

May 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 Palarang 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 June 2016 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, May 29. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month and is also available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au.

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 Palarang Councillor	Pete Harrison	0427 711 028	cr.pete.harrison@palarang.nsw.gov.au
Resident Palarang Councillor	Keith France	0427 365 715	cr.keith.france@palarang.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 SES	NSW Call Centre	132 500	For assistance in storms and floods
NSW SES Bungendore	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	For non-urgent assistance and advice
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			

Wamboin Home Produce Markets

Saturday 21 May 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 charities. Please note we are back to our regular time of 9-12md. The April market attracted plenty of custom, helped by sharing the day with the Wheels of Wamboin (which had an amazing array of cars, trucks, tractors and other 'wheels' this year). We had plenty at the market to keep the visitors happy with fresh garden produce, cakes, scones, biscuits, flowers, plants and more and Sally came back with her pies, sausage rolls and quiches – always a winner. There was an excellent array of craft and jewellery. Our baristas in the café survived the day, even though they made more than 300 coffees! Our only disappointment was that NO ONE entered the 'Make New Market Signs' competition..... so you will probably all have to put up with more of the same around the area, unless we suddenly find some spare time in our working day and get creative ourselves! That's unlikely in the short term, as we will be away in sunny Italy for a few weeks. Joan Mason and helpers from St Andrew's will manage the May market for us. **Support your local markets!**

Big Roll Up for Wheels of Wamboin

Over 120 automotive vehicles of all ages turned out for the biggest ever Wheels of Wamboin. The day featured a huge roll up of cars, tractors, trucks, motorbikes and a stationary engine display along with an equally impressive crowd. The cars kept coming, at one stage they were lined out down Bingley Way waiting to get in.

Once again the range of cars was diverse with Fords from T models, Mustangs and Falcons to Escorts and Anglia's including a rare XB John Goss Special. There were Fairlanes and utes really making us really wonder why we are not making cars here in Australia anymore. Holden's were there from FJ humpies through to Torana's and Monaro's including a number of EH's and early Holden's. Chrysler was there with a range of Dodges and a great lime green Chrysler Centura with a bulbar! The USA brigade featured a stunning gunmetal grey Camaro along with a range of beauties including a rare Buick Riveria, Ford Galaxie, a Mercury, Corvette Stingrays, Plymouths, Desoto's, a Cadillac as big as a whale and a two door 390 Fairlane



being built up as a racer on a trailer. Can't wait for that to be finished for next year's event.

The euro brigade featured a range of BMW's, a neat Beetle, Alfa's and Mercedes Benz's. The Japanese manufacturers showed up with a range of MX-5's from old to brand new and a Datsun 200B. Special mention must go to the Morris Minor Club with an impressive display and great attendance. There was even a Woodie Traveller. Motorbikes were represented with some nice Harley V-Rods, BMW and a very nice brand new Indian Scout. Even tractors were there with an immaculate Fordson along with a grey Fergie, with a bear on board. The Armstrong Siddeley's were once again present in numbers along with a beautiful red Jag Mark II, two XJ's to

nearly new XK coupes, a number of Humber's and Triumphs and the Nock's beautiful Bentley.

The winner of the only trophy on the day "People's Choice" was an immaculately restored light green Morris Ute. It looked the same as it would have rolling off the factory floor back in the 1960's. I am sure many of the crowd would have ridden in one over the years and this would have bought back many memories. The day raised funds for the Wamboin Rural Fire Service and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Many thanks to everyone who made it out to the field of dreams at Wamboin including all the car clubs, the Wamboin RFS, the WCA and Lofty for fixing the driveway access.

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Bywong Community News www.bywongcommunity.org.au</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Anne Goonan, President This News Put Together by the Bywong Committee</p>	
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2016 Car Boot Sale- Disbursement of Money Raised: The 2016 Car Boot Sale realised over \$2000 which is available for distribution to local community organisations.

The April meeting of BCA agreed that the Wamboin RFS and the Bungendore Scouts (who assisted with the raffle at the CBS) would receive some of the proceeds, while distributions to other groups would be considered at future meetings.

To reiterate some words about the CBS from the April Whisper - *The first CBS was in 1997 and the 2017 event will be the 20th anniversary of this important local fixture. Hopefully this will be an especially memorable Boot Sale and any suggestions or ideas for inclusion in 2017 would be most welcome. The BCA would also welcome any offers of help in running the event.*

If you have any enquiries or suggestions regarding the 2017 event please email us at - president@bywongcommunity.org.au

Other Projects and Activities:

Clean Up Australia: To avoid excessive heat and to mitigate the possibility of encounters with snakes this year the Clean Up project has been postponed till either the weekend of Saturday / Sunday 29 May 2016 or – depending on interest - a weekend in early June. The project will be coordinated by Steve Walker and all offers of assistance and/or suggestions are welcome and should be addressed to Steve at - cleanup@tacadv.com

In particular we would like to hear from people willing to help. Many residents elect to clear up their own frontages or adjoining areas, and that is very welcome but it would help with coordinating the general effort if we were to know about this in advance so as not to “double up” with resources. Again, suggestions as to which date (28 or 29) is appropriate are also welcome. Residents wishing to participate in the general effort should contact BCA through the above e-mail so as they can be properly “registered” which is a requirement of the National Clean Up Australia organization in order to meet insurance requirements etc. As is usual for this project, bags and fluorescent vests etc. will be available from BCA for people expressing an interest in assisting.

