

August 2010 CIRCULATION: 1,144 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. Contributions from residents are valued and the main content. Editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either <u>nednoel@optusnet.com.au</u> or <u>whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au</u> or mail them. The deadline for the next issue is always the last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for the September 2010 issue Whisper the deadline is Sunday, 29 August, 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

	Pete Harrison		6229 2525 wampain a munity and a	
Wamboin Community Assn		President President	6238-3525 wamboincommunity.asn.au	
Bywong Community Assn	Nora Stewart		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 Educa		
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	6238-3762	
Wamboin Scout Group	Peter Harrison	Contact Person	6238-3525	
Wamboin Pony Club	Robyn Slater	Senior Instructor	6238-3472	
Gearys Gap Pony Club	Katarina Biondic	Contact	0421-859-917	
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	Lydia Zielinski	Contact	6230-3488	
Wamboin Bookgroup	Alice Scott	Secretary	6238 3178	
THE YOUNG	G WAMBOIN ENTR	EPRENEURS		
			238 0746.	
Deanne Brucic, babysitting & petsitting			238-1884	
Jess, Ellen and Nicole Smith, petsitting (experienced with horses)			6238-3115	
Fiona Skea, babysitting			6238-3290	
Rebecca Purdie, petsitting			238-3343	
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Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



Meet the Candidates — By popular demand, the WCA will again hold a Meet the Candidates evening on Thursday 12 August, at 7.30 pm. In the lead up to the federal election, candidates for the federal seat of Hume have been invited to address local residents and field questions on issues of interest within our community. More details are provided elsewhere in this issue of The Whisper, and on the WCA website at http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/candidates.

Upcoming Events — For those who may not be aware, information on upcoming events ("What's on in Wamboin") is provided on the WCA website. Just go to http://wamboincommunity.asn.au and follow the relevant links for more details on any event of interest. Coming in August, the annual WCA Curry Night, and in September, the Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks Display.

Council Matters — Keep abreast of the WCA's current Council activities through the WCA website at http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/lep for LEP updates and http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/waste for progress with the Macs Reef Road WTS.

WCA Electronic Noticeboard — The WCA electronic noticeboard is a convenient way to keep up with community activities. Subscribe by visiting the WCA website at http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard Pete Harrison (president@wamboincommunity.asn.au)

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Breaking news! - Bywong Community brought off its 13th Trivia Challenge without suffering any of the calamities often associated with that unlucky number!

In fact the evening went off without a hitch, with a new team of quizmasters maintaining the great tradition bequeathed by Warwick and Diana, who have moved from the district.

We believe some attend the evening for the supper servings of a varied array of gourmet soups, served with Peter Zimmerman's dainty rolls. A decision to limit the number of tables paid off in greater comfort for all contestants, and the earlier starting time sat comfortably with the chill weather.

As in previous years, the competition was stimulated by visitors from Bungendore, Wamboin and Carwoola. The XX team from Bungendore again succeeded in holding off the opposition to win the first prize. The same Bungendore team over the years has managed to scatter its name liberally over the Challenge shield.

Once again the event fulfilled its objectives - to help people meet other locals and to renew old friendships and acquaintances. Some tables were made up of longstanding friends and neighbours: others asked for allocated tables and were meeting their team-mates for the first time. The bouquets most valued by the organisers are comments from old and new competitors on the happy and relaxed feel of the evening.

The Community thanks all who helped organise such a successful event, those including Cafe D'Lish who contributed prizes, and our friends at Wamboin Community for helping with the seating.

Macs Reef Road The planned public meeting to discuss safety and other issues on Macs Reef Road has been postponed until the October meeting. Watch for details in the October Whisper.

Meet the Candidates : Residents are urged to attend the joint Wamboin/Bywong meeting to meet and question those seeking to represent us in Parliament. Watch for details on the Wamboin Community Association and Bywong Community websites.



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NEW CLASSIFIEDS

Broulee house for rent in January from Sunday 9 January – Opposite Broulee beach (sea view) – modern 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom townhouse, \$1500 per week, more details and photos available from Janine at janilly1@hotmail.com or 0419 460 820.

Hay For Sale. Prime lucerne. Heavy bales, good colour. \$17.90 (25kg+/-) or in 350 kg 'square' bales \$195. Other v' good lucerne. \$16.00. Prime oaten. Heavy well made bales. \$12.50 or in 330kg 'square' bales \$150. Can deliver. **Railway Sleepers for Sale**. Best grade \$25. Very good grade \$20.00. Not nursery size but the genuine article. Average about 130x240x2400mm. <u>Very heavy and solid</u>. Can deliver. 0416 073 020

House sitting wanted. Going away in December/January? Do you need your house/pets looked after? My parents are visiting from Western Australia and are hoping to housesit during late December/early January. They are a totally reliable older couple, non-smokers. **Interested in a House swap?** You could stay in beautiful seaside Mandurah, in WA, close to Fremantle. The house is a 3 bedroom brick A/C (with car) in exchange for a house in Bywong/Wamboin/Bungendore during December/January. Prefer Christmas and New Year period. -- Ring 6236 9277

Masport Geneva Gas Log Fire \$500, Bakelite Radio restored \$120, 2 antique club chairs with foot stools fully upholstered excellent condition \$250 each, 1 large tin trunk \$100, Vintage Bakelite 5 piece dressing table set \$80, 1 Bentwood chair \$50, 1 wooden students chair \$20, 1 small bedroom chair \$20, 1 antique washstand set comprising 1 large jug, 1 basin, 1 gazunder and 1 vase with some damage \$80, various vegetable dishes with lids \$20 - \$50. All prices negotiable. Please phone Lynn 62383455 or 0408 622154.

