-establishing native vegetation; providing temporary habitat for native animals, etc. The websites for these organisations are www.landcareonline.com and www.wrap.org.au.

Next Plant Sale – Bywong Car Boot Sale, Sunday 29 March. Thank you to everyone who supports us by buying our plants at the Wamboin Markets. We will NOT be selling plants at the next market (21 March), as we will have our usual huge stall at the Bywong Car Boot Sale.

Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday morning 1 March. Landcare members are invited to volunteer for this. Roger Good will coordinate our Landcare group in cleaning up a section of Mac's Reef Road. Meet at the Yass River bridge at 9am. Further information about this event is in the Bywong Community Association news section.

Field trip for Landcare members: **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. 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, 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 or ph 62369158. The next sessions will be on **7 March and 4 April.** We will put labels on plants to be sold at the 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. Likewise, if you wish to be removed from the list, send a message to the secretary.

Planting tip: Put bags and stakes around new plants to protect them from the weather and from being eaten or trampled.
-- Kathy Handel, ph 6238 3596, email: kukinya@bigpond.com

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A stylized yellow graphic of a grader with various services listed in circles and text boxes. The services include: 'ALL LOCAL GRAVELS', 'EXCAVATOR & ROCK HAMMER', 'OVER 35 YEARS EXPERIENCE', 'NEW WORK & REGRADES & ROLLERS', 'TIPPERY-FLOAT', 'FOR HIRE - REX PATON', and 'SITE CUTS BIG & SMALL & SPRAY SEAL'. At the bottom, it says 'THE LOCAL GRADER MAN' and 'Rex - try 0418 624 630 or AH 6238 3090'.

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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.
RING 000 (Zero-Zero-Zero) TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS.

From the Captain's Desk

A few weeks ago Col Prest, John Taubman and Keith Wrench spent three days participating in a Lake George Fire Zone Task Force assisting at the Jingera Rock Fire. What follows is their short report. Given the recent tragic loss of life in the fires in Victoria, including David Balfour from the ACT Fire Brigade, part of their report makes a hauntingly prophetic statement.



Jingera Rock is in the South East Forest National Park, approximately seven kilometres south-east of Wyndham and 25 kilometres west of the coastal town of Pambula. The fire started on 24 January during a lightning storm in the area. At 2pm on 30 January, the fire was declared a Section 44 Bush Fire Emergency which meant that fire fighters from around the State could be requested to provide support to local crews fighting a major fire in their area. Col, John and Keith joined 23 fire fighters from other brigades in our area and took 6 fire fighting trucks to the fire.

The task force travelled to Bega on Sunday afternoon, received a briefing at the Bega Fire Control Centre and then went to assigned accommodation at a local motel. Three to a room was about average and after three days of working, eating and sleeping together you get to know your fire mates quite quickly! The task force worked with fire fighters from the ACT as well as Remote Access Fire fighters from NSW Forests.

The priority was to contain the fire in as small an area as possible. To the east of the fire there are extensive logging operations containing valuable commercial assets and huge fuel loads. To the west of the fire is the township of Burragate and a number of outlying properties. The strategy was to build a containment line of burnt forest around the entire fire, so that eventually, it will burn itself out regardless of wind direction. Fire fighting resources were divided in to two twelve hour shifts. Controlled fires were lit on the ground and also from the air by helicopters dropping incendiaries. Once a containment line was established, the perimeter of the fire was "blacked out" to at least 30 metres in. Blacking out is the process of extinguishing any remaining fires and cooling any hot spots to prevent re-ignition. The work is hot; very dirty and full protective gear must be worn at all times to guard against injuries. One of the biggest dangers is trees falling to the ground unexpectedly after being weakened by the fire. At the end of three days a good containment line was built to the west, north and east of the fire. Work continues to build a containment line at the southern end of the fire.

Col, John and Keith returned to Wamboin on Thursday lunchtime and were grateful to be met by members of the brigade support crew who cleaned and replenished the fire truck ready for its next operation.

Sending such task forces provides assistance and respite to local crews fighting major fires and provides a good opportunity for members of our brigade to experience large scale incidents.

More recently many members of the Wamboin brigade, as happened in many rural fire brigades across the country, volunteered to go to Victoria to help their colleagues fight fires in the biggest natural disaster Australia has endured. A rotation system was developed for NSW Rural Fire Service areas to send personnel, trucks and equipment to help in the crisis. Our Zone's turn came late last week but the numbers of people requested to be deployed from our Zone was much lower that we would have liked. However Andrew Dunn and Bruce Stewart left for Victoria in one of the brigade's smaller tankers as part of the task force for a 5 day commitment. Relief crews from our Zone will be deployed in a few days, including Dave Cochrane and Darrol Dykes from your brigade. I would like thank Chris Murdock who at very short notice made himself available to take Andrew's place if he was unable to go.

