

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

February 2013 CIRCULATION: 1,274

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 southeast 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 February 2013 issue the deadline is Sunday, 27 February, 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	Jenny Richards, Vice-President	6238 1329	vicepresident@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Bywong Community	Darryl Bourke, President		president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade	David Cochrane, Captain	0409 991 340	
Palerang Councillor	Pete Harrison	0427 711 028	cr.pete.harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au
Palerang Councillor	Keith France	0427 365 715	cr.keith.france@palerang.nsw.gov.au
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 Wmen 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	Genevieve Phipps	Babysitting, pet care or farmstay	6238 1660



Properties Recently Under Offer/Sold by Sutton Real Estate

UNDER OFFER - 53 McCusker Drive, Bungendore - \$599,000

UNDER OFFER - 13 Day Circuit, Bungendore - \$559,000

UNDER OFFER - 1059 Collector Road, Gunning - \$799,000

UNDER OFFER - 54 Molonglo Street, Bungendore - \$499,000

UNDER OFFER - 20 Deniston Circuit, Bungendore - \$215,000

UNDER OFFER - Lot 51 Hadlow Drive, Bywong - \$130,000

UNDER OFFER - 80 Jamaleopa Road, Via Bungendore - \$389,000

UNDER OFFER - 18 Sorrell Close, Bungendore - \$595,000

SOLD - 66 Dolomite Drive, Via Bungendore - \$250,000

SOLD - 64 Morning Street, Gundaroo - \$565,000

SOLD - Bungendore Road, Bywong - \$495,000

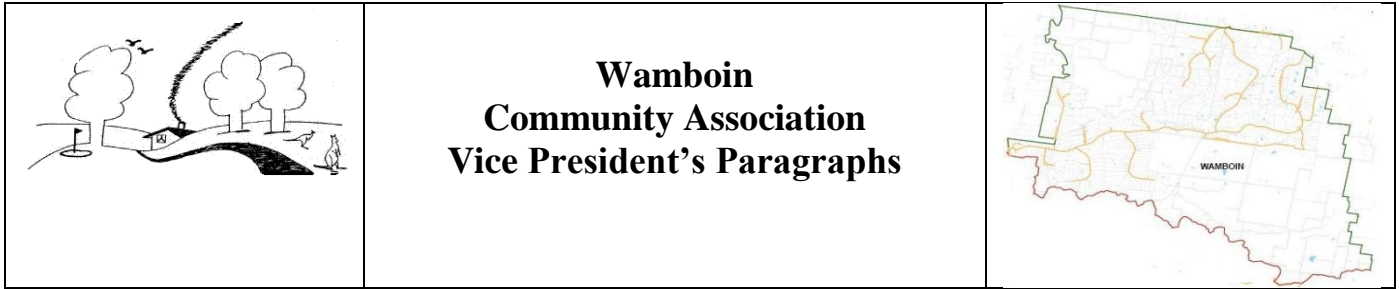
SOLD - 1478 Bungendore Road, Bywong - \$810,000

SOLD - 81 Majara Street, Bungendore - \$580,000

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

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

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



Welcome back to a new year and its been a busy start to the year.

With the sometimes extreme weather conditions the possibility of bushfire is, and remains, very real to all of us living in Wamboin, Bywong and surrounds. We have already experienced our first Catastrophic warning since the new systems were implemented and I know it caused a level of anxiety, unease or uncertainty with many people. It certainly did with my own family. Which leads me to thank all our local members in the Wamboin fire brigade, both active and support crews. The level of commitment shown by them during the recent spate of fires in and around Wamboin has been outstanding. So on behalf of those who are not members of the fire brigade I say thank you everyone.

Clean Up Australia Day — The first Sunday in March (March 3rd) is Clean Up Australia Day in Wamboin. Information is displayed more fully further on in The Whisper. It would be wonderful to see as many people as possible on the day so we can keep Wamboin beautiful. Any enquires please contact either myself on 6238 1329 or Lofty Mason on 6238 3258.

Macs Reef Transfer Station — One of our committee members recently addressed the NSW Government's Southern Joint Planning Panel in regard to the Mac's Reef Transfer Station and how it highlights a successful bipartisan result. A full report is made further on in The Whisper.

Telstra Dissatisfaction — There is a general feeling of dissatisfaction with Telstra among some Bywong and Wamboin residents if comments on the Noticeboard are anything to go by. This issue is welcome to be raised in our February meeting and all are welcome to attend.

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.

Jenny Richards (vicepresident@wamboincommunity.asn.au)



**PUBLIC CONSULTATION
MACS REEF ROAD REHABILITATION PROJECT
(NEWINGTON ROAD TO BANKERS ROAD)**

As part of its 2012/13 management plan and budget, Council voted some \$1.125m toward the rehabilitation of Macs Reef Road, between Newington and Bankers Roads.

Planning for this important project is now well advanced with site works expected to commence late in March and carry through into June this year – weather permitting.

The scale of the project is likely to have some considerable impact on traffic movements through this area of Macs Reef Road and one strategy currently under consideration is the complete closure of the road between Newington Road and Bankers Road during the earthworks component of the project—a period of approximately six weeks from early April to mid May.

In response to initial feedback from the Bywong community, Palerang Council will hold a public consultation session in conjunction with the next meeting of the Bywong Community Association, set down for 7.30 pm, Monday 11 February at the Bywong Community Hall, Birriwa Road, Bywong.

Council's Director of Works, Mr Gordon Cunningham will provide an illustrated overview of the project and engineering staff will be on hand to answer any specific questions about either the project or road construction in general.

Questions or comments in the interim may be directed to the Director of Works, Mr Gordon Cunningham on 6238 8111 during business hours.

-- Peter Bascomb, General Manager, Palerang Council



Come and have a good time at Bywong's biggest community event of the year. Over 100 stalls selling things you couldn't live without. If you have things you can live without, why not get a site for \$15 and make some money in the process. Fun for the kids with plenty of toys and books on sale as well as rides. Enjoy a cup of tea and cakes inside our hall. View demonstrations by your local fire brigade. Enjoy dogs and horses and maybe more exotic animals on display.

The Car Boot Sale is a not for profit event and it is free to the public. Money raised from the event is primarily donated to the Fire Brigade but also to other groups within the local community.

We thank our local business's for their generous support in prizes for the raffle. If you would like to become a sponsor and donate a prize, email Pauline on paulinechambers@yahoo.com.au

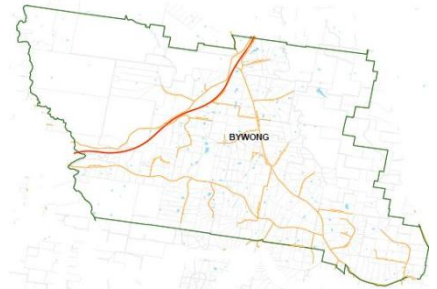
If you want to become a seller and need a site contact Greg Gougeon on 62369841 or email to bywongbootsale@y7mail.com. Alternatively you can turn up on the day by coming to the Les Reardon Reserve, Birriwa Road Bywong before 8am and be fully set up by the start of the event at 9:00am...See you there

Bywong Community News

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

Darryl Bourke, President

**This News Put Together by the
Bywong Committee**



Happy New Year! Our very best wishes to all who live in our community, and to those who pass through on their way to work or to the coast. May your grass grow green again, your dams fill, and your potholes disappear into the bliss of a resurfaced Macs Reef Road. Our best wishes and thanks to the Wamboin Whisper for keeping us informed and helping to cement ties of community amongst ourselves and with our neighbours. And special thanks in these threatening times to our Fire Brigade – just for being there, and for being so good at what you do.

A Plan at Last. Most of you will have received a letter from Council inviting you to read and comment on the final draft of the new Local Environmental Plan 2012 and advising you just where your bit of dirt fits into its complex framework. It is conveniently available on paper at Council or in various electronic forms which Council is happy to supply. We think it is a good idea to have a look, even if only to confirm where you and your holding stand in the great scheme of things, and to check whether your status has changed. You may, however, need to take your legal adviser – the convoluted cross references and double negatives do not make for easy reading.

The last hurdle? We were surprised to learn that Council's Waste Transfer Station on Macs Reef Road still had one final hurdle to clear, but gratified to learn that at a January meeting the Southern Joint Regional Planning Panel approved Council's proposal. Community President Darryl Bourke outlined the Panel of the Community's support for the project, and John van der Straaten did the same for the Wamboin Community Association. Thanks to all concerned! We now await with bated breath final plans and construction – please, Council, do it soon!

Clean Up Australia The Community will again be sponsoring and coordinating our local effort for Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 3 March. Please try and get out along the road verges, especially Macs Reef and Bungendore Road, and help this nation-wide effort. We invite you to be rewarded and compare notes over a free BBQ at the Community Hall. Don't forget visibility clothing, water, and an eye for snakes! For further details or to register go to: <http://www.cleanupaustriaday.org.au/Macs+Reef+Road+Bywong> or email Merle kree_8_iv@yahoo.com.au .

Car Boot Sale. This iconic Community annual event will burst upon the community in all its traditional glory on Sunday March 24. You will find details elsewhere in the Whisper, but start looking out your saleable junk now. Someone will love it!

Santa stuck in Queanbeyan? We hope you all received your Christmas parcels. Our December News described the difficulties people were having picking up their Australia Post parcels, some of which went to Bungendore, some to Queanbeyan, but none to their mailboxes. The Community Committee urged locals to contact Australia Post. We now hear that things got worse over Christmas, with a period of complete moratorium on any parcels going to Bungendore. At least one local family found themselves travelling to Queanbeyan on consecutive days – the second visit yielding a parcel which they described as "tiny". We hear from Australia Post management that parcel post, largely due to online shopping, is becoming a mainstay of their business, and we also question the morality of having to travel to 2620 to collect mail addressed to 2621, and for which some suppliers seek supplementary charges for "rural" delivery. A motion before our next meeting will seek a community approach to Australia Post – come to the meeting if you want to talk about it!

Next meeting. The Community's next meeting is at 7.30 pm on Monday 11 February at the Community Hall in Birriwa Road. All are welcome.

<p>Fencing Problems?</p>	<p>For all your RURAL, COMMERCIAL OR DOMESTIC FENCING needs...</p>	<p>Call: NIC CLANCY 0409 866 970 or 4845 8235</p>	<p>Preferred supplier for Environment ACT. Landcare & Greening Australia contacts for grants.</p>
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ARE YOU BEING WARNED? MAKING SENSE OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM

By Jenny Warren

Like many Wamboin/Bywong residents, we stayed home on Tuesday 8th January, the day of the 'Catastrophic' fire weather warning. Fortunately our part of the world was not directly affected by bushfires, the closest being the Sandy Hills fire east of Bungendore.

