

The Whisper

February 2014 CIRCULATION: 1,292

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 which started The Whisper as a community newsletter in 1981 and continues to own it. The newsletter comes out at the start of each month, except January. It is distributed to all letterboxes in Wamboin, Bywong and of Palarang Council residents just southeast of the Federal Highway. Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. On contentious matters the Community Association will strive to maintain a balance. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mail them or drop them off. The deadline for the next issue of The Whisper is always 7 pm on the last Sunday of the month, so for the March 2014 issue the deadline is Sunday, 23 February, 2014, 7 pm. Instant Colour Press in Belconnen will then multiply one copy into almost 1,300. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month and is also available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au.

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	
Resident Palarang Councillor	Pete Harrison	0427 711 028	cr.pete.harrison@palarang.nsw.gov.au
Resident Palarang Councillor	Keith France	0427 365 715	cr.keith.france@palarang.nsw.gov.au
Wamboin Markets	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	
Sutton School Playgroup	Johanna Bradley, Convenor	0406 399 713	johannabradley@dodo.com.au
Landcare	Kathy Handel, Secretary	6238 3596	
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, Controller	6238 0222	For non-urgnt 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 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	emauzins@gmail.com
Scouts	Pete Harrison	6238 3525	
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	

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
Genevieve Phipps	Babysitting/pet sitting	6238 1660	Gabrielle Simpkin	baby sitting/ pets sitting	6238-1335
Mara Sutcliffe	pet sitting	6238 3228	Jack&Matilda Whitney	child.pet&home sttg,oddjobs	6238 3059
Jordan Brown	baby sitting	0414-907-921			

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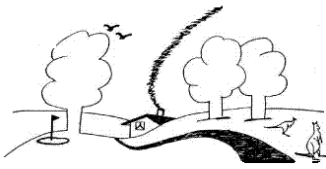

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	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs</h2>	
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Welcome back to our first edition of The Whisper for 2014. I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday break. Naturally there is little to report since the WCA have been in recess over the Christmas break, however there are one or two items of interest.

Wamboin Community Carols – Last December 20th the Community Association held its annual Christmas Carol Night. Despite a very warm evening those who came enjoyed themselves greatly. My thanks to all who helped to make this event a success including all the children involved in the play. Thank you.

WCA Meeting – Our first WCA meeting for the year will be held at **7:30 pm on 18th February 2014** at the Community Hall in Bingley Way. Any interested person of the community is welcome to attend.

Wamboin Community Association Constitution – The draft Constitution for the Wamboin Community Association has been up for study on the electronic noticeboard for quite a number of weeks now. It is my understanding that in all likelihood this draft (with any appropriate changes that have been suggested) will be voted on during the February meeting. If you feel that you can contribute any ideas please contact the Secretary via email as soon as possible so that your ideas may be discussed and possibly included.

I'm afraid that's all I have for now, except to wish everyone a happy and productive 2014..
-- Jenny Richards (President)

Wamboin Community Association Inc. - Notification of Annual General Meeting

The WCA 2014/5 Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 7.30pm Tuesday 18 March 2014 at the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin.

Accordingly, the current officeholders will stand down and a new executive and committee will be elected. Nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and for committee member should be forwarded to the Secretary in writing at least seven days beforehand.

The WCA provides a monthly forum for community organisations and residents. It represents the community in many ways, particularly on issues of concern to members. It does a lot of work on your behalf and deserves your support. Residents and visitors are always very welcome.

John van der Straaten, Secretary , Contacts: Home 6238 3590; e-mail: jnpvds@bigpond.net.au

**** YOUR INVITATION ****



**BUSH FIRE
INFORMATION SESSION**
'Are You Bush Fire Ready?'
Saturday 15th February
(Registration from 11.00am)
Session time 11:30am to 1pm
Wamboin Fire Station - 112 Bingley Way Wamboin
AIM: To help you get prepared for a bushfire
Members of the Brigade will cover:
* where 'we' live * what it means * fire history
* what you can expect
* property preparedness * personal preparedness
* pets and bushfire * staying informed



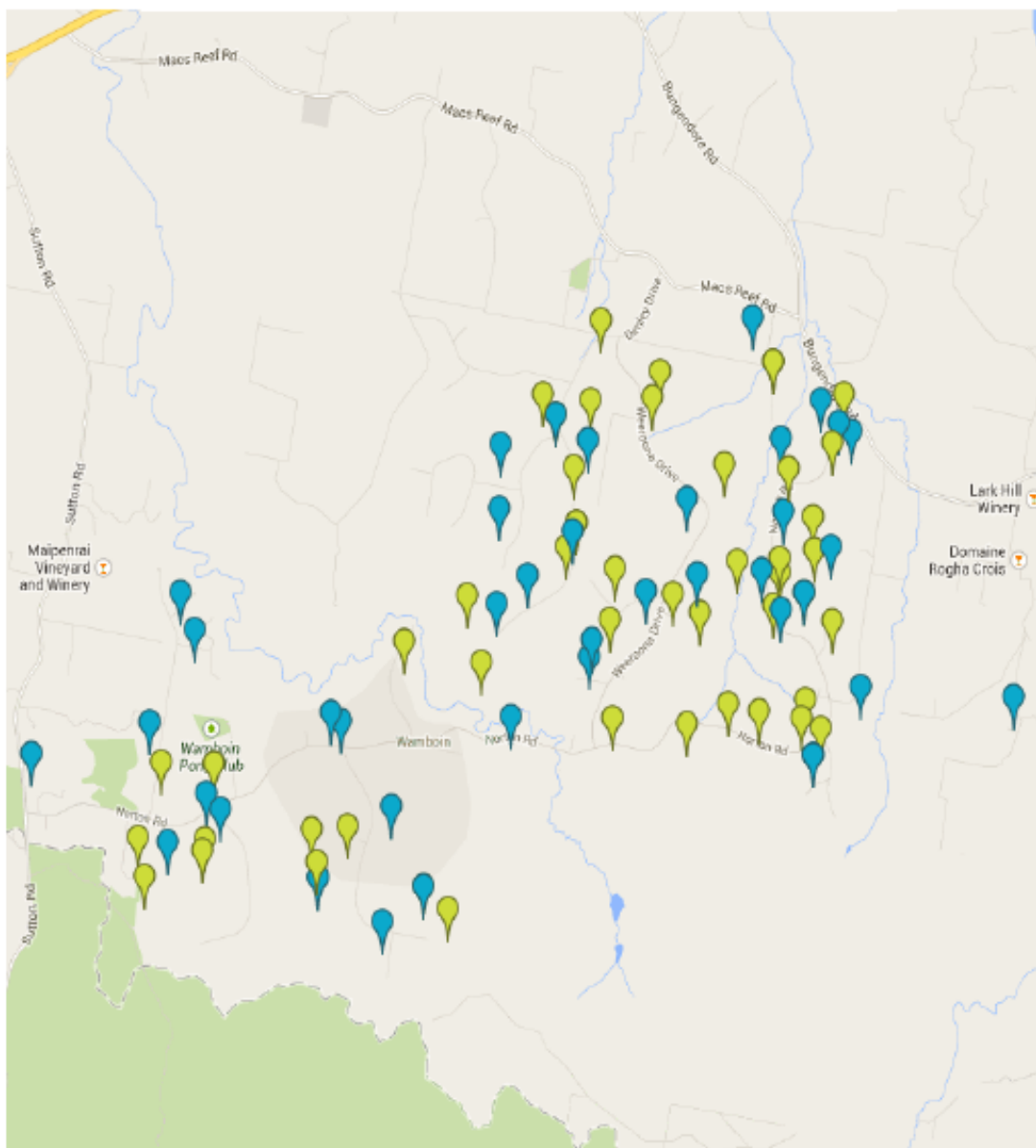




This event will be similar to those the brigade has run previously. Includes practical tips and tools, opportunity to view and operate a range of portable fire fighting pumps. Refreshments. Lucky Door Prize.