On Saturday 21 February your brigade held another community information session at the fire shed. With thoughts of the fires in Victoria it was not surprising that approximately 300 people attended to learn more about getting themselves and their properties prepared for a fire. Even though the start of the meeting was delayed for some time due to the high number of people needing to register, it was fantastic to see how patient and understanding everyone was in waiting. Several key messages were delivered. The first was that we all need to understand that because of where we have chosen to live, it may take up to half an hour for emergency services to get to our properties. This means residents and their properties have to be prepared and factor this in to their fire action plans. The second message is the decision on whether to leave early or stay and defend properties. The third message concerned how to go about preparing properties for a fire and the fourth considered the correct personal protective equipment to be used when defending properties. We were fortunate to have a representative from


Country Energy at the meeting to explain about the hazards of fallen power lines. The audience was left with a very graphic illustration of dealing with ground potential hazards and exiting vehicles if and when fallen power lines are on the vehicles. While the subject is serious I think many people in the audience could start a new dance craze when practicing the jump-from-the-vehicle jive and the avoid-the-ground-potential-hop, but they will have remembered a very important lesson! After the meeting many people stayed on to ask lots of questions, enjoy the culinary marvels organised by Clare Hobbs and the magnificent members of the Support Crew, while many people took the opportunity to understand more about the operation of several fire fighting pumps being demonstrated by members of the brigade around the dam near the Community Hall. I am also sure that my new young friend, Oliver may become a member of a brigade in the years to come after he enjoyed a short slow trip around the community "oval" in the brigade's main tanker after the question session finished. Oliver was resplendent in his Fireman Sam costume and I certainly enjoyed his rendition of the musical theme from the show he sang as we travelled around under lights and the occasional siren.

A feature of our community meetings is that we took the decision some time ago to provide "door prizes" to some lucky people attending the information meetings. The prizes have been fire blankets, fire extinguishers and books on the impacts of bush fires. On this occasion however we were able to go one better in providing fire related prizes through the extremely generous actions of four companies. Peter Zimmerman, a local resident and owner of Café D'Lish in Deakin, made an offer that I could barely refuse. He offered to pay for half of a fire fighting pump as a door prize if another company would cover the other half. At the meeting not only did another company cover the other half of the pump but two other companies offered to cover the cost of the hose kit to go with the pump. The lucky winner of this important part of equipment was Judith Beard. On behalf of our brigade and our local communities I would like to sincerely thank Café D'Lish, Cosmorex Coffee, Leapfrog Leadership and Gough Watson Business Services for their generous and inspired support.

I would also like to pass on a thank you to Priam Australia for supplying, without charge, the delicious meat and sausages for the barbeque. All five companies more than deserve to be included in the Captain's List of companies providing support to and for the work of your brigade.

While the community information meeting was not meant to be a fund raising event for your brigade, several people asked about how to send donations to their brigade. Tax deductible donations can be sent to the Treasurer of the Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin 2620. Receipts will be sent.

Other people asked about the local Ultra High Frequency (UHF) Citizen Band (CB) radio channel 6 maintained by the brigade for use by the brigade and members of the public. This radio channel can be used by the small 1 to 5 watt hand held units available from many electronics, communications and 4x4 shops. However, people should be aware that this and many other UHF CB channels no longer operate in the 27Mhz range.



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The Decision to Leave Early or Stay and Defend. The decision to stay and defend your home or leave early is not easy. Many issues have to be considered and these issues vary from person to person and from property to property. A well-understood and well-rehearsed plan must be developed before any fire season.

The NSW RFS advises that buildings are more likely to survive a bush fire if they have been well prepared and someone is there to actively defend them. It is therefore imperative that, regardless of the decision to “Stay or Go”, we need to prepare our properties so that they can be defended when bush fire threatens.

If the decision is to “Stay and Defend”, we need to appreciate that we will need to cope physically, mentally and emotionally. We also need the skills, knowledge and confidence required to protect our homes when a bush fire threatens.

If the decision is “Leave Early” we need to leave as soon as is practicable. Our decisions will have to consider family members who may be very young, disabled, elderly or who could have difficulties leaving in a hurry. Advice will be broadcast on the local AM ABC radio station (666) and also via the local UHF CB Channel 6, for example. Telephoning the 1800 NSW RFS Information Line on 1800 679 737 will be another source of information. The Roads and Traffic Authority can also be contacted by telephone on 132 701 for information about road and traffic conditions and avoiding areas where fires are occurring.

What is “early”, I hear you ask? As a rule of thumb, if we can see smoke, it is too late to leave. If planning to leave early, you must decide where you will go, how you will get there, and what trigger you will use to initiate your plan. If you plan to leave early you must recognise that on days of very high or extreme fire danger, bushfires may break out nearby and spread at a rate that provides very little time to relocate.

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We may not need to go far to be safe but wherever we intend going, it should be determined well before the need arises. A neighbouring property may provide a safe refuge. This may involve less disruption than travelling to a more distant location and would allow us to return quickly to our property. If trips are planned during the Bush Fire Danger Period, we should check ahead to see what the weather conditions will be like in the area.

Properties should be prepared for bushfire regardless of whether we intend to stay and defend our properties or relocate to a place where we feel safe. Proper preparation will improve the safety of firefighters and their ability to defend a building successfully even if we are not there when a bushfire threatens. Well-prepared properties are also more likely to survive in the event that we or firefighters are not available to protect them.

