



September 2015 CIRCULATION: 1,299

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 October issue is 7 pm Sunday night, September 27. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month and is also available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au.

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

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

LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	Jenny Richards, President	6238 1329	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Bywong Community	Darryl Bourke, President		president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade	Geoff Foster, Captain	0409 991 340	captain.brigade@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Resident 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	Heather Lawton, Convener	0425133530	heather.cocquio@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	
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	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	Sammi Quick	Petsitting & good w. horses	0438 154 840

Wamboin Community Association's Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display

by Fireworks Australia

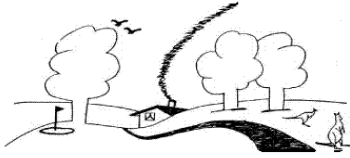


**Wamboin Community Centre,
112 Bingley Way, Wamboin.
Saturday 19th September 2015
Food stalls from 5.30
Bonfire lit at 6.33 and
Fireworks light-up 7.03 precisely**

**Support local community groups,
including Wamboin Community Association, Church,
Fire Brigade, Wonderful Women of Wamboin, Golf
Club, Pony Club, Play Group, Sutton School
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Dishes, Glo Sticks, Soft Drinks, Tea, Great Coffee and
other Beverages.**

Adults \$5, Children \$2 or Family \$10

**Please note: by law the only fireworks allowed will be
the display by 'FIREWORKS AUSTRALIA'.**



Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



Well Spring is on its way. The wattles are beginning to bloom which I always feel a little nostalgic about coming from Cootamundra and we can see a good drop of rain.

Bonfire Night – The big event for September is of course Bonfire Night. The bonfire is building nicely on the oval but just a couple of reminders if you wish to deposit something on the bonfire. **PLEASE NO BUILDING WASTE!** We only need cuttings and logs not exceeding 150 mm in diameter. No bricks, or pallets or other building waste please. The bonfire is an event which involves quite specific timing. It begins at **5:00pm** on **Saturday 19th September**. Food stalls wont open until about **5:30pm** so that people can get some food and drink before settling down to the main event of the evening – the lighting of the bonfire at **6:33 pm** and the fireworks (weather permitting) at **7:03pm**. To assist the fire brigade (who have agreed to help out with parking) we ask that people don't arrive prior to **4:45 pm**. Prices for the event are as follows: **Adults - \$5, Children - \$2 and a Family - \$10**. This gains entry to the ground and the bonfire and viewing of the fireworks. However this is an opportunity for all our local service groups around the area to raise some much needed funds by selling all sorts of good things to eat and drink. So please come along and join us on the 19th September at 5:00pm and support this great event.

Monthly Produce Markets – Another event (oddly enough on the same day as the bonfire) are the resumption of the monthly produce markets at the Community Hall. So come along on the morning of the 19th September and enjoy what the markets have to offer.

Bonfire Night Children's Comp – Organisers of the Bonfire are interested to hear what the younger residents of Wamboin and surrounds think about this event and so have organised a competition whereby our younger residents are urged to send in articles (drawings or stories) on what they like best about the Bonfire. All entries will be published in the Whisper and all entries will win a small prize for taking part. So kids get busy and let us know what YOU think.

Spring Talks – September sees the WCA start the first of its Spring Talks sessions. These are to be held on the 3rd Tuesday evening of September, October and November straight after our monthly meetings at the Community Hall. A much more detailed advertisement should be appearing in this month's edition of the Whisper but in September we can expect to be informed and entertained by **Larry King** and **Matt O'Brien** on the **Law of the Land**. Other speakers are lined up already for October and November on different by equally interesting topics. So please come along and hear what our guest speakers have to say. Remember the third Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm at the Community Hall. Naturally refreshments will be served afterwards.

Curry Night – Although the Richards family were absent when the great Wamboin Curry Night was held on the 15th August (we were struggling home from a skiing trip) I understand that it was a great success with good numbers joining in to share curries. Thank you to Dave Hubbard for organising this event and perhaps we'll make it next year. Well as you can see a busy month ahead of us. Keep all those dates and times in mind and see you all later. -- Jenny Richards (President)

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The Wamboin Neighbourhood Safer Place 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin NSW 2621

This article introduces the new Wamboin Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP); subsequent articles will cover additional aspects of how it will be operated. After the devastating bush fires in Victoria a few years ago it became obvious to governments that there is a need for local places/spaces to be designated as "Neighbourhood Safer Place". The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) website www.rfs.nsw.gov.au explains the RFS position and lists all NSW NSP.

An NSP provides the minimum to survive. The Wamboin NSP will provide protection from ember attack, radiant heat and direct impact from fire. There will also be potable water for drinking and basic washing, information about the fire, and NSP assistance teams for parking, registration, public information, hygiene and first aid.

However, from the outset it must be understood that an NSP is a **PLACE OF LAST RESORT**; it is **NOT** an Evacuation Centre or any other similar community emergency support facility. It is a place to flee to when your Bushfire Survival Plan has not worked.

The Wamboin NSP is not going to be a safe alternative for most residents in Wamboin or Bywong; its 'catchment' is quite small. Where the NSP is not a safe option, you should identify safer locations close to home; this should be part of your Bushfire Survival Plan. Remember, depending on where you live and the direction of threat, it might be better for you to go to Queanbeyan, Canberra or Bungendore. The NSP only provides basic survival facilities.

Please update or complete your Bushfire Survival Plan before the fire season commences – probably 1st October. If you need a blank one or would like some guidance the Fire Brigade has a regular 'stand' outside the Fire Shed concurrent with the monthly Wamboin Produce Markets. Alternatively, the Brigade Captain can always be contacted – see front page for details.

-- Richard Hobbs, Deputy Captain, Community Engagement Officer, Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade



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	<p style="text-align: center;">Bywong Community News www.bywongcommunity.org.au</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ann Goonan, President This News Put Together by the Bywong Committee</p>	
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Information Session – Home and Property Security: This was delivered prior to the AGM on 10 August by Senior Constable Naomi Nemeć from the Monaro Police. Although there has been some concern of late regarding break in and robbery of homes and properties, according to Constable Nemeć the level of such incidents is really quite low in our general area. Nevertheless all incidents should be reported, and of course everyone should be alert to any activity that looks out of the ordinary or suspicious. The quickest and most direct contact for expressing any concerns is to the Queanbeyan Police. Even if nothing much happens in response to a situation, the police use all sorts of information in building up patterns of crime or potential crime. This is useful for future crime prevention purposes.

