

WAMBOIN



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

February 2010 CIRCULATION: 1,180

wamboincommunity.asn.au

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 and Bywong at the start of each month, except January. Editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Contributions from residents are valued and the main content. Please email them to nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mail them. The deadline for the next issue is always the last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for the March 2010 combined issue Whisper the deadline is Sunday, February 21, 2010, 7:00 pm, and it will go to deliverers 5 days later.

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

Bungendore Police 6238 1244 Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre 6238-3396 Ambulance Bookings 131233

WAMBOIN FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	Helen Montesin	President	6238-3208	wamboincommunity.asn.au
Bywong Community Assn	Nora Stewart	President	6230-3305	bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade	Andrew Dunn	Captain	0409-991-340	bh 6238 1849 ah
Wamboin Markets	Joan Mason	Contact	6238 3258	
Sutton School Playgroup	Rosemary Semecky	Convener	6230-3807	
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	Jill Sedaitis	JP	6236-9559	
Justice of the Peace	Tony Holland	JP	6238-3907	
Wamboin Scout Group	Peter Harrison	Contact Person	6238-3525	
Wamboin Pony Club	Robyn Slater	Senior Instructor	6238-3472	
Wamboin Play Group	Kristin Skinner	Convener	6238-1201	
Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	Bookings	6238-3258	
Church, Anglican	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238-3202	
Christian Prayer Group	Steve & Imelda Taylor	Contacts	6238-3220	
KYB Bible Study Group	Yvonne Barrett	Contact	6230 3539	or 0409 951 388
Golf	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238-3358	
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare	Helpline	6299-1966	
WonderfulWomenOfWambn	Claire Ayling	Convener	6238-3347	
Lake George Day VIEW Club	Pauline Segeri	Contact	6238-1996	
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
Elena Sutcliffe, petsitting	6238-3228
Jack and Matilda Whitney, pet care	6238 3059



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Wamboin Community Association -- President's Paragraphs

The Whisper On-Line – This edition, and archives of past editions, of The Whisper are now available from the WCA Web site at <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/whisper/>

Wamboin Community Association – The first meeting for the year will be on **16th February at 7:30pm at the Wamboin Community Hall**. Everyone is most welcome to attend. The following meeting will be the AGM on 16th March, where all the executive positions will open for nomination.

Wamboin Produce Markets – The next markets will be on **20th February** from 9:00am until noon. There should be lots of garden produce available, as well as the usual goodies.

Clean-up Australia Day – will on Sunday **7th March** from 9:00am till noon (see details later in Whisper). Please register at the Bingley Way hall to help out – we need all the help we can get!

WCA Electronic Noticeboard – The noticeboard is a great way to keep up with issues of community interest and I encourage everybody to subscribe. With the creation of our new Web site, the subscription process has been simplified. Just go to the noticeboard Web page at <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard/> and click on the subscription link.

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. All of this information, and much more, is also available on-line at <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au>, in the Community Groups and Services sections.

Calendar of events – If you have any events that you would like included in March’s Whisper, please contact John van der Straaten (ph: 6238 3590 or secretary@wamboincommunity.asn.au).

Helen Montesin (president@wamboincommunity.asn.au)

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Sunday the 7th of March
9am til 12 noon

March 7 is the designated day for ‘Clean up Australia’. The Wamboin Community Association have been coordinating this event since inception. The main focus for Wamboin is on roadways. Since Norton Road is central that is high on priorities. We need volunteers. To be covered by insurance please register at the Hall from 9am. Good footwear and sun hats are highly recommended. We provide drinks and chewy bars. The Council will loan some high visibility jackets. The Fire Brigade will assist with radio control and rubbish pick up. We call it quits at midday. Queries to Helen or Lofty.

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Come and see us at the markets on February 20th.

Alan and Eleanor
Ph. 62383224 Mob. 0429 434944
alan.rope@priam.com.au

TIP OPENING HOURS

(from www.palerang.nsw.gov.au on 1-Dec-2009)

Bungendore Tip

Friday to Monday, 7.30 am - 5.00 pm
(please note the tip is closed Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)
During daylight saving, Friday and Monday,
7.30 am - 5.00 pm
Saturday and Sunday, 7.30 am - 7.00 pm

Macs Reef Road Tip

Friday to Monday, 7.30 am - 5.00 pm
(please note the tip is closed Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)
During daylight saving, Friday and Monday,
7.30 am - 5.00 pm
Saturday and Sunday, 7.30 am - 7.00 pm



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Bywong Community News
www.bywongcommunity.org.au

It's been a most exciting January with the high heat generating several lightning strike leading to power outages, and also some Council roadworks. However, happy to say there have been no reports of fire to date.



Keeping Bywong Beautiful – Sunday morning 7th March

It's the annual clean up day and we're **looking for volunteers** to remove rubbish from areas along the Macs Reef Road, the Bungendore Road and surrounds. There will be a *Thank-you BBQ* for all volunteers at the Bywong Hall, Birriwa Road at midday. There will also be a competition for the most unusual item found during the clean-up.

Please call Nora Stewart on 0431862853 or email nora@setdancing.com.au to register your interest in taking part.

Bywong Car Boot Sale - Sunday 28th March 9am-1pm

Planning for the annual car boot sale is underway, so start digging out your unwanted goodies to make some quick cash and help your community at the same time - someone else's treasure may be hiding in your shed! Or just come along. Grab a bargain and enjoy the food, the fun and the displays by our local community organisations and clubs.

Are you the owner of a local business who would like to raise its profile? Consider becoming a sponsor of the Great Car Boot Sale : it's inexpensive and effective.. Feature in our advertising while supporting an event where all the profits flow to the local community. Thanks to support from the community and our local business sponsors, last year we were

able to make a substantial donation to the Wamboin Fire Brigade. For details please ring Bernie Greethead 62303165 or send an email to greethead@hotmail.com or see our website for more details www.bywongcommunity.org.au

Birriwa Road bus shelter outcome. The final outcome of the bus stop and shelter that was proposed for the Gum Flat Lane/ Birriwa Road intersection is that it will be built at a site on Birriwa Road, well away from Macs Reef Road. However, the overall issue of safety for bus passengers is now firmly on the Council agenda, and a proposal was agreed that all bus stops should be included in the LEP or similar planning for all areas in Palerang. This would be to ensure that there was proper planning and budgeting to build safe bus pullover areas and shelters.

Bywong Community – meetings for 2010. We have planned to have a meeting each month this year, with the exception of December. We will have **three public meetings** with a speaker or topic and the rest are committee meetings. All are welcome and please let us know if you wish to attend a committee meeting or if there are items you would like the committee to consider.

