

The Whisper

July 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 August 2014 issue the deadline is Sunday, 27 July, 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.

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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	Geoff Foster, Captain	0409 991 340	captain.brigade@wamboincommunity.asn.au
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	Meriel Shultz, contact	6233 3309	
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

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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
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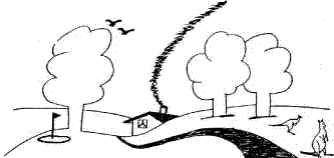
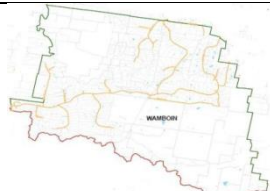
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	<p>Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs</p>	
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Hello all and isn't it cold and miserable? Only two items of interest this month.

Wamboin Markets – Our monthly produce markets have now gone into their winter hiatus for the next two months. There will be no monthly market in July or August but they will begin again on the third Saturday in September 2014. When they recommence we welcome new market coordinators Lance and Muriel Schultz. They take over from Joan Mason (with Lofty's invaluable help) who has been doing the job for many years. Thank you Joan (and Lofty) for your amazing contribution which has made our markets so successful for these past years. Please remember to join us on the third Saturday in September for more great community times.

Curry Night – A quick reminder that the annual Wamboin Curry Night will be on Saturday, August 16. People bring a curry of their own to the event for others to sample as they will sample those of others. Keep an eye out for this up-coming event.

That's all for now. I hope you are all much warmer than I feel at the moment. Talk with you all again next month.
-- Jenny Richards (President)

<h1>Firewood</h1>		<h2>July Prices</h2> <p>Quality Yellow and Red Box \$210 per tonne Split and Delivered. Discount on 6 tonnes and over.</p> <p>Phone David Skillin 6227 6129</p>
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6. The agency will spend less time and money advertising your home. They'll spend less time on photography and property descriptions, meaning your home is not advertised at its best.

The property you're selling is usually your largest asset - don't risk your sale with an agency that is desperate for sales. Whilst a keen agent is necessary, a desperate agent will cost you way more than you'll save on their commission. A motivated, non-desperate agent can easily achieve an extra \$10,000 for you during negotiations. Choose your real estate agent based on their experience and results, not the commission they charge. There's a reason why our agency has been around for 25 years – we get results and we treat you as a valued customer, getting you the result you're paying for.

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	<p align="center">Bywong Community News</p> <p align="center">www.bywongcommunity.org.au</p> <p align="center">Darryl Bourke, President</p> <p align="center">This News Put Together by the Bywong Committee</p>	
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AGM: If you live in Bywong, please set aside just one evening this year to attend the Community AGM. We have a proud record of achievements (Bywong Hall was built by the community association) and events (the now-famous annual Car Boot Sale and Trivia nights). But they don't happen without a will and the people to implement it. If you live here, you should take part, however modestly, in the activities which make the community worthwhile. Play a large or a small part, but just think about being there! The AGM is on Monday evening, 11 August. We'll remind you in the next issue!

Trivia Night: Sorry we can't urge you to attend, because it's fully booked! But it might be worth a last minute enquiry, especially if there's only one or two of you. Greg Gougeon 6236 9841 is the one to ask. The demand is such we're considering another Trivia Night in late November. The Car Boot Sale raffle will be drawn on the night, and tickets are still available from Committee members. The date is Saturday 19th of this month.


Making our Greenways Greener: Nora Stewart told the last Community meeting that local Federal member Angus Taylor had announced that the proposed Green Army would be active in Palerang. One suggestion was development of an "Educational Greenway" in the Weerona Drive area. The programme may also look at creek crossings, fences and other amenities on the Greenways. Possible projects will be under review by Council with input by community associations and Pony Clubs, and there may also be further consideration of devolution of Crown road reserves.

Dogs of War: Can we hope that the Green Army will be equipped to repel dog attacks? A couple of locals have reported being held up or having their own dogs attacked by unrestrained dogs while walking on Greenways or local roads. Please keep your dog restrained and under control. If you suffer an attack, you should report it to Council.

Pony Club: Wet weather and soggy grounds did not deter the the Gearys Gap Pony Club from holding its regular Rally Day, but obliged those in training for upcoming mounted games to participate on foot and on the vaulting horse. The Club hopes to field three teams, including one beginners' team with riders on the lead. In the meantime, the Club's riders have been achieving some good results at local events, especially at the Murrumbateman show jumping event on the June long weekend. Pony Club representative Kerry Cox presented a cash donation to Community funds earned from her fund-raising stint for a local event.

Next Meeting: The Community next meets on Monday night 14 July at 7.30 pm in the Bywong Hall, Birriwa Road. All locals are welcome.

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WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS

We are now in recess with July and August being the Winter Break.

A big THANK YOU to all the wonderful market stallholders, who have supported Wamboin market over the last year and previous years, without them coming each month our markets wouldn't happen. Hoping to see you all back in September, and hopefully, new stallholders after the two month break. Thank you to those who visit the markets each month to buy from the stall holders, without your loyal support, the markets also wouldn't happen.

To Tony & Judy from Wagonga Coffee, my sincere thanks for your loyal support to the Wamboin Markets since they began. Sorry to see you finish, however, enjoy the coast and the fishing! I'm sure we will see you from time to time.

Note: Coffee will continue when markets resume.

From September, the Wamboin Markets will be operated by Meriel and Lance Schultz. They will place their contacts and updates of the markets in the Whispers to follow.

Markets will resume again on the 20th September 2014.