Children’s Playground for the Hall: Plans for this will be prepared by the landscape designer and submitted to Council. To facilitate the drafting of these J.P. Favre, the multi-skilled BCA treasurer, recently undertook a survey of the proposed site and concluded that some minor excavations and other works may be required for the site plan. At any rate these measurements and suggestions will be passed on to the designer for consideration in the detailed plans to be submitted to Council.

2016 Trivia Night: This is scheduled for Saturday evening of 16 July 2016. As usual the plans and themes for this event will be developed (again) by J.P. Favre. Once finalized, the details will be advertised in the Whisper and the Bungendore Weekly well in advance.

BCA website/wiki: Steve Walker has agreed to take this on with assistance from Clive Boughton and has set up relevant web pages. Hosting is free (donation from Steve) and will contain the BCA minutes and other relevant information.

Next Bywong Community Association meeting: Tuesday June 14 at 7.30 pm.

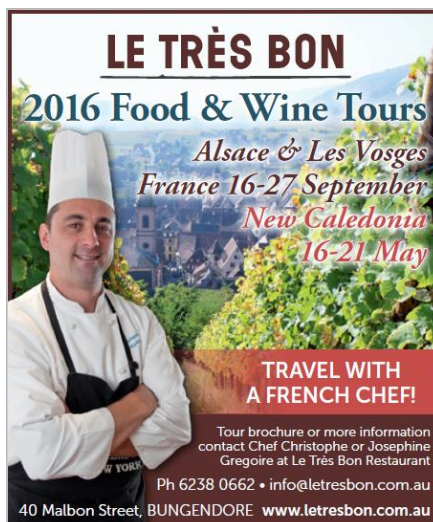


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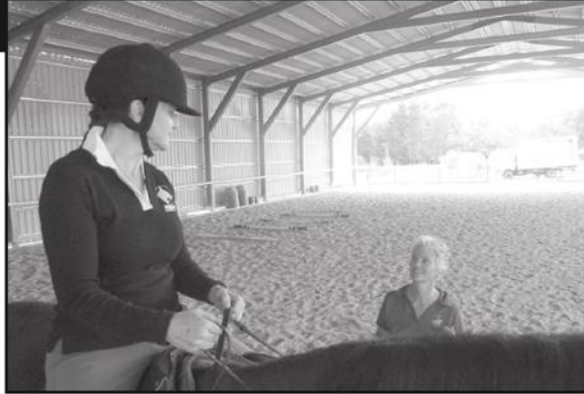
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The Wonderful Women Of Wamboin — A Potted History

by Gail Ritchie Knight and Sally Saunders

In 2006 the Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) first gathered when former Wamboin resident Claire Ayling realised her neighbour had given birth to a baby and she didn't even know she was pregnant. It bothered her. So she asked her quilting friends if they should open their group to others. They placed a notice in the *Wamboin Whisper* and surprisingly 22 women showed up at St Andrew's church in Wamboin. And the group grew from there.

Today women come from Wamboin, Bywong, Sutton, Bungendore, Goulburn, Queanbeyan and even the ACT. Many are talented sewers, knitters, beaders, quilters and cardmakers. Husbands and partners known as the Boyfriends of the Wonderful Women of Wamboin (BOWWOW) are invited to various social events throughout the year. In addition, the Wamboin Book Group is another initiative of WWOW and is open to everyone, both men and women.

Community Support: Every Monday we each put \$2 into the kitty. Some money pays St Andrew's for our use of their facilities while the remainder goes to community and social programs. From its inception, WWOW have cooked curries and rice for the annual Wamboin Bonfire Night. Profit from that work is also donated valued at hundreds of dollars, such as:

- Bungendore and Sutton primary schools
- Wamboin and Sutton Rural Fire Services
- Bungendore Medical Centre to support those unable to pay for needed services
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Canberra Hospital
- Motor Neurone Disease Research Institute of Australia
- A remote WA aboriginal community
- St Benedict's in Queanbeyan to fund their charity Christmas lunch

A sampling of other forms of support:

- Knitted beanies for aboriginal communities in Arnhem Land and jumpers for African children with AIDS
- Sewn quilts for flood victims in Queensland
- Donated hundreds of women's knickers to African women suffering from post-child birth medical issues
- Knitted hundreds of soft, stuffed trauma teddies for the Queanbeyan Ambulance Service to help comfort children and the feeble
- Sewn hundreds of decorative drainage bag holders for patients who have breast cancer surgery in the ACT.
- Hosted the Palerang International Women's Day lunch in 2009, 2010 and 2011
- Purchased sewing machines for women in a Cambodian village to help them become self-sufficient. Four WWOW (including one who went twice) went to Cambodia, at their own expense, to purchase more machines and teach basic sewing skills.
- Volunteer at 'Home in Queanbeyan' once a month preparing lunch for about 40 residents with mental health problems
- Run the local annual mailbox and gate Christmas decorating competition, donating the first and second prizes.

Over the years we have invited many speakers who have introduced us to a vast range of topics including: physical and mental health, Aboriginal communities, IT security, climate change, national and international charities, art, fire preparedness and overseas travel.

From time to time we've enjoyed a number of excursions including: coach trips to the Sydney Craft Show and tours of the Canberra Glassworks with hands-on glass-making experience, Mysterious Queanbeyan by Moonlight, the National Gallery of Australia, and street sculpture in Civic.

Along the way we have created a community of women who support each other and share stories, news and skills. We are women of many religions or none, from many different countries of birth, of a wide range of ages. It's a great way to meet new people as well as catch up with old friends, so I encourage you to visit us.

All women are welcome at St Andrew's church, corner of Norton and Poppet Roads, Wamboin on Mondays 10 am–noon. For more information contact Gail Ritchie Knight 0416 097 500

whirlwind1@argonite.com.au.



