

WAMBOIN



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

August 2013

CIRCULATION: 1,278

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 September 2013 issue the deadline is Sunday, 25 August, 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	Richard Hobbs, 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	Tony Holland	6238 3762	hollandfamily@rockyhill.com.au
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	emauszins@gmail.com
Bywong Hall Bookings	Guy Cotsell, contact	6230 3523	cotsell@moraguy.net
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

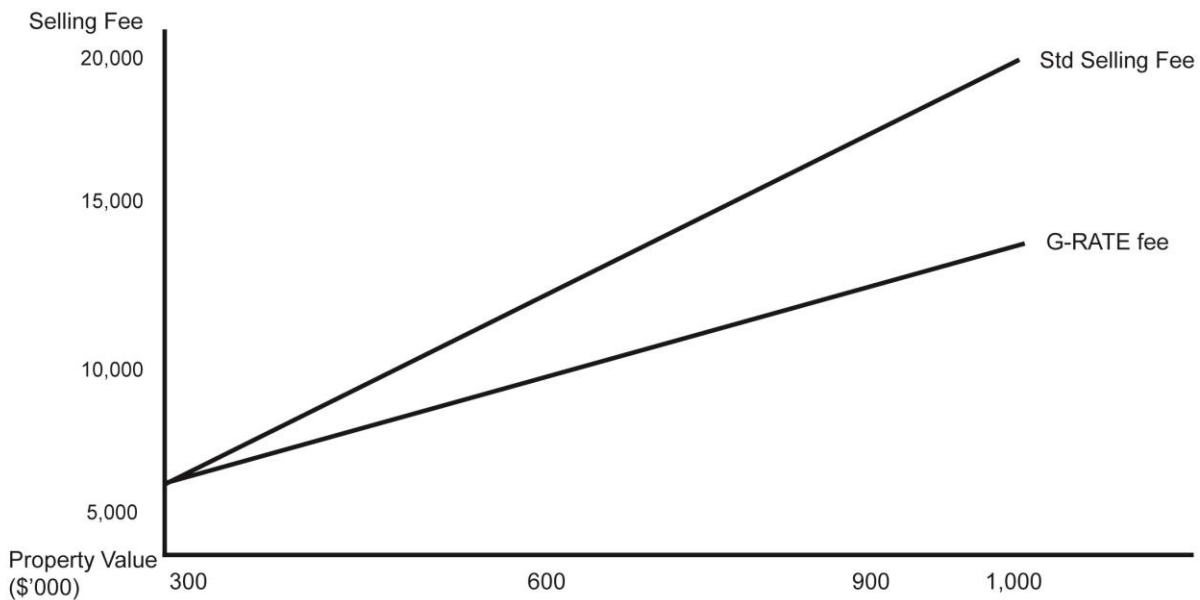


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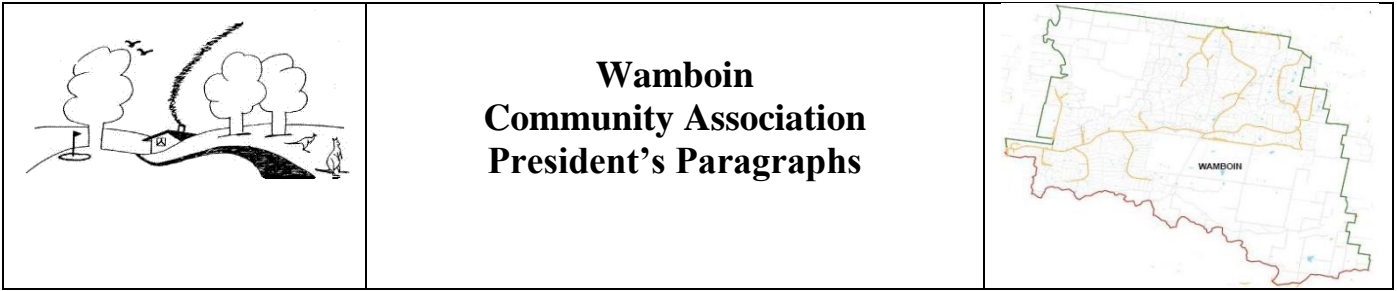
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Hello everyone. There is little to report this past month however a number of things will be coming soon.

Curry Night – Curry Night is coming soon on August 17th at the Community Hall in Bingley Way. The event gets under way at 7:30 pm and is hosted by Dave Hubbard. More information about this event is available further on in The Whisper.

Bonfire Night Preparations – Next month (September 21st) we will hold our annual Bonfire Night. This month we are calling for people to start bringing in their green waste to the site on the oval at the Community Hall. Remember we need prunings, brush, logs and such off-cuts for the bonfire – not general rubbish. More information about this event and what to bring to the oval is available further on in The Whisper.


Art Competition For Our Youngest People – Our art competition for the 6,7 and 8 year olds is still going so if anyone has a child in that age range send us your child's art work so we can publish it in The Whisper.

Elections– No one seems to know when the federal election will be called. (All of us here at the WCA are desperately hoping it wont be on Saturday 21st September for the obvious reasons). However we hope to be able to host a Meet the Candidates Night once we (and the rest of Australia) has a confirmed election date. Since we may not have the time to advertise this in The Whisper look out for the possibility of such a meeting on the roadway chalkboards.


That's all from me for this month.

Jenny Richards (President)

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Janine Ramsay,
Clare Lane, Wamboin,
July 2013

"You will not find a better Real Estate agent in the Bungendore area than Ellie and her team. Ellie provided us with the best service, knowledge and professionalism that we could ask for. Ellie has an enormous wealth of knowledge and seriously good honest advice on today's market and knows the Bungendore and surrounding areas extremely well. We were treated more like one of their family than just a customer, something that is rarely heard of now days! The results speak for themselves, our property sold in the 1st week on the market. We would recommend Ellie or her team at Ray White Bungendore to any one".

The Oostings, Lithgow Ave Bungendore, May 2013



"We bought a house, then immediately rented it with Ray White Bungendore, from the first meeting we have appreciated Ellie Merriman's upfront and down to earth manner, from the start of negotiations through to settlement. Following our purchase of the property all the staff at Ray White Bungendore have been efficient and helpful in preparing it for rental and quickly finding a tenant. Ellie and her team have helped ensure a stress-free process from beginning to end."

Mark Flynn,
Foster St Bungendore
June 2013

"I had mentioned to Ellie that we would be interested in selling. We put our trust in Ellie and that trust was well rewarded. The whole process of sale only took a couple of weeks and we received a very good price. Ellie did an excellent job for us, and was very calm and reassuring throughout. I greatly valued her sensible, practical and unflappable manner throughout the sale process. I would highly recommend her to anyone thinking about selling their house.

Kim Worner,

Turallo Terrace
Bungendore, May 2013



"We have bought 1 and sold 2 homes with the professional assistance of Ellie and the Ray White Rural team. We have worked with a variety of real estate professionals. Ellie from Ray White Rural is by far the best! Ellie provided superior marketing knowledge, savvy, and well seasoned sales experience. Ellie's consistent high energy level, patience, friendly nature and intelligent advice helped us throughout the buying and selling process. I strongly recommend Ellie to anyone who wants to win in today's difficult real estate market. We found Ellie to be professional, knowledgeable, trustworthy, easy to work with and always available. We always felt Ellie was looking out for our best interests, we could count on her to be ethical and diligent at all times".