In our first experience of the National Emergency Warning System (NEWS), Peter's mobile phone (Telstra) received three SMS messages from the NEWS. The first was on Monday evening advising of the Catastrophic classification. The second was on Tuesday restating the Catastrophic weather warning. The third was on Tuesday afternoon advising of a fire in our area (presumably the Sandy Hills fire 26km to our east) and telling us that the safest place to be was not in a fire prone area.

My mobile phone (Optus) received no messages. Our landline (Telstra) received no calls from the NEWS on either Monday or Tuesday.

This intrigued me and I've subsequently done a little investigation to find out more about the NEWS. I don't believe I'm the only person who missed a couple of small but material pieces of information in the announcements of the NEWS, so I thought I'd share what I've been able to derive from perusing the relevant websites.

Mobile phones

- 1) Telstra mobile customers with a registered service address (may also be known as 'operational address' or 'operational service address') within a designated warning area; or where the handset is located within a designated warning area, may receive SMSs from the NEWS
- 2) Vodaphone and Optus mobile customers with a registered service address within a designated warning area may receive SMSs from the NEWS
- 3) Vodaphone and Optus mobile handsets located within a designated warning area, but with a registered service address outside that area, do **not** receive SMSs. These companies will apparently join the NEWS prior to the 2013/14 fire season.

Landlines

All landlines located within a designated warning area, whether publicly listed or private, should receive a call offering recorded information. If the number is busy or does not answer in less than 45 seconds, a second call is attempted. There are various other rules relating to dedicated fax lines, answering machines and VOIP phones which you can read about on the NEWS website, <http://www.emergencyalert.gov.au/>

Putting aside the fundamental problem of lack of mobile phone coverage, with large parts of our area receiving no mobile signal, (have you written your letters of complaint about that?), regardless of who your mobile service provider is, you need to ensure that your registered service address is correct. Many readers may have a mobile phone issued by their employer. If so, the service address may be the same as the billing address, that is the employer's address. Or you may have recently moved to this area and updated your billing address – but you haven't necessarily also updated your service address.

I rang Optus to check my service address, as my mobile did not receive any NEWS SMSs on 7th January. Whilst I was told that my service address was correct and was the same as my billing address, I was also advised that customers cannot change their service address online – you have to call. I do not know if that's the case for Telstra and Vodaphone customers – it pays to check!

The other point to note relates to the relevance of warnings. On Tuesday afternoon, when the Sandy Hills fire was running, Peter received the warning which advised of a fire in our area. Other people in our area also received this message and called us to ask if that meant they should leave. Whilst I appreciate that it's impossible for the authorities to select the perfect designated warning area every time, I do think the public education campaign needs to stress that this is a warning system only, and we are all still responsible for finding out as much as we can from other sources such as TV, radio and the internet.

I cannot explain why we didn't receive any calls on our landline, nor on my Optus mobile. Hopefully there won't be a reason for NEWS warnings any time soon, but at least we know we've done everything we can to maximise our chances of receiving warnings.

In summary, based on the above and on our area's appalling mobile phone coverage, it pays to familiarise yourself with other, much more reliable information sources, such as:

Websites:

NSW Rural Fire Service - www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/ and www.firesnearme.com/ (works much better as an iPhone app if you have coverage)

NSW State Emergency Service, Phone 132 500 or www.ses.nsw.gov.au/

iPhone app:

Fires Near Me NSW - This is the official iPhone application of the NSW Rural Fire Service.

SUTTON ROAD MISSION DISTRICT'S FIRST CHRISTMAS.

By Jill Gregory

More than 2000 years ago a boy child was born and the magic of that night, the first Christmas, led to the Christmas tradition we celebrate in the 21st Century.

Another first Christmas occurred in Sutton and Wamboin in 2012 as the two churches of St Peter's Sutton and St Andrew's Wamboin celebrated their first Christmas as an independent entity.



On Sunday 23rd December St Peter's hosted a Christmas party with Christmas carols and songs. The Invitation said this would be held on the grass outside the church. This was not to be as a storm rolled in bringing a magnificent downpour of rain. So, the party was transferred into the Church building. The building soon filled up as about 60 local people arrived to join in the celebrations. Not to be deterred and with room in the Church a bit squashed a number of intrepid guest stood under umbrellas to sing in the rain. Of course they were not deprived of the party food and drink supplied by St Peter's congregation members.

For some years St Andrew's, Wamboin has staged on Christmas Eve a Nativity Pageant, followed by a Church service. The pageant has always been held outdoors, but December 24th 2012 was memorably different. Once again we were blessed with a deluge of rain, so the pageant took place within the Church building. Mary & Joseph were

played by Beth & Luke Gordon . Their newly born son, Harvey Samuel, was a very placid Jesus. Ebony, the donkey watched from the door and Lena, the oldest lamb in Wamboin, made a brief appearance into and out of the Church. Local youngsters portraying angels and shepherds were joined by three wise men as the congregation sang appropriate carols.

Christmas Day saw a well attended traditional Christmas service at St Peter's.



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SUTTON ROAD UPGRADE

The recent road rehabilitation works on the Sutton Road uncovered a number of major unexpected issues concerning the condition of the existing road. These included damaged stormwater pipes under the road and inconsistent material (gravel, clay etc) below the road surface. Further investigations are currently being undertaken before this project can be progressed any further. In the interim, a holding treatment has been applied to a section of this road until further works can be undertaken. The timing of further works is dependent on funding becoming available and road works on alternative routes being completed. -- Ben McHugh , Manager | Major Capital Works, Directorate of Territory & Municipal Services • Roads ACT



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Bywong & Wamboin Greenways Public Walks 2013: Greenways Renewal Working (GRoW) group 20/1/2013

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
Sunday 20 th January	Early 7.15am-9.30am	Summer Walk Clare Lane to Weeroona Drive with car shuffle or Clare Lane loop walk via Clare Valley Lane and Valley View. Mix of roads & Greenways. <i>Easy walk flat and short.</i>	Starting at end of Bungendore Road end of Clare Lane. Do car shuffle to Weeroona Drive Distance & time 5kms - 1 ½ hours approx
Sunday 17 th March	9.30am	Greenways Rehabilitation Field Day: Tree Planting, Rehabilitation and Fun Day Out! Coordinated by Melinda Hillery, PLANS	Warramunga Close to Norton Road greenway
Sunday 7 th April	9.30am	Greenways Rehabilitation Field Day: Follow-up tree planting & rehabilitation.	Weeroona Drive Greenway
Saturday 20 th April	Afternoon 2-5pm	Autumn Walk Millpost loop from Bywong Hall. Mostly bush with a number of hills to traverse. <i>Long and more difficult terrain walk.</i>	Millpost loop from Bywong Hall via Birchmans Grove, Orana Drive and onto Millpost and Greenway back to Hall. more difficult walk: hills & rough terrain. Distance & time 10kms - 3-4 hours
Saturday 22 nd June	Afternoon 1.00-4pm	Winter Solstice Middle Bywong to The Henge with car shuffle. <i>Long, easy walk mostly roads.</i>	Bywong to the Henge Walk - From Millyn road to Doust Road, across new Hwy to Old Federal Highway walk easy walking downhill car shuffle finish with visit to The Henge. Distance & time 7.8kms - 2 ½ - 3 hours.
Sunday 1 st September	Morning around 9.30am-midday	Early Spring Walk Lake George escarpment loop walk. All off-track, relatively easy walk with traverse down along the Lake edge. <i>Short-medium length walk, depending on conditions and the group.</i>	From Geary's Gap lookout South along the escarpment - return. Distance & time 7kms approx/ 2-3 hours
Sunday 3 rd November	Morning 9- 12 midday	Late Spring Walk Loop from Bywong Hall heading West & North traversing roads & Greenways. <i>Long walk with some hills.</i>	Loop from Bywong Hall to Newington Road, Macs Reef Road and Harriot Road return to Bywong Hall. Distance & time 9.2 kms = 3-3 1/2 hours.

ASPECTS OF THESE WALKS COULD CHANGE CLOSER TO THE DATE. Please watch the www.BywongCommunity.org.au website or contact:

<http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au/about/bywong-greenways-> Greenways information webpage
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greenways-Bywong-Wamboin/263890970305480-> FaceBook page

GRoW Co-ordinator:
 Nora Stewart 62303305
Nora@SetDancing.com.au



Clean Up Australia Sunday March 3



Join us on Sunday 3rd March to clean up Macs Reef Road (MMR) and Bungendore Rd (BR) as part of Clean-up Australia (CUA).

Meet at the Bywong hall and return there at midday for a thankyou BBQ. As with previous years Palerang council support this annual event financially with signs, roadside pick-up and the BBQ after the event.

Another example of the council and community working together.

For further details and to register go to :

www.cleanupaustrialiaday.org.au/Macs+Reef+Road+Bywong

Or email Merle: kree_8_iv@yahoo.com.au



Scribbling on Gum Trees

By David McDonald

In the Wamboin area we have some species of eucalypts that have scribbles on the bark, including the Scribbly Gum *E. racemosa* ssp. *rossii* itself and Candlebark *E. rubida*. Further afield are some other species similarly marked, including the Snow Gum *E. pauciflora*, the Blackbutt *E. pilularis*.

In a 27 November 2012 media release, CSIRO announced that ‘In a remarkable piece of detective work, a team of “retired” CSIRO scientists have revealed the group of artists responsible for the iconic scribbles found on smooth-barked Eucalyptus trees in southeastern Australia’.

It is, indeed, a remarkable piece of detective work. As the lead author of the paper that reveals all—or at least much—about the scribbles, Dr Marianne Horak, said, ‘Although many Australians will be familiar with the distinctive scribbles on gum trees, very little was known until now about the artists that create them... Discovering that there are at least twelve species of moths behind the scribbles was certainly an exciting find. We also found these moths have a link with the ancient supercontinent Gondwana.’

What this is about is that scientist had assumed, until this research was undertaken, that just one moth species was

responsible for the scribbles. As CSIRO explains, ‘In 2005, CSIRO scientists, Dr Max Day and Dr Marianne Horak, and a group of interested helpers undertook a search for the moth larvae. They trapped two species of moth from the local Canberra scribbly gum *Eucalyptus rossii* and identified two distinct scribble tracks thus confirming that there is more than one species of moth that creates scribble patterns in trees.’

