

The Whisper

June 2014 CIRCULATION: 1,298

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 Palerang 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 to 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 July 2014 issue the deadline is Sunday, 29 June, 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 Palerang Councillor	Pete Harrison	0427 711 028	cr.pete.harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au
Resident Palerang Councillor	Keith France	0427 365 715	cr.keith.france@palerang.nsw.gov.au
Wamboin Markets	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	
Sutton School Playgroup	Johanna Bradley, Convenor	0406 399 713	johannabradley@dodo.com.au
Landcare	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	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			

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.

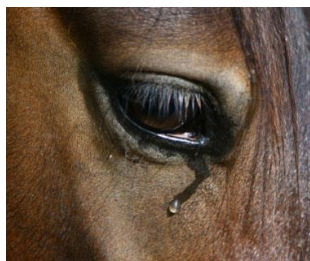
CANBERRA Equine HOSPITAL

Weepy Eyes in Horses by Dr. Natasha Hovanessian

It seems there are many horses at the moment with weepy eyes, and most of these cases have resolved relatively easily. However, because eye conditions can progress rapidly and result in loss of vision, we should always be cautious when horses have discharge running down the face. A few of the main reasons for weepy eyes will be discussed in this article. Keeping a flyveil on your horse (particularly in summer) may reduce spread of infectious eye conditions by flies, but the eyes must be inspected twice daily to ensure they appear normal.



Yellow (mucoïd, mucopurulent) discharge



Clear (serous) discharge

Blocked Tear Ducts

There is a narrow drainage system from the inside corner of the eye down to a small opening in the nostril called the nasolacrimal duct. This thin duct (tube) can easily become blocked from inflammation, infection, foreign bodies, trauma or growths compressing on it. This results in discharge streaming down the face and can become constant. Often the duct can be unblocked with a catheter and saline wash.

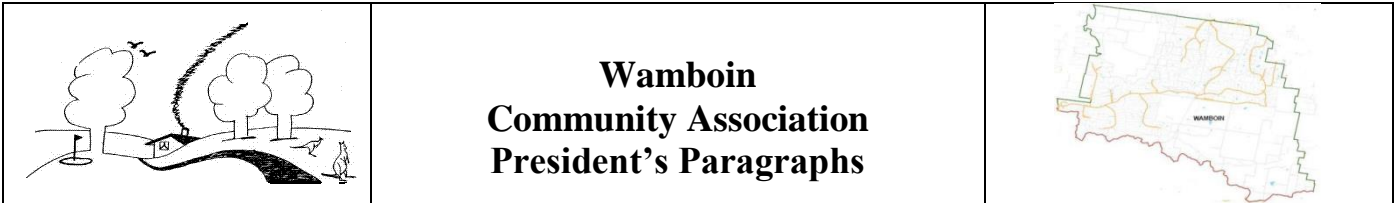
Conjunctivitis

Inflammation of the conjunctiva (the pink tissues around the eye) may be a condition in itself or related to another problem in the eye. Whatever the cause, usually there is discharge from the eye and the tissues become bright pink or red. Treatment will depend on the cause, but often a bacterial infection, foreign body in the eye or irritant-induced/allergic condition is responsible and antibiotics are part of the therapy plan.

Corneal Ulcer

When an object traumatises the surface of the eye (called the cornea), a defect on the eye, referred to as an ulcer, may result. This is potentially a very serious problem and if not treated promptly can result in loss of vision and a need to remove the eye if persistently painful. It may be the horse has rubbed its eye on a tree branch, nail sticking out of a fence or any object that could abrade the eye. A cloudy/white eye means there is a lot of inflammation present in the eye and it should be attended to by a veterinarian promptly, particularly as it's extraordinarily painful for the horse. Most mild abrasions heal with frequent antibiotics placed in the eye and anti-inflammatories. More serious injuries may require surgery for placement of a graft to cover the ulcer and culture of the surface of the eye may be necessary. It is important not to administer old ointments lying around into a sore eye, as they may contain steroids which will hinder ulcer healing or contain the wrong type of antibiotics for the condition. Ongoing inflammation in an eye, from causes including corneal ulcers, can lead to a condition equine recurrent uveitis, where there is chronic, painful inflammation in the eye.

Any Questions, please call **(02) 6241 8888** or email equine@canberravet.com.au.



Hi everyone. Well as predicted May has been quite a busy month.

Parliamentary Secretary Visits – On Tuesday 6th May our federal Member of Parliament, Angus Taylor, arranged a meeting at the Wamboin Community Hall for representatives of some groups to meet with Paul Fletcher, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Communications. Along with a number of others I attended this meeting the purpose of which was to discuss communications difficulties in our local area and thereby raising the awareness of these difficulties to the federal level. There were a number of representatives from Wamboin, including our local RFS brigade, but also representatives from Bywong, and people from as far away as Windella and Murrembatemen. State Emergency Services were also represented. Paul Fletcher listened to what each representative had to say and the message was very clear; that there is a real black spot problem in these areas which does need addressing. I felt that the meeting was a positive one but naturally I cannot say whether our local black spot problems are any closer to being solved. At least our problems have been acknowledged at the parliamentary level. A more in-depth summary of what took place at the actual meeting can be found further in this issue of The Whisper. As President, I thank Angus Taylor for organising this meeting and bringing in the considerable support of Paul Fletcher. It was good to see some federal representation in our local area over an important and on-going problem.

Wheels of Wamboin – The Markets were exceedingly busy this month, due in part to the 2nd Wheels of Wamboin. The weather was great and the cars were interesting and varied along with antique stationary motors. A much more detailed report of the day (including such information as who won the people's choice award etc) will be included further on in this Whisper. Thanks go to Pete Evans (Vice President) for organising such an outstanding event.

That's all for this month. There are a number of articles further in this edition of The Whisper relating either to events I've discussed or others of an interesting nature. I hope you all enjoy them as much as I expect to.

-- Jenny Richards (President)

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**The Dual Sport Motorcycle Riders Association ACT Branch (DSMRA)
would like to notify all residents in the Wamboin area that
Kowen Forest will be CLOSED to the public between**

5pm Friday 20th JUNE 2014 to 12:00 midnight Sunday 22nd JUNE 2014.

This closure does *not* apply to the areas known as Sparrow Hill, Orchard Block or the car park recreation area at the bottom of Molonglo Gorge. The forest will be closed for a non-competitive motorcycling event - the DSMRA's Kowen Forest Ride 2014. This ride is organised as an annual membership drive for our association. It also raises money for charities such as the Snowy Hydro Rescue Helicopter and ACT SES branches. The DSMRA's annual Kowen Forest Ride, originally scheduled for APRIL, was postponed due to rainfall above the limit set by TAMS to allow the event to proceed, and has now been rescheduled to 20-22 JUNE 2014.

