

# WAMBOIN



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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## The Whisper

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**April 2012 CIRCULATION: 1,248**

**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 May 2012 issue the deadline is Sunday, 29 April 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

<b>Wamboin Community Assn</b>	Peter Harrison, President	6238 3525	president@wamboincommunity.asn..au
<b>Bywong Community</b>	Darryl Bourke, President	6230 3055	
<b>Fire Brigade</b>	David Cochrane, Captain	0409 991 340	
<b>Wamboin Markets</b>	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	
<b>Sutton School Playgroup</b>	Johanna Bradley, Convenor	0406 399 713	johannabradley@dodo.com.au
<b>Landcare</b>	Roger Good, President	6236 9048	
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison, Bungendore	6238 1333	
<b>Emergency Services</b>	NSW Call Centre, Staff	132 500	
<b>Emergency Services Admin.</b>	Colin Brown, Controller	6238 1067	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Peter Greenwood, JP	6238 3358	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Keith France, JP	6238 3596	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Margaret Fletcher, JP	6238 1211	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Jill Sedaitis, JP	6236 9559	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Tony Holland, JP	6238 3762	
<b>Wamboin Scout Group</b>	Peter Harrison, contact	6238 3525	
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Robyn Slater, Senior Instructor	6238 3472	
<b>Geary's Gap Pony Club</b>	Katarina Biondic, contact	0421 859 917	
<b>Wamboin Play Group</b>	Emma Auzins, Convener	6238 3974	
<b>Wamboin Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	
<b>Church - Anglican</b>	Robyn Robertson, Warden	6238 3202	
<b>Christian Prayer Group</b>	Steve & Imelda Taylor, contacts	6238 3220	
<b>KYB Bible Study Group</b>	Yvonne Barrett, contact	6230 3539	
<b>Golf</b>	Peter Greenwood, Golfer	6238 3358	p.greenwood2@bigpond.com
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare, Helpline	6299 1966	
<b>Wonderful Women of Wmbn</b>	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	
<b>Lake George VIEW Club</b>	Lydia Zielinski, contact	6230 3488	
<b>Wamboin Book Group</b>	Alice Scott, Secretary	6238 3178	

### YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Alana Stenning	petsitting	6238 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
Jordan Brown	babysitting	0414-907-921			

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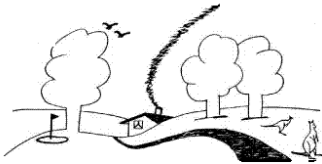
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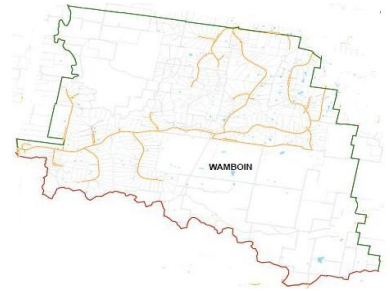
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## Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



**Wamboin Community Association AGM** — In the absence of any alternative nominations, all WCA office bearers have been returned for 2012. Just for the record, they are:

President: Pete Harrison Vice-Presidents: Jenny Richards, Christopher Kruger  
Secretary: John van der Straten Treasurer: Keith France  
Committee: Peter Evans, Don Horan, Lofty Mason

**Travelling Cinema** — The Palarang Local Action Network for Sustainability (PLANS), in conjunction with local community groups, is preparing a program of family-friendly animations and short films to present throughout the shire. The first screening will be presented under the theme of 'Cool Futures'. In the March edition of The Whisper, we indicated that the program would screen at the Wamboin Community Hall in May, but due to a technical hitch, the screening is now planned for Friday 1st June, at 6.00 pm.

**Macs Reef Road WTS Update** — Unfortunately, we've hit another snag with the Development Application for the new waste transfer station. All crown land in Palarang is currently subject to a Native Title claim. The result is that DAs involving crown land cannot be determined until the claim over the relevant parcel of land has been resolved. We are hopeful that this will not cause an indefinite delay, as Council has been able to negotiate a resolution in other, similar situations.

**Whisper Archives** — I'd like to remind anyone who's interested that, as part of our effort to archive early editions of The Whisper, all those to which Lofty refers in his "Shout about The Whisper" segment have been scanned and are available in The Whisper Archives section of the WCA website.

**Curry Recipes** — Keep those curry recipes coming in 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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**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**

Fay Kelly 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 Nrtm Rd 22  
 Cassie Fisher Clare Ln 12  
 Dominica Lorima North end Clare Valley 42

**225: 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 28  
 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 Higgison Denley Dr (Birchmans to Kestral inc) 12  
 Rhett Cox Macs Reef Rd (Newington to Bankers) 7  
 Morag & Guy Cotsell Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott 30  
 Sandra Favre Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& 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 1,248**

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**NEW CLASSIFIEDS**

Steel Craft port-a-cot, excellent condition, hardly used. \$60. Please call Colleen on 6238 1109.

