

WAMBOIN



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

March 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 April 2014 issue the deadline is Sunday, 30 March, 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	Natasha Gates, contact	0412 008 777	
Wamboin Play Group	Emma Auzins, Convener	6238 3974	emauszins@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 stg,oddjobs	6238 3059
Jordan Brown	baby sitting	0414-907-921	Isabelle Woodward	Babysitting 0467 080 662 or	6238 1527



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The sale settles on Friday. It will be an absolute pleasure to see Daniel finally be paid his hard earned commission but a little sad to not be speaking to him on a regular basis. We wish him and his wife the very best for the future of their real estate business. It is a deserved success brought about by hard work, dedication and consummate professionalism.

I would like to thank you and your staff most sincerely for the service you provided in the sale of my home. You kept me informed of progress throughout the sale and helped me to achieve a great result. I always knew that you were available at any time to answer my questions and to look after my interests

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Bywong Community News
www.bywongcommunity.org.au
Darryl Bourke, President
This News Put Together by the
Bywong Committee



Car Boot Sale. Surely no-one now needs reminding! The biggest event of the year is on again on Sunday 30 March. If you are selling, just roll up before 8am to be allocated a site. Any queries, ring Greg Gougeon on 6236 9841. If you would like to become a sponsor or donate a prize email Pauline on paulinechambers@yahoo.com.au. For those of you who are new to the area, we usually look forward to more than 100 stalls with lots of activities for the children and plenty to sustain the inner man or woman for morning tea or lunch. This is a not-for-profit event and entry is free to the public from 9am. The event is at the Bywong Hall in Birriwa Road and parking is under the supervision of the Fire Brigade. This year we have a new offering - short half-hour introductory walks into the adjoining Greenway leaving the Community Stall every hour on the hour, and a longer 3.6 km walk leaving at 10 am.(details elsewhere in the Whisper).

Hands across the Highway. The Sutton Hall Committee and the communities of Sutton and Bywong have got together to stage and sponsor a Saturday night dance on 22 March in Sutton Village Hall. The music, by "Mike's Selection", will include country rock and old time. Entry is \$10 per adult or \$25 for a family. Bring a plate for supper and your own drinks. Bookings and enquiries to Pauline at paulinechambers@yahoo.com.au 6236 9934 or Beryl at beryl.lowry@bigpond.com 6230 3948.

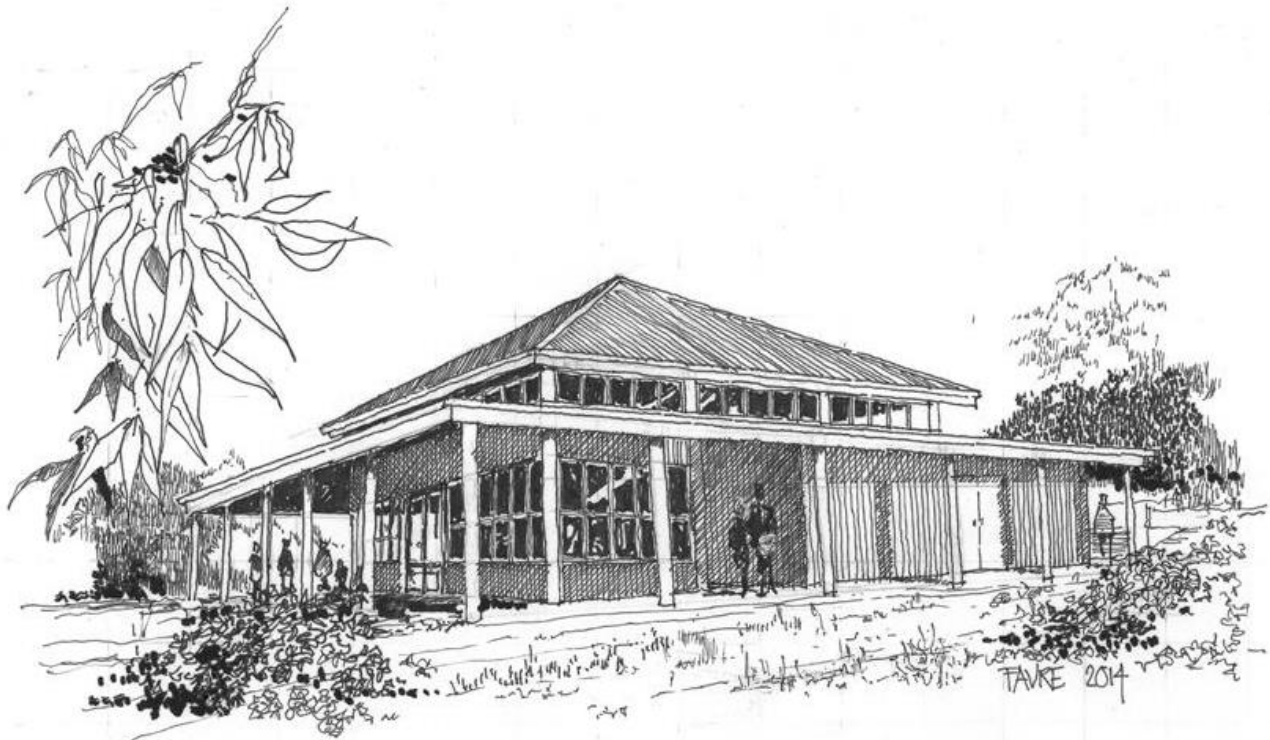
Transferring the trees? At the Community's last meeting members expressed concern at the works being undertaken for the new Macs Reef Transfer Station, particularly the total removal of trees which might have screened the site from the road. They recalled Council assurances that the finished facility would not be visible from the road. The meeting resolved to write to Council seeking further assurances.

Rubbish. By the time this is published, we hope that Clean Up Australia will be over and will have repeated previous successes in cleaning up the Bywong roadsides. The task seems to loom larger every year – this year's accumulation on Macs Reef Road looked even worse, with a heavy emphasis on fast food wrappings and containers.

