



June 2015 CIRCULATION: 1,283

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 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. **Because of a confluence of several scheduling issues the deadline for the July issue is midnight Friday night, June 26.** Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month and is also available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au.

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LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	Jenny Richards, President	6238 1329	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Bywong Community	Darryl Bourke, President		president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade	Geoff Foster, Captain	0409 991 340	captain.brigade@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Resident 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	Emma Harriden, Convenor	0448 478 953	ce.harriden@bigpond.com
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	emauzins@gmail.com
Scouts	Pete Harrison	6238 3525	
Bywong Hall Bookings	Guy Cotsell, contact	6230 3523	cotsell@moraguy.net
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	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

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Genevieve Phipps	Babysitting/pet sitting	6238 1660	Gabrielle Simpkin	baby sitting/ pets sitting	6238-1335
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Jordan Brown	baby sitting	0414-907-921	Ethan Laver	Outdoor Jobs	6236 9809
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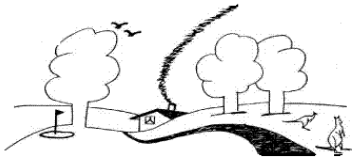
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Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



Hello everyone. Not much to report this past month so these notes will be short.

RMS Report – At our last monthly meeting it was made known to us that due to the requests of the WCA the NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) are now looking seriously at the stopping area where Mac's Reef Road joins the Federal Highway. No decision had been made to date but a positive outcome is hoped for.

Markets – As the cold weather approaches it is a reminder that our local monthly markets are about to go into recess for two months. The last market will be held this coming month – June 20th - at the Community Hall. After that the markets will go into recess for the months of July and August and re-open again on the third Saturday in September .



Brrr -- As I check the older and button up the younger members of our family each morning to be sure they go out the door ready for the cold, I wonder how all the rest of you are getting back into coping with winter.

That's all for this month I'm afraid. -- Jenny Richards, President

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*Bywong
Community News*
www.bywongcommunity.org.au

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



Trivia: We have filled up our gas bottles and honed our famous hot soup recipes. So we are ready for the winter celebration which is our Bywong Trivia night. The date is Saturday, July 18 at 7.30, and the venue as always is the Bywong Hall. Jean-Pierre has spent the summer devising new mental tortures and fun activities. There will be ten rounds of not-so-tough questions, magic tricks, musical items and some QI-style physics from Professor John Rayner. Greg Gougeon on 6236 9841 can help with the few remaining reservations.

AGM forum: We read that Paris staff at the Eiffel Tower are threatening to strike because of a plague of pickpockets and other minor crims. So we can be smug about our relatively crime-free existence in Bywong. But just to stay on the alert, with the help of local police and security providers we shall be looking at our own security situation as a feature of this year's AGM on Monday night 10 August. On the basis that forewarned is forearmed, come along and learn.

Rural Lands Policy: Watch next month's Bywong News for details of Council's community consultation on Rural Lands policy, to be held in Bywong Hall in early July. Council will be looking for local input on their new report.

Gold for Sale: Courtesy of the Canberra Times, we learn that the Bywong Gold Town is again for sale. Some of us did not realise that the site was a tourist facility purpose-built to replicate an old gold mining settlement. All gone, like the pub and stores of Newington, built to service the earlier diggings at Macs Reef.

Next meeting: The Community's next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9 June in the Bywong Hall in Birriwa Road. All Bywong residents are welcome.

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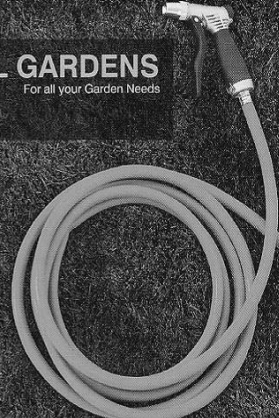


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Editor's Note: Canberra Equine Hospital pays for this page at advertising rates because it does have an advertising value, but uses it to provide articles they hope will also help horse owners.

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COLIC- A Pain in the Belly!

By Dr. Natasha Hovanessian, Canberra Equine Hospital

Many people know that horses 'colic', but what exactly does this mean? Colic is a general term referring to anything that may cause a horse to show signs of pain in the abdomen (i.e. the belly) and there are over 150 reported causes of colic! Usually this will involve a problem somewhere in the stomach, small bowel or large bowel, but can also be due to disease of organs including the liver and kidneys, from the space around the bowel (the peritoneal cavity), or even from the chest.

Thankfully, most cases of colic are resolved with medical therapy. Common medical conditions include a small impaction of dry, congested gut contents, stomach ulcers, sand/soil impaction, worms and gas build up.

