



The Whisper

August 2015 CIRCULATION: 1,288

Wamboin Community Assn: www.wamboincommunity.asn.au

Bywong Community: www.bywongcommunity.org.au

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

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the Wamboin Community Association which started The Whisper as a community newsletter in 1981 and continues to own it. The newsletter comes out at the start of each month, except January. It is distributed to all letterboxes in Wamboin, Bywong and of Palerang Council residents just southeast of the Federal Highway. Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. On contentious matters the Community Association will strive to maintain a balance. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or to nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mail them or drop them off. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before, so the deadline for the September issue is 7 pm Sunday night, August 27 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 Palerang Councillor	Pete Harrison	0427 711 028	cr.pete.harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au
Resident Palerang Councillor	Keith France	0427 365 715	cr.keith.france@palerang.nsw.gov.au
Wamboin Markets	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	khandel@bigpond.net.au
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	emaузins@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, contacts	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 Women of Wmb	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	Whirlwind1@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	childpet&homesttg,oddjobs	6238 3059
Jordan Brown	baby sitting	0414-907-921	Ethan Laver Outdoor	Outdoor Jobs	6236 9809
Rebecca Purdie	pet/horse sitting	6238 3343			

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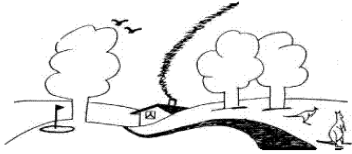


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Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



Well the Richards family are back home again to what feels like incredibly cold temperatures after the balmy warmth of Thailand. I'm still trying to adjust to the sub-zero weather but it does have its compensations such as nights before the warm fire. Thank you to my Vice-President Peter Evans, who filled in and filed the report last month during my absence.

Curry Night – The big event for this coming month is the annual Wamboin Curry Night. This will be held on **Saturday 15th August**. The night begins at 7:00 pm at the Community Hall. A range of exciting curries are usually on offer to cater to all tastes. In recent years this event has become increasingly well patronised so bookings before the event are **essential**. To book contact Dave Hubbard (the organiser) via email at dave.hubbard@bigpond.com thank you.

Bonfire Night – Another big event not too distant is our Bonfire Night. The Bonfire and Fireworks night will be held on **Saturday 19th September** at the Community Hall. The 19th is the first Saturday at the commencement of the **N.S.W. school holidays**. Preparations for this great community event are already well under way so mark the date in your diary as one not to be missed. More information will undoubtedly be provided in both this edition and the next of the Whisper so keep an eye out for them.

Spring Talks Series – This year the WCA are trying to organise a series of guest speakers to entertain and inform people living in Wamboin about a whole range of items of interest that relate more specifically to those of us who live here. This initiative currently being organised by Jenny Warren of our Committee, will I hope, inform, entertain but also perhaps touch on some of the problems that can be faced in our unique area and maybe provide some answers if answers are needed. The talks will take place (at this stage) just following our monthly meetings which occur on the third Tuesday night of every month. So look to future editions of the Whisper concerning these up-coming events.

Electronic Noticeboard – The WCA electronic noticeboard is a convenient and quick way to keep up with community activities (and as the weather gets warmer we tend to hold more). Subscribe by visiting the WCA website at [tp://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard](http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard).

Well that's all for now. I'll talk to you again next month when hopefully I've gotten used to the cold weather.

-- Jenny Richards

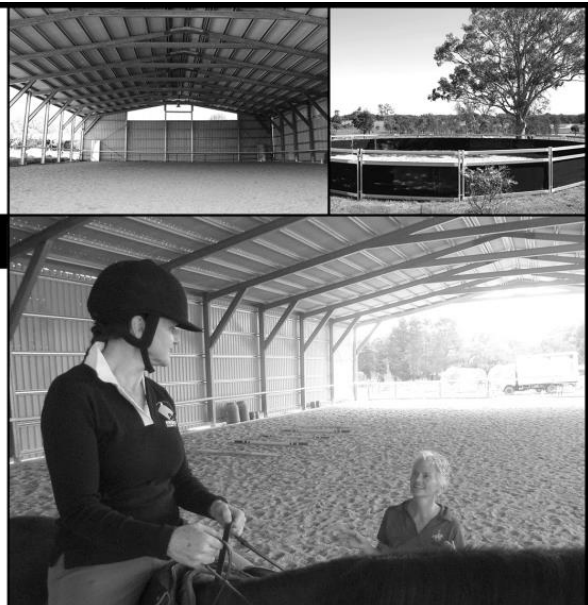
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	<p style="text-align: center;">Bywong Community News www.bywongcommunity.org.au</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Darryl Bourke, President This News Put Together by the Bywong Committee</p>	
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Another winning Trivia night: This year’s Trivia Night was another winner, overflowing with fun and erudition – a heady mix. A night of fierce competition ended in a win for team “Phone a Friend”, with close-run second and third places going to previous winner XX” and “No Hope” teams. A very full programme was devised by our man for all seasons Jean-Pierre Favre and presented by Community President Darry Bourke, assisted in matters Scottish by Morag Cameron and in scientific matters by Prof. John Rayner, who also conducted some intriguing experiments. Special guest Angus Taylor appropriately presented the political questions.