Greenways walks. The meeting agreed to check the insurance of greenways walks and other activities conducted by the Community or its sub-committees (of which Grow is one). This has now been done and a reassuringly positive reply has been received from the insurers. A programme of walks, including a Car Boot Sale introduction, has now been finalised – see above or contact Nora Stewart at Nora@SetDancing.com.au or 62303305.

Bywong Riders. The Gearys Gap Pony Club held a successful camp in January. February Rally Day started early to try and beat the heat and approximately thirty riders attended. Many of our riders have been out competing at local shows and events with some great results. The new club president is Sean McDermott.

Christmas on Fridays. In the light of disappointing attendance at our free Christmas drinks in December, the committee decided to move this year's event to a weekday. The new time is Friday 5th December after work. We shall post details in due course, but early enough for you to reserve the date.



The Bywong Hass is celebrating its twenty-fifth year. Drawing by John-Pierre Facre



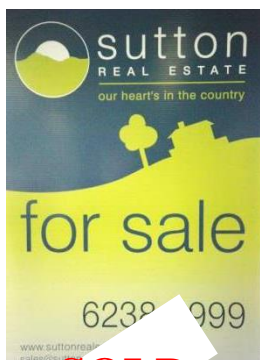
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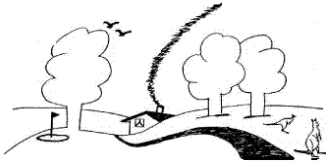
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Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



Hello and welcome to the March edition of the Whisper.

WCA Meeting. We held our first meeting for the year on the 18th February at 7:30 pm at the Community Hall. It was quite well attended and a number of issues were discussed. Among those were the on-line submissions to the Federal Minister for Communications about options that we may prefer here in Wamboin to correct our lack of decent coverage. If you haven't completed the on-line submission then perhaps contact our local Federal Member and let him know your views.

Annual General Meeting. Our AGM will be held next month on Tuesday 18th March at 7:30pm at the Community Hall as well as our normal general meeting. All are welcome to attend and join the Association and have a say in the Community.

Wamboin Community Association Constitution. The draft Constitution for the Wamboin Community Association was debated at our last meeting at some length. The overall feeling was that the document produced was a good document although some corrections and minor changes were suggested and will be added to the final document. The working group was very grateful for all the feedback on this document as we want it to reflect the feelings and views of the all the Association. The final document will be ready to be voted upon at our AGM meeting . That's it from me for now.

- Jenny Richards (President)

IT'S AUTUMN at WAMBOIN MARKETS
112 BINGLEY WAY – SATURDAY 15TH MARCH 2014
9AM TO 12 NOON.



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Bywong & Sutton Rock together. Dance, enjoy or just come and listen to the best music mix of Mike's. When. Saturday March 22. 7-11pm. Where. Sutton Village hall. Type of music, featuring Rock,n,-Roll-Macarena-country-retro rock-Mambo-rockabilly-modern-line pop. Allsorts. \$10.00 per person. \$25.00 family of 4. Make up a table of family and friends. Contact berylowry@bigpond.com 62303948 or paulinechambers@yahoo.com.au 6236 9934. BYO plate.supper to share at 8.30.by drinks. All profit goes to the communitites of Bywong & Sutton.

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Greenways Renewal Working Group

The Greenways Renewal Working (GRoW) group is a local voluntary community group, part of the Bywong Community Association. www.BywongCommunity.org.au

- Would you like to be able to walk in your local area – Bywong & Wamboin?
- Heard of the “greenways” but don’t know where they are?
- Like to join a local walking group?

GUIDED WALKS AT THE CAR BOOT

- Join one of our ORIENTATION WALKS every hour that will give you a short, 30 minute guided walk heading South through the greenway that starts on Les Reardon Reserve, near the Bywong Community Hall. These walks will be leaving EVERY HOUR ON THE HOUR FROM 9am, 10am, 11am and 12 midday from the Bywong Community Stall. Everyone is welcome to join and you don’t need to sign up – just meet us at the stall.
- **JOIN US FOR OUR EARLY AUTUMN WALK** 3.6kms at the Car Boot Sale as part of our Happy Hearts Walks 2014 starting at 10am until 11.30am. This walk will do a full loop including Denley Drive, Macs Reef Road and back to Birriwa Road.

INFORMATION ABOUT GREENWAYS

- Bywong Community stall will have maps, brochures, walk information including Happy Hearts Walks 2014 program, and how you can get involved with the greenways including showing you all our online information – our webpage and Bywong & Wamboin Greenways FaceBook page.

LOCAL PUBLIC WALKS 2014

- GRoW group has a full program of public walks Happy Heart Walks 2014. You can find this program published in the FEBRUARY WHISPER or go online to download- GOOGLE “Happy Heart Walks 2014”. – Nora Steward



Bywong Community
bywongcommunity.org.au

CAR BOOT SALE

SUNDAY MARCH 30

From 9:00 to 1:00

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

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

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

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

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Community workshop for wildlife habitat in Wamboin and Bywong

FuturePLANS and **Molonglo Catchment Group** - with funding from the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative - have combined to present a new program designed to develop and implement plans and projects for increasing, protecting and managing wildlife habitat within Wamboin and Bywong.

The program will get started with a **free community workshop** to be held at Bywong Community Hall on **Saturday 15th March 2014**, running from 9:00am until 3:30pm.

The **Wildlife habitat in Wamboin and Bywong - Challenges and solutions** workshop will provide members of the community with an opportunity to share information about local flora and fauna, identify and discuss threats and issues facing remnant wildlife habitat, and consider possible solutions.

Program facilitator, Greg Stone, says that there are no pre-determined outcomes for the workshop other than arriving at some practical ways of dealing with the issues identified by the community.

