

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

September 2012 CIRCULATION: 1,275

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 October 2012 issue the deadline is Sunday, 30 September, 7 pm. Instant Colour Press will then multiply 1 copy into more than 1200. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the weekend.

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 Assn	Peter Harrison, President	6238 3525	president@wamboincommunity.asn..au
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	Johanna Bradley, Convenor	0406 399 713	johannabradley@dodo.com.au
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	
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	
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	
Golf	Peter Greenwood, Golfer	6238 3358	p.greenwood2@bigpond.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare, Helpline	6299 1966	
Wonderful Women of Wmbn	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	whirlwind@argonite.com.au
Lake George VIEW Club	Lydia Zielinski, contact	6230 3488	
Wamboin Book Group	Alice Scott, Secretary	6238 3178	

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Alana Stenning	pet sitting	6238 3030	Jess Smith	pet sitting, house sitting	6238 3115
Fiona Skea	baby sitting	6238 3290	Ashleigh Caird	baby sitting	6238 0746
Rebecca Purdie	pet sitting	6238 3343	Gabrielle Simpkin	baby sitting/ pets itting	6238-1335
Mara Sutcliffe	pet sitting	6238 3228	Jack & Matilda Whitney	pet care, baby sitting, odd jobs	6238 3059
Jordan Brown	baby sitting	0414-907-921			

'COMMUNITY BUSHFIRE AWARENESS/ INFORMATION SESSION - Sat 15 September (11.30am - 2pm)

Targeting all new residents and others in the Fire Brigade's area - What you need to know and do. For further details - see Fire Brigade newsletter inside.'

Group A



The Country Labor team

- ✓ **Social Justice**
- ✓ **Fairness**
- ✓ **Equity**

These three items typify Country Labor's policies. If elected to the Palerang Council, we will strive for these and through them, the enablement the Palerang community to achieve to its potential.

Key Issues

1. The maintenance of the Out of School Hours facilities in Captains Flat and Braidwood
2. An Ambulance Station for Bungendore
3. Keeping the council depot operation in Braidwood
4. Fixing the bridge in Captains Flat
5. Maintaining service with growth

What we believe

Balancing growth with community

Palerang Shire has great opportunity to grow in size and prosperity. With this opportunity lies the responsibility to ensure that infrastructure, services and facilities grow and align with the needs of the community.

Consulting with the community

We will work to ensure that the Shire maintains its identity while growing and meet the needs of its citizens. By listening to and consulting with the community we will work with you towards current needs and future directions.

Council operations

The Council's operations should be focussed on ensuring that our community gets the best deal. We will work hard to ensure that Palerang grows into the future by ensuring that our rates are appropriately spent.



PALERANG'S FUTURE (Group B)

In the Group B position on the ballot paper is the team know as PALERANG'S FUTURE. "We represent all Palerang. We are not a political party or even political party inspired. We offer a centre, pragmatic and considered approach to Council and its business" said ticket lead Mark Schweikert.

"None of us is a politician. We're all ratepayers from across the shire like you. So a vote for us is a vote for you" said number three on the ticket retired Rear Admiral and now farmer David Holthouse.

Many in the shire believe that 'business as usual' at Palerang Council isn't working. The reason being is for too long Council has been a battle ground of ideology between left and right, town and country and, farmer and green. This is wrong. Rather, PALERANG'S FUTURE believe it should be a battle ground to find out what works for the shire. We will aim to keep Councillors on track and on Palerang.

"We're eager to work and the residents - who have had enough of the here and now crisis management approach of the current council - are eager for progress" said small businessman and number two on the ticket Mr Trevor Hicks.

Whilst roads, rubbish and rates are core Council business activities, we believe Council must go beyond this and have a clear vision for what Palerang should be now and in the future; for what should be preserved and what can be developed; for important amenities and infrastructure; business opportunities and tourism. And to better enable our residents to live the country/residential lifestyle they seek here in Palerang.

We support the development of localised regulations in principle, as local Councils know the local area best, but these need to be simple, unambiguous, well publicised and applied even-handedly. Having said that though, we wish to reduce the amount of red tape and regulation Council seems to be enforcing on the residents and local businesses. There is always a risk of becoming too prescriptive by trying to write exhaustive rules and regulations. Regrettably, this approach tends to support the Rule of Lawyers rather than the Rule of Law and does nothing for Palerang.

With voting for Independents comes a certain unfamiliarity with regard to their policies and code of conduct that doesn't come with political parties. In order to allow voters to get a better idea of PALERANG'S FUTURE the team has published a Nine Point Policy Plan. "It's important to know what you're getting with a Council group ticket and PALERANG'S FUTURE's policies provide that surety" said ticket lead Mark Schweikert.

The policies are:

1. Contest all Council rate increases through efficiency dividends.
2. Responsible new development with greater benefits for the Palerang community.
3. Innovative new road safety infrastructure and the progressive sealing of dirt roads.
4. Extension of existing urban roadside collection services to include green waste.
5. Provide support for constructive, sustainable tourism and heritage projects.
6. A better deal for Palerang from Civic, Sydney and Capital Hill.
7. Make residential development applications processes simpler and fairer.
8. Community consultation and awareness of Council business through web and smart phone apps.
9. Establishment of a Community Leader Emergency Management Network to care for Palerang residents during local disasters.

Detailed explanations of each of these policies, and candidate profiles, are available on our website

www.palerangsfuture.com

The PALERANG'S FUTURE team bring a positive mix of experience, ability and answers to the numerous problems plaguing Palerang Council. The team is made up of:

Mark Schweikert; a senior public servant dealing in multi-billion dollar projects; Trevor Hicks; a long time successful small businessman; David Holthouse; a retired Navy Rear Admiral and former head of Navy Engineering - a complex, difficult and safety critical effort - now a successful cattle farmer; James Falkiner; CEO of a global investment company and media commentator on local and world financial markets; William Rutledge; well-known local accountant whose family has been in the area for over 150 years, and Kerry Bos; a retired successful engineer and Burra identity.



Group C - Putting Palerang's Community First

Democracy

Where are the women?

Out of the 26 candidates standing for election to Palerang Council, only eight are women, and five of those are part of the Community First ticket. There are two women in winnable spots, and they are both – yes, you guessed it – on the Community First ticket, in first and third positions. Find out more about **candidates Belinda Hogarth-Boyd, Peter Marshall, Sandra Hand** and the rest of the team by visiting our website. **Community First – your best chance of ensuring there are women on Council.**

Community consultative committee meetings

These were revived through a Community First motion and it is important to make sure that they continue, so that community groups can meet with council on a regular basis to keep it in touch with local issues and concerns. There is a far greater likelihood of two-way communication in these forums.

Wards

Outgoing Community First councillors have supported the provision of comprehensive information about what Palerang would look like if it were to be divided into wards. Community First believes that full community consultation and information-sharing must happen before any referendum takes place. The framework already exists for good consultation with communities through Community Consultative Committee meetings and s355 committees, where councillors can work with communities outside their immediate local area and gain a greater understanding of those communities through that process. We believe that a healthier council is one where all councillors are informed about all issues and areas and are working together for the best outcomes for the the whole shire.

Amalgamation

The State Government appears to be moving towards council amalgamations, and this idea has been supported by one long-term councillor seeking re-election. Community First believes that Local Government needs to stay small so that it can properly represent its communities, and we remain opposed to any further amalgamation. Local Government is the closest and most accessible sphere of government to the people and it needs to be properly funded. We support constitutional recognition of Local Government because that is the only way to secure its continuation, along with a guaranteed, adequate share of the federal budget.

Sustainability

The PLEP

Palerang's draft LEP has been submitted for s.65 certification and may soon go out on public exhibition, depending on the response from the Department of Planning. Community First is deeply concerned about the State Government's proposals for planning in NSW, as outlined in its Green Paper, in particular its plan for replacing LEPs with a different sort of plan for Local Government Areas (LGAs). We believe that the draft is a good foundation for planning in our region. It could be improved, however, by the reintroduction of some of the environmental safeguards that have been lost, a reassessment of some of the permitted uses in certain zones, and the abolition of the averaging clauses until a rural study has been done. A Local Environmental Plan, or any plan for an LGA no matter what its name, needs to be local, and we do not support moves by the government to replace LEPs with some sort of generic, one-size fits all document.