It is important horse owners can recognize the signs of colic are, so they can respond promptly. These include a dull demeanour or being quieter than usual, reduced appetite, reduced manure output (normal is 6-10 piles/24hours), stretching out to urinate frequently, looking at the belly, kicking the belly, lifting the upper lip, lying down often and of course, rolling on the ground.

When we arrive at a case of colic, a veterinarian will initially try to determine the cause and provide some relief. Usually this starts with a thorough physical exam to determine the extent of the horse's pain and then proceed on with other tests. This may include sending blood for laboratory analysis, passing a tube to the stomach and checking for build up of fluid (reflux), passing an arm into the rectum to feel for the problem, ultrasound of the abdomen and taking a sample of fluid from the peritoneal cavity. A decision can then be made on how to treat the colic, which often includes anti-inflammatories, fluids and electrolytes.

What to do if your horse is showing signs of colic:

1. **Contact your veterinarian immediately.** Although many colics are mild, at least 10% can require surgery or be fatal. Additionally, colic means a horse is in a lot of pain and requires therapy to relieve that pain.
2. Put the horse in yard where it can be **observed for pain and passage of manure**, and record these observations. **Withhold all food** until your veterinarian advises it is okay to feed again. Offering water is usually fine.
3. Many people will walk a horse with colic as it can help with bowel motility. However it is important not to tire and dehydrate the horse further. I usually recommend **walking the horse for no more than 20 minutes every 1-2 hours.**
4. If the horse is in intense pain and throwing itself on the ground, it is best to **keep a safe distance** until your veterinarian arrives.

Colic that is caused from the intestines is often placed into two categories- strangulating or non-strangulating. This indicates whether the bowel is twisted and its blood supply occluded, or not. Usually strangulating lesions of the bowel require surgery to resolve the problem and often horses will be in intense pain. Common strangulating conditions include torsion (twisting) of the large bowel after foaling in mares and strangulating lipomas seen in older horses. These are small, fatty tumours which are harmless in themselves but grow on a long stalk that can wrap tightly around the small intestine. Some non-strangulating lesions may also require surgery, including impactions that will not resolve with fluid therapy and displaced large bowel that is not in the correct anatomical position.

If you would like further information about colic in horses, or veterinary advice on other issues, please contact Canberra Equine Hospital at 6241 8888 or equine@canberravet.com.au.

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The May market went well with Jon returning with his delicious smoked trout and some stunning apples. Did you know he is also an expert chook fancier and has written a most interesting guide to small farm chook farming? Come to the next market and buy a copy for yourself! June is our final market for the season. We have a break over July and August and start up again in September.

NEW! For the 20 June market, Lance and I will be running a 'BRING AND BUY' WINTER WOOLIES STALL.

Between 7am and 9am, BRING along your unwanted winter clothes, hats and boots and ski gear (adult and children's – but please no circa 1970 skis or boots – they don't sell!) and we will do our best to sell them for you. Alternatively you can leave items at our house, but *please call first to arrange a suitable time*. If you prefer you can run your own stall. Ring or email to book one in now! We charge \$5.00 for a large trestle table.

Please make sure items for sale are clean and in good condition. Label each item with a price (be realistic – people are generally looking for a bargain!) and a name and phone number. *Unsold items should be collected by the end of the market otherwise we will take everything to St Vinnies or the Salvos.* We have four adult children, none of whom live at home anymore but – surprisingly (?) - NO storage space at home....

While you are browsing for things to BUY, Lou and Elke will be offering warming chai as well as coffee, hot chocolate and tea.....and there will be an array of slices, scones and treats for you to choose from.

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News from the Wonderful Women of Wamboin

By Gail Ritchie Knight

Even though winter seems to have set in with a vengeance, it hasn't stopped the Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) from our weekly catch-up. In April some of us ventured into the nations's capital for a sculpture walk. Intrepid WWOW and local Sally Saunders took us for a stroll around Civic looking at public art. Her vast knowledge (well, she is a guide at the National Gallery of Australia) enabled her to inform us of much of the sculptures that adorn the city.



At the end of the month, Anne Goonan gave a presentation on the building of an Abbeyfield House in Bungendore. It will be a not-for-profit, nondenominational structure providing independent living for about 12 seniors. As many of the WWOW seem to be of a significant age of wisdom and experience we often talk about the next phase of life, so many of us found Anne's talk very interesting.

Two founding members of WWOW were recently awarded national and long service medals for services to the Sutton Fire Brigade. Judy Harriden was recognised for her work as the catering officer while Di Stoll was recognised for her work as treasurer. With about 30 years of service each, both women witnessed the formation of the offshoot of the Wamboin Fire Brigade. Due to their unstinting dedication, Judy and Di provide the oil that ensures the continuing running of the Brigade. These

awards go some way in acknowledging our quiet achievers.

