



**February 2015 CIRCULATION: 1,287**

**Wamboin Community Assn:** [www.wamboincommunity.asn.au](http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au)  
**Bywong Community:** [www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://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](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au) or to [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or mail them or drop them off. The deadline for the next issue of The Whisper is always 7 pm on the last Sunday of the month, so for the March 2015 issue the deadline is Sunday, 25 February, 2015, 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](http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au).

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**LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS**

<b>Wamboin Community Assn</b>	Jenny Richards, President	6238 1329	<a href="mailto:president@wamboincommunity.asn.au">president@wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>
<b>Bywong Community</b>	Darryl Bourke, President		<a href="mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au">president@bywongcommunity.org.au</a>
<b>Fire Brigade</b>	Geoff Foster, Captain	0409 991 340	<a href="mailto:captain.brigade@wamboincommunity.asn.au">captain.brigade@wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>
<b>Resident Palerang Councillor</b>	Pete Harrison	0427 711 028	<a href="mailto:cr.pete.harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au">cr.pete.harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Resident Palerang Councillor</b>	Keith France	0427 365 715	<a href="mailto:cr.keith.france@palerang.nsw.gov.au">cr.keith.france@palerang.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Wamboin Markets</b>	Lance and Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	<a href="mailto:Lmsconsulting@bigpond.com">Lmsconsulting@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Sutton School Playgroup</b>	Johanna Bradley, Convenor	6236 9035	<a href="mailto:johannabradley@inet.net.au">johannabradley@inet.net.au</a>
<b>Landcare</b>	Kathy Handel, Secretary	6238 3596	
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison, Bungendore	6238 1333	
<b>NSW Emergency Services</b>	NSW Call Centre, Staff	132 500	For assistance in storm or flood emergency
<b>NSW Emergency Svcs Adm</b>	Colin Brown, Controller	6238 0222	For non-urgnt help, answd by local volunteer
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Peter Greenwood, JP	6238 3358	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Keith France, JP	6238 3596	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Margaret Fletcher, JP	6238 1211	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Jill Sedaitis, JP	6236 9559	
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Leanne Quick, Club Captain	6238 3435	
<b>Geary's Gap Pony Club</b>	Natasha Gates, contact	0412 008 777	
<b>Wamboin Play Group</b>	Emma Auzins, Convener	6238 3974	<a href="mailto:emauszins@gmail.com">emauszins@gmail.com</a>
<b>Scouts</b>	Pete Harrison	6238 3525	
<b>Bywong Hall Bookings</b>	Guy Cotsell, contact	6230 3523	<a href="mailto:cotsell@moraguy.net">cotsell@moraguy.net</a>
<b>Wamboin Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	<a href="mailto:joan.mason@internode.on.net">joan.mason@internode.on.net</a>
<b>Church - Anglican</b>	Robyn Robertson, Warden	6238 3202	
<b>Christian Prayer Group</b>	Steve & Imelda Taylor, cntacts	6238 3220	
<b>KYB Bible Study Group</b>	Yvonne Barrett, contact	6230 3539	
<b>Golf</b>	Peter Greenwood, Golfer	6238 3358	<a href="mailto:p.greenwood2@bigpond.com">p.greenwood2@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare, Helpline	6299 1966	
<b>Wonderful Wmen of Wmb</b>	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	<a href="mailto:whirlwind@argonite.com.au">whirlwind@argonite.com.au</a>
<b>Lake George VIEW Club</b>	Pauline Segeri, contact	6238 1996	
<b>Wamboin Book Group</b>	Alice Scott, Secretary	6238 3178	

**YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS**

Alana Stenning	Pet sitting	6238 3030	Lydia Milos	Babysitting, petsitting	6238 3559
Fiona Skea	baby sitting	6238 3290	Ashleigh Caird	baby sitting	6238 0746
Genevieve Phipps	Babysitting/pet sitting	6238 1660	Gabrielle Simpkin	baby sitting/ pets sitting	6238-1335
Mara Sutcliffe	pet sitting	6238 3228	Jack&Matilda Whitney	child.pet&home sttg,oddjobs	6238 3059
Jordan Brown	baby sitting	0414-907-921			

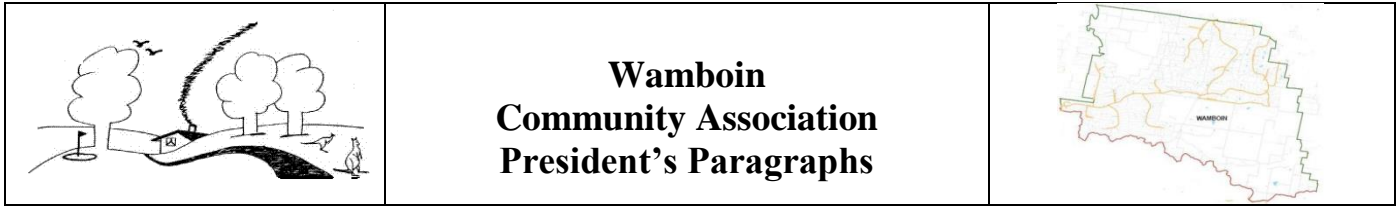


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Welcome back to the New Year and our first edition of the Whisper for 2015. I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday break. Now down to business.

**Wamboin Community Carols**— Going back to December 19th 2014 the Community Association held its annual Christmas Carol Night. An excellent night was had by all who attended. My thanks go to all who helped to make this event a success, and all who attended, including all the children involved in the play. The children were magnificent and so well behaved waiting for their turn to come and perform. Thank you.

**WCA Meeting** – Our first WCA meeting for the year will be held at **7:30 pm** on **17th February 2015** at the Community Hall in Bingley Way. Any interested person of the community is very welcome to attend. Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday evening of each month except for January so come along and see what's happening.

**Clean Up Australia Day** – Clean up Australia Day is fast approaching and its time to clean up Wamboin. **Sunday 1st March** is our nominated day so please come along to the Community Hall on that morning and sign up to tidy up an area or stretch of road in Wamboin and make it beautiful. Any questions can be forwarded to either myself or Lofty Mason our Clean-Up Co-ordinator.

**Meet the Candidates** – Another event happening in March are the NSW government elections to be held on **Saturday 28th March**. Several members of our committee have been working hard to organise a Meet the Candidates evening in conjunction with the Bywong Community Association. Although at the time of writing I could not confirm this, the evening of **March 18th 2015** looks to be a real possibility so keep that date in mind to come and meet the candidates. More information about this up-coming event will be available in the March edition of the Whisper.

Finally a couple of notable Wamboin residents have been acknowledged for their unceasing support to the local community in the recent Australia Day awards. I know they wont want me to name them but congratulations both of you. Never was it more richly deserved. That's all for this month. I hope everyone looks forward to a happy and productive 2015.

-- Jenny Richards ( President)

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## Church Notices: St Andrews, Wamboin and St Peters, Sutton

The little church on the corner of Norton and Poppet Roads, set in a garden alive with red hot pokers and sky blue agapanthus, looked a picture on the morning of January 18<sup>th</sup> when about 60 people from the community gathered to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Andrews, Wamboin, and remember all that has happened in the church and our community of Sutton/Wamboin since that first service in the Wamboin Community Hall so long ago. Fittingly, the Rev Paul Woodward, from Bathurst, who had conducted the first service in the Hall, returned for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and was with us again to preach on this auspicious occasion. After the service, chairs were cleared away, tables set up and decorated, and everyone sat down to a wonderful lunch which in true St Andrews and St Peters style seemed to happen with a minimum of fuss. We look forward to the next ten years.

On the Australia Day long weekend, Lay Minister, Dr David McCarthy, delivered an "Australia Day Worship" of thanksgiving, tolerance, justice and peace, at St Peters. Morning tea followed with a True Blue theme of lamingtons, mini pavlovas and Anzac biscuits!

School holidays are over, and Kids Club will resume at St Andrews each Friday evening from 5.30-7pm. Come along, join in the activities and have a meal together before home time. Parents are always welcome. Services are held on the first and third Sunday of each month, at St Andrews, and on the second and fourth Sunday at St Peters.

All services start at 9am, and after a chance to sing if you so desire, listen to a sermon and engage in quiet contemplation, there is time for morning tea and a chat. For further information, please contact any of the numbers listed below. Pastor: Ven Dr Royce Thompson, ph. 0416265600 Robyn Robertson, 62383202 Alan Rope, 62383224 Bronwyn Elliott, 62383359

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The space below paid for at advertising rates and editorially controlled by Canberra Equine Hospital.

### Rain Scald in Horses

By Helen Law, Veterinary Student & Dr. Natasha Hovanessian



Rain scald is a bacterial infection of the skin of horses which is particularly prevalent in periods of high humidity, temperature and rainfall. When infected by the bacteria, *Dermatophilus congolensis*, the skin produces discharge which dries and causes the hair to become matted and form crusts. The underlying skin is pink, moist and may bleed when the crusts are lifted. Pus may also accumulate underneath the scab. The lesions may be sore to touch, but they do not tend to be itchy.

