

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

April 2011 CIRCULATION: 1,225

Wamboin Community Assn: www.wamboincommunity.asn.au
 Bywong Community: 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 May 2011 issue the deadline is Sunday, 24 April 2011, 7 pm. Instant Colour Press will then multiply 1 copy into more than 1200. 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

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LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assoc.	Peter Harrison	President	6238 3525
Bywong Community	Darryl Bourke	President	6230 3055
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
Gear's Gap Pony Club	Katarina Biondic	contact	0421 859 917
Wamboin Play Group	Emma Auzins	Convener	6238 3974 or 0417 464 517
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

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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, baby sitting, odd jobs	6238 3059
Alana Stenning	petsitting	6238 3030			

WAMBOIN 15 YEARS AGO From the Whisper, April 1996 Circulation 500

From the Yarrowlumla Council News, provided by Councillor Peter Greenwood.

Council is presently considering a new system of residential address and mailbox numbering. It is designed to overcome the confusing system of RMB numbers or Lot numbers or any other numbering system presently in use. This new system has been proposed to all Councils by the Land Information centre of the Department of Land and Water Conservation and is to be introduced throughout NSW by the end of this year.

Basically this system will give a new residential number to EVERY rural property in EVERY street or road in the Shire. The numbers will be based on the distance from the recognised start of each road. ... The advantage of this system is that your property will be much easier to find."



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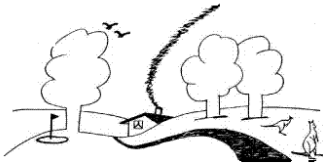
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Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



Wamboin Community Association AGM – In brief, the WCA membership resolved to retain the current Executive and Committee for another 12 months—President, Pete Harrison; Vice-Presidents, Jenny Richards and Christopher Kruger; Secretary, John van der Straaten; Treasurer, Keith France; Committee, Peter Evans, Don Horan and Lofty Mason.

Clean Up Australia Day — A big thanks to all those residents who contributed to our clean up effort, and to the local RFS crew for their support—a special thanks to the crew member who took all the rubbish to the tip on Sunday afternoon, so that the hall environs would be neat and tidy for the International Women's Day luncheon the next day. We had around 40 registered participants and managed to cover most of the Wamboin roadsides. While we noted a significant decrease in roadside litter this year, it remains a disappointment that the very next morning some of us were confronted by new litter on our adopted roadsides.

Meet the Candidates — There was a good turnout of around 50 residents for the Meet the Candidates evening prior to the March 26 state elections. Candidates spoke and answered questions for 2 hours in the formal part of the evening, before continuing more informally over tea/coffee/a 'quiet' ale. I would like to thank the candidates, John Barilaro, Paul Cockram, and Steve Whan (Kingsley Warburton had to withdraw at the last minute due to a death in his family), and all the residents who came along for making the evening the success that it was.

Council By-Election — The date for the Council by-election has been set for 14 May 2011. The voting rolls close on April 4, and nominations close nine days later on April 13. We will endeavour to provide full details of all candidates in the May edition of The Whisper, which should appear in your letterboxes a week or two prior to the election.

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 is also in the process 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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Bywong Community News

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

**Darryl Bourke, President
This News Put Together by the
Bywong Committee**



March usually marks one of the more fevered times of year for the Community, and this year was no exception.

Russian Roulette. For the first time in some years the Community had to play Russian Roulette with the rain – and came out on top. The event notched up yet another success. In what we calculate is now its sixteenth year, the Bywong Car Boot Sale has never been cancelled due to rain – or anything else. Admittedly attendances were a little down – some stall holders and visitors told us later that the threat of a drenching had kept them away and an early shower made it touch and go – but those that did attend enjoyed the local company, the good fellowship and the bargains for which the event has become famous. The shower even delivered a bonus by keeping the dust down.

As in previous years, many contributed to the event's success and many profited from it, including the Community's stalwart local supporters Wamboin Fire Brigade, Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare, Gearys Gap Pony Club, and our new associate Lake George View Club. Demonstrations by the Pony Club drew admiration, and demonstrations by Canine Communications captivated children as well as their parents.

