



March 2015 CIRCULATION: 1,289

Wamboin Community Assn: www.wamboincommunity.asn.au
Bywong Community: www.bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade: <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the Wamboin Community Association which started The Whisper as a community newsletter in 1981 and continues to own it. The newsletter comes out at the start of each month, except January. It is distributed to all letterboxes in Wamboin, Bywong and of Palarang Council residents just southeast of the Federal Highway. Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. On contentious matters the Community Association will strive to maintain a balance. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or 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 April 2015 issue the deadline is Sunday, 29 March, 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.

LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial Triple Zero (000) All Hours

Bungendore Police: 6238 1244 Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre: 0409 991 340 Ambulance Bookings: 131233

LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	Jenny Richards, President	6238 1329	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Bywong Community	Darryl Bourke, President		president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade	Geoff Foster, Captain	0409 991 340	captain.brigade@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Resident Palarang Councillor	Pete Harrison	0427 711 028	cr.pete.harrison@palarang.nsw.gov.au
Resident Palarang Councillor	Keith France	0427 365 715	cr.keith.france@palarang.nsw.gov.au
Wamboin Markets	Lance and Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	Lmsconsulting@bigpond.com
Sutton School Playgroup	Johanna Bradley, Convenor	6236 9035	johannabradley@iinet.net.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	Jill Sedaitis, JP	6236 9559	
Wamboin Pony Club	Leanne Quick, Club Captain	6238 3435	
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Sue Barker, contact	0429 629 674	
Wamboin Play Group	Emma Auzins, Convener	6238 3974	emauszins@gmail.com
Scouts	Pete Harrison	6238 3525	
Bywong Hall Bookings	Guy Cotsell, contact	6230 3523	cotsell@moraguy.net
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	joan.mason@internode.on.net
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 Wmb	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	whirlwind@argonite.com.au
Lake George VIEW Club	Pauline Segeri, contact	6238 1996	
Wamboin Book Group	Alice Scott, Secretary	6238 3178	

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Alana Stenning	Pet sitting	6238 3030	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 stg,oddjobs	6238 3059
Jordan Brown	baby sitting	0414-907-921			

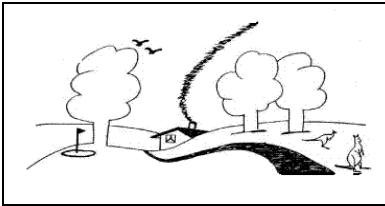


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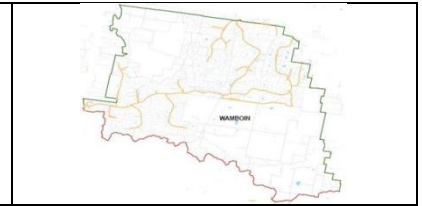
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Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



Hello and welcome to the March edition of the Whisper.

First WCA Meeting– We held our first meeting for the year on the 17th February at 7:30 pm at the Community Hall. As usual for the first meeting back it was quite well attended and a number of issues were discussed some of which I'll outline in these Notes. We were also pleased to welcome two gentlemen from Royalla who came along to gather ideas about setting up their own Community Association in Royalla. It was good to see them and I hope they took home some useful ideas for their own Association.

Meet The Candidates – The NSW State Election looms this month and the Wamboin Community Association and the Bywong Community Association are jointly inviting all the candidates for the election to attend a “*Meet The Candidates*” evening. The Evening will be held at **7:30 pm** on

Wednesday 18th March. It will be held at the **Wamboin Community Hall** (112 Bingley Way for those who are unaware of the address). The President of the Bywong Community Association will be chairing the evening. Candidates will be invited to speak to members of the public about their policies and viewpoints for approximately 5 minutes and a short question and answer period may follow. Alternatively people may feel more comfortable talking with the different candidates after the formal part of the evening is concluded over tea/coffee and nibbles. Whichever method you personally prefer I urge everyone in both Wamboin and Bywong ,who can come, to attend and see what your candidates have to offer.

Annual General Meeting – At our last meeting we set the date for our **Annual General Meeting**. Our AGM will be held on **Tuesday 21st April 2015** at **7:30 pm**. All positions for the Community Association will be spilled and financial members will vote for the 2015/16 Executive and Committee. Nomination forms and Membership forms can be downloaded from the **WCA website** or obtained from **the Secretary**. New residents are very welcome and older residents as well. That's it from me for now. -- Jenny Richards (President)

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

Contact: Lance and Meriel Schultz 62383309 or 0422614304

The February market was full of wonderful fresh produce and we had lots of stallholders but not so many locals buying. *Please support your local market!* Why nit drop in BEFORE you head into town or drop the kids at sport etc! It's well worth it. The produce is fresh and the prices cheaper than those in town.

For the lucky ones that dropped in, there were veggies galore, several varieties of locally grown garlic (we challenge you to tell us the difference between Rose du Var, Printenor and White Italian), unusual types of tomatoes including those enormous black Russians - full of flavour; beautiful fresh apples, pears and plums straight from the tree; jams, cakes and preserves galore. And do you know what to do with curabita? *Come and find out.*

To complete the picture, be tempted by locally grown native tube stock, a range of craft – knitwear, cards, hand-towels and more, an excellent selection of locally made dog and cat collars, leads and beds and hand made jewellery.

.....and the coffee baristas are the best in town.....we confess to at least three cups of coffee each during the morning! Combine that with scones and jam and creamyum.

Come on Wamboin – we need you there!



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

5pm Friday 10th April 2015 to 12:00 midnight Sunday 12nd April 2015.

This closure does *not* apply to the areas known as Sparrow Hill, Orchard Block or the car park recreation area at the bottom of Molonglo Gorge. The forest will be closed for a non-competitive motorcycling event - the DSMRA's Kowen Forest Ride 2015. This ride is organised as an annual membership drive for our association. It also raises money for charities such as the Snowy Hydro Rescue Helicopter and ACT SES branches.