Give your photos a new lease of life! Where are your photos now? Are they filed on your hard-drive or piled up in a dusty corner? Perhaps you want to organise them but just don't know where to start? Or do you make albums already but need some fresh ideas? The answer is on your doorstep. I run Creative Memories album-making workshops every month to help people organise, preserve and celebrate their special memories. Whether you want to conserve heritage photos, make ordinary family snaps look stuning or explore the creative possibilities of digital albums, I would like to help make the job faster and the results more satisfying. The three-hour workshops cost \$5 or I am available for free individual consultations. Phone Elisabeth Taylor on 6236 9896 or email <u>elisabethtaylor@bigpond.com</u> ...If you do nothing with your photos, why did you buy a camera?

FOR SALE: Artec AM12E Plus **Scanner** in working order (\$10), Epson Colour Printer Model P954A in working order (\$10). Please phone Stephen on 0405 118 676 for further details.

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MATHS & SCIENCE TUTORING, K-6, 7-10 and 11 & 12, & 1st year university. Encouraging, expert coaching.Judy Shellard BSc(Hons), Dip Ed, David Shellard (3rd year Mathematics ANU). Please contact Judy. Phone 6238 3050

WCA Electronic Noticeboard – The WCA electronic noticeboard is a convenient way to keep up with community activities. Subscribe by visiting the WCA website at http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard

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

Beekeeping 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 - \$120 Half Pg - \$60 1/3 Pg \$40 1/4 Pg - \$30 1/5 Pg - \$25 1/8 Pg - \$20

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 <u>www.bywongcommunity.org.au</u>.

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

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.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

The Wamboin Community Association customarily holds a "Meet the Candidates" evening prior to Federal, State and Local Government elections and invites nominated candidates to attend.

For the 2010 Federal Election on 21 August, the WCA is inviting all candidates for the Hume electorate to a meeting at 7.30pm Thursday 12 August at the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin. NSW.2620

This is an opportunity for the Wamboin and Bywong communities to hear from and meet with those candidates who attend. There is often criticism about our invisible elected representatives - so you may like to actually see who might be elected to represent you for the next three years! -- John van der Straaten, WCA Secretary





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NATURE NOTES – JULY 2010

by Jo Walker

After all that beautiful rain this month, over 50mm here, the dam is full, the creek is still trickling and springs and soakage areas on the hillsides are keeping the ground soggy. In a shallow valley at the top of the hill on my place, the water seeps down long after the rain is over, forming small puddles between the grass tussocks. At present, many of these look like miniature paddy-fields with minute green whiskers growing in them – possibly grass, but there are a lot of Onion Orchids (*Microtis parviflora*) putting up leaves nearby and the tiny seedlings may be their offspring developing from last year's seeds.

Although we are still getting heavy winter frosts some mornings, some of the birds are getting a bit territorial, and, in the first week of July, one of the magpies was flying up along the creek with a beak full of large twigs!

Over the last few years, I have occasionally seen Satin Bowerbirds here – usually one or two females. But recently, there were two females feeding just down from the house, then another – and then the handsome, glossy blue-black male joined them and they foraged around for some time. Although they are fruit-eating birds, they will also feed on insects. This group was digging into the grasses and herbaceous plants, possibly for insects although they also seemed to be pulling off and swallowing some of the leaves.

The honeyeaters – Red Wattlebirds, Eastern Spinebills and White-eared Honeyeaters – are all busy feeding on the few winter-flowering plants. The White-eared Honeyeater seems to prefer Grevillea flowers, while the other two spend a lot of time feeding on the cream flowers of the prickly little Urn Heath, *Melichrus urceolatus*. *Brachyloma daphnoides*, another heath, is still in bud but very attractive with distinctive pink flower-buds.

While I was cutting up some dead Silver Wattles recently, I found about 40 ladybirds of two different species, sheltering under a loose piece of bark. Years ago, it was a common event to find many different insects and spiders under bark, but during the drought these got fewer and fewer – probably making life difficult for tree creepers and sittellas. So it was good to see the ladybirds (they were carefully removed to a safe new shelter).

Another insect surprise was a group of large bristly, reddish caterpillars feeding on *Amyema pendulum*, one of the local mistletoes. These were the larvae of the Imperial White Butterfly (*Delias harpalyce*). A few have disappeared since then, possibly eaten by birds, but the remaining caterpillars are spinning a fine film of silk over the leaves and stems of the mistletoe prior to pupating. The pupae are suspended on the silk film until mature. The butterflies all emerge at the same time and hang there for a few hours until their wings have expanded and dried, a fleetingly beautiful sight I look forward to.



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FEDERAL ELECTION POLLING BOOTH

The Wamboin Community Hall in Bingley Way has been designated a polling booth for the Federal Elections on August 21. The Hall will be open for voting from 8am until 6pm. With easy parking and no queues at Wamboin, why vote anywhere else? -- Queries to Pete Harrison on 62383525.

THE GREAT WAMBOIN CURRY NIGHT

It is on again: The Great Wamboin Curry Night. There is an entry fee of a gold coin per person to offset the hire of the Hall. Saturday, August 14 is the date and from 7pm all diners bring along a prepared dish. The dishes are displayed and then on offer to all curry munchers from 7.30. A prize will be given to the dish as selected by a secret (no bribes) judge. Tables and chairs and a warm Hall are provided. BYO drinks, plates and cutlery.

For more information contact: Trent Abel: 62843569 or 0428 887 753 or Pete Harrison: 62383525

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Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare Think global, act local

by Chris Fowler

Land for Wildlife. The use of the Land for Wildlife concept in NSW [which originated in Victoria some years ago] has fairly recently been licensed to the Community Environment Network. Phil and Lesley Machin [machin4@bigpond.com] recently had a meeting with John Asquith to find out what was involved and how the concept might be further promoted in our region. Landcare has always supported such initiatives and if you are interested in following it up, please contact either Phil or Land for Wildlife [lfwnsw@cen.org.au]. More details from Phil elsewhere in The Whisper.

<u>National Tree Day</u>. Combining our support for this event and our commitment to the planting at the new Birchman's Grove development, we completed the planting on the day.

