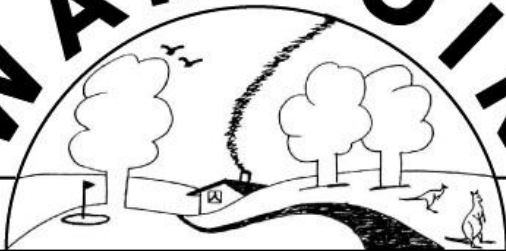


WAMBOIN



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

June 2013 CIRCULATION: 1,273

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 July 2013 issue the deadline is Sunday, 30 June, 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

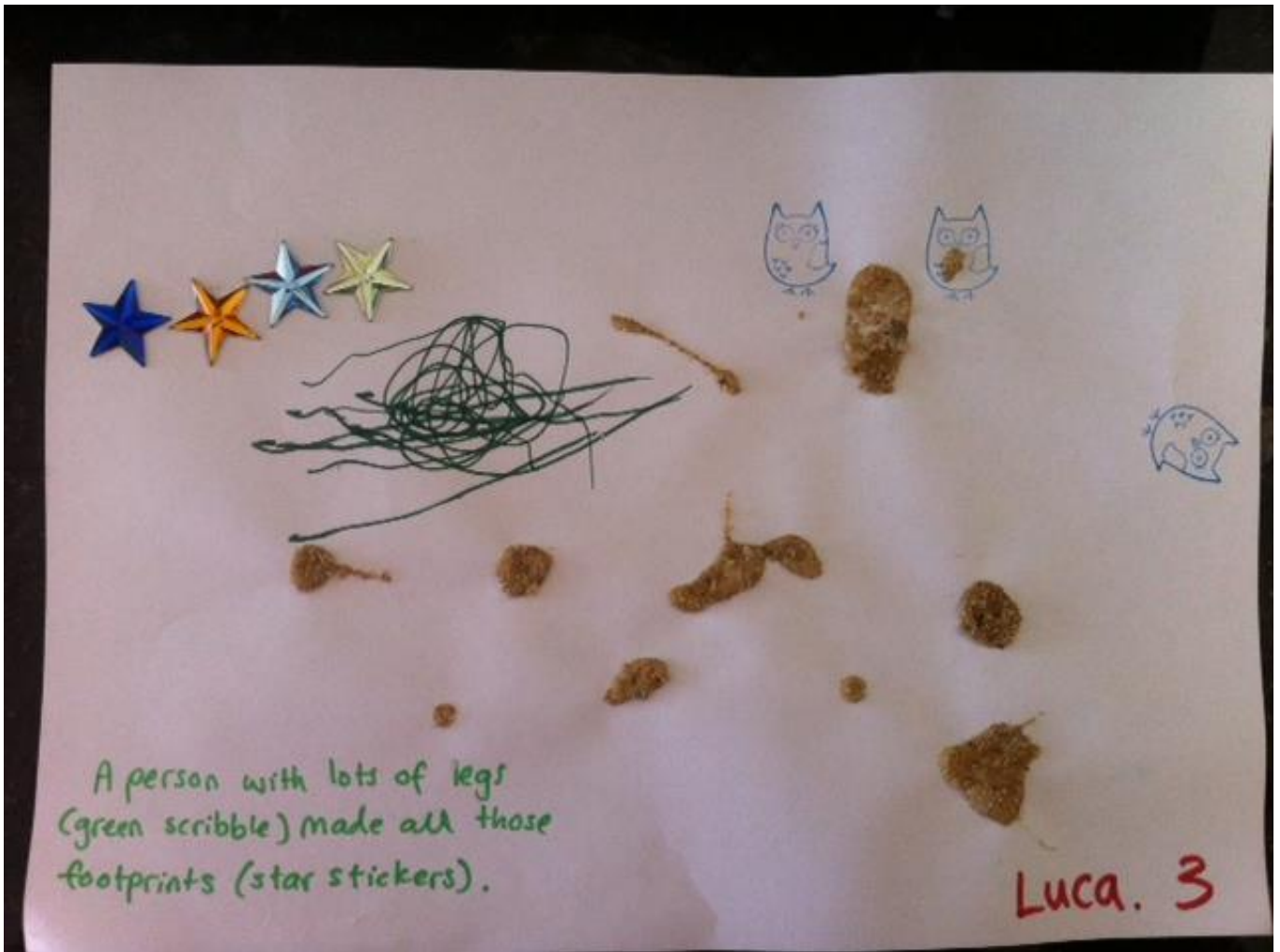
Bungendore Police: 6238 1244 Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre: 0409 991 340 Ambulance Bookings: 131233

LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	Jenny Richards, President	6238 1329	president@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, Secretary	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	Leanne Quick, Club Captain	6238 3435	
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Katarina Biondic, contact	0421 859 917	
Wamboin Play Group	Emma Auzins, Convener	6238 3974	cotsell@moraguy.net
Bywong Hall Bookings	Guy Cotsell, contact	6230 3523	
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	Pauline Segeri, contact	6238 1996	
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/ petsitting	6238 1660



We encouraged Luca to do an artwork about a walk in wamboin or playing in the backyard (thus the sand from the sandpit) but he had a story of his own going on in his head as outlined above. – Emma Auzins

Note from Jenny Richards and Ned Noel: This is the first of 3 drawings by Bywong and Wamboin 3-5 year olds. You will see the other two drawings if you look through this Whisper. You can see them much better in colour at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au Each has won a prize, which will be delivered sometime next week. For the July issue 6-8 year olds living in the Whisper's distribution area are asked to send in a drawing or painting that will make the Whisper better. Please also put down some words that tell what is going on in the picture. president@wamboincommunity.asn.au or whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au

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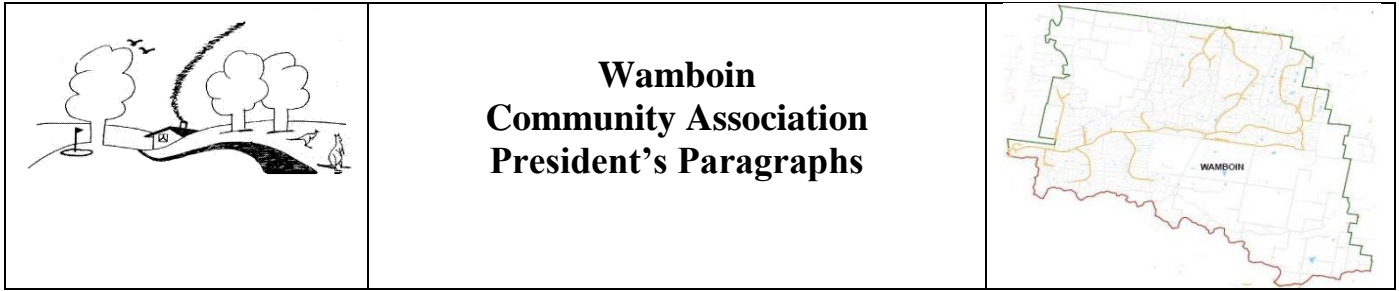
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Alan and Eleanor
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alan.rope@priam.com.au



Hi there everyone. Hasn't it turned cold recently? There isn't as much to talk about this month so these notes will be brief indeed.

Guest Speaker's Visit – On Tuesday 21st May we held our May meeting of the WCA and were fortunate to host another guest speaker. We hosted the endorsed federal ALP candidate, Michael Pilbrow at an informal gathering so that like the Liberal candidate, Angus Taylor the previous month, Michael could get to know us here in Wamboin and the surrounding areas and our unique problems that we face that are of concern federally. Neither of these sessions was a Meet the Candidate session, just an informal get-together. We will be hosting a proper Meet the Candidate evening in August and hope both these men will attend along with any other prospective candidates for the upcoming federal election.


Other Welcome Guests – At that same meeting we also had guests from the Royalla Community Association come to visit to observe things and see how they could go about getting their own Community Hall structure built. It was lovely to meet and talk with them.

Monthly Produce Market – The Home Produce Market continues to thrive but after our June market day, we will go into our usual two month hiatus. Markets will resume in September.


Art Competition For Our Youngest People – Thank you for those wonderful art works we received from our youngest people. They will be published in this month's Whisper and the prize winners will be notified shortly. You can see them in colour at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au 6-8 year olds are asked to send in drawings and words describing the drawing for the July Whisper.

Letters From Residents – There have been in recent months, a number of perceived issues affecting our community that have been of some concern to some residents. I believe that these concerns have been stated by members of the community in this edition of The Whisper and replies given where appropriate . - Jenny Richards (President)

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Regards Leigh Mitchell



Thank you for an excellent service. David and Ben were always extremely informative and honest. The staff at the office were always very friendly and efficient. It was a difficult time for me selling my home as a result of the passing of my husband and I really appreciate the way that Sutton Real Estate made the process so un-stressful. Very much appreciated. Thank you.