February	Tuesday 23rd February	Committee	Bywong Hall 7.30-9.30PM
March	Tuesday 16th March	Committee	Bywong Hall 7.30-9.30PM
April	Tuesday 20th April	Public Meeting	Bywong Hall 7.30-9.30pm
May	Tuesday 25th May	Committee	7.30-9.30PM Venue to be advised
June	Tuesday 22nd June	Public Meeting	Bywong Hall 7.30-9.30pm
July	Tuesday 20th July	Committee	Bywong Hall 7.30-9.30PM Venue to be advised
August	Tuesday 24th August	Committee	7.30-9.30PM Venue to be advised
September	Tuesday 21st September	Committee	Bywong Hall 7.30-9.30PM
October	Tuesday 19th October	Public meeting -- AGM	Bywong Hall 7.30-9.30pm
November	Tuesday 16th November	Committee	Bywong Hall 7.30-9.30PM

The Association thanks its regular supporters....

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 Koonaburra Wines- www.koonaburra.com.au
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 The Wamboin Whisper – www.wamboin.asn.au

-- Nora Stewart, President, www.bywongcommunity.org.au



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E-mail: jan.ladmore@bigpond.com

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Phone: 0407 890 527 or E-mail: jan.ladmore@bigpond.com

LOCAL ROADS AS SPEEDWAYS AND OFFICIAL LACK OF CONCERN

In December, the *Palerang and District Bulletin* ran two articles about the sorry record of crashes and unsafe driving on Macs Reef Rd and about the Palerang Council's Traffic Committee's record of ignoring or trivialising community concerns about children crossing Macs Reef Rd to catch buses – just one reason to slow the greatly increased through-traffic in some places for the safety of neighbouring residents and drivers themselves. The community has asked that at the very least existing speed and traffic rules are enforced, which seldom occurs. Council's Traffic Committee includes representatives from the



NSW Road and Traffic Authority (RTA) and the Queanbeyan Police as well as Council engineering staff and Councillor Howard Crozier who is supposed to represent community concerns.

Representatives of the Bywong Community Association, as well as residents on and near Macs Reef Rd, have expressed considerable concern about the unsafe driving they witness and the Traffic Committee's high-handed dealings with the community and, in a recent case, misrepresentation of community concerns when reporting back to Council at large on its decisions.

The photo shows the approach from the west to the Macs Reef Road and Denley Drive intersection. On this hill a busy road, a wildlife corridor, and a crossing for school children compete.

The *Bulletin* is in summer recess until the March issue but is sharing the following letters it received on the Macs Reef Rd situation, to continue the community

conversation on this matter. Editor Maria Taylor told the *Whisper* that she has also received concerned phone calls and anecdotal information about speeding and reckless driving on the residential roads of Wamboin.

Council next meets on 4 February.

Three letters sent to the *Palerang Bulletin* appear below. Any follow-up correspondence should be sent to the *Palerang Bulletin* at media@palerangbulletin.com.au, and will be considered for the *Bulletin's* March issue.

Heart-stopping road experience

I was pleased to see the prominence in “The Bulletin” given to the problems on Macs Reef Road. I live right on the area between Denley Drive and Birriwa Road mentioned as a “horror stretch” although why it was singled out, I don’t know – the maniacs drive as badly the whole length of the road, to my observation. I was recently overtaken, at dusk by two cars at once – and I mean two abreast – over double lines on a bend, with a car fast approaching in the opposite direction. I stopped my car, waiting for the shock waves. Amazingly, none came but tailgating and speeding, overtaking on double lines and driving across the centre line seem to be de rigeur for drivers from the ACT and NSW, often loaded up for the coast and, curiously, often utes and girls with P-plates. I will never know why the bucolic lanes of Norton Road have 80kmph limits and the race track of Macs Reef Road has 90 – and we almost never see police.

It really feels like taking your life in your hands out there, especially at dusk when the kangaroos are busy and, oh, the poor lizards!!! In my incident, maniac 1 overtook me (doing just under 90 as it was dusk) on double lines on the bend near where there was that fatal crash a few years ago. I thought a crash was so inevitable I pulled up, turned off my car and dialled 000 with my finger hovering over the green symbol and braced myself, but they all managed to squeeze past and off the maniacs fled into the night. I drove home at about 5 kmph after that.

Jennifer Saunders, Macs Reef Road

Traffic load on Macs Reef Rd unsafe

Your coverage of the road rage on Macs Reef Road is both timely and relevant.

Currently, Macs Reef Road is a weight restricted, speed limited, residential access road that was only superficially sealed in the late 80s as part of the Bi-Centenary roads program. In its present form, it is just not capable of safely bearing the increased Defence traffic that transits daily to and from North Canberra/Bungendore. And, as you rightly point out, the aggressive and inappropriate attitude of speeding drivers, local or otherwise is cause for concern, especially for those of us who live on or adjacent to Macs Reef Road.

It simply beggars belief that Palerang's Traffic Committee can seemingly ignore the bleeding obvious and instead indulge in bureaucratic navel gazing and buck passing. The comment attributed to the RTA representative ("It's a lifestyle choice") is particularly unhelpful. According to the NSW RTA's own web site, research has shown that the risk of a crash causing death or injury increases rapidly, even with small increases above an appropriately set speed limit. Speeding is the single biggest cause of deaths and injuries on NSW roads. It is a factor in around 40 per cent of road deaths in NSW, killing around 200 people across the State each year. Speeding increases the risk of a crash and the severity of the crash outcome.

The strategy is simple. Set an appropriate speed limit, ensure drivers know what the limit is, and enforce the limit. Obviously, local police can't enforce the speed limit 24/7, although I've noticed a welcome increase in Highway Patrol presence in recent times. In addition to police patrols, Council should press the RTA to install fixed speed cameras at specified intervals or sets of multiple cameras with number-plate recognition software which can check the average speed of a vehicle between two points.