Planning for sustainability

Perhaps even more concerning is the State Government's proposal to abolish environmental sustainability from planning in NSW, and its commitment to "a bigger NSW". Resources are finite and we need to factor this into planning. While we support appropriate development, Community First challenges the idea that economic growth must continue in order for communities to survive. The recent water study is a salutary reminder that our activities are having a big impact on water and soil systems.

The ACT's Report into the Ecological Carrying Capacity of the ACT and Region, relating to Public Planning Analysis says "It is critical to publicly model the amenity and environmental impacts that urban development and other natural resource uses will have on people and the rest of the environment. This research indicates that modelling is necessary to enable people to democratically consent to the choices that bring about or prevent the modelled scenarios."

Find out more

The Community First website contains photos and information about our candidates, the voting system, events, issues, and more. We are also on facebook. www.palerangcommunityfirst.org

We hope that you will support Group C and other progressive candidates on September 8.

Written by the Community First Team. Authorised by Belinda Hogarth-Boyd, 6 McCusker Drive, Bungendore NSW 2621

Community Voice

When I first came to Council, I had three main objectives. First, I felt that Council would itself be more effective if it adopted, in its own internal activities, the principles of courtesy and respect that should characterise a service delivery organisation.

Second, I felt that the only way Council could serve the community it represented was to commit to an ongoing process of community engagement.

And third, I felt that it was impossible to engage with the community without their trust, and to this end open and honest communication was essential.

A little over 12 months down the track, I have no reason to change my view with regard to the importance of driving a service culture from the top of an organisation. We're not there yet, but this is an ongoing process. We just need councillors who embrace this philosophy.

On the community engagement front, I think we've made some progress. The community consultation workshops run last year were very well received across the board. The trick will be to ensure that the information that was gathered really does drive Council policy into the future. We just need councillors who embrace this approach.

And where the transparency of governance is concerned, there's still a bit of a disconnect between the expectations of some councillors and those of the broader community. You, the voters, probably have ultimate control here. At the end of the day, we just need councillors who embrace the views of the broader community.

This, then, is a big part of the reason why I'm standing as part of a group rather than as an individual candidate, to bring you more candidates who share these aims. I am joined by fellow Wamboin resident Keith France, and Burra resident Greg George. Helen Montesin and John van der Straaten, also from Wamboin, complete the team.

We come from a range of backgrounds, mine in science and technology, Keith's in accounting, and Greg's in public policy development. Helen is a statistician and John breeds alpacas. The team that has come together under the Community Voice banner comprises residents with a history of service in our and neighbouring communities, and who are committed to driving a model of community representation and engagement in Council policy development.

The team's achievements include:

- Successfully fought exorbitant rate rises after amalgamation;
- Successfully appealed Valuer General's erroneous land valuations;
- Successfully opposed closure of Macs Reef Road tip site;
- Successfully opposed mandatory roadside waste collection services;
- Prepared and processed community survey in support of above, winning Council support for a new waste transfer station;
- Prepared and processed community surveys on waste management options to prove viability of community engagement model.

Vote Group D

1

For a Community Voice

Committed to:

- Community engagement
- A culture of service
- Transparent governance

Pete Harrison **Keith France** **Greg George** **Helen Montesin** **John van der Straaten**

For more information about the Palerang Community Voice team, please visit our website at www.palerangcommunityvoice.org.au

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IN A CHANGING WORLD IT'S NICE TO KNOW SOME THINGS ARE CONSTANT IN LIFE

RE-ELECT

IAN MARJASON

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Integrity Fairness Leadership Vision Trust www.richardgraham.com.au
more information

I feel positive about my contributions to Council this past term. I've been a strong advocate for responsible financial planning. So far, this has contributed to Council coming out unscathed from the Global Financial Crisis, unlike many other local governments. Council's deposits were kept safe, water, waste and sewerage infrastructure expanded, recreation facilities improved, money was saved for future infrastructure replacement, and communications with residents were modernised. All this was achieved **without raising rates above the CPI for four consecutive years.**

Perhaps the most visible work of Council was in preparing the new Palerang Local Environment Plan 2012. Councillors worked through the social, environmental and economic issues surrounding the drafting of the up-to-date LEP. I believe we did an outstanding job in finding the balance amongst widely differing community views about how the Shire should progress. After vigorous public discussions and debates, **the vast majority of LEP clauses were passed unanimously by all councillors.**

2012 References:

Peter Andrews OAM

Founder: Natural Sequence Farming

I have worked with many people with many agendas over the years. What I value in Richard is that he is a reliable and solid citizen. I believe he has the heart of a naturalist without all the politically motivated rhetoric that accompanies politicians trying to claim the green moral high-ground.

Richard's work in the development of Landtasia wetlands is very admirable. It is an example of his willingness to do more than talk about landscape values and put his own resources into making it happen.

He can take advice as well as he gives it. I think his kind of natural skill and intuition is valuable to have at all levels of government.

Edwina Fitzgerald

20 Year Bungendore Resident

I have known Richard Graham for about 14 years and am very pleased for this opportunity to write a reference for him.

During this time, I have known Richard as both a friend and a colleague and have been witness first hand to his generosity of spirit - be it to those closest to him or to the community as a whole.

I have admired Richard's commitment as a sitting Councillor, knowing the dedication and determination he has shown to doing what is in the best interests of the Shire. His concern for the Shire's future is genuine. I am confident that Richard's contribution will help it continue to thrive and prosper.

For our Council to prosper in an uncertain economy requires strong councillors with good enterprise skills, good judgment, and the backbone to maintain local services and a balanced budget. We need strategic thinkers to mediate residents' conflicting views. We need leadership that can empathise with all residents, not just those they agree with. And, we need Councillors to lead us beyond so-called visioning and talking, to positive actions and outcomes. **I'm such a councillor.**

In addition, I'd champion - through to Federal and State governments if necessary - the five goals below:

1. Improving Safety on the Kings Highway, Macs Reef and Bungendore Roads
2. Establishing an Ambulance Station at Bungendore
3. Completing Mac Reef Road Waste Transfer Station
4. Getting high-speed internet to all localities within 3 years; not after 3 years
5. Establishing Quality Aged Care Facilities in Palerang

Election time is when we have the opportunity to 'hire' with our votes, the people who can get the job done. In hiring councillors, we should value skill over ideologies; and achievement over political allegiances. By doing so, we can live better. **The power is in your vote.**

Antony Coote AM

Founder: The Mulloon Institute & Farmer

Richard Graham is a man I am proud to support as a councillor for Palerang Shire. He'll bring important skills to the governance of the Shire which are embedded in his long and successful experience as both Chairman and Chief Executive.

- Financial management,
- Engagement with residents,
- Service Delivery and Efficiency,
- Structure and Protocol, and
- Ability to relate to the challenges faced by the GM and senior staff.

He also has a strong interest in connecting the community with the environment that we are stewarding for our children and grandchildren.



Richard
Graham

Independent
for Palerang

VOTE

1

below-the-line

community: prosperity - ecology - connectivity - safety

TIME & ENERGY

Towards the future by Cr Paul Cockram

Renewable energy, including solar photo-voltaics, is the way of the future. Every day we delay moving away from finite fossil fuels makes our children's future needlessly more difficult and dangerous.

The Australian government has made a hash of the carbon (pollution) tax. It is a good idea to charge any manufacturer the cost of pollution in the production process. But trying to cushion the electoral fallout by returning to electricity users much of the revenue raised, to compensate them for higher power bills, is not leading to a long-term boost for the renewables industry. The message about why we need a carbon tax is being lost.

The NSW government is not even on the right page. In fact, it's reading from an ancient book borrowed from some coal company's library. Our energy future is being diddled between a federal government on a mandate hair thin and a state government with a mandate as thick as a brick with matching mindset.

"Green schemes cost squillions", scream the News (Limited) papers. "Over-investment in poles and wires is the real reason", says the SMH. But get into the business pages and the reason for the ever-increasing electricity price rises is there to be read. Record profits — it's a simple as that. Consumers are paying a premium while the coal-burning power stations are being fattened up for sale.

The tragedy is that solar power does not need subsidies any longer. It just needs a level playing field, a loan to buy and install the panels and a fair purchase agreement for the electricity generated. Most of all it needs an end to all the

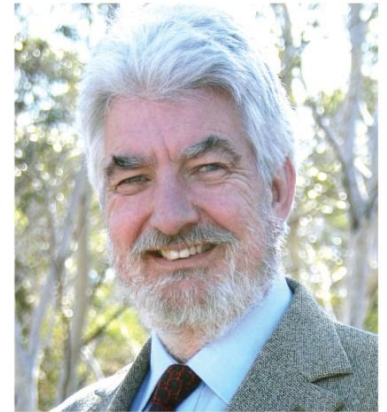
spurious reasons why harvesting the free energy radiating from the sun is not a brilliant idea.