Brad & Darlene Davidson,
Forbes Creek Rd, Hoskinstown, Nov 2012

Ph: 6238 0700



E: ellie.merriman@raywhite.com (sales)

E: donna.bayley@raywhite.com (rental man.)

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ELLIE SOLD IT!

	<p style="text-align: center;">Bywong Community News www.bywongcommunity.org.au Darryl Bourke, President This News Put Together by the Bywong Committee</p>	
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Trivia: Low winter temperatures didn't keep people away from last month's hugely successful Bywong Trivia night, which attracted more than seventy motivated and knowledgeable people competitors. Departing teams pronounced it a "best yet!"

This year's closely contested event was won by the Bywong Book Club, which had established its credentials with a second placing last year. The night followed the classic formula of 10 rounds each of 8 questions, but bristled with unusual fun touches found in rounds with such beguiling names as "Can you bear it?" (questions pertaining to famous bears) and prizes given for answers which were most imaginative, as well as those which were correct (who could quibble at a prize for defining Formula 1 racing term "DRS" in titillating terms as "Driver Relief System" rather than the more prosaic answer Drag Reduction System?)

Bywong's now renowned soup-makers regaled competitors with a great range of home made soups accompanied by delicious crispy bread rolls from local Swiss chef Peter Zimmerman. Jim Greethead again proved a welcoming human presence as MC and the Community's multi-talented President Darryl Bourke installed sound and light gadgets used to present the highly entertaining programme devised by our resident showman John-Pierre Favre. John-Pierre is planning an even more spectacular programme for next year with more fiendish questions, sicker jokes and musical interludes, and visual displays with even the possibility of an opera singer.

The evening raised more than \$600, which will be returned to the community in the form of grants to various groups and causes.

Fire Brigade Donation: At the our meeting on 9 July President of the Bywong Community Association, Darryl Bourke, and Committee member Pauline Chambers presented a cheque donation of \$1500 to the President of the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade, Ian Coillet. Accepting the donation, Ian said the brigade's firefighters and members of the Support Crew very much appreciated the efforts and support of the Bywong Community Association in nominating the community's fire brigade as a key beneficiary of the annual Bywong Car Boot Sale. The funds donated had assisted the brigade to purchase a powered live hose reel for one of the brigade's fire fighting tankers. The donation reflects the ongoing strong support of the Community for our local Fire Brigade.

AGM – Monday 12 August: Everyone living in Bywong is invited to attend the Community's Annual General Meeting on Monday evening 12 August. Residents can become members on the night – there is no fee and formalities are minimal. So please turn up and help our work in support of the community.

Most of you are aware of the efforts of a small group of locals to maintain regular activities which support and foster our area and its residents. Amongst these are major events such as the annual Car Boot Sale and Trivia Night, and a range of smaller occasions such as nature walks, Christmas drinks and guest speakers. Some new blood would help us keep up these activities and undertake some new projects – all we need is a few more people to share the tasks and provide the ideas. So please consider what you might be able to contribute!

The AGM is a short meeting, whose main business is to hear a summary of the year's activities and elect office bearers for the coming year. Nominations may be made on the night. Anyone who is a member on the night may stand or vote. The ideal outcome of the meeting for us is that some new faces would provide a little more opportunity for sharing the tasks, so people can choose how much or how little time they devote to our activities. Being a committee member is not onerous, especially since we have devised running sheets which outline details of our major activities. We can offer refreshments and a warm hall on the night.

Be there! The time is 7.30 p.m. on the evening of Monday 12 August at the Community Hall in Birriwa Road.



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

July rainfall to 28/7 ... 40.5 mm
 2013 rainfall to 28/7 ... 308mm
 Average August rainfall ... 55.1mm
 Wettest August ... 170mm in 1984
 Driest August ... 5.5mm in 1994
 Coldest Aug day ... 5C X 8 times

(July 2012 ... 45.5mm)
 (2012 rainfall to 31/7 ... 550.5mm)
 (Aug 2012 ... 37mm)
 Wettest Aug day ... 35mm on 7/8/85
 Hottest Aug day ... 20C on 31/8/82
 Coldest Aug night ... -5C on 18/8/2010

WAMBOIN 15 years ago. From the Whisper August 1998 -- Circulation 600

David Robertson prepared a table contrasting average rainfall over 21/22 years with the actual for the previous 13 months

Month	J97	A97	S97	O97	N97	D97	J98	F98	M98	A98	M98	J98	J98
Average	61	54	68	62	81	62	69	50	62	55	60	50	61
Actual	20	31	94	26	23	15	29	46	3	61	51	122	77.5

It may be of interest to compare the figures for the current 13 months. The average is now calculated over 37/38 years.

Month	J12	A12	S12	O12	N12	D12	J13	F13	M13	A13	M13	J13	J13
Average	52.8	55.1	63	61.8	79.25	63.4	60.3	59.2	58.4	44	47.6	58.8	52.5
Actual	45.5	37	60	60.5	41.5	55.75	53.25	65.75	19.75	12	11.75	105	40.5

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WAMBOIN PONY CLUB June – 2013

What a busy month for your local Wamboin Pony Club. Not only was there our regular rally day, which saw a great turnout of riders, but it was a busy day spent practicing for our Mounted Games Event. What a great day that turned out to be, held last week at Bungendore Showground. 95 riders from clubs all around the local area and some from further afield competed in the Wamboin Pony Club Friendly Games. It was great to see led riders as young as 3 years old competing alongside those older and much more skilled, however the nature of the event means all can have fun and enjoy the day. Mounted games involves horse and rider attempting various games which need skill and technique to complete tasks such as carrying items while riding or dismounting and completing tasks on the ground then riding again. All races are timed and teams are scored in these times. An exciting and fun day which all seemed to enjoy. Thanks to all helpers on the day.

