

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

February 2011

CIRCULATION: 1,237

Wamboin Community Assn:

www.wamboincommunity.asn.au

Bywong Community Assn:

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

Fire Brigade:

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

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION that started The Whisper as a community newsletter in 1981, and continues to own it. The newsletter is distributed to all letterboxes in Wamboin and Bywong (plus other localities in our fire brigade's area) at the start of each month, except January. Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and are the main content of the newsletter. The Editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either nednoel@optusnet.com.au or whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or mail them. The deadline for the next issue of The Whisper is always the last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for the March 2011 issue the deadline is Sunday, 27 February 2011, 7 pm. Instant Colour Press executes the printing. Then the new issue will go to the volunteer deliverers 5 days later.

LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial Triple Zero (000) All Hours

Bungendore Police: 6238 1244 Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre: 0409 991 340 Ambulance Bookings: 131233

LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Wamboin Community Assoc. | Peter Harrison | President | 6238 3525 |
| Bywong Community Assoc. | Nora Stewart | President | 6230 3305 |
| Fire Brigade | Andrew Dunn | Captain | 0409 991 340 or 6238 1849 ah |
| Wamboin Markets | Joan Mason | contact | 6238 3258 |
| Sutton School Playgroup | Toni Moore | Convenor | 6238 3669. |
| Landcare | Roger Good | President | 6236 9048 |
| Community Nurse | Heather Morrison | Bungendore | 6238 1333 |
| 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 | 6238 3525 |
| Wamboin Pony Club | Robyn Slater | Senior Instructor | 6238 3472 |
| Geary's Gap Pony Club | Katarina Biondic | contact | 0421 859 917 |
| Wamboin Play Group | Kristin Skinner | Convenor | 6238 1201 |
| Wamboin Hall Bookings | Joan Mason | contact | 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 |
| Wonderful Women of Wamboin | Claire Ayling | Convenor | 6238 3347 |
| Lake George VIEW Club | Lydia Zielinski | contact | 6230 3488 |
| Wamboin Book Group | Alice Scott | Secretary | 6238 3178 |

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Deanne Brucic | • babysitting/ petsitting | 6238 1884 | Jess, Ellen & Nicole Smith | • petsitting (incl horses) | 6238 3115 |
| Fiona Skea | • babysitting | 6238 3290 | Ashleigh Caird | • babysitting | 6238 0746 |
| Rebecca Purdie | • petsitting | 6238 3343 | Gabrielle Simpkin | • babysitting/ petsitting | 6238-1335 |
| Elena Sutcliffe | • petsitting | 6238 3228 | Jack & Matilda Whitney | • pet care | 6238 3059 |
| Alana Stenning | • petsitting | 6238 3030 | | • | |



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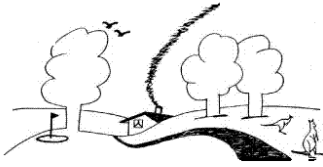
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Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



With things being pretty quiet over the holiday period, there's not a lot to report. Planning work for the new waste transfer station at the Macs Reef Road landfill site is proceeding well, and will be reported in more detail after the latest developments have been presented to Council.

WCA representatives also attended a community meeting in Braidwood on Monday (Jan 31) evening. There is serious concern there over plans for Council to reduce its staff presence in Braidwood, centralising resources, where possible, in Bungendore. While this may seem to have little to do with our own community, and whatever you might think personally about the idea, the plight of any individual community within the shire has an impact on Council decisions, which in turn has a direct impact on our own community. The WCA hopes that by attending such meetings, and contributing when we can, we will help to build a better understanding between the vastly different communities that make up our shire.

Clean Up Australia Day — As usual, will be on the first Sunday in March. The local clean-up exercise is again being coordinated by Lofty Mason, between 9.00 am and noon, with details provided elsewhere in this issue of The Whisper. Please come along and help, even if only for half an hour, or just take a stroll down your own local street/road/drive/close/way (did I get them all?) and pick up any rubbish. Roadside litter just encourages roadside littering—a tidy community will at least make some people think twice about littering.

Upcoming Events — Information on all upcoming events within the community ("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. If you belong to a local community group and would like your event(s) included, please email details to the WCA Webmaster at webmaster@wamboincommunity.asn.au.

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>

The Whisper On-Line — Remember that copies of The Whisper are available on-line at <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/whisper> on the first Sunday of the month. The Web Committee has also commenced the task of digitising older copies of The Whisper and making all regular Whisper articles available on their own website pages (see Feature Extracts on the Whisper page).

Pete Harrison (president@wamboincommunity.asn.au)



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Jason and Lesa Smith
23 Robertson Road, Wamboin
12 October 2010



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John Brady
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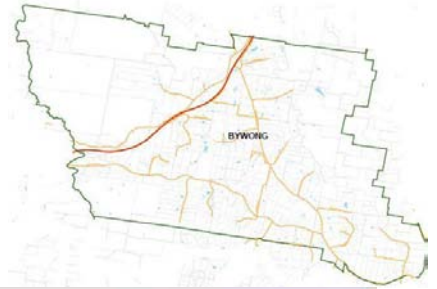
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Bywong Community News

