



The Whisper

December 2011 / January 2012 CIRCULATION: 1,246

Wamboin Community Assn: www.wamboincommunity.asn.au
 Bywong Community www.bywongcommunity.org.au
 Fire Brigade: <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION that started The Whisper as a community newsletter in 1981, and continues to own it. The newsletter is distributed to all letterboxes in Wamboin and Bywong (plus other localities in our fire brigade's area) at the start of each month, except January. Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. The Editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either nednoel@optusnet.com.au or whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or mail them. The deadline for the next issue of The Whisper is always the last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for the February 2102 issue the deadline is Sunday, 29 January 2012, 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



NOW OPEN IN SUTTON



first national

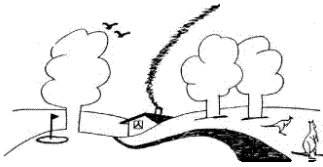
R E A L E S T A T E

Hincksman Lifestyle

**SALES-RENTALS-LAND-AUCTIONS-
INVESTMENT**

Ross Hincksman 6230 3672 or 0417 687 379

fnhlifestyle.com.au



Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



Carols at Wamboin — The annual Wamboin Community Christmas Carols evening will be held on **Friday 16th December**. With performances from local children's groups, the traditional sing along and Giving Tree, and a visit from the man in red himself, this is our final community event for the year. Come along and enjoy the evening—the more the merrier. Exercise your vocal chords, or just enjoy a chat with other community members over a drink at the sausage sizzle. All proceeds to the Salvation Army. Full details elsewhere in this edition of The Whisper and on the WCA website (<http://wamboincommunity.asn.au>).

Home Produce Market — Hot on the heels of our carols evening, the last Home Produce Market for the year, on **Saturday 17th December**. Come along and keep the Christmas cheer flowing.

WCA December GM — Last but not least, the traditional Christmas meeting of the WCA, with port and fruitcake, will be held on **Tuesday 20th December**. On this special occasion, we keep the tedium to a minimum and maximise the [vocal] exercise. Remember, there is no meeting in January, so the first GM of the year will be in February.

Curry Recipes — Keep those curry recipes coming in to 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.

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.

On behalf of the WCA, I would like to wish all readers the very best for the festive season.

Pete Harrison (president@wamboincommunity.asn.au)



ESTABLISHED IN 1985
C.T.M. EXCAVATIONS
SPECIALISING IN WATER TANKS & FLAG POLES
"NO JOB TOO SMALL OR TOO HARD"
"Ring Lyle First".
Tip Truck & Bobcat Hire, 5.t Excavator with Rock Hammer & Grabber,
Trencher / Auger Available for Tree Planting & Rural Fencing,
Forklift, Dam Cleaning, Ripping & all site work.
All Building and Landscaping Supplies, Water Truck for hire.
Agent for Aqua-nova 2000 Aerated Wastewater Treatment system.
Approved Septic Tank Supplied & Installed.
Slashing & mowing, Garages & Sheds supplied & erected to council approval.
NSW lic # 86583C
Contact Lyle or Sue Montesin b/h 0412 677 554 (ah) 6238 1481 fax 6238 0308
130 The Forest Rd Bywong Email - lylesue4@bigpond.com

**Management and Staff of CTM
Excavation & Truck Hire would
like to thank everyone for
their support and continued
business throughout the year.
We wish to advised our
Christmas closure is from the
3rd December & we will be
back at work on the 2nd of
January 2012.
Lyle & Sue would like to wish
you all a Merry Christmas and
a safe &
Happy New Year.**



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

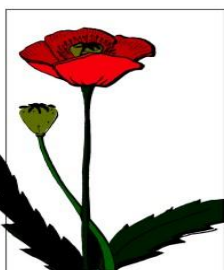
by Robyn Robertson

November rainfall to 27/11 ... 93.75mm
2011 rainfall to 27/11 ... 573.5mm
Average December rainfall ... 63.5mm
Wettest Dec ... 177.55mm in 2010
Hottest Dec day ... 37C on 21/12/99
Coldest Dec night ... 3C on 9/12/99
Average January rainfall ... 60.9mm
Wettest Jan ... 197.5mm in 1995
Hottest Jan day ... 39C on 19/01/98
Coldest Jan night ... 7C..twice

(Nov 2010 ... 175.5mm)
(2010 to 30/11 ... 912.75mm)
Dec 2010 ... 177.55mm
Driest Dec ... 0mm in 1979
Coldest Dec day ... 13C on 13/12/87

Jan 2011 ... 90.5mm
Driest Jan ... 6mm in 1979
Coldest Jan day ... 17C ..3 times

Annie's Collectables



... for that
something
extra special

39 Cooper Road, WAMBOIN

OPEN 10.30am ~ 4.30pm
Weekends and Public Holidays

Or by Appointment
Ph: 6238 3284



LAMBERTVINEYARDS

Café: Thursday - Sat Dinner
Friday - Sunday Lunch

Takeaway: Thursday & Friday evenings

Cellar Door: Friday - Sunday 10pm-5pm & most public
holidays, other times by appointment



Enjoy our award winning wines or
indulge in a fabulous lunch or dinner,
featuring regional produce, overlooking
our picturesque vineyard.

810 Norton Rd, Wamboin, NSW, 2620

P: 02 62 383866 F: 02 62 383855

E: functions@lambertvineyards.com.au

Mitch Rodgers
0408 211 516

rodgers

- ✓ SWITCHBOARDS
- ✓ AIR CONDITIONING
- ✓ POOL LIGHTING
- ✓ GARDEN LIGHTING

✉ rodgerselectrical@bigpond.com

John Rodgers
0418 606 140

electrical

- ✓ DOMESTIC
- ✓ COMMERCIAL
- ✓ NEW HOUSES
- ✓ EXTENSIONS

FREE QUOTES

www.rodgerselectrical.com.au

Bywong Community News

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

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



Road signs. The first of our new roadside signs have appeared, and the remainder will follow shortly. Rumours that we plan to change the colours according to the seasons are unfounded. The changes and variations in hue which homing locals might have noticed are due to differences between colours available for painting on the computer and the palate available to our professional sign-writers. All the old signs will soon be replaced with the new ones, which incidentally provide more space for writing. The signs were paid for from a grant from the Veolia Trust.

Advertise your Bywong business! At its November meeting the Committee decided to encourage all local small businesses to appear on our website. The committee decided that businesses which supported the Community's work could advertise free on the Community website, subject to an annual review, and that advertising would also be available for a fee for those businesses which might not be able to support the Community. Our website will contain details of this offer.

Constitutional change. We continue to work on simplifying our constitution and making it more accessible for members. Some of the amendments which the committee is proposing deal with subscriptions, membership lists and their availability, resignation procedures and committee member numbers. We shall send a summary of these proposals out to members, and put the full text on our website. Watch out for our Special General Meeting meeting, in February or soon after, at which members will be able to discuss the changes.

Greenways. The Community has sent a detailed proposal to the Lands Department suggesting four possible new greenways in the areas of Millyn Road, Bungendore/Macs Reef Roads, Morrison/Forest Roads and Wamboin West. The Community has worked with Council on these proposals, and is awaiting NSW State Government clarification of the status of associated Crown Roads.

Waste management. Council used Bywong Hall to consult the community on the latest status of the waste management transfer station planned for the site of the current Macs Reef landfill. Locals drifted in to the hall during the afternoon and early evening and were able to discuss concerns with Council officers and representatives of the consultants for the project. Some illuminating diagrams and illustrations were on display. The way is now open to for Council to proceed with the preparation of a definitive Environmental Impact Statement, which is under way.

Next meeting. The Community's next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday February 13 in the Bywong Hall, Birriwa Road.



WORM LIQUID

Certified Organic

Microbe Concentrate Liquid Fertiliser

1L – \$10; 5L – \$30; 20L – \$110

Great for gardens, vegetables, horticulture and pasture

Ph: 62369189

Chris Fowler
Local distributor—South Coast Organic Fertilisers

Dive into December

the market @ bungendore

Sunday December 18th 9am - 3pm
at the War Memorial Hall

Looking for Xmas presents?
All your favourite stalls
with gifts galore!

jewellery
giftware
tea & coffee
local art & craft
garden products
toys & models
cakes & pastries
soaps & lotions
picture frames



honey
preserves
hand knits
candles
cookies

glass art
homewares
greeting cards
beads & findings
pottery & ceramics
local grown plants
prints & paintings
fruit & vegetables
clothing & footwear

Join in Our Success



Norton Road, Wamboin \$1,100,000



Hogan Drive, Wamboin \$865,000



Millynn Road, Bywong \$1,050,000



Millynn Road, Bywong \$950,000



Weeroona Drive, Wamboin \$650,000



Norton Road, Wamboin \$829,000



Call Now for your FREE, no obligation appraisal.

