



March 2016 CIRCULATION: 1,299

Wamboin Community Assn: www.wamboincommunity.asn.au

Bywong Community: www.bywongcommunity.org.au

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

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the Wamboin Community Association which started The Whisper as a community newsletter in 1981 and continues to own it. The newsletter comes out at the start of each month, except January. It is distributed to all letterboxes in Wamboin, Bywong and of Palerang Council residents just southeast of the Federal Highway. Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. On contentious matters the Community Association will strive to maintain a balance. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or to nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mail them or drop them off. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before, so the deadline for the April 2016 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, March 27. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month and is also available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au.

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

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

LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	Jenny Richards, President	6238 1329	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Bywong Community	Anne Goonan, President		president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade	Geoff Foster, Captain	0409 991 340	captain.brigade@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Resident Palerang Councillor	Pete Harrison	0427 711 028	cr.pete.harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au
Resident Palerang Councillor	Keith France	0427 365 715	cr.keith.france@palerang.nsw.gov.au
Wamboin Markets	Lance and Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	Lmsconsulting@bigpond.com
Sutton School Playgroup	Emma Harriden, Convenor	0448 478 953	ce.harriden@bigpond.com
Landcare	Kathy Handel, Secretary	6238 3596	khandel@bigpond.net.au
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison, Bungendore	6238 1333	
NSW Emergency Services	NSW Call Centre, Staff	132 500	For assistance in storm or flood emergency
NSW Emergency Svcs Adm	Colin Brown, Controller	6238 0222	For non-urgnt help, answd by local volunteer
Justice of the Peace	Peter Greenwood, JP	6238 3358	
Justice of the Peace	Keith France, JP	6238 3596	
Justice of the Peace	Margaret Fletcher, JP	6238 1211	
Justice of the Peace	Jill Sedaitis, JP	6236 9559	
Wamboin Pony Club	Leanne Quick, Club Captain	6238 3435	
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Cameron Smith, contact	0419 449 747	
Wamboin Play Group	Linda Uzubalis, Convener	0410 294 420	Linda.uzubalis@gmail.com
Scouts	Pete Harrison	6238 3525	
Bywong Hall Bookings	Ann Sloan, contact		lrrhallbywong@gmail.com
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	joan.mason@internode.on.net
Church - Anglican	Robyn Robertson, Warden	6238 3202	
KYB Bible Study Group	Yvonne Barrett, contact	6230 3539	
Golf	Peter Greenwood, Golfer	6238 3358	p.greenwood2@bigpond.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare, Helpline	6299 1966	
Wonderful Wmen of Wmb	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	Whirlwind1@argonite.com.au
Lake George VIEW Club	Pauline Segeri, contact	6238 1996	
Wamboin Book Group	Alice Scott, Secretary	6238 3178	

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Alana Stenning	Pet sitting	6238 3030	Lydia Milos	Babysitting, petsitting	6238 3559
Fiona Skea	baby sitting	6238 3290	Ashleigh Caird	baby sitting	6238 0746
Genevieve Phipps	Babysitting/pet sitting	6238 1660	Gabrielle Simpkin	baby sitting/ pets sitting	6238-1335
Mara Sutcliffe	pet sitting	6238 3228	Jack&Matilda Whitney	childpet&homesttg,oddjobs	6238 3059
Jordan Brown	baby sitting	0414-907-921	Ethan Laver	Outdoor Jobs	6236 9809
Rebecca Purdie	pet/horse sitting	6238 3343	Sammi Quick	Petsitting & good w. horses	0438154840
Laura Worden	baby/pet/house sitting	0458788486			

	<p style="text-align: center;">Bywong Community News www.bywongcommunity.org.au</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Anne Goonan, President This News Put Together by the Bywong Committee</i></p>	
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2016 Car Boot Sale: This is a major BCA annual event and (weather permitting) will be held at the Les Reardon Reserve on Sunday 20 March. Time for the general activity is 9:00 am – 12:00, but people wishing to set up stalls are strongly advised to be all ready to go well before 9:00. Early arrivals of course get the best stall locations.

A stall area for people to sell their pre-loved treasures costs only \$15.00 (see the Wamboin Fire Brigade people at the gate), and of course general attendance is free although any donations will be very welcome. The CBS started in 1997 and has become a signature event for the Bywong Community and many community groups depend on funds raised from this event. So come one come all and have fun while practicing your skills as a haggler. We all love a bargain- so if you are selling and don't want to take it all home again- consider keeping prices low....

If you have any enquiries please email us president@bywongcommunity.org.au

Other Projects and Activities:

Children's Playground for the Hall. This project is driven by Merle Horgosi who has so far secured around \$15,000 to finance construction and for necessary alterations and repairs to existing infrastructure. A \$10,000 grant from the Federal government has been augmented by a \$5,000 community grant from the Bendigo Bank. Professional plans for the LRR including the playground area are being drawn up, and after that is completed the necessary approval from Council will be sought.

Information Night: No date yet finalized. The Committee is mulling over other proposals including an information night which is hoped will focus on medical support services and other facilities available for residents. Again if you have any suggestions or input, please email us president@bywongcommunity.org.au

Next Bywong Community Association meeting: Monday 11 April at 7.30 pm.