Annual General Meeting: This was held on August 10 and heralded a few major changes within the executive and committee. After more than three years of energetic and dedicated service Darryl Bourke has stepped down as President and Anne Goonan stepped up to fill that office, having been involved with the Association since the 1990s. Bernie Greethead vacated the position of Secretary and we thank her for her diligence and persistence – deriving written minutes from the multiple conversations that sometimes flowed during meetings! Kerry Cox has taken up the challenge and is now the new Secretary of the BCA. Dr. Clive Boughton and Jean-Pierre Favre remain as Vice President and Treasurer respectively. Guy Cotsell remains as Public Officer, however with some ‘succession planning’ in train. Merle Horgosi and Bob Angel return as ordinary committee members and we welcome our new committee members: Jeremy Shearmur, Felicity Lawrence and Steve Walker.

The outgoing President noted that for the BCA to continue its regular activities (Car Boot Sale, Trivia Evenings etc.) and expand activities, we need new members and of course new ideas. As an example of such initiative, Merle Ketley is actively investigating the possibility of establishing a children’s play ground at the Bywong Hall, and the committee and executive are supporting her initiative. Darryl Bourke and Bernie Greethead were both thanked by the executive and committee for their excellent work and contributions over the past years.

Further details of the meeting can be found on the BCA website at <http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au/>


Macs Reef Road and Federal Highway Intersection: Following concerns raised first by the Wamboin Community Association, and again more recently by Bywong Community Association with NSW Roads and Maritime Services, Mr. Adam Berry (Network & Safety Manager Southern) met with the community to talk about the issues. The planned solution to the present problems will include the installation of a STOP sign at the intersection and the reinstatement of the ‘slip’ lane. This meeting was held on August 24 at Bywong Hall, and there was some audience skepticism that the proposed measures would lead to greater safety at the intersection. Nevertheless, according to Mr. Berry long term (20 year) changes to the Federal Highway may well dictate significant improvements to the intersection in the future, although the time frame is not certain and could be decades. There were no immediate plans for Roads and Maritime Services to invest significant funds on this intersection although it is used by over 5000 vehicles each day.
Next BCA Meeting: The next meeting is at 7:30 October 12th at the Hall.

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FINDING THE “FUN” IN “FUNDING”

Aussies are generous with donations for a good cause. The harder ask is to donate time....that’s what we need right now - helping our committee and at the same time putting the FUN into our FUNdraising!!

We’re a committee of six, working to build an Abbeyfield House in Bungendore for seniors in the area. Abbeyfield is a not-for-profit and nondenominational charity and community housing provider of independent living for seniors (over 55) within a community. The Bungendore house will have an extra visitor’s room for family or short term respite accommodation for members of the community returning home after hospitalisation. We’ve got the block....it’s in Gibraltar St, in close proximity to facilities and services. We’re aiming to get the bulk of the project funds through grants and public funding, but we still need to show funding capacity ‘from within’. Our committee has worked hard to build a small reserve – but the committee and the reserve need to grow!

If you can see the FUN in FUNding – and find it in your heart and schedule to join us – please please please contact me.

Anne Goonan *email* - anne.goonan@yless4u.com.au *website* www.abbeyfield-bungendore.org

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Acceleration Lane, Intersection of Federal Highway and Macs Reef Road, Bywong

Roads and Maritime Services will reinstate a short length of acceleration lane at the junction of the Federal Highway and Macs Reef Road at Bywong, following community feedback about safety at the intersection. The work will include installing a short auxiliary lane to allow motorists turning left from Macs Reef Road to accelerate onto the Federal Highway. Work is planned for November 2015.

Why are we doing this? In October 2014 Roads and Maritime Services removed a short length of acceleration lane on Federal Highway at Macs Reef Road following a report of observed near misses at this intersection. An investigation found that a short length of auxiliary lane on the shoulder of the Federal Highway was being used as an acceleration lane for traffic turning left from Macs Reef Road. The auxiliary lane did not meet current standards for an acceleration lane and was removed.

Following removal of this lane, concerns were raised by the community that a road safety issue had been introduced, and near misses were now occurring where they had not previously occurred.

What will change Even though the previous intersection arrangements did not meet design standards, Roads and Maritime will install a short length of acceleration at this site together with a stop sign on Macs Reef Road. The introduction of a stop sign is to reinforce the need for motorists to stop and wait for an appropriate gap in approaching traffic before turning left onto the Federal Highway. The short acceleration lane will provide a 'second chance' for motorists who misjudge a gap in traffic.

Contact. If you have any questions, please contact Dean Simmonds on 4221 2456 or email dean.simmonds@rms.nsw.gov.au. For more information on our projects, visit rms.nsw.gov.au

St Andrews and St Peters Church Notices

About thirty people sat down to a most enjoyable feast last week in St Andrews, transformed from a church into an elegant dining room, and it was a great chance to catch up with old friends and welcome new faces. As usual, everyone pitched in and it all seemed effortless. Our next activity is the Roast Pork and Gluhwein stalls at the Wamboin Fireworks, always a great family night with all the food stalls, and a truly spectacular show.

Kids Club is thriving and we have young people from primary to high school age turning up at 5.30 each Friday night, at St Andrews, during term time. As the weather warms up we look forward to table tennis on the lawn above the Memorial wall.

Perhaps many residents are unaware of the Memorial wall, set in the gardens of St Andrews. It was built by local stone mason, Dave Argaet, and is a place for quiet contemplation, and a place to record the names of loved ones from our families and the community who have left us.

Church services are held on the first and third Sunday of each month at St Andrews, Poppet Road, and the second and third Sunday at St Peters, Sutton. All services start at 9am and are followed by a great morning tea, a chat and an opportunity to meet new people. For further information please phone any of the people listed below.

Ven. Dr Royce Thompson 6230-3558 (Pastor), Robyn Roberson 6238-3202, Bronwyn Elliott 6238-3359, Alan Rope 62383224, Dr David McCarthy 6255-5451

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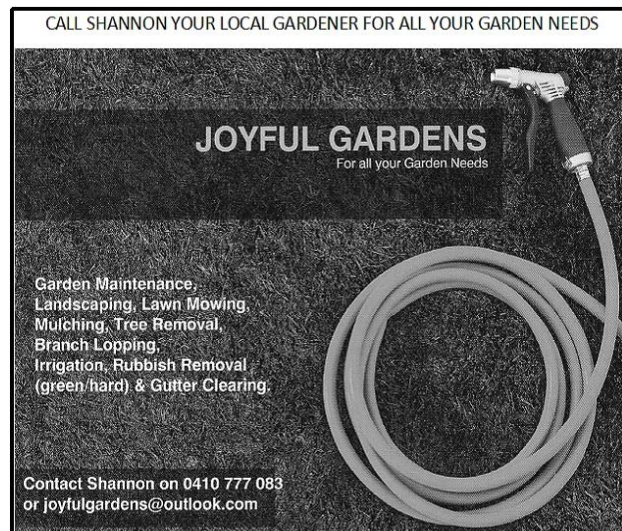
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Work Experience:

By Kayla Agostino, Veterinary Nurse, Canberra Equine Hospital

Welcome to Canberra Equine Hospital!

