

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

April 2009 CIRCULATION: 1130

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 May 2009 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, April 26, 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.

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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
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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
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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
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Christian Prayer Group	Steve & Imelda Taylor	Contacts	6238-3220
KYB Bible Study Group	Amanda Axelby	Contact	6238-0871
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Lake George Day VIEW Club	Pauline Segeri	Contact	6238-1996
Wamboin Bookgroup	Alice Scott	Secretary	6238 3178

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Rebecca Purdie, petsitting	6238-3343
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Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs

Wamboin Community Association Executive – At the recent AGM, the existing executive was re-elected with the addition of two new committee members: Jenny Richards and Christopher Kruger. Along with Jenny and Christopher, our hardworking committee consists of John van der Straaten (secretary), Keith France (treasurer), Rhona Gillespie (vice-president), Pete Harrison (vice-president) and Helen Montesin (president). I'd like to welcome Jenny and Christopher and thank the rest of the committee for their continued support.

Palerang Council By-election – Congratulations to Anne Goonan on her win in the recent by-election and thanks to Richard Holding and Mark Horan for standing as candidates. The close result is a reflection of the regard with which these three people are held within the Palerang community. The WCA looks forward to working closely with Anne, as we do with the rest of Council.

Clean-up Australia Day – Many thanks to the diligent residents who helped out to clean up our little piece of Australia on the recent Clean-up Australia Day.

Waste Management – John van der Straaten and Keith France attended a Council workshop with representatives from Bywong Community Association and Sutton to review the Waste Management Strategy and consider the possibility of a transfer station at the Macs Reef tip site. The issue is on the agenda for the Council meeting on 2nd April. See John's article later in the Whisper for details.

Wamboin Produce Markets – The next markets will be on **18th April** 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.

Wamboin Community Association – The next meeting will be on **21st April at 7:30pm at the Wamboin Community Hall**. Everyone is most welcome to attend. WCA meetings are a good way to catch up with what is happening in the area and have input into shaping our future.

Emergency Management Information Session – An information session by members of the Lake George Emergency Management Committee is planned for **19th May**. 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@yahooogroups.com.au. The Wamboin Whisper is now available on the electronic noticeboard.

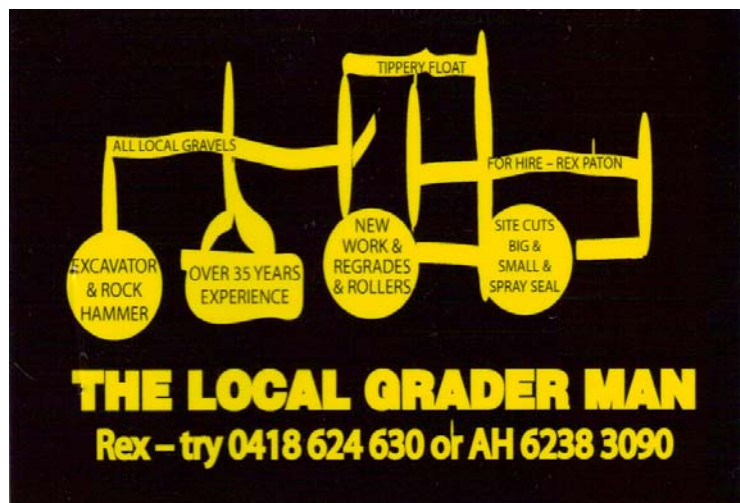
Calendar of events – If you have any events that you would like included in May's Whisper, please contact John van der Straaten (ph: 6238 3590).

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

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Bywong Community News

Another very busy month for the Bywong Community starting with the Clean Up Australia Day on 1 March, a waste management workshop with Council on 19th March and the Car Boot Sale on Sunday 29th March. I would like to thank our hard-working committee who have all excelled themselves this month.

Clean-Up Australia Day – what a load of rubbish!

Thanks to the 45 or so people worked hard to clear our main roads of rubbish and it was nice to see all those who attended the BBQ at the Hall afterwards. Very special thanks to the angel Jenny Johnston who so efficiently organized everyone with their bags, water and sunscreen.

Macs Reef Road Tip Closure – Community Consultation

Macs Reef Road tip is due to close this year with the current option for residents of this area to take waste to the new Bungendore waste management transfer station. In January, Council agreed to discuss consulting with our community to discuss the possibility of a locally-sited option. Representatives of Bywong, Wamboin and Sutton Community Associations met with Council on Thursday 19th March to commence discussions about waste management options for our locality. The preferred option being put forward by the communities was to rehabilitate the Macs Reef site and make this into a full waste transfer station. Council management are pushing kerbside collection, which we believe is not practical or cost-effective. (A full report of the outcomes of the 19th March workshop are on our website www.bywongcommunity.org.au – thanks to Jim Greethead)

Council will discuss this further at their next meeting on **2 April** and we are looking forward to fuller consultation with the community. **We have been collecting your views via a short survey – please contact us if you would like your views put forward.**

Upgrade to Bywong Community Hall at Les Reardon Reserve

The Les Reardon Reserve Committee is working hard to progress the Federally funded project for additional toilets for the Hall. The Committee is developing a list of priorities of other repairs and improvements to the Hall in order to be able to take



advantage of other public funding that is available now. The Hall is available for hire, the grounds are open to the public and lead to the Greenways and the community arena up behind the Hall is available to local people to use with their horses.

Bywong Gold Mine Sale

The Association has written to the NSW Dept of Lands in Goulburn to get confirmation about the sale of the Bywong Gold Mine, and what this may mean for the area.

Bywong Car Boot Sale – What a cracker!

The Bywong Community car boot sale last Sunday 29th March had a cool start to the morning that quickly became hot, with the usual coating of Bywong dust courtesy of our four-legged friends. This was probably our biggest and most successful event to date with about 120 sellers taking part resulting around \$4000 raised for the community.

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

Café D Lish, O'Donohue Pastoral Improvements, Edit Express, Lamberts Winery, Robert Langford Design, Tulip Top Gardens, O'Sullivan Rural Waste, Southern Cross Computing, Wagonga Coffee and YLESS4U.