Mad March

the market @ bungendore

Sunday March 20th 9am - 3pm
at the War Memorial Hall

All your favourite stalls
Come along for a browse
Enjoy a variety of refreshments

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Come and have a good time at Bywong's biggest community event of the year. Over 100 stalls selling things you couldn't live without. If you have things you can live without, why not get a site for \$15 and make some money in the process. Fun for the kids with plenty of toys and books on sale as well as rides. Enjoy a cup of tea and cakes inside our hall. View demonstrations by your local fire brigade. Enjoy dogs and horses and maybe more exotic animals on display. Come and register your interest for the kids playground proposal. The Car Boot Sale is a not for profit event and it is free to the public. Money raised from the event is primarily donated to the Fire Brigade but also to other groups within the local community.

We thank our local business's for their generous support in prizes for the raffle. If you would like to become a sponsor and donate a prize, email Merle at

blackbirdandthehun@gmail.com

For more info go to our website at www.bywongcommunity.org.au

See you there....

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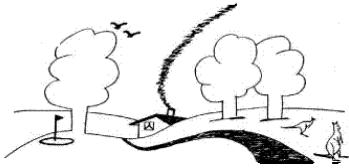


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Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



Hello and welcome to the March edition of the Whisper.

Proposed Split And Merger– We held our first meeting for the year on the 16th February at the Community Hall. Most of the talk concerned the proposed split and merger of Palerang Council between Queanbeyan City Council and Goulburn Mulwaree Council. Representatives of the Wamboin Community Association have been very busy drafting and forwarding written submissions to the Delegates concerned with these issues stating that we (that is the Wamboin Community Association) does not feel that such a move is in the interests of, or benefits, us here in Wamboin. By the time the Whisper reaches you the date for submissions will be closed. However there is yet another Proposal concerning a full merger of Palerang Council with Queanbeyan City Council. Full details of this can be found on our website and we will be keeping you all updated as things progress. Also the council boundaryreview website will now hold all relevant information on this second Proposal.

Clean Up Australia Day – Yes its on again on the first Sunday of March. Clean up Australia Day is a morning when we can all contribute to making sure our local area is clean of all the litter and rubbish that somehow seems to find its way out here. All information regarding this event should be in this edition of the Whisper or ring Lofty Mason on **6238 3258** to enquire.

Wheels Of Wamboin – Coming up in April is the Wheels of Wamboin. Organised by our Vice President Pete Evans it means anything with wheels can come and be viewed and admired at the oval on the third Saturday of April. Watch out for advert in this edition of the Whisper and keep the date free.

Annual General Meeting – Our Annual General Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 19st April 2016 at 7:30 pm**. All positions for the Community Association will be spilled and financial members will vote for the 2016/17 Executive and Committee. Nomination forms and Membership forms can be downloaded from the **WCA website** or obtained from the **Secretary**. Members of the Community Association need to be financial prior to voting. An advert for this up-coming meeting will appear in this edition of the Whisper. New residents are very welcome to join and older residents as well.

That's it from me for now. -- Jenny Richards (President)

WCA Annual General Meeting - 19 April 2016

The financial year for the Wamboin Community Association Inc ends on 31March 2016 and, as The Associations Incorporations Act 2009 requires its AGM to be held within 6 months of the close of the Association's financial year, the 2016 AGM will be held in the Wamboin Community Hall at 7.30pm Tuesday 19 April 2016.

The main business of the meeting will be the election of a new Committee for 2016/7. Nominations for the election of Committee members should be made in writing, signed by 2 Association members, and have the candidates written consent.

The forms can be obtained either from me or downloaded from the back of the WCA Constitution on our website. I

understand that there will be vacancies on the Committee as some current members have indicated that they will not be re-nominating. The WCA and the events it has promoted have been very well managed for many years and would benefit greatly with some new blood to maintain this momentum. Should any member have any business to be dealt with at the meeting, please give me at least 14 days notice of the nature of the business, or 21 days notice before the AGM if there is an intention to propose a resolution.

- John van der Straaten, WCA Secretary,

E: jnpvds@bigpond.net.au. Tel: 6238 3590

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Wheels of Wamboin 2016



**Saturday 16
9.00am to
Wamboin**

**April -
1.00pm
Community**

Hall, Bingley Way Wamboin

All sorts of automotive machines including old, new and interesting cars, motor bikes, trucks, stationary engines and even tractors are welcome.

Now is the time to start polishing and winding over those engines. Tell your friends to get prepared for a great day out at the wheels of Wamboin.

Display entry is a gold coin donation and swap tables are \$5 (remember to bring your cash as there is no EFTPOS).

A bonus on the day is the opportunity to pick up some healthy bargains at the monthly home produce markets. There will also be freshly brewed coffee and a sausage sizzle.