Event Information: All bikes are registered and each rider must have a valid motorcycle licence. All riders are required to comply with the 40km/h speed limit and will not enter the motorsport exclusion zone, particularly the area adjacent to the northern boundary of the forest on "Wamboin Break". The section of Seven Mile Road adjacent to Wamboin will not be used as a transport section for DSMRA riders, however we have been advised current forestry operations will continue in that area. Preparations for the DSMRA event will commence from 10:30am Friday 10 April 2015. Riders who have travelled from interstate and intend to camp (at the old Depot site), and suppliers delivering event infra-structure, will start to arrive from this time. Notices will be put up before the event advising of the forest closure. "FOREST CLOSED" signs will be deployed at more than 50 locations around the forest perimeter. As Kowen Forest is declared closed by TAMS, the DSMRA advises residents, walkers, runners, hikers, horse riders, bicycle riders and any other recreational forest users, not to enter the forest during the closure. Entering the forest during the closure may endanger you, domestic animals, and the DSMRA riders.

As this is not a spectator event there will be NO PUBLIC ACCESS via Seven Mile Road, Kowen Rd (the main gate), Millpost Lane (at either the seismic station gates or the sheep boundary gate), Charcoal Kiln Rd, or any other entry point, for the specified closure period. The forest will be re-opened to the public from Monday morning after the event. Please be aware there will be increased traffic on Kowen Rd and areas around the Depot site for preparation on the days before and the tidy up after the event.. Further event information available on www.dsmra.asn.au If you have any questions, please contact the DSMRA Duty Officer by telephone 0490 456 041 or by email: kowencomm@dsmra.asn.au

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Bywong Community News www.bywongcommunity.org.au</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Darryl Bourke, President</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">This News Put Together by the Bywong Committee</p>	
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29 March Car Boot Sale: Yes, 29th is the correct date, and we apologise for the mistake in last month's Whisper. So now you have an extra week to prepare! Entry as always is free for buyers, and sellers/storeholders will pay \$15 for a site. Stallholders can set up from 8 am, and the grounds will be open to the public from 9 am. to 1pm. As usual, there will be ample parking, made hassle-free by the Fire Brigade supervisors.

Following the cancellation of last year's sale – rain for the first time in 18 years – we are expecting record amounts of pre-loved goods. There are always toys and books for the children, as well as rides and entertainment for them. We shall also

be welcoming back our community presences and events, including Pony Club catering, the popular Landcare plant sale, Pony Club and dog performing exhibitions, and generous information stations such as the Fire Brigade, the Community Association, and Land for Wildlife.

Our thanks to Council for helping get the grounds ready.

Riding Successes. The Geary's Gap Pony Club enjoyed an excellent attendance at its February rally day, with lots of young riders and some new members. Club riders have been out and about competing - ten riders at Bungendore Show and six at the Michelago Sporting Challenge, with good results all round. Twelve riders entered for the Canberra Show, and Club riders will perform demonstrations at the Car Boot Sale in March.

Law and Order:

Someone has thrown a rock through a window at our Community Hall. Anyone who can shed light on this event, or who would like to make a confession, please contact a member of the Hall Committee.

Dates for your calendar:

Trivia night 18 July, AGM Monday 10 August, Information Evening on rural Security TBA, Christmas drinks 4 December. The next Community meeting is on Monday 9 March at 7.30 pm in the Community Hall in Birriwa Road.



Come and have a good time at Bywong's biggest community event of the year. Over 100 stalls selling things you couldn't live without. If you have things you can live without, why not come and get a site for \$15 and make some money in the process. No prior site booking is required, just turn up well before the start at 9:00am.

Fun for the kids with plenty of toys and books on sale as well as rides.

Enjoy a cup of tea and cakes inside our hall. Enjoy dogs and horses and maybe some exotic animals on display.

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

OFF MAC'S REEF ROAD, FOLLOW THE SIGNS

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Wildcare Fixes Clamps

Clamps (*photo*) is an eastern long-necked turtle that didn't quite make it across the road before being clipped by a passing vehicle. With a large crack across its upper shell, it was rescued by a member of the public and handed into Wildcare to see what could be done.

Eastern long-necked turtles are very common and most dams and slow-moving waterways will have them. They move around in spring and summer in search of new homes and we often see them on the roadways after its rained. In Clamps case there were no major internal soft tissue injuries, so the shell could be readily mended. Belinda, Wildcare's reptile and turtle expert, repaired the broken shell using dental paste. This allows the shell to grow back together. Two clips have been glued in place to stabilise the shell and the area has been coated with more glue (araldite) to waterproof it. Then it is a matter of time to let the shell repair itself – the glue eventually falls off. Belinda says "Wildcare gets about 40 turtles into care each year depending on the weather conditions and the vigilance of motorists! There is a high success rate in repairing cracked shells, so it is worth having a go. Ideally the turtles are released well before they are due to hibernate over winter and they need to be released close to where they were picked up." Look carefully and you can see Clamps peeking out from under the section of upper shell that has been repaired.



At present Clamps is being cared for by Lesley – a Wildcare carer, in 5-star accommodation. To rehabilitate wildlife it is necessary to have the right set-up and knowledge. So, Clamps lives in a two-metre tank of filtered water with a UV light overhead. It is fed on feeder fish and prawn pieces. If it is necessary to keep the turtle in care over winter, then the water is heated.

It's always good to help prevent animals getting injured on the roads – if it is safe, wildlife can be shoed away, or in the case of smaller animals like turtles, picked up and placed off the road

in the direction they were going. Turtles need to be picked up by their front and back shell area to avoid getting 'scented' from the glands on their sides. Often people carry a towel in the boot of their car to help pick up smaller animals. Wildcare can be contacted on 6299 1966 for help (put it in your Mobile). *Photo: Clamps peeks out* -- Philip Machin, For Wildcare, 62383717

Mad March

the market @ bungendore

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Frog Request

I have been trying to identify the 2 x frogs below. I was sure they were both brown the first time I looked but then I had a light brown, almost white one. Do you know a frog expert who can help with the identification of these frogs?