Local WWOW Jayne Davies and her husband Neil drove to Walgett recently to deliver money, personal and household items donated by WWOW. Former resident, Jayne still has cousins in the area and knows only too well the dire straits the population of Walgett is experiencing due to a record-breaking drought. Jayne says there were some tears when the wonderful women of the west were aware of WWOW's gifts.

All women are welcome at WWOW. 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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If you regularly provide content for the Whisper or if you can manage to write something or ask your child or grandchild to provide a drawing for the July Whisper, you'll make it more interesting for everyone else. You'll know that its value comes from residents take the time to put into it. For the July 2015 issue only a problem caused by my own scheduling commitments and the set of scheduling constraints for getting the Whisper printed make it necessary to pull forward the deadline for content by 43 hours to midnight on Friday night June 26th. Contributions coming in up to 12 hours after that have a reasonable chance of inclusion, but also have a good chance of being delayed to go into the following issue, coming out in early August. There will be no change to the distribution and delivery scheduling, so the July issue should be back from Instant Colour Press and going to distributors on Friday July 3, who will then get it to deliverers, hopefully over the July 4-5 weekend.

-- Ned Noel, editor, ph 6238 3484, email whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or nednoel@optusnet.com.au

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Nature Notes May 2015

Jo Walker

There was very little rain in May, so the countryside is beginning to look a little drab as we approach winter - with the first white frost in the middle of the month ushering in the cold season.

Not many plants are flowering at present, although a few Golden Stars (*Hypoxis hygrometrica*) were providing spots of yellow in the damper areas at the beginning of the month. The local form of *Correa reflexa* is bearing a heavy load of tubular flowers this year. The Crimson Rosellas pull off the flowers sometimes as they contain very sweet nectar. *Correas* are favoured by honeyeaters too (especially by Eastern Spinebills) but those birds have specially adapted beaks and tongues and don't need to damage the flowers to feed on them. Some little animal is also finding the flowers tasty overnight, and some mornings there is a carpet of nibbled flowers under the bushes.

The winter-flowering Urn Heath (*Melichrus urceolatus*) is showing lots of cream-coloured flowers, another favourite plant of honeyeaters. *Cassinia quinquefaria* bushes have finished flowering but are bearing copious amounts of tiny seeds which the Crimson Rosellas seem to be enjoying.

The straggly little onion-like leaves of Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*) are appearing amongst the grasses, but the weather probably hasn't been favourable for them as there aren't very many of them so far. On the other hand, seedlings of Austral Sunray (*Triptilodiscus pygmaeus*) are crowding every space between the grasses, forming little patches of bright green. They are very tiny plants, but flower heavily in spring with little button-like yellow flowers.

Scarlet Robins have just been declared a threatened species in the ACT, but we seem to still have plenty here. There were two, a pair, sitting on some bare twigs down by the creek as I was reading about their population decline over the border.

Several small flocks of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos have visited several times recently, tearing into the trunks of some of the wattle trees searching for grubs.

After a day's rain earlier in the month, there was an emergence of the large Swift Moths (of the family Hepialidae). Their larvae tunnel into the roots of eucalypts and pupate deep in the soil (the brown empty pupal cases can often be seen protruding from the soil after rain). A good fall of rain triggers the emergence of the large grey and brown moths, and, as they are attracted to light, they can often be heard fluttering and banging against lit windows.

I've seen several populations of Imperial White Butterfly larvae (*Delias harpalyce*) feeding on one of the local Mistletoes (*Amyema pendulum*) recently. The larvae are dark brownish red with a sparse covering of hairs and feed in groups on the foliage before constructing a silky sheet on the leaves and pupating there. The butterflies are white with black, red and yellow markings.

Some of the flower-buds of the Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) are already turning yellowish, and two joeys in the kangaroo mob have had their first look at the world - which makes spring seem not too far away.

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FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR INSIDE YOUR HOME

Have you given your family the best chance of surviving a house fire?

- Have at least one installed and operating smoke alarm on each level of your house
- Know two safe ways, out of every room in your house
- Have a written escape plan in case of fire, and practice it regularly with all household occupants
- Ensure that keys to all locked windows and doors are accessible in case you need to escape

DID YOU KNOW
It only takes three minutes for a fire to take hold!

