



September 2016 CIRCULATION: 1,311

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 October 2016 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, September 25. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month and is also available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au.

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 | : Peter Evans, Acting President | 6236 9779 | president@wamboincommunity.asn.au |
| Bywong Community | Anne Goonan, President | | president@bywongcommunity.org.au |
| Fire Brigade | Matt O'Brien, Captain | 0409 991 340 | captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.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-urgnt 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 | | lrhallbywong@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 Community Association's Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display

by Fireworks Australia

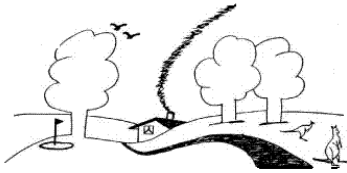


**Wamboin Community Centre,
112 Bingley Way, Wamboin.
Saturday 17th September 2015
Food stalls from 5.30
Bonfire lit at 6.33 and
Fireworks light-up 7.03 precisely**

**Support local community groups,
including Wamboin Community Association, Church,
Fire Brigade, Wonderful Women of Wamboin, Golf
Club, Pony Club, Play Group, Sutton School
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**Please note: by law the only fireworks allowed will be
the display by 'FIREWORKS AUSTRALIA'.**



Wamboin Community Association Acting President's Paragraphs



Well spring is sprung and the grass has ris, I wonder where the birdies is?

The rains have continued to fall ending one of the wettest winters for many years. Now we are looking forward to the milder days and the grasses and trees to start soaking up the groundwater. The higher growth may make for a challenging fire season, with a good chance of above average rainfall continuing for spring. Already the spiders are spinning webs and I assume the Joe Blake's are also stirring.

Spring Talks – Spring marks the recommencement of our very popular spring talks organised by Jenny Warren. This month (on the 20th September) is a visit by Tim Overall, the appointed Administrator for the newly merged Queanbeyan and Palerang Council. I am sure this will be a very popular night so please get there early to secure a seat.

Curry Night – The famous Wamboin Curry Night was run and won. Many congratulations to Meriel Schultz for winning the mild and hot curry double and Robert Gorham for the medium curry. The night also raised a donation for a local family enduring a very sad tragedy.

Bonfire Night – The biggest night in Wamboin is the Bonfire Night on September 17th. Arrangements are being finalised for what will be a great night out for the whole family. Come along and see us light up the night sky and soak up that bonfire atmosphere.

New Members – There are many events like the above Bonfire night, the Wheels of Wamboin, the monthly Home Produce Markets and the Curry night organised by members of the WCA committee and volunteers. Be a part of your local community and help make this a great place to live. We welcome new members to our monthly meetings. It's only one evening a month.

Roads – Another reminder that with the heavy rains our roads are struggling with many patches and potholes. Kangaroos also seem to be everywhere at the moment and it seems the young ones have not yet passed the road rules exams. Please drive to the conditions, show a little patience and report any dangerous potholes. If you do meet a roo please call Wildcare on 6299 1966.

Next WCA Meeting - The next General Meeting of the Community Association will be at 7.30pm Tuesday 20 September in the Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin.
Peter Evans - Acting President

WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS INDEMNITY NOTICE: The Wamboin Community Association hopes all patrons will enjoy the annual Bonfire and Fireworks Night in September, however attention should be drawn to the following: ALL patrons, regardless of age, enter and partake in the event at own risk. Children (up to the legal age of 18) are the sole responsibility of parents and/or guardians. It is the responsibility of the aforementioned parents and guardians to ensure children either do not cause harm or suffer from negligent accidents. • Patrons are reminded that the Bonfire at ALL times (including prior to lighting) is dangerous. IT MUST NOT BE CLIMBED UPON.
- Jenny Richards Vice-President WCA

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS INFORMATION: A First Aid post and a 'lost and found' section will be set up in the southern bay of the Fire Shed. The cut off date for Bonfire material is Sunday the 11th of September. This is to allow us time to heap up the bonfire. Please no pallets as the nails left can puncture tyres during the clean up. At \$200 a puncture this is quite expensive. You are reminded that you are responsible for your children's behaviour. Last year we had kids climbing on the unlit bonfire. No further comment required! Clean-up after the night starts at 9am Sun. Help is requested and welcome.
- Lofty Mason 6238 3258.

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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</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The big event for July is</p> |  |
|---|--|--|

2016 Annual General Meeting: This was held on Wednesday 17 August at 7.30 pm. It was encouraging to see new faces at the meeting and the renewed interest in the Community. The committee re-elected Anne Goonan as president, J. P Favre as treasurer and Kerry Cox as secretary. New vice president is Treisha Hemaridis and Attila Horgosi is the new public officer. Several new committee members were also elected including Mike Wilkins, Jeanette Krah and Barbara Salzborn. The expanded committee will invigorate our efforts over the coming year.

There were additional offers of assistance via the FB Bywong hub from many who could not attend evening meetings. It would be appreciated if those members could use an "old fashioned" email to the president's email address below to lock in their contact details.

LRR Master Plan: The playground initiative prompted a new master plan for the Les Reardon Reserve. This was developed in consultation with all regular users of the reserve and was presented for discussion and comment at the AGM by Jennie Curtis (Fresh Landscapes) who designed the new plan.

The master plan includes placement of the proposed children's playground, upgraded pony club trails and facilities, as well as landscaping and planting to improve the grounds. There was some general discussion about details, and the plan was enthusiastically accepted by the meeting. Although impetus for the plan stemmed from the BCA proposal for the playground, the plan is the responsibility of the LRR committee which operates under Council auspices and encompasses all aspects of usage of the hall and facilities. Accordingly the plan will be presented to the hall committee in the near future. The cost for developing this document was shared by the BCA, The Gearys Gap Pony Club and the hall committee.

Children's Playground: Now that the design has been finalised a development application will be lodged with Council, and this will be channelled through the hall committee. The cost of the (approved) playground equipment was much higher than originally anticipated and well in excess of the available BCA budget. This is predominantly due to the risk management and warranties that need to underpin such installations. Nevertheless the plan to be presented to Council will include a selection of immediately affordable items with provision for additional equipment as funds become available.

2017 Car Boot Sale- Preparation: Planning for the 20th anniversary event in 2017 is the major task for the BCA committee in the near future and the expanded committee should bring some new ideas and energy to this effort. Hopefully this will be an especially memorable Boot Sale and any suggestions or ideas for inclusion in 2017 would be most welcome. All offers of help in running the event would also be welcome, and if you have any ideas why not bring them along to the next meeting on 17 October.

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

Next BCA Meeting: This will be held on Monday 17 October at the hall. Time is as usual at 7.30 pm.