Angela Vagg



Dear Sutton Real Estate,

Thankyou to everyone. You all gave 100%, were always on time always kept in contact. If we would ever sell again we would use Sutton Real Estate. I'm going to tell everyone I know to use Sutton Real Estate, even next door. You should maybe give them a call...Thanks again

Ken & Michelle



Ben and David did an excellent job, communication was excellent and would not hesitate recommending them to friends/family.

Brad Banks



The team is excellent and functions well. They go above and beyond what is expected of a real estate agency and takes on full responsibility of the sale of the property especially post exchange.

Chris Campbell



Dear Ben & David,
Thank you for all your assistance and kindness during a very stressful period for me.

Sally Phillips



Dear Sutton Real Estate,

Overall we were happy with the service we received from Sutton RE. We felt that your staff were helpful and always had a happy disposition. One of the main factors that influenced us to go with Sutton was that you seem more focused on the client and the sale. Other appraisals we received seemed to talk a lot about the particular agent making the appraisal and how good they were and not so much on what they would do for us. We thought your appraisal was based more on facts and reason rather than someone's 'gut' feeling.

Shane and Stephney Bergl

**Bywong
Community
News**

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

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



Trivia: OK – we are ready. Hope you are too. If you haven't yet booked your table for our trivia night on 13 July, get on to Greg Gougeon soon. Because we are an "intimate" venue, numbers are limited. See our advertisement in this Whisper for details.

New Greenway: Our last Community meeting welcomed the imminent opening of a new section of Greenway, which links Millyn Road with Donnelly Road. We are still to see the finalisation of some details, including provision of signage prohibiting the passage of motorbikes and other motorised vehicles. The Community decided to make a donation of \$200 to assist with the erection of these signs and to support the extension of this network. We believe the greenways can make a valuable contribution to our local lifestyle.

Hall matters: Keith Churchill addressed the last Community meeting on the merit of regular top-dressing of the grounds with sand to maintain and promote new growth, especially after heavy use. The Community approved Keith's proposals in principle, but will refer the proposal to the Les Reardon Reserve Management Committee which is the appropriate body to consider such matters.

There seems to be a need to clarify the management of the Bywong Hall, and to make clear that the Community neither owns nor administers this facility. The hall is a Council facility, administered by a Section 355 Committee appointed by Council to administer the Les Reardon Reserve, of which the hall forms a part. Council sets the rules and fixes hiring charges. Bywong Community, like any other user, pays for its use of the hall and pays the rates fixed by Council. The Community has a representative on the S.355 Committee, as do other major users. Subject to rules determined by Council, the hall is available for hire, with locals given preference and some limited commercial uses.

We apologise to those who have had difficulty with our website accessing the hall booking calendar to check on availability. We have now discovered that while the access on our website's home page has been working well, access from the "Bywong Hall and Les Reardon Reserve" page has not been working. We have now remedied this glitch, and hope none of you have trouble in future.

A Council Ahead of its Time: Congratulations to Council and its staff on reopening Macs Reef Road as scheduled on time – or by our observations a couple of hours ahead of time! Now that we can drive (gingerly) up and down the gravelled slope we can see what a major work it has been. We look forward to eventual sealing and the end of an expected period of one-way travel. Watch out for the surface in the wet!

Macs Reef Fire: Returning from a trip to the tip to celebrate the new road, we were alarmed to see a fire billowing smoke just off Macs Reef Road. Our alarm was quickly replaced by a feeling of warmth and community when we met three firetrucks proudly bearing the identifications of Wamboin, Sutton and Bungendore, all on their way to the fire. The fire did not last long. Keep it up, fires – we love you all!

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

May rainfall to 26/5 ... 11.75mm
 2013 rainfall to 26/5 ... 162.5mm
 Average June rainfall ... 57.6mm
 Wettest June ... 189mm in 1997
 Hottest June day ... 17C twice
 Coldest June night ... -6C on 9/6/96

(May 2012 ... 31.25)
 (2012 rainfall to 31/5 ... 461.5mm)
 (June 2012 ... 43.5mm)
 Driest June .. 8mm in 1979
 Coldest June day ... 3C on 9/6/11

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Councillor's Corner

Development Application Processing — From time to time, councillors are contacted by residents with problems associated with development approvals. Often the problem is simply the time it is taking to process a development application (DA).

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure regularly monitors the performance of the NSW planning system to ensure it is operating as efficiently and effectively as possible for the public, for small and large-scale developers and for industry professionals such as council planners. Details are published annually on the performance monitoring page (<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Development/PerformanceMonitoring/tabid/74/language/en-AU/Default.aspx>) on the DP&I website.

For example, DP&I figures indicate that, in 2011-2012, Palerang Council processed 327 DAs, approving 314 and rejecting 13. Only 9 of these needed to be referred to Council, generally because the development was considered to be controversial—if there are more than six objections lodged, or if three councillors specifically requested that the application come to Council. This is a typical figure—generally 97% of DAs are determined, under delegation, by council's planning staff.

There were, however, delays in processing 130 of the applications because not enough information was provided when the original paperwork was submitted. This is not necessarily anyone's fault, as such, as delays are not always avoidable. Some issues only become apparent during the processing of an application. Nonetheless, when assembling paperwork for submission, it is worth remembering that nearly 40% of DAs are delayed due to a lack of required information.

The median actual processing time for the 2011-2012 period was 40 days (elapsed), although this runs out to 57 days (elapsed) when stop-the-clock time (waiting for additional information) is included. This is not a great result when compared directly to other councils, but if Palerang Council's staffing levels are taken into consideration, it is one of the higher processing rates in NSW.

Typical processing times can be as little as just 2-3 weeks for a simple prefab shed in a rural area. A dwelling approval could take as little as 4-6 weeks if no additional information is required and there are no complications. Of course, approvals can take much longer than this if there are specific issues that require input from external agencies or objections from neighbours.

Applicants should be aware that, if they are unsure, they can request a pre-DA meeting with planning staff to help identify the information that will be required to support their application.

PLEP — To help people understand better the rationale behind the objectives included under the E4 Environmental Living zone in the draft PLEP, I have created a blog entry (see below) that lists the 12 objectives of the current 1(d) zone, together with those of the draft PLEP E4 and R5 zones. Remember that the goal was to map the 1(d) zone objectives as closely as possible, accepting the new language of the Standard Instrument, to the E4 zone.

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

- Development Approvals
- Rural Residential Zoning Objectives

See also:

- Developer Contributions
- Earthworks
- More on Earthworks

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

- Cr Pete Harrison, Ph. 6238 3640, Mob. 0427 711 028, Email: Pete.Harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.peteharrison.id.au


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How The Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

The 50 or so people below each spend time every month to make sure that Wamboin and Bywong homes own and receive a free community newspaper written by residents. If your deliverer has been on the job for a long time and you have a bit of time you could spare, think about offering to take over the job or help out. If you already have too many tasks in your month, every now and then give your volunteer paperwoman/man/boy/girl a thank you.

Thanks to each of you. - Ned Noel, volunteer editor

170: 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	35	Stuart Whitten	Canning Cl	17
Julie Veal	Poppet Rd (for all on road)	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	40
172: CO-ORDINATED BY KATHY HANDEL: ph 6238 3596					
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	48	Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Dr	17
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	31
Kathy Handel	Norton (Weeroona 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 Nrtm Rd	22	Rob Gorham	South end Clare Valley	38
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	60
Dominica Lorima	North end Clare Valley	42	Bungendore Foodworks	Bungendore	10
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 COLLET 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
205: CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON ph 6236 9333					
Phil & Pam Dawes	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln	25	David Featherston	Summerhill and Creekborough Rds	28
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	Palrang Council	Council Offices	14
TOTAL 1,273					

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The Wamboin Firefighter

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

BURNING OFF

Outside the declared bushfire danger period a **Fire Permit** is not required to burn off in the open. But, if you do plan to light a fire in the open, you must notify:

- **your neighbours, and**
- **the Queanbeyan Fire Control Centre on 6297 1840 (weekday business hrs)**

at least 24 hours before you light the fire.

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

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

TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS
RING TRIPLE ZERO



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

BURNING OFF – WARNING!! ARE YOU REALLY PREPARED?

In the past several weeks a number of property owners have been shocked (and in some cases adjacent neighbours aggrieved) by the ease and speed with which their pile/hazard reduction burn has got out of control and escaped into nearby paddocks and, in some cases, neighbouring properties.