You may have met us out in the field already, helping care for your equine friend's teeth, vaccinations, or maybe even in an emergency situation. Perhaps we have seen you at the hospital or maybe we are yet to meet you! Whatever the case, we would like to extend an invitation to students whom are above yr10 for work experience opportunities here with us at the Canberra Equine Hospital. Available dates are between August until May each year, whilst nursing and university students are considered throughout the year for placements. We provide a unique opportunity to broaden your equine knowledge and understanding and see how equine hospitals function from day to day.

For those who have not heard about us before, Canberra Equine Hospital is a large animal practice primarily dedicated to the care of all equine disciplines. From miniature horses to Clydesdales and other species of farm animals, our committed team of veterinarians and nurses are ready to help!

Some of the services we offer include portable radiology, video-endoscopy and ultra-sounding equipment, stallion collections and mare inseminations. The practice also has a spacious operating theatre, recovery room and an on-site laboratory.

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Safety is a priority at the Canberra Equine Hospital, therefore previous horse handling experience is a pre-requisite. Before we can confirm your placement, there will be a short interview process that will include a tour of our practice and a horse handling session in which you will be asked to give an example of your skills both practically and verbally. You will also need to provide a resume detailing your experience.

If interested in sending through your resume and cover letter to get started, please email us on equine@canberravet.com.au. For more information and further enquires phone us at the hospital on (02) 6241 8888.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!
Happy riding,

The Team at Canberra Equine Hospital

**WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS
SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2015
9AM TO 12 NOON**

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EVERY THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH**

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You will join local stall holders who sell raspberries and raspberry products, fresh fruit and veggies in season, jams and preserves, eggs, cakes. There are beautiful embroidered towels, felt toys, hand-stitched cards for all occasions, second hand books, fantastic products from the curabita plant, jewelry and gem stones, locally made dog beds, collars and leads....and more! For your garden there is native tube stock, often bags of chook poo, worm juice and cut flowers.

Sit down at the café and have a chat with your neighbours (how often do we get the chance to do that!) over a cup of excellent Wagonga coffee accompanied by scones and cream.

**OUR MARKET CHARITY STALL THIS MONTH IS:
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See accompanying flyer for details and support them in a journey of a lifetime!

See you at the markets

Contact; Lance and Meriel Schultz 6238 3309 or 0422 614 304



**MYSTERY BOX IS A
FUNDRAISING EVENT TO
RAISE MONEY FOR
CANCER RESEARCH**



Wamboin Mothers ... Marita Corra & Linda Ivey are getting behind a really important fund raising event in November 2015 – a journey raising valuable funds for Cancer Research

Marita & Linda (*Team The MotherShip*) & a 'jalopy' will drive for 2,500kms in the Australian outback for five days!!) On top of the fund-raising effort we hope to find time to learn some basic mechanical skills and tyre-changing skills!! We are (bravely) stepping into the Drivers Seat for the Cancer Council 2015 Mystery Box Rally. Marita's son, Tom has been the driver for the past few years in these rallies, and now he is taking a brief leave to celebrate the birth of his & Kiri's son Noah. (having raised over \$20,000 in past three years). He is handing over the keys for safe keeping and the responsibility of raising valuable funds in 2015 for Cancer Research....to his mother & friend Linda

Team The MotherShip is born! We aim is to raise \$3,000 - but with generous support possibly (hopefully) more! As we both say: *we have been blessed to have every opportunity in life with our wonderful families, awesome friends, fantastic businesses and so much support from our local Wamboin community. It's now time for us to give back*. The Cancer Council believes that they can and will beat cancer. They work across every area of every cancer, so raising money for research is essential. To donate, go to **The MotherShip donation page** (click on or cut and paste) <https://mysterybox2015sydney.everydayhero.com/au/TheMotherShip>

Follow the prompts, enter your details and donate what you can. In one minute you will receive a tax receipt back (for the full amount) and you will see your donation go straight into the funds for Cancer Research. We will also run raffles and other fund-raising events to reach our fundraising goal.

Macs Reef Road/Federal Highway Intersection - Update

In July's Whisper, the WCA Vice President reported that Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) had returned to a second Wamboin Community Association meeting to advise that the acceleration lane would be reinstated and the Give Way sign would be replaced by a Stop sign. This new arrangement was confirmed by RMS in late July by a letterbox drop to local residents.

While the return of the acceleration lane is appreciated, a Stop sign has not proved as popular. On being contacted by the Bywong Community Association, Adam Berry, Network & Safety Manager Southern, RMS, suggested he could attend a meeting at the Bywong Hall on August 24.

A dedicated group of hardy Bywong and Wamboin residents braved the appallingly wet and cold conditions to hear Adam again outline why RMS had removed the acceleration lane - there had been reports of vehicles rolling out of Macs Reef Road without due consideration of traffic in the main carriageway. RMS's view was that this presented a significant risk due to the high speed differential between Highway traffic and vehicles entering from Macs Reef Rd.

As he has done at the two previous meetings, Adam acknowledged the high volume of traffic, both local and coast commuters and that the intersection, in any form, is not ideal mainly due to its proximity to the Sutton Road off-ramp. He advised that in 2017-18 RMS is undertaking a **Corridor Strategy** for the Federal Highway, which will devise a plan for how the route is managed over the ensuing 20 years. Until then, the intersection will operate with the short acceleration lane and a Stop sign.

Attendees spoke of the lengthy delays caused by the removal of the acceleration lane and went on to question the logic of a Stop sign, which is only going to make matters worse. Adam did agree that the new arrangement will make the intersection less efficient, but that in RMS's view, these measures were making it safer.

This led to a well-informed discussion about the intersection's accident record, which is very short. Attendees familiar with the history of the intersection reported that there were numerous "rear-end" accidents during a previous Stop sign period, which reduced after the Stop sign was replaced. In the period reviewed by RMS, 2009-2013, there were 3 reported accidents at the intersection, only 1 of which was attributed to the high-speed differential.

The issues of poor driver behaviour and the lack of understanding of merge rules was discussed. Despite it generally being considered polite and efficient to do so, according to the Australian Road Rules, there is no requirement for Federal Highway traffic to move to the right lane to allow entering traffic to merge. Adam did agree to consider installing *Merging Traffic Ahead* signs on the Federal Highway approach to the intersection.

Adam concluded that a risk assessment had been done, the Give Way sign will not be reinstated.

Meeting attendees concluded that advocacy for reinstatement of the Give Way in conjunction with the acceleration lane was now only available via our local member, (The Hon. John Barilaro, MP, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business, GPO Box 5341, SYDNEY NSW 2001 or by Email: monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au).