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Bungendore Spring Ball Tickets On Sale

The wattle is flowering, the days are getting longer and preparations for the Bungendore Spring Ball are well underway. True to name, tickets for the annual event will be available on the first day of spring — Thursday 1 September. The Bungendore Spring Ball is an annual event hosted by the local churches, St Philip's and St Mary's. Proceeds of the evening go towards supporting the pastoral work of the churches in the Bungendore community, as well as supporting a nominated beneficiary. This year, funds raised by the ball will be shared with the Bungendore Community Foundation. The foundation has been run by a small group of Bungendore locals for the last ten years. In that time, the foundation has invested over \$110,000 through the NSW Public Trustee.

"Dividends from the investment are used to support the local community in a variety of ways," explained Dennis Langley from the foundation. "The Bungendore Community Foundation has provided funds to assist community groups such as the Showground Trust, the Lake George Men's Shed and the rural fire brigades of Wamboin and Hoskinstown.

"The foundation also helps individuals in the community, such as providing funds to Bungendore Public School to assist particular families with school expenses; or directly helping individuals who are facing financial hardship due to illness or injury."

The theme for this year's ball is 'Fantasy'. So come as your fantasy, or dream up something fantastical, or just look fantastic in your best suit. "The Bungendore Spring Ball will again be a great community event," said Haidee Whiteley, chair of the organising committee. "The ball receives great support from many businesses and organisations in the Bungendore community, and we look forward to announcing our major sponsors very soon."

Saturday 15 October is the date and the Bungendore School/Community Hall is the venue for Bungendore's night of fantasy. Tickets are \$90 per person and include a glass of sparkling on arrival, an excellent three-course meal and live music by Trouble with Johnny. A silent auction will offer a great range of items, donated by local businesses and individuals. And judges will be casting a keen eye for best costumes and best-dressed eskies. Tickets for the ball are available online at: www.trybooking.com/MSDW and also will be available for sale at Bungendore Cellars and The Wellbeing Centre.

Contact Bungendore Spring Ball Committee Lucy Kealey 6238 3920 or 0417 043 982



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Art Trail 2016 – Artist Profile Sally Simpson of Wamboin

Provided by Laura Shelley, Community Events Project Officer, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

Sally Simpson grew up by the sea in and now lives on a small farm outside of Canberra. Her work is inspired by her love of the sea, the land and the desert.

Visitors will visit her purpose built studio in a rural setting in Wamboin.

Sally draws inspiration and materials from specific sites in order to capture our moment in time, a period of rapid change with anxieties about the future. Her working process begins as time spent on site, contemplating and collecting. Currently Sally is using washed up rope, coral and fish bones she has collected over many years on the south coast of NSW and Kangaroo Island, South Australia.

Visitors will also see some of Sally's earlier work which focused on farm land and a man made lake, combining local materials such as cattle bones, mud and grass with man made tools and detritus. Her artworks are recordings of the interaction of humans and the land at a particular point in time as if for a future museum.

"I love to see the ways people engage with and react to my work, and have a conversation about it with them. People also seem to be fascinated by the collections of materials and tools of trade in my studio. So the Artists' Trail should be a stimulating visit for all of us said Sally Simpson

Queanbeyan-Palernag Regional Council is proud to welcome Sally Simpson to the Art Trail 2016 on 30 October 2016. To find out more about the artists featured on Art Trail 2016 visit www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/arttrail2016 for self-guided maps, artist profiles and more. Pictured: Sally Simpson in her studio.



The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

Gail Ritchie Knight

In July the Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) enjoyed a highly sensory experience. Lynne Klomp from Bungendore introduced us to the world of aromatherapy using essential oils. Now oils aint oils and we certainly found that out. Amongst others, there's tangerine, frankincense, lemon, geranium and the big bertha of them all, Lavender. It has so many uses it's called the Swiss army knife of essential oils. Oils can be used for a myriad of situations eg reducing inflammation, aiding digestion, warding off colds and one I'm particularly interested in: enhancing the mood in a social setting. It was a lovely way to spend a winter's morning.

Then in August, local Jan Provis talked about eye health including macular degeneration. Internationally renowned Prof Provis is a researcher at the Australian National University. Her talk covered the physiology of the eye using the largest eyeball props I've ever seen. One of the most alarming statistics Jan mentioned was that after 55 years, the risk of macular degeneration increases 5% every decade. In addition smokers are four times more likely to develop macular degeneration. But it's not all doom and gloom. If we eat a healthy diet including leafy green vegetables and fish three times a week we can reduce the risk significantly, provided we don't carry a certain gene and don't smoke. So have your eyes checked, the sooner the better.

Finally, on Sunday 18th September, we will be celebrating our 10th birthday. All WWOW on our mailing list have been notified of our BYO anniversary lunch, so if you haven't replied do so now. If we've lost your contact details and you would still love to attend, contact me. It will be so good to catch up with both past and present WWOW including BOWWOWS (boyfriends of WWOWs) as well.

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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Behaviour Problems in Horses – PART II :

By: Cassie Duddy of CEH

Most people during some stage of their horsey career will have seen horses carrying out strange activities like that of; cribbing, wind sucking, weaving, stall walking or wood chewing. These are all what you would call stereotypic behaviour's also known as vice's. They are basically thought to be domesticated negative behaviour's, which are usually damaging and unhealthy habits repeated throughout the day.

Have you ever watched a horse rock from side to side, almost like they are in a kind of trance or daze? This behavior is termed 'weaving' and unlike some other vice's that are thought to be brought about due to boredom, this vice is thought to be in response to anxiety and stress. Horses are social animals and therefore this stereotypy is generally caused by being in isolation constantly, a lack of companionship or the horse is generally unhappy with its environment. The horse will rock their head, neck and body back and forth or from side to side, whilst remaining in basically the same spot usually with their head over the stable door. Research conducted has proven that this abnormal behavior tends to occur more frequently in horses that are; stabled all day having only one view point to look out from as well as horses that are not surrounded by other horses or animals for company.

Allowing your horse to weave for a significant length of time for one can become harder to control at a later stage when it becomes a more established behaviour and two, is extremely damaging to the horse's well being. The transferring of weight from one leg to another can result in both joint and soft tissue damage as extra stress is put on the tendon's and ligament's of the foreleg. Swelling of these internal structures along with hoof growth can also become deformed due to the unnatural wear of their hooves. The horse may even lose condition as energy is used throughout the day to carry out the behaviour.