Casual House Cleaner wanted for Business executive and over worked grandmother. Please phone Val on 0413-126109, BH: 61280800, AH: 62380808

MATHS TUTORING: K-6 and 7-10, Encouraging and expert coaching by Judy Shellard BSc(Hons.), Dip Ed. \$25 per half hour (time, duration, and location negotiable). Please ring to discuss your child's needs. Judy Shellard 62 383 050 or [jshellard@bigpond.com](mailto:jshellard@bigpond.com)

Wanted: Dog walking 2hrs per week. I'm going away at the start of May for about 6 months and am looking for somebody (or a combination of people) to walk my 2 dogs once a week on Norton road. They will be living with my family however have lots of energy so I'm looking for extra exercisers. \$20 an hour. If you've got a spare hour or two per week, or per fortnight, for a couple of months or for longer, whatever suits - email me and we'll work something out. - Gabrielle Simpkin - [gsimpkin@live.com](mailto:gsimpkin@live.com)

GARDEN MAINTENANCE. After all this rain let me help you with cleaning up and improving your garden: turf and fertilising advice, hedge and shrub trimming, spraying, mowing, edging, irrigation, green waste removal, whipper snipping, planting, mulching, tree and branch removal, sleepers and paving. Minimum of two hours and then negotiable. Have own equipment. Qualified in Turf Management and currently undertaking further studies in landscaping. Ring Michael on 0408 400 740.

CELEBRANT – Weddings, Civil Partnerships, Namings, Vow Renewals, etc -- Lorraine 62303321

Surplus to requirements: 2 pallets of cream coloured Boral bricks. Yours free to collect from Harriott Road, Bywong. Phone 0423 160 116

Cleaner wanted - enthusiastic, energetic and reliable cleaner needed about 2 - 3 hours per week in Denley Drive. Please phone Keturah on 0418 452423 or 6236 9412 if you are interested.

For Sale Tractor: Red Mahindra 3015 Hst 4WD Tractor With Front End Loader And Slasher. \$15,000 ONO. One owner, Excellent condition bought in 2005 for \$30,000 new. Only 150 hours on it. See all the specshere: <http://www.allclassifieds.com.au/ac/display-ad?cid=123294030> Please contact Dave on 0400 465 767 if interested.

**Inkjet Cartridges for Sale - brand new - suitable HP Inkjet Printer.** I have just bought a new Inkjet Printer. It uses different inkjet cartridges from my previous HP printer. Accordingly, I have a small stash of brand new HP 02 cartridges and Calidad branded equivalent cartridges that I no longer need. Standard colours and black. All brand new in original packaging. Sell at cost. Enquiries - please call Ian on 6238 3425.



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# WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS

Contact – Joan Mason, Ph. 62 383 258

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Lots of happy people, lots of lovely home grown produce, lots of great food to eat there and also to take home, coffee, drinks, and lots of nice things to buy from all the stallholders at our March market. It was terrific to see and be there to enjoy it all. If you haven't been to our markets, come along and join in, there always someone to have a chat to and welcome you.

We look forward to seeing you at our next market on –

**SATURDAY APRIL 21, 2012 9am – 12 noon 112 Bingley Way.**

\*\*\* Please note no more jewellery stalls are required at present.



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Sunday April 15th 9am - 3pm  
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jewellery		glass art
giftware		homewares
tea & coffee		greeting cards
local art & craft		beads & findings
garden products	honey	pottery & ceramics
toys & models	preserves	local grown plants
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### MISSING DOG!!

HELP!!Our beautiful border collie, TIA, went missing from Bingley Way Wamboin about 1pm last Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March. We have searched all over Wamboin and Bywong as much as we can and some of you would have received a flyer in your letterbox. Tia is 4 years old and has a brown leather collar and is microchipped. We are devastated and hope that someone can help us find her or at least find out what happened to her. If you can help please contact Andrew or Tracey on 6238 3854 or 0401 004 125. Thanks everyone.



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

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

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

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

**FOR HIRE: BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL.** Suitable for smaller functions and seminars, groups etc. Check availability and booking information on [www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au).

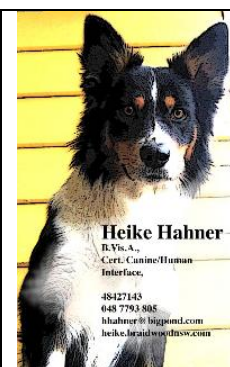
The Whisper is a community newspaper for Wamboin and Bywong. If you live in the area and have something to say about living here that is informative, thoughtful or entertaining, think about writing it up for the next issue. For more information contact the editor on 6238-3484 or email [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au)

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





## Land for Wildlife on the Move

You don't have to belong to a Landcare or a Wildlife group to care for our flora and fauna. Join the Land for Wildlife (LFW) scheme as well.

LfW is a voluntary property registration scheme for landowners who wish to manage part or all of their property in an environmentally friendly way and for the benefit of biodiversity and wildlife habitat. It is a low-level entry scheme; free to

join; and not legally binding. And you get presented with a LfW sign to put on the fence in recognition of your commitment.

One of the great things about the LfW program is that properties are assessed and advice given as to the different plantings and how to overcome problems such as weeds and erosion, as well as how to make worthwhile improvements. Eventually LfW corridors will be



created to allow wildlife to move more freely and safely across the landscape. Down the track, the Palerang network of LfW will hold workshops and get-togethers to exchange news and views. Properties can vary from natural grassland through to woodland.

