

# The Whisper

November 2011 CIRCULATION: 1,246

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 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 December 2011 / January 2012 issue the deadline is Sunday, 27 November 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

Wamboin Community Assoc.	Peter Harrison	President	6238 3525
Bywong Community	Darryl Bourke	President	6230 3055
Fire Brigade	David Cochrane	Captain	0409 991 340
Wamboin Markets	Joan Mason	contact	6238 3258
Sutton School Playgroup	Toni Moore	Convenor	6238 3669.
Landcare	Roger Good	President	6236 9048
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238 1333
Emergency Services	NSW Call Centre	Staff	132 500
Emergency Services Admin.	Colin Brown	Controller	6238 1067
Justice of the Peace	Peter Greenwood	JP	6238 3358
Justice of the Peace	Keith France	JP	6238 3596
Justice of the Peace	Margaret Fletcher	JP	6238 1211
Justice of the Peace	Jill Sedaitis	JP	6236 9559
Justice of the Peace	Tony Holland	JP	6238 3762
Wamboin Scout Group	Peter Harrison	contact	6238 3525
Wamboin Pony Club	Robyn Slater	Senior Instructor	6238 3472
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Katarina Biondic	contact	0421 859 917
Wamboin Play Group	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	Gail Ritchie Knight	Contact	0416 097 500
Lake George VIEW Club	Lydia Zielinski	contact	6230 3488
Wamboin Book Group	Alice Scott	Secretary	6238 3178

### YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Alana Stenning	petsitting	6238 3030	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
Mara Sutcliffe	petsitting	6238 3228	Jack & Matilda Whitney	pet care, baby sitting, odd jobs	6238 3059



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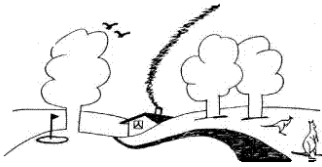
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**Jan Ladmore** Ph: **0407 890 527** 7 Days

E-mail: **jan.ladmore@bigpond.com**

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



## Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



**Carols at Wamboin** — Mark Friday 16 December down in your diaries now for our final community event of the year, the annual Carols at Wamboin, with a special appearance from the jolly gent in red himself. More details will be provided in the December Whisper.

**Macs Reef Road WTS Update** — Progress on the Macs Reef Road waste transfer station has stalled briefly. During the assessment of the Development Application, it was noted that there was a potable bore in the vicinity of the development, triggering the requirement for an Environment Impact Statement. While much of the work for this had already been done, this requirement includes another round of public consultation. The current plan is to hold a Public Information Session, to run for 4 hours (3.00 pm-7.00 pm) as a drop-in session on November 22, at the Bywong Community Hall, where interested community members can discuss the proposal on a one-on-one basis with council representatives. All details can be found on the WCA website.

**Telstra DA Lodged** — Following their information session at the September WCA GM, Telstra has submitted the DA (DA.2011.329) for the erection of a mobile phone tower in Denley Drive. The DA will be open for public comment in the near future. In the meantime, all the details are available on the WCA website at <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/news>.

**Home Produce Market** — The Wamboin Home Produce Market is now well into its 'spring swing', with the November market on Saturday 19.

**Curry Recipes** — Keep those curry recipes coming in (I've only received one so far!—thanks Colleen) to [curry@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:curry@wamboincommunity.asn.au).

**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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## PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION PROPOSED MACS REEF WASTE TRANSFER STATION

The community is invited to attend an Information Session for the new waste transfer station which is proposed to be constructed on land at the existing Macs Reef Landfill site.

The information session will be held between 3.00 pm – 7.00 pm on Tuesday 22 November 2011 at the Bywong Community Hall in Birriwa Road.

Persons interested in the project are invited to drop in to the hall between the above times to view the proposals and discuss any issues with Council’s consultants for the project. -- Peter Bascomb, General Manager

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

by Robyn Robertson

October 2011 rainfall to 30/10/ ... 34mm  
2011 rainfall to 30/11 ... 479.75mm  
Average November rainfall ... 78.4mm  
Wettest November ... 175.5mm in 2010  
Driest November ... 0.0mm in 1982  
Coldest Nov Day ... 10C on 16/11/78

Oct. 2010 ... 89.5mm  
2010 to 31/10 ... 737.25mm  
(Nov 2010 ... 175.5mm)  
Wettest Nov Day ... 77mm on 19/11/86  
Hottest Nov Day ... 39C x 3 times  
Coldest Nov Night ... 0C on 1/11/98

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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**



**Christmas drinks.** The Community invites all residents of Bywong and Wamboin and their guests and children to come to our end-of-year celebration and annual catch-up at a traditional get-together on Saturday 3 December. Come at 6 o'clock or as soon after as you can manage – we are open till 9pm. Drinks are on the house, and the house is Bywong Hall in Birriwa Road. Bring something to nibble if you feel inclined. We promise no boring speeches or agendas, and we guarantee you will not be asked to sign anything. We hope to see you there.

**A year of solid achievement.** The Community held its annual meeting on 10 October. Although attendance was disappointing, the Community was able to look back on a year of solid achievement in meeting community needs and aspirations. The President's Annual Report highlighted a number of these achievements, reflected in the following summary:

**Community Grants.** Thanks to a great effort by Secretary Anne Goonan, the Community obtained grants from the Community Building Partnership NSW (\$10,000) and the local Veolia-Mulwaree Trust (\$3,000). Under the Community Building Partnership the Community, working with the Hall Committee, was able to undertake major works at the Bywong Hall, including necessary work on the septic system, a new stove for the use of community organisations and casual hirers, and extensive painting. The Veolia-Mulwaree grant enabled the Community to replace chairs in the hall, replace toilet cisterns and pump, buy some new equipment for the hall and commission new community blackboard signs for roadsides at entries into Bywong.

**Community Events.** For the first time in its distinguished history, the Car Boot Sale was rained upon. A great effort by the organising team, especially Kerrie Gougeon and Pauline Chambers, raised over \$3000. The annual Trivia night, this year designed and managed by Jean-Pierre Favre was another great success. Guest speaker Annie Duke ran a useful workshop on sustainable living - handouts are on our website. A general meeting on roads in the area took place with last year's AGM.

The Community covered Macs Reef Road, Bywong Road and the Old Federal Highway in this year's Clean Up Oz campaign.

**Donations.** The Community made a number of donations to local causes, including a major donation to Wamboin Fire Brigade.