Preventative measures such as the use of anti-weave grills and mirrors along with other opportunities to increase social interaction can be used to help minimise this behaviour. This may include stabling several horses together in a barn or providing additional fields of view for the horse to be able to interact with its environment and neighbours. Studies have revealed that weaving is significantly reduced when stable box design allows direct contact between horses, stables have back doors that open up on to pasture or simply by opening up windows within the barn. All help provide mental stimulation by allowing more visual stimuli, odors and sounds for your horse to interact with in its environment.

Here are some easy ideas you could try first to prevent or help minimise weaving from occurring - **1.** Provide high fiber feed through the use of slow hay feeder bags to make our friends work harder for their feed. **2.** Engage your horse in lots and lots of physical activity each day to tire them out. **3.** Ensure they have adequate time out to pasture each day.

If you would like further information or veterinary advice or have any other concerns with your horse, please contact Canberra Equine Hospital on 6241 8888 or by email on equine@canberravet.com.au.

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Littlish Libraries

by Teenaka James, Sutton Road and Victoria Oakden, Macs Reef Road

Littlish Libraries are part of an international project called Little Free Libraries - you can find more information at <https://littlefreelibrary.org> - whose mission is: *To promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide and to build a sense of community as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations. There are nearly 40,000 Little Free Library book exchanges around the world, bringing curbside literacy home and sharing millions of books annually.*



We will be fundraising - with a home-made biscuit stall - and raising awareness for the local community's very first Littlish Library, which we hope will be at Sutton School, at the September Wamboin markets.

The WCA has been very supportive with lots of useful advice, and is interested in looking at hosting a library at the Wamboin Community Hall in the future. We are submitting a grant to the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund through the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council for building, installation and registration of approximately 25 free Littlish Libraries throughout the QPRC region, helping to facilitate stronger connections and interaction among people of all ages in our community. The plan is to extend this number through building community awareness and

partnerships, and more people offering to host/donate on a long-term basis, resulting in a sustainable project throughout the region. We will be collecting good quality reading books from those offering to share their reading pleasure. Look out for us at the Wamboin markets this month where we will have more information about the project, and one of the Littlish Libraries on show - as well as some yummy home-made biscuits:) Call Teenaka on 0401 637 619 for more information or if you can't get to the markets - you may even like to find out how you can be a library custodian!

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

August rainfall to 28/8 ... 42.25mm

(Average Aug. ... 54.8mm)

(2015 to 31/8 ... 475.00mm)

(Sept. 2015 ... 14.25mm)

Driest Sept. 6mm in 1994

Hottest Sept. day ... 24C on 18/9/81

Coldest Sept night ... -4C on 1/9/12

(2015 Aug. ... 80mm)

2016 rainfall to 28/8 ... 567.00mm

Average September rainfall ... 61.9mm

Wettest September ... 146mm in 1978

Wettest Sept. day ... 48mm on 19/9/85

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WILD

LIVING

Observing & learning
By Chris Clark



Welcome,

We all certainly live in a wonderful location. Peace and quiet, great lifestyle, neighbours, views and of course; wildlife.

Generally we as residents and our WILD-life harmoniously interact respecting each other's space but at times we do clash. The following are few personal accounts of my mingling during the years in Bywong. Lessons learnt resulting from heart-stopping moments when I'm not paying attention. (For good or bad, my house is amongst rocks with vegetation almost to the door)

Lesson #1

I should have gotten weather stripes for my external doors when I moved in. The photo top right is a little devil that was marching across my lounge room floor one night. A 'forest' scorpion, native to this area. Found under rocks most of the time, and I am not sure why he/she was visiting. These guys are quite small; about 3 to 5 centimeters. I am told they pack a fair sting but I have not yet tested that advice.

Separately, consider that weather strips also block other less favorable slithering fiends from squeezing under doors. Yes it has happened!

Lesson #2

First up, I have to reinforce that snakes are bad guys. I have grown up with snakes having enjoyed a childhood in the bush and I have a very healthy

respect. Common sense and calmness is key. Here is a web site with good info:

<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/science-environment/2012/07/australias-10-most-dangerous-snakes/>

Red or brown? Interesting thought. Granny always said that "snakes are more afraid of you than you of them". Well granny; you shouldn't fib to a 6 year old.

Scenario: I am building rows of rock walls & rock fences. Big job good exercise. Repetition of pickup rock, apply mortar, place rock. Radio in background, happily daydreaming. I become aware that a stick like shape is protruding from the rocks about a metre to my right. I blink, focus & expletives similar to a translation of "damb" were uttered. I later named this red belly 'Boo' as he just keeps reappearing. Well Boo was happy. Boo was not afraid of me. Boo stayed quiet and tasted the air; not rearing, not flattening, just a bit of a bow. OK Granny, what now? I kept working thinking Boo will retreat, however with a 200 heart rate. Boo vanished. I sighed. I kept working. But of course, Boo reappeared, this time about an arm's length on my left. He had travelled through

the wall under where I was working. Was this a standoff? If it was, well, I lost. I left. Boo was happy with his rock condo being extended. We have, since then, cross paths or perhaps it's a Boo clone. Regardless, I keep a distance.

Browns & Tigers; can be very aggressive. **See web link.** Being serious; snakes and kids/pets don't mix and encounters will definitely end in screams and panic. I always accompany visitors around my house in the summer & stress they must be very vigilant particularly with children. Pet lovers' note that a trip to the vet from a snake bite may cost upwards of \$1500 (or so I'm told).

Lesson #3

Shingle-backs will quietly drag across your verandahs but can also cause a "damb" if you are walking barefoot down stairs. Lesson learnt; always look before you step into shadows. But.....they are really cool looking bug eating critters. Photo above.

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Do you have any stories or adventures? Can we laugh or learn from you?

The Wamboin Firefighter

The Wamboin Firefighter newsletter is produced by the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade for the benefit of residents and property owners in the brigade's area that includes the localities of Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton (south of the Federal Highway) and Bungendore (along and west of the Lake George escarpment).

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS
Ring Triple Zero



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

The Statutory Bush Fire Danger Period is fast approaching! (Begins 1st October)

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL PLAN?



Now is the time to prepare or refresh your Bushfire Survival Plan.

Do you know what you will do if there is a grass fire on your property, or a large bush fire in the region, or when the fire danger rating is Severe, Extreme or Catastrophic?

Now is also the time to prepare your property. The generally mild Spring weather is normally an excellent time to clear the gutters, mow the grass around your house and sheds, remove overhanging branches, and clear away the wood pile beside the house

or that pile of prunings you didn't get to burn during winter.

ARE YOU BUSH FIRE READY?