--Russell Ball, russell@esss.net.au Colour version of Whisper is available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au



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Church Notices -- St Andrews, Wamboin and St Peters, Sutton

Easter is early this year and already **Lenten Studies** have commenced every **Tuesday evening at 7pm at St Andrews, Poppet Road**. Lent is the period that commemorates Christ's forty days in the wilderness and the Lenten studies provide a genuine opportunity for study and reflection. **The five sessions are on 24 February and 3, 10, 17 and 24 March**; the last session is celebrated as a traditional Passover meal and you will be most welcome to participate even if you have been unable to attend most of the study groups.

EASTER SERVICES

Morning Prayer St Peters, Sutton, Palm Sunday 29 March, at 9am.
Sutton School Easter Service, Wednesday, 1 April, at St Peters.
Good Friday, Ante Communion service, St Andrews Wamboin, 3 April at 9am.
Easter Sunday, Holy Communion St Andrews, Wamboin, 5 April at 9am.
There are no services at St Peters this Easter

On Sunday, 1 March, after a shortened service, members of the congregation helped in the annual Clean Up Australia Day event, collecting rubbish thoughtlessly discarded along Poppet Road. Children from Kids Club joined in as well and afterwards we enjoyed morning tea, together. Kids Club meets at St Andrews each Friday from 5.30 to 7pm during school term. We always welcome new faces, and any offers of help.

St Peters and St Andrews will once again have a stall at the Sutton School Country Fair on Saturday, 21 March. Proceeds go to the Sutton School P & C. Services are held at St Andrews on the first and third Sunday of each month, and at St Peters on the second and fourth Sunday. All services are at 9am, followed by morning tea and a chance to chat and keep in touch with the community.

Contacts: Rev Dr Royce Thompson, Alan Rope 62383224, Robyn Robertson 62383202, Bronwyn Elliott 62383359

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Decisions made over the next four years will determine the fate of vast tracts of NSW's most beautiful forests and agricultural land. Will it be open cut coal mines and CSG wells or a rich and resilient landscape that supports both community and habitat?

PETER MARSHALL
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Snakebite

I have lived in Wamboin with Marita for over 30 years. We bought our children up in this wonderful community. Over the years we had many animals both large and small. Over this time we have seen and dealt with a lot of wildlife including numerous species of snakes. All of us hear how dangerous these snakes can be but I am sure many like me simply dismiss it as part of life. This was me until a few weeks ago. Here is my story.

On February 10 at 1.40 pm in the glorious summer sun I went to pick some of the magnificent white peaches from my trees. They were truly the best I had ever grown. The trees were covered in nets to prevent the birds picking and pecking at them. I went into the net and began filling a bucket. After it was full I lifted the net to get under and felt a small sharp pain. I ignored it and did not even look down. Next I felt was an unbelievably intense pain. All I can describe it is like a hot knife entering and burning as it went in. I looked down to find a tiger snake fixed to my leg and clearly pumping venom. Frightening to say the least. The Orchard is 100 m from my office and I had no mobile phone to call. I stood still for a minute and gathered my thoughts. I screamed and no response. After a short time I made a slow walk to the office still calling all the way.

As soon as I was heard my office staff went into action. Their first aid courses come into play. I was laid down on the office floor and tried not to move while an ambulance was rung. This was not easy being anxious. The bandages from the snakebite kits purchased many years ago were immediately put into action. Some things are crucial when wrapping the limb, in my case the leg. It is important to wrap the whole leg from the top down. However for the identification of the type of snake putting a swab over the bite site is imperative. Never wipe the area as snake identification is crucial and this is done by venom samples from the bite itself. However the fastest identification is by actually having the snake (hopefully dead) with you.

I was taken to Queanbeyan Hospital by ambulance where the process of saving me began. This involved firstly checking whether the snake had released its venom into my body or invenomated as they say. Apparently not all snake bites have venom released. However with me being bitten in 2 spots it was highly likely. The venom in a tiger snake works in numerous ways.

- it thins your blood and this causes acute increases in blood pressure
- begins to paralyse
- causes muscle wasting

The first sign of the venom being in your body is the blood begins to thin. This happens within the first hour of the venom being in the body. Mine when I reached hospital had thinned to more than 10 times the normal level -- this was the highest which could be read. I had been hit big time. I was later to learn the amount of venom I had was enough to kill 36000 mice. It was going to be an uphill battle.

Queanbeyan hospital realized and had identified the snake bite. This takes about 30 minutes using an venom kit. It was a tiger. They immediately realized the danger and gave me tiger snake antivenom. Giving this is not done without consideration of the potential danger I was in. The antivenom can trigger severe reactions also in about 10 per cent of people. The potential reaction is partially dependent on the amount of antivenom needed to counteract the venom. With consideration to the potential danger I was in, the emergency staff then dispatched me to Canberra Hospital. The next 20 hours were critical to my survival.

After arrival the area where the snake bit was again swabbed and the bite identified as a tiger snake. Another 2 lots of antivenom were administered given the severity of my condition and the inability of my blood to clot. I was then sent to the intensive care unit wired up like a robot with more access points to my veins than a junkie and with more bruises than going 12 rounds with Mike Tyson. Not a pretty site given where I was only 4 hours earlier. I was told not to sleep and if I felt anything different to alert the staff immediately. Well nothing happened and nothing changed other than I felt very ill, tried and sore. I survived the most difficult part or at least I thought I had.

