



December 2015 / January 2016 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 February 2016 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, January 31. 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

Wamboin Community Assn	Jenny Richards, President	6238 1329	<a href="mailto:president@wamboincommunity.asn.au">president@wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>
Bywong Community	Anne Goonan, President		<a href="mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au">president@bywongcommunity.org.au</a>
Fire Brigade	Geoff Foster, Captain	0409 991 340	<a href="mailto:captain.brigade@wamboincommunity.asn.au">captain.brigade@wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>
Resident Palerang Councillor	Pete Harrison	0427 711 028	<a href="mailto:cr.pete.harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au">cr.pete.harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au</a>
Resident Palerang Councillor	Keith France	0427 365 715	<a href="mailto:cr.keith.france@palerang.nsw.gov.au">cr.keith.france@palerang.nsw.gov.au</a>
Wamboin Markets	Lance and Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	<a href="mailto:Lmsconsulting@bigpond.com">Lmsconsulting@bigpond.com</a>
Sutton School Playgroup	Emma Harriden, Convenor	0448 478 953	<a href="mailto:ce.harriden@bigpond.com">ce.harriden@bigpond.com</a>
Landcare	Kathy Handel, Secretary	6238 3596	<a href="mailto:khandel@bigpond.net.au">khandel@bigpond.net.au</a>
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison, Bungendore	6238 1333	
NSW Emergency Services	NSW Call Centre, Staff	132 500	For assistance in storm or flood emergency
NSW Emergency Svcs Adm	Colin Brown, Controller	6238 0222	For non-urgnt help, answd by local volunteer
Justice of the Peace	Peter Greenwood, JP	6238 3358	
Justice of the Peace	Keith France, JP	6238 3596	
Justice of the Peace	Margaret Fletcher, JP	6238 1211	
Justice of the Peace	Jill Sedaitis, JP	6236 9559	
Wamboin Pony Club	Leanne Quick, Club Captain	6238 3435	
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Sue Barker, contact	0429 629 674	
Wamboin Play Group	Heather Lawton, Convener	0425 133530	<a href="mailto:heather.cocquio@gmail.com">heather.cocquio@gmail.com</a>
Scouts	Pete Harrison	6238 3525	
Bywong Hall Bookings	Ann Sloan, contact		<a href="mailto:lrrhallbywong@gmail.com">lrrhallbywong@gmail.com</a>
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	<a href="mailto:joan.mason@internode.on.net">joan.mason@internode.on.net</a>
Church - Anglican	Robyn Robertson, Warden	6238 3202	
KYB Bible Study Group	Yvonne Barrett, contact	6230 3539	
Golf	Peter Greenwood, Golfer	6238 3358	<a href="mailto:p.greenwood2@bigpond.com">p.greenwood2@bigpond.com</a>
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare, Helpline	6299 1966	
Wonderful Wmen of Wmb	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	<a href="mailto:Whirlwind1@argonite.com.au">Whirlwind1@argonite.com.au</a>
Lake George VIEW Club	Pauline Segeri, contact	6238 1996	
Wamboin Book Group	Alice Scott, Secretary	6238 3178	

### YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

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

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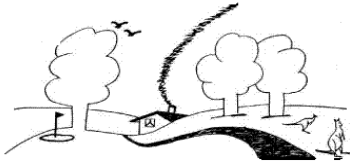
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## Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



Hello everyone the year is almost at its end and things are frantic as they always are at this time of year .

**Community Carols Night** – Its that time of year again. Christmas is almost upon us and so are the Wamboin Community Carols Night. As you will see from the advert in this issue of the Whisper, our carols evening will be held on the **18th December at 7:00 pm** at the **Community Hall**. Everyone is cordially invited to this event which has had some memorable moments in the past. The cost for this evening is the donation of a gift for someone (man, woman or child) less fortunate than ourselves to be placed under the Christmas tree and distributed to those in need by the Salvation Army. After the carols there is a sausage sizzle (gold coin donation) whose proceeds also go to the Salvation Army. Children can expect the arrival of Santa in the fire truck at the end of the carols with some goodies to distribute. Our carols are non-denominational and designed to celebrate our community spirit here in Wamboin so please everyone make a note of the date and come along.

**Christmas Play**– One of the features of our carols night is the performing of the Christmas Play by the local children. They always do a fantastic job and there are lots of speaking parts for the children. I have been chosen to organise the play once again and I would love to hear from parents of children willing to be in the play. I can be contacted on **6238 1329** at any time. I supply the costumes but the children make it a performance to remember. **Please** if your child would like to take part in the play contact me as soon as possible.

**Spring Talks** – The third and final of our Spring Talks was held at the Community Hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. Gordon Cunningham gave an informative talk on where (Local) Council monies go and the real cost of things like roads (including dirt roads) to maintain. The session like others in this series, was well attended and we thank Gordon for giving up his time so willingly to come and speak with our community.

**Last WCA Meeting** – The final Wamboin Community Association meeting for the year will be held on **Tuesday 15th December at 7:30 pm**. Following the meeting will be our Christmas Party with Christmas cake and port and perhaps some other nibbles. Everyone is welcome to attend and members especially so. The WCA will then go into recess over the month of January and meet back again on the **third Tuesday in February 2016**.

That's it from me for the year of 2015. It seems that the years get busier and more challenging as they go. This one has certainly handed me some real beauties. As the year draws to its close I would like to thank the members of the Wamboin Community Association for the support they have given me, especially the members of the Committee who have worked tirelessly in all sorts of areas this particular year to ensure that our Community is the best we can make it . In addition, I must also thank my family for their understanding and support. To the wider community, I wish you all the very best of the Christmas season and hope the New Year sees you all healthy, happy and prosperous. -- Jenny Richards ( President)

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*Thank you to everyone. You all gave 100%, were always on time always kept in contact. If we would ever sell again we would use Sutton Real Estate. I'm going to tell everyone I know to use Sutton Real Estate, even next door. You should maybe give them a call...Thanks - Ken and Michelle*

6238 0999



	<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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The year is winding down, with the final BCA function for 2015 being the Xmas being Drinks events – see further below.

**2016 EVENTS:** The committee has begun thinking about and planning for the regular BCA events for next year. Currently the dates for these functions have tentatively been slated as –

**2016 Car Boot Sale-** Slated for Sunday 27 March 2016.

**2016 Trivia Night** – Saturday evening of 18 July 2016.

**2016 Clean Up Australia Day** – There is some discussion as to whether we should adhere to the traditional day in March, or instead organise this for a bit later when the weather is cooler. Nothing has yet been finalised, but the committee recognises that rubbish on our major roads is a problem and addressing this probably requires more concerted action than a single half day effort from residents. Discussion on this will continue, and any ideas from interested people would be welcome - please contact [president@bywongcommunity.org.au](mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au)

**2016 Information Night** – No date yet finalized, but the topic suggested is on general medical and other support services available in the region. Bungendore Medical Centre will be approached for possible presenters, and Jeremy Sheamur will source further information and provide to the committee. If you have had experiences with such support services in the area we would welcome your input and feedback.

**CHILDREN’S PLAYGROUND:** Work is continuing on the feasibility of this project. The general site layout and structures are being considered, as are possible sources of funding. It is usual for the BCA to distribute surplus funds to various local groups, but at this stage the committee considered that it would retain available money as a possible contribution for the playground.

**2016 XMAS DRINKS:** Friday evening 4 December at the hall, from around 6:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for all residents to “meet the neighbors”, and for general information exchange. Drinks will be provided - please bring a small plate of nibbles or sausage rolls etc, and any special drinks you may like.