In many circumstances, hand and mechanical clearing methods should be considered as an alternative to burning, as they could be the best way to protect assets. These methods can be safer than burning, easier to organise and maintain. If you must burn off, you need to ensure you have the manpower, ability, suitable protective clothing and footwear, appropriate tools and equipment, and an adequate and continuous water supply to control and contain the fire, including any possible spot fires. You also need a good understanding and appreciation of the prevailing and predicted local weather conditions before conducting the proposed burn. The exceptionally dry conditions that have prevailed over summer into autumn and right up to the present day mean that the grass, leaf litter and bushland remain highly susceptible to fire. To the shock of some residents, fire produces embers that, with just a skerrick of wind, become airborne and float, drift or are whisked away. Once

descended the embers have very quickly ignited surrounding grass, leaf litter, and other debris. Sparks can turn quickly into flames and run through the grass and leaf litter as easily and speedily as a hot knife through butter. Only difference is, unlike a knife through butter, fire doesn't travel in a straight line. Please! - be careful with fire.

BRIGADE ACTIVITY

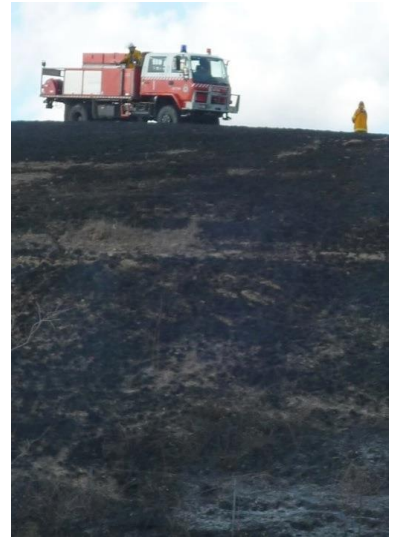
Incidents during May

The fire brigade was responded to five incidents during May (ranging from out-of-control burn-offs to a motor vehicle accident and house fire).

Thursday 2 May at 4.46pm –Federal Highway Lake George – crew in W1Alpha and W9 responded to a report of a vehicle fire near the Wheatley VC Rest Area overlooking Lake George. The fire turned out to be a result of an engine failure (blown turbo) on a truck. Crew from Gundaroo Rural Fire Brigade were on scene. Assistance of the Wamboin brigade was no

longer considered necessary so tanker and crew returned to the Fire Station just before 6pm with Wamboin 9 standing down shortly thereafter.

Sunday 12 May just after noon (Mothers Day!) – the brigade was responded to a scrub and grass fire in Doust Rd Bywong. It is believed the fire began as a resident burn-off that got out-of-control and escaped through fence lines into two neighbouring properties. Despite the hilly terrain, difficult and circuitous access, and the blustering and dry conditions the fire was eventually contained and brought under control but in all some 17 hectares of land were burnt. Eight Wamboin crew in two tankers and the striker/mop up vehicle attended supported by crew in tankers from Bungendore, Gundaroo Sutton and Queanbeyan. The Wamboin tankers (Wamboin 1Alpha and Wamboin 7Bravo) were the last to leave the fireground at 4.30pm (Wamboin 7Bravo to return to the Fire Station and Wamboin 1Alpha re-tasked and enroute to Bungendore Fire Station as back-up for Bungendore Brigade which had been responded with all its tankers to tackle a grassfire on the edge of Bungendore). Just a few minutes after leaving the Doust Rd fireground, crew in Wamboin 7Bravo happened upon a motor vehicle accident involving two cars on the corner of Federal Hwy and Bungendore Rd Bywong. First aiders in W7Bravo and W1Alpha rendered assistance to the injured until an ambulance arrived. Crew also assisted



the sole policeman with traffic management until additional support arrived. After the arrival of further support from other brigades, Wamboin 1Alpha continued on to Bungendore Fire Station where crew remained until the Bungendore tankers returned from the grassfire on the edge of the town. Crew in Wamboin 7Bravo returned to Wamboin Fire Station just before 6pm and W1Alpha arrived a short time later at 6.30pm.

Tuesday 14 May at 12.39pm - the brigade was requested to send a heavy tanker and crew to a report of a house fire in Walga Close Carwoola. Fire crews from across the region (NSW and ACT) converged on Carwoola. The Wamboin tanker was one of several involved in relaying water to other tankers immediately adjacent to the fire. Unfortunately, the home could not be saved. It is believed that the cause of the fire may have been as a result of someone clearing ashes from a fireplace. Wamboin crew returned to Wamboin Station shortly before 4pm.

Sunday 19 May at 11.40am – brigade members' pagers lit up requesting the brigade respond to a report of a grass fire on a property in Macs Reef Rd Bywong. Ten firefighters in Wamboin 1Alpha, Wamboin 7Bravo, Wamboin 9, and Wamboin PC attended. It appears the fire that had begun as a small pile burn had escaped into a paddock and threatened an adjacent pine plantation. With the support of Sutton and Bungendore brigades the fire was contained and extinguished. We acknowledge the heroic actions of the 2 neighbors who kept the fire from getting established in the pine plantation until RFS units arrived. (Photo courtesy Olivia Dunn)



Community Education

FireWise groups If you would like to know more about the purpose of, role, and how to set up a *FireWise Group* with your neighbours, please contact Senior Deputy Captain Richard Hobbs on 0417 483 978 or email senior@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au

Wamboin Market Day Brigade Info Shopfront Members of the Community Education team set up the monthly brigade info stall outside the Wamboin Local Produce Market on Saturday 18th May and helped a number of visitors to the markets with their bush, grass and house fire preparation queries. Next brigade market day info stall is Saturday 15 June. This will be the last info stall before the Wamboin Local Market (and therefore the Info Shopfront) goes into winter recess (July-August).

New Brigade Members We always welcome enquiries from people who would like to join the community's rural fire brigade to be involved either as a fire fighter or as a member of the brigade's Support Crew. Want to know more? Please ring the Secretary, John Taubman, on 6238 3153 or email: secretary@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au for further information and to receive a Membership Application Pack.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues 11 th June	Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade <i>Annual General Meeting</i> – 7.30pm @ Wamboin Fire Station 112 Bingley Way Wamboin. Visitors are welcome.
Sat 15 th June	<i>Brigade Information 'Shopfront'</i> adjacent to the Wamboin Home Produce Market (9am-12noon).

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 including the NSW Rural Fire Service that provide guidance regarding bush and grass fire preparations. You'll also find the brigade's history and other interesting material including photos on the Brigade's site at <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>



And finally...

Should you have any non-emergency enquiry, e.g. if you are seeking guidance with your Bush Fire Survival Plan, you can contact the Brigade directly by email captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au or phone 0409 991 340.

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Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare

Repairing the land

Six volunteers planted 98 trees opposite the Bungendore tip on 12 May (-it was amazingly easy in the deep loam). We need to plant another 200 trees here – this will be on 16 June. There will be two more plantings this year, around Bywong and Wamboin Halls on National Tree Day, and at Birchmans Estate on National Wattle Day.

We intend to have a stall selling native plants (grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees) at next year's Bywong Car Boot Sale, so we need to start propagating cuttings for this purpose as soon as possible. Propagation sessions will resume at Geoff's place on one or two Saturday mornings per month for the rest of this year. Sessions are for two hours and start at 9am. We welcome all volunteers. If possible, please bring along some cuttings of local native plants, so that we can strike some new plants. Please contact Geoff beforehand if you are going to attend - email gbu22182@bigpond.net.au or phone 62369158, so that Geoff can cater for the correct number of people in terms of seating, plant/potting mix preparation and morning tea.

Dates for propagation sessions:

1 June, 6 July, 20 July, 3 August, 17 August, 7 September, 12 October, 2 November.

Other dates for your diary:

- 15 June – sale of plants at Wamboin market
- 16 June – planting opposite Bungendore tip – 9am. We need more volunteers please
- 17 June - Landcare meeting, 7:30pm, Les Reardon Reserve (Bywong) Hall
- 28 July - National Tree Day: plant shrubs around Bywong Hall and Wamboin Hall
- 1 Sept - National Wattle Day – plant trees in Birchmans Estate
- 16 Sept - Landcare meeting, 7:30pm, Les Reardon Reserve (Bywong) Hall

If you would like to join our group or volunteer to help, please email me or turn up at a meeting.
 -- Kathy Handel, ph 6238 3596, email: kukinya@bigpond.com

Strangles Outbreak in Local Area – Reminder for All Horse Owners to Vaccinate

Sent in by Kerry Cox, Macs Reef Road

Due to the current outbreak of strangles in the area vets are strongly recommending that all horse owners ensure that their horses are vaccinated against strangles. Vaccinations are individual injections; pre packaged & measured out, and can be administered by a vet or the owner in consultation with their vet.

