



**October 2015 CIRCULATION: 1,299**

**Wamboin Community Assn:** [www.wamboincommunity.asn.au](http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au)  
**Bywong Community:** [www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au)  
**Fire Brigade:** <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the Wamboin Community Association which started The Whisper as a community newsletter in 1981 and continues to own it. The newsletter comes out at the start of each month, except January. It is distributed to all letterboxes in Wamboin, Bywong and of Palerang Council residents just southeast of the Federal Highway. Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. On contentious matters the Community Association will strive to maintain a balance. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either [whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au) or to [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or mail them or drop them off. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before, so the deadline for the November issue is 7 pm Sunday night, October 25. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month and is also available at [www.wamboincommunity.asn.au](http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au).

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**LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS**

<b>Wamboin Community Assn</b>	Jenny Richards, President	6238 1329	<a href="mailto:president@wamboincommunity.asn.au">president@wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>
<b>Bywong Community</b>	Anne Goonan, President		<a href="mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au">president@bywongcommunity.org.au</a>
<b>Fire Brigade</b>	Geoff Foster, Captain	0409 991 340	<a href="mailto:captain.brigade@wamboincommunity.asn.au">captain.brigade@wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>
<b>Resident Palerang Councillor</b>	Pete Harrison	0427 711 028	<a href="mailto:cr.pete.harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au">cr.pete.harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Resident Palerang Councillor</b>	Keith France	0427 365 715	<a href="mailto:cr.keith.france@palerang.nsw.gov.au">cr.keith.france@palerang.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Wamboin Markets</b>	Lance and Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	<a href="mailto:Lmsconsulting@bigpond.com">Lmsconsulting@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Sutton School Playgroup</b>	Emma Harriden, Convenor	0448 478 953	<a href="mailto:ce.harriden@bigpond.com">ce.harriden@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Landcare</b>	Kathy Handel, Secretary	6238 3596	<a href="mailto:khandel@bigpond.net.au">khandel@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison, Bungendore	6238 1333	
<b>NSW Emergency Services</b>	NSW Call Centre, Staff	132 500	For assistance in storm or flood emergency
<b>NSW Emergency Svcs Adm</b>	Colin Brown, Controller	6238 0222	For non-urgnt help, answd by local volunteer
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Peter Greenwood, JP	6238 3358	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Keith France, JP	6238 3596	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Margaret Fletcher, JP	6238 1211	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Jill Sedaitis, JP	6236 9559	
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Leanne Quick, Club Captain	6238 3435	
<b>Geary's Gap Pony Club</b>	Sue Barker, contact	0429 629 674	
<b>Wamboin Play Group</b>	Heather Lawton, Convener	0425133530	<a href="mailto:heather.cocquio@gmail.com">heather.cocquio@gmail.com</a>
<b>Scouts</b>	Pete Harrison	6238 3525	
<b>Bywong Hall Bookings</b>	Ann Sloan, contact		<a href="mailto:lrrhallbywong@gmail.com">lrrhallbywong@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	<a href="mailto:joan.mason@internode.on.net">joan.mason@internode.on.net</a>
<b>Church - Anglican</b>	Robyn Robertson, Warden	6238 3202	
<b>KYB Bible Study Group</b>	Yvonne Barrett, contact	6230 3539	
<b>Golf</b>	Peter Greenwood, Golfer	6238 3358	<a href="mailto:p.greenwood2@bigpond.com">p.greenwood2@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare, Helpline	6299 1966	
<b>Wonderful Wmen of Wmb</b>	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	<a href="mailto:Whirlwind1@argonite.com.au">Whirlwind1@argonite.com.au</a>
<b>Lake George VIEW Club</b>	Pauline Segeri, contact	6238 1996	
<b>Wamboin Book Group</b>	Alice Scott, Secretary	6238 3178	

**YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS**

Alana Stenning	Pet sitting	6238 3030	Lydia Milos	Babysitting, petsitting	6238 3559
Fiona Skea	baby sitting	6238 3290	Ashleigh Caird	baby sitting	6238 0746
Genevieve Phipps	Babysitting/pet sitting	6238 1660	Gabrielle Simpkin	baby sitting/ pets sitting	6238-1335
Mara Sutcliffe	pet sitting	6238 3228	Jack&Matilda Whitney	childpet&homesttg,oddjobs	6238 3059
Jordan Brown	baby sitting	0414-907-921	Ethan Laver	Outdoor Jobs	6236 9809
Rebecca Purdie	pet/horse sitting	6238 3343	Sammi Quick	Petsitting & good w. horses	0438 154 840



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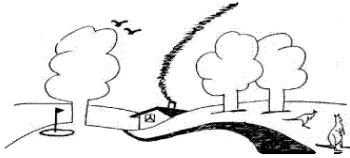
02 62381135 Carol

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## Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



Welcome everyone to October and today as I'm writing this I get to feel the first real taste of Spring this year. Can't say that I'm not looking forward to some warmer weather.

**Bonfire Night** – Saturday 19th September saw our annual Bonfire and Fireworks night. Despite some nervousness (on my part) earlier in the day about the weather it held off and once again the event was a great success. The Bonfire seems to grow bigger each year and went up beautifully and the fireworks were spectacular. It seemed to a lot of us monitoring the event that the crowd numbers were slightly down on last year but yet the gate takings were higher than the previous year. Plenty of food was available at the Hall and fire shed and many people remarked favourably on both the variety of food available as well as the excellent quality of it. So yet another excellent event.