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# WAMBOIN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

## Friday, December 18 2015 @ 7:00pm

At Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley  
Way

**Everyone is invited to come along  
and:**

Join in the singing of Christmas Carols (both  
traditional and

modern), ably led by our local musicians

Listen to a special performance by the Playgroup  
children

Experience the Christmas Story,  
as presented by the children of Wamboin

Give generously to the Giving Tree  
(gifts and non-perishable

food, preferably unwrapped or in a Christmas bag) for  
distribution by the Salvos

Say Hi to Santa when he arrives on his special transport,  
a fire Truck.

Enjoy the traditional free sausage sizzle (There will be a donation  
box with all proceeds to be given to the Salvos)

Soothe your tired vocal chords with a cold drink.



## YOUNG ENTERTAINERS MUSIC CAMP

18th - 22nd January 2016

**BOOK NOW!**

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Where: Bungendore War Memorial Hall

Who: 9 - 15 year olds

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## The 2015 MAILBOX or GATE DECORATING EVENT

Any mailbox or gate in Bywong or Wamboin can win!

Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> will be awarded  
Special commendations to children under 13

**By 8pm Sunday 13 December:** Submit a photo of your mailbox or gate, along with your name, age if under 13, address and telephone number to [christinerieber@yahoo.com.au](mailto:christinerieber@yahoo.com.au).

Judges will visit the short list up to 20 entries.

**Friday 18 December the winners will be notified** by Christmas elves bearing prize baskets prepared by the Wonderful Women of Wamboin.



*Involve children and grandchildren, and your own inner child.  
Have fun and show what a spirited community we are.*

A shortlist of photos will be displayed on the community websites for all to see.

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## Wamboin Pony Club

The year is rapidly coming to its end and it's been another successful one for the Wamboin Pony Club. Our small group of enthusiastic riders have not only had regular rally days each month but many of our riders also compete successfully in Zone or State events throughout the year. This year has seen our riders at camps, mounted games events, doing jumping and polo cross. Most recently some of our riders were at the Yass pony club gymkhana representing our club (pictured). Wamboin pony club riders and parents manned a successful store at the local fireworks night and we use the money from our various fundraising to improve our pony club grounds. Next year we have many exciting plans to continue that work. We only survive on the efforts of our parents and volunteer instructors. Being in an area of more established housing we always need new members to make our club viable.



We hope that in the New Year anyone who may wish to experience what pony club has to offer might make contact or come along to our rally days and see what our dedicated and fun club is all about. 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 Sundays at our grounds at the end of Canning Close. So if you are interested come along and see all that Pony Club can offer - you can even just come and try it. The final rally day of this year is on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December. If you would like some information about Wamboin Pony Club and our upcoming rally days contact our Club Captain Leanne on 62383435, or check out our website at [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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## News from the Wonderful Women of Wamboin

By Gail Ritchie Knight

After our successful curry stand at this year's Bonfire night the Wonderful Women of Women (WWOW) donated funds to both Sutton and Bungendore primary schools. We hope to provide support to those children whose families are currently undergoing financial difficulties. We also provided further funding to a Cambodian sewing group.

By the time you read this we will have had a lot of fun guessing who's who at our fifth Monday of the month lunch. Each of us were to bring in a photo of ourselves when we were younger and set the challenge to guess who was who. Some of us have hardly changed over the years, while others are indeed a challenge. I like to say we have blossomed.

As well, by the time you read this we will have held our Xmas party on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. If past events are any indication, we would have enjoyed many gastronomique delights sharing drinks and finger food with WWOW and BOWWOW (Boyfriends of the Wonderful Women of Wamboin).

This year we are again running the Xmas decorating competition. There will be prizes for first and second plus special commendations to children under 13 years of age. Submit photos of your creations to [christinerieber@yahoo.com.au](mailto:christinerieber@yahoo.com.au) by Sunday 14 December. The WWOW elves will deliver prizes on 19 December. See the ad elsewhere in this newsletter for further details.

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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## St Andrew's and St Peter's Church Notices

Sunday November 29 was a significant day in the life of the church, being the first day of the church year, the first Sunday in Advent, and the lead up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Also on that day, we partied at St Andrew's church in Wamboin as that day marked the name day for Andrew. So if your name is Andrew we hope you also celebrated. December is here and of course that means a very busy time in our church calendar.

Tuesday evenings 1, 8, 15 and 22 December there will be Advent Studies held at St Andrew's from 7.30 to 9.00. This is where we read from the Bible a verse or two relating to the birth of Jesus, then talk about what we believe it means and what effect it has had and will have on the people of the world. Why not come along and give your thoughts?

Sunday 20 December at 7.00pm is when you are all invited to come and sing carols for about an hour at St Peter's in Sutton. Inside if it is cool or wet, outside in the grounds if warm and dry, so bring a blanket in case we run out of chairs. Come along and show that Sutton can do as good as any other place when it comes to carol singing. Light refreshments will be served after the carols.

Christmas Eve will again be the time for the famous Wamboin Nativity Pageant. Make sure you are there to see local children of all ages act out the nativity scene with a cast of live animals watched over by shepherds, angels, wise men, innkeeper, Joseph, Mary and of course, baby Jesus. In the grounds of St Andrew's, corner of Poppet and Norton Roads starting at 6.00pm.

Following the pageant a church service will commence at 7.00pm for those who wish to stay and celebrate the birth of Christ. Christmas morning at 9.00am a church service will be held at St Peter's in Sutton.

Then to see out 2015, a Watchnight service will be held at St Andrew's in Wamboin at 9.00pm on New Year's Eve.

The Sutton Road Mission District churches of St Peter and St Andrew operate within the guidelines of the Anglican Church of Australia, but welcome any person of any faith who wishes to worship. For more information contact any of the following, our Pastor Royce on 6230 3558, our wardens Robyn 6238 3202, Bronwyn 6238 3359, Alan 6238 3224 or our lay Minister David 6255 5451.



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 11<sup>th</sup> December to 6pm on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015.**

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

Due to the wet weather in November, the rally was postponed.

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 11<sup>th</sup> December 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.

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.

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

### A Sense Of Community

I've been attending the Wonderful Women of Women (WWOW) for quite a number of years now and it all began with my neighbour Robin. She had told me of this group of women who meet weekly. She said it was a great way of meeting others in the area and invited me to join her. I said 'Maybe, but not at the moment. I'm a bit busy'. In fact, I couldn't think of anything worse than hanging out with a bunch of women getting together in a church having a cuppa, all the while clicking their knitting needles. I didn't even knit for a start.

Well a year went by, then one day I found myself in town at a loose end after dropping my husband off at work. I was out and about ready for something. But what? Then I remembered Robin and rang her asking if she was going to that thing she goes to on Mondays. Quickly she said 'Yes, do you want to come?' I said 'Well, maybe I might give it a go'.