-- Jenny Warren, Committee Member, WCA

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St Philip's Needs Your Help

St Philip's, Bungendore has served the wider Bungendore community for 150 years – And we are celebrating! A Family Fun Day on Saturday 10th October 10 am – 3 pm at St Philip's will include jumping castle, children's craft, old fashioned games, a prayer tree, displays of church memorabilia, morning tea, a BBQ lunch, big cake and much more. We will also launch a book of the history of St Philip's. Updates on our webpage (www.bungendoreanglican.org.au) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/bungendoreanglican). On Sunday 11th October, Bishop Stuart will join us at our 9 am service to reflect on our past and our future. We need your help. To celebrate life at St Philip's through the ages, we will display past and present baptismal and wedding clothing, prayer and hymn books, photos and other memorabilia of St Philip's. If you have some memorabilia, and would be happy to display it for this special occasion please contact the Parish on 6238 1251 or office@bungendoreanglican.org.au. We look forward to meeting you as you join the celebrations. -- Karen King, Secretary

End of Winter Wonderings

Is it me, or are there more dead kangaroos along Norton Road this year than in past years? The Canberra Times recently published an article about the increased number of road-kills on the highway. I have also noticed more mobs of them moving about the area, too. More thoughts...our resident Blue Tongue and Shingleback lizards have been out and active, not long before we see their legless cousins. –Bill Gillespie, Norton Road



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The Fire Season Approaches



At the time of writing the Fire Season will start on 1 October. This means you have only a few weeks left for clearing and reducing the fuel load around your house. Of course after this date you can always transport your green waste to the Bungendore waste transfer station but the waste must be within limits, namely no stumps and no branches greater than 250 mm in diameter.

So if you are planning on more clearing then it's time to get busy assuming the start of the Fire Season has not been brought forward and you have already run out of time.

When it comes to preparing your home the RFS Fact Sheet No2, *Bushfire and Your Home*, provides a wealth of information on the things you can do. It's available on

the RFS website.


One project that you could start now to prepare your house is filling all the gaps in your brickwork or around window frames or door frames. This is about stopping embers penetrating your house and it's a great way to stop rodents getting in. Once you start looking there will be lots of gaps that need to be filled. Have you ever looked under the roof capping of your metal roof; this is great place for leaf litter to build up.

There are several ways of filling these gaps including metallic mesh or fire resisting expanding foam. Both are available from local hardware stores


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.

If you are planning on a burn remember you are required to call Fire Control Queanbeyan on 6128 0600 during business hours and before 2.00pm on Friday, and advise all your neighbours.

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Brigade Activity

Call Outs: August has been the busiest month so far this year.



Monday July 27: At 11:20 am two medium tankers with a total crew of five responded to assist Mulloon, Braidwood and Bungendore brigades at a 65 ha grass fire on the Braidwood-Goulburn road. Crews returned to the station at 2.50 pm.

Tuesday 4 August: At 10.45 am a heavy tanker with a crew of five was sent to a truck rollover on the Federal Highway near Eaglehawk, returning to station by 12.05.

Thursday 6 August: At 3.30 pm a heavy tanker with five members, and the captain's vehicle responded to a reported smoke sighting near Scholefield Rd on the Federal Highway. No fire was found and crews returned to station.

Thursday 6 August: At 11.30 pm a heavy tanker with crew of four responded to a fire which destroyed a cabin at the Capital Country resort, assisting NSW Fire &

Rescue and Sutton RFS crews, returning to the station by 2.00 am. .

Saturday 8 August: At 6.45 pm six crew turned out to the station for a truck fire near Collector, but were called off before they left the station.

Sunday 16 August: At 5.55 pm a heavy tanker with four crew and the captain's vehicle responded to another reported fire near Schofield Rd. Again no fire was found and crew returned to station.

Friday 21 August: At 5:50 pm the captain investigated a fire near Bungendore Rd and the Federal highway, which turned out to be an authorised agricultural burn, requiring no further action.

Sunday 23 August: At 12:10 pm two heavy tankers and the captain's vehicle with total crew of 10 responded to a fire which destroyed a shed/temporary dwelling on Woolshed Lane. Crews from NSW Fire & Rescue, and RFS units from Bungendore and Queanbeyan assisted. All units had left the scene by 4:00 pm. At 12:30 am the following morning two heavy tankers with total crew of four responded to a flare-up (back in station by 2:00 am) and a tanker with four crew attended the scene from 8:00 am to 10:00 am.,

Community Events

Chainsaw Maintenance Workshop

A workshop to demonstrate chainsaw maintenance will be held at the Wamboin Fire Shed on Sunday 11 October 2015 between 9:30am and 1pm. This is not an RFS training course and is open to members of the community. Morning tea will be provided.

The knowledge you gain on the day will help you keep your chainsaw running more efficiently and may help you decide when you should call for expert help before problems occur. The number of workshop attendees is limited so if you are interested please email Cliff Spong (cliffspng@optusnet.com.au) to book your place.

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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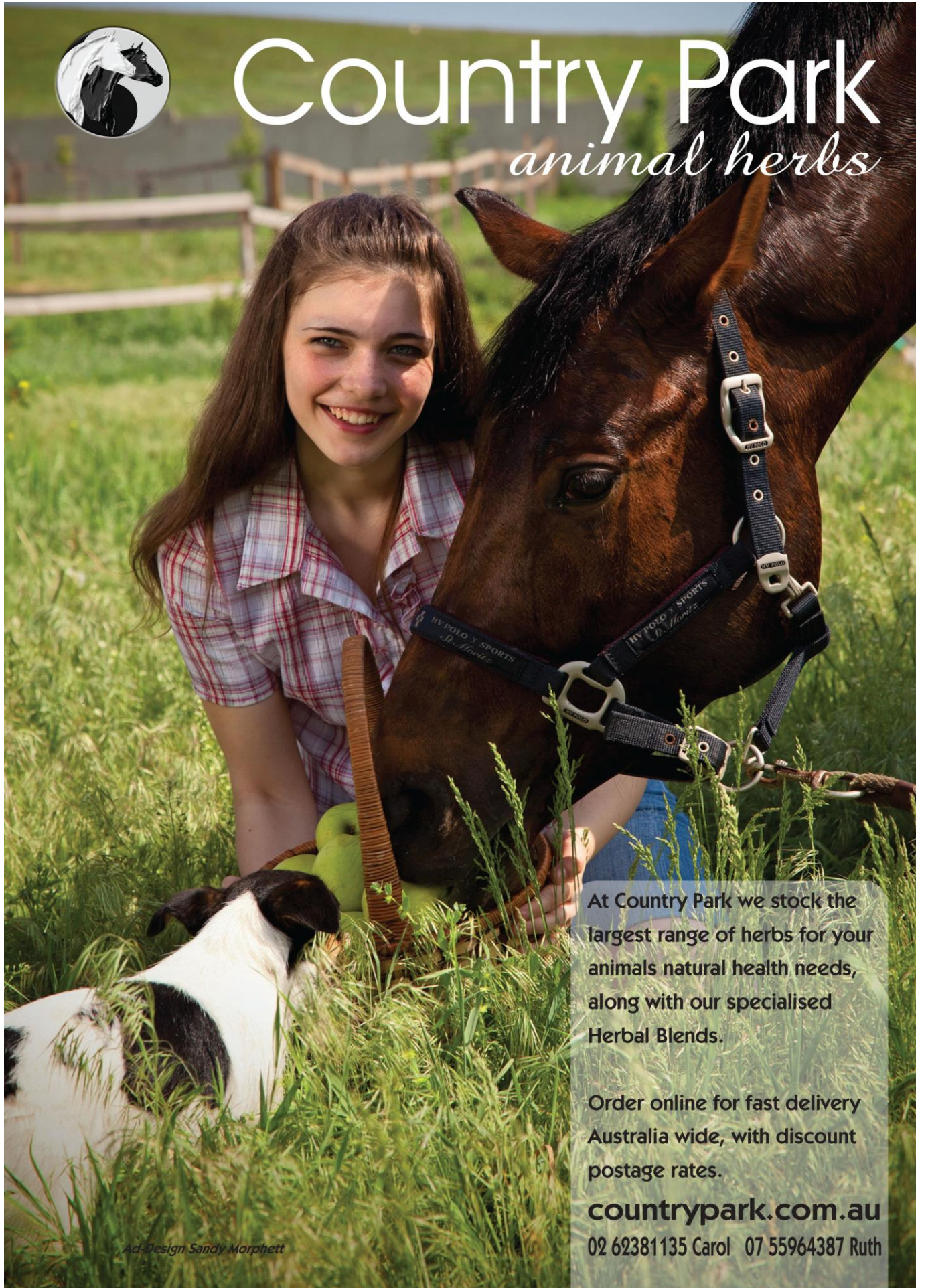
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WAMBOIN GOLF – AUGUST 2015