**Bonfire Night Thank you** – Now for some special thank you's for our Bonfire Night would not have been as successful without some groups and individuals. Firstly to **Fireworks Australia** for the absolutely mind-blowing pyrotechnic display. I doubt anyone would argue that the display was anything but outstanding and we thank them very much. Next to the **Wamboin fire brigade** who assisted with gate-takings, the difficult job of parking, providing supervisory support at the actual bonfire once it was lit and of course providing one of the many food stalls; thank you. The night would not be the success it is without your help. To our various service groups around the community who all came together to run their various food stalls, another thank you. Our service groups include: **Sutton Primary School, Wamboin Pony Club, St Andrews Church** (who took on an additional role this year of supplying food as well as drink), the **Wonderful Women of Wamboin, the Wamboin Playgroup, the Wamboin Golf Club** and the amazing ladies who supply the tea and coffee both of whom had put in a hard day I know. If I've forgotten any group I apologise in advance. Our raffle sponsors also deserve a big thank you. We had some really excellent prizes this year which reflects the generosity of sponsors. Finally as always, a couple of important individuals; **Lofty Mason and Keith France** who did the organising. Thank you very much.

**Spring Talks** – The first of our Spring Talks was held on the 15th September at the Community Hall following directly after our normal monthly meeting. We thank our guest speakers **Larry King and Matt O'Brien** for opening our eyes to the laws that are important to us (and some that probably aren't like the Act concerning deer but which I nevertheless found as fascinating as Matt. This month we are holding another talk with Wild care representatives about getting on with the locals of the slithery variety (a couple of which I saw just this afternoon so they are most certainly out and about). A full informative ad for these talks will be further on in this edition of the Whisper but please come and hear what our guests have to say on a topic which does have some impact on us here in the Wamboin area.

So that's it from me except thank you to everyone who came to the bonfire and supported the event and had a great time. Finally on a personal note, thank you to everyone who expressed good wishes and speedy recovery to our little girl Zoe. Zoe is recovering well now but your good wishes were appreciated. Thank you. -- Jenny Richards ( President)

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bywong Community News</b> <a href="http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au">www.bywongcommunity.org.au</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Anne Goonan, President This News Put Together by the Bywong Committee</i></p>	
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**Children’s Playground at Community Hall:** This project is gathering steam and the next phase is to present a detailed plan of the playground to the Bywong Hall Committee. This will require preparation of some rough plans of the various structures and general layout of the proposed playground. Some assistance may be needed in preparing the plans, so if any local designers or people with other relevant skills are willing to contribute their knowledge and a bit of time on this, Merle Horgosi would like to make contact with you.

Merle can be contacted on 6238 0417 or by email at [blackbirdandthehun@gmail.com](mailto:blackbirdandthehun@gmail.com).

**Future Direction and Plans for Bywong Community Association:** Over the years the Bywong community has changed and the committee considers it time to rethink regular activities and functions, and perhaps instigate some new ones. For example does the community want to continue with the annual Car Boot Sale or would some other type of function be more appropriate? Would residents like more regular information sessions, more regular dinners or dances or other events? Perhaps people would welcome two rather than one Trivia night each year?

New ideas and suggestions on this general theme are very welcomes, and accordingly the committee invites all interested residents to present and discuss their ideas at the next meeting which will be held at 7:30 pm on Monday October 12 at the hall. Alternatively suggestions can be submitted to Anne Goonan (President of BCA) at [president@bywongcommunity.org.au](mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au) More general information on the purpose and role of the Bywong Community Association can be found at the web site at <http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au/>

**Child Minding in Bywong:** There has been a suggestion to establish some sort of community child minding network in the area. Apparently such an informal club or network existed among interested parents some years ago and the possibility of re-establishing such a scheme may be of interest to current parents of younger children. Again, the President would appreciate any feedback on this type of network, which would be set up under the auspices of BCA, but would be managed by the parents themselves.

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## Bonfire Report

by Lofty Mason

Our 35<sup>th</sup> annual Bonfire and Fireworks Night seemed a great success. Our thanks to those who brought in the fuel for the Bonfire with a special mention of the Cuthbertsons who used their big front end loader to heap up the bonfire. The final bit was beyond my machine. Good weather ensured an enthusiastic crowd in attendance. The food stalls run by our local groups all reported excellent sales. After expenses it is estimated a grand total of about \$6000 was raised for community activities.

**Fund Raising: The Fire Brigade** collected the gate money, managed parking and ran a barbeque. Local groups ran the various fund raising activities as follows: **WCA** – Raffle; **Golf Club** – Baked Spuds; **Playgroup** – Pork Rolls; **Pony Club** – Hot Dogs; Sweets, Glo Sticks etc; **H19** – Drinks; **Church** – Gluhwein & Chicken Schnitzel sandwiches; **WWOW** – Curries; **Sutton School** – Meat Balls & Rice.

**The WCA raffle** again was strongly supported by the community members, who were attracted to the long list of prizes and ‘donated’ even though they knew that it was ‘the luck of the draw’. We would like to thank the following donors to the prize list who generously contributed a variety of items: P van der Straaten – a massage; Zaniil Designs – an onyx necklace; Ona Coffee, Fyshwick – 1kg ‘Ona’ coffee beans; Inland Trading (G&M Corra) – 3 bottles wine; C & G Foster – a box of Fresh Produce; K Handel & K France – 2 bottles wine; Pendon Produce (P & D Evans) – a voucher and 2 dozen Farm Fresh eggs.

**The Clean Up.** The assistance of Col Prest, Larry King, Peter Greenwood and Jason Beckett ensured the clean up of the oval and surrounds, the transfer of the rubbish to the tip plus the pick up of signs was easily completed the next morning however it was left to Joan to clean the Hall. Next year I would like to see each group nominate one member to assist in the clean up.

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### Wildcare Reminders

Last month Wildcare wrote about how to be tolerant and live safely with venomous snakes. But Spring is a time when all manner of wildlife gets going – seeking out food after hibernation, making a nest, wandering around to look for a mate and caring for young offspring. In this region we are lucky to still have a good deal of wildlife and there is much we can do to help look after it.