FOUR SIMPLE STEPS

1. **DISCUSS** – *discuss* with others in your household what to do if a bush fire threatens your home
2. **PREPARE** – *prepare* your home and get it ready for bush fire season
3. **KNOW** – *know* the bush fire alert levels
4. **KEEP** – *keep* all the bush fire information numbers, websites and the smartphone app

The NSW Rural Fire Service website provides an aid to help you with these steps – just go to the NSWRFSS website where you can access and download the guide to making your Bush Fire Survival Plan - <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au>



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HALF PRICE FOR NEW CLIENTS

BURNING OFF – reminder for notification

If you are going to light a fire outside the bush fire danger period – **you must notify your neighbours and the local Fire Control Centre well in advance of your intention to burn, i.e. at least 24 hours before lighting up.** To notify the local Fire Control Centre (it's in Queanbeyan) of your intention to burn, call 6128 0600 (weekday business hours only – no later than mid-Friday for the weekend). It is also essential that you attend and control the fire at all times while ever it is alight. Penalties for non-compliance are being enforced.

CALENDAR - UPCOMING EVENTS FOR RESIDENTS


Saturday 17th September **'Are You Bushfire Ready?'**
Following its winter recess the Wamboin Local Produce Market resumes again at the Wamboin Community Complex, 112 Bingley Way Wamboin. As with every market day, members of the Fire Brigade will be on hand at the Brigade's Information 'Shopfront' (9am-12noon) to answer any enquiries you might have regarding your preparation for the coming bushfire period. **NOW!** is the time to get your property and your family prepared. New residents to the area are particularly encouraged to speak with us.

And don't forget, Saturday 17th September is also the Wamboin Community Association's Annual Bonfire & Fireworks night. It's usually a great family activity. As usual, we'll be there. According to the Community Association's website, 'Food and drinks available from 5.30pm, bonfire lit at 6.33pm, followed by the fireworks at 7.03pm precisely!'

BRIGADE CALLOUTS: Until July the Brigade had a reasonably quiet Autumn and Winter period, with only a few fire calls which were mainly to un-notified pile burns. In the last two months the Brigade has attended a major structure fire on Sutton Road; four motor vehicle accidents on Sutton Road, the Federal Highway, Norton Road and the Federal Highway Service Road; and car fire on Sutton Road. The Brigade also responded to a number of false alarms. The Brigade's members continue to turn out in large numbers at all hours of the day and night. One fire call at 3.00am on a Sunday saw eleven members make themselves available and at the most recent call out, on the last Saturday of August, we responded two fully crewed heavy tankers at 9.00pm.

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

NSW Rural Fire Service: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
The NSW Rural Fire Service website provides an electronic copy of its **Bushfire Survival Plan guide** that you can download and complete. You can also access its **MyFirePlan** smartphone apps. in both iOS and Android versions.
Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade: <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>
Wamboin Brigade Captain: captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au or 0409 991 340
If you have any other non-emergency enquiry, e.g. need guidance with your Bush Fire Survival Plan or you would like a brigade member to visit you to provide helpful comment on your property preparations, please contact the Brigade directly by email or phone.




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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market

Contact: Lance and Meriel Schultz 02 62383309 imsconsulting@bigpond.com.

The markets start up again on **Saturday 17 September**. Yes the same day as the fireworks! We are acting on some of the ideas that came out of the discussion about the future of the markets (WCA July meeting) starting with the following at this coming market:



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Tube Stock and Plant Sale
at the Wamboin September Market

.....Come and stock up on natives
for spring planting!
.....Find out more about Landcare

Secondly, there will be an information stall to gauge interest for the idea of:

Little Free Libraries
Local resident Teenake James is **preparing a** submission for a community grant to QPRC and would like to provide information about little free libraries and seek your opinion on how they might work in our area.
Find out what they are.....visit her stall!

SEE YOU AT THE SEPTEMBER MARKETS

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Help our local, Greenhalgh Family get back on their feet after they lost everything in their devastating house fire on Sutton Road, in July.

On the day purchase your entry ticket near the Sutton School Bell

For further details email: theresekershaw@gmail.com



MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

We are seeking witnesses in relation to a head on motor vehicle accident resulting in a fatality on Wednesday 13 July 2016 at approximately 7.30am on the Kings Highway, east of Queanbeyan, near the Defence Headquarters Joint Operations Command (DHJOC).

We are seeking people who either witnessed the accident occur, the aftermath of the accident or any events that might be relevant to the circumstances leading up to the accident.

If you have any information pertaining to this accident, please contact Richard Baker, Partner at Baker Deane & Nutt Lawyers on 02 6230 1999 or by email at rbaker@bdn.com.au

CHARLIE THE LEVER TURNS 90!

Charlie le Lievre, long time Wamboin resident, turns 90 in September. Charlie has made a significant contribution to our community and, in recognition of that, a celebration of this remarkable milestone will be held at the Community Hall on

SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, 2016, ...commencing ...12 NOON – 3PM

Not only was Charlie the bushfire brigade's equipment officer for many years – he kept anything with or without moving parts, including the trucks, in working order – he also drove the school buses on the Queanbeyan, Canberra and Sutton routes.

Charlie would love to see as many of his Wamboin friends including his old fire brigade colleagues and the students he used to drive to school, at the Hall for this special occasion. A sausage sizzle, nibbles, Birthday cake, tea and coffee will be served. Bring your own drinks. H19 services available. Again the details: Where: Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way When:.....SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2016 ...Time:..... 12 NOON – 3PM.. Your RSVP would help for catering – Joan 62 383 258, Larry 62 383 222, Don 62 383 447.

Wildcare's Baby Bird Challenge

Wildcare is always on the lookout for new recruits to help rescue and rehabilitate injured and orphaned wildlife, but in spring there is a special challenge – coping with an expected influx of orphaned baby birds. Baby birds can be great fun – in the way they demand our attention to be fed regularly during the day, become silent and go to sleep over night and grow amazingly fast to young adult stage before being released back into the wild.

As, Wildcare's Bird Coordinator, Maryanne says "With many Wildcare members working full time, there is a need to find additional volunteers at this time of the year who are available during the day. If you care about our native birds, looking after baby birds can be a very rewarding experience. Full training and support is provided and we may also be able to help with cages and enclosures.



"On a related topic, many of the baby magpies that come into care each spring probably don't need to be 'rescued'. Fledgling magpies tend to spend some time on the ground when they first leave the nest, while they are learning to fly - with mum and dad on guard nearby. Of course if they are injured or in imminent danger, we should help. But one option is to place the fledgling on a branch out of danger - or even better in a bucket, with leaf litter in the bottom, and hang it from a nearby branch - and watch to see if the parents return. If in any doubt – please call Wildcare on 62991966."