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

by Darryl Bourke, President



Wamboin
and
Bywong



Sunday
6th March
2011

www.cleanupaustriaday.org.au

Wamboin

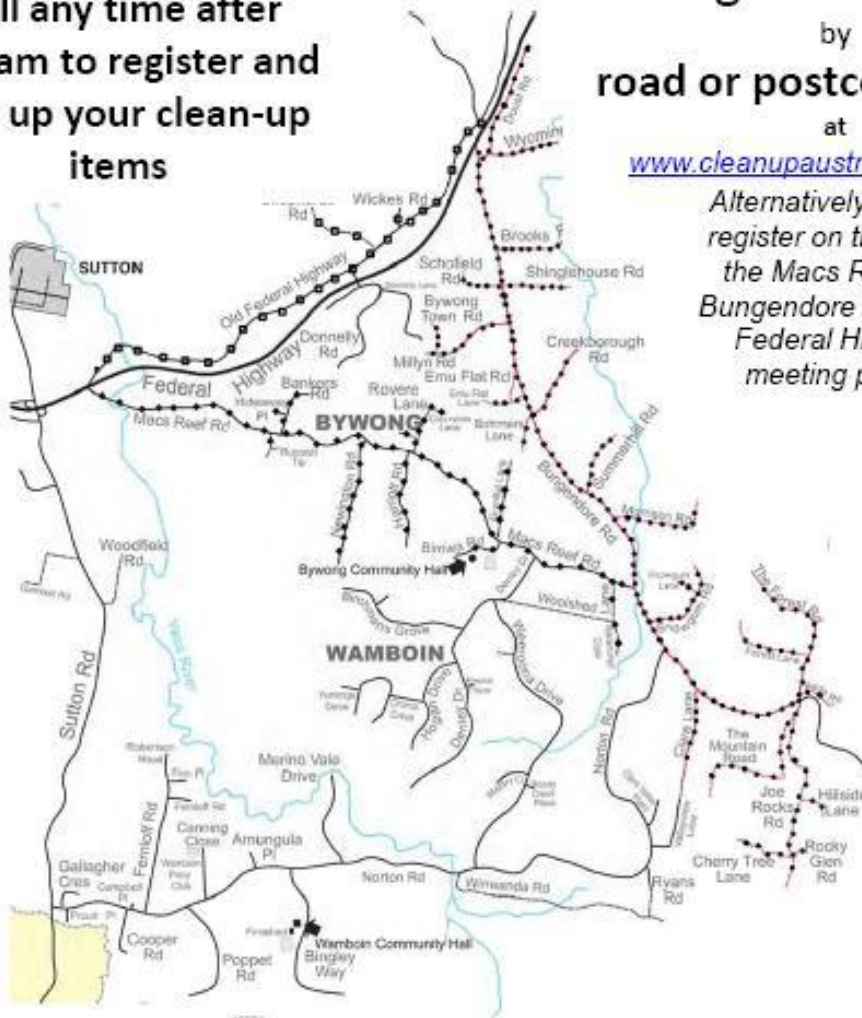
Come to the Wamboin
hall any time after
9:00am to register and
pick up your clean-up
items

Bywong

register online
by
road or postcode search
at

www.cleanupaustriaday.org.au

Alternatively you can
register on the day at
the Macs Reef Rd,
Bungendore Rd or Old
Federal Highway
meeting points.



Thankyou midday BBQ afterwards
@ Bywong Community Hall

Further details :

www.cleanupaustriaday.org.au

Bywong Community president, Darryl on 6230 3055

Wamboin Community contact Lofty Mason 6238 3258

LONG RUNNING CLASSIFIEDS

| |
|--|
| Mobile Natural Horse Care and Gardening - Not enough hrs in the day / week? Away on weekends or holidays? Need someone to feed, rug, groom, clean up and care for your horse/s? General gardening, weed, mow, mulch and tidy. Other pets included and mail collected. Unable to ask neighbours / friends again? Call Cheryl - on 62369373 or 0402201491 |
| FIREWOOD. Mixed hardwood. You load 6 X 4 box trailer \$100. 6 X 4 box trailer delivered \$130. Larger loads delivered by arrangement. Saturdays and Sundays only. Ph 6238-3164. |
| Convert those precious memories from VHS or VHSC Video to DVD, Records and Cassette Tapes to CD, right here in Wamboin. Act now before they are lost forever. Fast turnaround. Only \$12 per Video and from \$12 per Record or Cassette. Phone Vicky or Tony Holland on 6238 3762 or 0403 069018. |
| MATHS TUTORING. Encouraging, expert coaching from Mrs Judy Shellard BSc(Hons), DipEd or Mr David Shellard BSc(Hons). Rates \$25 for half an hour. Length of session, location, type of help and diagnostic testing tailored to individual needs. Contact Judy. Phone 0262383050 or email jshellard@bigpond.com |
| 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 Hall: A 4 Burner, Hooded BBQ with side burner. Half cast iron plate and half grill plus temperature gauge. \$50 (includes gas) together with \$30 cleaning bond. Both payable on collection. Bond 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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WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS

(Joan Mason 6238 3258)

The first market for 2011 was quite good. Down on a few stalls mainly because of holidays, but still plenty of good things to purchase. Martin had a great variety of organic vegetables. Hopefully next month there will be more produce available after all the lovely rain we have experienced encouraging lots of growth in the garden (other than weeds!)

Thanks to Elizabeth and her team who are helping out cooking the egg and bacon rolls in the absence of the Holland family. Enjoy a nice cup of coffee from Tony, who also has roasted coffee beans to purchase. Plenty of plants from Lofty, refreshing homemade lemon cordial and preserves from Libby, then there are cakes and sausage rolls, nuts and dried fruit, and a variety of raspberry products, fudge, jewellery, glass products and lots of other interesting things all available at our markets.

The Wamboin Home Produce Markets are held at the Wamboin Hall, Bingley Way on the third Saturday of the month. Entry fee is free to customers, and \$5 per table for stallholders. Come along and enjoy our markets on:

SATURDAY 19TH FEBRUARY, 2011

9AM – 12 NOON

Note: All stallholder takings from the January markets totalling \$100 was donated to the Flood Relief Fund.



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Letter To Anyone Looking For a Good Home for a Whisper Collection

The ACT Heritage Library is a specialist research and reference service within the ACT Library and Information Services. We collect, preserve, promote and provide access to the documents that record the history and development of the ACT and the lives of Canberrans. We are about communities and not boundaries and to that end we seek to collect the major publications of nearby regional community groups as a basis for documenting the work of those groups, their members and communities.

We have printed the February 2009-October 2010 issues from The Wamboin Web website for inclusion in the collection. We would love to be able to fill in the gaps for this year and collect back issues if they are available. If you would like to know more about the work of the ACT Heritage Library or have questions about this request, please contact me at the below address.

Unfortunately there are no full sets of printed copies of the *Whisper* in any of the major collecting libraries with responsibility for collecting the documentary heritage of the region and I am concerned that over time the significance in individual families may be lost.

We're keen to ensure the long-term preservation of the *Whisper* and if anyone is considering a clean out, we'd be grateful for first refusal.

The work on digitising the *Whisper* is fantastic and would not be affected by hard copy being deposited in the library - it would add another layer of security.