Over the next few days I slowly improved. All the negative effects from the venom continued to improve except for my taste. Everything I ate or drank tasted metallic. I simply did not want to eat. Along with the muscle wasting effects from the venom I lost 13 kg in a week. Not the best way to lose weight!!! Eventually I was sent home after almost 5 days.

However it did not end there. After being home for 2 days I started to get a fever and felt unwell again. Spots began to appear on my legs and these soon spread all over me. At the start it looked like measles but soon turned into what looked like huge birthmarks. I had gotten the dreaded serum sickness. After a course of steroids and a number of other drugs this eventually cleared. I am writing this exactly 2 weeks after I was bitten, on my way to do business in Canada.

I owe so much to so many people. None more so than to my staff (Cindy, Joan and Paul) and Marita. If it was not for your quick actions and know how I may not have been here today. To the many medical people who assisted me over the five days I thank you for your efforts. They may never read this but a special thanks to Steve, Rebecca, May, James and the doctors of the toxicology unit at Canberra Hospital. Your knowledge and encouragement to go on cannot be overestimated. The job you do is so often underestimated. To Marita thanks for your support and concern -- I simply did not realize the danger I was facing.

So what is the upshot of my experience? Whilst I maybe one of the few who have ever been bitten by a snake in Wamboin, the stunning reality is it can happen to any of us. The snakes are there and we see them often but the one you do not see is the one that can suddenly strike. It is important to be prepared-have the bandages available and know what to do and how to act in the case of bite.

I am proposing to assist in the organization of a snake awareness talk and the way to act just in case the unexpected happens again in our vicinity - Greg Corra

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Your Street Number Continued

I won't say where this house number is located however I can say its pretty impressive for its size and reflective ability. It certainly meets the how to be seen criteria.

If the Whisper was in colour you would see an iridescent green. The numbers are made out of reflective plastic that won't fade. They are probably 12 cms high and could probably be seen by candle light on the darkest of Wamboin nights.

New street numbers are starting to appear around the neighbourhood so well done for those improving their ability to be found by the emergency services.

The Fire Risk from Inside Your House...A Recent and Local Case In Point

Living in this wonderful bush environment its easy to think that our only fire risk comes from the bush and only on those summer days of extreme heat and wind. We even have signs around the district that tell us when the risk is greatest. One of our Wamboin RFS members however recently discovered the bush is not the only source of fire risk. The story begins with a recessed halogen downlight which caught fire in her house. Fortunately she was at home and able to act quickly.

An electrician was called and he discovered the fire started in a defective globe unit. Normally the unit consists of a bulb housed in a reflector with a protective lens. The lens had fallen out allowing a wasp to build its nest in there! This overheated and caught fire. The fire could have been very dangerous had someone not been at home to see it happen. And so the lessons learned from a real life and local experience:

- Check the caps on all downlights. A flick of a torch light will help you see if the cap is in place.
- Have an ABE fire extinguisher handy (suitable for putting out electrical and oil fires as well as ordinary combustibles). Make sure everyone knows where it is.
- If a light or other electric fitting catches fire, turn off the power switch.
- Do not use water to extinguish the fire as the risk of live wires could lead to electrocution.
- Be prepared to move very quickly and check the roof cavity for signs of smoke or fire.
- Call 000 if you can't quickly extinguish the fire.
- After the fire has been extinguished stay vigilant and watch for signs of fire or smoke.
- Install a photoelectric smoke detector in the cavity of your roof.
- Practice these scenarios in your own home so you are prepared. It's hard to work quickly and under pressure without practice. Practice will help you stay calm.

For further information on this type of fire risk and other risks within the home check out the NSW Fire and Rescue website at <http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au>. Under the heading 'Home fire safety resources' there is a plethora of information on fire safety in and around the home.

BURNING OFF – FIRE PERMITS REQUIRED



It might be hard to believe but 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. This will change in the coming months but for now permits are required.

Contact the Captain on 0409 991 340 or email: captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au

BRIGADE ACTIVITY

Call Outs

So far in the first three weeks of February, 3 callouts, all to motor vehicle crashes:

Thursday 12 February. At 5.45 pm a tanker with a crew of four was despatched to a motor vehicle crash on Bungendore Road near the Federal Highway. The crew assisted NSW police who were on scene.

Friday 13 February. At 4.15 pm a tanker with 5 crew responded to an accident on Macs Reef Road involving a car, being towed on a trailer, which came off the trailer and rolled several times. The crew assisted NSW police in controlling traffic.

Saturday 21 February. At 9.50 am a tanker with 3 crew responded to a crash on Macs Reef Road. The vehicle was off the road and there was no danger of fire, and the crew had an early return to the station.

Community Engagement

Tuesday 17 February

The brigade hosted 15 cubs and their leaders from 1st Bungendore Scout troop. They were given an introduction to fire awareness and basic fire prevention and preparedness.

Saturday 21 March

As we do for all Wamboin Home Produce Markets we will have an information stand at the Fire Shed at the next Wamboin Home Produce Market, on Saturday 21 March. This might be a good time to ask those questions about reducing fuel loads during the non fire season months.

Sunday 29 March

The Brigade will be at the Bywong Car Boot Sale helping stall holders locate their sites and organising customer parking. Our highly skilled support crew will be running the sausage sizzle and we will have an information booth on site. Donation buckets will be at the front gate if you would like to make a financial contribution to the brigade.

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

NSW Rural Fire Service www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Wamboin Brigade Captain captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au or 0409 991 340

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How The Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

For at least two decades how it's been delivered on Cooper Road has been by Bill Owen. The Whisper only works because of him and all the other people listed below who deliver it to other residents month after month, year after year. Robyn Robertson has generously offered to take over Bill's job. A number of kilometers north in Bywong, for over a decade, Richard Holding has, for the same high pay of \$0 per decade, delivered Whispers into every mailbox on Wyoming Road and Doust Road. I thank them both for so many months and years of donating their time to make living in Bywong and Wamboin a tiny bit fuller for the residents whose mailboxes they almost certainly can to this day clearly remember.