The most important aspect of preparation for us and our property is the creation and maintenance of a defensible space within which a building can be defended against bushfire embers and radiant heat. Within this defensible space, bushfire fuels must be reduced to prevent or significantly reduce the ability of a fire to burn (and consequently spread to buildings). Properties should be prepared so that they provide a safe refuge to shelter from radiant heat and ember attack. A properly prepared building should be our first choice when a bushfire threatens. Most buildings lost in bushfires ignite from small fires caused by sparks and embers. These ignitions often occur immediately before, during, or up to several hours after, the passage of the main fire.

Research indicates that a well-prepared home is often the safest place to shelter from a fire front. Last minute evacuation is the most dangerous option of all. Research also has proven that we are safer in our house than in a car during a bush fire. Cars provide extremely poor protection from bush fires.

Bush fires are a shared responsibility between residents and firefighters. So it's up to all of us to prepare our Bush FireWise Action Plan and make the decision to stay and defend, or leave early.

Although I have taken up a lot of space in this edition, I believe the importance of the messages warrants our editor's understanding and indulgence.

More detailed information can be found in the NSW Rural Fire Service document called "Guide to a Bush Firewise Action Plan" which is available from the Lake George Zone Fire Control Centre by calling 6297 1840 during business hours or online at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

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

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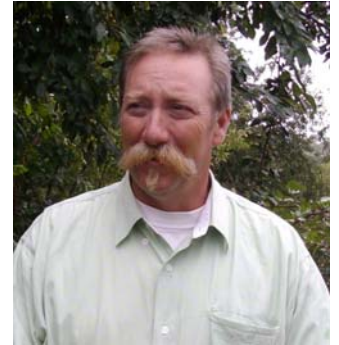
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Mark Horan

The role of a councillor, effectively, is to be an elected representative, of a management team, that provides infrastructure, services and governance to the area in which we live.

On the 14th of March you are being asked to be a selector to fill a vacant position on the team.



Success for any team comes from a mix of talent, ability and experience. Talent and ability are the attributes that qualify new players for selection. Experience already has those qualities and is the glue that cements the individual members into a stable, productive team.

An experienced member of a team knows the functions and capacities of the role, they have respect for the rules and can recognise most of the and the challenges that lie ahead. A team lacking experience will often have some members with raw talent, making bold manoeuvres to establish themselves as a star player. At times, the risk pays off, but more often than not, the team becomes nothing more than a group, losing valuable gains or opportunities, because an ego has run off in a direction that was unsupported by the remaining individuals.

Recently, I have been able to observe the new team from a different perspective and I have noticed that;- The team has struggled a bit, caused in part by being a player down.

The talent is good, but the level of inexperience has never been higher.

Poorly considered decisions have brought play back to the start many times, new players are fighting for their position, a few old members are attempting to change their playing styles and a few yellow cards have been issued to avoid breaches of the rules. Some of the players are attempting to apply their own interpretation of the rule book in order to gain popularity with the fans.

I fear, it is only a matter of time before the umpire steps in and it is possible, that these actions could leave the club open to fines.

The past six months have given me a chance to re-assess my performance on the team during the previous season. I know that accepting criticism, will provide outcomes that give the team a better chance of success and provide the supporters with a better place to live. I know that my previous experience will provide an opportunity to help bind this group into the more stable, focused team that is required to meet the challenges into the future.

As a selector in this By-Election, You have to weigh up the benefits of proven experience from a stable, healthy, seasoned candidate, against the promises and raw talent of those who wish to make the team.

Mark Horan



A MESSAGE TO ALL RESIDENTS

YOUR COMMUNITY FIRE BRIGADE IS RECRUITING.

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!

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

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Vote **1** Richard Holding for Palerang

Hello, my name is Richard Holding and I am standing as a candidate in the Palerang by-election to be held on Saturday March 14, 2009.

I am a public servant with the Department Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and have been living in Bywong/Wamboin for the past eight years. I was born in Harden, NSW, where my parents operate a sheep and wheat farm. Like most rural people, they have worked through tough times and I feel this adds to my understanding of the issues faced by the rural residents of Palerang.

After graduating from ANU with a Commerce degree, I had a twenty year involvement in small business, owning and operating various cafe and catering businesses in Canberra. Because of the ongoing unpredictability of small business and the financial and personal pressures it placed on me, I decided to make a career change into the public service. I believe these life experiences and my business knowledge provides me with a sound basis to work as a councillor for the residents of Palerang. In addition, my current job gives me the flexibility to dedicate the time I know that being a councillor requires.

Two immediate priorities for me, and for the residents of Wamboin/Bywong, will be to work to achieve a Waste Transfer Station on the Macs Reef Road Tip site, and a final resolution to the Local Environmental Plan (LEP). There is no acceptable alternative to the Macs Reef Road Waste Transfer Station, and no compromise will be acceptable. Plenty of evidence has been provided by the Wamboin Community Association to the Council, and 25% of the Palerang population live in the area and use the current tip site.

The LEP is another ongoing issue that desperately needs resolution in order to provide planning certainty to all residents of Palerang. I am not against sub-

division or development, but we need to have an LEP that ensures environmentally sustainable development that minimises the impact for the generations to come, meets the needs of the current residents and is not aimed at the short-term gain of a few people.