Event Information:

All bikes are registered and each rider must have a valid motorcycle licence. All riders are required to comply with the 40km/h speed limit and will not enter the motorsport exclusion zone, particularly the area adjacent to the northern boundary of the forest on "Wamboin Break".

The section of Seven Mile Road adjacent to Wamboin will not be used as a transport section for DSMRA riders, however we have been advised current forestry operations will continue in that area.

Preparations for the DSMRA event will commence from 10:30am Friday 20 June 2014. Riders who have travelled from interstate and intend to camp (at the old Depot site), and suppliers delivering event infra-structure, will start to arrive from this time. Notices will be put up before the event advising of the forest closure. "FOREST CLOSED" signs will be deployed at more than 50 locations around the forest perimeter.

As Kowen Forest is declared closed by TAMS, the DSMRA advises residents, walkers, runners, hikers, horse riders, bicycle riders and any other recreational forest users, not to enter the forest during the closure. Entering the forest during the closure may endanger you, domestic animals, and the DSMRA riders.

As this is not a spectator event there will be NO PUBLIC ACCESS via Seven Mile Road, Kowen Rd (the main gate), Millpost Lane (at either the seismic station gates or the sheep boundary gate), Charcoal Kiln Rd, or any other entry point, for the specified closure period.

The forest will be re-opened to the public from Monday morning after the event.

Please be aware there will be increased traffic on Kowen Rd and areas around the Depot site for preparation on the days before and the tidy up after the event.

If you have any questions, please contact Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) on 6205 9883 or, DSMRA Duty Officer by telephone 0490 456 041 or by email: kowencomm@dsmra.asn.au.

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Bywong Community News

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

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



Trivia Night: With our Trivia mogul safely back from the mysterious east, we can confidently look forward to this year's Trivia night. Watch out for wild flights of fancy among the hard cold facts. If you're planning to take part, don't leave it too long – we have only three of our eight tables left, plus one or two fill-in seats. Tables have a maximum of eight persons. For bookings ring Greg Gougeon on 6236 9841. We shall again enjoy a selection of delicious winter soups, and shall be drawing the raffle organised for the cancelled Car Boot Sale.

RIP 2014 Car Boot Sale: Heavy hearts were the order of the day when the weather forced us to cancel our already-postponed Car Boot Sale - for the first time in 19 years.

Although the scheduled day was frustratingly free of actual rain, the fine weather which fosters our usual social contact and pleasurable stroll was absent. More important in our decision, however, was the potential effect of traffic on the rain-sodden hall grounds and on the areas kindly made available by our neighbours for parking. The heaviest hits are to the sense of community and simple, open-air good fellowship which the event engenders, but we cannot deny it is also a heavy hit to the Community's finances and our ability to give financial support to the local activities. Organisations such as the Fire Brigade and Landcare also suffer financially. We can only promise bigger and better next year – with two years' worth of accumulated treasure.

Winter Solstice Walk – 21st June: Join us for our next Greenway public walk on the shortest day of the year, finishing at the The (Stone) Henge in Bywong. A happy group greatly enjoyed this event last year, and we hope clear skies will treat walkers to a beautiful sunset at 16.48. We will have a fire and refreshments at The Henge to celebrate the shortest day of the year. This next Happy Hearts walk starts near the Bywong Gold Mine in Millyn Road and finishes at Tulip Top Gardens, Old Federal Hwy. The long walk is 6.5km, and a shorter option (3.7kms) walking only along the Old Federal Highway will be available if requested.

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL as we are not walking in a loop and have a complex car shuffle arrangement. Contact [Nora Stewart](mailto:Nora@SetDancing.com.au) Nora@SetDancing.com.au INFORMATION details on bywongcommunity.org.au under **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Celebrating a quarter century of Bywong history: The Community and the Les Reardon Reserve Committee will band together to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Community Hall in Birriwa Road. Designed by a community member and built by community labour using materials supplied by Council, the Hall is a much admired landmark in the area, and is host to a wide range of community activities. Present plans are to combine the event with the Community's Christmas Drinks function in early December, but details are yet to be finalised.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Community will be at 7.30 pm on Monday 9 June in the Community Hall on Birriwa Road. All Bywong residents are welcome – please come! And start thinking ahead to the AGM in August, when any of you willing to join in even the lightest of community activities will be more than welcome.

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You can get more information about this and other events by googling 'Bywong' and going to our website. The 'Wamboin Whisper' is also available on the website every month.



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SATURDAY 21ST JUNE, 2014

Contact – Joan Mason 6238 3258

It's JUNE 2014, and it's our last market before the winter break.

Come along and enjoy the atmosphere of our social market, have a hot coffee, an egg & bacon roll, stock up on dried fruits, nuts, lollies, put some sausage rolls, pies, cakes in the freezer to last you over the 2 month break! Plus all the other lovely items on offer at our markets – Jewellery, cards, plants, soaps, craft, preserves and plenty more.

Hope to see you there.


I would sincerely like to thank Meriel and Lance Schultz, who have volunteered to operate the Wamboin Markets from September 20th. I'm sure they will do a wonderful job, and know that the markets will continue to be a friendly, happy social place to visit after the winter break and months to follow.



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WAMBOIN NEEDS CLEVER PLAN TO FIX MOBILE PHONE BLACKSPOTS

Press Release from the Office of MP Angus Taylor

Federal Member for Hume Angus Taylor has pledged to work closely with the Wamboin community to find a clever plan to fix mobile phone blackspots.

Mr Taylor hosted a visit to Wamboin (and Boorowa) this week by Federal Parliamentary Secretary on Communications Paul Fletcher, who is responsible for the Government's \$100 million Mobile Coverage Programme. "I recognise this is one of the top priorities for people living outside the major centres across my electorate. At the Wamboin meeting we had representatives from Windellama, Bywong, Bungendore, Murrumbateman and Wamboin itself.

"Paul heard very clearly what the issues were around mobile blackspots. He heard small business owners, farmers and community organisations about the impacts on business. He heard from the mayor about impacts on economic growth. He heard from parents and emergency services representatives about the impacts on welfare and lifestyle.

"The main message back from Paul was that we needed to gather information which would make it easier for the telecommunications carriers to fix the problems; can existing television or RFS (Rural Fire Service) towers be used for mobile transmission, are landowners happy to grant road access to base station sites, can councils help with planning approvals. He said Government would look at putting money on the table as an incentive to the carriers – Telstra, Optus and Vodaphone - to bring plans to fruition. As he pointed out, the average cost to build a base station (or tower) from scratch is about \$600,000 and this varies wildly depending on location. Infrastructure costs are a fraction of that, if a tower is already there.