LfW kicked off last year, as a pilot scheme, and 15 landowners in and around the Wamboin & Bywong district have been presented with their LfW signs. The Palerang Local Action Network for Sustainability (PLANS) has taken on the regional provider role across the Shire and there is funding available to sign up more landowners in 2012.

PLANS is particularly keen to hear from landowners in the Wamboin, Bywong and western Lake George region in order to build on the success of last year's trial. But any landowner in Palerang can express an interest in the LfW program, by visiting the Community Environment Network website, follow the links at [www.cen.org.au/landforwildlife/](http://www.cen.org.au/landforwildlife/) and send in an Expressions of Interest form. Failing that, contact Mel Hillery Tel: 62380095 or Phil Machin 62383717 for help.

-- Mel Hillery, PLANS

Photo: Wamboin & Bywong LfW presentation night

### YOGA in SUTTON

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## **WAMBOIN 15 YEARS AGO From the Whisper April, 1997 Circulation: 600 by Robyn Robertson**

From Peter Greenwood, Convenor, Wamboin Hall Management Committee:

### **WAMBOIN HALL NEEDS YOUR HELP**

"The Wamboin hall and fire station were built by volunteer labour. The hall in 1984 and fire station in 1987/88. Funds came from the Council through development contributions, special grants and local fund raising. The toilet block followed in 1988 and was primarily funded by the Community Association and once again built by local volunteers. The sports ground was built with funds from a Government Sport and Recreation grant. The kitchen was expanded and improved a few years later.

"After 13 years and despite much volunteer maintenance, the hall is starting to show signs of wear. It should be noted that the hall is used at least 3 nights a week, often more, and at week ends. It is used regularly by the Community Association, Fire Brigade, Scouts, Cubs, Play Group, Church, Golf Club and for many private hirings. Rent goes to the Hall Management Committee for the upkeep. Council recently voted about \$12,000 to the Wamboin community for community facilities and consideration has been given to ways and means to get best value for money. It seems a shame that the same faces turn up time after time to help with extensions, modifications, painting and weekly cleaning etc. We need a new ceiling, the new water tank needs to be connected, we need some additional storage rooms - BUT most of all we need some new volunteers to help look after YOUR HALL AND GROUNDS!"

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## 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 8 copies of The Whisper.*

**THE PONY CLUB.** The following information as regards The Wamboin Pony Club is made with sole reference to the first eight copies of The Wamboin Whisper.

**The first Whisper, dated July 81,** reported that 'A meeting at Ross Clay's on Friday 12 Jun 81 elected a committee to commence the activities of this club'. Those elected were: Ross Clay, Anne Marie Fairburn, Alan Brian, Carley Finn (treas), Margo Fairburn, Sarah Gough, Kate Gough (Sec), and Lane Brian. They decided to hold meetings at 1.30pm on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. The first meeting being a working bee with all members pitching in. The Pony Club at this time was using an area 'behind John and Helen Whites'. (*I believe this was in Poppet Road. LM*).

**The second Whisper dated October 81,** noted that the first official 'club meet' on Sunday October 11 had attracted 15 mounted members. Rosemary Bartlett, a fully qualified Instructress who was moving to Wamboin had also offered her services. The Club was gaining momentum.

**No. 3 Whisper dated March 1982** noted that the Pony Club was shifting its focus to the Bingley Way Community Reserve.

**No. 4 dated August 1982** stated the club were applying to the Pony Club Association of NSW for registration. They were working on their new area in Bingley Way and were sponsoring a 'Trash and Treasure Market'. They were also organising a Bush Barn Dance in the Sutton Hall in aid of the Club. Rally days were nominated and membership continued to grow. A junior Committee comprising Sarah Gough, VP; Kate Gough, Secretary; Carley Finn, Treasurer; with members: Lane Brian, Karen Padovan and Anne Marie Fairburn was also listed.

**No. 6 dated February 1983** noted they were into their third year. Future events were nominated and an instruction night on what is involved in buying & owning a horse was arranged.

**No. 7 dated July 1983** reported 'A good night was had by all' at the dace held in the Sutton Hall and \$287 was raised. Competitors from Wamboin had won 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Ribbons at the Canberra Lakes Pony Club Gymkhana. There were now 27 mounted members participating at the Club.

**No. 8 dated December 1983** reported the annual presentation night held at 'Woonton Manor'. The Club was continuing to grow and elected a new committee as follows:  
President, Joy Woonton; Vice President, Alan Brian; Secretary, Fay Kelly; Treasurer, Peter Bartlett; Committee Members, Elizabeth Gough, Ann Lorrimer, Anne Sprintz and Ross Clay.

*(Next Whisper I plan to précis the notes on the Scout Group)*

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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>

## THE BUSHFIRE DANGER PERIOD HAS ENDED

Outside the declared bushfire danger period a Fire Permit is not required to burn off in the open. If, however, you do plan to light a fire in the open, you need to notify:

- your neighbours, and
- the Brigade on 0409 991 340

at least 24 hours before you light the fire.

Your thoughtfulness will help minimise neighbour anxiety and unnecessary brigade call-outs.

Management, including containment of a fire originating on your property, is your responsibility. If the fire escalates to become more than you can handle, don't hesitate, ring the emergency number directly below.