Are there people out there? We have proved we can attract hundreds – if not thousands – to our annual Car Boot Sale, and can pack our hall to overflowing with happy Trivia fans. So we know there are people out there! But please remember that these events do not run themselves – they happen because a few dedicated Community members make them happen. A few more of you would make much lighter work for everyone. So please come along to our AGM and consider whether you could help, even if only a little.

Are we secure? As an added enticement to attend the AGM we have a panel of speakers who can help us assess and increase the security of our rural environment. They include a representative from Queanbeyan police, a security consultant and an insurance consultant. We encourage you to ask questions and let us have your own views.

When is it? The AGM is on Monday night, August 10, at 7.30 pm. The place is the Community Hall in Birriwa Road, and refreshments will be available.

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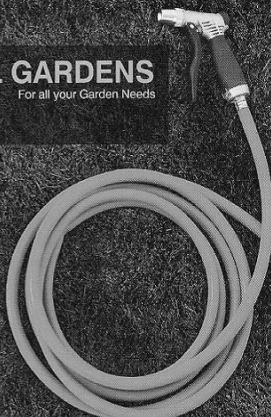
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Nature Notes July 2015

Jo Walker

There were a few extremely cold nights this month with the temperature descending several times to four or five degrees below zero. There was thick ice on the dam and ponds with intricate zig-zag and angular patterns across the surface. There was a severe storm, directly overhead, early in the month and a few small drifts of snow on the ground the next morning. The dam is now full and the creek running after a little over 30cm of rain fell during the month, and the ground looks set to stay damp into spring.

The prickly-leaved Early Wattle (*Acacia genistifolia*) has been flowering for a while now, and the Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) leaves are just beginning to disappear under a load of bright yellow flowers. The Silver Wattles had very few flowers last year, but seem to be making up for it this time round. It's a bit early for much else to be flowering, but I did find one little violet (*Viola betonicifolia*) showing off its mauve petals last week. And the Urn Heath (*Melichrus urceolatus*) is still festooned with its cream bell-shaped flowers which are much appreciated by Eastern Spinebills.

A single Wedge-tailed Eagle has flown over here twice recently, but was seen off by two aggressive Currawongs or Magpies (they were too high and far away to be certain) who managed to keep up with the Eagle's impressive flight manoeuvres for some time. Most of the bird species that are usually around at this time of the year are still here, but the number of birds within each species seems to be less – except possibly for the Superb Fairy-wrens and the White-browed Scrub-wrens. There seems to be less insects and other arthropods around than there were several decades ago which may be beginning to have an impact on bird numbers.

While on the subject of insects, a few weeks ago I found a population of Imperial White Butterfly larvae (*Delias harpalyce*) busy feeding on one of the mistletoes (*Amyema pendulum*) on a wattle tree. Once fully fed, they spun a sizeable silky sheet on which to pupate. Unfortunately (for the caterpillars, at least) a bird must have found them because the silk sheet was empty, apart from a few bits of caterpillar, when I next looked. Later, I did find two other populations that had completed the task of pupation, with each silk sheet holding about twenty pupae. The attractive butterflies will emerge in spring – the upper surfaces of the wings are white with black markings and the undersides are patterned with red, black and yellow.

So far, only one of the Kangaroo joeys in the local mob is permanently out of the pouch. Although there are other just-furred joeys peering out from the warm safety of their mothers' pouches, they haven't ventured out into the cold yet. One of the Swamp Wallabies has a very small (but very quick) joey at foot, and one of the Red-necked Wallabies is hopping around accompanied by a slightly larger joey. An Echidna has recently dug several large holes in two of the Meat Ants' nests. And the Wombat is still trundling around at night, leaving large droppings on rocks and logs to indicate its presence.

Even though the thermometer appears to be telling us something different, spring does seem to be almost here now the wattles are beginning to flower.



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MISSING



REWARD

Lucy has been missing from Shingle Hill Way since 21 July. Black and silver Miniature Schnauzer with pink collar. Her tag is missing but she is micro-chipped. She is much loved and her owners are very distraught. Please keep an eye and ear out for her.

If found, call 6236 9677 or 0418 604 880 or 0417 235 492.

Wamboin Golf – July 2015

Sunday, 5 July 2015. A day as cold as a European Central Banker’s heart. As Greeks were looking a gift horse in the mouth, the financially-oppressed golfers of Wamboin voted overwhelmingly to accept the austerity measures foreshadowed by Palerang’s ruthless Mayor, Pete Harrison, to ensure that we are *Fit For The Future*. Your correspondent has said goodbye to ever being able to retire at age 58. As local economist, J K Galbraith, was heard to mutter: ‘You burn your bum, you sit on the blisters’. It was a fitting welcome to the new financial year as we saddled up for the GST Commemoration Golf Day sponsored by Keith and Kathy France and Parkhill Financial Services who provided the prizes and eats. The order of the day was team play in a Canadian Ambrose with 10% added to the team handicap. Even resident polymath, Stephen Fry, couldn’t explain it. (And *he* didn’t have to Google *angklung* after reading last month’s Wamboin Muse.) Photo taken by Ruthless Pete show sponsor, Keith France, teeing off at Hell’s Hole.