Typically, horses suffering from strangles have pus discharging from the nostrils and swellings (abscesses) forming in the lymph glands under the jaw. These abscesses often burst and exude thick yellow pus. Affected horses can have fever, be depressed and may stop eating. Further information is available from <http://www.cyberhorse.net.au/csl/strangles.htm>

Editor's Note: Two vets, Natasha Hovanessian of Canberra Veterinary Hospital and Stacy Gwither of Bungendore Veterinary Surgery, corroborated the problem and suggested, as Kerry does, that your veterinarian can provide further information.

<p><i>Your Local Electrician</i> Andrew Lemon APL Electrical Services</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">NSW Licence: 120626C</p> <p>Electrical maintenance, new homes, extensions, sheds, power to water bores and more.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Punctual and dependable reputation.</i></p> <p>Please call Andrew on 0428 466 525.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FOR SALE</p> <p>Locally grown Native and Exotic shrubs and trees, suitable for this area. 150 mm (6") pots \$5.00 200 mm (8") pots \$9.00 Fresh Cut Flowers</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p>Kleenheat Gas Dealer, Wamboin, Sutton and Geary's Gap Area. - Rural Services WIYAGIBA TRADING – Dave and Jane Hubbard 37 Poppet Road, Wamboin Ph/Fax 6238 3308 Nursery Sales Closed Due to Rebuilding.</p>
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I just have to share with you a recent drawing that has pride of place on our fridge, done by our 5 yr old grandson Harrison Scarlett. He created it while staying with his Nanna & Pop in Bywong. He said it was.....Nanna, Pop, Harry & and his little sister Lizzie, holding hands at the dinner table saying 'Ta Heavenly Pa'. - regards, Meg Ruting, "Brooksvale" Bywong

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Wamboin Golf

by John Whitney

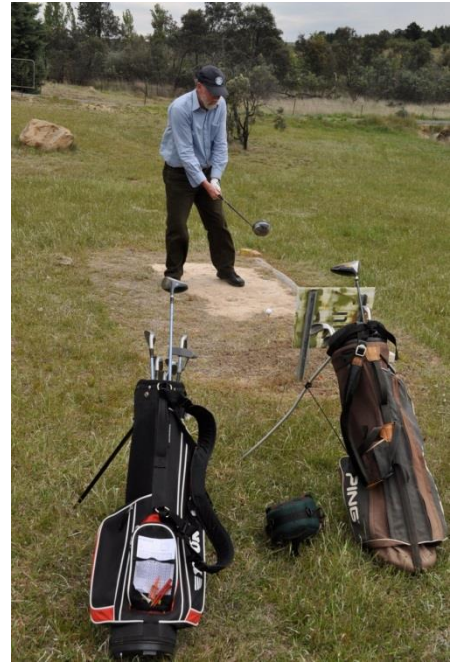
This months event was sponsored by Tim and Paul with the "Eats" provided by Dianne Griffin, helped along by Kyle and Paul.

Although not mentioned by our handicapper on the "Official Results for Publication Form", I gather the days event was Stableford. If not, the scores indicate that our dear little par 66 course was shot to pieces!

Winners and Grinners: Our ball winners included Deb and Ken Gordon, Joan and Lofty Mason, Rob Gorham, Keith France, Charles Guscott, Paul Griffin and Stephen Miners. Helen Locke was awarded the Googly Ball with Nev having the days Dummy Spit. Junior winners were Taylor Miners and Alex Gordon with Madison and Rachel receiving the days encouragement award.

The 9 hole winner was Lofty Mason on 23, followed by Ken edging out his wife Deb, on a 16 count back. Both our sponsors, Tim (38) and Paul (33) were up in the placings for the 18 hole event but as is tradition ... So the days 18 hole winners were Steve Miners on 37, Keith France on 34 and Rob Gorham on a respectable 30.

Next months event is sponsored by Lamberts Vineyard. Check in with the starter at 12:15 for a 12:30 start from our Community Hall in Bingley Way. Picture: Sponsor Paul at the Tee.



Wither Macs Reef Road?

by Nora Stewart

Whilst the closure of one of main thoroughfares is a significant inconvenience of about an extra 17 kms each way for local residents of Bywong, there are also some wonderful benefits.

The silence and quiet is palpable. The wildlife are getting bolder by the day, swooping across the road, lying about casually and coming very close to the road. I see only the neighbours now, all beetling along towards Bungendore Road and give a wave. Sunday mornings have been quite transformed from a motorbike raceway to a beautiful country road again. Peace.

*Country road, go along
To the place, where I call home
North of Canberra
Bywong Gold Mine
Take me home
Down Macs Reef Road.*

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Cleaners available all areas, local and reliable , call Claire or JO on 0417217621.

Lovely family of three kids (3yr old girl and b/g 10 month twins) is looking for an experienced carer 830am - 530pm Thursday in Wamboin beginning August. Would require first aid certificate, a 6 month commitment and willingness to be registered as an In Home Care provider. Contact heather - 0425133530 or heather.cocquio@gmail.com

Short term agistment wanted for 3 friendly retired horses. We need to give our property a rest and require a suitable paddock for around 3 months. Must have good fencing and water, cows ok. Prefer around mid Norton road Wamboin so we can check them regularly. Will pay \$15 per horse per week. Please call Linda or Rob on 6238 3595 ah.

The next Veolia Mulwaree Trust funding round closes on 5 June 2013. The Trust welcomes applications from not-for-profit organisations with projects to benefit the local community. Eligible organisations should visit the Trust's website at www.mulwareetrust.org.au for further information on how to apply, or phone the Veolia Mulwaree Trust office in Goulburn on (02) 4822 2786. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For media interviews please contact Veolia Mulwaree Trust Chairman Paul Stephenson on 0439 272 422. Further information about projects and/or contact details for project managers may be obtained by calling the Veolia Mulwaree Trust office in Goulburn on (02) 4822 2786.**

Short term agistment wanted for 3 friendly retired horses. We need to give our property a rest and require a suitable paddock for around 3 months. Must have good fencing and water, cows ok. Prefer around mid Norton road Wamboin so we can check them regularly. Will pay \$15 per horse per week. Please call Linda or Rob on 6238 3595 ah.

Letter From a Resident (received 9 May)

I read on Page 5 in the May edition of "The Whisper", specifically the closing sentence at bottom of the page under the heading "Meetings", that our Bywong Community Association is "...happy to host information nights and promote open discussions.....(....such as the recent Council information sessions about the Macs Reef Road project...)".

It's a great sentiment and I sincerely hope that those concerned make it work whenever possible, because they apparently dropped the ball in March when the Association was approached to host an information night in the Community Hall, on community concern with the DLEP. The Association apparently refused to donate the use of the Hall for the purpose, forcing the organisers to rent their own Community Hall for a community information night!

It seems to me, those that organised that particular community information night did the community a very valuable service, not the least of which was to demonstrate to the community that there is atleast one other viable alternative zone that can be applied to many areas that the council is attempting to change to E4. The alternative is as we have learned, R5.

If that information night couldn't be classed as legitimate Community business then I dont know what can, and I would be delighted if the Bywong Community Association refunded the fee to the organisers.

There was a recent letter or article in the Mirror and one of the sentiments expressed, was that as a result of the number of DLEP submissions received, there may not be enough time for Council to make changes arising from the submissions, and this may, due to the State Government deadline, force the adoption of the DLEP as is, despite the apparent concerns of so many in the community. So on the one hand we have a consultative process where submissions can be made up to a certain date, but because of the number of concerned submissions recieved we cant or wont process them in time to take them into consideration.

By all accounts the issue is important enough and the community concerned enough for it to warrant plenty of continuing discussion or revision, instead of it being snuffed out using the excuse of how late it is in the process. There was a deadline for submissions, and there should be enough time to process submissions received before the due date.

Some open questions for the community and its Council to consider:

Why is the (Bywong) community being handballed into some kind of environmental protection zone?

Why aren't we being smoothly transitioned into a zone that reflects a logical direction from the previous zones that applied.

What has happened that is so significant as to require a change from "Rural Residential" to Environmental E4? Does this mean the previous zonings were wrong and previous Councils got it wrong?

Where are the independent scientific assessments that definitively indicate we are sitting on areas of environmental significance? Without this, it would appear to be not much more than someone's opinion that we should be an E4, and there are plenty of other opinions that differ.