Thanks to our very willing and able Wamboin Fire Brigade for excellent work at parking, collecting money, running the BBQ and giving useful information and demonstrations about all things fire, thank-you. Thanks also to all at the Geary's Gap Pony Club for their great work with the refreshments stall and also for their eventing display in the arena. Thanks also go to the K-9 Crusaders Flyball Dog team who came from Queanbeyan to entertain us with their energetic and dusty dog show.

Thank-you also to the many individual volunteers who gave their time to help distributing flyers, putting up signs, selling raffle tickets, making announcements, collecting and counting money, cleaning the reserve and the hall. Special thanks also to Alex Colquitt from Lake FM radio who provided music for us to stomp in the dust..!





Biggest thanks are reserved for our hard-working organising committee – Bernie Greethead, Morag Cotsell and Anne Goonan – Anne who somehow found time to organize sponsorships in between getting elected! These women worked particularly hard this year and I am extremely grateful.

We look forward to more successful community events and would like your ideas, suggestions and help for other events, clubs or whatever you would like to see locally. We also appreciate help!!

Nora Stewart, President on behalf of the Bywong Community Association, 6230-3305
or nora@setdancing.com.au **Bywong**
Website: www.bywongcommunity.org.au

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CARING FOR WILDLIFE?

by Philip Machin

Wildcare and the Native Animal Rescue Group (NARG), which operates around Braidwood, often come across orphaned and injured animals that have been handed in after being cared for by members of the public. But in practice it is not so easy to raise or keep alive an animal without specialist knowledge and training. Many mammals, including kangaroos and



wombats, need a particular milk formula and this has to be given at certain times of the day in exact quantities. There is also the need for the right environment, medication and other supplementary food. It's no good using cow's milk, as this will totally upset an animal's digestive system and cause further problems. Similarly reptiles, such as lizards, need a particular diet and housing to thrive. Birds can quickly die if they are not treated correctly.

By Law members of the public have to hand over wildlife to a reputable agency, such as a licensed wildlife group or a Parks and Wildlife ranger and within a couple of days. Unless licensed by the NSW Government it is illegal to keep wildlife. And for good reason. As well as providing the right food and housing, wildlife carers need the skills to 'train' animals to get them ready for eventual release back into the wild. Baby animals tend to grow quite large and eventually they become unmanageable. Large animals that have been hand-raised the wrong way will have little chance to be rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

The best approach is to join the local wildlife group and find out how to do things properly. Rescuing, caring for and releasing orphaned and injured animals is immensely rewarding, so why not get onboard?

Wildcare is available to give advice and help sort out injured and rescued wildlife, so get in touch and call 6299 1966, 24 hours a day. NARG can be contacted on 4846 1900.

Photo: *Harry at three kilos was picked up by a truck driver and is now in care*

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Letter from Anne Goonan

On Tuesday 17th March I was declared elected to Palerang Council. All three candidates contested this election well, and I congratulate Richard and Mark on their efforts. I would like to thank voters for their support and trust. I am particularly grateful to those who raised their voices in my support, and put themselves 'out there' for me. In close communities it can be a 'big ask' to publicly indicate one's 'political views' and I sincerely appreciate the efforts they made on my behalf, through letters of support, manning polling booths, or hosting the dreaded corflute signs! I also thank my family for their input during the election period and their ongoing support.

It is difficult when candidate ideologies are so similar and yet so different. Primary votes for the three candidates were quite evenly spread - 2,556 2,394 2,276. This would indicate that the voters in Palerang were almost equally divided in their views of what is important. Given that we three were all independent candidates –where were the differences? Leaving the gender issue aside, and the locality connections....it seems to me that the most important thing is the need for a balanced analysis of each issue – within the guidelines that underpin the decision making process, and the overarching legislation that directs such evaluation. This is closely followed by the essential elements of sustainability and the 'green' view, continued consideration of the farming sector and their particular needs, and finally the view that not all development is bad.


As promised, I will judge each issue carefully and consult with you as much as possible, doing my level best to represent you, the community.

I will keep my promise to communicate with you (Thanks Ned for this opportunity!).

I now have a Council email address (anne.goonan@palerang.nsw.gov.au) as well as a mobile phone (0404 923 472) and will make a point of getting to Community meetings/events as frequently as possible.

I look forward to the challenges ahead, and with your help, the opportunity to know and serve the Palerang community well.

- Anne



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BYWONG COMMUNITY CAR BOOT SALE

Here is the list of the winners of the raffle drawn at the Bywong Community Car Boot Sale on Sunday 29 March.

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2. Lambert's Vineyard restaurant -Dinner for two with wine – value \$100	Elizabeth Pickup
3. Set Top Box Digital TV - value \$100	Jim Deacon
4. Digital Camera - value \$100	Olivia
5. Apple Ipod Shuffle - value \$70	Whitney
6. Apple Ipod Shuffle - value \$70	Don Cameron
7. Chocolates – value \$40	Tony Beard
8. Chocolates – value \$40	Pam Baker
9. Chocolates – value \$40	Matt Goonan
10. Chocolates - \$40	Lexie Wise
11. Easter basket (Phillips Amusements)	Alan Honey

The Bywong Community Association would like to thank the following local sponsors who were so generous in their support: Flames Fitness, Café Delish, O'Donoghue Pasture Improvement, Southern Cross Computing, Tulip Top Gardens, Robert Langford Design, Edit Express, O'Sullivan Rural Waste, YLESS4U, Lambert Vineyards, Wagonga Coffee and Phillips Amusements. - Bernardette Greethead

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Wamboin Pony Club News – March 2009

It has been a very busy start to the year for Wamboin Pony Club members. Whilst the year did not officially start until our first rally day on 8 February, we had already had quite a few members competing or participating out and about the region. Ceilidh Armer (Eventing) and Lauren Slater (Mounted Games) both were selected to attend the State Pony Club camp held each year in January over a week in Sydney. Both riders received the benefit of intensive coaching from some of the top level coaches in the country. Also in January, quite a few of our younger riders participated at the Bungendore Show, with some great results – Rebecca Williams, Tyla Harris and Sammy Quick all took home rosettes.