If you have access to your own horse and are aged from 5-25 come along and in 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 the 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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and
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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
Helen Montesin Fernloff Rd 35
Julie Veal Poppet Rd (for all on road) 32

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

Joan Mason Bingley Way 48
Sue Ward Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona) 32
Kathy Handel Norton (Weerona to Hilltop) 18

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

Lesley Page Valley View Ln 4
Colleen Foster B'dore Rd to Nrtm Rd 22
Cassie Fisher Clare Ln 12
Dominica Lorima North end Clare Valley 42

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

Sheryl Barnes Denley Dr (Sth End 1/2 way2 Kestral) 15
Don Malcolmson Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat) 7
Connie & Hans Bachor Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr 28
Nora Stewart Rovere Ln 7
Carol & Clive Boughton Macs Reef Rd (Bankers to Fed Hwy) 33
Beth Hope Gum Flat Ln 6
Kevin Beier DenleyDr (Kestral2 1/2 way 2SthEnd) 15

147: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425

Michael & Jose Deane FdHwSvcRd/Bidges/Hickey/O'Gold 63
Robert&Marzena Luton Sutton Park Estate 48
Ian Coillet Grove Road 7

203: CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON ph 6236 9333

Phil & Pam Dawes Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln 25
Kevin Anderson B'dore Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill) 35
Kerrie Gougeon B'dore Rd (Fed Hwy to Summerhill) 25
Sue Aunella Brooks Rd 21

109: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484

Diana Griffin Majors Close 18
Advertisers & Misc (Out of area mailouts) 41

Bill Owen Cooper Rd 26
Stuart Whitten Canning Cl 17
Alan Rope Sutton Rd 40

Margaret Heleimin Merino Vale Dr 17
Anne Gardner Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors) 31
Penny Evans Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley) 26

Deb Gordon Yalana East 44
Rob Gorham South end Clare Valley 38
Lyle Montesin The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks 60
Bungendore Foodworks Bungendore 10

Brian Higginson Denley Dr (Birchmans to Kestral inc) 12
Rhett Cox Macs Reef Rd (Newington to Bankers) 7
Morag & Guy Cotsell Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwgtm& Harriott 30
Sandra Favre Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott 20
Joan Milnor Birriwa Rd plus Macs Rf Rd to Harriott 30
Tony Bond Hogan Dr/Orana Dr/Yuranga Dr 35

Jenny Bryce Wattle Flat Rd 11
Penny & Russell Ball Macs Reef (Denley Dr to Bungdre Rd) 18

David Featherston Summerhill and Creekborough Rds 26
Attila & Cherry Hrgsi. Snowgum Rd 26
Chris Fowler Shinglehouse & Millyn Rds 20
Richard Holding Wyoming & Doust Rds 25

David Anderson Weeroona (Majors to Denley) 36
Palerang Council Council Offices 14

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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 (along 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 anyone else living within 200m; 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.

Fire management, including containment of a fire originating on your property, is your responsibility. **BUT**, if the fire escalates to become more than you can handle, don't hesitate; immediately ring the **EMERGENCY** number directly below.

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PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

DECLARATION OF THE BUSH FIRE DANGER PERIOD IS LESS THAN TWO MONTHS AWAY

It is your responsibility to reduce the risk to your family and your home and to take actions to survive a bush fire.

The start of the bush fire danger period is just two months away (1st October) but it's not too late to begin preparing your property, home and your family for the increasing threat of bush and grass fires. Coming into winter you will undoubtedly have observed that the fuel load, i.e. high and thick grass, is still around. These grass fuels have cured with the onset of winter. While it's been great to have the recent rain, there's also now a trend toward frosty mornings. Frost dries the grass. The possibility of unplanned fire through the cooler months – yes, even in winter remains present.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Seasonal Outlook issued on 24th July for August to October indicated that the climate models forecast the following:

- A wetter than normal season is likely for most of mainland Australia.
- Cooler than normal days are likely over most of eastern mainland Australia, while odds favour warmer than normal days over the tropical north, western WA and Tasmania.
- Warmer than normal nights are likely over the tropical north, western WA, the southern coastline and Tasmania with cooler than normal nights favoured over most of New South Wales, southeast Queensland and northwest Victoria.

Should the period covered in the BOM outlook be followed by warm/dry weather we will get above average Spring growth with the consequence of higher fuel loads. Potentially, lots of grass and leaf litter build up heading into late Spring and Summer.

PREPARATIONS WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO UNDERTAKE NOW



You must make important decisions before the fire season starts.

Your Bush Fire Survival Plan is one of the best ways to help improve the safety of you and your family before the impact of or during a bush fire. If you haven't already done so, please prepare or review your Bush Fire Survival Plan. The NSWRFSS offers a useful guide and template for a Bush Fire Survival Plan. It can be viewed and downloaded by visiting <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/> and click on 'For the Community'.

Preparation is not just about cleaning up around the house and having a plan. It is also about making sure you consider your physical, mental and emotional preparedness. A bush fire can be a terrifying situation. It is important to prepare yourself and your family for bush fires. If you have any doubts about your ability to cope, you should plan to Leave Early.

Regardless of your decision to Leave Early or Stay and Defend, you still need to prepare your property against the threat of a bush fire. A well prepared home is more likely to survive a bush fire. Even if your plan is to Leave Early, the more you prepare your home, the more likely it will be to survive a bush fire or ember attack.

In any event you need to prepare a plan to facilitate both decisions (Leave Early/Stay and Defend). If your primary plan is to leave early you still require a plan in the event that you could not leave early. Conversely, if your primary plan is to stay and defend then you also need a plan to provide for leave early options. It is a matter of covering every contingency and keeping your options open.

There is an interesting video (promo and long form) that can be viewed on the Victorian Country Fire Authority website that captures the stories of nine fire-affected residents during the Feb 2009 fires across a number of locations in Victoria - from day break through and after the event. The video is called '*When the Fires Come*'. Some of the strong messages were a focus on planning/preparation or lack thereof, radiant heat danger, mental and physical preparedness, knowing the area that you live in, and being aware of your surroundings. This is the link: <http://news.cfa.vic.gov.au/video/latest-cfa-tv-videos.html>

In relation to your property, some of the things that you should consider include:

- Inspect your property and buildings identifying any defects or improvements that you need to make before the fire season. For example:
 - Check the condition of your roof and wall cladding and replace or seal any damaged sections that could allow embers to encroach into the roof cavity or inner walls.
 - Enclose open areas under your decks and floors.
 - Install fine steel wire mesh screens on all windows, doors, vents and weep holes.
- Create a safety zone around your house and other buildings so that embers will have less chance to start a fire when they hit the ground. For example:
 - Remove excess ground fuels and combustible material (long dry grass, dead leaves and branches) for a distance of at least 20 metres around all buildings.
 - Create and maintain a two-metre gap between your house and tree branches.
 - Clean leaves, twigs, bark and other debris from roof and gutters (and revisit on a regular e.g. monthly/ fortnightly/ possibly even weekly basis).
 - Trim low lying branches 2 metres from the ground.
 - If wood is piled against or near the house or other building, move it away.

- Check and service all fire-fighting equipment.

You may find it useful to make a detailed list of the tasks to be carried out and tick them off as they are completed. Items such as those mentioned above should form part of your Bush Fire Survival Plan.

Community FireWise groups



It's pleasing to see that there are now several (and a growing number of) Community FireWise Groups in the area, i.e. groups of neighbours who share a common bond and have come together to provide mutual support and encouragement to be prepared for a bush fire. 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 the Captain, Richard Hobbs, on 0409 991 340 or email captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au

UPCOMING EVENT – PRELIMINARY NOTICE

As in past years, the Brigade is running an awareness information session and workshop for all residents who wish to attend – see details below. If you haven't come along to a previous session or think you would benefit from a refresher, you owe it to yourself, your family and other people in your community to come to this event.