Yours sincerely

Antoinette Buchanan

Senior Librarian, ACT Heritage Library

ACT Library and Information Services

T 02 6207 7424 - F 02 6207 5835

E act.heritage.library@act.gov.au

W www.library.act.gov.au/find/history

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How The Whisper Gets From the Printer To Your Mailbox

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 or help out. 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

165: CO-ORDINATED HELEN MONTESIN: ph 6238 3208

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|----|----------------|------------|----|
| Dene Evans | Norton Rd West Area from Cmpbl Pl | 20 | Bill Owen | Cooper Rd | 26 |
| Helen Montesin | Fernloff Rd | 33 | Stuart Whitten | Canning Cl | 17 |
| Hank Berlee | Poppet Rd (for all on road) | 32 | Alan Rope | Sutton Rd | 37 |

279 CO-ORDINATED BY TRISH RICE: ph 6238 3791

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|----|-------------------|---------------------------------|----|
| Joan Mason | Bingley Way | 48 | Margaret Heleimin | Merino Vale Dr | 17 |
| Sue Ward | Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona) | 32 | Anne Gardner | Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors) | 31 |
| Trish Rice | Majors Cl | 18 | David Anderson | Weeroona Dr (Majors to Denley) | 35 |
| Ned Noel | Pal Cncl (15), Advertisers/ Misc (40) | 55 | Penny Evans | Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley) | 24 |
| Kathy Handel | Yalana West | 19 | | | |

228: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489

| | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|----|----------------------|------------------------|----|
| Lesley Page | Valley View Ln | 4 | Deb Gordon | Yalana East | 42 |
| Colleen Foster | B'dore Rd to Nrtm Rd incl Joe Rcks | 20 | Rob Gorham | South end Clare Valley | 38 |
| Cassie Fisher | Clare Ln | 12 | Lyle Montesin | The Forest Rd area | 60 |
| Axelby family | North end Clare Valley | 42 | Bungendore Foodworks | Bungendore | 10 |

222: CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN: ph 6238 3590

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|----|---------------------|--|----|
| Sheryl Barnes | Denley Dr (Kestral to sthn end) | 20 | Brian Higgison | Denley Dr (Birchmans to Kestral inc) | 12 |
| Don Malcolmson | Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat) | 7 | Rhett Cox | Macs Reef Rd (Newington to Bankers) | 7 |
| Connie & Hans Bachor | Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr | 26 | Morag & Guy Cotsell | Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwgtm& Harriott | 30 |
| Nora Stewart | Rovere Ln | 7 | Sandra Favre | Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott | 20 |
| Carol & Clive Boughton | Macs Reef Rd (Bankers to Fed Hwy) | 29 | Joan Milnor | Birriwa Rd plus Macs Rf Rd to Harriott | 30 |
| Beth Hope | Gum Flat Ln | 6 | Tony Bond | Hogan Dr | 28 |

121 CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|----|-------------|----------------|----|
| Michael Deane | FedHwySvcRd/Bidges/Hickry/Gold | 62 | Jenny Bryce | Wattle Flat Rd | 11 |
| Robt & Marz Luton | Sutton Park Estate | 48 | | | |

222: CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON ph 6236 9333

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|----|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----|
| Trevor Kirk | Macs Reef Rd (Denley to B'dore) | 20 | David Featherston | Summerhill and Creekborough Rds | 24 |
| Kevin Anderson | B'dore Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill) | 33 | Diana & Keith Gascoine | Snowgum Rd | 27 |
| Kerrie Gougeon | B'dore Rd (Fed Hwy to Summerhill) | 25 | Thelma Martin/Chris Fowler | Shinglehouse & Millyn Rds | 27 |
| Sue Aunella | Brooks Rd | 18 | Richard Holding | Wyoming & Doust Rds | 28 |
| Phil & Pam Dawes | Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln | 20 | | | |

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LOOKING NORTH

I look towards the distant hills
 And they stare back in tolerant contempt
 I am an ephemeron insulting their eternity
 A passing shadow
 The flicker of a guttering candle
 Insubstantial, brief as a bad idea

So I remind them of the birth and death of stars
 Of cosmic tumult beyond thought, faster than light
 Wild volcanic dawns and dusks
 Then time, sun, wind and water
 Patient, seismic, tectonic, glacial, elemental
 Grinding all to dust

But they are unmoved
 They rumble phlegmatically, crack their igneous joints
 Fold their arms
 And settle back into the landscape

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 Mobile 0408 682 191**

Veolia Mulwaree Trust

The Veolia Mulwaree Trust invites funding applications to support projects for the benefit of the local community or charitable purposes under its 2011 Community Grant and Donation Program. The following local community organisations may apply for funding:

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------|------------|
| Sporting Groups | Rural Fire Brigades | Service Clubs | Schools | Preschools |
| Progress Associations | Community Health Services | Churches | Charities | |
- Any other not-for-profit organisation meeting guidelines

Guidelines and application forms are available from www.mulwareetrust.org.au or by calling (02) 4822 2786

Projects located within the local government areas of Goulburn Mulwaree, Palerang, Shoalhaven, Oberon, Wingecarribee, Upper Lachlan and Wollondilly are eligible to apply. Applications close on February 16 and four funding rounds will be held during 2011. The Veolia Mulwaree Trust manages the community trust fund established by Veolia Environmental Services, operators of the Woodlawn Bioreactor near Tarago.

WAMBOIN 15 years ago - from the Whisper, February 1996 Circulation 500

The first Whisper for 1996 reported on the Carols celebration on the Community Hall, notified residents of first meetings of all the local groups, and carried a warning from the Fire Brigade. Heavy rain in January -108mm - and the resulting growth, posed a possible risk of fires if the weather should bring a couple of hot, dry and windy months. We should take note in 2011.

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Landcare News.

Like all volunteer organisations Landcare sometimes struggles for funding. The Geary's Gap/Wamboin group has been more successful than most by attempting to be independent of a reliance on government grants and generating an income from plant propagation. The annual **Bywong Community Car Boot Sale** has for many years been a major source of income from our plants sales and we will be there again this year on **20th March**.

Watch out for us at the **Wamboin markets** as well. The stall organised by Kathy Handel, has also become a small but steady source of funds.

We appreciate the local community's support at both these functions.

The first **Nursery Session** for the year will have passed by the time the Whisper is published, but it almost always happens on the first Saturday of the month. The regular session is useful for information about native plants and learning how to look after them. To be notified and make a contribution to our propagation activities, contact the Secretary.

NATIVE PLANT GUIDE: The Australian Native Plant Guide is ideal for home and landscape gardeners, farmers, government departments, Councils, Landcare groups, students and anyone interested in Australian Native plants. The new version has over 500 photographs of native plants and includes a filter to select species that meet your requirements. You can download a free copy of the Australian Native Plant Guide from the Native Shop website. Visit

<http://nativegrowth.com.au/nativeguide>.