Over the next few weeks Wildcare will be busy looking after baby birds that appear to have been orphaned. But many don't have to be rescued. If you come across a baby bird on the ground, just keep an eye on it, as it might continue to be fed and looked after by its parents. Only if it looks like it has been permanently abandoned or in danger do you need to intervene. Baby birds end up on the ground, as they learn to fly, but haven't quite got the knack. Sometimes they can be carefully placed back in a tree – in a container if you cannot reach the nest. A rescued bird can be placed in a box with material at the bottom to keep it secure and then kept in a warm place. As for swooping magpies – they are only doing what comes naturally, so ideally take a different route until the nesting season is over. Raptors (and other taloned birds), as well as flying foxes and bats, are best left and handled by an experienced wildlife volunteer.

Lizards come onto our roads to get warm and motorists can keep a wary eye open to avoid hitting them. If you see a turtle or lizard sitting on the road, and if it is safe – stop the car and move them off in the direction it was headed. Pick up turtles by the front and back of the shell to avoid being 'scented'. If you are unsure about picking up an animal, it is a good idea to have a towel handy (in the boot of the car?) to cover and scoop up small animals and birds. For snakes, just stop and let them pass by, whilst alerting others and contacting Wildcare if you need to. Injured lizards and turtles can be put in a box, and kept in a cool place whilst you seek help.

Echidnas can be really difficult to pick up, but a towel or other material can help to avoid their spines, as you wriggle your fingers under their shoulders to lever them off the ground. Holding an echidna in a cardboard box won't work – they will dig out! So, if an echidna needs to be rescued, wrap it in a towel and place it in a plastic container.







With the grass growing again, there may be less kangaroos on the verges, but if you are unlucky enough to hit one, contact Wildcare as soon as possible. The risk of hitting a kangaroo on the road can be significantly reduced by increasing one's reaction time - by reducing speed by several kilometres per hour and being much more alert at dusk and overnight in wildlife-rich areas. And if you come across a wombat in the middle of the road, whilst it can move extremely quickly over short distances, it has a habit of stopping, listening, deciding what's coming towards it and then moving. Don't expect it to simply run off the road as you approach. It is important to check injured animals to see if they are still alive and whether there is a joey onboard or hiding nearby.

Wildcare has many experienced and capable volunteers who can help out - contact them on 6299 1966 (put it in your Mobile). – Phil Machin *Photo: Possum at release*



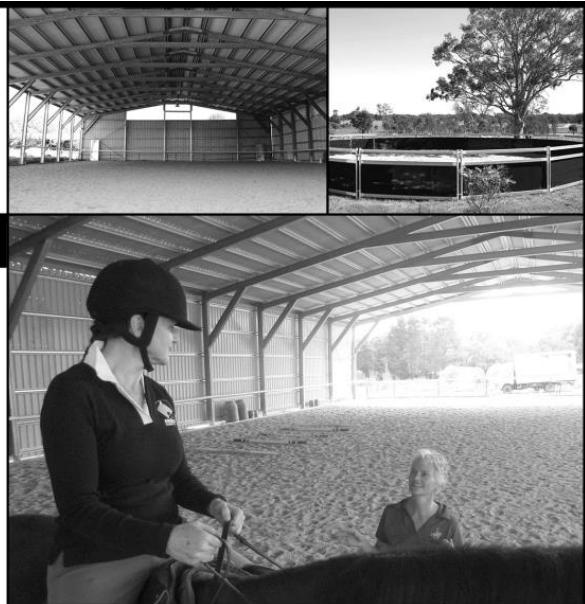
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– JOEY WORTLEY



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## SPRING TALKS 2015

The first of our **SPRING TALKS** series, "**Law & the Land**" on September 15<sup>th</sup> was very well received. Larry King and Matt O'Brien opened our eyes to the breadth of legislation that can and does shape the way we all live in our rural/rural-residential environment. Ranging from Native Title to water rights, did you know that there are more than 30 separate Acts that we need to comply with – and that's only NSW state government!

The subject of our second Spring Talk on 20<sup>th</sup> October is perhaps a little easier to get your arms around – but not literally!

Entitled "**Living with the locals – getting along with snakes at your place**", Wildcare volunteers Wayne Alford and Allan Donnelly will discuss the habits of these protected native species, strategies for minimising snakes at your place, life-saving first aid if you do accidentally get bitten, and de-bunk some of the myths and misconceptions about snakes in the Wamboin area.

We're also pleased to announce the guest speaker for the November **SPRING TALK**, Gordon Cunningham, Director of Works, Palerang Council. Watch for more detail in the November Whisper.

*The Wamboin Community Association's (WCA) **SPRING TALKS** series aims to entertain and inform all residents of Wamboin and surrounding areas on topics relevant to a rural-residential lifestyle. The talks will be preceded by a short meeting of the WCA, and will be followed by refreshments and a chance for an informal chat.*

*This is a great opportunity to meet more of your neighbours, learn new information and skills and get to know your community - **it's where we all live!***


**WHERE:** Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin (next to Fire shed)

**WHEN:** 7:30pm

UPCOMING DATES	Topic	Speaker/s
20th October	<b>Living with the locals – getting along with snakes at your place</b>	Wayne Alford, Snake Co-Ordinator, Wildcare & Allan Donnelly, Senior Trainer, Wildcare
17th November	<b>Know Your Council – more than "Rates, Roads and Rubbish"</b>	Gordon Cunningham, Director of Works, Palerang Council

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## NDIS To Provide Individual Support Plans For Palerang Residents From July 2016

### Press Release

Federal Member for Hume Angus Taylor said residents in the Palerang Shire would be able to join the *National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)* from July 2016. Mr Taylor said the NDIS was all about giving choice and control back to people with disabilities so they could choose their own individual support programmes, how to manage their funding and which providers to use.

“Palerang will be among the first of the NSW sites, with the exception of trial sites that have been underway in the Hunter region and Blue Mountains, to receive access to the NDIS programme from July next year. Because this is a big change in process, the NDIS is being introduced in stages and it’s important to get it right and make the programme sustainable. Disability support agencies will be letting local communities know about planning workshops and information sessions closer to the time, so everyone will know well in advance of the rollout.”