"He also said the Mobile Coverage Programme will involve a competitive selection process in the second half of the year, amongst telecommunications carriers and in relation to potential sites. We need clever plans to leverage as much funding as possible from the carriers.

"I will work hard with councils, community groups and landowners to get the best result."



Annie's Collectables



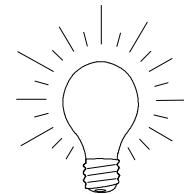
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Australia's Biggest Morning Tea (ABMT) Polly Boiled the Kettle Again in 2014

by Pauline (Polly) Segeri

It is with great pleasure I announce to all of you wonderful supporters that we have raised \$7717.85 in this years morning tea for Cancer Research. Thank you, cause without the support I receive I could not do this. I am also grateful for the weather the Lord sent on 8th May 2014. It became so warm, we had to shelter the food and turn the heating off.

Thank you to so many of you that contributed in so many ways. From local small businesses in Wamboin, Bungendore and Queanbeyan and stretching out to Canberra. The volunteers on the day, many worked before, during and after. It is by far safer for me not to mention names as I am bound to leave someone out. I am forever indebted to each and every one of you. However, I do want to mention a special person in my life - my husband Stefan who works tirelessly before and after the event.

The treat of playing several games of Bingo was a great success giving winners various vouchers to the value of \$20. This was the third year we played and certainly to be repeated again next year.

Activities were ongoing raffles that provided excitement, as guests did not leave empty handed. The very popular guess the weight of the cake competition. Major Raffle had 12 prizes, Stalls of brand new merchandise, trading tables, silent auction, produce and Cancer Merchandise for sale, and offcourse lots of food including hot chips, pumpkin soup and hot drinks made the day even more enjoyable. A stall and a second raffle was organised at the Wamboin Markets. This also was quite successful and gave a boost to the fundraiser.

Last but not least, I sincerely appreciate the gratitude I receive from all of you for my efforts. I am wholly aware, and repeatedly tell you, that I cannot do this without your support. My husband's motto "if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing well". I guess the end result is living proof. With your support, I look forward to organising this very worthy cause in 2015.



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A Perfect Day

by Peter Evans

A perfect autumn day greeted 75 sleeping beauties at the second annual Wheels of Wamboin. The crowd enjoyed the huge variety of vehicles along with a great stationary engine display.

The stationary engine display brought back many memories from a foregone era and provided the background music of chuffing and puffing for the day. These engines were the backbone of many farming districts from shearing to pumping and hark from an era when Australia really did ride on the produce from rural communities. The first car on the scene was our own coffee guru's bright yellow Lotus 7. From here they just kept coming. An amazing parade of vehicles rolled up one after another. The oldest car was a 1925 Willys Overland and probably the newest was a Kawasaki motorbike purchased a week before the show.

The British marques featured several MGB's, a MGF, a Type Y under restoration, a Anglia, a super rare and immaculate Armstrong Siddley utility, a Bentley, a Humber also under restoration, Morris's, Mini's, a beaut and rare Daimler SP250 and a recently restored Riley. A great representation of Jaguars included a modern XK coupe, a XK140 roadster, a wonderful red Mark II and a very original XJ6. The Germans were there with several Mercedes Benz's, Volkswagens and a tidy BMW coupe and Italy chimed in with an X-19 Fiat and a nice Alfa Romeo Brera convertible. The Mustangs turned out

for their 50th anniversary and featured a superb 67 coupe with a 390 big block along with a several fastbacks and a rare 6 cylinder coupe. A bright red Dodge AT4 353 truck made an appearance for the 100 years of Dodge in 2014. A great 1960 Plymouth Belvedere and a 1966 Plymouth Fury convertible s rocked in with a 56 Ford F100. A bit of military nostalgia featured a WWII era Willy's jeep and an Austin Champ Scout Wagon.



A good showing of Falcons were there

with a superb XP wagon, two tubbed XP utes, two perfect XY sedans, a sweet XR ute, a neat XB GS and a couple of clean V8 XC's. The modern era was represented by some BA and FG GT's showing what a pity it is that Ford will soon cease manufacturing these great Aussie performance cars. The Holden's were there with a HX panel van, a rare VP Senator 5000i (or was that a Councillor) and great HQ coupe and a couple of EH's. Just to demonstrate the variety a rare Aussie built Bowell Nagari was on display along with two superb Ariel motorbikes and a Harley.

The people's choice award once again went to a superb 1955 Swallow Doretti but not the same one as last year. This Swallow was red and owned by the brother of last year's winner! The Swallow is only 1 of 276 cars ever made and now two of them have won the award. The Wheels of Wamboin was followed by the first Mille Miglia tour to Gundaroo. A number of cars made the drive and stretched their legs. A fine afternoon sitting on the veranda of the Gundaroo Pub was had by all before a run back to Bungendore finishing up at the Royal Hotel. We hope to make this a feature of the event.

A big thanks to all involved and especially to the Wamboin RFS who supplied a BBQ on the day and to Lofty and Charlie for fixing the driveway to allow the cars to get onto the oval. All entry donations also went to the Fire Brigade. Start polishing those beauties for the next wheels of Wamboin on the 18th of April in 2015.



Registered Family Day Care –Wamboin

Looking for quality child care in the Wamboin/Bywong area with a registered family day care provider. Please contact the Queanbeyan Family Day Care Scheme on 6285 6253 (BH).



The Wamboin Firefighter

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

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS, ring triple zero (000)

What's required of you should you want to light a fire in the open? Our short, regular reminder about 'burning off' appears later in this newsletter. This month's newsletter begins with a short quiz.

FIRE SAFETY QUIZ

Q #		True OR False
1.	South-eastern Australia is one of the most bushfire prone areas in the world.	
2.	After a wet winter there's much less chance of fires in summer.	
3.	Bush or grass fire – it won't happen to me.	
4.	The Fire Danger Rating for our area may be different from the A.C.T.	
5.	Some kinds of BBQs are 'okay' to use on a Total Fire Ban day.	
6.	I've cleared up around my property so I'm prepared for bushfire.	
7.	There will always be a fire truck or helicopter available to fight a bush fire threatening my home.	
8.	If I know the back roads and tracks in my locality well, it will be ok for me to leave at the very last minute.	
9.	Someone will tell me when it is time to leave.	
10.	It's too dangerous to stay and defend your home on a Catastrophic day.	

Answers appear later in this newsletter.