Horses are most commonly affected along their rump, back, neck and face. However, in severe cases it may extend over more of the body. Rain scald is not influenced by the age, sex or breed of a horse but horses with a weaker immune system, ongoing exposure to moisture or damage to the skin are more susceptible. Rain scald is seen worldwide but is more prevalent in tropical areas, with epidemics usually occurring in the rainy season. Some infected animals do not show the typical crusted but carry the bacteria on their skin, and these animals are considered to be the main source of infection for other horses.



The habitat of the bacteria is uncertain. It is believed to be spread through contaminated environments and objects, (e.g. tack, brushes, rugs), by direct contact between animals and possibly transmitted by biting insects. If the skin of a non-infected horse is healthy and intact, the bacteria cannot invade and cause rain scald. The bacteria has a very wide host range, which mean it is also able to cause a skin infection in cattle, sheep, goats and other domestic animals.

If a horse has rain scald you must remove the affected horse from the environment that triggered the infection, by providing rugging and/or shelter. Treatment usually consists of antibacterial washes of the skin as advised by your veterinarian. The area should be massaged and the scabs removed, on a daily basis. Severe cases may require treatment with systemic antibiotics.

In order to prevent the spread, affected horses should be isolated. Rugs, tack, brushes and living areas should be cleaned thoroughly. Insect control may be necessary to further prevent spread.

If you would like to learn more about rain scald or other skin conditions in horses, please email us at [equine@canberravet.com.au](mailto:equine@canberravet.com.au). We can also be contacted on 6241 8888 to make an appointment.



	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bywong Community News</b>  <a href="http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au">www.bywongcommunity.org.au</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Darryl Bourke, President</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>This News Put Together by the Bywong Committee</b></p>	
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**Deck the Hall:** The Community Christmas celebration took on new significance this year as it also celebrated the venue itself: the Bywong Hall shared the event to mark its quarter century anniversary. Old tales were re-told and hairy moments re-lived as Community members and hall-builders enjoyed a birthday cake and exchanged memories of less traditional aspects of the Hall’s construction. A good roll-up of local residents was able to make or restore contact with those involved in creating this remarkable and unique symbol of the community, which was designed and built by adventurous but competent local voluntary labour with materials supplied by Council.

Those who attended were able to hear the history of the hall’s innovative design and construction from architect Tim Brown and Project Manager Andy Burbidge, and enjoy Jean-Pierre’s entertaining screen presentation of highlights of the build, as well as exchanging memories with the Mayor, Cr. Pete Harrison, Hall Committee Chairman Cr Keith France, Hall Committee Convenor Hans Bachor, Pony Club representatives, and Community President Darryl Bourke, who welcomed those present and outlined the history and significance of this local landmark.


**Transfer Station:** Our new modern-age tip, signposted in miniscule sign-writing, is now operating and seems clean, neat and efficient. Top marks to the outstandingly helpful and efficient Council staff who have so far assisted us there.

**Clean Up Australia 1 March:** We urge residents to join in Community efforts to help the annual clean-up of our roadsides, once again sullied by year’s litter from people we like to think don’t live here. The Community is helping with arrangements and hopes to provide a little refreshment for pickers. Watch the website for details or bring your suggestions to our 9 February meeting or, if you can help, ring Merle Ketley on 6238 0417.

**Car Boot Sale 29 March:** Watch the next Whisper for full details of our iconic annual event, but start organising for your stall now! The Community’s emphasis this year is simply focussed on a great day out for everyone, whatever the commercial outcome. All community bodies are invited to participate.

**Dates for your Calendar:** Trivia Saturday 18 July AGM Monday 10 August Christmas Drinks 4 December

**The Community’s next meeting** will be at 7:30 pm on Monday 9 February at Bywong Hall in Birriwa Road. All welcome.



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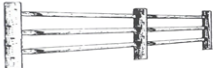
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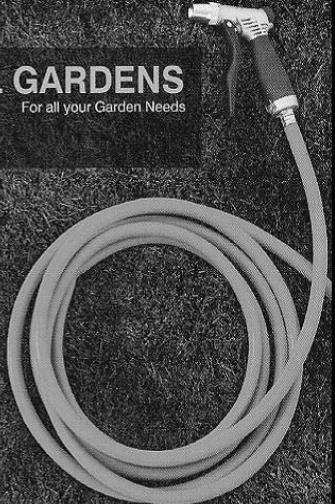


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## **Australia Day Award to Community Stalwarts Lofty and Joan Mason**

It was my very great pleasure on Australia Day this year to announce that the joint recipients of our local Citizen of the Year award were two people whose selfless contribution to the Wamboin community for more than 30 years exemplifies the spirit that makes Wamboin the unique community that it is.

While neither Lofty nor Joan would be particularly pleased that I am writing this, I feel that it is important to pause briefly and reflect on why Wamboin is such a special place. Without wanting to take anything away from the natural beauty of our surrounds, a little harsh and Australian as they may be, the quality that stands Wamboin apart from so many of the places I visit these days is its genuine sense of community. Sure, not everyone sees eye-to-eye all the time, but our community spirit consistently prevails over these differences.

And perhaps not surprisingly, if you look back over the last 30 years or so, since the original subdivision, "Canberra Country Estate", became Wamboin, you'll find a name that keeps popping up behind so many of our community's key activities. Two names actually, those of Lofty and Joan Mason. Somewhere, often simply in the background, 'greasing the rails' or cleaning up after everyone else has left, you will find Lofty and/or Joan.

If we look at a typical year in Wamboin, we start our annual WCA events in March with Clean Up Australia Day, invariably coordinated by Lofty. We move on to the Curry Night, which is one of the few regular events on the community calendar that is not organised by the Masons but they're always there when there's work to do. Then we have the hugely successful Bonfire and Fireworks night, coordinated by Lofty and Joan, followed a few months later by the annual Christmas Carols evening, where once again you'll find Lofty and Joan not far away from all the action. This year, we also saw a construction effort, coordinated by Lofty, to reroof part of the community hall. On such occasions, you will usually find Joan organising the feeding of the workers.

Overlaid onto these major events is the organisation, set-up and clean-up after the monthly local produce markets (although this role was recently passed on to others), which include Lofty's flower sales to raise funds for the Wamboin RFS brigade, the management of the hire and often the actual cleaning of the community hall, and just for good measure, maintenance of a significant section of the Wamboin rural golf course.

But this is not the half of it. Together, Team Mason has been doing much of this for over 30 years, year in, year out. It should come as no surprise to discover that they were the foundation president and secretary of, and are still heavily involved with the Wamboin Community Association. Nor that they started The Wamboin Whisper, the local community newsletter that, to this day, I say without fear of contradiction, rivals the combined circulation of all Murdoch and Fairfax publications in the area. I am also told that Lofty was a councillor on Yarrawluma Council for a brief period back in the 80s, that he was the inaugural Captain of the Wamboin RFS Brigade, and together he and Joan played a central role in raising funds for, and constructing both the Wamboin Community Hall and the adjacent RFS Fire Shed.

The simple fact is that there are some special people in Wamboin who make it the place that it is. To borrow from one of our regular contributors, I wouldn't live anywhere else...

Thanks Lofty and Joan, for everything you've done to make Wamboin so special.

- by Pete Harrison

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### **Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin – 40 Year Statistics from the Robertsons**

2014 rainfall ... 659.9mm	annual average rainfall ... 697.1mm
January 2015 rainfall to 25-Jan-2015 ... 121.5 mm	121.5mm (Note: in a mid-month storm Cooper Road received no rain while halfway along Norton Road there was a fall of 45mm)
Jan 2014 ... 13mm	
Average February r'fall ... 59.5mm	
Feb 2014 ... 71.5mm	Wettest Feb ... 170.75mm in 2010
Driest Feb ... 1mm in 1986	Wettest Feb day ... 49.5mm on 14/2/10
Hottest Feb day ... 37C x 6 times	Coldest Feb day ... 14C on 3/2/12
Coldest Feb night .. 5C on 17/2/98	

## WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2015 9AM TO 12 NOON

Contact: Lance and Meriel Schultz 62383309 or 0422614304

Both the busy Christmas market and the quieter January market were great fun. The Christmas market was packed with stalls offering lots of fresh garden produce, great cakes, Christmas fare and lots of last minute gift options.

The Weed Control stall was busy, with excellent advice given to those wondering just what IS noxious and what is not and how to rid your property of invasive weeds. If only someone would impart this information to the managers of the Kowen Forest – so full of St John’s Wort with seeds blowing directly into Wamboin!

Christmas market stall holders enjoyed a glass of champagne and mince pies to celebrate the end of a successful 2014 market. The market also marked the end of the famous Lofty plant truck as the Gordons have finally shut up shop at their Wamboin nursery.

The café at the market continues to attract a steady flow of locals, some of whom, we gather, were escaping their long list of Christmas chores and New Year Resolutions under the guise of having a ‘quick coffee’. It’s good to see people sitting down, catching up with the neighbours, enjoying coffee and scones and (in some cases – no names provided.....) staying a couple of hours!!

We (Lance and Meriel ) would like to thank all those who have contributed to the markets during 2014 and look forward to busy and productive markets each third Saturday of the month during 2015.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation, St Mary’s, Bungendore 2015

St Mary’s is running a preparation program for the sacrament of Reconciliation for baptised Catholic children in Year Three or above.