Mr Taylor said the average funding for an individual participant was expected to be about \$36,000, although he said there would be many variations depending on individuals’ support plans. Mr Taylor said the types of support the NDIS might fund for participants included: daily personal activities, transport, workplace assistance, therapeutic supports and mobility equipment, vehicle modifications, home design and installations, or help with household tasks. He said a planning workbook had been prepared for participants which could be found on the NDIS website <http://www.ndis.gov.au/> or by contacting the NDIS information line on **1800 555 677**.

“The NDIS will make a real difference to the lives of people with disability – and their families – because it’s helping people pursue their own goals and improve their own participation. I’m very proud about the NDIS being underway from next year in parts of Hume.”

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## ***Wamboin Home Produce Markets***

**Saturday 17 October 2015 (9am to 12 noon)**

**Contact: Lance and Meriel Schultz 62383309 or 0422614304**

**Email: [lmsconsulting@bigpond.com](mailto:lmsconsulting@bigpond.com)**

We welcome new stall holders from the local area, aiming for home produce from your garden, paddocks or kitchen as well as craft items.

### **Our Market Charity Stalls for October are:**

#### **ACT Rescue and Foster (ARF dogs)**

selling their popular 2016 calendars and Christmas cards  
*(the calendar cover dog is rescue dog Xena, now living in Wamboin  
with local carer Lisa)*

#### **Native Animal Rescue Group**

*Selling their famous Wombat calendars*

*Last month's charity – the Mystery Box Rally Challenge for the Cancer Council - raised \$380.00. Lybbie King was the lucky winner of the raffle! Marita and Linda thank you for your generosity. Don't forget you can still donate to the Challenge online at <https://mysterybox2015sydney.everydayhero.com/au/TheMotherShip>*

At the September markets we had a new stall showcasing baby chicks and selling local honey and fertilised eggs and Jennifer came back to sell her wide variety of seeds. We trialed some new goodies in the café and a record number of coffees were made. Rain threatened and the Landcare stall was going to move their tube stock inside but Kathy never got the chance – far too busy with customers to stop...with the entire trailer-load completely sold out.

### **Stop Press: Calling all Wamboin Kids !!!!**



### **WHO CAN BAKE THE BEST CUPCAKES IN WAMBOIN?**

#### **The Wamboin Produce Markets Cup Cake Challenge is ON!**

- Bring 6 of your home made, decorated cupcakes to Wamboin Produce Markets on Saturday 17 October 2015 for judging.
- Four Categories: 3-5 years 6-9 years 10-12 years Teenagers
- Great prizes for winners and runners up!
- Ribbons for all entrants
- After judging by our local chef Sally (10.30am) you may sell your cupcakes at the markets (and keep the proceeds) or take them home

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# The Wamboin Firefighter

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## The Fire Season Arrives - Fire Permits Are Now Required



It's amazing how quickly the fire season returns.

If you want to continue to reduce the fuel loading on your property and you want to burn, the process has become a little more complicated.

From 1<sup>st</sup> October we are in the declared fire season and anyone wishing to light a fire in the open will require a Fire Permit. Fire permits are free and for properties in the Wamboin Brigade area they can be arranged by contacting the Brigade Captain on 0409 991 340 or email: [captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au)

We have to inspect any burn site before we can issue a permit, which means we may be unable to issue a permit at short notice. So please make your request for a permit at least a week before the intended burn.

Cooking fires are OK as long as they are in a properly constructed fire place with a 2 metre cleared border around it.

Over the winter period the brigade was called out to a number of pile burns that had not been notified to Fire Control in Queanbeyan. That was an inconvenience, however from 1 October lighting a fire without a permit is no longer inconvenient for the brigade it is now an offence under the Rural Fires Act 1997 and its Regulations. So please get a permit or maybe consider using the waste Transfer Station at Bungendore.

---

### Community Education

The Brigade's information stall is back open for business every month on the same morning as the Wamboin monthly markets. Brigade members were busy during the September market answering enquiries and providing guidance on how to prepare properties for the bush fire danger period. Two families new to the area took advantage of our ongoing property visit program. These visits involve a member of the brigade's Community Education Team visiting the resident's property for a discussion on preparations and improvements they might make to better prepare themselves and their property against the threat of bush fire.

---

### Wamboin Community Bonfire

On 19 September the brigade supported the Wamboin Community Association's annual bonfire and fireworks. Our volunteers managed the gates and ensured the brigade's tankers were positioned and ready just in case. Our support crew was also working the barbeques and feeding many of the hungry families who had come to see what must be one of the biggest bonfires in the region. Obviously many of our residents took the opportunity to contribute garden waste to the pile before the start of the fire season.

---

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## Brigade Activity

### Maintenance Day



We have been busy making sure all is in readiness for the upcoming bushfire season.

A number of our volunteers spent a very useful morning checking on the trucks to make sure they were fully kitted out with all the required tools and equipment. Our back up pumps have been run, the shed tidied up and the reticulation system we use to fill the tankers cleaned and ready to go.

Our volunteers were well fed by the Wamboin brigade support crew who always manage an excellent morning tea and lunch. No brigade operates very well on empty stomachs.

The brigade's fleet has also been through its annual service and inspections in Queanbeyan and Bungendore ensuring the reliability and most importantly, the roadworthiness of all of our vehicles.

### Call Outs

*Sunday 6 September:* At about 4.00pm one of our heavy tankers with a crew of two and the PC were despatched to a fire reported on Norton Road. This was an unreported pile burn and the trucks were returned to the shed at 4.20pm.

*Sunday 20 September:* We dispatched two vehicles with a total crew of eight to a fire that had been reported from the Federal Highway. It looked like the fire was close to a building so the Bungendore brigade were also despatched. It turned out this was another pile burn for which Queanbeyan Fire Control had not been informed. Our trucks were on the road at 6.30 pm and were returned to the shed at about 7.00pm; an interrupted Sunday evening which could have so easily been avoided.