Local government can help. We're the closest to the people and responsible for the provision of many day-to-day services. Electricity provision could be one of our services in the long term, but at the very least, one of the easy ways of better using ratepayers' money starting right now.

Councils use a lot of electricity for offices, depots and infrastructure like pumping stations. We can show the way by making as much of our own energy as possible and using the savings to preserve or upgrade our level of service. Eventually, councils could use their management expertise to help with the creation of community solar farms.

Country people are the poor neglected cousins in so many ways, being out-of-sight, out-of-mind for city-centric politicians of all shades. In terms of harvesting solar energy though, we are the rich ones, with the land and ability to make so much cheap power we could sell the excess to the city folk.

In the next term of Palerang council I want to see solar power installed everywhere it can be used. It's our future and it's what we make it.



Authorised by Paul Cockram, 64 Butawang Road, Mongarlowe NSW 2822 0417 459 775

Ian Peters

About Me. I have lived in the Palerang LGA for most of my life, with my family history in this region extending six generations. I work closely with local community groups like the Upper Deua Catchment Group, Araluen Progress Association and the Waste Management Pilot Program, and I am passionate about seeing my community work together.

My tertiary qualifications are in construction management, project management and horticulture. I am a member of the Australian Institute of Horticulture and a Certified Practising Project Director. I have a broad range of skills that will assist me to represent my neighbours and their interests. I have worked in municipal services and public works construction for most of my career, so I know what it takes to get the job done!



Why you should vote for me in the coming LGA elections. I decided to run for council because I care about the future direction of the Palerang LGA. I want to make the council, our governing body, accessible to us all with a focus on everyday issues that concern you and me. My aim is to improve accessibility, and I want to represent my neighbours & my community.

I want to take this opportunity to pass on my sympathy to the people of Captains Flat, who have been isolated for several months because the bridge into town had been deemed structurally unsound. Local's complaints about the school bus not being able to get into town were ignored until the council was shamed into doing something. This is another example of the crumbling infrastructure in the shire, and unfortunately, it's not limited to Captains Flat.

How is it that residents had no school bus, food or fuel delivered into to town due to neglected infrastructure, yet salaries of some council staff are approaching \$200,000 per year?

With \$45 Million in outstanding infrastructure spending required and staff salaries around \$10 million per year, I am struggling to see how we are getting value for money from the council. Developers get priority service from council, yet our families go to the back of the queue for the basics like a school bus for our kids. Neglected infrastructure ends up killing people.

If you elect me I will review all council infrastructure projects, salaries of staff and the value they bring to you.

The key issues that I see are:

- Previous councillors have failed us. Running their own agendas ahead of real community issues, and running the shire into the ground;
- Lack of communication from Councillors and staff. Through my community group roles, I have attempted to contact various councillors and their staff seeking information and advice to serious community issues, to no avail;
- Community associations are treated as a nuisance rather than a valuable part of solving issues that residents care about; &
- An absence of direction and planning by council, for now and into the future.

These appear to be common themes in many of the conversations I have had with residents across the Palerang LGA.

I am proud to be born and bred here; I know my community and our issues intimately.

I am committed and enthusiastic and not afraid to make your voice heard in our council.

It's time to take back our council for the residents and make a better future.

It is on again!

**Wamboin Community
Association's
Annual Bonfire and
Fireworks Display
By
*Fireworks Australia***



**Wamboin Community
Centre,
112 Bingley Way, Wamboin.**

Saturday 22nd September 2012

Food stalls from 5.30

Bonfire lit at 6.33 and

Fireworks light-up 7.03 precisely

**Support local community groups,
including Wamboin Community Association,
Church, Fire Brigade, Wonderful Women of
Wamboin, Scouts, Pony Club, Play Group,
Sutton School - with traditional Stalls of:**

Hot Dogs, Gluhwein, Soups, Chips,

Steak Sangers, Bacon & Egg

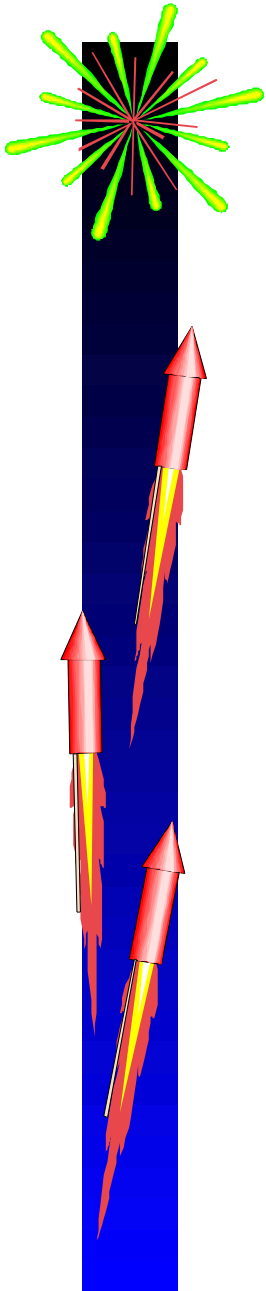
Sangers, Pies, Baked Spuds, Curry

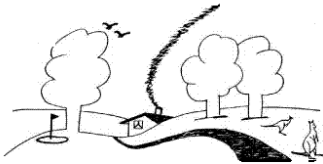
Platters, Glo Sticks, Soft Drinks, Tea,

Great Coffee and other Beverages.

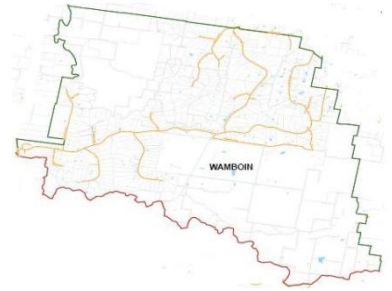
**Adults \$5, Children \$2 or
Family \$10**

**Please note: by law the only fireworks allowed will be
the display by 'FIREWORKS AUSTRALIA'.**





Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



Palerang Council Elections — You will note that this issue of The Whisper is a bumper election issue, with statements from all candidates contesting the election on Saturday 8 September. If you didn't get along to the Meet the Candidates evening, and maybe even if you did, this should help you cast a more informed vote. In place of my regular Councillor's Corner segment this month, we've also included a guide to the preferential voting system used in local government elections, with information on how best to make your vote count.

Wamboin Home Produce Markets — On the following Saturday, 15 September, the Produce Markets are back again after their winter hibernation. In lieu of their usual market day shopfront, the Fire Brigade will be holding a bush and grass fire awareness/preparation information session, in the Fire Shed, from 11.30 am. For details, refer to the notice elsewhere in this issue, or the WCA website.

Gala Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks Night — And if that wasn't enough, on Saturday 22 September, there'll be fun for all the family at our annual bonfire and fireworks night. Come along, enjoy the show, and support out local community groups. Check out the notice elsewhere in this issue, or once again, the WCA website for more details.

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.

- Pete Harrison (president@wamboincommunity.asn.au)



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12-06066/1



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.

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**Bywong
Community
News**

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

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



Vote!! Please, please play a part in your local community by turning out and voting at the Council elections on Saturday 8th September. This is one time when your community really needs your voice. Our valued local Councillor Anne Goonan will not be standing again so we need to look very carefully to decide which of the candidates best reflects the hopes we have for our locality and its future. You can vote at Wamboin, Sutton or Bungendore. Vote for as many of the large field of candidates as you wish, but make sure you vote for at least five – otherwise your vote can peter out without fulfilling its full value.

AGM The Community held its Annual General Meeting on 20 August. The meeting re-elected Darryl Bourke as President and Anne Goonan as Secretary. Clive Boughton is the new Vice-President and Jean-Pierre Favre the new Treasurer. Committee members are Bernie Greethead, Greg Gougeon, Pauline Chambers and a representative to be nominated by the Pony Club. Presuming that the regulators approve our proposed constitutional amendments, we shall have a bigger committee with room for more members. We proposed this enlargement of the committee to enable us to spread our workload (already slight!) amongst more people, so don't hesitate to put yourself forward – you won't be overburdened!

