

WAMBOIN



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

November 2013 CIRCULATION: 1,289

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 Decemberr 2013 / January 2014 issue the deadline is Sunday, 24 November, 7 pm. Instant Colour Press will then multiply 1 copy into more than 1200. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month.

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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	
Resident Palerang Councillor	Pete Harrison	0427 711 028	cr.pete.harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au
Resident 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	
NSW Emergency Services	NSW Call Centre, Staff	132 500	For assistance in storm or flood emergency
NSW Emergency Svcs Adm	Colin Brown, Controllor	6238 0222	For non-urght help, answd by local volunteer
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, cntacts	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	

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Genevieve Phipps	Babysitting/pet sitting	6238 1660	Gabrielle Simpkin	baby sitting/ pets sitting	6238-1335
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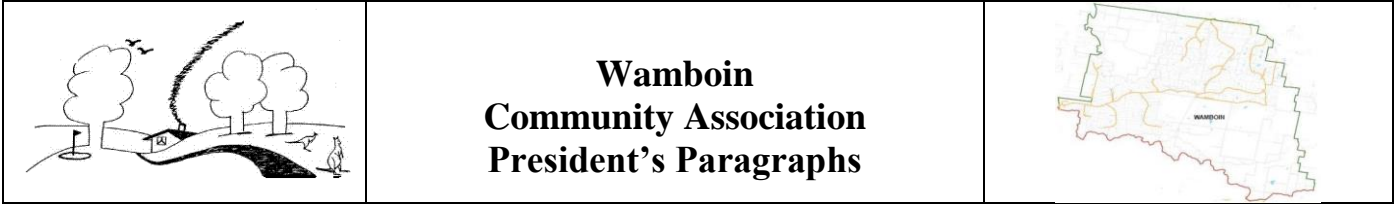
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Hi again. Although the year is passing quickly our last month has not been a particularly busy one. So very short Notes this month.

Wamboin Community Carols– Christmas is fast approaching (too fast for some of us) and the next event in the WCA's diary is the Wamboin Community Christmas Carols held at the Community Hall on 20th December at 7:30 pm. These are a non-denominational, community inspired get together to celebrate the festive season. It's a great night with singing of both traditional and some very Aussie Christmas carols, ably assisted by our great musicians. The night includes items from the Playgroup, and of course the Christmas Play acted out by the local children which they do brilliantly. The evening finishes with the arrival of Santa (in a fire truck, naturally) to hand out lolly bags and a sausage sizzle, proceeds of which are donated to the Salvation Army. So please put this date in your diary and come along for an entertaining evening.

Christmas Play – Once again I'm organising the Christmas Play and I would love to hear from parents who would like their children to be part of this. There is no age limit; little ones are as welcome as older children. There are a number of speaking parts now so please ring me on 6238-1329 if you have a child (or children) who want to join in. Hope to hear from some of you soon.

That's all for this month except to say as a community where bush fire is a real issue, our sympathies are extended to those residents in the Blue Mountains who lost so much recently.

- Jenny Richards (President)

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	<p>Bywong Community News www.bywongcommunity.org.au Darryl Bourke, President This News Put Together by the Bywong Committee</p>	
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Some positive rubbish news. Council expects to receive a Compliance Certificate and to begin construction of the Macs Reef Road Transfer Station within the next 4-8 weeks. They have already hired a Temporary Works Supervisor to oversee construction of both the Macs Reef site and the Bungendore Station, which is already well under way. They are hoping to see both sites open for business by about October next year.

While I live....? Who is old enough to remember the old Anthony Horderns (Sydney) slogan “ While I live I grow”, surmounted by the image of a strong, lustily growing tree? It might have been a good emblem for our own active “GRoW” organisation, but for the the inappropriate (exotic) nature of the tree. But even without the emblem, (and unlike the original tree which has passed away) our group is thriving. The last meeting formalised GRoW (Greenways Renewal Group) as a Bywong Community sub-committee, which gives it official standing and removes any complications over funds management. The meeting agreed to check that the Community insurance would cover GRoW activities. At the last meeting Community President Darryl Bourke handed over a cheque for \$200 as a contribution to Council’s expenses in providing necessary signs for the new Donnelly Road Greenways link.

Group convener Nora Stewart advised that a walk along Lake George was planned for 3 November . She said the Group was looking to develop a series of “Happy Heart” walks to encourage participation and healthy lifestyle.

Pony Club. Seventeen local riders from Geary’s Gap Pony Club had a great day of friendly competition with our Wamboin neighbours on Sunday 13 October. The Wamboin club came out on top after a close competition. Geary’s Gap Pony Club representative Kerry Cox reported to the last Community meeting that Pony Club membership continues to grow, with riders taking the opportunity to participate in the “Come and Try” days. Eight riders represented the Club at the State Mounted Games with the Junior team placed 9th out of 23 and the Associate team won the NSW Championships. One rider represented the Club at the State ODE and five members rode in a demonstration at Government House on Family Day.

Christmas drinks 7 December. Don’t forget to allocate an hour for the annual Community drinks on Saturday evening 7 December. It’s a chance to catch up with the Community without having to listen to the minutes or the treasurer’s report (although both can sometimes be fun!). Committee members will be there, and eager to hear any suggestions you might have for community activities. But we’d rather hear “Why don’t we...?” rather than “Why don’t you...?” Come between 6.00 and 9.00 to the Bywong Hall in Birriwa Road. Bring a nibble if you wish, but the drinks are on us.

Fundraiser

To support local rider Kiralee Cox who has been selected as the only NSW rider to compete in the Australian Mounted Games team in South Africa in December 2013

Dinner Dance

Country singer Pete Blissenden and the opportunity to learn some Irish Dancing

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Nature Notes October 2013

Jo Walker

We haven't had much rain this month (only 12 mm here), but the vegetation, from grasses to tall eucalypts, is all still green and growing.

One of the Broad-leaved Peppermints (*Eucalyptus dives*) here was flowering heavily during the month, its clouds of white flowers almost hiding the leaves. The Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) are still adding a bit of colour to the landscape. Their flowering last month was the most spectacular display for years, and now the golden flowers have been succeeded by a heavy load of seed-pods of a dusky pink colour. *Acacia mearnsii* (Black Wattle) usually flowers in November, but one tree on Sutton Road is already bearing its cream flowers and the buds on many others are well advanced.