**Thanks.** President Darry Bourke thanked the outgoing committee and other active members who had made the year a great success, while ensuring we had a good time along the way.

**Election of office-bearers.** The meeting re-elected Darryl Bourke as

## Bywong Christmas Drinks

**Bywong Community Association invites all residents to our annual Christmas drinks.**

**6-9pm**  
Bring a plate of food to share.

**DECEMBER 2011**

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



The Bywong Hall is located on the Les Reardon Reserve, Birriwa road. (Off Mac's Reef road, Bywong)

Lots more information on our extensive website [www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au)



President, Anne Goonan as Secretary and Clive Boughton as Treasurer. The post of Vice-President remains vacant and we are open to suggestions and offers. Committee members are Greg Gougeon, Jean-Pierre Favre and Nora Stewart. Guy Cotsell will continue to act as Public Officer.

**Next meeting.** The Committee will next meet on 10 November at 7 pm in the Hall. Among topics for discussion will be adoption of a new constitution. All residents of Bywong are invited to attend.

## How The Whisper Gets From the Printer To Your Mailbox Month After Month

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

### 168: CO-ORDINATED HELEN MONTESIN: ph 6238 3208

Dene Evans	Norton Rd West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	33
Hank Berlee	Poppet Rd (for all on road)	32

### 283: CO-ORDINATED BY TRISH RICE: ph 6238 3791

Joan Mason	Bingley Way	48
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32
Trish Rice	Majors Cl	18
Ned Noel	Pal Cncl (14), Advertisers/ Misc (45)	59
Kathy Handel	Yalana West	19

### 230: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489

Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4
Colleen Foster	B'dore Rd to Nrtn Rd	22
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12
Dominica Lorima	North end Clare Valley	42

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

Sheryl Barnes	Denley Dr (Kestral to sthn end)	20
Don Malcolmson	Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat)	7
Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr	26
Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7
Carol & Clive Boughton	Macs Reef Rd (Bankers to Fed Hwy)	30
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Ln	6

### 140: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425

Michael & Jose Deane	FdHwSvcRd/Bidges/Hickey/O'Gold	63
Robert&Marzena Luton	Sutton Park Estate	48

### 202: CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON ph 6236 9333

Phil & Pam Dawes	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln	25
Kevin Anderson	B'dore Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill)	35
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (Fed Hwy to Summerhill)	25
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	21

Bill Owen	Cooper Rd	26
Stuart Whitten	Canning Cl	17
Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	40

Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Dr	17
Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	31
David Anderson	Weeroona Dr (Majors to Denley)	35
Penny Evans	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	24

Deb Gordon	Yalana East	42
Rob Gorham	South end Clare Valley	38
Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	60
Bungendore Foodworks	Bungendore	10

Brian Higginson	Denley Dr (Birchmans to Kestral inc)	12
Rhett Cox	Macs Reef Rd (Newington to Bankers)	7
Morag & Guy Cotsell	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwgn& Harriott	30
Sandra Favre	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngn& Harriott	20
Joan Milnor	Birriwa Rd plus Macs Rf Rd to Harriott	30
Tony Bond	Hogan Dr	28

Jenny Bryce	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Penny & Russell Ball	Macs Reef (Denley Dr to Bungdre Rd)	18

David Featherston	Summerhill and Creekborough Rds	25
Diana & Keith Gascoine	Snowgum Rd	26
Chris Fowler	Shinglehouse & Millyn Rds	20
Richard Holding	Wyoming & Doust Rds	25

TOTAL 1,246

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## Mario the Survivor of a Fence

by Phil Machin, Wamboin

Meet Mario from Coopers Road, Wamboin (pic). He's a casualty and if you look closely you will see his right foot is bandaged. Mario got caught in ring lock fencing – almost certainly trying to follow his mother over or through the fence, but not able to jump high enough or being too big to push through, his leg got caught. He struggled free, but ended up with a significant wound down to the bone. Mum hung around, but Mario was in no state to get up. Fortunately there were a couple of good Samaritans (Alice and Mario the property owners) who kept an eye on him and then contacted Wildcare.

With the help of a vet (Howard Ralph), and wildlife carers (Lesley & Phil), Mario's leg was cleaned up (this included removing dead tissue to allow new to grow), and he was put on antibiotics and pain relief – we don't always appreciate that injured animals feel pain, but they do. Two weeks on and with regular changes of dressings, Mario is doing very well and is likely to fully recover, albeit he may have a slight droop in his foot where the tendon was damaged.



Rescuing kangaroos and other animals from ring lock and the top wires of fences is not uncommon. And yet it is so easy to remove some, or all of this type of hazard. Often fences outlive their original purpose and are left in place – just in case. Taking down a fence or a length of barbed wire at the top is a lengthy, tedious and painful job. But for a more wildlife friendly property, sections of top wires can be removed where animals mostly track and ring lock fencing can be peeled back in sections to allow smaller joeys and ground-hugging animals a chance to go through. The ring lock can always be put back if needed.

We often see properties with fortress-like fences – typically with barbed wire at the top and chicken wire down to the ground. I often wonder whether they work – or do the rabbits and other animals get in anyway. I have even seen fencing with a strand of barbed wire at ground level (what a waste of money!) and on Mayfield Road there is a six or seven stranded barbed wire fence line. This design of fencing is simply a death trap for an unknown number of animals over the life of the fence. Surely it would be cheaper and just as effective to have a simple plain wire fence that is not too high?

For most people living in a rural and rural-residential areas there are inherent responsibilities to care for native animals too. Often the flora and fauna is what brought us to live where we live. My experience is that most people want to do the right thing, but may not know what to do. Tinkering with our fences to make them less of a hazard is one thing that we can all do and it can be done easily. How about it?



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### Councillor's Corner

**Fencing Standards**—While it won't affect many people in our part of the shire, Council recently amended the Development Control Plan (DCP) specifications for the minimum requirements for fencing in new subdivisions. In proposing these amendments, Cr Goonan noted that the existing standards varied across the shire, and that the requirement for new subdivisions to be fenced with ringlock or hinged joint fencing and barbed wire were excessive in most cases, and led to unnecessary injuries to wildlife. The new minimum requirement is simply for a fence comprising four plain wires, with the bottom wire 300 mm above the ground. It applies only to boundaries on road frontages and public open spaces, and only to new subdivisions. There is no council requirement to fence other boundaries, or to modify any existing fencing. Note that these are merely *minimum* requirements, and as has always been the case, land-holders are responsible for erecting whatever standard of fencing is required to contain any stock their land may carry.