Not only has the research team now discovered that there are at least twelve moth species that create the scribbles, they also discovered how they make them: ‘The researchers have discovered a previously unknown insect-plant interaction between the scribbly gum moths and their eucalypt host.

‘The scribbly gum moth larvae bore a meandering tunnel through the eucalypt tree’s bark at the level of the future cork cambium, first in long irregular loops and later in a more regular zigzag which is doubled up after a narrow turning loop. [Note:

‘cambium’ means ‘a cellular plant tissue responsible for the increase in girth of stems and roots’ (source: OED)]

‘When the cork cambium starts to produce cork to shed the outer bark it produces scar tissue in response to the feeding of the caterpillar, filling the doubled up part of the larval tunnel with highly nutritious, thin-walled cells.

‘These replacement cells are ideal food for the caterpillar which moults into its final life stage with legs, turns around and eats its way back along the way it has come. It now grows rapidly to maturity and leaves the tree to spin a cocoon at its base, where it pupates.

‘Not long after the caterpillar leaves the tree, the bark cracks off and exposes the iconic scribbles beneath.’

More details are available at CSIRO’s website (from which the above quotations come), including links to a podcast of an interview with Dr Horak and the research team’s journal article, in full free text format. The journal article provides details about the moths and their mining habits, along with great photos of scribbles and the moths at various stages of development. Visit <http://www.csiro.au/en/Portals/Media/Retired-scientists-unmask-bush-graffiti-artist.aspx> .

The article is Horak, M, Day, MF, Barlow, C, Edwards, ED, Su, YN & Cameron, SL 2012, ‘Systematics and biology of the iconic Australian scribbly gum moths *Ogmograptis* Meyrick (Lepidoptera: Bucculatricidae) and their unique insect-plant interaction’, *Invertebrate Systematics*, vol. 26, pp. 357–98.

Photo © CSIRO, sourced from <http://tinyurl.com/mothscribbles>





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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

Wamboin 15 years ago - from the Whisper, February 1998 Circulation: 600

by Robyn Robertson

St Andrew's Church saw a number of celebrations early in 1998. The building was not quite finished by Christmas 1997, but our builder, Ken Kelly, generously allowed us to borrow it for a service on Christmas Eve, attended by 160 Wamboin residents and friends.

Ken and his team worked hard to complete the building in time for the baptism of 2 baby boys late in January, the Consecration service performed early in March and our first wedding, that of Don and Penny Evans, early in April. The installation of the stained glass window later in April gave us cause to celebrate again.

PS. We still celebrate often - the baptism of baby Harvey Gordon this January, and the 28th anniversary of the first church service in Wamboin, also in January.

The little church has been the setting for many happy events, but also some of great sadness. Last Wednesday 195 people gathered to remember and honour the life of Ann Owen, who was much loved in the Church and the community of Wamboin. We miss you, Ann.

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Councillor's Corner

Land Use Zoning — I'm assuming that everyone will have recently received in the mail a letter from Palerang Council advising that the zoning of their land will change under the new Palerang Local Environmental Plan (PLEP). In most cases this will be from Yarrawlumla Local Environmental Plan (YLEP) 2002 1(d) Rural Residential to PLEP 2012 E4 Environmental Living. In some cases the change will be from YLEP 7(e) Environmental Protection to PLEP E3 Environmental Management, and in others from YLEP 1(a) Rural to PLEP RU1 Primary Production, RU2 Rural Landscape or E3.

The main purpose of land use zoning, as the name implies, is to control land use in various parts of the shire.

One of the features of the new PLEP is that it is based on a standard template, issued by the NSW state government to provide a common legislative platform for all NSW local government LEPs. This template defines a new, standard set of land use zones that did not match any of the existing zones. For example, the single, all-encompassing YLEP 2(v) Village Zone had to be mapped onto several new zones, as unlike the YLEP, the PLEP specifically identifies residential, business and industrial zones within the villages. Similarly, the former YLEP 1(a) General Rural Zone has been mapped onto the PLEP RU1, RU2 and E3 zones, recognising land of different agricultural and environmental value. The YLEP 7(e) Environmental Protection and 1(d) Rural Residential Zones were probably the easiest to deal with as they mapped fairly consistently onto the new E3 (Environmental Management) and E4 (Environmental Living) Zones.

The upshot of this is that for most properties in rural residential areas, the zone change with the introduction of the PLEP will have no fundamental impact. Every effort was made during the development of the PLEP to map, as far as possible, the definition of the current YLEP 1(d) zone directly onto that of the PLEP E4 zone, and similarly with the YLEP 7(e) and PLEP E3 zones.

If you own a property in the current YLEP 1(a) General Rural Zone, things may be a little more complicated. Lots in larger holdings may not all be zoned the same, although the new zoning should be consistent with the productivity of the land in question, with more productive land zoned RU1 and land not currently used for agricultural pursuits, or environmentally sensitive in nature zoned E3.

Note that despite any zoning change, existing use rights are carried forward under the PLEP, so that a property owner is permitted to carry on any currently approved activity, regardless of what may or may not be permitted under the new zoning. Be aware, however, that existing use rights may lapse if they are not continuously exercised.

If you're interested in the specific activities that are permitted under the current zoning, and those that will be permitted under the new zoning, refer to the *PLEP Land Use Zones* item on The Palerang Blog.

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

PLEP Land Use Zones
Palerang Local Environmental Plan

See also the Palerang Info Zone (<http://peteharrison.id.au/infozone/lep>).

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.

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'SHUT THE .. STABLE DOOR!'

by Ian Coillet

An occasional piece

Some observations a la the local area during the Dec/Jan break

Sat 15 Dec – learned from my next-door neighbours that their dog had been killed by a snake and what a close shave it was for their little boy. My heart went out to them.

It's getting very dry. Thank goodness I'd been progressively knocking the new growth grass down on several parts of the property in the months leading up to Christmas. As the community's fire brigade has been advising in its articles, the fuel load eg grass and leaf litter is very high and of great concern during this fire danger period. The grass has taken on that straw-like colour, the seed heads are dry and starting to get into everything. The stalks are now pretty-much hollow; there's little, if any, moisture content remaining and as the fire brigade has been warning, conditions continue to shape for fast running grass fires particularly during the next few months.



Little can beat Nature's artscape.



Early morning trek up to the trig point on Millpost Hill. Used to do this every morning – worth the effort.

Fri 21 Dec - the winners of the WWoW's 2nd Annual Mailbox Decorating Event were announced. How impressive is that!! 1st Prize went to none other than above-said next-door neighbours. Good stuff, J, V & I. Goes without saying, but I did happen to mention it to them just in case, while there's was an exceptional effort, *little doubt their winning entry was given 'a leg up' by their neighbours' imaginative efforts.*

Sat 25 Dec – 7.45 am – on a property in Majors Close



Perhaps a bit hard for readers to see but these ants appear to be making room in their abode pending Santa's calling.

Saturday 5 January 2013 – Holy guacamole what a sound and light show it was that night!!!! Had the bride and the two sous reporters ie dachshunds, quivering like jelly and teeth rattling under the doona. Regrettably it was this event ie the lightning that appears to have triggered several of the fires communities here and elsewhere have experienced and suffered through in recent weeks.

Sun 27 Jan – while traipsing along the nearby Greenway savouring the wonderful aromas emanating from the eucalypts following last night's sound and light show and very welcome 14mm of rain, I came across this little chappy/lady also out for an early morning stroll. Fortunately, I got one snap in before being spotted. (see next page)



MYSTERY ITEM

Finally, seems appropriate to start the year with a small puzzle for you.

Winners, at their request, can receive a small sealed bag of it. Remember, you can view this and previous Stable Door articles and photos in living colour on-line at <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/whisper>

New Classifieds

Wanted Local yellow stone left over from a job. Will pay and pick up. Phone 6238 3587.
Wanted – Person or persons to refer a buyer to the owners to purchase the Captains Flat Hotel - \$5000 is your if you are successful. Please contact Tony or Vicky for more information 0447 626 857. Full payment will be made on settlement of the sale.
Wanted: Cleaner for 2 hrs/wk - Derrydonnell Cabin 1183 Norton Rd, www.derrydonnell.com.au . Flexible times & easy job. \$35/hr. Contact Antonella on 6238 0375 or 0417 663 515.
WANTED - 10-15 acres property Bywong/Wamboin good native pasture, shelter, dam/s, suited to keep 4 ponies, direct access to safe horse riding trails, with 3-4 bedroom home (kit home ok) and max 30 min from CBR/QBN. Lower end of market.
FOR SALE 36 acres Carwoola, 360 degree views, 3 bedroom home, 6 tanks, 6 paddocks, 2 dams, sheds, shelters, enclosed vegie patch. Enquiries to Guitarsiren@gmail.com
Queanbeyan Relay for Life, 16 – 17 February 2013, Seiffert Oval, Queanbeyan, You are invited to join the Survivors and Carers Walk and Celebration Morning Tea to be held on Saturday 16 February at 9.30am, Seiffert Oval, Queanbeyan RSVP to Southern Relay for Life, Ph 02 4223 0200 sthrlf@nswcc.org.au , RSVP for catering purposes would be greatly appreciated. For more information visit http://relay.cancercouncil.com.au/2013/queanbeyan_2013/
The Veolia Mulwaree Trust may be able to assist with its grant or donation program providing eligible organisations and projects with vital financial assistance, and the first funding round for 2013 is now open. Charities, schools, preschools, health services, emergency services and many sporting and recreation clubs are among the hundreds of organisations in our local area which have received Veolia Mulwaree Trust funding over the past eight years. Applications close on February 13 with further rounds to be held throughout 2013. Eligible organisations should visit the Trust’s website at www.mulwareetrust.org.au for further information on how to apply and the application forms required, or call the Veolia Mulwaree Trust office in Goulburn on (02) 48222786.
Cleaners available local and reliable please call Claire or Jo on 0417217621.
The draft Local Environmental Plan is on public exhibition at the Council’s Administrative Offices at Braidwood or Bungendore between the normal business hours of 8:30 am to 5.00 pm until Friday 8 March 2013. The Local Environmental Plan is available from Council’s website www.palerang.nsw.gov.au under Feature programs or on a USB stick or CD if requested from Council. Any person may make a written submission to Council about the draft Local Environmental Plan before the close of business on Friday 8 March 2013. Enquiries on the draft Local Environmental Plan should be directed to Ms Sue Robb, Strategic Planning Co-ordinator. Telephone 1300 735 025 or 6238 8111 or by e-mail, records@palerang.nsw.gov.au

Nature Notes – November 2012

by Jo Walker

(Due to a mistake on my part these Nature Notes were not printed in the Dec 2012/Jan 2013 Issue – Ned Noel)

Spring is almost over and the grasses on the more exposed hillsides are beginning to dry in the increasing heat, although we've had enough rain this month to keep the creek banks and soakage areas lush and green. The native grasses are flowering well, most noticeably the Red-anthered Wallaby Grass (*Joycea pallida*) which grows to over a metre tall and is full of silky flower-heads right now. The individual spikelets are quite beautiful with bright orange-red anthers and contrasting dark mauve stigmas.