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You are Invited: 'The Human Cost of Power', Bungendore, 10 August 2014

FuturePLANS and the Climate and Health Alliance present, for the first time in Palerang, a new short film, 'The Human Cost of Power'. It has been produced by the Climate and Health Alliance and the Public Health Association of Australia. The film builds on the Alliance's observation that 'We're not yet ready for climate change but it's here now, and it's harming our health'. The film explores the health and climate impacts associated with the massive expansion of coal and unconventional gas in Australia. After the film, we will have a discussion with Dr Peter Tait from the Climate and Health Alliance. Peter is a GP, an Adjunct Clinical Senior Lecturer at the ANU Medical School and the Convenor of the Public Health Association of Australia's Ecology and Environment Special Interest Group.

He will be able to highlight, from his broad experience, why we need a healthy, well-functioning ecosystem to support human society to, in turn, support healthy people. He argues that, 'To achieve a bio-sensitive and ecologically sustainable human society, we need to build appreciation of the natural world into our thinking and behaviour. Our society's energy choices are a point for this to happen with extensive positive effects.'

The film highlights the Climate and Health Alliance's call for action at diverse levels: 'The warming of our planet means we need to act at the global level, the national level, at the state and community levels, and as individuals. We must do all we can to cut emissions and urge others to do so if we are to avoid putting health at greater risk. The reality is, cutting emissions will bring many immediate benefits for public health, as well as help limit climate change in the longer term. *We can afford to do it but we cannot afford to wait.*' **Date and time:** Sunday, 10 August 2014, 2-4 pm. **Location:** School of Arts, 55 Gibraltar Street, Bungendore **Entry:** gold coin donation **Auspices:** FuturePLANS, the Palerang Local Action Network for Sustainability, Inc. **For more information,** visit <http://www.futureplans.org.au/news>, email enquiries@futureplans.org.au, or phone David McDonald on 6238 3706.



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WAMBOIN JUNE GOLF

It was a dark and stormy night. And so the golf committee decided, for the protection of the course, to cancel next day's play in the Lambert Vineyards Classic. They wisely announced that the 19th would go ahead at 4.30pm as usual when we would consume the refreshments and drink the prizes. And that should be the end of this report. But it is not: three intrepid golfers decided to play anyway. Two, Tim Barter and Paul Griffin, battled the elements to complete 18 holes. And your

correspondent did the "short 9" (alright, 8).

But what a surprise awaited us at the 19th! The crowd had swelled to *Ben Hur* proportions - almost 30. Amongst them were Ken Gordon's sister from Melbourne as well as former Wamboinians Jude and Ted Evans all the way from Queanbeyan.



Catering was by L+L King on behalf of S+R Lambert who were travelling North. The crowd descended on the groaning board like pigs at the trough, only less refined. Messrs Barter and Griffin cleaned up all the golf prizes. Your correspondent won the short 9 by default, but as a surrogate sponsor was prevented by tradition from accepting the prize which was settled by lot. Also by tradition, prizes of bottled goods became common property. Under their responsibly-served and benign influence many problems were solved, the eternal verities reaffirmed (e.g., the earth is round) and much laughter occasioned. Joy was unconfined, as the poet chappie said. (She must have been out on day-release.) Please join us on the first Sunday in July (that's the 6th) for the GST Anniversary golf day, sponsored by Keith France/Parkhill, when you add ten percent to your handicap then divide by the number you first thought of. As you can see, on golf day you don't even have to play golf to have fun! - Larry King, golfer (maybe)



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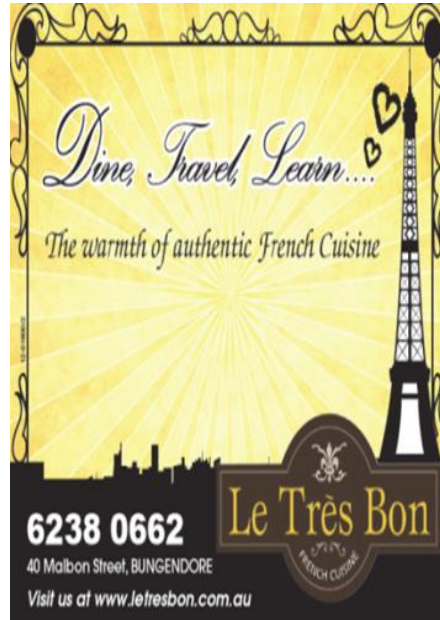
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The Curry Night Extravaganza is on. The date is Saturday night, August 16th, 7 for 7:30 at the Wamboin Hall. You need to book, as size of the hall limits us 90 table places. To book, please email me at dave.hubbard@bigpond.com Bring your own everything: a curry, any side dishes or desserts you want, beverages, plates, cutlery, cups or glasses, serviettes and a sense of humour. Be ready for a good night. It is a shared food evening – all the curries will be located on a central table for everyone to sample and enjoy. The three best curries, chosen by a hidden judge, will gain prizes. – Dave Hubbard



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

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

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News from WWOW - The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

By Gail Ritchie Knight

Despite the weather, women from the region continue to meet over a cuppa in Wamboin. Recently two of our own, Sutton residents Beryl Lowry and Lorraine Bird presented a slide show of their recent walking tour of Japan. They showed us stunning photos of tea houses, wayside monuments, outdoor hot baths, mountains, rivers, forests and of course beautiful blossoms. Our members come and go depending on their individual commitments, and it's great that we have the opportunity to share the memories of our holidays and WWOW are always eager to learn of each other's travels, interests and skills.

Some weeks ago, I also gave a presentation, this time on how studio glass is made. As a guide at the Canberra Glassworks I have gained a huge appreciation of the art and love to share it at every opportunity. Of course, being the mother of a glass artist may have some influence.

Recently a small group of us booked a Mysterious Queanbeyan by Moonlight tour. We were met in the dark under the bridge by the Morgue Manager and her assistants. And it was a wonderful mystery tour indeed. Nichole and her team were fantastic. They took us to places we didn't even know existed and told us many intriguing, tragic tales. The 175-year history was fascinating. I was hooked from the moment the morgue manager opened her mouth. And I'm sure none of us will ever look at the city on our doorstep the same way again.