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Nature Notes April 2016

Jo Walker

With only about 8mm of rain this month and temperatures in the mid-twenties most days, the countryside is beginning to look a bit bleak. The trees and large shrubs, with their roots deep enough into the soil and rock to reach some moisture, are looking green and healthy. But the grasses and daisies and other small plants with shallow root systems are definitely in need of some rain.

This is rather a drab time of the year for flowering plants. Even the daisies, which often sport a few flowers well into autumn, seem to have given up. The *Cassinia quinquefaria* bushes though still have heavy loads of straw-coloured drying seed, and the Crimson Rosellas are spending a lot of time feasting on them.

Flocks of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos are flying over here to and from the pine forest fairly regularly. They are mostly in small numbers, but a flock of over a hundred made a noisy transit recently. The young Wood Ducks that had the habit of sitting in the middle of Poppet Road have now grown up and are almost indistinguishable from their parents, but last week I saw two pairs of Wood Ducks on Norton Road with quite small and still fluffy ducklings.


I had two invaders in the house recently (not sure how they got in). One was a rather dehydrated Peron's Tree Frog and the other a very young Cunningham's Skink which lost a bit of its tail in an altercation with the cat before I could catch it and find a more suitable home for it outside.

After a day of light showers, one or two Swift Moths were banging at the window in the evening leaving long streaks down the glass. These very large moths (Hepialidae) drop their eggs onto soil and leaf litter and their larvae hatch and tunnel into the soil and the roots of trees. They later pupate in the soil and the adult moths emerge after rain, leaving large brown empty pupal cases protruding from the ground.

Meat Ants seem to be proliferating, with several new nests being established here this summer. One hot day recently, streams of Meat Ants were carrying what looked like larvae and pupae from one long-established nest to another one a considerable distance away.

On the subject of insects: Jill Gregory was wondering, in the previous Wamboin Whisper, where the March Flies went to when they weren't pestering her in March. Well, the rest of the year is spent developing from eggs to the larval and pupal stages before emerging as adults in late summer. March Flies are in the Tabanidae Family. Their eggs are laid on vegetation close to ponds and marshes and the larvae live in the water or in the mud preying on other small aquatic insects. When the female fly emerges, she needs a protein feed to develop her eggs – and human blood seems to be a favourite source.

Most of the female kangaroos of breeding age are now carrying joeys of various ages – most seem to be still un-furred and not yet peering out at the world – except for one little one in the mob on my place who took its first tentative hops in the first week of April.



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'Tis The Season For Property Clean Up

Why wait until Spring to start your property clean up, when you suddenly discover everything is too wet or you have run out of time and the fire season has started.

Get your cleanup project started now. The RFS tells us late autumn and the beginning of winter is the best time in southern NSW for property clean ups. The fuel is dry and the days are cool.

But before you construct your vegetation pile for burning there are some rules you should consider.

- Keep the pile low, long and wide ie below 1.5 metres high and about 2 metres long. This will reduce

the intensity of the heat and the pile won't stay hot for too long.

- Don't burn treated timber and the burn should only contain vegetation.
- All material should be dead and dry; leave it in the sun to completely dry out.

This list is in no way definitive, there is a lot more information on pile burns at http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/13323/Standards-for-Pile-Burning.pdf

And remember before you light up there are two more things to do:

- Make sure you have at the site of your pile burn a suitable source of water for fire suppression and to wet down the area around the pile before ignition.
- Most importantly, advise Queanbeyan Fire Control and your neighbours well in advance so a fire truck doesn't arrive in your driveway

Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin – 41-year statistics from the Robertsons

April rainfall to 24/4... 9.75mm	(2015 to 30/4... 109.25mm)
2016 rainfall to 24/4 ... 188.75mm	(2015 to 30/4 ... 271.25mm)
Average May rainfall ... 46.4mm	(May 2015 ...15.75mm)
Wettest May ... 171mm in 1995	Driest May ... 1mm in 1985
Hottest May day ... 20C x 3 times	Coldest May day ... 3C on 25/5/00
Coldest May night ... -5C on 28/5/01 and 15/5/11	

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Wamboin Brigade Annual General Meeting

A reminder to all brigade members, the AGM will be held at the fire shed on 14 June at 7.30. An email prior to the meeting will be sent to all members and in the meantime please make a note on your diary.

The Fire Season Has Ended

The statutory Bushfire Danger Period has ended this means you can now burn off and reduce the fuel levels on your property without a permit. See the article above about pile burns.

There is a BUT however, (there is always a but) whilst you no longer need a permit from the Captain you still need to call Fire Control, Queanbeyan on 6297 1840 to advise them you are lighting a fire. You will also need to tell your neighbours about the fire. A simple note in your neighbours' letterboxes should suffice. If you are calling on a Friday make sure the call is before 12.00 noon.

Advising your neighbours and Fire Control will lessen the chance of a big red truck coming down your driveway because some one reported smoke in the area.

BRIGADE ACTIVITY

Call Outs

During April we had two callouts.

Sunday 10 April. A crew of 4 in one of our heavy tankers and a crew of 5 in the other attended a fire in a junk pile at a property near the Federal Highway. The fire ignition was by accident. Both trucks were back at the shed by 6.00pm in time for a quiet Sunday evening.

Monday 25 April. Anzac Day no less; we weren't called out for the parade but to attend a two car collision at the intersection of Macs Reef Road and the Federal Highway. The crew was all done within 15 minutes after mopping up spilt fluid and getting the vehicles off the road.