PH: 6238 0999

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

Your Local Electrician

Andrew Lemon
APL Electrical Services



Electrical maintenance, new homes, extensions, sheds, power to water bores and more.

Punctual and dependable reputation.

Please call **Andrew on 0428 466 525.**

NSW Licence: 120626C

FOR SALE

Locally grown Native and Exotic shrubs and trees, suitable for this area.

150 mm (6") pots \$5.00 200 mm (8") pots \$9.00

Fresh Cut Flowers



Kleenheat Gas Dealer, Wamboin, Sutton and Geary's Gap Area. - Rural Services

WIYAGIBA TRADING - Dave and Jane Hubbard 37 Poppet Road, Wamboin Ph/Fax 6238 3308

Fencing Problems?

For all your **RURAL, COMMERCIAL OR DOMESTIC FENCING** needs...

Call: **NIC CLANCY**
0409 866 970
or
4845 8235

Preferred supplier for Environment ACT. Landcare & Greening Australia contacts for grants.

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).



Pumps and Rural Maintenance
Specialising in pump installation, repair and sales
ABN 28 980 965 960

Rhett Cox
Mobile: 0411 140 584
Phone/Fax: (02) 6230 3387
Email:
rhettro@bigpond.com

The Feed Shed Bungendore

Supplying Quality Lucerne & Pasture Hay Good Range of
Bagged Feed and Chaff
Steel Cattle and Horse Yard Panels Stock and General
Transport Open 7 Days Locally Owned

Steve Hughes
Ph 62380900 0408 481 664
32 King Street
Bungendore



R.B. & J.L. LADMORE

FOR HIRE

A.B.N. 60 554 873 671
59 BIRCHMANS GROVE
WAMBOIN N.S.W 2620
ladmore1@bigpond.com

RICHARD: 0427 700 757
JAN: 0407 890 527

REG GIRALDI Licensed Builder

NSW 145587C ACT 2953C
New Homes, Extensions Bathroom and
Kitchen Renovations, Carpentry, Tiling,
Painting, Gyprock Repairs, Concreting,
All Repairs and Insurance Work
0416 075 910 (Mobile) or 6238 0918 (ah)
HIA Member

QUALITY STONEMWORK AND LANDSCAPING

Retaining Walls Paving Turfing Irrigation
Systems Water Features
View Various Styles of Stonework & Speak With Many
Satisfied Customers Free Quotes & Design
PHONE: DAVE ARGÆT 6238 3460 (HOME) 0421 657
952 (MOBILE)

Electrical Contractor - Bywong

Roland Wolf NSW & ACT Licensed
Installations and Repairs
Domestic & Commercial
All Work Guaranteed
0402 156 016 rgwolf1@bigpond.com

D & K
CONCRETING
0410 021 097



Reliable, friendly service

- driveways
- footpaths
- garages
- house slabs
- footings
- spray on
- stencil

M JOHNSON BUILDING SERVICES

now a ... WAMBOIN RESIDENT

PLAN DRAWING

GENERAL CARPENTRY

DECKS & PERGOLAS

EXTENSIONS

KITCHENS, BATHROOMS & LAUNDRY

0412 799 433

NSW LICENCE NO. 196061 C

RURAL DRIVEWAYS

Local Grader Man



Pot Holes to Re-Construct?
Recycled concrete and
recycled asphalt applied and laid



Call Rex BH 0418 624 630 AH 6238 3090



MR SWEEP CHIMNEY & FLUE CLEANING

Slow Combustion & Open Fires Swept
Repairs & maintenance

SPRING DISCOUNTS NOW AVAILABLE

- Chimney Dampers & Bird/Possum Mesh
- Fire Bricks for Slow Combustion Heaters
 - Flue Extensions & Top Caps
- Glass Replacements and Door Seals
- Heater Fans Serviced and Replaced
 - Pre Gas Chimney Cleaning
- Roof Ventilators Supplied and Installed
 - Safety Checks Available
- S/C Heaters Removed or Replaced
- Smoke Detectors Supplied and Installed

For appointments or further information please phone Brian
6258 1792

DERRYDONNELL LUXURY CABIN ACCOMMODATION

Need some extra room to accommodate family & friends in Wamboin?



Contact Antonella:
www.derrydonnell.com.au
1183 Norton Rd, Wamboin
Ph: 02 6238 0375
Mobile: 0417 663 515
Email: antdavid@bigpond.com



TRULY DISTINGUISHED HOME & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

- PAINTING
- LANDSCAPING
- PAVING
- IRRIGATION SYSTEM REPAIRS
- OUTDOOR COLUMNS

& MORE...

H: 02 6297 5259
M: 0435 081 063

W: trulydistinguished@gmail.com
E: www.trulydistinguished.110mb.com

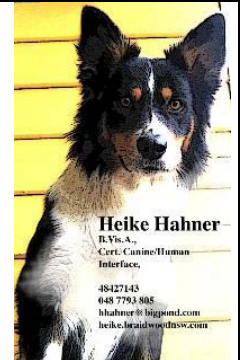
DOG LOVERS

Dog Training and Behaviour course for Beginners IN BYWONG

A well-behaved dog is a pleasure to own. Spending a little time with your dog each day and knowing just what to ask of your dog is what this course will teach you. You will be learning about basic dog behaviour and psychology, as well as various obedience exercises, such as sit, drop, wait, come and walking on a loose lead. These classes will also discuss dealing with dogs and snakes and how to control dogs around livestock and wildlife, including advice on how to train your dog to avoid snakes.

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

Please call Heike Hahner on 4842 7143 or email hhahner@bigpond.com



RIDING INSTRUCTION ACCREDITED EFA LEVEL 1

Local riding instructor available for beginners and more experienced riders. I will come to your property, or have sand arena available. Improve your dressage, jumping or just increase your confidence. Available weekends or weekdays.

TEACHING IN WAMBOIN FOR OVER 10 YEARS

Phone Leanne on 6238-3435

Bungendore CHAINSAWS & MOWERS

Service and Repairs by Greg Welch



- Mowers
- Brushcutters
- Chainsaws
- All Small Engines
- Accessories

31 King Street Bungendore
(opposite The Feed Store)
Phone 6238 0410

Fowlers Vacola Preserving Specialist

**Preserving Kits electric & stovetop Jars Lids Rings & Clips
Books & Tools Dehydrators & accessories**

Our passion is wholesome, natural & healthy home-grown food. Full range of Fowlers Vacola products. Great prices- good value for money. Happy to help all who would like to preserve & need a little help on where to start.

Ph : Irene & Michelle **Wamboin 62383249**

OAKLEIGH BERRY FARM

Raspberry, Blackberry, Quince, Feijoa, Lemon.

**Grown locally on our farm on Sutton Road and made into
Jam, Curd, Vinegar, Syrup, Jelly, Sauce, Paste.**

Dried into Leathers, Preserved in Vodka

**All available for purchase and tasting
at the Wamboin Produce Markets each month.
Fresh fruit available in season.**

Alan and Eleanor

Ph. 62383224 Mob. 0429 434944

alan.rope@priam.com.au

Woodbridge Plumbing Services

Lic NSW 148394C and ACT 199815827

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| * Plumbing – Drainage – Gas Fitting (L.P.G / Natural Gas) | * Maintenance for the above |
| * New Homes – Extensions – Renovations | * Gutters and Downpipes |
| * Water filters (under sink or whole house) | * Blocked Drains |
| | * Hydronic heating (Radiators) |

We assure you of our best attention and service at all times

Please call Matt on 0428 439 399 Fax 6282 0621

Nature Notes November 2011

Jo Walker

The welcome rainfall of more than 50 mm towards the end of the month has spruced up the vegetation. And, with a bit more dampness forecast, it's likely we'll have a green landscape for Christmas.

Black Wattle trees (*Acacia mearnsii*) have been flowering along Sutton Road and, slightly later, into Wamboin. They are flowering so well this year that two trees I planted near the creek are mostly hidden in a cloud of cream flowers. This is a strange wattle, as it starts producing seed-pods from the previous year's flowering when in bud for the next season. The trees have produced more than the usual crop of seed-pods this year, but there won't be many left to ripen as the Sulphur-crested Cockatoos evidently find the green fruit delicious. The Gang-gangs feed on developing wattle seed-pods too sometimes. Another planted tree, the red-flowered *Eucalyptus leucoxydon*, is providing a feast too at present, with Noisy Friarbirds and a host of Red Wattlebirds squabbling over the nectar-filled blossoms.