Workshop participants will interact to come up with potential projects based on identified needs for local wildlife habitat. From the expected range of potential solutions found at the workshop, projects considered to be of the greatest mutual benefit to the local area will be developed, funded and implemented by May 2014.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided for workshop participants. The workshop is free of charge, but bookings are essential by 12th March 2014. If you would like further information about the workshop or to book yourself in, contact: Greg Stone on 0422279946 or woodlandsenviro@gmail.com



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How The Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

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

170: CO-ORDINATED HELEN MONTESIN: ph 6238 3208

Fay Kelly Norton Rd West Area from Cmpbl Pl 20
 Helen Montesin Fernloff Rd 35
 Julie Veal Poppet Rd (for all on road) 32

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

Joan Mason Bingley Way 48
 Sue Ward Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona) 32
 Kathy Handel Norton (Weeroona to Hilltop+Wirndra) 22

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

Lesley Page Valley View Ln 4

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

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

Sheryl Barnes Denley Dr (Sth End 1/2 way2 Kestral) 15
 Don Malcolmson Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat) 7
 Connie & Hans Bachor Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr 28
 Nora Stewart Rovere Ln 7
 Carol & Clive Boughton Macs Reef Rd (Bankers to Fed Hwy) 33
 Beth Hope Gum Flat Ln 6
 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
 Robert&Marzena Luton Sutton Park Estate 48
 Ian Coillet Grove Road 7

205: CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON ph 6236 9333

Phil & Pam Dawes Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln 27
 Kevin Anderson B'dore Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill) 35
 Kerrie Gougeon B'dore Rd (Fed Hwy to Summerhill) 25
 Sue Aunella Brooks Rd 21

109: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484

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

TOTAL 1,292

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

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

Deb Gordon Yalana East 44
 Rob Gorham South end Clare Valley 38
 Lyle Montesin The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks 65
 Bungendore Foodworks Bungendore 10

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

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

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

David Anderson Weeroona (Majors to Denley) 36
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Editor's Note: Because the material below 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 help pay Whisper printing costs.

CANBERRA Equine HOSPITAL

Essentials of Equine Vaccination

By Sasha Migus, Veterinary Student & Dr. Natasha Hovanessian, Canberra Equine Hospital

Vaccination is a simple and effective way of preventing disease or reducing its severity. Vaccination works by stimulating the body to produce an immune response to a particular infection and should be considered a regular event in your horse's health plan. Vaccines most often administered by the veterinarians at Canberra Equine Hospital include those for Tetanus, Strangles, Hendra Virus, and Equine Herpes Virus 1 (EHV1).

Tetanus is a serious disease caused by a toxin producing-bacteria, (*Clostridium tetani*), present in soil and droppings. Horses are one of the most susceptible species to tetanus infection. Most often, bacteria enter the body via wounds or foot injuries and cause muscle paralysis, breathing difficulties and usually death. However tetanus is easily and effectively prevented by vaccination:

- Two primary vaccinations are given 4 to 6 weeks apart
- Booster vaccinations are then given at 12 months, and annually thereafter
- Foals can be vaccination against tetanus from 3-4 months of age.

Strangles is a highly contagious disease caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus equi* ssp. *equi*. It is spread through contact with infected horses or contaminated surfaces, and presents as fever and swollen lymph nodes, which may abscess and rupture. The vaccine is not 100% protective but usually effective in reducing disease severity. The strangles vaccine can be given in combination with tetanus, or in isolation:

- An initial course of 3 vaccines are given, 2 weeks apart
- Booster vaccinations are given every 12 months, or every 6 months for horses that travel and are in regular contact with other horses.

EHV1 is a serious and highly contagious disease causing abortion in mares. Abortions may occur suddenly, with the mare appearing otherwise normal. Risk of infection can be reduced through good management practices, including vaccination:

- Pregnant mares are vaccinated during their 5th, 7th, and 9th month of gestation.

Hendra is a deadly virus that can kill horses and humans. It can be transmitted from fruit bat to horse, from horse to horse, or from horse to human. There is no cure, however a highly effective vaccine is available that is suitable for horses from 4 months of age:

- Two doses are given, 3 to 6 weeks apart
- Booster vaccinations are given every 6 months.

The Hendra vaccine can only be administered by an accredited veterinarian, so why not get your vet to administer this, and other vaccines at the time of your horse's regular dental and health checks?

If you would like our help in designing a vaccination protocol for your horse, please contact us at the Canberra Equine Hospital on (02) 6241 8888 or equine@canberravet.com.au.

Your local ‘Tree Changer at Yarrabee’ blog – handy hints for tree changers such as ‘ what to do if your water pressure drops off’ and ‘how to deter juvenile rosellas from window crashing’

<http://treechangeratyarrabee.blogspot.com.au>

So, we've finally done it! My hubby, two dogs and I have moved from the suburbs onto 11 acres covered with beautiful gum trees and teeming with birdlife, kangaroos, snakes, echidnas, wombats and rabbits. Having now survived 16 months, we are now in our second bushfire and snake season. I think we can reasonably say that we've now arrived in country NSW, although each day offers more opportunities to learn : -) Since talking to other newbie ‘tree changers’ I've decided to blog some of our lessons learned, personal stories along with some **handy hints** that may be useful to other tree changers. From your friendly Tree Changer at Yarrabee - Felicity Leeper

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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As I will be away on the official day (22 May) this year, Polly is putting the kettle on a little earlier. I am looking for raffle prizes, donations of goods in kind, help on the day by manning a stall, support on the day by attending, your suggestions and lots more. If you can help with any of the above please email on psegeri@bipond.com or call me on 62381996 Thank you for your support. We raised \$6500.00 last year and looking forward to doing it again. Cheers, Pauline

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Preparation for Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Mary's Parish, Bungendore 2014

