

November 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 December2015/January2016 issue issue is 7 pm Sunday night, November 29. 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).

**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**

<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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## CANBERRA Equine HOSPITAL

### Gastroscopy:

Scoping a horse.

By Cassie Duddy, Canberra Equine Hospital



**What is gastroscopy?** It is a procedure that is carried out which enables a veterinarian to view the inside of a horse's stomach through a 3 meter long camera, called an endoscope. This tube is passed into the stomach via one of the nostrils and is the only accurate way to diagnose ulcers in the stomach of a horse. Gastroscopy can also help to identify tumours, stomach impactions and other abnormalities of the upper gastrointestinal tract.

**Common signs to look out for:** Signs of colic, weight loss, poor appetite, grinding teeth, crib-biting, windsucking, loss of competitiveness or poor performance, bad temperament or notable change in behaviour/demeanour, resentment when touched, girthy or cold-backed, preferring hay over hard feed or a dull appearance of the coat.

**“How do you get the camera/scope into the stomach?”** The endoscope has been designed to reach the horse's stomach and the first part of the small intestine. In the same way that you would pass a tube for a colic patient, the endoscope with a smaller diameter is passed through the horse's nose to the back of the throat, where it is swallowed. It will then travel down along the oesophagus and into the stomach.

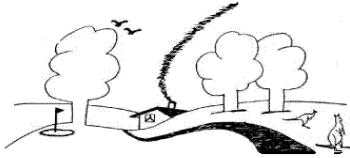
**“Does scoping hurt the horse?”** NO, scoping a horse is not a painful procedure. Once the scope has been passed into the nose, it is usual for the horse to find this action mildly uncomfortable, likely more of a 'ticklish' feeling. The endoscope is about 1cm in diameter and the horse can not feel it inside their stomach. However, whilst the procedure is painless, being surrounded by many people and strange equipment can be a little stressful for a horse and therefore sedation is usually used to combat this.

**“Do I have to fast/starve my horse before scoping?”** It is very important that we are able to see the entire stomach during the procedure and therefore fasting your horse for at least **12 hours** before hand is absolutely necessary.

**“Isn't it cheaper just to give my horse ulcer medication and see how he responds?”** This is not true. It is very important to know as much as possible about your horse's health to be able to medicate correctly. An accurate diagnosis is critical to be able to understand what, if any, treatments are even necessary for your horse. Gastric ulcers can differ significantly in regard to the clinical signs you may observe in each individual horse. There are many different types and grades of equine stomach ulcers which will require different periods of time for treatment, along with different types of treatment. Without gastroscopy, this may result in costly treatment of a horse that may not even actually have ulcers, or worse, delay treatment for a horse whom may be suffering already.

✓ *Our gastroscopy will benefit both you and your horse for the best possible treatment plan and result.*

If you have any further questions about gastroscopy or would like veterinary advice on other issues, please contact us by email [equine@canberravet.com.au](mailto:equine@canberravet.com.au) or call (02) 62418888.



## Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



Hello and here we are at November. Where is the year going I wonder? Still the Spring weather is always pleasant and its wonderful to be outdoors at this time of year. Although fairly quiet this past month, a number of events worth mentioning are either coming up or have just taken place.

**Spring Talks** – The success of the WCA's **Spring Talks** series seems to be growing in leaps and bounds. On Tuesday evening 20th October we held the second of these talks in our current series. This one was entitled **Living with the Locals – getting along with snakes at your place**, although most of us just shortened it to **The Snake Talk**. I'm not absolutely certain of the number of people who attended but an estimate of perhaps 40 - 50 people is not too far out. We were very fortunate to have Wildcare's Snake Co-ordinator, Wayne Alford come all the way from Murrumbateman to speak with us and answer questions from the audience. Wayne kept us both informed and entertained as you can see by the article on the Spring Talks further on in this edition of the Whisper.

The WCA thanks Wayne for his time and expertise very much. A most enjoyable evening was had by all who attended. It was gratifying to see many new people at this talk and we hope that they will come again to the third and final talk of our series on **Tuesday 17th November** at the **Community Hall** at **7:30 pm**. This final talk hosts **Gordon Cunningham, Palerang Council's Director of Works** and is entitled **Know Your Council**. I always think its a good idea to know exactly what your local council can and perhaps can't do. So I hope as many of you as possible will attend our final series of talks for this year.

**Annual Christmas Carols Night** – Christmas is a lot closer than you may want to believe (I certainly don't want to believe it) and that heralds in our last big event on the WCA yearly calendar – the annual Christmas Carols Night. The Carols are scheduled for **Friday the 18th December** at the Community Hall and starting at **7:00 pm**. Preparations for the event are already under way. It is usually a great night so please mark it in your diaries and I encourage any new residents to come along and attend this non-denominational celebration of a uniquely Wamboin Christmas. I organise the Christmas Play so if any parents would like their child or children to take part in our play please contact me on **62381329**. A bigger write-up will occur in next month's Whisper but please contact me any time . -- Jenny

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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;"><b>Anne Goonan, President</b> <i>This News Put Together by the Bywong Committee</i></p>	
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**Playground:** The feasibility of establishing a children’s playground at the Bywong Hall is well under way, with Merle Horgosi having talked at length with a local landscape architect who volunteered her time and expertise. Various possibilities are under consideration with a view to keeping the structure and general appearance of the playground in harmony with the hall itself and the character of the Les Reardon Reserve.