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Wamboin Pony Club – February

It was great to welcome some new riders to Wamboin Pony Club this year. Our first rally day in February saw our regular riders of all ages come back for another year as well as some new members and it was great to have our youngest rider Ryan who is just 3 mount up for his first rally day. Groups of riders ran through some sporting games and flat work on the dressage arena. Also this month some of our parents and senior riders attended a pony club instructor's course which will mean we have some new talent coming through the ranks. The only way to keep pony club and the Wamboin club going is to build up our volunteer

instructors. If you are thinking of joining pony club come and give Wamboin pony club a go. Our next rally day is on Sunday 13th March which will be a great time to come along and try out and see if Pony Club is for you. 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 try to meet twice a month on the second and fourth Sundays. 9am gear check 930 start. 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 or find us on Facebook - we hope we will see you soon. - Steve Quick

Managing Your Land for the Future – Resilience and Adaptation for Climate Change

Friday 18th and Saturday 19th March 2016



The climate in the upper Murrumbidgee catchment is changing. Temperature records are regularly broken, seasonal climate patterns are moving and extremes of drought and flood are predicted. Those living on the land or managing land and water resources are dealing with the changes on a daily basis. Managing for adaptation and resilience is essential.

Join farmers, hobby farmers, Landcare groups, science, government and industry for a two day forum and field trips. 9:00am-4:00pm

Day 1: 18 March—Helping our local farming system adapt to climate change.

Murrumbateman Recreation Hall, with a field trip in Yass region

- Focussing on extreme events and how to manage risks.
- Speakers include Mark Stafford Smith (CSIRO) and Phil Graham (NSW DPI)

Day 2: 19 March—Building resilience in our rural residential and peri urban land




Jerrabomberra Community Centre with a field trip in the Royalla region

- Topics include building resilience into the landscape and benefits for the future from adapting now
- Speakers include David Freudenberger (ANU) and David Tongway (Landscape Function Analysis)


Further info: Contact Fiona 0412245910, program available www.umccc.org.au


Cost: \$50 for both days (\$30 for one day)

Bookings essential via: [Eventbrite > UMCCC Forum!](#)

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Fodder Trees and Shrubs in Grazing Systems - Field Day

The Small Farms Network - Capital Region is hosting a field day, "Fodder Trees and Shrubs in Grazing Systems", in Bywong on 17th April. Guest speakers will include Dr Dean Revell, Adjunct Associate Professor in Animal Biology, The University of Western Australia. Dr Revell is a specialist in animal biology research and is interested in developing options for livestock management to improve profitability and on farm biodiversity. Dean Revell, along with Geoff Butler from Wamboin Gearys Gap Landcare Group and Mathew Lieschke (South East Local Land Services Livestock Officer) will share their expertise on local fodder trees and shrubs suitable for this area, identifying pasture species, provide a seasonal pasture update and explore the benefits and limitations of fodder trees for animal feed.

Using fodder trees and shrubs can enhance farm productivity in a number of ways, Dean Revell will discuss how tree and shrub interactions can increase grazing options on farm by providing fodder during feed gaps at the end of summer and early winter, increasing drought resilience by diversifying grazing options, improving pasture through shading and slowing wind effects and storing water in the soil. As well as paddock walks and presentations, the speakers will take part in a panel discussion – exploring options to get you started, including information on property design and layout, species selection, sourcing seedlings, preparation of sites for planting and having a plan for managing diversity.

The Small Farms Network – Capital Region is a newly established grassroots information service for people who own or live on small to medium sized rural properties around the Capital region. The field day has been made possible by sponsorship and in kind support from South East Local Land Services.

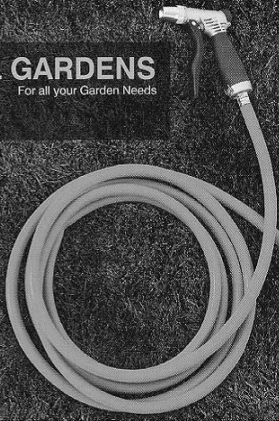
Where: Bywong NSW (address provided on booking)

When: 8.45am – 3.30pm on Sunday 17 April 2016

Cost: Free

Bookings: Limited number of places available. Bookings and more information at <https://smallfarmscapitalregion.wordpress.com/>

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Street Numbers Revisited....

Some of the more astute Whisper readers will recall the series of articles last year about street numbering.

Sadly, a wander along the roads, streets, places and lanes of the Wamboin and Bywong district reveals there is much to be done to improve property identification.

Some property owners have certainly improved the visibility of their street number but many more are avoiding the inevitable visit to a local hardware store.

As an experiment, as you approach your property late at night, before you drive through that familiar gate, pause and ask yourself would an emergency vehicle be able to readily find your driveway.

If you were facing an emergency how would you feel seeing that fire truck or ambulance drive past your gate?

Summer is back....

The February Fire Fighter was written as the rains were pouring down. This month it's the reverse; it's 37c outside with wind gusts up to 50 kph. What a change since late January.

This is a valuable reminder that summer is not over and there is no place for complacency.

The Bureau of Meteorology advises that it is **Very Likely** temperatures in March will exceed the median which means the risk of bush fires continues. So keep your Bushfire Survival Plan handy and make sure you are ready to respond if there is the threat of fire in your area.

Brigade Activity

February has been a very quiet month.

Call Outs

Sunday 14 February: It was Valentine's Day when the pagers called. A crew of four turned out and were mobile in one of the large tankers by 4.30 pm supposedly to attend a motor vehicle accident on the Federal Highway. Alas, they were turned around and back at the shed by 4.45pm, their services not required. An examination of the 10 romantic things to do in Canberra for Valentine's Day however failed to list spending time in a big red truck; clearly the author of that website was not aware of the possibilities open to RFS members.