In March and April 2014, St Mary's will be running a preparation program on the sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) intended for baptised Catholic children who are in Year Three or above at school, who live within the parish, which includes Wamboin, Bywong, Sutton and Gundaroo. There will be a meeting for interested parents and guardians on Thursday 6th March at 7:30pm in St Mary's Hall, 28 Turallo Tce, Bungendore. Preparation classes for the children will be on Thursdays 13th, 20th and 27th March from 4:30 to 5:30 pm in Bungendore. The children will be required to submit their commitment to the program at Mass on either Sunday 9th March or Sunday 16th March at 8:30 am in St Mary's Church. The sacrament of reconciliation for those newly prepared for the sacrament will be celebrated in St Mary's Church on Thursday 10th April at 7pm. More details and enrolment forms on are on the mission website for the parishes of Queanbeyan and Bungendore. – Mary Coombe

<http://www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com/sacred-room/sacraments/first-reconciliation/>

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Lack of time to exercise your horses? If that is the case then I can help. Whether your interest is dressage, jumping, or pleasure, I am available to help in the fitness of your horse, and well as competition preparation. Call Annie (Equine Science Student, CSU) on (h)6238 0878 or (mob) 0488 714 337.
Convert those precious memories from VHS or VHSC Video to DVD, Records and Cassette Tapes to CD, right here in Wamboin. Act now before they are lost forever. Fast turnaround. Only \$12 per Video and from \$12 per Record or Cassette. Phone Vicky or Tony Holland on 6238 3762 or 0403 069018.
FOR HIRE: BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL. Suitable for smaller functions and seminars, groups etc. Check availability and booking information on www.bywongcommunity.org.au .
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
Two ride on mowers; one the engine not working, the other working. \$300 for both. Brick type paver approximately 65 square metres. You collect for free. Call Peter 0407 667793.



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



FIRE PERMITS

During the Bush Fire Danger Period (normally 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; 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 on 0409 991 340 or email: captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au

UPDATE ON THE BUSHFIRE SEASON

Fortunately, in the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade (Brigade) and surrounding area, despite some quite warm days, and a parched landscape, a saving grace has, perhaps, been the lack of accompanying hot, strong winds.

The dominant firefighting effort for the Brigade and, at times, the NSW Rural Fire Service Lake George Zone (LGZ) has been supporting fire-fighting efforts elsewhere. Two of our members were tasked to assist Krawaree Brigade protect the helibase at Krawaree in the southern end of Palerang District. Another member participated in a Strike Team from LGZ despatched to support the CFA in Victoria. Although deployed to Orbost, the Strike Team had not got past Cooma when their destination was changed to Cann River where they spent three days doing mixed firefighting and mopping up/ blacking out.

More recently back in our local area, the rain over the 18-19 February was very welcome. It certainly provided the trees and landscape with some relief. But a few warm days and an accompanying wind could potentially neutralise the situation. We still have some way to go to the end of the official bush fire danger period. Typically, in this area, March is when the ground, grasses and bush are at their driest and the fire danger is at its peak.

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) promotes the concept of resilience to fire at a whole-of-community level and the Brigade encourages and supports a number of measures to improve community resilience to fire through several activities and initiatives within our local communities of Wamboin, Bywong, Sutton (south of the Federal Highway) and Bungendore (west of the Bungendore escarpment). The two biggest fire events that have affected residents in this area are the Canberra Fires of 18 January 2003 and Victorian 'Black Saturday' Fires of 7 February 2009. There are several residents who have made themselves known to the Brigade who have relocated from Canberra as a direct result of their experience a decade ago. These people provide an enduring reminder of why we should strive to make our community an increasingly resilient place in which to live, so that we can all say "that's why I live where I live". This short article summarises some of the activities in which the Brigade is engaged within the community to further enhance this ideal.

Static Water Supplies (SWS): In the event of a major fire we expect to be supplemented by other brigades; this is the way the RFS operates, and the Brigade has certainly been supportive of others in their hour of need (most recently Wagga Wagga, Tumut and Wirtin in NSW, and Cann River in Victoria). Should the need arise it is imperative that firefighters without local knowledge should be able to locate water sources with the minimum of difficulty and in close proximity to where they are operating. The Brigade has an ongoing program to identify suitable water sources such as dams, tanks and swimming pools. These have already been assessed for accessibility by tankers and helicopters and their location marked by an SWS plate on the gatepost and recorded by the Brigade and RFS. In some streets we need multiple locations to avoid lengthy travel.

Community Fire Wise Groups (CFWG): A CFWG is a small informal group of neighbours coming together to socialise, create warning telephone trees, share ideas, share tools, work collectively to reduce hazards and care for each other's safety. Several of these Groups have already been created in the higher risk areas and others are planned.

Resident-Requested Property Visits (RRPV): To assist residents in coming to grips with the issues which might affect their house and property the Brigade has a team of experienced firefighters who conduct free site visits. They discuss the pros and cons of various ideas and give some indication of priorities, leaving final decision-making in the hands of the owner.

BRIGADE ACTIVITY

Incidents since last month’s newsletter

Date	Pager	Summary
Fri 31 Jan	15:34	Reported smoke sighting circa The Forest Rd, Bungendore/Lake George escarpment: Two brigade vehicles (Wamboin 9 and 1Bravo) were despatched to investigate. Nothing was found despite an extensive search above and below the escarpment. At this point Wamboin 1 Bravo – a heavy tanker, was diverted to a new incident near Hoskinstown (see below).
	16:10	Grass Fire – Plains Rd, Hoskinstown (possible lightning strike): Four members in Wamboin 1 Bravo attended, as did crews in tankers from several other brigades. Returned to Station 19:58.
Sat 1 Feb	13:28	Federal Hwy Sutton: Two Brigade tankers W1Bravo and W7Alpha were responded to Eaglehawk to a report of a grass fire on the down ramp. Nothing was found although Bungendore 2, which also attended, found evidence of an earlier fire.
Thurs 13 Feb	12:39	Motor Vehicle Accident where a car left the Federal Hwy near Macs Reef Rd while travelling towards Canberra. One person had to be cut out by ACT Fire & Rescue and removed to an ambulance. There was no risk of fire, so the Brigade’s tanker and crew returned to the Fire Station shortly afterwards.
Sat 15 Feb	12.25	Midway through the community-wide bushfire preparedness information session being conducted at the Fire Station, the Brigade was requested to respond to a report of a semi-trailer that had apparently jack-knifed at the intersection of Norton and Sutton Rds. With just a momentary interruption to proceedings, eight firefighters in two brigade tankers quietly slipped away. Despite an exhaustive search along Sutton Rd there was no sign of the semi-trailer.