**Integrated Planning & Reporting** — For anyone who's interested, or maybe if you're having trouble sleeping, all the input and analysis from the May/June Integrated Planning and Reporting forums, the follow-up telephone survey, and the subsequent data analysis sessions is now available on my councillor website (<http://peteharrison.id.au/ipr>). You can search an on-line database of all the comments that were provided, and view the results of the collation of all of this input. This will provide the foundation for Council's operating plans in coming years.

**LEP Maps**—I have recently augmented the LEP section of my website (<http://peteharrison.id.au/lep>) with the current drafts of the various maps that are used in conjunction with the Palerang LEP. They include maps showing:  
Land application  
Environmentally sensitive land  
Permissible height of buildings  
Lot sizes  
Land use zoning

**The Palerang Blog**—I am also making the above sort of information available in a Blog on my 'councillor' website at <http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>. I try to draw out issues of interest from both Council meetings and residents' enquiries. Entries added in October include:

- Macs Reef Road WTS development delayed
- Credit where credit is due
- Fencing Standards
- Water Supply Access

If you are interested in receiving advice of Council meeting dates and times, and other Council notices, you can subscribe to the Palerang Council News and Events Mailing List through the Council website at <http://palerang.nsw.gov.au/site/pages/subscribe.html>.

Council's General Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month, commencing at 5.00 pm. Members of the public are welcome. The meeting location varies—check Council's website (<http://palerang.nsw.gov.au>) for details. Meeting Business Papers are also available on Council's website on the Friday preceding the meeting.

-- Cr Pete Harrison ([Pete.Harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Pete.Harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au))

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## WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS

Contact – Joan Mason, Ph. 62 383 258

Customer numbers were down for the October markets, we put this down to all the different events being held at this time of year.

A big thank-you to Charlie and Helen who have taken over the Egg & bacon roll stall which proved very popular last market. Come along to our next market and enjoy the atmosphere, have a cup of coffee, an egg & bacon roll, even some delicious jam & cream scones, sounds good – it is.

Other items available are –

Produce (some now available), eggs, jams, preserves, nuts, dried fruits, lollies, raspberry products, coffee/beans, native and other plants, seedlings, jewellery, glass gifts, wood carving gifts, cards, knitting items, soaps, just to name a few of what is available at the markets.

With Christmas closing in on us very quickly, come along and see what the stallholders have to help you with your Christmas shopping.

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2011**

**9am – 12 noon.**

**112 Bingley Way.**

## WAMBOIN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

**will be held on Friday, December 16 2011 @ 7pm  
at Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way**

Details will be included in December's Whisper. If you would like to help with the evening, please contact Jenny Richards (p: 6238 1329) or Helen Montesin (ph: 6238 3208).



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## Have You Been Wondering What's Happening on Macs Reef Road?

Some of you may have had a slight delay on your way to work last week if travelling on Macs Reef Road, outside the old Rehwinkel's place. The road was down to single lane with the stop/slow signs up for a couple of days. There has been a lot of heavy equipment over the past four or five weeks and quite a lot of activity...

The 100-acre property was recently subdivided into five blocks of various sizes (you may also have seen the 'for sale by auction' sign outside the next-door property last week). Part of the subdivision approval process was for the developer to make a bus-turning bay for the use of Palerang schoolchildren on Macs Reef Road.

There is a standard clause included in any application that if the subdivision creates more than two additional lots the developer *may* be required to provide bus alightment facilities. To our knowledge the developer is the only one to comply with this clause in recent subdivisions on Macs Reef Road. Part of the reason for this is that the road reserve is quite wide at this point – and therefore allows for it to be done.

The benefits to the community are:

- Off-road bus stop for Palerang schoolchildren
- Safer for Palerang schoolchildren
- Utilising existing driveway (no addition to existing number of driveways off Macs Reef Road)

The developer is proud to be involved in this project, supporting the ongoing safety of children in the area.

One final note – this has been fully funded *by the developer*. This is NOT a Palerang council initiative and costs the community nothing, whilst improving safety for our children. As we all know, Macs Reef Road is a bit of a speed trap; hopefully Palerang council will be able to use the savings from this project to address this ongoing issue and also contribute to the safety of local residents and families. Thank you to the developer and thanks to residents for your patience on Macs Reef Road in the last week or two. - Victoria Oakden, 0421 683 783

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## Exciting Young Soprano to Appear in Concerts at Bywong

by Richard Milner

Emma Griffiths is the guest soloist for our next concert with Bush Baroque. Emma sings with a number of groups including Parsons Affayre and Oriana Chorale. She will sing some of the beautiful songs by Campion with a viola da gamba trio including "It fell on a Summer's Day" which gives the concert its title as well as a canata by Telemann and a madrigal by Palestrina.

Richard and Joan Milner both play the viola da gamba, an instrument rarely heard today but popular in England and Europe between about 1450 and 1700. Related to the lute and guitar rather than the violin family, it is a bowed instrument with 6 strings and frets. A consort of treble, tenor and bass viols will play fanatasias by the enigmatic English composer "Mr Chetwoode". Rachel Walker will play the violin in works by Schikhardt and Palestrina/Bassano and viol in two canzonas with recorders and organ by Frescobaldi.

These concerts are held in the Milners house and all proceeds go to Hartley LifeCare Inc who assist disabled people in the Canberra region. It is essential that you ring (62369212) or email ([violsaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:violsaustralia@gmail.com)) to book and details of the venue will be sent out to you. Drinks (Lamberts Vineyards donates the wine) and nibbles are served after the concert on the deck overlooking a large dam. The concerts will start at 2.30 on Saturday and Sunday November 26 and 27 and will finish around 4.00 pm.

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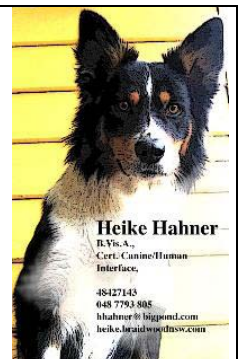
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## The Cuckoos of Wamboin

By David McDonald

In August, on hearing my first Pallid Cuckoo of the season, I emailed the WCA's email list <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/facilities/index.php?op=noticeboard> asking if anyone has long-term records of cuckoo arrival dates here. No-one responded in the positive, but a number of correspondents expressed interest in learning more about our local cuckoos.