Inflorescences on some of the Wallaby Grasses (*Austrodanthonia* spp.) are beginning to appear, and there are yellow Tiger Orchids (*Diuris sulphurea*) flowering. In fact, there are a lot of patches of yellow to catch the eye at the moment. The prostrate herbaceous *Goodenia hederacea* (Ivy-leaved Goodenia) is widespread in this area and just starting to flower. Not quite as common are the taller *Goodenia pinnatifida* (Scrambled Eggs) and *Velleia paradoxa* (Spur Velleia) – both of these are in bloom on Sutton Road at the moment. And there are several sizeable populations of the tall Bulbine Lilies (*Bulbine bulbosa*) growing along local roadsides. Probably the most widespread of the yellow-flowering plants right now is the tiny daisy, the Austral Sunray (*Triptilodiscus pygmaeus*). It is a small plant to about 10cm tall, but often much less, with globular flower-heads. It grows and flowers densely on any bare ground amongst the grasses.

Although Spring seems to be dominated by the colour yellow, there are a few plants exhibiting other colours. *Viola betonicifolia* (Common Violet) is showing some purple (or sometimes dark pink) flowers, and the delicate little climbing plant *Thysanotus patersonii* (Twining Fringe-lily) is carrying strings of small mauve flowers. A more robust climber, now covered in tiny bright blue flowers is the Love Creeper (*Comesperma volubile*).

I was watching a pair of little Spotted Pardalotes this morning for a while. They are obviously intending to build a nest somewhere nearby, as they were collecting fibres from a Red Stringybark tree (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*). After about ten minutes of strenuous activity, one of them managed to detach a whole beakful of strong fibres and they both flew off towards the creek where they probably have a tunnel to nest in prepared in the steep bank. Plenty of other birds are around calling and singing. A male Rufous Whistler has been very vocal recently, as has a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike.

I found a rather thin Spotted Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*) struggling over some dry ground this morning, not its usual habitat. This little animal is a medium-sized frog with blotched skin and a pale stripe along its back. While I was releasing it at the edge of the dam, a Long-necked Turtle dropped into the water from its resting place, a half-submerged tree trunk, and disturbed the perfect reflections mirrored in the water.

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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

176: 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+Wirndra)	22	Penny Evans	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	26

237: 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	65
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
Rhonda&Neville Parnell	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	Jenny Bryce	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Robert&Marzena Luton	Sutton Park Estate	48	Penny & Russell Ball	Macs Reef (Denley Dr to Bungdre Rd)	18
Ian Coillet	Grove Road	7			

205: CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON ph 6236 9333

Phil & Pam Dawes	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln	27	David Featherston	Summerhill and Creekborough Rds	26
Kevin Anderson	B'dore Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill)	35	Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Rd	26
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (Fed Hwy to Summerhill)	25	Chris Fowler	Shinglehouse & Millyn Rds	20
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	21	Richard Holding	Wyoming & Doust Rds	25

109: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484

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

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WAMBOIN MARKETS

9am – 12Noon – 3rd Saturday Monthly (except July and August)
@ Wamboin Community Hall 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin Contact – Joan Mason, 62 383 258

NEXT MARKET – 16 NOVEMBER 2013



The October market was a little quiet with attendees, put this down to so much going on over the weekend, particularly the Murrumbateman Field Days. Those who came enjoyed themselves, also the Fire Brigade information day, held during the markets seemed well attended, most having the opportunity of enjoying coffee, egg & bacon rolls and jam & cream scones .

With Christmas not far away, stall holders are preparing gifts for you to buy, plus home produce, flowers, plants, lollies, nuts, cakes, sausage rolls, pies, and much more. Try Linda's lovely freshly made juices, dried food and also she is happy to advise on healthy food coaching.

Hope to see you at the November 16 market. If you would like a stall, please contact me . - Joan Mason 6238 3258.

The Warblers - A Seniors Community Group

Every 4th Tuesday of each month, a group of "young at heart" seniors meet in St Andrews at 10am for morning tea, interesting discussions or idle chit chat plus a chance to sing or play an instrument. Come along, bring a friend and your music talents. The next gathering is 26th November. If you need transport, please contact the people listed below. Robyn: 6238-3202 or Gai: 6238-3899

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Councillor's Corner

LEP Considerations— With the exhibition phase of the original draft Palerang Local Environmental Plan now complete, I thought there might be some value in covering off the issue that was of primary concern in some sectors of the rural residential community.

There was a perception that the proposed E4 (Environmental Living) zoning would bring with it a raft of new environmental restrictions. With the change in the way many land uses were described, there was a perception that existing land use practices were being restricted, and the description of the E4 zone as an environmental protection zone raised fears of the imposition of onerous new 'environmental' constraints. Neither of these concerns, however, is warranted.

The basic problem appears to have been a misunderstanding of the intent of land use zoning, and the manner in which specific environmental controls are applied under a Standard Instrument LEP. Unlike the current Yarrowlumla LEP Rural Residential 1(d) zone, which includes very specific environmental protection objectives at the land use zone level, the new SI LEP land use zones are very much more focused on the primary objective of the particular zone, which in the present case is the control of residential development. In spite of the different descriptive names applied to the new land use zones, the SI LEP and its supporting legislation apply environmental controls equally to all zones, via an entirely independent mechanism.

Quite simply, the proposed E4 (Environmental Living) zone is fundamentally a residential zone that is used where it is important to protect the existing character of, and land use practices in an area from inappropriate residential development. The alternative R5 (Large Lot Residential) zoning is used where the management of urban expansion and its associated residential development are more important than the protection of any existing land use practices. Given only this choice, the most appropriate zoning for the existing Rural Residential 1(d) areas was quite clearly E4—there has been no argument against wanting to protect the existing character of our rural residential areas. In spite of its name, the E4 zone does not carry with it any additional environmental constraints.

As an example of the way in which environmental controls *are* applied under a Standard Instrument LEP, consider the issue of development on or near riparian land and watercourses. The relevant controls are specified under Clause 6.12 of the current draft PLEP, and make reference to the Riparian Lands and Watercourses Map, one of several shire-wide map overlays that are an integral part of the PLEP. These map overlays are completely independent of any land use zone—i.e. the associated environmental controls are not applied at the individual zone level, they apply to areas identified in the relevant map, regardless of the zoning of the land.