The meeting approved the new draft constitution for submission to the Department of Fair Trading . The main effects of changes to the old constitution are to make membership free and easier, and to increase the committee size. The only change from the text which has been exhibited on our website extended membership eligibility from Bywong residents to include also representatives of local organisations. The meeting also authorised the new Treasurer to proceed with the transfer of the Community's account to the local branch of the Bendigo Bank at Bungendore. The meeting also agreed to buy a projector for use with the new big screen, which is now permanently mounted in the Bywong Hall.

Presenting his report for the past year, President Daryl Burke reflected on the repeated success of the Car Boot Sale and its high community value in providing a great opportunity for locals to catch up with one another, as well as profit from the bargaining and recycling aspects of the event. He also outline the innovations introduced this year and the tireless work of the committee members. In Darryl's words, "Each year the bar is raised higher, and this year certainly saw a quantum leap!" Darryl also highlighted continual improvements in the annual Trivia Night (largely the work of Jean-Pierre) and the continuing need for the Community's "Clean Up Australia" effort, which now copes with additional rubbish obviously destined for the tip.

Darryl's report also recorded donations to the Fire Brigade, the SES, Bungendore Scouts and Bungendore Park Tennis Club, all of which provide benefits for our community, and outlined the activities of the Greenways Renewal Working Group (GROW).

Next Meeting The next meeting of the Association is at 7.30 pm on Monday 10 September in the Bywong Hall, Birriwa Road. All Bywong residents are welcome.

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Country Bumpkins Early Learning Centre is a new 30 place privately owned family business located at 18 Victoria Street, Sutton.

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How The Whisper Gets Delivered Each 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.

Thanks to each of 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
Julie Veal	Poppet Rd (for all on road)	32

284: 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

232: 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

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

Sheryl Barnes	Denley Dr (Sth End 1/2 way2 Kestral)	15
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)	33
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Ln	6
Kevin Beier	DenleyDr (Kestral2 1/2 way 2SthEnd)	19

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

TOTAL 1,275

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)	36
Penny Evans	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	24

Deb Gordon	Yalana East	44
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/Orana Dr/Yuranga Dr	35

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



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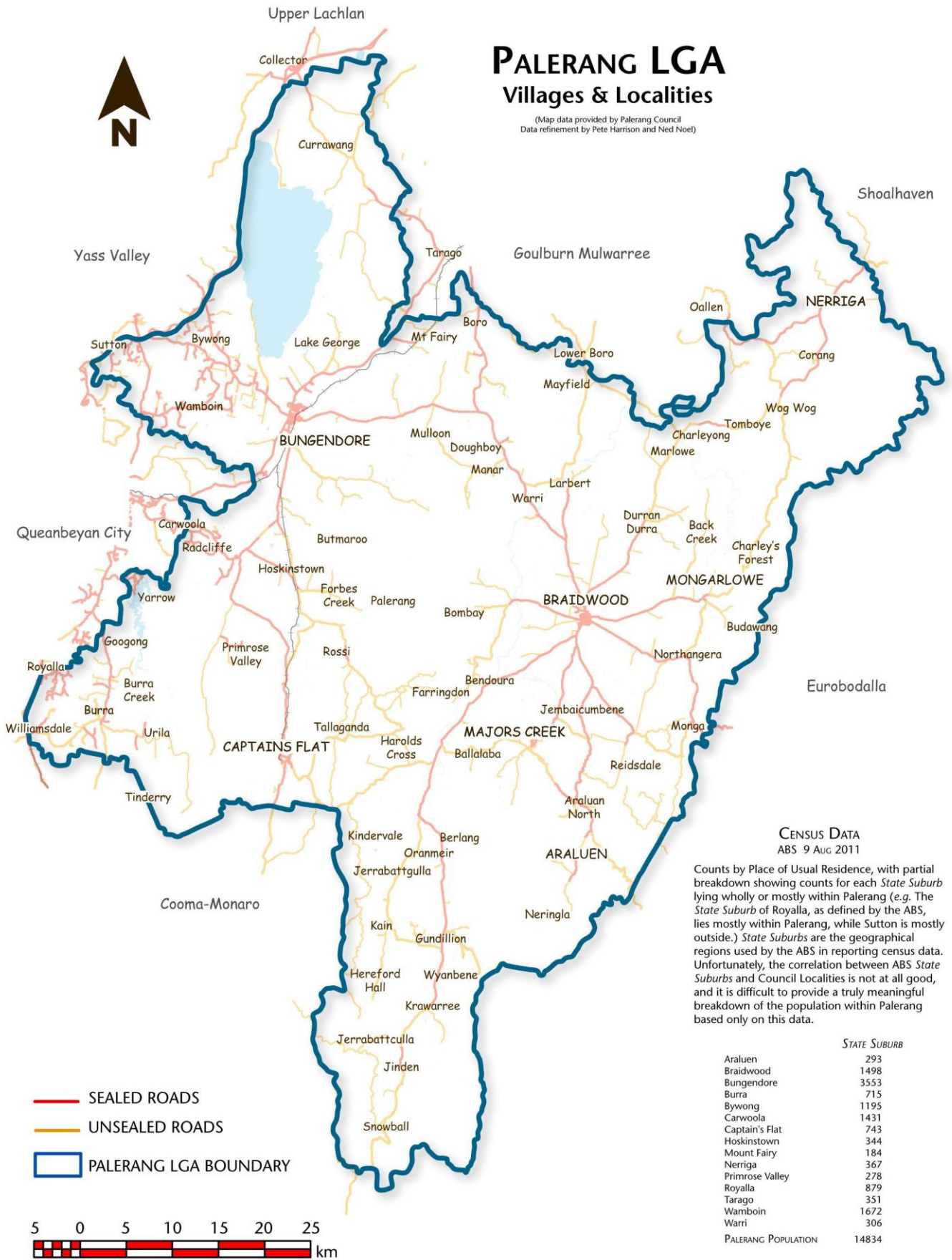
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- UNDER OFFER** - 66 Dolomite Drive, Mount Fairy
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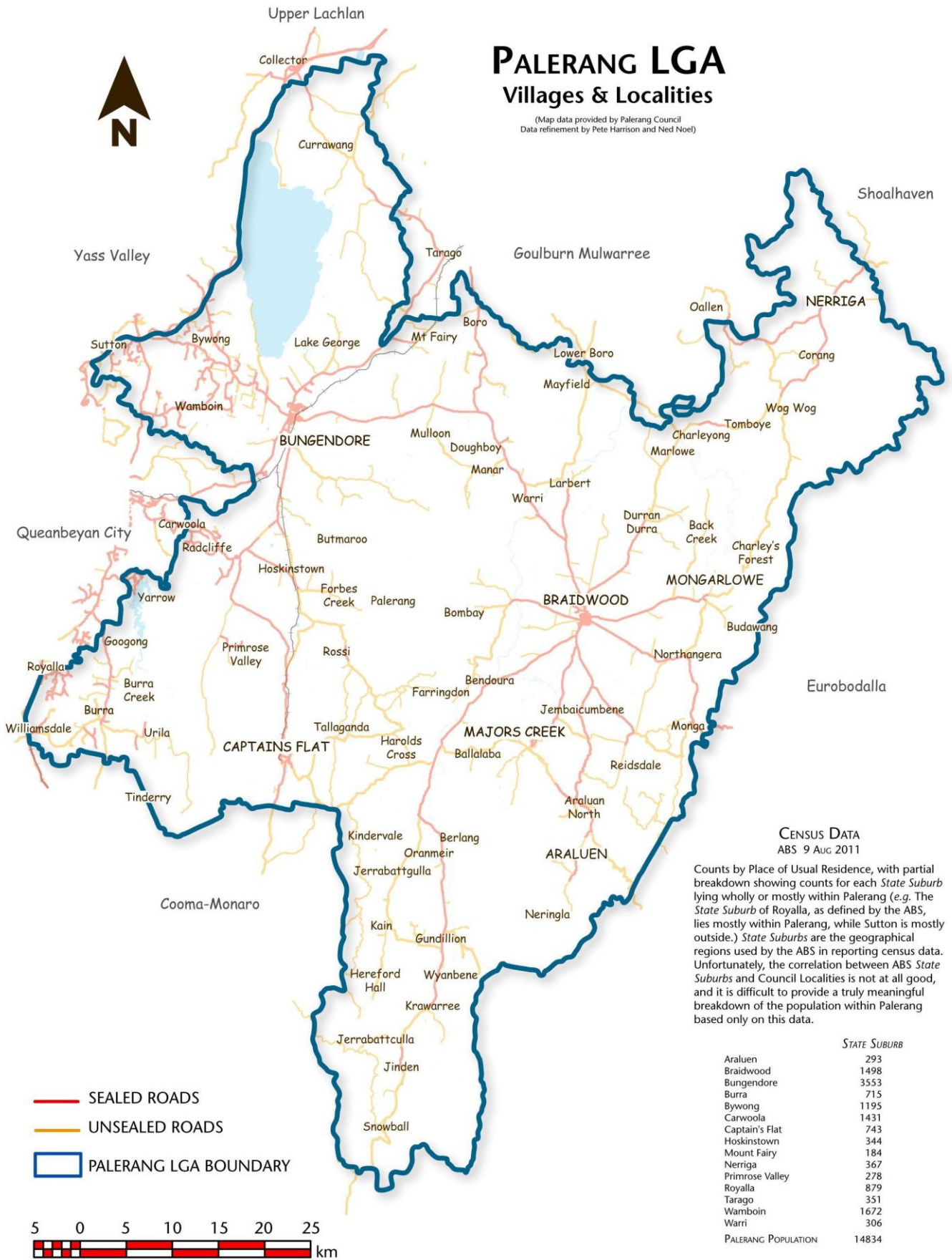
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The Whisper is a community newspaper for Wamboin and Bywong. If you live in the area and have something to say about living here that is informative, thoughtful or entertaining, think about writing it up for the next issue. For more information contact the editor on 6238-3484 or email nednoel@optusnet.com.au