But, it wasn't a good month for all of the birds. A pair of Magpies built a substantial nest in a large eucalypt near the house and were sitting on their eggs or guarding the nest for about a week. Then they were gone, after a few cursory inspections of the nest one day before it was abandoned. There are several Currawongs around and, recently, the occasional Raven has turned up, so I suppose one of them took the eggs.

The golden flowers of the Sticky Everlasting Daisy (*Xerochrysum viscosum*) are brightening up our roadsides, looking especially attractive where they are growing amongst the taller white-flowering Cauliflower Bushes (*Cassinia longifolia*). Unfortunately, seasons that are good for our native plants also favour some of the prevalent introduced weeds. This year, Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*) has come up everywhere. One of its common names is Pink Stars. It's an attractive little plant with heads of bright pink flowers – but it's not one of ours and I'm spending hours pulling it out right now before it flowers. The hours of stooping and pulling have had one advantage though. I've found several patches of *Polygala japonica* in damp grassland areas after not having seen it for several years. It grows almost hidden amongst the grasses and has tiny purple flowers. It is in the same family (Polygalaceae) as the twining blue-flowered creeper, *Comesperma volubile*, which also grows here, and, at the moment, is covered in small green seed-pods.

One of the Eastern Grey Kangaroos here seems to have adopted a joey. Her own joey was one of the first to leave the pouch this year, and was already semi-independent. Then her mother appeared one morning with a small, paler furred joey peering out of the pouch. One of the other does, one of her sister in fact, seems to have lost her joey. So it looks as if it might have been rescued by its aunt. Wamboin is full of interesting happenings!



New Patients Welcome
6299 6990
2/80 Morisset St, Queanbeyan
www.brindabellapractice.com.au

• Skin cancer checks and Treatment	• Antenatal care	• Physiotherapy
• Travel vaccines and advice	• Hearing tests	• Psychologists
• Sports Medicine	• Diabetes Educator	• Paediatrician
• ECG	• Dietician	• Podiatrist
• Asthma Nurse	• Practice Nurse	• Counselling
• Women's Health	• Free Immunisations	• Work injuries and medicals
	• Child Health	

— Appointments available 7 days —


• Evenings • Weekends • Same Day

11-0081275

DICKSON LEGAL
INCORPORATING TREVOR BARKER & ASSOCIATES

**General law practice -
Canberra & NSW**

Three generations of service to Canberra and the surrounding regions.



PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR - TREVOR BARKER

PH: 02 6248 8085

Second Floor, Dickson Chambers, Dickson Place
Dickson ACT 2602



Karelia
Riding Instruction Canberra

2 Clare Lane, Bywong

Specialising in private lessons.
Quiet well educated horses.

Angela Miettinen
0416 335 217
www.karelia-riding.cjb.net
teammiettinen@bigpond.com

Equestrian Australia
NCAS COACH
(Dressage)

Over 25 years experience.

Quiet lesson horses for all ages or will come to you

11-0081275



Painters & Decorators

Aurora

Your Local Master Painter- Stephen Hopkins

Free Quotes

References available on request

Member of Master Painters

Qualified City & Guilds Tradesman



Ph: 6259 6351
Mob: 0418 975 232

Job Title: Multimedia Coordinator

Salary: Negotiable

Location: Sutton Primary

Do you have skills in Digital Media? Enjoy working with talented kids? We are looking for a part time Multimedia Coordinator. Our aim is to set up a school Film Studio for students to engage in making movies and incorporating IT into all areas of the curriculum. Initially the position is expected to be one day a week with a view to expansion.

The purpose of this position is to implement new educational programs using digital media, primarily film-making and digital photography. A component of the work would include scripting, shooting, editing and publishing videos using a range of media platforms. The successful applicant will have an interest and background in media and information technologies.

Applicants will need to be self-motivated and enjoy working with children and staff in a school environment. They must possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and be willing to undergo a police check.

To apply for this position, please email a cover letter and resume to Sutton-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

For more information on the school please visit www.suttonps.com.au



Just fill it and bring it.

Annual Bywong Community Car Boot Sale on

Sunday, March 25, 2012 9 am till 1 pm

Bywong Hall on Les Reardon Reserve

Birriwa Road, Bywong

Visit www.bywongcommunity.org.au for details in the New Year.

Wombats on the Wall Don't Miss Out

The Native Animal Rescue Group 2012 wombat calendar has sold well. It is great that so many local people have been able to buy the calendar and support our volunteer efforts to rescue and rehabilitate injured and orphaned animals. This annual calendar, featuring rehabilitated wombats, is fast becoming a boutique collectors item.

The calendar is excellent value for \$10 and is a high quality. If you need a 2012 calendar for a friend, relative or you, then this is the one. Don't miss out.

Arrange a pick up or delivery. Have your own wombat on the wall to look at every day of the year. Philip Machin, 152 Weeroona Drive, Wamboin 6238 3717 or email machin4@bigpond.com



Meet Honey in May

GROUND CONTROL (ACT) PTY LTD

All your excavation and backhoe hire requirements

- Foundations
- Pier drilling
- Site cuts
- Horse Arenas
- Rock hammer
- Post holes
- Large Animal Burial

PETER VALTONEN

0418631559

Sutton



THE WAY OF THE SAMURANG

HEIGHTEN YOUR INNER STRENGTH

FITNESS TRAINING OF THE
MIND AND THE BODY

KIDS AND ADULTS
AGES 9 AND OLDER
WHO ARE INTERESTED IN
LEARNING THE ANCIENT
KOREAN ART OF THE SWORD

instructor
JASON KIM

0430 436 437



KIM'S HAIDONG GUMDO
399 NORTON ROAD WAMBOIN
www.haidonggumdo.net.au



Christmas Mass Times

St Mary's Bungendore – Saturday 24th Dec, 6.00pm vigil (outside) Children's re-enactment. Sunday 25th, 8.30am.

St Joseph's Gundaroo – Sat 24th at 8.30pm.

St Joseph's Tarago – 10.00am Carols at 10.30 Mass Sunday.

Christmas Carols at Village square Bungendore, 7.30pm Wednesday 14th Dec.

Advent Reconciliation – 7.30pm St.Raphael's QBN Thursday 15th Dec.

YOGA in SUTTON

TUESDAY MORNINGS

Term 1, 2012 Commences Tuesday 31 January 2012
SUTTON HALL - 10.00am to 11.30am

BEGINNERS WELCOME

Casual: \$15 per class 6 week pass \$78 (only \$13 per class)

Relaxation and Postures Breathing Practices and Meditation

Contact: **Maureen Phone: 0402 900 033**

Email enjoy.yogawithmaureen@gmail.com



picture framing

custom framing of your artwork

photographs and needlework

now available in wamboin

quality work • reasonable rates

obligation free quotes

phone lyn on 6238 3591

AAA ALL AREAS WATER CARRYING

DOMESTIC WATER

7 days Prompt Delivery

STAINLESS STEEL TANK (14,000 ltrs)

ACTEW Approved Tankers, for Tanks, Pools, etc.



GARRY 0428 626 838

or 6297 3648

Local Water Carrier Since 1985

PO Box 807, Queanbeyan, 2620

WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS

Contact – Joan Mason, Ph. 62 383 258

A wonderful turn-out for the recent November market, lots of stalls, lots of people. With the December market coming up next, I'm sure there will be many who will take the opportunity to buy a gift or two just prior to Christmas.

Items available at the markets –

PRODUCE EGGS NUTS LOLLIES DRIED FRUITS CARDS JEWELLERY GLASS GIFTS KNITTED
ITEMS SOAPS JAMS RASPBERRY PRODUCTS GROUND COFFEE PRODUCE, ETC

Tasty egg & bacon rolls, scones with jam & cream, delicious cups of coffee.

If you wish to have a stall, please contact me.

*** Please note that no more jewellery stalls are required, we have sufficient!

Next market - SATURDAY DECEMBER 17, 2011 -- 9am – 12 noon. 112 Bingley Way.