Personally, I'd like to see an independent "at arms length" legal opinion on the DLEP and its ramifications present and future, on the rate payers of this community, if the E4 zone is adopted.

I am also concerned to see that very often when someone writes in to either of the three local papers, the Mayor seems to be given an immediate right of reply to push an apparently unwavering line. It seems the legitimate concerns of rate payers that don't necessarily agree with the DLEP in its current form, are not being addressed but rather pushed aside.

As I see it the zone objectives and land use rights that applied under the zones existing when rate payers bought their freehold blocks, MUST be carried forward. How can there be any alternative, and why does it need to be any harder than that? Once E4 is foisted upon us, it will be too late to turn back the clock.

I wrote to our state local member John Barilaro about this and other concerns my wife and family have if the DLEP and E4 in particular is applied to our area, and was delighted with his fast, knowledgeable and comprehensive response.

I strongly urge concerned others to do the same, and I write this letter purely to express my concerns as a nine year resident of the area.

– Attilio Sciamannica, Macs Reef Road




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Letter from a Resident (received 10 May)

As local Bywong residents for over 20 years, I would like to express my concern about the rezoning proposal under the new PLEP draft. We moved to Bywong over 20 years ago to have some land on which to do our own thing – ie have horses, grow fruit trees and vegetables, have some space to raise our family in a rural setting and enjoy life on the land. Our land use has evolved over time and changed as the years have gone by, and our family members have grown to become competitive equestrians.

Our family are active members of the community with strong commitment and involvement in Geary's Gap Pony Club, Bywong Community Association, Les Reardon Reserve Committee and the Greenways Committees. Until recently we thought that this involvement kept us up to date with what was happening in the local community. It wasn't until I attended the meeting regarding the PLEP (where the mayor made us aware that information regarding the changes to the PLEP had been in the local papers such as the Wamboin Whisper and on the Wamboin Community Association website), that I wondered how this vitally important information was being disseminated to the broader areas of the Palarang district ie if you were beyond the circulation of the Whisper and not a member of the WCA, you would have been in the dark. Those of us in Bywong don't see the WCA as 'ours' as we have our own community association.

I question why this information was not disseminated by a letter to every residence in the Palarang district advising of the proposal for rezoning, and providing environmental impact studies to support the proposal to change our zoning to E4 (when the default for previous 1(d) zoning that was aligned by the NSW Government was R5).

The land in this area was badly degraded farming land with vestiges of natural bush. In the time that I have lived here, the hobby farmers have improved that land out of sight. The grass cover has improved, weeds have been controlled, natural re-vegetation has been allowed to happen in areas, trees in their thousands have been planted – but where are the studies of the area that would mark the land as having "special scientific ecological or aesthetic values"? This is poor farming country which hard-working hobby farmers have poured time and money into, to create a lovely environment in which to live.

Whichever zoning is chosen, we are not asking for additional rights. We are just asking to keep what we already have, and to be better informed about changes that will have significant impact on our properties and lifestyle.

- Kerry Cox, Macs Reef Road

WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS

Contact – Joan Mason, Ph. 62 383 258

Wamboin Community Hall

112 Bingley Way.

This coming market in June will be the last for a couple of months. We will have a Winter break for July and August and recommencing again in September.

Come along and enjoy the atmosphere of our market. Hot coffee, enjoyable egg and bacon rolls, hopefully, some home grown produce (not much around this time of year), jams, nuts, lollies, Sally's cakes and sausage rolls, jewellery, knitting items, and lots more to check out.

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	<h2>Yoga in Sutton</h2> <p>It feels so good! Tuesdays 10 -11:30 am Sutton Hall</p> <p>Beginners welcome! Term 2 starts 23 Apr 2013 Maureen – 0402 900 033 enjoy.yogawithmaureen@gmail.com</p>
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Letter From a Resident (Received 15 May)

I refer to comments made by Mayor Harrison in the Councillor's Corner (May 2013) regarding the PLEP. The Mayor suggests that landowners did not have a genuine interest in the development of the draft PLEP and the land use zones that were being considered.

Let me first say that landowners should not be expected to find out what is going on with Council planning matters by wading through Council and WCA websites. It is the responsibility of Council to communicate and consult with individual landowners particularly on significant issues that have the potential to affect them and their property rights.

With regard to showing an interest in the draft PLEP - what a joke! The fact is that when we did show an interest we were ignored. During 2010 and 2011 we sent several emails to the Palerang Council and letters to the General Manager and the then Mayor expressing our concerns with proposed changes from 1(d) Rural Residential to E4 Environmental Living. We did not get an acknowledgement of our emails or letters and we were not offered the courtesy of a reply.

In his article in the Wamboin Whisper (p14 April 2010) Pete Harrison states "What is important at this stage of the LEP deliberations ... that land use Zone definitions that are incorporated into our LEP reflect as closely as possible current, or at least currently desirable land use practices." So what happened? The Environmental Living zoning in no way reflects the current land use definitions of Rural Residential areas and the land practices proposed are not desirable to us as they do not suit our current needs and it would seem they do not suit the needs of many other affected landowners.

No wonder we are suspicious of the motives for changing the Rural Residential to an Environmental Living zone. Under the proposed zoning we will be worse off because we will be stripped of our current property use rights. We are told that we have "existing use" rights. This too is a joke! What we are not being told is that you lose those rights if you cease an existing use for a period of 12 months and if you want to expand your existing use activities you will need to seek Council approval which may then impact on your current existing use rights. Also, existing use rights may be changed at any time through amendments to legislation.

I agree with the views expressed by a large number of landowners affected by the proposed zoning changes— there is no scientific or other evidence that supports the need to change 1(d) Rural Residential to an Environmental Living zone. There are other zoning options that have not been considered. But there appears to be reluctance consider anything other than Environmental Living for Rural Residential areas. Why?

- Rita Giraldi, Norton Road

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Editor's Note

The Whisper is owned by the Wamboin Community Association and edited by me. I felt that residents who write pieces for the Whisper, if they are reasonably and civilly written, are entitled to have them printed, as the top of the Whisper's front page welcomes them. Enough other residents seem to share their concerns about the PLEP process to make it reasonable to present them in the Whisper. The three residents contributing on the preceding pages did not want Mayor Pete Harrison to see and then refute their concerns in this same issue.

There are fairness issues here, especially because the PLEP is a very live political issue. Hence Jenny Richards (WCA President), John Van Der Straaten (WCA Secretary) and Lofty Mason (former Whisper Editor), eventually joined by Keith France (Councillor, Bywong Hall Committee Chairman and WCA Treasurer) and Peter Greenwood (former Councillor) and I discussed the best way to handle the 3 letters.

We accepted the residents' request that their letters be printed and not be shown to Pete Harrison. We did give them to Keith France, who replies on the page that follows. We gave a four line brief summary of the 3 letters taken together to Pete Harrison. It was that (a) residents were not properly consulted for such an important change; (b) The Bywong Community Association did not sufficiently support PLEP concerned persons in using its hall on March 19; (c) Pete Harrison did not properly respond to their concerns; (d) The PLEP threatens presently held land rights. We gave him no more than this and did not give him the authors' names.

We felt that he has worked hard for years, as a member and an elected leader of the Wamboin Community Association, to represent it and the wider Bywong and Wamboin communities, and more lately, as elected Councillor and elected Mayor, the whole of Palerang. We asked him to reply in this issue to concerns about the PLEP based on the 4 point summary if he wished, but more importantly, based on dealing with residents and with the PLEP over the years and based more recently on reading the 446 letters to the Council responding to the draft PLEP.

I asked Attilio, Kerry and Rita to go along with this compromise and they agreed to do so. – Ned Noel

FIRE-FIGHTING TRAILER

(Belongum Lofty Mason)

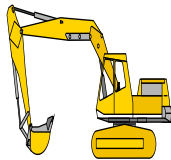
Despite Ian's sales pitch in the May Whisper 'sorry, but my fire-fighting trailer was **not for sale**'.

This trailer was built in 1984 and has a lot of outings. It was christened in the '85 fires as a mop up vehicle. It has also been used for: other mop up operations, water transfer between dams, hazard reduction duties, watering plants, burning log stand-bye duties, and even to help pump out a swimming pool to aid in the rescue of a horse.

I took the trailer to the Wheels of Wamboin because firstly I had an ill-founded worry that only a few wheels would turn up (apologies for under-estimating the organising abilities of Peter Evans but the 50 vehicles exceeded all estimations) and secondly because I thought it really typified a true set of Wamboin Wheels.

So as I explained to eager buyers 'sorry, my trailer is **not for sale**'.