Simple home fire safety tips you should follow are:

- Test smoke alarms regularly and change the battery at least once every 12 months.
- Have a licensed electrician check your wiring and install a safety switch.
- Don't overload power points and switch off household appliances when not in use.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Never leave open fires unattended and always screen with a proper fireguard.
- Heaters should be kept at least one metre from curtains, furniture and other flammable items.
- Never place clothing over heaters.
- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children.

House fires can cause serious injury or death, and can destroy your most cherished possessions and home. The area of the house where most fires occur is the kitchen, followed by the lounge and bedrooms.

1800 878 737

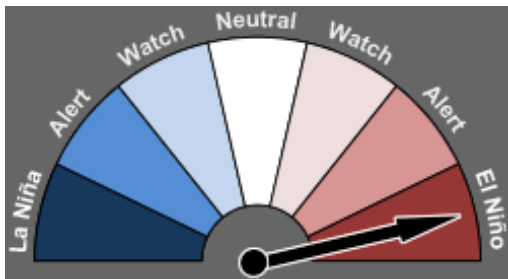
Fire Safety in the Home

While we can relax that the days of extreme heat waves are over for several months and we are unlikely to experience a hot wind for sometime there remains the risk of fire from within the home.

Some simple tips for home safety:

- Change your fire alarm batteries once a year.
- Don't overload power points
- Don't smoke in bed
- Never leave open fires unattended and use a fireguard
- Keep heaters 1 metre from curtains and furnishings
- Never place clothing over heaters
- Clean the lint filters in your clothes drier
- Extinguish candles and open flames before going to bed
- Keep matches and lighters safely out of the reach of children

Whilst chimney fires in our area have been pretty rare over the years they do occur and are the result of a build up of soot and creosote. When did you last sweep your chimney?



El Niño is With Us

The Bureau of Meteorology tells us the El Niño thresholds have been exceeded in the tropical Pacific and that the current El Niño event will be in place until at least early Spring.

El Niño weather for us generally means clear frosty nights and clear days, and below-average rainfall in winter and spring. These are good conditions when you are planning on reducing the fuel on your property particularly in case the El Niño continues into summer.

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) tracker, copied here, was updated in mid May. If you would like to keep up to date with the ENSO refer to

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/tracker/>

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The Fire Season Is Over

As reported in the last Whisper, the Fire Season ended on 30 April so now is the time to get busy to reduce the fuel load on your property.

Just to reinforce the message from last month, if you are going to bun off please notify Fire Control, Queanbeyan on 6297 1840. The reason we ask that you notify Fire Control and your neighbours is so that we might avoid a callout following a report of smoke as happened this month.

Wamboin Brigade Annual General Meeting

Yes, it's that time of year again; the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade Annual General Meeting will be held at the fire shed on 9 June at 7.30. All brigade members are encouraged to attend.

Brigade Activity

Call Outs

Sunday 10 May: At 8.40am on a Sunday morning a fire was reported and in response we despatched two of our heavy tankers, a light tanker and the PC. A total of 11 brigade members were on site for what turned out to be a fire of used kitty litter. It would seem spontaneous combustion took hold in strong winds and it's a great reminder of just how easy fires can start. The event has entered the Wamboin annals as the Great Kitty Litter Fire of 2015.

Wednesday 27 May: At 12.53pm a heavy tanker was despatched to a report of smoke. It turned out this was a fuel reduction burn that had not been reported to fire control. Please advise Fire Control if you are going to burn so we can avoid sending a truck to your property. Obviously this landholder had not read last month's Whisper.

Friday 29 May 2015: Two heavy tankers were despatched to a report of smoke beside the Federal Highway. This was a fuel reduction fire that had been reported but in a neighbouring zone highlighting a communication breakdown between zones.

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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Wamboin Pony Club – May 2015



Can you believe that the year is almost half gone? Between the chilly May weather Wamboin Pony Club still managed to hold its 2 rally days. We have also welcomed more young riders to our group. We now have a really good age spread of young and older riders with varying experience. This month will see most preparing for our club Mounted Games event to be held in July. Riders form teams and compete in various sporting races which test the skills of horse and rider. Even better no matter how experienced or otherwise riders are everyone gets a go and competes with riders of similar skills. It is a great way for new riders to get better at working with their horse. Some of our older riders have been competing for many years and usually go onto the Zone and State event's. Last rally day riders practiced their skills and in one event - sword race (Rosemary - pictured) riders carry a wooden sword and have to pick up metal rings from poles using that sword and ride from one end of the field to the other. It's not quite as wild and dangerous as in King Arthur's time but great fun. Each Mounted Games event has a number of different games that test horse and rider.