(As there is no Wamboin Whisper printed for January, please note the markets will be on again on Saturday, 21st January, 2012)

Cant's Asphalt Contractors
Registered ACT-NSW
Canberra & Surrounding District
ABN: 70 487 488 644

Specialised in
Roads, spray seal driveways, tennis courts, car ports, footpaths,
parks, bush tracks, special walkways and caravan parks.

10 years Experience
Valued Reputation

Increase the look and add value to your property
Your driveway is a very important feature which is often overlooked when it comes to your home. A well presented bitumen driveway can make a real difference to the look of your home, as well as increasing its value and lowering your driveway maintenance.

- Rural, Residential & Commercial
- Bobcat & Based
- Colour Stone
- Hot Mix
- Grading and base work
- Red Granite

Contact us today for a Free Quote
Brian, Robert or Aaron
www.hipages.com.au/professional/32160
0423 583 615 or 0432 412 233
cants.asphalt@bigpond.com

BINGLEY CONTRACTORS

Ph: 0418 201784
or 0419 483 103
AH 62303 385

WATER DELIVERY

Prompt, reliable service
of domestic water
at competitive rates

ACTEW approved tankers
Local Carrier since 1994
1761 Sutton Road, Sutton



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.
FIREFIGHTING FOR NON FIREFIGHTERS!

The Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade facilitated a "Firefighting for Non-Firefighters" community information session at the Wamboin Fire Station on Saturday Nov 5. While the entirety of the brigade's area is prone to bush fire, some locations are of greater risk than others.

The brigade letter-boxed 150 properties in the 'highest risk' locations and invited these residents to pre-register for the event. Thirty residents attended.

Jenny Filmer, an active bushfire volunteer for over 40 years, currently employed at the NSW RFS Lake George Zone office in Queanbeyan, was the key presenter, supported by members of the Wamboin Brigade including its Community Safety Team.

The Brigade's President, Ian Coillet said *'that Jenny's presentation was based on personal experience, focused on things residents need to know when they live and travel in a bush fire prone area, and basic practical information to help improve their resilience and be better equipped against the impact of bushfire during the summer.'*

He went on to say that *'after questions and a coffee break, residents spent around an hour familiarising themselves with several working examples of pumps, hoses, nozzles and basic fire-fighting strategies and techniques'*. Greg Simms from Bungendore Rural Supplies (BRS) was also on hand with a generous static display of pumps, hoses and nozzles and other fire-fighting products and to answer questions and offer advice and suggestions to residents.

The President went on to say that *'feedback from residents indicates that overwhelmingly the information session was very informative and the 3 hour investment of their time was well worthwhile. In fact, at one stage even Greg Simms from BRS remarked that he had picked up a few pointers he would convey to staff to pass on to customers.'*



Jenny Filmer explaining the 'Fire Triangle'



Display of a range of pumps, hoses, nozzles and fittings and other fire-fighting accessories

Jenny Filmer explaining various hoses/nozzles



Resident setting too - starting and operating one of the working pumps on display

The Brigade is holding another
'Firefighting For Non Firefighters' Workshop

Saturday 4th February 2012, 9:00AM to 12:00PM

@ Wamboin Fire Station 112 Bingley Way Wamboin

PRE-REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL!

Workshop limited to max of 40 people
Pre-registration closes Tuesday 31st January 2012
DON'T MISS OUT - PRE-REGISTER NOW

email: secretary@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au
and provide your name, address and contact details.

BRIGADE ACTIVITY LAST MONTH

Callouts

Just the one incident since last month's Newsletter and, ironically, it was on Remembrance Day (Nov 11). With the advantage of several members having just gathered at the Fire Station for what was to have been the scheduled Friday afternoon (2pm-4pm) working bee and navel review, it took just 6 minutes between the brigade being asked to respond to an emergency call at 2.14pm before they as crew in one of the large tankers Wamboin 1A (*One Alpha*) were on their way to a reported fire in the vicinity of the Federal Hwy and Doust Rd Bywong. Twenty-eight minutes later the tanker arrived at the scene of a fire on the embankment in reasonable-sized timber, bush and grass on the western side of the Federal Highway. Fortunately the fire had been contained and brought to heel by the Gundaroo brigade that was first on scene. After ensuring the Gundaroo crew had adequate water reserve in their tanker our fire-fighters returned to the Fire Station and stood down.



Picture at Left: How might this fire have started? Mmmm.
Navex 2011

On the weekend of 12-13 November, thirteen members of the brigade participated in the Lake George Zone Navigation Exercise (Navex) - an event designed to combine navigation skills, safety and day-to-day procedures. Eight members participated in two of the brigade's tankers that formed the Wamboin Strike Team. A further 5 members participated in various ways as part of Navex's Incident Management Team.

Navex is conducted as an introduction to the fire season and allows members to learn new skills, improve old ones and meet fellow fire fighters. Navex is NOT a competition. The emphasis is on getting through the scenarios safely, drawing and building on competencies as an individual, and as a member of a crew and a player in a wider incident response team! Sometimes

not all teams get to finish all scenarios... that's ok as long as they've had a good weekend and learnt something along the way.

Navex is a totally 'away' weekend with participants camping out on the Saturday night. As it turned out, we ended up at the very good facilities of the Bungendore Showground.

Navex location and details are kept secret leading up to the exercise, to allow participating teams to practice their navigation to unknown locations.

Some 13 brigades participated including some from outside the Lake George Zone that is always good.

There were 10 scenarios on offer over the two days involving a: motor vehicle accident adjacent to a railway, mapping/navigation, electrical safety, emergency response, property protection, hybrid vehicles, gas cylinder emergency, pumping, issues related to asbestos, hand tools and an optional night navigation. The scenarios and workshops were variously in the ranges to the south-east of Bungendore, in and around Bungendore and in the Carlton Estate that lies between Queanbeyan and Bungendore. Of course, there were the usual few surprises/complications that we've come to expect with Navex and, indeed, almost any real-life emergency response scenario.

Everyone who participated agreed, it was another Navex that was well worthwhile. To quote Elizabeth Wrench, a brigade member who attended Navex this year and in several year's past and who put up her hand to do a spot of crew leading on one of the days... 'Once again, as it always happens when it runs, Navex 2011 did not disappoint.' And in a note of encouragement to fellow brigade members who did not attend this year, her message to them is... 'I, for one, will be attending all Navex weekends available to me but will gladly forfeit a place in favour of others experiencing the same benefits Navex brings to all fire-fighters.'



WORKSHOP: How to reinstate an axe for top performance



WORKSHOP: Hybrid and electric vehicles



INCIDENT: Tackling a large gas cylinder on fire



WORKSHOP: Pumps, pumping and draughting



Sunday lunch: a well-earned break for members of our Wamboin Strike Team



SEASONS GREETINGS

The Brigade would like to wish the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Park and Eaglehawk communities a happy and safe holiday period. This is our last article for the year. We hope you have found it and our other monthly articles during the year helpful and informative. We will be back in February with another edition of the Wamboin Firefighter. Back copies of the Brigade's articles can be viewed via the Brigade's and the Wamboin Community Association's websites. **If you are into Christmas and present giving**, here's some ideas that just might make your or someone else's home a little safer:

- Knapsack for spraying water on small fires (probably the most versatile and cost effective item)
- Portable fire pump
- 25mm fire hose and nozzle
- Rake hoe
- Small generator
- Roof sprinkler system
- Natural fibre clothing
- Small fire extinguisher for the kitchen or workshop
- Fire blanket to throw over a small kitchen or similar-size fire.

BRIGADE TRAINING

The set brigade training sessions are:



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

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

BECOMING A BRIGADE MEMBER

The brigade is recruiting. We need new 'blood' i.e. new, active members. Training courses begin in the first quarter next year. 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, give our Secretary a call on 6238 3153 before Christmas. He's always happy to talk to aspiring members about the 'ins' and 'outs' of joining the brigade and what you can expect.

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 17 th December	Brigade Information 'Shopfront' adjacent to the Wamboin Home Produce Market (9am-12noon). THEME: Your Bush Fire Survival Plan
-------------------------------	---

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 - Your BFSP

The Wamboin Fire Station and 'Shop Front' is open on Wamboin Home Produce Market days (3rd Saturday in the month) from 9am – 12noon. The next market day is Saturday 17th December. 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 Your Bush Fire Survival Plan.

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.

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS – ring TRIPLE ZERO (000)

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

Wildlife Capers

For any new member of the Wamboin and Bywong community, it is worth catching up on ideas as to how to live up close and personal with wildlife. We have a good deal of different species in our region – and let's hope it stays that way. Why not check out the *Living with Wildlife* article on the Wamboin Community Association website under Community Groups (wamboincommunity.asn.au)?