It has been a good year for all of the local peas which bore masses of colourful flowers and are now forming a heavy load of seed pods. The triangular pods of the Bitter Pea (*Daviesia mimosoides*) are almost as attractive as the flowers. The bushes are full of reddish seed pods that are quite striking when seen against the sunlight. *Gompholobium huegelii* (Wedge Pea) is one of the later-flowering peas, but is full of large, bright yellow flowers right now.

The daisies have had a good season, too. The white Hoary Sunrays (*Leucochrysum albicans*) now slowly spreading through Wamboin – they started in Denley Drive, are moving along Weeroona Drive, and now have a few patches on Norton Road - have mostly finished flowering, but the roadsides are now glowing with the golden flowers of *Xerochrysum viscosum* (the Sticky Everlasting Daisy).

Amongst the taller vegetation, one of the later-flowering wattles, *Acacia mearnsii* (Black Wattle) is filling the air with the strong perfume of its profuse cream flowers. Interestingly, this wattle develops seed from the previous year's flowering just prior to and during the next flowering season.

Recently, there has been an interesting visitor here. There have always been plenty of parrots on my place – Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Crimson (and Eastern) Rosellas, Galahs, Gang-gangs and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos – but King Parrots have only occasionally been sighted here. Until a couple of weeks ago, that is. A female King Parrot turned up and followed me around, obviously looking for a feed. I put some seed out for her, and the next day she returned with a male bird. Since then, I've only seen the male King Parrot – he turns up most days for a feed. Possibly someone who was feeding them regularly has moved away, as they seem very tame.

The Fan-tailed Cuckoos have been heard calling here every day since mid-September – and seemed to be the only cuckoos around this spring, until today when I heard the Pallid Cuckoo's call of several loud rising notes (usually about seven). The Fan-tailed Cuckoo's call is a rapid downwards trill. One of these cuckoos was being harassed recently in a tree in the driveway. Several small birds, Thornbills and White-browed Scrub-wrens amongst them, collected around the cuckoo giving their warning calls. They seem to have seen the adult cuckoo as a threat even though, if a cuckoo hatches in a nest and ejects the other nestlings, the host birds will feed the young cuckoo as if it is their own offspring.

Lots of lizards are about at present. Little Grass Skinks are skittering about through the grasses, and Bearded Dragons and Shingleback Lizards are sharing the roads, not always successfully, with local traffic – I've moved four to safety during the last week. And the friendly Cunningham's Skink is back commuting between my garage, the little bore shed and the pile of small wood near the house, occasionally scuttling noisily away when I appear but usually not taking much notice of my presence. It's nice to be so trusted by the wildlife!

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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.

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).

The NSW RFS Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers AFSM issued the following Operational Brief recently. Being of interest and relevance to the wider community, we have incorporated the full text of the Operational Brief into the newsletter.

RECENT FIRE ACTIVITY

'In recent weeks NSW has faced one of its most challenging periods of fire conditions and activity we've seen for many years. Large parts of the state have been affected and while the work continues for many of our people, it is worth reflecting on some of the achievements.

Tuesday 8 January was, to put it simply, one of the worst days we've experienced in terms of fire weather. Hot, dry and gusty winds led to Catastrophic fire danger ratings being declared for the Illawarra/Shoalhaven and the Southern Ranges.

This was the first time since December 2009 that we saw a Catastrophic fire danger, and the first time ever the rating has been used across a large urban centre. That day, a number of significant fires developed including in the Shoalhaven, Cooma and Yass areas.

It is testament to the work of firefighters, as well as Incident Management Teams and aviation support, that the numbers of property losses were small.

The hot and dry conditions persisted for the following week. On Sunday 13 January, a large and destructive fire spread through the Warrumbungle National Park, west of Coonabarabran. This fire destroyed more than 50 homes, burnt through in excess of 50,000 hectares and caused damage to some facilities at the Siding Spring Observatory.

The following Friday, 18 January, we experienced another terrible day in terms of weather conditions, with temperature records being broken in many areas. Fires in the Shoalhaven, Bega Valley and Cessnock areas, as well as those already burning, received significant focus. Across this two week period, NSW RFS crews and other agencies attended more than 300 bush and grass fires, with more than 650,000 hectares burnt. We also saw large losses of stock, as well as fencing and farming equipment.

With conditions such as those experienced, there was a big focus on getting information and warnings to affected areas. There were 99 activations of the Emergency Alert telephone warning system, including 43 uses of the new location-based warning system for mobiles.

The NSW RFS public website received 8.5 million views, while there was more than 27 million views on the NSW RFS Facebook page, 15 million on Twitter, and 12,000 downloads of the Fires Near Me app. In addition, the Bush Fire Information

Line received over 26,000 calls.

During this period, there were 41 Section 44 declarations, with more than 10,500 firefighters from the NSW RFS, Fire & Rescue NSW, National Parks and Forests NSW deployed.

Between 7 and 21 January, there were eight days where Total Fire Bans were declared, including four statewide declarations. The State Air Desk coordinated more than 650 aviation taskings during this time. A massive transport and logistical operation saw more than 450 pallets of foam, drinking water and energy packs delivered. A NSW RFS semi-trailer and tilt tray travelled more than 16,500 kilometres delivering these. While some of these statistics are impressive, and while the number of properties destroyed is a tragedy, it's worth remembering the most important figure – there was no loss of life reported. This is due to the work of volunteers and staff involved in the firefighting effort across the state, as well as the continued focus on planning and preparation in the community and our Service.

I want to add to the Commissioner's sentiments and thank everyone who assisted, whether it was on the front line or in those critical behind-the-scenes roles. I wish you a safe end to the fire season.'

LESSONS LEARNT

The recent spate of bushfires in our region gives all members of our community cause to consider and hopefully learn from recent events.

Bushfires can only be started three ways - Earthquakes, Lightning and Human Intervention (deliberate or unintentional).

A number of fires were triggered by lightning strikes on Saturday 5th January; in some cases the fires did not eventuate or become apparent until one or more days after the lightning strike. Property owners/residents need to be watchful when lightning activity occurs in their area to monitor their property carefully. Trees struck by lightning can smolder for days and fires can burn undetected in the root system for long periods of time. Be vigilant!

Heat and sparks from machinery such as tractors, slashers, mowers, welders, chainsaws and grinders can start grass fires.

There have been a number of fires started this way this fire season in our region.

Fires can come from and move in any direction.

If you start a fire, you own the fire and are responsible for any damage it may cause.

To help reduce the risk of fires starting or spreading:

- Check machinery is free from any faults and mechanical defects that could start a fire.
- Ensure machinery is fitted with an approved spark arrestor.
- Limit the use of equipment during hot, dry and windy conditions.
- Slashers shouldn't be used unless conditions are mild or are accompanied by an independent means of suppressing a fire.
- Grinders shouldn't be used unless conditions are mild or the surrounding area is dampened down to prevent an ignition.
- Carry or have immediately at hand a working water fire extinguisher or knapsack. An even better chance of pulling up a small fire is with a continuous flow of water eg application of water with the use of a pump from a tank or dam. A couple of buckets of water parked nearby simply won't do the job.

Finally, please be aware that the peak fire danger period in this area is typically February/March as this is the time in which the terrain and vegetation including grasses and leaf litter is at its driest.

In an emergency always call Triple Zero (000).

BRIGADE ACTIVITY

Callouts

It's been a busy and at times hectic period for members of the community's fire brigade. Since mid December the brigade has responded to a large number of emergency callouts within and away from the immediate area including providing crews and vehicles to help fight large fires near Cooma and Merimbula. Several incidents have involved multiple crews and vehicles, multiple tasking, day and night fire fighting, property protection, crew rotations, extended hours of station management, and frequent calls upon the Brigade's Support Crew to carry out all things necessary to underpin fire-fighting operations eg cleaning and restocking vehicles for quick turnaround, supplies management and catering at the Fire Station, all often at odd hours day and night.

Commitments within the Wamboin Brigade's area:

Friday 14 December 2012: Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) - Bungendore Rd, Bywong.

Sunday 23 December: MVA - Federal Hwy nr Donnelly Rd, Bywong.

Saturday 5 January 2013: Grass Fire - Merino Vale Dr, Wamboin - caused by lightning strike.

Fortunately, residents had largely quelled the fire by the time crew in one of the brigade's heavy tankers arrived. The fire was quickly contained and blacked out.

Saturday 5 January: Good Intent Call – Norton Rd, Wamboin – Reported smoke sighting – nothing found.

Saturday 5 January: Grass Fire - Clare Lane Wamboin – lightning strike.

Fortunately, residents had been able to extinguish the fire by the time the brigade arrived.

Sunday 6 January: Grass Fire – vicinity Norton Rd/Bingley Way, Wamboin.

An 8 hectare grass fire in the heart of Wamboin attended by crews in the brigade's two heavy tankers (W1A, W1B), two light-medium tankers (W7A, W7B), a light tanker (W9), Wamboin PC, and the brigade's trailer pump (Wamboin Quickfill) supported by crews and appliances from Ridgeway, Bungendore and the ACT Rural Fire Service. NSW Fire & Rescue (Qbn 428) briefly stood by at the Wamboin Fire Station but was not needed.

Monday 7 January: Reported smoke sighting - Hideaway Pl, Bywong - unauthorised Pile Burn.

Attended by crews in Wamboin 1A, Wamboin PC and the brigade's light tanker Wamboin 9.

Wednesday 9 January: Structure & Vehicle fire - Federal Hwy, Sutton (Eaglehawk Holiday Park).

Involved a structure and vehicle fire. The emergency response included crews and appliances from Wamboin, Ridgeway, Sutton, NSW Fire Brigade (428) and the ACT Fire Brigade.



Preparing the Brigade's vehicles



Wed 9 Jan – 1.30am: Eaglehawk Holiday Park

Saturday 12 January: Good Intent call – smoke sighting - Cherry Tree Ln, Bungendore.

Fortunately the plume was found to be coming from a smoky gas BBQ.

Friday 18 January: MVA - Federal Highway (vicinity Bidges Rd, Sutton).