Don Malcolmson, Macs Reef Road

Drivers with little regard for local residents

It was interesting to see concerns regarding the lack of care some road users display. When we have to turn into our drive opposite a double line we are often passed by motorists who seem to have little regard for the road rules. We would not normally take more than a few seconds to move off the road so could not delay the other road users by more than that. Surely a few seconds won't make that much difference in a busy schedule, and it is worth it for the safety sake. I notice the RTA has been erecting these large black digital signs around the state including Bungendore. While I can see that they add to the beauty and character of the town, it is difficult to imagine how telling motorists to stick to the speed limits with a big digital sign will be that effective. A more effective use of funds may have been to install a 24 hour speed camera or two along the Kings Highway. It is also interesting to see the signs at the HQJOC roundabout, although they are almost covered in grass, you can still see that the traffic conditions have changed and that there is a new roundabout. Changed from a few years ago perhaps, and new to people who have not driven the highway for three years. -

Stewart Deans, Bungendore Road

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FOR SALE: Unscreened topsoil available now. Phone 0412 677 554
For Sale: Aluminium sliding door 2.1 high by 2750 wide. \$200. Aluminium window 1.8 buy 1.8 \$50 phone 0416 249 063
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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 .
CHOOKS WANTED – Any age & roosters. Phone Frank on 6297-3523 to arrange collection.
Beekkeeping Services, Beeswax & Local Award Winning Honey. Prompt removal of swarm bees and hives that are no longer wanted. We can also remove feral hives depending on location. Fee charged depending on distance travelled and the type of job required. Pure bees wax candles, beeswax blocks and award winning local honey for sale; available bottled or in bulk. Phone or see us each month at the markets! Call John or Tricia - Ridgiedidge Apiary 6238 3791. www.ridgiedidge.net.au
Large Holiday house situated in Tuross, 180 degree Ocean views, opposite shops, 2 minute walk to beach, large block for parking, available now. Discounts apply for Wamboin/Bywong residents. Please phone Cherrie 0418 621 462 for details.
ADVERTISING RATES: Local classified advertisements are free, as are announcements from community organisations and clubs. Business advertisements pay printing and Community Association Projects. Contact editor on 6238-3484 for information. Advertising rates: Full Page - \$100 Half Pg - \$50 1/3 Pg \$35 1/4 Pg - \$25 1/5 Pg - \$20 1/6 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 6238 3258.
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. whentaken (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 \$100, Bond \$250. Non-Resident \$150, Bond \$300. The Hall is not available for teenage, 18 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

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The Wamboin Firefighter

A newsletter from YOUR volunteer rural fire brigade compiled by the Executive Committee, with help from many members of the Brigade

BUSHFIRE DANGER PERIOD

A FIRE PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR ANY FIRE IN THE OPEN. PLEASE PHONE THE BRIGADE CAPTAIN FOR ADVICE ON OBTAINING A PERMIT ON 0409 991 340

RING TRIPLE ZERO TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS.

BRIGADE ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD



The holiday period has been busy for your local Brigade, though thankfully for the brigade and the community there have been no fires in our Brigade area.

In early December the Brigade assisted in yet another out-of-area deployment - this time to the Glen Irie fires near Armidale. Brad Arrowsmith, John McGrath, Group Captain Chris Powell, Stephen Richards, John Taubman and Elizabeth Wrench rearranged their other lives for the task. The group was flown to Armidale on Tuesday 8th December and returned on Friday 11th December. Out-of-area deployments provide further invaluable training and hands-on experience for brigade members as well as helping them to increase their skill levels.

Over the holiday period there were several motor vehicle accidents in our area. The first was late in the evening of the 19th December with a report of a car on fire in Kowen Forest which, as you know, is immediately adjacent to the southern boundaries of Wamboin. The prospect of a fire in the forest is potentially a very serious situation. The Brigade despatched both large fire tankers, two medium tankers and a Command vehicle. Police and NSW Fire Brigades also attended but had to turn back due to the ruggedness of the terrain.

By the time our crew arrived (in the early hours of Saturday morning) the vehicle had been burnt out; mopping up and blacking out was all that was required. Fortunately, the high humidity and low temperature at the time saved everyone from a very serious situation.



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On Wednesday 3rd January there was a single vehicle accident on Macs Reef Road. Two people were conveyed to hospital. On Monday 11th January, regrettably, a 4WD 'attached' itself to a tree in Weeroona Drive just 50 metres before the Denley Drive intersection. Surprisingly the single occupant suffered only very minor injuries. In the evening of Tuesday 12th January two cars collided on the Federal Highway Service Road near the Bidges Road turn off. Again, fortunately there were no injuries but there was concern for a period when there was an uncontrollable LPG gas leak from one of the vehicles.



The morning after in Kowen Forest



Single vehicle accident on Macs Reef Rd



Leaking fuel was the main concern



The tree didn't feel a thing! Weeroona Drive

On Sunday 17th January Wamboin Brigade was requested to provide a heavy tanker in support to the Black Range Fire Trail fire south of Bungendore. Deputy Captain David Cochrane and Darrol Dykes, John Freeland, Erik Hughes, John McGrath, Adrienne McKenzie, Chris Murdock and Col Prest attended.

All-in-all it has been a busy 'holiday' period for the brigade with excellent response by members to all incidents.

BUSH FIRE PREPARATIONS

New Fire Danger Rating Signs

As you will have observed, the new roadside Fire Danger Rating signs have been erected in our area. The signs are located near the intersections of:

- Norton Rd and Sutton Rd (Wamboin)
- Macs Reef Rd and Harriott Rd (Bywong)
- Bungendore Rd and Joe Rocks Rd (Bungendore)
- Bungendore Rd and Summerhill Rd (Bywong), and
- Federal Hwy Service Rd and Goolabri Dr (Sutton Park),

An explanation of the new ratings can be found at:

http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/file_system/attachments/Attachment_FireDangerRating.pdf

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

PREPARE. It is your responsibility to prepare yourself, your family and your home for the threat of bush fire. Every home must have a Bush Fire Survival Plan encompassing the decision to either “Leave Early” or to “Stay and Defend” to ensure you are prepared and know what to do in the event of a bush fire.

ACT. You need to act decisively in accordance with your Bush Fire Survival Plan when bush fires threaten.

SURVIVE. Your survival depends on your preparations, and the decisions you make.

Regardless of your decision, you must prepare your property to give you, your family and your home the best chance of survival. The RFS has produced guidance on the preparations and actions that you need to take in order to survive a bush fire.

This advice can be found at: http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/file_system/attachments/Attachment_PrepateActSurvive.pdf

The Wamboin Brigade Website

The Brigade’s website will enable you to monitor local conditions as well as brigade announcements. The Community Information section has particularly useful information and links to other websites that provide guidance regarding bush fire preparations. <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

Brigade Information Stall at the monthly Wamboin Home Produce Market

The Wamboin Fire Station and information stall is open on Wamboin Home Produce Market days (3rd Saturday in the month). Brigade members are happy to listen and offer advice to residents pertinent to their particular situation.

Finally, if you have any queries, please contact the Brigade’s Captain (Andrew Dunn) on 0409 991 340 or (02) 6238 1849 (ah).

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News from WWOW

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

31 January 2010

Sally Saunders



The WWOWs have had a creative January. Women experienced in the art of appliqué have been teaching the uninitiated by guiding them through the process of making appliquéd pot holders. Flowers, butterflies, leaves, fish, pigs and chickens are emerging in a variety of fabrics and embroidery stitches. Lots of encouragement could be heard coming from those who were knitting or gossiping over coffee and tea. Cynthia Budd made a delicious birthday cake and Jayne Davis brought in more of her beautiful posies for the five January birthday girls.