Community Engagement

The principal activity during February (in lieu of the Wamboin Mkt Day Shopfront) was the brigade-facilitated, community-wide ‘Are You Fire Ready?’ bushfire survival information session held at the Fire Station on Saturday 15 February.



Attendees were introduced to two key messages. A short video followed that had captured experiences and comments of several residents caught in the Victorian Black Saturday fires. After that, the brigade provided an overview of the fire history and threat in our local and surrounding area. Presenters highlighted the key planning, implementation and decision-making processes we all must address



to give yourself, your family, pets and property the best chance to survive a bushfire. Questions were fielded. There was a working pump/water tank set-up on a Ute. Bungendore Rural Services was on hand with a display of useful fire-fighting equipment suitable for rural-residential landholders. The Brigade’s Support Crew was there with the usual array of high quality refreshments. The number of residents attending was somewhat disappointing with just 8 people availing themselves of this free service. Feedback on the event continues to be very positive. News continues to spread with one attendee having travelled from her property near Murrumbateman just for the event – and was pleased she had. And there were winners and grinners of lucky door prizes. The Brigade Info Shopfront will resume next Wamboin Mkt Day - Sat 15 March, 9am-12noon.



Training News

February’s training continued our theme of navigation and extending local knowledge, particularly about Static Water Supplies (SWS), while the good weather and long evenings are still with us. On Tuesday 4th we took brigade vehicles and 23 members to Goolabri Country Resort to familiarise people with the four SWS dams there. On the following Saturday 8th we did the same in The Forest Rd and Morrison Rd culminating with a Property Protection exercise on seven properties in Snowgum Rd, all with an SWS feature.

FURTHER INFORMATION

NSW Rural Fire Service Website


The NSW Rural Fire Service is the key information source to help you prepare against the threat of bush or grass fire. The RFS website provides access to a Bush Fire Survival Plan template as well as information on current fires and incidents, Fire Permits and much more. The website address is <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>

Wamboin Brigade Website

The Brigade’s website has the daily Fire Danger Rating for the brigade area, which you will need to check if you have been issued with a Fire Permit, and any brigade announcements. You’ll also find the brigade’s history and photos on the site 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** 



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- Bring a picnic lunch. Tea & coffee provided.

Hands On Workshops coming up:

Alpacas & Llamas for Fun & Profit	6 th Apr
Needle felting (dry felting)	12 th Apr
Introduction to Felting Alpaca & Llama Fleece (wet felting)	13 th Apr
The Magic of Donkeys	3 rd May
Alpacas & Llamas for Fun & Profit	4 th May
Learn to Spin using our electronic spinners (3 x 3hrs)	10 th May
An Afternoon At the Farm	31 st May

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CANBERRA BIRDS CONSERVATION FUND

GRANTS AVAILABLE AND TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS WELCOMED TO SUPPORT BIRD CONSERVATION IN THE CANBERRA REGION

What is the Canberra Birds Conservation Fund? The Canberra Birds Conservation Fund (CBCF) has been established for the purpose of supporting the Canberra Ornithologists Group's (COG) environmental objects by receiving and disbursing tax deductible donations. COG's environmental objects are 'To promote the conservation of native birds and their habitats', with particular reference to the native birds and their habitats in the Canberra region, including Wamboin & Bywong.

Anyone concerned about the conservation of native birds and their habitats in the Canberra region is welcome to make a tax-deductible donation to the Fund, or to apply for a grant from the Fund.

What are the objectives of the Fund? The specific environmental objectives of the Fund are

- To encourage interest in, and develop knowledge of, the birds of the Canberra region
- To promote and co-ordinate the study of birds
- To promote the conservation of native birds and their habitats.

Who is eligible to apply for a grant from the Fund? The Fund welcomes applications from individuals and organisations for grants to support projects that will contribute to achieving its environmental objectives. Applications for amounts of up to \$2,000 are invited. Applications that meet all

three of the Fund's environmental objectives will be particularly favoured, especially those with a focus on the Canberra region. **Interested in making a tax-deductible donation or applying for a grant?** Further information is online at <http://cbcf.canberrabirds.org.au/>

How do I contact the Fund? For further information, please contact the Fund's convener, David McDonald, phone 6238 3706, email conservation.fund@canberrabirds.org.au . – David McDonald

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We Prayed for Rain and Got a Mantis Too

I have often waxed, if not lyrical, at least enthusiastically about ants. The insect and arachnid world seems to me quite fascinating and whilst I would happily dispense with mozzies and flies, there is no doubt they too have their place in the scheme of things. However, there are some insects which are more fascinating than others – leaving the ants and their antics aside of course.

Following the rain – how amazing and how fast the plants and the whole world seems to spring back to life - we surveyed the wreckage and the fortitude of some of our plants. Jeremy, looking at the cumquat bush which was in full bloom, saw a twig and was about to remove it when he realised that it wasn't a twig at all but a praying mantis. Holding a native bee in its front claws it was as still as could be until we tried to 'rescue' the poor bee whereupon the mantis turned its head to glare at us, antenna aquiver; held on to the shrub with one 'arm' and folded the other opposite claw over the bee. Its tiny head looks like something from outer space or, more prosaically, a miniature one of those three cornered mops advertised on TV and much like the mop seems to be on a swivel joint – it can apparently turn 180°! It was soon tucking in to the still moving bee – gruesome but I guess the mantis has to eat too! I suspect he's pretty good at hunting – he was in fine fettle. Half an hour later there was no sign of the bee – it would have been difficult to see among the now dead grass beneath the shrub if it was but a shell, but the mantis was still there, lying upside down, attached to the leaves and watching a nearby butterfly and me. It's eyes were tiny but they were certainly aware of any movement and those 'arms' like crab claws with spines held flat were ready to snap up and grasp any passing prey.