BRIGADE ACTIVITY

Callouts

There were three callouts in May. The first was on Monday 5 May at 8.47pm and involved a single vehicle accident on Macs Reef Rd. The second callout was on Friday 9 May at 6.13am, when the brigade was called to an accident involving a vehicle and motorcycle on the Federal Highway beside Lake George. The third callout – Thursday 22 May at 11.20am - followed a request of the Palerang Council ranger and, under direction from the Fire Control Centre (FCC), led to a crew in one of the brigade's heavy tankers attending a pile burn that included building materials that were suspected to also include asbestos. The fire was extinguished. Hazardous material procedures were followed under direction of a District Officer from the FCC.

Community Engagement

Sat 17 May - several residents, including newcomers to the area, took the opportunity to discuss their property preparations with members of the Community Engagement Team at the Brigade's information shopfront located between the busy Wamboin Markets and the very popular Wheels of Wamboin event on the community oval where there was a great turnout of groupies/ fanatics and the simply curious who ogled and drooled their way around the exciting line-up of machines.

The Brigade's Support Crew was also on-hand from mid morning having set up their famous BBQ facility on the Oval with offerings that complemented the hot food available at the Markets.

We also take this opportunity to again thank the organisers of the Wheels of Wamboin for the support in donating to the Brigade the 'gold coin' display entry fees collected from the participants.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues 10 June	WRFB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Fire Station, 112 Bingley Way Wamboin @ 7.30pm.
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BURNING OFF

A continuing reminder at this time of the year - outside the Statutory Bush Fire Danger Period, you may light a fire in the open without a **Fire Permit**. **But**, if you do plan to light a fire in the open (other than a cooking fire in a properly prepared and attended site), regardless of its size, you are still required by law to notify the local Fire Control Centre and your adjoining neighbours (including those separated by a road, lane or waterway) of your intention to burn at least 24 hours before lighting up. Your neighbours may be exposed to the smoke from your burn and may need to make preparations to avoid any negative impacts (medical conditions, impacts on sensitive crops, livestock and pets). To notify our local Fire Control Centre (in Queanbeyan), call 6128 0600 (weekday business hours only – no later than mid-Friday for the weekend/ closed on Public Holidays).

Fire management, including containment of a fire originating on your property, is your responsibility. The area around the fire site has to be cleared of any flammable material, you need to wear suitable clothing, you must remain in attendance while-ever the fire is alight, and have an immediate and sufficient water supply available to control the fire. There are significant penalties if an illegal fire is lit, or if the fire escapes and causes damage to property or the environment.

If you would like further guidance you can ask the Fire Control Centre (6128 0600) for additional advice, or contact the Brigade Captain (0409 991 340) for copies of the RFS pamphlets ‘Lighting a Fire – Quick Facts’, ‘Before You Light That Fire’ or ‘Standards for Pile Burning’, or view and download the same pamphlets from the NSW RFS website at <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au>

If a fire that you have lit escalates to become more than you can handle, don’t hesitate; immediately call the Emergency Triple Zero number (000).

Answers to Fire Safety Quiz

Q #	True OR False	Explanation
1.	True	South-eastern Australia has the reputation of being one of the most fire prone regions in the world. The Australian climate is generally hot, dry and prone to drought. In the southeast, occasional strong winds often associated with summertime cold fronts can lead to extreme fire danger. Because we live in a bushfire prone area, it’s important to check the Fire Danger Rating daily during the bushfire danger period, and have a bush fire survival plan. Other bush fire prone areas in the world include California and Spain.
2.	False	Rainfall fuels the growth of vegetation – especially grass – meaning that higher rainfall can result in greater fuel loads for fire. In years of wet weather NSW often sees an increase in the number of large grass fires and bush fires. It only takes a couple of weeks of hot, dry and windy weather to create dangerous fire conditions.
3.	False	No one can guarantee that it won’t happen to them. If you prepare and nothing ever happens then you have lost nothing. If you don’t prepare your family and home in order to best protect them from a bush fire you may live to regret it.
4.	True	Fire Danger Ratings can be different between the A.C.T. and surrounding areas of NSW due to varying landscapes and weather conditions.
5.	True	You may use a gas or electric BBQ, but only if: It is on a residential property within 20 metres of the house It is in a designated picnic area and the BBQ is approved by Council, National Parks or State Forests It is always attended by a responsible adult The ground within two metres of the BBQ is cleared of all materials which could burn You have an immediate and continuous supply of water available.
6.	False	Clearing up around your property is just one part of planning and preparing for bushfire. You need a well thought-out bushfire survival plan, which has been agreed and discussed with members of the household. While leaving early is always the safest option, there are many things you can do to prepare you and your family for bushfire.
7.	False	There will never be as many fire trucks as there are houses. Do not depend on a fire truck being available at your home.
8.	False	Smoke from a fire can limit visibility. You may become confused or disorientated. Power lines and fallen trees on roads may be hard to see, making driving dangerous. It is always better to leave early before the fire arrives.
9.	False	That’s right - don’t wait to receive a warning. Fires can often threaten suddenly and there may not always be time. It’s up to you to know when to leave. It’s your responsibility to make the best possible decision for your family based on the current Fire Danger Rating and, should there be any, official warnings for your area.
10.	True	Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in Catastrophic conditions. Catastrophic days are rare – when forecast they are very serious. For your survival, leaving early i.e. the night before or early in the day is the only option.

How many questions could you correctly answer?

Now is a good time to work up or refresh your Bush Fire Survival Plan. The NSW RFS website offers a template and other complementary information and publications that you can view or download at <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au>

FURTHER INFORMATION

Wamboin Brigade Website

The site will help you monitor local conditions and Brigade announcements. The **Community Information** section has useful information plus links to other websites including the NSW Rural Fire Service that provide guidance for preparation against bush and grass fires. The Brigade website address is <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

And finally...

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

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

WAMBOIN AUTUMN GOLF

by Larry King

Despite the near perfect weather, It was unnecessary to call on the minions of the law to control the throng which gathered for the “Retired Sailors’ and Airmen’s Day” at the Wamboin course on Sunday, 11 May. The phrase “beautiful day” got more use than Joe Hockey’s red pen. Our grateful thanks to Tim Barter and Paul and Diana Griffin for providing the prizes and post competition refreshments which included curry puffs and egg-and-lettuce sandwiches, setting the bar higher for next time. They spoiled it by insisting that the day’s play be scored on the Stableford system which makes the Income Tax



Assessment Act look child-like in its simplicity. Back at the 19th a *frisson* of excitement ran through the crowd when it was announced that A. Scott had got nearest the pin at Ron’s Dam Hole, but it turned out to be a chap in a kilt with an impenetrable accent. Furthermore it was pointed out that unlike Pope Kyril I (or III) Adam Scott did not possess the gift of bi-location. Other nearest-the-pins were: Ryan Kitchen 3! (referred to ICAC in view of close relationship with office-bearer); Tim Barter 2; Pete Harrison and Ken Gordon. The 9 hole junior winner was Alex Gordon, narrowly pipping his sister, Madison. The senior 9 holes was a dead heat between Joan Mason and Ken Gordon. The 18 hole comp was won by Ryan Kitchen with Pete Harrison snapping at his heels.