Parents’ meeting - Wed 25<sup>th</sup> February 7:30pm, St Mary’s Hall, 28 Turallo Tce, Bungendore. Classes for children Thurs 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> March 4:30 - 5:30 pm in Bungendore. The sacrament of reconciliation will be celebrated in St Mary’s Church on Wed 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm.

More details and enrolment forms.

<http://www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com/sacred-room/sacraments-at-bungendore/>

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## Wamboin/Bywong and the Queanbeyan Health Service -- An Update

By David McDonald and Jenny Warren

*Are you interested in how our area's health services are developing?*

*Perhaps you would like to contribute by advising on their planning and implementation?*

On 26 November last year, in response to an invitation sent to our community association, Jenny Warren & David McDonald participated in a consultation relating to the development of a five-year plan for the Queanbeyan Health Service (QHS): the *QHS Health Care Services Plan 2015-2019*. In early 2014, a Steering Committee had been convened to oversee the development of the draft plan. The purpose of the consultation was to provide feedback upon it.

The Queanbeyan Health Service provides health services to the communities of the Queanbeyan City and Palerang local government areas. This includes hospital-based services in Queanbeyan and outreach health services into Palerang, such as community health nurses. 27% of the population covered by the QHS is in Palerang, the balance is in Queanbeyan.

The consultation was facilitated by Ms Kim Bradshaw, Queanbeyan Health Services Manager and Ms Karla Calleja, Queanbeyan Health Services planner.

### The Situation

- The Queanbeyan Hospital has 55 beds and approximately 12,500 admissions per annum from Queanbeyan and Palerang.
- A considerable patient flow exists from NSW to the ACT, and some from the ACT to Queanbeyan, especially maternity patients.
- One of the focuses for the QHS is Hospital in the Home. Outreach/clinics are conducted in the rural areas. The aged care staff are able to make visits to rural homes including facilitating discharge from the hospital to home. Although not part of the QHS specifically, the Goodwin organisation provides a range of services for older Palerang residents, including in-home and community-based services.
- Community Mental Health Services are also based at the Hospital but are run by the state-wide Mental Health services. It is developing its own plan.

### The Health Service Plan For Our Area

- One of the major thrusts of the new Health Care Services Plan 2015-2019 will be expanding community-based health services so as to meet growing needs, for example for the new Googong development.
  - They expect that significant changes will take place with regard to the acute sick care sector but only limited changes/improvements in community health. One consequence of this is that they will need, and will welcome, review/feedback relating to community health.
  - The QHS has high levels of accreditation which is very pleasing.
  - Key themes being considered under the revised plan include the following
    - Do more of what QHS does well
    - Focus on more than 'just a bed'
    - Develop an integrated Child and Family Team
    - Develop an excellent reputation for delivering women's services
    - Provide high quality medical care
    - Strengthen training and education
    - Strengthen collaboration with key partners
    - Strengthen mental health and drug and alcohol services
- (continued on next page)

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### **Our Inputs Regarding The Wamboin/Bywong/Palerang Situation**

At the consultation we made a number of submissions on matters that we understand to be important to members of the Wamboin Community Association and to the broader Wamboin/Bywong community, and to the residents of Palerang generally. These include the following:

- Discharge processes from ACT hospitals out into Palerang, emphasising the need for seamless processes with communication between the two health systems with regard to patient needs.
- The importance of including in the plan, at a minimum, acknowledgement of the particular risks faced by people in the rural area covered by the Queanbeyan Health Service, including on-farm injuries, snake bites, road crashes, etc.
- We mentioned concerns, in some areas, about the time it takes for ambulances to evacuate people from our region to hospital.
- The need for patient advocates.
- The need to respond better to the emerging epidemic of dementia, something that applies even more in our area than in Queanbeyan as the rural population continues to age.
- We suggested that the plan is deficient insofar as it fails to include explicit performance indicators or outcome indicators.

### **Conclusions And Opportunities**

- The senior planners of the Queanbeyan Health Service indicated that they would welcome a representative from the Wamboin/Bywong area on its standing Consultative Committee, so as to have a rural input into their decision-making. *If you would like to explore the possibility of joining the Consultative Committee, please contact Ms Kim Bradshaw on 6298 9280.*
- We are impressed by the description of the quality of the services provided at the hospital, along with the high level of accreditation that it has received.
- We find persuasive their argument that the quality of services provided is not well understood and accepted in the community, and that a need exists for this to be better promoted. Palerang GPs have an important role in this.
- On 12 January the QHS released the draft new five-year health services plan for comment—the consultation period closes on 8 February, around the time that you receive this issue of the *Whisper*. The draft plan is online at <http://msnswlhd.nsw.gov.au/snswlhd/health-services/health-care-services-plan>.
- Unfortunately the draft five-year plan, currently out for consultation, has little explicit mention about health services provided in rural Palerang. At the December consultation we emphasised the importance of the plan at least acknowledging that different needs exist in different geographical areas. Accordingly, we are disappointed that this request was largely not responded to. Furthermore, in our views, the draft plan focusses too much on sick care services and not enough on prevention and the social and environmental determinants of health and illness.

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## Bywong & Wamboin Sunday 1st March 2015

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OR Contact

Bywong: Merle on 6238 0417  
[blackbirdandthehun@gmail.com](mailto:blackbirdandthehun@gmail.com)

Wamboin: Lofty on 6238 3258  
[lofty.mason@internode.on.net](mailto:lofty.mason@internode.on.net)

"Many hands make light work" (John Heywood)

### A LOAD OF RUBBISH

This is our 27<sup>th</sup> 'Clean Up Australia' effort and in Bywong and Wamboin we have removed an average of two tonnes each year. Just imagine how our roads would look if 'someone' hadn't picked up the rubbish. Have you ever been that 'someone'? Your chance comes on Sunday March 1 with the next **Clean Up Australia (CUA) Day**. The Bywong and Wamboin sections are organised by your Communities with Palerang Council and CUA. Our target is local roadways.

For insurance purposes please register at the Hall from 9am. If unable to get to the your Hall send an Email to (for Bywong) Merle at [blackbirdandthehun@gmail.com](mailto:blackbirdandthehun@gmail.com) or (for Wamboin) [Lofty.Mason@internode.on.net](mailto:Lofty.Mason@internode.on.net) nominating the area you will clean. This will cover insurance'.

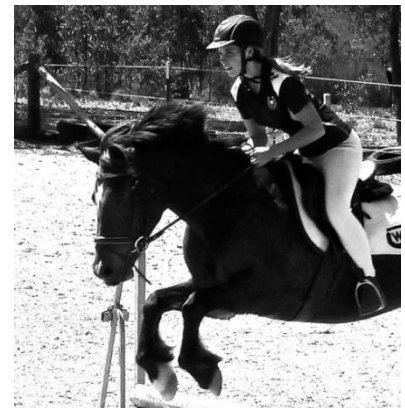
Sunscreen, safety vests, gloves, collection bags drinks and nibblies will be supplied. Safety signs will be positioned and the Fire Brigade will assist with checking on teams, handing out drinks picking up bags etc. Please ensure you wear stout footwear and a sun hat. Additional clothing is optional but recommended. We will call it quits at 12 noon.

**CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY      SUNDAY MARCH 1. 9AM till NOON.**

### Calling New Members For Wamboin Pony Club 2015

It's 2015 and the first Wamboin Pony Club rally day for the year is on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Our small club has been active in the area for close to 30 years. We have a small group of riders and would love some more members to join our enthusiastic group who range in age from 5 to 25. Pony Club is a great way to improve your horse riding skills with riders of all experiences around you. We have a group of dedicated instructors and our Pony Club grounds at the end of Canning Close has arena's and facilities we have built up over the years to create a safe riding environment. You just need access to your own horse and can even come along and try for a day to see what goes on. Our club is one of a number in the area, we are smaller than some and do have riding places available for 2015.

Rally days are a great social day out. Not only do you have fun riding, there is always a BBQ lunch for you and the family too. Wamboin Pony club usually meet's once or twice a month on Sunday's at our grounds from 10am - 3pm. As mentioned our first Rally day for 2014 will be on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February so if you are interested come along and see all that Pony Club can offer. If you would like some more information about Wamboin Pony Club and our upcoming rally days contact our club Captain Leanne on 62383435 or email our Secretary Stacey at [wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com) we hope we will see you soon. - **Steve Quick**



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## BUNGENDORE - THE NATIONAL CAPITAL OF AUSTRALIA?

by Magaret McJannett (currently staying with friends on Birchman's Grove)

I wonder how many Wamboin, Bywong, and Bungendore residents know that if a group of Bungendore gentlemen had seen their dream come true early last century, that we would now be living in the suburbs of the National Capital.

My great-grandfather John Joseph McJannett, 'The Old Man of Bungendore', was a well-known figure, having many roles in the community, hence the grand title that was bestowed on him in his 75th year. He was one of a party of local gentlemen who longed for the Lake George area to be the site for the Federal Capital. Following is an extract from a book entitled 'As Well I Remember – Journeys to Colonial Australia by Soldier, Sailor, Convict and Free Immigrant', authored by Brian Hancock. Brian's grandfather, Charles John Hancock married Catherine (Kate) McJannett, a daughter of John Joseph and Jane Mary (nee Hassett).