So I went and stayed. I love it. I have met so many people. Through WWOW I feel a sense of community, even though we are a disparate group of different ages and backgrounds. But the over-riding theme is support. Where else am I going to get up and show my latest work of art or announce the birth of my first grandchild and know that people will stop and listen and even cheer me along? If I hadn't accepted Robin's invitation my experience living out here would be the poorer. My network of friends has increased much faster than it would have if I was left to my own devices. I can see us living out here for many more years enjoying the company and support of a great community. – Gail Ritchie Knight

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Sutton

## Dive into December

the market @ bungendore

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| local art & craft  |            | beads & findings    |
| garden products    | textiles   | pottery & ceramics  |
| toys & models      | preserves  | local grown plants  |
| cakes & pastries   | hand knits | prints & paintings  |
| tea & fresh coffee | candles    | fruit & vegetables  |
| guitars & amps     | cookies    | clothing & footwear |

## Nature Notes November 2015

Jo Walker

A couple of good falls of rain in the middle of the month kept the grasses green for a while, but, with several days of above 30 degree temperatures, they are now beginning to dry off. *Austrodanthonia carphoides*, one of the shorter grasses, is already shedding seed.

*Acacia mearnsii* trees flowered heavily this year, the perfume of their masses of cream flowers noticeable at some distance. While they are in flower, the seed capsules from the previous year's flowers mature (unlike most other local wattles whose seed begins to develop immediately after flowering). There is a small *A. mearnsii* tree that I walk past nearly every day and I watched its easily visible seed capsules to see when they started to grow. They stayed small (about a centimetre long) with no apparent growth until July when they slowly began to lengthen. They are almost mature now and the seed will be fully ripe in December. It looks as if day-length might be the trigger that starts them growing, although other factors may have some influence.

At present, the main plant eye-catchers are the golden Sticky Everlasting daisies (*Xerochrysum viscosum*), especially at the western end of Norton Road, and the white flowers of the tall Cauliflower bushes (*Cassinia longifolia*). The purple flowers of the Fringe-lilies (*Thysanotus tuberosus*) are just beginning to make an appearance too – and, in the damper areas, another little lily, the Golden Stars (*Hypoxis hygrometrica*), are flowering. Another tiny plant that seems to be enjoying the present conditions is the Dwarf Milkwort (*Polygala japonica*). It nestles amongst low-growing grasses in some of the moister areas and has tiny purple asymmetrical flowers.

A lot of birds are busy feeding nestlings and fledglings at the moment. The pair of Spotted Pardalotes are nesting again in a narrow burrow on a sheltered slope here. In the middle of the month, I saw one of the adults enter the nesting hole with a beakful of insects, where it was greeted by some very noisy nestlings. One of the Magpies is being followed closely by a hungry offspring, and, this morning, a Grey Fantail was feeding a freshly fledged young one in a tree near the house. A young Eastern Spinebill had found its independence and was feeding alone on the nectar in the *Callistemon* flowers. The large family of White-winged Choughs has returned and is spending time turning over the litter searching for insects and any other small living creature and occasionally engaging in a bit of warfare with the local Magpies. And the Red-Wattlebirds are feeding on the red flowers of some *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* I planted years ago.

Some of the Kangaroos are still carrying their joeys, but most are permanently out of their mothers' pouches and are exploring their surroundings.

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## Wheels of Wamboin

### Saturday 16th April 2016 - 9.00am to 1.00pm - Wamboin Hall - Bingley Way

2016 hosts a heap of interesting marque anniversaries including 100 years of BMW, 90 years of Chrysler, 50 years of the famous Ford 1,2 and 3 at Le Mans in the GT40, 25 years of Lexus (are they still a Toyota) and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Lamborghini's founder Ferruccio Lamborghini. We also will see the much anticipated return of the mighty Ford Mustang to Australian showrooms.

The letters B-M-W stand for Bayerische Motoren Werke, or Bavarian Motor Works in English. The logo incorporates the state colours of Bavaria. The BMW Roundel is one of the world's most recognized and revered commercial symbols. The inner part of the roundel featured quadrants in the Bavarian Free State colours of blue and white. BMW started as an aircraft engine manufacturer and by 1923 was building motorbikes. In 1929 it purchased Fahrzeugfabrik Eisenach, which built English Austin Seven cars under licence under the Dixi marque. BMW progressively developed these small Seven-based cars into six-cylinder luxury cars and, in 1936, began production of the BMW 328 sports car. During the World War II, against the wishes of its director Franz Josef Popp, BMW concentrated on aircraft engine production, with motorcycles as a side line and automobile manufacture stopped altogether. After the war, BMW survived by making pots, pans, and bicycles until 1948, when it restarted motorcycle production. BMW began building cars again in Bavaria in 1952 with the BMW 501 but sales of their luxury saloons were too small to be profitable, so BMW supplemented this with building the Italian designed microcar, the Isetta under licence. From this BMW grew in strength, eventually acquiring the Rover Group in 1994 (including Landrover and Mini) most of which was later divested. It also holds the license to build automobiles under the famous Rolls-Royce marque.



1936 328 BMW

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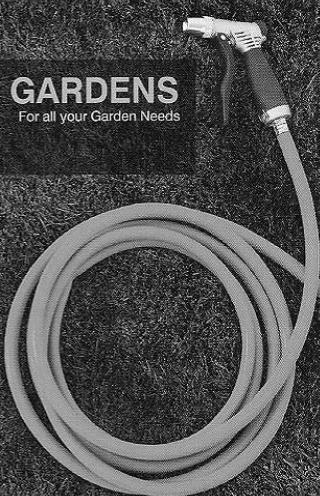
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***Wamboin Home Produce Markets***  
**Saturday 19 December 2015 (9am to 12 noon)**  
**Contact: Lance and Meriel Schultz 6238 3309 or 042 261 4304**

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 December 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 November market seemed quieter than usual – has everyone gone on holidays early this year? Plenty of stallholders but fewer customers! Highlight of the morning was the celebration of our barista Louise's birthday, with a terrific chocolate cake made by local chef Sally. Come along on 19<sup>th</sup> and buy your last minute Christmas gifts and cards, cakes, mince pies and produce.

***See you at the markets.***

**WAMBOIN'S WORLD FAMOUS NATIVITY PAGEANT**  
**YES IT IS ON AGAIN**

Christmas Eve in the grounds of St Andrew's Church corner Poppet and Norton Roads Starting 6.00pm

An all live cast of local residents and animals Be early to get a good position

Wet weather date...same time, same place, (only indoors but maybe without the larger animals)

Following the Pageant a Communion service will be celebrated in the church. All welcome regardless of your chosen church.

– Alan Rope



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# The Wamboin Firefighter

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

## From the Past....

It was Saturday 3 March 1985 and the newspaper headlines read Bushfire Fighter Dies, Ring of Flame Surrounds Canberra. The Wamboin brigade was only a year old and its members were in the thick of it, fighting a fire in the Googong area.

At 2.30pm the call came through that there was a fire threatening Wamboin. Our crew left Googong and headed back to Wamboin. The fire threatening Wamboin had started on the side of Mount Majura and may have been deliberately lit. It had crossed into the Majura firing range which contained a live bombing range. This meant unexploded ordnance on the range, not a place for fire-fighters.