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE GRASSES: A MANUAL FOR SOWING, GROWING & USING THEM - Publication For those interested in direct seeding with native grass seed, a new edition of Australian Native Grasses: a manual for sowing, growing and using them, has just been released. This full colour book comprises detailed information on 16 Australian native grasses - both warm and cool season - including information on a range of applications for their use. Each page has full colour photographs to assist in their identification. There is also information on seedling identification, seed storage and provenance. Cost is \$19.95. The publication is available from the producers, Native Seeds, a Melbourne based company.

<http://www.nativeseeds.com.au/categories.asp?CID=130> T: 03 9555 1722 E: enquiries@nativeseeds.com.au

-- Chris Fowler, Secretary, chrisft@spitfire.com.au Ph: 62369189


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Latest details — www.monaro2011.com.au

We need a plan for the future. Throwing out the inept NSW Labor government will not, in itself, provide for a more secure future. In fact, we might end up worse off.

I admire Bob Brown who has seen his image transformed from radical campaigner to environmental champion — and it wasn't Bob who changed. It is a great strength of The Greens to have thought-out policies for the long term rather than focus-tested, vote-grabbing sound bites.

The Greens NSW only accept donations from individuals and we'll never match the spending of the other major parties. To raise money for our campaign, we're organising two art auction comedy nights — in Wamboin and Braidwood.

Some fabulous and highly collectable artists have donated work to help our campaign: Ruth Waller, Pam Debenham, Gail Nichols, Alison Alder, Redback Graphics and Mini Graff have sent work so far — with more arriving each day!

***and pick up a great art bargain with a jolly good laugh as well.**

Saturday 26 February
6.30PM Wamboin Hall

Paul COCKRAM
GREENS CANDIDATE FOR MONARO





The Wamboin Firefighter

For further information visit the brigade's website at
<http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

THIS IS THE BUSH FIRE DANGER PERIOD

(1st October – 31st March)

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

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

NEXT COMMUNITY-WIDE BUSH FIRE AWARENESS/ PREPARATION INFORMATION SESSION

Saturday 19th February 11:30am to 1:00pm

(Registration from 11:00am)

At the Fire Station - 112 Bingley Way Wamboin

To help you get prepared for a bushfire, the brigade will cover:

- Where 'we' live, what it means, what you can expect.
- Bush Fire Survival Plan.
- Property preparedness.
- Personal preparedness.
- Staying informed.

Refreshments will be provided as well as a chance to win a helpful lucky door prize. If you haven't been to either of the two sessions the Brigade ran for the community in November and December last year, or you haven't seen the very helpful Prepare. Act. Survive. video, please come along.



GRASSFIRES

Senior Deputy Captain Dave Cochrane working his way through some of the thick phalaris that populates many of the properties in our area.

Just in case you were unaware, the pointy end of the bushfire danger period in our area is typically February/ March. The weather conditions that we have experienced over the last 3 months have, worryingly, created a fertile environment for grass fires. Despite the relatively benign conditions there have already been two grass fires in the Brigade's area. Depending on the conditions prevailing at the time, grass fires can be very difficult to contain, and they can be very fast running. History provides ample evidence of our area being prone to grass fires. The evidence also points to most grass fires being caused by human activity, which means that they are preventable. Here's a few of the basic considerations that all of us should keep in mind:

1. Always know the Fire Danger Rating for the day and make sure everyone in your household is also aware of what the rating is and what it means. You might consider this a standard dinner conversation or get the kids to find out what the rating is from the Internet.
2. Do not use equipment that may cause a spark or ignite grass during the heat of the day. Always mow in the cool of the day preferably early morning.
3. On days of Total Fire Ban do not mow or use any equipment that may cause a spark.
4. If using a ride-on mower or slasher carry a knapsack spray with you. If the knapsack spray is too heavy only half fill it with water.
5. Continually check mowers for a build-up of grass especially near the exhaust.

We understand the NSW RFS will shortly be finalising a short publication on grassfires which, when it becomes available, we'll include the details in a future newsletter. In the meantime, because of our proximity to the ACT, particularly its rural lands, we thought it useful to highlight some pointers from one of its publications. The following information has been extracted from the ACT Rural Fire Service, Grassfires Fact Sheet.

Know how to protect yourself and your property

Grassfires spread rapidly and can quickly threaten lives and property.

If you live in a grassland area you need to have a Bushfire Survival Plan and prepare yourself and your property for grassfire.

Understanding grassfire risk:

- Grassfires are a type of bushfire that can be extremely dangerous.
- Grassfires travel and spread very quickly at times travelling more than 25km an hour. They can cover huge distances in a short time.
- Grassfires tend to be less intense than a forest fire, however they can still generate enormous amounts of radiant heat.
- The taller and drier the grass, the more intensely a grassfire will burn.
- As grass is a fine vegetation type, fire burns through it faster than through forest.
- Short grass under 10cm is a much lower risk.
- Living in a grassland area with dried-out brown or golden-coloured grass that is over 10cm high is a bushfire risk.
- The shorter the grass the lower the flame height and the easier the fire will be to control.
- Grassfires can start early in the day as grass dries out more quickly than forest when temperatures are high. Therefore the danger period for grassfire is longer than in forests during any 24 hour period.
- Grassland includes pasture, crops, areas of open native grassy woodland as well as those areas of open space in and around the suburbs.

Protecting yourself from grassfires

- The speed at which a grassfire can start and spread can catch people off guard.
- The radiant heat from a grassfire can kill anyone caught out in the open.
- The safest place to be during a grassfire is well away from the threat.
- If you are threatened by a grassfire, always protect yourself by covering up all exposed skin with protective clothing such as:
 1. Long-sleeved shirt and pants made from a natural fibre such as cotton or wool,
 2. Sturdy boots and woollen socks,
 3. Tough leather gloves,
 4. A wide-brimmed hat,
 5. A face mask or towel to cover your mouth and nose, and
 6. Eye protection such as goggles.
- You need to shield yourself from radiant heat behind a solid structure such as a building or large rock outcrop if in the bush etc.