Specifically then, if a watercourse runs through a property, activity on the land in the proximity of the watercourse will be subject to a uniform set of controls under the new PLEP, regardless of whether the land is zoned RU1, E4, R5 or whatever—the controls are related to the existence of a watercourse, not the zoning of the land. Furthermore, there are no additional controls applied in this context because the land is zoned one way or another.

This provides a much more consistent way of dealing with controls on features that have no regard for planning boundaries. While it might be perfectly logical to impose controls on residential development within a village zone, it would clearly be less logical to use land use zones to impose environmental controls on features, like a watercourse, that do not exist by virtue of a zone boundary. Environmental controls are currently also applied to flood prone areas, terrestrial biodiversity, steeply sloped land and areas with highly erodible soils in a similar way.

To summarise the above, there has been no intention to change anything about the way we live or 'play' in our rural residential areas under the new Palerang LEP. As far as possible, no new restrictions have been introduced. In fact some current restrictions have been relaxed. While the language and structure of the new planning instrument have changed somewhat, and some things will inevitably 'look' a little different, there should be very few, and only minor changes to any council requirements or current land use practices in rural residential areas as a result of the new PLEP.

The Palerang Blog—New or related entries in my councillor website Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) include:

PLEP Environmental Controls Rural Residential Zoning Objectives In the Zone
Lost in Translation PLEP Land Use Zones

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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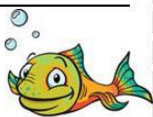
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A: A can of people!



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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).

IT IS THE OFFICIAL BUSH FIRE DANGER PERIOD

(1st October – 31st March)

THERE IS A REAL RISK OF UNCONTROLLED FIRES IN OUR AREA

TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS
RING TRIPLE ZERO



FIRE PERMITS

During the Bush Fire Danger Period a Fire Permit is required for any fire in the open (other than a cooking fire in a properly constructed fire place with a 2 metre cleared border around it). During days of Total Fire Ban (TOBAN), permits are suspended and no fires can be lit for the duration of the TOBAN. Permits are also suspended on days of Very High fire danger or above.

phone: Brigade Captain 0409 991 340

email: captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au.

Vale – Bernie Broers

It is with considerable sadness that we marked the death of Bernie Broers in September. Bernie joined the Wamboin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade in 1990 having transferred from the Sutton Bush Fire Brigade where he had been a Deputy Captain for several years. Bernie was a Deputy Captain in the Wamboin Fire Brigade 1994 -1997 and Captain 1997 - 2003. He also served as the Training Officer for several years. Bernie was made a Life Member of the Wamboin brigade in 2005 in recognition of his meritorious service to the brigade over an extended period. Several members from Wamboin and Sutton brigades attended Bernie's funeral at the beginning of October.

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

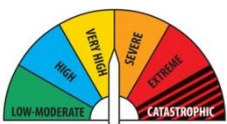
It has been a busy period for the Brigade these past several weeks. Activities included: opening the fire station to the community as part of the state-wide NSW Rural Fire Service Open Day; a formal Maintenance Day and several Working Bees; posting roadside signs across the brigade area to remind the community we are now in the bush fire danger period and of the requirement to secure a Fire Permit before lighting a fire in the open; supporting brigade members across the Lake George Zone at assessment events; conducting a bush fire information session for all residents; responding to emergency callouts in and nearby the brigade area. In addition, one of the brigade's tankers and several members participated in two separate Strike Teams from the Lake George Zone travelling to the Southern Highlands and Blue Mountains to fight the large and persistent fires in those areas.

KEEPING YOURSELF INFORMED - INFORMATION SOURCES *(continued from last month)*

Last month's article highlighted the importance of staying up to date during periods of increased fire danger and when there is a bush fire in your area. We mentioned a number of ways you can do this and undertook to provide further information on some of these initiatives including key mobile phone applications (apps). This, along with additional material on the Fire Danger Ratings and Bush Fire Alert systems, appears below. You can keep yourself informed by:

- Knowing the Fire Danger Rating for your area, especially on hot, dry and windy days;
- Understanding the Bush Fire Alerts, and
- Looking and listening for information available via mobile phone apps.

Fire Danger Ratings



The Fire Danger Rating (FDR) gives you an idea of the possible consequences of a fire. It is based on predicted conditions such as the temperature, humidity, wind and dryness of the landscape. It tells you how a bush fire may act, what impacts there might be on the community if a bush fire were to start and when to implement your Bush Fire Survival Plan. The higher the FDR, the more dangerous the conditions. Please keep informed and be ready to act.

CATASTROPHIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For your survival, leaving early is your only option. • Leave bush fire prone areas the night before or early in the day – do not just wait and see what happens. • Make a decision about when you will leave, where you will go, how you will get there and when you will return. • Homes are not designed to withstand fires in catastrophic conditions so you should leave early.
EXTREME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving early is the safest option for your survival. • If you are not prepared to the highest level, leave early in the day. • Only consider staying if you are prepared to the highest level – such as your home is specially designed, constructed or modified, and situated to withstand a fire, you are well prepared and can actively defend it if a fire starts.
SEVERE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving early is the safest option for your survival. • Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety – but only stay if you are physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions. • If you are not prepared, leave early in the day.
VERY HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review your Bush Fire Survival Plan with your family. • Keep yourself informed and monitor conditions. • Be ready to act if necessary.
HIGH	
LOW-MODERATE	

FDR signs for the Brigade’s area are located at the key entry points to Wamboin, Bywong, Sutton Park and Bungendore. You can also view the FDR on the brigade’s website at: <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au> Further general information on FDRs can be found on the NSW RFS website at <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>

Bush Fire Alerts

Alert Levels give an indication of the level of threat from a fire. You’ll find these on the NSW RFS website at <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/> and on radio and television. They are contingent on the understanding that bush fires can start and spread so quickly that there may be no time for any warning at all. There are three levels of Bush Fire Alerts.

<p>ADVICE A fire has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.</p>
<p>WATCH and ACT There is heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.</p>
<p>EMERGENCY WARNING An Emergency Warning is the highest level of Bush Fire Alert. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.</p>

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

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

Mobile Phone Apps

If you have a mobile device such as an iPhone, iPad, tablet or smart phone, current fire information is available in a number of ways. The two Mobile Apps. promoted by the NSW RFS are:

- *Fires Near Me NSW* - provides fire information on bushfires across NSW, and
- *Fires Near Me* - provides information on current incidents throughout the A.C.T., surrounding NSW region and the rest of the country, plus New Zealand.