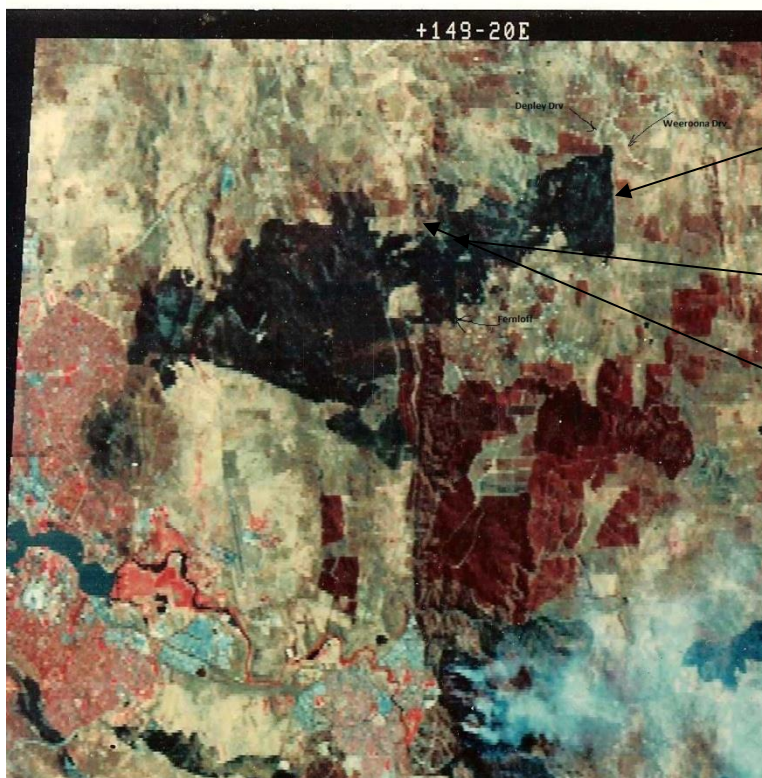
Our crews waited on the top of the Norton Road hill watching the explosions as they lit up the bush to the west in the Majura range. A small crew was sent to the south side of Norton Road, equipped with knapsacks to control spot fires.

High temperatures and north westerly winds were fanning the flames along a 4 km front which crossed Sutton Road to the north of Norton Road and into the escarpment.

That night the wind dropped which helped the efforts of the crews. A back burn was lit along Fernloff road, then a narrow, unsealed, private road. The fire just went around the end of the back burn and continued heading east. In those days there a lot fewer houses in that part of Wamboin; roads like Denley and Hogan Drives did not exist, and Weeroona was not connected through to Macs Reef Road.

The airport tanker came out to assist crews from Sutton, Gundaroo, Bungendore and other brigades from the old Yarrawlumla Shire.

The fire was eventually brought to its knees when a fire break was cut by lining several graders side by side and cutting a fire break back to bare earth. The fire break was just to the west of the greenway on the east side of Millpost Hill, between Denley Drive and Weeroona Drive. If you look closely it can still be made out on Google Earth. The fire was declared out on Wednesday 7 March after it had burnt through 21 sq kms. No homes were lost.



Fire break created by graders

Fernloff Road

Sutton Road

A salient reminder that Wamboin has been effected by bushfires in the past and that this threat to our community remains. Are you prepared?



## Brigade Activity

We have been busy with training around the Wamboin brigade area. You may have noticed our trucks in your neighbourhood. This is all part of our preparation and testing of systems to make sure they are all ready to go in the case of an emergency. Just like your own bush fire survival plan, let's hope there is no need to deploy the trucks this fire season.

### Call Outs

November has been a month of motor vehicle accidents (MVAs). In these situations the brigade is called out to manage the risk of fire and any fuel spills.

*Sunday 1 November:* Two tankers with a total of seven members left the shed at 9.30pm to attend an MVA. They were returned on route and were back at the shed at about 10.00pm.

*Sunday 8 November:* Two tankers were despatched to attend an MVA at the Wheatley Rest Area on the Federal Highway. One of the trucks was returned en route and the second was back at the shed at about 7.00pm. Our services were not required.

*Monday 9 November:* At 1.50am a crew of six were despatched to an MVA at the Weereewa Lookout on the Federal Highway. We arrived to find a vehicle on its side with no driver or anybody else in sight. We secured the area and came home. Back at the shed by 3.20am, a very disturbed night with very little beauty sleep for those involved.

*Friday 20 November:* Because of the "Severe" fire danger rating and Total FireBan, the station was stood up from 10 am to 4 pm, with members ready to respond quickly at short notice. Fortunately no fire occurred in our area.

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## Community Engagement

Watch out for our community education team at the Wamboin Community hall on market days.

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.

---

## Chainsaw Maintenance Workshop

The chainsaw maintenance demonstration workshop originally scheduled for October will now be held at the fire station on Saturday 19 December, 1-5 pm. This is not an RFS training event and is open to members of the community. Bookings essential: contact Cliff Spong ([cliffspng@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cliffspng@optusnet.com.au)).

---

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



Fire permits are free and can be arranged by contacting the Wamboin 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, and a continuous supply of water (e.g. garden tap & hose) is readily available.

---

## 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

---

### Wamboin Neighbourhood Safer Place

With recent catastrophic events in other parts of Australia fresh in our minds it is important that we all have a clear understanding of the role of the Wamboin Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP) now established in the Community Hall at 112 Bingley Way. Please view the official RFS advice at <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/neighbourhood-safer-places> If your Bushfire Survival Plan proves to be untenable and you need to relocate your first consideration should always be to go to such places as Bungendore, Sutton, Canberra or Queanbeyan depending upon the threat at the time.

Using the NSP really should be a last resort as it will have minimal resources. Its use might however be forced upon you with minimal preparation time. It is imperative therefore that your Bushfire Survival Plan be completed in its entirety including the section EMERGENCY SURVIVAL KIT. This kit is likely to be all that you have time to take with you if you are forced to relocate as a last resort.

If you do not already have a Bushfire Survival Plan there is still time. There are several ways:

- Online <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/bush-fire-survival-plan> which offer a pdf version as well as smartphone apps;
- Come in person to the next Wamboin Markets Saturday 19 December (please note there is no market day in January), ask us for a hard copy and receive advice at the same time; or
- Talk to the Brigade Captain - his phone number is 0409 991 340

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

November rainfall to 29/11... 55.25mm	(Nov 2014... 34.25mm)
2015 rainfall to 29/11... 564.25mm	(2014 to 30/11 ... 536.25mm)
Average December rainfall ... 64.00mm	(Dec. 2014... 123.75mm)
Wettest December ... 177.55 mm in 2010	Driest December ... 0 mm in 1979
Hottest Dec day ... 37C on 21/12.99	Coldest Dec day ...13C on 13/12/87
Coldest Dec night ... 3C on 9/12/99	

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### A Tale of Two Timbers

(apologies to Dickens)  
by Kevin Rowe

It was a loud whoosh, the sound of air rapidly passing through the leaves of a tree and yet it was a still night with no breeze. There was no other sound, what on earth....? We dragged ourselves out of bed and looked out the window and not two



metres away was what had been the top of one of our Blakely's Red Gums. There was no cracking or breaking of limbs as this once wonderful and mighty tree came down.

A few days later a second Blakely's came down, this time not so close to the house.

Firewood we thought; this will make excellent fire wood that might last a couple of seasons. And so began the process of cleaning up the fallen timber and removing it from the garden. The small twigs and branches were removed

first along with lots of leafy material. Then it was the slightly larger branches until we got down to the main branches coming off the two trunks. At this time the richness of the wood became obvious along with the deep red of the heart wood of the Blakely's. This timber was too good to be used as firewood but what were the alternatives? To burn or not to burn, that was the question.

After a number of enquiries we found a man whose business is collecting exotic timbers and selling them to the fine furniture industry. We explained the trees had fallen three months earlier and wondered if we were to create a piece of furniture out of the logs how soon should it be cut into slabs for seasoning. His reply was now; it was important that the timber was cut into slabs before it had dried out too much. A couple of days later he arrived with his truck to remove the two logs so that he could cut them into slabs at his yard.