Six species of cuckoo could be recorded in Wamboin, in descending order of likelihood of being observed here:

<b>Pallid Cuckoo</b>	large 28-33 cm	common August to January
<b>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</b>	large 25-27 cm	common August to March
<b>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</b>	small 15-17 cm	common August to February
<b>Shining Bronze-Cuckoo</b>	Small 16-18 cm	fairly common August to February
<b>Brush Cuckoo</b>	Large 20-23 cm	uncommon Spring-Summer
<b>Channel-billed Cuckoo</b>	Huge 58-66 cm	rare vagrant; any Wamboin records?

For many Wamboin residents the first call of the **Pallid Cuckoo** in late winter is a sign that the seasons are changing, as these birds over-winter in northern Australia, PNG and Timor, returning to our area in the second half of August. Their usual advertising call is the common—for some irritating as seemingly incessant—upward scale of (usually) eight notes.



While the Pallid Cuckoo is, as its name implies, a somewhat drab-looking bird, the closely-related **Fan-tailed Cuckoo** is far brighter, with cinnamon-buff underparts and more distinctive white notches on the edges of the tail. It also has a highly distinctive advertising call: most commonly a downward trill. (Fan-tailed cuckoo photo at left by David Cook.)

The **bronze-cuckoos** are tiny by comparison, with beautiful bronze-green plumage, the colours of which change as the light falls on the feathers at different angles. The most common call of the Horsfield's is a *descending* whistle, while that of the Shining is an

*ascending* whistle.

The **Brush Cuckoo** looks a bit like a cross between the Pallid and Fan-tailed: similarly sized, grey-brown above and pale buff underparts. Its call is very different from the other two large cuckoos.

The **Channel-billed Cuckoo** is a huge, weird-looking bird of the tropics and sub-tropics. Vagrants are occasionally reported in the National Capital region.

The first five listed parasitise the nests of small bush birds in our region, each using a particular strategy with the aim of having the host species raise the cuckoos' young instead of the host's own offspring.

Photographs of all six species can be found at the photo gallery of the Canberra Ornithologists Group <http://photogallery.canberrabirds.org.au/cuckoos.htm>. There you will find calls of the Pallid, Fan-tailed and Brush Cuckoos. The calls of the two bronze-cuckoo species are online at <http://graamechapman.com.au/cgi-bin/library.php>. Additional information on these delightful birds is available at the Birds of Canberra Gardens website: <http://garden.canberrabirds.org.au/contents/birdGroups/alphabeticListing.htm>



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# The Wamboin Firefighter

For further information on the brigade or fire-related issues visit the brigade's website at

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

**WE ARE NOW IN THE BUSHFIRE DANGER PERIOD**

(1 September - 31 March)

**THERE IS A REAL RISK OF UNCONTROLLED FIRES IN OUR AREA**

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

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

**PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.**

**GRASSFIRES!!**



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

Depending on the conditions prevailing at the time, grass fires can be very difficult to contain, and they can be very fast running. History provides ample evidence of our area being prone to grass fires. The evidence also points to most grass fires being caused by human activity, which means that they are preventable. Here's a few of the basic considerations that all of us should keep in mind:

- Always know the Fire Danger Rating for the day and make sure everyone in your household is also aware of what the rating is and what it means. You might consider this a standard dinner conversation or get the kids to find out what the rating is from the Internet, e.g. by visiting the brigade's website.
- Do not use equipment that may cause a spark or ignite grass during the heat of the day. Always mow in the cool of the day preferably early morning.
- On days of Total Fire Ban do not mow or use any equipment that may cause a spark.
- If using a ride-on mower or slasher carry a water-filled knapsack spray with you.

- Continually check mowers for a build-up of grass especially near the exhaust.
- Do not leave a hot or running mower stationary; always move it to a road or cleared area.

The following information has been extracted from the ACT Rural Fire Service, Grassfires Fact Sheet as it applies equally to our region.

## **Know how to protect yourself and your property**

**Grassfires spread rapidly and can quickly threaten lives and property.**

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

### **Understanding grassfire risk:**

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

### **Protecting yourself from grassfires**

- The speed at which a grassfire can start and spread can catch people off guard.
- The radiant heat from a grassfire can kill anyone caught out in the open.
- The safest place to be during a grassfire is well away from the threat.
- If you are threatened by a grassfire, always protect yourself by covering up all exposed skin with protective clothing such as:

- Long-sleeved shirt and pants made from a natural fibre such as cotton or wool,
- Sturdy boots and woollen socks,
- Tough leather gloves,
- A wide-brimmed hat,
- A face mask or towel to cover your mouth and nose, and
- Eye protection such as goggles.

You need to shield yourself from radiant heat behind a solid structure such as a building or large rock outcrop if in the bush etc.

### **Protecting Your Home and Property from Grassfires**

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

- Slashing,
- Mowing,
- Grazing,
- Spraying and poisoning, and

Create fuel breaks by removing all fuel (vegetation) down to the soil.

Narrow fuel breaks are ineffective at stopping a fire. By reducing the grass and other vegetation around your buildings and other assets you can create a space in which you can defend them. Fire breaks should be at least 20 m wide, this will often be 10m each side of a fence line.

It is important that you create and maintain a defensible space around all the assets you want to protect. By carefully reducing and managing the grass and other vegetation in this defensible space you are limiting the ability of a moving grassfire to ignite a building through direct contact with flame or radiant heat.

It is too late to begin spraying and slashing as the fire approaches, you must prepare now!

### **Machinery Can Start Grassfires**

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

## **NSW RURAL FIRES REGULATION – Motorized Machinery**

The following is an extract from the NSW Rural Fires Regulation 2008 No 348 Part 4, Division 1, Clause 22

### **Other safety requirements:**

- (1) A person must not, in connection with any agricultural, pastoral or other land use, drive or use in any grass, crop or stubble land any motorised machine unless:



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

Further details can be found at: [http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/num\\_reg/rfr20082008348229.pdf](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/num_reg/rfr20082008348229.pdf)

## **BRIGADE ACTIVITY LAST MONTH**

**CALL OUTS:** Similar to last month’s report, the brigade was responded to 4 Triple Zero (000) calls since the last newsletter. If we needed to emphasize our concern at the prospect of fires in our grasslands, two of the four callouts involved out-of-control grass fires.

**Fri 30 September:** just before 4pm crews in one of the brigade’s heavy tankers and a quick response unit were called to an accident involving a truck and a motorcyclist at the intersection of Macs Reef Rd and the access road to the Palerang Tip.