"John Joseph McJannett was secretary of the Lake George Federal Capital Site league, of Bungendore. The Australian Federal Senate had appointed a selection committee to find a new federal-capital site, and the committee visited several locations in the area. In 1902, committee members visited Lake George, accompanied by members of the Lake George Federal Capital Site League. The previous year Charles Coulter (1864-1956) had painted his vision of an 'ideal federal capital located by a lake'. It was an illustration for a paper by A. Evans entitled 'A Waterside Federal Capital'. The painting is a depiction of several elements of the eventual capital, including a city that's spread around a lake, an elevated capital building, and lakeside parks and monuments. However, the Lake George site wasn't chosen and Canberra was built on the artificial Lake Burley Griffin, located not far away."

A photo of the Committee (reproduced below) hangs in the entrance of the Lake George Hotel, John Joseph can be seen in the front row legs crossed, peering to his right. This hotel was originally called 'The Harp Inn', and during the sixteen years that John was publican he changed the name to the present one. No doubt many beers would have been pulled and drunk by the men on the Committee, as they pondered their possible success, or later as they probably drowned their sorrows!

If this group of gentlemen had been successful in their attempts, most likely many of the still-standing historical buildings of Bungendore would be gone, including the beautiful two-storey 'Old Stone House, which was home to John and Mary and where Mary gave birth to fifteen children. This stately home is now a bed and breakfast where customers can step back in time, away from the big city hustle and bustle. In a further extract from 'As Well I Remember', Brian Hancock notes: 'To this day much of Bungendore's built heritage remains as a solid local and vernacular expression of the townspeople's aspirations and activities during the colonial period and the early 20th century.'

Small villages such as Bungendore are a very important part of Australia's history, not only for locals but also for tourists. On any summer weekend or holidays Bungendore sees a constant stream of Canberra cars with exhausted workers and excited children heading to dip their toes into the coastal waters. Many have a stop-over, either enjoying a pie and freshly-cooked crunchy, golden chips at the Gunadoo Bakery, with its American diner themes, or a counter lunch washed down by a



beer at one of the two pubs, or eating in any of the variety of eateries in town or visiting galleries.

If Wamboin and Bywong residents peer out over the countryside as they wind their way slowly down Smiths Gap, imagine a big sprawling National Capital, with large buildings looming larger than the nearby wind farm. I imagine that the mystical, disappearing Lake George was an unredeeming feature for a future National Capital. I for one am grateful that these gentlemen were unsuccessful as I would not be here writing this article, nor

presently residing in Wamboin; my parents met in Canberra and married there seventy-four years ago and Bob and Hilda will be celebrating this anniversary in April this year.

When readers of the Whisper are in Bungendore, spend a little time in the Lake George Hotel, grab a beer and peer deep into the faces in the photograph on the wall. Look at the pride in their faces, and wonder at their disappointment in their unsuccessful bid to be living in the future National Capital of Australia. Then drive back to your secluded little place amongst the peaceful bush, and be thankful you're not beside a major freeway, in a sprawling national capital suburb!

## Fix the Funding First

A raven has landed with a message from the East. We must put aside our differences and be prepared to fend off the wildings from Macquarie's Landing. These bureaucratic barbarians, worshipers of the O'Elgee are once again on the rampage and they have the peaceful lands of Palerang squarely in their sights.

OK already, I'll ditch the tortured Game of Thrones analogies. But it's true that up in Macquarie Street there is a plan to disband Palerang and have us subsumed into our much larger neighbour, Queanbeyan City Council. It would seem that not much more thought has gone into the feasibility at this stage than a quick glance at the map.

"Oh look," they say. "There's a city here with not much around it and yet right next door is a whole bunch of land with no epicentre. Let's join them up." That's about the depth of the analysis. It is a feature of NSW Government thinking that the ACT's proximity, amenity and unique gravitational pull is nearly always overlooked.

I'll admit that over here in the East we have not always loved you guys up in 'them thar hills' with unconditional abandon. We mostly just pass through on the way to work or shop just as you mob pass through our place for 'a pie and a pee' on the way to the beach.

Nevertheless, I think we need a united front to oppose this arbitrary idea that we'd all be better off being run from Queanbeyan. From what I've been told, they don't want us either. This is an idea hatched by the State Government in its latest attempt to disguise the fact that local government needs a better funding model.

It is a perverse (and depressing) feature of Australia's three-tier system of government that the service provider at ground level, local government, is the least-well resourced. Yet your local councillors are the politicians who most often cop the face-to-face dissatisfaction if an expected level of service is found wanting.

It's all about the money. Palerang, like other well-run local governments does the best it can with the revenue it receives from rates, service charges, specific grants and whatever tax revenue the State Government feels like handing on. Queanbeyan Council is no better off financially, nor better skilled at handling its revenue than Palerang.

Local councils in NSW have been ordered by Macquarie Street to prove themselves 'Fit For the Future'. It's just the latest jingle-driven glossy brochure campaign to shift ratepayers' and residents' focus from the current inadequate funding model. I've been a councillor for over six years now and I've seen a different hoop-set for us to jump through every couple of years.

It drives the senior staff in the council to distraction. It's maddening to have to do more with less each year and on top of that, keep track of, and up to date with, the latest missives from the bright young things in the Office of Local Government. I've been to information sessions (ie how high we need to jump this year) where the combined talent and experience, hundreds of years of corporate knowledge, of the General Managers, mayors and councillors in the room was lectured to by fresh graduates from the OLG.

We do need to become 'Fit For the Future' just like any other service organisation or business with an eye for longevity. But local government cannot do it alone. The Federal Government, the collector of most of our tax money, needs to be made aware that the state of the roads, the wooden bridges and all the services that make up the fabric of the society are its responsibility.

The State Government needs to stop fiddling about with local government boundaries and address the real issues. From the perspective of a local councillor it would be productive if the State Government were to ask local government what it needs to meet community expectations — and then listen to the answers.

Democracy is where the people get a say in their future and totalitarianism is when they don't. But if the people don't get out and have a say, they're not so different. I hope to see you at a community consultation meeting in the near future.

Cr Paul Cockram, Mongarlowe

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## Wamboin 15 years ago – from the Whisper, February 2000 Circulation 800

by Robyn Robertson

From the YARROWLUMLA COUNCIL NEWS, submitted by Councillor Peter Greenwood: Peter quoted a “few snippets from the 1998/99 Annual Report of the Yarrowlumla and Qyeambeyan Districts Rural Fire Service.

\* Our local Yarrowlumla/Qyeambeyan organisation consists of 15 Rural Fire Brigades with 630 volunteer fire fighters and 170 other members

\* We have 65 firefighting appliances plus ancillary vehicles

\* We are part of the RFS Southern Region which consists of 13 local government areas, with 202 Rural fire Brigades and over 9,000 volunteers.

\* The Southern Region is recognised as being part of one of the most fire prone areas in the world.

\* Local brigades attended a total of 127 incidents during the year, made up as follows: bush/grass fires – 48, motor vehicle accidents – 32, building fires – 10, false alarms – 17, vehicle fires – 3, storms/other – 17.

\* Total expenditure of the RFS in the district was \$1,231,836. Of this amount Local Government contributed 12.3%, NSW Treasury 14% and Insurance Industry 73.7%”.

In the intervening 15 years there has doubtless been considerable growth in all these aspects of our RFS, and we are all indebted to our volunteers who work tirelessly to keep us safe. Wamboin wishes you all a year free from major incidents.

## Wheels of Wamboin

### Saturday 18th April 2015 - 9.00am to 1.00pm - Wamboin Hall - Bingley Way

Start polishing those panels and greasing your ball joints the Wheels of Wamboin is on again. All manner of automotive machines are welcome from tractors to bikes, cars to trucks or anything else that sparks a conversation or a memory of days gone by. Enjoy a great day out (the markets will also be on) and marvel at the variety of machines on display. Swap tables are also welcome so have a scratch around in the shed to see if there are greasy parts in a dark corner that someone else might be able to use.

2015 marks 25 years of the popular Mazda MX-5. The MX-5 was conceived as a small roadster with light weight and minimal mechanical complexity limited only by legal and safety requirements; technologically modern and reliable. The MX-5 is conceptually an evolution of the small British and Italian sports roadsters of the 1960s such as the Triumph Spitfire, MG MGB,



Datsun 2000, Fiat 124 Sport Spider, Alfa Romeo Spider, and particularly the Lotus Elan. The MX-5 is about to be launched in its fourth generation and has so far sold over 950,000 fun machines (the MGB sold about 550,000). It continues to be the best-selling two-seat convertible sports car in history. Mazda’s design credo for the MX-5 loosely translated into English is "rider and horse as one body". – Peter Evans

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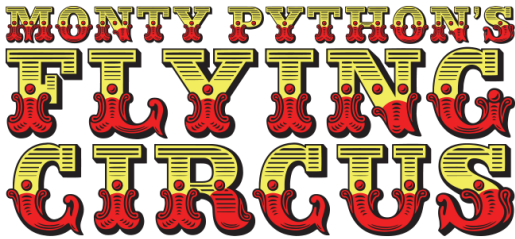
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## Your Street Number



So why the reference to Monty Python's Flying Circus I hear you ask? Lets just call it a graphic device designed to catch your attention.