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	Bill Owen	Cooper Rd	26
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	35	Stuart Whitten	Canning Cl	17
Julie Veal	Poppet Rd (for all on road)	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	40
176: CO-ORDINATED BY KATHY HANDEL: ph 6238 3596					
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	48	Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Dr	17
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	31
Kathy Handel	Norton (Weerona to Hilltop+Wirndra)	22	Penny Evans	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	26
238: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489					
Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	44
Colleen Foster	B'dore Rd to Nrtm Rd	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
253: CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN: ph 6238 3590					
Sheryl Barnes	Denley Dr (Sth End 1/2 way2 Kestral)	15	Brian Higginson	Denley Dr (Birchmans to Kestral inc)	12
Don Malcolmson	Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat)	7	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef Rd (Newington to Bankers)	7
Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr	28	Morag & Guy Cotsell	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott	30
Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Sandra Favre	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott	20
Carol & Clive Boughton	Macs Reef Rd (Bankers to Fed Hwy)	33	Joan Milnor	Birriwa Rd plus Macs Rf Rd to Harriott	30
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Ln	6	Tony Bond	Hogan Dr/Orana Dr/Yuranga Dr	42
Rhonda&Neville Parnell	DenleyDr (Kestral2 1/2 way 2SthEnd)	15	Misc		1
152: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425					
Michael & Jose Deane	FdHwSvcRd/Bidges/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)	20
Ian Coillet	Grove Road	7			
179: CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON ph 6236 9333					
Phil & Pam Dawes	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln	27	David Featherston	Summerhill and Creekborough Rds	26
Kevin Anderson	B'dore Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill)	35	Richard Holding	Wyoming & Doust Rds	25
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (Fed Hwy to Summerhill)	25	Chris Fowler	Shinglehouse & Millyn Rds	20
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	21			
121: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484					
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
TOTAL 1,289					

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 - Wondered what the middle ages might have sounded, smelled or tasted like?
 - The SCA has something for you!

The SCA, or Society for Creative Anachronism Inc, is a non-profit, educational organisation whose aims include re-creating the martial & civilian arts & crafts of the pre-17th century world. We have a dream, the dream of an ideal medieval world where the

arts of war are practiced without death or injury, and the crafts of peace are taught freely to all. A world of pageantry, where all can aspire to true nobility with chivalry and courtesy honoured above all. We don't just read about history, we live it! At tournaments, feasts, classes and festivals the world over, you can relive these fascinating periods of history in a very real way. We meet regularly to learn new skills, learn and train various skill-at-arms for armoured combat, archery and rapier.

Here in Wamboin we meet at 6pm every Tuesday (Except the 3rd Tuesday of the month when the WCA meeting is on), at the Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin. Where we have a sword combat training session that runs from 6.30pm and various craft projects going as well. There is a cost of \$5 to cover hall costs. Come along and find out if the modern medieval is for you! - Alice Balnaves-Knyvett, Bingley Way



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

February rainfall to 22/2 ... 14.5mm
 2015 rainfall to 22/2... 136.00mm
 Average March rainfall 58.8mm
 Wettest March ... 303mm in 1989
 Driest March ... 3mm in 1986 and 1998
 Coldest March day ...13C x 3 times

(Feb 2014 .. 71.5mm)
 (2014 to 28/2 ... 84.5mm)
 (March 2014 ... 72.5mm)
 Wettest March day ... 160mm on 15/3/89
 Hottest March day ... 35C on 8/3/83
 Coldest March night ... 3C on 28/3/99

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Nature Notes February 2015

Jo Walker

We've had just enough rain this month to keep the landscape green, but most of the forecast rain and storms came tantalisingly close then veered away from Wamboin.

Most of the local plants have finished flowering and are bearing seed or subsiding into their autumn appearance. Just a few of the daisies – *Leucochrysum albicans* (Hoary Sunray), *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* (Clustered Everlasting) and *Xerochrysum viscosum* (Sticky Everlasting) – are showing another flush of flowers.

There are plenty of young birds around at the moment. A pair of Kookaburras were coaxing a young one from tree to tree recently and the Rufous Whistlers were accompanied by two fledglings. There are several green-feathered Crimson Rosella offspring too – and, of course, a brood of creakily calling young Galahs. It's interesting how lots of bird species travel through the vegetation together in mixed flocks, searching for food. A few days ago, in the side garden near my house, there was one of these flocks consisting of Eastern Spinebills, a White-eared Honeyeater, Blue Fairy Wrens, White-browed Scrub-wrens, a Spotted Pardalote and Grey Fantails – and, watching them from the fence, a Fan-tailed Cuckoo.

I haven't heard it calling recently, but it's possible that the Powerful Owl has been visiting, as I found lots of Possum fur around the base of a sapling eucalypt near the dam. It looked as if something had perched in the tree to devour the little animal.

We sometimes overlook the small creatures that share the land with us. But, at the moment, it's hard not to notice the spiders. I had close encounters with two of them this morning, walking into webs strung across pathways. One was a spiky little black, white and orange Spiny Spider (*Asterocantha* sp.) and the other was a Golden Orb-weaver (*Nephila* sp.), a smooth bodied large spider with tufts of dark hairs on its long legs. There was also a Wheel-weaver Spider (*Eriophora* sp.), a stout mottled spider that had kindly constructed its beautiful web away from my track and was feeding on a large fly it had caught.