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Reply from Councillor Keith France THE BYWONG HALL

The Bywong Hall is part of the Les Reardon Reserve and as such comes under the control of the Les Reardon Reserve/Bywong Hall Section 355 Committee which is a committee set up by the Palarang Council due to the fact that the Reserve and Hall are council assets.

The Palarang Council has a large number of “community halls and reserves” spread throughout the shire. Examples are: Les Reardon Reserve/Bywong Hall, Wamboin Hall, Stoney Creek/Carwoola Hall, Burra/Cargill Park, and the council is currently discussing with the Royalla Community the setting up of a Royalla Reserve and Hall. Each of these halls and reserves comes under the control of an S355 committee and the council issues guidelines on how these should be managed and controlled. Some of the relevant guidelines are as follows:

Committees will make adequate arrangements for use of the facilities by members of the public. Council must formally approve any fees charged by the Committee.

Committees will collect and retain any approved fees paid by the public for the use of the facility voted by Council for expenditure by the committees on maintenance and running expenses. Committees are responsible for management of the facility on behalf of the community. In doing so, committees are reminded that, subject to payment of fees and charges and other such considerations, the public does have a right to use the facility. Committees are established for the care, control and management of a specific Council facility, asset or group of facilities and measures must be taken to ensure that the premises and surroundings are safe.

It should be noted that community groups (such as “Geary’s Gap/Wamboin Landcare”, “Geary’s Gap Pony Club” and the “Bywong Community Association”) pay fees to the S355 Committee for the use of the Les Reardon Reserve/Bywong Hall to cover costs of maintaining and running the hall.

THE DRAFT PLEP: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

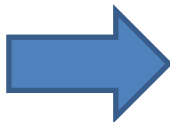
The period for submissions has closed and the council received a total of 446 submissions. The council staff are currently collating these submissions and preparing a report for councillors to review the draft PLEP. As a new councillor, I have undertaken to read each and every submission so that I am familiar with the concerns of the ratepayers of the shire, in particular the residents of Wamboin and Bywong.

While all of this has been undertaken the work of council has been continuing. In the last month councillors have been busy reviewing the Community Strategic Plan 2014-2024 so that the Delivery Plan 2014 -2017 and the Operational Plan (i.e. the budget) 2014 could be formulated. In the middle of this process T-Corp (The NSW Treasury) released its report on financial sustainability ratings for all 152 councils in NSW. Palarang’s financial sustainability rating was MODERATE with a NEGATIVE outlook (i.e. the future). It is hard to understand how the Treasury could rate Palarang’s future as negative when the work on the Delivery Plans for 2014-2017 was still being undertaken by the council. Our neighbouring council, Queanbeyan, was rated WEAK with a NEUTRAL outlook, and it is not surprising that the Mayor of Queanbeyan complained in the press that Treasury had not taken the most up-to-date data into account.

Council staff and the Mayor have been having general discussions with surrounding councils on how services could be shared across the region with the view of enhancing service delivery while also controlling costs. At the same time we have been reviewing Palarang’s Asset Management Plan. At the end of April the Independent Local Government Review Panel issued its paper – Future Directions for NSW Local Government – Twenty Essential Steps. Contained within the report were the preferred options for all councils, and for Palarang, this was to MERGE WITH QUEANBEYAN. To be fair, the recommendation did state “for consultation”. This consultation will be held at the Bungendore Council Chambers at 5pm on Tuesday 4th June running to 7pm. You are all invited.

On Thursday last week (23rd May) I attended a public meeting in Queanbeyan held by the NSW Government to present its White Paper “A new planning system for NSW”. In the White Paper, under the heading “LOCAL PLANS” Part 2 “Planning Controls” was a bold heading “A SHIFT TO FEWER, BROADER ZONES”, and Figure 24 – New Indicative Zones (preliminary only) contained the following:

EXISTING ZONES IN THE SI LEP		INDICATIVE ZONES IN THE LOCAL PLAN
R1 General Residential	R5 Large Lot Residential	Residential
R2 Low Density Residential	RU5 Village	(including Suburban Character Areas & areas with special ecological attributes)
R3 Medium Density Residential	E4 Environmental Living	



This might make you ask, why are we going through a lot of pain and suffering debating which land zone best suits our requirements when the NSW government is going to introduce a system where we are all dumped into one big bucket? I think that the NSW government and the local member, in particular, have a bit of explaining to do.

If you want more information on the white paper the reference is www.planning.nsw.gov.au/newplanning system Submissions can be made via that website up until 28 June 2013.

- Cr Keith France and Chair of the Les Reardon Reserve/Bywong Hall Section 355 Committee,
(keith.france@palarang.nsw.gov.au)

Reply from Mayor Pete Harrison

Ned advised me that there were a couple of letters from residents commenting on aspects of the new PLEP, and that the writers had specifically objected to my being provided an opportunity to respond directly to their concerns. I therefore offer the following general comments in relation to concerns that are currently circulating within a segment of our community.

There are a couple of issues to clear up at the outset. First of all, **grazing, and for that matter any and all agricultural activities** that could be considered part of a rural residential/hobby farm lifestyle, **have always been permitted, without requiring consent, in the proposed E4 zone.** Any claim to the contrary is simply false. These are considered ancillary activities and do not require any specific mention in the new LEP.

The only land use issue that has ever been at question is when an agricultural activity might become commercial in nature, and that question became moot very early in the exhibition process when there was general agreement within Council that even commercial operations should be permitted without consent in the E4 zone.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no other land uses currently permitted without consent in the YLEP 1(d) Rural Residential zone that are not also permitted without consent under the draft PLEP E4 Environmental Living zone.

Second, **there is no "Default Zone"**, as is being claimed, recommended by any authority in relation to rural residential land. The document generally being misquoted in support of this claim is the *Exempt and Complying Development Codes State Environmental Planning Policy* (just type that into your web browser and check the following). Clause 1.6, Interpretation—references to land use zones, of **that document simply identifies which zone or zones within the YLEP would permit "Dwelling houses on large residential lots in a rural setting"**. There is no suggestion of zone equivalence, simply an indication of which current land use zone or zones would permit that particular land use.

And finally, the suggestion has been made that the purpose of the E4 zoning is "an opportunistic land grab by rabid greens" to turn the whole area into something akin to a national park. That is as absurd a suggestion as claiming that because much of Bungendore is covered by a residential zone, the intent is an opportunistic land grab by rabid developers to populate the town with high rise apartments.

The main difference between the two 'rural residential' zones as they are presented in the Standard Instrument is that the E4 zone is designed to recognise and protect existing [land] values, one of the mandatory objectives of the E4 zoning being "To ensure that residential development does not have an adverse effect on those values". The alternative R5 zone is designed "To ensure that large residential lots do not hinder the proper and orderly development of urban areas in the future" [Mandatory objective, R5 zone]. Many of the objectors do not seem to appreciate the fundamental distinction here: **E4 zoning recognises that residential development is secondary to the existing land use pattern**, that being fundamentally rural, while **R5 zoning seeks to ensure that land use, existing or otherwise, is not allowed to inhibit residential development.**

If the name "Environmental Living" prompted fears of 'Greens Under The Bed', take a deep breath, step back, and make an effort to see the much broader meaning of the word "Environment" that applies in the present context.

- Cr Pete Harrison, Email: Pete.Harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au

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What Area of Palerang Council Does a Wedge Tailed Eagle First Meet If She Flies South Southwest from Wamboin?

by Paul Bombardier of Royalla

Editors Note: At the Wamboin Community meeting on Tuesday night, May 21, two residents of Royalla, Mike Jaggard and Paul Bombardier, came for a visit. Royalla is located south of Queanbeyan, on Royalla Drive, which cuts eastward from the Monaro Highway about 10 km south of the southernmost Tuggeranong roundabout. It has about 400 blocks, most of the occupied. The northern 1/3 of these are in Queanbeyan Council, and the southern 2/3 are Wamboin's closest neighbour in Palerang Council if you go south southwest. It seemed only fair that we get to learn a little about Royalla, so Paul sent in these words and photos:

Royalla is a relatively young rural residential area, just over 10 years old.

