

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

November 2012 CIRCULATION: 1,277

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, Bywong and to Palerang Council residents east of the Federal Highway 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 December 2012/January 2013 issue the deadline is Sunday, 25 November, 7 pm. Instant Colour Press will then multiply 1 copy into more than 1200. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month.

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 sitting	6238-1335
Mara Sutcliffe	pet sitting	6238 3228	Jack & Matilda Whitney	child, pet & house sttg, odd jobs	6238 3059
Jordan Brown	baby sitting	0414-907-921			



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Involve children and grandchildren, and your own inner child.
Have fun and show what a spirited community we are.

Any mailbox in the local area can win!

1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be awarded

Deadline: Sunday 16 December 2012

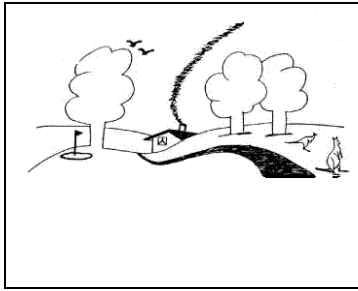
Monday, 17 December: The Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) will journey during the day through every street of our communities and photograph every decorated mailbox.

Thursday, 20 December: Winners will be notified by a visit from the Christmas elves bearing prize baskets of goodies prepared by the WWOWs.

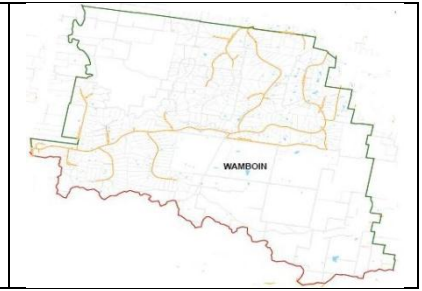
Photos will be displayed on the community websites for all to see.

Contact Gail on 0416 097 500 or
whirlwind@argonite.com.au





Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



Well, last month was supposed to be my presidential swan song, but since we are yet to formally elect a replacement (I am assured that you will have a new correspondent by the December Whisper), I'm back again for an encore!

Noxious Weed Control — With spring fully sprung, and vegetation bursting into flower, now is the best time to identify some of our more common noxious weeds like Serrated Tussock. Council's 'weed men' will be in attendance at the November Home Produce Markets (Saturday 17 November) to help residents identify the noxious weeds that are common in the Wamboin/Bywong area, and to provide advice on how you can help to control these weeds.

It is the responsibility of individual land holders to control noxious weeds on their properties in accordance with statutory requirements. Often, noxious weeds get out of control simply because land holders don't recognise them. This is a great opportunity for both new and long time residents to familiarise themselves with the different species they are likely to encounter.

Telstra Presentation — With all the discussion about the NBN in regional areas, and delays in installing the new mobile phone tower in Denley Drive, we thought it was about time to again invite someone from Telstra out to talk to us. Chris Taylor, Telstra Capital South East Region Area General Manager (got all that?), will come along to our November meeting (Tuesday 20 November—brief GM commencing at 7.30pm, followed by Telstra presentation) to talk about Telstra's plans for services in the Wamboin/Bywong area, including mobile phone coverage, improvements in the current broadband network, and NBN deployment in our area.

Telstra's presentations have, in the past, been very informative, if not always providing the answers some people would like. This is nonetheless a good opportunity to find out what is happening on the telecommunications front in our area, and to gain some understanding of the technologies involved.

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

Bywong Community News

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

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



Christmas Drinks. Please join us for Christmas drinks on Saturday 1 December. Our invitation is to anyone who lives in or near Bywong, or is interested in Bywong or local affairs in general. We hope this generalisation is wide enough to get you all in! There is no formal agenda – it is just a local get-together with opportunity to say hello to friends and acquaintances and air any grouches or good news we have about local events – from holes in the road and statements in Council to rare birds seen in the region and first bloomings of local orchids. Children are welcome but we don't have an enclosed dedicated area.



We provide wine or beer: bring some nibbles if you wish. The event is at the Bywong Hall in Birriwa Road. Come at 6 o'clock or any time up till 8 o'clock.

More Hall Progress. In addition to the major improvements to Bywong Hall which we announced last month, including equipment for facilitating Power Point presentations, we have now added in some additional power points (lower case) to make life easier for those running functions. One of our new Councillors, Keith France, will be taking over the chairmanship of the Hall Committee.

Local money. In line with advice from some economic pundits during the US presidential campaign to make America less reliant on Chinese money and keep the treasure (and debts) nearer home, we have moved the Community's bank account to the Bendigo Bank at Bungendore. Apart from being more convenient (and nearer home!) this community bank has already become known in local circles for its assistance to local activities.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Community is at 7.30 pm on Monday 12 November in the Bywong Hall, Birriwa Road. All are welcome.

Fencing Problems?	For all your RURAL, COMMERCIAL OR DOMESTIC FENCING needs...	Call: NIC CLANCY 0409 866 970 or 4845 8235	Preferred supplier for Environment ACT, Landcare & Greening Australia contacts for grants.
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Wamboin Golf

By John Whitney

This month's event was sponsored by Libby and Larry King. The golfing fraternity know them as L & L King, but they should not be confused with L and L King. Thank you Libby for all the work in the kitchen and the wonderful spread at the end of the day. Larry, your score may get a mention later in this article.