I am reminded of the Monty Python sketch 'How Not To Be Seen' when driving some of the roads in the Wamboin, Bywong and surrounding areas looking for a street number.

Some time ago Don Evans, one of Wamboin's early settlers wrote an article for the Whisper about street numbers and their importance for emergency vehicles to quickly identify the property they are seeking. Yet long after Don's article street numbers are still a challenge, especially numbers that have lost their reflective ability making them so difficult to read in the dark. Hence I am wondering whether people don't want to be seen. This attitude has serious implications if the ambos or firies are called to your property.

So, after you have logged on to YouTube to watch the How Not To Be Seen sketch, get down to Bunnings, Home Hardware, Masters or wherever and get yourself some new highly reflective, easily read street numbers. Oh and then install them where they can be readily sighted from the road and close to your gate.

---

### BURNING OFF – FIRE PERMITS REQUIRED



Even though the weather has been cool and wet we are still in the bushfire danger period and Fire Permits are required and must be approved at least a week before you intend to burn.

Contact the Captain on 0409 991 340 or email: [captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au)

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## ACTIVITY

### Call Outs

It's been a fairly benign summer when it comes to fires however the crews have still been responding to callouts.

Saturday 6 December – At about 5.00pm on a Saturday afternoon a heavy tanker was despatched to small fire in Sutton Park. The tree was extinguished and the crew back home by 5.51pm. A small contingent remained at the shed in case the fire broke out. A very quick response by all.

Sunday 7 December – A motor vehicle was on fire at Smiths Gap and whilst a Bungendore crew were running the show we were able to provide water to the Bungendore trucks. We had two of our heavy vehicles on site with six Wamboin crew members including the Captain. All were amazed at just how much water was required to douse a car fire.

Thursday 1 January – First call out for 2015! At about 2.00pm a heavy tanker with a crew of 5 was despatched to a single vehicle accident on Macs Reef Road. The NSW Fire and Rescue were already on scene so we were released and sent back to the shed. An interrupted New Year's Day for 2015.

Monday 5 January – A motor vehicle rolled on a very wet Federal Highway near Eaglehawk. The ACT professional firies were on scene when we got there and had contained the spilled fuel. We were back in the shed within 45 minutes of being despatched.

Friday 16 January – We were called out to attend a small diesel spill on Kings Highway. A crew of six was despatched at 11.00am and were back at the shed by about 12.30. Nothing too serious, and another enjoyable time spent by the crew in a big red truck.

### Community Engagement

*Saturday 21 February*

We will again have an information stand at the Fire Shed at the next Wamboin Home Produce Market, on Saturday 21 February. Please drop by and ask one of the firies that question you need answered; maybe you have a question about clearing trees on your property, preparing your survival plan or maybe you would just like to make yourself known to your local RFS members.

### CALENDAR - UPCOMING EVENTS

The Brigade will again be active at the Bywong Car Boot Sale, scheduled for Sunday 29th March. Apart from that planned activity Brigade members continue to be primed and ready for that unforeseen callout.

### USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

- Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade**      <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>
- NSW Rural Fire Service**      [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)
- Wamboin Brigade Captain**      [captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au) or 0409 991 340

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## News from the Wonderful Women of Wamboin

By Gail Ritchie Knight

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) enjoyed a great year in 2014 culminating in the local Christmas mailbox and gate decorating competition. We filled baskets to overflowing and delivered them to the first and second prize winners. It's a tough job choosing winners but we enjoy the process every year. You can view the entries in the adjacent image or go to the *Whisper* online to see them in full colour. For the first time we also included personalised decorated baubles for children under 13 years of age who entered in the competition.

Throughout the year a number continued to sew drainage bags for post-surgery breast cancer patients. Some knitted trauma teddies for the Queanbeyan Ambulance Brigade. Others regularly volunteered to prepare lunches at St Benedict's in Queanbeyan. Many are nimble with the thimble, some being exceptionally skilful quilters, lace makers, cross-stitchers, knitters, weavers and beaders. And we have a number of award-winning members amongst us.

Then there are those of us who volunteer at art galleries, Old Parliament House rose gardens, Wildcare or the local Australian Native Plants Society. There are some of us who spend quite an amount of time caring for family members including ill spouses and elderly parents or undertake the challenging but delightful babysitting of grandchildren. Any of that can take up an inordinate amount of time. Some of us don't have any of those skills or commitments, but we do love to talk. In other words, we are a disparate group of women with many skills and interests who get together weekly to touch base with other locals.

All women are welcome at WWOW to share stories, news and skills. Women come not only from Wamboin, but also Bywong, Sutton, Bungendore, Queanbeyan and even from Canberra. We meet on Mondays, 10am 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](mailto:whirlwind@argonite.com.au).

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# WWOW 2014 Xmas Decorating Contest



27 Bingley Way



96 Doust Road



64 Majors Close



77 Bingley Way



17 Amungula Pl



4 Kestral Pl



126 Birchmans Grove



62 Majors Close



24 Majors Cl



478 Weeroona Drive



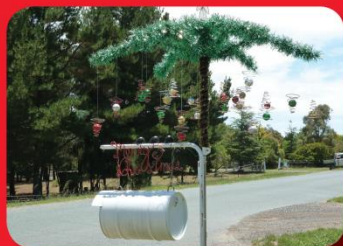
943 Bungendore Rd



138 Forest Lane



1463 Bungendore Rd



24 Majors Cl



993 Norton Rd



1516 Bungendore Rd

## 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.

<b>170: CO-ORDINATED HELEN MONTESIN: ph 6238 3208</b>					
Fay Kally	Norton Rd West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20	Bill Owen	Cooper Rd	26
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	35	Stuart Whitten	Canning Cl	17
Julie Veal	Poppet Rd (for all on road)	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	40
<b>176: CO-ORDINATED BY KATHY HANDEL: ph 6238 3596</b>					
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	48	Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Dr	17
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	31
Kathy Handel	Norton (Weeroona to Hilltop + Windra)	22	Penny Evans	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	26
<b>238: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489</b>					
Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	44
Colleen Foster	B'dora Rd to Nrtm Rd	23	Rob Gorham	South end Clare Valley	38
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
Dominica Lorima	North end Clare Valley	42	Bungendore Foodworks	Bungendore	10
<b>253: CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN: ph 6238 3590</b>					
Sheryl Barnes	Denley Dr (Sth End 1/2 way 2 Kestral)	15	Brian Higginson	Denley Dr (Birchmans to Kestral inc)	12
Don Malcolmson	Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat)	7	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef Rd (Newington to Bankers)	7
Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr	28	Morag & Guy Cotsell	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn & Harriott	30
Nora Stewart	Rovers Ln	7	Sandra Favre	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn & Harriott	20
Carol & Clive Boughton	Macs Reef Rd (Bankers to Fed Hwy)	33	Joan Milnor	Birriwa Rd plus Macs Rf Rd to Harriott	30
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Ln	6	Tony Bond	Hogan Dr / Orana Dr / Yuranga Dr	42
Rhonda & Neville Parnell	Denley Dr (Kestral 2 1/2 way 2 Sth End)	15	Misc		1
<b>150: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425</b>					
Michael & Jose Deane	FdHwSvcRd/Bidgas/Hickey/O'Gold	66	Louise Baldwin	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Robert & Marzena Luton	Sutton Park Estate	48	Penny & Russell Ball	Macs Reef (Denley Dr to Bungdre Rd)	18
Ian Coillet	Grove Road	7			
<b>179: CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON ph 6236 9333</b>					
Phil & Pam Dawes	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln	27	David Featherston	Summerhill and Creekborough Rds	26
Kevin Anderson	B'dora Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill)	35	Richard Holding	Wyoming & Doust Rds	25
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dora Rd (Fed Hwy to Summerhill)	25	Chris Fowler	Shinglehouse & Millyn Rds	20
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	21			
<b>121: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484</b>					
Diana Griffin	Majors Close	18	Will Noel	Weeroona (Majors to Denley)	36
Advertisers & Misc	(Out of area mailouts)	41	Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Road	26
<b>TOTAL 1,287</b>					

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### November 2014 - 29<sup>th</sup> WAMBOIN OPEN

(Due to a wormhole in the internet this report did not make it to the the December Whisper, so is printed now – editor.)

On a bright and breezy Sunday, 2 November, freshly relaxed with their sensory meridians all in a straight line after watching Maria comb her hair on You Tube, the golfers of the region gathered at the Wamboin Community Hall for sport's red letter day – the mighty Wamboin Open. Before the sizeable field took to the course for the traditional stroke event the Captain explained the rules which can briefly be summarised as “no cheating”. One or two of us felt insulted. At day's end the prize-giving ceremony was gracefully conducted by Lady Deborah Gordon OT. Refreshments and prizes were provided by the club and organised by traditional providores, Joan Mason with bumbling assistance from Robert Gorham.