<u>Weeds Field Day</u>. In conjunction with Pelarang Council, and possibly officers from I & I, we will be holding a field day on weeds at the Bywong Community Hall on Sunday 19th September. Put it in the diary. More details as plans are finalised.

Nursery session – Saturday 7th August – 39 Birchman's Grove, Wamboin, Ph: 62369158 or email

gbu22182@bigpond.net.au. Continuation of our cuttings programme. You must contact Geoff if you plan to attend or bring cuttings. Geoff has almost exhausted the range of cuttings from his block and it is becoming critical that we extend the range from other plant species. If you are planning on attending, please bring one or two small branches with you, enough for about 20 cuttings. If you know the name of the plant, you should ring Geoff to check whether it is suitable material, otherwise just bring it anyway and a decision can be made on the spot.

Fox and Rabbit control. The local LHPA's have recently begun introducing new short [3 hour]courses for licensing in the use of 1080 [foxes] and Pintone [rabbits]. The use of 1080 [and Pintone?] in the future will require a license which when issued under this scheme will last for 5 years. It is currently almost impossible for local landholders on small blocks to meet the requirements of the Poisons Act, and I am not certain how, or whether the new license will change that difficulty. The SE LHPA based at Bega [Ph: 64921283], but with a [sometimes unattended] office at Braidwood [Ph: 48422536] has no immediate plans for any more courses, but will be happy to run another one if enough people register their interest. A collective approach from group[s] of neighbours may be one way to overcome present difficulties and promote another course in the Braidwood area. Landholders west of Bungendore might find it more convenient to apply to join one of the Tablelands LHPA courses. Contact that office at – Ph: [Goulburn] 48212522, [Yass] 62261155. Priority in the Tablelands region will be given to local landholders. Costs are likely to be around \$22 – ratepayers, \$45 – non ratepayers.



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IN SUPPORT OF ROSES

By 'The Market's Flower Man', a.k.a. Lofty Mason

Roses really suit the dry Wamboin climate however they must have a sunny, open position with good drainage. They resent being crowded and shaded by other plants. Roses are very adaptable and can be grown in most soil types providing it is well drained to allow excess water to move away from the root zone. Judging by results, Ken and Deb Gordon seem to have a great spot beside their elevated driveway between the road and their entrance. Deb claims she leaves them alone however the following is suggested.

Water new rose plants in and then deep water sparingly as required. Spray watering is harmful to flowers, foliage and roots. If required there are specific sprays and fertiliser available for roses.

In Wamboin roses should be pruned late August to early September. Earlier pruning will cause the resulting new shoots to be hit by frost. Follow the 4 D method by first removing any dead, damaged, diseased and distorted wood then shorten back healthy branches to about one third of their length to promote new growth (flowers are borne on new wood). Trim the bushes to a suitable size and shape. In the summer 'dead heading', that is removing old flowers, will prolong the flowering period. With grafted or budded roses ensure any buds or shoots below the graft are cleanly removed. These 'briar shoots' will take over the plant if allowed to grow.

If Shakespeare visited I am sure he would have said 'A rose by any other name would flourish as well in Wamboin'.

Notes from St Andrews

Church services this month will be on 1 August (Matins) and 15 August(Holy Communion). The services begin at 9am. The church on the corner of Poppet and Norton Roads is lovely and warm, and the welcome is even warmer! Any enquiries can be directed to the Rectors Warden, Robyn Robertson on 62383202.

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, $7.30\ \text{am}$ - $7.00\ \text{pm}$

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



DOG LOVERS

Dog Training and Behaviour for Beginners IN BYWONG

A well-behaved dog is a pleasure to own. Spending a little time with your dog each day and knowing just what to ask of your dog is what this course will teach you. You will be learning about basic dog behaviour and psychology, as well as various obedience exercises, such as sit, drop, wait, come and walking on a loose lead. These classes will also discuss dealing with dogs and snakes and how to control dogs around livestock and wildlife, including advice on how to train your dog to avoid snakes. Children are very welcome to the classes, however please discuss with us if your child will need help from an adult throughout the lessons.

Class duration: 1 hours Cost: \$100 per dog for 6 weeks. Class limit: 5 people Please call Heike Hahner on 4842 7143 or email <u>hhahner@bigpond.com</u> Canine Communications Dog Training & Behaviour Consulting.

How The Whisper Gets From the Printer To Your Mailbox

For ten years or so Sue Gane has volunteered time and driving to pick up the printed Whisper from Instant Colour Press in Belconnen and to organise its delivery. Over all those years she set up and the proper numbers and then drove these copies to go to five "distributors", who then did the work of getting the right number of copies to each of the persons listed below. She also worked in various ways to help many other people. Sue is unable to carry on this task due while she fights a health problem. Trish Rice years ago offered to help out if Sue ever needed a hand, and has stepped in now, true to her word.

The 50 people below each spend time every month to make sure that Wamboin and Bywong homes own and receive a free community newspaper written by residents. 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. - Ned Noel, Volunteer Editor

159 CO-OR	DINATED HELEN MONTESIN: Ph 623	38 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)	31	Alan Rope	Sutton Road	30
276 CO-	ORDINATED BY TRISH RICE: Ph 62.	38 3791			
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	48	Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Drive	17
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona, Norton to Majors	31
Trish Rice	Majors Close	20	David Anderson	Weerona, Majors to Denley	35
Ned Noel	13PlrngCncl+37Advetisers/M	fisc 50	Penny Evans	Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley	24
Kathy Handel	Yalana West	19			
228 CO-OR	DINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: Ph 62	238 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
262 CO-OR	DINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRA	ATEN:	Ph 6238 3590		
Sheryl Barnes	Denley/Kestral to End	20	Brian Higgison	Deley/Birchmans - Kestral	12
Don Malcomson	Macs R Denley to Gum Fla	at 7	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef /Nwngtn to Bankers	7
Connie+Hans Ba	chor Denley to MacReef + Birchm	nansG 26	Morag&Guy Cotsell	MReef /Newington/Harriot (A)	30
Nora Stewart	Rovere Lane	7	Sandra Favre	MReef /Newington/Harriot (B)	20
Robert&Marzena	a Luton Sutton/Goolabri Area	40	Joan Milnor	Birriwa & MacsReef(GmFlt-Harr)	30
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Lane	6	Tony Bond	Hogan Drive	28
Carol&Clive Bo	ughton Macs Reef Rd - Bankers to FI	Hwy 29			
219 CO-ORI	DINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON F	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 1	25	ThelmaMartin/ChrisFowler	Shinglehouse & Millyn	27
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	18	Richard Holding	Wyoming and Doust Rds	25
Phil&Pam Dawe	s Donelly Rd & Lane	20			