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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act.cancercouncilfundraising.org.au/Teatwamboin

Prime Real Estate For Hollow Nesting Birds

By Alex James

Two species of hollow nesting birds are set to get much needed housing assistance thanks to a collaboration between the Bungendore Men's Shed and the Palerang Local Action Network for Sustainability (FuturePLANS). For the past five months the Bungendore Men's Shed have been building nest boxes suitable for two species of hollow nesting birds in our area - the Striated Pardalote and the White-throated Treecreeper. Both of these birds are small but are quite exacting in their choices of accommodation. One likes an upright hollow and the other requires an elongated box with a narrow entrance. "It takes around 100 years for nesting hollows to begin developing in most of the native tree species found in our landscape." says David McDonald from the Canberra Ornithologist Group.

"Medium-size hollows suitable for bird such as parrots will take around 200 years to form and those used by cockatoos, owls, possums, etc. even longer. By providing bird nesting boxes for these species, especially in previously cleared areas, we could help them survive in our area".

According to David, "Quite a lot of the species that nest in hollows are listed as vulnerable or endangered, largely because of the loss of breeding habitat, i.e. loss of nesting hollows". So how can landholders and townies alike help our feathered friends nest in our back yards?

Look after remnant native vegetation, and plant native trees and shrubs to attract birds to your backyard and to provide habitat into the future. Or build a next box and place it in a suitable regrowth area or established tree close to your house where you can monitor it. FuturePLANS has nineteen bird boxes available

for Land for Wildlife and FuturePLANS members. If you would like a bird box your donation for a box will help us continue our work in the district. Not a member? Why not join us and join the bird nest box housing boom.

A full copy of bird nest box plans, web links and referenced notes by David McDonald are available at the Future PLANS website www.futureplans.org.au or by contacting the Land for Wildlife Assistant, Alex James, at

landforwildlife@futureplans.org.au and 0406 338850. Picture: Bywong resident Jean-Pierre Favre (left), and David McDonald from the Canberra Ornithologist Group, holding bird boxes built by the Bungendore Men's Shed.



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*For more information, please call Heike Hahner on 4842 7143
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www.facebook.com/heike.hahner



Wildlife and Us

We' have a problem. On 23 April, Wildcare rescued a male kangaroo, found on the side of Macs Reef Road, between the Denley and Birriwa turn offs .. It had a crossbow bolt or broken-off arrowhead sticking out of its lower back. And looking at the level of infection it had been there for some time.

If you have any information about this incident, then please contact the National Parks and Wildlife Service on 6299 7166, or indeed the Police. Regrettably, after an operation by a local Vet to remove the arrowhead, the kangaroo subsequently died. - Philip Machin

WAMBOIN AND BYWONG CLASSIFIEDS

Cancer Council Raffle winners at the April Wamboin Markets: 1st prize T. Deveson(Norton Rd), 2d B. Thornton (Symston), 3rd Sally Clark (Wamboin), 4th Ross Ackland (Bingley Way), 5th (Kambah) - Thank you for the support received. A total of \$241.00 was raised. - Pauline Segeri

Civil Celebrant - Lorraine Bird highly experienced, living locally. Available for weddings, civil partnerships, civil unions, renewal of vows, namings and commitment ceremonies. Please contact me to arrange an obligation free meeting. Phone 62303321, 0401267851 or www.lorrainebird.com.au

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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>

Civil Marriage Celebrant. Dorothy Skea. Mobile No: 0403 215 336 (easier to get a hold of me on my mobile). Ph: 6238 3290. E-mail: dorothyskea@outlook.com

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

FOR HIRE :- from Wamboin Community Hall -**Gas BBQ'S** x 2. Hire cost and cleaning Bond applies. Enquiries - Joan Mason 62 383 258

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



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Some days life can be a little slow on your side of the fence and you've got a neighbour who often brightens your day. Use your fence as a meeting place. If you want to enjoy your neighbour's company, try standing on your side for a few minutes and appreciating his or her work while he or she is gardening or cutting the grass. Maybe you could even tempt him or her to share stories about local goings on by holding up a cup of tea or a beer that's waiting for a taker.

Loving All Our Wildlife

Many of us are paranoid about snakes. And rightly so, but we can learn to live alongside them without being too fearful. By knowing snakes are shy and defensive creatures, who do their best to get out of our way when discovered, gives a clue as to what we can do when we come across them.

Wildcare members also got 'surprised' this year. Lesley said, "I was picking rhubarb in the vegetable patch, lifted a leaf, and saw a brown snake looking up at me. Not panicking, I stepped back and watched the snake slither away in the opposite direction. Recently I went to pick some runner beans, only to hear a thud at my feet. Looking down I saw a snake moving quickly away – my husband had watered the garden and I think the snake had escaped the splashes by climbing up the bean pole!"

Another member encountered a snake that had climbed into a creeper next to a water tank. Suddenly being eyeball to eyeball with a brown snake will get anyone's attention very quickly! Lesley also mentioned another interesting story involving a tiger snake that unexpectedly appeared in the patio fishpond –cooling off, or more likely chasing frogs. On another occasion she saw a tiger snake wrapped around chicken eggs in a nesting box – but having been disturbed, and left alone, it quickly disappeared ... and the eggs were still intact.

I suppose the point is, when out and about in the garden or bush, we need to keep our wits about us and don't put our hands into spaces we can't see. When encountering a snake, quietly stepping back and observing from a safe distance, may be all that is needed to let it go on its way unhindered.



One of the more common Wildcare rescue scenarios is a snake caught in bird netting – this is a slow, painful death sentence, as the snake can only go forward to extract itself, causing further entanglement. Dropping a wet towel over the snake will keep it cool and calm until help arrives. Many snakes removed from bird netting can be released immediately, otherwise they are brought into care. Rehabilitation involves giving the basic needs (shelter, water, warmth and eventually food) until the snake is robust and healthy enough for release back into the wild. This can take anywhere from a week to a year, depending on the severity of the injuries.