The Community owes special thanks to the brilliant new coordinators, Pauline Chambers and Kerrie Gougeon, who were in great measure responsible for the success of the event, to President Darryl Bourke for infrastructure provided by his truck, amplifier and banner, to Lorna Wood and Graham Boughton who year after year accommodate visitors in their nearby paddocks, to Wamboin Fire Brigade for its untiring marshalling and catering activities, to Pony Club caterers and to our sponsors, particularly major raffle prize donors Cycle City Lyneham, Langley and Pino and Flames Fitness, and sponsors Affleck Vinyard, Lambert's Vineyards, Bungendore Veterinary Surgery, Cafe D'lish, O'Sullivan Rural Waste, Royal Hotel Bungendore, Bungendore Rural Services, Ellie Merriman, Bungendore News, Canine Communications, Your Beauty Spot, Bungendore Landscape Supplies, Balance Nature Health Naturopathy, Tulip Top Gardens, Bungendore Village Leather, The Lake FM, Geary Gap/Wamboin Landcare, Cuts on Gibraltar, Wicked Cackle Nursery, and Foodworks Bungendore.

Clean Up Australia. Bywong Community registered three clean-up sites, which were coordinated by Darryl Bourke (Macs Reef Road), Merle Ketley (Bungendore Road) and Kerrie Gougeon (Old Federal Highway). Those who turned out managed a pretty clean sweep of these areas, although members who worked earlier in the day and on previous days meant that numbers were less in evidence on the day. Gleaners on Macs Reef Road found the usual predominance of fast food and drink containers – mostly on the south verge – which seem to underline the Road's increasing use as a thoroughfare and route to the coast. Jean-Pierre Favre converted a barbecue into a gourmet event for the small group which met post-clean-up at Bywong Hall. We hope for a better turn-up for this free event next year. The Community thanks Palerang Council for its support, particularly the provision of signs and vests and the prompt pick up of rubbish on the following day.

Trivia Night: The next big item on the Community's agenda is the Trivia Challenge on 16 July. Watch for the announcements!

Hall Grant: The State Government grant toward community maintenance for Bywong Hall has now arrived and the Community is working with the Hall Committee to carry out the planned improvements. The new stove and cooker are on the way, and arrangements for painting work are in hand. The Hall Committee is working with Council to accommodate requirements for work on the septic system, and to incorporate the plans with arrangements round the Pony Club's jump. Further remediation work on the grounds will follow completion of the work on the septic. The Community has already bought new crockery to encourage local use by groups planning lunches or suppers.

Meeting the Candidates: The Community was pleased to support Wamboin Association's evening to meet candidates for the NSW State election, and a number of Bywong residents attended.

The next committee meeting of the Community is at the Hall on 11 April. All Bywong residents are welcome to attend.

- Bywong Community Committee

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9AM – 12 NOON

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Birding our Greenways

By David McDonald

One of the things that makes living in Wamboin such a delight is our ready access to places to walk in the bush, and this is where our Greenways come in. A glance at the updated map cum information brochure on the Wamboin/Bywong Greenways at the web site of the Bywong Community Association <http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au/about/bywong-greenways> shows that we have seven numbered Greenways in our area. It provides brief descriptions of each, and photographs of the access points to make it easy to find them, as some are not clearly signposted.

At the same URL is a downloadable coloured brochure explaining some highlights of Greenway #1 which runs in a southerly direction from the Les Reardon Reserve and then west towards the southern end of Newington Road. This forms part of the boundary between Wamboin and Bywong.

On 21 November last year, members of the Greenways Renewal Working Group led a contingent of local people on a walk along Greenway #1. Jo Walker took note of the plants observed along the way, and I did the same for the birds. Over a couple of hours we observed some 26 bird species. This reasonably-sized list was obtained despite the fact that the morning was fairly hot and we had a large, somewhat noisy, group! The value of the Greenway for birds was demonstrated by the fact that we observed species using all the main types of habitats in our area. We saw the large carnivorous birds, such as **Pied Currawong** and **Australian Raven**. At the other end of the size spectrum were the LBBs: the 'little brown birds' that

mainly use the understory layer, including **Brown Thornbill** and **Superb Fairy-wren**. Two species of honeyeaters were present, with the **Noisy Friarbird** living up to its name, and a small number of **Red Wattlebirds** also heard—but none of the small honeyeaters, perhaps because the eucalypts were not in flower then.