Along with beautiful weather we had a good turnout of local golfers with newcomer Helen Locke participating in our 9 hole competition - welcome Helen. Although not sanctioned, the two hole competition saw Lisa and Trish hit a few balls close to the 19th hole before settling into the Ladies Lounge and enjoying festivities at day's end.

Winners and Grinners: Our Junior winners this month were Alex Gordon, closely followed by his sister Madison. Ball winners were Paul Griffin x4, Len Ivey x3, Joan Mason and John Whitney.

The 9 hole competition was won by Peter Greenwood on 32 (records suggest this may be his first win), second Ken Gordon on 36 and Joan Mason third with 37. Larry King's 35, as sponsor, proved fruitless. The 18 hole comp was taken out by Len Ivey with a spectacular 66 closely followed by his playing partner Paul Griffin on 67 and John Whitney taking third prize with 72.

Next month's event is the Wamboin Open - a chance for all budding golfers to get their name on the clubhouse honour board. Check in with the

starter at 12:15 for a 12:30 start from our Community Hall in Bingley Way.

Picture: Sponsors Libby & Larry King with Junior winners Madison and Alex.



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WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS

Contact – Joan Mason, Ph. 62 383 258

Wamboin Community Hall 112 Bingley Way.

Lots of stalls, lots of goods to buy at the October Markets, but not many people. Put it down to the Murrumbateman Field Days! Hopefully more will attend the markets now that the weather is warmer and with Christmas not far off, there is a lovely variety of things to buy for Christmas gifts, maybe you will find a gift or two there! A new stallholder arrived on the day last month selling Bread & Rolls, also cakes and slices. I mentioned to him that the bread would be very popular, so hopefully he will return for our November market, of which he seemed keen to do. Fingers crossed!

To name a few of the goods you can buy at our markets but, may vary from month to month are- Cakes, (Alison is taking orders for Homemade Christmas Puddings) Biscuits, Sausage rolls, Lollies, Nuts, Dried fruits, Jams, Preserves, Eggs, Flowers, Produce (when available) Local Honey/products, Jewellery, Knitted items, Soaps, Cards, Books, Plants, Wooden bowls & other wooden items, Worm Juice.

Egg and bacon rolls, together with delicious scones with jam & cream, & hot coffee all available to enjoy.

Come along to our next markets – 17th NOVEMBER, 2012- 9AM-12 NOON



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Land for Wildlife invites members and others to a Landcare and Wildlife presentation at the Bywong Community Hall (67 Birriwa Rd) on Friday 23 November 6.30 for 7.00 p.m.. Find out about LfW; seeds, seedlings and plantings; plus wildlife and rescue tips. Expressions of interest to Philip Machin 6238 3717 machin@bigpond.com.

Low line entertainment unit. The unit is Golden Oak in colour and is of low rectangular style with measurements of 1500x500x600. It is divided into 3 sections with sections having glass doors with middle section open. There are 6 feet which are silver in colour. \$100 negotiable. **Bathroom Vanity and Mirror.** Solid timber top that needs re varnishing. The basin is royal doulton. The cabinet has water damage to the drawers as 2 drawers do not close properly it has 3 drawers and a cupboard. The mirror is outlined with a rose pattern. It is 1000x700. There is small amount of damage to the bottom rose section. Tap set is not included. Although there is some work required both the vanity and mirror will come up beautifully for someone with the skill and time to do the repairs. \$100 negotiable. Please phone 62383355 .

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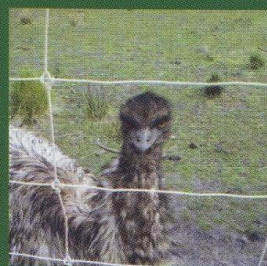
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The Launch...October 7th

By Jill Gregory

The lovely old rustic community hall at Sutton has witnessed many occasions over its long life and has many stories to tell, and now it can add a new tale to its repertoire.

On the crisp sunny morning of October 7th, the historic hall was converted into a chapel, filled with flowers and people celebrating the launch of the SRMD (Sutton Road Mission District), the merger of the Anglican churches of St Peters, Sutton, and St Andrews, Wamboin, and marking the separation after many, many years from the ACT church of St John's, Reid. Amongst the happy throng were well wishers from the local communities, former members, parishioners from St John's, and clergy and lay ministers who have led services in both churches for many years. Despite the broad smiles, however, there was a tinge of sadness. For 104 years, St John's has nurtured the Christian community within the vicinity of Sutton Road, and the strong links and friendships forged



will hopefully endure as the SRMD moves into a new era.

Archdeacon Caroline Campbell and Dr David McCarthy led the celebration, with Bishop Trevor Edwards preaching the sermon. Local identity Bill Owen played the organ, and after the service, to the accompaniment of the popping of champagne corks, all were treated to a delightful musical interlude by Amy Shellard.



Moving from under the umbrella of St John's has been a long and at times uncertain path, but the congregation, "one church, two campuses", is looking to the future with renewed vigour and enthusiasm in an organisation more in tune with the rural communities. It was announced at the end of the

service that the Revd. Dr Peter Grundy has been appointed to be the locum priest. Peter has been involved with both congregations for many years and news of his appointment was warmly received. There are plans in the pipeline for some interesting / exciting events. Watch this space!