TOTAL FOR WHISPER 1,144



Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin 35 year statistics from the Robertsons

Through a mistake on my part the June we statistics did not get included in the July issue, so they are printed first below, followed by the statistics for July as prepared for this August issue up to the time of printing. - Editor

June Rainfall to 27/6 34.75 mm	June rainfall to 27/6 34.75mm	2010 rainfall 410mm
2009 rainfall to 30/6 198.25mm	June 2009 41.25mm	Average July rainfall 52.7mm
(July 2009 39.5mm)	Wettest July 142mm in 1993	Driest July 4.5mm in 1982
Hottest July day 15C on 22/7/79	Coldest July day 4C on 17/7/07	Coldest July night5C on 10/7/96

July rainfall to 25/7 72.25mm	(July 2009 39.5mm	2010 rainfall to 25/7 482.25mm
2009 to 31/7 237.75mm	Average August rainfall 54.9mm	August 2009 35.25mm
Wettest August 170mm in 1985	Wettest August day 35mm on 7/8/85	Driest August 5.5mm in 1994
Hottest August day 20C on 31/8/82	Coldest August day 5C x 5 times	Coldest August night4C on 9/8/97

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none 629/ 1636 Fax 6299 355/ ABN 69 419 159 25/

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THE BUSHFIRE DANGER PERIOD HAS ENDED

For the present a Fire Permit is not required to burn off in the open <u>but</u> if you plan to light a fire in the open you must notify:

- 1. your neighbours, and
- 2. the Brigade Captain on 0409 991 340 or (02) 6238 1849 (ah) at least 24 hours before you light the fire.

Your thoughtfulness will help minimise neighbour anxiety and unnecessary brigade call-outs.

Management, including containment of a fire originating on your property, is your responsibility.

RING TRIPLE ZERO (000) TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS.

BRIGADE ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD

Charlie Le Lievre receives Life Member Plaque: President Peter Greenwood presented Charlie Le Lievre with his Life Member plaque. Charlie was appointed as a Life member of the Wamboin Brigade in 2006 but due to an administrative oversight had not been presented with a plaque. This was rectified on Friday 23rd July 2010 with a luncheon at the local Shepherds Run Restaurant.



BRIGADE TRAINING EXERCISE – WESTERN SECTOR OF WAMBOIN

Brigade members were put through the hoops in a simulated bush fire training exercise on Sunday 25 July. The exercise



envisioned an increasingly hot, blustery summer day, wind from the north-west, low humidity and very high fire danger. A bush fire had originating in the Goorooyarroo Nature Reserve which lies to the west of Sutton



Road. The cocktail (heat, wind, fuel along with low humidity) was giving rise to a severe ember attack and spot fires on the western edge of Wamboin (region of Sutton and Norton Rds and adjacent properties on the escarpment). All of Wamboin brigade's tankers and supporting appliances were involved and the exercise envisioned additional vehicles from other brigades to be also operating in the area. Several properties were visited during the morning's activities. The key issues addressed during the exercise included fire fighter safety, property protection, communications, sourcing and management of water, property familiarisation and pre incident planning. The assistance of a number of local residents in the exercise is appreciated.

LAKE GEORGE ZONE BUSH FIRE RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Lake George Zone Bush Fire Risk Management Plan has been approved and can be viewed and/or downloaded from: <u>http://rfs.nsw.gov.au/file_system/attachments/State08/Attachment_20100510_8162D103.pdf</u>

It is a reasonably large document (16mb) and a summary of the key points that may be of interest to residents is below. Under the Rural Fires Act 1997 the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC) must constitute a Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) for each area of the state that is subject to the risk of bush fires. The BFMC is required to prepare and submit a draft Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (BFRMP) to the NSW Bush Fire Coordinating Committee for approval. A BFRMP is a strategic document that identifies community assets at risk and sets out a five year program of coordinated, multi agency treatments to reduce the risk of bush fire. The Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade uses the BFRMP to develop its own plan for its area of responsibility (Wamboin, Bywong, Sutton Park and Eagle Hawk localities). The aim of the BFRMP is to:

- Reduce the number of human-induced bush fire ignitions that cause damage to life, property and the environment.
- Manage fuel to reduce the rate of spread and intensity of bush fires, while minimising environmental/ecological impact.
- Reduce the community's vulnerability to bush fires by improving preparedness.
- Effectively contain fires with a potential to cause damage to life, property and the environment.
- The following are the specific treatments recommended for our area by the BFRMP:
 - **Ignition Management** Fire danger signs, and 'No Fires' signs on Total Fire Ban days. The Brigade manages 5 fire danger signs at the entrances to the Brigade area, during the bush fire season; residents should note on a daily basis the fire danger rating for the day.
 - **Hazard Reduction** Assist property owners to reduce fuel loads in and around their property (it is the owner's responsibility to actually conduct the hazard reduction). This typically should be conducted during the winter months.
 - **Community Education** The Brigade will conduct 'street' meetings, and provide community advice by letter box drops, the Brigade web site and in Whisper articles. During periods of bush fire activity local advice may be broadcast on ABC radio AM 666, CB channel 6 and local radio 88.7FM.
 - **Property Planning** Advise residents on bush fire planning and the 'Stay and Defend or Leave Early' policy. Remember each property should have a 'stay' plan and a 'leave' plan, regardless of intentions during the planning stage, as on the day your plans may have to change. The Brigade is able to provide advice to residents on property preparation - see contact details below.
 - **Preparedness** Brigade Pre Incident Planning, location of water sources as part of a State-wide Static Water Supply (SWS) Program recorded on a central RFS database, gathering of information regarding the local area, identification of strategic assets and regular Brigade training in bush fire prone areas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- <u>August 14th</u> Wamboin Curry Night (several brigade members are planning to attend this fun community night so you can expect at least one 'fire engine red' curry along with something to 'hose' it down).
- <u>September</u> 25th- Annual Wamboin Bonfire & Fireworks Night.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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. <u>http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au</u>