COMMUNITY NOTICE

BUSH FIRE AWARENESS/ PREPARATION INFORMATION SESSION

Saturday 19th October
 11:30am to 2pm
 (Registration from 11.00am)

Wamboin Fire Station - 112 Bingley Way Wamboin

AIM: To help you get prepared for a bushfire

What we will cover:

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



The session will be similar to those the brigade has run in prior seasons. Will include a not previously shown DVD that offers a guide to preparing for and surviving the bushfire season.

In addition, there will be static and working displays of a range of portable pump, hose and nozzle setups and opportunities for you to view, start and operate a selection of fire fighting portable pump, hose and nozzle setups.

BRIGADE ACTIVITY

Incidents since last month's newsletter

Despite the overcast conditions, a useful amount of rain, a little fog and even the odd early morning frost, fortunately, there's been just the three occasions where the brigade was called out.

Wednesday 10 July @ 7.20pm: the brigade's pagers lit up and at 7.35pm crew in one of the brigade's heavy tankers departed the Fire Station to investigate a report of a tree alight on Macs Reef Rd. After some searching, a small fire was located on a verge adjacent the major road works and extinguished. Tanker and crew returned to the Fire Station a little after 8.15pm.

Friday 12 July @ 1.46pm: the brigade was responded to a report of a grass fire on the Kings Highway east of Bungendore. Crew in one of the brigade's tankers departed the Fire Station at 2.06pm. Part way into the journey, the Fire Control Centre advised the Wamboin crew its assistance was no longer required and the tanker and crew returned to the station.

Saturday 20th July @ 6.30pm: crew in the Brigade's Striker/Mop vehicle (Wamboin 9) were asked to investigate a reported fire in Doust Rd, Bywong which is adjacent the Federal Highway. No wildfire could be located but a large brazier fire was detected and investigated on one of the properties. It appears likely that it was a sighting of this fire that may have given rise to the emergency call to Triple Zero. Crew returned to base at 7.30pm.

Training

Training during July focused on communications and Fireground Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), the aim being to provide a good understanding of the underpinning policy and procedures that support safe and efficient firefighting operations. In addition, there have been several members undertaking assessments and attending courses.

Bywong Community Association donates \$1500 to the Fire Brigade






President of the Bywong Community Association, Darryl Bourke, and Committee member Pauline Chambers presented a cheque donation of \$1500 to the President of the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade, Ian Coillet at the community association's meeting on Monday 9th July. In accepting the donation, Ian Coillet said *'the brigade's firefighters and the Support Crew very much appreciated the effort and support of the Bywong Community Association in nominating the community's fire brigade as a key beneficiary of the Association's revenue raising initiatives associated with the Bywong Car Boot Sale. As indicated in the lead up to and during the Bywong Car Boot Sale, the funds donated will assist the brigade purchase a powered live hose reel for one of the brigade's fire fighting tankers.'* He also thanked, as did Darryl

Bourke, the community for their support of the Bywong Car Boot Sale. The brigade recently placed an order for two powered hose reels each of which costs around \$3500.

CALENDAR - UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat 21 st Sept	Brigade Information 'Shopfront' (9am-12noon) adjacent to the Wamboin Home Produce Market, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin.
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	WCA Bonfire & Fireworks Night @ Wamboin Community Complex, 112 Bingley Way Wamboin.	
Sat 28 th Sept		NSW RFS Brigade Open Day (10am – 3pm). The Brigade invites you to come and have a look over the Fire Station and vehicles. Brigade members will show you around and to chat about anything you care to discuss, e.g. joining the brigade, help with your bush fire survival plan, or simply getting to know a few of the members of the brigade. Refreshments available throughout the day, and there will be a BBQ lunch at around 12.30pm. ALL WELCOME.
Sat 19 th October		Bush Fire (Prepare. Act. Survive.) Information Session Community-wide info/ workshop event @ the Wamboin Fire Station. Registration from 11am. Session time 11.30am – 2pm. Includes refreshments and practical demonstrations. ALL INVITED.
(tba)		Horses and Bush Fire – An Information Session Steps horse owners can take to prepare themselves in case of bush fire danger. (To be delivered by experienced horse owners.)

FURTHER INFORMATION

Recruitment: About joining the Fire Brigade

Becoming a volunteer firefighter in the brigade or member of the support group is easier than most people think. The fire brigade has a current active membership of over 70 members of the community made up of operational firefighters, support crew and those who help out with a administration. We are particularly targeting the younger members of the community (preferably 18 years or older) including people who will be able to lead the Brigade in the future. If you are interested in learning new skills or sharing your expertise, please give the Secretary, Jim Greethead, a bell on 6230 3165 or email: secretary@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au for a chat and/or to request a Membership Application Pack.

Wamboin Brigade Website

The site will help you monitor local conditions and Brigade announcements. The **Community Information** section has useful information plus 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 website 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.

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.



Wamboin Golf

by John Whitney

This months event was sponsored by Keith France and Parkhill Financial Group with Kathy and Keith looking after the eats. Our Wamboin golfers were out for the annual GST anniversary competition, an Ambrose teams event with a 10% GST complication factor in the handicapping. True to form for this event is the Googly Ball and Dummy Spit awards - thanks Tony and Charlie for your participation!

Winners and Grinners: Our ball winners this month were Dave Hubbard, Len Ivey x2, Joan Mason x2, Paul Griffin, Lofty Mason, Keith France, Charlie Montesin and Tim Barter.

The 9 hole winners were Ken and Alex Gordon with a score of 26.35, followed by Joan, Lofty and Pete Harrison with 30.85 then Deb and Madison Gordon on 39.05. The 18 hole competition winners were Tim Barter and Len Ivey with a 60.3 followed by Paul Griffin and Dave Hubbard with a respectable 62.71.

Next months competition will be sponsored by the "Tradies". Come along to the Community Hall in Bingley Way on Sunday 4th August at 12:15 for a 12:30 start, all

welcome. Pictured: Wamboin Golfer Dave Hubbard

A Request from the WaterWatch Office – Can You Help?

Would you like to know more about the mighty Yass and her catchment? Become a Waterwatcher and you will! When the Palerang Shire Council were looking at their water budget, there were three Waterwatch sites set up in the upper Yass Valley: one on Sutton Rd, where Amungula Creek runs underneath; one on Mac's Reef Rd at the bridge over the Yass River; and one on Brookes creek, under the Federal Hwy. These have lapsed, but now we have a team in Yass township, and we'd love things to start up again up your end! [if you have friends in Sutton or Gundaroo we'd love to include McLaughlin's Creek and the Yass at Rosamel St]

If you have forty minutes a month and love your catchment, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact us at: Molonglo Catchment Officer, Waterwatch@molonglocatchment.org.au (6299 2119) and Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch, woo.oreilly@act.gov.au (6207 2246) or Stephen.skinner@act.gov.au (6207 7032).

LHPA CLASS ACTION

by Trevor Kirk

I am convening a Class Action against the Livestock Health & Pest Authorities' (LHPA) "rates" on the basis of hectareage size plus a "guess" of head it can carry. No other Australian State does. LHPA uses "divide-and-conquer", suing ratepayers individually, through Small Claims Courts. LHPA rates are charged on 10ha. The recent LLS merger will reduce it to 2ha. Our aim is not to interfere in on-ground LHPA works, just tax all fairly. Uniting quickly is our chance to replace iniquitous tax with equity.