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August rainfall to 26/8 ... 37mm
 2012 rainfall to 26/8 ... 587.5mm
 Average Sept. rainfall ... 63.1mm
 Wettest Sept ... 146mm in 1978
 Wettest Sept day ... 48mm on 19/9/85
 Coldest Sept day ... 5C on 4/9/82 & 28/9/09

(Aug 2011 ... 57mm)
 (2011 to 31/8 ... 406.25mm)
 (Sept 2011 ... 39.5mm)
 Driest Sept ... 6mm in 1994
 Hottest Sept day ... 24C on 18/9/81
 Coldest Sept night ... -2C on 4/9/00, 12 & 13/9/11




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soaps & lotions	fruit & vegetables
picture frames	clothing & footwear

Nature Notes August 2012

Jo Walker

After a few meteorological setbacks during the month, spring seems to be making a tentative start again – although snow can still be seen on some of the high peaks to the south. We had our own snowfall in the middle of the month, large flakes drifting down for over an hour until the landscape was transformed into a white wonderland.

A Superb Blue Wren was hopping about on the pavers below the verandah, obviously mystified by the snow. It tried to catch a couple of the smaller flakes, but, when a very large one fell on its head, the little bird sought refuge under the verandah. I was watching another of these little wrens a few days later as it tried to dig a worm out of the ground. There was evidently some resistance on the part of the worm, and the wren was pecking away furiously – even jumping into the air to pull the soil away. Then, while it was catching its breath for a few seconds, another wren took advantage of its efforts and dashed in to grab the tasty morsel and fly off with it.

The Magpies have just built a nest in the Bundy (*Eucalyptus goniocalyx*) across the creek, and Red Wattlebirds have been quite vociferous and aggressive recently so are probably nesting too. And, there has been an interesting avian event recorded in Poppet Road. A neighbour has informed me that a Powerful Owl has turned up at their place. They have been recording its call – a distinctive, long ‘woo-hoo’. These birds are most usually found in areas of tall wet forest, but sometimes occur in drier regions when tree hollows and adequate food are available. They feed on possums, gliders and other small mammals. There seem to be more rabbits than usual this year so this may have drawn the owls here.

The local vegetation is beginning to show a spring-like tinge. The grasses are beginning to green up, and some of the Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) are in full flower. The little, almost stemless yellow daisy flowers of Austral Bear’s Ear (*Cymbonotus lawsonianus*) are adding a bit of colour, and the white and maroon flowers of the Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*) are just opening up on the warmer hillsides.

August has had a sad side for me though. Kicka’Roo has just died. She was the first joey I reared and was found here on my place on a cold winter evening 22 years ago – a gangly little just-furred joey. She was always an adventurous little animal, before and after her release into the local mob, but was an exceptionally good mother who reared all of her joeys successfully. She had the best of two worlds – she lived a natural kangaroo life, but came in every day for some additions to her grassy diet. She had her last joey four years ago and recently spent a lot of her time lying on her padded mat on the verandah. She was known to a lot of Wamboin and Bywong residents, friends, work colleagues (she went to work with me while she was still being bottle-fed) and overseas visitors. To me, she was a very precious part of my life. But, she was 22 years old, a very advanced age for an Eastern Grey Kangaroo, and life has to end. She was well cared for right to the end of her life, but Kicka took her last breath early in the morning of 18th August and is buried under Wamboin earth where her ancestors roamed long before we came here.



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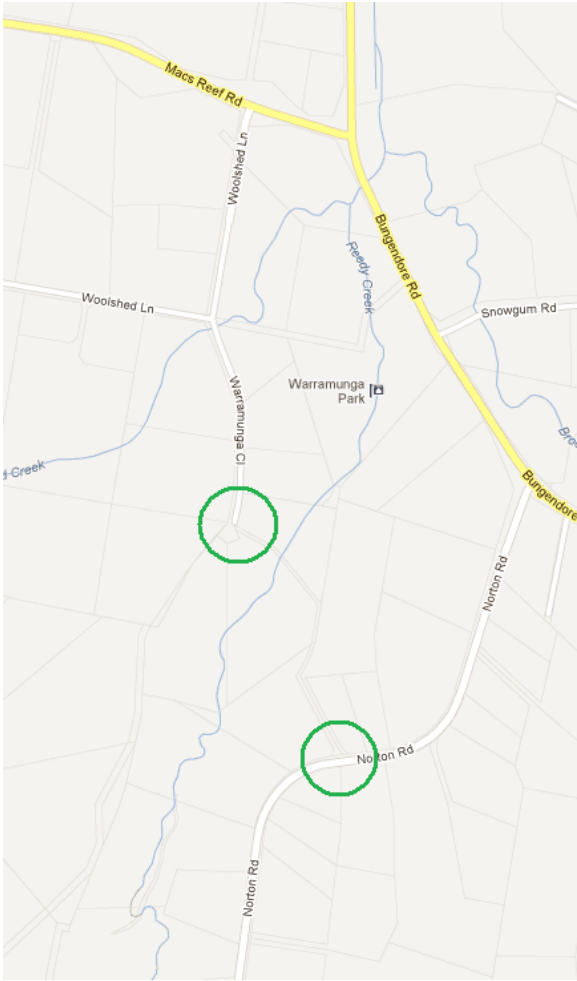
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Please call Matt on 0428 439 399 Fax 6282 0621

Greenway Opens

A group of 15 local residents walked the greenway between Warramunga Close and Norton Road on Saturday 25th August, led by Nora Stewart co-ordinator of GRoW (Greenways Renewal Working) group. To make the Greenway possible, about one acre of land was donated to the local community by Keith and Diana Gascoine as part of the development of their Warramunga property into Warramunga Park. Picture shows the Gascoines handing over the greenway to Nora Stewart on a cold and blustery afternoon. (The two circles on the map at left show the two ends of the new greenway - underlying map is from Google Maps.)



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Nursery Sales Closed Due to Rebuilding.



The Wamboin Firefighter

The Wamboin Firefighter newsletter is produced by the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade for the benefit of residents and property owners in the brigade's area i.e. the localities of Wamboin, Bywong, and Sutton (south of the Federal Highway).

TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS RING



DECLARATION OF THE BUSH FIRE DANGER PERIOD IS LESS THAN ONE MONTH AWAY.

As we struggle through the tail end of what in this neck of the woods has been a pretty cool few months, it's worth noting that, on Tuesday 21st August there were 47 wildfires burning in NSW. On the following day there were 58 wildfires burning. The RFS has already declared more Section 44 fires (Bushfire Emergency) than for the whole of last year and the Bushfire season is yet to start!

The Bureau of Metrology advised on the 22nd of August that the Pacific Ocean is near the threshold for El Niño conditions and no climate models suggest a return to La Niña. Indications are that we are facing a very active fire season and it's likely to impact the Lake George Zone as early as October.