Being the Open, there was nothing so frivolous as the googly ball and dummy spit awards. But if there had been, the dummies would have gone to Rob Gorham (traditional) and those golfers put off their stroke by the roar of Peter Greenwood's ute as it crawled around the course. He insisted it was a golf cart. Poetic justice was served up by the winner of the googly ball, Michael Filemen, whose errant shot struck the offending vehicle, leaving an indelible memento of the day's event. Ball winners for the long drives and NTPs (ask a golfer) were Glenn Crafter X 2, Paul Griffin X 2, Jack Whitney X 2, Geoff Leeper, Ken Gordon, Tim Barter and Pete Harrison. Encouragement awards for juniors went to Alex and Madison Gordon. The 2014 junior champion was Logan Beckett with an adjusted 27 for 9 holes. The 2014 Eclectic went to Neville Schroder (18 holes) and Ken Gordon (9 holes).

Club champion (net scores) in the 9 hole comp was Ken Gordon with 33 off the stick for a net 26, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Greenwood (who was reduced to tears by his first win ever) 47/34, 3<sup>rd</sup> Larry King 48/35. The 18 hole club champion was Paul Griffin 87/61, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim Barter 77/64 on a count back from Rob Gorham 87/64. And now, as the drums roll, it can be revealed the 2014 Ladies Open Champion (9 holes) is Joan Mason (50). And the 2014 men's Open Champion with 75 off the stick over 18 holes is Len Ivey. The club's strict residency rules were waived in Len's favour on this occasion. Our congratulations to both and, indeed, to all who took part.

Next month join us at the Hall at 12.15pm on Sunday 7 December for the Christmas Cup. Will the Cup runneth over? I can't wait to find out. Get out that hair brush, Maria! - Larry King

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## December 2014 -- Wamboin Golf Club's Christmas Cup

On Sunday, 7 December a satisfying number of the golfers of this charming local government area (soon to amalgamate with Byron Bay) donned their gay apparel and saddled up for the Christmas Cup. Much to their delight the predicted tempest held off – clearly Hughie felt that she'd flung enough at us over the preceding week. The post-athletics refreshments and prizes were donated by Jude and Ted Evans to whom we offer our thanks and praise. The news that this was to be their last such sponsorship brought a tear to many a glass eye. They have moved to a regional city which looks lustfully at our beautiful and self-sustaining LGA. No names, no pack drill. We wish them the best of luck and express our profound appreciation for their long and valued support. We are seeking new Christmas Cup sponsors. Messrs Scrooge and Grinch need not apply.

The Googly Ball went to the individual who claimed a special prize for playing 14 (yes, 14) holes. He was, however, granted the Dummy Spit Award for the unseemly manner in which he reacted to the refusal of his request. The dummy was passed on to Steve Lambert who complained about his handicap. It will be reduced for next month. A number of disciplinary matters were then resolved including the reprimanding of Mr N Schroder for wearing golf shoes in the club house. Concrete doesn't just look after itself, you know.

The Captain welcomed our visitor, Gerard Ryan in the usual way. Encouragement Awards went to Mads Gordon and Rachel Schroder. Ball winners were Gerard Ryan X 3 (he's pleased he came), Neville Schroder X 2, Ken Gordon, Tim Barter, Len Ivey and Larry King. The Juniors 9 hole comp went to Alex Gordon with 22 Stableford points. The open 9 hole comp was won by Lofty Mason (21 Stableford points) from deb Gordon (19) and Ken Gordon (18). The 18 hole event winner was Nev Schroder from Paul Griffin (39) and Pete Harrison (37).

Join us at the Community Hall at 12.15pm on Sunday 4 January 2015 for the much-feted Three Club Event sponsored by Jane and Dave Hubbard of Wyagiba Trading. Meanwhile the members of the R & A Wamboin Golf Club wish you and yours a Merry Christmas. As for 2015, it will be the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magna Carta. May we all in this brown and pleasant land continue to enjoy the peace and freedom that the great chart presaged – no matter who we are and whence we came. And may we be reconciled with those original Australians who reckon they were doing alright long before Magna Carta.

-- Larry King, golfer (ho! ho! ho!)

## Bungendore Riding Club

Bungendore Riding Club is a local adult horse riding club that meets once a month at the Bungendore showgrounds, usually the last Sunday of the month. In 2015, activities include trail rides, dressage and jumping lessons as well as fun relaxed training days. On 29 March the annual Country Park Animal Herbs Dressage Classic competition will be held and in May, the Club will be hosting STARCC. This is a fun competition between the Southern Tablelands adult riding clubs. The cost to join the Club is \$60 and that provides membership until 31 December 2015. To join and for more information please visit the website – [www.mybrc.net](http://www.mybrc.net). – Helen Locke

## January 2015 -- Wamboin Golf 3 Club Day

In January Australia hosts those five great sporting events – the end of the Sydney-to-Hobart, the Sydney cricket test, the Australian Open (tennis), the Australian Seniors Tennis Championships and, of course, the Wamboin Golf Club's Three Stick Event. And so it was that on Sunday 4 January 2015 (get used to writing it) Palerangers with fairly decent hand/eye coordination gathered for the fray. "But didn't it rain that afternoon?" I hear you cry. You bet your golf balls it did. But owing to a coincidence even a writer of fiction wouldn't try to get away with it pelted down before and after the event. The comp itself was unaffected. That's organisation for you. The day was sponsored by Wiyagiba Trading and we thank Jane and Dave Hubbard for the prizes and refreshments. By tradition it is restricted to ten holes in deference to the climate. At 2.30pm Dave fired the shotgun and away we went.

Back at the Community Hall there was much discussion about club choice. One member said that his 2 iron was working so well he took three of them. The Captain welcomed our guest, all the way from Sweden, Viktor Lundmark-Harrison. Viktor was joined at the 19<sup>th</sup> by his charming companion and although your correspondent looked hard he couldn't spot the dragon tattoo. NTP ball winners were Ken Gordon X 3, Dave Hubbard X 2, Pete Harrison X 2, Logan Beckett X 2 and Jason Beckett. The Googly Ball went to our guest just for coming all that way to play golf. Unfairly, the dummy went to the public-spirited person who drew attention to the necessary etiquette of warning players in front, of an approaching golf ball. The defendant



who we can identify only by his name, Tim Barter, advanced the specious argument that he couldn't see the player who he asserted was below average height and, anyway, he was only using a 6 iron. Case adjourned *sine die*. The juniors' award went to Logan Beckett. Placegetters in the seniors' 10 hole comp were: 6<sup>th</sup> Ken Gordon with 19 Stableford points; 5<sup>th</sup> Charles Guscott 20; 4<sup>th</sup> Rob Gorham 21; 3<sup>rd</sup> Keith France 21 OCB; 2<sup>nd</sup> Joan Mason 23 (pictured, with Dave Hubbard); and the winner with 26 points was Pete Harrison.

Our next golf day will be Sunday 1 February when the occasion will be hosted by the Schroder and Whitney families. Join us at the Hall at 12.15 pm. You'll never regret it. – Larry King

## New South Wales State Government Election – 28 March 2015

The NSW Governor has scheduled the 2015 State Election for 28 March but the NSW Electoral Commission has yet to issue the Writs. The Wamboin Community Association and the Bywong Community usually arrange for all candidates to be invited to a “Meet the Candidates” evening so they can give a 15 minute account of themselves followed by a Q&A session and a general mingling with the community over nibbles and a cup of tea/coffee.


This “Meet the Candidates” is scheduled for **7.30pm Wednesday 18 March** in the **Wamboin Community Hall**, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin. All candidates will be invited once the Writs have been issued. Those people who have announced their candidature have been or are being contacted. - John van der Straaten, WCA Secretary 6238-3590.

## Hall Toilet Block Upgrade

On Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November the demolition of the old toilet roof started. By the 6th of December the basic structure of the new roof was complete. The tradies who did the majority of the work were Hank Berlee, Don Evans and Tim Barter. Assistance at various levels was given by Lofty Mason, Peter Greenwood, Pete Harrison, and Larry King. Flashing was ordered and fitted on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December. Painting of the outer walls has started. For added strength, no clear view panels are used in the roof. At this stage that means you need to switch the temporary lights on. Still to be completed: Installation of a ceiling, painting of all walls inside and out and the fitting with motion detection lighting (pun intended). Due to volunteer labour (a great part of this community) the total cost will be about \$6000. – Lofty Mason

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## Volunteer “Heads Up”

Another day spent pulling weeds and mowing long grass along the verge between our boundary fence and the Council road infrastructure. “Not my land” I thought. “Why am I doing this?” I had no answers, but, on the way to the tip, I soon realised I wasn’t alone in this endeavour. Many other property owners had been very busy working on the same challenge – and the Wamboin locality looked a picture.

One intrepid lady was seen in action, tackling the roadside growth with a heavy looking whipper-snipper. We are all volunteers, I thought, helping to control the fire risk and those never ending noxious weeds. Congratulations to all – for the timely support for our cash-strapped local council.

In my dreams that night, I dreamt that Council would, in return, desist with the crying-poor song and abandon the request for a rate increase approval. “Thanks for the help, folks”; ... as it were. The volunteering will no doubt continue, but it seems that we are not covered by any Council indemnity should we meet with an accident or damage someone’s property. What if that mower flicks a stone into a passing vehicle? My understanding is that only Council officers or those working for Council are covered by relevant insurance.