My aim is to work with the residents of Palerang through active consultation to ensure Council makes decisions that reflect the views of the residents of Palerang. I know that's why Deputy Mayor Catherine Moore and Councillor Judith Turley, together with the other Community First candidates who stood in the 2008 election, have endorsed me as a candidate in this by-election.

Some of the other people from Wamboin/Bywong who publicly endorse me are: Helen Montesin, President of the Wamboin Community Association, John van der Straaten, Secretary of the Wamboin Community Association, Terry Brandson, Palerang Councillor and Bywong resident, Keith France, Treasurer of the Wamboin Community Association, Judith Miller, former Palerang Councillor and Bywong resident

These people welcome the opportunity to discuss why they endorse me as the best person to represent Wamboin/Bywong and all the residents of Palerang on Council, and they are also some of the people on whom I will be relying to assist me in representing you.

More information about me and about Community First and its platform and principles, can be found at www.palerangcommunityfirst.org My contact details are also there and I welcome an opportunity to discuss any Council issues with you, so please call or email me.

I hope that you will give me your vote on Saturday March 14.



"I was encouraged by the community support while campaigning at the recent Wamboin Markets. Seen here with 'Lofty' Mason, (who generously donated the profits from his plant sales for the day to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal), are left to right: John Van der Straaten, Whisper editor Ned Noel, that's me in the middle, Cr. Terry Brandson and Helen Montesin and 'Lofty'. Thank you all".

The Mice in Wamboin Pack a Punch According to this Tiger snake

by Max Nimmo, Weeroona Drive

The snakes view: I was just cruising around my normal feeding grounds in the feed shed when one of the local humans arrived and surprised me as I was lunging for a tasty mouse. The next thing I knew the World went black and it felt like it did when I was little and I got stuck under a house brick. I couldn't see anything and there was a vice like grip around my neck. I lay on the floor for a while weakly waving my head around and after about 10 minutes there was a knock and I could see again. The mouse was gone, the humans had gone and there was a strange grey plastic thing lying next to me. I have told all my snake-mates that the mice around this place have a secret weapon so we all migrated to another home.

The human side of the story: We don't know how the snake got a gray plastic mousetrap stuck on his head. When we came across him he just lay curled up in the middle of the concrete floor of the feed shed waving his head around in the air. About the silliest looking thing we have seen associated with snakes. After planning our moves we managed to dislodge the trap from his head. We saw him later sitting in the same place with an air of total confusion, not going anywhere or coming from anywhere. We haven't seen a snake in the feed shed since.

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Anne Goonan

Candidate for Palerang Council at the March 14 Bi-Election

Having just missed out on a place at the last election I didn't think I'd be doing this again so soon. Following the Sept elections, I channeled my efforts into the Bywong Community Association, and was elected as Secretary.

I had expected that the level of local interest would materialize into at least one other independent candidate from our area – however I became increasingly concerned as the nomination date approached.

I know about and genuinely care about the issues we face in Palerang, especially in our local community. I will do my best for you if elected to Council.

In particular I promise you

- I will listen to you
- I will fight to retain a waste facility at Macs Reef, which is essential
- I will seek a resolution of the Googong pipeline which is fair to residents
- I will seek to preserve our greenways and foster our environment
- I will ensure that Council is open and honest, and that information gets out to local communities - even if I have to send it myself
- I will promote the use of our community associations as channels of communication with Council and emergency bodies
- I will support "best practice" development which improves the community amenity

From these promises you will gather that I am not aligned with any party or group, but am prepared to select from their respective platforms those policies which I believe will make our community - and our world - a better place.

I have lived in Bywong for over 20 years and enjoy the solitude and the environment we live in. These, and our community, are what distinguish our area – they are very important to me. I am concerned about the impacts of climate change and the uncertainty of our water supplies. I will work hard to ensure that thoughtful and informed solutions are applied to any aspects concerning water use and sustainability across Palerang.

Rather than just 'talk' community, I actively contribute to it. I have been involved with the Bywong Community organization for more than fifteen years. Since establishing our family business in 2005, we have supported emergency services and bush fire brigades across Palerang, and in particular the Wamboin Bush Fire Brigade.

My background is in scientific research, I have raised a family, worked in the Public Service, and am currently working in our business (providing wireless broadband to the region mainly within the Palerang Shire).

I am a good communicator and am well qualified to accurately represent a range of views from our community. I would bring a very fair and balanced perspective to Council and strive for open communication.

I ask for your confidence and your Number 1 vote on March 14th.

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Lake George Day VIEW Club

by Lydia Teodorowych

At the first meeting of the year two new ladies signed up to join the Lake George Day VIEW Club. We would like to warmly welcome Brenda and June to our happy group of women. June has taken an even further step by taking a position on the committee. Well done!

The new committee was sworn in by Zone Councilor Marie Daniels and the first meeting was held at the luncheon. We have a comprehensive and varied program of events organised for this year so "watch this space". To see all the latest photos and information check our blog: <http://lgdviewclub.blogspot.com>

The Lake George Day VIEW Club March meeting will be held at Logan's Cafe Gibraltar St Bungendore on Tuesday March 17. 11.30 for a 12 noon start. Cost \$20. The speaker for the meeting will be Dr Cross speaking on the implementation of the Northern Territory Intervention Order. RSVP your attendance by Friday 13 March to Lorraine on 6238 1953. Come along and bring a friend! If you would like to join our Day club, it's not too late to sign up next month. We take in new members through out the year.