We will get time for some valuable practice in the next few weeks. So 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. Wamboin Pony club usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at our grounds in Canning Close from 10am. Our next Rally day for 2015 will be on Sunday 14th June. 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 we will see you soon. - Steve Quick



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Wildcare not WIRES

by Philip Machin

Once upon a time there was a single volunteer wildlife rescue service in NSW – WIRES (NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service). But since the early 1990s there have been many other groups start up. There are now 27 individual wildlife groups throughout NSW all with dedicated operational areas or functions. The New South Wales Parks & Wildlife Service licences groups to handle and care for native animals with the aim of rescuing and rehabilitating injured or orphaned wildlife back into the wild. NPWS also provides an authority to euthanase animals if that is necessary. It is illegal for members of the public to capture, raise or kill wildlife unless they have a licence or are authorised through a wildlife group. Wildcare is your local volunteer wildlife rescue group and it covers an area stretching from Bredbo to the south, through Burra, Bungendore, Tarago, Queanbeyan, Yass, Gundaroo, Gunning, Crookwell and all the way to Young.



With more than 3,000 calls for help coming in via the 24/7 helpline each year, it is a busy organisation and more than 2,000 animal incidents are dealt with. There are about 200 volunteers, but there is room for a few more recruits. Some volunteers rescue and rehabilitate all the species of animals (except for snakes that need special training and care). But often people specialise into reptiles; mammals such as kangaroo, wombat, possum, koala and flying fox; snakes; or birds. Wildcare also has a number of licenced ‘shooters’. Calls for help range from coping with roadside accidents involving injured animals; rescuing snakes from houses, water tanks, and gardens; picking up wandering baby wombats; and taking charge of a Kookaburra catching a ride on long distant truck! And caring for inter-State travellers that sometimes appear unwanted in a supermarket banana box. Boo, pictured at left, was caught in barbed wire. She is now in care and recovering.

Volunteers pay their way and cover most costs, but there is a need to fundraise to pay for large veterinary bills, telephone bills and for specific equipment and treatments. Wildcare is a not for profit organisation and it has ‘charity’ status, so tax deductible donations can now be made. If you would like to support Wildcare with an end of the financial year donation just visit their website (www.wildcare.com.au) and follow the links.

If you come across injured or orphaned native wildlife, or want information about joining up, contact Wildcare on their helpline – 6299 1966.

By the way, at this time of year, the best way to reduce the risk of hitting a kangaroo, and give more reaction time, is to slow down – well below the speed limit, and be more vigilant in wildlife-rich areas at dawn & dusk and through the night. And if you see one kangaroo crossing the road ahead of you, there will probably be another following close behind. If you do hit an animal, stop and check from a safe position. Then call Wildcare.

Philip Machin, 6238- 3717

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

May 2015 rainfall ... 15.75mm
2015 rainfall to 31/5 ... 287.0mm
Average June rainfall ... 59.3mm
Wettest June ... 189.00 mm in 1997
Hottest June day ... 17C twice
Coldest June night ... -6C on 9/6/96

(May 2014 ...30.5mm)
(2014 rainfall to 31/5 ... 274.5mm)
(June 2014 ... 77.75mm)
Driest June... 8.00mm in 1975
Coldest June day ... 3C X 3 times (2 in 2014)

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SEEDS



Please join the Sutton Landcare Group on 9 June when we will be screening a movie called: Open Sesame, the Story of Seeds. The makers write: *One of the world's most precious resources is at risk. This film will help others learn what is at stake and what can be done to protect the source of nearly all our food: SEEDS. While the price of gold and oil skyrockets the fate of our most priceless commodity is ignored. Seeds provide the basis for everything from fabric, to food to fuels. They are as essential to life as the air we breathe or water we drink... but given far less attention. Over the past one hundred years, seeds have steadily shifted from being common heritage to sovereign property. This film tells the story of seeds by following the challenges and triumphs of some of their most tireless stewards and advocates.* It will be fascinating viewing and discussion afterwards will be interesting. The meeting will start at 7.30. We hope see you on Tuesday, 9 June at the Sutton Primary School.

-- Marchien van Oostende (vice-president)

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Wamboin 15 years ago – from the Whisper, June 2000 Circulation: 800

by Robyn Robertson

News from the Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade – **The Wamboin Firefighter:**

“The Bushies Don’t Always Just Fight Fires! Twelve Rural Fire Service units from the Sutherland Shire were called in to a recent refinery fire at Kurnell Oil Refinery. Rural Fire Service volunteer firefighters responded quickly to the report of a fire in the pump unit at the refinery. They joined a number of units from NSW Fire Brigades as well as firefighters from the Kurnell refinery to fight the blaze.