Crew in Wamboin 1A and also the ACT Fire Brigade (ACTFB) attended.

Sunday 20 January: Smoke sighting 'garage alight' - Cartwright Av, Sutton Park.

Turned out to be an unauthorised Pile Burn.

Friday 25 January: Grass fire – Cherry Tree Lane, Bungendore.

Sunday 27 January: Good Intent Call – grass fire – Kestrel Pl, Wamboin.



*Getting on top of the grass fire at
Cherry Tree Lane, Bungendore*



Wamboin 7A at 'Millingandi' (near Merimbula) Bushfire

Out of Area Commitments

Friday 4 January 2013: Good Intent call – smoke sighting on Tarago Rd, Bungendore. Dealt with by Bungendore brigade. Vehicles responding from Wamboin were stood down before reaching the incident.

Saturday 5 - Monday 7 January: Grass Fire – 'Aberfeldy Lane' east of Bungendore. Caused by lightning strike. W1A, W9 and WPC with the Quickfill Trailer attended the initial incident, with other vehicles and crews involved in mopping up during the following days.

Saturday 5 – Sunday 6 January: Grass/ Bush fire - S44 'Herberton' Bungendore.

Caused by lightning strike. Two Wamboin firefighters were deployed with Queanbeyan crews during the initial incident, with crews in W1A and W7B involved in mopping up the following day.

Tuesday 8 – Friday 18 January: Grass/Bush fire - S44 'Sand Hills' Bungendore/Mulloon. Caused by lightning strike. Several Wamboin crews were involved in the initial incident and in various follow-on activities during subsequent days.



FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.



Night patrol at the 'Sand Hills' fire Bungendore/Mulloon.



Same fire from the edge of a containment line.

Tuesday 8 January: Grass/Bushfire – ‘Aberfeldy 2’. Wamboin crews were tasked to deal with fresh outbreaks at the Aberfeldy fire ground, and were later redeployed to the Sand Hills Fire.

Friday 11 – Monday 14 January: ‘Yarrabin’ (Cooma) Bushfire.

Following a request from the NSWRFSLake George Zone Fire Control Centre the brigade provided 3 crew members and a light-medium tanker as part of a LGZ Strike Team to travel to assist in fighting the large bushfire near Cooma. A fourth brigade member volunteered to act as Staging Area Manager at the fire.

Saturday 19 – Sunday 20 January: ‘Millingandi’ (near Merimbula) Bushfire.

Following a request from the NSWRFSLake George Zone Fire Control Centre the brigade provided a crew of three in a light-medium tanker as part of a LGZ Strike Team to travel to assist in fighting this bushfire on the south coast.

Wamboin Brigade Captain David Cochrane and Brigade President Ian Coillet extend their personal thanks to all brigade members (operational and support) who contributed in various ways to the very successful outcomes achieved these past few weeks. The brigade also wishes to thank the families of members for their support and understanding, other brigades within and outside the Lake George Zone for their assistance, as well as the support provided by staff and volunteers at the NSWRFSLake George Zone Fire Control Centre in Queanbeyan. The brigade is also very appreciative of the contribution of residents and other members of the community who have shown their support in various ways including assisting with chores and sustenance. We’d also like to acknowledge the support of Woolworths Queanbeyan for their support for our brigade and, we understand, other brigades in the Woolies Qbn area, when they recently advised that each brigade is eligible for \$1000 worth of shopping this fire season.

Training

While the brigade has set training schedules, given the large number of incidents in the past several weeks training since the last newsletter has been what might be termed very much ‘on-the-job’.

UPCOMING EVENT


For ALL RESIDENTS OF WAMBOIN, BYWONG and SUTTON (south of the Federal Highway)

<p>Sat 16th February</p>	<p>Community-wide Bushfire Information Session. ‘Wake-up Call.’ Bush Fire Survival Plan.</p> <p>Were You Prepared? What Do You Still Need To Do? Targeting <u>all</u> residents. Saturday 16 February 2013, 11.30 am – 1.30 pm, (Note - Registration from 11am) @ Wamboin RFS Fire Station, 112 Bingley Way Wamboin, (off Norton Rd). A practical information session providing you also with an opportunity to see, understand and operate pumps, hoses and nozzles plus other fire fighting equipment..</p>
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FURTHER INFORMATION

Wamboin Brigade Website: The site will help you 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 about a fire-related issue including preparing yourself, your family and your property for a bush, grass or house fire, please contact the Brigade directly by email captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au or phone 0409 991 340.




LAMBERTVINEYARDS

2013—time for a change

The Café is now closed.
Thank you to Wamboin locals for your patronage over the past 9 years.

Cellar Door: 11 am—4 pm
Sat & Sun
or by appointment

810 Norton Rd, Wamboin
Ph: 62383866




clink swiff slurp sip taste gargle drink mmm... Cheers!
LAMBERTVINEYARDS

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin - 38-year statistics from the Robertsons
by Robyn Robertson


2012 rainfall...805.25mm	(Annual average...701.8mm)
Jan rainfall to 27/1/13...30.25mm)	(Jan 2012...47mm)
Average February r'fall...59mm)	(Feb 2012...143.5mm)
Wettest February...170.75mm in 2010	Wettest February day...49.5mm on 14/2/10
Driest February...1mm in 1986	Hottest February day... 37C x 6 times
Coldest February day...14C on 3/2/12	Coldest February night...5C on 17/2/98

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A BLOKE WITH A MOWER



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- Having trouble seeing the snakes come out to play?
- Got better things to do with your weekends than sitting on the ride-on, or pushing the Victa around the yard?
- How many times have you said to yourself "I wish I knew a bloke with a mower".

WELL NOW YOU DO!!! And he lives right here, in Bywong!!.

My mighty Toro mower will handle light to medium tussock (but not a paddock that hasn't seen a slashed for years, with tussocks a metre tall!). Give me a holler, and I'll come and have a look before committing to the job. If the mower (or the operator!) is not up to it, I'll tell you straight and not waste your time and money. \$45 per hour, or fixed price negotiated rate.

In Oklahoma it's great to have grass as high as an elephant's eye, but not around here. Cut it NOW!

Phone Graham on 0421356666.

Wildlife Needs Help Too

by Queanbeyan Wildcare

It looks like the bush fire risk and the likelihood of extremely hot weather is going to be with us for some time. Whilst priority must be given to saving people, property and stock animals we also need to spare a thought for our native wildlife.

The very hot weather affects many species. Over the last few weeks flying foxes along the eastern part of NSW have been affected with hundreds, if not thousands, dying from heat stress. Some wildlife groups have been inundated with suffering animals and are now trying to rehabilitate them. Birds are equally affected and may seek shelter in unusual places, such as under our eaves. Reptiles like heat, but not when it is too hot, and they may seek the coolness of a veranda – or inside your house if the door is left open! As well as shelter, native wildlife needs a good supply of food and water to survive. We can help



our wildlife by keeping bird baths topped up and if there is no other water source, such as a pond or dam, place shallow bowls of water on the ground for reptiles, possums and other critters.

Maryanne Gates, the President of Wildcare, suggests “Where there has been a bush fire, it is hoped property owners can find time to have a look around particularly at dusk, dawn and overnight, when animals are more active – to find out what wildlife remains. It may be possible to put out a number of watering and feed stations to keep wildlife alive. Wildcare and other local wildlife groups may be able to help. Where there are injured animals, wildlife volunteers may be able to catch and treat them. Without help our wildlife may simply starve or die from their injuries.”

“In our area, there have been few animals coming into care from the recent bush fires, but this may be because we have yet to take time to check out burnt-out areas. 'Tony' (pic), whose fur melted in the extreme heat of the Cooma bushfire, was rescued and is now in the care with his local wildlife group (LAOKO). Please keep a very good look out for injured or orphaned animals and contact your local wildlife group for help and advice. As well as Wildcare (6299 1966), which covers the area around the ACT, LAOKO (6456 1313) operates to the south in the Cooma region and NARG (4846 1900) is based around Braidwood. It's a good idea to put your local wildlife group number into your mobile.”

Electricity Supply Problems

by Andrew Groom

In the last few weeks, two locals have noticed an excessive mains voltage and had Essential Energy rapidly respond to address the problem. The allowable voltage is 230V +10% or -5% which means that the maximum voltage should be 253V. In both cases, the measured voltage was well over that and, in one case, causing excessive current to trip out a bore pump. This overvoltage can also cause problems such as light bulbs having reduced life and may cause other issues because the rating of many imported appliances now follows overseas and new Australian standards and is usually in the 220V to 240V range.

The major cause appears to be PV Solar systems which need to generate in excess of the grid voltage in order to feed power back into the grid. That will cause the voltage in that area to be higher than normal. A number of PV Solar systems in one area can apparently each raise the grid voltage a little so there is an accumulative effect, unless the inverters are automatically disconnecting when the grid voltage exceeds a preset allowable level.

It appears to be a widespread issue so it is probably wise to get the voltage checked if you are concerned and to contact Essential Energy if you have in excess of 253V. Rural homes fitted with pole transformers can have the transformer adjusted to reduce the voltage.

The quick response of Essential Energy would appear to indicate that they take the problem seriously.

Queanbeyan Public School Community Centre

by Brooke Hardy

Queanbeyan Schools as Community Centres is a community centre in the grounds of Queanbeyan Public School, which provides initiatives for families in the region, who have children 0-8 years of age. Families from Wamboin are welcome to come along to any of the groups that are running each term.

If you would like to make some new friends and keep the kids happy at the same time, come along to one of our playgroups. We have (a fairly big) playgroup on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, and a Transition to School Playgroup for 4 year olds on Thursday morning. We also have a small multicultural playgroup on Friday mornings which is open to anyone.

Our centre is small and friendly, you can come and have a coffee and a chat while the kids play, do craft, reading and singing, or just play outside on the bikes. We also often run information sessions about early childhood development for parents who want to learn how to help their children grow. We have a speech pathologist visiting this term on the 12th, 13th and 15th of March.

If you are interested in learning more, why not come along to our Open Day on the 12th Feb at 10am. There will be a BBQ, face painting and kids activities, we will be planting flowers in the garden and doing a mural which all the kids can contribute to. If you would like further information please contact Brooke on 6297 2167 or at brooke.hardy8@det.nsw.edu.au. We would love to welcome some Wamboin families to our little centre!