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

## BUSH FIRE PLANNING

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

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

## BRIGADE ACTIVITY

It has been a busy period for the brigade since last month's newsletter. Heavy and persistent rain leading to local and widespread flooding has been a predominant feature across most of NSW during late February and March and our region experienced its share. In addition, and not necessarily a result of the rain, the brigade attended several motor vehicle accidents that occurred in the region.

**Callouts:** On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March just after 7.15pm one of the brigade's heavy tankers was despatched to facilitate property protection for a property on Bungendore Road Bywong against rising waters from a swollen creek.

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at around 7.30pm the brigade's quick response vehicle and a heavy tanker were responded to a motor vehicle accident on the Federal Highway near Eaglehawk in Sutton.

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 8.25am brigade member pagers were activated and 3 brigade appliances attended a motor vehicle accident on the Old Federal Hwy Bywong.

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 12.50am the brigade pagers were set off and at 1.05am one of the brigade's heavy tankers was responded to a motor vehicle accident on Norton Road Wamboin. The tanker and crew returned to the Fire Station just before 8.15am.

Later, on the same day, just after 6.15pm, the brigade was called to a motor vehicle accident involving two vehicles at the intersection of Bungendore Road and the Federal Highway Bywong. Crew in one of the brigade's heavy tankers as well as the quick response vehicle attended.

**Wagga Floods:** On Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> March one of the brigade's heavy tankers formed part of a Strike Team sent from Lake George Zone to assist in the flood emergency in Wagga Wagga and surrounding localities. While no Wamboin crew accompanied the vehicle one of our members travelled to Wagga with the Strike Team and spent several days helping in the emergency effort.

A week later, another brigade member joined a follow-on Strike Team to the area to assist in the flood relief effort.

**Bywong Car Boot Sale:** At six o'clock on Sunday morning March 25<sup>th</sup> in the darkness the first of some nearly 30 brigade members began arriving at the Les Reardon Reserve in Birriwa Rd Bywong, home of the Bywong Community

Association, in preparation for the 2012 monster Bywong Car Boot Sale. The event is an important fundraiser for the brigade and many other community-based organizations as well as for the large number of sellers and buyers clearing or adding to items in their 'car boots'. It's quite a logistical exercise for the brigade, managing the parking of sellers and buyers and brigade vehicles, setting up the Rural Fire Service marquee, running the brigade's community education activities and, of course, ensuring the brigade's very popular steak and sausage sizzle BBQ and cool drinks stall runs smoothly. By all reports, everything appeared to go splendidly. Weather-wise it was pretty right too. Well done and many thanks to all who contributed to the success of the event.



## BRIGADE TRAINING

The set brigade training sessions are 3 times a month:

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

All training begins at the Fire Station.

## ABOUT BECOMING A BRIGADE MEMBER



We are always in need of new members. If you are interested in becoming a member and would like to explore the possibilities and advantages of what it would be like participating in the brigade's Support Crew or becoming an active firefighter, come along to any of the set training sessions for a look and a chat. Alternatively, give our Secretary a call on 6238 3153. Either way, you'll be made very welcome.

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 during the past 12 months include: safety induction, bush fire support, bush firefighter, advanced firefighter, village firefighter, crew leader, first aid, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and rural fire driving.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

21 <sup>st</sup> April	<i>Wamboin Home Produce Market Day and the Brigade's Information 'Shop Front'.</i>
------------------------	--

## 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 and grass fire preparations. You'll also find the brigade's history, interesting photos and other fascinating material on the Brigade's site at <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

### Brigade Information 'Shop Front'

The theme this month will be *'Bush Fire Planning in the "Off" season'*. The Wamboin Fire Station and 'Shop Front' are open each Wamboin Home Produce Market day (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in the month) from 9am – 12noon. The next market day is Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April. You'll find us in front of the Fire Station happy to answer all your questions.

At any other times, if you have a query 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.**

## **A Brief History of St Andrews Wamboin**

**Prepared by the Church's Members and Friends**

Many of you have lived in Wamboin long enough to have seen the little church on the corner of Norton and Poppet Roads become a reality, but there are others, maybe, who have little idea of its history and place in our community.

When the first houses began to appear in the new subdivision of what was rather pretentiously named the Canberra Country Estate in the early seventies, there were few kilometres of road, no community hall, no fire shed, pony club or church. The nearest church was St Peters Anglican Church in Sutton. The original church in Sutton was dedicated in 1908, and it was then, and still is, part of the parish of St John the Baptist in what is now the suburb of Reid. At that time, however, there was no ACT. Wamboin residents who wanted a place to worship became part of the congregation of St Peters, meeting twice a month in Sutton.

In the very early 80s, Archdeacon Ian George, the Rector of St Johns, moved that there should be a third service each month at St Peters. David Robertson, who attended St Peters and owned the third home built in Wamboin, suggested that instead of the service being held at Sutton, it should be in the newly completed Community Hall in Wamboin. On 20th January 1985, about 50 people attended the first service seated on a motley collection of chairs, in the bare hall in Bingley Road. Hymn books, prayer books and other church trappings had to be brought from Sutton. Wamboin was, and still is, a "can do" society. If you needed furnishings you made it yourself. David Robertson made the forms for seating and later the portable cross and lectern. The combined congregations were known as St Peters Sutton-Wamboin. For a couple of years the Uniting Church held services in the hall on the fourth Sunday each month. From the outset, the Yarrawlumba Shire Council promised that a quarter acre block on Bingley Road could be excised from the corner of the Community area for a future church building.