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Councillor's Corner

Property Identification Codes — While this is not exactly (at the moment) a Council issue, it is related, and will be of interest to anyone who carries stock (even just a few chooks, a horse, pet lamb or goat) on their property. For some time it has been a requirement in NSW for owners of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs to have a Property Identification Code (PIC) when trading or moving these livestock.

From 1 September 2012, anyone who keeps livestock in NSW will be required to obtain a PIC for the land on which the livestock are kept. Clause 37 of the Stock Diseases Regulation 2009 requires all livestock owners/managers, and occupiers of land which carries cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, buffalo, deer, camelids, equines (i.e. horses and donkeys) or poultry to have a Property Identification Code regardless of whether the livestock are moved or not.

About PICs: A PIC is a unique eight character identifier assigned by Livestock Health and Pest Authorities to properties that carry livestock. The PIC system allows for the tracing of livestock for disease and chemical residue purposes.

A PIC is derived as follows:

- The first character is the letter 'N', for New South Wales;
- The second character is a check digit that allows computers to automatically confirm that the PIC is valid and has been correctly entered;
- The next two numeric characters identify the Livestock Health and Pest district;
- The final four numeric characters are your individual property number.

This code also enables the property occupiers to purchase identification devices, identify the property for movement recording and enrol in industry quality assurance programs.

Obtaining a PIC. For more information, or to obtain a PIC, visit the LHPA website at <http://www.lhpa.org.au/identifying-and-tracing-livestock/property-identification-codes>.

The Palerang Blog—New entries in my councillor website Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) since my last update: Unwanted Noise

Property Identification Codes

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

Cr Pete Harrison, Ph. 6238 3525, Email: Pete.Harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au, Website: www.peteharrison.id.au

Wamboin 15 years ago; From the Whisper of November 1997, Circulation: 600

As it was one of those routine months, with everything ticking along according to plan - apart from the delay in achievement of the new street numbering system - this little report has been revisited. The family name has been omitted this time, and it wasn't such a little event for them!

"A First for Wamboin": On 23 December 1982, the first true Wamboinian arrived - the rest of us being FIRST CONVOY or latter day immigrants. He decided to arrive during working hours (which of course is not the norm) while his Father was at work. He also managed to time his arrival when practically the whole of Wamboin was absent on various duties elsewhere. Fortunately his mother was not left totally without assistance - her 4 year old son was with her. Frantic telephone calls resulted in a National Institution having to close its doors as Father was dispatched with all haste, and various Ambulance services had urgent committee meetings to decide who was responsible. Father arrived home first and with the wide-eyed guidance of his son, a natural birth was accomplished. A police escorted ambulance arrived in due course to find Mother and new son well, big brother in awe and Dad....? "Shucks, nothing to it."

How many others have been born in Wamboin in the 30 years since this? It would be interesting to know.

The original report of this momentous event was in the Whisper of February 1983 - the Whisper then appeared only when there was enough news to make it worthwhile.

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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, plus Bywong and Sutton (south of the Federal Highway).

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(1st October – 31st March)

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FIRE PERMITS

With few exceptions, during the declared Bushfire Danger Period a fire permit is required for any fire in the open. For further advice and to seek a Fire Permit, contact the local Fire Control Centre (Lake George Zone FCC in Queanbeyan) on (02) 6297 1840 during weekday business hours. To contact the Wamboin brigade directly, email captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au or phone 0409 991 340.

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

Since last month's newsletter, the weather has been variable which is fairly much on par with this time of the year as the seasons transition through spring toward summer. Waking up on Friday morning October 12 to a good dusting of snow was certainly one out of the box. On the other hand, the weather conditions have led to the Fire Danger Rating going to High and Very High. Why? It's an indication of the concern that the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSWRFS) has with the heavy fuel (chiefly grass) load and the difficulty of dealing with wildfire in the anticipated strong, gusty winds we subsequently experienced. As we move toward the warmer months, communities to our north are already witnessing the outbreak of a worrying number of serious and significant wildfires initially in Queensland and northern and western NSW and then around Sydney. The Bureau of Meteorology's latest seasonal outlook (Nov – Jan) is suggesting a trend away from El Nino to a more typical summer. But the warmer weather in the months ahead can be expected to bring its challenges. Ours is a bush fire prone area; we each need to take heed and make appropriate preparations.

BUSHFIRE SAFETY

It is your responsibility to prepare yourself, your family and your home for the threat of bush fire. You need to make a Bush Fire Survival Plan and prepare your property to give yourself, your family and your home the best chance of survival. It's also important to bear in mind that the higher the fire danger rating, the more dangerous the conditions are expected to be. Fires may threaten without warning so you need to know what you will do to survive.