Living in the countryside brings with it added responsibilities. This includes living in balance with nature and being a guardian for the flora and fauna that is left. Those people amongst us who only want to bash, squash, torture and kill animals need to be challenged by friends and relatives. Over the last 200 years Australia has lost 27 mammals - never to be seen again. Caring for our wildlife – even the Eastern Grey kangaroo, will ensure our great grandchildren have a chance to see the animals we take for granted.

With many people commuting into Canberra it is a must to be really vigilant on the roads and drive slower in areas where you know, or suspect, wildlife (typically kangaroos) will hop or run out – particularly at dawn and dusk and through the night when animals are on the move. Unfortunately some roads are not well designed and motorists have to face the sun in the morning and going home. In places there is dense undergrowth on the sides of the road that stop you spotting animals.

Most people don't have accidents and it might be that they are just lucky or are indeed more careful. As a career aviator I know it is all too easy to get 'tunnel vision', let the speed nudge up and start to focus on a speck on the windscreen. Reducing risk and keeping the eyes moving is a great way to see more!

Most people do the right thing. And it's been great to have so many people contact Wildcare (Tel: 62991966) for help in dealing with injured or trapped animals. Well done to everyone who have been stopping to check animals to see if they are dead and whether they have a Joey onboard. I've heard from many people stopping to move turtles, lizards and echidnas off the road in the direction they were going. This is great! You do not have to be a member of a wildlife group to give animals a helping hand. Having a towel in the car can help you pick up or calm an animal.

At the Bywong Christmas Drinks get-together on 3 December, five more property owners were presented with their Land For Wildlife (LFW) sign. This recognises a commitment to set aside all or part of your land for wildlife habitat. The process involves getting land assessed to find out what flora and fauna you have. The visit can also help talk through problems such as erosion and habitat improvement. So far we have run a LFW pilot scheme in Wamboin & Bywong, but it is hoped to expand this over the coming years. Interested? (see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/cpp/landforwildlife.htm).

By the way, keeping the area around the house, sheds and yard clear of long grass, shrubs, rubbish, woodpiles, too many potted plants, old cars etc, will help you see what is around – particularly venomous snakes that may be passing through. The more hidey-holes near the house, the more likely something will take up residence and surprise you. -- Philip Machin, 6238-3717



ENROL NOW FOR 2012 TERM 1 CLASSES

Come and enjoy the wonderful gift of yoga in a tranquil bushland setting. Enhance your health and vitality, strengthen muscles, improve flexibility and discover new breathing techniques. Experience deep relaxation through lavender eye bags, supportive bolsters and heat packs. Enjoy a herbal tea and meet new friends.

Beginners welcome!

Classes will be held in the cottage at 215. NORTON. ROAD, WAMBOIN on:
(NEW TIME) Wednesday nights, 6:45- 8:15p.m, from 1st February-4th April.
Friday mornings, 10:00-11:30a.m, from 3rd February-30th March.
Sunday afternoons, 5:00- 6:30p.m, from 29th January-1st April.

Please direct all enquiries to:
Roxane Atkinson. Dip(T) HH.Dip(YT)
Phone: 6238 3892

Website: www.lilyfieldyoga.webs.com
Email: lilyfield_yoga@live.com.au

Councillor's Corner

It's been a quite month in the lead up to the Christmas break, which is probably a good thing!

Palerang Development Control Plan — With Palerang's new, consolidated Local Environmental Plan nearing completion, attention has turned to the Development Control Plan, a supplementary planning instrument that provides more detailed planning guidelines for specific types of development. As with the current LEPs, Palerang's current DCPs, all 20(!) of them, were inherited from the various shires that contributed to the formation of the Palerang LGA eight years ago. The immediate task, as with the LEP, is to consolidate these documents and create a single DCP. While the LEP specifies the broad objectives of individual land use zones, the DCP provides more detailed guidelines relating to particular types of developments in particular areas. While the LEP identifies permissible and prohibited land uses, and fundamental development constraints like minimum lot sizes and maximum building heights, the DCP addresses gritty details like building envelope location, dwelling set-backs, building materials, erosion control requirements, road standards, and much more. The LEP is the primary, legal planning instrument that is directly under local government control. Any DCPs that apply within a local government area are subordinate to the prevailing LEP—they simply provide more detailed specifications of items identified in individual LEP clauses. Just to complete the picture, the LEP is, in turn, subordinate to any relevant state government planning instruments, namely State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs), and all of these planning documents are prepared in accordance with the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. More information on any of these, and in fact copies of any of the state planning documents (an instant cure for insomnia!), are available on the Web—just enter a search for the relevant document name.

The Palerang Blog—Entries added in November include:

Amenity & Character
Planning Instruments

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, although there is traditionally no meeting in January. 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)

Looking for a great horse vet?

- **We just love horses:** All of our tem lives, breathes, eats and sleeps horses and are horse owners too. It means we care for your horses like they are our own.
- **Around the clock care:** We know that just like people, horses don't just need accident or emergency care during business hours, so we are available anytime...Just call!
- **We travel to you:** If your horse is incapacitated or you don't have transport we'll come to you or help you arrange transport to our dedicated equine hospital.
- **If hospitalisation is needed:** Our state of the art hospital means that your horse will get great care under the supervision of our dedicated team of Vets and Nurses ...Fast!
- **From the routine to the complex diagnosis and surgery - We do the lot:** Our vets have advanced training in equine dentistry, lameness, reproduction and surgery – and a whole lot more in between.
- Corner of Barton and Federal Highways, Lyneham

Email equine@canberravet.com.au Website www.canberraequinehospital.com.au

CANBERRA
Equine HOSPITAL

6241 8888

26th WAMBOIN GOLF OPEN

by Len Ivey

The 26th Wamboin Golf Open was held on Sunday 6 November in warm pleasant conditions.

The capstone golf event of the Wamboin Golf calendar was well supported with approximately 30 players striving for their place in history. To the eventual winners; a sense of triumph as their names are immortalised on the Honour Board proudly displayed above the refrigerator in the Wamboin Community Hall. Such is the competitive nature of the Open that some members have been vying for 20 years to achieve this accomplishment.

The historic significance and deep tradition of the Open is an attraction for sponsors and the Wamboin Golf Executive would like to extend their thanks for the donation of numerous prizes from the sponsors. Unfortunately their names escape me for the moment.

Grinners: The Googly Ball was not 'formally' awarded; however, Peter Greenwood stepped up for a nomination. New player, Linda Ivey voiced her opinion that she had won a nearest to the pin because she was the 1st name on the marker. Peter said she was 'knocked off' by two blokes after that and the prize is to be awarded to the last bloke in the chain! Umm that comment could have been structured with a little more finesse.



A very well done to Deb Gordon, she filled in at a moments notice during the presentations. Her spontaneous entertainment ably supported by the photogenic Larry King was hilarious; unfortunately the photos taken in dexterous poses and positions are not for publication in this medium.

A special tribute to Ben Hubbard for completing the round in shoes rather than his customary thongs. It appears this future Financial Advisor's long term saving strategy is paying dividends; he can now afford shoes and even laces!

The Dummy Spit; usually and deservedly awarded to Peter Greenwood was won during a late repechage by ☺☐≈■ ♣≈)(◆■ℓ☒. Whilst holding a minor prize in his hands was heard bleating; "I didn't win a decent bloody thing this month". Peter still receives 2nd prize in the dummy spit because he normally wins 1st prize every time he opens his mouth. He is closely followed by Rob Gorham with 3rd prize. Though Rob didn't play and was not in attendance for the open, he is known to be always thinking dummy spit thoughts!

Winners: Finally, and after 20 long years Tim Barter is crowned the Men's Wamboin Open Champion for 2011, he won with a score 75. The Ladies 9 Hole



Open Champion is Joan Mason with a score of 40.

Minor Winners include: The 18 Hole Champion: 1st Len Ivey with 78/61, 2nd Matt O'Brien with 95/63 and 3rd Nev Schroder with 78/65.

The 9 Hole Champion: 1st Ken Gordon with 34/29, 2nd Deb Gordon with 53/30 and 3rd Linda Ivey with 66/30.

The Junior Champion for 2011 is Jack Whitney with 85/66.

The Eclectic Champion for 2011 and for the last 4 years is Tim Barter with 61/55 with Nev Schroder 2nd with 62/56.

The Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin awards went to Jack Whitney, Larry King, Ben Hubbard x 3, Len Ivey, Nev Schroder and Steve Miners.