Last week, there were several Orchard Swallowtails (*Papilio aegeus*) flying around. These are very large black butterflies with white markings, and their larvae feed on plants in the Citrus family (Rutaceae). There are also a lot of much smaller black and white moths (with orange and black striped bodies) in the air. These are *Nyctemera amica* and their larvae feed on *Senecio quadridentatus*, a local daisy bush. Another insect that has been spending some time feeding on the nectar in flowers is the Blue Flower Wasp (*Scolia soror*). This metallic blue-black wasp (About 2 cm long) lays its eggs on beetle larvae in the soil and its larvae finally consume them. I've seen several of these wasps recently, industriously digging into the soil, although they didn't seem to be having much success in finding beetle larvae.

Life is often precarious for our wildlife – predators, disease and climate fluctuations all take their toll. And, sometimes, human habitations contribute. I suppose most of us have had birds try to fly through what looked like a clear space only to collide with a window. I found a little Silver-eye on my pavers recently, looking decidedly groggy after hitting the glass. It could perch (somewhat unsteadily) on my hand and its wings were uninjured, so I placed it on a wattle branch to recover. These events don't always end happily, but this one did and the little bird flew off after a while to spend a bit more of its life in the Wamboin countryside.

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WAMBOIN – My 40+ Years in the Area

By Don Evans

It is now approaching 40 years since my family started building their house in late 1975 in Gallagher Crescent. My first recollection of the Wamboin area was in late 1972 when the area was known then as “Canberra Country Estates”. Rural blocks were available for sale, the closest within metres of the ACT border. I remember the roads that just had their first coat of bitumen applied and power poles still lying on the ground waiting to be erected. Our family would come out at the weekend to view the blocks for sale with a hope of someday building a house out in the bush.

Early 1973, a \$200 holding deposit was paid by my parents to the selling agent – Allen Curtis & Partners to secure lot 9. By March that year a contract was signed and we were committed to a new life in the bush. We would all drive out on the weekends, my father fencing, me riding my motorbike on the various tracks, exploring the area with no one around, and only the sound of chainsaws cutting the felled trees from where the new roads and dams had been built. There was little permanent water around then as most of the dams were newly built and had little or no water in them. Most of the dams were borrow pits used to get fill for making the roads. Many of them had breaches in the walls when they finally filled up in later years. It was rare to see a Kangaroo back then, but there were plenty of rabbits and birds. In late 1975, my parents signed a contract with Cosmopolitan Homes to build a brick veneer dwelling. At the time there was a strict covenant that all houses in the area were to be of brick veneer construction and had to have a tiled roof. This would explain why the older Wamboin houses had similar construction methods. Our house was the third house to be built in the area, two others had been already built in Cooper Road. In those days, Norton Road was only 2 km in length. It came to a dead end where it joined Fernloff Road.

There were no roadside mailboxes allowed at that time. If you wanted a mail delivery you had to apply to the PMG (Post master general) for a mailbox number. Once granted, you could only erect a postbox on the corner of Gallagher Crescent and Norton Road (where the Wamboin notice board is now) There were about 20 in a row as I can remember. The address given by the PMG would be up to a four digit number with “Sutton Road” written after. The numbers on the letterboxes were not sequential as the numbers were given out in order for an area extending up to Sutton. We never had locks on our box and it was rare that things went missing. I vaguely remember a trial of milk and bread deliveries to our boxes but as you can imagine a failure when these items were left for 8 hours in the summer heat.

As I was still attending Campbell High School when we finally moved into the house and I wanted to finish my secondary schooling there. I was told at the time that I must now attend a NSW school as I lived in NSW. Despite this I stayed at Campbell High and completed my secondary schooling there.

Kowen forest had quite a number of people living in the Kowen settlement in the 1970's as there was employment for logging and processing of pine trees. I was eventually able to get onto a school bus exclusively for students who lived in the settlement and the McKeahnie kids who lived in the ACT section of Sutton Road. (The farm house just before the driver training complex on the Sutton Road.) The only problem being that the school bus was not allowed to drive or drop off over the ACT border so I had to walk home from within the ACT. Another issue in the early years was the telephone service. There was a shortage of numbers and always a long waiting period to get a phone connected. Telecom ended up running many of the phone lines on fences fixed with insulation tape as a temporary measure. Some of these stayed in use for years until they were finally trenched underground.

Back in Canberra Country Estates days, we had no fire trucks and relied on the Sutton Brigade for defending any fires that occurred in the area. The only close fire trucks were stationed on large established farms. The closest were Jack Cooper's place (the old farm house right up against the fence, about 2 km towards Sutton from the Wamboin turnoff) and other trucks located at Stan Bingley's (another 3km north). Most were owned by the farmers, and were mostly two wheel drive neglected looking vehicles. I remember jumping on the back of Jackie Cooper's truck in the middle of the night with my father, disappearing off towards Sutton and Gundaroo to a raging fire. We would even pick up volunteers from the side of the road if there was room on the back. Although we had a tank of water, hoses and a pump, the primary tool was a wet wheat bag and if lucky you were given a rake hoe. Wanting to be more independent, we later obtained two trucks which we converted into bushfire fighting vehicles. Although we were still part of the Sutton Brigade, the trucks were stationed locally in the Cooper road fire shed which the locals built.

Canberra Country Estate was not really a fitting name for the area. At a public meeting at the same Cooper road fire shed, a number of names were suggested in place of Canberra Country Estate. Wamboin was finally selected at a later date from the list and gazetted in 1981. We now had our own identity.

The population grew over the years and the need for community resources was becoming a priority as nothing existed in the immediate area. Meetings of the locals were organized and before long plans were in motion to create the Community Centre with a hall, toilet block and later the permanent Bicentennial fire station. Working bees were a common weekend activity with most residents taking some sort of part in the building works. It should be noted that all these projects and others were built and managed entirely by volunteer labour with much of the material donated by local businesses.

Over the 40 years of living here in Wamboin, I have been privileged to know and remain friends with many great residents from the area, all usually met through the fire brigade, Community Association, golf club or other groups. Unfortunately many of the older original residents have now moved on or passed away (together with my parents Sally and Dene), so memories and stories from the past are just that. They will be forgotten unless we put pen to paper.