A couple of applications for possible Government grants to help pay for this possible development have also been lodged.

**Greenways:** The Greenway network extends throughout both the Bywong and Wamboin districts (and further afield), and recently the federally funded “Green Army” has been active in carrying out rehabilitation and other work on parts of the network. These activities have been broadly overseen by Palerang Council, with more specific input from the Greenways Renewal Working Group (GRoW).

It is also of interest that the actual routes and layout of the Greenways are not particularly well documented or readily available for consultation by potential users. In fact the information does exist, but is in diverse documents held by Council and other bodies. All this information needs collating and organizing into a usable form, and to that end it is planned to apply for a small grant to pay someone to undertake this work.

**Next Function:** Xmas drinks on Friday evening 4 December at the hall, from around 6:00 pm.

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## News from the Wonderful Women of Wamboin

By Gail Ritchie Knight

The Wonderful Women of Women (WWOW) have indeed been busy and the September bonfire was no exception. A core of WWOW worked tirelessly in preparation beforehand and on the night. Due to their efforts our curry stand was a huge success enabling us to provide funding to a number of local and overseas organisations.

From time to time we invite speakers to our Monday sessions. Recently Liz Tavener spoke of her work in developing countries teaching business management skills to people in small business. They focus training at the grassroots level often with an emphasis on empowerment of women.

I've been away for four months 4WDing in the Kimberley and clocking up over 19,000km. It was a great trip and tremendous to see the stunning vistas of northern Australia. But it's also good to be back home, see our gentle green landscape and become immersed in the local community once again. After spending so much time up north often with only my husband to talk to, especially on those long dirt roads, I was taken aback somewhat when I walked into WWOW. Everyone was talking. It was so noisy you could hear them in the car park. But, do you know what? Nothing had changed. This community was still kicking along. Women continued to drop in for a cuppa and a chat, sharing skills and telling jokes.

All women are welcome at WWOW. We meet on Mondays, 10am to 12 noon at St Andrew's Anglican Church on the corner of Poppet Road and Norton Road in Wamboin. For more information contact Gail Ritchie Knight 0416 097 500 [whirlwind1@argonite.com.au](mailto:whirlwind1@argonite.com.au).

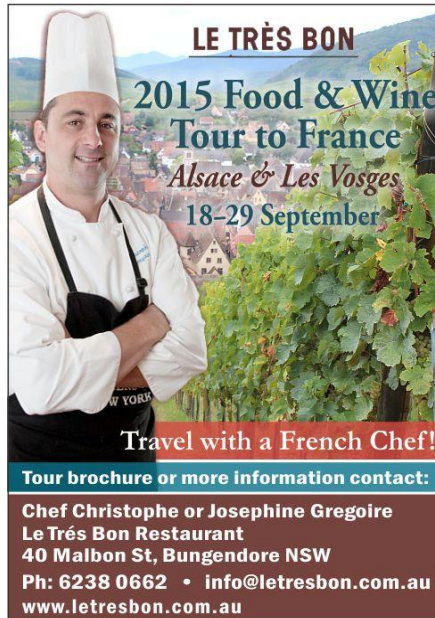


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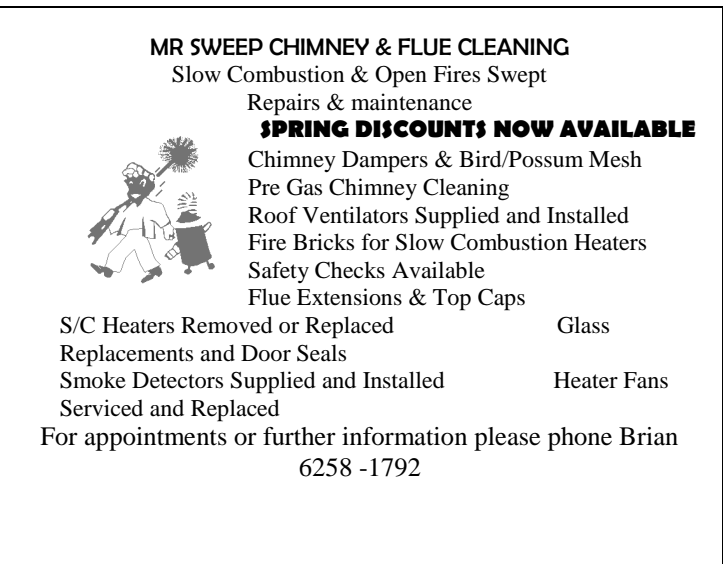
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## ***Wamboin Home Produce Markets***

**Saturday 21 November 2015 (9am to 12 noon)**

**Contact: Lance and Meriel Schultz 62383309 or 042 261 4304**

**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 November are:**

ACT Rescue and Foster (ARF dogs)  
selling their popular 2016 calendars  
and Christmas cards

Native Animal Rescue Group  
Selling their famous Wombat calendars

**The Cupcake Competition** went well! At 10 am we were worried as there were only two entries. By 10.30 we had 18! Congratulations Isla (3-5) Giselle (6-9) Bella and Chloe (10-12) and Jazmyn (teenagers). They were followed closely by Archie and Rupert, Annabelle and Maddie. We hope we have the names right..... All entries were excellent and Sally and Marita had a hard job deciding on the winners, going for best flavor, texture + excellence in decorating (and the decorating was amazing). Prizes included cooking utensils, icing sets, cookery books and fabulous aprons from Lorna, one of our regular stall holders.