A website, www.lhpaaction.com, has been set up. Make "At risk loans" to LHPA Class Action Bank accounts. Time is short so take action – **LHPA Class Action.com** – today

Do You Live on Denley Drive in the First 24 Mailboxes South of Kestral Drive?

For at least a couple years Kevin Beier has delivered the Whisper to 24 mailboxes on Denley Drive from Kestral Place southward. He is moving away from the neighbourhood. I thank him for volunteering to do this task and doing it all this time. If you live on Denley Drive and own one of the first 24 mailboxes south of Kestral Drive, would you be willing to take over this job? The only way the Whisper is delivered mailboxes is if someone volunteers to deliver them. If you could do this job, please phone me on 6238 3484 or email me at nednoel@optusnet.com.au - Ned Noel

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Nature Notes July 2013 Jo Walker

A few more showers, and a little snow, have kept the ground moist and the plants growing. There are green carpets of tiny plants in all of the spaces between the grasses. They are newly germinated but already identifiable as *Cotula australis*, *Aphanes australiana* and the little yellow daisy *Triptilodiscus pygmaeus*. These tiny plants come up in massive numbers sometimes and are then not seen again, sometimes for years, until all the elements of ideal conditions for them coincide again.

The Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) are just beginning to flower (so it must be spring!), but very little else is showing much colour.

That comment applies to the plants, though. There are plenty of colourful birds around. The little mob of Red-browed Finches here now numbers fourteen and there are Blue Wrens everywhere. The Scarlet Robins and a pair of Yellow Robins are busy searching for food amongst the shrubs and trees, and the Kookaburras are making a lot of noise and appear to be looking for a nesting site. Recently, there was a lone Grey Teal on the dam, the first one I've seen here. The pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles that regularly pass over my place has been reduced to one recently – hope the other one is still about somewhere, perhaps on an early nest.

The echidnas seem to have been busy all winter, as just about all of the meat ants' nests have large holes dug in them.

I've been cutting up some of the dead wattles for firewood – and always remove the bark and transfer any insects to a safe place. This year, there have been hardly any of the usual insects and not even many spiders. Last week, I finally came across about a hundred ladybird beetles under a loose piece of bark, but this lack of insects doesn't bode well for the birds that depend on them, such as the Orange-winged Sitellas that were once common visitors but have now decreased in numbers and are sighted less often.

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Morning Tea and Music ...a monthly community event in our region...

We are yet to get a name, although several have been proposed, but we do have a formula for the new Tuesday morning group at St Andrews, Wamboin.

Whether it's called the Merry Gerries or Songs and Scones it doesn't really matter. What matters is that a group gathered for the first time at 10 am last Tuesday, 23rd, for tea, coffee, cakes, chatter and song in a cosy environment. It was a small group, but an enthusiastic one that looks forward to growing in size and enjoyment.

All members of the community, especially older ones, who would like some company, a chance to chat over morning tea, perhaps join in some singing or simply listen to others are invited to come along. We welcome anyone with something to share; ideas, music, a cake or a good story. If it's not for you, maybe you know someone else who might like to join the fun. We have a few good cooks in our midst, a couple of excellent musicians and some people with cars willing to assist with transport, and we can always do with more, but most of all we need more participants, young and old. If you can help, or if you'd like to come to this community event and perhaps bring a friend you would be assured of a warm and happy morning. The next time we meet will be 27th August.

Mark your calendar 4th Tuesday of the month, 10am to noon, St Andrews, corner Norton and Poppet Rds

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Book Review -- Australian Bird Names: a Complete Guide

By Ian Fraser and Jeannie Gray, published by CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Vic., May 2013, ISBN 9780643104693 (pbk). xv, 336 pages, b&w ill., 25 cm, \$49.95, <http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/6833.htm>.

Reviewed by David McDonald

One of the most popular birds in Wamboin is the Grey Shrike-thrush. It is popular because it is attractive, it has a delightful set of calls and songs and a friendly personality (if you will forgive me being somewhat anthropomorphic). But why, pray, is it called Grey Shrike-thrush? It is certainly Grey, but is neither a strike nor a thrush! To answer this question, and thousands more along similar lines, one needs only turn to this fantastic book launched in June that sets out pretty much everything that anybody could want to know about the origin of the names of Australian birds.

In the case of the Grey Shrike-thrush, for example, the authors write that it is 'Not a very satisfying name for a magnificent bird'. They advise that the name was first recorded in 1898, and document a variety of other names by which it has been known including the Port Jackson Thrush, the Austral Thrush, the Harmonious Thrush, the Native Thrush, Duke-Wellington, Jock Whitty and Whistling Dick (among other names), 'all references to elements of the beautiful and complex song'.

The authors then explain that the scientific name of this bird is *Colluricincla harmonica*, Latin for 'musical shrike-thrush'. They advise how to pronounce this (col-lo-ri-SINK-luh har-MO-ni-kuh) and note that the genus name *Colluricincla* is Greek for 'shrike-thrush' and the species name *harmonica* comes from a Greek word that means 'skilled in music' and a Latin word meaning 'harmonious'.

So there we have it, heaps of information about the name of this lovely bird.

So what about the magpie, another Wamboin favourite? The Australian Magpie is so named, we are advised, '...both to distinguish it from the European Magpie and to unify the three former species [of magpies]... which were recognised until recently'. As with the Grey Shrike-thrush, the authors have documented the various other scientific and common names by which this species has been and is currently known, record the details of the former three species of magpie that are now lumped as the Australian Magpie, advise how to pronounce the scientific name and provide the translation of the scientific name and its origin in Latin. The scientific name of the Australian Magpie, by the way, is *Cracticus tibicen*. *Cracticus* is the genus name for the butcherbirds (magpies are in this genus) and it is Greek for 'noisy'. The species name *tibicen* is from a Latin word meaning 'a piper or flute-player'.

Thus *Cracticus tibicen* means a 'piping noisy bird', referred to by the authors as a 'very apt' name.

The authors live in Canberra and are active members of the Canberra Ornithologists Group. Ian Fraser is an award-winning local naturalist, conservationist, author, ABC 666 broadcaster, natural history tour guide, environmental consultant and adult educator. Jeannie Gray is a retired teacher and counsellor with a lifelong passion for the study of languages and natural history.

The bulk of the book provides the kind of information that I have summarised above for the Grey Shrike-thrush and the Australian Magpie. It covers all the birds on the official Australian list, including both native and exotic (introduced) species. The book includes a comprehensive index to both the English names and scientific names of the bird species and subspecies (races).