February saw the start of Pony Club events for 2009, the first competitions being sporting events. Wamboin PC has always performed well in this field and results this year have continued in the same vein. At the Michelago Sporting Spectacular, Jack Durr came away with the Highpoint Award for his age group, as did Lauren Slater for her age division. 10 riders from the club attended the Zone 16 Sporting Championships. Two riders won their age championship – Lauren & Katie Slater and many riders attending their first sporting championship had some great results:

- Victoria Evans qualified for all 3 finals in the Under 11 age group
- Amy Evans achieved some very fast times in a number of events
- Andrea Thompson qualified for a final in her age group
- Rebecca Moore qualified for a final in her age group.

The team of Jack Durr, Penny, Lauren & Katie Slater won the Club Teams Competition as Wamboin Blue and the Wamboin White Team of Ally Durr, Victoria & Amy Evans placed 9th overall.

March is the month for Show Jumping, and again a strong contingent of Wamboin riders were out representing their club at the Zone 16 competitions. Two types of show

jumping competitions were held, jumping equitation (which is like dressage but over jumps) and the more well known show jumping. Just two riders were able to represent the Club at the Equitation day, being held on a Saturday. Lauren and Penny Slater received some good scores from the Judges and Penny received the Reserve Champion in the 60cm grade. The following day was the Show Jumping Championships and nine Wamboin riders took part. In the 45cm grade, Laura Worden and Victoria Evans ended the day on equal points for the Champion, so on a count back to separate them, Laura won out as the E Grade Champion and Victoria picked up the Reserve Champion. In the 60cm grade both Penny Slater and Amy Evans performed well, both taking home some awards. In the 75cm grade, Lauren Slater had some very good results to finish 3rd overall in that Grade.



In the 85cm grade Nicole Smith in her first competition at this height rode consistently to finish 6th overall.

(Pictured: Jess Baldwin and Laura Worden with the Zone 16 Hoofbeats Show Jumping Trophy)

In the teams Show Jumping competition for the Hoofbeats Trophy (which has been awarded since 1977), Wamboin took out first and fourth place. Winning the trophy, for the first time ever for Wamboin, was the team of Laura Worden, Lauren Slater and Jess Baldwin. Finishing in fourth place was the team of Victoria Evans, Penny Slater, Nicole Smith and Brodie Worden. That's two out of three Zone 16 Team Competitions won by Wamboin Pony Club, pretty impressive for a club of 30 riders (you might note the writer is quite proud, being Club President and all!).

Out of the saddle and the Wamboin Club has also had a win or two. The club was successful in securing a funding grant from the Veolia Mulwaree Trust for a two year program of improvements to facilities at the Club grounds in Canning Close. A sum just shy of \$9,000 was granted to the club and a large percentage of this figure will be spent on improvements to the club house. Of course, this will not happen without many hours of volunteer work from our parents and friends. Work has commenced and the Club members are very grateful for the support from the Veolia Mulwaree Trust for this project which will see the Club able to extend the programs we can offer our members. The Club executive has also resurrected the Sect 355 Reserve Committee through the Palerang Council and it is hoped that the Council, who owns the land and benefits from all the improvements the Club makes on it, will be able to support some improvement work also. Members of the broader Wamboin Community might not realise that the Reserve which is the home of the Wamboin Pony Club, is one of the few around without electricity, which just goes to show just how resourceful we are at catering and providing for activities for our members at our grounds.

Til next time, watch out for your local champion pony club riders around Wamboin, they really are a talented group of young people! And if you pass them riding along the local roads, please slow down, 80km an hour is way too fast to be passing riders on horses – even our champion Wamboin horses and ponies can be unpredictable on occasion so please drive safely and with caution and a lot less speed when riders are on the road edge, that way everyone will be guaranteed of getting home safely.



Notes from St Andrews

Advance notice for services this month;

Palm Sunday – 5th April Good Friday – 10th April Easter Sunday – 12th April Holy Communion – 19th April

We look forward to seeing locals and visitors alike for the celebration of Easter – the service is always a memorable one. Also the new Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn will be visiting Wamboin for one of our services in May – let's hope we have some rain before then so he can see what a wonderful place Wamboin is!

Any added information can be had from the Rector's Warden; Robyn Robertson on 6238-3202.

<p><i>Something Special</i> at Annie's <i>Collectables</i></p> <p>39 Cooper Road, WAMBOIN NSW 2620</p> <p>OPEN SAT., SUN. and PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 10.30 am to 4.30 pm</p> <p><i>Joyce Nordsvan</i> Ph. 02 6238 3284 0408 103 209</p>  <p>Find that Something Special at Annie's Collectables 39 Cooper Road, WAMBOIN NSW 2620</p> <p>Drop in and have a look at our cute egg cups in time for Easter – We'll even include an Easter Egg to go with it. We have some beautiful new items including stunning Shelley, wonderful Wedgwood, and delightful Doulton. As well as hand blown glass and crystal perfume bottles, an extensive range of salt cellars and gorgeous Italian glass. We've got beautiful vintage evening bags and purses and have also added to our group of Asian items including snuff bottles, figurines, egg shell china and clay pipes. And don't forget our decanters – including Waterford and Doulton.</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px;">  <h1 style="text-align: center;">NICO'S</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">@ KOONABURRA VINEYARD</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>WINE HARVEST FESTIVAL</i> 4TH & 5TH APRIL 2009</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*TWO COURSE LUNCH \$35 PER PERSON PLUS DRINKS *LIVE MUSIC BOTH DAYS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RESTAURANT</u> OPEN FOR LUNCH SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS 1200 UNTIL 1500 (BOOKINGS RECOMMENDED)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CELLAR DOOR</u> OPEN FOR WINE TASTING THURSDAYS TO MONDAYS 1000 UNTIL 1700</p> <p style="text-align: center;">44 SUMMERHILL ROAD BYWONG NSW 2621 PHONE: 02 62369019 FAX: 02 62369029 EMAIL: koonaburrvineyard@hotmail.com</p> </div>
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WWoW Whispers

by Claire Ayling

The WWows have succeeded this month in putting Wamboin on the international stage.