Two WWOWs were rewarded for their creativity at the Bungendore Show. Katrina Trewartha won first in her category and the Best Exhibit in Show blue ribbon for a quilted wall hanging of amazing detail and beauty. Kerry Garland entered four creations and won four prizes! What a group.

The WWOWs continue to contribute to our community and many more knitted 'trauma teddies' are ready for delivery to Queanbeyan Ambulance. We are using up lots of left over yarn, keeping our knitting needles clicking and providing something soft for children of all ages who are, unfortunately, picked up by ambulance. The WWOWs also donated \$200 to the Red Cross for the Haiti earthquake rescue efforts.

All women are welcome on Mondays, 10 AM to 12 NOON at the Anglican Church on the corner of Poppet Road and Norton Road in Wamboin. The Convener is Claire Ayling, 6238-3347, and members come from Sutton, Gundaroo, Bywong and Wamboin, with a few from ACT and Queanbeyan.



Yoga at Lilyfield Cottage



Come and enjoy the wonderful gift of yoga in a tranquil bushland setting. Enhance your health and vitality, strengthen muscles, improve flexibility and discover new breathing techniques. Experience deep relaxation through lavender eye bags, supportive bolsters and heat packs. Enjoy a herbal tea and meet new friends.

**Enrolments are now being taken for Term 1, 2010. Classes will be held in the cottage at:
215 NORTON ROAD, WAMBOIN on Monday nights 6.45 - 8.15p.m, starting Monday, 8th February, as well as
Friday mornings, 9.30 -11.00a.m, starting 12th February.**

**Please direct all enquiries to:
Roxane Atkinson.
Phone: 6238 3892**

Wamboin Fishing Club

Hi to all. We have some outings planned for the New Year. Two trips to Tuross head, in conjunction with the Tuross Head Fishing Club. These will take place on the 6th and 7th of February, and again on the 13th and 14th of February. For information on these trips for interested members, including accommodation etc., ring Lyle on 0412 677 554.

The next meeting of the club will be on the 17th of February, at the Eaglehawk Hotel 5.30 pm. We are hoping to hear about the big ones being taken and good times being had. Until then stay safe, and good luck on your outings.

-- Chris Byrne of Hogan Drive.

ROTARY'S INAUGURAL HARVEST FESTIVAL DEADLINES



Plans are progressing well for the Rotary Club of Bungendore's Inaugural Annual Lake George Harvest Festival. All funds raised will help to improve sporting facilities in Bungendore. Please add the following dates to your calendar. Direct all enquiries to harvest.festival@y7mail.com or phone Event Coordinator June Blades 62369136. For further details please check the Wamboin Community Association's website -- www.wamboincommunity.asn.au



BUNGENDORE MUDHOOKS

This is an official notice of the Bungendore Rugby Football Club Annual General Meeting. To be held on Wednesday 17 February at 7.00 pm, Royal Hotel, Gibraltar St, Bungendore NSW. All registered players, volunteers and club members are welcome to attend.

2010 SEASON TRAINING COMMENCEMENT: Training for the 2010 season will commence on Thursday 4 February at 6.15pm. We are looking forward to seeing players from last year and any newcomers at the Bungendore (Mick Sherd) Oval, Gibraltar St, Bungendore. Anyone interested in playing some great social country rugby is welcome to come and sign up. Training will be followed by a social BBQ at the Royal Hotel from 8pm. See you all there to welcome in another successful season for the Mudhooks. -- Simon Titmuss, 6202 5242



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Wamboin Legends on the Web

The Wamboin Web continues to grow in response to the feedback and interests of our readers. This month, there is a new page containing information about the legends of Wamboin.

These new pages celebrate two types of legends; those that are created by stories of times past, handed down from generation to generation; and those stories of individuals or groups of people that inspire us or that have achieved legendary fame.

Don Evans, who has lived here for most of his life, wrote the stories of times past that are published on the Wamboin Web. His 'History and Legends of Wamboin' were initially produced in the Wamboin Whisper, and have been reproduced on the Wamboin Web with Don's blessing.

To date we have captured the stories of only a few of the legendary people who live in Wamboin. We know there are more, and will be contacting you soon! Recording and sharing these important stories is just one more way that the Wamboin Web can help build a stronger community.

Your comments, stories and legends are welcome. Just email us, webmaster@wamboin.org.au

-- Jenni and Bruce (webmasters of www.wamboin.org)

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How The Whisper Gets From the Printer To Your Mailbox

The 44 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. - Editor

160 CO-ORDINATED HELEN MONTESIN: Ph 6238 3208

Dene Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West	20	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

284 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	Weerona, Majors to Denley	35
Ned Noel	13 PalerangCncl+47Advertisers	60	Penny Evans	Norton, Cmpbell to Bngly	25
Kathy Handel	Yalana West	19			

228 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: Ph 6238 3489

TBA	Valley View Lane	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	42
Coleen Foster	Joe Rocks to Norton	20	Rob Gorham	South End - Clare Valley	38
Cassie Fisher	Clare Lane	12	Lyle Montesin	Forrest Road area	60
Axelby Family	North End - Clare Valley	42	Bungendore Shop	Bungendore	10


296 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
Mindi Hughes	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	Joan Milnor	Birriwa & MacsReef(GmFlt-Harr)	30
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Lane	6	Tony Bond	Hogan Drive	28
Ian&Esther Rudd	MacsReef (Bankers-FedHiway)	26	Carol&Clive Boughton	Macs Reef Rd - Bankers to FHwy	32

212 CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDRSON Ph 6236 9333

Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	David Featherston	Summerhil / Creekborough	24
Kevin Anderson	BungRd – McRf to Smmhl	33	Diana+Keith Gascoine	Snow Gum Road	27
Kerrie Gougeon	BungRd – FedHy to Smmh l	25	Thelma Martin	Shinglehouse & Millyn	20
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	18	Richard Holding	Wyoming and Doust Rds	25
Phil&Pam Dawes	Donelly Rd & Lane	20			

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Arthritis Foundation Annual Ball

You are invited to attend the second Annual Arthritis ACT *Have a Ball*. The evening promises to be lots of fun and at the same time will help raise funds to support the work of Arthritis ACT.