Being young it is struggling to evolve an identity and a sense of community. It has a 12ha



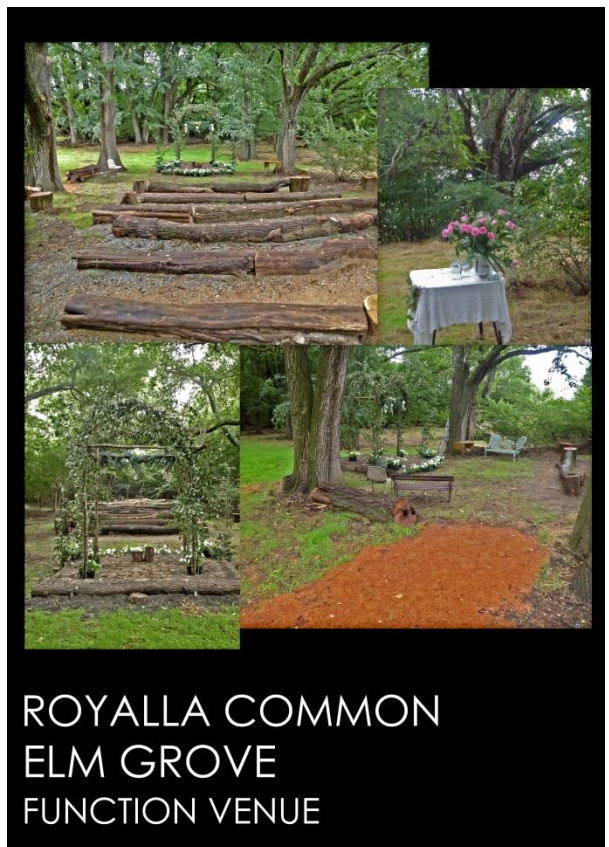
ROYALLA COMMON
ELM GROVE
WEDDING 23 FEBRUARY 2013

was provided by the developer as recreation reserve which is currently the focus of a local s355 Committee. The reserve is known locally as the 'Common'. Some areas of government don't think they are old enough to use this name.

One special feature of the area is the Royalla Reserve, The Common, with its trees. This is a grove of elms, 2 to 3 ha in area, guessed to be upwards of 100 years old. Residents have constructed an amphitheatre of log seating in this grove of tall trees and its first wedding was held there in late February this year.

The Elm Grove is the first step in the develop of the Common, Reserve, and plans are under way to develop a hall, and equestrian arena and other facilities over time. It is hoped that this will provide a focus for the community.

The reason for our visit to the Wamboin Community meeting was to observe how the meeting runs and to get some ideas on how the hall works. We enjoyed the evening and the hospitality and left with the knowledge that a bar in the corner of the hall is an essential part of the community.



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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

WAMBOIN 15 years ago

From the Whisper, June 1998

Circulation: 600

by Robyn Robertson

This was another quiet month when Wamboin went about its business without fuss.

The big features were a detailed account of the wedding of Don and Penny Evans at St Andrew's in April – the first wedding in the new church, and the President's report to the AGM of the Wamboin Community Association. So many of the community leaders of 1998 and earlier are still here; if we needed proof that this is a great place to live, here it is.

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Nature Notes May 2013

Jo Walker

The few millimetres of rain that fell during April and May were insufficient to produce much greenery on the ground. The Silver Wattles, though, are full of buds and are just beginning to show a slight tinge of yellow. It hasn't been a good year for orchids, but a single Parsons Band Orchid (*Eriochilus cucullatus*) was flowering above the dam at the end of April.

A few little Grass Skinks were still skittering around on the sunnier days at the beginning of May, but the Cunningham's Skinks (which were still basking on large rocks and fallen tree-trunks last month) have finally sought shelter for the winter months.

The birds still seem to be finding enough to eat in spite of the dry conditions. The Superb Fairy-wrens appear to have built up in numbers, and they are often foraging alongside White-browed Scrub-wrens. And the little flock of Red-browed Finches are picking through the dry dust for seed. The Gang-gangs are still around, making themselves heard with their distinctive creaking call. Another unmistakable call is the whirring, wheezing sound of the Bower-birds. I saw a female here a few weeks ago and a male constructed a bower on another property in our road this year.

Not all of the birds stay around in the colder months. There was a small flock of about ten Dusky Wood-swallows resting for a while in a tree in the driveway recently before taking off again, continuing their journey north to somewhere warmer.

The Little Pied Cormorant and the White-faced Heron seem to have taken up almost permanent residence near or on my dam. Last week, the Noisy Miners took exception to their presence and harassed them until they both flew off. The Miners got very upset by the big flappy-winged Heron and followed it around for some time. They seem to mistake it for a predatory raptor.

Last year, a pair of King Parrots called in regularly every afternoon for some sunflower seed – placed outside in two separate containers, as the rather discourteous male wouldn't allow the female near his food. I hadn't seen them for many months, but heard the female close by recently while I was working some way from the house. She was obviously trying to get my attention. I began to walk towards the house and she flew a little ahead of me, stopping now and then to make encouraging calls. When we got close to the house, she flew on ahead and was waiting with the male when I arrived. They had a good feed, but I haven't seen them since.

Some time ago, I mentioned the large Orb-weaving Spider (*Nephila* sp.) that had built her wide web high between two shrubs. At the beginning of the month, I thought she must have caught a good meal as she was very fat and sleek. Then, the next day there were two large, fluffy round egg cases at the edge of the web – and a rather diminished female. Unfortunately, a few days later, she'd disappeared and the web was a bit torn. Presumably a bird had found her. The egg-sacs were undamaged though, so her offspring should carry on her line.

An interesting non-native animal turned up here last month. While I was standing eating my breakfast in front of the window, I noticed the kangaroos suddenly stand upright and very alert, watching something moving through the shrubs across the creek. At first, I thought it was an alpaca. Then it moved into the open and picked its way daintily up the hill. It was a large pale-coloured deer! A few days ago, friends at Burra e-mailed me a photo of a similar deer at their place. Mine was moving east towards Bingley Way so maybe someone else has seen it too.

There was a really white frost here recently. The kangaroo mob all had a frosty white dusting on their fur. As the sun came up and the rays reached them, they were enveloped in clouds of wispy steam as the frost on them melted and evaporated – a lovely sight.

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'SHUT THE .. STABLE DOOR!'

by Ian Coillet

An occasional column

Golly it's dry. Dam levels have dropped noticeably, grass has lost its color. Gardens call out for a good watering. Stock is being hand fed. The impact of the hot and treacherous warm months lingers. The threat of wild fire persists through Autumn. Having recently returned from a road trip to Melbourne, I found that the further north I came, the drier it became. Let's hope there's good rain not far away, but we perhaps should not bank on it.



And now. ...to last month's little teaser. Remember the 'What and Where Is It' photo that appeared in last month's article (here 'tis again)? Well, in the many years the management and staff of this modest though intergalactic 'occasional column' have lobbed similar little quizzes out there in 'community-land', it is with rosy cheeks and chest puffed that we have occasion to proclaim to being overwhelmed with responses to last month's offering. We can now boast to having a confirmed readership of two households. The first ever 'I know, I know, I know' response to the photo quiz came rocketing in from Diane Royal, faster than light speed, with 'I think it is the new 'Chapel' at the Arboretum'. Correct. Well done, Diane. A few days later the Stable Door management's 'Thrill Meter' was again sent skyward with a second response, this time from Kathy Handel and Keith France who reckoned 'location looking through the "Wide Brown Land" back towards the new entertainment hall in the national arboretum. Full marks guys.

Located just beyond Lake Burley Griffin's West Basin I found taking a little time to visit the National Arboretum and its 100 forests was a great thing to do to a few Sundays back on one of those stunning still and sunny days of Autumn.

Photo courtesy of National Arboretum website



Postscript: The building featured through the letter in last month's puzzle was recently opened and named the Margaret Whitlam Pavilion. It provides a panorama of Lake Burley Griffin, the city and beyond and I believe is available for functions. Function or not, the arboretum and the buildings are well worth a visit. Much to see and appreciate and plenty of great spots for a picnic. For more info check out the arboretum website <http://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au/home> As usual, if you'd like to see the above article in color, you can find the current and back issues of The Whisper online via the WCA website at <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/thewhisper/>

	<p>Contact Madi Holness:</p> <p>Phone Inquires: 0 4 2 8 5 6 4 7 3 0</p> <p>Email Inquires: madi@madlinprojects.com.au</p>
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WCA Correspondence with Telstra

Following continued community concern and many representations to Telstra over the lack of mobile 'phone coverage in many areas of Wamboin, the WCA wrote to David Thodey, Telstra's Chief Executive Officer, in July last year about the delay in completing the development approved for Denley Drive. We had been assured by Telstra representatives at our WCA General Meetings that a mobile 'phone tower would be operational at this location by mid-2012. In October 2012 Mr Thodey replied indicating that all infrastructure projects were on hold as Telstra had competing priorities for an efficient and profitable mobile 'phone cover.