Protecting Your Home and Property from Grassfires

- Reduce the height and proximity of grass to these buildings and other assets by using one or a combination of the following:
 1. Slashing,

2. Mowing,
 3. Grazing,
 4. Spraying and poisoning, and
 5. Create fuel breaks by removing all fuel (vegetation) down to the soil.
- Narrow fuel breaks are ineffective at stopping a fire. By reducing the grass and other vegetation around your buildings and other assets you can create a space in which you can defend them. Fire breaks should be at least 20 m wide, this will often be 10m each side of a fence line.
 - It is important that you create and maintain a defensible space around all the assets you want to protect. By carefully reducing and managing the grass and other vegetation in this defensible space you are limiting the ability of a moving grassfire to ignite a building through direct contact with flame or radiant heat.
 - It is too late to begin spraying and slashing as the fire approaches, you must prepare now.

Machinery Can Start Grassfires

- Grassfires can be started accidentally when using machinery such as chainsaws, lawnmowers, tractors and welders over summer.
- The hot exhaust of a vehicle parked on a road verge or driving through a paddock with long grass can also start a fire.

NSW RURAL FIRE REGULATION

The following is an extract from the NSW Rural Fires Regulation 2008 number 22.

Other safety requirements:

- (1) A person must not, in connection with any agricultural, pastoral or other land use, drive or use in any grass, crop or stubble land any motorized machine unless:
 - (a) the machine is constructed so that any heated areas will not come into contact with combustible matter, and
 - (b) the machine is maintained in a good and serviceable condition so as to prevent the outbreak of fire.Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.
- (2) A person must not, in connection with any agricultural, pastoral or other land use:
 - (a) drive or use in any grass, crop or stubble land a motorized machine on which it is practicable to carry prescribed fire safety equipment, or
 - (b) carry out welding operations or use explosives or an angle grinder or any other implement that is likely to generate sparks, unless the person carries on the machine, or has in the vicinity, prescribed fire safety equipment that is maintained in a serviceable condition.unless the person carries on the machine, or has in the vicinity, prescribed fire safety equipment that is maintained in a serviceable condition.
Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.
- (3) In this clause:
“prescribed fire safety equipment” means:
 - (a) a knapsack spray pump of 16 litre minimum capacity filled with water, or
 - (b) a fire extinguisher (liquid type) of 9 litre minimum capacity, or
 - (c) a dry powder type extinguisher of 0.9 kg minimum capacity.

Further details can be found at: http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/num_reg/rfr20082008348229.pdf

Complete a Bushfire Survival Plan.

**You can download an outline prepared by the RFS that can be found at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
Decide what buildings or assets you need to protect from grassfire
considering which of them offer you the greatest protection.**

LOCAL CONDITIONS

With La Nina influencing the weather pattern on Australia's eastern seaboard it, as you know, has brought generally cooler conditions and much more rain than we have experienced during the past many years of drought conditions. While the Wamboin/ Bywong/ Sutton region has to date been spared from devastating floods being experience elsewhere we hope that all of you have noticed the height and thickness of grasses and pastures and the potential fire danger this represents as we move into the pointy end of the bush fire risk period. As part of your year-round bush fire survival plan you should be doing all you can to minimise the risk and spread of bush or grass fire on your property. The Fire Brigade is acutely aware of the level of fuel build up this season and in the past several weeks have been out and about honing their grass-fire knowledge and skills as the selection of photos below shows.



Deputy Captain Cliff Spong measuring the depth of fine fuel including leaf litter build up to determine fuel loading, ie tonnes per hectare, in the area.



Group Captain Chris Powell who has been examining fuel build up in the area over many years passes across some observations to brigade members.



The Brigade visiting one of several areas in the region to examine and discuss fire risks and strategies in what potentially is a bad grass fire season.



Hectares of high grass in our region gives rise to the possibility of very fast moving grass fires.

TIPS TO HELP YOU PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>PREPARE. You must continually reassess your bush fire plan.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know and understand your bush fire risk. • Prepare yourself, your family, your home and property for bush fires. • Prepare a Bush Fire Survival Plan. |
| <p>ACT. The higher the fire danger rating, the more dangerous the conditions.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know the fire danger rating for your area and what you need to do. • Put your preparations into action – don't wait and see. • Check your Bush Fire Survival Plan. |
| <p>SURVIVE. Fires may threaten without warning – know what you will do to survive.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The safest place is away from the fire – your survival is the highest priority. • Follow your Bush Fire Survival Plan and make decisions to protect you and your family. • You need to know what to do if you are caught in a fire. You may be threatened by a fire without warning. • Know the bush fire Alert Levels, monitor conditions and keep up to date. |

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 19th – Bush Fire Awareness/ Preparedness Information Session for the community (details above)

BRIGADE TRAINING (all sessions begin at the Fire Station)

1st Tuesday of the Month 7:30pm to 9:30pm

2nd Saturday of the Month 1:30pm to 4:30pm

4th Sunday of the Month 8:30am to 11:30am

We are always in search of new members to help out on the fireground or to participate in the brigade's support crew. Anyone is most welcome to come along to training sessions for a chat and/or to observe proceedings.

In addition, several Brigade members meet at Eaglehawk Hotel on the 4th Thursday of every month at 7pm for dinner. We'd love other members of the community to come along and join in the fun. You might even be a winner in a raffle.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Wamboin Brigade Website: will help you to monitor local conditions and Brigade announcements. The Community Information section has useful information including 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 'Shop Front' is normally open on Wamboin Home Produce Market days (3rd Saturday in the month) from 9am – 12noon. As the next market day, Saturday February 19th, coincides with the Brigade's community-wide Bush Fire Awareness/Preparation Information Session at the Fire Station (see above for details) there will be no separate information stall at the Market. All enquiries will be accommodated within the larger bush fire information session planned for the day.

If you have any queries on a fire-related issue including preparing yourself, your family and your property for a bush fire, please contact the Brigade's Captain on 0409 991 340).

Be alert, be safe during this bush fire danger period.

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

SUNDAY THE 6TH OF MARCH
9AM TIL 12 NOON

March 7 is the designated day for 'Clean Up Australia'. The Wamboin Community Association has been coordinating this event for Wamboin since the CUA campaign began. We need you to volunteer. Our main focus is the roadways. Since Norton Road is our central road it is high on our priority list. If you would prefer to clean your local road: 'no worries'.

To be covered by insurance please register at the Community Hall from 9am. Good footwear and sun hats are a must. The WCA, CUA and Palerang Council will provide drinks, chewy bars, sunscreen, gloves, bags and high visibility vests. Since the gloves, bags and HV vests are in limited numbers, you are encouraged to bring your own.

Warning signs will be positioned on the day and the Fire Brigade will assist with traffic control, delivering drinks and picking up rubbish bags. We call it quits at midday. Queries to Pete Harrison: 6238 3525 or Lofty Mason: 6238 3258.