The junior Encouragement awards went to Taylor Miners, Alex Gordon and Madison Gordon.

Happy Wamboin golfing



THE STABLE DOOR

by Ian Collet



An occasional piece

After the rain in late October, out came the Sun and, so it appears, a cute little mammal. Tosh, my very dear black and tan longhaired dachshund found it first. Being the gentleman he is, he kept his distance but as fellow owners of his breed would know, the bark of a fully focused dachshund is a giveaway that it has come across something of keen interest.

As I draw closer, my loyal mate withdrew in response to my call and we both sat nearby, all eyes, and in his case ears, directed at the superb little echidna that was busy burrowing into the thin hard layer of what passes for soil in this part of Wamboin. Up to the house with the dog, I fetch the camera and creep back to find this wonderful little creature wrapped as tight as can be perhaps a centimetre or so down into the powdery soil. To me echidnas are truly fascinating creatures; they have an incredible capacity to burrow leaving just their spines and coarse hair on show.

I didn't know this at the time but after a bit of research it appears that an echidna uses its snout within which is its long sticky tongue, to collect food. A couple of times during the perhaps three-quarter hour I sat watching, the little guy raised his head for a peek or two and scratched what was clearly an itch, first with it's left hind leg and then the right. I've never seen that before. After what seemed an eternity it eventually loped off into bushes nearby with a gait that would give Tony Abbott a run for his money. A couple of photos of the little fellow (no, not Tony Abbott) appear below.



Burrow, burrow, burrow



Having a scratch



Now a peek



Okay, looks clear, off I go!

Editor's Note: In the printed version of this issue, the "Now a peek" picture was upside down due to a mistake on my part.

BUNGENDORE LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES FOR ALL YOUR LANDSCAPING NEEDS



Firewood
Feature rocks and riverstone
Decomposed granite (yellow)
Ironbark strainers and poles
Old Railway Sleepers, Wine Barrels, Pavers

Sand, Gravel, Mulch, Topsoil, Veg-Mix
Mushroom compost, Bobcat
Excavator and Roller
Certified weighbridge, Cement
Hardwood sleepers – Stakes – Pegs

Ph 6238 0460 Open 7 Days

36 King Street Bungendore

Equally arresting, just a few kilometres up the road....



As the weather warms, what a beaut local swimming hole! Just the thing for a refreshing dip.



But, hey, what's this?



And you all thought it was just Cane Toads that were heading south.

Of course, I'm not at liberty to tell you where this snappy chappy is but I can report that he is tethered, docile and in all probability a vegetarian.

HAVE A RELAXING HOLIDAY PERIOD!

**From the management and staff of
THE STABLE DOOR
Intergalactic Production Powerhouse**

Please take care of yourself and others



Remember, you can view this and previous Stable Door articles and photos in living colour on-line at <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/whisper>

New Classifieds

WANTED URGENTLY: Accommodation in Wamboin, Bywong, Bungendore, Carwoola area for two professional business people, working full-time in City. Must be fully furnished as all our furniture is in storage. Happy to consider a granny flat. Required for minimum 6 months. Please contact 0416- 034-698 during business hours – mobile out of range after 5 pm.

House-sitting. We have a lovely 4 Bedroom house (sleeps up to 10 in beds) and beautiful border collie looking for someone to look after them from 23 December until 3 Jan. We have pool and tennis court and are located at the Queanbeyan end of Norton Road. If you have extra house guests over Christmas or just want to treat yourself please give Fiona a call on 0411212276.

Companion adult rider (M or F) required to ride with me regularly once a week (or more) on quiet trail rides in Kowen Forest. Preferably weekdays/evenings. 11 year old 15h quarter horse mare or 14 yr old 14 1/2 h part-arab mare available - I can't ride two horses at once! Rider should be confident at all gaits but this could also suit someone wanting to get back into riding.
-- Meriel Schultz 02-6238-3309

**TAYLOR MADE PUMPS
YOUR PUMPS NOT PUMPING?
PUMP REPAIRS TO ALL MAKES OF PUMPS**



- New Pumps Supplied and Installed
- Home Pressure Systems
- Bore and Irrigation Pumps
- Bore, pump and power packages
- Water, Bore Drilling Rig in local area - on site surveys
- Fire Fighting Pumps - Sales and Repairs
- Windmill Service, Repairs and New Sales
- Water Softener Repairs and Water Quality Analysis
- Premium Quality Water Softener Salt at Rural Prices



**Don't run out of water - call a Local Bloke for mobile
Sales & Repairs**

Mark Taylor ALL HOURS

0428 486 460 (Mobile) 6238 2357 (Home) 6238 2351 (Fax)



Carwoola Community Association

invites
one and all
to our

**CHRISTMAS
GET TOGETHER
BBQ**

Please bring a plate (dessert or salad)
Tea and coffee will be available

5 pm - 7.30 pm

Saturday 10 December 2011

Stoney Creek Community Hall
Gathering Place (Off Douglas Close) Carwoola

RSVP

to
Christine or Lynton Bond
6238 2368

Caught in the Act by Rhonda and Neville Parnell



1. Anything I can eat ??



2. No, it's my meat !!

Before he happened, we had made friends with the local birds. Magpies came first and we built a small shelter for their bird dish. Then came the smaller parrots, ducks and cockatoos, so a second feeding outlet was built.

The curiosity of the horse soon located the action and food source. The photos above were taken on two separate occasions (photos 1 & 2 on one day, 3 & 4 on another) when we just happened to see what was going on. He actually did lick up the magpie's dinner of mince meat, cheese and bread, before trying the wild bird seed (almost only husks).

This is only Day 25 of life with HRH Toby !!

After loving horses and doing lots of riding in all parts of the world, but always being city dwellers, time was running out to have a horse of our own. We gave up a lovely townhouse near the sea to come to Canberra to visit our daughter and ended up buying 12 acres at Wamboin just to have a horse of our own.

It took 67 years, but we have found a character of many surprises. He is 15 years of age, but is interested in everything, and is treated like a spoilt grand-child, goes for a walk every day, has been ridden and has even put a big eastern grey kangaroo to the hop for being in his personal space.

So far he has met all the local horses and donkeys, but finally met his match when three friendly alpacas came up to the fence to talk to him. This created a scene worthy of an Oscar, snorting, stamping and rearing, all for show.



3. Here's another outlet, I'll check the menu.



4. Specially for vegetarians, this is the right venue !!

WAMBOIN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Friday, December 16 2011 @ 7pm
At Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way

Everyone is invited to come along and:



Join in the singing of Christmas Carols (both traditional and modern), ably led by our local musicians



Listen to a special performance by the Playgroup children



Experience the Christmas Story,
as presented by the children of Wamboin



Give generously to the Giving Tree (gifts and non-perishable food, preferably unwrapped or in a Christmas bag) for distribution by the Salvos



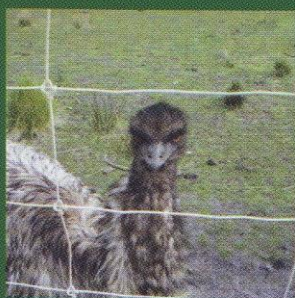
Say Hi to Santa when he arrives on his special transport,
a Fire Truck



Enjoy the traditional free sausage sizzle (There will be a donation box with all proceeds to be given to the Salvos)



Soothe your tired vocal chords with a cold drink



DEANE FENCING

Michael Deane

PO BOX 525
Jamison ACT 2624

Ph: 0414 525 525
Fax: (02) 62303088

DEANE FENCING

Jamison ACT 2614

Phone: 6230 3088 Mobile 0414 525 525

Email: deane.fencing@hotmail.com

Specialises in Road, Bridge, Carpark Safety Barriers
and Fencing

- Guard rails
- Wire rope (flex fence) barriers
- Isolator concrete barrier
- Thriebem guardrail
- Work zone barriers
- Pedestrian barriers

Sustainable Horse Management on Small Properties – Community Field Days

Following on from the huge success of the Burra “Sustainable horse management on small properties” field day, four more field days are being run by the Molonglo Catchment Group.



Jane Myers (Equiculture, expert on horse management and author of “Managing Horses on Small Properties”) together with Alison Elvin (Natural Capital, local expert on weed and pasture management) will provide specific horse, pasture and

weed management advice relevant to your property.