If you have time to help out, or if you want more information about caring for baby birds, please call Maryanne, the Wildcare Bird Coordinator, on 0411 422 897 to have a chat. More information is also available at www.wildcare.com.au.

Photo: Orphaned Kookaburras doing well - Philip Machin, Wildcare, 62383717.



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WAMBOIN GOLF – August 2016

Sunday 7 August, River of January, Brazil (where the nuts come from). That’s right, this report comes to you from South America – or it would if your correspondent was actually there. But the editor wouldn’t spring for the paltry sum he was asking to be our sports reporter in Rio. Never mind, haven’t we been doing well! At least the women have. A farmer’s daughter from Majors Creek, or somewhere very like it, has won the women’s crap shoot by making seven the hard way – with just one dice. And four girls from Bywong (I think) have won the pool competition by clearing the table in consecutive strokes. And now the Mudchicks have taken out the inaugural sevens rugby! Not to mention all those dirty brown medals we’re getting for not losing by much. And no “roids” or peptides amongst us and no “sewer inspectors” crawling through holes in the wall to change urine samples! How do we do it? I’ll tell you: it’s because our winning athletes all come from the Queen’s Park Rangers Collective, the healthiest region of Australia, under the benign and fatherly guidance of *chef de mission*, Mr T Working



Trousers. I know what you’re thinking - it can’t get better than this. Yes it can, because the golf is yet to come. Now that all the Australian golfers whose names you can remember have been struck down by the VIKA virus, the AOC has called upon the Wamboin Golf Club (our motto: *golfus rusticus fantasticus*) to make up the members of the Australian team. We had the final practice session last Sunday. The day was sponsored by The Tradies - Don Evans, Trent Able and Henk Berlee – clever chaps who can measure things correctly and use electric powered thingummies. We thank them for the prizes and eats including Henk’s legendary pea and ham soup. It was a mild, slightly overcast afternoon, still sodden underfoot from our record wet winter. To prepare us for Rio conditions we had to add to the surface water the contents of a couple of septic tanks, a few body parts and the odd wheelie bin of household garbage.

Back at the Copacabana the acting captain welcomed one and all with a few well-chosen words in Portuguese. The googly ball went to Dave Hubbard who had to pull out of the Olympic golf team with a perforated bowel. This, it was noted by one sensitive soul, was poetic justice – for the first time in his life he was a pain in his *own* arse. (Sorry for that low level course language. Some Wambonians can be quite crude.) Your correspondent moved a motion of no confidence in the absent captain who underwent surgery on Friday, was up and walking on Saturday and could have presented himself for play on Sunday. The motion failed for want of a seconder. The captain is also the handicapper and no one wanted to spoil their chances for the Open in November. In view of such craven perfidy your correspondent had no option but to spit the dummy. There were of course NTP and LD ball winners but unfortunately no records were kept (tsk, tsk!). The 9 hole comp was taken out by Penny Gibson with 57 off the stick for a net 25; 2nd was Lofty Mason 44/29; 3rd Madison Gordon 75/30 (promoted to the seniors just for the day – I hope). The 18 hole comp was won by Paul Griffin 84/63 from Tim Barter 82/66 with Keith France 3rd on a count back 90/71.

Next month will be officially Spring. This means the Wamboin Spring Trophy will be contested when we get back from Rio. Join us at 12.15pm for the 12.30 pm start on Sunday 4 September. Don’t miss Joan’s spring rolls at the 19th. *Adeus e melhores desejos!* - Larry King, *jogador de golfe*



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NEW TO WAMBOIN?

THE WAMBOIN NEW RESIDENTS' PACK (3rd edition) IS NOW AVAILABLE!

Published by the Wamboin Community Association (WCA), the Wamboin New Residents' Pack is full of useful information for recently arrived residents of Wamboin. It contains details on a range of groups and organisations active in the area as well as hints for enhancing your rural/rural residential lifestyle. If you are a new Wamboin resident (less than 2 years), or if you have a new neighbour to whom you would like to give a copy, please pick up a copy from the WCA stall at the monthly Wamboin Home Produce Markets where you can also join or renew your membership of the WCA! Markets are held at the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, on the 3rd Saturday of every month except during Winter. Upcoming market dates are September 17th, October 15th, November 19th etc. The Pack is also available by emailing the WCA, secretary@wamboincommunity.asn.au or for anyone to download from the WCA website, <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/localservices/index.php?op=residentsGuide>



Bywong's John-Pierre Favre responded to the request to readers in the August Whisper to take us down enjoyable or thoughtful paths in this issue. He sent in 24 scenes. He captured them on drawings that he made on wanderings away from his home on Newington Road. The one at left takes you to Quimper, Brittany. The one above invites you to set out on a day of fishing in Hoian, Vietnam.



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Wamboin 15 years ago – from the Whisper, September 2001 Circulation: 900

From the Bywong Community Association News; submitted by Morag Cameron: **“Holiday bus service planned for Bywong/Wamboin.** Prospects are looking good for Bywong Community’s proposal to provide a bus service into Canberra during school holidays. Following discussions on the problems of young people getting into town during holidays and encouraged by interest shown at meetings, the Community wrote to Deane’s Buslines. The company responded favourably and is now seeking Departmental approval to run a service connecting Bungendore, Bywong, Wamboin and Canberra. When they receive approval, Deanes proposes to run the service as a trial. Regular stops are not planned – passengers will be able to hail the bus from safe stopping places. Arrangements under discussion include a Tuesday and Thursday service leaving Bungendore at 9.30am and leaving Civic to return at 4pm.” Did this ever happen? Is it worth reviving? – Robyn Robertson

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

Once again tragedy has befallen a young family in our community and once again our diverse and caring community has rallied offering support in many different ways. Our deepest sympathy to Raelene and her three children in their devastating loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

We look forward to welcoming spring and with it the spectacular Wamboin Fireworks night. As usual, the Church will be there with the gluhwein stall offering a warming drink.

We also have a Baptism at St Andrews, mid September, and while welcoming one new member to the congregation we will be farewelling several others who are heading overseas for well earned holidays.

Church services are held at St Andrews on the first and third Sunday of the month, and at St Peters on the second and fourth Sunday. All services start at 9am, followed by a superb morning tea and a chance to catch up with others in the district. If you have not been to a service before be assured that you’ll be warmly welcomed.

For further information, or if you have any enquiries about the roles of the two churches in the Wamboin or Sutton community, please contact any of the numbers listed below.