Afterwards, back at the Bingley Way “Acropolis” (home of the four horsemen) Mr France officiated at the prize giving in the absence of the club Captain. He noted that the field, although small, was select. He blamed the weather, the school holidays, the ABC in general and Q&A in particular. The googly ball went to Helen Locke whose beautiful drive on Short and Sweet was spoilt by the fact that she had forgotten to place the ball on the tee. She was permitted to do so without penalty on the ground that her first swing was practice. The first dummy spit was awarded to Dave Hubbard who unsportingly refused to pick up his partner’s ball. The second was awarded to his partner (Ol’ Ruthless) who expressed the view that Mr Hubbard was as useful as a hatful of drachmas. The third went to local political philosopher, Plato, who was very curly-lipped about democracy in his page-turner,

The Republic. He took the view that it would fail in the end because the people would distribute the Treasury amongst themselves, leaving nothing for defence, vital public works and so on. Compare that with modern Greece whose electors have awarded themselves generous and early pensions without collecting the taxes to pay for them (or anything else). But let’s move on.

NTP and LD ball winners were Keith France X 4, Larry King X3, Helen Locke and Rachel Schroder. The 9 hole comp was taken out by the team of Schroder & Schroder (37.625) from runners-up Locke and King (43.875). The winners of the 18 hole comp were the team of Dave Hubbard and Pete Harrison (62.943) from daylight. Our next golf day will be held on 2 August and will be sponsored by the Tradies – those useful chaps who undertake many a plumbing, electrical or mechanical project around these parts. Join us at the Hall at 12.15pm for 12.30pm tee off. *Antio ta leme!* -- Larry King, golfer (perhaps)

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BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS NIGHT – BONFIRE FUEL WANTED

The 2015 Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks Night is planned for Saturday the 19th of September. Now is a good time to reduce the fire hazards on your property by clearing unwanted stumps, branches, prunings and brush. By delivering suitable material to the Bonfire site at the Community Centre, Bingley Way, you will help make the night a memorable occasion.

Please do not mix in: treated timber, old carpets, metal fittings, large green logs or other non-burnable materials.

Leaving these materials is Illegal Dumping. We have found these items in past years, which then have to be separated and taken away. Rather than just dumping we would appreciate if you threw your material as high as you can on the pile, which for safety reasons is situated further east than previous years. Bonfire Night is the major, and sometimes only, fund raising activity for our Community groups who run all the food, drink and novelty stalls. Lofty Mason. Phone 62 383 258



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St Andrews, Wamboin and St Peters, Sutton Church Notices

Whenever there is a fifth Sunday in the month we have always had a special service, and often it has been an evening service. However, this time on the fifth Sunday, August 30th, we propose that as a group we attend the Hymn fest at the Mosaic Baptist Church in Page. If you would like to join us, please contact any of the numbers listed below. For several years we have had a "Christmas in July", with all the trimmings, at St Andrews. It has always been a very popular event enjoyed by all. This year we are having a late winter dinner, again at cosy St Andrews, offering "good food and good cheer", on 22 August. While we are enjoying a warming winter meal together, we will not have forgotten those less fortunate. We continue to support St Benedict's pantry, and trust that our food donations enable someone to eat more comfortably this winter. And looking further ahead, we plan to have a food stall at the Wamboin Community Fireworks, as well as our usual Gluhwein stall.

Kids Club is up and running again after the school holidays. Children in both primary and high school, meet at St Andrews, Poppet Road, each Friday night between 5.30 and 7pm for activities and dinner. If you need more information, please contact Robyn Robertson.

Services are held on the first and third Sunday of each month, at St Andrews, Poppet Rd, Wamboin, and on the second and fourth Sunday at St Peters, Sutton. All services start at 9pm and are followed by morning tea and a chance to chat. We now have two Lay Ministers as Len Goodman has recently joined us. Len has been involved with our churches for many years, and it is great to have him back. Contact Persons: Ven Dr Royce Thompson 62303558, Dr David McCarthy 62555451, Robyn Robertson 62383202, Bronwyn Elliott 62383359, Alan Rope 62383224



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Saturday July 11 and 25
Saturday August 8 and 22
Saturday Sept 12 and 26
Saturday Oct 10 and 24



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Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin 40 year Statistics from the Robertsons

July rainfall to 26/7 ... 47.5mm
(July 2014 ... 22.25mm)
2015 to 26/7 ... 395mm
(2014 to 31/7 ... 374.5mm)
Average August rainfall ... 54.2mm
(August 2014 ... 44.75mm)
Wettest August ... 170mm in 1984
Driest August ... 5.5mm in 1994
Wettest Aug day ... 35mm on 7/8/85
Hottest Aug day ... 20C on 31/8/82
Coldest Aug day ... 4C on 2/8/14
Coldest Aug night ... -5C X 5 times (4 in 2014)