Wayne, Wildcare's snake coordinator, says "Wildcare currently has a young brown snake in care that had netting so tightly wound around its lower jaw that we suspect that it may have lost part of its tongue due to it drying out and having the blood supply cut off. If this is the case, we will be looking for a zoo to take it as a display animal. Our fingers are crossed that once it gets over the shock and is offered a mouse, it will flick its tongue out to investigate, meaning a release back into nature is imminent."

"To avoid having to deal with an injured and cranky snake, get netting OFF the ground – snake mesh is available from hardware stores and rural outlets too. Ring fruit trees with the snake mesh down at ground level, then tie the bird netting over the tree and only down to the mesh – you keep birds off your tree, and snakes won't get caught!"

If we are aggressive towards snakes that are in the wrong place, then expect the snake to defend itself. We often hear about people taking matters into their own hands, but it would be better to call Wildcare and ask for their help. Wildcare has a number of trained snake handlers who can relocate snakes that are causing a problem or give advice over the phone. Contact Wildcare on 6299 1966.

A final tip is to not let your dog freely roam around a wide area, as there is more chance of them sniffing out a venomous snake. Better to have a secure dog run and reduce the risk.

- Philip Machin *Photo caption: Wildcare snake handlers remove a brown snake from garden netting*



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St Andrews, Wamboin and St Peters, Sutton (SRMD) Church Notices

You have probably noticed the growing pile of wood in the church grounds at St Peters, Sutton. This is in preparation for the always popular Community bonfire on 14th May; a wet weather option has been set aside for 28th May. There will be sausages, a spectacular blaze and hot drinks provided by church members. Margaret and Russ Ferrett, long term residents of Sutton and parishioners of St Peters and St Andrews, who moved from the district last year, have always been involved with the organisation and success of this community event. Sadly, Russ and Margaret recently loss their son, Bruce, to cancer, and the Church congregation sends their heartfelt condolences.

Kids Club, from 5.30-7.00pm, resumes with the new term on Friday, 29th April, at St Andrews, Poppet Road. If you are new to the area and would like more information, please contact Robyn Robertson (62383202).

An interesting assortment of cars and car lovers came out of the woodwork for the Wheels of Wamboin, at the last Wamboin markets. St Andrews/St Peters were involved with a stall selling biscuits and slices for morning tea. The residents of Legacy Village, Queanbeyan, have been beneficiaries of the pastoral outreach programme with a service for the widows each Tuesday afternoon. Members of the congregation also give their time to prepare meals at St Benedict's, Queanbeyan, and provide food donations.

Church services are held on the first and third Sunday of each month at St Andrews, and the second and fourth Sunday at St Peters. All services start at 9am. New faces are always welcome, and you can be assured of a great morning tea and a chance to meet other members of the community. For any further information, be it for a Baptism, a Wedding or general inquiries, please call any of the people listed below. Pastor: Ven Dr Royce Thompson, 63303558, Robyn Robertson, 62383202, Alan Rope, 62383224, Bronwyn Elliott, 62383359.

Are You Looking For Funding For Your Community Group?

Are you from one of the following?

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- o Rural Fire Brigades
- o Service Clubs
- o Schools
- o Preschools
- o Progress Associations
- o Community Health Services
- o Churches
- o Charities
- o Any other non-for-profit organisation which complies with the Veolia Mulwaree Trust guidelines?

Are you located in one of these local government areas?

- o Goulburn Mulwaree
- o Palerang
- o Shoalhaven
- o Oberon
- o Wingecarribee
- o Upper Lachlan
- o Wollondilly

Grant and Donation Funding

The Veolia Mulwaree Trust has provided over \$8 million in funding since 2005 to support projects for the benefit of the local community and for charitable purposes. Guidelines and on-line application forms for the 2016 Community Grant and Donation Program are available at www.mulwareetrust.org.au

The next funding round will close at 3pm on Monday, 23 May 2016



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Wamboin 15 years Ago from the Whisper, May 2001 Circulation: 900

From the Bywong Community News - "CAR BOOT SALE: Lloyd Kautz from Seattle, USA, this year travelled to the Bywong Community Car Boot Sale to experience at first hand the event which he has been experiencing through email for the past five years. He became interested in the car boot sale when he received stray emails intended for one of the organisers. After finding out what the Sale was about, he offered a prize for the Monster Raffle. In subsequent years he continued to donate prizes and has been associated with the Community ever since. During his visit Lloyd was able to boost the Boot Sale publicity effort by giving press interviews – the Canberra Times photographed his arrival at Canberra Airport, and he 'appeared' on ABC Breakfast radio three times. The Car Boot Sale itself was a great success, breaking several records. For the first time the number of sellers' stalls exceeded 100, and total attendance was estimated at 1200. As happened last year, almost all the sellers were local, and about two-thirds of visitors also came from the Shire. Takings, which also go to local groups, were also up on previous years."

Sacrament of Eucharist, St Mary's, Bungendore 2016

Preparation program

Parent/child info night - Wed 4 May 6:30pm, St Mary's Hall, 28 Turallo Tce, Bungendore.

Preparation sessions during Saturday Evening Mass 5:30pm 7, 14 & 21 May.

First Eucharist St Mary's Church Sat 28 May 5:30pm.

More details and enrolment forms.