Date: Thursday May 27 - 7pm to 11pm

Venue: The Boat House by the Lake, Grevillea Park, Menindee Drive Barton

Entertainment: Disco to your favourite tunes, live and silent auctions, novelty activities, exercise activities and demonstrations

Dress: Your favourite sportswear (prizes for the most creatively dressed individual or table)

Tickets: \$115 per person, tables of 8 available (price includes a 3 course dinner, drinks & entertainment, lucky door prize, PLUS every ticket includes a fully tax deductible donation of \$35)

Bookings – Please call the Arthritis ACT Office on 6288 4244 or email haveaball@arthritisact.org.au

Payment in full required at time of booking.

-- Tony Holland, Bingley Way, Chief Executive Officer, Arthritis Foundation of the ACT, Incorporating Osteoporosis ACT

The Ecology of Kangaroos: what does the research tell us?

The next meeting of Sutton Landcare Group will consider the issue of Kangaroo Ecology. The meeting will commence at 7.30 pm on Tuesday February 9th in the Sutton School library. The meeting will be addressed by two expert researchers in this field - Dr Don Fletcher and Claire Wimpenny.

Don Fletcher is an ecologist with ACT Parks, Conservation and Lands where he works to help shed light on kangaroo management issues, and other questions relating to wildlife species considered either endangered or overabundant. He has a PhD from the Institute for Applied Ecology on the topic 'Population Dynamics of Eastern Grey Kangaroos'.

Claire Wimpenny is an ecologist with particular expertise in the capture and care of eastern grey kangaroos, and also assists in research on vegetation, grassland earless dragons, corroboree frogs, feral pigs, and small mammals. She worked in the zoo environment before 'coming out' to help further our understanding of wildlife ecology.

There are a range of views in the community on the contribution of kangaroos to the sustainability of our grassy box woodland and farming environment and the appropriateness of the local kangaroo population. We are privileged to have two experts to take us through the issues and the research findings.

The evening promises to be of particular interest to our community and all interested persons are invited to attend. Further details can be obtained from the Secretary Gay McNeill on 62303569. -- David Vincent (President)



**Bungendore
ELECTRICAL
Contactors**

Bruce Stewart

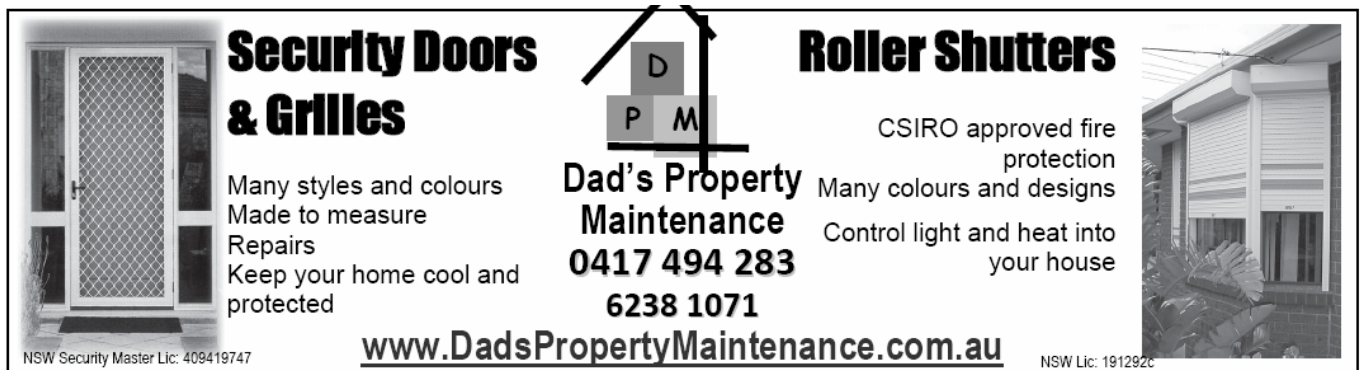
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Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare

Think global, act local

Membership is free. Activities are notified to members via email and also advertised in the Whisper. If you wish to be added to the email list, send a message to the secretary, Chris Fowler, christf@spitfire.com.au.

Nursery sessions are held on the first Saturday of each month at the nursery (at Geoff Butler's place), **9am – 11am**. The next sessions will be on **6 February and 6 March**.

Please contact Geoff beforehand if you are going to attend - email gbu22182@bigpond.net.au or phone 62369158, so that Geoff can cater for the correct number of people in terms of seating, plant/potting mix preparation and morning tea. There are lots of seedlings ready to be potted up. Anyone is welcome to come and help, and no expertise is needed.

The last nursery session was well attended, and we did a great job of weeding all the little pots in the nursery as well as preparing seedling trays of eucalypts. We also had a productive impromptu meeting, where we discussed our plans for the year.

Next Plant Sale: Saturday 20 February at the Wamboin Market, 9am -12 noon. All plants cost \$3 and will grow in this area.

Planting tip: It's too hot and dry to plant. Make sure young plants are surrounded by a bowl deep enough to pour a bucket of water into, and add some mulch and maybe some water crystals. Then you shouldn't need to water more than once a week. View your yard and garden critically with a view to safety from fires. Remove dead plant material; prune trees and shrubs so that they aren't too close to the house; and remove clutter from sheltered house corners. Use living mulch - that is, ground covers. Myoporum (Creeping Boobialla) is a robust ground cover that spreads quickly and covers large areas well. Other fantastic ground covers, with beautiful flowers, are brachyscome (with mauve daisy flowers) and spyridium (with tiny velvety flowers and shiny dark green foliage). The Rural Fire Service has a useful brochure, "Trees & fire resistance; regeneration & care of fire-damaged trees".

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

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Nature Notes – January 2010

Jo Walker

A hot, windy month with hardly a drop of rain is not a good start to the year. The last few days of temperatures well above thirty degrees has bleached the landscape. In fact, the last two months have been marked by the absence of events that usually occur at this time of the year.

One of the most noticeable of these was the lack of seed produced by many of the local plants this year. Local Pomaderris shrubs, especially *Pomaderris angustifolia*, usually produce masses of seed, and Crimson Rosellas often spend hours nibbling the seed from the small capsules. This year, the capsules simply dried up and fell off without producing seed. The Burgan bushes (*Kunzea ericoides*) usually hold their white flowers for several weeks and are abuzz with flies and beetles. But, this year, two or three extremely hot days shrivelled the flowers almost as soon as they appeared. Even the wattles and pea plants produced few viable seed.

There also seemed to be little action on the butterfly front. I did see a couple of Wood Whites (*Delias aganippe*) flitting around the Cherry Ballart (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*) looking for an egg-laying site. But, although there were plenty of male Common Browns (*Heteronympha merope merope*) flying around a few weeks ago, I saw only one female butterfly of this species. Usually, there are plenty of caterpillars of the Painted Lady Butterfly (*Vanessa kershawi*) on the *Senecio quadridentatus*, the Grey Fireweed that occasionally occurs in weed-like quantities. This year, there seemed to be very few of these caterpillars, and even those disappeared very quickly – probably snapped up by hungry birds.