It appears that a pump unit had malfunctioned in the Crude Oil Unit and the pump had continued to discharge product into the fire. Our response (the volunteer units) shows the capacity and capability of the volunteer firefighters to address a wide variety of emergencies.

‘At perhaps the opposite end of the extreme, information has just been received about other activities of some rural fire brigades. Heavy snow falls across NSW kept volunteer firefighters busy with hundreds of calls to assist people caught off-guard by the cold snap and snow falls of up to 1 metre during the week-end of 28 – 29 May. Most calls were to render assistance to motorists caught by road closures, snow drifts and in a spate of accidents caused by the slippery conditions. “

Wamboin Hall Toilet Upgrade

Installation of all ceiling sheets and lighting has now been completed. Tradies Don Evans and Tim Barter, slightly assisted by Peter Greenwood and myself went one step further and manufactured and fitted some mini corri wall flashings. The final flashings (one over 6m in length) were picked up from Fyshwick and installed with great care. (Any kinking makes flashing a throw away item). The flashings were finally fitted despite having to wait for Don and Tim to return from a fire callout. Only bit left is to finish undercoating and painting the inside walls.

Lighting Operation Revision. The sensor timer is very sensitive and will be reactivated by any movement. Therefore there will be no reason to issue keys for the automatic operation of the toilet lights. – Lofty Mason

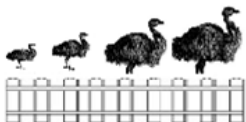
Mending Wall

By Robert Frost

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,
And spills the upper boulders in the sun,
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.
The work of hunters is another thing:
I have come after them and made repair
Where they have left not one stone on a stone,
But they would have the rabbit out of hiding,
To please the yelping dogs. The gaps I mean,
No one has seen them made or heard them made,
But at spring mending-time we find them there.
I let my neighbor know beyond the hill;
And on a day we meet to walk the line
And set the wall between us once again.
We keep the wall between us as we go.
To each the boulders that have fallen to each.
And some are loaves and some so nearly balls
We have to use a spell to make them balance:
'Stay where you are until our backs are turned!'
We wear our fingers rough with handling them.
Oh, just another kind of out-door game,
One on a side. It comes to little more:

There where it is we do not need the wall:
He is all pine and I am apple orchard.
My apple trees will never get across
And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.
He only says, 'Good fences make good neighbors'.
Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder
If I could put a notion in his head:
'Why do they make good neighbors? Isn't it
Where there are cows?
But here there are no cows.
Before I built a wall I'd ask to know
What I was walling in or walling out,
And to whom I was like to give offence.
Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That wants it down.' I could say 'Elves' to him,
But it's not elves exactly, and I'd rather
He said it for himself. I see him there
Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top
In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed.
He moves in darkness as it seems to me~
Not of woods only and the shade of trees.
He will not go behind his father's saying,
And he likes having thought of it so well
He says again, "Good fences make good neighbors."

We thank Robert Frost who wrote this story a long time ago and hope you like it too. It's hard to understand, unless you read it slowly or out loud. We especially like his neighbour.



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WAMBOIN GOLF, MAY 2015

Have you ever read *Das Kapital*? Don't. Your correspondent had a go once but a bad case of the paralytic yawns set in at page 3 so he never did find out what "dialectical materialism" is. Be that as it may, on the Sunday following May Day a number of the proletariat of the Peoples Republic of Palerang (soon, like the Crimea, to be taken over by Russia) gathered at the Bingley Way "Kremlin" wearing red scarves and singing the *Internationale*. They were there for the revolutionary May golf competition sponsored by Tim Barter and Paul Griffin of the Navy Old Farts and Retired Pilots Association, some of whom probably served on the battleship *Potemkin*. To them we say "spasibo" for the prizes and to Madame Dianne Griffinova for the eats.

Our visitor had only one name (like Bono, Pele and Lenin). It was Alan and he enjoyed himself immensely. The Googly Ball went to Paul Griffin for his effort to claim the NTP on the second stroke on Ron's Damn Hole when, sadly, it was his fourth stroke, having hit his drive into the dam (oh! Infamy!). Reflecting the general mood of protest and insurrection the dummy was passed around between Mr Griffin, Tim Barter, Larry King and Deborah Fileman before Commissar Greenwood restored order by sending in the Cossacks. History should record that Ms Fileman was in fact the victim of a grave injustice, but we'll come to that in a minute.



NTP and LD Ball winners were Joan Mason X 2, Tim Barter X 4!, Lofty Mason and Paul Griffin. Winner of the 9 hole comp (and proud new owner of the Ned Kelly trophy) was Lofty Mason with 23 Stableford points. Second, Larry King on 18, 3rd Joan Mason 17, 4th Michael Fileman 14. Mr Fileman's placing was, alas, an error – the reason for which has been censored by the handicapper. Ms Fileman's score was in fact higher and entitled her to 4th place rather than the dummy spit award. I hope this clears things up and all is now peace and light at *chez* Fileman.