We hosted the Palerang International Women's Day lunch which was sponsored by the State Government. Although it required a lot of planning and work on the day, it was a lovely, happy occasion and we welcomed visitors from all over the Shire. Meriel Schultz gave a very interesting talk about the benefits of storytelling particularly when used with drug, alcohol and mental health issues. The Community Hall in Bingley Way looked very festive and the lunch was delicious. Thanks to all of the WWoWs who worked so hard to make it a success.

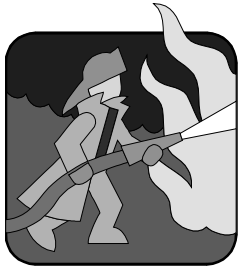


On the 16th of March twelve WWOWs departed for their first overseas trip. We left for a week in beautiful Bali. So much fun and laughter was enjoyed, I'm surprised we couldn't be heard in Wamboin. We spent our time sightseeing, shopping, enjoying massages on the beach, swimming in the beautiful resort pools and enjoying the lovely food and cocktails. The rumours about the inaugural formation of the WWoWs synchronised swimming team are all true – we just need quite a lot more practice before the next Olympics!!

Newcomers are most welcome to come along – we meet at 10am in St Andrews Church. We have some crafty projects in the pipeline as well as a trip to Sydney, and a quilt workshop with award winning quilter Fiona Hammond. In actual fact, we have almost too many ideas to fit into the year, but that's maybe because we have so much fun, things take twice as long to complete!

If any extra information is required or if anyone has a brilliant idea for a WWoW happening please phone Claire Ayling on 62383347.

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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 BEEN EXTENDED TO 30 APRIL 2009. 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



Due to the low rainfall, the expected weather conditions over the next few weeks and the conditions in the grasslands and forests in our area, the fire danger period or fire season has been extended to the 30th of April 2009. Apart from continuing to be alert to the risks of bushfires, fire permits will still be needed if you intend having a burn off during April. If the fire danger levels remain high during April and you have vegetation you need to remove, please consider removing it first before thinking about a fire permit. The account of the recent grass fire below will help you understand the reluctance to issue the permits.

A few weeks ago, at about 4pm one Sunday afternoon, many brigades in our Zone were called to a grass fire on a property just outside Bungendore along the road to Tarago. While the cause of the fire is as yet unclear, the speed of the outbreak was a real concern. The first crews on the scene were able to slow the spread of the fire and prevent it from reaching some reasonably heavily wooded areas. If the fire had not been stopped at that point it would have been a little difficult to contain. The crews following quickly behind the first tankers on the scene then spent the rest of the day getting the remainder of the fire under control. It took a further two days patrolling the fireground to ensure the fire had been completely blacked out. The fire spread over an area approximately 1.5kms long and varied in width from 500 metres to 800 metres.

A week or so before the major grass fire your brigade was called out to attend to another grass fire in Bywong. The message below is an old one but is still relevant today.

On the last Sunday in March your brigade helped the Bywong Community Association with the now famous Bywong Car Boot Sale. As well as helping out organise the parking for both sellers and buyers, it was a great opportunity to demonstrate how to extinguish a typical kitchen fire as well providing a lot of information about protecting properties and preparing yourself and your family if a fire threatens the property.

During the next few weeks a letter will be delivered to your mailbox explaining the activities your brigade has been involved in since we last wrote to residents almost two years ago. The letter also explains that the brigade is seeking donations to help build or purchase a number of important things that will help your brigade better serve and protect our community.

THE CAPTAIN'S LIST	Businesses supporting the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	
A'Hern Fitness at the Airport	Cosmorex Coffee	Priam Australia
AAA Water Carriers	Cross Country Construction	Quick-Eze Towing
Anytime Backhoe Hire	Eagle Hawk Hotel & Social Club	Ratz Mobile Welding
B & B Tree Surgery	Eureka Plants Pty Ltd	So Good Sausages Pty Ltd
Bingley Contractors (Water Carriers)	Horizon Real Estate	Sotech Pty Ltd
Bungendore Rural	FH Office Services	Shepherds Run Wines
Bungendore Taxi Service	France Harrison & Associates	Sherrin Hire
Café D'Lish (Deakin)	Gough Watson Business Services	Sutton Real Estate
Capital Business Services	Inland Trading Co (Aust)	Tipton Shopfitters Pty Ltd
Capital Stainless Steel	Lambert Vineyards	Trevor Barker & Associates
Clare Valley Tree Services	Leapfrog Leadership	Trevor Duncan Homes
Coates Hire, Fyshwick	LMS Consulting	Wagonga Coffee
Congari Bookkeeping & Business Services	Manuka Childcare Centre	Westpac Banking Corporation
Coolah Holdings Pty Ltd	Marloc Engineering	YLess4U
	Overdene Excavations Pty Ltd	

CUT THE DRY GRASS IN YOUR PADDOCKS OR HOUSE YARD BEFORE 10AM AND

WHEN YOU USE



OR

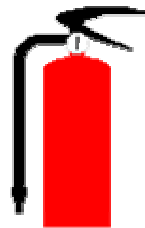


CARRY



A knapsack
spray
containing
at least 20
litres of
water

OR



A pressurised
water
extinguisher
containing at
least 9 litres
of water

TO STOP



As daylight saving ends this month, try this quick quiz.

What do the images below mean for you and which one needs to have the batteries changed?



Possible answers:

1. I can ignore them because I have them all installed in my house and/or shed and everyone in my household knows what they are.
2. I know what they are but I didn't know they needed batteries!
3. The picture in the middle was the thing that let us know when the toast was ready, but things are quieter now that we took the batteries out!
4. I know what they are and have been planning to get some soon!