The large number of fires at this time of year is of concern and analysis indicates that most of these fires were caused by people not following simple rules. On a number of occasions these fires involving private hazard reduction burns could not be contained to the originating property and caused damage and losses to adjoining properties. While the RFS encourages landowners to reduce hazards on their property, it is important to use commonsense. For example, no one should attempt a hazard reduction in strong winds, yet some landholders across the State have done exactly that. Remember, if there is a fire originating on your property you are responsible for it and any damage it may cause to other properties.

As the warmer weather approaches and we all start to enjoy the outdoors a little more, please:

- Do not use mowers or slashers on Total Fireban Days.
- Don't use mowers or slashers in the heat of the day, particularly afternoons after the grass has dried off.
- Be careful when using grinders or other equipment that can produce a spark.

The following has been extracted from the NSW Fire Regulation regarding use of motorized machinery.

NSW RURAL FIRES REGULATION – Motorized Machinery

NSW Rural Fires Regulation 2008 No 348 Part 4, Division 1, Clause 22

Other safety requirements:

- (1) A person must not, in connection with any agricultural, pastoral or other land use, drive or use in any grass, crop or stubble land any motorised machine unless:
 - (a) the machine is constructed so that any heated areas will not come into contact with combustible matter, and
 - (b) the machine is maintained in a good and serviceable condition so as to prevent the outbreak of fire.
Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.
- (2) A person must not, in connection with any agricultural, pastoral or other land use:
 - (a) drive or use in any grass, crop or stubble land a motorised machine on which it is practicable to carry prescribed fire safety equipment, or
 - (b) carry out welding operations or use explosives or an angle grinder or any other implement that is likely to generate sparks, unless the person carries on the machine, or has in the vicinity, prescribed fire safety equipment that is maintained in a serviceable condition.
Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.
- (3) In this clause:

“prescribed fire safety equipment” means:

 - (a) a knapsack spray pump of 16 litre minimum capacity filled with water, or
 - (b) a fire extinguisher (liquid type) of 9 litre minimum capacity, or
 - (c) a dry powder type extinguisher of 0.9 kg minimum capacity.

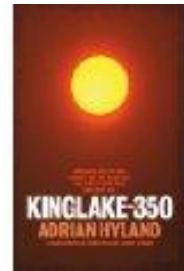
Further details can be found at: http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/num_reg/rfr20082008348229.pdf

RECOMMENDED READING

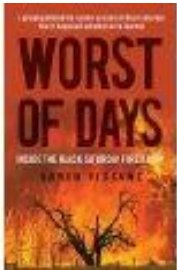
There are a number of books and other material written about the 2009 Victorian bushfires. Three books read by several members of the brigade are highlighted below. The books are thought provoking, well written and hard to put down. After reading them you may choose to review your fire plan.

Kinglake 350' by Adrian Hyland

Roger Wood is the policeman on duty at Kinglake when the most devastating fire in the nation's history roars through the ranges onto his beat. His task is to defend his town against the colossus that threatens to destroy it. This is a story from the perspective of an emergency service worker where resources are stretched to the limit or just not available as the roads are blocked and help simply cannot get through.



'Worst of Days' by Karen Kissane



From dawn, the bush was tinder dry, and hot winds grew and fed off the baked landscape, sucking out every last drop of moisture, whipping sparks from power lines and stirring up menace and danger.

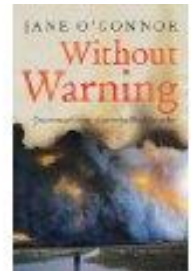
Worst of Days is the behind-the-scenes story of the people who were inside Black Saturday's most deadly firestorm, the Kilmore blaze. It is a powerful and gripping narrative of disaster and resilience, of men and women and children facing the ultimate stress.

This is the story of what we do at the very worst of times: from the man who braved the flames to help a mate, to another who refused even to cover the face of a dead man, 'No mate not my job.' It is the story of officials' bungles and best efforts, towns and their heroes, of survivors, saviours and lost souls.

'Without Warning' by Jane O'Connor

Jane O'Connor and husband Sean moved to Kinglake, 65 kilometres from Melbourne, sixteen years ago. On Saturday, 7th February 2009 – one of the hottest summer days on record – Jane and her family listened to reports of fires sweeping through Kilmore and Wandong, just 50 kilometres to their west. According to the reports, the fire was moving to the south, but as the clouds of smoke loomed closer, they realised that heading straight for them. By then it was too late to evacuate – they were trapped as the firestorm swept across the mountain, obliterating everything in its ferocious path.

Without Warning details the terrifying events of that day as Jane's family fought for their lives in the face of Australia's worst natural disaster. She tells how they survived the horror of Black Saturday and its grim aftermath. Now, in the wake of the fire and while still grappling with grief and destruction of their community, a larger task looms: how to survive the even longer journey of recovery and rebuilding.




These three books are available from amazon.com and are also available in Kindle format.


UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENT

In the lead up to the fire danger period the Brigade is running an awareness information session and workshop for all residents who wish to attend – see details below. If you haven't come along to a previous session or think you would benefit from a refresher, you owe it to yourself, your family and other people in your community to come to this event. (See next page.)

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COMMUNITY NOTICE

BUSH FIRE AWARENESS/ PREPARATION INFORMATION SESSION

Saturday 15th September

11:30am to 2pm

(Registration from 11.00am)

Wamboin Fire Station - 112 Bingley Way Wamboin

AIM: To help you get prepared for a bushfire

What we will cover:

- Where 'we' live, what it means, fire history, what you can expect.
- Bush Fire Survival Plan
- Property preparedness
- Personal preparedness
- Staying informed

Practical tips and tools – hands on



The session will be similar to those the brigade has run in prior seasons and include a not previously shown DVD that offers a guide to preparing for and surviving the bushfire season. In addition, there will be static and working displays of a range of portable pump, hose and nozzle setups and opportunities for you to view, start and operate a selection of fire fighting portable pump, hose and nozzle setups.

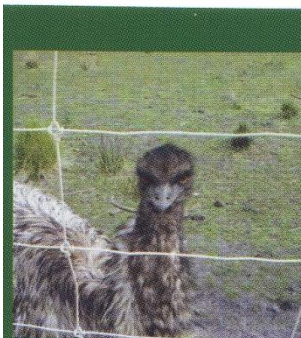
DOG LOVERS

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



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BRIGADE ACTIVITY

Callouts: The Brigade was responded to four incidents since our last newsletter each involving a motor vehicle accident. The first occurred on Sunday 29th July at just after 1.20pm when the brigade was called to an accident on the Federal Highway, Bywong, involving a vehicle that had veered to the median strip and overturned. Sutton Brigade Captain John Cooper also attended the accident.

The second callout was on Sunday 19th August when the Brigade pagers were activated at 5.14pm in response to an accident on Macs Reef Rd. Five crewmembers responded to the station however the circumstances were such that the crew was able to be stood down prior to any trucks leaving the station. The third callout was on Monday 20th August shortly before 8pm when the brigade was called to a single vehicle accident on Sutton Rd, Wamboin, where a car had collided with a tree. The fourth incident was on Thursday 23rd August at 3.42pm when the Brigade was called to another single vehicle accident on Sutton Rd that involved the same tree!

Training: The Brigade attempted two hazard reduction burns in Bywong during August. Unfortunately, wind and rain precluded both these planned burns from going ahead.

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>

As always, if at any time 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.



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Did I plant snow peas?

by Jenny Warren

The rain began to fall, as predicted, on Thursday morning, 17th August. Annoyed that my plans to repair the fence around the bottom vegetable garden were being interrupted by the weather (though pleased for some much needed water in the tanks!), at 10:30am I glanced out the window to check progress.

What was that? A small flash of something white and fluffy. And another. And another. Pete, it's snowing! We quickly changed into the cold-weather clothing we'd been waiting all winter to actually wear, grabbed our cameras and went out to play. The ratio of the precipitation falling as snow increased over the next 15 minutes until there was no rain - just very big and very beautiful snowflakes. As the wind dropped, the snow began to settle on the ground and soon we were walking on a soft white carpet. Of course I was worried about my peas, which have just germinated. I couldn't go past that free kick in the goal square - "look Pete, snow peas!"