<http://www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com/sacred-room/sacraments-at-bungendore/>

or phone 6238 1247 (11- 5 Wed) email: bungendore@cg.org.au

Wamboin Golf

By Lofty Mason

The Wamboin Rural Golf Course opened in 1986 with an 18 hole course spread over 8 private properties and 2 at the Hall. The Golf Club was organised as a team builder for the Fire Brigade. After many changes, today we still play 18 holes with 16 spread over 5 properties plus 2 at the Hall. We play a competition on the first Sunday of each month. To date the Golf Club has raised almost \$13,000 for the Fire Brigade.

Where is this leading? Due to sale of properties, retirement of older fairway owners, and loss of interest by others, the Club could possibly soon loose up to 10 holes. To keep the dream alive we desperately need new holes with owners able to maintain them. Working bees can be organised to assist you to set up. If able to help out your rewards will be:

- A reason to keep your property neater and more fire proof,
 - The good feeling of giving Community assistance,
 - The occasional kickback of 'diesel dollars' for mowing, and
 - The fun of having somewhere to have a hit anytime with your family,
- (My wife, who learned to play golf here, now has a lower handicap ☺.)
If interested, contact Peter Greenwood on 6238-3358.



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Sean Terho: 0433 702 308 ABN: 32-334-278-023

Wamboin Golf – April 2016

This report comes to you from the British Virgin Islands where your correspondent is transferring his multi-billion dollar tax evasion—oops! I meant avoidance—accounts. Then he's going to sue his former solicitors, those shysters Mossack Fonseca, for criminal negligence in allowing details of his Panamanian transactions to be revealed. Is nothing sacred? It's not as though the money was all mine: I'm just the front man for 799 wealthy Palerangians using perfectly legitimate ways to sidestep the Australian fiscal fiend. So what if a few million stick to my fingers on the way through? You have a bad day; why should I have a bad day?

But I digress. The topic at hand is golf. Specifically the annual Wamboin Mini Masters. (At time of writing there's another Masters going on somewhere but we don't think it'll attract as much attention.) Simple rules: play six holes specified by the committee; return to the Community Hall to see who's made the cut; then play the same six holes again—whether you've made the cut or not (cruel!); then play the novelty NTP pitching hole on the oval: from a short ramp, standing on a tyre, from a T-ball stand, from a sand box. Got the picture? It's all *Deadly Serious* as you can see. The day was sponsored by the Wamboin Community Association who provided refreshments of divers kinds for which we thank them from the bottom of our hearts (and that, folks, is *not* a Spoonerism).



Back at the Community Hall the Googly Ball was awarded to KRNC Developments for operating without a vowel. And, of course, the Dummy Spit went to Woolies. Best not to disclose who did or didn't make the cut, it might result in too many calls to Lifeline and Beyondblue. The names of the

placegetters can, should and will be made public. First the pitching competition: from the ramp, Scott Mason, 2.1 metres from the hole; from the tyre Scott again, 1m from the hole (he should always use a tyre—your correspondent has been carrying one for years); from the hi tee, Alex Gordon 6.2m; from the bunker, Dave Hubbard 9.66m. WCA President, Jenny Richards, presented the Handicap and Masters Prizes. Handicap winner was Dave Wagg with 58 off the stick for a net 42; runner-up was Dave Hubbard 59/43; 3rd Larry King 63/45.

And now the biggie! The Bungendore Weekly can reveal that the Wamboin Mini Master for 2016 is Tim Barter with 51 off the stick. And how ducky he looked in the Greenish Jacket with the cuffs up to the elbows. Well done, Tim! Runner-up was Paul Griffin on a count back from Neville Schroder, both on 55. Our congratulations to all and our thanks to our sponsors, to the officials who coped courageously with the new technology installed by Nev Schroder and the pitching comp marshals, Charles Guscott and Tim Barter. Our next golf day will be on May Day (that's 1 May to you, Trotsky). We hope to see you all there at 12.15pm for the dependable 12.30pm start. And remember, the Workers' Flag is Deepest Red. So wear something red.

Larry King, golfer and IGA customer.

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Bungendore Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum

The Rotary Club of Bungendore, in conjunction with local health professionals and support groups, is holding a Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum in Bungendore. The object of the forum is to promote awareness of mental health and provide advice on where to find help for people suffering mental health issues, support for carers, and ways to promote lifelong well being. Join us at the Bungendore Primary School on Wednesday, May 11, 6:00 pm for 6:30 start. For more information contact Ann Martin by email 4.annmartin@gmail.com or by phone 6238 1180.

Fodder On Farms So Much More Than Grass

Dr Dean Revell from Revell Science in Western Australia was the keynote speaker at the Fodder Trees and Shrubs for Grazing Systems field day hosted by the Small Farms Network – Capital Region in Bywong on 17 April. Over 35 farmers attended to learn about how native fodder trees and shrubs can be incorporated into livestock systems. The field day was made possible with funding and support from South East Local Land Services.

Dr Revell led a fascinating discussion about how fodder grazing systems using native shrubs combined with pasture can provide stock on small and large farms with feed during autumn and winter feed gaps (or any other time when the weather is being unkind). We learned that shrubs use ground water not accessible to grasses, bring nutrients to the surface for other plants to use and provide shade and shelter for grazing stock. Dr Revell also outlined the amazing ways in which stock learn to use fodder shrubs and how we can use animal behaviour to teach stock to eat new plants.

Grazing systems using shrubs also benefit animals by reducing stress caused by extremes in temperature, allowing the metabolic system of the animal to work efficiently which keeps growth rates steady. Some shrub species also provide medicinal value to the livestock thereby reducing worm burdens and potentially methane gas production. Farm productivity improves by reducing the cost of inputs including supplementary feed and drenches. It also allows farmers flexibility in rotating paddocks and feed resources. The downside to fodder crops is the initial start-up cost, but economic modelling over the long term showed improved grazing productivity.