With such clever techniques and equipment, almost invisible and so dexterous, no wonder many insects have survived longer than the vertebrates and much else. It did make me wonder too just how much we miss in our garden and what other creatures survive or indeed thrive against the odds. – Pam Shearmur

WILDCARE

Did you know that Wildcare is one of 25 community-based wildlife groups covering NSW? Often confused with WIRES, Wildcare covers a large area stretching from Bredbo to the south, through Burra, Bungendore, Queanbeyan, Yass, Gundaroo, Gunning, Crookwell and all the way to Young. With 3,000 calls for help coming in via the 24/7 helpline each year, it is a busy organisation and more than 2,000 animal incidents are dealt with - and all done by community volunteers.

Whether it be removing a Tiger snake from a lounge room (thought to have slithered in through the cat-flap!), dealing with a kangaroo caught in a fence, a wombat taking up residence under a house, saving a baby joey from its dead mother's pouch, fixing up a turtle's cracked shell, nurturing injured birds, humanely euthanising badly injured animals or reassuring property owners, there is immense satisfaction in saving, rehabilitating and releasing wildlife. If you want to get involved,

check out the Wildcare website or call the helpline – 6299 1966. Wildcare is running an orientation and basic rescue training course on 22 March at the Wamboin Community Hall – there is a small fee (\$20) and members of the public can come along too (contact Laurel 6297 8806).



As with so many community groups, fundraising is a necessary evil. With volunteers digging deep into their pockets, there is still a need for Wildcare to raise thousands of dollars each year to cover vet & telephone bills, medications, equipment and special milk for joeys. You can help by making a tax-deductible donation to Wildcare (see wildcare.com.au).

With the hot summer coming to a close, there are more kangaroos munching the grass along the roadways. The best way to reduce the risk of hitting a kangaroo is to slow down and be more vigilant in wildlife-rich areas at dawn & dusk and through the night. And the chance is, if you see one kangaroo crossing the road ahead of you, there will be another following close behind.

It's great to see so many people using the services of Wildcare and getting involved, so please help out with the care of our wildlife and support Wildcare if you can. - Philip Machin, 6238 3717

Photo: Possum relocated to 5 star accommodation

News from WWOW – The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

By Gail Ritchie Knight

WWOW resumed meetings in January and it was good to catch up with everyone after the holiday break. The talents abound within our group. Some of our members had been quite busy and it was a pleasure to see the beautiful quilts they had produced. Sally Saunders cleverly used crocheted doilies to adorn drainage bags for post-surgery breast cancer patients. Early in the month, Margaret Ferrett and Barbara Malam conducted a workshop to make small sewing cases.

In keeping with our tradition of WWOW achievements, three of our very own won prizes in the recent Canberra Show. Alice Scott won first prize for her boiled fruit cake as well as second prizes for her sultana cake and plum pudding. Margaret Ferrett won third prize in traditional applique quilting. While Kerry Garland won two firsts and a second in hand spinning and hand-spun lace knitting. But there's more. In weaving, not only did Kerry win first prize, reserve champion and the Robbie Beard Memorial Award but she also won Overall Reserve Champion – a grand achievement, indeed.

All women are welcome at WWOW to share stories, news and skills. We meet on 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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I ditched mine, and now I feel so excited I want to share!

Where: Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Wamboin
When: Tuesday 11th March, 7.00-8.30pm
How Much: \$25

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Nature Notes February 2014 Jo Walker

Although the nights have definitely started to get cooler, we had a few daytime temperatures in the high 30s this month. The very welcome storms and showers over the past week or two (about 50mm here) have put a bit of life back into the landscape. It's amazing how quickly the grasses begin to grow again with just a little moisture – green shoots were appearing within two days of the first good fall of rain.

The high temperatures at the beginning of the month were very distressing for the wildlife. The kangaroos are used to coming close to the house to drink out of the water bowls I put out for them, but the Swamp Wallabies are usually much shyer and keep their distance. But, on one scorching day, a female wallaby and her small joey came up to the shadehouse where I was working and drank for nearly ten minutes out of one of the buckets. And, while I

A couple of weeks ago, as I was travelling to Bungendore (with the car window down) I thought I heard what sounded like a lot of Galahs – and, sure enough, in a paddock to the left there was a huge flock of them. There must have been well over a hundred. I've seen large flocks of Galahs in Western NSW, but only small flocks locally.

Another interesting bird sighting was a Pelican on the dam to the right of the road leading into Queanbeyan just after the Sutton Road turnoff. Many years ago (probably about the 1970s) there were flocks of Pelicans in around Lake Burley Griffin during a severe and long-lasting drought to the west. During a walk on Black Mountain one day, I looked down and saw a flock of about ten Pelicans flying in perfect formation just above the surface of the lake. It's not often you see birds from that perspective!

was filling a container with water outside one day, a few spots ended up on the ground and a little Grass Skink dashed over for a drink. I splashed a more substantial amount onto a rock and the little lizard spent some time busily lapping it up.

A surprise find in the garage recently was the detached tail of what must have been a fairly large Sugar Glider. There was a Powerful Owl in this area last year and the tail is the sort of memento left by owls preying on gliders. David McDonald confirmed that the Powerful Owl was probably the culprit.

Recently, two Wedge-tailed Eagles spent some time gliding on the wind currents just to the north of my place. Someone else reported seeing three of them the same day, so they have probably reared a young one this year.



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Wheels of Wamboin



Saturday 17th May 2014 (note change of date)
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(in conjunction with Home Produce Markets)

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Please email peter.evans@wamboincommunity.asn.au
for further information

Finally ... Petrichor in Wamboin!

By David McDonald

It was the evening of 13 February. We had received just 11 mm of rain so far this year, dry, dry, dry!