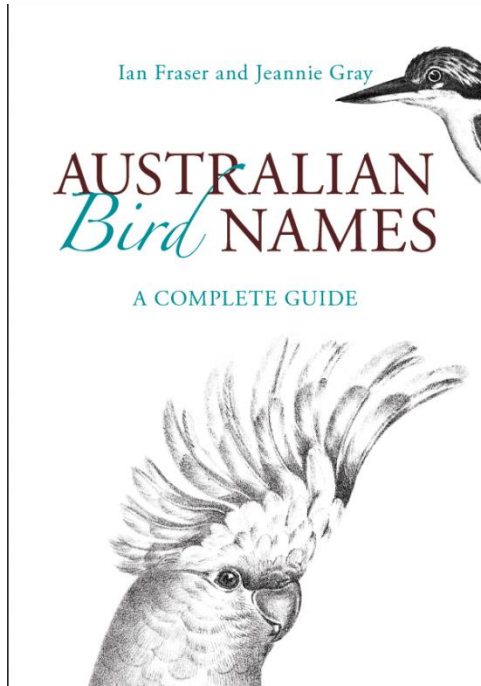
Also of considerable interest in this volume is an introduction which explains how the common names of Australian birds have been derived and gives brief biographies of the ornithologists who have been most instrumental in establishing the taxonomies of Australian birds, including their scientific names and English names. The introduction also discusses how the scientific names of birds are derived and gives other helpful advice as to how to use the book.

Lest you think that this book is dry science, throughout it contains Ian Fraser's voice—perhaps you listen to his natural history program on ABC 666 radio? For example, in noting that the Gentoo Penguin, an Antarctic species, is (allegedly) named after the Telugu (the authors spell it Telegu) people of southern India, they write 'If this is indeed the origin of the name, as is generally asserted, the connection seems likely to remain one of the great mysteries of the universe'.

And with regard to my favourite Australian bird, the Superb Lyrebird, they write, referring to its name, 'The catch is that no live lyrebird can or does hold its tail erect in the lyre-shape depicted in many early illustrations—it is either folded horizontally behind or cascaded forward over the body in display. This is clearly a bird characterised and named from a skin'.

I have no doubt that this book will be acclaimed, long into the future, as one of the landmarks in writing about Australian birds. Although it is based on an incredible amount of meticulous scientific research into ornithology, taxonomy and etymology, its contents are highly accessible to the lay reader. Pedants will identify tiny errors in the text. I hope that the authors will collate these and, in due course, produce a second edition that will be even more valuable than this first presentation.

Anybody with an interest in the local environment, and the wonderful birds that help make Wamboin such a great place to live, will find that they regularly dip into this book to answer the questions 'how did that bird get its English name', and 'what does its scientific name mean'?



Proposal by NSW Wildlife Council that Adjacent Landowners be Considered In Evaluating a Landowner's Request to Cull Wildlife by Philip Machin

At this month's Wamboin Community Association meeting (16 July) an item was discussed as to whether neighbouring property owners should be consulted if an adjacent landowner wants to apply for a non-commercial licence to cull wildlife – in this case kangaroos.

The topic arose from a recent NSW Wildlife Council (NWC) proposal to the NSW Minister of Environment & Heritage. The proposal makes the argument that – given wildlife often wanders across more than one property boundary, landowners in the locality should have the opportunity to agree or disagree to a planned cull that may affect them. Currently a property owner can act unilaterally, not inform or consult anyone, and apply for a licence to cull.

The discussion drew out the prospect that other activities, such as development applications, poisonous baits, burn-offs and bonfires need neighbours to be informed – so why not the intention to kill-off wildlife?

Culling may or may not be justified and by consulting other people affected a balanced judgement can be made. In particular, the National Parks and Wildlife staff will have access to more information when they decide whether to agree to an application. If the NWC proposal gets adopted, then it will be up to the Office of Environment and Heritage to change the S121 regulations and re-design the application form. As mentioned at the meeting, some flexibility would be needed to allow for situations where neighbours cannot be contacted or there is some other difficulty.

The NWC proposal reflects on the current government's NSW 2021 Plan that has a goal to increase the opportunities for people to look after their own neighbourhoods and environment and to set priorities locally.

The NWC proposal does not preclude culling of wildlife where that is necessary and NPWS staff retain the authority to make an informed decision, regardless as to whether neighbours agree or not. There were other related issues raised, including the need for property owners to keep neighbours informed if shooting is taking place.

The WCA voted in favour of supporting the NWC proposal with a "general in-principle support" letter to be forwarded to the Minister.

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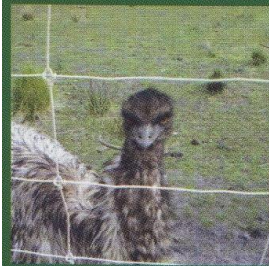
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Provides Information for Residents on the Project's Status
as of Tuesday Morning, July 30, 2013**

Written Down Here by Ned Noel

Question: Is it right that the completion of the project has been delayed because of wet weather?

Answer: Yes, rain has significantly protracted the project.

Question: Why is it unwise to seal the road until it is dry?

Answer: For the top bitumen seal to properly bond with the pavement below the moisture content of the pavement must be within a desired range. Too much moisture makes it easy for the stones that are part of the bitumen seal to be punched by traffic down into the pavement. This has the potential to create holes that allow moisture to run through into the pavement and leave a slick slippery surface called flushing. Moisture in the pavement will start to deform the profile where the greatest force is exerted commonly in wheel paths. Too little moisture in the pavement makes the gravel weak and it segregates, which is not ideal for sealing. The bitumen, which is the waterproofing for the road, needs to bond with the pavement aggregate and it also needs to capture the wearing surface aggregate to provide a good seal.

Question: How much dry weather is required to enable completion of the project?

Answer: Five to eight days of dry or nearly dry weather, including some days of sunshine are generally necessary. Less than 5 millimetres of rain during the period can sometimes be tolerated. As of Monday evening, July 29, we are hoping for a couple more fairly dry and ideally sunny days so that we can put in the bitumen seal. We did some preparatory work on Saturday, July 27. If we don't get significant drying, we just have to wait.

Question: Does our use of the unsealed road make the eventual sealing harder and more expensive?

Answer: Yes and No. Allowing traffic on the road protracts any period where work can be done, such as preparing the pavement for final bitumen seal, as the workable area is reduced. On the other hand, the traffic helps to compact the pavement similarly to proof rolling and will exposing weak areas in the pavement. As the unsealed pavement is compacted, trapped excess moisture pushes its way up through the voids in the road base towards the surface commonly resulting in deformation and longitudinal cracking indicating an area of weakness. We can then fix that defect by ripping the area and drying the gravel and compacting.

Question: Did the rebuild to date encounter any significant or interesting challenges or unforeseen costs or savings?

Answer: I'm only going to give a one word answer to that question: yes.

Question: How do the council and the road crew's deal with the setback to schedules and available work when an uncontrollable factor like weather intervenes?

Answer: There is enough maintenance work in the Palerang Council area to keep permanent staff busy, in theses rain events clean-up work is common. Contractors are generally laid off until the weather allows resumption of their project.

Question: Can you briefly outline the work still remaining to be done on Macs Reef Road and give a rough idea of how long it might take once it can start?

Answer: The main task is to apply the final bitumen seal on top of the pavement as it exists today (Tuesday morning, July 30). After the seal we will sweep the seal, install signage, line marking and roadside guide posts. This will take approximately 2 weeks to complete once the bitumen seal is completed.