---

## 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 number of workshop attendees is limited so if you are interested please email Cliff Spong ([cliffspong@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cliffspong@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](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

**Wamboin Brigade Captain** [captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au) or 0409 991 340

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

by **Robyn Robertson**

There was lots of “busyness” in that issue, but nothing out of the ordinary and certainly nothing to worry or distress us. Surely a sign of a happy community, one to which we are very fortunate to belong.

### Volunteers Wanted Once A Month For The Second Friday Of The Month

St Benedict’s is a cooperative initiative of the local Queanbeyan churches (Anglican, Baptist, Roman Catholic and Uniting Church). They provide free hot meals five days a week to the local community. This will include people who are vulnerable and socially isolated, as well as those who are homeless, have addictions, mental illness, and/or disability. St Benedict’s aims to be a safe place of hospitality to those who live on the margins, and aims to build social connections and community. Sharing meals together is their way of walking alongside people. Meals need to be generous and nutritious – as for some people it is their one good meal for a day. Over the years of St Benedict’s operating they have seen people’s physical and mental health improve as they have been able to regularly access nutritious food. Throughout 2015, they have been getting an average of 58 people coming for lunch each day. They rely on volunteers to help them in the kitchen to prepare these meals, and to utilise food that has been rescued from Coles Secondbite programme and through Ozharvest. Volunteers need to be at St Benedict’s by 9.30 am to serve lunch at 12.30 pm, finishing about 1.15 pm.

If you are available and interested please call me on 6230-3321. – Lorraine Bird

<b>Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin – 40 year statistics from the Robertsons</b>	
September rainfall to 27/9 ... 14.25mm	(Sept 2014 ... 41.75mm)
2015 rainfall to 27/9 ... 489.25mm	(2014 to 30/9 ... 461.00mm)
Average October rainfall ... 60.1mm	(October 2014 ... 41.00mm)
Wettest October ... 198.00mm in 1976	Wettest October day ... 59.00mm on 17/10/76
Driest October ... 4.5mm in 2006	Hottest October day ... 31C on 28/10/97
Coldest October day ... 6C on 11/10/12	Coldest October night ... -2C twice, in 2013 and 2014



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## Wamboin Neighbourhood Safety Place, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin NSW 2620

In the September edition of the Wamboin Whisper I introduced the concept of a Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP) and summarised its limitations, rather than praised its virtues. Please don't get the wrong impression. If you are in need of shelter at the NSP you will always be welcome but always remember that it remains a place of last resort and creature comforts will be in short supply.

The Wamboin Fire Brigade has taken the lead to develop an NSP Activation Plan on behalf of the community and anticipates taking the initial steps to establish the NSP before co-opting additional volunteer assistants from amongst those residents fleeing from a fire. Brigade members update the Fire Danger Meters at least once a day and in periods of increased fire risk there will normally have been some additional warning in the preceding days. However we make contingency plans nonetheless.

When reading some of the books written after the February 2009 Victorian fires I am amazed at people's resilience and resourcefulness in times of adversity. We hope that Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton never suffer like Kinglake and Steele's Creek etc but we cannot escape the reality that we too have elected to live in a fire-prone area and with that comes an increased level of risk. The establishment of the NSP is a significant step toward mitigating residents' stress and reducing post incident trauma.

All residents should have completed a Bushfire Survival Plan including contingency plans if the main plan fails. Hopefully there will be time for you to flee to one of the major towns where there are more comfortable arrangements. If however you have no alternative but to go to the NSP you will need to know a number of things.

NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) vehicles will be operating from the same location as the NSP so we will institute a temporary traffic control system. A Traffic Control Team will be established and temporary signs erected. Entry for all vehicles will be via the **southern access** to the community reserve (i.e. the **second** access when approaching from the Norton Road end); exit will be via the **northern access** (i.e. the **nearest** access when approaching from the Norton Road end). This will create a one-way traffic flow, avoid the need for crossing traffic and segregate residents' parked vehicles on the oval from the operational tankers and pedestrian traffic while also keeping private vehicles parked on the oval as far as possible from potential radiant heat.

The only shelter will be the Community Hall. Regrettably at times like this people lose track of each other or even become separated. In order to reduce this particular trauma a Registration Team and desk will be established in the Hall so that residents will be able to record their arrival. There will also be a Public Information Team in the Hall whose role will be to collect and display as much information as possible on the fire situation. It has to be appreciated that this will be occurring under very trying circumstances for all concerned and with only limited resources. When new arrivals register they will be asked if they are willing to assist in running some aspect of the NSP; the NSP Manager will be grateful for assistance.

The NSP Activation Plan also provides for the creation of a Fire Team and a First Aid Team. These too will be very dependent on there being sufficient people to take up these roles. We will all need a lot of good will and a sense of humour.

In the next article I will address how the NSP fits into your personal plans and the circumstances that might force you to come to the NSP rather than one of the adjacent towns or villages. In the meantime could I please encourage you most strongly to complete your Bushfire Survival Plan. If you need a blank Plan or advice please contact the Captain (0409 991 340) or come to the Wamboin Produce Markets on the third Saturday of the month. We are also available to come to properties and discuss your particular circumstances with you on site.

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



**FARMERS MARKET**  
at BUNGENDORE  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays 9am-1pm

### Poultry Day at the Bungendore Farmers Market

Following the success of last markets Bee Day, the October 10<sup>th</sup> market will be a special **Poultry Day!**

Got a fowl question? Don't be a feather-brain – be enlightened by talks, demonstrations and hands-on experience from your local poultry farmers. There will even be the season's first chicks for sale.

The regular **Home Produce Swap** will be on from 10am -10.30am. Think seeds, seedlings, greens, preserves and baked goods. Simply bring your home produce to swap with someone else. Look out for the Home Produce blackboard sign.

Check out the **Community Stall** which is a cooperative initiative for small and backyard growers and makers to test and promote their products with little risk and lots of encouragement.

Browse the fantastic array of local and sustainable fruit, vegies, bread, eggs, honey, cheese, meat, seafood, wine, cider, preserves and much more.