In the canopy were **Varied Sittellas** and **Striated Thornbills**, and among the seed-eaters were **Galahs**, **Eastern & Crimson Rosellas** and **Common Bronzewing**. One species that uses the dams along the Greenway was observed, **Little Pied Cormorant**.

The summer migrants were back in force, including **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo** and **Leadon Flycatcher**. Two breeding records were obtained: **Australian Raven** and **Pied Currawong**, in both cases an adult feeding a chick, the latter being in its nest.



Photo of Varied Sittella (*Neositta chrysoptera*) by David Cook

A couple of weeks ago I did a bird survey, using the standard national survey method of counting all the birds observed over a 20 minute period in a 2 ha area, along our shortest Greenway, #7, which runs for 500 metres from Clare Valley Place to Valley View Lane. Eight bird species were observed: **Common Bronzewing**, **White-throated Treecreeper**, **Grey Shrike-thrush**, **Grey Butcher-bird**, **Australian Magpie**, **Pied Currawong**, **Willie Wagtail** and **Australian Raven**. No breeding was observed on this survey.

These bird observations have been contributed to the regional birds database www.cogatlas.org.au from where they will be passed to the national birds atlas data base www.birddata.com.au and from there to the Atlas of Living Australia www.ala.org.au.

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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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THE BUSHFIRE DANGER PERIOD HAS ENDED

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

1. your neighbours, and
2. the Brigade on 0409 991 340 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

The past fire danger period was probably one of the quietest for some time; not only in our zone, but for many across New South Wales. During the fire season the brigade responded to several grass fires in the zone including in our immediate area. Fortunately, all of the fires were quickly contained and extinguished. While the fire danger period may have officially ended, none of us can afford to become complacent. The risk of fire, be it bush, grass or a house, is ever present.

WEATHER PUTS PAID TO FUND RAISING GRAPE PICK THIS YEAR

To the 'friends' of the Fire Brigade: as many of you have participated in fund-raising grape picks at Lambert Vineyards in past vintages, the sad news is the Brigade will not be grape picking this year. Blessed as the rain has been, the persistent high humidity over recent months, and particularly the last few weeks, has regrettably put paid to much of the worthwhile fruit at the vineyard in Wamboin this year. We feel for Lamberts and similarly affected growers and hope that next year will bring better prospects. While this will leave a dent in the Brigade's fundraising this year, swings and roundabouts is very much the way of a volunteer organisation. We hope we can look forward to everyone's continuing support in helping with future harvests.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

As in past years, the brigade was out and about assisting other members of the community as they scoured the roadsides collecting rubbish on Sunday 6th March. Apart from a little moral support, the fire crew offered refreshments to rubbish pluckers on the day and later collected full rubbish bags that had been left roadside.



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BUSH FIRE PLANNING

It's time, to start planning your bush fire protection projects for the winter. Some suggestions include:

- remove dead branches, leaves and undergrowth from around your home and other structures e.g. shed;
- prune any tree limbs less than two metres from the ground or overhanging your home;
- remove bark, heavy mulch, wood piles and other flammable materials close to the home or other structure;
- ensure you have an adequate and independent water supply (i.e. bore, rain water tank, dam etc);
- keep gutters clean;
- depending on decisions you make as part of your Bush Fire Survival Plan, ensure you have equipment to fight fires (a petrol/ diesel powered pump, long hoses with nozzles, buckets, bins, sprinklers);
- prepare or update your Bush Fire Survival Plan.

THE BYWONG CAR BOOT SALE

The Bywong Car Boot Sale was held on Sunday 20th March and was well attended by both vendors and buyers. In addition to managing the car parking for the event the Brigade ran a BBQ stall and also conducted fire fighting demonstrations. The event is a significant fund raiser for the Brigade and this year has assumed greater significance as our other fundraising event at this time of year, the grape pick, has had to be cancelled.