Sunday 2 August 2015. After 31mm overnight most of the fabled Wamboin golf course was under water. There wasn't even a dry spot to land our guest-of-honour's helicopter – although by then she'd become a footnote to history. The greens committee gathered, considered its verdict and closed the course: there would be no play that day. Did I say no play? Oh, bite my tongue! It was decided to play the 19th hole which was completely dry. And so, from about 4pm they came from all around this fit and healthy shire to the community Hall – frustrated would-be golfers, family, friends and wet hangers-on – to talk about the game they might have played and to enjoy one another's company. The day was sponsored by the Tradies, those clever chaps that do many useful things around these parts: Trent Able (electrician), Col Prest (automotive), Don Evans (plumbing etc.) and Henk Berlee (anything). We thank them for the victuals, especially Henk's pea and ham soup.

The googly ball and dummy spit awards went to the same person. To protect his family's privacy let us identify him only as Robert Gorham. His winning act has been to go to extraordinary lengths to avoid playing at Wamboin for at least five years. You are agog to learn how. Be patient and sit comfortably. His wife whom we shall call Mary-Lou (as unlikely a name as any) was appointed Principal of the Catholic school in the twin cities of Harden-Murrumburrah in the charming Lachlan Valley. Would Robert go along as the handbag, I hear you cry. No way, was his stern reply. But fate, destiny or Kismet – call it what you will – had other ideas. Despite his otherwise customary rude health he had a run-in with the Spanish Dancer – to the extent that the surgeon had to remove a fair amount of the crinkly bits which occupy the bottom half of the abdominal cavity. Naturally, he's now referred to as Old Gutless. (You don't come to Wamboin for the compliments.) And so he's off to Harden – or is it Murrumburrah? – to accompany the lovely M-L. We wish them both the best of good fortune and hope to see them from time to time.

Next month it will be Spring – a concept as alien as a frugal politician while this is being written at 9 degrees C with a howling wind. But that means the famous Wamboin Spring Trophy sponsored by local heroes, Joan and Lofty Mason. Join us at the Hall on Sunday, 6 September at 12.15pm for a 12.30 pm kick off. It's worth it just for Joan's spring rolls. – Larry King

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin – 40 Year Statistics from the Robertsons		
August rainfall to 30/8 ... 80 mm	August 2014 ... 44.75 mm	2015 rainfall to 30/8 ... 475 mm
2014 rainfall to 31/8 ... 419.25 mm	Average Sept Rainfall ... 63.14mm	Sept 2014 rainfall ... 41.75 mm
Wettest Sept ... 146 mm in 1978	Wettest Sept day ... 48 mm on 19/9/85	Driest Sept ... 6 mm in 1994
Hottest Sept day ... 24 c on 18/9/81	Coldest Sept day 5c on 4/9/82 & 28/9/09	Coldest Sept night ... -4 c on 1/9/12

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Wonderful Women of Wamboin -- August Report.

Several members returned to relate their holiday adventures to others, even to recounting an unfortunate encounter with a kangaroo in Queensland! A few months ago, a Monday morning visitor was invited to speak on the journey she had recently made to Cambodia and the impact that experience had made on her life. Invited by a young Buddhist monk to come to his village, Kay found a mission for her retirement years!

As a result of her short talk, a quick whip round among members present that morning, gave her a couple of hundred dollars to help the Cambodian village. Kay's ambition is to help the women of the village sew souvenirs to sell to the tourists. That money will go towards buying sewing machines in Cambodia.

Four WWOWs on Sunday, 30th August are leaving for that Cambodian village to begin teaching the selected women to use the machines and learn how to make simple garments from patterns. The school, recently set up, expected to have about two hundred pupils, but have so many come forward that there are about four hundred children on the waiting list. The teachers are forced to hold four sessions each day, of two hours each, to fit in the numbers. They are taking with them things such as pencils and rulers so necessary. Those of us remaining at home will be very keen to hear the reports when the four return.

-- Maureen Boss.

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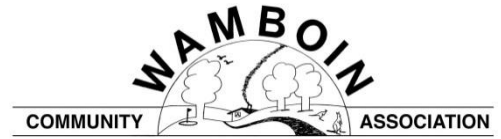
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SPRING TALKS SERIES – 2015

The Wamboin Community Association (WCA) invites all residents of Wamboin and surrounding areas to its inaugural **Spring Talks** series. Covering a variety of topics relevant to life in a rural-residential area and presented by local experts, these talks will entertain and inform.