How The Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

At the December Community Association Meeting we discussed the possibility of cutting down on driver deliveries and use of paper by moving the Whisper toward a partial or fully online publication. Most all of the persons who spoke at the meeting and two others who sent in emails felt that the value of a delivered paper copy still exceeded the costs and effort required to produce and deliver it. I also enquired to Instant Colour Press, who print the Whisper, about printing it on recycled paper. The person who handles our account said that their general experience is that such paper costs considerably more and that is questionably more environmentally friendly, as a lot of bleaching is carried out in the recycling process. Hence, pending a different community decision at some future date, and depending on the good will of the volunteers listed below, the Whisper will keep going into residents' mailboxes. It seemed important to at least consider this suggestion, made by Melody Black, as the printing and delivery effort do consume a lot of money (provided by advertisers) and a lot of volunteer time provided by residents.

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

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

Noan 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
Kathy Handel	Norton (Weerona to Hilltop)	18	Penny Evans	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	26

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 Nrtn 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

245: 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)	15			

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

203: CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON ph 6236 9333

Phil & Pam Dawes	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln	25	David Featherston	Summerhill and Creekborough Rds	26
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

109: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484

Diana Griffin	Majors Close	18	David Anderson	Weeroona (Majors to Denley)	36
Advertisers & Misc	(Out of area mailouts)	41	Palerang Council	Council Offices	14

TOTAL 1,274

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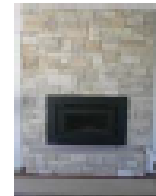
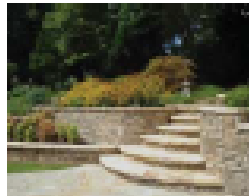
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Kowen Forest will be CLOSED Sunday 3rd March



The Brindabella Motor Sport Club is excited to announce to Wamboin residents of the running of the “National Capital Rally” on the 1st – 3rd March 2013. The Rally is the opening round of the East Coast Bullbars Australian Rally Championship; the NSW Rally Championship and the Shannons Insurance ACT Regional Rally Series.

To ensure the safe conduct of the event, the Brindabella Motor Sport Club would like to notify all residents in the Wamboin area that the Kowen Forest will be **CLOSED** to the public from **5pm Saturday 2nd March to 12.01am on Monday 4th March 2013. The forest will be closed due to a high speed car rally.**

The forest will be chained up on Saturday night 2nd March in preparation for the event. We will be locking all gates; Styes and horse cavaleties. Notices will be put up before the event advising of the forest closure. “Forest Closed” signs will be put up when we chain up the forest.

There will be **NO ACCESS** via Seven Mile Road.

The Forest will be re-opened after the event, and open to the public for Monday morning. We will open the forest as early as possible to let the early risers in for their morning walk! There will be a spectator point on Kowen Road. Please join us, to see some of the best Australian and local rally talent.

We are always in need of volunteer officials to help us run the event over the weekend. If you are able to assist, please register your details at www.nationalcapitalrally.com.au

Competitors will be conducting reconnaissance on Thursday the 28th February between 8.00am and 5.00pm. The forest will be open to the public – however, Wamboin residents should be aware that there will be increased traffic.

If you have any questions, please contact ACT Forests - 6207 2486 or Adrian Dudok – 0417 251 011 or via email: cofc@nationalcapitalrally.com.au

St Andrews, Wamboin, and St Peters, Sutton SRMD Church Notices by Robyn Robertson

With the Christmas holidays behind us and most of us back at work and school, the church year is well under way, too, with many plans for 2013. Kids Club resumed on Friday after the Australia Day long weekend. Children and their parents meet at 5.30pm until 7pm at St Andrews, Poppet Rd, for songs, stories, games and dinner, taking advantage of the lovely gardens in good weather. The midsummer gardens look splendid with their bright blue agapanthus and red hot pokers creating a colourful mix.

Sadly, we have lost two much loved members of our congregation in recent weeks, Pat Reid and Ann Owen. Ann’s memorial service was held at St Andrews, and it was a warm and fitting tribute to a special woman..... artist, wife, mother and dear friend. We will miss both Pat and Ann.

On a happier note, St Andrews was filled with family and friends for the Baptism of Harvey Samuel Gordon. Only a week or so before, tiny Harvey and his parents had starring roles in the Christmas Eve Nativity pageant.

Living where we do we are all aware of the ever present danger of bushfires during the hot summer months. Each year we have a special service to express gratitude for our Sutton and Wamboin RFS, presenting cheques from the congregations. In addition to this annual donation, it has been decided that at the RFS service on Sunday, February 3rd at St Andrews, and Sunday, February 10th at St Peters, the offertory will be given to the Bushfire Appeal to assist those who have so tragically lost homes, possessions, animals and livelihoods in the recent fires.

Good Friday is the 29th March. As in previous years, Lenten studies, with coffee and nibbles, will be held each Tuesday evening, at 7pm, at St Andrews, during the six weeks of Lent, starting on 19th February. In recent years we have had a group of up to 24 people attending, culminating in a shared Passover meal. This year the Passover Meal will be on 26th March. Our Pastor, Rev Dr Peter Grundy, will be leading the informal Lenten studies sessions.

Services are held at St Andrews, Wamboin, on the 1st Sunday (Morning Prayer) and 3rd Sunday (Communion) of each month, at 9am.

Services are held at St Peters, Sutton, on the 2nd Sunday (Morning Prayer) and 4th Sunday (Communion) of each month, at 9am.

We can assure you of a very warm welcome and a delicious morning tea after the service.

For further information: Pastor: Rev Dr Peter Grundy (6248 7913)

Wardens: Robyn Robertson (6238 3202), Bronwyn Elliott (6238 3359), Peter Cartwright (6230 3202)



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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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News from WWOW -- The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

My how time flies and here we are already one twelfth of the way through 2013. We had a great year last year and without even trying we managed to garner enough funds to make donations to our local Wamboin and Sutton fire brigades, Bungendore Primary School and a Western Australian Rural Outreach group (of which one of our members visits regularly). We also donated funds to the Dunalley school which was completely destroyed in the recent Tasmanian fires. Given our own current local conditions, we particularly identified with their circumstances.

Just before Christmas, we had a ball organising the letterbox decorating competition. There were so many more entries and the standard had improved greatly. However we may have a challenge for future contests. The children of one of the winners apparently 'were disappointed they didn't see the elves delivering the prize' — so cute. We look forward eagerly to this year's efforts. Results of the 2012 competition are reported elsewhere in this issue of the *Whisper*.

Once again a dedicated number within our group sewed more drainage bags for breast cancer patients post surgery. This time we delivered 37 bags including 27 sewed by just one person.

Our last speaker for 2012 was local Merle Horgosi, who teaches fashion design and textiles at a college in Canberra. She has won a number of first places as well as reserve champion at the Canberra Show in the sewing section. This is not surprising considering she has been sewing since she was eight. Well, that's no reason at all. My mother tried to teach me to sew when I was young and I can't even sew a straight line before tangling the thread into an enormous web of knots. Merle is indeed very talented and designs fantastic creations. She wowed us with her pieces which included a corset made out of fly screen and decorated with dragon flies, another corset made out of plastic display folders and a wedding dress created using doilies. She has many sewing project ideas and if she had the time would sew continuously for years. She loves teaching and wants as many people as possible to enjoy sewing and learn a skill for life. We were blown away by her talent and basked in her reflected glory knowing that she is a local living amongst us and what a treasure is she.

If you want to meet others in the area, maybe someone a few kilometres away or even a neighbour then pop in for a cuppa for a couple of hours. 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.

Nature Notes January 2013

Jo Walker

After a zero overnight temperature at the beginning of December, the days got decidedly warmer culminating in a record high temperature of 42 degrees in the middle of January. This had all the 'roos here standing in the shade vigorously licking their arms in an attempt at evaporative cooling. The many ensuing days of high temperature have dried off all the grasses except for a few patches in drainage areas or along shady creeks — although the rainfall during the storms yesterday was probably sufficient to green the place up again for a while.

The Hickory Wattle (*Acacia implexa*) is just beginning to flower. Apart from that, about the only colour in the landscape is supplied by the cream flowers of the Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*) and *Cassinia longifolia* (Cauliflower Bush). The *Kunzea ericoides* (Burgan) didn't flower for very long this year, but it attracted lots of Common Brown butterflies (*Heteronympha merope merope*) for a while.

There seem to have been few butterfly and moth larvae around this season. I did recently see a lone caterpillar of an Emperor Moth (*Antheraea helena*) on a Yellow Box sapling. This large, bright green caterpillar has a single pink stripe along both its sides. There were a few Christmas Beetles (*Anoplognathus* sp.) around this year, although it is a very long time since we've had the sort of populations common in times past. They seemed to concentrate their feeding efforts on two *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* at my place, although these are not local eucalypts.

The Wolf Spider has her home in the bank below the shadehouse again. I'm assuming it's the same spider, as there has been a hole in roughly the same place for the last three years. The female spider brings her round white egg-sac up during the day and holds it at the entrance of the hole, warming it in the sun to aid in the development of the eggs. When the tiny spiderlings hatch, she carries them around on her body for a while.

Quite a few of the birds are feeding young ones at the moment. The Red Wattle-birds have two fledglings with them. Because these birds build shallow, rather flimsy nests, often in dangerously exposed positions in shrubs, the eggs or newly-hatched nestlings often fall prey to Currawongs. This year, unfortunately, it was the turn of the Red-browed Finches. I watched a pair gathering soft white feathers shed by the Sulphur-crested Cockatoos to line their nest in a shrub below the house. But, some time later, the bush was suddenly festooned with white feathers after a Currawong tore the nest to pieces. Another nest, built by Finches along the creek suffered the same fate.

The two White Ibis who nested in trees on properties along Poppet Road for several years were roosting in a dead Stringybark tree here the other day, but flew off later to the forest at the top of the hill. And a week or two ago, two little Double-banded Finches turned up and stayed for a couple of days. I hadn't seen the here for many years, so hope their return is permanent. Wamboin is, after all, the best place to be — for us and the wildlife!

Bungendore SES at the Show

by Jenny Riley




The weekend found another year for Bungendore Show and also for Local SES out and about with our response vehicles and equipment that we use for work in floods and storms. As in previous years we had lots of interest from members of the public visiting the show.

With Queensland and northern New South Wales suffering once again from floods it is important for us to be aware of the possibility of flooding in our local regions. Care should be taken in protecting our own properties and preparing home maintenance, including cleaning of drains, roofs and gutters and clearing debris from around buildings. For information regarding preparation before damaging floods please go to www.ses.nsw.gov.au.

For emergency help in a flood or storm contact the New South Wales State Emergency Service on 132 500.