Seriously though, in case the pictures don't mean anything to you, they are, from left to right, a fire blanket (batteries are not needed), a smoke alarm (which does need batteries) and a fire extinguisher (batteries are not needed). The point is – **REMEMBER TO CHANGE THE BATTERIES IN ALL SMOKE ALARMS FITTED IN YOUR HOUSE OR SHED.** If you have smoke alarms fitted but don't have a fire blanket or fire extinguisher in or near your kitchen or other places where a fire could start, why not get one? We do not promote or endorse any particular brand of these devices, except to say, make sure whatever one you choose complies with the relevant Australian Standard.

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

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.

158 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
279 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:		Ph 6238 3463		
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 PalarancCncl+41Advertisers	55	Penny Evans	Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley 25
Kathy Handel	Yalana West	19		
222 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER:		Ph 6238 3489		
Colleen Foster	Joe Rocks to Norton	20		
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
256 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:		Ph 6238 3590		
Sheryl Barnes	Denley/Kestral to End	20	Brian Higgison	Deley/Birchmans – Kestral 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
Robert&Marzena Luton	Sutton/Goolabri Area	40	Phil&Pam Dawes	Donelly Rd & Lane 20
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Lane	6	Joan Milnor	Birriwa & MacsReef(GmFlt-Harr) 30
Ian&Esther Rudd	MacsReef (Bankers-FedHiway)	26		
215 CO-ORDINATED BY LAURA SNOWDON		Ph 6236 9609		
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	Snowdon Family	Hogan Drive 28
Kevin Anderson	BungRd – McRf to Smmhl	33	Diana+Keith Gascoine	Snow Gum Road 23
Kerrie Gougeon	BungRd – FedHy to Smmh 1	25	Thelma Martin	Shinglehouse & Millyn 20
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	17	Richard Holding	Wyoming and Doust Rds 25
	TOTAL FOR WHISPER 1130		David Featherston	Summerhil / Creekborough 24



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Wamboin 15 years ago: from the Whisper, April 1994, Circulation:380, by Robyn Robertson

From the Wamboin Community Association report from the March meeting

"....A major concern brought up by Clare Valley residents was their strong desire for the completion of the short section of road which will link them to the rest of Norton Road.".....

and from Councillor Peter Greenwood's "Yarrowlumla Council News"

..."Council has been building up funds for the much-needed construction of the Norton Road link between Clare Valley and Yalana and the meeting(of Council held at WC Hall on 22 March) was advised that we are very close to having enough funds to construct an unsealed link, hopefully before the end of the year."



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WAMBOIN GOLF CLUB – MARCH COMPETITION RESULTS

The March game was an Ambrose event which was generously sponsored by Robert and Marylou Gorham and Step to Step Couriers. The game was played as a nine hole competition with a few of the golfers soldiering on in the heat to complete the full 18 holes. Six teams competed for heaps of prizes and every player went home with something.

Third place went to Lisa, Jack and John Whitney with a team stroke score of 25.3, second place went to Dave, Joanne, Dean and Tom Argæet with 24.3 and the winning team of Rachel (team Captain) and Neville Schroder with Keith France and Dave Hubbard came in with a score of 22.8 - - - and a great time was had by all.

- Enquiries to Peter Greenwood 6238-3358

New Councillor Can Spell, Whisper Editor Can't

In the March Whisper, in the heading for Anne Goonan's page, I added a title, and misspelled "By-Election" writing it as "Bi-Election." - Ned Noel

Rainfall and Temperature in Wamboin

34 year statistics from the Robertsons

March rainfall to 29/3 -- 10.75mm

2009 rainfall to 29/3 -- 86.00mm

Av April rainfall -- 45.60mm

Wettest April -- 174.50mm (1989)

Driest April -- 0.50mm (1997)

Coldest April day -- 10 degrees (9 times)

Coldest Aprilnight -- 0 degrees (27/4/99 and 23/4/06)

March rainfall 2008 -- 48.25mm

2008 rainfall -- 178.50mm

April 2008 -- 19.00mm

Wettest April -- 174.50mm (1989)

Wettest April day -- 42.00mm (13/4/94 and 5/4/99)

Hottest April day -- 28 degrees (3/4/86)

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FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR WAMBOIN

by John van der Straaten, Secretary, Wamboin Community Association. (6238 3590)

You might recall that in the February edition of the Whisper, I provided an account of representations from the Wamboin and Bywong Community Associations to Palerang Council for a review of the Council's Waste Management Strategic Plan to enable the establishment of an appropriate transfer station at the Macs Reef tip site.

Further representations were made to the February Meeting of Council and Councillors resolved that community consultations be held with representatives from the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Community Associations. Councillors sought a report following these consultations on whether Palerang should develop a seventh transfer station at Macs Reef tip and directed that the report should indicate the scale of transfer station needed and the timetable for its construction.

Representatives from the three Associations quickly met to consider options for this consultation with Council and all agreed that the communities had clearly expressed a preference for a transfer station at the Macs Reef tip site; there was to be no loss of amenities to the residents, ie. the landfill operation would continue until the transfer station is operational and; the capital costs for the transfer station would be shared Palerang-wide.

A Waste Management Workshop was organised by Council staff for 19 March which was attended by most Councillors, Council's Director Infrastructure Planning and two representatives each from the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Community Associations. Council's preferred option, on the closure of the Macs Reef tip, was for all residents of the communities to take all their waste to the Bungendore transfer station. However, other options proposed by Council were for a kerbside collection service for household waste and co-mingled recyclable materials with all other material being taken to Bungendore; a small transfer station for hand waste only with co-mingled recyclables and all other material again being taken to Bungendore and; a full resource recovery transfer station duplicating the Bungendore transfer station.

The community representatives considered that none of the Council's proposals was suitable in the form presented and instead proposed that Council develop a transfer station, Option 3 in the Strategic Plan, which had been recommended for Captains Flat and the other transfer stations. It was essentially Council's third option with additional facilities adding little cost but providing significantly better waste disposal arrangements. It was envisaged that the transfer station would comprise an elevated covered platform from which residents would drop off their waste; skips for recyclables (glass, plastics, paper/cardboard, etc); specified locations for white goods/metal, oil, batteries, electronic goods and green waste. All building materials, chemicals, soil/fill, motor vehicles, etc would be taken to Bungendore.