Deputy Captain Richard Hobbs assisting Oliver, an aspiring fire fighter at the Brigade's fire fighting display at the Bywong Car Boot Sale.



Wendy Downs the organiser of the Brigade's BBQ stall

WINTER PLANNING

Speaking of kitchens, isn't this autumn superb – sunny days and cool nights. And when the days and nights have cooled a tad more (around 25th April seems to be a threshold date) we are gathering a good sense of the approaching winter season. Summer things get tucked away and out come the heavy duty warm clothes; on go the heaters (wood, electric, gas); suddenly potato chips become a popular feature spitting away on the stove; electric blankets on the beds, radiators in the study, and so on.

The 'Off' Season?

As we enter the BUSH FIRE 'off' season it is worth considering some statistics. Over the last 5 years the Brigade has attended 67 fires. Of these 67 fires 39 of them occurred in the period 1 April to 30 September. So 58% of fires that the Brigade attended in the last 5 years occurred in the 'off' season.

In winter, where do fires start?

- the most fire-prone areas in the home are the kitchen and the bedroom;
- 40 per cent of house fires start in the kitchen;
- 15 per cent start in the bedroom;
- one in four fires is the result of unattended cooking;
- other causes include electrical faults, combustibles too close to heating sources, children left unattended in the kitchen, poor maintenance, and smoking.



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A HANDY WINTER FIRE CHECKLIST:

- install internal smoke alarms;
- replace the battery in alarms already fitted (1 April ie April Fools day is a good reminder date);
- have a home escape plan and an evacuation point that all the family knows;
- never leave cooking unattended;
- place a screen in front of an open fire;
- check your chimneys and flues for build-up and blockages. These should be cleaned annually and be completed before you light your first fire;
- check electric blankets for any damaged or frayed cord and general wear and tear;
- to test an electric blanket lay it flat on top of the bed, then switch it on for five minutes before putting it on the bed for use to confirm it is operating correctly;
- keep portable heaters away from curtains and bedding;
- clean the lint filter of your clothes dryer regularly;
- use only one appliance per power point;
- have a fire extinguisher and a fire blanket located in the kitchen near the exit, know how to use them, and know their limitations;
- examine and service oil and gas heaters regularly to ensure safe and efficient operation;
- have a house escape plan;
- switch off or reduce the heat from heating devices while sleeping.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 14th – Wamboin Brigade Annual General Meeting at the Fire Station. Everyone is welcome to come along. It would be a great opportunity to meet people in our area and also for our visitors to see the fantastic facility your support has provided for your brigade to operate from and the equipment we use.

BRIGADE TRAINING (all sessions begin at the Fire Station)

If you are thinking about becoming a fire fighter or member of the brigade's support group, or would just like to see the brigade in action during a training session, you are very welcome to come along to any of the set training sessions. You'll be made welcome and we're happy to just have a chat. All training begins 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

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

Of course, if you want to just have a chat on the phone about becoming a member of the brigade, please give our Secretary a call on 6236 9794.

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. You'll also find the brigade's history, some pretty interesting photos and other fascinating material on the site.

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

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) from 9am – 12noon. The next market day is Saturday April 16th. If you are coming to the market, which is located in the Wamboin Community Association's Hall, you'll find us in front of the Fire Station happy to answer all your questions.

If you have any queries on a fire-related issue including preparing yourself, your family and your property for a bush or grass fire and can't make it to a Shop Front, then please contact the Brigade on 0409 991 340.

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THE STABLE DOOR

by Ian Collet

An occasional piece

KNOW YOUR PLACE

So you reckon you know your way around the area pretty well?! Uh, huh! Let's see how well you go at unscrambling a few auto routes around the place. I've made it really easy for you by offering up the localities. Auto routes that are more than one word are identified (number of words in brackets). For the sake of simplicity the status of each route, e.g. 'rd', is ignored. Too easy!