**Fri 21 October:** just before midday, brigade member’s pagers were set off following a Triple Zero call with a report of a fire separate to the known registered agricultural burn in The Forest Rd Bywong. One of the brigade’s heavy tankers, light tanker and the quick response unit were despatched. Heavy smoke was clearly visible on the ridge-line. To everyone’s relief, crew members in the brigade’s quick response unit soon ascertained that the smoke was indeed from the registered controlled burn and not from a separate fire. The tankers were turned around while en route and returned to the Fire Station.

**Sunday 23 October:** at 11.51am when many people are about to sit down to a relaxing Sunday lunch, the brigade was called to a small grass fire in Millyn Rd Bywong. The fire, started by a ride-on mower, had quickly escaped to a neighbouring property. The mower was not equipped with suitable fire-fighting equipment. Moral of the story for new players is: don’t underestimate how quickly a small fire can start and get out of control given the right mix of wind, temperature, humidity and fuel. Another very important message for residents is to have an appropriate water supply on hand to control and contain a fire. Fortunately, the brigade’s two heavy tankers, a light tanker and the quick response unit were able to bring the fire to heel fairly promptly with the area burnt being less than one hectare.

**Monday 24 October:** at 2.48pm the brigade was called to a grass fire on the median strip on the Federal Highway near the Doust Rd intersection in Bywong. With the brigade’s quick response unit, a heavy tanker and support from Queanbeyan City Rural Fire Brigade the fire was quickly brought under control and contained to less than one hectare. We can only speculate as to how this fire may have started.



### **BRIGADE TRAINING**

The set brigade training sessions are:

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

All training begins at the Fire Station. Visitors including aspiring members welcome.

## BECOMING A BRIGADE MEMBER

The brigade is continually in need of new 'blood' i.e. new, active members. If you are interested in becoming a member and bringing existing or wanting to learn new skills to help out in the brigade's support crew or as an active firefighter, don't hold back; come along to any of the set training sessions for a look and a chat. You'll be made very welcome.

Alternatively, feel free to give our Secretary a call on 6238 3153.

Acquiring new skills and building on existing skills is an important part of being active in the community's volunteer fire brigade. Some of the core RFS courses brigade members have participated in this year include: safety induction, bush fire support, bush firefighter, advanced firefighter, village firefighter, crew leader, first aid application, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and rural fire driving.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Brigade Information 'Shopfront' adjacent to the Wamboin Home Produce Market (9am-12noon)
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Fire Brigade Community Christmas Party from 5.30pm. Santa arrives at 6pm

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### Wamboin Brigade Website:

The site 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 at

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

### Brigade Information 'Shop Front' at the Wamboin Home Produce Market: Theme - Hand-held tools

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 19<sup>th</sup> November. If you are coming to the market, which is located in the Wamboin Community Association's Hall in Bingley Way, Wamboin, you'll find us in front of the Fire Station happy to answer all your questions. This month's theme is What's Useful In The Way Of Hand-held Tools. We'll have a sample on display for you to look at and 'road test'.

At any other times, if you have any queries on a fire-related issue including preparing yourself, your family and your property for a bush, grass or house fire, please contact the Brigade on 0409 991 340.

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## **WAMBOIN 15 YEARS AGO: from the Whisper, November 1996    Circulation 500** **by Robyn Robertson**

In 1996 the Sutton School celebrated its 125th anniversary. To mark the occasion a history of education in the district by Rob Lord was published. These are some very brief excerpts from chapter 1 in which the first, rather troubled, years were described. This chapter was reproduced in full in the Whisper.

"Despite the fact that the first village blocks were not sold until 1874, the population of the area had been on the increase for some time. ....Early in 1871, Samuel Plumb put forward a proposal to establish a school to be conducted half-time with his Wyanga school. His idea was well received, and a public meeting was arranged at the Methodist Chapel on 13 March 1871....."

The inspector reporting on the application considered that the prospective number of pupils warranted only a half-time school. ....The first school building was the Methodist Chapel, which was situated in the field west of the present school buildings. A small bark hut was constructed next to the chapel as a residence for Plumb. ....

Plumb was paid an annual salary of thirty-six pounds when he commenced teaching at Sutton, and even with the collection of fees to supplement this salary, he protested to his superiors that his wages remained less than the pay of a common labourer."

Disputes over salary and conditions, and teaching standards, resulted in the resignations of the first 3 teachers in rapid succession and from October 1877 to 1880 the school was closed.

"During these early years, many children would have had a long and arduous day, for it was common for children to work before and after school, especially where cows had to be milked. It was not uncommon for children to be kept at home for extended periods to help with activities such as harvesting. School holidays were few in those days, with only three weeks at Christmas and two in Winter. ....Whilst in school, children's misbehaviour would normally result in a severe caning and perhaps the wearing of the 'dunce cap'."

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## THE STABLE DOOR

by Ian Coillet

An Occasional Piece

In between the busy goings on of life, I recently belted up for another one of my favourite occupations – a short jaunt down a few of our regional roads. On this occasion, as in times past, I headed up the Tarago Rd as part of a return trip to Goulburn. Apart from being a good ‘driver’s’ road, there’s some wonderful largely rural scenery along the way and, of course, you pass through the quaint villages of Tarago and Lake Bathurst.

Tarago boasts several historical buildings including the Loaded Dog Hotel established in 1848. I understand it was the meeting place and ‘safe house’ for a goodly number of bushrangers, including Frank Gardiner and Ben Hall.

A little further on you pass by the turn-off to the former Woodlawn Mine, now the Woodlawn Bioreactor. It’s well worth a visit. Shortly thereafter comes the very pretty tree-lined village of Lake Bathurst that, among other things, is well known for its Lavender Gardens Tea Rooms and, of course, the lake.

A few kilometres onward, after cresting a small rise, BLAM!! I’m blinded by and simultaneously transfixed with the magnificence of a field of canola. Yellow like you wouldn’t believe, absolutely eye-bleedingly yellow.



Field of canola on the Tarago Rd - quite breathtaking

Onward through Tirranaville (don’t you just love that name), past Wakefield Park Raceway and before long you are entering the outskirts of the city of Goulburn.

My trip to Goulburn is rarely complete without:

- a visit to a favourite eatery, the brilliant Roses Café. It’s popular so manage your visit to avoid obvious peak eating times and the occasional bus group; I don’t believe it opens Sundays, and
- in a throw-back to my days as a Melbournite, a trawl through the Dimmeys Store in the main street just up from Roses Café. As is their catch-cry, ‘shopping at Dimmeys is a unique experience’. It’s true.