Every year we set ourselves a challenge and this year it is to transform a white T-shirt. The shirt can be any style, any size. The only stipulation is that you do something to it eg embroider it, embellish it with beads or perhaps tie-dye it. (Did I say tie-die? I must be channelling the old hippy days.) You could even tear it up and turn it into something completely different, a pot-holder perhaps? Just let your imagination run riot. You can make it for yourself, a partner, a child or even the house. If that doesn't inspire you, make it for a child and we will deliver it to the Smith Family for Christmas. The deadline is our anniversary meeting on 29 September, which is a fifth Monday so we will be able to celebrate our accomplishments over lunch.

Wow! It's all happening here, so come and be a part of it. 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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Sutton Primary's Christmas in July Fundraiser**

26th July 2014 6:30pm for 7pm start @ Sutton Primary School
2 course meal, entertainment and wine tasting by Treasury Wines Prizes and Giveaways \$40 p/h BYO Beverages

Invite your family and friends and get together a table of 10!

Prize will be given to the school family who brings the most guests!!!

Tickets available from Sutton Primary Office

Cash only & please clearly indicate who the tickets are for. RSVP 20th July

(Tickets will not be sold past this date)

For further information or any questions please contact Louise on 0418261133

Sacramental Preparation Confirmation St Mary's Bungendore Information Evening

Parents of Catholic students at Bungendore Primary School or any other school who are in year 6 or a higher class and have not yet been prepared for the sacrament of Confirmation, but have received the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, are invited to register them to be prepared for the sacrament of Confirmation. If they are at another school or have not brought the registration form home from Bungendore Public, it can be downloaded from the mission website, <http://www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com/sacred-room/sacraments-at-bungendore/> The form can be emailed back to the sacramental officer stg.sacramental@cg.catholic.org.au or dropped in at Queanbeyan parish office at 47 Lowe St on any weekday except Wednesday, (when it can be dropped in at Bungendore at 28 Turallo Tce), until Monday 28th July. Parents are asked to attend an information evening to be held on Wednesday 13th August 2014 at 7pm, St Mary's Parish Hall, 28 Turallo Terrace, Bungendore. Please call the parish office on 6238 1247 (Wednesdays) 62994611 (other weekdays) or email us at stm.bungendore@cg.catholic.org.au - Mary Combe, Parish Secretary

This space and its contents are paid for and edited by Canberra Equine Hospital at advertising rates so as to contribute with Whisper printing costs



Caring for your Older Horse in Winter.

By Dr. Natasha Hovanessian, Canberra Equine Hospital

As the cold season sets in, it's important to give a little extra TLC to our equine companions, especially those who are getting on in years. We have a few suggestions for how you can make your senior horse a bit more comfortable this winter.

An older horse's energy requirements will increase in colder months as they expend more energy in keeping warm. If they are fed the same amount as in warmer months, their condition may drop off quickly. Energy intake may need to increase up to 25% to maintain condition through winter. Feeding additional roughage (e.g. hay and chaff) will help keep feed fermenting and creating internal warmth.

Making sure your older horse is protected from the elements is really essential. This can be easily done by providing them with shelter from the rain and wind, and a good-fitting, thick waterproof rug suitable for the climatic conditions they are exposed to. Horses housed indoors at night may not need as much rugging and it is important to take off heavier layers if it warms up during the day. Checking under rugs daily is also important, as I have had cases where horses have injured themselves or lost a lot of weight and it is not discovered until the rug is removed. Also looking for evidence of rugs rubbing along the withers, shoulders and hips, indicating a poor fit, is sensible maintenance.

Warming the horse's water will help increase their water intake, as many older horses don't like to drink if the water is cold, and especially if they have sore teeth. Usually this can be achieved by adding kettles of boiling water to the water trough twice daily.

It can be harder for an older horse to move around the paddock in the colder months. Providing solid footing and a flat surface will help avoid injuries, such as slipping in the mud, as well as maintaining regular hoof trimming and shoeing even if you are not riding the horse. Arthritis, (also called degenerative joint disease), can be exacerbated in the cold, so joint supplements and anti-inflammatories will provide additional comfort. The use of these should be discussed with your veterinarian.

If we can provide you with assistance to improve the comfort of your older horse this winter, please contact Canberra Equine Hospital at equine@canberravet.com.au or (02) 6241 8888



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)



**Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade
30th Birthday
Estab. 1 July 1984**



- A rolling celebration -

BRIGADE ACTIVITY

Report on the Brigade’s AGM

The Brigade held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 10th June. The meeting was well attended by Brigade members including several of our Life Members. Also present were John Cooper - Captain of Sutton Rural Fire Brigade, Group Captains from the Lake George Zone - Mick Fitzgerald, David Doblinger and Geoff Andrew, and Mayor of Palerang - Clr Pete Harrison. President Ian Coillet introduced members and others to the Brigade’s Annual Report for 2013-2014. The Annual Report integrates activities for the year including firefighting, community engagement, operational support, membership, training, financial reporting and management of the brigade.

The Captain, Support Crew Coordinator, Community Safety/Education Officer and Treasurer then each spoke briefly on their areas of responsibility covering a busy year. Captain Richard Hobbs said that there had been no significant fires in the immediate area during the year and noted that the brigade had responded well to requests to assist fight major fires elsewhere including to the east of Braidwood, Southern Highlands, Blue Mountains, Wagga Wagga, Cooma, and Cann River in Victoria. Community Safety/Education Officer, Geoff Foster highlighted the brigade’s continuing strong focus on increasing community awareness and preparedness against bushfire in our area.



The President and Captain acknowledged and thanked members, the community, and other parties within and outside the Brigade area for their interest, participation, generosity, encouragement and support of the Brigade.