Your Bush Fire Survival Plan will help you take action and avoid making last minute decisions that could prove devastating during a bushfire. If you've taken the time and effort to prepare and practise your bushfire survival plan, well and good, all you need to do is ensure its currency. If you have yet to prepare your Bushfire Survival Plan, we encourage you to do so now. Last month's newsletter contained further information that you may find helpful. If you don't have a hardcopy of the October edition of The Whisper, it can be accessed electronically via the Wamboin Community Association website - details appear at the front of The Whisper. In addition, a Bush Fire Survival Plan template prepared by the NSWRFS is available for you to use and can be downloaded from its website at <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au> As always, if you need further guidance in preparing your plan and your property, we are happy to assist – just email the brigade at communitysafety@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au with a short note and your contact details.

KEEPING YOURSELF INFORMED

Last month we highlighted several of the ways you can keep yourself informed during periods of increased fire danger eg taking notice of the Fire Danger Rating for the region for the upcoming day; looking and listening for information on television, radio, mobile phones, internet, speaking with neighbours, friends etc.

Adding to last month's article, the NSW RFS is on the Net in a range of ways these days, so if you have a mobile device such as an iPhone, iPad, Android, tablet or smart phone, information is available via:

Fires Near Me NSW – Mobile App that provides fire information on bush fire incidents in NSW.

Fires Near Me – Mobile App that provides information from participating Australian and NZ fire agencies.

Firesnearme.com – Mobile Site.

The NSW RFS also has a number of social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube).

Further information on each of the above can be found on the Web with a search based on 'NSW RFS on the Net' or via the link http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/dsp_content.cfm?cat_id=131251

BUSH FIRE ALERTS

Alert Levels are used to get messages to the community when there is a fire, using a wide range of mediums such as the web, radio and television. They are contingent on the understanding that bush fires can start and spread so quickly that there may be no time for any warning at all. That's why everyone needs to have a Bush Fire Survival Plan and be prepared to put it into action quickly.

During a bush fire, Alert levels provide an indication of the level of threat from a fire. You'll find these on the NSW RFS website and on radio and television. There are three levels of Bush Fire Alerts:

Advice

A fire has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.

Watch and Act

There is heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.

Emergency Warning

An Emergency Warning is the highest level of Bush Fire Alert. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

For some fires, you may hear a warning message over the radio or television, such as a siren, or you may receive a text message or phone call. Other fires may start so quickly that there will be no time for any warning at all.

Bush Fire Alerts are not always given in the above order. If you receive a Bush Fire Alert, take it seriously and act promptly.

BRIGADE ACTIVITY

Callouts

The brigade was responded to two emergency incidents during the period (Thurs 11th Oct and Sunday 28th Oct) both of which were motor vehicle accidents. On each occasion the crews and vehicles despatched were turned around en route to the incident after having been advised there was no fire risk involved.

Training

Activity during October focused on the issues associated with fighting fire on a fire line; the criticality in understanding and observing fire behaviour and, in particular, appreciating the potential for rapid development of a line of fire when a wind change turns a flank fire into a head fire. In such cases, firefighters may have little time and space to find a safe refuge in the burnt area behind a suppressed portion of line, or an exit elsewhere before the fire overwhelms them.

Donation from the Wamboin Community Association

The Brigade would like to thank the Wamboin Community Association for the generous donation of \$1,700 in October made possible by virtue of the very successful and strongly supported Annual Bonfire and Fireworks night in September. The community association is a long-time supporter of the brigade. The donation will be applied toward the purchase of equipment to assist with fire-fighting operations.



(L to R) Senior Deputy Captain Richard Hobbs, WCA Treasurer Keith France presenting donation to Brigade President Ian Coillet, and Brigade Secretary John Taubman

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat 17 th November	Brigade Information ‘Shopfront’ adjacent to the Wamboin Home Produce Market (9am-12noon).
Tues 4 th December	Fire Brigade Community Christmas Party at the Fire Station from 5.30pm. Santa arrives at 6pm.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Brigade Information ‘Shop Front’ – Sat 17th Nov

The theme this month will be *‘Keeping Yourself Informed / Knowing When and How to Act’*.

The Wamboin Fire Station and ‘Shop Front’ are open each Wamboin Home Produce Market day (3rd Saturday in the month) from 9am – 12noon. The next market day is Saturday 17th November. You’ll find us in front of the Fire Station happy to answer all your questions.

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 directly email captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au or phone 0409 991 340.

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.



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Friday - Sunday Lunch

Takeaway: Thursday & Friday evenings

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



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Wamboin Pony Club Wants You!

Thanks Wamboin Community Association for organising the fantastic fireworks night last month. Thanks' go also to all the Wamboin families who attended the night and supported the community groups and especially the Wamboin Pony Club stall. The funds we raised have gone towards improving our Pony Club grounds in Canning Close. We have a number of arena's and our latest project is to resurface the main riding arena with sand. We would also like to thank the local businesses that supported our recent raffle prizes – Lambert's Vineyard and Ridgiedidge Apiary plus Steve Hughes from The Feed Shed in Bungendore for his ongoing support.