However, when money later became available to consider building a church proper, this site was no longer a proposition. New legislation had been passed prohibiting the use of community land for anything other than secular purposes. But all was not lost. The Council pledged to "bend over backwards" to facilitate the subdivision of land if anyone were prepared to sell or donate half an acre of land. At the next morning church service in the hall, David and Robyn Robertson made an impassioned plea for land, and from a congregation of 16 adults and children there were three offers of land on the table by lunch time! Lance and Meriel Schulz's offer was accepted and so began the nearly two year long process of transferring the title. Fortunately the Council was most supportive.

Robyn and David Robertson, in consultation with others, began looking for plans. At one stage they thought they had secured an old Methodist Church at Nubba, in the Parish of Harden, which they could purchase and remove to the site in Poppet Road. However, the local parish had a sudden change of heart and the deal was off. It was then decided to build a new church using local tradesmen as much as possible. Ken Kelly, who had built many homes in early Wamboin was the builder, Trent Abell, another early resident was the electrician, and Rex Paton did the roadworks. Building started in 1997, and on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1998, St Andrews was consecrated by Bishop George Browning. It was a great occasion. Yarrawlumba Mayor, Peter Greenwood, Libby King from the Wamboin Community Association, State and Federal Parliamentary members, Peter Cochrane and Peter Webb, and representatives from community organisations and the congregation filled the church. Unlike many new churches, St Andrews, as it was now known, was debt free thanks to the enormous generosity of David and Robyn Robertson. Four weeks later the beautiful stained glass window, designed and built by Rob Crafter, from St Johns, was installed, depicting a cross set in a Wamboin landscape with Black Mountain and Telstra Tower signifying the links to Canberra.

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## THE STABLE DOOR

by Ian Coillet

*An occasional piece*

Grab a coffee, wine or other favourite tippie and nestle in to test your local knowledge

	Question	Your Answer
1	The print run of the March edition of The Whisper was one thousand two hundred and forty-	
2	Which Saturday of the month is the Wamboin Home Produce Market held	
3	Which Saturday of the month is the Fire Brigade Info Shopfront held	
4	Whose Reef is nearby	
5	Which large firing range is to the west of Wamboin	
6	The President of the Bywong Community Association is Darryl .....	
7	The last Great Wamboin ..... Night was held at the WCA hall in Aug 2011	
8	At 918m, the highest hill in Wamboin is ..... Hill	
9	Apart from other drivers and pedestrians, what is the main hazard on our roads particularly at dusk and during the night	
10	Who do you ring to report injured wildlife	
11	They are not human; they are often seen scavenging at the Tip	
12	What type of Boot Sale was held in Bywong during March	
13	Name of our local government area	
14	The Whisper was first published in July of what year	
15	The first name of the current long-serving Editor of The Whisper is	
16	Which river meanders through Wamboin and Bywong	
17	Name the mason who manages the Wamboin hall bookings	
18	Who is responsible for preparing your Bush Fire Survival Plan	
19	Number of rows of vines Lambert Vineyards began with in 1991	
20	How many brigade tankers are normally housed at the Wamboin Fire Station	
21	Name the main road that snakes its way through the middle of Wamboin	
22	It is played in Wamboin on the first Sunday of the month	
23	'Because I live and travel through a bush .... prone area I must never become complacent'	
24	According to the Robertsons rainfall records, the wettest March in Wamboin with 160mm was in .....	
25	The Wamboin Community Association's monthly newsletter The Whisper can be viewed on-line and in colour at <a href="http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/whisper">http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/whisper</a> TRUE or FALSE	
25	A lot of it has dropped from the sky in recent months	
27	Number of vineyards you are aware of on Sutton Rd between Norton Rd and the Federal Highway	

Author's answers appear in one of the following pages



## Bungendore - Saint Mary's - Weekday & Weekend Masses

Saturday	6pm	St Patrick's Michelago
Saturday	5.30pm	St Raphael's Qbn
Sunday	9 am	St Raphael's
Sunday	8.30am	St Mary's B'dore
Monday	7am	St Raphael's
Tuesday	7am	" "
Wednesday	9.30 am	St Gregory's
Thursday	7am	St Raphael's
Friday	12 noon	St Raphael's
Saturday	9:30am	Morning Prayer
Exposition & Adoration		Fri @ 11:00 – 11:55am
Reconciliation		Fri @ 11:15 – 11:50am & Sat 4:30 – 5:00pm
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## Nature Notes March 2012

Jo Walker

Wamboin was a rather soggy place at the beginning of March. I had 50mm in my rain gauge on the first day – and almost 180mm by the end of the month. With still fairly warm weather, the grass has continued to grow giving the countryside an almost tropically green look.

Because much of the ground here has been wet and sometimes running with water, several moisture-loving plants are making a comeback. Most noticeable is *Isotoma fluviatilis*, a completely prostrate little plant that seems to be coming back in all the spaces between the grasses in wetter areas. It has bright green more-or-less ovate leaves and pale blue flowers with a darker blue patch in the centre of the flowers. The local violets (*Viola betonicifolia*) also seem to be appreciating the wetness. They won't flower until spring, but little tufts of leaves are sprouting all over the place. And *Convolvulus erubescens* the pink-flowered Australian Bindweed is doing likewise.