Brigade Information Stall at the monthly Wamboin Home Produce Market: The Wamboin Fire Station and 'Shop Front' 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. If you would like your fire plan reviewed then please bring it along. Assistance with completing your RFS Property Fire Assessment questionnaire can also be obtained here. The next market day is September 18th 2010.

FINALLY, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ON A FIRE-RELATED ISSUE (INCLUDING PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMING BUSH FIRE SEASON) please contact the Brigade's Captain (Andrew Dunn) on 0409 991 340 or (02) 6238 1849 (ah).

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

NSW Government – Changes to Associations Legislation.

The NSW Minister for Fair Trading has advised that the new Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and Associations Incorporation Regulation 2010 commenced on 1 July 2010.

This legislation aims to make it easier for associations to manage their own affairs, including a stronger protection of association finances. The changes are set out at the website <u>www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au</u> or you can contact the Registry of Co-operatives & Associations on 6333 1400 or FreeCall 1800 502 042.

However, for the Wamboin Community Association and you and me, the significant points appear to be:

- 1. An association's "rules" will now be called its "constitution" and a "model constitution" is set out in the Regulation. The "model constitution" is not compulsory and does not automatically apply to existing associations. Associations may choose to adopt their own constitution and include clauses to suit their association's needs. Associations will need to ensure all aspects of their new constitution comply with the new law. Fair Trading will provide some optional clauses. This is a good opportunity for the WCA to review our current rules to ensure they are what we want.
- 2. The constitution may provide for a postal ballot to pass any kind of resolution or permit meetings at more than one venue using technology that allows members in different places to participate. This might make it easier for meetings to be organised and for more members to be involved.
- 3. Associations no longer need to hold an annual general meeting in each calendar year, but must still hold one within 6 months of the end of the financial year. The WCA would need to set out its financial year in the constitution which can be up to a maximum of 18 months.
- 4. A common seal will no longer be needed to execute documents. Documents can be signed by two of the authorised signatories. The public officer is an authorised signatory by virtue of the office.
- 5. Financial reporting will comprise 2 tiers. The WCA is in the smaller or "tier 2" and will still need to lodge an annual summary of the WCA financial affairs.
- 6. Committee members and office bearers must disclose any potential conflict of interest and must not use their position or information for a dishonest purpose.

The WCA Committee will consider a new Constitution for the WCA Inc. based on the "model constitution" and would appreciate any comments from members and the community on aspects of the "model constitution" which should be amended to meet their needs. Before a draft Constitution for the WCA is proposed to the Department of Fair Trading it will be an item for community discussion at a General Meeting of the WCA.

Your comments should be sent the WCA Secretary on 6238 3590 or <u>secretary@wamboincommunity.asn.au</u> by the end of August. -- by John VanDerStraaten

OAKLEIGH BERRY FARM

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

Golf

by Peter Greenwood

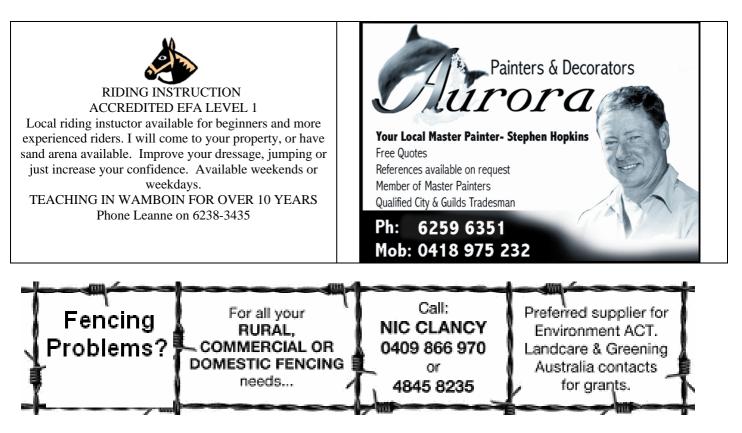
Tradition has it that the July competition of the Wamboin Golf Club is sponsored by local accountant Keith France in conjunction with Parkhill Financial Group and we thank them for their continued support for golf in Wamboin. July is also the anniversary of the GST and naturally, with an accountant in the mix, there is always a 10% complicating factor when determining the final outcomes.

Long drive and nearest the pin winners were; John Whitney x2, Joan Mason, Jack Whitney, Keith France, Phil Kuczma, Len Ivey and Tim Barter.

The game was a variation of American Foursomes teams event. The winning team in the 9 hole event was Lofty and Joan Mason (29.575) from Phil Kuczma and Peter Greenwood (29.775)

The 18 hole competition was won by Tim Barter and Matt O'Brien (57.6) with Paul Griffin and Len Ivey second (58.45) and Larry King, John Whitney and Rob Gorham third (60.184).

Next game on 1 Aug will be sponsored by the Wamboin local tradies.



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Land for Wildlife – What's That?

Some of you will already know the answer, but as the website (<u>www.cen.org.au/landforwildlife</u>/) says, Land for Wildlife is a voluntary property registration scheme for landowners who wish to manage parts or all of their property for biodiversity and wildlife habitat. The scheme started in Victoria in 1981 and is slowly taking hold in NSW. Of 10,000 members nationally there are only 500 in NSW. The National Parks & Wildlife Service (now part of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water) oversee the scheme through an organisation called the Community Environment Network (CEN).