Pastor Dr. Royce Thompson 0416265600, Robyn Robertson 62383202, Alan Rope 0429434944 , Bronwyn Elliott 62383359

Can You Add Something to the October Whisper?

Thank you to everyone (40+ people) who paid for printing this September Whisper by advertising in it, or (50+ people) who worked so that 1200+ residents could find it in their mailbox, or (40+ people) who wrote something about living out here give us words to read or pictures to look at. It took some effort from each of us, but we got out one more issue of Wamboin’s and Bywong’s little community owned newspaper. If you are reading this and think you could write something to help the October Whisper come into existence by a month from now, please consider yourself invited. Deadline is last Sunday of September, 7 pm. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor, ph 6238 3484, email whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or nednoel@optusnet.com.au .

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The Great Wamboin Curry Night

Connoisseurs of the cuisine of the sub-continent gathered at the community hall at 7pm for the traditional Curry Night, enjoyed since the second half of the previous century by the residents of this green and pleasant local government area. The event's genesis is shrouded in the mists of time. Some say that an antecedent of the Hubbard family formerly employed by the East India Company introduced curry to Australia when transported here on a convict ship. In any event it was eagerly seized upon by the founding mothers and fathers of the fledgling Wamboin community to give the snow-bound residents an early Spring clean out, so to speak.



Fast-forward to 2016 which saw the management of the night in the capable hands of Neville Schroder – with help from setters-up Rachel Schroder, Keith France, Lofty Mason, Don Evans and one other. Traditional organiser, Dave Hubbard is having a bad run in the health department at the moment. We wish him a speedy recovery. Although a good time was had by the 92 people in attendance, the evening also served a sombre purpose: to raise much-needed cash for a young Wamboin family going through a family tragedy of the worst kind. To that end, a raffle was held and drawn after the meal. Your correspondent was present on the following Monday evening when Nev was able, thanks to the enormous generosity of the attendees, to provide a substantial sum to the family. We thank the prize donors, Ruth and Steve Lambert, Marita and Greg Corra, Paul Darmody (the Bungendore

Butcher) and L & L King. As a post script: two of the three meat trays offered as prizes were returned by the winners and given to the family. A supportive community is a wondrous thing. Let us be glad we are part of one.

Of course, the very apogee of the occasion was the awarding of prizes (three bottles of Warrabilla red from Hubbard's cellar) to the best curries, as assessed by a secret panel of judges. We can now reveal that the panel consisted of Gai and Ian Donald who declared the outstanding curries to have been prepared by: Meriel Schultz (mild); Robert Gorham (medium) and Meriel Schultz (hot). Congratulations to our worthy winners, particularly Meriel for pulling off the difficult double. And many thanks to all the willing hands who helped clean up and put away the tables and chairs. - Larry King, gourmand

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SPRING TALKS SERIES – 2016

*** STARTING SEPTEMBER 20th, 7:30pm ***

The Wamboin Community Association (WCA) invites all residents of Wamboin and surrounding areas to the **Spring Talks Series - 2016**.



~~~~~  
**Mr Tim Overall, Administrator of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council has accepted our invitation to be the first speaker in the WCA's Spring Talks Series – 2016, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. Tim will speak on:**

**The New Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council.**

- **The Roadmap for Phase 1 implementation to September 2017 and the Transition Plan 2016-19 – constraints and latitudes.**
- **The infrastructure challenges ahead and the cross-border issues.**

~~~~~  
 Covering a variety of topics relevant to life in a rural-residential area and presented by local experts, the WCA's **Spring Talks Series** will entertain and inform.

Come to the **Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, at 7:30pm** on the following Spring evenings and hear from a different guest speaker each month.

| Date | Topic | Speaker/s |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| 20 th September | The New Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council | Mr Tim Overall, Administrator, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council |
| 18 th October | Caring for your horses | Vet TBA Canberra Equine Hospital |
| 15 th November | Birds of Wamboin | David McDonald & David Cook Local Amateur Ornithologists and Photographers |

The talks will be preceded by a short meeting of the WCA, and will be followed by refreshments and an opportunity to speak to the presenters, meet more of your neighbours and get to know what's really going on in your community - **it's where we all live!**

Are You Looking For Funding For Your Community Group?

Are you from one of the following?

- o Sporting Groups
- 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 Upper Lachlan
- o Oberon
- o Palerang
- o Wingecarribee
- o Wollondilly
- o Shoalhaven

Grant and Donation Funding

The Veolia Mulwaree Trust has provided over \$8.5 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

For round opening and closing dates, please check the website.



Working with Weeds Field Day

Weeds only tell part of the story when considering the management of rural properties in Australia. The next field day from the Small Farms Network Capital Region is more than an information session about controlling weeds, it's about giving land managers the tools to think about weeds in positive way and to understand the processes that may contribute to weed establishment. The keynote speaker is Alison Elvin, co-director of NaturalCapital Pty Ltd and also a local grazer who is passionate about creating productive, resilient and adaptive agricultural systems that are based on healthy soils, high-quality water and biodiversity conservation.

“With a wealth of practical and theoretical knowledge from both personal and professional experience, Alison has developed a deep respect for weed species and the stories they can tell us about our land management” says Alex James, the Small Farms Network Capital Region Coordinator. The topics that will be covered during the day include what is a weed, what conditions and land use may have contributed to the problem, identifying key weed species, integrated weed management, weed biosecurity and emerging weed target species. There will be a paddock walk and ‘hands on’ session in the afternoon and an opportunity for landholders to develop their own weed management plan for the future.

Alice McGrath, Natural Resource Management Land Services Officer with the South East Local Land Services, based in Goulburn will be launching the “Preparing a Whole of Property Weed Management Guide”, with plenty of copies for participants to take home. ACT Rural Services will be available to discuss farm biosecurity and weeds to watch.

The Small Farms Network is supported by funding from the Australian Government and this event is made possible by in kind support and contributions from the South East Local Lands Services and the ACT Regional Landcare Coordinator. The Palerang Action Network for Sustainability provides voluntary support for our work in this region. Numbers are limited and bookings are essential. For more information and bookings see www.smallfarmscapital.org/events-workshops.