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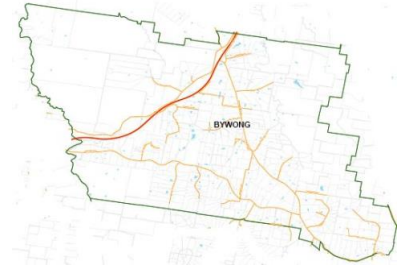
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Bywong Community News

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

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



A Happy eleven-twelfths of the New Year to all of you who may read this! May you prosper individually, and let us hope we may also prosper collectively through our local organisations, especially the Bywong Community. This year 2014 is a great year to join, and you can do as much or as little as you want! Membership is free – all you have to do is come to a meeting or approach a committee member! Let us hope that the year passes in the friendship and accord that we all deserve by virtue of living here.

CLEAN UP BYWONG: The Clean Up Australia national event is on again on Sunday 2 March. We in Bywong have done particularly well in the past, collecting record amounts of roadside rubbish. Unfortunately we are blessed with two major through roads which make our task more onerous. The Community will again coordinate the local effort. Meet at the Bywong Hall in Birriwa Road at 9 am to pick up bags etc and to let us know who's doing what, then join us for a barbecue after midday when our roadsides will hopefully be sparkling clean.

CAR BOOT SALE: Need we mention that the famous Bywong Car Boot Sale, now in its nineteenth year, is on again this year. Check the various advertisements in the Whisper. The date is Sunday, 30 March. There is a small fee to sell stuff, and none at all to browse, to buy, and to enjoy the various events staged by local groups.

TRIVIA NIGHT: A little longer to sharpen your mind, or assemble a team of whizz kids, for this year's Trivia Night. Again we promise some fun innovations, and as the nights will be cold by then, we shall again be keeping up spirits with the now-famous array of Bywong hearty soups. See you there, but book early! The date is a 19 July.

NEXT DOOR: Good to see some Bywong faces, and even some Bywong produce, at the Wamboin Saturday market, but we could do with more. We work with Wamboin Community Association in many areas, and the additional personal contact always helps. Besides, it is fun and the coffee is good!

FIRE SEASON: For any new arrivals who may be in doubt, we should stress that Bywong is served, and very well, by the Wamboin Fire Brigade. We are a central part of the Brigade's area, and many of the Brigade's members are drawn from Bywong. So give them your full support. There are always lots of details in the Whisper.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Community is on Monday night 10 February in the Bywong Hall in Birriwa Road. All Bywong residents are welcome.

Bywong & Wamboin Facebook Page

The facebook page *Bywong & Wamboin Hub* provides a central meeting place to give residents of Bywong & Wamboin an opportunity to connect & share more about local news, events and business services in the area. Please keep it local, share with your neighbours who are online and maximum of 2 promos per business per week.

– Nora Stewart, 02 6230-3305, 0431-862-853, Nora@SetDancing.com.au

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Happy Hearts Starts on Australia Day

26 Bywong & Wamboin walkers (and 10 gorgeous dogs) assembled early on the 26th day of January for short and very refreshing 3.6km 1 hour loop around the Clare Lane, Clare Valley Place, Norton Road and Valley View Lane in the South-East corner of Bywong & Wamboin.

We had a very enjoyable ramble through the bush, people connecting with those they had met before and new friendships being forged, firmly cemented at the shared community breakfast that followed. Thanks to all for contributions to the dazzling menu of generous fresh fruit salad, quiches, muffins, pancakes, eggs – all gorgeous!



This beautiful short walk is on a mixture of crown roads, a greenway link owned by council, and ordinary paved council roads, is generally quiet and has some lovely bush views. You can find a GOOGLE MAP link to this walk and the other six (6) 2014 walks at <http://goo.gl/maps/3WLDJ> (copy this link into your web browser).

If you haven't ventured out onto any of our greenways/ accessways yet, there will be **short Orientation Walks every hour at the Bywong Car Boot Sale 30th March**. These very short walks will show you where to get started on the greenways behind the Bywong Hall, and will offer information about other walk areas.

The **Happy Heart 2014** program is for everyone who would like to walk, talk, ride and connect with others in your community. It's organised by the Greenways Renewal Working (GRoW) group, dedicated to expanding the network of public accessways in the area. The GRoW group is affiliated to the Bywong Community Association, and works with Wamboin Community Association and Geary's Gap Pony Club among others to improve community connection.



MORE INFORMATION - You can see our webpage

<http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au/about/bywong-greenways>

or join our FaceBook page [Greenways Bywong & Wamboin](#). Contact Nora Stewart, GRoW Coordinator on 62 303 305 or email Nora@SetDancing.com.au

Bywong & Wamboin Greenways HAPPY HEART WALKS 2014: Greenways Renewal Working (GRoW) group

DATE & TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
Sunday 26th January 2014 7.30am-8.30am	Summer Walk: Australia Day Clare Lane loop walk	Clare Lane loop walk via Clare Valley Lane and Valley View with BYO breakfast at the end. <u>Distance & time:</u> 3kms - 1 hour approx
Sunday 30th March 2014 9am- 12.30pm	Early Autumn Walk: Bywong Car Boot Sale Walks close to the Bywong Hall to show people the greenway tracks around the area.	OPTION 1 - Easy, mostly flat walk south from Bywong Hall heading West & East at junction to give an orientation to the area. <u>Distance & time:</u> 1 ½ kms 20-40 mins OPTION 2 - Loop from Hall to Greenways South/East to Denley Drive along to Macs Reef Road, Birriwa Road and back to Hall. <u>Distance & time:</u> 2.5kms, 1 hour for loop walk.
Saturday 3rd May 2014 Afternoon 2.00-4.30pm	Late Autumn Walk: Lake George Weereewa Loop from Charles Anderson VC rest area on Lake George return.	OPTION 1, Easy walk - stroll along the Lakeshore and admire the view. <u>Distance & time:</u> 2.5kms- 1-1½ hours OPTION 2 More difficult, slightly longer walk - Flat walking combined with some steep climbing with a return traverse down along the Lake edge. <u>Distance & time:</u> 5kms - 2- ½ hours
Saturday 21st June 2014 Afternoon 1.30-4pm	Winter Walk: Winter Solstice to the Henge From Middle Bywong to The Henge with car shuffle to celebrate the winter solstice.	OPTION 1 - Easy, long downhill walk from Wicks Road to The Tulip Tops and then across the Highway to The Henge. <u>Distance & time:</u> 3.7 kms- 1- 1½ hours. OPTION 2 Longer - From Millyn road to Donnelly Road, out and down to the new Fed Hwy to Old Federal Highway walk easy walking downhill car shuffle finish with visit to The Henge. <u>Distance & time:</u> 6.4 kms- 1 1/2 - 2 hours
Early August 2nd or 3rd Late morning TBA	Late Winter Walk (optional) Lake George/ Bungendore somewhere with lunch ☺	<i>Wind Turbines East Lake George with lunch in Bungendore? Lerida Winery loop North and across Lake George? 8 km loop</i>
Sunday 14th September 2014 Afternoon 1-5pm	Early Spring Walk with Horseriders Bywong Hall heading North East towards the Lake George escarpment return.	OPTION 1 Short walk - From Creekborough to Brooks Road with car shuffle. <u>Distance & time:</u> 5kms 1 ½ - 2 hours OPTION 2 Long walk/Horseride - from Bywong Hall down Gumflat Lane/ Bohmers Lane, across Bungendore Road to Creekborough Road and up the back to Brooks Road and return. <u>Distance & time:</u> 12.8 kms 3-4 hours
Sunday 2nd November 2014 8.30am-12.30pm	Late Spring Walk: Millpost Loop from Bywong Hall to Millpost Hill.	OPTION 1: Bywong Hall to Eagles Nest return- 7kms approx 2 ½ - 3 hours OPTION 2: Millpost loop from Bywong Hall via Birchmans Grove, Orana Drive and onto Millpost & Greenway back to Hall. more difficult walk: hills & rough terrain. <u>Distance & time:</u> 10kms 3-4 hrs

