



# The Whisper

**June 2011 CIRCULATION: 1,230**

**Wamboin Community Assn:** [www.wamboincommunity.asn.au](http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au)  
**Bywong Community** [www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://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](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or [whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto: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 July 2011 issue the deadline is Sunday, 26 June 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**  
**Bungendore Police: 6238 1244 Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre: 0409 991 340 Ambulance Bookings: 131233**

### LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

<b>Wamboin Community Assoc.</b>	Peter Harrison	President	6238 3525
<b>Bywong Community</b>	Darryl Bourke	President	6230 3055
<b>Fire Brigade</b>	Andrew Dunn	Captain	0409 991 340 or 6238 1849 ah
<b>Wamboin Markets</b>	Joan Mason	contact	6238 3258
<b>Sutton School Playgroup</b>	Toni Moore	Convenor	6238 3669.
<b>Landcare</b>	Roger Good	President	6236 9048
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238 1333
<b>Emergency Services</b>	NSW Call Centre	Staff	132 500
<b>Emergency Services Admin.</b>	Colin Brown	Controllor	6238 1067
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Peter Greenwood	JP	6238 3358
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Keith France	JP	6238 3596
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Margaret Fletcher	JP	6238 1211
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Jill Sedaitis	JP	6236 9559
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Tony Holland	JP	6238 3762
<b>Wamboin Scout Group</b>	Peter Harrison	contact	6238 3525
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Robyn Slater	Senior Instructor	6238 3472
<b>Geary's Gap Pony Club</b>	Katarina Biondic	contact	0421 859 917
<b>Wamboin Play Group</b>	Emma Auzins	Convener	6238 3974 or 0417 464 517
<b>Wamboin Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason	contact	6238 3258
<b>Church - Anglican</b>	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238 3202
<b>Christian Prayer Group</b>	Steve & Imelda Taylor	contacts	6238 3220
<b>KYB Bible Study Group</b>	Yvonne Barrett	contact	6230 3539 or 0409 951 388
<b>Golf</b>	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238 3358
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare	Helpline	6299 1966
<b>Wonderful Women of Wamboin</b>	Claire Ayling	Convenor	6238 3347
<b>Lake George VIEW Club</b>	Lydia Zielinski	contact	6230 3488
<b>Wamboin Book Group</b>	Alice Scott	Secretary	6238 3178

### YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Alana Stenning	petsitting	6238 3060	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, baby sitting, odd jobs	6238 3059



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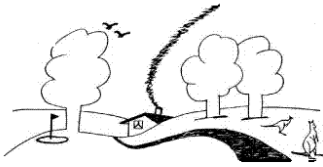
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# Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



**Council By-Election** — Well, it's been a busy month! I would like to thank everyone who volunteered their services to help with my election campaign, in particular all those who braved the freezing cold to hand out How-to-Vote cards on election day. Now comes the hard part... My first week has certainly been a baptism of fire—community meetings from one end of the shire to the other, and a packed gallery at my first formal Council meeting (nothing to do with me I'm afraid). It's clear that Council's greatest challenge is still to genuinely engage with the various communities within the shire, but the response to the IP&R forums has been very good. From everything I have seen in my first week or so, we all have a lot more in common than some people would have us think.

**Integrated Planning & Reporting Forum** — Council matters have taken all my time for the last month, so the only other item I want to bring up here is the community forums currently being run by Council. Forums will be conducted across our part of the shire in the week of June 14, with the Wamboin forum on Friday 17 June. It's important that, having been given an opportunity to contribute to Council's planning process, the participation rate is as high as possible. The more people, the better the representation we will have of community views. Please check either the WCA website (<http://wamboincommunity.asn.au>), or Council's website at <http://palerang.nsw.gov.au/events/pages/13203.html> for details. A hot meal will be provided on the evening, and people wishing to attend are asked to register beforehand.

**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](mailto: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.

Pete Harrison ([president@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:president@wamboincommunity.asn.au))



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

May 2011 rainfall to 29/5 ... 19.5mm  
2011 rainfall to 29/5 ... 294.5mm  
Average June rainfall ... 58.2mm  
Wettest June ... 189mm in 1997  
Hottest June day... 17C (twice)  
Coldest June night ... -6C on 9/6/96

May 2010 ... 94mm  
2010 to 30/4 ... 281.25mm  
June 2010 ... 34.75.  
Driest June ... 8mm in 1979  
Coldest June day ... 4C (4 times)

## WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS

SATURDAY 18 JUNE

9AM – 12 NOON

AS THERE IS NO MARKETS IN JULY & AUGUST, THIS MARKET IS THE LAST UNTIL WE RESUME AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 2011.

**Fresh Brewed Real Coffee Scones with Jam & Cream**  
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Plus other items, come along and see.

(Stalls vary from month to month due produce availability.)

**At the Hall - 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin**

Entry is free to customers. Stall holders \$5 - Enquiries to Joan Mason 62383258

Customer numbers seem to be down, we put it down to the cold weather! Hopefully you will come along to the June Market, then have a break and resume once again in September.

*\* I am 'retiring' from cooking cakes and sausage rolls, therefore the June market will be my last! I still plan to run/organise the Wamboin Markets come September. A big THANK YOU to all who have supported my stall over the past years. Joan.*

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# Bywong Community News

[www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au)

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



**That Election!** We offer our warm congratulations to Wamboin Community Association President Pete Harrison on his election to Council in the recent by-election. The Community was heartened by the relatively large number of candidates vying to fill the vacancy on Council left by the departure of Cr Bransdon, who at the time of his election lived in Bywong. While we did not endorse any candidate, we were pleased to see that the route to Council chosen by several candidates was directly through their local community, and in the case of Pete Harrison, from our sister association. The Community's view is that Councillors should be securely grounded in their communities, and that community associations are an ideal channel to achieve this.

Bywong Community on this occasion hosted a joint "Meet the Candidates" event for both Bywong and Wamboin residents. The forum, chaired by Bywong Community President Darryl Bourke, was well attended by electors from both Bywong and Wamboin, who filled the hall. We were encouraged to learn that in spite of the cool weather, our attendance was far better than at similar meetings held in Braidwood and Bungendore. A good reflection on our community! Question time gave a true flavour of democracy, particularly as one question came from a community-conscious primary school student who lives in Bywong.