There are still a few plants flowering as we enter autumn. A few of the Brittle Gums (*Eucalyptus mannifera*) are bedecked with a heavy load of blossoms. And, at the other end of the scale, the ground-hugging little Ivy-leaved Goodenia (*Goodenia hederacea*) is still sporting bright yellow flowers in open drier areas. The Golden Stars (*Hypoxis hygrometrica*) are also still appearing as spots of colour amongst the Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*) in soakage areas. The Cranberry Heath (*Astroloma humifusum*) has had a lot of bright red tubular flowers nestling among its bluish-green prickly leaves, the first time in many years that it has flowered so well. There are also two species of orchids flowering at my place at the moment. The tiny Horned Midge Orchid (*Corunastylis cornuta*) with its minute maroon and green flowers is difficult to locate, but the Little Dumpies (*Diplodium truncatum*) are much easier to see. They often occur in large patches, and the hood-like flowers are up to 40mm long, white with green or brown stripes. The stems are very short so the flowers huddle close to the ground.

A few weeks ago, I was telling someone about the Rainbow Bee-eaters I saw here about twenty years ago. They were migrating through Wamboin and were here for several days, perching in trees and calling to each other. I'd never seen them again, I said. You can guess what turned up a few days later! There were three Bee-eaters perched on the dead branchlets of an old Stringybark tree, and I could hear others calling nearby, a sort of gentle whirring call.

The Red-necked Wallabies appeared here again the other day after a long absence, a big male amongst the daisy bushes near the house and four females, two with pouch joeys, on the hillside across the creek.

Frogs have been making use of all the extra water around, even quite shallow pools. There are tadpoles in pools only a few centimetres deep (but with the level kept constant by water running through them).

It's hard to believe that only a few years ago everything was dry and dusty and drought-stricken as we, and the wildlife, enjoy all this greenery.

### Answers to Stable Door Local Knowledge Challenge

1	eight	2	first	3	first	4	macs	5	majura
6	bourke	7	curry	8	poppet	9	kangaroos	10	wildcare
11	australian white ibis	12	car	13	palerang	14	1981	15	ned
16	yass	17	joan	18	you	19	six	20	four
21	norton	22	golf	13	fire	24	1989	25	true
26	rain	27	??*						

\* The author is aware of 2.

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Brian  
6258 1792

## Church Notices -- St Andrews, Poppet Rd, Wamboin

St Andrews extends a very warm welcome to young and old, at our services on the first and third Sunday of each month, followed by a convivial morning tea with lots of good chatter. Morning Prayer is on the first Sunday and Holy Communion on the third Sunday at 9am.

EASTER SERVICES: Good Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 9am Easter Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 11am.....soup, hot cross buns and Easter eggs afterwards.

Six Lenten study sessions will be conducted on Tuesday evenings, at the church, by the Rev Vicki Cullen throughout the period of Lent. On the final night there will be a Passover meal to be shared, and everyone is welcome.

Kids Club at the church has been going from strength to strength on a Friday night during term time from 5.30pm til 7pm. Children from 0 to 8 years are welcomed. If you have any inquiries please contact Robyn Robertson on 62383202.

St Andrews and St Peters organised a craft stall at the Sutton School Country Fair where children painted a pot and planted a flower as an activity. All proceeds went to the Sutton School. A Busy Bee in the church grounds is planned for late April. Sharpen your shears and flex those muscles!

For any further information, please contact Robyn Robertson: 62383202 or Bronwyn Elliott: 62383359

## Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin - 37 year statistics from the Robertsons by Robyn Robertson

March rainfall to 25/3. ... 193.75mm	(Mar 2011 ... 43.5mm)
2012 rainfall to 25/3 ... .25mm	(2011 to 31/3 ... 257.75mm)
Average April rainfall ... 45.15mm	(April 2011 ,, 17.25mm)
Wettest April ... 174.5mm in 1989	Wettest April day ... 70mm on 19/4/84
Driest April ... 5mm in 1997	Hottest April day ... 28C on 3/4/86
Coldest April day ... 10C X 11 times	Coldest April night ... 0C On 27/4/99



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## St. Andrew's Church - Stall at Sutton Country Fair

by Lance and Meriel Schultz

Hi all We had a wonderful day at the Sutton School Country Fair in lovely warm sunshine. Thanks to all who helped out and supplied plants etc.and helped set up, prepare posters and clean up.

We raised \$220 and 60 or so pots got painted and planted! The proceeds will be shared between the school and the after school care centre.



We handed out info on St Andrew's Kids Club and noticed a lot of people reading the posters about the Club, the WWoW s and looking at all the church photos.

You will see in one of the photos we had the wooden cross which served not only as a christian presence but also very useful for hanging up the painting shirts on the relevant 'nails' - very 'Christ in community' we thought!!

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## Engagement with Life...the Wamboin Way

by Jenny Warren

A few months ago, I was driving home from Canberra with my car radio in scan mode trying to avoid listening to sports commentary, when the scanner stopped on a commercial station. An advertisement was aiming to sell me an apartment in one of those fancy new blocks, with the slogan "For urban people who want engagement with their lives".