Come to the **Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, at 7:30pm** on the following spring evenings and hear from a different guest speaker each month. The talks will be preceded by a short meeting of the WCA, and will be followed by refreshments and an opportunity to meet more of your neighbours and get to know what's really going on in your community - **it's where we all live!**



Date	Topic	Speaker/s
15th September	<i>Rural living and the law</i>	Larry King & Matt O'Brien
20th October	<i>Living with the locals – getting along with snakes at your place</i>	Wayne Alford, Snake Co-Ordinator, Wildcare & Allan Donnelly, Senior Trainer, Wildcare
17th November	TBA	

In the first of our **Spring Talks, *Rural living and the law***, Larry and Matt will discuss aspects of the law as it applies to living in rural and rural-residential areas. The topics will be wide ranging and, depending on time, may include control requirements for companion animals, noise, weeds and animal pests; landholder's responsibilities for native vegetation maintenance; matters of access and fences, and an opportunity to ask your own questions.

Larry King

Larry is a past Executive Director of the Law Society of the ACT (1997-2013). Current Chair of The Capital Region Community Foundation (GreaterGood), Larry spent most of his career in management roles in the housing, building and construction and manufacturing sectors where he earned a reputation for turning other people's good ideas into reality. He was Treasurer of the Wamboin Bush Fire Brigade for 14 years and takes an active interest in Wamboin affairs, once again, mostly other people's.

Matt O'Brien LL.B LL.M

Matt has been a practicing solicitor in the ACT, Victoria and NSW for more than 20 years, recently opening an office in Bungendore. He served for seven years on the Council of the ACT Law Society and has lectured in criminal, contract and evidence law. Matt is an active member of the Wamboin and Bywong communities through the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade.

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Wamboin Pony Club – August 2015

This month Wamboin Pony Club had one rally day and a good turnout of riders considering the cool winter day. Some of our riders were preparing for the Zone Mounted games event to be held in Bungendore, and congratulations to the Wamboin Wildcat team, Vicki, Elle, Sammi, Caitlin and Claudia (pictured with coach Katie) who came second in the junior competition at that event. A couple of other Wamboin riders Amy and Laura also competed in mixed teams. This month will be a busy one for the club as we have our annual competition with Geary's Gap Pony Club – "The Wamboin Challenge Shield". Our riders compete in a friendly Gymkhana between clubs. This event has been going for many years and last year Geary's Gap won the trophy so this year Wamboin are keen to get it back. Also on Saturday 19th September it is also the annual Wamboin Fireworks and bonfire night at the community hall.



Make sure you bring your family and friends to this fun evening. Wamboin Pony Club will have our usual stall selling hot dogs, glow sticks and lollies. This is a really fun community event and all the local clubs and organisations who have stalls appreciate the community support, see you there. So if you have access to your own horse and are aged from 4-25 come along to enjoy the company of other riders and see what Wamboin Pony Club has to offer. Rally days are a great social day out. Not only do you have fun riding, there is always lunch for you and the family too. Our club has dedicated volunteer instructors who will not only help your riding improve but make the day enjoyable. Wamboin Pony club usually meet's once or twice a month on Sunday's at our grounds at the end of Canning Close from 10am. If you are interested come along and see all that Pony Club can offer you can also just come and try for a day. We would love to have some more riders' join us. If you would like some information about Wamboin Pony Club and our upcoming rally days contact our club captain Leanne on 62383435, see our new website at www.wamboinponyclub.org.au or find us on Facebook - Steve Quick



Hey All Wamboin Children!

Do you love to come to the Wamboin bonfire and fireworks in September? If so we want to hear what you love most about it. Put in your entries to the Whisper at whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au and we will publish all in upcoming editions of the Whisper as well as give a small prize to all those who participate. Categories: 3 -5 yrs: Draw us a picture of what You like at the Bonfire. 5 -7 yrs: Draw a picture with perhaps a one or two word sentence describing your drawing. 8-12 yrs: Write us a short paragraph or two of what You like about the Wamboin Bonfire and and fireworks. Or do a poem. Whatever you like. Remember to email your entry. – Jenny Richards, WCA President



www.mfdays.com

SAVE THESE DATES
Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 October 2015

Murrumbateman Field Days will be held on 17 and 18 October and is acknowledged as one of the region's premier events and the flagship annual event for the Yass Valley.

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Intermittent Sinister Counterattacks from Underneath

While the recent rains are a welcome sight for many; too much or too little of a good thing can be the road engineers' worst nightmare.

Unsealed roads tend to be the most obvious barometer on this situation. Long term users of gravel roads know only too well the 'rapid fire machine gun' type effect of dry weather corrugations and the pot hole maze that comes with persistent periods of wet weather. But what about sealed roads?

Generally speaking these are immune from the effects of wet weather, provided that thin layer of bitumen and stone (the seal) remains intact. Without the seal, water may penetrate the pavement from the top resulting in potholes and localised pavement failures. All an excellent argument for maintaining seals through a targeted and ongoing reseal program.

But there is another more sinister way that water can attack a sealed pavement. From underneath. A less common form of failure (but perhaps more dramatic when it does occur), subsurface attack usually takes the form of an intermittent spring and has an uncanny habit of attacking new or recently constructed pavements. While we don't really know why this occurs, it is likely that it is associated with the interruption of long established subsurface drainage paths as part of the initial road works. It is not always obvious where these drainage paths are created, interrupted or destroyed at the time of works but it is a sure bet that where such an interaction has occurred you will find out about it in a future period of wet weather.

Residents of Wamboin have recently had the opportunity to see this phenomenon in action on no less than two occasions; on Norton Road and Macs Reef Road. Both represent a disappointing blemish on what is otherwise an excellent project outcome and efforts are now being made to attend to the situation. A word of caution though, fixing subsoil drainage issues can be more art than science, sometimes with new paths opening as others are intercepted/closed. Long term residents will recall Council's successive attempts to address an earlier situation on Macs Reef Road near the Yass River crossing.

Persistence does pay off however and residents are assured that efforts to solve these situations will continue to be made now, and into the future if that eventuality arises.

-- Gordon Cunningham, Director of Works, Palerang Council

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Lake George Day View Club - Bring on the Bling

The third Tuesday in August saw the celebration of LAKE GEORGE DAY VIEW CLUB 'S eleventh anniversary at RnR's, Bungendore. The invitation went out to members and guests to come attired in tiaras, feather boas, fancy bags and as much bright jewellery as possible. In all the room was ablaze with flashing necklaces, rings and a fancy assortment of white, black and pink boas.

The forty participants quickly found their place at the table as each had a purple handbag (cardboard) inscribed with their name and a bag of toothsome bonbons. Unfolding the bag revealed a list of articles a lady would keep in a handbag. Fortunately, no one admitted to the twenty or so things which would have made the bag very heavy.

The business of the day was quickly dispatched after the welcome to distinguished guests and other invited ladies. Between the courses, chatter was replaced by such serious matters as the giving out the prizes of the raffles or answering the quiz on famous film stars and their films. Then came an important part of the day, the procession of the 'Bling Ladies' in all their finery to find the most exotic. Twice around the old chimney in the centre of the room gave the three judges time to make the decision.