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Beware: Sifton Bush (*Cassina arcuata*)

In Wamboin, one gets use to battling with introduced weeds. We, certainly, fight a regular and seemingly unending battle against Patterson's Curse, Serrated Tussock and Blackberries. This year, however, our attention has shifted to a native pest: Sifton Bush. It is a large native shrub, which grows to about three metres high. It can live on 'naturally infertile, rocky, acidic country' – i.e. much of Wamboin – and it seems *very* happy to be on our property.

We have, in fact, seen it around since we moved here – some 22 years ago. But for a long time, it seemed simply one among many of the plants to be found here, and did not obviously spread. We were alerted to the fact that it can pose a problem, by noticing that a neighbour's land had become thickly covered with the plant. This led us to check our own property, and we discovered that we had hundreds (if not more) of the plants, and that they seemed to be increasing their numbers rapidly.

Why this occurs became clear, on consulting the New South Wales Department of Primary Industry's weed site: <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Details/253>. This describes the fact that 'a single mature plant in one square metre is able to produce 4100 million seeds', and that in suitable conditions, there can be a high rate of germination.

The plants are not edible by stock, and from what we can see, kangaroos have no interest in them, either. They can become a fire hazard. The bushes are easy to identify, 'when the brown flowering heads are present, drooping on large plants'.

We have started to remove them. Smaller plants can be dispatched easily with a mattock, while larger plants may require a branch clipper or even a chain saw. I would expect that, by the end of the spring, we will have eliminated them (other than in an erosion gully, where we are happy to have *anything* growing which might help to retain the soil). But I'd certainly suggest that readers might check to see whether there is a problem on their property. In addition, I'd be fascinated to find out why it has, just in the last few years, become a problem on unimproved native pasture in Wamboin: is it anything to do with the particular climatic conditions of the last few years? -- Jeremy Shearmur



Images from NSW Department of Primary Industries Web Site

The Wamboin Firefighter

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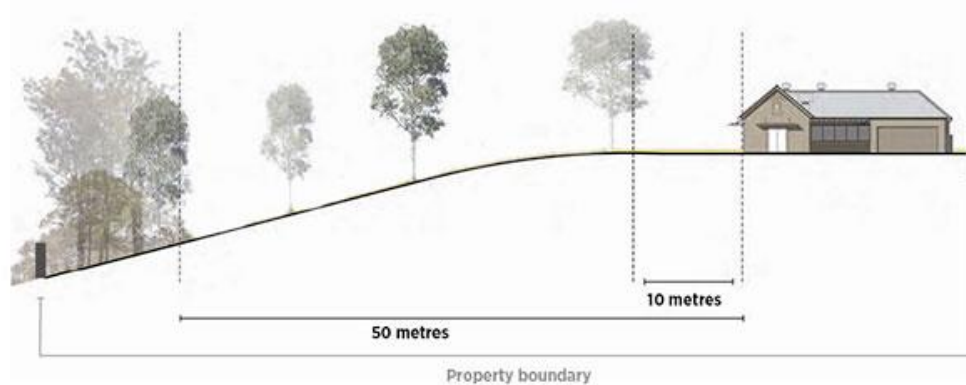
Fuel Reduction Continued

Are you familiar with the NSW Rural Fire Service, 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice? It's only been around for a short while and it may not have reached the top of your reading list but it is well worth a read.

The 10/50 is based on the principle that a landowner may remove or prune *any* vegetation within 10 metres of the external walls of their home, and within 50 metres they may remove any vegetation but *not* trees.

The guidelines contain a lot more detail than I can include in this article so I would encourage you to download the document and to use it when planning your property protection efforts. The website also includes an interactive map which will confirm whether you live in an area covered by the 10/50 guidelines.

The website address for the 10/50 guidelines is: <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/1050-vegetation-clearing> or just Google RFS 10/50 and you will get to the site.



And as always, if you would like to discuss fuel reduction on your property or would like a visit by a member of the brigade please call the Captain, Geoff Foster on 0409 991 340.



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Fires in Your Neighbourhood

During these cold and wet months many of our neighbours are taking advantage of the conditions and are busy burning off excess fuel on their properties. What a great way to keep warm on these cold days.

This means that over the next few weeks you are more likely to see smoke or maybe even flames from pile burns in your area. So please, before you report the fire check to see whether there are people present and whether the fire is being managed. Fire Control has probably already been informed.

If you are planning on a burn please remember to call Fire Control Queanbeyan on 6128 0600 during business hours (weekdays) and before 2.00 pm on Friday.

Big Red Trucks Roaming the Countryside

Over the past couple of months the brigade has been busy with navigation exercises and maintaining our local knowledge of the highways and byways of our local community. Local knowledge is so valuable and more reliable than GPS navigation systems. The last thing we want is to be sent down a dead end during a fire emergency by a SATNAV system.