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

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

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



Editor's Note: Because this page provides professional advice but also gives prominence to Canberra Equine Hospital, the Hospital has generously agreed to pay for it at the advertising rate so as to share in Whisper printing costs.

CANBERRA Equine HOSPITAL

Laminitis in Horses By Dr. Natasha Hovanessian

Have you ever had a horse with laminitis, also known as founder? If so, you probably realise it's an extremely painful condition of the hooves that can be life-threatening. Laminitis occurs when there is inflammation of the laminae, the tissues in the hoof which attach the pedal bone, (the bone inside the hoof), to the hoof capsule. With inflammation and disruption to the blood supply to the laminae, these attachments break down and the pedal bone can rotate and drop through the sole of the hoof. Laminitis most commonly affects the front feet, however can also occur in the hind feet, and it may occur in one foot or all four feet. If recognised in its early stages, long term deleterious effects can be avoided. The exact nature of the laminitis trigger factors, apparently reaching the lamellar tissues via the circulation, has yet to be clarified

Although the exact cause(s) remain elusive, laminitis occurs with a number of conditions including sepsis, pneumonia, colic, diarrhoea, burns, retained placenta, foot trauma and corticosteroid administration. Additionally, laminitis can occur from carbohydrate/sugar overload with excessive grain or grass ingestion, which many ponies are susceptible to. Another common presentation of laminitis is in association with hormone or metabolic conditions including Cushing's Disease and Equine Metabolic Syndrome (insulin resistance).

Advice should be sought from a veterinarian as soon as possible, i.e. within hours, as early intervention can prevent life threatening deterioration of the condition. Management and treatment of laminitis by the veterinarian may include rest and strict confinement on deep, soft bedding, application of foot pads, direct cooling of the limbs (cryotherapy), dietary alteration, pain and inflammation management with medications and farriery techniques to correct forces placed on the coffin bone and hoof wall. Radiographs (x-rays) are often advised to monitor the condition and tailor the farriery recommendations.

Although some cases may respond relatively quickly to treatment, other cases may take weeks and possibly even months for a complete recovery. Depending on the severity of the laminitis, gradual corrective trimming/shoeing and anti-inflammatory therapy may return the hoof to normal. Working closely with your vet and farrier can ensure a more successful outcome.

Prevention is always than the cure, especially for laminitis. Unfortunately, once a horse has had laminitis it is prone to future episodes. Although it may seem unkind, some horses and ponies should not be allowed access to grass and not be given meals with much grain and concentrates. Maintaining a healthy body condition and avoiding obesity, with proper nutrition and exercise, as well as good general health including vaccinations, deworming and dentals to avoid illness are important. Regular farrier attention and prompt veterinary care for conditions such as grain overload, retained placenta post foaling and diarrhoea is also essential.

Laminitis is a complicated condition and if you would like further information, please contact Canberra Equine Hospital on (02) 6241 8888 or equine@canberravet.com.au.



X-ray (radiograph) of horse's foot showing rotation of pedal bone inside the hoof.



Typical saw-horse stance of a horse with laminitis. This indicates the horse is in severe pain. Horses may also be reluctant to move or pick up the feet.

WCA Communications with Telstra

At this time of the year I write to Telstra's Chief Executive Officer, David Thodey, reminding him of the undertakings that he and his predecessors gave to us at public meetings to improve the mobile telephone coverage of the Wamboin area. I write to him now because it is his pre-Budget consideration time and if I didn't do so he could consider that the squeaky wheel doesn't rate anymore.

Earlier, Wamboin nearly had an installation on Millpost Hill but because of community concerns the location was changed to a property off Denley Drive. The mobile 'phone tower did not eventuate because the new regime in Telstra decided to invest in 4G instead of further infrastructure. We were informed by Mr Thodie that this was a business decision but that we were still fourth on the list of priority areas to be serviced. We know from inside information that Telstra bean counters consider that there is insufficient mobile 'phone traffic in the area to warrant this minor investment.

Now with a change of Government, the new Federal member for Hume, Angus Taylor, has recognised our dissatisfaction with the Wamboin area mobile 'phone coverage and is encouraging us to make submissions to a Federal Discussion Paper by 5pm 28 February 2014. This Discussion Paper is available from the Department of Communications' website at http://www.communications.gov.au/mobile_services_coverage_programme.

The WCA December General Meeting has asked that letters be sent to the Minister for Communications, the Departmental Secretary and to the Member for Hume on the matter of the poor mobile 'phone coverage of the Wamboin area. I have drafted these letters which will be sent shortly. Currently, I am drafting a submission on the Federal Discussion Paper and would encourage those persons interested in improved Telstra coverage to do as well.

PS. I have no Telstra mobile 'phone coverage at our home and from the map provided by Telstra when the Millpost/Denley towers were mooted we would still not have even one bar reception!

- John van der Straaten, WCA Secretary.

Wamboin Pony Club 2014

Happy New Year to all and as we finish up the holidays and head back to school and work Wamboin Pony club gets back into action for 2014. Time to dust off the bridles and saddles for another year of horse riding action. The Wamboin Pony Club is always looking for new members and Sunday February 9th is the first rally day for the year so come along and sign up



for a great year of horse riding experiences or just have a look, we offer a come and try day which allows you to ride and experience the club first hand without committing. There is a huge variety of riding skills you can learn and improve at Pony Club and it is a really fun and safe environment to enjoy your own horse. So if you have access to your own horse and are aged from 5-25 come along and enjoy the company of other riders and see what Wamboin Pony Club has to offer. Rally days are a great social day out. Not only do you have fun riding, there is always a BBQ lunch for you and the family too.