Both applications provide information on Total Fire Bans.

Fires Near Me is produced and managed by the NSW RFS. The A.C.T. Emergency Services Agency provides a live data feed of fire incident information into the application.

Both applications give users the ability to source information on incidents near them but given our proximity to the A.C.T. we consider that *Fires Near Me* is the more useful application.

While these applications and services can be useful sources of information on fire incidents and conditions, they are reliant on having access to data services. Therefore, the RFS encourages users to not rely solely on these applications and services and use a range of sources of information. Further information can be found on the NSW RFS website www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

PERMIT TO BURN

If you want a Fire Permit please remember that the Permit Issuing Officer requires reasonable notice. It is not reasonable to request an immediate permit only 26 hours before you want to light up, especially if you have not left enough time to contact either your neighbours AND the Fire Control Centre at least 24 hrs in advance, once the permit has been issued. And please remember that the Fire Control Centre is only open during business hours (0900-1700) excluding public holidays. For further information and guidance please refer to [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/For the Community](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/For%20the%20Community)

BRIGADE ACTIVITY

Incidents since last month's newsletter

Since the last newsletter, the brigade was responded to 7 callouts in the area:

- *Monday 30 Sept @ 1.28pm* – good intent call in Macs Reef Rd, Bywong.
- *Monday 30 Sept @ 6.34pm* – an un-notified tussock burn in Brooks Rd, Bywong.
- *Friday 4 Oct @ 6.30pm* – good intent call in Fernloff Rd, Wamboin.
- *Sunday 13 Oct @ 11.41am* – motor vehicle accident on Federal Hwy, EagleHawk (brigade called off enroute)
- *Monday 21 Oct @ 10.46pm* – grass fire in Bingley Way, Wamboin caused by a lightning strike.
- *Tuesday 22 Oct @ 5.00pm* – a permitted, but unattended pile burn in Hadlow Dr, Purrorumba, contravening the conditions of the permit.
- *Friday 25 Oct @ 9.36am* – crew and heavy tanker required to assist fire-fighting effort at Wiritin Mountain near Mongarlowe. Tanker and crew returned to Wamboin circa 10.30pm.

In addition, several members travelled out of area as part of two deployments of 3 days from the Lake George Zone to assist fight fires in the Blue Mountains and Southern Highlands.

Other activities

- *Friday 11 Oct* - Several brigade members assisted in the installation of a powered hose reel onto one of the brigade's heavy tankers.
- *Saturday 12 Oct* - Several members provided support for a number of Bush Fire Fighter, Advanced Fire Fighter and Crew Leader assessment activities in the Lake George Zone.
- *Thursday 19 Oct* - Members prepared one of the brigade's heavy tankers that formed part of a Strike Team from the Lake George Zone sent to fight fires north of Sydney but redirected to the Southern Highlands.

Community Engagement

Saturday 28 Sept – NSW RFS Open Day @ Wamboin Fire Station

Members of the community took advantage of the event to come along and meet members of the community's fire brigade and look over the station and brigade vehicles. Two people who came along have since joined the fire brigade. The photo taken by Brigade member Cliff Spong helps captures the essence of the Open Day.



Saturday 19 Oct – Community-wide Bush Fire Information Session (11.30am - 2pm)

35 members of the community attended the session that provided a mix of information, guidance and hands-on opportunities to help residents and others with their Bush Fire Survival Plan. The focus for the event was on what it takes to Prepare, Act, and Survive a bushfire. Many thanks go to the Brigade's presenters and the Support Crew for their respective contributions. Our thanks also go to Greg Simms from Bungendore Rural Services (BRS) who was on hand with a display of useful fire fighting equipment and to field questions. BRS sponsored the major lucky door prize (Rega Backpack Sprayer) that was won by Belinda Connors of Wamboin (photo below). Feedback on the event has been extremely positive.



Geoff Foster discussing Fire Danger Ratings and their usefulness as a 'trigger point' for action.



Greg Simms (Bungendore Rural Services) presents Belinda Connors with the Major Lucky Door Prize.

Training

Training during October extended the focus on pumps and the use of foaming applications.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues 3 December	Fire Brigade Community Christmas Party - Fire Station from 5.30pm. Santa arrives at 6pm.
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FURTHER INFORMATION

Recruitment: About joining the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade

Becoming a volunteer firefighter or member of the brigade’s support group is rewarding. The brigade particularly needs younger members (18 years or older) to ensure its long-term continuity as a viable force. The NSW RFS provides all the necessary training. If you are interested in learning new skills or sharing your expertise, please call the Secretary, Jim Greehead, on 6230 3165 or email: secretary@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au for a chat and to seek a Membership Application Pack.

NSW Rural Fire Service Website

The NSW Rural Fire Service website is an important information point to assist you prepare against the threat of bush fire. The NSW RFS web address is <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>

Wamboin Brigade Website

The site will help you monitor local conditions and Brigade announcements. Our **Community Information** section has useful information including links to other websites such as 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 our website at <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

In closing....


Should you have any non-emergency enquiry, e.g. you’d like 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.

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin –38 year statistics from the Robertsons - November 2013	
October rainfall to 27/10 ... 18mm	(October 2012 ... 60.5mm)
2013 rainfall to 27/10 ... 448.75mm	(2012 rainfall to 31/10 ... 708mm)
Average November rainfall ... 79.25m	(Nov 2012 ... 41.5mm)
Wettest November ... 175.5mm in 2010	Driest November ... 0.0mm in 1982
Wettest November day ... 77mm on 19/11/86	Hottest November day ... 39C x 3 times
Coldest November day ... 10C on 16/11/78	Coldest November night ... 0C on 1/11/98