Latest news is that at the recent State Mounted Games event in Bungendore our club team the "Wamboin Warriors" won the under 17 age group. Other riders from our club were also successful in their teams. This month's club activity is something different – a trail ride in Kowen Forest. So 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 Wamboin Pony Club has to offer. You get the chance to improve and learn many horse riding skills in a safe environment. Rally days are a great social you have fun with your horse, there is always a BBQ lunch for you and the family has dedicated instructors who will not only help your riding improve but make Wamboin Pony club usually meet's once or twice on a Sunday each month on our Canning Close. We would love to have some more riders' join us so come along club has to offer. For information about Wamboin Pony Club and upcoming rally details for our club go to www.wamboin.pcansw.org.au



day out. Not only do to enjoy. Our club riding enjoyable. grounds at the end of and see what our days plus contact

We hope to see you soon. - **Steve Quick**



We are a brand new 30 place preschool located in Sutton NSW, that caters to children aged 2.5yrs to 5 yrs. We are looking for an experienced, motivated & enthusiastic person who has their Certificate III in Children Services.

The successful applicant will be used as a Certified Supervisor & will also be required to hold a current first aid certificate.

This position is for 30hrs per week, at award wages

Ideal Applicant:

Certificate III with min of 3yrs experience or studying a Diploma in childcare

Good communication skills

First Aid Certificate

Holds a current Asthma & Anaphylaxis certificate or will be happy to obtain one

Successful applicants will be required to undergo & pass a working with children check.

If this sounds like you, then we would love to hear from you!

Please forward a cover note, resume & 2 referees to our centre director at:

countrybumpkins@countrybumpkinsnsw.com.au

Country Bumpkins
(02) 62303280

How The Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

Over a decade ago, when she was still living in her parents, Rachel Gascoyne volunteered to deliver Whispers to the Snowgum area. When she left home her parents, Keith and Diana, just took over the job. The Horgosi family has volunteered to take over. Thanks very much to both families.

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	Bill Owen	Cooper Rd	26
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	33	Stuart Whitten	Canning Cl	17
Julie Veal	Poppet Rd (for all on road)	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	40

286: CO-ORDINATED BY KATHY HANDEL: ph 6238 3596

Joan Mason	Bingley Way	48	Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Dr	17
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	31
Diana Griffin	Majors Cl	18	David Anderson	Weeroona Dr (Majors to Denley)	36
Ned Noel	Pal Cncl (14), Advertisers/ Misc (45)	59	Penny Evans	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	26
Kathy Handel	Yalana West	19			

232: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489

Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	44
Colleen Foster	B'dore Rd to Nrtm Rd	22	Rob Gorham	South end Clare Valley	38
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	60
Dominica Lorima	North end Clare Valley	42	Bungendore Foodworks	Bungendore	10

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

Sheryl Barnes	Denley Dr (Sth End 1/2 way2 Kestral)	15	Brian Higgison	Denley Dr (Birchmans to Kestral inc)	12
Don Malcolmson	Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat)	7	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef Rd (Newington to Bankers)	7
Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr	28	Morag & Guy Cotsell	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott	30
Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Sandra Favre	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott	20
Carol & Clive Boughton	Macs Reef Rd (Bankers to Fed Hwy)	33	Joan Milnor	Birriwa Rd plus Macs Rf Rd to Harriott	30
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Ln	6	Tony Bond	Hogan Dr/Orana Dr/Yuranga Dr	35
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	Jenny Bryce	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Robert&Marzena Luton	Sutton Park Estate	48	Penny & Russell Ball	Macs Reef (Denley Dr to Bungdre Rd)	18

202: CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON ph 6236 9333

Phil & Pam Dawes	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln	25	David Featherston	Summerhill and Creekborough Rds	25
Kevin Anderson	B'dore Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill)	35	Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Rd	26
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (Fed Hwy to Summerhill)	25	Chris Fowler	Shinglehouse & Millyn Rds	20
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	21	Richard Holding	Wyoming & Doust Rds	25

TOTAL 1,277

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 **'SHUT THE STABLE DOOR!'**
by Ian Collet

An occasional piece

Ironic – shortly after the declaration of the Bush Fire Danger period we get such a cold snap; nevertheless, perhaps it best to view the event many of us woke up to on Friday 12th October as more an exclamation mark to end the long, cool season. Better to not get lulled into complacency given the potential for danger that comes with the warmer months ahead. The snow was very pretty though.



Trainee Wanted

We are looking for a Trainee for our 30 place Preschool in Sutton.
If you have recently completed school &/or are looking for a career in childcare
Than look no further.

We are offering a Traineeship in Certificate III in Children's Services
Starting in January 2013

This position is for 38hrs per week, at award wages
Uniform & study time will be provided

Must be willing to obtain a current First Aid Certificate & Asthma & Anaphylaxis certificate
Successful applicants will be required to undergo & pass a working with children check.

If this sounds like you, then we would love to hear from you!

Please forward your resume to our centre director at:

countrybumpkins@countrybumpkinsnsw.com.au

Country Bumpkins
(02) 62303280



SES/RFS Family Fun Day

By Jenny Riley

Sunday 23 September saw a Family Fun Day for the Bungendore SES and RFS where all the kids could get together and have fun in the shed, with adult supervision of course. They had a great deal of fun in the sandbag area mostly playing, with no sandbags being filled. But the greatest fun was with the fire hoses being aimed at the "targets". Paddy Platypus came to visit from SES Regional Headquarters and also stayed for a well earned barbecue lunch organised by the RFS Community Education Officer. A great time was had by all with a lot of tired kids going home.