2012 Field Day Dates and Locations (all 9.00am to 3.30pm):

Sat 28th January – Wamboin Community Hall (RSVP Fri 20th January)

Sun 29th January - Michelago Community Hall (RSVP Fri 20th January)

Sat 18th February – Murrumbateman Country Inn (RSVP Fri 10th February)

Sun 26th February – Southern Tablelands (TBA) (RSVP Fri 17th February)

Each field day includes:

- 1) Presentation of sustainable horse properties including good and bad examples
- 2) Discussion of participant’s property to provide some advice on how best to set them up
- 3) Field trip to a local property to discuss property planning and weed and pasture management.

How to register: Contact projects@molonglocatchment.org.au or 0422 881 685 and provide your name, contact details and which event/s you are interested in.

Cost: \$20 per person. Limited numbers so make sure you register early.

<http://www.molonglocatchment.com.au/>



From a fuse to a new house and other electrical needs

CHRIS LODI ELECTRICAL NSW Lic
193163C

You can be assured of a prompt, efficient and courteous service

by a professional who guarantees his work

Mobile 0412 211 798 Ph: 6238 0068 Email:
christianlodi@gmail.com



•Decks & Pergolas
•Doors & windows
And all your home maintenance requirements

Joel 0448 210 854
SUTTON



Wanted Properties for Sale



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Let's Shout About The Whisper

By Lofty Mason

Continuing my efforts of looking back at the beginning of local Wamboin groups as recorded by the first copies of The Whisper.

The Fire Brigade. I stress that the following information as regards The Wamboin Fire Brigade is made with sole reference to the first eight copies of The Wamboin Whisper.

The first Whisper, dated July 81, reported a meeting of the Wamboin Bushfire Brigade Sub-Committee at Dave Robertsons on 17 June with the following results:

- a. A training exercise organised for 17 October.
- b. A membership drive to ensure all Wamboin residents were financial members. The subscription was set at \$15 per year. It was noted that Sutton Brigade (*Wamboin was a part of the Sutton Brigade*) had invested \$6,000 dollars in our area.
- c. The Sub-Committee members and their areas of responsibility were: Dave Evans; Gallagher Place and Proud Place. Denis Shaw; Cooper Road and Campbell Place. Barry Beames; Canning Close and Western Norton Road. Ron Jeffery; Poppet Road. John Laker; East Norton Road and Bingley Way.

John Finn and Dave Robertson who were the Wamboin Deputy Captains would also look after the new Merino Vale area.

It was noted that a working bee to complete the fire shed in Cooper Road was held on Sunday 21 Jun. (*Note: Dean Evans, aka Dons' Dad, is often reported as Dave Evans*)

The second Whisper, October 81, reported that the planned burn-off exercise on the reserve land at the end of Canning Close was attended by teams from all surrounding districts. It also gave a reminder that a permit was required for any burning off during the bushfire season.

The third Whisper, March 82, had only a short note expressing disappointment at the number who had not paid the \$15 subscription.

The fourth Whisper dated August 1982 gave a run down on how the Brigade operates and ran ads for the sale of Knapsack sprays and for the recruitment and training of Fire Tender drivers. It also carried a list of five teams showing 79 Brigade members. (*When you consider there were only 120 residences in Wamboin I think this is quite a surprising percentage of active members*).

The sixth Whisper, Feb 83 recorded that the second Fire Fighting vehicle was fully operational and that both vehicles had been deployed during the Mt Ainslie blaze. There was a note that all residents should be members of the Brigade and carried a request for volunteers for week-end rosters.

The eighth Whisper, Dec 83 congratulated the team from Wamboin who won the Phil Hardy Trophy at the Yarrolumla Shire Bushfire Brigades Picnic Day. This trophy was for the team with the highest aggregate points earned on the day. (*My note: I still have my trophy for that day*). The section finished with a warning of the fire danger due to fuel growth. (*Next Whisper I will précis the notes on the Community Association*)



Need to get your business noticed? Don't know how to create a website?
We can help you get online and OUT THERE!

Call now for an obligation free quote:
02 6228 1366

- custom website design, build and hosting
- content management systems
- branding and logo design
- publication design and desktop publishing
- print management for offset, digital and display products

We have fixed price package deals for logos and websites, or we can tailor a custom package to suit your needs. Handy locations in Fyshwick and Bywong.



NEW CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: Toyota Corona 1984. Suit learner driver. Rego till 18 Sept 2011. Make an Offer.

For Sale: On-site van, on the water, Sth Durras. Hard Annex, Tinnie, extras. \$5000. Ph Terry 6236-9139.

For Sale. Chainsaw, Husquvarna 345, 16" bar. 2 spare chains. Reg service. Good condition. \$350.00. Worm Liquid. Certified organic. Gardens, veggies, paddocks. 1L - \$10, 5L - \$30, 20L - \$110.00. Collect Bywong or possible delivery. Phone Chris on 6236 9189.

Cleaners available local and reliable 5 years working in the area call Claire or Jo on 0417-217-621.

LONG RUNNING CLASSIFIEDS

PHOTOSHOP TUTOR and PHOTO RETOUCHING. One-on-one tutoring in Adobe Photoshop CS or Photoshop Elements. Or if you need help improving your digital images, scanning old photos, or any other digital photography tasks, contact Christine on 0412-766-682.

Mobile Natural Horse Care and Gardening - Not enough hrs in the day / week? Away on weekends or holidays? Need someone to feed, rug, groom, clean up and care for your horse/s? General gardening, weed, mow, mulch and tidy. Other pets included and mail collected. Unable to ask neighbours / friends again? Call Cheryl - on 62369373 or 0402201491

FIREWOOD. Mixed hardwood. You load 6 X 4 box trailer \$100. 6 X 4 box trailer delivered \$130. Larger loads delivered by arrangement. Saturdays and Sundays only. Ph 6238-3164.

Convert those precious memories from VHS or VHSC Video to DVD, Records and Cassette Tapes to CD, right here in Wamboin. Act now before they are lost forever. Fast turnaround. Only \$12 per Video and from \$12 per Record or Cassette. Phone Vicky or Tony Holland on 6238 3762 or 0403 069018.

MATHS TUTORING. Encouraging, expert coaching from Mrs Judy Shellard BSc(Hons), DipEd or Mr David Shellard BSc(Hons). Rates \$25 for half an hour. Length of session, location, type of help and diagnostic testing tailored to individual needs. Contact Judy. Phone 0262383050 or email jshellard@bigpond.com

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

Beekeeping Services, Beeswax & Local Award Winning Honey. Prompt removal of swarm bees and hives that are no longer wanted. We can also remove feral hives depending on location. Fee charged depending on distance travelled and the type of job required. Pure bees wax candles, beeswax blocks and award winning local honey for sale; available bottled or in bulk. Phone or see us each month at the markets! Call John or Tricia - Ridgiedidge Apiary 6238 3791. www.ridgiedidge.net.au

Large Holiday house situated in Tuross, 180 degree Ocean views, opposite shops, 2 minute walk to beach, large block for parking, available now. Discounts apply for Wamboin/Bywong residents. Please phone Cherrie 0418 621 462 for details.

ADVERTISING RATES: Local classified advertisements are free, as are announcements from community organisations and clubs. Business advertisements pay printing and Community Association Projects. Contact editor on 6238-3484 for information. Advertising rates: Full Page - \$120 Half Pg - \$60 1/3 Pg \$40 1/4 Pg - \$30 1/5 Pg - \$25 1/8 Pg - \$20

FOR HIRE from the Wamboin Hall: A 4 Burner, Hooded BBQ with side burner. Half cast iron plate and half grill plus temperature gauge. \$50 (includes gas) together with \$30 cleaning bond. Both payable on collection. Bond refunded if BBQ is returned clean. Enquiries - Joan Mason 6238 3258.

Trestles and chairs are available for hire by local residents. Hire rates are: Trestle \$10ea and chairs \$1.50 ea. Price does not include delivery or pick-up charges. Available from the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way. Must be returned in clean servicable condition. All damages are responsibility of the hirer. Equipment must be tied securely on trailer etc. whentaken (otherwise they don't go.) Time of pick-up and returned MUST be adhered to (I don't live at the Hall!) - Joan Mason, 62383258.

FOR HIRE: WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL. Bookings arranged by Joan Mason 6238 3258. Local Residents \$100, Bond \$250. Non-Resident \$150, Bond \$300. The Hall is not available for teenage, 18 or 21st. functions.

FOR HIRE: BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL. Suitable for smaller functions and seminars, groups etc. Check availability and booking information on www.bywongcommunity.org.au.