Kangaroos wearing white blankets made their way towards the shelter of trees. Our favourite juvenile raven (who thinks it's a magpie) was trying to fly, but kept stopping in mid-air like birds do in cartoons, obviously wondering what was hitting it in the face. A female gang gang performed three low level passes, interested to see what we were doing, advising of her approach with her "creaking door" call, then sitting quietly on a branch allowing us to photograph her. Best of all, a striated pardalote followed us up to the letter box, watching as we scraped the snow off the top before retrieving our mail, then too posing for photos.

The snow lay on the ground until about noon, then the sun came out momentarily, the wind returned and the temperature was back up 5C by 1pm.

We were fortunate to be at home today to experience this beautiful event in Wamboin. I hope other folk also have some photos to share on the WCA website.

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WAMBOIN 15 YEARS AGO: From the Whisper, September 1997, Circulation: 600
by Robyn Robertson

Much activity this month. Page 7 of the Whisper contained news of:-

1. Scouting in Wamboin has started up again with the rebirth of the 1st Wamboin Scouts. George Baum was Scout leader for Bungendore for the previous 3 years and offered his experience and expertise in Scouting to the youth of Wamboin and surrounds.

2. Fernloff Road Revegation Project - by John van der Stratten

The Wamboin Community Association and the Geary's Gap - Wamboin Landcare Association will hold a working bee from 9am on Sunday morning, 12 October, along Fernloff Road. We will be planting trees and sowing seed along the verges to replace the trees and shrubs cut down last year.

3. St Andrew's Church: Wamboin residents will have noticed the beginning of building work at the church site on the corner of Norton and Poppet Roads. After almost 13 years in the Community Hall this is a new step in the development of the church. It is entirely due to the generosity of church members and we hope the Wamboin community will accept the gift and welcome this addition to community life and facilities.

To celebrate the commencement of building, the children will plant a Christmas tree on Sunday, 31 August.

The building of the church is very much a Wamboin project, with the work being done by Wamboin tradesmen.

Libby King, President of the WCA wrote, "The Church is another milestone in the growing maturity of Wamboin from empty grazing land to a real community."

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THE STABLE DOOR

by Ian Coillet

An occasional piece

Unfortunately I didn't get a 'heads up' in time for inclusion of this ditty last month but trust one of our local naturalists, female of course, to have so quickly spotted the 'new' marsupial warning sign in Norton Rd near the Sutton Rd intersection.

During August I popped on down to check out the 'new' sign out for myself. I was somewhat intrigued as the aforesaid naturalist had said in her email to Ned the Ed which, with her blessing, he had passed on to me 'I thought Ian Coillet would have noticed it.' I can only think she would say such a thing given my recent *Gondwana* series in the June and August editions of *The Stable Door*.

Anyway, now on scene....and I think I see what it is that has led to her highly excitable email.

I think it's the new reflective material on the sign. Regrettably the photo does not do the reflective qualities justice. Or wait, hang on, perhaps finally, due recognition is being given by – who is it these days – the Roads and Maritime Services (formerly RTA) - of the counterbalancing qualities of the bucks in Wamboin? As *The Whisper* is a community and family-focused newsletter and the reigning Editor commands such high standards of its contributors and penalties for verbosity, I really only have time and space left to present just some of the many other questions to have popped into my informant's and my mind:



- Is this an attempt at gender equality by the sign-makers?
- Is it the work of a wannabe local artist?
- Is a higher percentage of blokes involved in motor vehicle accidents than does (pronounced *dohs*)?
- Is this an official statement as to the genetic superiority of bucks in Wamboin?
- Could we sell the idea to Qantas as a marketing tool to warn the competition of its tenacity in a difficult market?
- Is this a statement by this great and iconic marsupial that global warming is real?
- Is it a message to a certain politician that 'real men' don't wear budgie-smugglers?
- Is the 15 km stretch along Norton Rd the 'Sunset Strip' for the genus *Macropus*?
- Does the biological classification 'macropod' have a wider meaning than just 'large foot'?
- What's the fine for defacing signage?

So many questions, and so few answers. Fodder for the next Bywong Community Association Trivia night?

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FIREWORKS WARNING

The Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Night coordinated by the Wamboin Community Association is planned for Saturday, the 22nd of September. This night is the major, and sometimes the only, fund raising activity by our Community groups. Last year, the 31st annual event, raised a total of almost \$4,000. The scheduled lighting of the Bonfire is 6.33pm and the Fireworks display will begin at 7.03pm. Our Fire Brigade will control parking safety and fire safety.

This warning is given because some animals may be upset by the noise of the Fireworks. All fireworks are discharged from the oval at the Wamboin Community Centre. The company providing the display, **Fireworks Australia**, have been requested to feature show rather than noise however there will undoubtedly be some bangs and fizzes. Details of the event are given elsewhere in this Whisper.

Fireworks may upset animals. Please ensure your animals are safe.

St Andrews and St Peters Church Notices

by Robyn Robertson

It's official. On October 1st, after three years of planning and deliberation, the congregations of St Peters, Sutton, and St Andrews, Wamboin, will merge and become known as the Sutton Road Mission District (SRMD), a community focussed small "a" Anglican church, "one church, two campuses". This will mark the end of a 102 year association with the parish of St John's Reid, a happy and fruitful association that has served us all well, but no longer reflects our changed demographics.

Preparations are in train for a special service at 10am on Sunday, 7th October, in the Sutton Community Hall, to mark this event, the Launch of the SRMD. Everyone is invited to the service to celebrate with us and stay on for food and refreshments. We trust this will be a great community occasion.

Kids Club, at 5.30 on a Friday night at St Andrews, is humming along, and parent involvement is greatly appreciated. With the weather warming and the days getting longer, more activities will overflow into the gardens. On 30th September, the fifth Sunday of the month, there will be a service at St Peters, Sutton, at the usual time of 9am. Regular services are held on the first and third Sundays at 9am at St Andrews, and at the same time at St Peters on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. A warm welcome is extended to everyone, and after the service please join us for lively conversation, good tea, coffee and delicious eats.

Contacts: Robyn Robertson (Warden, St Andrews) tel: 62383202 Yvonne Barrett (Warden, St Peters) tel: 62303539



Country Bumpkins Early Learning Centre

We are now taking enrolments from 2½yrs to 5yrs

We are very happy to announce that as of Monday September 3rd 2012, we will be lowering our age group to 2½ years to 5yrs of age. We will still continue to run a Preschool Program, which will cater to the following age groups – 2½ to 3½yrs & 3½ to 5yrs.

This is due to high demand of families on the Country Bumpkins waiting list, who are waiting for their children to turn 3. If you have a child who is already 2½yrs old & fully toilet trained, please feel free to contact me at our Centre via phone or email.

Centre director Belle on 62303280 or email countrybumpkins@countrybumpkinsnsw.com.au

Country Bumpkins Early Learning Centre is a new 30 place Preschool located at 18 Victoria Street, Sutton.

The Centre is opened from 7.30am till 6.00pm weekdays, and caters for children 2½ to 5 years.

We offer a preschool program that covers the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) where children can develop their intellectual, social, emotional, physical, aesthetic skills to become competent and confident individuals. We have a qualified Early Childhood Teacher.

Our Centre will offer a safe, secure environment where the children's happiness is paramount. Country Bumpkins provides morning tea & afternoon tea of fresh fruit & a late snack, with families providing their own child's lunchbox & drink bottles.

We have a large outdoor playground that the children will love exploring with a huge sandpit, grass areas & 2 cubby houses.

We have a team of qualified & trained educators, who will provide a preschool program that covers developmental & educational experiences for each child & will assist all children in preparing for the transition onto big school.

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WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS

Contact – Joan Mason, Ph. 62 383 258

**Wamboin Community Hall
112 Bingley Way.**

The markets start up again on the 15th of September. Hope to see you all once again supporting our community markets. Come along and see what you can buy and enjoy a warming coffee, something to eat and meet up with the locals and friends.

If you would like a stall, please contact me.

**15th SEPTEMBER, 2012.
(3rd Saturday – 9am – 12 noon.)**

WAMBOIN GOLF

by John Whitney

The August "Tradies Day" competition was played using the stableford scoring system with all competitors rugging up due to the cool and, at times, windy conditions. Our sponsors were those regular "tradies" Trent, Don and Hank - who always put on a great spread and hearty soup for these cooler days.

Approximately 15 regular golfers set out at 12:30 with todays visitor, but long time Wamboin resident, Scott Ward, taking on our challenging 18 hole course for the first time.

Winners: The 18 hole event was won by Neville Schroder with a massive 42 points, 2nd was Paul Griffin with 40, and third was our visitor (who now has the attention of the handicapper) Scott Ward with 39 points.