***Judges Sally and Marita***



***Isla (3-5 years)***



***Giselle and Annabelle (6-9 years)***



***Chloe and Bella (10-12 years)***

***Fantastic kids (all of you) to take the time to enter!***

***SO..... based on the interest for the cupcake competition Sally is running ....***

***... A Cooking Class for Kids***  
***11am at the 21 November Markets.***  
***Learn how to make SCONES***

*Please bring:*

- Plate
- Mixing Bowl
- Knife or spatula for mixing
- An apron
- Tea Towel



***\*\*\*Ingredients will be supplied.***

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**Usual story...once you've made them ---sell them, take them home or  
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See you at the markets**



**THINK LOCAL – THINK FAMILY DAY CARE**

Picture: Queanbeyan Family Day Care educator, Dominica Lorimer being helped by her family day care children, Nathan Brooker with his back to the camera, Braxton Hansen with the blue and white hat, and Annabelle Hughes, feeding the chickens and collecting the eggs.

Comments from Dominica:

“If someone told me 5 years ago I would be working full time as a family day care educator – I probably would have been surprised, as I was thinking of starting up a B&B! However, after many years of home schooling and having an interest in early childhood development I decided to contact the Queanbeyan Family Day Care Scheme to enquire about becoming an educator. That was 2 years ago and I've never looked back!

Family Day Care provides children and families with high quality, flexible, and personalised child care with a ratio of 4 children (under school age) to 1 educator. Educators are required to undergo compulsory and on-going training, education, and checks – and are supported by the scheme they serve. Educators provide programs that cover all the key learning areas, and document each child's developmental stages in accordance with the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).

For me – family day care means that I can provide the children with play-based learning in a natural rural setting. There is generally a weekly theme and the activities (stories, craft, games, music, etc) revolve broadly around that theme. In addition children enjoy feeding the animals, gardening, cooking, dressing up, craft, games – and before we know, the day has flown!”

Are you needing childcare – or maybe wanting to become an educator. We are particularly interested in recruiting educators in Wamboin and Bungendore - so if you are interested, please contact a staff member at the Queanbeyan Family Day Care Scheme on 6285 6253 or [info.fdc@qcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info.fdc@qcc.nsw.gov.au) .







# SOCIAL CLUB

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

### SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER

### 6.00PM



Live Band from 8.00PM  
\$20 two course Christmas Roast dinner  
(*\$15 social members*)  
Christmas Toy Raffle 7.30PM

## KID'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

### SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER

### FROM 11AM



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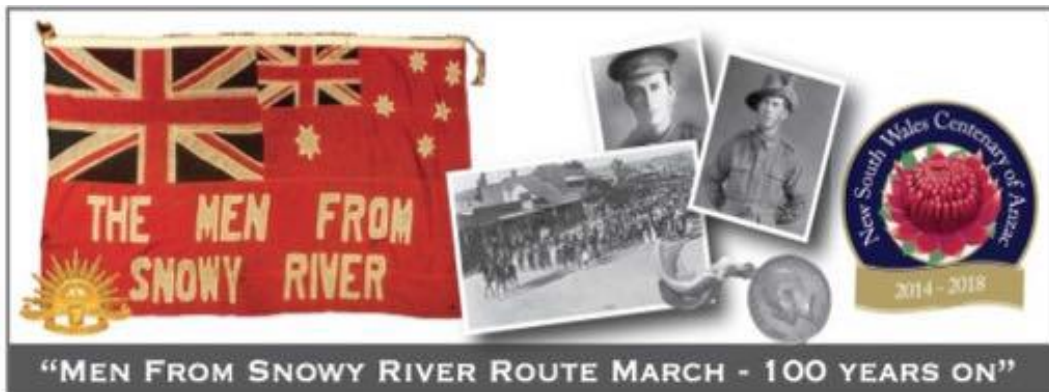
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- **Re-enactment March on the Mick Sherd Oval with Canberra Pipes & Drums**
- **Bungendore Public School Welcome**
- **Address by Palerang Mayor**
- **Commemorative Service**

The Recruiting Marches 1915-1916: In 1915 Britain sent out an urgent appeal to the Colonies—more men were needed to fight on the Western Front in France. Gallipoli had been a disaster and the war was going badly in Europe. Recruitment numbers were satisfactory in the cities and larger towns, but had fallen off in rural areas. So the idea of recruitment marches was born, with appeals going out to the more isolated areas of Australia. The marches were called “Snowball” marches with the idea of gathering recruits, as a snowball gathers snow as it rolls downhill.

The first of the marches took place on October 10th at Gilgandra, where the famous Cooee march commenced. The Kangaroos from Wagga set out for Sydney on the 1st December, 1915, closely followed by the Wallabies from Narrabri and

the Waratahs from Nowra. The Men from Snowy River commenced in Delegate on 6th January 1916, and arrived at Goulburn after marching 202 miles, on 29th January, 1916. They stopped at the various towns and hamlets on the route including Bungendore, for refreshments or overnight stays. In the



larger towns of Bombala, Cooma and Queanbeyan, they stayed for more than one day.

After training in Goulburn at the newly opened Military Camp, the men went by train to Sydney, and after marching through the streets of Sydney embarked on the “Port Sydney” for England via Africa. The majority of the men became part of the 55th Battalion, and served in France where they suffered high casualties.