The discussion between Council staff, Councillors and community representatives was searching and at times rigorous as the options were thoroughly considered and evaluated in the context of an essential community amenity. Councillors and Council staff were clearly made aware that the options for the transport of regular waste from Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton (part) to Bungendore and a kerbside collection service were unacceptable to most residents. The Option 3 style transfer station was considered to be a practical option for the area and could be developed to employ best practice for a waste management system into the future.

Palerang Council's Director Infrastructure and Planning currently is preparing a report to Council. I understand that this report will be available on Council's website and from Council's Office before it is considered by Councillors at a Council Meeting.



SHEPHERDS RUN

Italian Cooking Classes (basic)

We still have a small number of vacancies for the Italian cooking course, expertly run by Mario Larocca and Alice.

Our first class started on 30 March but you would only miss one class of the six in the series.

Dates are 6 April, 20 April, 27 April, 4 May, and 11 May

Cost is \$275 for the course including food (you save \$55!)

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Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare

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Next Plant Sale – Wamboin Market 18 April. The Bywong Car Boot Sale was a big success, with about 450 plants being sold.

Propagation sessions are held on the first Saturday of each month at 38 Birchmans Grove, 9am – 11am; enquiries to Geoff on gbu22182@bigpond.net.au or ph 62369158. The next sessions will be on **4 April and 2 May**.

Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) courses. To obtain information about these, you must be on our Landcare mailing list. However, they are not necessarily Landcare sponsored projects. All enquiries to CMA.

Native Grass workshops Day 1: Native Grass Harvesting - The agricultural application of native grasses.
Day 2: Site Rehabilitation using Native Grasses.

The workshops will be held at Queanbeyan: April 21 & 23, and Cooma: May 26 & 28. You can attend one or both of the one-day workshops. The workshops are free thanks to the Murrumbidgee CMA, but places are limited. For further information or to register, please contact Felicity Collins on 02 6452 4150 or felicity.collins@cma.nsw.gov.au

Land Manager/Holder Training. Land Managers/ Holders in the Murrumbidgee Catchment are encouraged to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) form to be eligible for training opportunities being offered by the CMA. The EOI form and more information on these training courses is available at www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au Funding is limited and EOI's will be considered in the order in which they are received.

Planting tip: Around each new plant, create a bowl large enough to hold a bucket of water. Alternatively, dig a small trench just uphill to collect rainfall or pour your water into. Water every week for the first month – the water will sink down to the root level, and the plant may not need watering after that.

-- Kathy Handel, ph 6238 3596, email: kukinya@bigpond.com




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Kangaroos

by Mike Barnes, Denley Drive

In response to a letter by Phil Machin in the last Whisper.

In the last Wamboin Whisper, you asked others in the district to comment on the local culling of kangaroos by shooting. I have the privilege of living on 40 acres in Wamboin and do not have a firearm. I was brought up on the land in outback Queensland on a sheep and cattle station where wild pigs, emus, dingoes, kangaroos and a host of other fauna abounded. In its natural state, temporary water holes existed along some of the larger creek beds but by enlarge, surface water did not exist most of the year. Then along came white man with his big crawler tractors and pulled large areas of native eucalypt forest with huge chains and dug dams across the creeks. Grasses grew where trees once stood and near permanent water now appeared every few kilometers. What happened next? Rabbit and kangaroo numbers exploded. Eventually, myxomatosis killed off most of the rabbits and the dingoes and foxes took most of the rest. But the kangaroos continued to breed. Where their numbers were once controlled by the natural agents of food supply and access to water, no such boundaries now existed. That is, until the next drought. Huge numbers of kangaroos died of hunger around dried up water holes and dams.

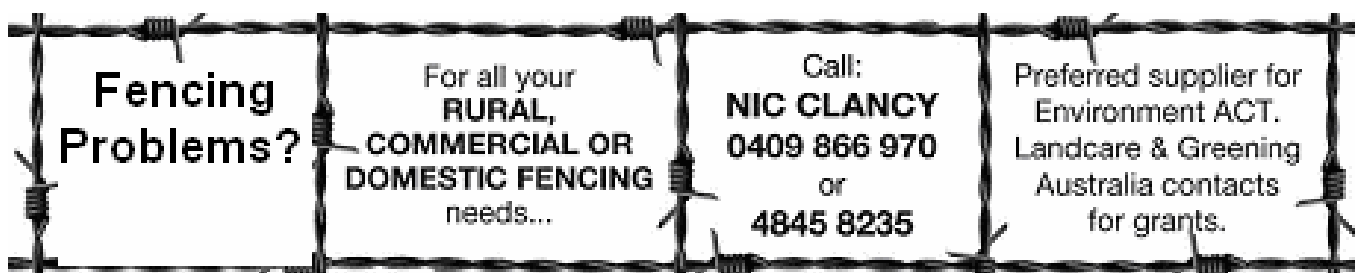
So what was the answer? Commercial 'roo shooters came to the rescue. Thousands of kangaroos were taken from our properties each year and turned into pet food. The roo population stabilized to a manageable number where our existence as graziers and farmers and nature were able to get along just fine. Multiple mobs of 50 to 100 roos were still common in every paddock and the most visible effect of the continual harvesting was a decrease in the big buck population. Now, it is quite possible that a more scientific or selective approach could have been taken to the harvesting process but nonetheless, it was a necessity and solved the problem at the time. Mobs of roos still wandered past the homestead each morning and night and camped under the trees all around. Like most real owner graziers, as opposed to the rapers and pillagers of some big business run stations, we managed the land, destocked it in droughts and did the best we could to look after it.