The **Market Tea House** will be serving Wagonga coffee with local milk, tea and Caroola Farm herbal teas. Relax in the sunshine, chat with friends and meet and support your local farmers.

Want to know more about our stall holders and upcoming events? Go to [www.southernharvest.net.au](http://www.southernharvest.net.au). You can also register there for a regular newsletter and updates. See you at the markets! -- Penny Evans, PenDon Farm Wamboin

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

As always, the Community Bonfire at Wamboin was a huge success and young and old were thrilled and awed by the spectacular fireworks. Our two stalls were both a success and helped to feed and water the assembled crowd. It was great to have helpers from Kids Club on the night. We look forward to our next stall at the Wamboin Christmas market.

A Blessing of the Animals service will be held at St Andrews, Poppet Road, on 18th October. This will be a special service not just for the animals but for their young owners as well, and we expect to have a good turn up from Kids Club. In previous years we have had all creatures great and small; much loved working dogs and sit on your lap dogs, several smug cats, a reluctant black sheep and assorted lizards. I think one year there was even a horse!

While talking of animals, we have begun planning for the Christmas Eve Nativity pageant at St Andrews. Sadly, some of our regular animals have left us, so we will be looking for new blood. Perhaps you have a camel or an alpaca to accompany the Wise Men, or even a small flock of sheep for the young shepherds to watch over or a donkey to carry Mary to the manger. If you could help out we would love to hear from you. Real animals make the Nativity pageant all that much better.

Kids Club is in recess for the NSW school holidays but will resume with the new term on Friday nights between 5.30 and 7pm at St Andrews. Children of all ages are most welcome, and the activities conclude with dinner.

Services are held at 9am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at St Andrews, and the 2nd and 4th Sunday at historic St Peters. After all services there is always a delicious morning tea and a chance to chat to others in our communities.

-- Contacts: Pastor: Ven. Dr Royce Thompson 62303558, Robyn Robinson 62383202,  
Bronwyn Elliott 62383359, Alan Rope 62383224

# Oh! it's October

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For appointments or further information please phone Brian 6258 -1792



## Wonderful Women of Wamboin

Some months ago a visitor came to a Monday meeting and spoke about a village she had visited in Cambodia . She had plans to help the village. As a result of a quick whip round, enough money was raised to buy sewing machines so the women of the village could earn money for the community. Three weeks ago, four WOWS went to this Cambodian village to instruct five women on how to use the machines and make water bags to provide money to help with the school. It is hoped that, when the intrepid four have recovered, the rest of us will have more details and photos, which can be shared with you as well.

Another visitor, introduced by Lorraine Bird, on invitation by the members gave a short talk on her project: help for teenage girls in the highlands of PNG. Days for Girls is a charity which has set out to bring the education and hygiene up to modern standards and how to help them accomplish this. The request was for undies of small sizes and toiletry things such as face wipes among other like things.

The last Monday of the month will have a special lunch to celebrate the meeting 's anniversary and the September Birthdays. Everyone is looking forward to the cake being made by Cynthia 's grandson, which has not failed yet in keeping members on their diets once viewed!!!! -- Many Boss



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## Lake George Day View Club

At their monthly meeting, Lake George Day View Club invited Deacon John Lim to speak on his life and work in Malaysia and Australia. After an Anglo/Aussie lunch at which some members were introduced to Yorkshire Pudding with roast chicken and vegetables followed by Lamingtons and Pavlovas.

Deacon John introduced himself as a creature of impulse, inspired by first his mother then his wife Anne, who accompanied him to the meeting. In Kuala Lumpur he had chosen the career of an illustrator in advertising, which he much enjoyed, though not the mathematics! (Picture: Deacon John being thanked by Mary McCullagh.)



John and Anne had to wait two years before their application to emigrate to Australia came through. They arrived here in October, 1988 with no regrets, finding they had escaped from the bustle and fumes of Kuala Lumpur and the restrictions from being Catholics in Muslim country. A son, David was born here making a family of two daughters and a son. John found in Australia a sense of community into which his family was welcomed and an enrichment of their life.

Having, as never before, time to relax and space to think, he found a call to be a Deacon. In the early Church the Permanent Diaconate was formed with the duty of caring for the community, expressed in the task of visiting the sick and housebound, baptisms, marriages and funerals. Before coming to St. Mary's, Bungendore, John spent six years as a chaplain to the cadets at Duntroon. It was a great change from the intensity and busy life in advertising but aged fifty five it was a new lease of life and changed him from being 'a loose cannon' to being disciplined and co-ordinated.

As Deacon of a parish, it was again a new and more tranquil life, where he can turn to the women of the parish for help in solving the problems of the community as they arise. He was much impressed by the Autumn Fair. He sees the community of Bungendore as a whole not just the churches to work as one in backing the Government in helping the refugees and co-ordinating all offers e.g. Offers of English lessons and an empty house for some months to settle into the community. He ended with- Whatever it takes to get this work through. – M.A. Boss

### WAMBOIN AND BYWONG CLASSIFIEDS

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I am desperately seeking egg cartoons. Drop off at PenDon Farm 413 Norton Rd. Look for our yellow sign and leave on our stall or next to our mailbox. Even 1 or 2 cartons would be gratefully accepted. Cheers Penny Evans

**New To Wamboin? The Wamboin New Residents' Pack (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.) Is Now Available!** Published by the Wamboin Community Association (WCA), the Wamboin New Residents' Pack contains information helpful to recently arrived residents of Wamboin. It contains details on a range of groups and organisations active in the area as well as hints for enhancing your rural/rural residential lifestyle. If you are a new Wamboin resident (less than 2 years), or if you have a new neighbour to whom you would like to give a copy, please pick up a copy from the WCA stall at the monthly Wamboin Home Produce Markets (upcoming market dates are Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 19), or email the WCA, [secretary@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:secretary@wamboincommunity.asn.au) to arrange your copy. The Pack is also available for anyone to download from the WCA website, <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/localservices/index.php?op=residentsGuide>

**Wildcare's Trivia Night.** Captains Flat Pub on Saturday 24th October from 6.00 p.m. Tables of eight @ \$15 per person. Pub food available. Bookings to Vivien, Tel. 0438877711, or [fundraising@wildcare.com.au](mailto:fundraising@wildcare.com.au)

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**Tutor Available:** Experienced local high school teacher is available to tutor privately in mathematics (all levels), physics (all levels) and science (to year 10). I am a registered teacher with police clearances in both NSW and the ACT. I have been teaching and marking external exams for 10 years and am an experienced tutor. \$50/hour. Rates are negotiable for groups. This is a great time to start exam preparation. Phone 0421 323 428.