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Telstra Information Evening Tuesday Night, November 20, 8:00 pm

In a response to a letter from the WCA to the Telstra CEO, we have been informed that the installation of the mobile telephone tower proposed for Denley Drive has stalled through lack of funds.

Consequently, the WCA has invited the Telstra Countrywide Area General Manager, Chris Taylor, to attend the November General Meeting to address Wamboin and Bywong communities on Telstra's proposals for mobile telephone coverage of the two areas and for the future delivery of telecommunications services to our rural residential areas, eg NBN deployment, "Top Hat" improvements for Bywong's ADSL service, and the Telstra Mobile Smart Antenna. A Question Time will follow – and possibly further discussion over refreshments!

The WCA General Meeting is scheduled for 7.30pm and Chris Taylor's presentation for approximately 8pm. All Bywong residents are invited. -- John van der Straaten, WCA Secretary

WAMBOIN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Friday, December 21 2012 @ 7pm

At Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way

Everyone is invited to come along and:



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



Listen to a special performance by the Playgroup children



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



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



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



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



Soothe your tired vocal chords with a cold drink



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UNDER OFFER - 1478 Bungendore Road, Bywong - \$850,000

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SOLD - 2 Hyland Drive, Bungendore - \$615,000

SOLD - 3 Lithgow Place, Bungendore - \$640,000

SOLD - 20 Birch Drive, Bungendore - \$610,000

SOLD - 130 Sugarloaf Ridge Road, Carwoola - \$544,000

SOLD - 8 Eyre Street, Bungendore - \$618,000

SOLD - 419 Back Creek Road, Gundaroo - \$910,000

SOLD - 111 Weeroona Drive, Wamboin - \$870,000

SOLD - 2 Larmer Street, Bungendore - \$537,500

SOLD - 15 Pony Place, Carwoola - \$930,000

SOLD - 34 Osborne Street, Bungendore - \$502,000

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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: \$135 per dog for 6 weeks. Class limit: 6 people

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The Henge at Sutton **based on information provided by Robbie and Tracey Wallace** **Written Down Here by Ned Noel**

Macs Reef Road has been here for a long time and many animals and people have lived along its hilly and stony sides. Hopefully enough of them not to mind some new company or some reminders of even older human constructions from other earthly places.

Robbie and Tracey Wallace know a lot about rocks, stones and making roads, so a road cutting through stony hills seems a good place for them to live and run their earth moving business with many powerful ways to move very heavy things.

Some constructions in the past took decades or even centuries to build. Robbie and Tracey and their equipment worked for four weekends in June 2012 to make "the henge" that lies on top of the last hill Macs Road passes on its north side before ending at another mammoth construction project, the Federal Highway. The world's famous Stonehenge was built around 5000 years ago and would have taken longer. Robbie has read that it was preceded by wooden versions, discovered by archaeologists in more recent times.

Robbie encountered the stones at a site he was working on a bit past Hall, but across the border, in NSW. He recognised their similarity to the Stonehenge boulders in England. Tracey and he both thought they could turn this idea into something more real. They did it because they both have a fascination for the older "henge".



Robbie used his earthmoving trucks to bring the stones to Bywong in a series of trips. The stones weigh from 12 or 13 tons down to 120 kilos. They are not as tall as the more massive ones at Stonehenge, but many of them are around 2 meters tall. They are carefully arranged in a circle 20 meters in diameter, laid out with thought to Stonehenge's 33 meter ring, but without an effort to replicate its horizontal stones across the tops of the vertical ones. They concreted each stone into the ground under the eyes of a certifying engineer to make the henge safe for humans.

They like to enjoy their "Henge" at sunset, and have been able to take some stunning photos both at this time and also on beautiful foggy mornings. They hope to find ways that neighbours and people from farther away can enjoy being on a grassy tall hill with a circle of solid standing stones. Robbie and Tracey have applied to Palerang Council for a DA that will enable them to host neighbours and sightseers. The Council has already said they will

need to provide a disabled toilet and a regular toilet, fencing and a car park. They hope to place these a good bit away from the hill's top, because they would like to keep the solitary ambience of the stones and the grass and the hilltop as simple as they are now.

They are thinking about possible ways to make the stone circle available. Maybe open it on Saturdays or Sundays and buy a coffee van so as to offer something to people who come to the site by car, by motorbike, by bicycle or on foot. Maybe offer it for weddings. Maybe find local wineries willing to host a tasting and sales session on the hilltop. Maybe Macs Reef Road neighbours could come for a picnic. Maybe even a bonfire at the winter solstice.

None of these ideas are firm yet and the DA is still under consideration by the Council. If you are interested in learning more or seeing the place or have a suggestion, email them at or find them at

<http://www.facebook.com/thehenge.sutton> You can also see the henge on Google Maps satellite view.