Basically you commit to managing your property (or part of it) in an environmentally friendly way. The program is free to join and is not legally binding. The legal status of a property does not change. The minimum size of land to register is half a hectare of native bush land. I suppose if you don't have any native bushland one would have to start to regenerate habitat from scratch.

The scheme puts like-minded people in touch with each other, but the key feature of the program is an environmental property assessment to help you determine how best to manage local environmental issues, such as erosion, wildlife habitats and weed control. There is also advice on how to integrate wildlife conservation into other farm management activities. Local councils, catchment management authorities or relevant community groups, who are trained, carry out property assessments. There are newsletters, fact sheets and other information – such as workshops. A free Land for Wildlife sign (as shown) is provided to show your property is involved with wildlife conservation.

The Chairman of the NSW CEN, John Asquith, has offered to visit Wamboin and Bywong on Sat 31 October (1100 – 1230) to brief people who are interested in joining Land for Wildlife. It would be good if you could let Philip Machin know (machin4@bigpond.com or 6238 3717) whether you want to come along to the meeting to be held at either at the Community Hall or someone's house depending on numbers. Cheers! -- Philip Machin



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Wamboin 15 years ago - from the Whisper, August 1995 Circulation - 500 From: YARROWLUMLA COUNCIL NEWS Compiled by Robyn Robertson

"Greenways Management Plan adopted by Council. After much public consultation and dedicated work by the Greenways Management Committee, Council has reviewed the plan and with very minor alteration, it has now been approved. Much interest has been shown in the system of trails, particularly the pilot trails in the Wamboin / Geary's Gap area, and the plan as now adopted, will be the management tool to be administered by the appointed management committee."

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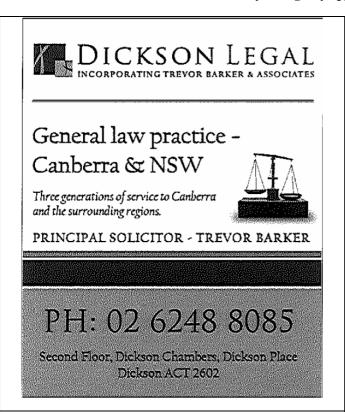


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PONY TALES - Goings on at WPC July 2010

Well the long damp winter drags on, and it seems this year will be damper and colder than we've had for a while (nice weather for ducks..!)

This month's pony club's highlight in between that rain and wind was the Wamboin team's battle with fellow zone teams at the Mounted Games Challenge down at Bungendore Showground just the other weekend. It certainly was a weekend of thrills and spills, for horse and rider. When pushed to the limit what seemed easier during the weeks of practice became harder for some in the reality of real life competition. The combined excitement of over 100 riders, excitable horses, cheering spectators made for a fair bit of rough and tumble. I saw many a horse decide it was better to race off with it's rider only half in the saddle, if at all. How hard it seemed for some to get those excitable four legged creatures anywhere near a pole to grab a cup or stand still enough to enable a rider to get back on in the middle of a race. There were quite a few muddy knees by the end of the weekend.

Saturday was spent getting the teams in order with everyone going through the races and trying to get a good time.

Sunday was the main event, 5 teams raced each time. 5 riders in each team raced against the other team's and the clock. Congratulations to all the Wamboin teams who tried there hardest to get through the races. Many successful in achieving some place ribbons and some good race times. Special congrats. to the "Wamboin Warriors" who qualified for the State Championships.

These events couldn't happen without a lot of hard work and support from parents and friends... standing for hours timing, marshalling, judging or just being the mobile horse holder!....layers of clothing, jumpers, gloves and beanies, all the order of the weekend - Oh how the wind cuts through you on the Bungendore flat! I silently salute all those helpers for getting through what was a very long and many times crazy, noisy, tiring weekend of riding - with it's fair share of mud sweat and tears...(the pictures below show you some of the thrills).

Unfortunately mother nature's winter fest washed out our Wamboin clubs recent rally day. Only an intrepid few parents (including yours truly) plus helper put in a few more hours work on our clubhouse extension.

The wall's are going up as "foreman" Pete guides us laborers through the building process. It's starting to come together and we will soon have a large dry place to do gather when the weather isn't condusive to saddling up the horses.

Remember if you are aged 5 to 25 and have access to your own horse you can come along and join the Wamboin Pony Club. It's a safe, fun place to improve your riding and learn heaps, plus its great fun. We try to gather twice a month at our grounds off Canning Close. Look on the website <u>www.wamboin.pcansw.org.au</u> and you'll find all the contact numbers and info, plus there's heaps more photo's from the mounted games.

Steve Quick





Remember to.....let go!!



Look mum.....no legs!!



Next stop Flemington!! Photos by Catherine Daniel

WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS

(Joan Mason 62383258)

The Home Produce Markets, which are held at the Wamboin Hall on the third Saturday of the month, are in recess until the 18th of September. The reason is that it is too cold and there are limited excess home grown vegies.

I would like to thank all stallholders, and customers who have made these markets such a social success. I would also say a special thanks to Tony Smith for the provision of the Wagonga coffee stall. Tony has sold the business but don't despair, Tony plans to run our coffee stall (with the assistance of trainees) and to sell beans etc. at future Markets.

See you again at our next market:

SATURDAY 18th September 2010

9AM - 12 NOON



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Wamboin Fishing Club

Hi. We've have had a few outings over winter, and a few nice fish have been caught, salmon at the coast and trout in lakes and streams, over the time.

We have had a fly fishing day on a local stocked dam, it was a good learning exercise. Special thanks to the owner of this dam, for the use of it, for our day out, and to Lyle Montesin for his organisation.

We are planning an outing to a local lake to try catching trout on the 22nd August. This is to be organised at the next meeting. All interested people are able to attend at The Eaglehawk Hotel, on Wed 18th August. 5.30pm. We will have a small meat raffle on the night. New members are always welcome.