Scrambled name of auto route	Locality	What do you reckon?
troonn	Wamboin	
tunost	Sutton	
ddlgleimnoos (2W)	Sutton	
dibegs	Sutton	
carfseme (2W)	Bywong	
ibleygn	Wamboin	
algehaglr	Wamboin	
ltontit	Sutton	
ondnbeegru	Bywong/Bungendore	
ardareinw	Wamboin	
gounwsm	Bywong	
ynobotngww (2W)	Bywong	
ohennamittu	Bungendore	
odlwhoes	Wamboin	

For correct answers - see "New Classifieds" section of The Whisper.

Second mystery object in the February edition of The Whisper identified

Seems it got you locals beat. The photo and description of the worm-like creature the bride and I have cohabiting with us in Wamboin is believed to be, according to Paul Cooper of the Evolution, Ecology and Genetics Division of the Research School of Biology, ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment at The Australian National University, just that, a worm. He was pretty confident from the photo that it is a land planarian (flat worm) but to be sure, I took in two specimens (of the worm) and, after viewing each under the microscope confirmed that it is indeed a land planarian. He says these animals need moist environments and typically are living underground or near a water source. They eat segmented worms and other small invertebrates in the ground. Paul added that he has seen more this year than most years, simply because of the higher rainfall. So, there we have it. No more sleepless nights.



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SUTTON ROAD UPGRADE TO COMMENCE

David McDonald of Wamboin contacted ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services. He received the following reply, with permission from Ben McHugh for it to be printed, along with his contact details, in the Whisper:

We imagine that a number of Wamboin/Bywong residents have contacted TAMS about the state of Sutton Road. TAMS reports a very pleasing initiative in this regard: The ACT Government has committed \$2.0m to repair a 2.5km section of Sutton Road early in the 2011/12 financial year. The design of the pavement repairs and road geometry improvements are currently being finalised in readiness for the construction funding becoming available in July 2011. The planned works are substantial and will address the pavement issues along with most of the road geometry issues as well. I hope this information has been helpful. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to contact me on the details provided below.

-- Ben McHugh, Major Capital Works, ACT Department of Territory & Municipal Services · Roads ACT, Level 7, Macarthur House · 12 Wattle Street, Lyneham ACT 2602, Locked Bag 2000 Civic Square · ACT 2608 · Ph: (02) 6207 2738

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Children are very welcome to the classes, however please discuss with us if your child will need help from an adult throughout the lessons. In-home training is also available. Class duration: 1 hour. Cost: \$110 per dog for 6 weeks. Class limit: 6 people.

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How The Whisper Gets From the Printer To Your Mailbox

The 50 or so 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

278: 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 (14), Advertisers/ Misc (40)	54	Penny Evans	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	24
Kathy Handel	Yalana West	19			

230: 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 Nrtn Rd	22	Rob Gorham	South end Clare Valley	38
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	60
Axelby family	North end Clare Valley	42	Bungendore Foodworks	Bungendore	10

223: 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 Nwngtn & 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)	30	Joan Milnor	Birriwa Rd plus Macs Rf Rd to Harriott	30
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Ln	6	Tony Bond	Hogan Dr	28

122: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425

Michael Deane	FdHwSvcRd/Bidges/Hickey/O'Gold	63	Jenny Bryce	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Robt & Marz Luton	Sutton Park Estate	48			

207: CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON ph 6236 9333

Phil & Pam Dawes	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln	25	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	Chris Fowler	Shinglehouse & Millyn Rds	27
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	18	Richard Holding	Wyoming & Doust Rds	28

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

March rainfall to 27/3 ... 42mm
2011 rainfall to 27/2 ... 256.25mm
average April rainfall ... 45.95mm
Wettest April ... 174.5mm in 1989
Driest April ... 5mm in 1997
Coldest April day ... 10c 9 times

(Mar 2010 ... 67.5mm)
(2011 to 31/3 ... 243.75mm)
April 2010 ... 37.5mm
Wettest April day ... 70mm on 19/4/84
Hottest April day ... 28C on 3/4/86
Coldest April night ... 0c on 27/4/99