Note: March commences at 09:15 so any one intending to join the March needs to be at the Oval before then.

[www.bungendorewarmemorialcommittee.com.au](http://www.bungendorewarmemorialcommittee.com.au)

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# Kowen Forest will be CLOSED Saturday 14 November 2015



The Brindabella Motor Sport Club would like to notify all residents in the Wamboin area that the Kowen Forest will be **CLOSED** to the public from **6pm Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November to 6pm on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015.**

## **The forest will be closed due to a high speed car rally.**

Kowen forest will be closed for the running of the “PCD Engineering Rallye Des Femmes Rally”. The event is the only one in Australia conducted for female drivers.

The forest will be chained up on Friday night 13<sup>th</sup> November in preparation for the event. We will be locking all gates; Styes and horse cavaleties. Notices will be put up before the event advising of the forest closure. “Forest Closed” signs will be put up when we chain up the forest.

There will be **NO PUBLIC ACCESS** via Seven Mile Road.

The Brindabella Motor Sport Club requests that residents do not enter the forest from the Wamboin side – as this will endanger you and the competitors.


The Forest will be re-opened after the event, and open to the public for Saturday night. We will open the forest as early as possible to let residents in for their Saturday evening walk!

There will be a spectator point at the old Kowen Forestry Settlement – entry only via Kowen Road. Please join us, to see some of the best Australian and local female rally talent.

We are always in need of volunteer officials to help us run the event over the weekend. If you are able to assist, please contact Martin (details below).

If you have any questions, please contact ACT Forests - 6207 2486 or Martin Holberton – 0412 399 425 or via email: [mfolberton@gmail.com](mailto:mfolberton@gmail.com)

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## The Fire Season is In Force - Fire Permits Are Now Required



With the cooler weather continuing local residents have been taking the opportunity to continue with their fuel reduction efforts.

Of course now that we are in the declared fire season you need a permit before you can burn that pile and during this month 8 permits have been issued by the captain and a further 2 more requests have been made for a permit.

This is a good indicator that while the weather is cool you may be able to get that permit to burn. When the weather changes and grass starts to cure, the humidity drops, and the temperatures increases permits will be a bit more challenging.

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.

Remember, from 1 October lighting a fire without a permit is 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

We will be providing a very timely community engagement presentation at the fire station in Bingley Way on Saturday 21 November, following the Wamboin market day. Please come along and be prepared to ask questions of the brigade members and to refresh your knowledge of what it is you plan to do in response to either an actual fire, or to days of heightened fire risk.

Maybe you would like to invite a member of the brigade's Community Education Team to visit your property to discuss your preparations and any improvements they might suggest to protect you and your family and your property against the threat of bush fire.



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## Brigade Activity

As the warmer season approaches the brigade has been busy training and practicing the use of pumps and in drafting water to multiple trucks from local dams.

Four of our trucks were also deployed to a fuel reduction burn which provided more opportunities for getting familiar with tanks, pumps and hoses. During this local burn our support crew also reviewed and familiarised themselves with their procedures should they be called upon in a real situation.

During the weekend of 17-18 October a navigation exercise was held in the Wamboin, Bywong and Bungendore area. Some 50-60 fire fighters in 7 strike teams were part of the exercise, about half of which were from outside our zone. Most of the people involved camped at Bungendore showground on the Saturday night.

The exercise was designed with a focus on communication and navigation, and included the sort of scenarios the brigade is likely to encounter in real life: live car fire, live gas fire, simulated structure fire, simulated first-aid scene (vehicle crash), remote area fire fighting, navigation and electronic mapping. Five Wamboin members ran the first-aid scenario, and one of our member's property was used for the structure fire scenario.

These exercises are invaluable opportunities to practice working with other brigades particularly those from outside our zone which is the most likely scenario in a real fire situation.

### Call Outs

It was a very quiet October with no callouts. An undisturbed month is always appreciated and wouldn't it be nice if this pattern continued into the summer, let's hope.

---

## Community Events

### Chainsaw Maintenance Workshop

The workshop to demonstrate chainsaw maintenance planned for Sunday 11 October 2015 was unfortunately cancelled. Cliff is hoping he will be able to run the workshop in November however at this time we do not have a firm date. When we are able to confirm a date we will get a message out through the Wamboin Community website.

Please note this is not an RFS training course and is open to members of the community.

The number of workshop attendees is limited so if you are interested and after a firm date is announced please email Cliff Spong ([cliffspng@optusnet.com.au](mailto: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](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 Golf – September 2015

Spring has definitely sprung. The grass is rising and the birdies are all over the place. Furthermore the winter sports have all concluded and what a splendidly athletic lot we Palerangians are! The Tigers, Tigerettes, Mudchooks, netball and basketball players are all finishing the season on top – or very close to it – of their respective competitions. Well done! And isn't it good to see little Jarryd Hayne, the former Tigers water boy, getting a run with the San Francisco Under 9ers. Note to mum: don't leave all those sweaty jock straps and sports bras in the gear pack over summer in case of spontaneous combustion.

There are, of course, those heady perennial sports of which golf is one. And so it came to pass that on Sunday 6 September, fired up by the recent victories of Australia's very own Jason Day, a number of this healthy Shire's golfers gathered at the Hall for the Wamboin Spring Trophy sponsored by Joan and Lofty Mason who provided sustenance and prizes. Our thanks to both. It was a crisp, partly cloudy day with many of the neighbouring ACT's floral emblem in bud or, indeed, bursting forth. It moved local clergyman, the Rev Tom Gray to suggest that they might be "wasting their sweetness on the desert air" but we told him to suck it up and not to waste his own energy in a country churchyard. Our sponsors declared it a three-club day with stroke play to determine the outcome. And off into the mountain scrub we flew, as district journalist A B Paterson so cleverly put it.