Over tea and cake - and a few neck oils - your correspondent moved that there should be no future departures from the day’s traditional scheduling on the first Sunday of the month. He was accused of being a Jesuit - ruthlessly suppressing heresy - which you’ll have to admit is pretty flash banter for a rural golf club. In defence he asserted his only connection to the Black Robes, a group which as a Shinto Catholic he held in admiration, was a neighbour who had gone to the same school as Tony Abbott. But enough of religion and politics: that is a slippery slope which leads to you know where. As the shades of night fell fast, the typical Wamboin spirit of good will and *bonhomie* returned as golfers departed for the home fires after the day’s sport. Next month it will be Lambert Vineyards turn to host the day which will be 1 June. Please join us as we kick our way through Autumn’s golden gown (with acknowledgement to Jeff Wayne).

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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

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- homewares
- greeting cards
- beads & findings
- pottery & ceramics
- local grown plants
- prints & paintings
- fruit & vegetables
- clothing & footwear

St Peter's Sutton and St Andrew's Wamboin – Church Notices

by Phil Elliot

1 June	St Andrew's Wamboin	9am Morning Prayer
8 June	St Peter's Sutton	9am Morning Prayer
15 June	St Andrew's Wamboin	9.am Holy Communion
22 June	St Peter's Sutton	9.am Holy Communion
29 June	St Peter's Sutton	9.am Holy Communion, St Peter's Patronal Festival

St Andrews Wamboin 24 June: The Warblers meet 10.am., Kids Club meet Fridays 5.30 – 7.pm

St Peter's Sutton: A great time was had by all at the recent St Peter's Bonfire Night held on the 10 May. This was a happy , fun event with families and friends "catching up". It was wonderful to see all the children. Once again hot chocolate was the favourite . Your Friends at St Peter's thank you for joining us.

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin – 39 Year Statistics from the Robertsons		
May rainfall to 25/5 ... 13.5mm	May 2013 ... 11.75mm	2014 to 25/5 ... 257.5mm
2013 to 31/5 ... 162.5mm	Average June rainfall ... 58.8mm	June 2013 ... 105mm
Wettest June ... 189mm in 1997	Driest June ... 8mm in 1979	Hottest June day...17C twice
Coldest June day ... 3C on 9/6/2011	Coldest June night... -6C on 9/6/1996	

Does Anyone Know How Weerona Drive or Macs Reef Road Or Joe Rocks Road or Bywong or Wamboin Got Its Name?

Years ago, when new here, B.G.,(before Google) I was curious about the name Weeroona. It is Aboriginal, but which tribe? I used to travel to Burwood quite regularly then, using the Centenary Drive near Rookwood cemetery. One of its private access roads was Weeroona Road. Checking my Sydney directory to check my facts, there are eight roads in and around Sydney with that name and spelling. There is also an island in the Spencer Gulf near to Port Pirie called Weeroona Island Further searching gave me the meaning as Resting Place. It might be apt for Rookwood, but I haven't had much resting over the.27-28 years since I moved here, always something needs working on.

Perhaps we might start a new section that other folk from roads around here might explain their road names. I know that Macs Reef has an interesting history. What about Joe Rocks? Also why Wamboin? When we first came here we were told by the Post Office we could call ourselves Bywong or Wamboin! What do they mean or who were they? – Dianne Royal

PALERANG COUNCIL

LIVING WITH HERITAGE IN PALERANG


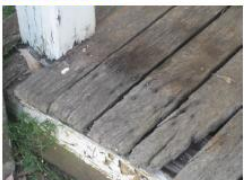
- How do I replace or fix up old windows?
- What do I do about cracks in the wall?
- Can I replace the old roof?
- Can I make changes or do additions and when do I need to seek Council permission?
- Do I need to have a heritage garden?
- Is our street verge heritage?
- What can be done to combat rising damp?
- How do I find out about my family, my locality and my home's history?

As a winter solstice event, the Palerang Heritage Advisory Committee is planning a living-with-heritage-assistance workshop in Braidwood to hear your concerns and answer your questions.

Where: The Braidwood Hotel
When: Sunday 22nd June 2014, from 1:30PM-5:00PM
There will be Afternoon Tea.

In order for us to prepare the best answers possible, it would help if you could send us your questions in advance.

RSVP: Friday June 6th 2014 to Cr Peter Marshall
Phone: 62366011
Email: cr.peter.marshall@palerang.nsw.gov.au

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The Capital Region Farmers Market - Next on the Agenda at Sutton Landcare

The next meeting of Sutton Landcare is on Tuesday 10 June at 7.30 pm at Sutton school. At 8.00 pm our guest speaker, Bill Watson, will address us on the Capital Region Farmers Market and related issues. Bill is a member of the Rotary Club of Hall where he has been Director of the Market and responsible for compliance. He is also the Principal of Watson Agriculture Resources and Environmental Consulting.

Bill's address will provide an in depth analysis of the nature, history and objectives of this market, market rules- in particular compliance and the authenticity of suppliers and produce- and issues of legislation, waste disposal and competition. He will also outline projects funded by the income earned by the Market.

Bill has had a long and distinguished career as an analyst and researcher in rural, environmental and natural resource issues at the former Bureau of Agricultural Economics, as a visiting Fellow at the CRES unit at ANU and as a private consultant.

Bill and family graze cattle on a small farm out on the Yass River Road – “Greenfield Farm”. He has participated in a River Restoration Project and the construction of a “fish friendly culvert” on the Yass River on their property - conducted by the Murrumbidgee CMA and the Yass Valley Council.

With his extensive background in the economics and science underlying agricultural and natural resource issues and his experience as Market director and as a local farmer, Bill is uniquely placed to provide a detailed perspective on the extraordinarily popular Capital Region Farmers Market.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Further details of the event may be obtained from Sutton Landcare Secretary Tony Redman (ph 62303266). -- David Vincent (President)

Wamboin 15 years ago – from the Whisper, June 1999 Circulation: 800

by Robyn Robertson

Mr John Milton from the Capital Airport Group addressed the May meeting of the WCA on the future development of Canberra Airport and the possible effects on the surrounding region.