The trees had fallen in August 2010 and it was in October when they were moved for milling.

In March 2011 the logs, now cut into slabs and sealed with a wax coating, were returned. The wax was to slow the curing process and to minimise cracking at the ends of the slabs. It was explained the timber would need to be stored for about two years. The slabs of wood were stacked with spacers between each piece and covered in the ubiquitous blue plastic tarp to keep the dirt and bird droppings to a minimum. And so we waited.

After two years the slabs were tested for moisture content with a clever piece of electronic wizbangery. The result— still too green, give it another six months. After the six months we delivered the timber and discussed table designs. It's now late 2013 and we are assured the table would be complete in a couple of months. We should drop by in a few weeks to finalise the design.

The months passed with no progress or any word on what was happening. Many more months passed and still no word. It was now the end of 2014. Finally we make contact and discovered the difficulties that had happened over the past 12 months and why our table had not progressed. Personal and family crises had meant no work had happened in the 12 months. The wood however was stored in racks and had been kept out of the weather. What to do, would this table ever eventuate?



It was then we were introduced to a young man who had just graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours), majoring in furniture design. He sounded like our man.

We met with Andrew at Pellegrino's Café, Fyshwick for a coffee and a discussion about furniture and the story of our wood. Andrew was excited about the prospect of a commission to design and build a dining room table made from local timber. He promised to come up with a unique and timeless design that would complement the local provenance of the timber. Maybe this table was going to be built. It was now early 2015.

Another meeting at Pellegrino's Café and more coffee. The design was stunning, with clever joinery and some unique design features. Excitement is building.

The contract signed, we should have our table in a couple of months. Andrew is yet to inspect our stored timber however he has been told it is all in very good condition and no warping.

It's now August 2015, the table has progressed and Andrew is very excited about the quality of the timber, its character and colour. However soon he will be in the southern highlands for six weeks as a visiting artist at an arts venue. When was our drop dead date for the table? We explained we would like the table for our family Thanksgiving dinner in late November. Excellent, we have a deadline.

At this time we have not seen the timber since 2013 or the progress made in building the table; was it going to be what we expected? We were excited and nervous at the same time. Andrew assured us the table was going to be everything we were looking for and he had a surprise for us. He would prefer we didn't come to his workshop to view the partially completed table. Anxiety increasing.



Finally, the day came for delivery. We were excited and a little bit anxious at the same time; maybe a lot anxious.

Andrew had arranged for the piece to be photographed before he delivered it to our house early Monday 9 November 2015, over five years since the tree fell. The table was delivered in two pieces and secured together in place without any sign of an Allen or hex key. This was no IKEA piece.

The table is everything we had hoped for and then a little bit more. The design is unique and the timber came from our property. It is our hope this table will become a special piece of furniture for our family for many generations.

The message of this saga goes back to the question of: to burn or not to burn. The wood from these trees that became firewood is long gone. This timber in the table will live on for many, many years. Maybe you have timber on your property that might make a nice piece of furniture. The good

news is that there are people out there who can make this happen. The other lesson is the need for patience; the Mona Lisa wasn't painted in a couple of weeks.

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— JOEY WORTLEY



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### 30<sup>TH</sup> WAMBOIN OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday 1 November 2015, Ste-Remy de Provence, France. Correct: this report comes to you from the picturesque Alpilles of southern France. Your correspondent blushes to admit that he is about to describe a competition he neither attended nor played in. But then many a brave war correspondent filed a breathless report from Mahogany Ridge. The subject occasion was the 30<sup>th</sup> Wamboin Open. It was a threatening, overcast day after overnight rain so the club's Captain feared a wash out. (It was a beautiful day in Ste-Remy: we visited the fortified hill village of Les Baux.) But Palerangians come from sturdy stock and a fair-sized crowd of the shire's sports men and women took the field. (Les Baux has known human habitation since pre-history but the fortifications are Medieval and originally intended as defence from the Saracens – which in the light of recent events has a certain bitter irony.) Mary-Lou Gorham won the googly ball for leaving Rob's "special" googly ball at home and then went on to win the dummy spit because she was awarded the googly ball!! (*Les Baux*, by the way, is Old French for "the rocks"; the word *bauxite* is derived from it – but I don't expect you to know that.)

After the blood-letting the food and prizes were provided by the Wamboin Golf Club – a wonderful example of your green fees at work. In the spirit of the times there was loose talk of increasing them by 50 per cent with compensation for pensioners and the disadvantaged. LD and NTP ball winners were Pete Harrison X 2, John Whitney X 2, Charles Guscott X 2, Paul Griffin, Ian Picker and Ken Gordon. The 2015 junior champion was Madison Gordon, with Alex Gordon runner-up. Winners of the annual Eclectic (try saying and spelling that after the second bottle) were: 9 holes Ken Gordon; 18 holes Tim Barter.

Club champion (net score) for 9 holes was Ian Picker 43/28 from runner-up Ken Gordon 36/31 with Rob Gibson in third place on 43/33. Club champion (net score) in the 18 hole event was Paul Griffin 85/61 from Rob Gorham 90/65 and Pete Harrison 107/70. The 2015 Ladies Open Champion (9 holes) is Deb Gordon 50 (and not looking a day over 40). And with a roll of the drums and a clash of the cymbals we can announce that the 2015 Open Champion (18 holes) is John Whitney with an 83! Our congratulation to our worthy winners and to all who took part in making this special day in the club's history a memorable one.



Sunday 6 December will see the Christmas Cup golf day sponsored by Michael and Deborah Fileman. Oh come all ye faithful and join us at 12.15pm for the 12.30pm shotgun. Or as our bloodied but unbeaten French cousins say: *Allons enfants de la Patrie...!*

- Larry King, golf correspondent. (Eat your liver, Hemmingway!)

## Bungendore Bridge Club

The Bungendore Bridge Club (BBC) was established over a decade ago with three founding members. The club has now grown to well over thirty members and with a flourished Bridge session every week. The BBC meets every Wednesday at 7 Pm at The Community Centre, Turallo Terrace, Bungendore. The members play competitive bridge in a friendly social environment at a cost of \$3. While competitive bridge is the aim, occasional sessions are run of a novelty nature. Such events include 'trivia' nights that include small prizes for unusual contracts. Other events try variations on the standard duplicate bridge contest.

The club regularly conducts training sessions for members and has established a small library of bridge literature that may be of interest to members wishing to improve. Members of whatever level are always welcome at the club and assistance is always available. Some members of the club also meet informally on Monday afternoons for practice and discussion of bidding and play

These socially orientated sessions have been of particular value for beginners and for those wishing to return to the game after a long layoff! For further information contact Maureen (BBC Secretary) on [Maureen.gambale@locatacorp.com](mailto:Maureen.gambale@locatacorp.com) or visit our website <http://www.bungendore.bridge-club.org> - by David Bird