**Trivia Challenge on again.** Bywong's now well-known annual Trivia event is scheduled for the night of Saturday, 16 July. Book early as our space is limited (contact Kerrie on 6236 9841). This year there will be some new twists and a couple of surprises. Book as a team (up to 8 people) or ask to be allocated to a table if you don't have the numbers. Those who have competed before will remember the delicious array of soups provided by our talented local chefs – a choice will again be on offer, so choose your favourite or sample them all.

**Improvements to Bywong Hall.** Work is well advanced on a series of improvements to the facilities and grounds at Bywong Hall in Birriwa Road. The Community obtained a grant for the work from the NSW Government Community Building Partnership Program, with the necessary contributions in kind and in money provided by the Community and by volunteers drawn from the Community, the Hall Committee and hall users, and the Gearys Gap Pony Club. The improvements include a new and larger absorption trench for the septic with associated seeding and fencing, repair to the grounds, oiling of Hall windows, and buying and installing a new and larger stove/cooktop. The Community worked closely with the Hall Committee to ensure the success of this major project.

The Hall is available for hire to residents for certain functions and for regular use as a meeting or function venue for local groups (contact Guy Cotsell 6230 3523 for details or visit the Community's website).

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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





KERRIE 62369841 dragonfloss@inet.net.au

Current Affairs \*Local Affairs\* Politics\*  
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Do you enjoy a little competition? Love the fun of a challenge? Enjoy a comforting hearty winter soup, Home made on a cold and frosty night? Do you dare sip mulled wine and challenge friends and neighbors for the coveted title of "Trivia Challenge 2011, your team engraved on the perpetual trophy in our Community Hall? Would you say yes to a funny frivolous cosy "night in" surrounded by old and new friends? Then book your table at the Annual Bywong Community Trivia Night. Bookings open. \$10.00 Places are limited. July 17, 7.30pm to 4.0.0g.

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# The Wamboin Firefighter

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

## THE BUSHFIRE DANGER PERIOD HAS ENDED

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

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. NSWRFs Fire Control Centre in Queanbeyan, tel:6297-1840

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, however, if the fire escalates to become more than you can handle, don't hesitate to ring Triple Zero (000).

## BRIGADE ACTIVITY LAST MONTH

We haven't had much rain in recent months so it's timely to re-emphasize that even though the high fire danger period has passed, and the weather is cooling down, our countryside is quite dry. With the right weather conditions, there is still a real risk of fires getting out of control.

## BRIGADE ACTIVITY LAST MONTH

**Call Outs:** The fire brigade has been responded to a number of out-of-control fires in recent weeks. The most recent call-out for the Wamboin brigade was for a fire that started out as a very small hazard reduction burn by a resident that had got out of control (see picture).

Residents who are planning to light a fire in the open are reminded that the law requires you to notify all residents who adjoin (including those across the road) the site of the proposed pile or hazard reduction burn, plus the local RFS Fire Control Centre (during business hours), at least 24 hours prior to the work. For residents in the Wamboin brigade area i.e. Bywong, Sutton Park/EagleHawk and Wamboin localities, the local NSWRFs Fire Control Centre is in Queanbeyan – tel: 6297 1840.

Management, including containment of a fire originating on your property, is your responsibility. Please ensure you have an adequate water supply and appropriate strategy and tools to control and contain your fire e.g. pump, hose, appropriate fittings, backpack sprayer, rake, shovel, etc. You should also dress appropriately and remain vigilant until the fire is extinguished. If per chance your fire becomes uncontrollable or escapes, ring Triple Zero (000) as the resident did in this case.





**Training:** Apart from our usual training regime during the month, on Sunday May 29 brigade members had an excellent training opportunity assisting Sutton Brigade with a large hazard reduction burn. As part of the property was in the Wamboin Brigade area and the balance in the Sutton brigade area the exercise provided an opportunity for both brigades to work together on a live fire in a controlled operation. Planning and the burn ran for over 6 hours and provided members in each brigade at each of the sites with a good look at a running grassfire (or two) and to experience variations in fire behaviour as the temperature, humidity and wind changed during the day. At the end of the day's work all agreed that the exercise provided an important opportunity to brush up on a whole range of skills.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 14<sup>th</sup> – Wamboin Brigade Annual General Meeting at the Fire Station. Members are encouraged to attend. Other members of the community are 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.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month 7:30pm to 9:30pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month 1:30pm to 4:30pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month 8:30am to 11:30am

In addition, several Brigade members meet at the Eaglehawk Hotel on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in the month) from 9am – 12noon. The next market day is Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 or winter house fire and can't make it to a Shop Front, then please contact the Brigade on 0409 991 340.

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## News from WWOW The Wonderful Women of Wamboin by Sally Saunders

**Quilts for Queensland:** Some of the WWOWs are making quilts for a boy and girl whose father died the same week their grandparents lost their home in the flood. A series of blocks were made by individuals and then bordered by a few WWOWs after the meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. Thank you, Margaret Ferrett, for coordinating the group and getting the quilts ready.



**Winter Knitting:** As the weather has gotten colder the knitting needles seem to have sprung up in many hands and jumpers, scarves and socks are emerging along with more trauma teddies for the Queensland Ambulance Team.

**Tumbarumba:** On Monday 16 May, a group of WWOWs headed off in cars to visit the Pioneer Women's Hut at Tumbarumba. The local volunteers provided a lunch of soup with bread and sweets with coffee, and then opened the quilt museum they are developing but which is not yet open to the public. The quilts date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and show how creative women can be. The Pioneer Women's Hut is a lovely display of how ordinary women applied

their creativity, working with limited resources, to decorate a home, make useful tools, and sew decorative aprons and clothing for children out of feedbags and scraps of fabric. Several of the WWOWs then stayed overnight and enjoyed the local shops and a restaurant.

**Coming Up:** The WWOWs will be off to the Darling Harbour Quilt and Craft Show on Thursday, 23 June -- with a busload of WWOWs and friends.