Date: Saturday 22nd October 2016 Time: 9.00 am- 3.30 pm
Location: Majura ACT (property address provided on booking)
Cost: Free (lunch and morning tea provided)
Enquiries: Alex James admin@smallfarmscapital.org
 or 0406 338 850



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Table Tennis News

The grant has been submitted, thanks to the hard work of Jill Gregory. So keep your fingers crossed for it to succeed. We have applied for a grant of \$2,000 to cover 3 table tennis tables, 4 card tables, board games and cards. We are going to call it “The Wamboin ‘Drop In’ Activity Group”. We have had over 40 replies in response to the notice in the last Wamboin Whisper. We will be up and running as soon as we receive the grant. Watch this space! - Denise Hales, 6238 3413, deniselynnhales@gmail.com

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 (Weeroona to Hilltop+Wirndra) | 23 | Penny Evans | Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley) | 26 |
| 233: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489 | | | | | |
| Lesley Page | Valley View Ln | 4 | Deb Gordon | Yalana East | 45 |
| Colleen Foster | B'dore Rd to Nrtm Rd | 23 | Rob Henry | South end Clare Valley | 41 |
| Cassie Fisher | Clare Ln | 12 | Lyle Montesin | The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks | 65 |
| Dominica Lorima | North end Clare Valley | 42 | | | |
| 261: 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 | Rhonda&Neville Parnell | Denley Dr (Birchmans to 1/2 way to end) | 26 |
| Don Malcolmson | Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat) | 7 | Rhett Cox | Macs Reef Rd (Newington to Bankers) | 7 |
| Connie & Hans Bachor | Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr | 35 | Daryl Bourke | Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott | 30 |
| Nora Stewart | Rovere Ln | 7 | Sandra Favre | Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott | 20 |
| Carol & Clive Boughton | Macs Reef Rd (Bankers to Fed Hwy) | 33 | Joan Milnor | Birriwa Rd plus Macs Rf Rd to Harriott | 32 |
| Beth Hope | Gum Flat Ln | 6 | Tony Bond | Hogan Dr/Orana Dr/Yuranga Dr | 42 |
| Misc | | 1 | | | |
| 161: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425 lodestar@ozemail.com.au | | | | | |
| Michael & Jose Deane | FdHwSvcRd/Bidges/Hickey/O'Gold | 70 | Louise Baldwin | Wattle Flat Rd | 11 |
| Glen Dorahy | Sutton Park Estate | 53 | 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 | | | |
| 115: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484 email nednoel@optusnet.com.au | | | | | |
| Diana Griffin | Majors Close | 18 | Judy Smith | Weeroona (254 - 400) | 18 |
| Advertisers & Misc | (Out of area mailouts) | 34 | Suzie and Brad Edwards | Weeroona (417-512) | 18 |
| Attila & Cherry Hrgsi. | Snowgum Road | 27 | | | |
| TOTAL 1,311 | | | | | |

Wamboin Internet Access – NBN Satellite Disaster

by Olaf Theden, Norton Road

Following on from Paul Brugman and John Gough's recent articles in the Whisper about the state of Wamboin's internet access (or lack thereof), the following may be of use to those unfamiliar with what is happening communications wise in our area.

It may come as a surprise to some, but we have been put onto NBN's satellite service area, and since the satellite is now up there, we are now able to get connected to the NBN. This is where the fun stops. The NBN satellite offer may well be a good deal when you are the only home in the middle of an outback property the size of Denmark, but it certainly doesn't come close to what we *already have* and what a community so close to the Canberra CBD would expect in today's day and age. Further, with the advent of the NBN offering connections to the satellite service, it is only a matter of time before the old Telstra exchanges will be shut down (NBN assures me that they won't be *forced* to shut down, but what shareholder owned company keeps their antiquated/obsolete equipment running when there are only a handful of customers left connected on it?). This means the end of ADSL in our area is coming!

Further, the surprise that Wamboin is considered a satellite service area is put into perspective when it shows up as number 10 in the list of 11,517 satellite areas across the countryⁱ in terms of number of households, and 3 of these top 10 are Islands far from the mainland, and 2 Tasmanian locations have already successfully lobbied the Government for inclusion in fixed line NBN offeringsⁱⁱ. (For completeness, Sutton is #29 on this list and Bywong is #35.) There are 635 households in Wamboin, and a further 489 in Sutton and 462 in Bywong. In general that means our area is highly populated and on the border-line between getting a different NBN technology choice (but this won't happen without community action, and not likely within the current NBN rollout!)

This means, that collectively, we will be burdened with a slow, and very expensive communications option (SkyMuster NBN satellite) when we are very close to the civilised world of Canberra and Queanbeyan. For a typical Wamboin family, who doesn't have access to free-to-air TV, no mobile reception and is therefore bound to whatever internet we can get for streaming services, we use between 250GB and 500GB of data per month via ADSL2. For those that like numbers and tables here is a bit of a comparison:

| Technology | Download Quota (Normal living hours) | Speed (Down/Up) | Cost (p.m.) (including line rental if required) | Comment |
|---|---|-----------------|--|--|
| Old Technologies currently used in Wamboin but which may reach their use-by period sooner than we expect | | | | |
| ADSL2 | Unlimited | 8-12Mbps/1Mbps | \$89-\$110 | This should be most people in Wamboin, though speeds and data packages may vary. |
| ADSL1 | 500GB | 3-8Mbps/0.3Mbps | \$127 | If you are still on ADSL1, you may find you can change to ADSL2 but you have to ask for it (again every few months) and be with an ISP which gets its backhaul through Telstra's infrastructure. |
| New Technologies currently enjoyed in Canberra and Queanbeyan | | | | |
| VDSL2 | 1000GB | 80Mbps/30Mbps | \$79 | Cheap and fast |
| Fibre NBN | Unlimited | 100Mbps/40Mbps | \$110 | Fast, resilient and future-proof |
| New Technology that we could be getting (but only with some community effort) | | | | |
| Fixed Wireless NBN | Unlimited | 50Mbps/20Mbps | \$125 | Getting NBN to privately reconsider our area would have upfront cost implications (just for the quote part) as well as leading to upfront costs to pay for the "additional hassle" of providing the service (could be thousands of dollars per household). Another option may be political lobbying. |
| Fixed Wireless via Lightning broadband (Melbourne based) ⁱⁱⁱ | Unlimited | 100Mbps/100Mbps | \$120 | Requires at group of residents to register their interest (as per previous Whisper article by Paul). |
| Fixed Wireless via the Signal Co (Canberra based) ^{iv} | 500GB | 25Mbit/10Mbit | \$89.95 | Requires at group of residents to register their interest. |
| New Technology that we will be stuck with if we don't do anything | | | | |
| Satellite NBN (SkyMuster) | 60GB | 25Mbps/5Mbps | \$189 | Yep, that's right. This costs about twice as much as other plans, and nearly a tenth of the download data allowance. There is no way of getting more data, and NBN considers downloads in excess of 75GB (after being shaped to 128kbps) to be a breach of fair use. Also, the high latency of a satellite connection will render some internet services unusable. |

As you can see in the table, we will soon be paying about twice as much for an NBN service and getting nearly one tenth of the required download capacity. While not everyone will be downloading as heavily, you will find that if your current connection is in the 3-8Mbps range of ADSL1/2 and you then get 25Mbps on Satellite, your download quota can disappear in no time at all (and you will be back to dial-up speeds until the next billing cycle).