An electronic copy of the Annual Report has been distributed to all members. Others who would like a copy of the Report should contact the Brigade Secretary by email: secretary@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au with your request and provide your contact details.

This year there were a few changes to the Brigade’s Office Bearers with Ian Coillet, Richard Hobbs and James Greethead standing down from their respective positions of President, Captain and Secretary. Their service to the Brigade has been greatly appreciated.

An election for Office Bearers for the next 12 months was conducted with the following results, which includes several new faces, i.e. Kevin Rowe, Jane O’Brien, Michelle Michie, Steve Richards and Jake Blight:

Office Bearers			
Administrative Officers		Field Officers	
President	<i>Kevin Rowe</i>	Captain	<i>Geoff Foster</i>
Vice President	<i>Peter Greenwood</i>	Senior Deputy Captain	<i>Matt O’Brien</i>
Secretary	<i>Jane O’Brien</i>	Deputy Captain	<i>Richard Hobbs</i>
Treasurer	<i>Neville Schroder</i>	Deputy Captain	<i>Neville Schroder</i>
Support Crew Coordinator	<i>Wendy Downs</i>	Deputy Captain	<i>Cliff Spong</i>
Community Education Officer	<i>Richard Hobbs</i>	Deputy Captain	<i>John Taubman</i>
Equipment Officer	<i>Tim Barter</i>	Deputy Captain	<i>Jake Blight</i>
Training Officer	<i>John Taubman</i>		
General Committee Member*	<i>Michelle Michie</i>		
General Committee Member*	<i>Steve Richards</i>		

* Newly created positions

Several RFS training course qualification certificates and Brigade Certificate of Appreciation were awarded during the meeting. Special acknowledgment was given to John Whitney (in absentia) who retired as Brigade Auditor after 9 years service.

A highlight of the evening was the announcement to brigade member Wendy Downs that she had been made a Life Member of the Brigade for 'meritorious service'. Wendy was presented with a Life Member plaque and badge (pictured with Captain Richard Hobbs). Although not able to attend the AGM, and unbeknown to him, members had also recently agreed to appoint Chris Powell a Life Member of the Brigade. Chris will be presented with his Life Member plaque and badge at a Brigade meeting early in July. Life membership of the Brigade is reserved for relatively rare, if not exceptional, cases and is awarded by the Brigade when the member has provided 'Meritorious Service' to the Brigade. 'Meritorious Service' is above and beyond the normal call of duty and has been judged by the Brigade as being of substantial benefit to the Brigade and provided by a person over an extended period of time.



Callouts

There were two callouts during the period. Both involved motor vehicle accidents. The first callout was on Friday 20 June just after 5pm and involved a car on its roof near the Badco rest area Lake George. A crew of three in Wamboin 7B responded but were turned around en route, not needed. The second callout was on Monday 23 June at 7.40pm to a two-car accident (Federal Hwy X Macs Reef Rd). Five crew members in Wamboin 1A attended.

Community Engagement

Wamboin Market Day Brigade Info Shopfront: Members of the Brigade's Community Engagement Team were on hand during the June Market day to help residents who had queries about property preparations for the coming bush fire danger season. The next Shopfront will be in September when the Market resumes after its winter recess.

TREND METEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, based on an assessment on 17 June 2014, the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO)



Tracker status remains at **El Niño ALERT** level, meaning that there is at least a **70%** chance of an El Niño occurring in 2014. Current observations and model guidance indicate an El Niño is likely to develop by spring. El Niño conditions generally result in below average winter/spring rainfall over southern and inland eastern Australia, while southern Australia typically experiences warmer days.

BURNING OFF

It appears that, in the main, residents who are electing to conduct a pile burn outside the bush fire danger period are complying with the legislative requirements, i.e. notifying their neighbours and the local Fire Control Centre well in advance of their intention to burn, i.e. at least 24 hours before lighting up, as well as attending and controlling the fire at all times. To notify our local Fire Control Centre (it's in Queanbeyan), call 6128 0600 (weekday business hours only – no later than mid-Friday for the weekend/ closed on Public Holidays). If you would like further guidance you can ask staff at the Fire Control Centre or contact the Brigade Captain (0409 991 340). You can view or download the RFS pamphlets 'Lighting a Fire – Quick Facts', 'Before You Light That Fire' or 'Standards for Pile Burning' from the NSW RFS website 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 and links to other websites including the NSW Rural Fire Service that provides guidance for preparation against bush and grass fires and a template for a Bush Fire Survival Plan. 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 or you would like a brigade member to visit you to provide helpful comment on your property preparations, you can contact the Brigade directly by email captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au or phone 0409 991 340.

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS



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#HashTAG

by Steve Richards

Smartphones are mobile phones that are able to perform many of the functions of a computer, typically having a relatively large screen and an operating system capable of running general-purpose applications.

Historically, there were various companies involved in developing what is now known as a smartphone... many of these visionary companies (such as NTT Docomo, Palm, Motorola, Ericsson, Blackberry, and Nokia), no longer have any real influence in the market. First generation smartphones were not particularly "smart" or easy to use. However in 2003 Google spearheaded the development of the Android system (supported by a number of other major companies - including HTC & Samsung). Apple Inc became increasingly concerned that next generation smartphones would threaten their dominance of the music player market. In response Apple quickly set about developing a rival smartphone product; amalgamating the mobile phone with their iPod music player technologies. The iPhone was born in 2007 and was an instant success. The first Android device (HTC Dream) was released in 2008.



There are currently 3 main smartphone platforms in the marketplace - Android (Google), iPhone (Apple), Windows Phone (Microsoft). There has been a war between these three colossal companies – of build quality & speed, connectivity, innovation, marketing, court battles and more... The true winners so far are consumers. Although the market was originally dominated by Apple's iPhone, Android devices now hold around 80% of the market.