The airport was established on its existing site in 1927 and came under RAAF control in 1940. In 1989 the Federal Airports Corporation assumed control of the western civil aviation side of the airport. In 1998 the Commonwealth sold a 50 year lease plus a 49 year option to Canberra International Airport Pty. Ltd. The sale included the RAAF Base Fairbairn which was leased back to the RAAF for a five year period to enable relocation. The VIP fleet remained.

Mr Milton discussed the Year 2020 Master Plan for the development of the airport, and reported that aircraft noise should not be an issue for Wamboin as the area “is way outside any zones affected by noise, at least by Australian and International Standards.”

Over the next 10 years the terminal area is to be developed to allow for the Very High Speed Train terminus. The aircraft apron and terminal are to be expanded with opportunities to enhance regional airline networks and international flights and new aviation-related commercial businesses including aircraft maintenance and freight forwarding.

The year 2020 forecast for international flights is about 24 per week.

-- From Councillor Greenwood's “Yarrowlunla Council News” report.

Training your Puppy and Dog Naturally

A well-behaved dog is a pleasure to own and in our classes we will be focusing on solving common issues in training pups and dogs such as:

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In-your-home training also available

The classes run for 6 weeks @ 1 hour per week. Children are very welcome.

For more information, please call Heike Hahner on 4842 7143

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web: heike.braidwoodnsw.com

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Wildcare's Winter Sleepovers

Wildcare makes every effort to rehabilitate and release injured and orphaned reptiles, snakes and turtles before the winter sets in, to give them a chance to settle down and find somewhere to hibernate. 'Greedy' (picture) is an eastern long necked turtle that was ready to go and was released in early autumn - back into the wild. Wildcare does not have permanent care animals, the idea is to rehabilitate and then release wildlife back into their habitat. But with the best will in the world, some animals have to be kept in care over winter.

Compared to outdoor living, Wildcare accommodation can be five-star. Lesley who is looking after two eastern long necked turtles said, "The turtles have cracked shells, which have been repaired in a particular way. The shells are growing back and healing. The turtles normally hibernate in winter, but these will be kept awake and won't be released until spring. However, with a two-metre long tank of warm filtered water to swim in and overhead lamps they will be in great comfort. On the menu are feeder fish to eat and chopped prawns every few days."



Wildcare rescues and cares for all injured or orphaned species and currently there is a brown snake in care. Wayne, the Wildcare Snake Coordinator, said "This injured brown snake was rescued in Yass several months ago and is still with us. He spends most of his time in a secure specially designed box. With a heat tile to lie on and the occasional mice to feed on - what better way to snooze through winter?" This snake is doing well, but timing was wrong for release prior to winter.

There are a few lizards too. A dog killed a blue tongue lizard, however Wildcare was able to save four live young from inside the mother's body. Belinda, Wildcare's Reptile Coordinator, said "They are too small to be released and will stay in care until spring. They started off at 14 grams and 10 centimetres, but are now much bigger. They are kept in a large, temperature-controlled tank with a hide, water dish and rocks to bask on under an overhead lamp. On the menu are meat, veggies and fruit! The litter was split up to help them all thrive and they should do well."

One thing to think about if we are tidying up around the yard and property is to be aware that there may be a reptile or snake slumbering under old tin or rocks and timber on the ground. Most dams will have a number of turtles loitering in the mud. Take care and if wildlife is disturbed contact Wildcare on 6299 1966 for advice.

With just a couple of weeks to the end of the financial year, how about donating to your local *Wildcare* and get a tax-

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deductible receipt – visit www.Wildcare.com.au to see how this can be done. – Philip Machin, 6238-3717

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Help ! We Can't Find Your House

It has been a long time since we all attached the supplied address numbers to our property many years ago when the new rural address numbering came in to play.

Since then, many have fallen off or faded to a condition where they cannot be read. As a member of the RFS, we are often called out to incidents including fires and have even provided assistance to the NSW ambulance service during medical emergencies. We all need to find an address quickly. It is harder at night. If you did not know, the first response fire truck to a house fire maybe from Queanbeyan fire station who are unfamiliar with this area. I think many could benefit including the postie and electrical energy service providers if we were to look at our own numbers when we next drive home.

Ask yourself, "Could someone else easily find your place if you only gave them the street number, especially if it was dark?" The reflective backed signs with large black numbers are even better, especially at night and are usually available at your local hardware store. If you want something bigger, any of the local sign makers advertising in the yellow pages can make something up for you. Really it is a small price to pay to ensure any emergency service can find you quickly and your mail and other deliveries also get there.

The letter box is usually always visible from a driving vehicle so ideally, one on the letterbox (if you have a dead end road) and two (if it is a through road) as someone looking for your property could be travelling from either direction. Also one near the gate/entrance to your property (not on your gate as when opened you can't see it) is preferable as many letterboxes are some distance or offset from the gate or there might be multiple gates/entrances together which also can be confusing.

- Don Evans

Tax time

With little under a month until the end of the tax year you should be thinking about reducing your income with deductible expenses, which lower your tax bill. I advise people to become properly informed about deductible expenses because the money must be spent upfront to be a valid deduction. Don't rely on what you hear at a barbecue and remember that a self-employed person's deductions often do not apply to a PAYG employee. This is because many of the overheads of conducting business are covered by an employee's workplace whereas business owners and self-employed people have to cover their own administrative costs.

Take home tip

get in the habit of filing receipts and invoices, keep a running tally of your deductible expenses. By being organised you'll be more accurate in your tax returns always having records to substantiate your claim.

Do you have general work-related deductions such as income protection insurance?