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LONG RUNNING CLASSIFIEDS

<p>CLEARING SALE - 111 WEEROONA DRIVE WAMBOIN, 13-14 OCTOBER from 8am-4pm. Many items including ride on lawn mower, fire hose, fencing materials, horse gear, some furniture. Full inventory available. Call 62383074 (ah) or email judith111@bigpond.com to obtain copy of inventory.</p>
<p>Brora Farm ACT and Region Equine Assisted Learning - Helping people engage with life! Holiday weekend and school programs designed for ALL young people to improve their skills in- leadership, confidence, schoolwork, sports performance, friendship, awareness etc. EAL is also a wonderful introduction to horsemanship and horse riding. Ph- 62381980 / 0428575617 email-- sam.goesch@westnet.com.au</p>
<p>Qualified Saddle Fitter at your service. 0428 575 617 / 62381980 sam.goesch@westnet.com.au Independantly owned business. Saddle fit advice, evaluation and knowledge to help you achieve the best fit for you and your horse. Very reasonable rates - Not connected to a saddlery store I can help with : purchasing / refitting / flocking adjustment / changing gullets shimming and pad advice / saddle suitability / balance</p>
<p>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</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>CELEBRANT – Weddings, Civil Patnerships, Namings, Vow Renewals, etc -- Lorraine 62303321</p>
<p>PHOTOSHOP TUTOR and PHOTO RETOUCHING. One-on-one tutoring in Adobe Photoshop CS or Photoshop Elements. Or if you need help improving your digital images, scanning old photos, or any other digital photography tasks, contact Christine on 0412-766-682.</p>
<p>Mobile Natural Horse Care and Gardening - Not enough hrs in the day / week? Away on weekends or holidays? Need someone to feed, rug, groom, clean up and care for your horse/s? General gardening, weed, mow, mulch and tidy. Other pets included and mail collected. Unable to ask neighbours / friends again? Call Cheryl - on 62369373 or 0402201491</p>
<p>FIREWOOD. Mixed hardwood. You load 6 X 4 box trailer \$100. 6 X 4 box trailer delivered \$130. Larger loads delivered by arrangement. Saturdays and Sundays only. Ph 6238-3164.</p>
<p>Convert those precious memories from VHS or VHSC Video to DVD, Records and Cassette Tapes to CD, right here in Wamboin. Act now before they are lost forever. Fast turnaround. Only \$12 per Video and from \$12 per Record or Cassette. Phone Vicky or Tony Holland on Mobile 0447-626-857 Home 02 6236-6201.</p>
<p>CHOOKS WANTED – Any age & roosters. Phone Frank on 6297-3523 to arrange collection.</p>
<p>Beekeeping Services, Beeswax & Local Award Winning Honey. Prompt removal of swarm bees and hives that are no longer wanted. We can also remove feral hives depending on location. Fee charged depending on distance travelled and the type of job required. Pure bees wax candles, beeswax blocks and award winning local honey for sale; available bottled or in bulk. Phone or see us each month at the markets! Call John or Tricia - Ridgiedidge Apiary 6238 3791. www.ridgiedidge.net.au</p>
<p>Large Holiday house situated in Tuross, 180 degree Ocean views, opposite shops, 2 minute walk to beach, large block for parking, available now. Discounts apply for Wamboin/Bywong residents. Please phone Cherrie 0418 621 462 for details.</p>
<p>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</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>FOR HIRE: BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL. Suitable for smaller functions and seminars, groups etc. Check availability and booking information on www.bywongcommunity.org.au.</p>
<p>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</p>

News from WWOW The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

WWOW meet informally once a week over tea and coffee enjoying each other's company and exchanging ideas in a friendly relaxed atmosphere.

About once a month we invite guests to inform, enlighten or simply take us on a walk down memory lane. Local Bernadette Walsh, daughter of WWOW Maureen Walsh took us to another level. Proud mum Maureen had recommended for some time that her daughter could give us a talk. Her brief to Bernadette was 'just talk about your life'. I don't think I have ever experienced such a sound and action show quite like Bernadette's presentation. A superb raconteur, she would have to be the ultimate dinner guest. But there was no spinning in her yarns. Her life experiences left us gasping. Bernadette's resume includes registered nurse, anthropologist, lawyer, Army officer, PhD student and magistrate living and working in Britain, East Timor, Afghanistan and Australia. Totally fascinating, she even gave us the answer to the perennial question regarding the chicken and the egg.



We continue to make drainage bags for post-surgery breast cancer sufferers. Award-winning quilter Margaret Ferrett showed us her recently completed Baltimore quilt, an exquisite hand-appliquéd, traditionally turned piece.

We also had a lot of fun meeting the annual challenge. This year our task was to make something costing less than \$10 by buying from an op shop or recycling found objects from home. The idea was to transform it into something wonderful. It was interesting to see how we rose to the challenge, while having a lot of fun in our creativity.

All women are welcome at WWOW — Mondays, 10 AM to 12 NOON at St Andrew's Anglican Church on the corner of Poppet Road and Norton Road in Wamboin.

For more information contact Gail Ritchie Knight 0416 097 500 whirlwind@argonite.com.au.

Pictures: (1) Jackie Nagel displaying her challenge project (2) Maureen Walsh celebrating her birthday with Gail Ritchie Knight and Sylvia Beddow.