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FOR HIRE: BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL. Suitable for smaller functions and seminars, groups etc. Check availability and booking information on www.bywongcommunity.org.au.

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

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

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

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

Out-Sourcing: The Latest Rip-Off

Recent local media reports headlined the new bridge over the Molonglo River at Captains Flat. Completed on time and within budget, hopefully to specification and quality standards.

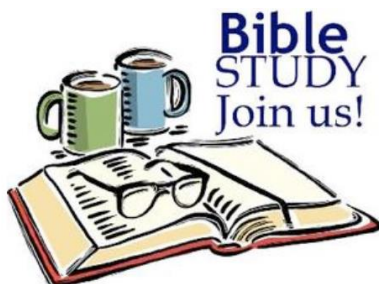
Sounds good but what about the fine print, which indicates construction and project management were both contracted out! Presumably along with bridge design. This was worth a laugh. Until I remembered us ratepayers are paying the price. Professional service providers don't come cheap.

This is not the first time that straightforward civil engineering work has been contracted out rather than undertaken in house. Why is this? As things stand we are paying twice. Council employs engineering professionals and yet we pay big money to outside service providers ..., to undertake engineering work. – Graham Bailey

Know Your Bible

Take a break! Make a space in your week! Come to the KYB Bible Study Group! It's FREE , FRIENDLY, RELEVANT!!! MEETS YOU WHERE YOU ARE!! !

Our small "Know Your Bible" group is local, meets most weeks each school term and uses study guides which provide a framework for relaxed discussion. We meet in each others homes, belong to a number of different churches, mostly run to time and, we hope, are welcoming and supportive .! !



We use study guides published by CWCI which is homegrown (it began in Australia), is interdenominational, and is run by women for women (though there are now some groups for blokes). Over 2000 small groups meet throughout Australia, week by week, using these study guides!! !

However our group is quite "Wamboin" - small and informal, it was set up by a few "locals", and we all live in the area. Our discussion is relaxed with "no previous knowledge required"!!! Would you like to join us, attend on a trial basis or just ask a few questions? Do you need a creche?! !

contact - Robyn Doran 6238 3469 or Evonne Barrett 6230 3539 for further information

News from the Wonderful Women of Wamboin

By Gail Ritchie Knight

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) have been in full swing this past month. A few weeks ago one of our members brought in a quilt belonging to a resident of a local nursing home. It was showing many years of loving use to the extent that it was in danger of falling apart. So some of us set to it and began to repair it – an activity that was not onerous at all and I'm sure the owner will be only too happy to see it restored to its former as-new state.



Most months we celebrate birthdays except over the December-January period. A volunteer bakes a cake and given the ages of some of us, we risk serious fire risk as we light the many candles. Some of us live alone so this is a lovely touch and we enjoy the singing of 'Happy Birthday', albeit somewhat stridently. Then again if hubby has inadvertently forgotten the big day, well never fear because we will help celebrate, always.

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.

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Wheels of Wamboin

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

One month and counting. It's time to give that old jalopy the once over and think about those things that need doing to get her along to the Wheels of Wamboin. Just remember all manner of automotive machines are welcome from tractors to bikes, cars to trucks or anything else with at least a wheel that sparks a conversation or a memory of days gone by or gets a drool and a dream going. Enjoy a great day out (the markets will also be on) 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 60 years since the MGA. The MGA was built by the British Motor Corporation from 1955 to 1962. The MGA replaced the MG TF 1500 and represented a complete and revolutionary styling break from MG's earlier sports cars. A total of 101,081 units were sold through the end of production in July 1962. My favourite was the Twin-Cam model in 1958. It used a high-compression DOHC aluminium cylinder head version of the B-Series engine producing 108 hp (81 kW; 109 PS). They had period advanced four-wheel disc brakes by Dunlop

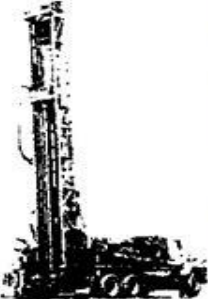
along with splined knock-off steel wheels. The MGA was based on a Le Mans built special (a one off MGTD) raced in 1952. In 1955 three MGA's were entered at Le Mans and two of the cars finished the race placing 12th and 17th overall. The MGA was used in NASCAR from 1960-63 (who at that point was the last foreign non American automaker in NASCAR until 2007, when Toyota entered the NASCAR competition with the Toyota Camry).

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Wamboin Pony Club February - 2015

What a great start to the Pony Club year. Two very successful club rally days in February saw most of our existing Wamboin Pony club riders back in the saddle again for another year. The most exciting thing however is we also have had 4 new riders join us from 3 local families. This is encouraging as our new riders are aged from 3 to 10 which helps boost the number of younger riders in our club. Wamboin Pony club prides itself on being a friendly club. Our older more experienced riders are always ready to help the younger less experienced. We also have some very experienced and dedicated instructors and a friendly group of supportive parents. Rally days last month saw riders practicing their jumping, working around the



Cross Country course and the young riders learning some of the basics of horsemanship. Some of the parents of the young led riders got a lot of exercise running up and down the arenas.

We still have some riding places left for 2015 so tell your friends about your local pony club. If you are aged 3 to 25 and own or have access to a horse come and see what Wamboin Pony Club is all about. 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 on the second and 4th Sunday of the month at our grounds in Canning Close from 10am - 3pm. Our next Rally day for 2015 will be on Sunday 8th March 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 also find us on facebook . We hope to see you soon. - **Steve Quick**

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6258 -1792

Councillor's Corner

Solid Fuel Heaters — How many people are not aware that council approval is currently required for the installation or replacement of “a domestic oil or solid fuel heating appliance, other than a portable appliance”? If you’ve put your hand up, I can assure you that you’re not alone.