## SUTTON CAROLS

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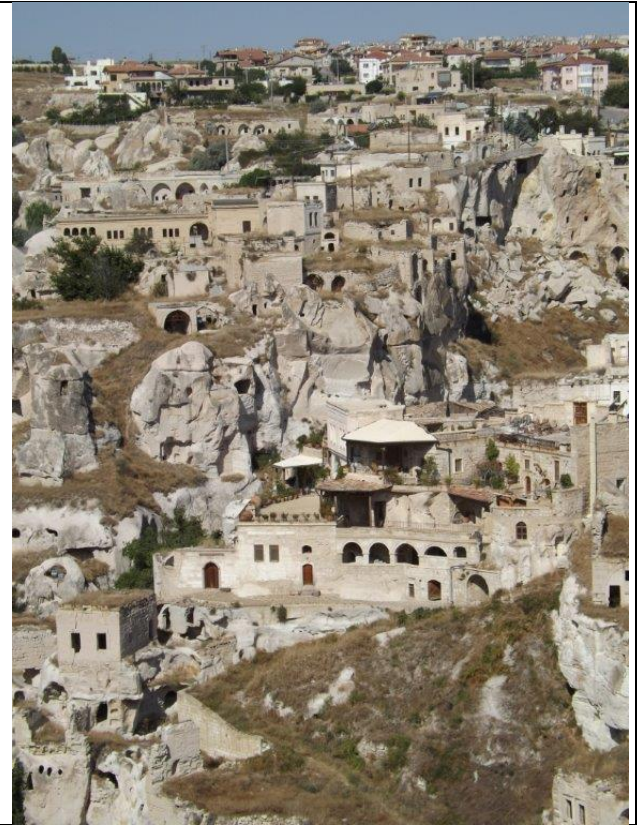
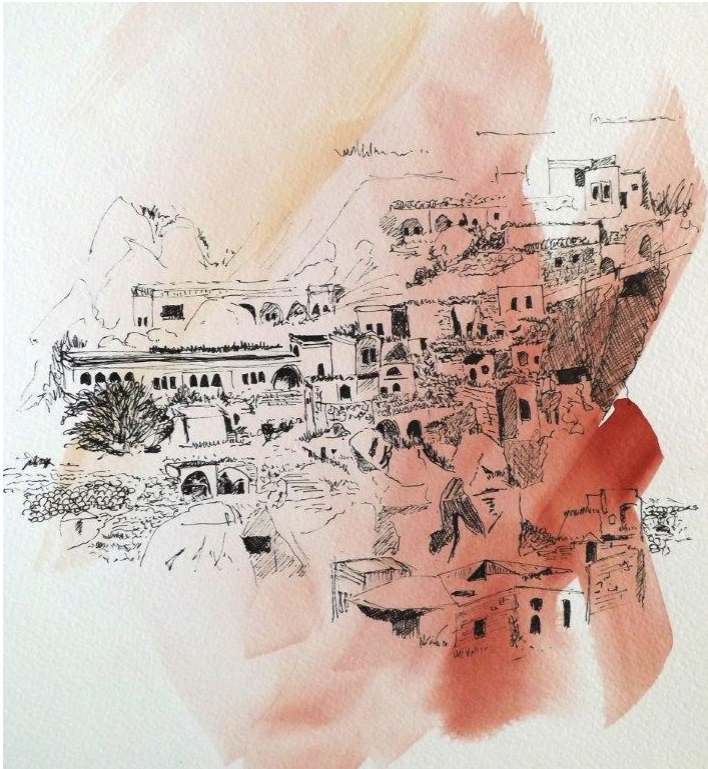
## LakeGeorge Day View Club

Members of the Lake George Day View Club assembled on the third Tuesday of November at Bywong Community Hall to welcome Jan Roberts, our National Councillor. Her address was given over to outlining ideas on communication in the Area, so that all groups would be aware of the local achievements of other groups. One way to do this would be a Quarterly News Letter The Lake George clubs together with Queanbeyan were congratulated on the success of the lunch, held at Wamboin Community Hall, which attracted over a hundred members and their friends from a wide area, even as far as Cooma, for example .

As in the previous year, three women from very different careers spoke on how they had come to embrace that particular discipline and with what success. It was reported that Belconnen had also held an International Women's Day event. A volunteering form is also projected, so that members are made aware of what is happening in the community and where help is needed. Such an example, the Aboriginal Girl's High School no longer teach cooking and sewing, even though the school has the rooms and facilities to do so! The girls are eager to learn these skills and the school's principal is in full support. It is proposed that our members could help by going into the school and teaching on a one to one basis. Man's address was rounded off by a DVD.

After a hearty, much appreciated lunch prepared by this month's volunteer members, Beth Tyerman gave an account of her recent travels. Beth decided to combine her desire to explore the world and her artistic inclinations by joining a group to Turkey . Led by an artist, the group travelled around parts of Turkey absorbing its history and landscape. At each place a view was chosen and, with the assistance of their art teacher and guide, everyone was encouraged to sketch and paint the view. An example of a view and her interpretation of the same is provided.

The meeting was shown a good selection of her photos on screen and the actual paintings Beth had made. Members much admired her courage in undertaking such a journey and perhaps a little envious? - by **Maureen Boss**



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## Wildcare – It’s a Wrap

by Phil Machin

The numbers are in. Last year Wildcare – your local volunteer wildlife group, dealt with close to 2,000 calls for assistance. The annual statistics make for interesting reading both from the amount of different species in our region to the way animals get injured.

Over 700 macropods, such as eastern greys and swamp wallabies are on the list with many incidents involving motor vehicles during the rush hour and fence injuries. Birds too are high on the species list with over 450 rescues. The different type of bird in our area is amazing, including various parrots, magpies, kookaburra, finches, pee wee, swans, currawong, ducks, tawny frogmouth, blackbird, wattle bird, pigeon, boobook and many others. Several indian mynas were handed in and these (deemed a pest) were euthanised by a Vet.

As well as birds, Wildcare dealt with a large number of callouts involving reptiles, including relocating highly venomous brown and tiger snakes from backyards, houses, garbage bins and water tanks. There were also many lizards injured by dog and cat attacks, such as blue tongue, shingleback, cunningham skinks, blotched blue tongues and a goanna. About 25 eastern long-necked turtles were rescued – many with broken shells and bodies from being clipped by vehicles. There was one green tree frog found in a supermarket’s banana box, which had travelled all the way from Queensland.



Another big group is small mammals with roughly 200 being rescued. These include brushtail and ringtail possums, flying foxes, various bats, echidnas and two koalas. The bare nosed wombat came in at 55 rescues. Wombat incidents often involve injury sustained in motor vehicle accidents.

Wildcare also became a helpline clearing-house for many non-wildlife animals, including a couple of feral pigs, foxes, a cow and sheep reported to be on the road, kittens and an escaped lop-eared rabbit. Typically callers were referred to the police and the RSCPA.

As mentioned more than once, motor vehicle accidents cause a good deal of injury to all manner of species and it would be good if we could slow down and be more alert in known wildlife-rich areas. But the response from the public in reporting ‘accidents’ is growing and reflects the increasing interest and tolerance we feel for our wildlife. Other avoidable incidents were caused by discarded fishing line and twine getting wrapped around birds legs; fishing hooks snagging turtles (no platypus this year); barbed wire snagging birds, flying foxes and bats; bird netting trapping snakes where it was at ground level; and there were 180 known or suspected dog & cat attacks causing wildlife injury. Reading between the lines, as well as driving more carefully, we can help reduce injury to wildlife by removing snags (including barbed wire when it is no longer needed) and taking control of our dogs and cats.

Lastly, disease and old age was also a factor, including mange in wombats and chlamydia in koalas – both are treatable in the early stages. There was a fistful of incidents with elderly kangaroos hanging around houses. It is thought these animals were looking for somewhere safe to pass the time in their dotage and it was great to have the cooperation of property owners to let this happen.

Wildcare has many experienced and capable volunteers who can help - contact on 6299 1966 (put it in your Mobile).