Up until recently most smartphone devices performed badly in regional & country areas – due to the combination of poor mobile coverage, and poor antenna designs in a lot of devices. Major manufacturers have now improved the antennas on their devices, and with improving mobile networks, most newer phones work reasonably well in regional areas.

All modern smartphones now come with an inbuilt GPS, Bluetooth, and Wi-Fi wireless communications capabilities. Bluetooth and Wi-Fi provide an alternative means of connecting to the Internet (when at home or elsewhere), and support cordless connectivity to peripheral devices such as headphones, other computers, and pairing to most new cars. There are also now many free Wi-Fi hubs available at shops, hotels, and cafes across the country (and the world), that can be easily utilised.

Apart from being able to manage emails and surf the web, the real value in owning a smartphone is to run applications. Google's play, and Apple's iTunes app stores each have over a 1 million apps available to install. Microsoft has its own lesser used store - Windows Phone. Although smartphones typically come pre-installed with a number of applications, they are not tailored for individual needs. The huge number of apps available means that there is now virtually an app fulfilling every possible need.

Enjoying a rural residential lifestyle often means that we face different set of problems, including distance, and a lack of direct access to the same services enjoyed by city dwellers. Below is my top-ten list of various *freely* available Android phone apps which I find useful, and which you might find useful. Most apps have an iPhone and Windows phone equivalent. Disclaimer: it is up to *you* to decide on the suitability of installing any of these apps.

1. **First Aid:** St John Ambulance, First Aid Red-Cross, Real-time CPR, Australian Bites and Stings
2. **Fire Safety:** Fires Near Me & Fires Near Me NSW, My Fire Plan, Bush Fire Tools (FDI)
3. **Banking / Financial Services:** all major banks represented, Financial Planning, Money Manager
4. **eBook readers:** Cool Reader, Page Turner
5. **Navigation:** Trimble Outdoor, Google Maps, 4WD Maps Aus, (Fuel stations: Caltex, BP, Shell, etc).
6. **Kitchen Tools & Recipes:** BigOven, Cookbook, Dinner Spinner, Shopping List
7. **Utilities:** Unit Converter, Bubble Level, Torch, 3D Compass, QR Barcode scan, Garden Manager.
8. **Language (learn & translations):** Babel, Learn X (insert language name), iTranslate
9. **Internet Radio:** TuneIn, Radio Player
10. **Online sales:** Gumtree, eBay, Paypal, allHomes, carsales.

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Wamboin 15 Years Ago from the Whisper, July, 1999 Circulation: 800

by Robyn Robertson

This was another month of quiet endeavour in Wamboin: The Playgroup applied for a grant to improve their storage facilities and playground equipment. The Yarrowlunla Shire notified residents of the requirement to register septic tank systems. The Hall Management Committee planned a working bee at the Hall. The Fire Brigade celebrated the delivery of a new fire fighting truck, purchased from proceeds of the Shire's Fire Fighting Levy. The Sutton School and the Wamboin Golf Club both reported on their June activities. Preparations were being made for the August Curry Night, and Council reminded us that Council elections were to be held in September.

What a busy community this is! These are just the events and activities which got into print – so much more went on behind the scenes. And still does – we are fortunate indeed to be part of this very special community.

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin – 39 Year Statistics from the Robertsons		
June rainfall to 29/6 ... 76.75mm (2013 to 30/6 ... 267.5mm)	(June 2013 ... 105mm) Average July rainfall ... 52.6mm	2014 to 29/6 ... 351.25mm (July 2013 ... 45.5mm)
Wettest July ... 142mm in 1993	Driest July ... 4.5mm in 1982	Hottest July day ... 15C on 22/7/79
Coldest July day ... 3C 25/7/11	Coldest July night ... -5C 10/7/96 and 12/7/11	

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Wamboin Pony Club – June

Winter winds and chills have finally hit Wamboin so last week our small band of Wamboin Pony clubbers were forced inside the clubhouse for our second June rally day last Sunday. The 4 degree temperatures and rain squalls made for a day where even the toughest horse and rider would have cringed at the thought of mounting up. Our small group spent the morning on some riding theory and put some



planning into the next event on our riding calendar – The Wamboin Mounted Games. About the time you pull this Whisper from the letterbox the riders from Wamboin and other pony clubs in the area will be at Bungendore Showground competing in teams for a friendly mounted games competition. The teams of 4 riders compete against each other and the clock in different events which involve riders and horses being put through various challenging tasks. It can be fast and furious. Riders are on and off their mounts, horse and rider are set some tasks that mean both have to work together to succeed. Many younger riders will also get to experience a fun mounted games day. Successful teams can then progress to the Zone and State events later in the year.

So if you have access to your own horse and are aged from 5-25 come along to enjoy the company of other riders and see what Wamboin Pony Club has to offer. Rally days are a great social day out. Not only do you have fun riding, there is always lunch for you and the family too. Our club has dedicated volunteer instructors who will not only help your riding improve but make the day enjoyable. Wamboin Pony club usually meets once or twice a month on Sunday's at our grounds near the end of Canning Close from 10am - 3pm. The next club Rally day will be after our Mounted Games event on 27th July. So if you are interested come along and see all that Pony Club can offer, you can come and try. We would love to have some more riders' join us. If you would like some information about Wamboin Pony Club and our upcoming rally days contact our club secretary Jenni on 62383313 or go to our website: www.wamboin.pcansw.org.au , we hope we will see you soon. - Steve Quick

Letter

by Graham Bailey, Norton Road

I refer to the Councillor's Corner Road Infrastructure (Whisper, June 2014). Nice try by the Mayor; but I believe that the public require more information from council. Leaving aside Palarang (for the sake of courtesy) let's consider the A.C.T. section of Sutton Road.