But, here we are in rocky Wamboin, where every little property has a dam but many have little grass. The Southeast Livestock Health and Pest Authority tell me that I have to pay a levy based on a notional carrying capacity of 27 standard stock, whatever that means. Folks, at this time, my block would be hard pressed to sustainably feed 27 extra mice because the roos are eating the place bare. I have no stock but I do have over a 100 roos on a regular basis. They are creating totally bare spots and erosion tracks on my hill and the native grasses are struggling to get a seed head up before a hungry little mouth chomps it off. Don't get me wrong, I love seeing the roos on the front lawn with their joeys. I regard the roos lying around under the trees as part of the charm of the place. They are "my" roos and I like them, but there are often too many of them for the land area. This is going to be a hard winter for these animals, with little feed stock heading into the cold months of minimal grass growth. We still have a nearly full dam but little tucker.

So, what do we do? It appears that some of us are prepared to stand by and watch animals starve and suffer rather than act like responsible custodians of a land we have been lent for the years we live here. That is neither responsible nor humane in my view. Instead of bleating when hard decisions need to be made, I suggest that those paralyzed by indecision and an inability to grasp the reality of the situation, try to apply their minds to practical solutions that are environmentally and ecologically sustainable, morally defensible, safe, and most importantly, practical.

Firearm safety and the compact nature of our rural residential home is a significant issue for sure. I agree that the use of high power rifles is not defensible in most of Wamboin, and I speak as one who has done a lot of shooting when I was young – pigs and foxes mostly, but rim fire rifles and shotguns can be used in some areas safely in my view. Shotguns are effective and can be short range when the correct cartridges are used but they are loud and may distress some. As I said at the beginning, I don't have a firearm but I have a serious roo problem, and who is going to solve that for me? Shall I sit by and watch as the older and weaker roos die of starvation in the creek or should I get my gun license back and actively manage (legally) – definitely not eliminate - my local roo population?

I can understand the distressed writer in the last issue, who seems to be suggesting that reducing roo numbers by shooting is undesirable and dangerous, but I will conclude by asking those who feel this way to provide a practical alternative. If you don't have an alternative, your arguments and comments lack substance and amount to little more than pointless hand wringing. I too welcome constructive comments from practical and environmentally aware locals because I don't wish to kill any of "my" roos either but I can't sit by and watch them die of starvation if the drought continues into winter either. Let's hope it doesn't come to that.



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WAMBOIN PRODUCE MARKETS

The March markets saw a large seasonal influx of local produce. Once again sales were very brisk with some stalls sold out quite early. The 'Bread Man' proved too popular. He had sold out before we had a chance to buy. We have had several requests to continue this social event through the winter months. Let us know your thoughts.

For more information contact Joan Mason 6238 3258.

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

**SATURDAY 18th April 2009
9AM – 12 NOON.**

Bible Study Group

The Wamboin/Sutton KYB (Know Your Bible) group invites you to join us for morning tea on Tuesday 28 April 9.30 am. Please phone 6238 0871 if you are interested in this Bible study information morning. -- Amanda Axelby Contact 6238 0871

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Voting in the March 14 Palerang Council By-Election

by Pete Harrison

Following from my analysis of the 2008 election count, here's a brief run-down on the results of the March by-election. The final numbers, extracted from spreadsheets provided by the NSW Electoral Commission were as follows:

Count 1—Primary Count

Polling Place	Anne Goonan	Richard Holding	Mark Horan	Formal	Informal	Total
Braidwood	156	310	552	1,018	26	1,044
Bungendore	852	784	575	2,211	101	2,312
Burra	209	165	149	523	39	562
Captain's Flat	82	75	128	285	18	303
Carwoola	140	119	101	360	14	374
Major's Creek	13	41	55	109	2	111
Nerriga	15	14	35	64	1	65
Wamboin	410	391	98	899	48	947
Total	1,877	1,899	1,693	5,469	249	5,718
% Formal	34.3%	34.7%	31.0%	100.0%	4.4%	
Declared	486	371	465	1,322	33	1,355
Institutions/Prepoll						
Postal	190	119	117	426	15	441
Section/Silent	3	5	1	9	0	9
Total	679	495	583	1757	48	1805
% Formal Declaration	38.6%	28.2%	33.2%	100.0%	2.7%	
Grand Total	2,556	2,394	2,276	7,226	297	7,523
% Total	35.4%	33.1%	31.5%	100.0%	3.9%	

There were 9,513 residents on the electoral roll, making the turn out for the by-election 79.1%. As the candidate who received the least number of primary votes, Mark Horan was excluded after the primary count.

Count 2—Preference Distribution on exclusion of Mark Horan

	Anne Goonan	Richard Holding	Exhausted
Preference distribution	456	475	1345
Final Count	3012	2869	

After the distribution of Mark Horan's preferences, Anne Goonan was declared elected.

There are a couple of interesting observations to make from this result. First, as some predicted, Anne won the count in all of the western booths (with the exception of Captain's Flat), supported by the rural residential population, while Mark won in the eastern booths, supported basically by the farming population. While he didn't win in any booth, Richard ran a strong second everywhere, suggesting that his campaign was quite effective in gaining the vote from the broadly distributed Community First support base.

The other observation, the high number of ballots that exhausted during the preference distribution, is not, perhaps, that much of a surprise. It has been suggested that the instructions provided at voting booths were not very clear, and that many people may not even have realised that this was a preferential ballot. Whatever the reason, almost 60% of the voters who nominated Mark Horan as their first choice, provided no second preference. It is quite possible that many of these will have been people who simply didn't care which of the other candidates were successful, if Mark wasn't. As it was, however, if their votes had followed the same trend as those that did offer a second preference, they would not have changed the result. It is also interesting to note that all candidates drew a respectable level of support from across the whole of Palerang. This might tempt one to suggest that any east/west 'cultural rift' is diminishing with time, as respective interest groups discover that they perhaps have more in common with some of their more distant neighbours than with those next door. If this is the case, it will certainly make for an interesting time as we prepare for a referendum on whether or not to introduce wards for future Council elections.

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The Lake George Day VIEW Club

by Pauline Segeri

Our April meeting will be held at Logan's Cafe Gibraltar St Bungendore on Tuesday April 21. 11.30 for a 12 noon start. Cost \$20. There will be no speaker as we will be "getting to know you" at the luncheon, a great opportunity for the members to chat and speak about themselves and their lives in an informal and safe setting. RSVP your attendance by Friday 17 March to Pauline on 6238 1996.