Does anyone have any suggestions on this? Is this an issue the Community Association could raise with Council?

-- Graham Bailey, Norton Road

## Vale the Tip

There was no finger food and beverages, no speeches by the Mayor or local dignitaries or even a cake to celebrate the ending of an institution. There was no linking of arms and singing of Auld Lang Syne as this institution was closed for the last time. No photographs were taken recording this day. No more would it open on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. There would be no more wonderment of where the track to the dump site might wander this week. Is that a sign for the green waste – that’s different from last time. Would I need 4WD if it rains while I am on the boggy clay of the site? No longer can you describe to the new comers how the tip 20 years ago was only *this high* and that the road was at *this level*. All gone. Gone are the attempts to back up a trailer to the dumping edge while neighbours and unknowns watched and silently judged you on your ability to reverse a trailer. No longer would there be the opportunity to judge others on whether they could reverse so that their boot was closely aligned to the layers of recent dumpings or did they just park, parallel to the dumping site, taking up two parking spaces.

What has been an institution for so many years, a place where one could happily relieve oneself of the detritus of life at no cost is gone forever.

In years to come the old people will talk of the days of the tip when you could dump truck loads at no cost and how one met neighbours and friends at the Tip. Maybe it was the place where you found that gem in the recycling section. No longer would you hear the mud leave the tread of your tyres and hit the wheel arches of your car as you drove down Macs Reef road proud of your efforts to ‘clean up the place’.

And so the local Tip has gone the way of incandescent globes, glass milk bottles, and cameras that lasted a generation. What next, no deliveries of newspapers to the front gate? When will change in our community come to an end?

Vale the Tip, may the memories of this glorious community institution live on. You will be missed.

-- Kevin Rowe, Wamboin Resident

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## Unpaid Labour Force Helping To Maintain Our House, Garden And Acreage

Jenny Warren

I was picking tatsoi for dinner last night when I noticed a handful of my favourite ants, the wonderful non-stinging meat ants, busy on a particular plant. To my delight I saw that they'd captured a green caterpillar and were in the process of dismantling the pest and taking it home for their own dinner.

It made me think what a great service our (sometime much-maligned) native animals, birds, insects and other creatures provide in helping to maintain our house, garden and paddocks.

Here's a short list of some of our unpaid labour. I'm sure you can think of more and you might like to share your stories with Whisper readers.

**Meat Ants** – They tell me when we're going to have a rain event by vacating their lower nest to the one at the top of the driveway. They did this on January 5 before we had 25mm of rain in 25 minutes later that afternoon. They are also fabulously helpful at stripping small pieces of food from casserole dishes and other cooking equipment, which means less rinsing before the items go in the dishwasher. They do me a great favour by disposing of small meat and fish scraps that we might not want to eat and don't want to put in the garbage because of the smell e.g. raw fish skin.

**Flies** – They tell me when it's above 26C outside by congregating in the carport (well I had to find something nice to say about them).

**Birds** – The gorgeous Fairy Wrens do a SUPERB (pun intended) job stripping aphids, caterpillars, small grasshoppers and other pests from any and all plants in my garden. I especially love to see them in amongst the vegetables! The bigger birds, such as sulphur crested cockatoos and galahs, tell me when there's something exciting going on like a visiting Wedge-tailed Eagle, fox or snake. I find the avian camaraderie very amusing when they perceive a common threat. Birds that spend most of their day fighting with one another over territory, food or just for fun such as magpies and currawongs vs ravens, or the mad wattle birds vs just about any other species regardless of size and threat level (they punch above their weight those little suckers), suddenly band together to see off the threat. As soon as the coast is clear, they all go back to competing with each other. It reminds me of how we Aussies are so competitive when up against New Zealand in sporting events, but as soon as New Zealand is playing South Africa or France (I'm talking rugby here), all of a sudden we're ANZAC brothers and sisters again.

**Kangaroos** – They do SUCH a good job at keeping our native grasses and forbs under control that we never have to mow our paddocks. They love to spend the cool afternoon hours on the absorption trench trimming the native geranium. Our fuel bill for slashing and mowing? \$0!

**Spiders** – Being an arachnophobe from way back in my old city-life, I'm trying really hard to find a place for spiders around the house. Back in October we hosted a VERY LARGE female huntsman with her egg sac in our carport rafters, right above our front door – see photo. Ugh! Ordinarily I would have gently removed her on the end of a very long pole and put her outside whereby the magpies would swoop and take care of it for me. But then I thought, no girl, be brave, she's just a Mum trying to take care of her babies. I named her Martha and celebrated the birth of her approximately 200 babies in late November (this number according to the Australian Museum website). Yes OK we've noticed two little huntsmans inside the house since, but I'm told by my live-in spider spin doctor that they do a great job hunting other bugs and spiders while we're sleeping. While I still usually revert to being a cringing, whimpering mess when I come face-to-face with a large arachnid, I believe the exposure therapy is working.



There are so many other creatures that deserve honourable mention, not the least being worms, bees, frogs, lizards and many others that we never see or hear but who work tirelessly, saving us time and money by doing what they do for free!

Now, with all these unpaid helpers, I've got time to go swing in the hammock with a cold adult beverage!

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## When The Family Came To Visit

By Gail Ritchie Knight

We love living out here in the bush listening to the cicadas and the twittering superb fairy wrens. It's just the two of us, my husband and I and we plod along, often sitting at the breakfast table doing the crossword with camera nearby ready to snap a photo of the local fauna.

Both our daughters have flown the coop, one living in Sydney, the other in the US. When they decided to visit us over the holidays we were ecstatic and looked forward to seeing our three grandchildren as well. Unexpectedly my frail 87-year-old mother in Brisbane decided to visit also. She said on the phone, 'People are like fish, after three days they start to smell but I'm coming for five days. I hope you don't mind'. Being owner-builders, my husband said 'I suppose I'll have to put a door on the bedroom now'.

And then they arrived — four generations under the one roof. Our walks became a favourite ritual including 'bluebells for Nana' picked by chubby little fingers until one day four-year-old Sebastian stood on an ants' nest. The days rolled on. Kangaroo spotting was a daily guarantee.

Like most families, tensions rose and inevitably our daughters had a spat. It began with 'Why do you have to be so sensitive?' I didn't sleep well that night expecting one of them to storm out. But next day was as if nothing had happened and it was all peace and harmony.

Having children in the house was a delight. I'll never forget little Lachlan emerging from the bathroom shouting with excitement 'I did a pee all by myself'! I loved watching Sebi teach his cousin Zoë to break-dance and the three of them play hide and seek with squeals and shrieks reaching ear-piercing levels. Singing nursery rhymes at bedtime was gold.

My mother lives alone these days so to see the joy on her face as she watched her family laugh and play was a delight. She marvelled at her great-grandchildren's boundless energy while she struggled with the few steps in our split-level house. Time with her granddaughters and their families was very special to her. She's done travelling for now but will treasure her time here forever. I don't think our washing machine has worked so hard. Thank goodness for the recent rain. Our off-grid solar power supply also stood up to the task, but our internet usage sky-rocketed. We quickly exceeded our normally adequate wireless download limit. But anything other than a wireless connection is not about to happen out here.

Too soon, it came to an end. After the tears and kisses at the airport, we packed up the train set and the Lego pieces strewn throughout the house. Though the works of art remain on the fridge door. It's much quieter here now with just the two of us. But do you know what? I'd have them all back here in a jiffy. But we might have to build an extension first, if we ever finish the house.

### WAMBOIN AND BYWONG CLASSIFIEDS

Restoring woodland health by returning lost mammals to Mulligan's Flat Sanctuary: Sutton Landcare Meeting Feb 10 at Sutton school on Tuesday evening the 10th of February commencing at 7.30pm. By Nicki Munro is an ecologist at the ANU, with a background in restoration ecology. All interested persons are welcome to attend. Further details about the meeting and Sutton Landcare can be obtained from our Secretary Tony Redman ph 62303266.

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

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

Whisper Advertising Rates: Local classified advertisements are free, as are announcements from community organisations and clubs. Business advertisements pay printing and Community Association Projects. Contact editor on 6238-3484 for information. Advertising rates: Full Page - \$130 Half Pg - \$65 1/3 Pg \$43 1/4 Pg - \$33 1/6 Pg - \$28 1/8 Pg - \$22



## Nature Notes January 2015

Jo Walker

The new year has had a good start. Dams are full and creeks flowing after more than 130mm of rain so far this month and the countryside is green and flourishing.

The Mole Crickets are certainly appreciative. Every time rain falls there is a cacophony of high-pitched whirring. These sturdy brownish crickets spend most of their time in burrows they have excavated, feeding on small soil insects and the roots of plants. Their forelegs, modified for digging, are incredibly strong. I picked one up once, and it simply put both forelegs between my fingers and prised them apart to escape.

*Acacia implexa* (Hickory Wattle) is flowering at present, its cream flowers evident on some of the tall trees on the hillsides down to Sutton Road. This is a very slow-growing species. Some plants that were just beginning to be noticeable when I moved in twenty-seven years ago are still not far past sapling stage. The wood of this species is similar to that of *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood Wattle), an attractive hard and fine-grained timber used in the making of furniture.