Retracing the route is equally enjoyable and after a few hours round trip I’m back home where it’s clear some of the horses in Wamboin found the day ‘sofariffic’ – pardon the spelling.



Snoozy sunny afternoon in one of the horse paddocks along Norton Rd

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## LET'S SHOUT ABOUT THE WHISPER

By Lofty Mason

The first Wamboin Whisper was reproduced in the October 2011 Whisper. I plan to continue looking back on the early issues and follow the beginning and the progress of different groups and activities in Wamboin as recorded in the Whisper.

**The first is the Whisper itself.** Derek Gough was the editor of the first 8 issues, plus a Special issue, of The Wamboin Whisper. The dates of these editions were: 1: July 81, 2: October 81, 3: March 82, 4: August 82, 5: December 82, 6: February 83, 7: July 83, 8: December 83 and a special Issue in Dec 83.

**Issue number 4** declared that The Wamboin Whisper was (The official organ of the Wamboin Community Association).

**Issue number 7** stated: 'The aim of the Whisper is to promulgate matters of mutual interest with particular reference to what your elected Community Association Executive is doing on behalf of us all to further our common interests and welfare. Anyone can submit articles or notes for inclusion in the "Whisper" and as long as they have common community interest, they will be published.'

**Issue number 8** added: 'This News Letter is distributed every quarter to all residents and land-owners in Wamboin who have a letter box fronting their property.'

I also note that **issue number 7** stated: 'This issue has been considerably delayed due to a lack of contributions. Most people say they look forward to it coming out but we must have news or articles to put in it. The frequency of future issues is up to you.'

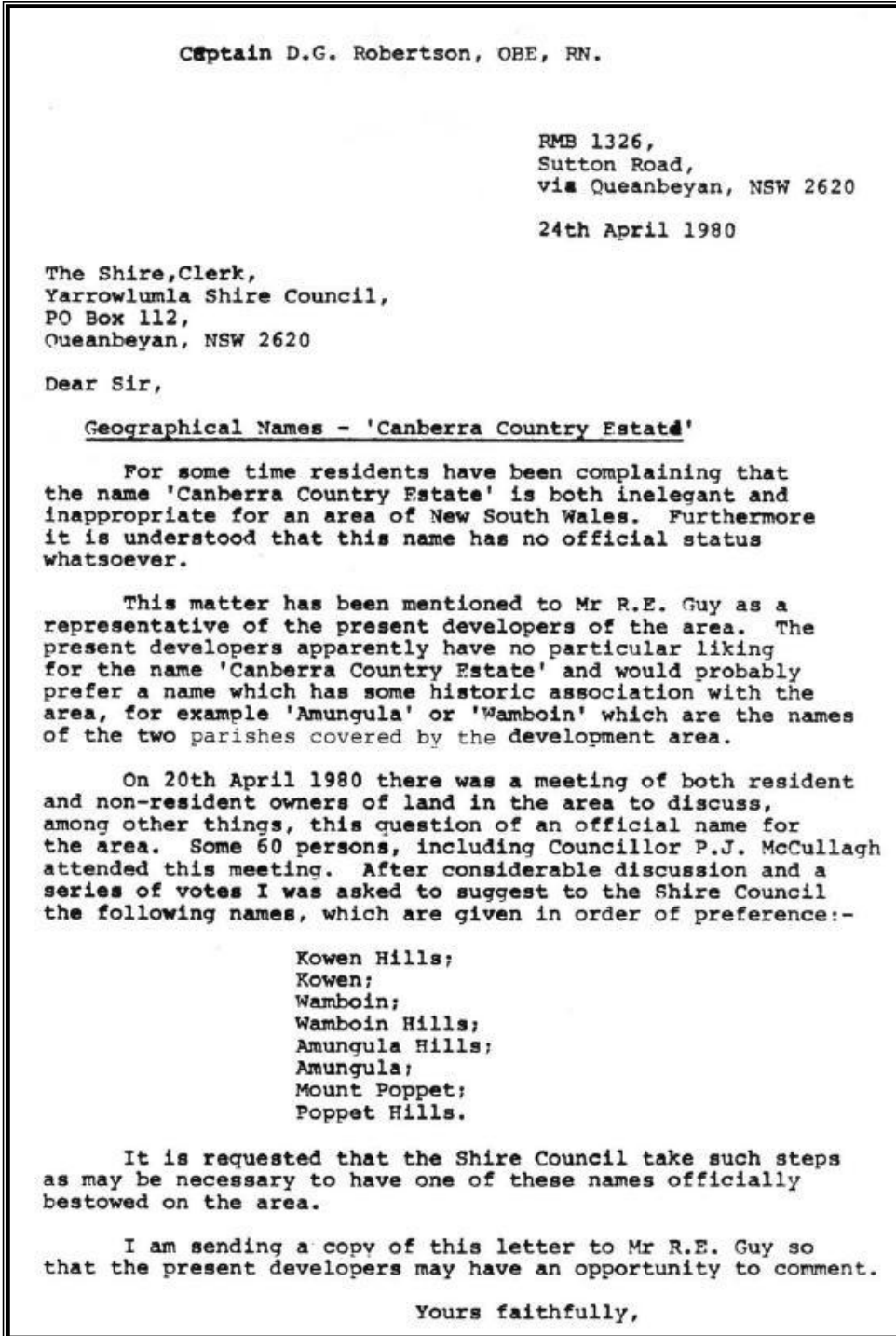
**The Name Wamboin.** This area was originally called Canberra Country Estate. Issue number 2 of the Wamboin Whisper reported the change as follows:

**OUR DISTRICT NAME**

*"Wamboin" has now been officially gazetted as our district name so please use it in all your written and oral communications and discourage the use of C.C.Estate.*

*Telecom has advised that all local telephone numbers will be changed before March 1982 and that the new numbers will appear with a Wamboin prefix in the next issue of the Canberra District Telephone Directory.*

I include a copy of a letter written by David Robertson to The Shire Clerk requesting this change of District Names. Would you



believe there was strong opposition to changing the address from 'Canberra Country Estate, via Sutton' to down to earth 'Wamboin, NSW.

(Current 2011 Editor's Note: Lofty Mason and Pete Harrison worked to scan the 18 page long November, 1987 Whisper, which contains the letter reproduced here, and have put it on the Community Association website at [www.wamboincommunity.asn.au](http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au))

# Opening soon in Sutton



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**Thank you** to everyone that took advantage of the free market appraisal campaign. It was a joy to meet you all and I am pleased to have helped you gain an understanding of what your biggest asset is worth in the current market.