Afterwards, around the fire back at the Hall the Googly Ball was again awarded to Helen Locke for putting her second shot on Hall NTP into the bonfire when the rest of her foursome managed it with their first. The Dummy Spit Award went to Tim Barter who felt he got closest to the pin on Ron's Dam Hole but couldn't record it because the previous foursome had removed the card. (Tim has a point but there are ways of bringing such matters to the attention of the match committee, don't you know.) Ball winners were Neville Schroder, Rachel Schroder, Debrah Fileman, Tim Barter X 2, Rob Gibson, Paul Griffin X 2, Pete Harrison and John Whitney. The junior competition winner was Alex Gordon. The 9 hole comp was won by Michael Fileman with 46 off the stick for a net 30; second Larry King 45/31; third Helen Locke 76/57. Winner of the 18 hole comp and holder of the 2015 Spring Trophy (featuring two genuine bed springs) was Tim Barter 79/65 from John Whitney 81/67 with Paul Griffin 92/68 in third position. There was nothing left to do but get outside of as many of Joan's wonderful spring rolls as possible. Next month will be the Hunt for Red October competition sponsored by L + L King. Join us at the Hall on Sunday 4 October at 12.15pm for a 12.30pm start. Meanwhile, enjoy the changing of the seasons. – Larry King

## Introducing our Property Management Team



**Lesley Cloake**

*Senior Property Manager*

*Lesley has brought considerable administrative and organisational skills to real estate, following on from a career in local government. With her husband and two children, Lesley is an active member in the local community. Her likeability and cheerful nature make her a great people person.*



**Sue Stickney**

*Property Manager*

*Sue joined our property management team after many years running her own local business. Sue brings a wealth of knowledge when it comes to customer relations and attention to detail, which suits her role perfectly. Sue has been a long term local resident and is well respected in the local community.*



**Siobhan Harper**

*Advertising and Office Manager*

*Siobhan joined our team earlier this year and has injected a positive energy and enthusiastic attitude, which is contagious. Being the first point of contact when people engage the services of our office, Siobhan prides herself on providing the very best of service to all clients. Siobhan loves being a local resident, where she lives with her family.*



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## Wamboin Golf – October 2015

“I observed the placid, torpid waters of the dam with quiet satisfaction, knowing that I was right all along – that bloody putter *could not swim!*”

The paragraph above is your correspondent’s entry in the 2015 Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest\*. The words and sentiment owe much to the quality of his ‘short’ game in the Wamboin golf club’s October competition sponsored by partners-in-life, L + L King (absolutely marvellous people; you should meet them). But the less said the better. Let us pass on to happier thoughts. Sunday, 4 October was an unseasonal warm and sunny day which made the poetical among us, such as Steve Lambert, search for a fanciful word for an early Summer – to balance Indian Summer: i.e., one that lingers. We are offering a 1995 Penfolds Grange bottle (found at the Macs Reef transfer station) to the best suggestion from the readers of this column, judged by an independent panel of close relatives. Meanwhile out on the peerless Wamboin course battle was joined. Despite the long weekend, two grand finals and a car race a crowd of respectable size took the field. One of our guests, Tony Bryce, is closely associated with the ACT taxi industry. So, of course, a good stroke was met by cries of “Uber shot, Tony!” Other guests included Denis Riley and Peter Kelly. Len Ivey paid us a welcome visit from the South Coast and Scott Mason came all the way from Cairns.

At close of play the Googly Ball was awarded to John and Pearl van der Straaten who arrived precisely 24 hours late for a function in the Hall the previous night! The Dummy Spit went to Scott Mason for his voluble complaint that the LD markers on Up-the-Creek were prematurely removed – robbing Pete Harrison of a prize for his only good shot of the day. (Notice how Pete side-stepped the dummy by engaging a subcontractor.) Ball winners were Tim Barter X 4 (!), Rob Gorham (visiting from Harden – or Murrumburrah), Pete Harrison, Denis Riley, John Whitney, Phil Moran and Tony Bryce. The junior competition was won by Alex Gordon. The winner of the 9 hole comp was Debra Fileman with 52 off the stick for a net 23. The handicapper is aware that corrective action should be taken. Second was Ian Picker 43/30 with Tony Bryce 53/31 in third place on a count back. In the 18 hole competition Paul Griffin was the clear winner with a score of 87 for 62. Less clear were the remaining placegetters with a tie for second place between Len Ivey 80/67 and Tim Barter 81/67.

Next month will see the club stage the 30<sup>th</sup> Wamboin Open. International golf’s glitterati are expected to throng the now world famous course on Sunday, 1 November. So polish up the Callaways, iron the Armani polo shirt, dry clean the loud trousers, sharpen the sprigs and join us at the Hall at 12.15pm for the usual 12.30 start.

- Larry King (recovering golfer)

\*a literary competition to write the worst opening sentence to an equally bad novel.