 <p>DEANE FENCING</p> <p>Michael Deane</p> <p>PO BOX 525 Jamison ACT 2624</p> <p>Ph: 0414 525 525 Fax: (02) 62303088</p>	<p>DEANE FENCING</p> <p>Jamison ACT 2614</p> <p>Phone: 6230 3088 Mobile 0414 525 525</p> <p>Email: deane.fencing@hotmail.com</p> <p>Specialises in Road, Bridge, Carpark Safety Barriers and Fencing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guard rails - Wire rope (flex fence) barriers - Isolator concrete barrier - Thriebem guardrail - Work zone barriers - Pedestrian barriers
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Road Trip - Wamboin to Cairns

by Lofty Mason

'The longest journey begins with a single step'. In this case the first step was when John Gordon's mother relinquished the use of her '95 Ford Laser that was unregistered and parked at Eureka Plants. When my son Scott, who is based in Cairns, said he was looking for a small car I put 2 and 2 together however the 3000 kilometres of separation certainly raised hurdles. John pointed out that the car had been driven without water in the radiator causing some problems that had been repaired. To have the Laser trucked to Cairns was quoted at \$2400 so the answer was to drive it there. John said forget Cairns he wouldn't guarantee the car would get to Bungendore. That was not a problem, as I didn't plan to go through Bungendore. My wife Joan wasn't happy with the thought of driving to Cairns but Trent Abell entered the equation and he and I decided on a 'Road Trip'. When John's son Luke heard us working on contingency plans he said there was no need to worry, as he was sure we would be able to walk home from where we broke down! *Oh those of little faith.*

First up some back yard repairs, then a Roadworthy Certificate plus an Unregistered Vehicle Travel Permit. I was pleasantly surprised to find this permit only cost \$31 and included Third Party insurance. Only thing left was to drive the Laser to Cairns.

At 8.20 on Monday the 23rd of September Joan waved us off however, we noticed she was also shaking her head. Stopping for a coffee fix at Cowra at 1040 we felt pretty good about notifying the doubters as to our progress. Road works slowed our progress and by 6pm the need for a cold one saw us booking into The Railway Hotel in Moree. The name of the hotel should have prepared us for the wake-up alarm by shunting trains however; this gave us an early start for the day.

On other occasions when driving this way into Queensland I have always gone right hand down a bit and headed for Brisbane. This time our route, and need for breakfast, led us through Goondiwindi and this well-kept, typical outback town impressed us. Then back onto long stretches of the Leichhardt Highway towards Rockhampton. Welcome to the land of road trains and B-doubles. We were quite lucky in choosing to stop at Taroom for lunch. (No, we had never heard of Taroom, but the line up of trucks gave a hint). The café offered an extensive menu and the option for seating in air con or under shady trees. We opted to dine outside and thought our meals were excellent. Taroom is situated on yet another crossroad leading to Roma. Checking out the many crossroads and signposts, Trent pointed out that it must be true that: 'All roads lead to Roma'. No, it doesn't get any better.

Despite more road works we arrived in Rockhampton in time to do a detour trip to check out Yeppoon and Emu Park then to return to Rockhampton and book into The Criterion Hotel. This impressive structure features twin curved staircases to the first and second floors. The reasonable priced en-suite rooms of The Criterion certainly have our recommendation for accommodation.

Wednesday morning we set off again still with a sweet running Laser. We decided to detour to Airlie Beach for lunch as neither of us had checked out this area before. Refuelling there was the only time we were queried about the lack of number plates. Last light saw us booking into Townsville. Trent found it amusing when a patron (obviously of poor taste) stated that 'VB is the beer you drink when you can't get one you like'.

Thursday morning after driving through many miles (kilometres) of cane fields (I am only inching towards metrication), we drove into Cairns for lunch. Our first action was to notify *'Those of little faith'* of our arrival! John Gordon accused us of being 'car whisperers'.

Scott was away in Darwin until Saturday so all we had to do was get a Queensland roadworthy and registration. Strangely, the Laser that had just travelled 3,000 kilometres scored 12 defects! These ranged from the rear windscreen washer not working (no wonder, there was no water in the reservoir) to non-matching tyres. We were then told that we had gone to the most pedantic checker in Cairns. After a couple of repairs and a visit to a reasonable garage the Laser was 'Queensland road-worthy', registered and handed over.

The conversion table that says 'days driving are equal to hours flight time' was again the case as the flight time home was three and a half hours. The latest report from Scott is that the Laser is still purring along.

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Runners!

* Finding it hard to get out of bed for a run in the morning? Running in a group can help give the motivation to get out the door.

* Tired of being lonely while training? Run in a group to help the k's click by.

* Looking to improve your fitness, PBs or just enjoyment in running? Add some variety and interest to your training by running in a group.

Prior to moving to Wamboin 18 months ago I was part of a running group and have missed the camaraderie and motivation that comes from running with others. I've seen a few people out there so think there could be interest in meeting together for a group run on weekend mornings.

Road or trail, short or long, fast or slow - all welcome. For the first few runs we can set course and distance based on who arrives before settling into a pattern.

Meet at turning circle on Majors close - Saturday and Sunday at 6:30am starting 9th November. Contact James Bradley 0410-406-547, jbradley.ontherun@gmail.com for more information.

Can You Make the December-January Whisper More Enjoyable or Interesting for the Rest of Us?

You may have noticed that each voice in the Whisper makes it better and more interesting. If you or anyone in your family has something about living out here that you could write or draw to cheer or inform or challenge or entertain those of us who live here, please think about putting it into the December 2013 – January 2014 Whisper. Your thoughts and words and drawings are worth as much as anyone else's. Deadline is 7 pm, Sunday night, November 24.

Please also think about another group of people when you need to purchase goods or services. It costs about 90 cents to print each of the now 1,289 copies of the Whisper each month. The generous business owners who advertise in the Whisper pay for every one of these copies, often not just for their own benefit but also to add value to community life. Please think about supporting them when you or someone you are talking to needs something one of them might be able to supply.

– Ned Noel, editor, nednoel@optusnet.com.au or whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au, ph 6238 3484, mailbox 17 Reedy Creek Place.

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WAMBOIN RURAL GOLF CLUB

By Lofty Mason

Because of the generous gift of prizes from Lamberts Vineyard the small number of players in the October competition were all prize worthy? Although the Lamberts were also among the absentees, they had arranged for Libby and Larry King to cater for the day. Dennis Todd (brother-in-law to Ted Evans) from Brisbane was a welcome visitor on the day.

The Long Drive and Nearest the Pin ball winners were Len Ivey x2, Pete Harrison x2 Joan Mason x2 and Dennis Todd x1. Nine Hole winners were Joan Mason 44/32, Larry King 48/35 and Helen Loche 76/40.