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Community Engagement

Saturday 19 March

As we do for all Wamboin Home Produce Markets we will have an information stand at the Fire Shed at the next Wamboin Home Produce Market, on Saturday 19 March. This might be a good time to ask those questions about reducing fuel loads during the non fire season months.

Sunday 20 March

The Brigade will be at the Bywong Car Boot Sale helping stall holders locate their sites and organising customer parking. Our highly skilled support crew will be running the sausage sizzle and we will have an information booth on site. Donation buckets will be at the front gate if you would like to make a financial contribution to the brigade.

The Fire Season is In Force - Fire Permits Are 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

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

Wamboin Brigade Captain captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au or 0409 991 340

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Introduction to French Black Truffle & Hazelnut Growing

Saturday March 19th Sutton Hall ◊ Sunday March 20th Hartley

Time: 10.00am - 3.30pm ◊ Morning tea & light lunch provided ◊ Includes truffle farm visit



This comprehensive seminar is designed for prospective new industry entrants and current growers

Spaces are Limited - Attendance fee: \$149.00

All Registrations & Payments online at www.truffleharvest.com.au

Phone Enquiries: **Call Noel on 0423 411408**

Black Truffle & Hazelnut Growing Seminars at Sutton & Hartley

If you're interested in growing either French Black Truffles or Hazelnuts as a commercial enterprise, the upcoming seminars in Sutton on 19th March and Hartley 20th March represent the perfect opportunity to learn more.

Industry representatives Noel Fitzpatrick and Colin Carter present introductory seminars to assist people in understanding the requirements of entering these vibrant industries. The comprehensive seminar cover an in-depth range of topics, detailing many aspects of growing these two important and emerging crops.

Industry Experience

Noel and Colin have significant industry experience and have recently returned from a study tour in Spain being updated on the latest industry scientific findings. Noel is a truffle grower's consultant assisting with farm projects in various parts of Australia and also a grower and marketer through his online business Black Truffle Harvest Australia. Colin is the Vice President of the Australian Truffle Growers Association, grower and operator of a production nursery for truffle inoculated trees including Oaks, Hazelnuts and sought after commercial Hazelnut varieties.

Seminar Times & Truffle Farm Visit

The seminars run from 10.00 am until 3.30 pm and include morning tea, a light lunch and a visit to a nearby productive truffle farm. Places are limited so those interested should visit www.truffleharvest.com.au for all information, registration and payments.

Nature Notes February 2016

Jo Walker

February was ushered in by a long overnight storm that brought several hours of continuous lightning and thunder and some torrential rain. After that, the month was mostly dry and very hot with thirteen days of temperatures hovering above 30 degrees. And then there was the hailstorm. Although we appear to have only got the edge of it, some of the almost golfball-sized hailstones did hit here, one of them leaving a noticeable dent on the bonnet of my car.

The landscape is still nicely green, but there is little in flower at the end of summer except the *Cassinia quinquefaria* bushes which are still bearing heads of pale yellow-green flowers – and a second flush of white flowers on the Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans*) alongside several roadsides in the area.

There was a mixed flock of small birds feeding amongst some bushes here the other day. They were mostly the usual visitors – Brown and Buff-rumped Thornbills, Eastern Spinebills, White-eared Honeyeaters and a pair of Grey Shrike-thrushes. And then a Speckled Warbler made an unexpected appearance. I saw them regularly here until two or three years ago when they seemed to have disappeared from my place, so it was good to see one here again. And then, the next day, a Leaden Flycatcher turned up, another bird I hadn't seen here for a while. The flock of White-winged Choughs though is still turning up regularly and seems to be doing quite well, as it now numbers twenty or more birds. Four Bronzewing Pigeons visit regularly, but the Crested Pigeons have moved on or decreased. Until recently, there was a flock of about ten of them constantly here, but now only one or two visit occasionally.

An Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard was sunning itself near the shadehouse last week. I was quite close to it when I saw it, but it showed no inclination to move away. It was quite a large one and may have been a female about to give birth. Blue-tongued Lizards don't reproduce by laying eggs, but give birth to five or more live young usually during January or February.

A single Scorpion-tailed Spider has just made a web in a shrub near the house and has already constructed a row of long, oval-shaped egg sacs. This little spider has a heart-shaped body (about a centimetre long) with an elongated tapering abdomen which it curls like a scorpion. This one is on its own, but, in previous years, I've seen shrubs festooned with multiple webs all containing these little spiders and their egg sacs.

Our road seems to be teeming with wildlife at present. One neighbour has seen the Spotted Quoll again and another has noticed the local Wombat grazing by the roadside. And I've stopped three times this week to let Bearded Dragons cross the road. Life is so interesting in Wamboin!

Roogulli Open Garden 19-20 March

The Roogulli small farm in Bywong features alpacas, llamas, miniature sheep, a substantial revegetated area along the banks of Brooks Creek, an ornamental rock garden wrapping around the house, and a large kitchen garden and food forest. Winner of multiple design awards, the garden is used to explore and test ideas for living and gardening more sustainably in the 21st century.