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BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS NIGHT – BONFIRE FUEL WANTED

The 2013 Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks Night is planned for Saturday the 21 of September. Please note that if the Election is called on that date the Bonfire and Fireworks Night, plus The Produce Markets, will have to be run on a different day. (If anyone has the ear of the Prime Minister, please let Kevin know how inconvenient this would be!)

Now is a good time to start to reduce the fire hazards on your property by clearing unwanted stumps, logs, prunings and brush. Delivering suitable fuel to the Bonfire site at the Community Centre, Bingley Way, will help make the night a memorable occasion. **Please do not mix in treated timber, old carpets, metal fittings or other non-burnable materials** because volunteers have to separate these items. Last year we were disappointed to find a ute load of rubbish that had to be taken to the tip. For obvious reasons we would appreciate if you threw your material as high as you can on the pile. This night is a major, and sometimes only, fund raising activity for our community groups who run the food & drink stalls. Lofty Mason. Phone 6238-3258.



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Roaming Dogs

A few weeks ago, a kangaroo was badly mauled by a dog near my house – one hind-leg was broken completely and hanging by a piece of skin. She had to be euthanased. Yesterday, I found another kangaroo dead and half eaten by dogs at the end of the driveway. These were elderly kangaroos, both of which I'd watched on my place since they were joeys. It was very distressing to see them come to such an end.

Dogs occasionally escape from secure areas, and I've returned several of these to grateful owners. These are not the ones I'm concerned about. Some dogs are being allowed to roam indiscriminately, during the day and at night, and these are the ones that are causing problems.

Not everyone lives in Wamboin to enjoy the proximity of nature and wildlife, but a lot of us do. So, if you are the owner of a roaming dog, consider your neighbours and keep it at home. Please!

- Jo Walker

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For appointments or further information please phone Brian
6258 1792



'SHUT THE .. STABLE DOOR!'

by Ian Coillet

An occasional column

First, a follow-up to last month's blurb on 'Our Community' and my invitation to for you to send your suggested additions to the list of active 'communities' in our area. I received emails from two people:

1. Brigid was interested in knowing more about the yoga group. (Done, following a little help from a friend.)
2. Phil suggested Land for Wildlife (LfW) and Wildcare ... 'both of which add considerably to networking local people and generating mutual interest in local flora and fauna.' He added that 'LfW now has about 35 members in our area and will over time push out into Palerang. Wildcare covers a huge area, but locally there may be 36 members. Wildcare touches a lot of people by their visits to sort out wildlife problems and give advice.' Sounds pretty reasonable to me.

So, to complete??? the picture, here's the list updated - devoid of the last month's 'deliberate' duplications:

Wamboin Community Association	Blessing of the Animals	Pilates group
Bywong Community Association	Wheels of Wamboin	Wamboin Book Group
St Andrews Anglican Church	Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade	Wamboin Home Produce Market
Wamboin Playgroup	WSEFOAROFFOTS – Fire Brigade's gathering of senior (seasoned) brigade members on Friday afternoons.	Wamboin Annual Curry Night
Scout Group	BCA – Trivia Night	Wamboin Fishing Club
Pony Clubs – Wamboin & Geary's Gap	BCA – Christmas drinks	Community FireWise Groups
Prayer Group	BCA - Annual Car Boot Sale	EagleHawk Hotel Social Group
Bible Study Group	Greenways Walking Group	WCA Bonfire & Fireworks Night
Wamboin Golf Club	Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare	Christmas Carols – WCA Hall
Wonderful Women of Wamboin	WCA's monthly community newsletter – 'The Whisper'	Land for Wildlife
Lake George Day VIEW Club	Websites – WCA/BCA/Fire Brigade	Wildcare
Yoga group	Bywong & Wamboin Community Halls	

As Phil, in his email, went on to say, 'it's interesting to see what holds a spread out rural community together'. Indeed. If anyone would like to take this list further - you have my blessing.

* * * *

QUIZ: Where Am I?



This is too easy, you'll all know the answer – it's Millpost Hill, of course. Perhaps you've walked to the peak and checked out the magnificent 360 degree view; there's Black Mtn Tower to the south-west; Lake George escarpment and the wind turbines to the north-east; to the south is a sobering perspective of the northern boundary of the vast Kowen Forest that runs along the southern edge of Wamboin; all around you can take in the remnant stands of dry sclerophyll eucalypt forest that dot the landscape like a Fred Williams painting. This time of year you can see smoke drifting from the odd burn off (appropriately notified of course), as well as from several home chimneys. On occasions, I know of a few friends who traipse up Millpost Hill just before dusk, avec picnic hamper replete with champers and ready themselves for a solo or group howl as the full moon begins its rise above the scarp in the east.

But, I digress. Back to the Quiz. On this occasion it is not where am I, nor is it what becomes some local residents to gather atop a hill to howl at a full moon (although I'd be interested in hearing your theory on that). For the Quiz, just three questions:

1. How high is Millpost Hill above sea level? 780m, 848m or 890m.
2. Is it the highest hill in Wamboin? If not, what is and height?
3. When is the next 'howling' session?

Answers located in this Whisper's New Classifieds.

Editor's Note: Dr. Natasha Hovanaessian of Canberra Equine Hospital agreed to pay for this page as advertising, to use their own logo and to provide their contact information, but, under their own editorial control, to use the page to provide veterinary information they judge will be helpful to residents.

**CANBERRA
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COLIC- A Pain in the Belly!

By Dr. Natasha Hovanaessian, Canberra Equine Hospital

Many people know that horses 'colic', but what exactly does this mean? Colic is a general term referring to anything that may cause a horse to show signs of pain in the abdomen (i.e. the belly) and there are over 150 reported causes of colic! Usually this will involve a problem somewhere in the stomach, small bowel or large bowel, but can also be due to disease of organs including the liver and kidneys, from the space around the bowel (the peritoneal cavity), or even from the chest.

Thankfully, most cases of colic are resolved with medical therapy. Common medical conditions include a small impaction of dry, congested gut contents, stomach ulcers, sand/soil impaction, worms and gas build up.

It is important horse owners can recognize the signs of colic are, so they can respond promptly. These include a dull demeanour or being quieter than usual, reduced appetite, reduced manure output (normal is 6-10 piles/24hours), stretching out to urinate frequently, looking at the belly, kicking the belly, lifting the upper lip, lying down often and of course, rolling on the ground.

When we arrive at a case of colic, a veterinarian will initially try to determine the cause and provide some relief. Usually this starts with a thorough physical exam to determine the extent of the horse's pain and then proceed on with other tests. This may include sending blood for laboratory analysis, passing a tube to the stomach and checking for build up of fluid (reflux), passing an arm into the rectum to feel for the problem, ultrasound of the abdomen and taking a sample of fluid from the peritoneal cavity. A decision can then be made on how to treat the colic, which often includes anti-inflammatories, fluids and electrolytes.