Tight lines, see you there. -- Chris Byrne of Hogan Drive

Lake George Day View Club

Lake George Day VIEW Club is celebrating it's Sixth Birthday with the theme of Flower Power and invites members and friends to attend this fun day. As a special treat we have a guest performance by Karisma Katz DJ Gosper. Our celebration is being held On Tuesday August 17, 2010 at Shepherd's Run Winery 344 Norton Rd Wamboin 11.30 for a 12 noon start. Cost \$30pp. Wear your peace beads, caftans, tie dyed skirts & flowers in your hair. RSVP by August 6, 2010 to this email: <u>lgdvc at</u> <u>hotmail dot com</u> or Brenda on 4849 4471. Any lady who has not been to a VIEW Club meeting is encouraged 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 and support charity work for the Smith Family. - Lydia Teodorowych

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An occasional piece

LETTER BOXES–What do they say about their owners? (Final in 3 part series)

Pts 1 + 2 of the STABLE DOOR 'Letter Box' Series appeared in the May and June editions of The Whisper. To complete the trilogy, here are the final 12 offerings of the letterbox artistry that dots our region. This expression of cultural diversity can also be viewed in living colour if you go to <u>http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/</u> then click on 'The Whisper' and call up the August edition. The bride and I recently enjoyed a short stint overseas. Among other things, I took the opportunity to do a bit of Irish *letterbox spotting*. So there's a rogue entry from a posh suburb of Dublin included below; certainly ups the anti and frightened the b'geezes out of me at the time.



Wamboin Conversations about Religion

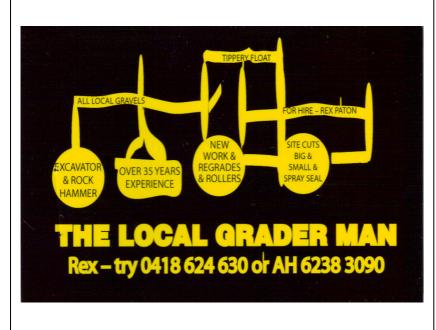
It is appropriate to keep many matters private. But others cry out for public discussion. Subjects like national security, the economy and education. And for some of us, the Christian religion falls into that same category; it ought to be argued about so that those who are misled might be put right. The trick is to discover who is in error.

Two philosophers who think that way are Wamboin resident Dr Jeremy Shearmur, a Reader in Philosophy at ANU and Fr Peter Grundy, an Anglican priest who is pastor to the Church of St Andrew at Wamboin. They have been in enjoyable disputation about religion for some years and it has occurred to them that others might like to eavesdrop on what they are saying. Indeed, there should be scope for questions and rejoinders by those who are interested enough to participate.

So, it is proposed to conduct three public meetings this year from 7.30pm on the last Tuesday in the months of July (27), August (31) and September (28) over wine, cheese and coffee at St Andrew's church on the corner of Norton Road and Poppet St Wamboin. It is envisaged that these evenings will present a robust yet civilised environment in which, following the encouragement of Socrates, we will take the argument wherever it may lead.

Everyone is welcome; and there is no charge. Telephone enquiries may be made to Robyn Robertson on 62383202.







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Advance Australia Dare by Paul Cockram, Palerang Councillor

Australians all let us rejoice, Two years are interest free; When down we hop to Harvey's shop, To buy that new TV.

Our land abounds in nature's gifts, To flog without a care; With coal to burn and slow to learn, Advance Australia where? Our politicians' double-cross, On carbon trading stands, As testament to piss-weak bent; Just what big biz demands.

So come all you hearty souls, Spring from that comfy chair; It can be done, let's use the sun, Advance Australia there.

It will be done, the battle won, Advance Australia fair.

Mudchooks Beat the Devils

by Peter Evans

Despite many regular players being unavailable due to various reasons, the Bungendore Mudchooks still managed to convincingly beat the Harden Red Devils 43-5 at Harden on 24 July. The win plus bonus point secures Bungendore at the top of their competition ladder heading into the final round.

The Harden team is getting stronger each season, but the Mudchooks were never in danger of being beaten despite a spirited effort by the Harden forwards. In fact, the score would have favoured Bungendore even more but for the tenacious defence of Harden who held up Mudchooks players over the try line on three separate occasions.

Nevertheless, the Mudchooks scored seven tries to one with team captain Woody Fraser scoring two, and Eddie Mitford-Burgess, John Turner, Luke Payten, Dave McDonald and Jeremy Taylor scoring one try each. Winger Aaron Williams enjoyed a welcome return to form kicking four conversions, almost scoring a try and receiving the Botham Fencing Coach's award for his efforts.

The next game for the Mudchooks will be a tough one against RMC at Bungendore on 31 July and this will also be Ladies Day.

The Mudchooks will be holding a fundraising day that will benefit both the club and the Bungendore Preschool. This is a day to say thank you to all of the ladies of the club and supporters for the hours spent washing clothes that should really be incinerated, finding mouth guards, listening to the moans and groans about the battle wounds, recounting length of the field tries and most importantly standing and supporting the Muddies in a climate that is best suited to penguins.

So come along and enjoy the rugby in style and join us in the heated marquee where food and beverages will be available. If the heating alone isn't enough to convince you then be further tempted by a lucky door prize and raffles for gournet hampers. The is from 12noon and the cost is \$15 at the tent door. For further details please contact Stacey Beggs 0438 382 363

Please note that the kick-off will be at 1:30pm and the Mudchooks game will be followed by Bungendore Tigers and the Tigers under 18's playing two games.

For a great day out at the local Rugby please make an effort to get down and support the Muddies at the Coop of Pain.





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Wanted Properties for Sale



Jan has been receiving solid enquiry from prospective purchasers for all types of property. She has many disappointed buyers that missed out on the recent properties she has sold who are cashed up and ready to buy. Please do not hesitate to call for a FREE APPRAISAL anytime!

Jan was bought up on the land & appreciates the amount of time, expense & care that goes into any farming operation – no matter how big or small the property is.