The garden at 45 Glendale Lane Bywong will be open 10am to 4pm on 19–20 March with a farm walk each day at 11am as part of Open Gardens Canberra. Entry is free for members of Open Gardens Canberra, \$8 for non-members. More information at www.opengardenscanberra.org.au - Jennie Curtis, Bywong

Annual Fund Raising Event for Sutton Primary School



Sutton
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&
Classic Car Carnival

Saturday 19th March 10am – 2pm

Sutton Primary School, Bywong St, Sutton
Follow the signs from the Federal Hwy Exit Ramps - Just 10mins from Dickson

Market Stalls
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Music Devonshire Tea CRAFT B
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For details and Entry Form contact
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flickitty.sutton.cfcc@gmail.com <http://suttonps.com.au>

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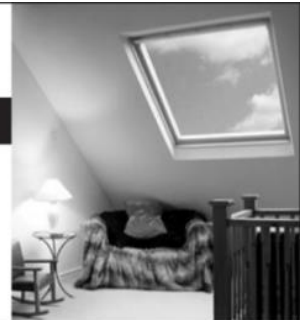
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Wildcare & Gliders

by Phil Machin

Wildcare recently received a call on their 24/7 helpline (6299 1966) to rescue a ‘baby possum impaled on barbed wire’. But as Miriam – a Wildcare Glider specialist said, “Whilst it is not uncommon to be called out to rescue wildlife caught in barbed wire, this little critter actually turned out to be a sub-adult Squirrel Glider weighing just 178 grams. It had wrapped its flight membrane around the wire repeatedly so it was effectively swaddled and impaled. With care the Glider was removed from the barbed wire and taken to a Vet to be checked out. It was given some Wildcare TLC before being released back in the vicinity it was found.” **Photo at left just below: Rescued Sugar Glider in Care with Wildcare**



“We are also lucky to have a good population of Sugar Gliders in our region, but they are very secretive animals and we don’t often see them. They are delightful little creatures and make our lives more comfortable by consuming a huge number of insects every night. Squirrel Gliders on the other hand have not fared as well and are classified as vulnerable due to reduced numbers because of habitat loss and fragmentation. A Squirrel Glider colony was discovered in our area only last year, which is great news. Now we have evidence of a second colony in our region. The two colonies are only 8 km apart as the Squirrel Glider flies”

It is not easy to tell the difference between Sugar and Squirrel Gliders. The latter are much bigger. Squirrel Gliders have a very different temperament to Sugar Gliders and are very inquisitive. Both are secretive and don’t emerge until well after dark.

As Miriam says, “Whether a possum or a glider they regularly fall victim to domestic pets who are left to wander, barbed wire and rat poison. To avoid this Wildcare asks that you keep your domestic pets indoors at night. And where it is no longer needed, barbed wire can be removed – a huge task, but well worth it. Humane traps are also recommended if you have a mouse or rat problem. With humane traps you can be sure that you are catching the intended rodent rather than one of our native animals.”

As many know, Wildcare is the local volunteer licenced wildlife organisation dedicated to the rescue, care and rehabilitation of our native animals. All members are trained volunteers – nobody is paid, and their work depends on contributions from members of the public to help pay for medications and veterinary fees. Contributions and new members are always welcome. For more information visit www.wildcare.com.au.

How to tell the difference between Squirrel and Sugar Gliders – it isn’t easy! **Vital statistics:**

<p>Adult Squirrel Gliders: Head to base of tail length 18-23 cm averaging 21 cm Tail base to tip: 22-30 cm averaging 27 cm Weight: 190-300 grams averaging 230 grams Tip of tail is black</p>	<p>Adult Sugar Gliders: Head to base of tail length: 16-20 cm Tail base to tip: 16-21 cm Weight: 90-150 grams Tip of tail can sometimes be white</p>
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**The Dual Sport Motorcycle Riders Association ACT Branch (DSMRA)
would like to notify all residents in the Wamboin area that**

Kowen Forest will be CLOSED to the public between

5pm Friday 8th April 2016 to 12:00 midnight Sunday 10nd April 2016.

This closure does *not* apply to the areas known as Sparrow Hill, Orchard Block or the car park recreation area at the bottom of Molonglo Gorge.

The forest will be closed for a non-competitive motorcycling event - the DSMRA's Kowen Forest Ride 2016. This ride is organised as an annual membership drive for our association. It also raises money for charities such as the ACT SES and the Rural Fire Service.

Event Information:

All bikes are registered and each rider must have a valid motorcycle licence. All riders are required to comply with the 40km/h speed limit and will not enter the motorsport exclusion zone, particularly the area adjacent to the northern boundary of the forest on "Wamboin Break".

The section of Seven Mile Road adjacent to Wamboin will not be used as a transport section for DSMRA riders, however we have been advised current forestry operations will continue in that area.

Preparations for the DSMRA event will commence from 10:30am Friday 8 April 2016. Riders who have travelled from interstate and intend to camp (at the old Depot site), and suppliers delivering event infra-structure, will start to arrive from this time. Notices will be put up before the event advising of the forest closure. "FOREST CLOSED" signs will be deployed at more than 80 locations around the forest perimeter.