This means you may see our trucks on the road and maybe down laneways and cul de sacs. Trust me we aren't lost we are just checking our map reading skills and whether there might be a water source we could use in a time of emergency.

Brigade Activity

Call Outs

At the time of writing this article the brigade had been called out to two motor vehicle accidents:

Wednesday 8 July: At 8.00am we were called for an accident in Bungendore. A crew of five turned out and were in the truck all dressed up ready to go when we were sent home, seems our services weren't required after all.

Thursday 9 July: Another motor vehicle accident this time it was a truck that had rolled over and caught fire near Collector. Again we were sent home just after a crew of four had arrived at the shed.

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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30 Years in Wamboin – Joyce and David Nordsvan

We purchased RMB 9 Cooper Road in August 1984, but couldn't actually get onto the block for some months because of the rain. The ground was so wet none of the machinery could access the block to form the driveway or the pad for the shed. Eventually we were able to start, and friends let us live in their house at Amangula Place while they were away.

'The Family' built our 10 x 10m shed over 2 weekends, and on 5 January 1985 we were able to move in. Without the help and support of our parents, brothers, sisters, and our friends, we wouldn't have been able to achieve that first step.

Which led me to think about how to quantify 30 years of living in the one place.

Do you look at the physical buildings? We lived in The Shed for two and a half years while we built the house as owner builders and we moved in 1987. Once we moved out of the shed, we did some maintenance work, again with the help of friends, so that David's Mum, my brother and his two girls, our children and finally my sister could live there at various times. And when my sister moved out I took the opportunity to achieve a retirement goal and set up Annie's Collectables in December 2006. The house has remained basically the same, which means we basically got it right the first time.

Do you look at the jobs you have held? When we moved here, David was driving taxis, and I worked at the ABC. Since then, David went back to study Horticulture, ran his own gardening business, worked at the School of Horticulture in Weston, and joined the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service for 19 years, retiring as Manager Quarantine Operations ACT in 2007. I seem to have worked 10 year cycles at the ABC, Foreign Affairs and the NFSA before also retiring in 2011. I should add that we have never been as busy as we are now that we have retired.

Do you look at the people in your lives over that time? We have friends that have been with us from the very start and new friends that have joined us over the years. We feel a bit like a huge blended family at some of our gatherings.

Our two beautiful children have married from Wamboin, and have grown into fantastic adults that we are so proud of. And of course they share with us our five gorgeous grandchildren. We have also lost family that are still very special to us and have played a big part in our time at Wamboin.

Do you look at the celebrations? As I said before our children were married from Wamboin. We have celebrated other major milestones – 18th, 21st, 40th, 50th, 60th, 65th and 70th birthdays. Our 15th wedding anniversary was celebrated here, as was our 45th this year. We have had a number of huge family reunions – with brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and cousins getting together for the first time in 20 years. And of course annual Christmas dinners and countless BBQ's.

You could look at the huge quantity of firewood David has gathered and chopped over the years, or at the number of chickens that have laid eggs for us. But I really think the most accurate measure of 30 years of living in the one place for us is the increase in the number of water tanks which is probably directly linked to the timing of the Murrumbateman Field Day. In 1985 we had the one tank attached to the shed. In 1987 the main house tank was installed and connected. This was followed by the second catching tank under the shed roof, the bore tank, the two tanks with 'quarantined' water for fire fighting, the washing machine water tank, the small catching tank off the back porch, the vegie garden tank off the back corner of the house, the small vegie garden tank, the large blue tank for the house tank overflow which waters the chickens and most recently the tank donated by our son. In case you haven't been adding up, that's 12 water tanks. Pretty good for a household now down to 2 adults and 20 odd chooks.

Actually you can measure the last 30 years by any or all of those things, and by knowing that this is home for David and I, and all of our family and friends consider the 'Farm' a safe haven where they are loved and welcome at any time. As the final measure of time we are now proudly the longest residents of Cooper Road.



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The Wandering Chicken

A True Tale by Linda Pederson, Norton Road

Once upon a time there was a little brown hen called Caramel. She'd lost her two sisters, Taffy and Fudge, to the ever present evil Mr. Fox some time ago. She'd been given two step-sisters, Spicks and Specks, to keep her company, but she still sometimes wandered off on her own.

One of her favourite things to do (almost as much fun as a dust bath in the sun) was to eat. Whenever one of her people came out of their giant people shed, she would come running to see if there was going to be a tidbit or two for her. The best times though were when her people took the chain saw off into the trees to saw up wood. As soon as she heard it start up she would rush over to it and look for all the yummy insects that fell out of the wood. Usually it was cockroaches, but one time they sawed into a huntsman's nest for her and she had a feast of baby spiders.

Then one day she heard the chain saw start up and went looking for it, but it was a LONG way away. She followed the noise, pushing through a fence, over a green walk-way and through another fence before she found it. Much to her surprise, it wasn't HER people making all the racket, but so long as there was food around she didn't really mind.