VIEW~a club where Very Interesting and Exciting Women meet!

Wamboin 15 years ago: Compiled by Robyn Robertson from the Whisper, March 1994, Circulation: 360

From the report of the February meeting of the Wamboin Community Association

..... "We are compiling a "wish list", probably a bit "pie in the sky" ...but it may pay to be prepared. We have been notified that Council is developing a plan for the use of Section 94 money from levies on new developments. The plan will include improvements to roads to cater for increased use, but also new recreational amenities and improvements to community facilities. So far we have had suggestions for an enclosed children's play area on the north side of the community hall, development of the so called "oval", a new water tank for the hall, a basketball court and recreational trails to be developed alongside roads. If you have ideas about what Wamboin really needs, come along to the next meeting and express your views!....." -- Pip Deveson (Vice President)

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Wamboin Muse


Jill Gregory

I had felt like having a rant about electronic communications and the current expectation by people, especially those in business, that everyone has a fax or internet access at their fingertips, and computer skills to match. I was going to rail against the marginalisation of the elderly and not so elderly in a society seduced by the electronic media, but suddenly that seemed inconsequential in light of the horrific events across the border. No one, especially those living in a bush environment like ours, could not be moved and horrified by the devastating fires and tragic loss of life and property in some of Victoria's most picturesque areas. It was certainly a wake up call for us. It was quite easy to become a little complacent this year with a comparatively milder summer and fewer blistering periods of desiccating northwesterlies. But it appears easy to become complacent even when conditions are extreme. I was amazed to see photos from Victoria of brave, desperate people foolishly defending their properties dressed in stobbies and "sturdy, fire proof" rubber thongs! And it seems unbelievable to think that some were caught unawares because they were plugged into their TV screens probably watching a "reality" show!

I would like to think that most of us in this area are at least aware of the unpredictability and extremes of bushfires, and I think this is largely due to the efforts of our local Bushfire Brigade. Whether it be a talk at the WOWS or an information session and demonstration at the Fire Shed last market day, there is plenty of practical information and support available to individuals. Meanwhile, I am enjoying a garden that seems to have withstood the ravages of summer. It still looks remarkably pretty and vibrant, helped by some of the salvias I bought a month or so ago at the markets that almost fell off the back of Lofty's truck. I was adding a few more to plug holes in the garden the other day when the ground beneath me collapsed. It was then I discovered that some wretched rabbits have been quietly colonising the front bed under cover of darkness. Why do they pick on me? Why don't they stay on the other side of the creek where the pickings are richer?

I wouldn't live anywhere else.....this is my little bit of paradise, but hopefully not a fools' paradise. With my new leather boots, leather gloves and goggles added to my fire readiness kit I feel **some** peace of mind..... but I'm no hero. Thank goodness for our wonderful volunteer fire fighters.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td data-bbox="965 985 1125 1108">  </td> <td data-bbox="1125 985 1284 1108">  </td> <td data-bbox="1284 985 1444 1108">  </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="965 1120 1125 1198"> Small English, Irish & Miniature Donkeys </td> <td data-bbox="1125 1120 1284 1198"> Breeding for conformation & temperament </td> <td data-bbox="1284 1120 1444 1198"> Quality Alpacas & Long Woolled Llamas </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="965 1209 1212 1377"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sales • Stud Services • After Sales Service • Workshops Donkey & Alpaca • We specialize in introducing livestock ownership to beginners </td> <td data-bbox="1212 1209 1444 1377"> <p>ALPACA MAGIC (20 mins North of Canberra) Ph/Fax (02) 6230 3311 2771 Sutton Road Sutton NSW 2620 www.alpacamagic.com.au</p> </td> </tr> </table> | |  |  |  | Small English, Irish & Miniature Donkeys | Breeding for conformation & temperament | Quality Alpacas & Long Woolled Llamas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sales • Stud Services • After Sales Service • Workshops Donkey & Alpaca • We specialize in introducing livestock ownership to beginners | | <p>ALPACA MAGIC (20 mins North of Canberra) Ph/Fax (02) 6230 3311 2771 Sutton Road Sutton NSW 2620 www.alpacamagic.com.au</p> |
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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 PalerancN cl+41 Advtsrs | 55 | David Anderson | Weeroona, Majors to Denley | 35 |
| Kathy Handel | Yalana West | 19 | Penny Evans | Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley | 25 |
| 227 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: | | | | | |
| Colleen Foster | Joe Rocks to Norton | 20 | Ph 6238 3489 | | |
| Deb Gordon | Yalana East | 41 | Rob Gorham | South End - Clare Valley | 38 |
| Cassie Fisher | Clare Lane | 11 | Axelby Family | North End - Clare Valley | 42 |
| Lyle Monetessin | Forrest Road area | 60 | Bungendore Shop | Bungendore | 10 |
| 274 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 | 12 |
| Ann Platts | Denley MacReef to Birchman's | 26 | Rhett Cox | Macs Reef /Nwngtn to Bankers | 12 |
| Nora Stewart | Rovere Lane | 7 | Morag&Guy Cotsell | MReef /Newington/Harriot (A) | 30 |
| 216 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON | | | | | |
| Trevor Kirk | Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd | 21 | Sandra Favre | MReef /Newington/Harriot (B) | 20 |
| Kevin Anderson | BungRd - McRf to Smmhl | 33 | Ph 6236 9609 | | |
| Kerrie Gougeon | BungRd - FedHy to Smmh 1 | 25 | Snowdon Family | Hogan Drive | 28 |
| Sue Aunella | Brooks Rd | 17 | Diana+Keith Gascoine | Snow Gum Road | 23 |
| TOTAL FOR WHISPER 1155 | | | | | |
| | | | Thelma Martin | Shinglehouse & Millyn | 20 |
| | | | Richard Holding | Wyoming and Doust Rds | 25 |
| | | | David Featherston | Summerhil / Creekborough | 24 |