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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- Smoke Detectors Supplied and Installed

For appointments or further information please phone Brian

**6258 1792**





### A 'First' for St Andrew's Wamboin by Meriel Schultz

On Sunday 22 May three young people Millie Black, Rebecca Courtney and Jemma Heron came to be confirmed at St Andrew's Church Wamboin. This was the first confirmation service to be held at St Andrew's and the church was filled with their families, friends, sponsors and supporters. The Right Rev'd Stuart Robinson, Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn, together with the Rev'd Susan Bridge (who had prepared the three young people for their confirmation) conducted a memorable service, which - while it had its serious side - was also full of fun, laughter and good music. After the service the chairs were stacked away and the fun and laughter continued over supper.

The Bishop also received Eleanor and Alan Rope into the Anglican church. This is a very simple affirmation that welcomes people who have previously been members of other Christian churches as members of the Anglican church.

If there are others in the community (of any age) who would like to find out more about confirmation or reception into the Anglican church, come along to a morning service (9am on the first and third Sundays of the month - corner of Poppet and Norton Road, Wamboin) or contact the warden Robyn Robertson on (02) 6238 3202.

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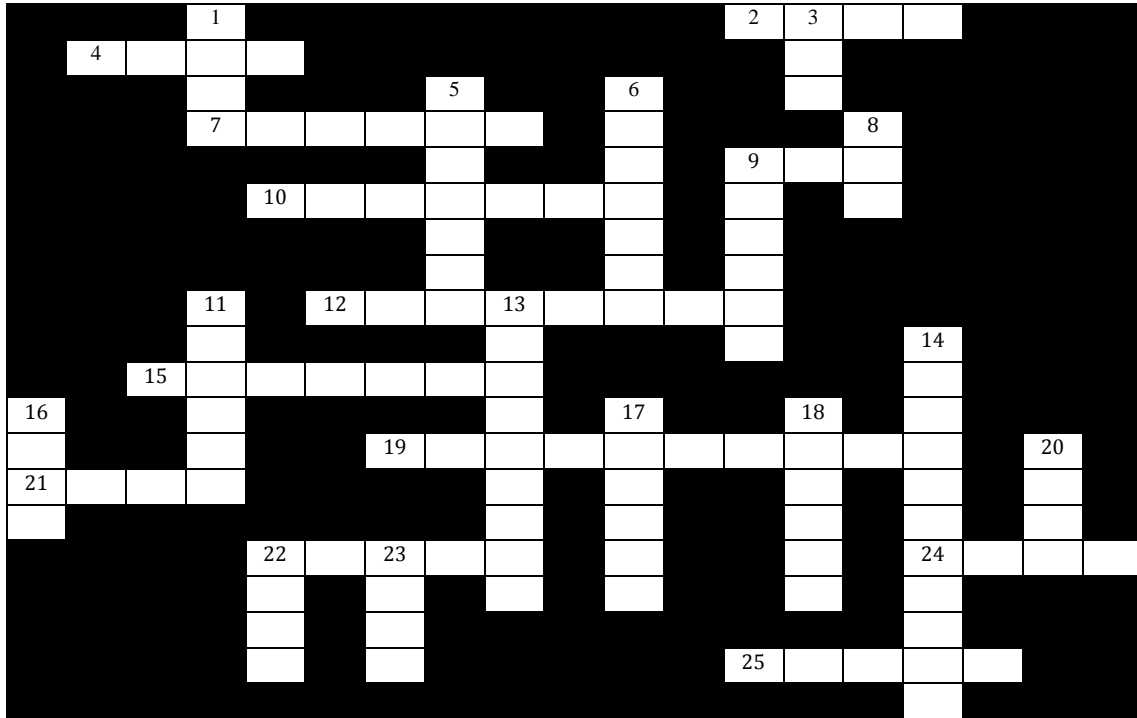


# THE STABLE DOOR

by Ian Coillet

An occasional piece

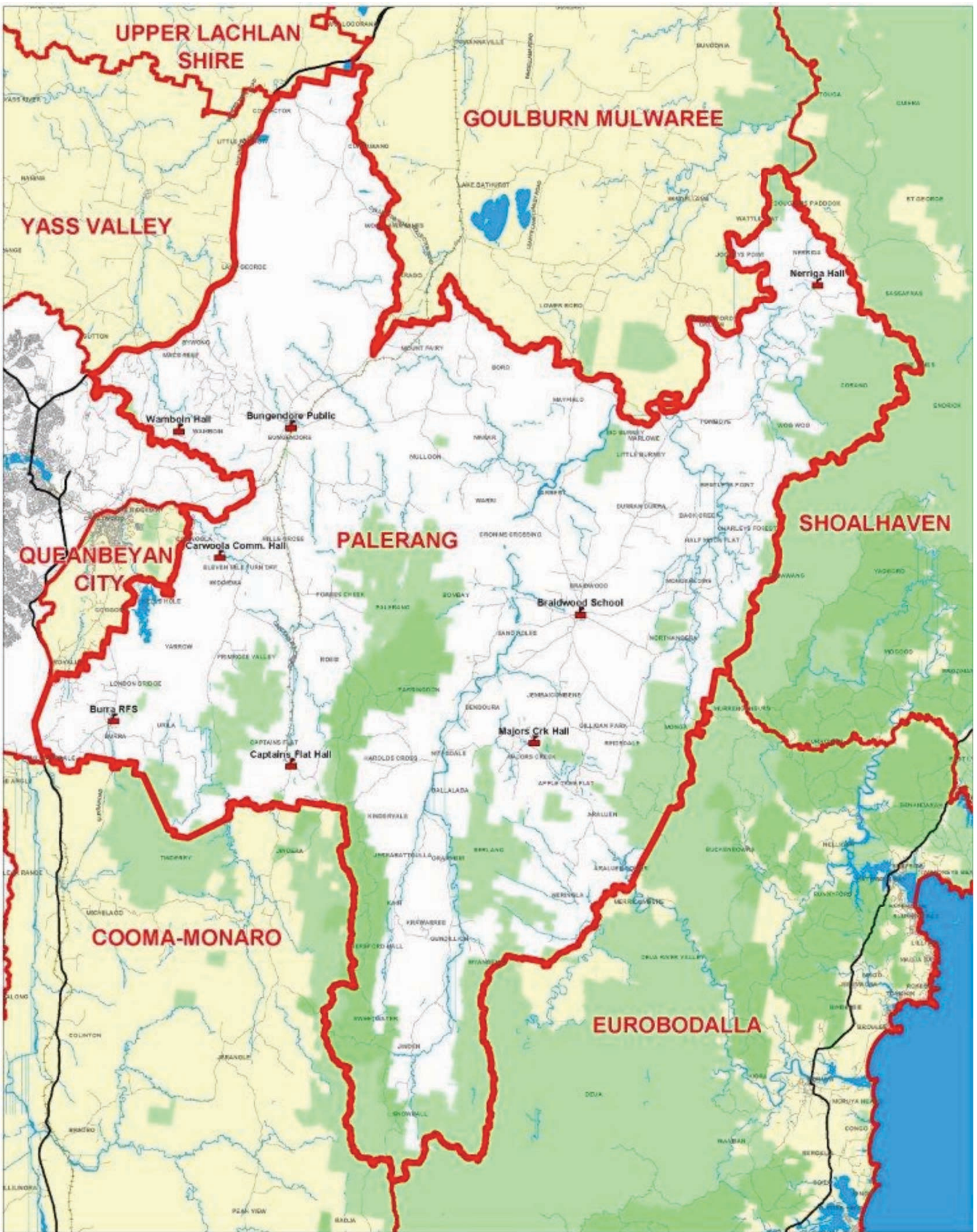
## CROSSWORD PUZZLE ('Around the Traps and beyond')