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As a retired couple, on 1st November 2011, we purchased a 15-year old Appaloosa gelding called Toby, the first horse we have ever owned. He had lived on lush green paddocks with a warm climate. 12 months later in life with Toby, training has been so successful he knows everything and we know our position!

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Wheels of Wamboin Saturday 20 April 2013

by Peter Evans

2013 marks significant anniversaries for a number of automotive brands and vehicles. Luxury sports car builder Aston Martin turns 100, while Ford celebrates the 150th birthday of its founder, Henry Ford. Lamborghini turns 50 this year, and the Corvette celebrates its 60th birthday. Porsche's iconic 911 also turns fifty with the same basic shape it debuted in 1963. I wonder how many of these marques are hidden in sheds around the district. If you know of any "sleepers" please encourage the owners to bring them to our first Wheels of Wamboin.

Some interesting facts:

- Aston Martin was founded in 1913 by Lionel Martin and Robert Bamford. The two had joined forces as Bamford & Martin the previous year to sell cars made by Singer from premises in London. Martin raced specials at Aston Hill and based on his success the pair decided to make their own vehicles and named them "Aston Martin".
- Ferruccio Lamborghini first made tractors using surplus WWII military parts. With this wealth he purchased his first Ferrari, a 250GT. Lamborghini needed a new clutch on his Ferrari and found it was actually the same clutch that he used on his tractors. Lamborghini went to Ferrari and asked for a better replacement. Ferrari responded, saying that he was just a tractor maker, and could not know anything about sports cars. Lamborghini decided to prove them wrong and pursued automobile manufacturing with the goal of bringing to life his vision of a perfect grand tourer. Enzo Ferrari perhaps should have just replaced his clutch (business lesson here).
- The Porsche introduced in 1963 was originally named the 901. Due to naming rights claims by Peugeot, the number zero was replaced by a one, and hence forth the 911 name was born.
- The Corvette was originally championed by GM's styling director Harley Earl, who insisted there was room for an American entry in the European-dominated sports car market. The Corvette was named after a fast class of naval ships and is the longest-running, continually produced sports car in the world.
- One of Henry Ford's first real jobs was as an engineer with the Edison Illuminating Company. In his spare time, he continued to experiment with a new-fangled contraption known as the "gasoline engine. In 1896, Ford was introduced to Edison, who reviewed his plans for a horseless carriage. He thought it was a promising idea, and advised Ford to keep working on it. His encouragement led Ford to create a second prototype, leave the Edison company, and founding the Ford Motor Company.

Wheels of Wamboin is not just restricted to cars. All manner of wheels and motors are welcome from veteran, classic, modern and interesting. From motor bikes, trucks, tractors and cars all things interesting are welcome. Just remember bring a table if you have things to sell and swap as well. Entry will be by gold coin donation and swap meet tables at \$5 each. All proceeds to the Community Association.

For any further information please contact Peter Evans on 0427 699 118 or at peter.evans@wamboincommunity.asn.au
When: Saturday April 20th 2013 from 9.00am - Where: Wamboin Community Hall Bingley Way Wamboin

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Wamboin Pony Club 2013

Happy New Year to all and as we finish up the holidays and head back to school and work Wamboin Pony club gets back into action for 2013. Time to dust off the bridles and saddles for another year of horse riding action. The Wamboin Pony Club is always looking for new members and Sunday February 10th is the first rally day for the year so come along and sign up for a great year of horse riding experiences. There is a huge variety of riding skills you can learn and improve at Pony Club and it is a really fun and safe environment to enjoy your own horse. 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 see what Wamboin Pony Club has to offer. Rally days are a great social day out. Not only do you have fun riding, there is always a BBQ lunch for you and the family to enjoy too. Our club has dedicated volunteer instructors who will not only help your riding improve but make the day enjoyable. Wamboin Pony club usually meet's once or twice a month on Sunday's at our grounds near the end of Canning Close. As mentioned our first Rally day for 2013 will be on Sunday 10th February so if you are interested come along and see all that Pony Club can offer. We would love to have some more riders' join us this year. If you would like some information about Wamboin Pony Club and our upcoming rally days contact our club secretary Jenni on 62383313 or go to our website: www.wamboin.pcansw.org.au , we hope we will see you soon. - Steve Quick (Photos are from our final rally day for 2012.)



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Snakes

by Simon Scott-Findlay

I love living out-of-town, but you tend to take things for granted over time, as the magic of the environment lulls you into contentment. Living in a rural landscape brings one into frequent contact with the local flora & fauna which has a charm of its own.

But where have the snakes gone?

When we first moved out to Wamboin thirteen years ago, we saw three or four snakes each summer. There were a few red-bellied black snakes then, but since then all we have seen is tigers and a few king brown snakes.

We have fourteen chooks, and their feed brings the mice that attract the snakes. Although there are plenty of mice, last summer we did not see any snakes, so we put this down to an unusually cool, wet summer.

Four or five years ago we noticed a family of lizards in our shed, which we identified as Cunningham Skinks. That year, we decided not to spray the house for spiders in case we poisoned them, and we haven't had to spray since. The lizards have multiplied and are everywhere. They come out to sun themselves on the cement and paths, and now we have to be careful to keep the doors closed. We have had one in the laundry under the washing machine, and they come on to the front verandah to get water from the plant pots, so we have to keep the screen door shut there too.

Recently, while working out in the garden, I heard a scraping sound, and when I looked up, I saw a lizard looking back down from the gutter. We hear them in the ceiling so they do not seem to eat the rat baits there. I am about to put in gutter guard mesh as I want to keep the lizard poop out of my rainwater and also to reduce the fire hazard from ember attack in case of fires.

This summer, in spite of the heat and mice we haven't seen any snakes. We'd like to think that it is just because we keep the grass down around the house, but could the lizards be deterring them too? Does anyone know if this assumption is could be correct?

The Wonderful Hobby of Amateur Radio

by Phil Longworth

Amateur radio is many different things to the three million plus people throughout the world who enjoy this multi-faceted communications hobby. Amateurs communicate with each other by transmitting Voice, Morse code, digital modes, pictures and even video signals.

Today's Amateur Radio is a world of modern communication and experimentation and has had a new lease of life since the regulations were changed in 2005 to remove Morse code and create the new "Foundation License", the hobby has been rejuvenated and has been taken up by many young children and others who in the past would never have been able to participate.

It is the only hobby in the world which allows its participants to communicate and experiment and learn new skills in the process, while learning the "art" of Radio Communications. Many Amateurs experiment with Digital Communication using Computers & Radio to complement each other and almost all Amateurs are involved in some kind of "Home Brew" projects.

This unique hobby also helps in developing people's abilities in many ways. The nature of the hobby results in an increase of knowledge in geography, science and mathematics. One tends to acquire a flair for good communication and have the opportunity to network worldwide. One also gets to appreciate and understand cultural differences and get a better understanding of the world we live in.

The Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club (CRARC) conducts training courses for the "Foundation" licence about 5 times a year in the "odd" numbered months and then in coordination with the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA), which is the oldest Amateur Radio society in the world, conducts the required Australian Communications and Media Authority Examination / Assessments at the conclusion of the training course.

The next training course is scheduled for the weekend of Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th March 2013 at the Mt Mugga Scout Hall in Red Hill. More information about Amateur Radio can be found at the WIA website www.wia.org.au and locally at the CRARC website www.crarc.ampr.org

Editor's Note: Phil Longworth supplied me with information about the new Poppet Hill Tower printed in the Whisper a year or so ago. He at that time asked if he could write something like this article for the Whisper, and I readily agreed. Also, in his email sending the story just above, Phil added this bit of information: "Re: the Poppet Hill tower, I was passing that part of the forest in December and can confirm that the new FM Broadcast antenna's are indeed on the tower, the design of the antenna's and the orientation towards Canberra probably disguises them from a distance. the ACMA database now has licensing information for all 4 services up there as well so I assume they are all 'on air'."

TELSTRA ISSUES

by Jenny Warren

Those of you who are subscribers to the Wamboin Community Noticeboard < http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/Wamboin_Noticeboard/ > will have read more than 30 posts from your neighbours since January 18th, on the subject of Telstra and the service issues our community experiences.

The issues being discussed are landline and internet related. They are obviously long standing for some, more recent for others, but there is clearly a widespread problem with service to our region. The entire '6236' exchange failed at least twice in January and many residents have posted on issues with their home service, along with their perception that Telstra is not as responsive to faults and complaints as customers might expect.

There have been numerous comments on the Noticeboard, ranging from suggesting that we "all apply for satellite services because of the inability of Telstra to manage our local lines", to another who posted that they asked Telstra to conduct "...a broader review into the adequacy of the local network and infrastructure", to suggestions that "...the line problems and the ADSL 2 upgrade maybe related."

Some have suggested that action by our Community Associations may be an effective way to take the Telstra monopoly to task.

The next meeting of the Wamboin Community Association (WCA) is Tuesday 19th February, 7:30pm at the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin. All residents are welcome to attend WCA meetings and to raise matters of interest or concern, such as these Telstra issues.

I intend to be there and I hope other disgruntled Telstra customers will come along, all with a story that will help build our community's case.

Behind the Washing Machine

by Ned Noel

At about 6:30 pm on the Tuesday evening, January 15, I noticed the door from the laundry to the outside was open by a few centimeters. I pushed it shut. It refused to shut and a snake pushed through the opening. It slipped behind the washing machine. I went to get a something to try to get rid of it. The only thing around was a broom handle. Trying to push it down behind the washing machine to somehow deal with the snake seemed risky and unlikely to solve the problem.

I phoned Wildcare on the 6299-1966 number. The first call went to message bank. The next call, to Leslie Machin, was answered. She gave me two phone numbers for snake handlers. She said all the Wildcare snake handlers are volunteers. The first person who answered said that she was on a second glass of wine and didn't think she should try to deal with a snake. She said there were three volunteer snake handlers in Wamboin and provided their phone numbers.

A woman named Belinda Dawson answered the first of the three numbers. She said she would come soon. Within 15 minutes she was in my driveway, a young woman. She said hello and asked where the snake was. It was in the laundry, a room about a meter and a half wide and four meters long. The three doors into the laundry were shut. She wanted them to stay that way, so the snake couldn't get back outside or into the rest of the house. The laundry was crowded, with coats along one wall. She went in. She pointed a torch down into the fairly dark area behind the washing machine and saw the snake.

For the next hour or so I watched through the window from outside as Belinda very patiently used her snake handler's stick to try to get the snake to move into a slightly more open area. She was also trying not to let it move into an area where a vacuum cleaner and some of its cords and coils covered the floor. She said she was glad to find the snake alive, as the last call she took brought her to a snake just killed.