Macs Reef Road Between Denley Drive and Bungendore Road

Trevor Kirk and Melissa Hackett generously delivered the Whisper to the 20 mailboxes along Macs Reef Road between Denley Drive and Bungendore Road for many years. As you may remember from Trevor's letter in the February Whisper, they have moved 1000 km north to Urbenville. If you live in that stretch of the road and would be willing to volunteer to deliver Whispers to the 20 mailboxes there each month, please phone Kevin Anderson on 6236 9333 or Ned Noel on 6238 3484. As of this month this volunteer task has no one to take it on, so if you do live in the area and are reading this, it may be through the Community Association's website, which makes the Whisper available the first Sunday of each month.

Thank you Trevor and Melissa for your volunteer walks to do this job over the years. Also, thank you Thelma Martin for delivering for years to Shinglehouse and Millyn Roads. Thank you Chris Fowler for volunteering to take up the task that Thelma was doing.

- Ned Noel

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WAMBOIN PONY CLUB WELCOMES NEW FAMILIES TO THE WAMBOIN AREA



Pony Club is a recognised youth organisation for those interested in horses, ponies and riding and is the largest association of riders in the world. The Pony Club Association of New South Wales is the controlling body for Pony Clubs in New South Wales and the ACT where young people can ride and learn all disciplines of equestrian sports.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF PONY CLUB

- To encourage young people to ride and learn to enjoy all kinds of sport connected with horses and riding.
- To provide instruction on riding and horsemanship and to instil in the members the proper care of their animals.
- To promote the highest ideals of sportsmanship, citizenship and loyalty, thereby cultivating strength of character and self discipline.

**ABOUT WAMBOIN PONY CLUB
CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE FOR MORE**



Activity Days Usually the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month (except December & January)

Club Activities Full range of pony club disciplines including troop drill, dressage, show jumping & jumping equitation, dressage, cross country, sporting, mounted games, certificate work and trail riding.

Open times 10am to 3.00pm each rally day (includes 1 hour lunch break).

Club Colours NAVY BLUE MAROON WHITE - white saddlecloth with blue trim, white shirt, maroon & white striped tie, navy jumpers, navy and white trim polo shirt and a navy & white striped jacket with red trim.

Other information Visitors and new members from the Wamboin area are always welcome.

INFORMATION ABOUT WAMBOIN PONY CLUB, INCLUDING HOW TO JOIN
President: Peter Evans, 6238 3043

V/President: Fiona Kildey, 0439 955 994
Secretary: Jeni Worden, 6238 3313
Treasurer: Toni Cuthbertson, 6238 3548
Senior Instructor: Robyn Slater, 6238 3472

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Results of the March Golf Competition of Wamboin

by Peter Greenwood

The March competition of the Wamboin Golf Club was a Stableford event sponsored by Ken and Deb Gordon, ably assisted by young Alex and Madison. Googly Ball award went to Jarrod Beckett with his "tall" story of how he rode his bike out into a dam to retrieve his brother's golf ball, and never even got wet!

Encouragement award went to Alex Gordon and the Junior award was won by Logan Beckett.

Long drive and nearest the pin ball winners were; Jack Whitney, Len Ivey. John Whitney x2, Keith France Esq., Tony Fisher, Logan Beckett, Farrah Urban, Rob Gorham and Paul Griffin.

The 9 hole competition was won by Farrah Urban with 21 points from her dad Ron Shepherd 21 points and third place to Jack Whitney with 18 points.

The 18 hole competition was won by Tim Barter 38 points, from Keith France 37 points and Rob Gorham 35 points.

Golf enquiries to Peter Greenwood 6238 3358

Wamboin Fishing Club

by Chris Byrne

The last few months have been eventful with some nice fish taken at the coast and trout in the mountains. The Pirtek Fishing Challenge is on again, with lots of prizes up for grabs. A \$20 entry is required, and all proceeds go to charity, then we fish for the target species. This all takes place on the 10th April, so get your entries in and I will see you out there!

Our next meeting is on the 20th April at the Eaglehawk Hotel, 5.30pm. I hope to see you there. Interested people are free to attend, as we always welcome new members. Tight Lines.