Our club has dedicated volunteer instructors who will not only help your riding improve but make the day enjoyable. Wamboin Pony club usually meet's once or twice a month on Sunday's at our grounds near the end of Canning Close from 10am

- 3pm. As mentioned our first Rally day for 2014 will be on Sunday 9th February so if you are interested come along and see all that Pony Club can offer. We would love to have some more riders join us this year. If you would like some information about Wamboin Pony Club and our upcoming rally days contact our club secretary Jenni on 62383313 or go to our website:

www.wamboin.pcansw.org.au , we hope we will see you soon. - Steve Quick

Photo from our final rally day for 2013:

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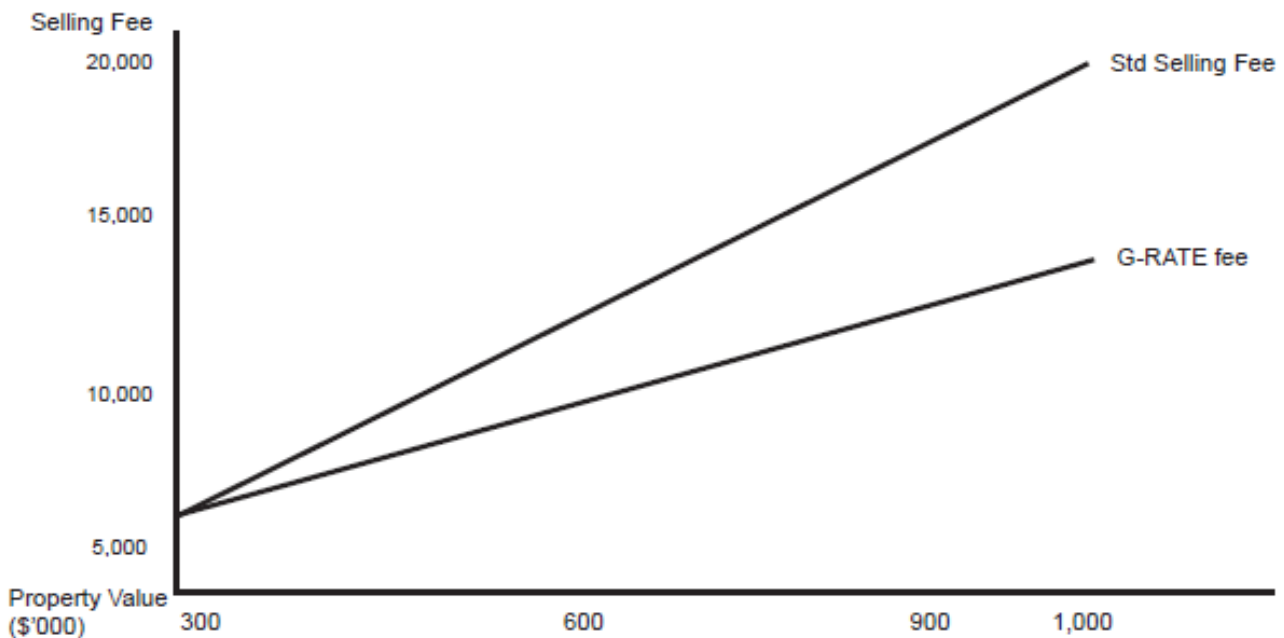
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LAKE GEORGE DAY VIEW CLUB 2014

Lake George Day VIEW Club members meet at the Bywong Hall on Birriwa Rd on the third Tuesday of the month 11.30 for a 12 noon start. At our meetings we discuss important issues pertaining to the VIEW Clubs of Australia, the Smith Family's Learning for Life Program that VIEW supports financially and have speakers on a variety of subjects of interest to members. The usual cost for our lunch is \$15 paid on the day. Your RSVP is required on the Friday prior to the meeting date, on 6238 0603

This year Lake George Day VIEW Club will be celebrating our 10th birthday in August so be sure to join our Club early on in the year to help prepare for this special occasion. To join LGDVC phone Pauline on 6238 1996.

Lake George VIEW Club joins in with sister Clubs from Bungendore, Queanbeyan, Woden, Cooma and Goulburn through the year for a variety of events and shared functions which are put up on our FaceBook page

<https://www.facebook.com/ViewClubSupporters> or follow our blog in pictures <http://lgdviewclub.blogspot.com>

Meeting dates to put in your diary for 2014 are: Tuesday February 18, March 18, April 22, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18 and the second Tuesday in December on the 9th.

- Lydia Teodorowych

Wheels of Wamboin

Please note change of date to 17th May - due to Easter

Due to Easter being on the third weekend of April the Wheels of Wamboin event has been moved to the 17th of May for this year. Many car clubs and owners have expressed that they will be away for Easter so we have decided to move to the following market Day in May.

So what automotive anniversaries are being celebrated in 2014? Dodge celebrates 100 years this year, the iconic Mustang turns 50 and another company was started by four brothers: Alfieri, Bindo, Carlo, and Ernesto. Maybe you'd recognize their last name - Maserati. This month we will have a look at Dodge.

The two brother's John and Horace Dodge got started supplying Detroit-based automakers (including Ford) with frames, engines, and transmissions in 1903 before developing their own brand and launching Dodge Brothers, building complete automobiles from 1914. They introduced a number of early innovations including all steel construction (the vast majority of cars worldwide still used wood-framing under steel panels), a 12-volt electrical system and a sliding-gear transmission. Dodge Brothers cars were ranked at second place for U.S. sales as early as 1916.

In 1920 tragedy struck as John Dodge was felled by pneumonia in January and his brother Horace then died of cirrhosis in December of the same year. With the loss of both founders, the Dodge Brothers Company passed into the hands of the brothers' widows. Throughout the 1920s Dodge gradually lost its ranking, slipping down to 7th in the U.S. market. Dodge Brothers also emerged as a leading builder of light trucks. The company was sold to investment bankers Dillon, Read & Co. in 1925 before being sold to Chrysler in 1928. Dodge vehicles mainly consisted of trucks and full-sized passenger cars through to the 1970s. Some famous Dodge badges include the American Charger, Challenger, Coronet, Super Bee, Dart, Phoenix and the current V10 Viper. Dodge also produces the Ram sports truck. Dodge re-entered the Australian market in 2006 with the Caliber, their first offering since 1973. Current models include the Nitro, Avenger and Journey. In 2009, Italian automaker Fiat formed a partnership with Chrysler and given the official name Chrysler Group LLC, of which Dodge remains a part. Let's see how many Dodges lurk in the sheds of Wamboin and district. - Peter Evans,

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The Eagle Has Landed

by Pam Shearmur



When we were first in Wamboin in 1992, we quite often saw wedge-tail eagles flying over the top of the ridge where our neighbours are now. At that time it was scrub inhabited by sheep and kangaroos. Our patch too was bare – there were three mature trees on it. Since then one of our mature trees has been ringbarked and killed by galahs and some 35 houses have been built, nonetheless there are more trees around, less open space for those ‘eagle’ eyes to catch the slightest movement and of course, our sightings have been less and less.

Sitting at the computer is a great place to see our wildlife. It seems at some point most things cross and movement out of the corner of the eye draws attention to it. While I was out, Jeremy noticed an eagle on the drive. It wasn’t clear what it was eating – I hoped it was a rabbit and not a lizard since we have a lot of lizards around and I like to believe the anecdotal evidence that they help to keep snakes away. Friends who have chickens and cattle have

had at least ten snakes through the summer thus far, one close to the house living in some steps made of sleepers. Scary stuff. We have only seen about four (and a half) snakes in more than 20 years. I’ve no doubt there are many more around but I am very happy they keep out of sight. With my fingers crossed I hope it stays that way. (The very dead half was poking out of a very rocky piece of the hill.)

I was very sorry to have missed the eagle, such a rare occasion. I don’t think Jeremy could quite believe it but he did have the presence of mind to take a photograph:

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The Wamboin Firefighter



Prepared by the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade for the benefit of residents and property owners in the brigade's area i.e. Wamboin and Bywong, plus Sutton (south of the Federal Highway) and Bungendore (along and west of the Lake George escarpment).

TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS RING TRIPLE ZERO



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENT

Saturday Feb 15	INVITATION TO ALL RESIDENTS Information session – ‘Are You Bushfire Ready?’ Wamboin Fire Station 112 Bingley Way Wamboin Registration: 11am. Session Time: 11.30am – 1pm <i>(more detail in separate promo elsewhere in The Whisper)</i>	
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FIRE PERMITS

During the Bush Fire Danger Period (**1st October – 31st March**) 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 automatically suspended on days of Very High fire danger or above. Permits may also be suspended on days of High fire danger after taking into account changed or deteriorating weather conditions. Do not light a fire without first checking the Fire Danger Rating and weather conditions for the area. For further enquiries, phone the Brigade Captain 0409 991 340 or email: captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au

UPDATE ON THE BUSHFIRE SEASON

The landscape is tinder dry. Grass and bush fires are about. The forecast is for further hot conditions ahead. In our region, historically, late February/ March is the most dangerous period for bush and grass fires. Should you not have done so already, now is the time to sit down and go through the family bushfire survival plan, clear away any materials/debris that may pose a fire threat if your home comes under ember attack, and check your fire-fighting equipment and any other items you may need in the event of fire. Make a point of listening to news/weather reports and, if you can, tune into local radio for updates on fires in the local area. If you have a mobile device such as an iPhone, iPad, tablet or smart phone, current fire information is available via free Mobile Apps. promoted by the NSW RFS, e.g. 'Fires Near Me' which provides information on current incidents in the ACT and the surrounding NSW region, as well as the rest of the country. This application also provides information on Total Fire Bans. You should also know the Fire Danger Rating for the area where you live or are travelling through. In addition, be familiar with the Bush Fire Alert levels. As part of your planning, don't forget your pets; keep plenty of water out for them in a shaded area and keep them nearby in case you need to leave home quickly. Further information on any of the above can be found on the NSW RFS website at <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au>

BRIGADE ACTIVITY

Incidents since last month's newsletter

Date	Brig Paged	Summary
Mon 25 Nov	8.33am	Weeroona Dr Wamboin – Assisting another emergency service agency. Five brigade members attended.
Wed 4 Dec	10.09pm	Norton Rd Wamboin – Report of fire. <i>(A search for the 'fire' by 8 crew members in two tankers in the general location identified by the caller did not yield anything – possibly Xmas lights?)</i>
Wed 18 Dec	11.04am	Shinglehouse Rd Bywong – Reported smoke sighting. <i>(Oil spilt on hot pump causing smoke - reported by passing motorist.)</i> Brigade tanker and 3 members attended.
Wed 18 Dec	2.54pm	Federal Hwy Service Rd X Bidges Rd Sutton – Motor Vehicle Accident. Wamboin tanker with crew of 4 attended along with ACT Fire & Rescue, ACT Ambulance and NSW Police.
Sun 22 Dec	3.08pm	Wheatley VC Rest Area Federal Hwy Lake George – Motor Vehicle Accident. Five crew members in two brigade vehicles responded. Further three members remained at the station. One vehicle was called off enroute.
Sat 5 Jan	4.03pm	Macs Reef Rd X Bungendore Rd Bywong – Report of smoke sighting. Nothing found. <i>(Possibly dust thought to be smoke.)</i>
Tues 7 Jan	2.14pm	Waterfall Drive Jerrabomberra – Grass fire. Steep valley between houses. Involved multiple agencies and fire brigades (ACT & NSW). Six members in two Wamboin tankers

		attended. Tankers and crew returned to Wamboin Station @ 6.27pm.
Sat 12 Jan	12.45pm	Charles Anderson VC Rest Area Federal Hwy Lake George – Hazardous Condition. Vehicle leaking gas. Sutton Brigade on scene. Wamboin Brigade stood down shortly thereafter – not required.
Thur 16 Jan	10.49am	Kings Hwy Bungendore – Report of smoke sighting. Nothing found. (<i>Possibly lime spreading/ dust from Lake?</i>)
Thur 16 Jan	2.40pm	Burbong Rd Queanbeyan – Grass fire. Wamboin/ Bungendore/ Qbn/ ACT brigades attended. Wamboin crews and tanker returned to Fire Station @ 7.20pm.
Mon 20 Jan	6.44pm	Sutton Rd X Woodfield Rd Sutton – Report of smoke sighting. Brigade members despatched to investigate. Nothing found.
Sat 25 Jan	10.35am	Federal Hwy Lake circa Hadlow Drive Gearys Gap – Motor Vehicle Accident. Multi agencies attended. Wamboin heavy tanker despatched - turned around enroute not needed.

In addition, on Monday 20 Jan., four brigade members and one of the Brigade's small tankers, Wamboin 7B(ravo), was despatched as part of a (5 day) Strike Team from the Lake George Zone to help fight the fires south-east of Wagga Wagga.

Community Engagement

At the Wamboin Markets during December and January a number of residents popped over to the Brigade's Information Shopfront to discuss their bushfire plans. One resident arranged for a member of the Brigade's Community Engagement team to visit their property to provide guidance on their preparations. There will not be a market day shopfront in February; in its place is the planned community-wide information session (details above).

Training News

The focus in December was on assisting 22 candidates from Wamboin and other brigades in the Lake George Zone prepare for their Bush Firefighter and Bush Firefighter Support course and helping with the assessment day on Sat 14 December. Our brigade facilitated the course that involved trainers from Wamboin and other brigades in the Lake George Zone. The assessment day was held on a property on the Lake George escarpment and involved all the candidates in five fire tankers from Wamboin and other brigades being assessed across a range of scenarios and skill sets. Training in January included a briefing on brigade involvement in a grass fire at Jerrabomberra, a night navigation exercise, reconnaissance, static water identification, map reading, property protection, teamwork, and crew drill in a fire burn-over situation.

Improvements at the Fire Station

Brigade members have recently completed the installation and fit-out of additional bench-top and cupboard space upstairs in the Training Room. Thanks go to several members who assisted but particularly to Peter Greenwood for his drafting, material selection, project coordination and drilling efforts. An additional washing-up basin and hot water service were recently installed downstairs to improve the Support Crew capability to deal with larger groups at the Fire Station. Again, thanks to several members for their time and help and especially to Don Evans for his running on these projects.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Recruitment: About joining the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade

For further information please call the Secretary, Jim Greethead, on 6230 3165 for a chat and to seek a Membership Application Pack or email: secretary@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au and leave your phone contact details.

NSW Rural Fire Service Website

The NSW Rural Fire Service is the key information source to help you prepare against the threat of bush fire. It also provides information on current fires and incidents. The NSW RFS website address is <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>

Wamboin Brigade Website

The Brigade's website has the Fire Danger Rating for the brigade area and any brigade announcements. You'll also find the brigade's history and other interesting material including photos at <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

Further help from the Brigade

If you have a non-emergency enquiry, e.g. need guidance with your Bush Fire Survival Plan or would like a brigade member to visit you on your property to provide helpful advice on your property preparations, please send an email with your contact details to captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au or phone 0409 991 340.

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

Any Gang-gangs around your place?

David McDonald

The December/January issue of *The Whisper* included some delightful photos, submitted by Deborah Gifford, (reproduced below) of a favourite bird of S-E Australia, the Gang-gang Cockatoo. It is a small, grey cockatoo, the male has a bright red head and crest while the female's head and crest are grey. Its call is distinctive, described in an authoritative source as a 'Creaky, rising screech that sounds like a rusty hinge: "ky-or-ark". A soft growling is made when feeding' (<http://tinyurl.com/praw5ho>).



2014 is the 50th anniversary year of the Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG). It is running a survey of this species in the Canberra region as its key project for the year.