Winner of the 18 hole comp was Pete Harrison with 37 Stableford points after two of the sponsors were eliminated by the traditional rule that you can't win on your own day.

The next exciting episode of Wamboin golf will take place on Sunday, 7 June when the sponsors will be Lambert Vineyards. Why not kick off the feudal shackles of the Romanovs and join us at the Hall at 12.15pm for 12.30pm? As local disciplinarian, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, has been heard to utter, to miss it would be a *Crime and Punishment* would be severe. -- Larry King (golfski)

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How The Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

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

170: CO-ORDINATED BY ALICE SCOTT: ph 6238 3208

Fay Kelly	Norton Rd West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20	Robyn Robertson	Cooper Rd	26
Mario Scott	Fernloff Rd	35	Stuart Whitten	Canning Cl	17
Julie Veal	Poppet Rd (for all on road)	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	40

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

Joan Mason	Bingley Way	44	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+Wirndra)	22	Penny Evans	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	26

228: 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			

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

Sheryl Barnes	Denley Dr (Sth End 1/2 way2 Kestral)	15	Brian Higgison	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)	16	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			

186: 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	Ken Steinman	Wyoming & Doust Rds	32
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 1,283



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St Andrews and St Peters Church Notices

At the beginning of the month, while the 100th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli was still very much in the public consciousness, Dr David McCarthy prepared and presented an Anzac Service of Commemoration at St Andrews, "in memory of all who have given their lives for peace and freedom". It was a very moving service.

The churches were involved with the Community Bonfire, held in the grounds of St Peters, Sutton. About 500 people braved the cold and enjoyed a sausage while relishing the warmth of a raging fire. Recently there was a Festival of Rural Living at St Andrews, replacing the time honoured Harvest Festival, where those pioneers and leaders in the rural churches and communities were honoured, and where we reflected on the importance of community; a place where people look out for each other and endeavour to foster a supportive social environment while nurturing our precious natural environment.

We continue to assist St Benedict's winter pantry, in Queanbeyan, to provide meals and food parcels for those in need. Kids' Club meets every Friday night from 5.30-7pm during school term time. The children enjoy craft, songs and stories and conclude with a shared meal. For any further information please call the numbers listed below.

Services are held on the first and third Sunday of each month at St Andrews, Wamboin, and the second and fourth Sunday at St Peters, Sutton. All services start at 9am. Following the service you are warmly invited to stay for morning tea and a chat. Contacts: Ven. Dr Royce Thompson, 62303558, Robyn Robertson, 62383202, Bronwyn Elliott, 62383359, Alan Rope, 62383224 (Photo is from the ANZAC service held 3 May at St Andrews.)



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Councillor's Corner

Local Government Reform (Becoming Fit for the Future) — This seemed like a timely opportunity to draw readers' attention to the call for community input in relation to the current phase of the NSW Local Government Fit For The Future (FFTF) program.

An information brochure, outlining Palerang Council's options, was mailed out to all residents in May and there has been a level of general commentary in the local media. Recent community meetings provided a little more background information and an opportunity for open discussion. We all concede that these meetings were held at very short notice, but the preparatory work that had to be completed before these meetings were held, and the Fit For The Future (FFTF) program timeline left us with little room to move.

The purpose of the brochure and subsequent community meetings was to outline the process that council has followed in arriving at the conclusion that the proposed merger with Queanbeyan City Council (QCC) would not be in the best interests of Palerang ratepayers. A financial analysis commissioned by the two councils revealed that a merger would not improve either council's performance with respect to the financial benchmarks set under the FFTF Program.

QCC is now proposing that it become a Regional Service Provider, a nice arrangement for QCC, which would thereby strengthen its own financial position at the expense of their neighbours. This is one interpretation of the Local Government reform goal to help build regional capacity, but not a particularly collaborative one.

The model more generally being adopted throughout rural and regional NSW is that of the Joint Organisation (JO) of councils. The JO model is a more cooperative arrangement where member councils work together to develop regional strategic objectives and share the strengths of individual councils. As I have mentioned previously, the JO model also offers a mechanism by which the economic significance of the ACT in our region might be acknowledged and harnessed for the benefit of all regional councils.

Palerang Council's financial position is not dire, as some have suggested. After its settling in period, Council has consistently delivered a balanced budget. By the State Government's own measure (TCorp, April 2013), Palerang's financial position is as strong as or better than 78% of NSW councils. The financial forecast, however, is not strong.