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Nature Notes March 2011

Jo Walker

The continuous rain is keeping the countryside still green. Some of the grasses are still flowering and seeding, especially the Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*). An amazing number of seedlings of both local and planted species are germinating here -- lots of little wattles and eucalypts, Trigger Plants (*Stylidium graminifolium*), several peas and at least one heath plant. And that's just the locals! Seedlings of planted Grevilleas, Mint Bushes, Pomaderris and Hop Bushes are also making an appearance. Unfortunately, so too are some weeds – near the house, they are probably a product of the bird seed, but further afield bird droppings are contributing briars, blackberries and nightshade plants. Weeding is becoming a constant job.

After years of seeing only one or two sporadically, a little flock of Red-browed Finches (about ten) has returned. Just as I was getting ready to remove two or three large briar bushes near the house, these little birds have built two nests in them! A Willie Wagtail has also turned up again after a long absence. And, another bird not seen for a while arrived in a mixed group of birds a few days ago – the not very common Speckled Warbler. I could see one clearly, but there may have been a pair of them. The Brown Goshawk made another hurried appearance last week, flying over with a lizard hanging from its beak.

On the subject of lizards, there was a beautiful Bearded Dragon lying on Norton Road one day recently. It seemed to be only slightly injured, so I picked it up and took it home, but a car had driven over the front of its skull and it died a short time later. It was probably a very old lizard, the biggest one of that species I've seen, with mostly grey scales on its head and body but orange-yellow colouring on its legs and tail – a magnificent animal.

There are a lot of spiders around this year, and walking between bushes too often results in webs across my glasses or a spider hitching a ride. There was a huge female Wolf Spider in a mouse-sized hole near the shadehouse recently. Every day, she brought her large grey egg-sac (15 or more millimetres across) up to the entrance of the hole and held it where the sun's warmth could reach it. With such care, the tiny spiderlings soon hatched, and, after she'd carried them around on her back for a few days looking like a strange furry creature, they left their safe place to lead a life of their own. Scorpions are breeding at present, too. Twice recently, I've moved a rock and found a large female scorpion with about a dozen soft-bodied, white young on her back.

Since all of the rain that's fallen, the natural world has livened up immensely, and any time spent outside turns up all sorts of wondrous activities above, on or under the surface of the earth.

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It's Rugby Time Again

by Peter Evans

Well there hasn't been the first frost of the season but the local Mudhooks are back in training and the Brumbies have already imploded in the Super Rugby. The Waratahs are living up to expectations and look the goods for a possible finals berth and should lead the Australian conference into the semi finals.

On the subject of the Brumbies, there is an old saying in rugby circles, "a champion team always beats a team of champions". The coach is usually responsible for the "gelling" of a team together so with current events I would suggest the CEO and Board should have a long hard look at themselves given the teams continuing performance.

Back to brighter things, the mighty Bungendore Mudhooks are out to defend their first premiership title. With the loss of several key players along with the coach it will certainly be a challenge to stay in top of the sandpit (or should I say Coop). The new first grade coach is Big Ben Stevenson. Ben has just returned from playing and coaching rugby in Scotland for four years with his wife Nat and family and is a local resident in Bungendore. Ben is working with all players on an individual and team basis focusing on building technical and physical skills so all players can enjoy the thrill of playing expansive champagne rugby. Ben also knows how important the social side of the game in a small community so expect some good celebrations.

A pre-season schedule of trial games is being confirmed with the annual Palerang Shield to be played against Braidwood at Captains Flat on Saturday 9th April. Training runs are being held each Tuesday and Thursday night at Mick Sherd Oval, Bungendore, commencing at 6:30pm. New players and supporters from Wamboin are most welcome to come and join, learn some skills, play some great rugby and make some new friends for life."