Come along and bring a friend! If you would like to join our Day club, it's not too late to sign up this month. VIEW~a club where Very Interesting and Exciting Women meet! Visit our blog: <http://lgdviewclub.blogspot.com>

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Enrolments are now being taken for Term 2, starting Friday, 1st May. Classes will be held in the cottage at: 215 NORTON ROAD, WAMBOIN on Monday nights 6.45 - 8.15p.m, as well as Friday mornings, 9.30 -11.00a.m.

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Phone: **6238 3892**

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Bungendore MudChooks

The Mudchooks is a single team club that plays in the second division Monaro rugby competition. The six other clubs in the division are all based in small country towns throughout inland south east NSW plus the 5th grade team from Uni-Norths based in Canberra. We have been in this competition for 4 seasons during which we have played in 3 grand finals and one final. We hosted and played in a major fund raising charity match against the "Silver Foxes" team in 2007 and this event not only received media coverage across Australia but also was awarded the "Community Event of the Year" award for Bungendore on Australia Day 2008.

This year we commence the season by playing the Braidwood Redbacks for the Palerang Shield at Colin Winchester Oval at Captains Flat on 14 March, commencing at 3:30pm. As far as we can find out this is the first time a game of rugby union has ever been played at Captains Flat and the town is right behind the game. We then have pre-season games at Bermagui on 21 March, at Bungendore v Hall Bushrangers on 28 March and at the Monaro Round-Robin at RMC on 18 April.

The competition commences on 2 May and will finish with the Grand Final on 5 September. Training has already commenced for the season with the team gathering each Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30pm on Mick Sherd Oval in Bungendore. We have had good attendances at our first few training runs, but we are still looking to welcome new players to the club. Anybody who is keen to improve their rugby skills, have great fun each Saturday during winter and make some friends for life is welcome to come along to training and join the Mudchooks.

- Garry Cook, President, Bungendore Rugby Football Club, 0408 085 552

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Wanted person to look after small dog in their home from April 8 to April 18 inclusive. She is house trained, and will provide large "sleeping cage" and all food etc. Please reply to Pauline on 6236-9934.

House cleaner wanted for fortnightly visits. We pay \$15 per hour and envisage 3-4 hours per fortnight. Possible other house in street too. Contact Morag and Guy Cotsell 62303523

WANTED Horse Jump Wings and poles for pleasure/beginner jumper. PH: 6238 1898.

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Recycle your egg cartons & rubber bands. Just drop them off at 413 Norton Road - In the letter box or just inside the gate is fine.

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

CHOOKS WANTED – Any age & roosters. Phone Frank on 6297-3523 to arrange collection.

Beekeeping Services Prompt removal of swarm bees and hives that are no longer wanted. Can also remove feral hives depending on location. Fee charged depending on distance travelled and the type of job required. Happy to discuss your requirements. Award winning local honey for sale. Wamboin Yellow Box \$8 kg. Available in 1 x kg or 500gram glass jars while stocks last. - Phone or see us each month at the markets! Call John - Ridgiedidge Apiary 6238 3791.
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ADVERTISING RATES: Local classified advertisements are free, as are announcements from community organisations and clubs. Business advertisements attract a small fee (see below) which is donated to the Wamboin Community Association. Please make your cheque out to this association, but post it to the editor. Contact editor on 6238-3484 for information.

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

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

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

FOR HIRE: WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL. Bookings arranged by Joan Mason 6238 3258. Local Residents \$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.

Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

I'm in a dilemma this month. On the one hand I want to sing the praises of sweet autumn; calm, softer, with crisp mornings carrying the rich smell of dew on dry grass. I want to celebrate my bountiful crop of tomatoes, all the sweeter in the knowledge that they were originally grown from illegal immigrants, savour the last roses of summer and note the leaves turning from green to yellow and crimson. But on the other hand I want to throw up my hands in utter despair as I watch the relentless, stealth-like demolition of my garden by mobs of kangaroos. I know that they were here before we moved in, and I know that we've upset the balance by building dams and creating a permanent water supply, and I am sure that I would prefer rose bushes to dry, bristly grasses if I had a choice, but give us a break!

However, for the first few weeks of autumn I was too busy making tomato relish and tomato sauce, grilling tomatoes, roasting tomatoes, pureeing tomatoes, eating fresh tomatoes with basil, eating fresh tomatoes without basil and wondering if I were in danger of turning a tomato shade of red to be bothered by the kangaroos. At least tomatoes seemed to be one thing they didn't eat. To handle this autumn bounty, though, I needed recipes that I'd only half heard discussed over the marbled green laminex kitchen table of my childhood. I sent off a few SOSes for recipes. Then I discovered a gem tucked away in a bottom drawer....my mother's battered CWA cookbook from the 1930s, stuffed full of handwritten recipes scrawled on the backs of envelopes and slips of paper. It was a real social history. You could make just about "mock" anything. There was mock cream and mock chicken and even a tantalising recipe for mock haggis. Mock strawberry jam was made with rhubarb and mock raspberry jam was mainly melon and plums. Finally I found what I was looking fora scrap of paper with "Aunty Peg's Tom Relish" and "Joan's tomato sauce". One called for a "shy dessertspoon of salt", and the other a "small handful of salt". Precision was obviously not an issue!

Autumn is a special season and although a decent splash of rain is long overdue, I've seen changes, not just in the colours of the trees, but in the visitors to the garden. Some yellow tailed black cockatoos thought they'd try their luck at pruning a hakea, having moved from the huge candlebark, but they moved on, and I've seen several eagles wheeling in the sky, black against limitless blue. There've been a few more mice scuttling around the chook yard after dark and a brazen fox has sauntered by, stopping long enough to create mayhem in the coop. And while I've been stirring the tomato relish pot bubbling on the stove I've had time to ponder the collective noun for kangaroos. "Mob" sounds so tame...wouldn't an "oversupply of kangaroos" be more to the point.

I wouldn't live anywhere else.....but I wouldn't object if a few of my marsupial friends chose to live elsewhere.

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