On a more positive note, there are plenty of little Superb Blue Wrens and White-browed Scrub-wrens around, twittering and mobbing in the thick vegetation along the creek. Several Red Wattle-birds have built nests here this year (rather fragile, untidy structures) and have reared some young birds. I haven't seen (or heard) any baby galahs though, and only two Crimson Rosella juveniles have appeared on the scene.

The Cunningham's Skink family, whose home is a large old Yellow Box log along the creek, is increasing. It's sometimes possible to see six or seven of these robust lizards basking on their log or peeping from a hole, and, a few days ago, there were two very small additions to the family. Cunningham's Skinks are about 30 cm long, dark brown to blackish in colour with lighter spots or patterns and a rim of white around the eyes. The top side of the tail is markedly spiny. They give birth to live young.

A few evenings ago, I was gazing out of the window at dusk when a medium-sized brown raptor (possibly a Brown Goshawk) swooped down and caught a young rabbit feeding unwarily on the hillside. Rabbits seem to be the one food source that is possibly on the increase this year.

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Get a group together & register before 5th March
Contact Nora 0431 862853 or email nora@setdancing.com.au

Supported by Bywong Community Association
www.bywongcommunity.org.au



Wamboin 15 years ago from the Whisper, Feb 1995, Circulation: 400

From the Wamboin Community Association Report: We received the good news that we have been given a grant of \$3000 for our playground project from the Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing. Thank you to Rosemary Crane and Marianne Ackland for putting together the application and for all the businesses whose donations of materials and labour have made up the bulk of our dollar for dollar contribution.

A special meeting of the WCA on December 8 was attended by more than 50 people who voiced strong reservations about Council's proposal to rezone a large area of land in South Wamboin for further rural residential development. A WCA submission has gone to Council expressing these views, along with a number of submissions from concerned individuals."
-- Pip Deveson, President, WCA.

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Hoskinstown - 10.30 am 1st Sunday of the Month

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Where to Now - Wamboin ...

When Chris, the kids and myself arrived in Wamboin in the early 80's, it was under-developed in more ways than one. Marauding mobs of munching Merinos left by the original land owner had eaten everything from the ground up to the full reach of their woolly heads. We were only able to dislodge them by threatening to offer the owner one of his own sheep back from our cooking pot. The Wamboin Bushfire Brigade was still part of the Sutton Brigade and run locally by a bunch of dedicated desperados lead by an early hero of Wamboin, John Finn. However, we still managed, with some very pre-loved equipment, including two old ex-army tanker trucks to save all the 45 fire threatened houses in Wamboin from the 1985 bush fires that ravaged the north side of Norton Road (which incidentally did not yet join up with Bungendore Road).

There was no Community Hall or fire shed in Bingley Way. The social landscape was different back then. When I asked one person, then recently arrived from Canberra, if he enjoyed the friendly community – his answer was that he had moved out of the ACT to escape the community and only wanted to be “with nature” and avoid any neighbours as much as possible!

Since those early beginnings, things have changed out of sight. We now have a Bush Fire Brigade that is one of the best run and equipped in the State. St Andrews Church has been built (courtesy of another early hero, David Robertson), and not only provides spiritual support but a meeting place for community groups, including the Wonderful Women of Wamboin. Wamboin has a longstanding and active Community Association and of course “*The Whisper*”. The Wamboin Markets go from strength to strength. We also have a broad range of local businesses, including everything from bed and breakfast to beekeepers, IT security to international wine export, antiques to architects, vineyards, wineries and restaurants.

Communications have continued to improve (no thanks to Telstra). High speed broadband internet should be on the way some time soon? This has and will continue to encourage people to work from home, either for a city business or their own.

We already have a number of major social events on the Wamboin calendar. The Fireworks in September is an icon event supporting local groups such as the Pony Club and Scouts and attracting people from all over. Let's hope it continues into the future. The Curry Night and Fireman's Ball are excellent. So what's my point here?

Well I believe we should not stand on our laurels, but continue to develop a calendar of events that enriches our community. Events such as arts and music, wine and food, crafts and gardening, sports and outdoor would be well worth considering. I believe we should involve the expertise of local businesses. Any potential event is likely to receive limited government assistance, so sponsorship and support would be initially important. If there is sufficient interest I would like to invite community members to come together in the near future at Shepherds Run for a meeting to brain-storm potential new events (would Wednesday 17 February suit?) There is a huge pool of talent here and some very good practical ideas are certain.

Please let me know what you think. -- Peter Davies, 6238 3370, peter@shepherdsrun.com.au

‘OPERATION TROOPLIFT’ – A UNIQUE PROJECT TO SUPPORT OUR TROOPS OVERSEAS

by Michelle Lovi, Bungendore

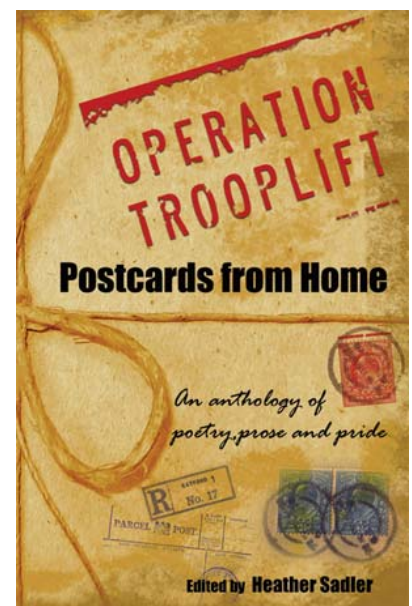
Many Australians want to do something special to show appreciation for Australia's deployed troops, as they understand that our troops do a very difficult and courageous job when they are ordered to deploy to a place like Afghanistan.

In recognition of their efforts, a group of people within the Defence community have taken the initiative to produce *Operation Trooplift – Postcards from Home* – an anthology of prose, poetry and pride. The book contains original literary and photographic works created and contributed by many Defence personnel.

The book is an independent not-for-profit project, put together by a team geographically separated across the country, but connected by a goal to send a warm reminder to our troops of what's waiting for them when they return from operations – hugs, pride, ongoing support, leisure time, beaches and fun. There are stories to put a smile on their face and photos to give them something familiar to look at while they're deployed to a world so very different from the joys of Australian life.