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WILDLIFE SAFETY DOWN TO EVERYONE

by Philip Machin

Wildlife groups such as *Wildcare* and the newly formed *Native Animal Rescue Group* (NARG) based around Braidwood continue to be impressed with the interest shown by people wanting to look after our wildlife. There are more and more calls coming into their telephone help-lines for advice or to report injured animals. But there have been a few reports in the media recently that indicate a small minority of people in our community just don't get it and go out of their way to be cruel to animals. In a recent report the President of *Wildcare* mentioned a number of incidents in Queanbeyan where a kangaroo had been dragged along the road, a wallaby attacked by children, possums found with broken necks. And an incident on the Kings Highway where a dead kangaroo's feet had been removed.



There are reports of cruelty to wildlife elsewhere. In eastern Palerang, around Braidwood, wombats have been deliberately killed and their ears cut off. Lesley of Wamboin, who is a *Wildcare* member, said "some time ago a kangaroo was seen with an arrow in its back – and another arrow was discovered on a neighbouring property next to a group of alpacas! Just this week a shingleback lizard (pictured at left) was found still alive, but with what appeared to be a bullet wound in its back. Both these animals had to be euthanised."

The NSW Parks and Wildlife Service have a responsibility to protect wildlife and the Police have responsibilities to address cruelty to animals and any firearms breaches. But ultimately it is down to everyone to be vigilant and either take action to stop cruelty to animals themselves or immediately contact the police should they see something happening. It doesn't matter whether it is private or public land,

Wildlife belongs to all of us and it is protected by Law. The authorities can't be everywhere and we all need to play our part in keeping our wildlife safe. Please help to protect and save our wildlife by talking to family members, friends and neighbours if they appear to be doing the wrong thing.

If you need advice about wildlife matters contact *Wildcare* on 6299 1966 or around Braidwood contact *NARG* on 4846 1900.

Still alive, but with a bullet hole through its back

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin

34 year statistics from the Robertsons

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Feb rainfall to 21/2 -- 7.75mm | 2009 rainfall to 21/2 -- 69.25mm | Avg March rainfall -- 56.70mm |
| Feb 2008 -- 82mm | 2008 rainfall to 21/2 -- 130.25mm | March 2008....48.25mm |
| Wettest March -- 303.00mm 1989 | Wettest March day 160.00mm 15/3/89 | Driest March 0.30mm 1986 and 1998 |
| Hottest March day 35 degrees 8/3/83 | Coldest March day 13 degrees 14/3/94 | Coldest March night 3 degrees 28/3/99 |



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Notes from St Andrews

Our church in Wamboin is looking very pretty at present with the gardens in bloom – it is a lovely place for reflection. Our Sunday services have been very well attended and with the windows open the sounds of joyful hymn singing can be heard in the area.

We have just had the congregational AGM and have some lovely services planned for the year ahead. There has been some interest in the formation of a Sunday school for primary age children. If your family is interested in this please let Robyn know on the number below.

If you are new to the area you may wish to join us; services are on the 1st and 3rd Sundays beginning at 9am. Any additional information can be given by our Rectors Warden Robyn Robertson on 6238 3202.

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Letters

Skippy? Do we care.....

Last month I wrote a letter to the *Whisper* about how disappointing it was to have a few Wamboin and Bywong property owners act unilaterally to kill off our wildlife. I also mentioned the problem of firearms safety in our ever developing rural residential area.

The Queanbeyan office of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC), who issue licenses to cull wildlife, have written to say that no less than 17 licenses have been issued to property owners in our area in recent times to kill 865 kangaroos. So if your mob of kangaroos has 'disappeared', you now know why. One wonders what reasons have been

given to justify the arbitrary killing of so many kangaroos in our area – and what checks if any were made by DECC staff before issuing the license? I don't see any significant primary production taking place that would warrant eradicating all of the kangaroos in a particular location, so it must be applicants who want the last blade of brown grass for their horses and the few stock animals they may have. I doubt there is any financial hardship involved given the clapped out and rocky nature of our land.