The primary expense for rural councils is that associated with the maintenance of transport infrastructure. No matter how strong finances and service levels might be, they will decline while council's revenue stream, comprising primarily associated grant funding and council rates, fails to keep pace with road and bridge maintenance costs. Balancing available grant funding with manageable rate levels is the challenge that will need to be addressed in remaining few weeks, as council finalises its FFTF submission, due on 30 June 2015.

Your feedback will help ensure that council's submission is consistent with community views. Please take the time to read the related material on the Palerang Council website and either complete and return the survey card that was enclosed with the information brochure mailed to all residents, or complete the on-line survey available from the council website. Due to the constraints of the FFTF program, survey input can only be accepted up to 17 June 2015.

For more information see: <http://www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au> and <http://www.fitforthefuture.nsw.gov.au> and <http://palerang.nsw.gov.au/featured-programs/1167799-fit-for-the-future>

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

Local Government Reform (Update) (Feb 2014) Local Government Reform (Apr 2013)

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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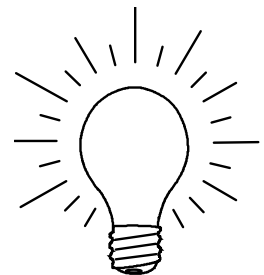
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A huge thank you to everyone for braving the miserable weather last Thursday for the morning tea at Wamboin. We have raised \$4900 thus far with pledges still to come in. We are running a garage sale until 7 June to try and raise a few more \$\$\$\$s. We have heaps of bargains and lots of donated produce & preserves. Further information:- Ph 6238 1996 or email psegeri@bigpond.com.

In addition, a very exciting venture commencing now through to next year's Morning Tea. **Flight Centre Manuka Referral Scheme*** (*Terms and conditions apply)_ - 1% incentive paid to Cancer Council (ACT) (no an additional charge to members) for all customer referrals booking travel under the scheme. Furthermore, you will still be entitled to the benefit of our "Lowest Airfare Guarantee".

Mention that **Pauline Segeri** or **Cancer Council ACT** referred you to Manuka Flight Centre and automatically 1% of your cost of travel is donated to Cancer Council ACT.

The amount raised over the 12 months will be acknowledged at the 2016 Morning Tea.

For further information on the scheme, a comprehensive schedule is available from me on the above details.

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Have you ever paused for a moment to think how much we complicate our lives with clutter; we make work for ourselves by the accumulation of unnecessary things, and we gather all this stuff because “things” have never been so cheap. This was brought home to us recently on a trip to Darwin.

We were up and packed, shivering, well before dawn. Our transport arrived, suitcases were loaded and we set off in the icy gloom, eyes peeled for kangaroos returning unsteadily from a night on the town. It wasn't until we got to the airport that we realised something was amiss. We were one suitcase down! Two of us arrived in the balmy tropics with clothes to spare, and a little too formal, but the third arrived with only the wintry clothes he stood up in. However, he had always insisted that I packed too many clothes for him when we travelled and all he really needed was his credit card. This time he was put to the test. Fortunately the weather was warm, the atmosphere casual and laid back and there were plenty of shops catering for hapless travellers. For a little over \$50 he was fitted out with a couple of tee shirts, his favourite style of shorts, a pack of three undies and a pair of rubber thongs. He was not exactly a fashion statement, but he had the complete Darwin rig and blended with the locals. The most expensive item was the pack of two toothbrushes; my toiletries had been in his bag. Re equipped, we quickly slipped into “Darwin time” and enjoyed a very special gathering of the clan celebrated in true Territory style. How simple life became. There was no fussing over what to wear, no ironing crumpled shirts, and travelling was a breeze with all your belongings in a carry on plastic bag!

In my absence it seems that my garden decided that it too should pare back and embrace simplicity. The recent frosts and winds had stripped away the autumn colours and it looked subdued and empty, save for a few splashes of yellow, bronze, red and burgundy from scattered shrubs. The black cockatoos have returned, flying in loose formation, calling idly to each other and seemingly untroubled by their white, foul mouthed larrikin cousins. I stopped to admire a pair of scarlet robins, perched on a fence post, and added “magpie mince” to my shopping list. The other night I awoke to the lively patter of unwelcome feet in the ceiling. It's getting cold outside. Winter has arrived.

Darwin is a long way from Wamboin, but its simple lifestyle has set me thinking. As I curl up by the fire on a winter's evening I might contemplate how to simplify my life....I might....but it will take some convincing before I abandon my boots and woollen socks for a pair of rubber thongs just yet.....I guess I simply wouldn't live anywhere else.

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