## **Toward a Sustainable Life: Solar energy in the home and business**

*Pete Gorton and Craig Hamilton*

### **Free public presentation and discussion**

**by Daniel Bartlett, Bungendore Road, Bywong**

Want to know more about employing solar energy to heat your water, or generate electricity from your roof top?

Wondering what the difference is between all those dark-coloured panels on roofs?

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Think about how NSW will achieve its target of 20% renewable energy by 2020?

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- you can improve your ecological footprint;
- utilise solar energy more effectively; and
- learn what is possible, here, now today.

Pete Gorton is currently Secretary of the International Solar Energy Society, and is past President of the Canberra Branch of the Australian Solar Energy Society. He holds multiple degrees, and is a senior consultant who has been involved in a number of solar and renewable energy projects. Pete has studied renewable energy and travelled widely, and is currently building a fully-sustainable home on the far south coast. Pete believes that energy efficiency and renewable energy are key to our continued prosperity, and speaks passionately about current technology and applications of solar energy. He recently travelled to China to deliver a presentation to the China Solar Valley Municipal Government, and is assisting in the planning for the 49<sup>th</sup> AuSES Solar Energy Conference, in Sydney Nov 30<sup>th</sup> – Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Craig Hamilton owned his first optic fibre at age 6 and solar panel at 10 and now has over three decades of experience in the design and project management of complex engineering solutions. He is passionate about sustainability and aims to empower people to confidently and successfully take sustainability action and feel great having done it. Craig holds a degree in Electronic Engineering, Graduate Diploma in Management and Masters Degree in Business. He was recently head of engineering and products at a significant regional clean energy company and now runs independent operations providing advice in the clean energy sector and products and services to those who want to make a difference.

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## Palerang Needs a Dog Pound

by Nora Stewart, Rovere Lane, Bywong

I am writing to appeal to all dog owners in the Bywong and Wamboin areas to properly look after their dogs. In the last 4 weeks or so, I have seen four dogs wandering around the area, close to very busy roads including two on the Macs Reef Road. Fortunately, I managed to find the owner of two of these dogs racing around Majors Close and returned them. I would have been devastated if I had run over any of these animals, and I think it is very unfair to have animals if you are not prepared to look after them properly. I also know of other instances of dogs attacking livestock and wildlife in this area.

There are also penalties\* that could be incurred for offences, including:

Failure to prevent dog escaping	\$220
Own or in charge of an attacking dog	\$550
Animals not permanently identified (microchipped)	\$165
Animals not registered	\$165
Failure to notify change of address/owner	\$165

\* Penalties under the Companion Animals Act 1998

I will be writing to Palerang council to petition them to instigate a dog pound facility for Palerang, and I would be pleased to hear from other local residents who support this idea. If you would like to support this, please contact me on 62303305 or email [norastewart@hotmail.com](mailto:norastewart@hotmail.com).

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## the market @ bungendore

by Lyn Randall

In April 2011 a group of artists from the Bungendore district took over the running of the Bungendore Market at the War Memorial Hall. This group originally formed as 'the pARTnership' to showcase local artistic talent, by holding an exhibition in the Bungendore School of Art during the local school fair in 2008. Since that time they have held several successful exhibitions at that venue.

When the previous organisers decided to retire from the market, the pARTnership took it on as a natural extension of their exhibitions. It was hoped that many of the local artists and craftspeople would then have a venue from which to promote and sell their work.

Six months on and the market is still evolving, with new stallholders arriving each month. All money raised from stall hire etc. is ploughed back into the running costs or donated to the upkeep of the hall.

It is hoped that the markets leading up to Xmas will be our biggest yet and we would like to encourage everyone to come along and see our range of unique gifts. Alternatively, if you would like to hire a stall space to sell your wares then please contact us at [bookings@themarketabungendore.com](mailto:bookings@themarketabungendore.com)

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# Now it's November

## the market @ bungendore

Sunday November 20th 9am - 3pm  
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glass art

homewares

greeting cards

beads & findings

pottery & ceramics

local grown plants

prints & paintings

fruit & vegetables

clothing & footwear



Corrina Medway, a local country girl and young mother tragically lost her life in May this year shortly after giving birth to twin baby girls. She left behind her partner Ben and her "little angels"—toddler Jack and twins Emily and Grace.

Anything you can do to help, whether it be sponsorship, attending the gala dinner or donating a prize will be accepted with great appreciation.

For more information contact:

- Shelley Kowalski at RIRDC on 0412 557 552 or email [shelley.kowalski@rirdc.gov.au](mailto:shelley.kowalski@rirdc.gov.au)
- or visit [openyourhearts.com.au](http://openyourhearts.com.au)



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## Nature Notes October 2011

Jo Walker

A few centimetres of rain at the end of the month is keeping the grass green, and some of the Wallaby Grasses (*Austrodanthonia* spp.) are beginning to flower.

Interestingly, two of the grassland plants that often appear in large numbers are not doing so this spring. Early Nancies (*Wurmbea dioica*) were rather sparsely scattered, and the Billy Buttons (*Craspedia variabilis*) that are flowering at present are few in number and have smaller than usual flower-heads. Buttercups (*Ranunculus lappaceus*), on the other hand, seem to be having a good year, with eye-catching displays of glossy golden flowers.


Some of the heath plants have been putting on a good show too. *Brachyloma daphnoides*, the Daphne Heath, is a common plant in this area. This compact little shrub, usually about 60 cm tall, is covered in pale cream tubular flowers right now. The flowers are preceded by prominent pink buds.

Just about all of the local pea plants have flowered spectacularly this year. The mauve flowers of *Indigofera australis* (Australian Indigo) were crowded along the stems of every plant a few weeks ago. The tall Bitter Pea (*Daviesia mimosoides*) is waving its long stems covered in yellow and brown scented flowers. And the small Silky Parrot Peas (*Dillwynia sericea*) are contributing splashes of colour with their yellow and orange flowers. But, perhaps the most prolifically flowering pea this year is *Pultenaea microphylla*. These low-growing little shrubs are covered in bright orange flowers, completely hiding the foliage in some cases. They form a low, orange understorey under the trees on the high side of Sutton Road – there are also quite a few on the northern side of Norton Road at the top of the hill leading down to Sutton Road.