After major reconstruction, most residents will agree that this section of road lasted maybe the blink of an eye before significant pavement distress became evident: poor drainage, bitumen rich (slippery) surface, loss of shape and potholes... you name it.

Today the visibility of this road is arguably the worst in our area. The excuses offered by the road authority, little short of laughable, is that they found the same surprises during construction!!

I suggest that the lack of investigation and lack of quality control of materials and construction was the problem. Drainage design is part of the road geometric design process based on a considered selection of an appropriate 'Design Storm'. It is difficult to get this wrong.

In the bad old days pavement design and construction centered around laboratory analysis of the in-situ and construction materials, including mechanical analysis (grading), and binder properties (or plasticity, or cohesion of finer material) along with Compaction Testing.

These properties could be monitored during the construction phase with particular emphasis on compaction achieved. Get this wrong and the road traffic will finish the job, with accompanying loss of shape and pavement failures. Can we assume this type of laboratory and field quality control is practiced by Palarang Council?

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Nature Notes June 2014

by Jo Walker

After a mild beginning to June, its last few days have reminded us that it is actually winter. There has been very little frost here so far, but the recent low temperatures have been enhanced by the boisterous icy winds. About 50 mm of rain this month has kept the landscape green and flourishing, and the dams are full with the creek here still running gently.

The Early Wattle (*Acacia genisitifolia*) is still flowering well, covered in cream-coloured fluffy flowers. And the Grey Guinea Flower (*Hibbertia obtusifolia*) is displaying a few golden flowers to brighten up the landscape. It looks as if it is going to be a good year for *Wurmbea dioica* (Early Nancy) as there are quite dense patches of their thin, onion-like leaves in places. There are also lots of soft green leaves of *Wahlenbergia stricta* (Tall Bluebell) present as well as those of the Woodrush (*Luzula densiflora*).

The wet weather seems to be favouring the Adder's Tongue (*Ophioglossum lusitanicum*). This little plant is actually a fern, although it doesn't look like one. A pointed, spore-bearing appendage on a short stem (about 2.5 cm) rises from two small, ground-hugging leaves. They are often overlooked because they are so small, but, at the moment, there are quite a few patches here mostly on heavy soil on rock outcrops.

The wet weather has also triggered the emergence of Hepialid moths. The larvae feed on the roots of eucalypts, then pupate in the soil nearby. The large moths emerge after rain, leaving the large brown pupal cases protruding from the soil. There is often a mass emergence under suitable conditions and the moths can be heard fluttering and banging against windows at night.

A few weeks ago, I saw a pair of Grey Currawongs busy pulling large strips of loose bark off some Candlebarks (*Eucalyptus rubida*) looking for insects. They are not as common as the more aggressive Pied Currawongs and are usually seen as single birds or a pair.

There are quite a few Meat Ant nests on my place. These are the ants that build low mounds covered in fine gravel, often a metre or more wide. There are often discernible tracks leading from the nest to food-bearing vegetation. Although their name would suggest they are carnivorous, they feed on seeds, nectar and other plant parts as well as other insects and any dead animal they come across. The tracks are often several centimetres wide and are kept clear of debris and germinating plants and are used continuously to access food. There is a large nest across the creek from my house with a very long, clearly

defined track. Recently, some Sugar Ants began constructing their nest on it, a mound of yellowish soil with a sunken central entrance hole. Once the Meat Ants discovered it barring their way, some of them left their search for food to pick up small grains of soil which they dropped down the hole. The next day, the hole had been cleared again by the Sugar Ants, but after a few days of some determined earth-moving by the Meat Ants the intruders gave up and departed. It was one of those fascinating dramas always going on in the Wamboin undergrowth.

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What is your Cat Doing Now?

By Jane Baker, Wildcare

The brushtail possum (pictured) has been the victim of ingesting rat poison. He almost didn't make it, but after three and a half months in the care of Wildcare, he has come good and is ready for release back into the wild. More commonly, possums come into care due to cat attack injury.

Asked why we should care about possums, Jane Baker, Wildcare's Small Mammal Coordinator, replied that they are an essential element in the chain of wildlife in our region. Possums help propagate native forest trees and shrubs, keep control of the larger leaf eaters that can strip a tree in a week and, by occupying the larger tree holes, restrict the ability of white cockatoos to multiply to the detriment of smaller parrot and cockatoo species.

The Southern Tablelands are home to two species of possum, the button-eyed, pink-nosed brushtail with its distinctive bushy black tail and the smaller, more finely built ringtail with its identifying long, mostly white prehensile tail. Gliders too live in this area, ranging from the highly endangered squirrel glider, through sugar gliders to the greater glider. These small furry creatures all occupy a unique niche in our ecosystem and contribute to the wellbeing of our environment.

Possums can be a nuisance when they get into roof voids and the like. Wildcare's 24-hour native species rescue line (6299 1966), which is manned by volunteers every day of the year, regularly takes calls about birds and animals that have fallen foul of our way of life. Yet it is easy for the average householder to make his or her property wildlife friendly, according to Mrs Baker. Simply shutting your cat inside overnight and allowing it to be a lazy housecat during the day, meshing your chimney and sealing any entry into your rat-baited roof would save many possums and birds from horrible deaths.



Possum boxes in garden trees will keep possums from your roof and give you endless pleasure with their nocturnal antics. Short lengths of four inch poly-pipe under hedges will provide lizard refuges against cats on the prowl. Lots of leaf litter can encourage moths and beetles to breed to the delight of possums and antechinus. *Photo: Wildcare possum ready for release*

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ON TURNING 60

By L. A. King

A Wamboin friend recently turned 60. It conjured up my own feelings and experiences when I turned 60.(Pause)

I paused there, waiting for you to say: “but Larry, you don’t look 60!”. But I suspect you did not say it. And that is the first melancholy truth which those of us well-stricken in years must confront: the face of that 18 year old stunner which you are shaving or to whose lips you are applying lipstick or, indeed, both of those things, exists in your imagination; it is not necessarily how others see you. But if that’s how you see yourself that’s good. You haven’t given way to feeling old (whatever that means). Or your powers of self-deception are improving and that can’t bad can it?