The 18 hole competition winners were first; Paul Griffin 89/64, Len Ivey 2nd with an 88/73 on a count back from Pete Harrison 105/73.

For the record, Dennis Todd and I also swung our clubs (too often) on the day.

For the November competition you may notice much grooming of the course in preparation for the (would you believe) 28th Wamboin Rural Golf Club Open Championship. An unusual feature will be Peter Greenwood travelling in a buggy prepared by Tim (Mr Fixit) Barter. Peter has missed the last few competition days due to crook ankles. I am pretty sure he wont play his shots on the roll, but will he play from a seated position? Must check the rules to make sure 'I never win anything' Greenwood should not be penalised.

St Andrews (Wamboin) and St Peters (Sutton) -- Church Notices

Kids Club has resumed for the final term of the year, meeting each Friday night from 5.30 to 7pm at St Andrews, Poppet Rd. With the weather warming, the children will be able to enjoy more of their activities in the garden, before ending the session with a light meal. Parents are always encouraged to come along and participate with their children in the craft, games and story time. There will be a special Children's Service at St Andrews on 17th November with children from Kids Club singing and assisting with the music.

On November 10th, there will be a Blessing of the Animals service at St Peters, Sutton. Come along, bring your animal or animals and have them blessed as they safely graze in the verdant grounds of St Peters.

The Warblers, a community seniors' group, will meet again for morning tea, a chat and some singing, in St Andrews at 10am on 26th November.

St Andrew's Patronal service will be held on December 1st, followed by a sumptuous morning tea to commemorate the occasion.

Services are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at St Andrews, Wamboin, and on the 2nd and 4th Sunday at St Peters, Sutton. All services start at 9am. For further information, please contact anyone listed below.

Rev Dr Peter Grundy: 62487913

Robyn Robertson: 62383202

Peter Cartwright: 62303202

Bronwyn Elliott: 62383359

Alan Rope: 62383224

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The Return of the Three Stooges

by Pam and Jeremy Shearmur



Yesterday (10th October) was quite a day – despite the wind the wildlife seemed to be out enjoying the warmer weather. A very pregnant Cunningham skink looked balefully up from dead pine branches, ripped off a couple of weeks ago by the black cockatoos, trying to pretend she wasn't there; two shinglebacks hid among the fading daffodils, his head resting on her tail; an echidna shambled across Denley Drive, having



exhausted what our various rocks and logs had to offer – at least for now - but the evening brought an even bigger surprise.

Echidnas, we are given to understand, are solitary creatures. But who is supposed to tell them? Last year, we were surprised to


discover a group of three echidnas underneath our car. We took a picture, and wrote a note about it to the Whisper. Since then, we have seen no more of them as a group. However, last night, looking out of the bathroom window into a small patch of garden by our water-heater – we noticed an echidna; or, rather, two. Further inspection showed that there were three. The three stooges were back! We watched while there was a great deal of scuffling. They obviously got fed up with this, and – easily – got under the



anti-roo netting, admittedly purposely loose at the bottom to allow lizards to wander freely. We followed them along the side of the garden – and were then amazed to see them slip through a small gap in the wire, by the side of a gate; something that looked much, much, too small for an echidna. Indeed it was – they just pushed through. Obviously, like wombats, human activity and a bit of wire fencing isn't going to deter them. Enough pressure and out popped the staple holding the wire to the gate post. They were last seen waddling off into the garden, in the darkening shadows, towards the shelter of a garden seat – we left them to it.



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All 8248 “State Suburbs” Are Ranked from “Most Advantaged” to “Most Disadvantaged”

“The Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) summarises information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area, including both relative advantage and disadvantage measures.” - This sentence and all the material presented in this piece are drawn from the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ website – www.abs.gov.au. More particularly it comes from the website’s pages on the 2011 Census, and within those pages, from the ones about the measure called IRSAD. The first sentence above comes from:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/2033.0.55.001main+features100042011>

The components of this measure, taken from the website, are listed below.

The “most advantaged” top 10 of the 8248 are shown at the top of the extract at right from the ABS table. The “most disadvantaged” are shown at the bottom of the table at right. In between all the ACT and surrounding NSW suburbs within the top 5 percentiles (100,99,98,97,96) are shown, along with their relative score from the top (1st column) and their relative score from the bottom (column 6) and their percentile within Australia (column 7). - Extracting from ABS website done by Ned Noel on 28-Oct-2013.

Component of IRSAD Index	Weighting Factor
% of people with stated household equivalised income greater than \$52,000 per year	0.84
% of occupied private dwellings paying mortgage greater than \$2,800 per month	0.70
% of people aged 15 years and over whose highest level of educational attainment is a diploma qualification	0.63
% of employed people classified as Professionals	0.62
% of occupied private dwellings with four (4) or more bedrooms	0.52
% of employed people classified as managers	0.42
% of occupied private dwellings paying rent greater than \$370 per week	0.40
% of occupied private dwellings with one or more spare bedroom	0.37
% of people aged 15 years and over at university or other tertiary institution	0.36
% of occupied private dwellings with three (3) or more cars	0.35
% of people aged 15 years and over who have no educational attainment	-0.37
% of occupied private dwellings requiring one or more extra bedrooms	-0.45
% of occupied private dwellings with no cars	-0.49
% of employed people classified as low skill Community and Personal Service workers	-0.51
% of employed people classified as Machinery Operators and Drivers	-0.57
% of people aged 15 years and over who are separated or divorced	-0.57
% of occupied private dwellings paying rent less than \$166 per week (excluding \$0 per wk)	-0.67
% of people under the age of 70 who have a long-term health condition or disability and need assistance with core activities	-0.67
% of people (in the labour force) who are unemployed	-0.69
% of one parent families with dependent offspring only	-0.69
% of employed people classified as Labourers	-0.78
% of families with children under 15 years of age who live with jobless parents	-0.80
% of people aged 15 years and over whose highest level of education is Year 11 or lower	-0.82
% of occupied private dwellings with no internet connection	-0.82
% of people with stated household equivalised income between \$1 and \$20,799 per year	-0.89