The snake would move a little, then sometimes move back, but always find another hard to get spot behind the washing machine or some coats hanging along the wall. Sometimes it did nothing for five minutes or more. Finally Belinda nudged it into a half open small space on the tile floor, a square foot or so. She then put her snake handler's bag, with open end wide spread, to one side of the snake. Over another ten minutes or so she nudged (and talked) it into the opening. Then she picked up the bag by its handle so that the snake fell deep into the bag. She asked me to pull tight the loop to tie off the top of the bag while she held the bag up and watched to be sure the snake stayed down at the bottom.

She said it was a Tiger snake. It was a little under a meter long. I asked if my call interrupted her dinner. She said no, she had finished, and that her husband was looking after her two children while she dealt with the snake. She said she would take the snake to a place fairly far away from my house, or possibly keep it for a while as wildcare kept some snakes for a little while so as to train other handlers before releasing the animal back into the wild.

Later that evening the first person I phoned from Wildcare, Paul Mangan, phone back to apologise for the call going to message bank. He said he had been on another call, and that Wamboin had 10 calls for snake handlers that day.

Is your child keen to play soccer for a local club?

A new soccer club has formed in Sutton. Capital Country Junior Football Club is seeking expressions of interest from players who may be keen to play soccer with us in our first and exciting year. We want kids to train locally to save driving into Canberra for training. You'll get to know other families who may take turns car-pooling players to and from games in and around Canberra. The goal is to attract players from Collector, Gunning, Gundaroo, Sutton, Bywong, Wamboin, Bungendore and Tarago.

If you're interested in your child playing in U7, U8, U9 this year, please call Jess Peil on 0404 097 096 or Melanie Greenhalgh on 0418 493 730 or email capitalcountryjfc@gmail.com by Friday 1 March 2013. Please be aware that teams are dependent on numbers and every effort will be made to accommodate as many players as possible.

MACS REEF TRANSFER STATION

Representatives from the NSW Government's Southern Joint Regional Planning Panel met at the Palerang Council's Chambers with the Mayor, Council's planning staff and representatives from the Wamboin and Bywong Community Associations on 24 January 2013 to discuss the development application (DA.2012.157) by Council for the Macs Reef Waste Transfer Facility. For those people who might be interested in the DA detail, it can be downloaded from

<http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/palerangcouncil/index.php?op=wmpplanning>

or from

<http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/palerangcouncil/index.php?op=wmworkinggroup>

Presentations were made by the WCA Secretary, John van der Straaten, and the Bywong President, Darryl Bourke, supporting Palerang Council's proposal. Reference was made to the work entailed in progressing the proposal to this stage and to how closely the Community Associations and Council staff had worked to achieve this development. It was agreed that the exercise was an excellent example of Community/Council engagement to develop a mutually beneficial solution to an obvious problem. This was noted favourably by the SJRPP Senior Planning Officer who chaired the meeting.

After some deliberation and minor amendments to the DA, the Panel members approved the DA. Council now has a "green light" from the NSW Government to proceed with the transfer station project and to refurbish and revegetate the current landfill site. -- John van der Straaten



WamboinGolf – January 2012

by Jack Whitney

The first event for 2013 was the Hubbard/Wiyagiba Trading 10 hole, shotgun start, 3 stick stableford event. Considering the temperature on the day a large contingent of golfers started out from the Community Hall - and with play disrupted due to an afternoon bush fire in the area, most, but not all golfers finished the round. Thanks to all those volunteer fire fighters who keep our community safe.

Our junior stars this month were Zac Ward, Alex Gordon and Madison Gordon. NTP winners were Paul Griffin x2, Kyle Griffin, Dan Moonie, Jason Beckett, Scott Ward, Ken Gordon and Len Ivey.

The 3 stick, stableford winners were Deb Gordon 1st, Charles Guscott 2nd, Paul Griffin 3rd.

MC for the Wiyagiba event Mr Ken Gordon.

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This is our 25th 'Clean Up Australia' effort and we have removed an average of one and a half tonnes each year. Just imagine how our roads would look if 'someone' hadn't picked up the rubbish. Have you ever been that 'someone'? Your chance comes on Sunday March 3 with the next **Clean Up Australia (CUA) Day**. The Wamboin section is organised by your Community Association with Palerang Council and CUA. Our target is local roadways.

For insurance purposes please register at the Hall from 9am. Sunscreen, safety vests, gloves, collection bags drinks and nibblys will be supplied. Safety signs will be positioned and the Fire Brigade will assist with checking on teams, handing out drinks picking up bags etc. Please ensure you wear stout footwear and a sunhat. Additional clothing is optional but recommended. We will call it quits at 12 noon.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY SUNDAY MARCH 3. 9AM till NOON.

WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS

Contact – Joan Mason, Ph. 62 383 258

Wamboin Community Hall 112 Bingley Way.

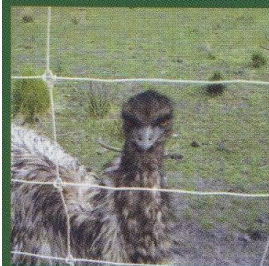
Special thanks goes to Evie for stepping in with the Scones stall for the January Market. Evie says she had a great time, and best of all – sold out. Thanks also to Jenny, who is continuing with the scones, alternating with Evie month about.

Another big thank-you to Marita, Kerry and Cassie who helped me with the Egg & bacon rolls, we were so busy! (Hopefully, Charlie and Helen will be back for the February Market.) Tony was very busy making coffee, said the queue was the longest he has had! The Old Coffee Shop was chockers, all seats taken. That's what the Wamboin Markets are all about - good food, good coffee, good variety of stalls, with lots of happy friendly people having a good time.

Pauline had lots of home produce from the garden – potatoes, silverbeet, carrots, also eggs etc. Hopefully more produce will be available now that the gardens are producing and excess produce is available. Lina has a table of lovely jewellery she makes, Val, has always been available to sell her array of sapphires, necklaces and rings. Rusty comes along each month with various soaps, ceramic wares and other goods. Lots of other stalls,

**so come along to the next Wamboin Markets on :-
SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY, 2013 9AM-12 NOON**

NOTE: In conjunction with the APRIL 2013 MARKETS a display of 'Unusual cars/vehicles/wheels' is being planned, and hopefully will be on show on the oval next to the hall during market time. Further details elsewhere in this Whisper.



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Mailboxes All Dressed Up For Xmas by Gail Ritchie Knight

Following 2011's inaugural Christmas decorating competition, the Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) again challenged residents to decorate their letterboxes. For the 2012 contest we provided three baskets filled with gifts for the first, second and third prize winners.

The WWOW were delighted to see such diversity in design. There were ribbons and bows, baubles and boxes, much tinsel and Santas of all shapes and sizes. Some were classic, some were humorous while others were clever or down-right quirky. I can definitely say Aussie humour is alive and well in the bush.

After viewing every mailbox, we then reduced the list to ten. This was no mean feat as the standard had indeed risen from the previous year's efforts. After much deliberation we presented our shortlist to the judges. Pete Harrison, Mayor of Palerang Council and Darryl Bourke, President of the Bywong Community Association conferred for some time at our Christmas party before finally reaching a decision.

And the winners were — first: 64 Majors Close, second: 315 Macs Reef Road and third: 50 Merino Vale Drive.

Once again the local residents participated in creating a sense of community and WWOW will definitely organise another one this year. So put your creative thinking hats on to make 2013 bigger and better.

To see these pictures (and the Whisper) in colour, go to www.wamboincommunity.asn.au



Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Summer is not my favourite time of the year. I prefer cool days and the comforting sound of rain on an iron roof at night, but I must admit I truly enjoy summer mornings. To be up early for the second sitting of breakfast with the birds, to feel a freshness in the still air and to see a garden revived by a cool night's rest after the sapping heat of the day before makes you ready to face almost anything. It's that special time before the day becomes hot and cluttered, a time to potter, to look around, fill bird baths and turn on a sprinkler.

I mulched many of our young trees and garden beds last November before we went away for a stretch, fearing perhaps that I had left it too late. The ground had suddenly become quite dry, but I'm so pleased that I did. The very hot dry weather of late has not been kind to either plants or animals, but at least the mulch has provided some protection for the plants. Wise kangaroos now sprawl listlessly in the dust under any tree that offers shade, unmoved by your presence, and the bush is quiet. Only a hormone driven mother duck defied the burning heat, sitting resolutely on a clutch of ten eggs. Every so often she tossed out an egg that had lost its promise, and fortunately for us hatched only two. With tongue in cheek we called the peeping fluff balls, Bless and Ing.... two, you could pretend might be a blessing, but ten would have been madness amongst the relics in the roost.

Apart from mulching in preparation for our absence, I had organised a young lad to stay in our house. He was a very pleasant, modern young man with a mostly academic enthusiasm for the environment, and agile thumbs. Unless he could check the relevant data on his I Phone he didn't appear to know where he was or whether he should be feeling hot or cold. My suspicions should have been aroused when I asked him to collect, in addition to duck eggs, the mail, and noticed his eyes glaze over. I did wonder, fleetingly, if snail mail may have been an alien concept to him, but dismissed the idea.

We set off and I left behind all thoughts of the garden, the ducks, and the fact that we have the smallest letterbox in all of Wamboin. But I learned something while I was away. There really is a Santa Claus!

As our letter box started to fill and then overflow with Christmas greetings from around the globe, our vigilant Postie became alarmed. He was alarmed, firstly, that something dire may have happened to the owners of the little letter box living at the other end of the red gravel road, and secondly, that uncollected mail was a signal to would be thieves that there was an empty house ripe for the pickings. I've never met our Postie and I know him only by the car he drives, often on the wrong side of the road, but we've waved to each other just as you wave to everyone who drives down your road. He, however, must be Santa Claus! He tracked us down using his local knowledge and a possible connection, and our family came to the rescue. I don't think our young house sitter even noticed the sudden appearance of a mountain of mail at the back door. He probably stumbled over it, thumbs twitching, checking to see if he were home!

Thank you Postie, and thank you again for your vigilance, concern and initiative. I hope you enjoyed the 1 token bubbles we confidently left in our letter box for you to collect on the last mail delivery before Christmas. And next time I might be more precise in my instructions to young house sitters, not just about collecting letters from a letter box, but collecting duck eggs from cunning ducks as well.

I wouldn't live anywhere else.....and to my delight, he did leave me a handwritten list of 27 birds he'd observed during his time here.....Happy New Year!

LONG RUNNING CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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