It wasn't long though until these new young people picked her up, took her for a ride in their car, and put her back where she had come from - much to her disgust. Her step sisters, Spicks and Specks came running up to greet her and hear all about where she'd been, while her person thanked the young people very much for returning her wandering chicken.

Caramel is just waiting for that special noise to start up again, so she can go visiting again!

Can You Contribute Some Words or a Drawing to the September Whisper?

Thanks to everyone who delivered or wrote something in or advertised in the August Whisper. If it's something that might bring more income to your family, please consider running it as an ad. If it's something that costs you time and effort to write and leaves you poorer for the time you've lost and adds a little cheer or information or an invitation to the rest of us, it's desired and you'll be paid - by the gratitude of many readers. Thanks for anything you or your children can come up with. - Ned Noel, Editor, phone 6238 384, Email to either of whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or nednoel@optusnet.com.au. Deadline is 7 pm on last Sunday of the month before, so 7 pm on Sunday night, August 30.

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Dear Everyone in Wamboin and Bywong

Last week my Mum and Dad accidentally left the gate open. Now I thought that was an invite for this little cattle dog to go outside my own paddock to explore. My Mum and Dad found me missing and really panicked because they know I am never allowed out so have no road sense or fast car sense. While they were looking for me a lovely lady who was really busy moving house found me and took me to the Bungendore Vet. They know me 'cause they are my vets, so they rang home. Mum and Dad found the message when they got back from searching. My Mum and I were pretty pleased to be reunited down at the Bungendore Vet. The kind lady who took me there, didn't leave her name so I am writing this to thank her if she still lives in the area. If she doesn't still live here, if anyone knows who she was could they please let her know that my Mum, Dad and I are really thankful she took the time in what must have been a really busy day to take me down to my Vet. I wouldn't live anywhere else. Thank you. - Gilbey Muir, Denley Drive

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The Great Wamboin Curry Night

It's on again! The Great Wamboin (bring your own) Curry Night. Saturday, 15th of August is the date to remember. There is a gold coin donation per person to offset the hire of the Hall. From 7pm, all diners bring along their prepared curry dish, side dishes, nibbles etc. The dishes are displayed with descriptive labels and are then on offer to all curry munchers from 7.30. Prizes will be awarded to the 3 dishes selected by a secret (no bribes) judge. Tables, chairs and a warm Hall are provided. BYO drinks, plates & cutlery and nibbles if required. For more information contact Dave Hubbard on 62383308. Bookings essential, to dave.hubbard@bigpond.com.

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

Extract from "Headwaters" by Dick Henley, Poppet Road: "Did you linger longer in the shower this morning? If you did, you might just have added to the world's greatest problem – water. And closer to home, to the further demise of the Yass Ditch and the Murray Creek. If everyone in Wamboin, the headwaters of the Yass, lingered that little bit longer, we would be starving the river of another ten million or more litres every year – and that's on top of the 43% of its flow we now lock away in our dams!

That's a bitter pill for each of us. No matter how sensitive we are to our environments, no matter how much care we take of our blocks, just by living here we're killing a river. Downstream of Sutton it's becoming a deader and deader, low flow creek, flowing on from time to time to the once mighty Murray. And it's dead, not because people downstream are any less caring, but because every river needs enough water to flush through all those wastes and nutrients, natural or unnatural, that lead to pollution and algal blooms, and on to impacts on human health. Just because of that longer, rather than shorter shower!

It's the price we pay for the landscape we've chosen to live in because of the scenery, the quiet and the lifestyle. It's a changed landscape compared with even a few decades ago, and just for that reason, out of natural balance. Restoration of trees and bush, especially along stream banks is essential just to retain soil and avoid salinity problems here and downstream.

And while you mull on this in your shorter shower, you are part of that bigger problem; how to provide drinking water for the 6 billion people now on earth. Only a few have clean water today, already much of the world's annually available freshwater is utilised, and there are precious few rivers flowing unimpeded to the sea anymore. There's not much time left for that longer shower is there!" (What is the situation in 2015?)

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How Studying the History of Lake George Can Give Us Clues About Our Future Climate in a Warming World

The next meeting of Sutton Landcare will be held on Tuesday evening 11 August at Sutton School commencing at 7.30 pm. At 8.00 pm, our guest speaker, Dr. Bradley Opdyke, Senior Lecturer and Research Scientist, ANU Research School of Earth Sciences, College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, will address us on what the natural archive of Lake George can reveal about our future climate. In early 2015 the Australian Research Council funded a research project that will look into the History of Lake George Basin and catchment. A large team of Scientists will be participating from the ANU, The University of Sydney, The University of Wollongong, and Geoscience Australia. They will be looking at the groundwater history, the Landscape evolution, the recent tectonics of the area, archaeology, as well as the paleoclimate History. Bradley will briefly introduce the broader picture then concentrate on the possible things we might learn that will help us plan for the changes coming in the near future. An expert in his field of paleoclimatology and a great communicator on the Science of Climate Change, this should be a great night for all those interested in this critical subject. Further details can be obtained from Sutton Landcare Secretary Tony Redmond on 62303266. -- David Vincent (President)