Unless you wish to be left in the digital dark ages, this calls for urgent community action! There are two ways forward: either lobby NBN (probably via Ministers of Parliament) to change their mind on Wamboin's technology choice (like Tasmania's west coast already has), or engage a private company (eg. Lightning Broadband or Signal Co) to setup shop here in our district. The choices require a bit of community action, as either would require multiple interested parties to show their support and/or outrage at being left for dead in the alleyways of digital communications doom.

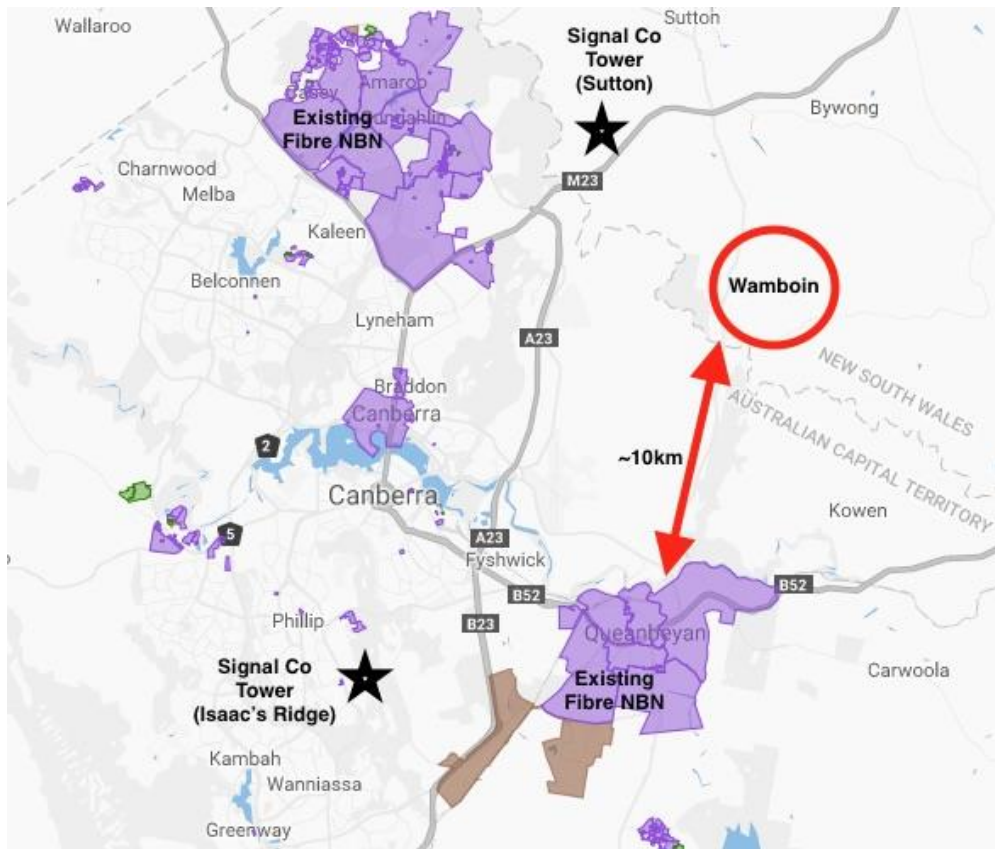


Figure: Current state of Fibre NBN rollout in Canberra and Queanbeyan as well as current Signal Co wireless tower locations. Note that Wamboin, though in close proximity to existing fibre NBN installations has been relegated to satellite NBN only at this stage.

Notes i, ii, iii and iv in the text and table are:

- i <https://www.finder.com.au/nbn-who-gets-the-most-sky-muster-satellite-coverage>
- ii <https://delimiter.com.au/2016/06/14/coalition-dumps-satellite-ftn-nbn-tasmanias-west-coast/>
- iii <https://www.lightningbroadband.com.au/>
- iv <https://thesignalco.com.au>

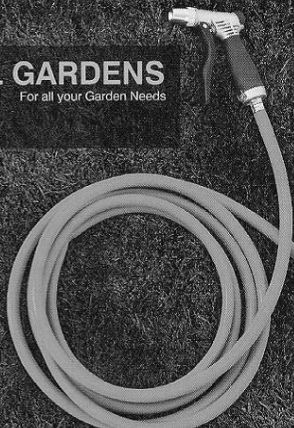
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Wamboin Muse

by Jill Gregory

A friend came up our driveway the other day greeting me with, "I see you're not a purist!". I was a little taken aback wondering how an incurable romantic who sees the natural world through a poor poet's eyeglass could ever be suspected of being a purist, but she was referring to my tolerance of different wattle species along our road. I don't plant wattles, they simply take up residence and grow here, and when they're covered with masses of dots, puffs, splashes and pendulums of brilliant yellow I wouldn't know a feral Cootamundra from an acceptable local brand, and I couldn't care less; brilliance is brilliance whatever the name. 'Tis the season of wattles, bright and cheery, tugging on the coat tails of winter, begging it to be off.

But it's not just the yellow wattles. Almost over night there is a garden bed cut through with yellow daffodils, violets hugging the ground and winter honeysuckle, alive with bees, perfuming the air. As I was bent double under an awkward rose bush I almost stepped on a small shingleback trying to get an early summer tan. I stumbled upon a large skink exposed and immobile in a pile of roadside rocks caught out by a sudden drop in temperature. High up in a stringy bark sits a pair of galahs keeping watch over their nursery. They have returned each year to that same hole in a tree trunk that was fashioned for them over decades by drought and fire. Snitchy honey eaters warn me to keep away from their nests. I heard my first thrush of the season. One lucky magpie chick will open its eyes in a cosy fur lined bed thanks to a departed kangaroo. Its cousin will be less comfortable, I fear, starting life on a mattress of coir plucked from the hanging basket on my back verandah.

I may still need my warm coat, woollen socks and gloves before I venture outside for a morning walk, but it is such a tonic to stop, look and listen and be witness to the changing season and rhythms of life, and take time to value what we have; valuing not just our natural environment but the wonderful selfless people in our community, as well, who help and care for each other, especially in times of personal tragedy and loss.

"Wattle, golden wattle, the symbol of our land....." I wouldn't live anywhere else.....it's brilliant by any name!



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