As Kowen Forest is declared closed by TAMS, the DSMRA advises residents, walkers, runners, hikers, horse riders, bicycle riders and any other recreational forest users, not to enter the forest during the closure. Entering the forest during the closure may endanger you, domestic animals, and the DSMRA riders.

As this is not a spectator event there will be NO PUBLIC ACCESS via Seven Mile Road, Kowen Rd (the main gate), Millpost Lane (at either the seismic station gates or the sheep boundary gate), Charcoal Kiln Rd, or any other entry point, for the specified closure period.

The forest will be re-opened to the public from Monday morning after the event.

Please be aware there will be increased traffic on Kowen Rd and areas around the Depot site for preparation on the days before and the tidy up after the event.

Further event information available on www.dsmra.asn.au

If you have any questions, please contact the DSMRA
Duty Officer by telephone 0490 456 041 or by email:
kowencomm@dsmra.asn.au



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WAMBOIN GOLF – FEBRUARY 2016

Mahogany Ridge, Sunday 7 February 2016. Local milk bar proprietor, Euclid Isosceles (*The Three Sided Triangle* – try their famous retsina milkshake), was having trouble with drunken skinheads from Queanbeyan until he purchased a shorn-off sot gun. Your correspondent raises this in passing because the R & A (Rural and Agricultural) Wamboin Golf Club is considering merger overtures from the Queanbeyan Golf Club. They want our peerless course and vast membership to swell their own ranks and finances. Public consultations have been held but – how can I put this without causing offence – we don't want to lower the tone and lose our reciprocal rights with St Andrew's, Royal Troon, Pebble Beach and Augusta National. Anyway, these were the solemn thoughts that occupied a reasonable number of athletic Palarangians as they lined up for the Wamboin February Challenge sponsored by the Schroder and Whitney families. Our thanks to them all for the eats and prizes.

Afterwards, back at the Hall over refreshments, discussion turned to the GST and how that clever Mr Turnbull won't be taking an increase to the next election: he'll probably bung it straight into the May Budget. We country folk also noted with regret the retirement of the amiable Warren Truss (known to his friends as "Surgical") who has been replaced by the incomprehensible Irish novelist, James Joyce. The Captain welcomed our visitors, Randy and Brenda La Porte from Queensland via the USA. The Googly Ball went to Neville Schroder after a day of Dropsy: he dropped his phone (twice), his card, his G's and H's, his teeth and the head off his putter - and did not find it. Apparently no one spat the dummy, including Nev.

NTP and LD ball winners were Ken Gordon X 2, Jason Beckett, Pete Harrison, Jack Whitney, Ian Picker, Charles Guscott, Tim Barter and Nev Schroder. Junior comp placegetters were Logan Beckett first and Mads



Gordon second. The 9 hole comp was taken out by Ken Gordon with 34 strokes for a net 29 after handicap. Second was Ian Picker 46/31 ocb from Jason Beckett 44/31 (if his handicap is not reduced there'll be murder in the cathedral). The winner of the 18 hole comp was Pete Harrison 98/63 from Keith France second 84/65. Third place could not be awarded as it was occupied by a sponsor. Pete's prize included a bottle of wine with the alluring label "Naked on Roller Skates".

Please feel free to join us for the March golf day when our sponsors will be those Mad March Hares, Deb and Ken Gordon. We look forward to welcoming you on Sunday, 6 March at 12.15pm for the usual 12.30pm bounce of the ball. All Queanbeyanites welcome. - Larry King, golfer - and proud of it.

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How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

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

197: 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	34
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	32	Chris Fowler	Millyn Rd	20
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	21			


1116: 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)	35	Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Road	27

TOTAL 1,299

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin, 41 year statistics from the Robertsons	
February rainfall to 28/2 ... 46.25mm	(Feb 2015 ... 24.75mm)
2016 rainfall to 28/2 ... 154.25mm	(2015 to 28/2... 146.25mm)
Average March rainfall ... 57.7mm	(March 2015 ... 15.75mm)
Wettest March ... 303mm in 1989	Driest March ... 3mm in 1986 & 1998
Wettest March day ... 160mm on 15/3/89	Hottest March day ... 35C on 8/3/82
Coldest March day ... 13C X 3 times	Coldest March night ... 3C on 28/3/99 & 29/3/15

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Wamboin Home Produce Markets
Saturday 19 March 2016 (9am to 12 noon)
Contact: Lance and Meriel Schultz 62383309 or 042 261 4304
Email: 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. We are also happy to provide free space for charity stalls. The February market was managed by Joan Mason as we were away in Melbourne - we hear it went well. We are hoping for plenty of entries for the sign competition – see below.

Would you like to see your art work displayed around your local community?

WANTED - NEW SIGNS FOR WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKET! COMPETITION

Our signs are getting old and we need more than the 3 we currently use. **We challenge you to design us new signs** around the theme of home produce from the garden and kitchen as well as craft. Remember we also have a great café at the markets each month. Enter as an individual or as a group. One entry per entrant only please (although you may provide one as an individual and one as part of a group if you wish). Bring to the Community Hall for the **April Markets (Saturday 16 April)** for judging. Winning entries will be photographed and prepared as laminated signs for display on community noticeboards in the area and on A frames on Sutton Road and Macs Reef turn off from Federal Highway.