And then it happened: light rain started to fall and the petrichor became immediately apparent. What a delightful odour, and how welcome it was.

'Petrichor', you ask? I have conducted a small poll and have ascertained that not very many people are familiar with this useful word. If you know it already please skip to the next article. If not, you may care to read on.

In the 1960s, two scientists from the CSIRO Division of Mineral Chemistry in Melbourne, 'Miss I. J. Bear and R. G. Thomas', reflected on the long-standing observation of mineralogists 'That many natural dried clays and soils evolve a peculiar and characteristic odour when breathed upon, or moistened with water...'. What is more, 'It is primarily in arid regions, where the comparative absence of organic matter in the soils and the frequent preponderance of various types of outcropping rocks in the terrain are characteristic features, that this odour is most widely recognized and is frequently associated with the first rains after a period of drought'. That sounds a lot like Wamboin!

Their examination of '...a wide diversity of rocks and mineral aggregates...indicated that the capacity to evolve a characteristic and significant odour on moisturising the previously dry material is by no means confined to clays...In general, materials in which silica or various metallic silicates predominated were outstanding in their capacity to yield the odour.'

Bear and Thomas decided to give a name to this odour, and chose *petrichor*. They wrote: 'The diverse nature of the host materials has led us to propose the name "petrichor" for this apparently unique odour which can be regarded as an "ichor" or "tenuous essence" derived from rock or stone [petr-]'.

Hence the definition of petrichor in the Oxford English Dictionary: 'A pleasant, distinctive smell frequently accompanying the first rain after a long period of warm, dry weather in certain regions'.

And picking up on the old saying that 'it's good enough to be bottled', the authors tell us that petrichor had been the basis of a small perfumery industry near Lucknow, UP, India. The folk there had developed a technique for absorbing petrichor into sandalwood and selling the resulting product under a name that translates as 'earth perfume'.

(The source for the quotations, other than from the OED, is Bear, IJ & Thomas, RG 1964, 'Nature of argillaceous odour', *Nature*, vol. 201, no. 4923, pp. 993-5.)

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin – 39 year statistics from the Robertsons

February rainfall to 23/2	68.5mm	(Feb 2013 ... 65.75)
2014 to 23/2	81.5mm	2013 to 28/2 ... 119.00
Average March rainfall ...	58.4mm	Mar 2013... 19.75
Wettest March ...	303mm in 1989	Driest March ... 3mm in 1986 & 1998
Hottest March day ...	35C on 8/3/83	Coldest March day ... 13C x 3 times (twice in 2012)
Coldest March night ...	3C on 28/3/99	

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St Andrews, Wamboin and St Peters, Sutton Church Notices

The churches of St Andrews, Wamboin, and St Peters, Sutton are community churches where people of all denominations come together for worship and fellowship. All services start at 9am, and are held on the first and third Sundays of each month at St Andrews, and the second and third Sundays at St Peters.

On March, 5th the first day of Lent, there will be an Ash Wednesday service at 6pm at St Peters, Sutton.

In the period of Lent, before Easter, there will be a series of Lenten studies each Tuesday night at 7pm at St Andrews, corner Poppet and Norton Roads. The first session will be on 11th March, but if you are unable to make the first date, you are welcome to join us in the following weeks. It is a chance to consider the Passion story together in a relaxed setting. The last Lenten session will be on 15th April, where we'll share a Passover meal of roast lamb.

Kids Club meets at St Andrews each Friday from 5.30 until 7pm during the school term. Children are encouraged to bring their parents and join in the songs and activities. The children have dinner together before going home. Members of the congregation will once again be at the Sutton Primary School Fair on March 15th running the "Plant in a Painted Pot", stall. All proceeds are donated to the school.

If you consider yourself a Senior, and would like to meet fellow seniors in our community, come to morning tea in St Andrews at 10am on the fourth Tuesday of each month. For further information, please call any of the people listed below. Rev Dr Peter Grundy, 62487913, Peter Cartwright, 62303202 Robyn Robertson, 62383202, Bronwyn Elliott, 62383359, Alan Rope, 62383224

Wamboin 15 years ago - from the Whisper, March 1999 Circulation 600

By Robyn Robertson

"15 years ago, in 1984, the Wamboin Bushfire Brigade was formed. The Brigade is to become autonomous on 1 July, 1984. The following were elected to positions in the Brigade:

President	David Robertson	Captain	John Finn
Vice President	Bob White	Snr Deputy Captain	Lofty Mason
Secretary	Ian Woonton	Deputy Capt	John Padovan
Treasurer	John Padovan	Deputy Capt	Bob White
Equipment Officer	Hank Berlee	Deputy Capt	Peter Kane
Maintenance Officer	Ron Shepherd	Deputy Capt	David Robertson
Training Officer	John Finn		
Activities/PR	Bob White		

So, this is the year to celebrate 30 years of wonderful service by our dedicated volunteers in this most efficient and highly respected brigade. We specially celebrate those stalwart and hardy souls who are still striving to keep us safe. Wamboin salutes and thanks you all.

Dog Training and Behaviour course for Beginners IN BYWONG

A well-behaved dog is a pleasure to own. Spending a little time with your dog each day and knowing just what to ask of your dog is what this course will teach you. You will be learning about basic dog behaviour and psychology, as well as various obedience exercises, such as sit, drop, wait, come and walking on a loose lead. These classes will also discuss dealing with dogs and snakes and how to control dogs around livestock and wildlife, including advice on how to train your dog to avoid snakes. Children are very welcome to the classes, however please discuss with us if your child will need help from an adult throughout the lessons. Class duration: 1 hours Cost: \$135 per dog for 6 weeks. Class limit: 6 people. Please call Heike Hahner on 4842 email hhahner@bigpond.com



Councillor's Corner

Swimming Pools — Readers may not be aware that new laws relating to swimming pool safety come into force from 29 April 2014. From this date, all properties with a swimming pool or spa pool that are sold or leased must have a valid swimming pool Certificate of Compliance (or an appropriate Occupation Certificate issued within the last three years). Drowning is a leading cause of death for children under five years of age, and the purpose of the new legislation is to promote the need for regular checks and maintenance of pool safety barriers, such as fencing.