What to do if your horse is showing signs of colic:

1. **Contact your veterinarian immediately.** Although many colics are mild, at least 10% can require surgery or be fatal. Additionally, colic means a horse is in a lot of pain and requires therapy to relieve that pain.
2. Put the horse in yard where it can be **observed for pain and passage of manure**, and record these observations. **Withhold all food** until your veterinarian advises it is okay to feed again. Offering water is usually fine.
3. Many people will walk a horse with colic as it can help with bowel motility. However it is important not to tire and dehydrate the horse further. I usually recommend **walking the horse for no more than 20 minutes every 1-2 hours.**
4. If the horse is in intense pain and throwing itself on the ground, it is best to **keep a safe distance** until your veterinarian arrives.

Colic that is caused from the intestines is often placed into two categories- strangulating or non-strangulating. This indicates whether the bowel is twisted and its blood supply occluded, or not. Usually strangulating lesions of the bowel require surgery to resolve the problem and often horses will be in intense pain. Common strangulating conditions include torsion (twisting) of the large bowel after foaling in mares and strangulating lipomas seen in older horses. These are small, fatty tumours which are harmless in themselves but grow on a long stalk that can wrap tightly around the small intestine. Some non-strangulating lesions may also require surgery, including impactions that will not resolve with fluid therapy and displaced large bowel that is not in the correct anatomical position.

If you would like further information about colic in horses, or veterinary advice on other issues, please contact Canberra Equine Hospital at 6241 8888 or equine@canberravet.com.au.

Councillor's Corner

Planning Reform — As if battling through the gestation of the new Palerang Local Environmental Plan (PLEP) hasn't been difficult enough, we are also in the throes of major planning reform that will see a significant restructure of NSW and local government planning instruments (<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/a-new-planning-system-for-nsw>). We'll just see the new PLEP take effect and it'll be all change again.

That's probably a bit dramatic. It's not really as bad as it sounds—there is a formal migration path mapped out, and our new *Standard Instrument* LEP is a necessary precursor to the implementation of the new planning system.

While there are still concerns about some aspects of the new system, it's designed to bring planning into the electronic age. The primary goal is to simplify the whole planning approvals process with, amongst other things, the ability to produce what amounts to a tailored LEP excerpt, and simple planning check list for any individual property at the press of a button—or maybe more accurately, the click of a mouse. The idea is that this will eliminate the need to tediously wade through pages of irrelevant legislative instructions, to work out what planning approvals may or may not be required, and what conditions might apply to some project you wish to undertake.

Part of the reason for requiring all councils to migrate to the new *Standard Instrument* format is that it moves much more towards the visual presentation of information in map overlays. These, of course, can be very nicely integrated with Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to allow an applicant to retrieve any information that can be presented in this format.

You can view versions of the maps provided with the draft PLEP on my website at <http://peteharrison.id.au/infozone/lep/index.php?op=plepmaps> (or just go the website and navigate down to **Palerang Info Zone > PLEP > Maps**). The colours are a little difficult to work with at the moment, but all maps, for all localities in NSW, are produced on a common grid, using the same colours so that together they form a consistent montage of the whole state.

These maps are not yet 'clickable', but the idea is ultimately to be able to navigate down to an individual lot, and simply click on it to retrieve all the relevant planning details from the new, integrated Local Plan, of which the current LEP will be just one part.

There's still a bit of work to do, but we're making progress...

PLEP Update— As a brief postscript, council planning staff have collated the submissions received during the exhibition phase earlier this year, and are nearing completion of the associated report for Council's consideration. Depending on the extent of any recommended changes, the revised draft may go out for a second period of exhibition. Either way, it is expected that the final draft will be with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure before the end of the year, and gazetted early in 2014.

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

Planning Reform
In the Zone

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

New Classifieds
We'd like to give away approximately 40 large, thriving Buxus plants to anyone who wishes to dig them up. Is there a place to make that offer in the Whisper please? Sally Simpson - 6238-3549
For sale – Canon EOS 1100D (Rebel) camera complete with 18-55 mm lens. Plus UV filter, polarizer, extra battery and case. \$350.00. Ideal beginner SLR digital kit. Used 10 days only while main camera under repair on holiday. Dick Henley 6238-3036
Husqvarna LTH2038 – Ride on mower in as new condition and has only done 42 hours on the clock. \$2600 o.n.o. Phone Joseph on 6236 9635 or 0424 191 307.
MISSING - Milly, our Golden Retriever is missing from 300 Macs Reef Rd Bywong. Last seen late Jun . She is microchipped and had a pick collar with her name and a phone number (It is possible the collar came off)' Anyone with details please contact Gary 0417347955 or Marnie 0421050779. (Photo attached)
Answers to STABLE DOOR Quiz: 1. 890m. 2. No. Poppet Hill. 918m. 3. Your call (howl) but next full moon is Wed 21 Aug.

Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

I was beginning to think I'd lost July this year, wiped out by a thick blanketing fog that stubbornly refused to budge... and then it lifted. But I wasn't fooled by a blue sky into thinking winter was on the wane especially when I saw the mountain tops painted with snow, a morning puddle with icy claws scratched across its surface and a small pine tipped with ice beads on drooping needles looking like a Christmas tree in July. But it's so nice to see the sun again, and the garden thinks so, too. It's stirring, shrugging off its winter torpor and slowly coming out of the shadows. There are the first hellebores, and violets, pink, white and purple, spears of daffodils and jonquils pushing through beds of fallen leaves, plump manchurian pear buds and wattles almost ready to burst. I've cheated the rabbits this time and bought "bloomers". Now I have pots of coloured polyanthus, sweet smelling stocks and colourful kales safely stowed away on the verandahs, hinting at spring. Frogs in the gullies are practising their scales again, the little boy wrens have found the "dress ups" box, and a scarlet robin caught my delighted eye on one of my walks.

I went away last weekend. I travelled for eight hours, cocooned in a time capsule with my head buried in a book, numbed to my surroundings. I arrived at a railway station which looked like any other railway station in a big city, waited for the green light and joined fellow travellers on the grey footpath between grey buildings under a square of cold grey sky. The back views and faces could have been in any city in any part of the world. Then, out of the blue, I heard an Australian accent and realised that I had really not gone all that far. I was actually in Melbourne, still in Australia and not technically a foreigner!

It was fun to play at being a Melbournian for a weekend. Everything I wanted seemed to be within walking distance, and I discovered a new religion and a new church; coffee at cafes on a Sunday morning. The Communion wine and wafers came with a new twist. I joined the congregation but showed my lack of faith by opting for a pot of tea rather than a double shot latte. However, I was pleased to see that even though no one could hear each other above the din and clatter, they were engaging in the old fashioned way, talking instead of texting. The staff was pleasant, not just plastic pleasant, but their eyes betrayed them. I suspect they'd rather have been in bed sleeping off their "big night" than at the "new church" masquerading as altar boys.

Coming home, with a bag of dirty clothes and happy memories, is always the best part of going away, and this time I arrived in the dark, smelled the damp air and brushed past the winter honeysuckle, sweet and fragrant. It is good to be home.....and after a walk to the letter box along the gravel road between the expectant wattles, I'll make myself a cup of coffee, long black, and listen to the sounds of silence. I wouldn't live anywhere else.



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