Thank You

My Dear Friends,

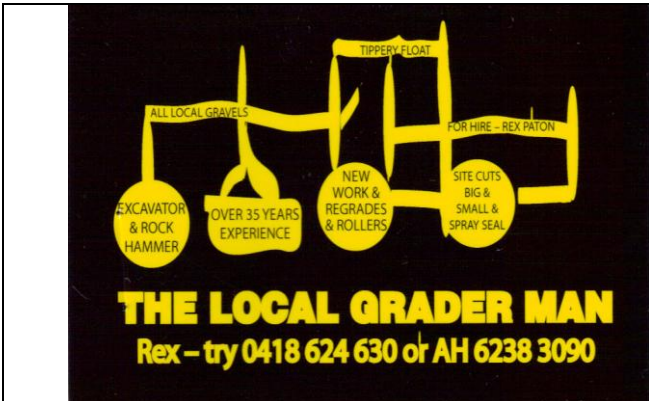
It gives me great pleasure to inform you that yesterday, via Courier, I received a professionally framed Certificate from the Cancer Council of the ACT.

This is in recognition of the funds raised (\$4490.30) at my residence for the Cancer Morning Tea last May.

I want to express my gratitude for all the support, kindness and friendship you all gave me. I can assure you, that this would not have been possible if it wasn't for all you out there.

So, thanks again and I look forward to seeing you all in May 2011.

Polly (Pauline Segeri)

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <h2>YOGA in SUTTON</h2> <p>In the newly renovated Sutton Hall TUESDAY Mornings 10 am to 11.30am Beginners Welcome Casual \$15 per class 6 Weeks Pass \$78 (\$13 per class) Bring a yoga mat or thick towel, a blanket and warm layers including socks. All enquiries to: Email: enjoy.vogawithmaureen@gmail.com Phone: 0402 900 033</p> |
|---|--|



How Clean Is Your Water?

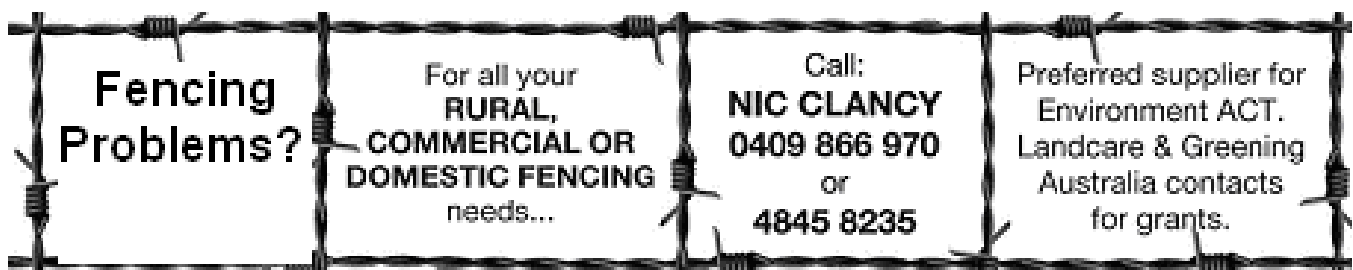
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Wanted Properties for Sale



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.

Because of her background in farming she understands your efforts & will not miss important infrastructure that is commonly overlooked by people with less farming knowledge.

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

Exhibition for Local Artists and Artisans

The pARTnership is once again organising it's exhibition for local artists and artisans in the Bungendore School of Arts. This time it is being held in conjunction with Bungendore Primary School Fair being held on the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd April 2011.

We invite all local artists and artisans to exhibit their work. The entry fee is \$20 to cover hall hire and advertising and, as usual there will be NO commision charged on sales. This year we are also funding a website so all entrants from this and past exhibitions will be entitled to one page to showcase their work.

For an entry form or if you have been a past exhibitor and would like a page on the website please contact Lyn on 6238 3291 or lyn.randall@eclipsesystems.com.au. Entries must be received by 18th March. - Lyn Randall



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**32 King Street
Bungendore**

Bywong Community Car Boot Sale Sunday March 20, 9am-1pm

Well it is on again, and once more the local communities will benefit from this massive Car boot sale. Do you have lots of pre-loved things? You know, all those things that you have kept for ages "just in case they might come in handy"! Now is the time to clear them all out and turn them into cash while supporting your local community. Here is the perfect opportunity.

Do you love a bargain and enjoy a rummage, then come to your local Car Boot Sale on Sunday 20 March! Bywong Community Hall, Birriwa Road. It will be well signposted off Bungendore & Sutton Roads. Stallholders can set up from 7.30 a.m. and the gates will be thrown open to buyers at 9 a.m.



There will be loads of stalls, some selling local products and services, all promoting our local businesses, our community organisations and clubs. The Geary's Pony Club will be showing off their incredible skills there and refreshments will be available as well as amusement rides and other entertainment for all the family. The Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade will also be there to help us stay aware & prepared for this bush fire season. Geary's gap / Wamboin Landcare will also be there to sell their locally grown native plants and give you some good advice in the process. Flyball & Wildcare will be there.

Free for all Buyers a small charge for all sellers. \$15 for car or Ute, trailer extra \$5.00, larger \$25.00. Though please remember all proceeds from this great event goes to great local causes and gets plowed back in to the local community.

Are you the owner of a local business who would like to take the opportunity to meet & make new customers at the Great Car Boot Sale. The come along. It is great to be seen to actively support the event where all the profits flow to the local community.

This is the annual fundraising event for the local community as well and is proudly supported by a number of locally owned businesses.

We will be having a Bywong Community Hall, and grounds clean up, on Saturday March 19, Birriwa Road, please come and help, even if it's only for an hour... "Many hands make light work"

If you would like to donate a product or a service to our locally supported "Amazing Monster Raffle" then please contact Pauline Chambers on 62369934 or email on bywongbootsale@y7mail.com. In return we will give you loads of PR both before and on the day of the Bywong Community Car Boot Sale.

NEW CLASSIFIEDS

Mowing/Slashing. Small areas. Ph. 6236-9189

Merici college senior blazer for sale, as new, size 34, \$90 ono Telephone 6238 3030

WANTED PHOTOS OF WAMBOIN: I am planning, with the assistance of WOWS, to produce a collection of greeting cards depicting various aspects of Wamboin. Proceeds to go back to the community. I am asking for your help by emailing me photos that might be appropriate and which you would be willing for us to publish. Examples such as: bonfire night, fire brigade activities, nativity play, Wamboin markets, local flora / fauna, weather events etc. My email address is: estnward@primus.com.au or phone me, Sue Ward, on 6238-3163.