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## About Jim

Jim Greethead extracted 150% out of life! In 2012 Jim wrote that his cardiologist thought “I should last at least another 5 years.....I avoided dancing and hooting until I got out of the consulting rooms. Yippee....From feeling that I was walking the knife edge, now I am back to being my usual optimistic self. And a glass of wine tonight won't do that any harm.”

Having only known Jim since 2007, in his retirement, we cannot talk about his working life though it seems that he left an indelible mark wherever he went! Jim was an intelligent unassuming gentleman who quietly went about his life! Most of us would not appreciate the following Jim had worldwide with his extensive knowledge, engineering skills, and miniature machines that he shared globally <https://www.youtube.com/user/AussieJimG/videos>

Meanwhile in our little local Bywong Community, Jim and wife Bernie helped out in whatever way they could. Jim was the MC for the Community Association's Trivia nights; he helped with the Annual Car Boot sales - and at one stage tested his road skills on his motorbike delivering flyers along Macs Reef Rd. Jim was a diligent Community representative in consultation with Council on the planning for the Macs Reef Waste transfer station.

In late 2014 we heard that Jim had the dreaded C. He fought with all he had to achieve a clean slate – and we all breathed a sigh of relief when the results showed that he was cleared! How devastating when early in 2015, it returned with a vengeance. Given a sombre prognosis Jim went about tidying up his life and activities. His low immune levels forced him to withdraw from community interactions. He commenced relocating his beloved machines and tools, ridding himself of the “stuff” that he had accumulated over the years. He commented that life was too precious to be worried about ‘political correctness’ now and we saw more raw humour and cautious emotion. He was surprised that so many people cared so deeply!

Jim's mind wouldn't leave him alone....he was the type of man who could often see better ways to do things – and would then go about trying! E.g. standing for hours and cooking multiple dozen eggs, sausage and bacon for the RFS at the Bywong Car boot sale. He had mastered dry comment, and at times it was only the glint of unmistakable mischief in his good eye that would give him away.

When he was helping out at the fire shed or during his time as brigade secretary Jim demonstrated qualities that were admired and highly regarded. His ability to remain relaxed, calm, and focussed during some trying times -be they in meetings, helping the brigade's support team feeding hungry supporters, or working bees - were legendary and inspirational. When asked about his “unflappability” Jim's regular self-deprecating response was that his reduced eyesight and hearing helped him give the appearance of being involved, without having to pay too much attention! At one point he mentioned that he often didn't want to get into in deep discussions for fear his opinions would be considered too one-eyed! His incisive wit and good humour were infectious and greatly appreciated.

During his time as Secretary for the fire brigade, Jim helped to improve and streamline many of the administrative functions. He was not a fan of complicated procedures and often saw better and simpler ways of doing things, which he would quietly explain to anyone willing to listen. In addition, considering his analytical and technical skills, on the odd occasion when he ventured an opinion those who didn't seriously consider his advice on technical issues, would remain poorer for their decision.

Jim's hilarious jokes and anecdotes usually left listeners in a better frame of mind and humour - but unfortunately most could not be printed.

We believe that he accepted that he couldn't get on to a fire truck as a firefighter, but understood that helping the Support Crew was an important function that helped to keep the firefighters doing their jobs. The often uncivilised hours when Jim and other members of the Support Crew could be called on during emergency operations to help feed crews, replenish fire trucks and keep the fire shed operating, amply illustrates that dedication.

Many people in the brigade were often surprised to learn Jim's age considering his unwavering enthusiasm and active involvement in whatever needed to be done in or around the fire shed.

Jim was one of those rare and inspirational people who showed others how to accept and get on with things with a quiet dignity, good humour and importantly, without pretence. - Cliff Spong and Anne Goonan

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-- Owner / Manager / Installer - Andrew Snowdon, Wamboin

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## Nature Notes October 2015

Jo Walker

After a few very hot days at the beginning of the month, we seem to have got back to more normal temperatures for this time of the year. And, although we've had very little rain so far this month, there has been enough to keep the grass green and growing – and some of the Wallaby Grasses (*Austrodanthonia* spp.) are already putting up flower-heads.

The bright yellow flowers of Billy Buttons (*Craspedia variabilis*), Buttercups (*Ranunculus lappaceus*) and Bulbine Lilies (*Bulbine bulbosa*) are brightening up the damper grassy areas and Scaly Buttons (*Leptorhynchos squamatus*) are just beginning to add their own shade of golden yellow.

Many of the pea plants are still flowering. The big bushes of *Daviesia mimosoides* at the top of the first hill on Norton Road flowered heavily this year and are just beginning to form their triangular seed pods. The fine-leafed Parrot Peas (*Dillwynia sericea*) are still flowering profusely in places along with *Pultenaea procumbens*.

The most eye-catching plant at the moment though is the Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans*), the beautiful little white daisy carpeting large areas of roadside near Valley View and Clare Valley Lanes and along Denley Drive extending down Weeroona Drive. And there is a small patch surviving on Sutton Road interspersed with the yellow flowers of *Velleia paradoxa*.

Also inhabiting the local roads are lots of lizards and other wildlife. The other day, after removing a Bearded Dragon off Poppet Road and waiting politely for two Shinglebacks to cross, I came across an Echidna making its way from Cooper Road to the other side of Norton Road. On my place, the Cunningham's Skinks are moving around and I've recently seen two Eastern Blue-tongued Lizards and, already, two Brown Snakes.