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WCA Notes

The WCA Committee recently has been fully occupied in making submissions to the three levels of government on matters which affect our community. The main difficulty we experienced is obtaining a broad or balanced view from the community on the many issues without resorting to means such as surveys. Authorities seldom give us sufficient time to respond. Our three major submissions have been to:

1. **NSW Government's General Purpose Standing Committee No 6 Inquiry into Local Government in NSW.** We expressed dissatisfaction with the way in which the review was undertaken, particularly that the approach under the *Fit for the Future* focusses excessively on the financial viability of local government councils without taking into account other important issues including representation and maintaining an appropriate degree of homogeneity across the Local Government Area. The review seemed to have started with an unsupported assumption that bigger councils are better. It then led to a conclusion that amalgamations are the answer. We do not agree – and neither do Palerang and Queanbeyan Councils. We see significant costs and little significant benefit. Critically important are issues about democracy, local government being local and acting on the views of the people who live in Wamboin and other parts of Palerang.
2. **Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee.** The review sought community comment on the adequacy of telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia, especially whether people in these areas have equitable access compared to urban dwellers. We commented on the lack of basic services such as mobile phone coverage and reliable, usable internet. It was not difficult to outline how the lack of mobile phone reception impacts our community's safety in emergency situations, or how poor internet service puts our students, business owners and the community as a whole at a disadvantage, especially in an increasingly online world. The omission from Round 1 funding under the Federal Government's \$100M Mobile Black Spot Programme of the long anticipated communication tower on Denley Drive was also noted.
3. **Palerang Council's Rural Lands Study.** This study stems from dissatisfaction by some sections in the rural community with the Palerang Local Environment Plan and has been discussed publicly throughout Palerang. Our submission considered the study holistically and made recommendations in the context of further development, master planning, sunrise/boutique industries, Kowen Forest development, water resources, ridgeline and hill top development, wildlife corridors, bushfire planning and facilities and services for different demographic populations.

Where possible, submissions will be made available on the WCA website <http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au>
The WCA Committee would be happy to discuss the issues in these submissions with you.

-- John van der Straaten, WCA Secretary

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The Great Queanbeyan Stitch Up

by Lori Mancell

"Are you a little creative? Would you be interested in a *more out there* project than you would usually try? **Bigger, bolder, warmer, fuzzier** than usual? If so, join us as we work towards the 'Great Queanbeyan Stitch Up' 2015! The Stitch Up is a community arts event which will culminate on October 17th during the Queanbeyan River Festival with a 'yarn bombing' in the Queanbeyan Sensory Gardens and the Queanbeyan Bridge. 'Yarn Bombing' is the art of covering parts of the urban streetscape (lamp posts, bridges, railings etc.) temporarily with knitted and crocheted pieces to add some bright, funny, warm, fuzzy, goodness to the street. While 'yarn-bombing' is usually a clandestine affair, we have Council Approval to bring this art into the light, showing crafty local making to the entire town!



We're hoping to find more people to

help us make things for the event, once the 'yarn bombing' is over, we will turn the made pieces into blankets to give to womens, mens and animal shelters (and odds and ends that won't make for nice blankets will be kept for future art events). We love donations of 20cm x 20cm, 40cm x 40cm or 40cm x 80cm – any ply, any stitch – bright colours are best! Donations can be dropped off at The Q arts centre or the Queanbeyan Library, or contact us on the details below, one of our volunteers might be able to organise a pick-up at Wamboin. To find out more you can email queanbeyanstitchup@gmail.com, join us on our Facebook page 'The Great Queanbeyan Stitch Up' or call the council contact Georgina Perri on 6285 6071."



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How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

In late 2001 Rob Gorham volunteered to take over delivering Whispers to the mailboxes in the northern part of Clare Valley. He's done this every month since that time. This month he's asked if someone else on this section of the road would be good enough to volunteer to take on the job. I thank him for his generosity in doing this job for so long. It was on top of his day job as a courier, and in addition to volunteering a term as community association president and helping out with Wamboin Curry Nights and in many other ways. Rob Henry has generously offered to take over delivering to the homes Rob Gorham covered.

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 3178 email alicescott@bigpond.com.au					
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 khandel@bigpond.net.au					
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 Henry	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			
259: CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN: ph 6238 3590 jnpvds@bigpond.com.au					
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	35	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)	14	Misc		1
152: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425 lodestar@ozemail.com.au					
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 email anderson@yless4u.com.au					
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 email nednoel@optusnet.com.au					
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 1,288					



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Councillor's Corner

Electronic Housing Code — In a previous column I made reference to the Electronic Housing Code (EHC), a new on-line planning approval tool. Now that Palerang data is available through the EHC, I thought I might remind readers of this new on-line service and also provide a brief overview of Planning Certificates issued under Section 149 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP&A) Act.