When I turned 60 (I won’t bother pausing again) I experienced a strange elation. I felt as though a mantle of wisdom had settled upon my shoulders. I saw things in a much clearer light – especially the failings and foibles of others, particularly the younger generations. And I was compelled to speak my thoughts, giving to others the benefits of my newly-acquired wisdom. It is difficult to describe the joy and gratitude with which my sage advice was received. That’s the second lesson of the ageing process: the *gratis* advice of the elders is always appreciated.

The most amazing thing about my new mantle of wisdom – you’ll find this hard to believe – was that for the first time I understood with a crystalline clarity the answers to Humankind’s great questions: where did we come from; why are we here; and where are we going. I’d love to tell you the answers. But I can’t. I’ve forgotten them. And that’s the third lesson: while some powers improve over time (like self-deception and the unerring ability to see fault in others), some powers decline. But as ICAC has established, a good memory is grossly overrated.

I have noticed in others a tendency to become curmudgeonly with the passage of time. We should remember that there are many upsides to venerable old age. Younger people offer you their seat on the bus; you are ushered to the front of the queue at the supermarket; you are given the best seats at the cinema or stadium; P-platers keep a respectable distance behind you on the road; the banks, IT and telecommunications companies provide a premium, same day service by a real person; and anything you don’t understand will be explained by a child of 12. So stop whingeing.

I trust these observations will be accepted in the spirit with which I pass them on.

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Councillor's Corner

Local Government Funding — At the risk of sounding like I'm making a political statement in the shadow of the federal budget, but following on from the columns of recent months, I thought I'd provide an overview of the regular sources of funding that allow council to carry on its business. Of course it's budget time for council too, so the following information is also topical in that respect. All quoted figures are from council's most recent (2012-2013) Audit Report.

The most obvious source of local government funding is council rates and charges. As most people will be aware, rates in NSW are a tax based on the unimproved value of a property, as assessed by the NSW Valuer General. Rates are used to fund the delivery of a wide range of services throughout the shire, although general rates comprise only about 28% of council's revenue stream.

To put this in perspective, rates provide revenues of around \$8 million, while council's employment budget alone is in excess of \$9 million. Palerang Council is, nonetheless, one of the leanest in the region. Council can afford to retain this workforce, at least in part, but significantly because it draws in contract road maintenance work from RMS (formerly the RTA), and from neighbouring shires.

Residents are charged separately, where relevant, for water, sewer and waste services. Unlike general rates, water, sewer and waste charges must be used only in the provision of, and must reflect the actual cost of delivering water, sewer and waste services respectively. Annual charges comprise around 20% of council's revenue stream.

User fees & charges associated with the delivery of services listed in council's annual Fees & Charges Pricing Policy are the other source of 'resident funding'. These cover services such as the assessment of development applications, various registration fees and document searches, and the hire of community facilities. Many of these fees, however, are fixed by the state government and thus do not necessarily reflect the cost of delivering the associated services. User Fees & Charges comprise around 24% of council's revenue stream.

The final major component of council's annual revenues, around 20%, comes from state and federal grants and developer contributions. The former are provided within the constraints of the policies of the governments of the day, not necessarily the practical realities associated with the cost of the infrastructure they are provided to support. For example, some of council's road funding has not changed its dollar value in 10 years, and where grants are indexed, the increases are rarely in line with the increases in associated costs. Developer contributions are also currently capped, so council is limited in its capacity to levy costs that reflect the true impact of new developments on community infrastructure.

This tight budget situation makes it all the more painful when the government of the day freezes indexation of one of the most significant sources of funding available for the provision of community infrastructure. The federal government Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) alone are worth around \$3 million per year to Palerang. This includes a significant proportion of our road maintenance budget, and most of our budget for the maintenance of community infrastructure. The current federal budget proposal to freeze indexation on this funding could result in a shortfall of more than \$1 million over the next four years.

This is a common story for rural councils. While it is never immediately obvious from national news reports or budget analyses, when higher levels of government withdraw or restrict funding to local government, rural communities are invariably forced to carry a disproportionate share of the burden.

Since rates revenue is the only other general source of funding available, this is where councils must look to fill any shortfalls in grant funding. The system of rate pegging in NSW, however, makes the task of increasing rates beyond the pegged level, a so-called Special Rate Variation, a lengthy, resource intensive process. Nonetheless, this is often the only course of action available, and the whole affair becomes little more than another exercise in cost shifting.

The Palerang Blog—New or related entries in my councillor website Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) include: Developer Contributions (Nov 2012), You and Your Rates (Nov 2013); Local Government Funding (May 2014).

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,

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For anyone interested in becoming a member of the Bungendore SES, we are always looking for new members and welcome new faces at anytime. For more information, please call the Duty Officer on 6238 0222 or come and see us at the Village Square from 10am on Saturday 12th July. Regular training nights are held at the Bungendore Emergency Centre on the corner of Ellendon and King Streets at 7.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. – Jan Smith, SES Controller

Can You Support Variety Bash's Fundraising for Children?

Steve Lambert of Wamboin is getting ready to hit the road for some outlandish celebrations in August for Australia's most successful charity motoring adventure, the 2014 Variety Dick Smith B to B Bash. Steve will be joining the 2014 Bash, driving from Brisbane to Busby's Bore in NSW's convoy in honour of 30 years since Dick Smith instigated the event on the dusty roads from Bourke to Burketown, all in support of Variety – the Children's Charity.