COG needs your help to shed light on the activities of the Gang-gang Cockatoo as little is known about the ecology of the species within the ACT region, about its abundance, movements or what affects movement patterns, about its food preferences or seasonal distribution, or the frequency or success of breeding events.

Wamboin/Bywong residents can greatly help this project by recording any sightings of the Gang-gang within an area defined by a rectangle from Yass and Goulburn to the north to Adaminaby in the south, and Lake Bathurst to Wee Jasper (east-west), see map at <http://canberrabirds.org.au/Maps/MapCOGAoI.pdf>.

Any notes on the location, date and time of the following would be helpful:

* Numbers in a group * Ages and sexes of birds * Feeding sites * Nest sites * Fledged young.

Observations can be entered on a specifically designed data sheet which should be returned to COG for analysis. Data sheets can be downloaded from <http://tinyurl.com/ohz4uc3>.

Photos of male, female and young Gang-gang Cockatoos can be found at <http://photogallery.canberrabirds.org.au/cockatoos.htm>.

For any queries about the project please visit <http://canberrabirds.org.au/50thYear2014-Gang-gangProject.html>, email ggquery@canberrabirds.org.au or contact the author at 6238 3706, email david [at] dnmcdonald.id.au.

Kowen Forest will be CLOSED Sunday 2nd March 2014

The Brindabella Motor Sport Club would like to notify all residents in the Wamboin area that the Kowen Forest will be **CLOSED** to the public from **5pm Saturday 1st March to 12.01am on Monday 3rd March 2014**. **The forest will be closed due to a high speed car rally.**

Kowen forest will be closed for the running of the "National Capital Rally". The Rally is the opening round of the East Coast Bullbars Australian Rally Championship; the NSW Rally Championship and the Techworkz Automotive ACT Regional Rally Series.



The forest will be chained up on Saturday night 1st March in preparation for the event. We will be locking all gates; Styes and horse cavaleties. Notices will be put up before the event advising of the forest closure. "Forest Closed" signs will be put up when we chain up the forest.

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

The Brindabella Motor Sport Club requests that residents do not enter the forest from the Wamboin side – as this will endanger you and the competitors.

The Forest will be re-opened after the event, and open to the public for Monday morning. We will open the forest as early as possible to let the early risers in for their Monday walk!

There will be a spectator point on Kowen Road. Please join us, to see some of the best Australian and local rally talent. We are always in need of volunteer officials to help us run the event over the weekend. If you are able to assist, please register your details at www.nationalcapitalrally.com.au

Competitors will be conducting reconnaissance on Thursday the 27th February between 7.30am and 6.00pm. The forest will be open to the public – however, Wamboin residents should be aware that there will be increased traffic.

If you have any questions, please contact ACT Forests - 6207 2486 or

Adrian Dudok – 0417 251 011 or via email: cofc@nationalcapitalrally.com.au

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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 (Weerona 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 Higginson	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			

150: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425

Michael & Jose Deane	FdHwSvcRd/Bidges/Hickey/O'Gold	66	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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Editor's Note: Our federal MP for the seat of Hume asked locals to document mobile phone reception problems as he tries to work for better coverage for our area and other areas around the county. Naomi Robertson of Weeroona drive, as have some other residents, responded with the letter below. Angus Taylor subsequently wrote to thank her and to say that he would use her letter and similar information from many citizens to work to make things better.

Honourable Member of Parliament Angus Taylor and the Committee on Mobile Phone Coverage:

First of all, may I thank you, Honourable Angus Taylor, for undertaking the important, indeed essential, initiative of improving mobile phone reception in your electorate, and most particularly in the Wamboin/Bywong communities.

It is easy for me to comment on mobile phone "black spots" since I am currently living in one at 379 Weeroona Drive in Wamboin. Prior to moving here a bit more than a year ago I lived (for 2 1/2 years) in an area of almost equally unreliable coverage at 65 Weeroona Drive, Wamboin.

To say that we have NO mobile phone coverage here would be inaccurate, but the best I can say is that coverage is sporadic and seems, literally, to depend on which way the wind is blowing. We suspect that the signal is bouncing off a large windmill to the east of our house, and when the wind is from the west the vanes of the windmill are in a good position to conduct the signal. If the wind is from some other direction, we have no reception. I am not making this up.

Since living here we have also discovered that: (1) Telstra is the only provider with which you have a prayer of getting service. Optus phones do not work here at all and (2) The handset also makes a difference. Until about a month ago I was carting around a deplorable-looking, scratched and seriously outdated Telstra "blue tick" phone because other phones that we had tried at the house did not work at all. Seriously, I was embarrassed to pull this phone out in public, but it did work here maybe one-quarter of the time, which is better than other phones we had tried. Recently I upgraded to a Sony Xperia Z1 which is gorgeous and has some delightful features but still only works about one-quarter of the time when I am at our house.

Unpleasant phone experiences in Wamboin include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) Complete inability to place a call, regardless of where one goes within the house, or regardless of how many rituals (such as climbing up on furniture or waving the phone in the air) one engages in (2) Inability to receive a call or text message, resulting in a barrage of "RU OK???" messages once one emerges from the "black spot" (3) Inability to place a text message without climbing to the highest point on the property (approx. 900 meters) (4) The thrill of actually having the phone ring, only to have the call drop out as soon as one answers it (5) Actually finding the most propitious spot on the property to conduct a call, only to have the person you are speaking to repeatedly state that you are "cutting out"

I don't think that I can overstate the effect that such poor mobile phone reception may have on one's social or business contacts. However, most importantly, a lack of service puts those of us who live on bushfire-prone, rural properties in danger of our lives if we cannot communicate with emergency service providers, friends, neighbours and family in the event of a fire emergency.

Sadly, bushfires are not the only emergency that can affect a rural property dweller. At any time, adverse health events (e.g., heart attacks or stroke), accidents or falls, snake bites, crime or a variety of other misfortunes could have us desperately trying to place a call and being thwarted, and perhaps killed, by poor mobile phone reception. If Telstra and other providers are not concerned about us as individuals, they may become concerned when hit by a major law suit.

Although this could be considered a separate issue, I would also like to add that the "service" one receives in Telstra's walk-in shops is so shockingly poor as to be almost legendary. Aside from the fact that their staff wear ridiculous outfits that make them look like they are heading for a hillbilly hoedown, I have found that only about one in ten of these (invariably) young people is even remotely competent. When I recently attempted to replace my phone I visited three different Telstra shops and found only one service consultant who could actually sort out the mess that others had placed me in by switching my phone plan, disabling service on my old phone without telling me, inexpertly downloading contacts, wanting \$60 to fix this problem while a guy in the phone accessories shop near Woolies in Gungahlin did all this for \$10, and just generally being rude and condescending. The only reason I continue to deal with Telstra is that, as stated above, theirs is the only service that has even a remote chance of working here in Wamboin: change this and we should see all of the providers lifting their game (and either training their staff or getting rid of those who are disrespectful toward customers).

Finally, may I say that there is an equity issue in providing reliable mobile phone coverage to those of us within a stone's throw of the national capital. Naturally, my son, who lives in Acton in the very shadow of the Telstra tower, has good reception, and he and others may say that if we choose to live in a hilly, outer-metropolitan area we can expect some glitches. Our neighbours have spent more than \$1,000 to install an antenna that gives them reliable service, but I would ask why Telstra should expect each of us to spend this kind of money just to obtain service that is available to most other Australians without additional expense. Surely a well-placed tower would alleviate the reception problems of most of Wamboin/Bywong without us having to pay for what could literally be the difference between life and death in an emergency.