2011 Mudhooks Draw and Calender

ate	Game	Event
30-Apr-11	Crookwell away	First game of season
07-May-11	Yass @ home	Sponsors Tent
14-May-11	Jindabyne away	
21-May-11	Invitation team @ home	'Fur & Feathers night' at Memorial Hall
28-May-11	Boorowa @ home	Bundy Rum Promotion at Royal Hotel
04-Jun-11	Taralga away	
11-Jun-11	June Queens Birthday	
18-Jun-11	Bye	
25-Jun-11	Crookwell @ home	Ladies Day (tickets \$15 on the day)
02-Jul-11	Yass away	
09-Jul-11	Jindabyne @ home	Veterans Game and Ugly Shirt night at Royal hotel
16-Jul-11	Bye	
23-Jul-11	Bye	
30-Jul-11	Boorowa away	
06-Aug-11	Taralga @ home	Injured Players Fund Raising Night at Royal Hotel
13-Aug-11	Bye	
20-Aug-11	Major Semi Final	
21-Aug-11	Minor Semi Final	
27-Aug-11	Final	
03-Sep-11	Grand Final	

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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

TIMBER!

from Lofty Mason

Over the last couple of months we have had several large eucalypts fall. I have been told that the reason this occurs is that during the preceding very dry years the trees have developed a lot of surface roots to take advantage of the light rains and the moisture falling from the canopy. The leaves harvest this moisture from any fog, mist or dew. Additionally, because of the deeper dry soil caused by the long drought period, the large stabilising taproots tend to die back and/or be eaten by termites. Over the last year the heavy rainfall has caused an increase to the amount and weight of the canopy. At the same time the rain has softened the surface soil (even in Wamboin) meaning less support from the surface roots. Even without strong winds the tree has no chance of standing upright.

Checking several fallen trees leads me to believe the above theory is correct however, like many things in nature, there is nothing much we can do to prevent this happening. Just thought I would submit this gem to The Whisper in case others are wondering.

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

I planted three ash trees, yesterday. They had been sown by birds that hang out in the old black wattle, and they are only three of a forest sprouting up under its protective wings. As I wielded the mattock, sparks flying, I was reminded of something I'd read in an old National Geographic on the Flint Hills of Kansas. This particular area had been, "saved from the plow (sic) by stubborn layers of stone jutting rawboned through thin soil." That resonated with me as I grubbed in the "thin soil" between lethal looking daggers of shale. But, with the little trees secure in their holes, I had my reward. I paused, spellbound, under a spreading wattle. It was electrified with life; darting pardalotes, busy little wrens and LBBs that twitter. The chatter and flutter, the darting and chirruping created one of those "good to be alive" moments. A little earlier I had been talking to a couple visiting from the land of my forebears, and I found we had little common ground. To them the Australian bush is ugly, untidy and dull, and they bemoaned the lack of stately old buildings. I thought I probably wouldn't extend an invitation for them to visit us in our humpy, planted on a bed of shale, in scrubby Wamboin. But I consider we don't just live in a house, we live in an environment.

And what can be better than our environment in autumn! Cool mornings softened by mists through the eucalypts, snatches of reddening leaves, and layers of birdsong; distant cockatoos piercing the still air with their nasal squawk, a lone kookaburra mocking you from high up in a tree, the well modulated tones of a koel and a magpie warming up with an arpeggio. A wander around the garden and there's a salad for lunch, self sown pumpkins fattening, and across the creek, red apples to be picked. However, there is a bit of powdery mildew around, a few more grubs have appeared this year and are quietly feasting on tiny tomatoes, and the March flies arrived on cue. This morning, bleary eyed in the early gloom, I went to feed the chooks. I checked their feed hopper and was puzzled to see brown blobs amongst the grain. I peered again. This time I saw a dozen little beady black eyes looking at me, sandwiched between as many pointed ears and six pointed noses. I'm happy to feed a mouse commune, but I prefer them to stay outside!

This is a glorious time of the year, but something tells me that soon I'll have to clear the Christmas decorations from the fire box and take out the woolly jumpers. There is a feeling of Easter in the air already. So much for my tomato harvest, though. I suspect a frost will finish the crop and it will be green tomato chutney again.

But I wouldn't live anywhere else....green tomato chutney is fine....and who'd want to inherit the draughts and plumbing in a "stately old building".

=====

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