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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FOR HIRE:- from Wamboin Community Hall - 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, - **Trestles and chairs.** All damages are the responsibility of the Hirer. Must be securely tied during transportation - or they don't go!

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FOR HIRE: - **WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL.** Bookings arranged by Joan Mason, 62 383 258. Please note: Hall is not available for teenage, 18 or 21st birthday functions.

## Next Sutton Landcare Meeting : Regenerative Agriculture-Solutions for the Anthropocene Era

The next meeting of Sutton Landcare will be held on Tuesday October 13 at Sutton School commencing at 7.30 pm. At 8.00 pm , our guest speaker, Dr Charles Massy, will address us on the topic of Regenerative Agriculture. Charlie, is currently a visiting Fellow at the ANU Fenner School. He recently completed a Ph.D thesis titled, "Transforming the Earth: a study in the change of Agricultural Mindscapes". His starting point in this research project was in seeing agriculture as a major contributor to environmental degeneration but also as a solution.

Charlie considers that the practices of industrial agriculture have played a major role in humans causing the crossing, or impending crossing , of nine of ten of the safe operating limits of a functioning Earth. Regenerative agriculture has many solutions to this complex set of problems , and his talk, after outlining some of the foundations of ecological literacy, will address these ideas and solutions. His vision is that of a new broad-acre, ecologically oriented agriculture that is both regenerating degraded landscapes and delivering, on a sustainable basis, high levels of healthy foods and fibre from biologically active soils.

The meeting provides an opportunity to hear from an acclaimed researcher and communicator on a topic that is critical for us all. All are welcome to attend what promises to be a fascinating evening. Further details can be obtained from Sutton Landcare Secretary Tony Redman ph 62303266. -- David Vincent (President)



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## We Need You!

The Volunteers of the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade would like to invite you to join us!

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade volunteers are local people (possibly even your friends or neighbours) who need your help to keep our community safe during bushfires and other emergencies. Some of our members are firefighters, other members fulfil important roles in areas like administration, communication, catering, community engagement and training (just to name a few).

**Right now we are keen to hear from people who would like to join the Brigade.**

When you join, we'll provide you with training and the appropriate personal protective clothing and equipment required for your role.

People choose to join the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade for many reasons. Some want to protect their families, their friends, their assets and their way of life. For many it is about being part of a wonderful tradition and an organisation with a very proud history. Volunteering with our brigade will offer you the opportunity to learn new skills that will not only assist you with voluntary roles, but in day-to-day life and maybe even your workplace. It's also a chance to form friendships and meet other people who live in our community.



For information about joining the Wamboin Brigade contact Jake on 0427-433-961 or [justbjake@gmail.com](mailto:justbjake@gmail.com)

Or visit:  
[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer)



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## Nature Notes September 2015

Jo Walker

Spring certainly got started in our area while I was far away on holiday. By the time I got back in the second week of September, the wattles were flowering magnificently. *Acacia rubida* (Red-leaf Wattle) was particularly well-endowed with bright yellow flowers, the heaviest flowering I remember seeing in that species. *Acacia rubida* is the main wattle species growing along Sutton Road.

Buttercups (*Ranunculus lappaceus*) are just beginning to join the display put on by *Wurmbea dioica* (Early Nancy) whose little white flowers (with a maroon central circle) have been dotting the grassy areas for some weeks now.

The rains seem to have fallen at just the right time for the Sundews (*Drosera peltata*). Their rosettes of bright green leaves edged with sticky hairs are noticeable in large numbers in the damper areas. These little plants are insectivorous, catching tiny insects on their sticky leaves and ingesting them as they decay.

September was a generally cool month, but the last few days have been warm enough for Jacky Lizards and the little Grass Skinks to start skittering around – and for the larger lizards such as Shinglebacks and Bearded Dragons to try sunning themselves on the local tarmac (and thanks, Adrienne, for ushering the Shingleback off Poppet Road!).

The local birds are busy nesting. A pair of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos are showing interest in a big hollow formed in an ancient Stringybark tree when a large branch fell a few years ago. A White-throated Treecreeper flew past me a few days ago with a beakful of fur, probably from the scattered tufts left on the ground after a couple of large kangaroos had a tiff. And a pair of Spotted Pardalotes are carrying nesting material into the hole on a sheltered slope where they reared a family two years ago.

There were several groups of *Delias harpalyce* (Imperial White) butterfly larvae feeding here on Mistletoes (*Amyema pendulum*) earlier in the year. The caterpillars are reddish-brown and bristly, and, when mature, they spin a large silken web on which to pupate. The shiny black pupae spend winter there and the adult butterflies are just beginning to emerge. The upper surfaces of their wings are white with black markings and the undersides are red, yellow, black and white.

Less conspicuous are the native bees. I walked over to look at a *Daviesia genistifolia* (Broom Bitter Pea) in full flower this morning and found it covered in bees. Three or four were honey bees – the others were the similar but smaller Common Spring Bee (*Trichocolletes venustus*). Unlike the honey bees' slow and steady flight, these little native bees dart and hover. Although there were many of them collecting pollen on the plant, their nesting is solitary, the nests being built at the end of a long tunnel in the ground.

With a forecast temperature of 26 degrees by the end of the week, summer may be fast approaching

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## How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

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

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

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## ***Councillor's Corner***

**Special Rate Variations** — This seemed like a timely opportunity to provide an update on Council's ongoing efforts to address the directives provided under the NSW Government's Fit For the Future (FFTF) program.