- | <b>Across</b> |   | <b>Down</b> |  |
|---------------|---|-------------|--|
| 2             | what goes on at Lilyfield?  | 1           | whose Reef?  |
| 4             | fastidious  | 3           | brand of washing detergent   |
| 7             | type of red grape   | 5           | first name of your local volunteer rural fire brigade                        |
| 9             | indicates the maiden name of a married woman                            | 6           | local community newsletter: (Sutton .....)                                   |
| 10            | name of local vineyard  | 8           | is it possible to read The Wamboin Whisper on-line?                          |
| 12            | marsupial mammal commonly found here                                    | 9           | main road through middle of Wamboin  |
| 15            | NSWRFS message: Prepare. Act. ....                                      | 11          | name of President of the Bywong Community Association (Darryl .....)         |
| 19            | nearby village  | 13          | network of trails through Wamboin and Bywong                                 |
| 21            | Wamboin .... Produce Markets  | 14          | name of your fire brigade's monthly newsletter (The Wamboin .....)           |
| 22            | kind of 'Putter' that Larry King won at Wamboin's Mini Masters in April | 16          | given name of Secretary of WCA   |
| 24            | played in Wamboin on first Sunday of the month                          | 17          | name of large lake in the region   |
| 25            | Wonderful .... of Wamboin   | 18          | The ..... Road   |
|               |   | 20          | surname of the Editor of The Wamboin Whisper                                 |
|               |   | 22          | commonly used first name of person most recently elected to Palerang Council |
|               |   | 23          | young person who 'knows everything'  |

(Answers appear later in this Whisper.)





**Legend**

-  Palerang Polling Places
-  Local Government Boundary

# Palering

## Local Government By-Election 2011



Poling Places current as at: 11 May 2011



# Check Count



<b>COUNCIL</b>	Palerang Council		
<b>WARD</b>	Undivided		
<b>ELECTION DAY</b>	Saturday, 14 May 2011	<b>Current as at :</b>	17/05/2011 10:46

Polling Place	GLEESON, Ben	MORRISON, Garth	HORAN, Mark (Independent)	HARRISON, Peter (Independent)	McGRATH, John (AUSTRALIA FIRST PARTY)	Formal Votes	Informal	Total Votes
Braidwood School	357	39	489	79	77	1,021	37	1,058
Bungendore Public	348	518	422	870	104	2,262	163	2,425
Burra Hall	68	51	166	206	32	523	60	583
Captains Flat Hall	63	39	71	70	17	260	19	279
Carwoola Comm. Hall	34	23	80	163	36	336	26	362
Majors Crk Hall	45	2	49	11	5	112	4	116
Nerriga Hall	13	2	30	5	12	62	8	70
Wamboin Hall	66	72	96	677	27	938	68	1,006
<b>Total Formal Votes</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>5,514</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>5,899</b>
<b>% Formal</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>25.1%</b>	<b>37.7%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	
Declared Institutions/Prepoll	273	85	459	344	83	1,244	48	1,292
Postal	70	44	121	150	42	427	14	441
Section/Silent	3	0	0	3	0	6	0	6
<b>Total Declaration Votes</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>1,677</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>1,739</b>
<b>% Formal Declaration</b>	<b>20.6%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>34.6%</b>	<b>29.6%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>1,963</b>	<b>2,578</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>7,191</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>7,638</b>
<b>% Total</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>12.2%</b>	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>35.9%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	

Number on Roll:	10,019	% of enrolled	76.2%
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LG.578

## Distribution of Preferences Countsheets



Current as at :  
17/05/2011 11:26

Local Government Area:	Palerang	Election of:	1 Councillor
Ward:	Undivided	Election Day:	Saturday, 14 May 2011

Candidates	Candidate's Vote	Count 1		Count 2 McGRATH, John Excluded		Count 3 MORRISON, Garth Excluded		Count 4 GLEESON, Ben Excluded		Votes	Votes	Votes	Votes	Votes	Votes
		VOTES DISTRIBUTED	PROGRESSIVE TOTALS	VOTES DISTRIBUTED	PROGRESSIVE TOTALS	VOTES DISTRIBUTED	PROGRESSIVE TOTALS	VOTES DISTRIBUTED	PROGRESSIVE TOTALS						
GLEESON, Ben	1,340	80	1,400	176	1,576										
MORRISON, Garth	875	30	905												
HORAN, Mark (Independent)	1,963	63	2,026	63	2,089	373	2,462								
HARRISON, Peter (Independent)	2,578	63	2,641	234	2,875	606	3,481			ELECTED					
McGRATH, John (AUSTRALIA FIRST PARTY)	435														
Total Formal Votes	7,191	216	6,972	473	6,540	979	5,943								
Exhausted Votes		219	219	432	651	597	1,248								
Total Informal Votes	447	447	447	447	447	447	447								
Total Votes	7,638	435	7,638	905	7,638	1,576	7,638								

Absolute Majority:	3,596	3,487	3,271	2,972					
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Congratulations, election complete.