The final event of the day was the cutting of the delicious chocolate cake. The club committee gathered around the table for the photo and the solemn blowing out of the eleven candles, with enthusiasm it must be said!! All agreed the day had been most enjoyable and a great success. -- M. A .Boss





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Wildcare - Alert not Alarmed

It's that time of the year when we all get a spring in our step. Wildlife is on the move too. From a safety perspective, we should all be alert to unexpectedly coming across a venomous snake. Snakes are shy creatures and are more fearful of us than the other way around. Wildcare has close to 100 snake handler volunteers across the region, who can advise and help relocate a snake that's in the wrong place. But better to be prepared and let these wonderful animals move away without interference.

Wayne (see photo), Wildcare's Snake Coordinator, has some great tips to keep you safe "With the warmer weather, snakes are going to start to come out of their winter hibernation. They will warm themselves, become active and search for food and mates. Be aware that browns and red-bellies are widespread in our region. And around Bungendore/Wamboin, tigers are common too. Expect the unexpected and dress appropriately when walking through undergrowth, farming, gardening or pottering – jeans, boots, gloves when gardening, provide some protection, as snake fangs are quite short (2-5mm). Be careful at night and ensure you can see what's around.

"It's a good idea to keep the surrounds of the house, yard and outbuildings clear of rubbish and reduce debris to minimise snake hiding spots. This allows you to see what is around. Mice and rats, attracted to loose grain, will bring snakes. If you have water features, these attract frogs – which bring snakes too. Bird netting can be a problem and if possible raise it off the ground to stop a snake becoming trapped. When gardening, know where your hands are going and wear gloves. Dogs and cats should ideally be kept under control and not allowed to wander over large areas where they can seek out snakes. Ensure a snake doesn't enter the house through an open door or window.



"In short, the risk of encountering a snake can be reduced by being alert to their behavior and having a good old tidy up, so you can see them. Snakes are shy and defensive and will move away if allowed to."

Wayne goes on to say "When outside, it is a good idea to let others know where you are and carry a mobile phone. Carry a compression bandage, including in the car. If you do happen to get bitten, be calm. Staying still is important, as venom is transferred via the lymph system, which is pumped by muscle movement. Don't move and the venom will move slower through your body. Using a compression bandage with immobilisation will give you several hours before experiencing any ill effects. Hospitals have test kits to identify a venom type - so there is no need to catch, kill or identify the snake! Trying to kill a snake is fraught with danger, as they will feel threatened and defend themselves by attacking. Do not clean the bite area. Wrap a bandage over the bite, to the end of the limb, and back up to the groin/arm-pit. Mark the bite area. Immobilise the limb and the patient. Call 000 and bring the ambulance to the patient."

If you come across a snake that is trapped and cannot move away, call Wildcare on 6299 1966 for advise and help. Left alone, snakes will generally move off on their own accord. (PS. Wildcare wants to collect snakes for their annual snake course later in the year) -- Philip Machin, For Wildcare, 6238-3717 *Photo: Wayne handling a red bellied black snake*


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Sutton School P&C Trivia Night Successful and Raised Funds To Help the School Help Students

A fabulous fun evening of trivia, organised by members of the Sutton School P&C, was held at Sutton School last Saturday night raising a huge \$3,270 for the school.

The spies and detectives theme brought out the best of fancy dress costumes to get us in the mood for competition. James Bond and many other secret agents and spies, detectives, inspectors, the FBI, CSI, Scooby Doo and even Batman all made an appearance.

Charlies Angels a.k.a Lou, Deb and Abi were our hostesses, while Charlie, a.k.a Rhett called the shots, firing questions at the 100+ guests. Miss Marple, a.k.a Johanna, did some sterling work tallying up the scores in the background.

Competition was fierce with some strong contenders for the winning prizes and some close points at the end. Well done to the "Warrior Seals" who claimed victory having maintained a strong lead from early on. Our thanks to those who donated prizes, our sponsors, celebrity auctioneer, Anna from Patissez and all who helped make the night such a success. Well done on a truly great evening with friends old and new. – Claire Mason, P&C

How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

Robert and Marzena Luton who distribute the WCA's Whisper newsletter in Sutton Park advised a few weeks back that they were re-locating for an extended period and would not be able to deliver Whispers beyond September. Robert and Marzena have been distributing the newsletter into the letterboxes of Sutton Park residents since April 2009. Generous support indeed. Glen Dorahy has offered to take over the task of distributing The Whisper in Sutton Park starting with the October edition.

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. - Ian Coillet and 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 Larocca	Fernloff Rd	35	Jill & Richard Gregory	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 (Weerona to Hilltop+Wirndra)	23	Penny Evans	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	26
233: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489					
Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	45
Colleen Foster	B'dore Rd to Nrtn Rd	23	Rob Henry	South end Clare Valley	41
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			
195: CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON ph 6236 9333 email anderson@yless4u.com.au					
Phil & Pam Dawes	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln	27	David Featherston	Summerhill to B'dore Rd to CreekB Rd	26
Kevin Anderson	B'dore Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill)	37	Ken Steinman	Wyoming & Doust Rds	32
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	32	Chris Fowler	Millyn Rd	20
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	21			
1118: 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)	37	Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Road	27
TOTAL 1,299					

120 and Time to Stop Countin.

At the WCA meeting in August 2003, the proposal to hold monthly produce markets was discussed. It was decided to commence the markets on 18 October 2003.

This was reported in the September 2003 Whisper, and the announcement concluded "This will provide a market opportunity for local residents who do not produce on a commercial level but have surplus home produce to sell. There would be a nominal charge for stallholders. If you are interested and wish to support this idea or have any comments please contact Tony Power before the next WCA meeting on 16 September."

As a result of this, Alan and Eleanor contacted Tony, and together with Tony and Moira, they traded at the very first Wamboin Produce Market, both families selling their home garden produce.

At the time, Alan was acting as a distributor for two Sydney based, friend-owned businesses, one a chocolate products selling company and the other a company selling dried fruit and nut products. After a few markets and some discussion with Joan and Lofty, Alan took on a second stall and commenced selling chocolates, sweets, dried fruit, and nuts. This evolved into what has been operating for the last few years, with Eleanor selling her Raspberry products on one stall, and Alan selling bulk dried fruit and nuts on another.

Fast forward to August 2015 and 120 Wamboin Markets later. Having operated his stall at all but two markets, when family members operated it for him, Alan has decided to call it quits as far as the dried fruit and nuts are concerned. He is not distributing the product anymore, both businesses having changed owners, and costs associated with acquiring the items have escalated.

So at Wamboin Produce Market #121 on September 19, Alan will join Eleanor in selling her Berry and fruit jams, and other berry products. But no more dried fruit, nuts, or chocolates, but maybe still some Nougat and Turkish Delight if there is space with the jams. Thank you to all who have supported the stall over the years.