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- 2010 Sauvignon Blanc \$15 each \$10 by doz

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GOOLABRI & IRON BAR

Event / Gig Guide

EVENTS	GIGS
<p>Every Thursday Happy Hour 5pm - 7pm Cheap Drinks / Meal Deals</p> <p>Every Friday Happy Hour 5pm - 7pm Cheap Drinks / Meal Deals</p> <p>Every Sunday Acoustic Sessions 2pm - 4pm</p> <p>Sat 14th -15th June - AFRO MOSES (Australian Tour) with Beth n Ben, Raio De Sol Samba Band and DJ Rafa Chango.</p> <p>21th June - Late August Truffle Festival</p> <p>Goolabri Golf Course Finally CanTeen Charity Weekend Sat 28th - Sun 29th June</p> <p>Raw Kinetics winter retreat Sun 29th June</p>	<p>Sun 1st June - The Acoustic Sessions Matt Dent</p> <p>Sun 8th June - The Acoustic Sessions Derryth Nash</p> <p>Sat 14th June - AFRO MOSES (Australian Tour) with Special guests www.afromosesojah.com Tickets at www.goolabri.com.au</p> <p>Sun 15th June - The Acoustic Sessions AFRO MOSES -The Spirit of Bob Marley</p> <p>Sun 22th June - The Acoustic Sessions Man a Man a Mwnci</p> <p>Sun 29th June - The Acoustic Sessions Minh Ha</p> <p>Sun 6th July - The Acoustic Sessions Matt Dent</p> <p>Sun 13th July - The Acoustic Sessions - Derryth Nash</p> <p>Sun 20th July - The Acoustic Sessions - Stu Tyrrell</p>

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IRON BAR

Saturday Night 14th June - **AFRO MOSES (Australian Tour)** with Beth n Ben, Raio De Sol Samba Band and DJ Rafa Chango. www.afromosesojah.com Tickets at goolabri.com.au

Sun 15th June - 2pm The Acoustic Sessions **AFRO MOSES The Spirit of Bob Marley**

Afro Moses is a multi-award winning, international artist, who was a teenage star in his native country of Ghana, West Africa. Nicknamed the African James Brown for his funky music and dance styles, he was noticed by one of Bob Marley's tour managers and taken to Europe. From there he started to tour the world, including a few guest shows with the Wailers. Afro Moses is a singer, multi-instrumentalist and composer.

Having played at some of the world's biggest music festivals, Moses has shared the stage with icons such as Miriam Makeba, Salif Keita, Ziggy and Rita Marley, The Wailers and many more.

His 'AFRO SPIRIT 4 IN 1' multi instrument solo performances replicate the big sound of 4 musicians playing. Using traditional African instruments (Afro can play 14 in total) and blending them with modern grooves and technology to create a fusion of hot rhythms that no one can resist dancing too!

AFRO MOSES SPIRIT OF BOB MARLEY ACCOUSTIK !!
Despite having his own music, it's essential for Moses to pay tribute to one of his greatest idols, reggae legend, Bob Marley. Expect a colourful, high energy performance with him and his Spirit solo band, a lot of dancing and a chance to sing along...however, also be prepared for an Afro Moses flavour...afro beats, reggae, raga and percussion.

Expect a colourful, high energy performance with his different instruments from Africa . Also be prepared for a spiritual, insightful and educational journey with an Afro Moses flavour...afro beats, reggae, funk, raga, powerful tribal voice, percussion and much more. Fusing the beauty of traditional African.


The stage show guarantees to uplift, transport, inspire and move all involved. Dance, jump, sing, sweat and shout to these infectious grooves.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61B0qVI2eac>

Search for: The Wailers band featuring AFRO MOSES @Enmore Theatre on 3rd October 2006

Watch: YOUTUBE link!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61B0qVI2eac>

STRANGE HOURS PRESENTS



GHANA'S AFRO MOSES
Iron Bar CANBERRA - 2 shows

Sat 14th June 2014
Afro Spirit 4 in 1
special guest Beth n Ben, Raio De Sol Samba Band and DJ Rafa Chango.

Sun 15th June 2014
The Acoustic Sessions 2pm
SPIRIT OF BOB MARLEY ACCOUSTIK !!

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STRANGE HOURS

#HashTAG by Steve Richards

As webmaster of the WCA website I've been meaning to write an icle or two for some time, about new computing technologies & innovation. On this occasion I've been prompted to write about Facebook.



Launched in 2004 by founder Mark Zuckerberg - Facebook in simple terms is an interactive global forum, about everything, available to everybody. Sounds great! More specifically it is a website-based system, that allows users to instantly publish textual and multimedia content, allowing their selected 'friends' or the wider Facebook community to view. It can be used for trivial and serious purposes – it all depends on the community of users in question. Privacy setting within Facebook fully controls what information and actions are available to be seen by other. Users can register their interest to receive information from other content producers by “Like” 'ing their pages. This results in a 'new feed', which is the compiled listing of posts from friends, interest groups & websites, presented for easy perusal.

Ten years on from it's original release, Facebook now has over 1.2 billion active users. Facebook's rise to fame can be directly linked with the success of smartphones.

For some people Facebook is unfamiliar, and to some other it can be a 'way of life'. Why the divergence? We see many negative news reports about Facebook; and the lack of good telecommunications services denies the opportunity for some to access social media. There have been a few good news stories, but not many. The obvious answer is that there is a generational divide. For the very young, computers and Facebook have always been there, for older generations it's a new phenomenon, and it can be daunting for the uninitiated.

One of the most powerful features of Facebook, is the ability to build community interest groups. Facebook allows like-minded people to easily communicate and collaborate in a manner not previously devised. Members of interest groups do not need to be geographically co-located, and are not constrained by race, gender, or religion. Groups can be private, invitational, or fully open. Clubs and local associations, charities, and event organisers can use Facebook to spread a message, or to garnish support for their cause.

At present there are a few Facebook groups that support the Wamboin and Bywong community. Local residents can get updates on what's happening in our region, post questions, receive notices & news, post a wanted add, support a school, or just post an observation or opinion on a subject. If you are on Facebook and you are not aware of the following groups you might consider becoming a member. If you are not a member and you want to give it a go, then you could create a private account and link to just these groups.

Bywong and Wamboin Hub
Wamboin Notice Board
Sutton Primary School

Sutton Country Fair nd Ute Muster (annual event)
A High School For Bungendore
Greenways Bywong & Wamboin

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Up to \$200 paid for information resulting in the purchase of my new property in the Bungendore area! **10 -15 acres** to keep my 3 steeds, safely fenced with a dam and ideally feed shed and shelter, **3 bedroom home** - fully functional - not a renovater's dream! - but basic/kit home ok. No mansion with pebbled circular driveway required.

Alternatively, safely fenced block that size with dam, power, good access and **building permit** for a 3 bedroom kit home. Prefer flat to hilly, low or no noxious weeds, reasonably safe during fire danger periods -ie no combustible trees like pines, conifers, eucalypts close to the house or lining driveway.

As close as possible to Bungendore, 5 - 10 minutes ideal, but will consider up to 15 minutes out. With home, under \$500,000. Without home, under \$350,000. Thank you. – Brigitte Heyer,
Email to guitarsiren@gmail.com

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Nature Notes May 2014

Jo Walker

After some low temperatures at the beginning of May, the days have warmed up again with quite high temperatures for this time of the year. Only a few millimetres of rain fell early in the month, but some areas are still holding a fair amount of moisture in the soil.