HARRISON, Peter (Independent) has been elected.

The Map on pages 14-15 and the two tables on this page are from the Elections NSW website, with permission from Elections NSW. - editor



**Leaky Dams - a  
beginners guide . . .  
part II  
by Kevin Fiebig  
from the May Issue of the Burra  
Intermittent, with permission from  
Kevin Fiebig, the author, and Murli  
Baker-Gabb the editor**

Welcome to the thrilling conclusion on applying flocculating polymers . . .

Last month you read how I looked at bentonite and plastic sheeting, but then discovered a product that promised to seal the leak at about half the cost of traditional means. Did it work? How hard was it to use? What are three men, a dinghy, and a couple of long lengths of rope got to do with it? Read on McDuff, read on!

I gave the company that flogs the stuff a call and wanted to find out a bit more (like is it some sort of toxic chemical that will glow at night, and so on). In the end I was quite impressed because it turns out the 'flocculating polymer' is much the same as those water crystal you put around newly planted trees and such like to keep moisture up to the plant. I also thought they were pretty thorough as they checked out the property on Google Maps and one other site to look at total size, length of dam wall, etc. I was also asked to send some happy snaps of the dam for closer scrutiny. This resulted in some concern by the chappie at Polymer Innovations that the dead vegetation on the dam wall might inhibit the uptake of the polymer; that is it might get trapped in the vegetation and not get sucked through the leaks. I wanted to push on so they offered me two solutions; the budget pack (literally only enough to do the job), or the Irish pack (to be sure, to be sure). Not being one to do things by halves, I went Irish.

After picking up six 20-litre buckets of 'stuff' from TNT in Hume, I organised some mates to come and give me a hand. I had already had a quick read of the instructions and had sorted the two buckets of 'plug' from the four of 'seep'. I had decided the best way to distribute the contents of the stuff was use to use the 'Pullman' method. That is I climb into my dinghy and my two mates – using ropes attached to the bow and stern – pull me back and forward across the 'lake' so that I cover a mathematically precise grid.

So having re-read the instructions one more time and noting the requirements to distribute in zero to low wind in dry conditions, decide that the zephyr-like 10-knot wind and occasional spot of drizzle fits these requirements nicely. So there I sit in a small dinghy, lashed at each end by rope (the dinghy, not me), being pulled in a technically researched grid pattern across the dam (lake). The call of 'pull this way' by one being followed by 'no the other way' by the other . . . what could go wrong . . . today is the predetermined day, regardless of weather, so I proceed.

Those of you who are unfamiliar with flocculating polymers (flock) may not be aware that on contact with moisture, flock turns to a "cow-snot" like substance. Also, the recommended weather for spreading flock should be early morning, no wind and fine conditions.

So equipped with the required PPE (personal protection equipment) – a pair of gloves – I embark on my perilous journey in light rain and 10 - 15 knot breeze. There is definitely the sound of snickering from the hired help. With the dinghy sitting precariously close to the waterline and me sitting on floor of dinghy with a 20 litre bucket of flock between my legs, I throw 'measured' amounts (a handful) from my hand at a time, the wind picks up the fine dust and blows it across my face; a minor nuisance only. We continue: the dinghy jerking across the lake and handfuls of flock being cast onto the water.

As the first bucket of six empties, it is noted by the two amigos that my pace of flock dispersment hastens and now two handfuls are being worked in stereo to the beat of imaginary drums BOOM, BOOM, BOOM. The fine dust is now covering my entire head and, mixed with the light misty rain, I have become the slime creature.

It is amazing how flock, mixed with moisture from your eyes, gives you instant 'gummy eye.' Continual wiping with a hanky is a very good way to distribute it evenly so that you become totally blind. I call discretely to my comrades in arms that I may require a small modicum of assistance. They were laughing so much they nearly tipped me out of the dinghy, but eventually I tumble on to land and using a handy bottle of water sluiced the offending snot from my eyes.

Phase two continues (the remaining buckets) and now wearing gloves, safety glasses, a face shield and carrying a bottle of water (for emergency sluicing) I soldier on! The grid is not working out so well as the lads are having control issues with tugging and pulling together.

Thing is, the powder slowly covers everything; my clothes, the boat, the ropes pulling me back and forward across the lake. The drizzle and wind continue, the water surface is now gelled up as well and the dinghy is covered in its own jelly coating. The two mates are now getting cold and with hands gelling up, are calling for this to end!

At last, the final handful of flock is thrown out and I am one large gelled mass moving like a huge garden-variety slug. I inch out of the dinghy and decide that I might call it a morning.

I am helped out of the dinghy, totally covered in a cocoon of jelly. My mates, wet and tired but with only jelly hands as their penance clean up the dinghy and ropes (hosed it all down) and I slide away for a shower. On reaching the house, I decide that I need to 'nude-up' prior to entering as I have left a slime trail to the door and the snot has penetrated to my inner

garments. Luckily the front veranda, with its commanding views across the valley and my neighbours means I can discreetly disrobe without attracting attention . . .

Now with anticipation: did it work!

Well, yes it has! The lake has diminished in volume but no faster than my neighbours dams and so far only the shallow overflow in the paddock has been affected with the dam proper still well and truly as full as a goog. There has been a persistent leak on the outside dam wall (downstream), so I initially thought it hadn't worked but as the water level fell a few inches this has now started to dry up. I suspect the chappie was right and where a lot of vegetation was overtaken by the rising water and rotted, it prevented the flock from working effectively high up on the dam wall. I imagine a small tube of 'seep' should deal with this once I have raked the wall to give it access to the base material.

Now remember kiddies, a little tip: if you are going to use the flock, do it when it's calm and not raining.

If you want more info check out [irrigation.org.au](http://irrigation.org.au) for a range of sealing methods or Google flocculating polymers (Australian sites) and you'll find what you need.

My thanks to Killer Keith for laughing so much he nearly drowned me, and to Iron Lung Lau for threatening to throw the rope into the dinghy and leave me adrift 'cause it was taking too long. Finally, remember that flock is not a dirty word.