Variety-the Children's Charity is a national not-for-profit organisation committed to empowering Australian children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs to gain mobility, independence and self-esteem. By giving practical equipment, programs and experiences, Variety helps children in need to overcome whatever obstacles they face and live life to the fullest. Simply put **Variety HELPS KIDS BE KIDS.**

While Steve is passionate about 'all things vintage' and has participated in 12 previous Bashes, he is particularly excited about the magnitude of this event saying, "I stumbled across my car under an old walnut tree and tinkered on in until it became the beauty it is today. It will be like taking a little bit of Wamboin across the Harbour Bridge, showing our tiny town the Big Smoke!" NSW's colourful convoy of 350 Bashers and 110

vehicles will set out from on 8th August and visit 17 regional and remote towns across Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria throughout the 10 day, 4,929 kilometre adventure. Please consider supporting the charity this event publicises. Details at www.variety.org.au/nswBASH

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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

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

Lesley Page Valley View Ln 4
 Colleen Foster B'dore Rd to Nrtm 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
 Palarang 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
 Palarang Council Council Offices 14
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Things are Really Happening at the Wamboin Community Hall and Fire Station in Bingley Way

Those who have visited the Wamboin Community Reserve recently will have noticed a few changes with the construction of a shade structure over the playground equipment and the commencement of installation of a major fire sprinkler system over the hall and fire station.

For many years the Wamboin Fire Brigade has been very active in providing fire protection for the fire station and community hall with the installation of a high capacity pump and reticulated high pressure water through an underground pipeline feeding fire hydrants behind the hall and fire station. Over the years we have had numerous discussions with the Rural Fire Service Lake George Zone in Queanbeyan and also with the Lake George Emergency Management Committee in regard to having the Wamboin hall and fire station recognized as a Neighbourhood Safer Place. (NSP) An NSP is a place of last resort refuge from fires and any other emergencies, but the Community Reserve unfortunately did not quite meet the recommended safety clearances from possible fire and smoke dangers.

The NSW Rural Fire Service, through the Lake George Zone Manager, Tim Caroll, has recognized the problem in Wamboin and work is now in progress to convert the steel clad hall and fire station buildings into a Neighbourhood Safer Place. The hall and fire station have been ember proofed with the sealing of all openings and gaps where burning embers could enter. A sprinkler system has been installed on the roofs which will totally drench both buildings with a water spray to be fed through a pump from a new 150,000 litre water tank. A fully integrated telemetry system with security and weather/smoke observation cameras will remotely control the sprinklers from the Queanbeyan Fire Control Centre or directly from the Wamboin fire station. A high quality, professional standard weather station will be installed and the data made available not only to the RFS but also to the public through the Brigade's Web Site. It will be very handy to have available a source for local weather data in addition to the data from Canberra Airport which is at least 300 m (1000 ft.) lower than Wamboin. The Wamboin Brigade has its own pump and tank supply for internal firefighting inside the fire station and the hall.

The Brigade has been carrying out tree and shrub clearing behind the fire station as well as other work planned to enable the Community Reserve to operate as a staging and control area should it be required by the RFS for local fires. The hall with a shower room, toilets and a large well equipped kitchen is ideal for an NSP. A small local committee, consisting of the Fire Brigade, the Wamboin Community Association, Wamboin Hall Management Committee and our local Councillors, has been involved in planning discussions over the past year.

Work should be completed within the next few weeks to enable Wamboin to have a place of LAST RESORT refuge. The Brigade and the RFS strongly recommend that in the case of a fire emergency that you plan to evacuate early and never attempt to drive through a fire.

- Peter Greenwood, For and on behalf of the Wamboin Fire Brigade, Wamboin Community Association and the Wamboin Hall Management Committee. Details of the work of the Wamboin Playgroup in the provision of the shade structure will appear in the Whisper next month.

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WamboinMuse

by Jill Gregory

It is always good to come home. “No worries”, was music to my fatigued foreigner ears as I sailed through Immigration. I was back in the land where I could share a joke with a stranger and eavesdrop on others’ conversations. The familiar was so comfortable. Then we turned into Norton Road! Whatever has happened to the hill that I had once hauled a large, reluctant and very old white hound up to the top at the end of a marathon hike? It had been a long, steep, winding hill, then, and I’d felt like a conquering hero deserving of laurels when we’d finally crossed the finishing line. All of a sudden my efforts seem insignificant, and those stories of trucks dragging a log of wood behind to slow their downhill pace in the days before the road was properly formed will now read like fantasy. The new road down the hill, however, will be a dream when it’s finished, but it must surely make the corrugations as you turn left along Sutton Road seem like a worse nightmare.

When the car stops, the first thing I do after any absence is check the garden, and this time we’d been away for quite a while. We’d skipped most of what I believe has been a beautiful autumn and were plunged head first into winter. Thank goodness for a full wood box. As I daintily picked my way through the mosaic of rabbit holes, I spotted six long stemmed red rose buds on a bush that had refused to do anything last season. Once picked and inside, the buds opened, filling the room with a fragrance that would overwhelm any airport duty free perfume shop. What an amazing winter welcome!

It didn’t take long for the king parrots and rosellas to realise that the “soup kitchen” had reopened, and for my ears to become attuned to the sound of stillness or at most the faint murmur of a breeze through the gum leaves. There aren’t many birds around but it was a thrill to spy a flame robin amongst the twittering wrens and busy pardalotes. A kookaburra laughed, a lost cockatoo screeched, and was it possible that I had heard young galahs still demanding to be fed, in June. If my rose bush was confused by this autumn, perhaps some birds are confused as well.

I enjoy travelling, but I truly wouldn’t live anywhere else...at least not until I’ve had a chance to speak sternly to those fluro vested, chainsaw wielding vandals who’ve slashed our budding wattles in the misguided belief that they will ever keep borers at bay long enough to grow to a height whereby they will interfere with power lines!!! Roads may change but some things never change!

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