Pam Barker, Meriel Schultz and a young person whose name I did not get contacted me about problems in a classified in the Dec-Jan issue just past with the ad for free-English bulldog puppies. Each of them had determined that it was problematic. Meriel and Pam each looked far enough to discover that it is a common internet scam. Meriel said, I think, that the ad is commonly answered by a person who asks for money to ship the bulldogs, but the bulldogs never seem to show up. This request for this ad came to me as an email. I asked for a name and an address. A reply came from the sender of the original email, "Chris Evans", giving his details as "Chris Evans / 100 Weeroona Drive, Wamboin NSW 2620 / (02) 6238 3001 I didn't check. It turns out there is no such address and the phone number seems to go to a fax. Apologies for getting sucked into this one and for reproducing it in the Whisper. Thanks to the three persons who wern't and let me know of the problems. - Ned Noel, editor



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CAFÉ: Thursday, Friday, Saturday evenings Friday, Saturday, Sunday lunch

TAKEAWAY: Thursday and Friday evenings

CELLAR DOOR: 10am-5pm weekends and most public holidays Other times by appointment

810 Norton Road Wamboin NSW 2620 T (02) 6238 3866 F (02) 6238 3855 E wine@lambertvineyards.com.au







by Ian Coillet
THE STABLE DOOR

An occasional piece

In addition to the one and only sighted brown snake, screeching of the pergola-assaulting sulphur-crested cockatoos, hares - several of which you could stick a saddle on, native ducks and does each respectively carefully nurturing their young, and heaps of other wildlife we and our two dachshunds look out upon most days, there have been two other visitors that have the bride and me somewhat perplexed. So, I thought, why not throw this little puzzle to the Wamboin and Bywong and wider-afield 'brains' trust. Surely, there must be entomologists and possibly an oligochaetologist (hope I spelt that correctly) out there in the rich tapestry of the readership of this region's favourite community newsletter.

So, to the Stable Door Quiz.....two mystery objects at our place in the heart of Wamboin each with 2 photo perspectives.

| MYSTERY OBJECT # 1 | SOME BACKGROUND | WODAYARECKON? |
|---|---|---------------|
|  | <p>As black as midnight on a moonless night but with a deep gold stripe length-wise down its back.</p> <p>Tacky as the most viscous of oils. Impossible to shake off.</p> <p>Looks like a worm.</p> <p>Wriggles like a worm (not stretch and pull like a leech).</p> | |
|  | <p>Size – circumference about that of a 'Redheads' match; length similar to the match ie 4cms+/-</p> <p>Appears very early morning after dew or rain.</p> <p>Only on one cement pathway that is adjacent to lawn. Not near permanent water or dam.</p> <p>Doesn't appear to want to suck or burrow into human skin.</p> <p>Disappear before sun hits pathway.</p> | <p>??</p> |
| MYSTERY OBJECT # 2 | SOME BACKGROUND | WODAYARECKON? |
|  | <p>Sounds like an Iroquois helicopter.</p> <p>I reckon it would knock you unconscious if it hit you head-on.</p> <p>Don't reckon it's a March or Horse Fly or an immature Dragon Fly... but hey!</p> | |
|  | | <p>??</p> |

To check these oddballs out in living colour, go to the online version of The Whisper. Any thoughts? Flick me an email lodestar@ozemail.com.au and I'll include responses next month.

Letter

After something like eight years we must resign as one of your volunteer "Whisper" delivery teams. We've been pleased to be an active part of the Bywong and Wamboin communities, delivering the Whisper and providing the Big Bloke in the red suit to the Firies for a number of Xmas'. It's a shame we all couldn't find a replacement paper boy all those months ago. It seems "community spirit ain't what it yoosta be" even for an exercising walk just once a month.. We're moving 1,000km north to hectarage at Urbenville to be closer to grandkids and other rels. We plan to become active in that community too.

Good luck and goodbye,
Trevor Kirk and Theresa Hackett, Macs Reef Road , Bywong

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin - 36 year statistics from the Robertsons

December 2010 rainfall ... 177.75mm
2010 total ... 1090.5mm
January 2011 ... 90.5mm
Jan 2010 ... 5.5mm
February average ... 54.9mm
Wettest February ... 170.75 in 2010
Wettest Feb day ... 49.5mm on 14/2/10
Coldest Feb day ... 15C on 12/2/09

Dec average ... 63.5mm
Annual average 699mm
(Previous highest annual ... 978.5mm in 1988)
Jan average ... 60.1mm
Feb 2010 ... 170.75mm
Driest Feb ... 1mm in 1986
Hottest Feb day ... 37C on 6 occasions
Coldest Feb night ... 5C on 17/2/98



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Nature Notes December 2010 and January 2011

by Jo Walker

All the rain we've had over the last two months has made for a green summer and lots of new growth on the local trees and shrubs. We were only on the edge of the downpour that resulted in the flooding of Queanbeyan, but the Wamboin creeks must have increased the volume of the Yass River with their flows. A few days after water had poured over the floodway of my dam, I noticed something large and yellowish lying amongst the sedges in a washout. It turned out to be a large (and, unfortunately, freshly dead) Golden Perch. How did it get there? Well, twenty-five years ago, soon after I purchased my piece of land, fifty Golden Perch fingerlings went into the dam (after a journey from a fishery at Narranderra to Queanbeyan railway station). There was a huge storm during the next week, and I assumed they'd all been washed into neighbouring dams as, over the years, there were no sightings of any of these fish. So, what a surprise to find a 3 kg specimen after all that time. My creek runs under Poppet Road, through several properties, then does a north turn under Norton Road and continues on to the Yass River. I wonder if anyone else found an unexpected fish?

The cream trunks of the Scribbly Gums (*Eucalyptus rossii*) are noticeable in the landscape at the moment as they are shedding most or all of their bark this year, even the very old trees – possibly because of the growth they have experienced after the welcome rainfall. This moisture doesn't seem to have helped the Red Stringybarks (*E. macrorhyncha*) some of which are still dying back – this has been happening for some years now in the local area with the drought being blamed for their condition, but perhaps there is something else causing the problem.