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Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin – 37 Year Statistics from the Robertsons	
October 2012 rainfall to 28/10 ... 59 mm	Oct 2011 ... 34 mm
2012 rainfall to 28/10 ... 706.5 mm	2011 rainfall to 31/10 ... 470 mm
Average November Rainfall ... 80.3 mm	November 2011 ... 145.75 mm
Wettest Nov ... 175.5 mm in 2010	Wettest Nov Day ... 77 mm on 19/11/86
Driest Nov 0.0 mm in 1982	Hottest Nov Day ... 39C x 3 times
Coldest Nov Day 10C on 16/11/78	Coldest Nov Night ... 0C on 1/11/98
Coldest Nov Night.....0C on 1/11/98	

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Fondue in Bywong

Earlier this year a dozen residents of the area decided to form a gastronomy club for the purpose of enjoying a variety of food from all over the world and socialising. The format and idea of the club goes roughly like this:

Every 2 months a couple of the members cook and serve a meal for all the others (singles are welcome too and they can team to form a 'meal couple'). We meet every on a Friday evening at the recently refurbished Bywong community hall. The hall has an ample supply of crockery, cutlery and is fitted with a huge brand new gas/electric stove. In the cold winter months, the overhead gas heaters keep the atmosphere and conversation warm.



So far this year, we had 3 superb meals starting with a Coq au vin prepared by the Favres. Two months later we had a Lebanese feast consisting of a variety of Middle Eastern vegetarian and meat dishes prepared by Anne Goonan and recently Peter and Elli Zimmermann presented a magnificent Swiss fondue made with the real thing - imported Gruyere cheese. The meals have all been preceded by a succulent entrée - 'Pate en Croute', 'Assiette des Grisons' and a variety of dishes comprising Lebanese Mezza.

Deserts have been: 'Pears in red wine', 'Vermicelli of chestnut with cream and chocolate on a meringue base' (like Monte bianco) and a version of Lebanese Knafeh which was a white cheese slice accompanied by aromatic syrup. We believe that in the next few months, we will be treated to a

Scottish evening, an Indian affair, a kind of Italian pasta party and even an Ottoman treat. There would be nothing wrong with serving a leg of lamb with mash potatoes and veggies but nobody has volunteered to do that yet.

Following the suggestion of our celebrated 'Grand Fromage', chef Peter Zimmermann for the fondue party, we set 4 tables with a max of 4 people per table. Twice during the evening, after the entree and after the main meal, people swapped seats in a mathematical way (which seemed logical at the time but we are yet to figure out) and which allowed each member to spend at least one course with the different members of the dinner crowd.

The great advantages of such a club is that (a) You can hear each other talk across the table, a rare thing in most restaurants these days. (b) We taste food from all over the world. (c) We socialise and catch up with the gossip and.... (d) this comes from yours truly, the only TA member of the club, ...the yearly cycle cost is only \$25 for 2 people for the hire of the hall and their cost in cooking a meal. For that you get to eat at least 6 fabulous meals.

We think that such clubs have to be limited to between 12 and 16 people. Over that number it becomes too big a task. Our existing club is closed for membership but should readers be interested in setting up one and in need of advice you can always email me at jfavre@gmail.com. If there were a few such clubs around, it would make good use of our hall and its facilities and we could even look at swapping members around after a yearly cycle in a mathematical way which we have yet to figure out but which would allow a greater variety of meals to be had by all.

There is a need for a mathematician to join such a club as well as a whole bunch of epicureans.

- Bon Appetit. - Jean-Pierre Favre

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Crab apples, viburnums, diosmas and wisteria ...pompoms of scented pink and white and dripping mauve.... Native mint bushes sprayed with purple, and splodges of orange poppies amongst green and gold leaves; columbines, irises and foxgloves and the white noise of bees. I was away for a week and returned to a very different garden, one that had been transformed, brimming with life and colour. Even the bush wildflowers seem more vibrant this year.

I've lost count of the number of times I've travelled the breadth of Australia since I abandoned the place of my birth without a second thought, and called the east coast home. But this trip was unlike all others. It was the final full stop at the end of a story; a story that had spanned most of the twentieth century, an ordinary story of a life that mirrored the lives of so many throughout that era. I took part in my mother's funeral and we celebrated her life.

My mother was born during the First World War, orphaned before her tenth birthday and yoked to an unloving step mother during adolescence and throughout the tough depression years. She was a new mother during the dark days of World War Two and went on to have a wonderful, fulfilled life. This visit was an experience rich with memories. I revisited the grand country home of my father's childhood and was amazed that despite the still glorious view, it had shrunk with time to almost mean proportions. And as I shivered in a biting evening wind I pictured life in those days... unreliable tank water, wood fires for heating and cooking, no washing machines or easy iron clothes, no fridge or freezer or convenience foods...somehow the romance evaporated. They no doubt felt they had a good life, a fine roof over their heads, a loving family, food on the table and a bountiful garden, but by our standards life was tough, mundane and at times pretty raw. But my nana escaped to her flower garden whenever she could, and in the end it is family, friends, and a purpose that matter most in life.

I've come home with a suitcase full of bits and pieces that I don't need, but I'm not yet ready to part with them because, useless though they are in my present life, they are nevertheless redolent with memories. And memories are a precious part of who we are.

My spring garden is tugging at my sleeve. It's time to lose myself amongst the weeds and flowers again, get my hands dirty and let my mind wander as I commit those images to memory....and remember other things long past.

I wouldn't live anywhere else....and I'm glad I'm living through these times..... especially in Wamboin!

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