Rank in Australia	State : Suburb	Population	State	Score	Highest 8248 Lowest 1	Percentile
1	North Coogee	582	WA	1196	8248	100
2	Pullenvale	3177	QLD	1195	8247	100
3	The Ponds	2932	NSW	1191	8246	100
4	Brookwater	1462	QLD	1189	8245	100
5	Northwood (NSW)	915	NSW	1189	8244	100
6	Linley Point	396	NSW	1188	8243	100
7	Longueville	2097	NSW	1188	8242	100
8	Forde	2320	ACT	1186	8241	100
9	Forrest (ACT)	1464	ACT	1179	8240	100
10	Dalkeith	4256	WA	1179	8239	100
12	O'Malley	870	ACT	1175	8237	100
27	Harrison	4434	ACT	1166	8222	100
36	Greenleigh	718	NSW	1164	8213	100
40	Jerrabomberra	9426	NSW	1163	8209	100
48	Chapman	2727	ACT	1160	8201	100
49	Campbell	4922	ACT	1160	8200	100
53	Wamboin	1664	NSW	1159	8196	100
54	Fadden	3085	ACT	1159	8195	100
55	Barton	1186	ACT	1158	8194	100
65	Royalla	879	NSW	1155	8184	100
88	Franklin (ACT)	3808	ACT	1151	8161	99
102	Weetangera	2604	ACT	1148	8147	99
107	Bruce (ACT)	6388	ACT	1146	8142	99
108	City	2827	ACT	1146	8141	99
117	Crace	562	ACT	1144	8132	99
120	Nicholls	6944	ACT	1144	8129	99
121	Casey	1495	ACT	1144	8128	99
123	Googong	1117	NSW	1144	8126	99
125	Burra (Palerang - NSW)	716	NSW	1144	8124	99
129	Macarthur (ACT)	1448	ACT	1143	8120	99
135	Kingston (ACT)	2977	ACT	1143	8114	99
143	Deakin	2782	ACT	1141	8106	99
152	Bonner	1492	ACT	1140	8097	99
157	Jeir	309	NSW	1139	8092	99
167	Bywong	1197	NSW	1138	8082	98
170	Carwoola	1419	NSW	1137	8079	98
198	Aranda	2484	ACT	1134	8051	98
204	Garran	3197	ACT	1133	8045	98
238	Hall	334	ACT	1129	8011	98
246	Amaroo (ACT)	5573	ACT	1128	8003	98
249	Yarralumla	2915	ACT	1128	8000	97
270	Isaacs	2355	ACT	1126	7979	97
298	Walleroo (NSW)	641	NSW	1123	7951	97
299	Gundaroo	1040	NSW	1123	7950	97
314	Farrer	3363	ACT	1122	7935	97
335	Bungendore	3558	NSW	1121	7914	96
390	The Ridgeway	168	NSW	1116	7859	96
8239	Wutunugurra	206	NT	511	10	1
8240	Murrin Bridge	98	NSW	503	9	1
8241	Cabbage Tree Island (Ball	99	NSW	494	8	1
8242	Amoonguna	276	NT	488	7	1
8243	Thamarrurr	190	NT	475	6	1
8244	Wami Kata	174	SA	468	5	1
8245	Wilora	112	NT	465	4	1
8246	Daguragu	192	NT	462	3	1
8247	Greys Plain	194	WA	433	2	1
8248	Binjari	240	NT	298	1	1

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Wamboin 15 years ago – from the Whisper, November 1998 Circulation 800

by Robyn Robertson

From the Wamboin Community Association – President’s Report. Libby king wrote: “An item for discussion at the next meeting will be the possible wider distribution of the Whisper to cover the Bywong area. This raises the question of whether the Whisper remains exclusively in the control of the WCA. Please come along and voice your opinion.” (Comment: Democracy in action, and obviously a positive and happy outcome was achieved. Well done, Wamboin and Bywong!)

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Do you or does anyone in your family have the time and energy to make a drawing for the December/January Whisper? It should show something about living in Wamboin or Bywong. A few words or sentences that can be to explain it would be helpful. Thanks for anything you can come up with. – Ned Noel, editor, nednoel@optusnet.com.au or whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au, ph 6238 3484, mailbox 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin.

Looking to find an old sturdy swing set. If you have one not getting any action, I would love to take it off your hands. Happy to come collect and dismantle. Please contact Lisa on either 0419-903-233 or lisa2620@optusnet.com.au Thanks.

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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.

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



'SHUT THE .. STABLE DOOR!'

by Ian Coillet

An occasional column

I took a three day excursion to the Blue Mountains recently. It was pretty warm up there, day and night. Among other distractions, the air was dense with the glorious sound of singing cicadas. We don't appear to experience their sound much out Wamboin way though I recall them in Canberra and my city of origin Melbourne.



Cicadas appear to be pretty benign characters; they don't bite or sting as such. As many of us will have experienced, they can, however, mistake a person's arm or leg for a tree or plant limb and attempt to feed. Cicadas also pretty good at clinging on. Unlike we homo sapiens, it appears it's the bloke who makes the most noise. The bloke cicada's noisemakers are called 'tymbals' that are located on the sides of his abdominal base. According to the big fountain of knowledge in the sky (Wikipedia), the tymbals are regions of the exoskeleton. Contracting the internal tymbal muscles produces a clicking sound as the tymbals buckle inwards, and the relaxation of the muscles cause the tymbals to return to their original position, producing another click. The interior of the male abdomen is mostly hollow, which amplifies the sound. A cicada rapidly vibrates these membranes, and enlarged chambers derived from the tracheae make its body serve as a resonance chamber, further amplifying the sound. Some

cicadas produce sounds up to 120 db that is amongst the loudest of all insect-produced sounds. The song is loud enough to cause permanent hearing loss in humans should the cicada sing just outside the listener's ear. Conversely, some small species have songs so high in pitch that the noise is inaudible to humans. Species have different mating songs, ensuring that the appropriate mate is attracted. It can be difficult to determine from which direction(s) a cicada song is coming because the low pitch carries well.

In addition to the mating song, many species also have a distinct distress call, usually a broken and erratic sound that the insect emits when seized. A number of species also have a courtship song, which is often a quieter call and is produced after a female has been drawn by the calling song.

(Photo is of one of the happy chappies at Mt Victoria a little way up from Katoomba.) He and his mates were vibrant mustard yellow. My recollection of cicadas in Melbourne was that they were mainly green in colour. Apparently there are about 2500 species described.