Not much else is flowering. The prominent white flowerheads of *Cassinia longifolia* (Cauliflower Bush) have faded to beige. And *Cassinia quinquefaria* is still in bud, although its fine foliage topped with pyramids of tiny yellowish buds make it quite attractive at this stage. There are, however, lots of tiny yellow Golden Stars (*Hypoxis hygrometrica*) scattered through the green grass in damper areas.

The amount of bark shed by the local smooth-barked eucalypts varies from year to year, but this year just about all of the bark on Brittle Gums (*Eucalyptus mannifera*) and Scribbly Gums (*E. rossii*) has fallen off.

The Long-necked Turtles are evidently still breeding successfully here. I saw two large adults, a half-grown one and a tiny one all at the same time in my dam.

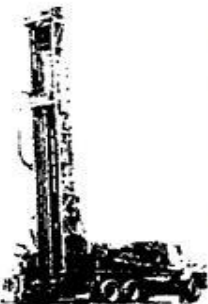
I still haven't managed to see the wombat that trundles through my place and neighbouring properties, digging holes and marking rocks and logs with its large droppings. But a neighbour has seen the Spotted Quoll again. The Wamboin landscape has changed so much over the years that it's likely that unusual animals and birds and other wildlife will find it a suitable home.

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## Help Stop Cruelty To Native Animals

Recently Wildcare received a call about an act of cruelty to kangaroos on a Wamboin property. Unfortunately it was not an isolated incident and there are many examples. In 2009 a wildlife rescue service in Newcastle had ten orphaned joeys in care, rescued from the pouches of mothers run down by cars in the grounds of Morisset Hospital. In 2010 people on motorbikes ran down and killed kangaroos, and the joeys harassed out of their pouches, on a Benalla golf course. In 2012 a kangaroo, and the joey in her pouch, were deliberately run down and killed in Bendigo's La Trobe University car park.

However, with a growing sense of responsibility to native animals, Australian courts are becoming more willing to recognise and punish acts of cruelty against them. In 2012 three men from Bendigo were convicted and sentenced for crimes under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 and Wildlife Act 1975. They had captured a kangaroo joey with their dog and taken it in the boot of their car to a park where they commenced filming their torture and final kicking to death of the joey. Because the judge released the footage to the media, the men were condemned widely and shunned in their hometown. In the same year two men from Victoria were found guilty of running down a kangaroo, putting her in a shopping trolley and pushing it down a flight of stairs.

The incident that was reported to Wildcare in December 2014 involved a Wamboin man chasing a group of kangaroos around and around his property in his car until one finally collapsed from exhaustion whereupon he ran over it, twice. He declared to a horrified neighbour that he would continue to do this until they were all gone.

You are not helpless in the face of cruelty to native animals. You really can make a difference and bring people who commit such crimes to justice. Because it is illegal, call the Police. The RSPCA and the National Parks and Wildlife Service can also act. Wildcare (6299 1966) can look after the needs of injured or orphaned animals. Gather what information you can for the authorities, including vehicle registration numbers. Photos and video footage taken with a smartphone are also useful.

Because these isolated and particular incidents of cruelty often happen away from the public eye, it is the individual observer in our community who can most often expose them, and therefore help prevent recurrence.

-- Denise Morgan, Vice President, Wildcare, 6299 1966



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## Councillor's Corner

**Palerang Development Control Plan** — With any luck, anyone who reads their Whisper regularly will know that we've just recently adopted a new Palerang Local Environmental Plan. While the PLEP is significant with respect to regulating land use planning and development within the shire, it is just one piece in a hierarchy of planning instruments.

All planning and development in NSW is carried out under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000.

Beneath these two pieces of legislation sit a set of State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs). SEPPs are State level planning policies that can either exempt certain forms of development from the controls of a specific LEP, or apply additional mandatory controls to developments. Control of developments that are considered to be of State significance, for example, is generally removed from local councils under the State and Regional Development SEPP. Other developments, considered minor in nature, are freed from the requirement for local council development controls under the Exempt and Complying Development Codes SEPP. Other SEPPs, like the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment SEPP, specify overriding mandatory controls that must be adopted by a consent authority (generally the local council) for applicable developments.

The controls specified within the overarching Acts and the SEPPs notwithstanding, an LEP is nonetheless the primary legislative instrument used to guide planning decisions in individual local government [council] areas.

The Development Control Plan sits beneath the LEP in the planning instrument hierarchy. The DCP is used to help achieve the objectives of the associated LEP by providing specific, comprehensive requirements for certain types of development or locations.

As an example, Clause 6.2 of the PLEP deals with 'Flood planning', and articulates some fairly high-level provisions. Section B9 of the draft PDCP, however, makes reference to specific styles of development and how the impact of inundation might be controlled in each case.

In the case of residential development, the PLEP again provides high-level controls, such as the minimum lot size, and the maximum height of a building. Section C2 of the draft PDCP provides somewhat more detail surrounding expected styles of residential development, including acoustic and visual privacy, energy and water efficiency, siting and orientation, and even roof pitch recommendations.

The DCP, however, is a policy document, not legislation as is the LEP. The implication here is simply that, while DCP controls are more specific than those in an LEP, there is more flexibility in the way these controls can be applied to individual situations.

A by-product of the requirement to prepare the new PDCP, similar to the situation with the PLEP, is the consolidation of a large number of DCPs that were applicable under previous LEPs. Previously, individual DCPs dealt with individual planning issues, like fencing requirements, controls on on-site sewage systems, or the placement of advertising signs. Under the new PDCP structure, there is now just a single DCP applicable to any particular area or piece of land, so that an interested party need only consult a single document. The consequence, of course, is that the new PDCP is a somewhat more complex document.

The new draft Palerang DCP will be completed in the coming weeks, and exhibited for public comment soon thereafter. Formal advertisements will appear in the local media. As the structure of the new DCP is radically different to that of previous DCPs, it is important to receive as much feedback as possible from the community during the exhibition period.

The text of NSW planning legislation, including State and local environmental planning instruments are available on the NSW legislation website at: [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au).

**The Palerang Blog**—New or related entries in my councillor website Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) include:  
Palerang Development Control Plan (Feb 2015)  
Palerang Development Control Plan (Mar 2012)  
Planning Instruments (Nov 2011)

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](mailto:Pete.Harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au), Website: [www.peteharrison.id.au](http://www.peteharrison.id.au)



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## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Filing and record keeping have never been my forte, but despite my shortcomings I was able to track down some of my previous January musings. There I was bemoaning the lack of rain and parched landscape one year, humidity, accompanied by a silent invasion of leaf sucking creatures the next, and then a year when my tomato crop, full of early promise failed miserably. This year, however, has begun as a truly happy new year. Not even the crickets and rabbits can keep pace with the rain generated growth, and I'm picking tomatoes, lettuces, basil and rhubarb!! I want to sing in praise of the recent rains, but I suspect my thin voice may be drowned out by a triumphant massed choir of blackberries, thistles, horehound, briar rose and St Johns wort, all noxious weeds having the time of their lives across the creek. It's a pity the rain can't be a little more selective in where it falls!

Looking at my unwelcome summer bounty, it reminded me of a field of pretty meadow flowers I once came across in Brittany. I had an overwhelming urge to embrace this wild garden. As I fell to my knees I realised that these exquisite flowers were simply weeds that I curse in my garden back home. But here they were perfect. A friend who knew west coast wildflowers but was new to the flora of eastern Australia saw a tiny yellow flowering plant beside her country road. Keen to establish more roadside colour, she cleared some weeds from around it, scattered leaf litter and left. Next year she was thrilled to find masses of yellow beside the road, until the noxious weeds inspector pricked her bubble by informing her that it was St John's wort.

A weed is just a plant growing in the wrong place. I am trying a new take on our defiant noxious weeds that persist despite our efforts with a mattock or spray. Instead, I am picking and eating blackberries as fast as I can to thwart their propagation by birds and foxes. I am monitoring the briar roses while I source a recipe for rosehip jam, wondering, as I pull out horehound from the rain softened earth if it is the plant used for horehound beer, and trying to see beauty, rather than prickles, in thistles. In the meantime I am looking beyond the invaders. Walking through the bush I came across a scribbly gum, gleaming yellow in its summer nakedness with a circle of tight curls of orange bark at its base. The ground was crunchy underfoot. Then a mop of grey brown flew above me and I looked up as a tawny frogmouth settled on a branch. Amongst the leaf litter I picked up a small piece of quartz which seemed to have been worked by ancient hands.

Surely all of us, at some time in our lives, have felt as if we have been planted in the wrong place. As we celebrate "Strayah Day", I think of Captain Arthur Phillip, brave, capable and well meaning, and how he must have questioned his place as he sailed into Sydney Harbour with his human cargo, a cargo of bewildered light eyes scanning the foreshores, watched from the cliffs by unseen, bewildered dark eyes. This was the beginning of a new era in our Continent's long history, and a redefining of the meaning of identity and place.

I know my place....and I wouldn't live anywhere else.....at least not while my tomatoes are ripening and the garden is being watered from above even though some of nature's bounty may appear misplaced.

Happy New Year!

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