For every book purchased, another will be sent directly to one of our servicemen and women on deployment on operations overseas. Any additional proceeds from books sales will be donated to Legacy. The book is available from

<http://www.operationtrooplift.com.au>



Lake George Day View Club

Another year has begun and the Lake George Day VIEW Club is expecting a most exciting and enjoyable year. With this I would like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone for the new year and look forward to catching up with you all. The first meeting of the Lake George Day VIEW Club for the year will be held at Logan's Cafe, Bungendore, 11.30 am for a 12 noon start on Tuesday 16 February 2010. This will be the AGM when reports will be presented and the new committee that was elected at the end of 2009 will be sworn in. RSVP Friday 12 February to Lydia on 6238 3254 As usual we will have a raffle and door prize.

We will also be renewing memberships for 2010 (bring along an extra \$10) and new members can sign up for the first time.

I encourage ladies who have not been to a VIEW Club meeting to attend, bring a friend and join the Lake George Day VIEW Club in 2010. We are a club that caters for all ages of women who would like to meet other women in the area, strike up new friendships, enjoy a meal cooked by somebody else (that alone should be enticing enough a reason to join) and support the Smith Family.

Four great reasons to join the Day Club but if you cannot come during the day because of work or other responsibilities, then the Bungendore Evening club provides the same type of services and meets in the evening instead.

You can also join both clubs and attend a day and an evening club for greater social exposure and interaction.

If you are interested in taking on a committee role please let me know or if you have any skills that you would like to volunteer without taking on an 'official' committee role but want to help out please email me with what you are interested in helping out with. No offers will be refused.

As always if you want to know what's going on in our club then visit our blog- <http://lgdviewclub.blogspot.com>
-- Lydia Teodorowych, President LGDVC

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Special Olympics Fundraiser - Thank You

The Special Olympics Fundraiser was held on the 5th of December 2009 at the Wamboin Community Hall. So many people need to be **THANKED** and I hope I don't leave anyone out. Firstly to Dave Argaet who organized the whole thing and did all the running around and made it a night to remember.

Renee Argaet for designing the flyers (great job) Joe Mann from COM STAT for the free printing of 400 fabulous flyers. Danny Velnaar for a great job being the MC for the night. Thanks to 4 wonderful bands TOAD FISH CHUTNEY, SO BRO, FERAL BLU and EAGLE MEDICINE.

Wamboin Community Hall (free hire)

PRIZES FOR THE RAFFLE were kindly donated by BUNGENDORE CELLARS, FRITZ FRAMING, GOOLABRI COUNTRY RESORT, INLAND TRADING COMPANY, SPECIAL OLYMPICS OFFICE, PAM AND JERRY DEGROOT, BETH SMITH, HELEN, SHEPARD'S RUN, BRIDGET HEYER, CUTS ON GIBRALTAR, BUNGENDORE LOLLY SHOP, WICKED CACKLE, NICOS CAFE, BEC (for the fruit bowl)

A big thanks to Charlie, Nico and Virginia who cooked up a storm and fed us very well.

Thanks to Mann Family for the sale of the Tee Shirts good selling by Liam and Harrison. Bec did a terrific job handing out the prizes (Thank you all)

Thanks also to Beth and Al who did a great job on the door and counted all that money.

THANK YOU SO MUCH ALL WHO DONATED MONEY AS WELL (Too many to name but you all know who you are and we do too.)

Hope I haven't left anyone out, if I have let me know.

Joanne ARGAET

Carols Report

The '09 Community Association Carols Evening drew a large crowd which proved the theme of 'Community, Carols, and Kids' is the way to go. Pam Barker and helpers managed once again to get the kids to put on a great nativity show. Larry King as MC and the local musos kept us nearly in tune. Then there was Santa! The Salvos were appreciative of the toys from the giving tree and asked the Community be thanked for the \$400 raised by the Montesin sausage sizzle. Most are not aware that the Montesin family not only cook the snags but also donate the sausages, bread, onions etc. Great effort. - Lofty Mason

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January Golf Results

The New Year competition attracted a good number of players willing to walk around in the heat. The game was sponsored by long time supporters Dave and Jane Hubbard from Wiyagiba Trading and the event was the usual January 3 club stableford game.

We welcomed Jason Beckett and his young son Logan for his first serious golf game which earned him the Encouragement Award.

Ball winners for nearest the pins and long drives were; Jack Whitney x2, Tim Barter x2, John Whitney x2, Tony Fisher, Joan Mason and Rob Graham.

The winner of the 9 hole competition was Dave Hubbard, but being the sponsor, passed his trophy down the line to Farrah Urban on count back from Peter Greenwood. Third spot went to Lofty Mason with Joan Mason keeping it in the family coming in 4th.

The 18 hole competition was won by Tim Barter from John Whitney, Jack Whitney and Keith France.

-- Gold enquiries to Peter Greenwood 6238 3358



White Ibis Counting on Sunday Feb 7

(Brief summary of date critical NPWS press release Provided to the Whisper by *the Palerang Bulletin*, which comes out in March)

The people of NSW are being asked to help the humble White Ibis stand up and be counted on **Sunday 7 February** 2010 as part of a state-wide survey of this frequently misunderstood native bird. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) conducts the survey on a single summer day each year . <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/surveys/WhiteIbisSurvey.htm>

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SHEPHERDS RUN

Upcoming Events etc

- **Friday Night Delight** every Friday from 6pm. 2 courses plus coffee \$25. Meet friendly people and relax inside or on the deck. Preceded by Wamboin Wine Down with wine and beer including draft Zierholz - from 4.30pm.
- **Sun 14 Feb Valentine's Day Dinner** with a special lovers menu, flower and chocs. Seats filling fast. Closed for breakfast, open for lunch.
- **Monday Evenings in March.** Are you interested in cooking? We are organising a South American Chef to teach. Please ring with expressions of interest to make this great course happen.
- **10-11 April. Harvest Festival.** Karisma Katz band, grape stomping, special menu, a fun time.
- **We are seeking kitchen and wait staff** – award pay and a fun place to work.

Please ring Elke on 6238 3842.

Baby Possum Saved

Remember the rain on Christmas Day? It was quite torrential in many areas and it had some unexpected effects. Tony and Trudy who live near Bungendore were out inspecting their garden on Boxing Day only to find a mother Ringtail Possum and her two babies on the ground. Normally they are tucked away in tree hollow or a nest made out of grass and leaves. But this family was on the ground cold, wet and miserable. They appeared to have been washed out of one of the nearby trees. Tony and Trudy were able to pick up one of the babies, which weighed in at 150 grams, as it looked to be near death probably from hypothermia. They wrapped her tiny body in a towel and placed it near a hot water bottle to try to get her dry and warmed up. Wildcare was called out and the whole possum family was taken into care for some much needed rehabilitation.