Geoff Butler from Wamboin Gearys Gap Landcare was on hand to share his extensive knowledge on local plant species that could be suitable for fodder. He discussed the establishment of shelter belts and the importance of site preparation including ripping, time of planting and tube stock establishment. Establishing effective windbreaks can have many positive effects in farming systems in addition to slowing wind speeds at ground level including providing habitat for beneficial birds and insects, providing additional feed resources during drought (using fodder trees suitable for coppicing) and providing shade and shelter for stock.

South East Local Landcare Services Officer Matthew Lieschke gave a seasonal update and demonstrated how to calculate supplementary feeding rates for livestock if you do not have any fodder shrubs to fill the gap. A key message from the field day is that incorporating native fodder shrubs into a grazing system can reduce the need to hand feed and that while stock are using the fodder shrub area, other pastures are able to recover better. The Small Farms Network Capital Region are currently planning more field days and workshops in 2016 including a sheep and cattle husbandry course in July with Col Langford. Our website is under construction. Watch this space for more details! Further information on fodder grazing systems is available at www.revellscience.com.au and Local Land Services Seasonal Updates and Newsletters from southeast.lls.nsw.gov.au.

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Do You Know The Size Of Your Paddocks?

Knowing the exact areas of your paddocks on farm is an extremely useful piece of information related to your everyday decision making but has not always been an easy piece of information to confirm. On farm decisions relating to ordering quantities of fertiliser, seed, chemicals, lime to name a few as well as determining stocking rates run all require a knowledge of paddock size.

We recently have been made aware of a free web based program that can be downloaded to your computer and used easily to calculate paddock areas or simply to just determine distances from one point to another.

The free program is called Google Earth Pro. Below is the website address that will allow you to download the program to your computer. <https://www.google.com/earth/download/gep/agree.html>

In order to sign into the program you will need to use your email address as your username and a site key code titled 'GEPFREE'. Once in the program, under the Search section type in your property address and the program will zoom in and show a picture of the location in question. In order to determine paddock areas choose the 'Tools' category on the menu bar, then choose 'Ruler' option and then choose the 'Polygon' tab. A text box will appear and one of the items to be measured will be Area. There is a drop down box here where you can stipulate what units you wish to measure area in. When you put the cursor over the map it becomes a small square that you can begin using to outline paddocks. This is done by using the mouse to click on corners of a paddock to define the perimeter. Once the perimeter is defined the total area is then listed in the text box. These details can be saved for the paddock by clicking the 'save' button at the bottom of the text box. This is when you will be asked to give the paddock a name. However note this step does not put a permanent paddock name label on the map. In order to do this you need to add a 'Placemark' label by selecting the 'Add' category on the menu bar. Then select 'Placemark' option and type in the paddock name and area so that it is always visible on the map.

The image can also be saved and printed. This could be potentially a useful map to be given to contractors carrying out operations like fertilizer spreading, sowing, hay making and so on.

At the bottom of the screen there is also an elevation reading which permanently appears. As you move the cursor over the property map an elevation reading can be observed for all locations.

There appear to be many more things this mapping program can do however this area calculation feature is simple and easy to do and provides you with a very useful output that can help with the day to day activities occurring on farm.

Written by Fiona Leech | Senior Land Services Officer (Mixed Farming Systems) South East Local Land Services
13 Mitchell Street| PO Box 10 | Yass NSW 2582

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Whisper Editor's Note: Chris Fowler of Bywong recommended this article by Fiona Leech. Fiona agreed to its being reprinted in the Whisper. Chris says: The article came my way through a Yass Area Network Landcare newsletter [news@yan.org.au]. These newsletters [two more are - Upper Shoalhaven upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com ; Upper Lachlan Landcare Inc. mary@upperlachlanlandcare.com.au] regularly have details of field days, workshops and other information such as this article. You can subscribe to them at these addresses , but it is a better idea to be a member of your local Landcare group [Geary's Gap/Wamboin, kukinya@bigpond.com] at the same time. Like all Google products you will need to feel your way through the complexity of it all, but I found it very useful, particularly for my liquid fertiliser applications.

Wamboin Pony Club - April

April was the month a number of our Wamboin Pony Club riders joined 200 others at Bungendore Showground for a week of intensive riding activities by attending the annual Zone 16 camp. Imagine the logistics. 200 horses and riders camping at the showground. Add to that parents and helpers (say closer to 400). They eat 3 fabulous meals each day plus snacks and participate in 4 riding sessions under the supervision of expert instructors in many and varied equestrian disciplines. This is



Pony club camp. We were lucky this year. The weather was clear and warmer than previous, it was dusty but the riders had fun. The horses survived the week and although exhausted everyone had a great time. A week at camp can be more valuable to riders than many rally day's put together as the instruction is intensive. Congratulations to our Wamboin riders who received awards in their riding troops - Victoria Evans who received a Dressage award, Rosemary Hoare and Sammi Quick who won awards for Jumping. Camp would not be possible without the help of all the parents and volunteer's who took the time and effort to help make the camp successful - it's a great community exercise and another reason why Pony Club is a great way to enjoy horse riding with other young riders. Our next Wamboin Pony Club rally day is on Sunday 8th May. It's our special Mothers Day Rally and would be a great time to come along and try out and see if Pony Club is for you.