The warm weather seems to be causing a bit of confusion amongst the plants with some usually spring-flowering species already showing some colour. There are two *Dillwynia juniperina*, tall spiky-leaved shrubs, near my fence. One is still covered in clusters of silvery buds while the other one is already sporting its yellow and red pea flowers.

Very few of the Little Dumpy Orchids (*Diplodium truncatum*) flowered this autumn, but the earlier rains seemed to have favoured their growth – there are now large patches of green, ground-hugging rosettes here. There are about fifteen populations of this orchid at my place, some with only a dozen or so rosettes but one population now covers nearly two metres of damp soil.

The warm weather also means that the occasional snake is still to be seen. I was looking at some paw marks on a smooth-barked tree recently when I glanced down and realized I was occupying a space uncomfortably close to a large dark-coloured snake with a yellowish belly. Although it didn't have any discernible bands on its body I believe it was a Tiger Snake. It didn't move and I thought it might be dead, but eventually it slithered under a pile of debris near the tree.

The Sulphur-crested Cockatoos are spending a lot of time in the afternoon on the ground feeding on plant material – pulling off strands of the straggly little Nodding Saltbush, *Einadia nutans*, and digging up *Cymbonotus lawsonianus* (Austral Bear's-ear). At this time of the year, they also feed on underground tubers and, last year, demolished a patch of Vanilla Lilies (*Arthropodium milleflorum*) that I'd planted. However, the lilies soon put up one or two leaves and have almost recovered to their former state. The local wildlife may occasionally appear (to human eyes) to damage vegetation, but it usually makes a full recovery fairly quickly.

There have been plenty of Gang-gang Cockatoos around recently. The birds I've seen here all looked like adults, but, last week, I caught sight of three Gang-gangs in a Bundy tree (*Eucalyptus goniocalyx*) Two of them were busy feeding on the seed capsules and definitely adults, but the other one was a juvenile. It was creaking quietly and monotonously to get its mother's attention and some regurgitated food – unsuccessfully for the few minutes I was watching.


Last week, there were huge numbers of bugs (Scutellaridae) on a Cherry Ballart tree (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*) near the road. They were small (about a centimetre in length) and a mottled black, grey and yellowish colour with a V-shaped pattern on their backs. There were so many of them that the tree looked as if it was weighed down with flowers. A few days later, they were all gone, probably seeking sheltered places to hibernate during the coming winter.

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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 P1 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

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

Lesley Page Valley View Ln 4

Colleen Foster B'dore Rd to Nrtn Rd 23
 Cassie Fisher Clare Ln 12
 Dominica Lorima North end Clare Valley 42

250: 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

179: 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

135: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484

Diana Griffin Majors Close 18
 Advertisers & Misc (Out of area mailouts) 41
 Palerang Council Council Offices 14

TOTAL 1,298

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 Nwgn& 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 39
 Misc 1

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

David Featherston Summerhill and Creekborough Rds 26
 Richard Holding Wyoming & Doust Rds 25
 Chris Fowler Shinglehouse & Millyn Rds 20

Will Noel Weeroona (Majors to Denley) 36
 Palerang Council Council Offices 14
 Attila & Cherry Hrgsi. Snowgum Rd 26



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Councillor's Corner

Road Infrastructure — We've held a number of community information sessions over the past couple of years, in conjunction with major road works, to help people understand the road building process. We've also presented some background information on council's road infrastructure that I thought may be of general interest.

Like many rural shires, Palerang's most expensive 'piece' of infrastructure is its transport network, its roads and bridges, and like most rural shires, with a large geographical area and relatively small population, it is the most challenging to maintain. The Palerang LGA covers 5,134 km², and includes around 1440 km of roads, around 600 km sealed and 800 km unsealed. There are also 129 bridges, 22 of which are still of timber construction and nearing the end of their operational life.

From a funding perspective, however, not all roads are created equal. Throughout the State, there is a road management hierarchy of State, Regional and Local Roads.

Funding for the maintenance of State roads is provided by the State, although works are often contracted to local councils. The Kings Highway (Main Road 51, or MR51), Sutton Road (MR52), and Braidwood Road (MR79) are all State roads, maintained under contract by Palerang Council—they don't cost us anything.

The Palerang LGA also contains around 231 km of Regional Roads, being Tarago Road (MR268), Captains Flat Road (MR270), Nerriga Road (MR92), Macs Reef/Bungendore Road (Regional Road 7607 or RR7607) and Cooma Road (RR7625). The significance of Regional Road status in the present context is that the State provides some funding that can only be used for the maintenance of Regional Roads. In fact, around 75% of the 2013/2014 road maintenance grant budget of \$2.2M was only for use on Regional Roads. The State also determines what roads will be classified as Regional Roads, so we can't just make all our roads Regional Roads to take advantage of this funding opportunity.

The remaining 1,000 km or so of roads in the shire are local roads, which must be maintained primarily with revenue derived from rates, supplemented by a small amount of State grant funding. Balancing the road maintenance needs of the different parts of the shire is a major challenge for Council come budget time each year.

To put this funding into a bit more perspective, it costs around \$3.50/m² to reseal a road—that's about \$30,000/km. Rehabilitation, which is the complete (re)construction of a road, starts at about \$350,000/km, for a road that does not require any major excavations.

Many people do not realise that sealing a road is not the end of the story. Apart from ongoing maintenance of pavement failures, even a perfectly good sealed pavement requires periodic resealing. Under normal conditions, the sun alone causes the gradual deterioration of a bitumen surface, causing it to become brittle. If it is not resealed periodically, the surface will ultimately crack and break up.

The industry standard return period for a sealed road is 7–12 years, and for major rehabilitation is 30–50 years. Council's current funding supports a reseal interval of around 22 years, and a rehabilitation interval of around 110 years, so we are steadily losing ground on this front. The difference between best and actual practice is what is commonly referred to as the *infrastructure backlog*, a problem facing most NSW councils, rural councils in particular.

Just to complete the picture, resheeting, which is the resurfacing of unsealed roads (not to be confused with simply grading them), costs \$20,000–\$25,000/km, with a pavement life of 7–10 years. Council is currently running at around 30 years between resheets of its gravel roads.

Of course, this is not all there is to road maintenance. There are also the routine activities such as patching potholes, and the maintenance of signage, guide posts and railing. Fortunately, it's a little easier to manage these activities, so if you notice a pothole opening up, or damaged signs, guide posts or protective railing, please report them to council. We can only fix the things we know about.

On top of the roads themselves, we have 121 bridges to maintain, all from the same budget. But that's a story for another time.

The Palerang Blog—A new in my councillor website Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>): Road Infrastructure

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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