-- Kev



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## Confident Rugby

by Peter Evans

An interesting time in the Australian Super 14 conferences shows the Queensland Reds sitting on top of the competition and all other teams struggling to make the fast approaching finals. The Brumbies are firming favourites for the wooden spoon and the Waratahs are in the middle somewhere. Watching the Reds vs the Crusaders this afternoon really reminded me of how exciting it was to watch the Brumbies play in years gone by, with a bold confidence. Carl Lewis once said "If you don't have confidence, you'll always find a way not to win".

The mighty Mudhooks finally hit their stride last Saturday to convincingly win against Boorowa. This was the first game this season between the two 2010 grand final teams and, in front of a home crowd on a beautiful winters day, the Mudhooks scored eight tries to one to win 50 – 5.

During the first 10 minutes of the match the Mudhooks looked tentative in their attack and it wasn't until Boorowa scored a try, that the Mudhooks snapped out of it and started to play with the drive and confidence they displayed last season. Thereafter the Mudhooks dominated every facet of the game. Both teams came to the match with a limited number of reserves, and this was a big weakness for the visitors when midway through the first half one of the Boorowa front rowers came off injured, couldn't be replaced and the rest of the match was played with uncontested scrums.

The Bungendore tight forwards ran riot, scoring three tries between them, taking turns in charging runs and controlling play with a series of rolling mauls. The resulting ball delivered to the backline was excellent quality and the Mudhooks backs made good use of this scoring five tries.

The next home game is Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June vs Crookwell so get on down for a great afternoon out and support the local bush rugby. This is also our annual 'Ladies Day' to raise funds for a nominated community group. More info at [www.mudhooks.com.au](http://www.mudhooks.com.au)

### NOTICE



#### **The Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

will be held on  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
Wamboin Fire Station  
112 Bingley Way Wamboin.

The meeting will begin at 7.30pm.

The AGM is the Brigade's most important formal event of the year.

All Brigade members are encouraged to attend.

Nominations for all Brigade positions are welcome.

Nomination forms are available from the Secretary.

Aspiring members, families, and other visitors are welcome.

The Brigade's area covers Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Park.

John Taubman  
Secretary  
6236 9794

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## Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare

Think global, act local

**National Tree Day, Sunday 31 July, 9am.** Everyone is invited to a community planting around the Wamboin Hall on Sunday 31 July starting at 9am. Come along and help plant native shrubs, flowers and groundcovers to make the area more attractive to humans and birds. Bring a digging tool of some sort, gardening gloves and sunhat or beanie. We hope to have some furrows dug to make planting easier, and Landcare will supply the plants.

**Next Plant Sale: Saturday 18 June** at the Wamboin Market, 9am -12 noon. All plants cost \$3 and will grow in this area. This will be the last Landcare plant sale until the Wamboin market starts again in September.

**Nursery sessions** are held on the first Saturday of each month at the nursery (at Geoff Butler's place), **9am – 11am**. The next two sessions will be on **4 June and 2 July**. If possible, please bring along some cuttings of local native plants, so that we can strike some new plants. Please contact Geoff beforehand if you are going to attend - email [gbu22182@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gbu22182@bigpond.net.au) or phone 62369158, so that Geoff can cater for the correct number of people in terms of seating, plant/potting mix preparation and morning tea. Anyone is welcome to come and help, and no expertise is needed.

**Membership is free.** Activities are notified to members via email and also advertised in the Whisper. If you wish to be added to the email list, send a message to the secretary, Chris Fowler, [chrisft@fwi.net.au](mailto:chrisft@fwi.net.au).

**Planting tip:** It's planting time! Planting in autumn is particularly good, as it gives the plants a bit of growing time before the really cold weather hits, and plenty of time to get established before next summer's heat. Make sure young plants are surrounded by a bowl deep enough to pour a bucket of water into, and water once a week for the first few weeks.

-- Kathy Handel, ph 6238 3596, email: [kukinya@bigpond.com](mailto:kukinya@bigpond.com)

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**WANTED. Wamboin or Bywong area, rural residential property, anything from 1 to 40 acres, with home.** If you or someone you know is thinking of selling, please get in touch. We're ready to buy now. No agents please. Thank you. Peter Reid Ph: 0417 491 519 or 6156 3029

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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

**283: 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 (45)	59	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 Nrtm 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

**1,230: TOTAL WHISPERS FOR DELIVERY THIS MONTH**

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WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS  
SATURDAY 18 JUNE

**9AM – 12 NOON**

AS THERE IS NO MARKETS IN JULY & AUGUST, THIS MARKET IS THE LAST UNTIL WE RESUME AGAIN  
ON SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 2011.

**Fresh Brewed Real Coffee Scones with Jam & Cream  
Cakes Sausage Rolls Jams Preserves Jewellery**

Nuts Dried Fruit Lollies Native Plants Glass Products  
Soaps Knitted Items Worm Juice Flowering Plants Cards  
Freshly made Egg & Bacon Rolls Coffee Beans  
Carved Wooden Bowls, Clocks etc. – Great gifts.

Plus other items, come along and see.  
(Stalls vary from month to month due produce availability.)

*At the Hall - 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin*

Entry is free to customers. Stall holders \$5 - Enquiries to Joan Mason 62383258  
Customer numbers seem to be down, we put it down to the cold weather! Hopefully you will come along to the June Market,  
then have a break and resume once again in September.

*\* I am 'retiring' from cooking cakes and sausage rolls, therefore the June market will be my last! I still plan to run/organise the Wamboin Markets come September. A big THANK YOU to all who have supported my stall over the past years. Joan.*

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## Integrated Planning & Reporting public forums

# Palerang Council wants to hear your ideas about the future of our local area.

Starting on 23 May 2011, Council is holding a series of community workshops near you. Local residents, businesses, community organisations and other agencies are invited to share thoughts about our local area and your vision for the future of Palerang. We are seeking ideas about the challenges we face, both now and in the long term, and how we might address them.