It is clear from the contacts made to Wildcare for help and assistance that many Wamboin and Bywong residents want to live with kangaroos and other wildlife. They are thrilled to see the wonders of the natural world on their doorstep and want to help protect and look after it. It's not a big ask for everyone to be more tolerant and find ways to coexist with all of our wildlife and not simply reach for the gun. In our community setting, it surely is the height of selfishness for a few people to take unilateral action to kill off wildlife that belongs to everyone.

As for firearms safety and the ability to safely fire a weapon at the dead of night in our rural residential area..... that remains a problem. - Philip Machin, Wamboin

Note from the Editor: Phil concluded the email containing the above letter with "You could encourage others to write in on this topic - I'm sure not everyone agrees with me!"

Letter from Supporters of Richard Holding

The undersigned members of the former Palerang Progressive Group at the September 2008 Local Government election write to you in support of Richard Holding, a candidate at the 14 March by-election for the Palerang Council.

Richard is a member of the Wamboin and Bywong communities who has chosen to stand again as an Independent to represent not only these communities and the other rural residential communities but also the wider Palerang communities. We are endorsing Richard, together with other former groups, because we consider that he has the ability and qualities needed in Council right now and that he would bring to Council a balanced view of life which is neither parochial nor constrained by sectional cultures. He is well suited to the Palerang environment as he has an appreciation of rural living, from his early days on his parents' farm at Harden, and has experienced the rigours of running a series of small businesses. He participates in a number of community activities and his candidacy for Council is a natural progression from them.

Of his personal qualities, the most obvious have been his ability to listen and his willingness to consult. He thinks laterally in problem situations and is a truly independent thinker. He has a keen social conscience and a sound appreciation of issues involving the environment and social initiatives. Through his attendance at many meetings of Council he has gained a good insight into the protocols and workings of Palerang Council and he considers that he could make a meaningful contribution to the current Council, if elected.

In short, the former Palerang Progressive Group recommends Richard Holding as a suitable successor to Judith Miller for the vacant position of Councillor on the Palerang Council and encourages members from all Palerang communities to vote for him on 14 March. -- Judith Miller, Helen Montesin, John van der Straaten and Ned Noel



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WAMBOIN PRODUCE MARKETS

The February markets were very busy with added support from the residents who came early for the Brigade Information Day. 'Ye Olde Coffee Shoppe' held in the Hall extension area again drew many customers to enjoy the Wagonga brew with scones and cream. All stalls reported good sales with some selling all their produce. The 'Bread Man', a new stall selling fresh bread products proved very popular.

For more information contact Joan Mason 6238 3258.

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

**SATURDAY 21st March 2009
9AM – 12 NOON.**

Thanks to all who supported the Wamboin Market appeal for the David Balfour Trust. This Trust was set up to assist the family of the ACT fireman who lost his life helping out at the Victorian bush fires. Our market raised \$500 for this appeal.

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WWoW Whispers

by Claire Ayling

Monday mornings in Wamboin are becoming very well known in the area – follow the sounds of laughter to St Andrews Church and you will find over 30 ladies enjoying friendship and fun. Any ladies are welcome to come along and join us – the group is community based and has very little bureaucracy – ideas abound and it is really amazing what we accomplish both as a group and individually. We generally have crafty projects on the go – the latest being a scrapbooking workshop to archive all of our photographs, and the making of two quilts which are being sent down to fire ravaged Victoria. Guest speakers come along – topically this month our very own Wamboin bushfire brigade came along with their invaluable education programme ; many thanks to Peter Greenwood, Richard Hobbs and Lemmi Briedis.

Future events for March include a Palerang council sponsored event to celebrate International Women’s Day. This will be a special lunch for interested people. To cater for a larger number of people we will be holding this in the Community Hall in Bingley Way. It is on Monday March 9th beginning at midday. We are lucky enough to have a guest speaker from Wamboin , Meriel Schultz who , in keeping with the ‘women in education’ theme will be giving a talk entitled; ‘ A story told is a life shared – learning through women and their stories.’ If anyone would like to attend this lunch which is free please RSVP to Claire Ayling on 62383347 by Wednesday March 4th.

Other events for the month include the Monday and Friday walking groups (including a Clean Up Australia day on 2 March), the beginning of Thursday golf days, and the great overseas adventure to Bali. In the planning stages are Italian cooking classes, a weekend quilting workshop and also a beading workshop.

The primary purpose of the group is to meet other ladies from the area and to make the most of this great community. For any further information or to RSVP for the International Women’s Day lunch feel free to contact Claire Ayling on 62383347



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WCA Electronic Noticeboard – Residents are continuing to subscribe to the noticeboard. It is a great way to keep up with issues of community interest and I encourage everybody to subscribe. To subscribe, simply send an email message (doesn't need any subject or content) to Wamboin_Noticeboard-subscribe@yahoo.com.au. The Whisper is available for downloading on the noticeboard, and also from www.bywongcommunity.org and at www.thewhisper.freehosting.net

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Advertising rates: Full Page - \$100 Half Pg - \$50 1/3 Pg \$35 1/4 Pg - \$30 1/5 Pg - \$25 1/6 Pg - \$20 1/8 Pg - \$15

FOR HIRE from the Wamboin Community Association: GAS BBQ - Party Size, Portable, \$30 (includes gas) together with \$30 cleaning bond, both payable on collection. Cleaning bond will be refunded if BBQ is returned clean. Enquiries - Joan Mason 62 383 258.