I discovered that doubling over with laughter is not a safe thing to do at 80kmh on the Barton. My initial thought was "who are these people who write such twaddle?", closely followed by "what on earth does that mean"? Clearly the folk who came up with the advertising slogan thought that using this uber-trendy, social media & marketing language would appeal to the type of 'urban people' who might want to buy and live in their apartment block....good luck to them all. And while I still think it's twaddle, it did get me thinking about how I 'engage with my life' in the context of where we now live, Wamboin.

What do I mean by engagement? The best words I can think of to describe it are "responsibility" and "interaction". So I've been thinking about engagement from a number of perspectives....with life, with nature, with family and with community. Before moving to Wamboin we too lived in an apartment, on Sydney's Northern Beaches. It was easy. When we drove home, we opened the automatic security garage door, parked, got into the lift, went up to our floor, entered our apartment and locked the door behind us. Rarely would we encounter another resident and we were safe in our little urban cocoon. To get water, we turned on the tap. If the water stopped flowing, we rang the Strata Manager who organised the plumber. If a tree fell on our nature strip, Council trucks would arrive and men would cut it up and take it away. If we went away for a night or two, preparation consisted of packing our things into the car and letting the door dead-lock shut behind us. We would go for walks on the beach or up to the headland. We'd encounter other people and try to make eye contact, to say 'Good morning'. We decided that wearing earphones apparently makes the wearer invisible, and were often passed by without returned acknowledgement. I would talk to fellow shoppers in supermarket queues and often just receive a startled stare, usually from the type of person who just HAS to place the little divider bar between their groceries and yours on the conveyor belt (I'm chuckling to myself as I think of all the times I've not put the bar in place, only to have the shopper in front of me panic and quickly cordon off their items). Community engagement generally consisted of listening to the noise of a neighbour's 18 year old kid's sub-woofer at 3am or competing for a table at the beachside coffee shop, then feeling out of place because we didn't have a baby in a fancy pram, or a small, fluffy white dog and large sunglasses.

I'm probably making life in Sydney sound more unattractive than it deserves (...I swear I'm not going to mention the traffic). But it does allow me to draw a comparison between the level of engagement we had 'with our lives' in the urban environment, versus the experiences we've had since moving to this beautiful place.

The first thing that's different is the increased level of responsibility we have – not only for our own lives, such things as our house and our electricity and water infrastructure, but for our environment and our community. If the water stops flowing to the house, we have to know why and we have to be able to fix it. And we have to manage our water supply, something our city dwelling visitors soon learn when they come to stay. If a tree falls across our driveway, we have to be able to remove it so we can drive out. We are responsible for looking after this little piece of Australia – its soil, its water, its trees and grasses and its animals and birds. We are learning how the land wants to engage with us, how we can help it, and how it can help us. Where does the water flow after heavy rain? How can we reduce erosion (especially of the driveway)? To what use can we put some of the plants (eg. firewood, mulch, shade, bird nesting hollows), and which plants should be eradicated? What are the best fruits and vegetables and herbs to grow in this soil and this climate?

We're learning about the unwritten responsibilities of rural life, like mowing your nature strip so walkers and horse riders don't have to pass your property on the road for fear of snakes or the discomfort of long wet grass. Engagement with others in this little community is on such a different scale. If we drive past a stranger walking their dog, we wave and they wave back. A shopping trip to Bungendore takes far longer than shopping ever did in Sydney, if you include chatting to Ann in the Post Office, Louise in the organic shop, Dennis at Foodlovers and Allan in the bookstore and running into people you know in the coffee shop. From fire brigade and the WCA, to produce markets and car-boot sales, from being given fruit and seeds and bulbs and plants and jams, to winery lunches where most of your fellow diners are your neighbours, we've never been busier or made to feel as welcome.

Did we actively pursue engagement on all these levels, or did it seek us out? I've come to the conclusion that it's been coming for some time, and so far, it feels right.

PS: Some of you may have read my article "Questions from the Ignorant" in the February Whisper. I am still seeking answers to most of those questions, and I have plenty of new ones. For those of you who 'engage' with our native birds, you'll be pleased to know that Stumpy, our male Superb Fairy Wren, who lost all his tail feathers after rearing four youngsters at Christmas, is back in form. Unfortunately, his off-spring reduced to two in January, coincidentally at the same time as the appearance of two large feral cats. But I also found a little wing tucked into the rock wall inhabited by one of our Cunningham's skink families, so I'm wondering....But the circle of life continues, and Stumps fathered two new little ones in February, and appears to be thinking about nesting again before winter. They are the cutest and most inquisitive of birds. No sooner do we down garden tools for smoko, and the whole family flies down to perch on newly pruned twigs, checking out new places where insects might be hiding. They tease my cat mercilessly, as she stares them down from the backroom or her mobile purpose-built outdoor enclosure, hopping around within inches of her, knowing full well she can't touch them. If they have tongues, I'm sure they're poking them out!



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## Councillor's Corner

**Development Planning** — The legislation that governs the way development is undertaken within Palerang is largely defined within the Local Environmental Plan (LEP). Other legislative details are defined within State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs), which are released periodically by the state government to cover general planning directives that must be followed by all Councils.