I hadn't heard a Boobook Owl for some time, but was recently awakened at one o'clock in the morning by a shrieking Sulphur-crested Cockatoo accompanied by the Boobook Owl, apparently having a dispute about something. Many of the other birds are busy finding food for their nestlings and the Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes were flying from tree to tree the other day with two young fledgelings.

The Wombat who dug some extensive holes on my place some time ago, and has made its presence obvious by regularly depositing droppings on logs and rocks to mark its territory, finally made an appearance two weeks ago. It was nosing round the front garden close to the house one evening, and, a few days later, was trundling down the hill early in the morning. It's not quite full grown, but looks very healthy.

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## Wamboin Pony Club – October

Earlier this month a number of Wamboin Pony Club riders were competing in The State Mounted games at Bungendore. The Wamboin Wildcats (Caitlin Hackett, Sammi Quick, Victoria Evans and Claudia Beer), The Zone 16 Masters (Lauren, Penny and Katie Slater) as well as Fly by night (Amy Evans and Laura Worden) put in a great effort over the two days against some very strong teams from around the State. The Masters as their name may suggest have been competing in these competitions for some years and all riders are extremely skilled. The team dominated their associate group and won all but one of the races ensuring they were the champions in their class. Fly by night scored a



number of ribbons and the Wildcats put in a consistent effort. Overall the competition this year was very Competitive and our teams put in their best effort.

Our most recent club rally day was a bit different as riders and horses spent the weekend at our grounds for a camp out. After some riding activities Saturday afternoon horses were yarded, fed and bedded down for the night. A campfire and hearty dinner and crazy games followed and all spent the night in sleeping bags in the clubhouse surviving the night and the odd huntsman in the toilet block. After breakfast on Sunday of pancakes, eggs and bacon the rally day was spent with jumping tuition from a special guest instructor and some interesting games like horse soccer and pillow polo (pictured). Riders and horses have the challenge to get up close to each other and it can test the horses, as some don't like strange things like very big balls or the tussle of a close contact game. It was generally a different and fun weekend for all.

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 your local 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. So if you are interested come along and see all that Pony Club can offer - you can even just come and try it, 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, check out our website [www.wamboinponyclub.org.au](http://www.wamboinponyclub.org.au) or find us on Facebook - we hope we will see you soon. - Steve Quick

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## Charity Auction for Burra Fire Brigade

Charity Auction will be 11am on Sunday 15th November 2015. Goods below bequeathed to Burra RFS for auction and all funds to the Burra Brigade. Ride on mower - cub Cadet 30" deck 1 year old. Chain saw Yamaha 350 includes chaps, helmet, muffs and face shield. Goat/Sheep yards portable- 6 steel panels with pegs. Cattle Yards with RAMP- National Stockyard Systems. Fire Pump- ONGA with 30mtr hose. Weed Sprayer SOLO 10 Ltr Inc herbicides. Animal feed troughs- X 4 Mountain bike- Giant yellow with helmet. Contact Greg Hedger 0427 214 337 or Burra RFS [valleyrfs@inet.net.au](mailto:valleyrfs@inet.net.au) Cash or cheque with ID. 250 Badgery Road Burra. Warm regards.

## Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin – 40 year statistics from the Robertsons

October rainfall to 25/10 ... 19.25mm  
 2015 to 25/10 ... 508.5mm  
 Average November rainfall .. 78.3mm  
 Wettest November ... 175.5mm in 2010  
 Wettest November day ... 77mm on 19/11/86  
 Coldest November day ... 9C on 11 & 12/11, 2013

(October 2014 ... 41mm)  
 (2014 to 31/11 ... 502.9mm)  
 (Nov. 2014 ... 34.25mm)  
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 Coldest November night ... 0C on 1/11/98



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WCA Electronic Noticeboard: The WCA electronic noticeboard is a convenient way to keep up with community activities. Subscribe by visiting the WCA website at <a href="http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard">http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard</a>
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FOR HIRE:- from Wamboin Community Hall - 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, - <b>Trestles and chairs.</b> All damages are the responsibility of the Hirer. Must be securely tied during transportation - or they don't go!
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## How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

Guy and Morag Cotsell have delivered 30 or more Whispers every month to residents along Macs Reef Road between Harriott and Newington. This month Daryl Bourke has offered to take over the job of putting Whispers in these mailboxes. Thank you very much, Guy and Morag for doing this task for so many years, and, Daryl, thanks for taking it on.

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

**170: CO-ORDINATED BY ALICE SCOTT: ph 6238 3178 email alicehscott@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 Nrtm 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 Higginson	Denley Dr (Birchmans to Kestral inc)	12
Don Malcolmson	Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat)	7	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef Rd (Newington to Bankers)	7
Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr	35	Daryl Bourke	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 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

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

There are a couple of dates to note in your diaries this month. On 8<sup>th</sup> November, at St Peters, there will be a Defence Sunday service. "While Remembrance Day recalls the tragedy of World War I and the hope for peace which came with the Armistice on 11 November 1918, the experience of the 20th Century and the first decade of this century reveal that this hope remains unfulfilled." This service will give us an opportunity to pray for our current and returned service personnel, and for those providing that on-going pastoral and spiritual care for them. Please join us.

You may have noticed that there has been some gardening done around St Peters. We hope by Christmas to have a Norway spruce in place which we will decorate for the festive season and watch grow over the coming years.

In consultations with the Wamboin RFS, a 30,000 litre tank will be installed at St Andrews as a fire precaution measure. We thank the Wamboin RFS for its advice and assistance on an issue that affects us all.