Dams, bores, animal shelters, sheds, fences, tanks, pumps etc are all important attributes that can't be overlooked in any inspection and must be pointed out to any potential buyer.

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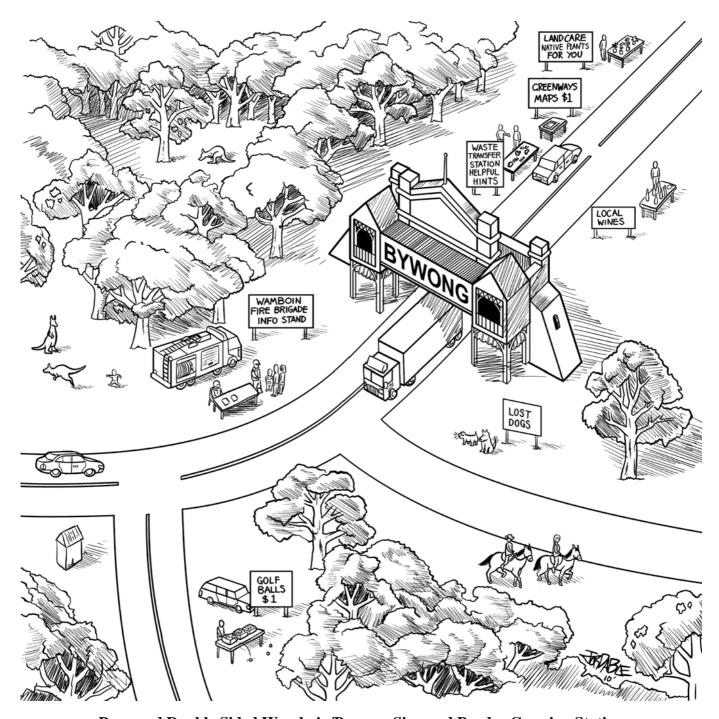
This is all factored into a FREE appraisal of your property & differentiates the price between yours and a neighbour's property.

Please don't hesitate to call her for an honest appraisal of your property.

Jan Ladmore Ph: 0407 890 527 7 Days

E-mail: jan.ladmore@bigpond.com

Horizon has a very good brochure that is a guide called 'Steps to Buying Your Home' in NSW & ACT. This offers advice for both the Seller & Buyer. If you would like a copy sent to you contact Jan Ladmore



Proposed Double Sided Wamboin/Bywong Sign and Border Crossing Station to Assist Residents and Visitors Located on Denley Drive just northeast of its Intersections with Woolshed Lane and Weeroona Drive to Replace the Existing Smaller one-sided Wamboin Sign beside the Road The Above Structure Dislays the word "Wamboin" to those Approaching from the Bywong Side Drawing by Jordan Chik Theme by Ned Noel

Electrical Contractor (Bywong) Roland WOLF NSW & ACT Licensed Installations and Repairs Domestic & Commercial All Work Garanteed 0402 156016 rgwolf1@bigpond.com

ANNUAL BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS NIGHT Bonfire Fuel Required

Mark your diary for the 25th of September for the Annual Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks Night. In the meantime we require suitable bonfire fuel delivered to the bonfire site on the oval on Bingley Way. Gnarly stumps, dead brush, prunings etc are all welcome. This is a great chance to clear your property and to help your Community put on a memorable show. This night is the major, and sometimes the only, fund raising activity by our Community Groups. The scheduled lighting of the Bonfire is 6.33pm and the professional Fireworks display will begin at 7.03pm. The Fire Brigade control parking and the bonfire. Full information in September Whisper.

Contact Pres. Pete Harrison on 6238 3525 or even Lofty on 6238 3258

Wamboin Muse

by Jill Gregory

I lost interest in watching glib garden shows on TV long ago. My waning interest might have had something to do with the quality of the picture on our vintage TV set, but I tend to think that it had more to do with the total lack of reality they peddle. Gardens don't just happen, they require genuine effort, especially here. Several months ago I chanced upon a tree that I had admired in another's garden, but had never before seen in a nursery. I was so delighted to find one that I promptly bought it . Once I had it safely home, however, the problems started...where to plant it. I walked around for months trying to find the perfect spot. The best positions, naturally, coincided with either an outcrop of shale or were under power lines. And even unencumbered sites were a challenge. The clay was as hard as rock and a mattock, wielded with all my strength and blistered hands, bounced off. The prized specimen began to haunt me. I tried repotting to appease it. At least, in a bigger pot, it might survive until next year. I walked around in ever decreasing circles, with furrowed brow, hoping for a hole to magically appear, but it seemed as if it never would. Then the gods smiled on me. It rained, and it rained some more, the flint-like clay became malleable and suddenly all seemed possible. I loaded the wheelbarrow with potting mix and mulch, balanced the mattock, spade and crow bar, just for good measure, on top, and selected a spot that I had not even considered before. The tree went into the ground, and a wire cage grew up around it. Now I just have to wait til spring!

Although winter in Wamboin is a battle against the cold, it is a beautiful time. To awaken to mornings bleached white and sprinkled with diamonds beneath a cloudless sky still enchants me. To lift panes of frozen glass from muddy puddles and shatter them on the ground, to watch puddles in the creek transform into a raging, roaring river where once you stepped across with ease, to hear happy frogs in noisy chorus, feel the soft, silent dampness of an enveloping fog and smell wood smoke. The flowers have disappeared, but there is the scent of violets and winter honeysuckle, splashes of golden diosmas and red berried nandinas and the promise of daffodils. The school holidays saw kids building cubbies, stepping around fairy rings, and finding ant hills and echidnas while the kangaroos watched, unfazed, and the birds returned.

I know we should buy a new TV. Sooner or later new technology will force our hand, but when it does I still don't think I'll be able to watch those plastic gardening shows....not until they portray real people, with genuine sweat on their brows and calloused hands, wielding real tools in real dirt, and then, stooped and aching, surveying a garden wreathed in chicken wire.

I wouldn't live anywhere else.....

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For appointments or further information please phone Brian

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