Thank you for reading this tale of woe. Mr. Taylor, if you wish to use this letter or any part of it to influence decision-making in regard to mobile phone reception in Wamboin/Bywong, I would be honoured. And if anyone I've addressed wishes to contact me, you may do so via this email address, or on our home phone (6236 9767) since (dare I say it again?) our mobile phone service is unreliable

All the best for a happy and productive new year,
Naomi Ruth Robertson

THE CHRISTMAS CUP RUNNETH OVER

by Larry King

A small but select crowd of attractive and intelligent people gathered at the Wamboin Community Hall at 12 noon on Sunday 1 December to contest the annual Wamboin Christmas Staple Foot Golf Day. The day was sponsored by Ted and Judith Evans – now residing in that Sodom and Gomorrah of the southern tablelands – Queanbeyan – who also arranged the post-competition snacks and presided over the prize giving ceremony. (Judith is pictured with Lofty Mason and Ted is pictured with Paul Griffin.)

There was one visitor, a Mr Colin Prest from upper Wamboin who did not play in the competition but suspiciously turned up afterwards claiming that the inordinate heat of the day required several “fluid loss adjusters”. He was awarded the famous Googly Ball. Rob Gorham was not present to claim his usual dummy spit award which was shared equally between Keith France and Tim Barter for reasons too trivial for your correspondent to recall.

Ball winners, for arcane reasons known only to golfers, were: Rachel Schroder x 2, Dave Hubbard x 2, Tim Barter, Nev Schroder, Larry King, Paul Griffin and Lofty Mason. The winner of the junior competition was Rachel Schroder who celebrated her 8th birthday by amassing 24 Staple Foot points. Place getters in the 9-hole competition were: 3rd, Deb Gordon 17 points on a count back; second, Larry King 19 points, first Lofty Mason 20 points.



The place getters in the 18-hole competition were: 3rd Dave Hubbard 38 points, second Nev Schroder 40 points and first Paul Griffin 41 points. Mr Griffin, resplendent in a pair of very attractive and practical bush walking trousers, was a worthy winner of the Wamboin R & A Golf Club’s Christmas Cup and charmed the crowd with a few modest but well-chosen words.

The January competition will be a shot-gun start, 3 club event sponsored by Wyagiba Trading. All are cordially invited to join us for an afternoon’s rustic golf.



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Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin – 38 year statistics from the Robertsons	
2013 rainfall ... 562mm	Annual average ... 698.1mm
December 2013...25.25mm	Dec 2012 ... 55.75mm
January 2014 to 26/1 ... 13mm	Jan 2013 . 53.25mm
Average February rainfall ... 59.2mm	Feb 2013 . 65.75mm
Wettest February .170.75mm in 2010	Driest Feb. ... 1mm in 1986
Coldest Feb Day ... 14C on 3/2/12	Coldest Feb night ... 5C on 17/2/98

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

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

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

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WCA Draft Constitution

Following a discussion at the September 2013 General Meeting it was agreed that a sub-committee be formed to review the WCA Constitution. The sub-committee has since met a number of times and has drafted a Constitution for consideration by the Wamboin community and the WCA membership. The Wamboin community was asked for comment on the draft Constitution in the Whisper and through the e-Noticeboard by 15 January 2014. It was also discussed at the December General Meeting.

Currently, the draft Constitution has been reviewed to incorporate comments received and the new draft has been put up on the WCA website. This draft will be brought to the February General Meeting for discussion and for any amendments. The final draft will then be taken to the WCA Annual General Meeting in March for consideration and approval. The Constitution will be forwarded to the NSW Department of Fair Trading for approval by The Director General in conjunction with the annual report on the WCA Inc. – John van der Straaten, WCA Secretary

Wamboin 15 Years Ago – from the Whisper of February 1999 Circulation 600

1999 began just as many others have, with all the local organisations planning and beginning their activities for the year. There had been no significant items of news at the time the February Whisper was compiled in late January. This is not an indication of an idle community, just one waking up after a quiet month. There is always lots happening behind the scenes at this time of year. – by Robyn Robertson

Bungendore Bridge Club

The Bungendore Bridge Club (BBC) is celebrating its 12th year of operation in 2014. The club has grown since the early days and now regularly has at least twenty four members playing at the weekly Wednesday session at 7PM.

The BBC is a sociable and supportive group and there is now an offshoot number of members who play relaxed, social, practising bridge between themselves at each others' homes.

The New Year promises to be a year of continued growth for the club. The year will commence with a series of lessons provided by founding member Brenda Reynell. The lessons will run on the fourth Thursday of the month commencing 2pm in the CWA rooms Gibraltar Street Bungendore.

All are welcome but it would be helpful to notify the club Secretary Maureen Gambale of attendance by email:

maureen.gambale@locatacorp.com

Anyone who wants to learn may wish to go to the Canberra Bridge Club on Saturday, 1st February, for a 'Come and Try Bridge' day for \$30 including lunch. – David Byrd

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Do You Have a Whisper Collection You Could Donate to the National Library?

by Ned Noel

Do you by any chance keep a collection of past issues of the Whisper? Do you sometimes think it's time to see if there is a new good home for them? Kristen Gidney of the Australian National Library, in its department for Australian Contemporary Publications, phone 02 6262 1114, email kgidney@nla.gov.au, says in an email to me on 13-Jan-2013 that they have, thanks to efforts in years past by local residents, issues up to March 2007, but almost none since. She says that they cannot accept electronic copies, which would have been easy to supply. I have been negligent in not setting aside issues for the NLA, the Queanbeyan Library and the National Archives, all of which have asked for them over the years, and from now on will do better.

Kristen in a follow-up email to me on 14-Jan-2014 states that the Whisper issues are important to the library, putting it this way:

"The National Library of Australia collects all sorts of items, including books, magazines, journals, newsletters, newspapers, pamphlets, advertising materials and much more. Information on the history and scope of our collection can be found via the following link: <http://www.nla.gov.au/collections> Many people who use our collections are interested in family history, so publications such as *The Whisper* are an especially valuable resource, as they list local activities and contain local articles by and about local people whose lives might otherwise remain minimally documented. *The Whisper* also has a wider scope, for example the information about bushfires. This is information that could potentially help/be of interest to Australian historians in the years to come. I could go on...I could write a whole essay about the value of local publications such as *The Whisper*, but I'll leave it at that for now!"

If you do have the above mentioned issues, April 2007 through December/January 2013-2014 and are looking for a good home for them, please consider contacting Kristin Gidney directly or letting me know on 6238 3484 or nednoel@optusnet.com.au.

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

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

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

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 1/6 Pg - \$25 1/8 Pg - \$20

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Nature Notes January 2014

Jo Walker

With the temperature hovering for five days between 38 and 40 degrees in the middle of January, the grasses are well and truly scorched and the rest of the landscape looks rather bleached. Even some of the Cauliflower Bushes (*Cassinia longifolia*), just about the hardiest local species, are shrivelling and dying in places.

The heavy load of seed-pods on the *Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle) ripened during December and early January. The Gang-gangs and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos had been feasting on the immature seed-pods, but there were still sufficient to carpet the ground when they dried and opened to shed their seed. As the ground under nearly every tree was littered with piles of dried pods and black seed, there should be small forests of Silver Wattles in a few years.

The Cherry Ballart (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*) were still full of red and orange 'fruit' towards the end of December – the 'fruit' is actually the stem holding the round hard seed, but it swells into a soft edible 'fruit' and is quite delicious. Unfortunately (for me anyway) the Pied Currawongs and Cockatoos, and probably a few other birds, ate the lot within a week.