Unfortunately the Blessing of the Animals at St Andrews had to be postponed until 15<sup>th</sup> November. We trust that those of you and your animals who were planning to come at the earlier advised date will be able to make it on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a spring wedding, mid month, at St Andrews, and at the end of the month we celebrate St Andrews Day with a Patronal brunch after the service on 29<sup>th</sup> November. You would be most welcome.

Kids Club continues to go from strength to strength. There are now twice as many children coming to St Andrews on a Friday evening at 5.30pm, as there were when the Club started. The group includes littlies to young teenagers. Parents are asked to stay and help as their input is highly valued. The session concludes with dinner. We look forward to the children's involvement as angels, shepherds and choristers with the Christmas Eve Nativity pageant at St Andrews.

If you would like to know more about our activities in both Sutton and Wamboin, please call any of these numbers: Contacts: Pastor Dr Royce Thompson 6330-3558, Robyn Robertson 6238-3202, Bronwyn Elliott 6238-3359, Alan Rope 6238-3224.



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## **Councillor's Corner**

**Local Government Reform** — Well, we are told that the end of the process that has been under way for the better part of the last four years is drawing near.

Following the submission of Fit For the Future proposals at the end of June, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) submitted its assessment of the 'health' of each individual council to Cabinet on 16 October. The Minister for Local Government made this report public just four days later.

On the basis of their individual Improvement Proposals, both Palerang and Queanbeyan Councils have been declared financially sustainable, but they have been declared 'not fit' because they did not propose to amalgamate. IPART maintained [debatably] that the two councils could save \$51 million over the next 20 years if they merged, and that this was more important than the argument presented in favour of remaining independent. In Palerang's case, the primary issues were the fundamentally different nature of the two councils, one being essentially urban and the other essentially rural, and the difference in population, which would leave Palerang residents with little ability to influence the policies of a merged entity dominated by a relatively large urban population. These issues will obviously concern some sectors of the Palerang community more than others.

The IPART report will be on exhibition until 18 November, and councils that have been deemed 'not fit' have been 'encouraged' to reconsider their position and nominate a merger partner. The Minister has committed to make his decision on the future of all councils before the end of the year.

In the mean time, Palerang has little option but to continue with the implementation of its Improvement Proposal that, as discussed in last month's column, involves consideration of a Special Rate Variation (SRV).

By the time you read this, the initial round of community forums providing background to the SRV process will have been held. All residents should have received an information pack in the mail outlining the range of feedback mechanisms available. More information is available from the Council website as indicated below. 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 your community's priorities.

Council will review the community input in December in order to finalise any decision to proceed with an application before the February deadline.

For more information see:

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

<http://www.fitforthefuture.nsw.gov.au/ipart-fit-for-the-future-report>

<http://www.palerang.nsw.gov.au/srv>

**The Palerang Blog**—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)

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## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

I'm not ticking many things off my "To Do" list; I've been kidnapped by spring. Time is running out for me to get all those serious things done that need to be done, but I keep finding myself in the garden. I wander around, spellbound, feasting on the blossoms and the palette of colour. There are masses of humming pink, confetti petals floating in the breeze, wide brush strokes of white and purple, mauve lanterns hanging over a wooden arch, and bright dots of orange and blue amid fresh green.

I want to applaud nature's performance. Even my vegetables, sulking all winter, have put on a happy face. It's been a captivating start to spring and a dramatic change from woollies to shorts. But I haven't abandoned boots for thongs. With all the lizards and shingle backs out sunning themselves you can't help but wonder what may be lurking, unseen. And, for the first time in a decade the lawn mower has come out to mow green grass, not just get an airing to mulch untidy leaf litter.

We'd been tolerably happy, though frustrated at times, with the mob we'd employed at fairly low rates for years to keep the grass in check. However, when they subcontracted to some low life, fly-by-nighters intent on turning it into an 18 hole mini golf course we decided that we'd had enough. We fenced off our seeded patch of struggling grass. Now, viewed from the deck after a couple of pre dinner drinks, it could easily pass for a real lawn, at least a real Wamboin lawn. The winter snarl of chain saws has been replaced by the roar of the Victa as it tries to keep up with spring growth,... and birdsong.

The birds are in their element, singing, warbling, chattering and screeching profanities according to their habit. A pair of thrushes has returned for the nesting season trilling from pre dawn to dusk outside our bedroom window in the overgrown winter honeysuckle. I peeked into the bush to see if I could spot their nest. Then I saw a twig sticking out of the plastic "nest" filter on the downpipe placed there to trap rubbish washed down from the roof. These clever birds had recognised a prefabricated "nest", perhaps with the label still on, and were busily putting their personal touch on the new nursery. Last year they did the same thing, but sadly lost everything in a sudden down pour. This year we were ahead of them and were able to plug the gutter outlet before the forecast rain. Maybe next spring we will be awakened from our pre dawn slumbers by a full choir of thrushes!

Those who should know are predicting a hot dry summer, and I suspect they are right, but in the meantime I will just enjoy what is now on offer. However, some self discipline is called for if I am to whittle down my To Do list. I'll just have to stay inside and look at the garden through the window.

I wouldn't live anywhere else.....how could I, especially this spring!

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## ACT Animal Rescue Monster Car Boot Sale

**Sunday 15 November**

**8am - 2pm, 'Nanima' 951 Murrumbateman Rd**

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