Trestles and chairs are available for hire by local residents. Hire rates are: Trestle \$10ea and chairs \$1.50 ea. Price does not include delivery or pick-up charges. Available from the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way. Must be returned in clean servicable condition. All damages are responsibility of the hirer. Equipment must be tied securely on trailer etc. when taken (otherwise they don't go.) Time of pick-up and returned MUST be adhered to (I don't live at the Hall!) -Joan Mason, 62383258.

FOR HIRE: WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL. Bookings arranged by Joan Mason 6238 3258. Local Residents \$75, Bond \$250. Non-Resident \$130, Bond \$300. The Hall is not available for teenage or 21st. functions.

FOR HIRE: BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL. Suitable for smaller functions and seminars, groups etc. Check availability and booking information on www.bywongcommunity.org.au.

The Whisper is a community newspaper for Wamboin and Bywong. If you live in the area and have something to say about living here that is informative, thoughtful or entertaining, think about writing it up for the next issue. For more information contact the editor on 6238-3484 or email nednoel@optusnet.com.au. And thanks if you have already done so.

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Golf

Record temperatures saw well over half the field opt for the 9 hole competition on 1st Feb. The event was sponsored by the John and Lisa Whitney with assistance from Matilda and Jack and we thank the family for their sponsorship.

The Junior event was kept in the family with Jack Whitney the winner but in true sponsor tradition his winning prize was passed to Rachel Schroder as an encouragement trophy.

Best result from a visitor was a 73 net 67 from Murray Gough which is a score in Wamboin Open winning territory! Nearest the pin and long drive prizes were won by; John Whitney, Jack Whitney, Larry King x3, Nev Schroder and Tim Barter.

The 9 hole comp was won by Keith France 37/28, Larry King in second with 44/30 and John Whitney passed his own sponsors third prize to next in line, Nev Schroder.

The 18 hole event was won by Tim Barter with a handicap ruining score of 77/57, second Murray Gough 73/67 and third place went to Iain Barter with a 91/68. -- Golf enquiries to Peter Greenwood 6238 3358

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Les Reardon Reserve and its Community Hall

by Suzanne Ridley

Page 5 of the Whisper for February 2009 needs quite a lot of corrections.

Thank you for offering me space to make these. Gearys Gap Pony Club last year celebrated its 30th birthday and from the many letters received, and the number of old members who turned up to join in the celebrations held with the Zone 16s 50th birthday party, it is evident that many people have fond memories of the early days. The foundations laid then have left their mark, I believe, on both the Pony Club and the community.

My husband Brian and I bought a block on Creekborough Road in 1974 and moved into our house in October 1976. After entertaining up to a dozen children with their ponies at weekends we called a public meeting in 1977 to suggest forming a pony club. Gearys Gap Pony Club was affiliated with the Pony Club Association of NSW in 1978. The foundation families were listed as Carpenter, Donald, Gamble, Maguire, Nash, Ridley, Thompson and Salmon. These were quickly joined by the Burbidges, Eves, Lees and others.

By 1979 there were over 20 families. Rallies were held at our place, then the Donalds, then the Maguires. The search for club grounds began straight away.

Les Reardon, while he did much to help us, did not donate the land where the club now meets. After watching several suitable pieces of crown land alienated and sold we (of the Pony Club) asked the Yarrowlumla Shire Council to buy us a piece of land. At this stage there were no other community groups looking for land or any other form of council assistance.

A deal was done with the developer at Birriwa Road whereby the Council put in the roads at the subdivision in return for a block of land for the Pony Club. The Environmental Design School at the University of Canberra was recruited to plan the grounds. During the process of public consultation, people living in the area, including some from the Pony Club, suggested that the land should be made available for wider community use, and that perhaps the club house proposed by the Pony Club should be a community hall. The plaque above the entrance doors to the hall attests to the fact that hall and grounds were granted by Council for the use of the Gearys Gap community. However, later, when Council needed to advise the Geographic Names Board of many locality names fast emerging with subdivisions, the group by then managing the hall called the area Bywong.

The push for land came from the Pony Club. There was no community of Bywong until after the land was obtained, unless it was an area across the Highway in Yass Shire centered on Bywong Station. Councillor Les Reardon worked with the Pony Club to obtain the land, and it was he who many years earlier had suggested that either Gearys Gap or Newington would be the most historically correct names for the Club. If Les Reardon had given the land I believe he would certainly not have called it Bywong! The land was taken over as public land by Yarrowlumla Shire Council and a s.355 Committee set up to care for it. The rationale from the Council was that the Reserve be for activities for which people could walk or ride (bicycles or horses) to the Reserve. If you needed to get into a car to join whatever was to be available, then we were asked to gravitate to Bungendore or Sutton to avoid the duplication of facilities like tennis courts which might not be viable with a smaller catchment. The Reserve also has a strong link with the Greenways.

Anyway, let us enjoy what we have got! I just thought my fellow Northern readers of the Whisper might like a little history from the early days.

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