In the March Whisper, I referred to the importance of consistency between planning instruments by noting how clauses in the Affordable Rental Housing SEPP (State legislation) had an overriding impact on the draft PLEP (Local Government legislation) clause on Secondary Dwellings. The PLEP clause was intended to address an issue in rural residential areas. The result of the unforeseen 'interaction' between the two pieces of legislation was an unintended loophole in development conditions applicable to village areas.

To complicate matters even further, under Section 74 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, a local planning authority may also prepare a Development Control Plan (DCP), which is subordinate to both the SEPPs and LEP for the relevant area. The DCP, however, is a policy (rather than legislative) document, and is generally prepared in conjunction with the relevant LEP, with the express intent of providing more detailed guidelines on how Council intends its LEP to be interpreted for specific types of development.

As an example, Clause 6.5 of the draft PLEP deals with 'Bush fire prone land', and simply states: "the consent authority shall consider the potential environmental impacts of measures proposed to avoid or mitigate the threat from bushfire." Section B4 of the draft DCP, however, makes specific reference to the Palerang Bush Fire Prone Land Map, indicating how a resident might determine whether or not their land is considered to be prone to bushfire in this context. The DCP also includes details of dwelling design considerations that might provide a level of resistance to bushfire.

Similar clauses relating to the provision of building access for the disabled, erosion and sediment control on development sites and details relating to works on heritage assets are also included in the current draft DCP.

**The Palerang Blog**—Entries added to my councillor website Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) in March include: Palerang Development Control Plan and Flood Management.

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.

Council also currently holds extraordinary meetings, open to the public, on the fourth Thursday of the month, commencing at 5.00 pm, to consider issues associated with the development of Palerang's new LEP and DCP.

Meeting Business Papers are 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 Muse

Jill Gregory

Autumn, mellow autumn has arrived but I feel a little confused...whatever happened to summer?


I know I'm not the only confused soul in these parts. There are some very mixed up plants and shrubs in my garden and orchard not at all sure whether they should be sprouting or flowering or changing colour. But if they're confused, the frogs certainly are not. They're in full voice singing encore after rapturous encore as if they own the night. The ducks in the chook yard are ecstatic, too, convinced that the muck and mire was made just for their squelching pleasure. The hens, however, find this all most distasteful. They pick their way delicately through the muck, and cluck cluck at the heavens willing the rain to stop. But from my vantage point, perched above the gully on a ridge of shale, I can quite happily say I love the rain, and I love watching everything leap out of the ground.

The rain hasn't done much for my potatoes, though, and I've given up on my tomatoes. When I dug potatoes on the creek flat the other day the ground was almost flowing around them. There was a smell of damp and decay and I fear the putrid smell of rotting potatoes will become more evident. But there are worms in the ground, and grubs and beetles under every rock and plant. The soil is busy and alive. There are fungi wherever you look, tiny orbs of creamy tan, fairy rings of white and brown, red cones with white spots under the pines, apricot sponges like lumps of coral, orange plates clinging to the bases of tree trunks and huge toadstools like terracotta ornaments. I only wish I knew what I could safely eat. Everything is growing.

And with everything growing, almost everything needs clipping and pruning before winter. I have amassed a mountain of green on top of a pile that had been mouldering, untouched, for the past year. Our once mighty mulcher, despite much surgery, had finally died, and after an extended period of mourning we replaced it with a bigger and hungrier one. We can now mulch and compost to our heart's content. When you're cocooned in earmuffs, hot, sweaty, and covered in dust, it's a moment of enchantment when a bundle of dry lavender clippings goes through the mulcher, unannounced, and there's a whiff of summer perfume.

I like surprises in the garden, things that just appear, things for free. I had been watching a plant in a bed of bits and pieces, suspecting it was a self sown rock melon, but not really sure. I thought I'd give it the benefit of the doubt and let it have free range. It wasn't slow to respond, snaking rather comfortably in and out and over everything. I came upon it the other day and decided it's time was up. Where were the rockmelons? It was then that I found I'd been duped. It had never intended to produce rockmelons, just scores of prickly mini melon balls bursting with seeds. I had given space and encouragement to a despised and fecund weed!!

The last few months have produced a few surprises, plus a little confusion, but how good it is to see dams full again and overflowing, creeks raging, ground wet and spongy and green all around. It won't last forever, nature is the arbiter of that, but while it does I know that I most definitely wouldn't live anywhere else.

 <p><b>DEANE FENCING</b></p> <p><b>Michael Deane</b></p> <p>PO BOX 525 Jamison ACT 2624</p> <p>Ph: 0414 525 525 Fax: (02) 62303088</p>	<p><b>DEANE FENCING</b></p> <p>Jamison ACT 2614</p> <p>Phone: 6230 3088    Mobile 0414 525 525</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:deane.fencing@hotmail.com">deane.fencing@hotmail.com</a></p> <p>Specialises in Road, Bridge, Carpark Safety Barriers and Fencing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Guard rails</li><li>- Wire rope (flex fence) barriers</li><li>- Isolator concrete barrier</li><li>- Thriebem guardrail</li><li>- Work zone barriers</li><li>- Pedestrian barriers</li></ul>
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