A swimming pool is defined as an excavation, structure or vessel:

- that is capable of being filled with water to a depth of greater than 300 millimetres
- that is solely or principally used, or that is designed, manufactured or adapted to be solely or principally used for the purpose of swimming, wading, paddling or any other human aquatic activity.

The definition includes in-ground, above-ground, indoor, portable and other types of pools and spa pools that are capable of being filled to a depth of 300mm or more of water. Bathroom spas that are used as baths and emptied after use are not included. Note, however, that the new provisions do apply to "temporary" and portable swimming pools capable of being filled with water to a depth greater than 300mm.

Since October 2013, property owners have been required to register swimming pools and spas (as defined above) on the NSW Swimming Pool Register. Registration is free, can be completed on-line at www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au, and is a pre-requisite for the issue of a Certificate of Compliance. Prospective property buyers can also check on-line if a swimming pool at a given address is registered and whether or not a Certificate of Compliance has been issued.

A swimming pool Certificate of Compliance certifies that the pool and pool barrier (fence) meet current safety requirements. Your local council or a private certifier accredited under the Building Professionals Act can conduct the necessary inspection, and issue a Certificate of Compliance if the swimming pool or spa pool meets all safety requirements. This Certificate of Compliance is then valid for a period of three years. Palerang Council charges \$150 for an initial pool safety inspection, and \$100 for a second inspection if one is required. Accredited certifiers set their own schedule of fees (visit www.bpb.nsw.gov.au for a list of private certifiers).

The owner of a pool may be liable for a penalty of up to \$5,500 for non-compliance with pool safety requirements. For the interested reader, the applicable NSW legislation is covered in the Swimming Pools Act 1992 & Swimming Pools Regulation 2008, the Conveyancing (Sale of Land) Regulation 2010, and the Residential Tenancies Act 2010.

More information is available from the Department of Local Government website at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au, and also from the NSW Swimming Pool Register website (see above).

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

Swimming Pool 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.

- 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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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Six flame robins perched like clothes pegs on the top fence wire, a lone white cockatoo drooping on the uppermost thatch of needles on the tallest pine tree weaving in and out of a backdrop of feathery white clouds, pristine puff balls appearing overnight, freshly washed leaves and the rich smell of damp earth; the relieved sigh from the garden and the bush after the beautiful rain has been almost palpable, and the wildlife has embraced the new rhythm. There is a changed feeling in the air. Can we begin to hope that summer is about to call a truce and autumn assume command.

I had started to wonder if the old man upstairs was determined to pull out all the stops in his efforts to convince Tony, our illustrious leader and global warming sceptic, to see the error of his thinking. Our thermometer on the back verandah had never reached such dizzy heights before as I watched my garden stoically face the intense and seemingly interminable heat. But it's amazing how quickly those plants that survived put on a new face after the rain, and how quickly you forget those burning days as they're replaced with a smudge of green.

But there was one creature that had not entirely given up on summer. As we were walking through the bush the other morning without even working up a sweat, we saw a red bellied black snake slide across the rough ground in front of us. We stopped, and it stopped. It fixed its glassy black eye on us and watched us as we watched it. Then, as we became one with the trees, it went on its way, but not before rewarding us with a spell binding display, perhaps recognising the respect we'd shown it. It slid languidly over a small log, then stretched its ribbed body, turned slightly to expose a now salmon coloured side between dark bands, and was absorbed silently into the leaf litter. One second it was there, and then it was gone. It must have sensed our pleasure because we got an encore! I have seen snakes many times before, not always welcome, but this was special. No expertly filmed nature video could ever surpass the experience of "being there", and I was so glad to have shared this moment with our young people.

And while I am fervently hoping that summer is over, I have been observing "hope personified" on my morning walks with the dog. "Morning", for me, is not confined to a brief window of time but stretches from somewhere between dawn and noon. Each day for the last week I have seen about five chaps contently picnicking beside our picturesque roadside, under the power lines, shaded by a stand of pines. Those not enjoying the pure pleasure of "just being" are plugged, thumbs twitching, into their mobile phone games. As there is no other activity I can only assume that they are waiting, waiting in hope for the fearsome pines to sprout more threatening limbs to inconsiderately drop on the power lines, so they can lop them off now, rather than going to the trouble to leave and come back later to complete the job. Don't get me wrong, I am grateful to have a vigilant electricity provider that monitors our power lines, but "hope" can sometimes be a little misguided..... And perhaps abused?

I wouldn't live anywhere else..... and I hope that I witnessed the robins' debut, and the snake's finale..... and that the season has changed, and summer is largely behind us.

Mudhooks Activities Have Commenced

The 2014 year has commenced for the Bungendore Rugby Football Club with a win in the LTCOL Jack Fletcher GM Memorial Tug-of-War Competition at the Bungendore Show, participation in the Crescent Head Sevens Tournament, the annual general meeting and the start of pre-season training.

The annual general meeting was held on 10 February with Garry Cook being returned as club president, Peter Callander elected senior vice president, Sandy Beggs junior vice-president/treasurer, Alison Cook secretary/registrar and James Pryde club captain. David McDonald has been re-appointed head coach assisted by Sio Langi.

The 2014 season Monaro competition draw has been released with the competition consisting of five teams playing three rounds commencing on Saturday 2 May with Bungendore playing a home game against Jindabyne, and finishing on 6 September with the grand final.

Pre-season training has commenced with training runs being held every Tuesday and Thursday nights at 6:30pm at Mick Sherd Oval. All interested players are welcome to come along to training and should contact the coach on 0422896507.

A player and member registration day will be held in the beer garden at the Royal Hotel on Sunday 6th March from 2:30 pm to 4:00pm, followed by live music. All existing and potential club members and players are warmly invited to attend.

Gary Cook, President

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