Size: -- For Notice Boards: 90cm wide x 50cms high -- For A frames: 60cm wide 90cms high

Medium: Any – photo, collage, painting, computer art work etc. Can be on paper or art board.

Wording: Must display the words in black font with letters *no less than 6cms high*

- **Wamboin Home Produce Market -- Saturday 9-12 -- Community Hall Bingley Way**
Age categories: up to 12 years; 13-18 years; Adult.

Great Prizes courtesy of Wamboin companies, Inland Trading and LMS Consulting. See you at the Markets!

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<p align="center">BEAT THE COLD IN SHERONY PARK'S COVERED ARENA!</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Qualified riding instructor <i>Associate Dip in Horse Husbandry - Uni Adelaide</i> 🐾 Specialises in horsemanship, rider position and skills 🐾 Friendly and supportive environment 🐾 Covered arena for instruction in all weather, facilities available for hire 🐾 Can travel to locations in the local area if required 🐾 Reasonable rates <p><i>"Sheridan is a very approachable and lovely person to learn from. Her skills in horsemanship and riding are reflected in the way she teaches. She has helped my horse to excel and perform at a higher level. Facilities at Sherony Park are top quality and safe for training and working your horses. I cannot recommend her highly enough."</i></p> <p align="right">-JOEY WORTLEY</p>	<div align="center"> <p>Sherony PARK <small>PRACTICAL AND SAFE HORSE MANAGEMENT</small></p> </div> <p>Sheridan and Tony Redman SHERIDAN 0422 244 433 TONY 0409 464 944 WEB www.sheronypark.com.au EMAIL sheronypark@bigpond.com PHONE 02 6230 3266 Sutton NSW</p>

NEW CLASSIFIEDS
For Sale, silver, 2010 i30 hatchback, automatic Hyundai, in excellent condition. Has 8 air backs, tinted glass and registered to 17/7/16. Price below recommended, at \$8,900. Contact: Antonio Barreda, from Wamboin, at 02-6238-3296.
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Queanbeyan Family Day Care ...



... is actively recruiting educators in the Wamboin and Bungendore areas. If you are interested in caring for children in your home and can provide a stimulating, safe and caring environment for children, we want to hear from you. For more information, please contact the scheme on 6285 6253 or see our webpage at www.qcc.nsw.gov.au/familydaycare. For parents requiring childcare, the scheme will have some vacancies in Wamboin but the majority of vacancies are primarily located in the Queanbeyan/Jerrabomberra area. Please give us a call if you are interested.



St Andrews (Wamboin) and St Peters (Sutton) Church Notices This Month is all about Easter.

Lenten studies are continuing throughout Lent, the period in preparation for Easter. You are invited to join the group who are meeting each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm, at St Andrews, corner Norton and Poppet Roads, to study and engage in discussion about the meaning and significance of Easter. While hot cross buns and chocolate eggs play a big part in Easter celebrations, there is another aspect to Easter, the holiest time of the year in the Church's calendar. The Palm Sunday service is on 20th March, at St Andrews, and Lenten studies conclude with the Passover meal at 7pm on Thursday, 24th March, at St Andrews. All are welcome.

Children from Sutton Primary School will attend services at St Peters prior to Easter.


A Good Friday service will be held on 25th March at St Andrews, at 9am, and there will be services on Easter Sunday, 27th March, at 9am in both St Andrews and St Peters. After all services there is morning tea and a chance to chat, meet fellow residents and enjoy some good company.

Kids Club will be in recess for the duration of the Easter school holidays, but during NSW term time children meet at St Andrews each Friday from 5.30 to 7pm. Parents are encouraged to come and join in the activities. Dinner is served at the end of each session.

Services are held at 9am at St Andrews on the first and third Sunday of each month, and at St Peters on the second and fourth Sunday. St Peters is an historic little church in the heart of Sutton village, and St Andrews, with its beautiful stained glass window depicting the church in our rural setting, is on the main road through Wamboin.

For further information, please contact any of the numbers listed below.

Pastor: Dr Royce Thompson, 63303558. Lay preacher: Dr David McCarthy (62555451),
Wardens: Robyn Robertson (62383202), Alan Rope (62383224), Bronwyn Elliott (62383359)



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Councillor's Corner

Community Committees — It's been a pretty torrid month, dealing with all the issues arising from merger proposals and their associated inquiries and submissions. In the process, however, I had occasion to reflect on the ways in which a Council interacts with its community. Of course, this happens in various ways, some perhaps more welcome than others.

One of the more positive interactions is through local community associations and facilities management committees.

It would probably come as no surprise to find that rural councils must operate a little differently to urban councils for various reasons, not least of which is the area that must be managed. The Palerang Local Government Area (LGA) covers some 5,147km², while our urban neighbour, Queanbeyan City Council covers just 172km². Add to this the fact that the population of Palerang stands at around 15,510 while the current Queanbeyan population is around 40,860 and the challenge faced by rural councils in providing community facilities immediately becomes apparent.