### The need for a Community Strategic Plan

The ideas, thoughts and opinions you share with us will be used to develop a long term 'Community Strategic Plan' for Palerang and this plan will form an important part of Council's long term planning program. It will ensure that the Council's policies and direction are determined in partnership with the local community and are responsive to community needs and interests. It will become the primary 'roadmap' for planning in areas such as community services and facilities, new development, infrastructure renewal and protection of the environment.

The Plan will be prepared for implementation by September 2011 and will look twenty years into the future. It will be reviewed and analysed every four years, prior to each council election, to ensure that it remains relevant and reflects changes within our community over time.

Once the plan is completed, the Council will develop a comprehensive 'Delivery Program' that will list our activities and strategies to achieve the community's vision for the future. This Delivery Program will enable you to see how your thoughts, ideas and priorities for the future of your local area will be acted on by the Council.

### Partners in planning — a new consultative approach

Palerang Council has in the past consulted with the local community. However most of our consultation to date has focused on specific issues. In developing a new Community Strategic Plan we want you to assist Council to determine the focus and take a lead role in developing a vision for our future. In years to come you will also be invited to take an active role in reviewing the Plan to ensure our focus and long term directions remain relevant and responsive to community needs.

It is important that you take the opportunity to have your say about what you want for the future of your local area and what you believe is needed to make Palerang as good as it can be.

The community workshops to be held in May and June will mark the beginning of a whole

new approach to how Council manages its planning and decision making. We want you to be involved as our partners in the project. We need your thoughts and your ideas no matter how great or small.

Your participation in this planning process is your right and will be highly valued.

### What do we want to achieve?

In developing a Community Strategic Plan we will create a greater certainty about our future and the wellbeing of our community. We face some real and significant challenges in the coming years and the key to managing them successfully is planning ahead. Working in partnership with the whole Palerang community, we want to achieve the following results through this planning process:

**The right programs and services for our community:** As our community continues to evolve and change, we need to be sure that

our planning and service provision are appropriate and meet community needs and expectations. Working with the community to plan our future will ensure that our service provision is targeted and responsive to community needs rather than relying on what has always been done in the past.

**Making the most of what we have:** One of the greatest challenges for any council is to balance the provision of real enhancements and improvements for local communities with the need to undertake essential maintenance and renewal works on local infrastructure, and do so with limited resources.

The only guaranteed income for councils comes from rates and many rural and regional councils like Palerang are limited by low population numbers and a large area to maintain. Though our rates income is low, we have a great deal of infrastructure to maintain across our council area, including water supply, sewer systems, roads and drains. Also of concern is that some of this infrastructure is approaching the end of its life and needs significant expenditure to ensure that it remains in satisfactory condition.

A long term Community Strategic Plan developed in partnership with our community will enable us to work together to find the best balance between these competing pressures with the limited resources we have.



### Community consultation workshops — 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm with dinner provided. Please arrive at 5.30 pm.

Monday 23 May	Gundillion Community Hall
Tuesday 24 May	Araluen Community Hall
Wednesday 25 May	Braidwood National Theatre
Thursday 26 May	Nerriga Community Hall
Tuesday 14 June	Captains Flat Community Hall
Wednesday 15 June	Bungendore School Hall
Thursday 16 June	Burra Community Hall
Friday 17 June	Wamboin Community Hall

### Government and business forums.

Wednesday 25 May	Braidwood National Theatre 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Thursday 16 June	Bungendore School Hall 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

**RSVP to Council on 6238 8111 is essential to secure a place.**



## View From Another Country by Simon Porter, Bywong

I have only recently come to country life, in fact in my birth country, living in Bywong would be regarded as living in the back of beyond. My birth country is England, Yorkshire to be exact, God's Own County as all Yorkshiremen will tell you, what this means is that I am a Pom but I'm not a whinger. Before I get too far I better own up and confess that I was only born in York, I never lived there, and there is no way on earth my accent could be mistaken for Yorkshire. However being born there was good enough to qualify me to play cricket for Yorkshire and as far as I am concerned that is good enough for me, accent or no accent.

When I came Australia I was under no illusions that it was a dangerous country, I had watched enough David Attenborough to know that whatever the species, the most dangerous, venomous, scariest, lived here. What I did not consider was that people would be living with them. I mean, Australia is a large country, so there really is no need to build towns where something dangerous lives. In England if there were Funnel Web Spiders living by the Thames you can guarantee that there would be dense woodland for hundreds of miles and the capital would be Liverpool.

Days after moving into our first home in Fadden as I was pottering around the garden and on deciding to do some watering I cleared out the dense mass of cobweb from around the tap and dark hole in the brick where the pipe emerged. No, I was not stupid, just naïve, as I have just said I did not honestly believe anyone would build a town, let alone a Capital City where anything dangerous lived. I had heard of Redbacks and as a dyed in the wool arachnophobe there was no way I would go near one, let alone touch a web that might contain one. So imagine my cold sweated, pit of stomach fear when upon my return from watering the garden a rather annoyed redback had emerged. Bloody lucky you weren't bitten I hear you say, and having now been here for a few years I can only agree with you.

Which brings me on to my other confession, though this one has no excuses, naïve or not. A friend of mine had recommended covering my veggie patch with leftover carpet to keep the weeds down. A much more preferable alternative to my mind than weeding the 3 foot high tussocks that had emerged from the once well kept area. Not having enough carpet I decided to take this a step further and on finding some old metal roofing sheeting in the garage thought that would do the job. Again I am aware that we live in an area highly populated with Eastern Brown and Tiger Snakes, and that laying down sheeting would provide a perfect haven. But I proceeded, and lo and behold months later when I finally got round to digging over the patch, two attractive Tiger Snakes were curled up in what had been for months, a perfect hiding spot.

Being English I have an innate and, if you consider survival instincts, an unrealistic sympathy for all animals. But not wanting to live with the snakes and 3 inquisitive children nor the risk of a \$5000 fine, I called Wildcare. Now I cannot praise Wildcare enough and having called them out regularly every year to remove snakes I have being impressed by their dedication and efficiency. This time they exceeded expectations. Having located the two snakes and captured one, Alistair and Belinda (from Wamboin), not our regular Belinda from Bungendore, refused to give up, and continued the search for the second.