Another food plant for the birds at present is Burgan (*Kunzea ericoides*), the shrub that was covered in snow-like drifts of white flowers just before Christmas. It is now full of green semi-mature fruit which the Crimson Rosellas have found. These birds usually spend some time at this time of year feeding on the seed capsules of *Pomaderris angustifolia* and other plants within the same genus, but there was almost no seed on them this year after a very hot spell just as the seed was beginning to mature shrivelled and destroyed the capsules. As many of our local native plants develop seed during December and January, the effects of increasingly high temperatures could become a real concern.

The summer went by without many Bogong Moths or Christmas Beetles turning up here. It was, however, a good year for all sorts of flies. They could be seen in clouds around flowering eucalypts and shrubs, and their buzzing was audible at some distance. It is a long time since I'd heard a cricket in these dry conditions, but after the recent light rain a Mole Cricket was whirring loudly in the garden near my back door. I'm not sure how long they live – or even if it is the same one – but for many years now one has called from that precise spot.

A rather interesting insect – or rather two – appeared on the shadehouse covering recently. They were two mating Giant Stick-insects (*Acrophylla titan*). Although not brightly coloured (the female was an ashy-brown colour and the male tan-coloured with a cream stripe along his side), they would have been hard to miss as the female, with her front legs extended, was 20cm or more in length.

So far this year, I've seen three Brown Snakes already. The most interesting and rather large one was stretched out along the top of the roller door in my garage watching me intently as I filled some bins!

The wombat that appeared here at the end of November is still visiting. I haven't seen it yet, but it makes its presence obvious by marking its tracks with copious droppings. Slightly less welcome here was some little animal that recently spent the night in my shadehouse converting some healthy-looking seedlings to 2mm stumps – but it's still wonderful to live amongst the wildlife here.



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Councillor's Corner

Building Approvals — I had a call recently, asking if I could help resolve a problem associated with the issue of an Occupation Certificate for a new home. Councils are often criticised for bureaucratic intransigence in planning matters, but this is a good example of regulations that exist to protect potential owners.

The Building Professionals Board (BPB) was established as a NSW Government Authority in 2007 to improve the quality of construction and subdivision in NSW through a system of accredited certifiers. The associated processes are designed to provide confidence that buildings and subdivisions meet national standards and building codes. BPB accredited certifiers must be insured, work to a Code of Conduct and complete training each year.

If you intend to renovate, demolish, build, develop or use land you should generally seek advice, from council or a building professional, on whether or not approvals might be required, and if so, what form these might take.

If your proposal is classified as 'exempt development', you will not require approval. If development approval is required, this may be satisfied by the issue of a Complying Development Certificate (for 'routine work' that complies with relevant controls under the Building Code of Australia) or a Development Application (DA).

If consent is granted for a DA, you will need a Construction Certificate, issued by council or a BPB accredited certifier, before you begin work. Commencement of construction without a Construction Certificate would be a breach of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, and a Construction Certificate cannot be issued after construction has commenced. Further, without a Construction Certificate, an Occupation Certificate cannot be issued at the completion of the building work.

Giving all that a little more context, approval of a Development Application (development consent) indicates that the DA has satisfied the relevant planning regulations. The issue of a Construction Certificate confirms that construction plans and specifications comply with the relevant standards and the conditions of the development consent, and that any pre-development conditions have been met. The issue of an Occupation Certificate confirms that works were completed in accordance with the specifications provided in the Construction Certificate.

A Principal Certifying Authority (PCA), accredited by the BPB, is the only person or body who can issue an Occupation Certificate, and they must be appointed before work commences. The PCA acts on behalf of the owner, or a prospective owner, not the builder, inspecting work during construction to ensure that it is generally consistent with the approved plans and is fit to occupy having regard to required building standards.

In the matter that was brought to my attention, the builder had failed a critical stage PCA inspection prior to a concrete pour, because an area of the work was flooded at the time of inspection. In spite of the fact that a failure notice was issued, the builder continued with the pour, with the result that a critical inspection was effectively missed. In such cases, the NSW planning legislation prohibits the issue of an Occupation Certificate, with the result in the present case that the bank refused to release the final payment on the associated loan.

In situations like these, council comes under immense pressure to 'bend the rules'. In some cases, the matter can be seemingly trivial, but this is never obvious, and by bending any rules council, and that means the general rate payer, essentially becomes liable for any failure that may arise in the future as a result.

This is not a happy situation for anyone involved. The lesson is to appreciate the importance of, and to ensure that your builder complies with, the relevant regulations, especially those involving inspections, throughout the build. Failure to comply with an early inspection requirement can mean that the final build can never be approved.

If a problem arises, deal with it immediately. Solutions, while perhaps inconvenient, generally exist. Don't assume that issues can be resolved when the build is complete—sometimes the applicable legislation will make that impossible.

For further information, visit the Building Professional Board website at www.bpb.nsw.gov.au.

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

Building Approvals

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

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

The pile of Christmas books beside the bed is diminishing, Christmas memories are fading and with Australia Day behind us I can no longer pretend that it is still “the holidays”. It’s time to accept that 2014 is actually well under way!

I’ve just been outside, shooing a couple of little rabbits off our fenced “lawn” experiment and methodically shifting sprinklers. I think the bunnies were mocking our efforts both at fencing and growing grass. What was once struggling to become a lawn is now a bare expanse that crunches underfoot. Many shrubs have been scorched by the relentless heat and gums are dropping leaves like confetti and shedding long ribbons of bark. Some of the deciduous trees are shutting down. It’s a constant battle to keep up enough water to thirsty plants, but perhaps it will rain in February.....or March...or....Meanwhile, I’ve enjoyed spotting the different lizards out and about, catching glimpses of a lone echidna as it trundles off, bristling with embarrassment at the thought of having been caught out, and waking to the dawn chorus with the morning air still crisp and cool. Our family of choughs has returned. Perhaps their holiday is over, too.

Australia Day has come and gone, and I’m afraid I didn’t flutter any little “made in China” flags, paint my face with green and gold or join the lakeside throng. I did, however, throw a couple of chops on the barbie, but that was out of desperation, not patriotism, as there was nothing else left in the freezer after the family had departed! But I do love Australia. Nothing stirs me more than to be on a Qantas flight home, hear our flat, nasal drone and catch the tune and syrupy lyrics of Peter Allen’s song, “I still call Australia home.” My throat constricts and I furiously burrow into my bag for the tissues. There is something about Home, of belonging, feeling comfortable, sharing a history, a sense of humour, being accepted. It’s like a secret handshake. No amount of faux patriotism can improve on that. As I chatted to the young girl at the checkout today, someone who is probably a long way from being able, in her heart, to call Australia home, I asked if she’d enjoyed an Australia Day holiday. She sighed, with great weariness, and said she’d had to work. My hope for her is that someday she will truly be able to call Australia home, and I trust that we who already do will have helped her along the way.

I wouldn’t live anywhere else.....this wide brown land of ours.....that we share with each other, and millions of rabbits!



WAMBOIN MARKETS

112 BINGLEY WAY

Saturday February 15
9:00 - 12 NOON.

Contact:

Joan Mason - 62 383 258

Come along to our market in February. Variety of stalls including lots of fresh fruit & vegies, healthy juices, coffee, egg & bacon rolls, jewellery, cards, lollies, dried fruits & nuts, cakes, sausage rolls, quiches, craft, knitting, preserves, and more. See you there!