Immediate first aid was given by way of reuniting the family in a cosy container kept warm with towels and heated wheat bags. Surprisingly with some food and slow heating they dried off and livened up in just a few hours. They were then transitioned to a possum box inside a large aviary, so they could exercise and move around. The carer ensured there was a ready supply of young tree shoots and native flowers to eat.

The tiny babies are still being fed by mum and after five weeks weigh in at 200 grams. They all look very healthy and it's a fantastic result. Very soon Wildcare will seek to release them back to where they came from. Possums can be territorial, so it is good they can go back to an area that they know well. Tony and Trudy did say that would be OK!

If you need help or advice about wildlife contact Wildcare - 6299 1966 or the Native Animal Rescue Group (Braidwood area) - 4846 1900.

Rainfall and Temperature in Wamboin -- 35 year statistics from the Robertsons

Dec 09 rainfall -- 90.0mm Dec average...60 mm
Annual average -- 687.60mm
Jan 09...61.50mm
Feb 09...13.75mm
Driest Feb. -- 1.00mm 1986
Hottest Feb. day -- 37 degrees 6 occasions
Coldest Feb. night -- 5 degrees 17/2/98

Total 09 rainfall -- 518.75mm
Jan 10 -- 5.50mm
Av. Feb rainfall -- 51.50mm
Wettest Feb. -- 153.00mm 2002
Wettest Feb. day -- 48.00mm 10/2/89 and 5/2/01
Coldest Feb. day --15 degrees 12/2/09

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Australian of the Year Award

Joan and I would like to say thank you to the sneaky team that nominated us for 'Australian of the Year'. We were honoured to be singled out by our community however; it made us think about all the other people who give so much time and effort to make Wamboin so special. When you think of the amount of time residents give to Hall maintenance, Fire Brigade, Council monitoring, Whisper distribution, Pony Club, Community activities etc. we feel rather humble that we were singled out to achieve your nomination. Over our 28 years in Wamboin we realise that the time spent in community activities is covered by the statement: 'the more you put in, the more you get out'. Once again, thank you for your nomination and thank you to other residents for making our Wamboin so special. -- Joan & Lofty Mason

DOG LOVERS-Dog Training and Behaviour for Beginners-IN BYWONG

Proposal to offer this training at the Bywong Hall, subject to a minimum of 5 takers.

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Class duration: 1 ½ hours Cost: \$115 per dog for the 8 weeks. Class limit: 7 people

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6258 1792

Would You Consider Helping Form a Wamboin Choir?

Looking for expressions of interest in forming a Wamboin choir. The location has yet to be decided, but we would most likely meet on a Wednesday evening for an hour during school terms. All ages welcome. It will be a relaxed environment singing mainly folk, gospel or similar style songs. We need someone to play the piano too.

If so please send an email to axelbys@bigpond.com or phone me on 6238 0943 --Kind Regards, Amanda Axelby

Letter Received

Hi. Have just been through the Dec/Jan edition of the whisper on line and as a former resident found it most interesting and very readable.

Being an expat Aussie now resident in Sweden with a Swedish wife I look back on my Wamboin days and the strong community spirit we experienced there with great affection and nostalgia. The Christmas activities, voluntary bushfire brigade work, construction of the church, the winter burn offs and walks through the forest trails, dozing off in the car in the warm sun waiting for the bus to bring the kids home from school!

I bought our block in Cooper road in '73 and built in '76 only to have to go overseas after three years and not live there again except for a few brief stays until a final sojourn from '96 to '99! We loved the community hall activities and the 'kids' mornings with all the mums there as our two were growing up at Sutton school! It was sad to leave again in '99 and leave friends behind!

Now ten years later two of the kids are in years 11 and 12 at the American school in Warsaw, but still recall their Wamboin Sutton days with great happiness. The other older three are settled in Sydney and all grown up! But again remember the fishing excursions in a 'river' that ran down past Cooper Rd and shooting at things with the airgun before the second 20 acre plot development! Too bad I decided to sell our house in '06, so little chance of settling back now, but have a similar log cabin in rural Sweden now and enjoy it there too !

Just a brief line to wish well to all and a safe summer.

Oliver Cordell and family, email to: oj-c@tele2.se

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WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS

The December Home Produce Markets were one of our largest to date. This was followed by a quieter one in January. At both markets the Holland family kept up their sterling effort running the Brunch stall with the freshly cooked bacon and egg rolls.

The Wagonga coffee stall had to be resupplied with milk at both markets.

All stallholders are locals. These Markets are held at the Hall in Bingley Way on the third Saturday of the month. The Markets run from 9am to noon. Local garden produce sells out quite quickly so you need to come early to get your pick of the best. The markets are a great place to socialise. Try 'The Olde Coffee Shoppe' for coffee of your choice. Jam and cream scones available. For more information contact Joan Mason 6238 3258

Entry is free to customers. - Stall holders \$5. So mark your diary:

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Forget all those baubles, smellies and pampering treats, gentle, lingering rain was the best Christmas present, ever. It lifted sagging shoulders and put a spring in my step. The rain might not have added anything to the dam levels, but it transformed the grey dust across the creek into a carpet of pale green and revived a flagging garden. Along the roadside the kunzeas looked as if they'd been dusted with snow and the yellow paper daisies glowed. But I suspect I may not have seemed grateful enough, because there were no "many happy returns". A month later the bush now seems greyer and more brittle, the understory has thinned and emptied over the dry years and beneath the trees the ground crackles underfoot. I have felt a kinship with the eucalypts, though, as they've stripped off their outer garments in response to the heat. Great ribbons of bark have been shed and strewn carelessly on the ground, leaving behind a mess that would rival the aftermath of a rock concert. But their new naked trunks, shining creamy yellow in the moonlight, look magnificent.

I never really feel the holidays are over and the New Year has begun until we've done with rejoicing because we're young and free, and the kids are safely returned to their institutions of prescribed learning. I rather wish, though, that the acknowledgment of our youth and freedom didn't come wrapped in an Australian flag and that we didn't have to be hoodwinked into believing that massed sausages for breakfast, on a predictably hot morning, is fun, and part of being Australian. I spent Australia Day, savouring my freedom, toiling in the "golden" soil of the garden, marvelling at the beauty and defiance, against all odds, of the blue and white agapanthus and red hot pokers, and feeling depleted of youthful vigour by day's end.

I have enjoyed the holidays, some pleasant bush walks, a dip in the briny and a morning spent cycling before a welcome beer at our friendly "local". To add to this, my faith in Santa was restored on Christmas day, but I have completely given up on the weather man. He's full of lies and idle promises. The next time he predicts rain, I'm going to hang out the washing, wash the car, flush the toilet regardless, turn on the watering system and make hay!

But I wouldn't live anywhere else....maybe I'd become complacent if I did.

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