The EHC (<https://www.onegov.nsw.gov.au/new/agencies/ehc>) helps landholders in determining whether or not proposed works might be classed as exempt or complying development. Exempt development, as the name implies, does not require any Council approval, while complying development—straightforward residential, commercial and industrial development—can be managed on-line through a fast track approvals process.

It's probably important to note at this point that the information that must be submitted in support of a complying development application is essentially the same as that required for standard development approval. To be considered as complying development, however, an application must already meet specific criteria and having done so, does not require any further involvement from Council.

To use the EHC, an applicant will ultimately need to set up an on-line account from which to manage applications. The first step in the application process however, which can be completed without an account, is to provide information to allow the system to prepare a Complying Development Report. This Report includes basic information about what may be considered complying development at the location identified, to allow the prospective applicant to decide whether or not to proceed. Ultimately, the certifier selected in the following step in the EHC process will advise whether or not a proposed development can be processed as complying development or if it will need to go through the standard Council development approval process.

Section 149 Planning Certificates — While a Complying Development Report will provide some direction with respect to what might be exempt or complying development on a particular property, it will always be advisable to refer to a current Section 149 Planning Certificate for more detailed information about development standards that might apply. The information required to be provided on a Planning Certificate under Section 149(2) of the EP&A Act is prescribed by Schedule 4 of the EP&A Regulation (I won't list everything here, just Google the aforementioned Schedule for details). Under Section 149(5) of the Act, Council can also provide other relevant information. What such information might be is not specified, but it might include information on such things as recent DAs applying to the land, whether there is legal access, whether the road is maintained by Council etc.

Certificates are commonly referred to as if they were distinct entities—i.e. a 149(2) Certificate or a 149(5) Certificate. In fact there is only one certificate—a Planning Certificate issued under Section 149 of the EP&A Act. It is the information provided on the Certificate that differs—either just the information prescribed under Section 149(2) of the Act, or this information as well as other relevant information as noted under Section 149(5) of the Act.

The current [2015/2016] cost of a Planning Certificate from Palerang Council is \$53 for the a Certificate containing the [149(2)] prescribed information, or \$133 for a Certificate containing both [149(2)] prescribed and other [149(5)] relevant information. Cost notwithstanding, it is always advisable to request all relevant information on a 149 Certificate. An on-line service to provide Planning Certificates will be available in the coming months, but for the time being they can be ordered by visiting one of the Council offices, or by completing a Property Information Enquiry Form, available from the Palerang Council website, and forwarding it to Council for processing..

I will continue this discussion on the EHC process for the approval of complying development next month.

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

Electronic Housing Code (Jul 2015) Section 149 Planning Certificates (Jun 2015)

Exempt and Complying Development (Apr 2015)

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

We had two small boys from the tropical north to stay for their school holidays. They claim that “our Wamboin” is their favourite place; the gurgling creek, the trees, rocks and bush, the birds that fly in for breakfast, the geriatric black lamb, collecting kindling, lighting the fire, and, rugged up with beanies and parkas, going outside to play in the “air-conditioning” with their big cousin. Our “outside” is a typical Wamboin treasure trove for small boys. Beyond the garden paths you may chance upon scattered bricks, abandoned sheets of corrugated iron, lengths of timber and everything else that is vital for cubby building. My father was a dedicated recycler. He’d go to the tip with a load of rubbish and come back, beaming, the trailer full of “this might come in handy one day” items to add to his Aladdin’s cave. I had a wonderful childhood of cubby building, and then I married a man just like my father!

For a week or so, through fog and pale sunlight, I watched from my kitchen window another generation of recyclers and cubby builders. After much scavenging, hammering, sawing, a few demarcation disputes and the odd sit down strike, a tired and battered old shed that any heartless soul would have long ago consigned to the dump was transformed into a fantastic cubby house. It had a cement board floor, a covered, raised verandah and a ramp bordered with rosemary cuttings to ensure an aromatic entrance. And to plant it firmly in the twenty first century, it became a restaurant with a computerised ordering system. What an architectural, high tech wonder!

It seems to have been a long, cold winter, but there are positive signs. Soon the wattles will be a mass of yellow and the greyness of winter will slowly recede. I might wonder at how many more winters I can endure here, but my grizzles fall on deaf ears. I could never live anywhere else.....those two small boys from the north would forbid us to forsake “their” Wamboin..... and after all, it won’t be long before everything comes alive again. The garden and bush will be renewed with the onset of spring, and I will be able to say, with even more conviction, I wouldn’t live anywhere else.....

Footnote: Overnight, the fantastic cubby house succumbed to the elements...the verandah collapsed! A new project for their next visit?..... so until this is completed I couldn’t possibly live anywhere else.

WAMBOIN AND BYWONG CLASSIFIEDS

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WCA Electronic Noticeboard: The WCA electronic noticeboard is a convenient way to keep up with community activities. Subscribe by visiting the WCA website at <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard>

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