*Photo: Orphaned magpies and a currawong – on song for Christmas!*

### Note to self...don’t leave mesh lying about the garden

Jenny Warren

After putting up the mesh for my climbing peas one Saturday afternoon in late October, I left a small piece of unused plastic mesh on the ground which I was going to pack away on Sunday. When I returned to my vege garden on Sunday morning, this is what I found. (view the colour picture in the online version of The Whisper)

The poor Cunningham skink had its head well and truly stuck in one of the mesh squares. It was almost gasping, as if saying “can you please get me out of this?” I carefully cut through the square mesh and swear I heard the lizard sigh with relief.

Needless to say, I now put my tools and equipment away, or at least up on the outdoor table until I’m ready to return it all to the shed.



## Wamboin 15 Years Ago. From the Whisper Dec 2000/Jan 2001 Circulation: 800

by Robyn Robertson

From the Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade report on **Fires in Northern NSW** by Richard Hobbs: (The Wamboin Brigade was involved in extensive bush fires which occurred in the Armidale/Walcha area from mid-September until the second week of October.)

“On 3 October the fire was considered to be beyond the capability of National Parks and Wildlife Service resources and a Section 44 Bushfire Emergency was declared. This enabled the RFS to be called in to assist. Initially 30 heavy tankers and over 300 firefighters headed north – some directly from their duties with the Sydney Olympics.

“The fire, which had started on a private property after a fire permit had been issued, got out of hand and spread into the nearby National Park. This was not a fast-moving running fire, but one which had slowly but inexorably expanded (probably by “spotting” from airborne embers) so that by the time we arrived after two weeks of burning, already around 20,000 hectares had been lost.

“Our fireground, in common with many others, was only accessible along seemingly interminable dirt roads characterised by potholes, runnels and a loose, dusty surface. We had a two-hour drive from our accommodation to the fireground, where our time was spent mainly preparing for a major back-burn to effect a control line and then waiting for the order to start the burn. The waiting went on for days and it was not until late on the last day of the second 72-hour tour that the order was given. Those people already on the fireground then had to be retained in order to complete the whole burn as there were no relief crews available. This entailed sixteen hours on the fireground followed by another two, with only one scratch meal towards the beginning of the shift.

“We were therefore very grateful that we were flown directly to Canberra from Armidale. One and a half hours in an 18 seater aircraft beats Fourteen hours in a coach anytime in my book.”

Once again we applaud the wonderful work done by our volunteer firefighters, and hope this won't be the difficult season that has been predicted.



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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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## Infant Massage !

! Fast becoming a popular practice for Australian families, with over 1000 parents attending infant massage classes in the past year, infant massage is proven to help improve sleep and regulate sleep patterns, reduce crying time and relieve wind, colic reflux and constipation. !

When practiced correctly infant massage can increase serotonin levels and regulate melatonin secretion rhythms helping babies sleep for longer periods of time and regulate sleep patterns. This of course benefits the parents just as much as their baby. !

According to the Infant Massage Information Service (IMIS) various research studies on infant massage have shown that there is a significant reduction in overall crying time with infants and toddlers who receive massage. !

Infant massage also helps stimulate elimination of waste from the body and correct massage of the abdomen can encourage bowel movement and improve wind, colic, and constipation. !

Massage time provides a range of benefits to parents as well with U.S research finding that adults who provide massage to infants, experience less anxiety, fewer depressive symptoms, improved moods, decreased stress levels and improved self-esteem. !

Infant massage is great for both the baby and parents as parents feel back in control, less anxious and more confident knowing they are helping their baby and providing them with a wonderful range of physical, emotional and psychological benefits. !! For further information contact !!

Contact: Judy Shellard ! Phone: 02 6238 3050 ! Email: [judyshellard@gmx.com](mailto:judyshellard@gmx.com)

## Small Farms Network Set To Grow

by Jenni Curtis

A group of new and prospective small farm owners gathered in November for the first field day for the Small Farms Network – Capital Region. The Small Farm Walk ‘n Talk was a friendly and information rich day held in Rossi on a small farm that has a mix of grazing land and native bush.

In keeping with the challenges for this and many other small farms in our area, Matthew Lieschke, Local Land Services (LLS) Livestock Officer, led a discussion about pasture management including identification of grasses and how to work out how many grazing animals are a realistic goal. Captains Flat Rural Fire Service talked about the fire risks and planning for fire (and yes there was a close inspection of their fire truck by interested parties at the end of the day). Alice McGrath (LLS) talked about recognising the land capability class of your small farm, which gives you an idea of what farming activities it might be suited to. Donna Hazel (LLS) led a discussion about remnant native vegetation including what types of trees, shrubs and grasslands are covered by the Native Vegetation Act.

A clear message from the day is that if you are thinking of buying a small farm with the goal of running a particular type of farm, you should look for a property that is already suited to that type of enterprise. Steep slopes are hard to flatten, native trees often cannot be cleared, soil types are hard to change and rainfall is really not negotiable. If you already own the farm then you might need to adjust your goals to suit what you have.



The Small Farms Network – Capital Region is a newly established grassroots information service for people who live on small to medium sized rural properties near Canberra. The network has been created by a group of volunteer passionate small farmers in the Bungendore region who have identified a gap in the support offered to these landowners. Working as a group creates opportunities for people on rural residential blocks and other small farms to tap into the expertise and resources of the Local Land Services and rural consultants in ways that are not possible for individual landowners.

The next Small Farms Network field day is planned to be held in Bywong in March 2016. The theme of the day will be based around trees – how to choose where and what to plant, techniques for ground preparation, planting and protection of the baby trees. The property has native shelter belts planted over the last 17 years using various techniques as well as a rehabilitation

project along Brooks Creek.

Plans for other field days include designing properties for horses, livestock for small farms, indigenous land management techniques, drought proofing small farms and soil management. If you are interested in receiving emails about upcoming Small Farms Network field days, contact our keen supporter Alice McGrath ([alice.mcgrath@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alice.mcgrath@lls.nsw.gov.au)), phone 02 6229 7713) who provided the photo of our Small Farm Walk ‘n Talk field day at Rossi.

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We didn't make the walls and fences illustrated in the diagram at right. Mother nature started making them with the first single celled life, close to 4 billion years ago. She built even more complicated ones for multicellular things, like the ones in the diagram. The fences we build are much larger, but no where near as complicated. We feel a little outclassed by the fact that we didn't learn how to make ours until a few decades ago, but ....