If you are looking for a way to get out with your horse and if you are aged between 4 and 25 then pony club is for you. Rally days are a great social day and not only do you have fun riding but 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 Sunday. 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 6238 3435 or check out our website at www.wamboinponyclub.org.au and find us on Facebook - we hope we will see you soon. - **Steve Quick**

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

174: CO-ORDINATED BY KATHY HANDEL: ph 6238 3596 khandel@bigpond.net.au

Joan Mason	Bingley Way	44	Margaret Hekeimin	Merino Vale Dr	19
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			

114: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484

Diana Griffin	Majors Close	18	Will Noel	Weeroona (Majors to Denley)	36
Advertisers & Misc	(Out of area mailouts)	33	Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Road	27

TOTAL 1,299

Councillor's Corner

Developer Contributions: A couple of years ago, I sat in on a public meeting to discuss subdivision options for certain blocks in Bungendore. One resident was quite surprised to discover that they couldn't simply put up a fence across their yard and sell the part they weren't living on. More recently, another resident was surprised to find that DA approval for a dual occupancy development involved a \$20,000 contribution to offset the cost of local road works.

In fact, quite apart from the need for development approval from council, a developer (that's effectively what you are if you're undertaking any type of property development, even if you're just dividing your block in two or building a second dwelling) must provide access to certain utilities and make financial contributions to various funds established by council to offset the cost of public infrastructure that will be impacted by any potential increase in use resulting from the new development.

These charges are levied under Section 64 of the Local Government Act and Sections 94 and 94A of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act. As a result, they are generally referred to as s.64 and s.94 contributions.

Section 64 Contributions: Section 64 contributions relate to the provision of water and sewerage services. These are simply contributions to offset the cost of providing water and sewerage infrastructure and are listed in council's annual schedule of fees and charges. These are one-off charges when a new lot is established, and are quite independent of annual water and sewerage access and usage charges. These charges are, however, only levied in areas where reticulated water and/or sewerage services are provided.

Section 94 Contributions: Section 94 contributions are more general in nature, and are required to fund s.94 Plans that have been established to provide specific services in a given area. Examples of current s.94 plans include the following:

Yarrowlumla Council section 94 Contribution Plan (No. 2)—Provision of Access Roads

Applies to new developments in all areas of the former Yarrowlumla Shire to offset the cost of construction of access roads.

Yarrowlumla Section 94 Plan No.3—Provision of Community Facilities

Applies to new developments in various areas of the former Yarrowlumla Shire to offset the cost of community facilities such as halls and playing fields.

Palerang Section 94 Plan No.7—Recreation Facilities at Bungendore - Applies to new developments in Bungendore and the surrounding rural area

Section 94 contributions are levied on any new development, in the area specified in a s.94 Plan, that would be deemed to increase the demand on the services covered by that Plan. Details of all current Section 94 Plans are available from the Palerang Council website under Planning > Section 94 and 64 Contributions Plans. Section 94 contributions vary with the works covered under the relevant plan, but are currently capped under State Government legislation at a total cost of \$20,000 per lot (i.e. the total s.94 contributions for an individual lot will not exceed \$20,000). Council may also set conditions on individual developments that involve costs over and above the aforementioned contributions. Such conditions may include, for example, the sealing of an access lane way, the construction of an access road, or the installation of a culvert on a driveway or access road.

The bottom line is that it's important to consider all of the applicable costs before undertaking any property development. There can be more to it than meets the untrained eye.

The Palerang Blog—New or related entries in my councillor website Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) include: Developer Contributions (Nov 2012)

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

Last time it threatened rain I thought the time had finally come to begin something I'd put off for decades; sorting through the crates and boxes of photos that had never been put in albums. Ever the optimist, I anticipated rain of Biblical proportions which would give me at least 40 days and 40 nights to accomplish the task. Unfortunately, forty minutes was closer to the mark, but at least I'd made a start. All too soon, however, I had to reclaim the dining room table and that part of the house so everything that hadn't been binned was bundled up and stowed out of sight. The problem had not gone away. It had merely moved to a new location, but at least I'd had a few days lost down memory lane.

Memories are notoriously personal and fragile, open to embellishments, real or imagined. But photographs, especially those labelled and dated unlike most of ours, are concrete blocks of memory. When I came to recall the events of 2015 at the end of last year I went to my smart phone, not a bulky album, and there was my memory....photographs in chronological order. My garden is a memory bank, too. As I wander around I find something flourishing that reminds me of the friend who gave me the cutting, or a plant that marked a special occasion or a thank you for something I would otherwise have forgotten; sedums, geraniums, rose bushes, herbs. I remember the Easter after a wet February when we planted the Chinese pistachio, now in its autumn brilliance, in a hole wrested from the shale. We wished it luck. There are ornamentals from a neighbouring garden that have been planted by birds. The trees are here but the neighbours have moved on. Kangaroos, wallabies and possums leave reminders, too, but it's usually the absence of things, in their case; denuded rose bushes, flattened flower beds and tomato bushes stripped of their fruit!

And as ANZAC Day approaches, there are more stories and memories.....stories and images that have become folklore, stirring our emotions. How do you explain the tears that caught me by surprise when I came upon a simple white headstone in a foreign field, little different from those on either side, but this one with the familiar name of a great uncle. I'd only ever known him as a name, but tears flowed for him and for all those lost souls, the lost families left at home and the generations of children born into a society maimed by war. We shall remember....but will we ever learn.

It rained again last night, but it didn't last. However, the bush was washed clean and the reds and yellows of autumn, glowed. The season is advancing and it's time to clear the Christmas decorations from the fire place and fill the kindling box. When, and if it really rains again, I might tip toe down memory lane once more.....but there is that niggling worry....how many hard copy memories does one really need?

Autumn in Wamboin, calm and peaceful, seems far removed from the tragedies of war.....I wouldn't live anywhere else.....Lest We Forget.

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