-- Alan Rope, September 2015

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Councillor's Corner

Electronic Housing Code (Update) — Well, I fully intended to continue our discussion on the use of the Electronic Housing Code (EHC) this month, but as fate would have it, I hit a bit of a snag that I haven't yet been able to overcome! Suffice it to say that the EHC isn't quite ready just yet... But I'll come back to this subject as soon as the current problem is sorted.

In the mean time, I thought I might take a step back and take a broader look at the Development Application (DA) process. A DA is a request for permission to carry out a certain development. Development can be:

- the subdivision of land;
- the demolition of a building or work;
- the erection of a new dwelling;
- the change of use of a building;
- the construction of a shed; or
- the carrying out of a range of other building works.

The assessment of a Development Application determines whether or not a development is appropriate for a given location. An indication of whether or not any particular development might be appropriate on a particular lot is provided in a 149 Certificate as discussed in last month's Councillors Corner.

In general, the assessment of a DA is a multi-step process that is outlined in several information sheets available from the Palerang Council website (www.palerang.nsw.gov.au, and search for "Development Application").

From the outset, it is good to know that council planning staff are available to assist in all stages of the DA process. In particular, they are available to discuss proposed developments prior to the lodging of a formal DA. These pre-DA meetings are provided free of charge and residents are encouraged to take advantage of this service to help ensure that all necessary information is provided with an application and that subsequent processing proceeds without unnecessary delay.

The most common cause for delays in DA processing is incomplete information. To assist in this task, Council provides individual checklists (available from the Council website—see previous reference) for the varying types of development. As one might expect, the more complex a development, the more information will likely be required, and processing fees vary accordingly.

Certain developments will need to be advertised and/or notified in accordance with Council policies. While Council is the consent authority for most DAs, some require that Council seek comment from certain State Government Agencies—Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) for traffic matters, Rural Fire Service (RFS) for bushfire conditions or the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) for flora, fauna or heritage considerations.

Council is obliged to consider all planning matters that have been raised within any submission that may be made before making a decision regarding a DA. There's not much you can do about State Agency requirements, but it's a good idea to discuss your plans with your neighbours. Potential problems can often be resolved early and easily if anyone likely to be impacted is aware of your project up front.

You can now track the progress of your DA on-line (see above reference to the Palerang Council website).

Remember that having obtained development approval, you must then apply for a Construction or Subdivision Certificate and appoint a Principal Certifying Authority before commencing any work. These are both mandatory precursors to the issue of an Occupation Certificate on completion of the works.

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)

Change of Use (Mar 2015)

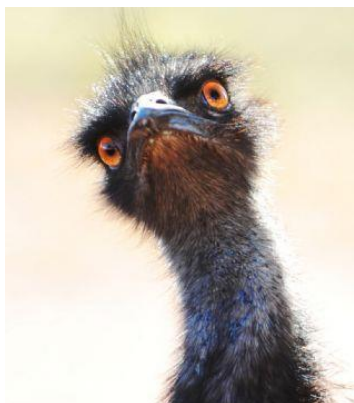
Building Approvals (Dec 2013)

Development Approvals (May 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,

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Sometimes August can be the pits. It teases with the promise of spring and then capriciously serves up the worst of winter. One day can be calm, warm and golden, and the next fierce winds and bleak. But despite its moods it can't suppress the joy of wattles. I don't care whether they're feral or favoured, I think they're all magnificent; swaths of yellow beneath leaden skies, or vibrant in the sunshine.

Whenever the day has been sunny I've been out in the bush or the garden, feasting on the wattles or pottering around finding violets, daffodils, hellebores and blue irises, and picking them to fill vases inside. The creek is still flowing. Moulds and fungi are tucked in amongst the leaf litter and on the weathering pile of wood chip mulch, a few wild flowers are appearing and those birds that that are back from their winter break are very busy. The koel has announced its return. One morning, after a heavy overnight dump of rain I found a poor, bedraggled scarlet robin impaled on a thorny bush beneath a tall tree.

I've been savouring the longer hours of daylight, especially in the morning. I lay in bed the other day listening to the dawn chorus, enchanted, as one song replaced another, building to a crescendo. Then, as suddenly as it started, it ended with sweet silence. All was well with the world. Infused with a benign goodwill I got up and took a stroll around the garden. Why am I always sucked in!! While I had been feeling at one with nature, the rampaging gang of cockatoos had doubled around behind my back and put me back in my box. Never admire anything blooming in the garden with proprietary pleasure! The few potted flowers that had managed a little colour on the front deck had been desecrated and heads had been snipped off the first daffodils. If that were not enough, the anti social possums had waged war under the cloak of darkness on my red succulents, ripping them out, scattering broken bits on the paths, and shredding the rhubarb in my vegie patch. But the Pollyanna in me is hard to quell!

I've been turning over the compost piles and shovelling compost onto the garden. I've been finding worms, pulling out weeds and wishing we still had chooks, attempting to control periwinkle and aluminium plant, both a challenge, and snipping and pruning. I have had some wonderful, peaceful, absorbing moments in the garden, but perhaps the best was just recently. I was in a rather neglected corner protected from the night nibblers. It had suddenly come alive with demure hellebores, their heads bowed, purple violets, blue irises peeping through straggly straplike leaves and a scattering of proud daffodils. Then, in the distance, I heard a blackbird. I was suddenly transported to Europe! But a ringing telephone broke the spell.....except there wasn't a phone close at hand! A clever bower bird, I suspect, had just painted the final brush stroke on my old world picture, then slashed the canvas. It had been playing mind games with me. Koels may be back, but I haven't seen or heard any blackbirds as yet! The bowerbird's ruse was a moment of magic..... and mischief!

Winter is waning and August has had its moods. Wattles, daffodils, wilful cockatoos and pesky possums have appeared on cue as has the returning birdlife, but there is always a surprise, always something quite magical in a Wamboin garden. And it will only get better with spring. I wouldn't live anywhere else!

Wamboin 15 Years Ago By Robyn Robertson From the Whisper September 2000

Quoted from Page 128 of Road Users Handbook: Horse riders and horse drawn vehicles have equal rights to share our roads. Watch out for ridden, driven or lead horses. When you come across horse traffic, keep these points in mind: (1) As horses can be unpredictable, you should slow down and give them plenty of room. (2) You should never sound your horn, rev your engine or pass a horse at high speed. (3) You should slow down or stop if a rider is having difficulty with a horse. (4) if you are signalled by a person in charge of a horse which is difficult to control, you should stop your vehicle and not continue until it is safe to do so.

When you are a horse rider: horse riders must obey the same general traffic laws as other vehicles such as keeping to the left and giving hand signals. When on the footpath you must give way to pedestrians. If you ride a horse, wear bright clothes and a safety helmet. (Suggested for Inclusion in the Whisper by Tony Cuthbertson of the Pony Club.)

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