Interestingly, this is not a requirement associated with a normal development covered by the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, or the Palerang Local Environmental Plan, it is actually a requirement under the Local Government Act 1993 (Section 68, Part F). At one level, that’s a technicality, because regardless of which piece of legislation is involved, the manner in which this issue is regulated is determined by council policy, in this case the Palerang Development Control Plan (PDCP).

I mentioned the new PDCP in my last column, and I thought this provided a good example of what sort of thing appears in a DCP and why people might be interested in reviewing the draft that is about to go on exhibition.

Getting down to the nitty gritty, we are not talking about development consent for the use of a heater in a house, which one could reasonably expect to cover replacements or possibly relocations, both of which fall under the same piece of legislation. It is all about the installation of the heater and the approval process is intended to ensure that the appliance is installed correctly so houses don’t burn down through lack of separation from or shielding of combustible surfaces.

Some councils, for example, require the installation to be carried out by a licenced installer—if you’re interested, you can check the currency and category of any contractor’s or tradesperson’s licence on-line at onegov.nsw.gov.au. Others simply require an applicant to demonstrate that an installation is consistent with the manufacturer’s specifications. The requirements to be specified in the PDCP are still to be finalised, but the objective is simply to ensure that solid fuel heaters are safe and efficient.

While this discussion about the nature of an approval may seem very pedantic, this is precisely the sort of argument that arises when an insurance company seeks to establish fault with respect to a claim. As such, regardless of how the PDCP ultimately deals with this issue, residents are advised to confirm any specific installation or approval requirements with their home insurance provider.

This is just one of the matters that have been highlighted during the preparation of the new Palerang Development Control Plan (PDCP).

The draft PDCP is scheduled to go on public exhibition on 2 March 2015, for six weeks. Residents are invited to attend the community meetings to be held in Bungendore (10 March, 5.30pm) and Braidwood (17 March, 5.30pm) to discuss the draft PDCP, and to offer comment on its content.

During the exhibition period, the draft document will be on display in the Council offices in Bungendore and Braidwood, and will be available for download from the council website.

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

Solid Fuel Heaters (Feb 2015)

Palerang Development Control Plan (Jan 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,

Website: www.peteharrison.id.au

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

It's been a month of eating, preserving and sharing summer produce. While the last surviving peach tree has been full of fruit we've lived on peaches, picking, eating and giving them away as fast as we can to beat the cockies and rosellas. I've had to scabble around to find enough jars for chutneys and jams to use up surplus fruit, and without any decent rain, there has been the vegetable garden to be watered. An abandoned apple tree across the creek has been covered in apples; apples which not only taste like apples, but take less time to cook than any bought out of season from a supermarket.

For months, from my window, I've been spying on an industrious team of paper wasps painstakingly building a multistorey nest under the verandah roof. My ears have become attuned to the background hum of activity in the chinese elm, and the little birds have been a delight, busy and noisy, but if there is one creature that can spoil the party it's a mossie at dusk. All the magic of standing outside with a hose at the end of a hot day can vanish with the first bite! The mossies have been fierce; the March flies have been looking at the calendar and are readying themselves for the next onslaught.

For the last few days, however, we have been at the coast where the average age of the population during business hours must surely be over 60! The beach knows no hierarchy; beneath a floppy canvas hat, dressed in shorts and rubber thongs with sand between your toes you could strike up a conversation with anybody. All pretence is stripped away. There's time for a yarn, a chin wag, a chance to chew the fat and idly pass the time of day with the Christmas holidays long gone. My most memorable encounter was with a wrinkled, walnut brown body that appeared on an aqua, Mary Poppins bicycle complete with basket. He'd bought the bike for his wife to assist her recovery from a knee replacement. Knee operations are a great topic of conversation at this time of the beach year! She possibly hadn't had much of an opportunity to pursue her exercise regime because she was hobbling around at home making his lunch. Time drifted on and then beneath the hat his face cracked apart in a wide smile and he said, "You gotta laugh in this life. No point crying", and with that profound observation, turned, and pedalled off unsteadily in the sand. He didn't say, fatuously, "Must dash...catcha later." The sand and age impeded his dash. He didn't engage in a "dialogue" with us and he didn't have to have a "conversation about" an issue. He certainly didn't seem to feel the need to reassure us that he'd "catch us later". It's sort of nice getting older and having time to just "be".

But just in case you think I might be slowing down, I have to dash.....I must sniff the roses as I brush past them in my haste to do a tally of the bees buzzing in the chinese elm.....I wouldn't live anywhere else....catcha!

Wamboin 15 years ago – from the Whisper, March 2000

Circulation: 820

by Robyn Robertson

From: "The Wamboin Golf Story 6" by Lofty Mason: "Cameo 1. One very hot day we came across a group who had struggled to the top of Cardiac Arrest Hill, and having found the cool area of the Wamboin 19 offshoot they had decided to call it a day. The only clock that drove them away was when the esky ran dry! **Cameo 2.** Having the course laid out over several properties, and driving between the areas caught the attention of the NSW Golf Magazine. In their write-up they claimed the course was unique! Unfortunately, my throwaway line that the 'longest drive on our course was five and a half kilometres' became their headline. **Cameo 3.** The local TV channel produced a video of the action. To add interest they showed teeing up on horse manure and checking tees for snakes. I've never seen either but why spoil a good story? **Cameo 4.** The right side of the 16th hole which is called Shorten Sweet, although Dave Hubbard calls it Short'n Sh...y, has an electric fence. My wife hasn't forgiven me for the time she was zapped when climbing through after I assured her it was off!"

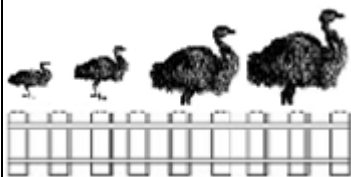
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