*We do love to make strong fences and guard rails.*

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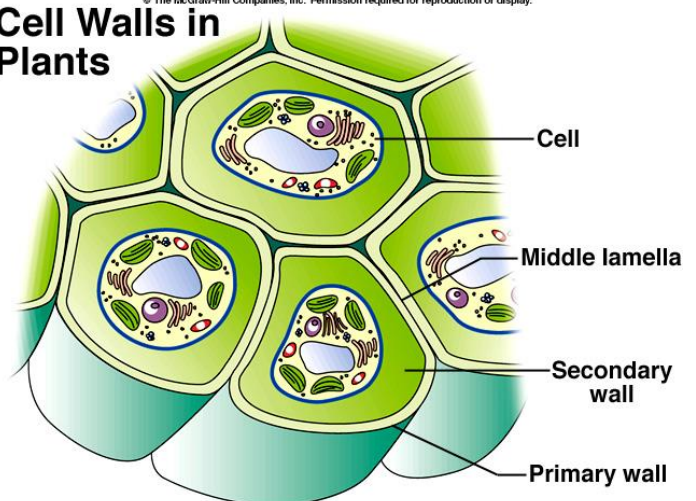
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### Cell Walls in Plants

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## How Spring Sprang in 2015

*(A short selection by Ian Coillet)*



*'G'day, my name's Maddie. I'm a wire-haired dachshund.*

*All these happy shots were taken by my Dad. With one exception, namely, the goats that reside in Sutton Park, all photos are from ~~our~~ my property in Wamboin.'*



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

**Weed Control** — The control of noxious weeds is sometimes a prickly issue, if you'll pardon the pun, but it's very much that time of the year so I thought it might be useful to provide a little background to the management of noxious weeds. Council's weed management activities are directed by the NSW Invasive Species Plan, which is underpinned by a raft of legislation (the Plan lists 29 individual Acts) relating to specific aspects of various animal and plant species and habitats. The most significant of these in the present context is the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

This legislation requires all landholders in certain areas to control what are referred to as noxious weeds. To be declared noxious, a number of criteria must be met:

- a weed must have potential to cause harm to people,
- a weed must be able to be controlled by reasonable means,
- a weed must have the potential to spread within an area and to other areas, and
- the control of a weed must provide a benefit to the community over and above the cost of implementing the control program.

There are, therefore, many weeds that, although 'undesirable', do not meet the criteria for declaration and while invasive are not therefore considered noxious or subject to control under the Act.

Not even all noxious weeds, however, are created equal. Individual species are classified, for control purposes, according to the severity of impact. The five control classes are as follows.

**Class 1** (State Prohibited) and **Class 2** (Regionally Prohibited) noxious weeds must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant. The intent is to keep NSW, or some part of the state free of weeds that have proven to be very invasive elsewhere. Class 1 and 2 weeds are notifiable weeds—if you suspect their occurrence on your land you must inform your local Council weed control staff.

**Class 3** (Regionally Controlled) noxious weeds must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed in the regions in which they are so listed, with the purpose of reducing the area of infestation and the negative impact of infestations in those regions.

**Class 4** (Locally Controlled) noxious weeds are such that the growth of the plant must be managed in a manner that reduces its numbers, spread and incidence and continuously inhibits its reproduction. The objective here is to minimise the negative impact of these weeds. Class 4 weeds are generally those that are already well established in the region in which they are so listed.

**Class 5** (Restricted Plants) noxious weeds are plants that are likely, by their sale or the sale of their seeds or movement within the State or an area of the State, to spread in the State or outside the State. There are no requirements to control existing Class 5 plants, although a range of restrictions on their sale and movement exists.

All Class 1, 2 and 5 weeds are prohibited from sale in NSW. Some Class 3 and 4 weeds are also prohibited from sale in NSW. The NSW WeedWise website provides a range of useful information on weed management. By searching the 'Palerang' area you will find all the weeds that are declared noxious in our local area and the legal control requirements for each. For help using chemicals to control weeds, be sure to check out the *Noxious and environmental weed control handbook*, which includes lists of chemicals that are registered for use on each noxious weed species.

On a related matter, Council's Pesticide Use Notification Plan has recently been updated. Following a recommendation from the NSW EPA, all chemical use on roadsides and rural community land is now being notified via Council's website, initially just a few months in advance but with the intention to provide more frequent updates as the system develops. While the exhibition phase is complete and the Plan has been adopted, Council welcomes any feedback residents may have relating to its implementation.

Finally, while many people only meet Council's weeds officers during inspections, they are available for consultation, free of charge, to assist residents with the identification and control of invasive species—just call Council (6238 8111) during business hours to arrange a suitable time.

For more information see:

NSW Invasive Species Plan—just Google it

Noxious Weeds Act 1993—just Google it

Noxious and environmental weed control handbook— just Google it

WeedWise Website—<http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au>

Palerang Council Website—<http://www.palerang.nsw.gov.au/planning/noxious-weeds>

**The Palerang Blog**—New or related entries in my councillor website Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) include: Weed Control (Nov 2015)

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

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

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

## How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

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

**170: CO-ORDINATED BY ALICE SCOTT: ph 6238 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 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	Daryl Bourke	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwgtm& 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	Milllyn 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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## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

I haven't been in Wamboin for the past month, but that doesn't stop me thinking of home. At the moment I'm a very very long day's travel away in a grey wintry world, in a foreign city.

I've visited this city many times over the years and it's now quite familiar and welcoming, but I still feel like an outsider looking in through a window. In the sanctuary of your own apartment it's a quiet triple glazed world, but the moment you step outside you're part of the restless energy of the city street, a place which changes but never sleeps. This is a serious city of business and finance. Men in dark tailored coats, scarves wrapped like bandages around their necks to ward off the cold, stride purposefully through the bewildered clutter of tourists who are dragging their rumbling luggage along the pavement unaware of a near miss with a cyclist. A cluster of men in shiny black jackets sit at a table, smoking and sipping coffee. Two women, from another place, push a baby in a pram, oblivious to the young woman in clicking heels and a well cut suit pushing impatiently past them. A beggar woman sits mound-like on the cold footpath only stirring to empty the few coins from the paper cup into the folds of her coat. From here it's a short walk to the theatre, the opera house, restaurants and galleries, and a train station that links you effortlessly to the rest of Europe. Shops stocked with goods from around the world and filled with people from every corner of the globe are at your front door. But there is little room for birds and sky, and little space for bare earth, and at this time of the year, especially, there is little to break the greyness of a city in winter save for the flashes of red and green, mirrored again in the wet asphalt, that dictate whether you must stop or go.

But there is something that can swiftly and silently change all of this. We had just finished a hearty roast goose dinner at a restaurant and were piling on layers to face the cold walk home when we noticed that it was snowing. It was still cold outside, but it was no longer grey. The soft white snow had softened the margins and transformed the city into a starkly beautiful old Kodak black and white holiday snap. Magic!

No one can deny that travel can be exciting and stimulating, an escape from the humdrum of everyday life, but it is not endless glamour and fun as the glossy tourist brochures would have us believe. It demands stamina and the will to move out of your comfort zone, to roll with the punches and laugh at yourself. I have had moments of foreigner fatigue when I am simply tired of feeling stupid and staring blankly when spoken to, tired of fumbling with my change and holding up a line of people at the checkout, cross with myself for walking, unthinkingly, on the wrong side of the footpath or straying into "defined" bicycle paths. Tired and embarrassed because I miss unspoken social cues and exasperated because they understand my language and I'm inept with theirs

However, all that aside, when I finish this I'll leave my little comfort zone and wander down to the bustling, brightly lit Christmas Market for a new adventure, except I won't be allowed to wander for long. Once I cross the road I'll be swept up in the march of people who all seem to know exactly where they're going, and they'll take me and a few unwitting tourists with them. They certainly know how to do Christmas in Europe! It looks just like the Christmas cards of my childhood....fir trees dusted with snow, children in mufflers singing carols long into the night, twinkling Christmas lights, decorations in every window and mugs of hot Glühwein to warm freezing hands. Somehow it doesn't translate seamlessly to the southern hemisphere....the snow melts, the cut pine trees wilt and drop needles, the carollers mop their brows as the sun refuses to set and Santa swaps his red suit and boots for an old T shirt and a pair of thongs. But the spirit of Christmas, the feelings of joy and goodwill, the sharing with family and friends at the end of a busy year transcend distances. It is a very special time of the year no matter where you are.

I know where we'll be..... under a blue sky, in bright natural light with birds singing because ....I wouldn't live anywhere else. HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

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