The Whisper is a community newspaper for Wamboin and Bywong. If you live in the area and have something to say about living here that is informative, thoughtful or entertaining, think about writing it up for the next issue. For more information contact the editor on 6238-3484 or email nednoel@optusnet.com.au

BRUCIC EXCAVATIONS

Trucks, Bobcats and Excavators

**for Hire Rock Hammer, Auger and Pallet Forks, Roadworks, House Sites, Sheds & Garages,
Water Tanks, Footings, Sand & Gravel, Landscape Supplies
Supply and Install Septic Tanks and Absorption Trenches**

Enquiries Phone Darko Phone 6238 1884 Mobile 0408 682 191

WAMBOIN 15 YEARS AGO; From the Whisper, Dec 1996 Circulation: 500 IN MEMORY OF JOHN FINN

Written by and reproduced with permission of Lofty Mason, the Writer

"John Finn died late in October '96 after a long illness.

However, this is not about his death but about his life and his input to Wamboin. Many residents of Wamboin first met Finny when he drove up thier drive to welcome them to the area and to 'sell' the importance to becoming a member of the Bushride Brigade. In those days, Wamboin was a part of the Sutton Brigade however John believed that because Wamboin residents were mainly of a city background they needed a more formal training that was being offered in the Sutton Brigade.

Operating from the fire shed in Cooper road, Finny brought pressure against the Shire Council who were insistent that large area Brigades were the way to go. Finally, despite all opposition, on 01 July 84, Wamboin became an autonomous Brigade. The still utilised demountable was immediately set up as a headquarters at the rear of the recently completed hall and Finny started an intensive training program for new crews. I must admit John drove us hard in training. He realised our lack of skills, knew what was needed , how to do it, and what was the final aim. He somewhere along the way, inspired to a mob of townies to become a professional Brigade team.

At this time the total assets were two old trucks, and a fitted out ute which was on loan for very little money. Fund raising in itself became a full time activity. In February '85 through the Kowen Forest connection, John was able to secure the loan of our first 4 wheel drive vehicle - the Bedford 'Mr Whippy'. so called because of the bells in the wheels when paid ! Operations room staff were trained and a 'Canteen Committee' group were established. A brand new, fully fitted Toyota replaced the Captains Ute and the Brigade was up and running; But just in time..

Saturday, 02 March '85 a fire which had escaped from a Canberra tip raced towards Wamboin on a 4k front. The trained firefighters, the operations room staff, the ladies supplying meals and drinks from the hall, the teenagers who pitched in to help and all residents of Wamboin banded together as a team to ensure that when the last of the fires were extinguished on the Tuesday, no houses had been lost and no one had been seriously injured. We can thank John for that. **As an after thought, this was about the only Tuesday night that John had let us off from training.**

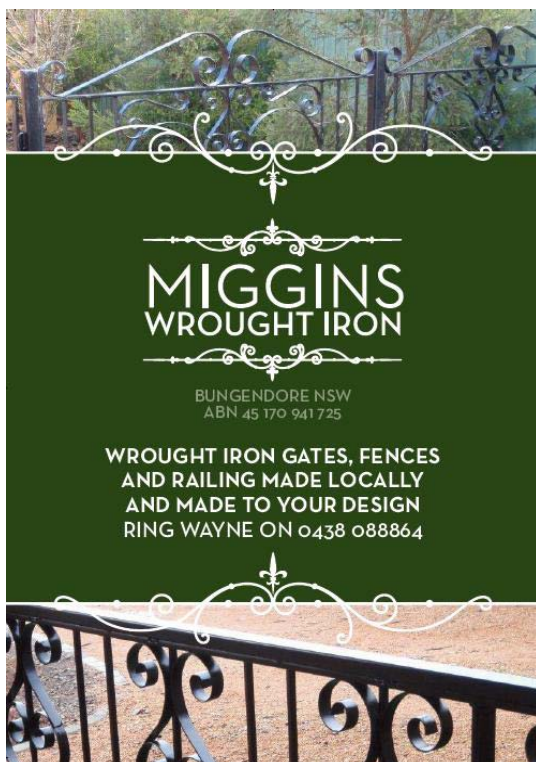
John continued to work for the Brigade giving his support in the setting up of the Wamboin Rural Golf Club which started life as a social activity of the Brigade. However his to fairways and greens clearly demonstrated that as a green keeper he was a Fire Captain. John continued supporting Brigade activities untill overtaken by ill health.

He was made an honorary life captain of the Wamboin Bushfire Brigade early this year.

Looking back I see John as a leader with vision who not only could see the big picture but also personally painted a part of it.

Farewell Finny, and thanks."

(From the July 1981 Whisper: A meeting of the Wamboin Sub-Committee of the Sutton Bushfire Brigade was held in David Robertson's home on 17 June 1981. A working bee to complete the fire shed in Cooper Road was held on Sunday, 21 June 1981. The Wamboin Deputy Captains were David Robertson and John Finn.)



Le Très Bon
FRENCH CUISINE

Gift vouchers

A French Culinary Journey
Restaurant, Cooking School
Food & Wine Tours to France
call now for 2011 program
Visit: www.letresbon.com.au
40 Malbon Street, BUNGENDORE
Ph: 6238 0662

YUUM Design

Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

We had visitors descend on us last weekend from the far outposts of Australia, and it was a great family gathering. However, I was very glad to stock up in bulk before their arrival. Having enough of everything to last a weekend and more requires some planning in Wamboin. I decided, with some reluctance, to help save the American economy from recession. Suddenly I was confronted with a monstrous, soulless warehouse with supersized trolleys, was photographed like a convict and paid for the privilege of entering its hallowed doors with a bright and breezy American accent ringing in my ears, "Enjoy your shopping!" I don't like shopping even in the most pleasant of places so I thought her cheery wishes were in vain.

Now I was glad to buy bulk items, because I needed them, and they were cheaper, but did I really need to buy frozen berries from America and soft drink from Spain? I declined to add the life sized Santa to my trolley but I did succumb to the toilet rolls. A packet of forty eight rolls seemed somewhat excessive, even for our large crowd, but in my supersized trolley, trudging along the supersized aisles, they seemed acceptable. I must say I was a little taken aback when I tried to fit them into the back of the station wagon. But it was when I got home and tried to store them in my modest sized house that I realised I'd been duped. It's all a matter of proportion. Since then I have given a few packets away, as presents, but even wrapped in pretty paper, toilet rolls are just toilet rolls. No one gets very excited about them.

In the course of many conversations on the weekend we were discussing inappropriate housing in Australia. In tropical Darwin there are large developments being constructed that look eerily similar to estates around here. Dark roofs, facing the westerly sun, no eaves, no verandas, no elevation from the ground, no louvered cross ventilation, constructed of solid heat retaining material and the only saviour, a huge energy gobbling air conditioner on the roof. Now I'm not an environmental scientist, or an engineer, but it seems to make no sense to me that we still build these homes while we talk and talk and talk about being eco friendly, energy efficient and carbon footprints.

But it's the season to be jolly and to celebrate the end of the year, catch up with family and friends and enjoy all that Wamboin has to offer. Two inches of soft soaking rain has been a tonic. I have pretty pink and white salvias flowering, and rock roses, lavender, white daisies and herbs. The petunias are just starting to flower. Those roses that resisted my efforts with the mattock a few years ago are beautiful although some nasties have been amongst them. Seaweed sprays must be doing something but I think I'm being naive.

In the chook yard the girls have kept up their production and I've had large brown eggs for Christmas cakes and puddings. And next year we should have eleven mature ducks for Christmas dinner, but I doubt it. A kindly friend knew they'd find a good home here and in a weak moment we accepted. At the moment they're cute ducklings and loved by the grandchildren.

And so that special time of the year is with us again. I wish you all a very happy Christmas, and Wamboin houses bursting with visitors over the holiday period....I wouldn't live anywhere else....and will I shop super sized again?....I shudder at the thought.



As we prepare for the Holidays, and wait for the goose to fatten up...

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin invite you to

Decorate your gate or mailbox -- Win a Prize

The winning gate and winning box will each receive a basket of goodies from the WWOWs.

Involve children and grandchildren, and your own inner child. Have fun and show what a spirited community we are. Any gate or mailbox in Bywong or Wamboin can be entered.

A community judging team from across our area will visit every registered address on Monday, 19 December 2011.

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 or call 6238 3131. We will need your name, address, contact phone number and whether you want us to judge your gate or mailbox.

The winners will be notified 20 December.

Photos will be displayed on the community websites for all to see.