So now we know.

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News from WWOW The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

Recently the Wonderful Women of Wamboin enjoyed a day of craft when we applied scrapbooking skills to make cards, bookmarks and other treasures. During the month we continued making drainage bags for post-surgery breast cancer sufferers.

As mentioned in last month's *Whisper*, this year we set ourselves a creative challenge to make treasure bags no larger than the dimensions of an A4 page. We had free range on choice of material and as we have many skills amongst us, it was



fascinating to see how each of us approached our task. The big reveal was on the 30 September when we celebrated our seventh birthday. The bags came in many sizes, some very small indeed. A couple of bags were crocheted, another finely knitted. One was needle-felted and beaded. Others were sewn, patchworked and/or embroidered, while another was shadow embroidered. Finally, one was made of metal rings and rabbit fur.

After the showing, we then enjoyed our birthday lunch including cake. Where has the time gone? It's hard to believe we've been going for seven years. But then, it's hard to imagine Wamboin without our Wonderful Women; they have become such an integral part of the community.

Once again we will run the Xmas letterbox decorating competition. It was great to see so many entries last year and I know that many families had a lot of fun transforming their letterboxes. Let's see if we can increase the numbers this year. So don't forget, to win a prize, have your letterbox decorated by Sunday 15 December. More details next month.

We are indeed a disparate group, but what we have in common is our love for living in such a natural environment. No tar and cement for us.

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

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

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WAMBOIN PONY CLUB

October - 2013

Last month Wamboin Pony Club held the annual Challenge Shield competition at our club grounds. A friendly day of competition held between the Wamboin and Geary's Gap Pony Clubs. Around 30 riders from both clubs attended. A broad



range of riders from the very young led to the more experienced associates spent the morning in the show ring and jumping arena. All riders were competing for points that went towards the final score and determined the winning club for this year. The most interesting event of the day was the musical ride where teams of 8 riders from each club rode a pattern to music around the arena. All teams put on a great performance. The afternoon's sporting events topped up the points for both clubs. Wamboin won the event this year. Thanks to all the riders and helpers from Geary's Gap who came and made the day a success. Thanks also to all the Wamboin members who helped on the day and our judges. It was a great day and it's good that our local Pony Clubs can get together for some friendly competition. 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:

A High School for Bungendore

by Peter Evans

Over the last two months a small group of interested parents have met to encourage the idea of a High School in Bungendore. The discussions raised a number of points but the main theme was keeping the kids local. It was discussed that every school day about seven buses head to Canberra and Queanbeyan full of Bungendore kids. Every day the kids spend over an hour travelling to and from school. This time could be spent better, playing sport or studying rather than sitting on a bus. A high school in Bungendore also provides local employment opportunities with staff living and working in the community.

Guest speaker on one of the nights was Mr Viv Straw. Viv is a renowned Town Planner and Geographer and has had personal involvement in getting four schools off the ground in the greater region. Viv spoke on his experiences and also the options for the type of school and the type of provider such as community, independent or the State Government. He also shed some light on school funding arrangements available for the options. Viv also explained that to enable Bungendore to develop into a stable community with ongoing urban resilience and adaptability it will become necessary to provide a high school education that is accessible to families living within the village and surrounding catchment.

He said "over the past 2 decades Bungendore has seen significant change. The village has a relatively large population turnover by rural urban standards, although it is not in decline and grows steadily. The turnover, sometimes called churn has social, economic and infrastructure implications. With the churn community connections are often fractured when families If you would like to contact our group email us on highschoolforbungendore@gmail.com or find us on Facebook at Bungendore Needs A High School move and valuable community members are lost to the community when they leave town for education reasons. A large proportion of students currently travel to the ACT for education purposes adding to family stress, student tiredness and a lack of connection with the local community. People considering an alternative living environment in Bungendore may also be put off because there is no high school".

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

I've just been sitting on my front verandah looking at a garden that has been somewhat neglected, and yet seems to get prettier and prettier with each passing day. As one colour fades, another takes its place like a meticulously choreographed performance. Even the recent frosts and relentless cold winds that have burned the new leaf growth on several young ornamentals haven't really spoiled the scene. But I do have some doubts about the long term health of some of the wisteria, and fear a little crepe myrtle may not recover. When the sun shines it is intense, and the ground is drying out quickly. Spring has a habit of overreaching itself.

My garden has been spoiling me and, with a birthday the other day, so have my family and friends. My presents ranged from the quirky to the sensual to the utterly practical, and some were a combination of all things. There was a pair of black lace gloves at one end, a fetching accessory to go with my gardening boots, old jeans and floppy hat, and a robotic vacuum cleaner at the other! Now I'm not a gadget person, nor one who speedily embraces new technology. In fact I'd probably still be making toast with an open fire and a spike of fencing wire to skewer the bread if I hadn't been given a pop up toaster years ago. I'm even happy to slice my own bread and use a tea towel, so you can imagine that a robotic vacuum cleaner was somewhat beyond my horizons. However, I had decided that if I am to be blessed with a few more birthdays, I should at least try to keep up with life. So I unpacked "Maude", turned off the lights and went to bed.

Next morning I was up early and out, so Maude could be ignored without guilt. But when I came home I discovered that she'd been quite busy, and she was winking coquettishly. Not everyone in my household could resist Maude! Finally I was shamed into acknowledging her presence. With the bedroom tidied, I plugged her in, pushed a button unambiguously marked, "clean", shut the door and left her to it. It was easy. Then I faced the challenge of "walking" the dog! When I returned there was Maude, sitting smugly in her corner surrounded by an impeccable carpet. She had even scooped up the crisp blowfly and a fragment of Lego! What a pet!

And that is why I now have time to sit on my front verandah and admire the blooms, as well as walk through the bushland enhanced by lilies and orchids, daisies, buttercups and peas, all natives, and all flourishing of their own accord. I have time to stop and listen to the magpies warbling, the kookaburras cackling and the cockatoos screaming abuse at each other. I have time to hear a rustle in the leaf litter as a sleek, fat shingle back goes about its business, and the wind sighs in the casuarinas. Is it all because of Maude, or has it also got something to do with spring's rejuvenating influence?

Maude... and I... wouldn't live anywhere else.....and maybe next birthday I'll get an obliging robot that picks up dirty clothes, just to keep Maude happy!

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