This months junior award went to Rachel Schroder with 19 points, the 9 hole event was taken out by Lofty mason with 22 points followed by Larry King on 16.

Nearest the pin and long drive winners were Scott Ward (3) Lofty Mason, Nev Schroder, Paul Griffin, John Whitney and Larry King.

Next months event is the Mason Spring Trophy ... Yes folks, it's that time again. Come and join us for this traditional event - 12:30 from the Community Hall in Bingley Way, Wamboin. All Welcome.



Pony Club

by Steve Quick



Roll up, Roll up local horse riders! Wamboin Pony Club wants' you! If you have access to your own horse and are aged from 5-25 come along and enjoy the company of other riders and experience what pony club has to offer. You will get the chance to improve and learn many horse riding skills in a safe environment. Rally days are a great social day out. Not only do you have fun with your horse, there is always a BBQ lunch for you and the family to enjoy. Our club has dedicated instructors who will not only help your riding improve but make riding enjoyable. Wamboin Pony club usually meet's on the 2nd Sunday each month on our grounds at

the end of Canning Close. We would love to have some more rider's join us so come along and see what our club has to offer.

For information about Wamboin Pony Club, upcoming rally days and contact details for our club see www.wamboin.pcansw.org.au We hope to see you soon !



Make Your Vote Count

by Pete Harrison

As the 2012 Council elections approach, it's a good time to review how votes are distributed under the proportional representation voting system that is used for Local Government elections. The following is by necessity a simplified overview. The interested reader should consult Schedule 5 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/fullhtml/inforce/subordleg+487+2005+sch.5+0+N?>).

If you're not really interested in the detail, the essence of the following analysis is a recommendation to:

1. **Make sure you place the number "1" against the name of the candidate, or Group if voting above-the-line, you would most like to see on Council, and allocate your preferences in a similar fashion. For around 85% of voters, the first two preferences are all that will count;**
2. **Allocate preferences to every candidate, or Group if voting above-the-line, that you would be happy to see on Council, not just the minimum number. For around 15% of voters, their twentieth preference (if there are that many candidates vying for the last seat) could make a difference.**

For those interested in a bit more detail, the first thing to bear in mind is that, while you will be asked to vote for at least five (5) candidates, your vote will ultimately rest with only one. The process by which that one candidate is determined is the complicated part of any preferential voting system where more than a single candidate is being elected.

The second thing is to note that nominating the minimum number of candidates—in the case of the Palerang LGA, with nine councillors, that will be five individual candidates if voting below-the-line, or one Group if voting above-the-line—may not be enough to make your vote count, even though it would otherwise be a perfectly valid and legal vote.

The proportional representation voting system used in Local Government elections includes the option to vote either above or below-the-line. Above-the-line voting is a simplified form of voting, which only requires the voter to place the number "1", or even just a tick, in a single (above-the-line) box to cast a valid vote. A valid below-the-line vote requires the voter to place a number against at least five individual candidates (in the case of the Palerang LGA).

Above-the-line voting in Local Government elections is often confused with the style of voting used in Federal Senate or State Legislative Council elections. There is, however, a significant difference. In a Senate election, for example, placing the number "1" in an above-the-line box allocates preferences through the whole ballot paper, as nominated by the Group or Party that receives the first vote. In a Local Government election, however, placing the number "1" in an above-the-line box only allocates preferences within that Group (in the order in which the relevant candidates are listed). There are no preferences 'automatically' allocated to any other Group. The only way to allocate preferences to more than one Group when voting above-the-line is for individual voters to place numbers in the above-the-line boxes for more than one Group. If there is no number in an above-the-line box for a group, there will be no preferences distributed to members of that Group.

The point here is that, in Local Government elections, the preferences that might be recommended by a Group on their How to Vote card are irrelevant in the final analysis—preferences can only be nominated by individual voters.

It is also important to note that, when voting above-the-line, no preferences can be directed to ungrouped candidates. The only way to direct a preference to an ungrouped candidate is to cast your entire vote below-the-line.

Returning to the process of actually counting the vote, a candidate will be elected if and when they accumulate a *quota* of votes, a *quota* being equal to the number of votes cast, divided by one more than the number of candidates to be elected, plus 1 (e.g. if there are 10000 formal votes cast, then a *quota* will be 1001 votes).

When the ballot papers are first counted, they are 'allocated' to the first preference candidate (i.e. the candidate with the number "1" against their name). Any candidate with a *quota* or more of votes as this point is declared elected. Any over-*quota* votes, known as *surplus* votes, are then distributed to the nominated second preference candidates.

In the previous two Palerang elections, eight of the nine candidates elected have been those with the highest vote after the first preference count, and any distribution of surplus votes. Put another way, the first eight candidates have been effectively elected based on the first two preferences identified on ballot papers. Therefore, **when casting your vote, you should take care to identify candidates in the order you would like to see them elected.**

In contrast, *all* preferences have had to be counted to decide the last successful candidate. This is an indication of how close the competition is for that last seat and the upshot is that it is important to nominate as many preferences as possible—i.e. **allocate a preference to every candidate that you would be happy to see on Council**, not just the first five. Your last preference could be the vote that counts.

At the 2008 Palerang Council election, 593 ballot papers exhausted before the vote was complete—i.e. 593 voters (8.1%) didn't offer enough preferences for their vote to count. The last five candidates, vying for the last seat, were separated by just 253 votes, and the last candidate was elected with just 559 votes, *34 votes fewer than the number of votes that exhausted.*

On September 8, make your vote count. Vote first for the candidate you would most like to see elected, and then allocate preferences to *all* the candidates you would be happy to see on Council.

Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

I've done it again! The other evening I had the temerity to admire the rusty red leaves of a succulent, spilling over a rocky garden border. It was a little piece of life in a nondescript space. But next morning it was gone; my little bit of winter colour shredded and strewn on the path, along with the contents of a pot of pretty pansies and primulas. Some people might see their Wamboin patch as a refuge for wild life. Mine is simply a clandestine amusement park, an adventure playground. The rabbits seem to think I plant native tube stocks just for them to practise their digging skills, the cockatoos assume that daffodils are positioned so they can have competitions for the title of fastest gun, and any brightly coloured flowers are purely for possum night vision stunts. The choughs rearrange the mulch, the rabbits landscape the garden beds and the kangaroos munch whatever is in their way as they sow the seeds of their preferred grasses. I wonder why I bother! I can sense a change in the air, so roll on spring and hopefully it will keep the new growth ahead of the pack.

It's been a long, fairly dry winter, not especially cold, but long with coughs and splutters after a summer that hardly happened. But there is moisture in the ground, the creek is still running and our tanks are close to full, so I was surprised to hear someone mention at a yoga class that the water trucks have been seen again on Norton Road. We were sitting on the floor, taking a break from twisting our middle aged bodies towards impossible poses, and watching the snow falling soft and silently between the old strap barked gum trees along the creek. It was an exquisite winter moment, shattered by the thought that people in our midst were already running out of water despite a succession of benign seasons. Unless you're running a commercial laundry or daily sluicing a piggery from limited rain water tanks, it seems incredible, to me, that anyone could use so much water. Have we forgotten the lessons learned in the recent drought years? Most of us managed to maintain a garden by quick showers and saving shower water in a bucket, diverting washing machine water onto a garden, flushing toilets judiciously, correcting leaking cisterns and limiting what went down the kitchen sink. It was often heavy work and time consuming, and I grumbled, but we had little choice. Low rainfall years will return, and may be with us sooner than we think.

And although I may feel occasional annoyance with the wildlife flagrantly enjoying my garden, my heart melts when I look from my kitchen window and see birds stacked in a leafless wintry tree; white cockatoos at the top, pink galahs next down, then crimson rosellas, while the sooty black choughs shuffle around on the ground below and a steely eyed currawong surveys the scene from a distance. From their far off perch, two kookaburras nearly fall out of their tree, laughing at the spectacle. A solitary bronze wing pigeon, oblivious to all, pecks in the dirt. My coir door mat is looking more frayed at the edges with each passing day, but I take comfort in knowing that it should make a cosy nest lining for the spring magpie chicks. The season is changing.

I wouldn't live anywhere else.....and I can assure you that even with two minute showers I am still nice to be around, especially in a garden scented with violets and honeysuckleand hauling buckets of water certainly saves a trip to the gym!

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