A subsequent letter from the WCA in January 2013 to Mr Thodey seeking re-consideration of Telstra's priorities in their Budget process received a polite response in February which again assured us that "Telstra constantly reviews our (their) investment decisions, including both where we place new infrastructure as well as where we need to add capacity to existing infrastructure." He then recommended the Telstra Mobile Smart Antenna as a suitable solution for many households to improve indoor coverage. Don't be surprised at the cost of this product or its efficiency! The WCA understands that the completion of the Denley Drive mobile 'phone tower remains near the top of Telstra's infrastructure priorities but that we should not hold our breaths. – John Van Der Straaten, Wamboin Community Association Secretary

St Andrews and St Peters Church Notices

Despite the recent morning temperatures which make it easy to stay in bed, the Sunday morning congregations are growing, and by a little after nine, for this is, after all, Wamboin, St Andrews is warm and buzzing.

But the big occasion for your diaries this month is the Sutton Community Bonfire at St Peters church grounds, Sutton, on Saturday, 15th June. This is a community event provided by the Sutton Community Association, the Sutton Volunteer Rural Fire Service and St Peters. Hot coffee, chocolate and tea, barbecued snaggers and sparklers are free. Bring your own drinks, marshmallows, seats and blankets and come for a spectacular winter's night entertainment. Grounds open at 5.30pm and the bonfire will be lit at 6pm.

As the cold begins to bite, we think especially of those in desperate circumstances. Each Sunday there is a basket at the church for non perishable food donations that are collected and given to community organisations in Queanbeyan. All donations are gratefully received and distributed to those in need.

Kids Club for children 8 years and under, is on each Friday night at St Andrews, Poppet Rd, from 5.30 to 7pm. There are games, songs and stories, and the session finishes with dinner. Parents are always welcome to join in with their children. Services each month are at 9am on the first and third Sunday at St Andrews, Poppet Rd, and the second and fourth Sunday at the same time at St Peters, Sutton. We can assure you of a warm welcome and relaxed company. There is a delicious morning tea and chance to chat after each service. The Rev Dr Peter Grundy is our pastor.

Contacts: Robyn Robertson tel. 62383202 Bronwyn Elliott tel.62383359
Alan Rope tel. 62383224 Peter Cartwright tel. 62303202

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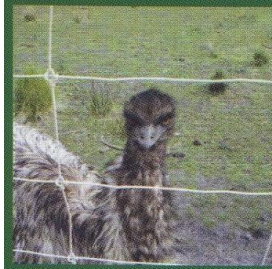
Kids' Corner

Charles Darwin, Eleanor Roosevelt, Shirley Temple, Carl Mannerheim, Sir Isaac Newton, Florence Nightingale, Howard Florey, Cleopatra, Harriet Hardy Taylor Mill, Helen Keller, Ned Kelly. Have you ever wanted to meet them?

On the 9th May, these notable people travelled forward in time to the present day to meet parents and teachers at the Sutton Community Hall. We called this "The Night of the Notables." A group of students from Yr 5 & 6 from Sutton Public School each became one of these people, and I was lucky enough to be one of them. Our task was to pick a Notable person from history or the present, and become him or her for that night. We also had to create a display which included a table full of personal items and meaningful objects.

I chose Sir Howard Walter Florey. Chloe chose to explain Mr Charles Darwin, who proved the theory of evolution. Finn opted to evaluate Carl Mannerheim, a Finnish icon. Georgia chose Florence Nightingale, the very special nurse in the Crimean War. Milind decided to research Sir Isaac Newton, a scientist who discovered the three laws of gravity. Megan chose Shirley Temple, a famous American child motion picture star. Eleanor Roosevelt was presented by Analise and she managed to stay in character with an American accent the whole evening. Cleopatra was researched and presented by Niamh, a pharaoh renowned for her beauty. Harriet Hardy Taylor Mill was a respectable women's rights leader and was presented well by Laura. Ciel chose Helen Keller, who, at a young age was struck deaf and blind and last but not least, Marshall chose to present Edward Kelly, a well-known Australian bushranger. We all dressed in character.

Everyone was fabulous! The displays turned out to be magnificent and answering questions and queries was easier than I thought it would be. I'd like to thank our teacher, who kept everything running smoothly, and my grandparents and parents for helping me with this amazing project. I'd also like to express gratitude towards my fellow Notables for lending a hand with items and costumes. It was a night I'll never forget. - Elisabeth Gregory



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WAMBOIN PONY CLUB May – 2013

What a mild Autumn we've had and under sunny skies Wamboin Pony had a special Mothers Day Rally on Sunday 12th May. We welcomed new members Kayla and Abbey and the group spent the day refreshing their horse riding skills. We have a broad range of riders with different skills levels and ages in our club and our youngest rider Kayla is just 4 years old but



on her pony Millie they make a great combination. With the help of the other riders who's ages range up to 18 (Pony Club allows riders to 25) she held her own on her first proper Wamboin rally day. *Photo: Kayla and Millie.*

Each time we meet we try to practice different horse skills. Our instructors Leanne and Toni ran riders through the skills required for our next major event on the Calendar - Mounted Games, which is an event that involves different types of riding games where teams race each other and are timed on how quickly they complete the events.

We have a major Mounted Games day in Bungendore at the end of June so riders need to practice. On this

last rally day balloon race was an interesting challenge as some of the horses weren't quite sure what the colourful rubber things flapping in the breeze were. Perhaps everyone needs some more practice at that game. Mothers Day rally wouldn't have been the same without a hearty lunch. "Chef" Steve prepared Pumpkin Soup and roast lamb rolls (pony club is worth it just for the food!) we were joined on the day by mothers and grandmothers and some grandfathers too. A fun family day, this is what your local Pony Club is about.

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. 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 twice a month on Sunday's on our grounds at the end of Canning Close. For information about Wamboin Pony Club and our upcoming rally days go to our website: www.wamboin.pcansw.org.au for information, we hope we will see you soon. - **Steve Quick**

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Today has been a particularly dull day. The misty cloud hung around well into the afternoon just like the mob of sprawling kangaroos that refused to budge in the clearing. They looked like weathered tree stumps with exposed roots. Suddenly, the gloom lifted, and took the kangaroos with it. Even when the sun shines, however, there isn't much colour in the garden. The busy wrens and pardalotes blend with the dun coloured grass and you have to look again to see if they are really birds and not just fluttering leaves. Many of the deciduous trees are already skeletal, having dropped their autumn colours early, but there are still snatches of bronze, rust red, purple and yellow with some of the Viburnums, May, Berberis, Nandina and Golden Diosma. And the good thing about these shrubs is that, unlike my misguided cottage garden delusions, they do not tempt the kangaroos. Huge mobs of hungry kangaroos can be seen cycling through, untroubled by our presence. But you only ever see the rear view of the solitary wallaby as it slinks off blackly towards the creek. One wallaby, though, can have more of an impact on my equanimity than a dozen kangaroos!

And so it was a good thing that my focus shifted from the garden to the inside. I arranged to have our chimney "swept". Since child labour is no longer condoned, I tried to picture what a modern day chimney sweep might look like. I imagined someone, stove pipe thin, in a thread bare black suit, face smudged with soot, wearing a cap rather than a top hat and carrying a stiff long handled broom. Any romantic notions were dashed when an average Aussie bloke appeared in overalls, equipped with a powerful vacuum cleaner and a rolled up hearth rug. Of course our chimney was hardly of majestic proportions but he hadn't known that, and I had wondered how anyone was expected to get up or down a standard flue pipe. Without drama or sentiment, the whole operation was over within half an hour and there wasn't even a shower of soot or the odd bird's nest dislodged. Now we have a fire that draws well, pumps out good heat and we can breathe more easily, knowing that a chimney fire is unlikely.

But I still have to look at my sad garden as it bunkers down for the winter months. Flowers have been replaced by festoons of chicken wire, and I suppose anyone living in suburbia could be forgiven for thinking that I've abandoned nature and have tried, without any artistic merit, to create a sculpture garden. In fact, all I'm doing is trying to lessen the impact of my night time visitors. At the markets the other weekend as I bought more plants from Lofty's and Jo's stalls, I joked that I was buying more nibbles for the native population. Then I heard something that made me smile. While I was rejoicing that we'd had 6mm of rain, someone mentioned that on the mid north coast, where they lived, they'd had 100 mm, and that they had to go home to mow the grass, yet again.

I wouldn't live anywhere else....and as our north coast friends head home to mow, we can sit on the verandah and watch the kangaroos do the job for us.....and maybe learn to forgive them for not always knowing a weed from a plant!



By Miranda Stocks, 4 years old. Our house in Bywong, our 3 legged dog 'peggy' (bottom left) and some kangaroos eating the fresh grass shoots (pink, bottom right). There's also some (upside down) love hearts up the side of the house.