Urban councils can take advantage of economies of scale, locate facilities centrally, and serve their entire population from these single points. Rural councils must necessarily use a different operating model to provide and manage facilities within local communities, a model that invariably depends heavily on the local communities themselves. Fortunately, this is rarely a problem in rural areas because the communities involved are traditionally close-knit and all too willing to pitch in when the need arises.

The operating model used in Palerang is generally based on committees operating under Sections 355 and 377 of the Local Government Act, so-called 'Section 355 Committees'. At a formal level, these committees are governance structures that are responsible for public assets. At a more practical level, they are the organisational structures through which community facilities are managed and maintained.

Most council-owned facilities in Palerang are managed through one of its 23 active s.355 committees. The committees comprise mainly community volunteers and a councillor or two to help manage the Council side of business. They set the hire fees for, and manage the hire and general maintenance of the relevant facility. These facilities include community halls and reserves, our Greenways, cemeteries, and certain Council buildings and structures such as the National Theatre in Braidwood and the War Memorial in Bungendore.

A lesser known, but important part of the management function is communicating community needs, identifying grant opportunities and coordinating working bees. Without this level of cooperation, it would simply not be possible to provide facilities over such a wide area with such a small workforce.

This is really as much a thank you to those community volunteers who help make all this happen as it is an educational exercise to let people know how their local community hall or reserve is managed.

Merger Machinations — The inquiries into the Proposals to divide the Palerang LGA between Goulburn and Queanbeyan are now complete. The Delegates will finalise their reports by the end of March. In the mean time, the inquiry into the alternative, full merger between Palerang and Queanbeyan is now open. Council has been advised that a single public meeting providing the opportunity for residents to make verbal submissions to the Delegate, Mt John Turner, will be held in Bungendore on 16 March 2016, 7.00pm – 10.00pm at the Bungendore War Memorial Hall. Please note that there is a requirement to register to either attend or speak at this meeting, although the other meetings have not been oversubscribed and it has been possible to just turn up on the night. Written submissions for the full merger proposal will be accepted until 5.00pm 8 April 2016 (see Boundary Review website below for details).

For more information see: <http://www.councilboundaryreview.nsw.gov.au>

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

Community Committees (Feb 2016)

Council Community Committees (Dec 2011)

Local Government Reform (Update) (Jan 2016)

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

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

Email: Pete.Harrison@palerang.nsw.gov.au Website: www.peteharrison.id.au

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory


It might be the end of summer, officially, but like the scorpion I found under a rock, it had a pretty decent sting in the tail. However, we appear to have been let off lightly. There is plenty of green around, there are still pools of water in the gully, and apart from the odd thunderstorm and one spectacular hailstorm, this has not been a summer of high dramas. But I'd be foolish to believe that it's over, yet.

We were fortunate to witness the sudden hailstorm without any significant damage. Hail stones, a concretion of little ones the size of tennis balls, were wantonly flung down from the heavens stunning bewildered kangaroos at a loss to know which way to turn, blocking downpipes and belting the iron roof. The fury unleashed was deafening. This encounter with nature in full force was exciting, but another one we encountered was not so thrilling.

There is nothing that focuses the mind quite like discovering a couple of white ants in the garage. Silent and pale, they look innocuous, but they're a formidable force when they work in concert! Once again we were fortunate. The damage proved to be minimal, but it led to a frenzy of activity on our part which in hindsight was just the impetus we needed to tackle one of Wamboin's downsides...too much space. The space to store those "one day you may need it" things, space to re-home someone else's "surplus to needs" stuff, to put aside those things that can wait til you go to the dump "next time," and to provide a safe place for your now flown from the nest children's "treasures". We hired a skip, we dragged out boxes, we sifted and sorted, took trailer loads to the tip and recycling, and rid ourselves of pages and pages of printed material. We've only scratched the surface. Our kids were delighted to find out that they had a history, and reclaim it, now archived, in absentia. But throwing out books, amongst them outdated text books with handwritten annotations, nearly broke my heart. So much of what we once hung onto is now irrelevant and superfluous. We get our information, store and disseminate it in a different way. And who wants a Classic with rough, yellowed pages, tiny print and the tell tale sign of cockroaches when you can simply download it and adjust the font size to suit yourself.

There is a new awareness, on the heels of the previous "new awareness", of the need to help the elderly in our society embrace the electronic world in which they have to live. But there are a few things that well intended programs overlook. People, especially those who are elderly, a little deaf and isolated, welcome contact with real people, and need time to relate to a disembodied voice at the end of a line. Computer terminology and electronic screens are foreign languages to those on the outside, and like any language they are growing all the time. They incorporate both words and pictures; icons on a computer screen. I learned a new word and icon playing Scrabble with my granddaughter the other day; "emojis". Up until that time I never realized that I needed them! Exclamation marks, I suspect, are as emoji as I'll ever get.

When summer finally decides to recede into gentle autumn, I'll disturb the fat skink in its garage paradise again and get back to those boxes and treasures. I can only say how relieved we were to find that those little pale creatures had only found the garage. If they'd been in the house as well we'd have an even bigger job ahead of us. It's wonderful to have space....and I wouldn't live anywhere else....but there might just be too much of a good thing. (insert "smiley face" emoji)



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