As my covering was not entirely successful the veggie patch was still mostly overgrown with thick, waist high grass. In order not to be taken unawares by the elusive snake, and with the need to have a clear view, Alistair and Belinda set about weeding. At that point, if it had been me, I would have said "Sorry", and cleared off. But no, they continued until drenched in sweat and exhausted they had completed over half the weeding. The snake could not be found, but I was more than satisfied with what they had achieved, despite the temptation to say I had seen movement in the unweeded half.

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Maybush, double white flower, v.good size, \$4  
Big range of Japanese Maples and other ornamentals in stock



## National Volunteer Week: Your Chance To Say Thanks

by Jenny Riley, Bungendore SES Publicity Officer

Whether it is responding to storm and flood emergencies, helping rebuild communities, or just offering advice on storm preparation for homes and businesses, the SES provides an invaluable service to the community. And this year's National Volunteer Week (9-15 May) provides the chance to say thank you to the thousands of SES volunteers who offer their time to provide those services.

National Volunteer Week is the largest celebration of Australia's volunteers and marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Volunteer. This year's theme, 'Inspiring the volunteer in you,' aims to encourage more people to volunteer to give back to their community.

Around 5 million people volunteer across Australia each year. The NSW SES alone has over 10,000 volunteers assisting communities not only in storm and flood recovery and response but through search and rescue and community education. Bungendore Controller, Colin Brown said this type of service is vital to local residents.

"Our volunteers have the most versatile skills and are the most called upon in the state. Without our volunteers the region would not have a lead agency to respond to emergencies like floods and storms."

He added, "This year's inspirational theme for National Volunteer Week is a perfect reminder for people to consider joining their local SES to play their part in contributing a valuable service to the community."

For more information on becoming an SES volunteer or for information on preparing for floods, storms and tsunami, visit the SES website [www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au) or call the SES volunteering and information line on 1800 201 000.

### LONG RUNNING CLASSIFIEDS

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**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](mailto:jshellard@bigpond.com)

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

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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](http://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](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au)

<p><b>Fencing Problems?</b></p>	<p>For all your <b>RURAL, COMMERCIAL OR DOMESTIC FENCING</b> needs...</p>	<p>Call: <b>NIC CLANCY</b> <b>0409 866 970</b> or <b>4845 8235</b></p>	<p>Preferred supplier for Environment ACT. Landcare &amp; Greening Australia contacts for grants.</p>
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## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

If you didn't need a holiday when you first booked, you will certainly need one by the time you get away! However, things have changed, and I'm amazed at how electronic gadgetry has quietly infiltrated our lives and now seems essential in planning and executing any trip. Even the Luddite in me has been seduced by online booking and Googling places that were once only mysterious words on a scrap of paper. Like a miracle my suitcase is suddenly free of heavy travel tomes and books of maps. But I can't quite abandon maps and travel guides and a life addicted to the printed word.

Flying has always filled me with awe, but today electronic wizardry makes flying an even more surreal experience. After the dehumanising production line of the airport check in, you are funnelled into a tunnel, greeted by a mechanical smile at a hole in a wall and find your way to a chair that goes up and down, backwards and forwards, and, if you're lucky, rubs your back at the press of a button. In the intervening time sitting strapped in the tube I never once saw the wings of the aeroplane that I assumed I was in, and the steadily shrinking world from my oval window may just as well have been a TV screen. At the other end I left my magic chair, made my way through an identical, but this time rising tunnel, got a cursory nod from a man in a box, and was expelled into fresh air. I was on the other side of the world, or so I was told. It could just as easily have been virtual travel. I don't think its jet lag we suffer, I think it's something akin to an out of body experience.

There was yet another surreal experience in store for the innocent abroad; electronic navigation. Instead of ripping off my glasses to catch a fleeting glimpse of a street sign that had suddenly appeared, while still trying to keep a finger on the thin red line in the fat map book on my lap and remember a foreign name at the same time, a calm, cultured voice plotted our path through a maze of streets, and issued timely directions without a hint of hysteria. She instinctively knew her left from her right and didn't lose her cool when the car missed a turn or ignored an unexpected sign. She was even unfazed when the windscreen washers sent a mist of Windex spray through the open sun roof. With the dulcet tones of Miss GPS, seducing the driver, I began to wonder if I had a role in navigating this life anymore! Occasionally, she got a little too clever for her own good, though, and I salvaged the situation with the aid of a paper map. However, there are now times when I get a distinct feeling that there are three people in this marriage!

We joined the annual Aussie pilgrimage to Villers Bretonneux, in France, for the ANZAC Day dawn service. It was an excited, but reverent mass of people, rugged up against the cold, who gathered at the Australian memorial in the middle of a now peaceful patchwork of farmlands on a rise outside a foreigner's town. As the sky lightened and took on a pinkish glow, the half moon hung low and the temperature plunged. We shivered as one, with both cold and emotion. The air smelled of dew on mown grass, and canola. Then the lone bugler, from his lofty perch, played the reveille, accompanied by blackbirds, and as if on cue an aeroplane came into view and slid heavenwards behind the unlovely tower. It was a deeply moving moment.

After years of not knowing his whereabouts, I finally found my great uncle, tucked away in a British graveyard, far from the land of his birth. He didn't have much to tell me, except his presence there spoke volumes. A talented, highly educated Australian doctor, he had joined the British Army, and like thousands of other young men, had paid the ultimate price for his loyalty to the Empire and his compassion for his fellow man. On his headstone I left two sprigs of lilac blossom that I had picked by the wall outside the graveyard, and a tiny toy koala given to me by a stranger. The sentimental Ivor Novello song popped into my head and the tune has followed me around for weeks; "We'll gather lilacs in the spring again, And walk together down an English lane, Until our hearts have learned to sing again, When you come home once more." He came from a very musical family, but like so many others, never came home to sing with them again. I suspect I was his first visitor in 95 years.

Again, it was the marvels of technology that enabled me to find him, and pay homage. And this search started on my computer in Wamboin, probably on a day that was too cold to be outside in the garden!

I don't think that I'd ever exchange the real thing for virtual travel. Turning the pages of a map book, losing your way, coming across the unplanned and unexpected will always be real travel for me, but I admit that life is a little easier in a strange place when you have a few electronic aids at your disposal. However, when it's time to come home, I know one thing.....I wouldn't live anywhere else.

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