The lead up to the initial submission deadline at the end of June was pretty hectic and things haven't slowed much since. While IPART is due to submit its assessment of the 'health' of each individual council to cabinet on 16 October, the State Government has not committed to a date when it will announce what subsequent actions are to be taken, whether councils will be forced amalgamate or what support might be provided to councils proceeding to implement their respective improvement proposals.

Much has been made of the parlous financial state of NSW councils, but it must be said that in many cases this alarmist view is largely due to a lack of consistency in accounting procedures. The way in which a rural council, for example, manages the accounting associated with its roads and bridges can mean the difference between a council that appears financially sound and one that does not.

This issue aside, a significant element of Palerang Council's FFTF response was the need to strengthen its revenue stream. This revenue stream primarily comprises government grants and council rates and charges. With the current freeze on indexation of some grants, and a complete lack of indexation on others, the pressure invariably falls on council rates and charges. While the relevant legislation allows water, sewer and waste charges to be levied as required to cover the cost of delivering those services, any rising costs associated with other council services, such as road maintenance, has to be covered by council's general rates.

Unfortunately, the rate pegging regime that exists in NSW, and the fact that Council's costs invariably rise faster than the rate peg (which is tied to the CPI)—a significant proportion of Council's expenditure relates to road maintenance, and the Road Cost Index can at times be almost double the CPI—mean that a council's effective rate revenue is in a steady state of decline. This situation is, however, addressed periodically via what is known as a Special Rate Variation (SRV). In the last 12 months, for example, 22 NSW councils were granted SRVs.

Any such increase in rates above the annual rate peg must be approved by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). The approval process is both structured and extensive. The council must identify how the additional revenue will be used—it can't just apply for an arbitrary increase—and demonstrate that this use is consistent with its Community Strategic Plan. The council must also demonstrate that it has undertaken an engagement program with its ratepayers, and that the implications of the SRV have been clearly explained.

As was discussed in the FFTF literature distributed in May, Council is considering applying for a SRV. The size of the variation will depend on several factors, including input provided by the community through the associated engagement process.

While all this consultation, not to mention the prospect of 'harsh austerity measures', might be approaching the proportions of a modern Greek tragedy, community input plays an important role in helping Council work through these issues. No one really enjoys paying taxes, let alone tax increases, so it's probably important that we do what we can to ensure that they're managed as well as possible.

All residents will receive an information pack in the mail in the coming weeks with a range of feedback mechanisms available. Please take the time to participate in at least one of these feedback processes. Your input will help ensure that council's efforts are appropriately focused on our community's priorities.

For more information see:

<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>

<http://www.palerang.nsw.gov.au/srv> (from 6 October 2015)

**The Palerang Blog**—New or related entries in my councillor website Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) include:  
Special Rate Variations (Sep 2015)

Local Government Reform (Update) (Feb 2014)

Local Government Reform (Apr 2013)

Council's General Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month (excluding January), commencing at 5.00 pm. Members of the public are welcome. The meeting location varies—check Council's website (<http://palerang.nsw.gov.au>) for details. Meeting Business Papers are also available on Council's website on the Friday preceding the meeting.

-- Cr Pete Harrison, Ph. 6238 3640, Mob. 0427 711 028,

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



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## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

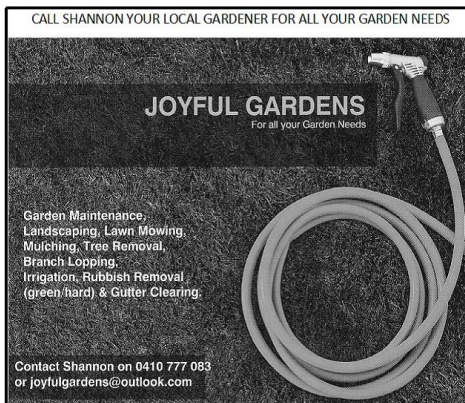
I've always liked sheds. They're functional, purpose built and they don't spell housework, but I've always had a particular fondness for shearing sheds. I love the grey corrugated iron with rusted stripes, the weathered grey timbers blending with last year's stubble and the dark oiled floors redolent with lanolin, stirring images of a time when Australia truly rode on the sheep's back. However, with a flock of one there's not a pressing need for a shearing shed at our place..... but we can always make room for a lesser shed.

Our original garden shed was resurrected from a pile of faded Colorbond found under a thatch of grass across the creek when we first arrived. It was brought across the creek, painfully reincarnated and served as a garden shed of sorts for many, many years. It was not a thing of beauty, it had no door, but it was useful and gradually the pain and frustration of resurrecting it faded. Then one day as I was idly flicking through a brochure I saw the perfect replacement. Too easy! How wrong can you be! We do have a beautiful shed, now, with a concrete floor, a gable roof and a door that closes, and one day we may get around to putting in the window, but why do flat packs look so seductively easy and why do they turn into Frankensteins when they are un packed! Even with the ability to read someone else's instructions, and armed with an arsenal of tools, building a shed is not a task for the faint hearted. Too easy....you've got to be kidding!

But while we were laboring, soaking up the beautiful spring weather one day as we tried to square the verticals, and battling gale force winds the next as we manhandled sheets of iron, we had brief moments of pleasure. A banjo frog serenaded us from the gully, several gang gangs creaked through the trees and one morning six king parrots arrived for a buffet breakfast. What a bonus. We had to smile watching a rosella trying to eat a dainty morsel of "magpie mince" in a beak engineered for seeds. A couple of shinglebacks gave me a start as I was off task pulling weeds, and I could only wish that they would startle the rabbits which have been relentless of late.

I think it will take us a long time to heal from our latest shed building endeavours. In the meantime, I will look nostalgically at old, lonely rusting sheep shearing sheds and be satisfied with my new garden shed with a door to hide the chaos within! I wouldn't live anywhere else.....

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