The local birds are still busy building nests. Another pair of Spotted Pardalotes are building a nest in the bank of my creek. Blue Wrens have a nest in a dense shrub further along the creek. And a pair of Magpies have just built a nest in the big Scribbly Gum near the house. A few days ago, I saw one of the Magpies lying on the verandah and thought it may have flown into one of the windows and injured itself. It was lying flat on its stomach with its wings stretched out either side, its head resting on the boards and its feather fluffed up. But, when I went out to investigate, it got up, shuffled its feathers, and flew off – probably a bit miffed, as I'd obviously disturbed its sunbathing!

There are plenty of frogs calling from the dam, but no frog spawn has appeared yet. There seem to be a lot more yabbies in the dam than previously and they are making the water a bit muddy in places. A small pond below my dam always has always had clear water and a range of water-plants growing in it, but right now it is full of sloppy mud and large yabby holes, and some of the plants have died. But, that's nature – it changes things all the time.


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## News from WWOW The Wonderful Women of Wamboin 20 October 2011

**Our fifth anniversary** was celebrated with lunch, and sharing of our wedding dresses, mothers-of-the-bride dresses and other clothing related to weddings. It was truly a display of wedding fashions over several decades. Much fun was had hearing the stories related to many of the dresses, and the tee shirt decorated with photos of three generations of family weddings!



**The Bonfire night** was a great success and the WWOWs had a busy cook-in the day before to prepare the curries. The funds raised by selling curries will soon go back into our greater community as donations. Thank you all who bought our curries and special thanks for those who said they enjoyed them.

**Like to sew?** Come join the WWOWs on the first Monday of each Month for an afternoon of making drainage bags for surgery patients at Calvary, especially women who are having breast cancer surgery. The bags are easy to make and allow you to apply any creativity you like. The sewing bees from noon – 3:00 ish



are fun and social.

**Like to knit?** Join our efforts to knit trauma teddies for Queanbeyan Ambulance Service. The pattern is simple and the teddies very much appreciated by paramedics and children

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 Contact person is Gail Ritchie Knight, 0416 097 500, and members come from Bungendore, Bywong, Gundaroo, Sutton, and Wamboin, with a few from ACT and Queanbeyan.

## Wamboin and Bywong



### Let's Decorate for the Christmas Holidays The Wonderful Women of Wamboin Invite you to *Decorate your gate or mailbox To win a basket of delights!*

Our community continues to build a sense of community, through our associations, our community groups and our growing number of community events. So let's decorate our community for the holidays. All properties in Wamboin and Bywong are invited to participate.

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin will assemble a representative judging team from across our area to judge the entries on 19 December 2011. The winners will be notified 20 December, with photos displayed on the community websites and in the next issue of the Whisper.

Please notify WWOW by 12 December if you plan to enter so we can schedule all the judging. Send your entry to [sally.saunders1@bigpond.com](mailto:sally.saunders1@bigpond.com).

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## Bonfire Recognition

We would like to draw attention to a few people who carry out work that is not seen by most of the people who watch the bonfire on the night. First there was Ian Cuthbertson who took the time to twice heap up the bonfire material. He really puts on a good show with his front-end loader. Then there was the number of people who turned up on the Sunday to clean up the Hall and surrounds. And finally, Charlie Montesin who moved the burned out remains of the bonfire thereby improving the surrounds of the nearby golf green. The WCA says thanks to these people who make the night a success. - Lofty Mason

## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

My garden is a scented pastel palette, alive with noisy birds and bees.....and silent, sunning lizards, looking like tiny replicas from the long distant past. The recent warm weather and timely drop of rain has worked its magic seemingly overnight. There is so much happening all at once.

I have no need for an alarm clock...the little birds are busy from dawn, determined that we should all share their enthusiasm for the new day. The bronzewing pigeon has returned with its soft, mournful "oom, oom" punctuated by the screeches and squawks of cockatoos and galahs. The magpies come early and sit on the verandah rails waiting to catch my eye in case I have forgotten the morning mince meat ritual. Sometimes one will perform a solo for my pleasure as if embarrassed to admit their real purpose for being there, or appear ungrateful. There was a treat this morning when the regular pair of King Parrots appeared with their prince or princess. It did, however, lead me to think, fleetingly, about the possibility of surrogate pregnancies in the bird world! A moment of enchantment a few days ago, that refocussed my mind from my frozen bare toes, was a rasping screech from a family of gang gangs as they moved through the trees. I haven't heard them again. We have a confused chough that swoops, with subtle accuracy, as we go to the chook yard, but I think it's just a breakfast reminder. I saw this chough, however, getting its comeuppance when it trespassed on bearded dragon territory. The lizard made a great show of aggression and repelled the startled intruder from its fortress castle; the "lizard castle", created from an expensive pile of now weathered rocks destined for a rock wall that hasn't happened, is a magnificent maze of caves and tunnels, a refuge in winter and a resort on sunny days. We have another colony of cave dwelling lizards, skinks, not dragons, and I heard a story of another skink that has taken up residence under a doorstep and slides open the screen door to let itself in.

I have spent many happy hours in the garden, lately, and had made some real progress before nature showed its superiority and took charge. Nothing beats sunshine and warmth and real rain. However, I often wish I had assistance in the garden, not just from grass mowing kangaroos and rabbits or tip pruning cockatoos; someone who knows where I'm going before I even do, someone sensitive and intuitive. I think gardening comes from the heart, not the head. I have had help on many occasions, and I've been very appreciative of that help, but although muscled and well intended, it's often impatient help. The sort of, "Here's a truck load of mulch, now where do you want me to spread it?" type of help; the "Here's fifty random plants from the market, now what's your grand plan?" "You need to spread fertiliser...?" and a container load of pelletised chook poo is dumped on the correas before you've found the words to explain that natives have different needs to non natives! Are gardeners poor communicators and dreamers, or is it just me? I've never had a grand plan. I've never even had a less than grand plan. Wamboin soil and shale and uncertain rains have never meshed with a "grand plan". Life, with its unexpected demands gets in the way of "grand plans", and gardens grow and evolve. I think that's part of the enormous pleasure of a garden, and made more pleasurable, especially at the moment when it's brim full of living garden "gnomes".

I'm just going outside, now, to cut the first of my roses to fill a vase, check the chook yard for eggs and a pick a few salad greens for lunch. I will savour the moment, because come summer I may not be living in such an idyll....but for the present I couldn't possibly live anywhere else!



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**Saturday 10 December 2011**  
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