The Native Cherry or Cherry Ballart (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*) is living up to its name this year, with several trees at my place bearing a good crop of tasty orange and red fruit. Crimson Rosellas amongst the foliage suggested that they were a source of a snack for the birds as well as me.

The various honeyeaters had a good time this summer, with many of their favourite shrubs flowering profusely. They seem to be rather territorially aggressive birds, with Eastern Spinebills, White-eared Honeyeaters and Red Wattle-birds spending a lot of time chasing each other away from a plentiful food source. The Red Wattle-birds continue to build their fragile stick nests in exposed positions. Surprisingly, they manage to rear more than replacement levels of young, although one pair of birds who built their nest in clear sight of every creature lost their eggs recently – probably to a watchful Currawong.

Lots of day-flying, black and white moths (with orange and black banded bodies) have been fluttering around near (and sometimes inside) the house for most of the last month. These are *Nyctemera amica*, and their spiky, dark-coloured caterpillars have been feeding in their hundreds on *Senecio quadridentatus*, one of the native Fireweeds, sometimes to the point of complete defoliation. At present, there are almost as many Common Brown butterflies (*Heteronympha merope merope*), often rising in a fluttering cloud from the shade of a bush where they shelter in the heat of the day.

A profusely-flowering white *Kunzea ambigua*, planted in my driveway, attracted swarms of flies and beetles. The flowers, heavily laden with nectar, are honey-scented, a perfume noticeable at some distance. One morning, there were more than a dozen Fiddler Beetles (*Eupoecile australasiae*) feeding there. These are large scarab beetles, dark brown and shiny with curved bright yellow markings on their wing cases and thorax, a striking sight.

With so many birds nesting and trees fruiting, it's odd to realize there is a noticeable auditory absence in our area. Not one Koel has been heard calling during this cuckoo's usual visiting season, at least not on this side of Wamboin.

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News from WWOW
The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

30 January 2011

WWOW got off to a great start for 2011 with lots of chatter and agreement to:

- Support individual families we know in Queensland
- Celebrate Valentine's Day with WWOWs and partners
- Host the International Women's Day luncheon 8 March for Palerang Shire at the Wamboin Community Centre
- Learn to make cloth books with appliqués for grandchildren

We have also continued to share our stories of where we came from and how we got to this area. We have come from many parts of Australia and the world, and are building a great community.

All women are welcome at WWOW -- 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 Bungendore, Bywong, Gundaroo, Sutton, and Wamboin, with a few from ACT and Queanbeyan.



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Notes from St Andrews by Claire Ayling

Happy New Year! The congregation of St Andrews Church would like to welcome any newcomers to the area. Our little church on the corners of Poppet and Norton Roads is an important part of the Wamboin landscape and its community. Services are held on the first and third Sundays of the month beginning at 9am. The first Sunday is Matins and the third is Holy Communion.

Some early notice for events throughout the year: Good Friday 22 April. Easter Sunday 24 April 22 May – a joint service (with St Peters Sutton)with Confirmation with Bishop Stuart at Wamboin. For interested participants please contact Robyn Robertson on 62383202. Baptism Renewal 16 October . Blessing of the Animals 6 November. 27 November St Andrew’s Patronal Festival. 24 December Christmas Nativity followed by Carols with Holy Communion

Any enquiries to our Rector’s Warden Robyn Robertson on 62383202

St Andrew’s Kids Club

Calling all children aged 0-8. Come along to Kids Club on Friday nights! 5.30-7pm every Friday from February 4th. Held at St Andrew’s Church on the corner of Norton and Poppet Roads. Families are most welcome with food for the kids and snacks for the adults. Gold coin donation. Songs, craft,Bible stories. Meet other local families in a relaxed and fun setting. Any questions; call David or Tash on 62383125

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Post Christmas and January is always a delicious time. The pudding plate is empty, the dog has the ham bone and you feel justified in pulling up the drawbridge and losing yourself in the pile of Christmas books and chocolates that have amassed over the festive season. But, stirring in the dim dark recesses of my brain is something from perhaps the first law of Physics ...something about matter being neither created nor destroyed but possibly changing from one form to another. The pudding may have disappeared from the Christmas plate, but it seems to have reformed on the hips!

Normally I would have worked off the excesses of Christmas in the garden, but first it was too wet and the ground was too soggy to do much, and now it has suddenly become too hot and dry. But it hasn't stopped the masses of beautiful butterflies from invading the garden; big black and white ones with a flame of red, busy orange and brown ones and others like little petals of white, rising, falling and spinning in circles above the flower beds. Then there are the spiders, countless tireless toilers, stretching gossamer webs across paths to snare an innocent gnat or guileless gardener, and embroidering window corners and cracks.

Although the last month in Wamboin may have been mostly a relaxed and happy one for me, it certainly hasn't been like that for many of our fellow countrymen. The images of our flood ravaged neighbours to the north and the south, and the forgotten people in the far flung west of this vast land have been numbing in their horror; the roaring, unleashed power of water, pummelling and sweeping all in its path; the silent, seeping red brown syrup spreading over farms and streets, silt filling every crevice and settling on all in its wake, and the stench of rot and decay, mould and mildew in the hot humid aftermath. Somehow our short lived raging creek and soggy ground of last month seems like child's play, a bonus, not a curse.

As January unfolded, we came to yet another Australia Day. Ours was a "three snake Aussie day", which seemed entirely apt. The day started early with the rescue of a very large but somewhat thirsty red bellied black snake, tangled in a frill of bird netting and long grass. Its grateful sigh was almost audible as it slipped out of the noose and swam off into the inky black depths of the creek. Next we threw a chop and snagger on the barbie, seduced by the media in recent years to believe that this was our patriotic duty, then promptly forgot our "green" ideals as the mercury soared, and retired to the sanctuary of the air conditioned indoors to ponder, briefly, what it means to be Australian.

Australians are not unique, we're not heroes, and Australia is not immune from natural and man-made disasters. We're just ordinary people lucky enough to live in an affluent country. Sometimes we are called on to do exceptional things in extraordinary circumstances, and we applaud those who do. Others help behind the scenes, willing to do whatever is required to help their neighbour or a stranger. But let us hope that whoever we are and whatever we do, we will continue to feel compassion towards those who have suffered such loss, and especially at this time of the year, a time when we expect to recharge our batteries for the year ahead.

I wouldn't live anywhere elseand the other two snakes?....two unwelcome big browns taking a short cut through the chook yard when they thought we weren't looking. They were hastened on their way!

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