



**November 2016 CIRCULATION: 1,311**

**Wamboin Community Assn:** [www.wamboincommunity.asn.au](http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au)  
**Bywong Community:** [www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au)  
**Fire Brigade:** <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

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

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**LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS**

<b>Wamboin Community Assn</b>	: Peter Evans, Acting President	6236 9779	<a href="mailto:president@wamboincommunity.asn.au">president@wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>
<b>Bywong Community</b>	Anne Goonan, President		<a href="mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au">president@bywongcommunity.org.au</a>
<b>Fire Brigade</b>	Matt O'Brien, Captain	0409 991 340	<a href="mailto:captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au">captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>
<b>Wamboin Markets</b>	Lance and Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	<a href="mailto:Lmsconsulting@bigpond.com">Lmsconsulting@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Sutton School Playgroup</b>	Emma Harriden, Convenor	0448 478 953	<a href="mailto:ce.harriden@bigpond.com">ce.harriden@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Landcare</b>	Kathy Handel, Secretary	6238 3596	<a href="mailto:khandel@bigpond.net.au">khandel@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison, Bungendore	6238 1333	
<b>NSW SES</b>	NSW Call Centre	132 500	For assistance in storms and floods
<b>NSW SES Bungendore</b>	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	For non-urgnt assistance and advice
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<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Keith France, JP	6238 3596	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Margaret Fletcher, JP	6238 1211	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Jill Sedaitis, JP	6236 9559	
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Leanne Quick, Club Captain	6238 3435	
<b>Geary's Gap Pony Club</b>	Cameron Smith, contact	0419 449 747	
<b>Wamboin Play Group</b>	Linda Uzubalis, Convener	0410 294 420	<a href="mailto:Linda.uzubalis@gmail.com">Linda.uzubalis@gmail.com</a>
<b>Scouts</b>	Pete Harrison	6238 3525	
<b>Bywong Hall Bookings</b>	Ann Sloan, contact		<a href="mailto:lrhallbywong@gmail.com">lrhallbywong@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	<a href="mailto:joan.mason@internode.on.net">joan.mason@internode.on.net</a>
<b>Church - Anglican</b>	Robyn Robertson, Warden	6238 3202	
<b>KYB Bible Study Group</b>	Yvonne Barrett, contact	6230 3539	
<b>Golf</b>	Peter Greenwood, Golfer	6238 3358	<a href="mailto:p.greenwood2@bigpond.com">p.greenwood2@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare, Helpline	6299 1966	
<b>Wonderful Wmen of Wmb</b>	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	<a href="mailto:Whirlwind1@argonite.com.au">Whirlwind1@argonite.com.au</a>
<b>Lake George VIEW Club</b>	Pauline Segeri, contact	6238 1996	
<b>Wamboin Book Group</b>	Alice Scott, Secretary	6238 3178	

**YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS**

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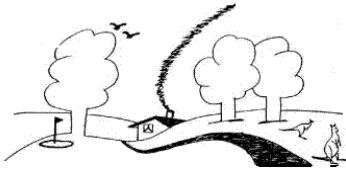


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## Wamboin Community Association Acting President's Paragraphs



Well Spring has sprung and the wonderland of Wamboin is green again. You can nearly hear the grass grow now that the spring warmth is finally arrived. The ACT election has been run and won and it looks like the city slickers will now have a tram. Maybe we should start lobbying for an extension to Wamboin rather than Woden with a tram stop on Norton road, just not sure if it will handle the Norton Road hill.

So, what's been happening on the past month in Wamboin?

**Spring Talks** – Dr Suzanne Polak from Canberra Equine Hospital gave an excellent presentation titled “caring for your older horses”. The presentation was very informative and also focussed on issues facing our equine friends in our local environment and climate. A huge thanks to Suzanne for attending our WCA October spring talk. The November Spring talk will be with local Ornithologists and photographers David McDonald and David Cook regarding the Birds of Wamboin. Don't get into a flap just turn up.

**Grants** – The WCA has been successful on all four applications for the “building Stronger Communities Grants” from the QPRC. Our applications included, funds for the purchase of recreational items (table tennis tables, board games etc.) to encourage a weekly get together for residents at the WCA Hall, funds for audio visual equipment, a WCA printer and funds for the establishment of a little Libraries network. Well done to everyone who pulled together the submissions.

**Christmas Carols** – Yes it is that time again, the tinsel is in the stores already. Jenny Richards is once again organising the Christmas Carols and it will be a great night out to celebrate the best of the festive season. Please show your support and contact Jenny at [vicepresident@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:vicepresident@wamboincommunity.asn.au) to lend a hand or to start your child's Hollywood career.

**Wheels of Wamboin** – The popular Wheels of Wamboin is on again but due to the Easter clash it has been moved to May 20<sup>th</sup> 2017. Time to flush out those fuel lines, drain the tanks and start polishing your pride and joy for the big day in May.

**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 and you get to meet others in the local community.

**Next WCA Meeting** - The next General Meeting of the Community Association will be at 7.30pm Tuesday 15 November in the Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin. -- Peter Evans

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bywong Community News</b> <a href="http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au">www.bywongcommunity.org.au</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Anne Goonan, President</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The big event for July is ....</b></p>	
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The BCA held two meetings over September-October to address important “house keeping” issues.

**Website/Wiki:** The BCA website requires an overhaul and Steve Walker (BCA committee member) has generously agreed to set up the new website and backup the current one.

**Playground Project:** The playground is quite a large and costly undertaking which must meet strict OH&S criteria. While sufficient funds are presently available to start the project, further money will be required to purchase some of the more expensive items. The cost of the desired play equipment is estimated to be around \$28,000. An additional \$7000 is required for the delivery and installation if undertaken by the equipment manufacturer for warranty purposes. However it involves more than just play equipment with levelling and earthworks to be undertaken in preparation for the area. There is another approximately \$20,000 in earthworks and items such as appropriate and safe mulch for under the play equipment and paths, edging etc. Merle Horgosi is also very actively looking at various options for raising the extra project money. A special thank you to the WWoW for their kind donation of \$300 towards the project!! .

At the October meeting Merle provided a progress update on the project, and in particular reported that the Les Reardon Reserve s355 Hall committee (LRRC) had supported a BCA application for a “Stronger Communities” grant from the QPRC to facilitate the playground. The focus of the application was the accessibility and improving safety aspects of the playground in the context of the now accepted Master Plan for the Les Reardon Reserve.

The Master Plan (informed by input from all the regular Facility users) is a template for management and future of the Les Reardon Reserve. It has been signed off by the LRR s355 committee and has also been provided to Council. It was decided that all money for the playground works be channelled through an account separate from the BCA working account. This is to facilitate the likely staging of the project, and to quarantine the project specific funding.

**Money to Community Organisations:** The September Extraordinary meeting provided the opportunity for some bookkeeping! The committee approved donations to the Wamboin RFS and Bungendore Scouts for their efforts in connection with the Car Boot Sale. Money was also approved to assist payment for development of the Master Plan, since this has now been approved by the LRR committee. A small fee was also approved for the young ballerina who assisted at the last Trivia Night.

**Next BCA Meeting:** This will be held on Monday 28 November at the hall. Time is as usual at 7.30 pm. The focus of this meeting will be planning for 2016 especially the community **Christmas Drinks** which will be held on **Friday 9 December at the hall from 5.30 pm on.**



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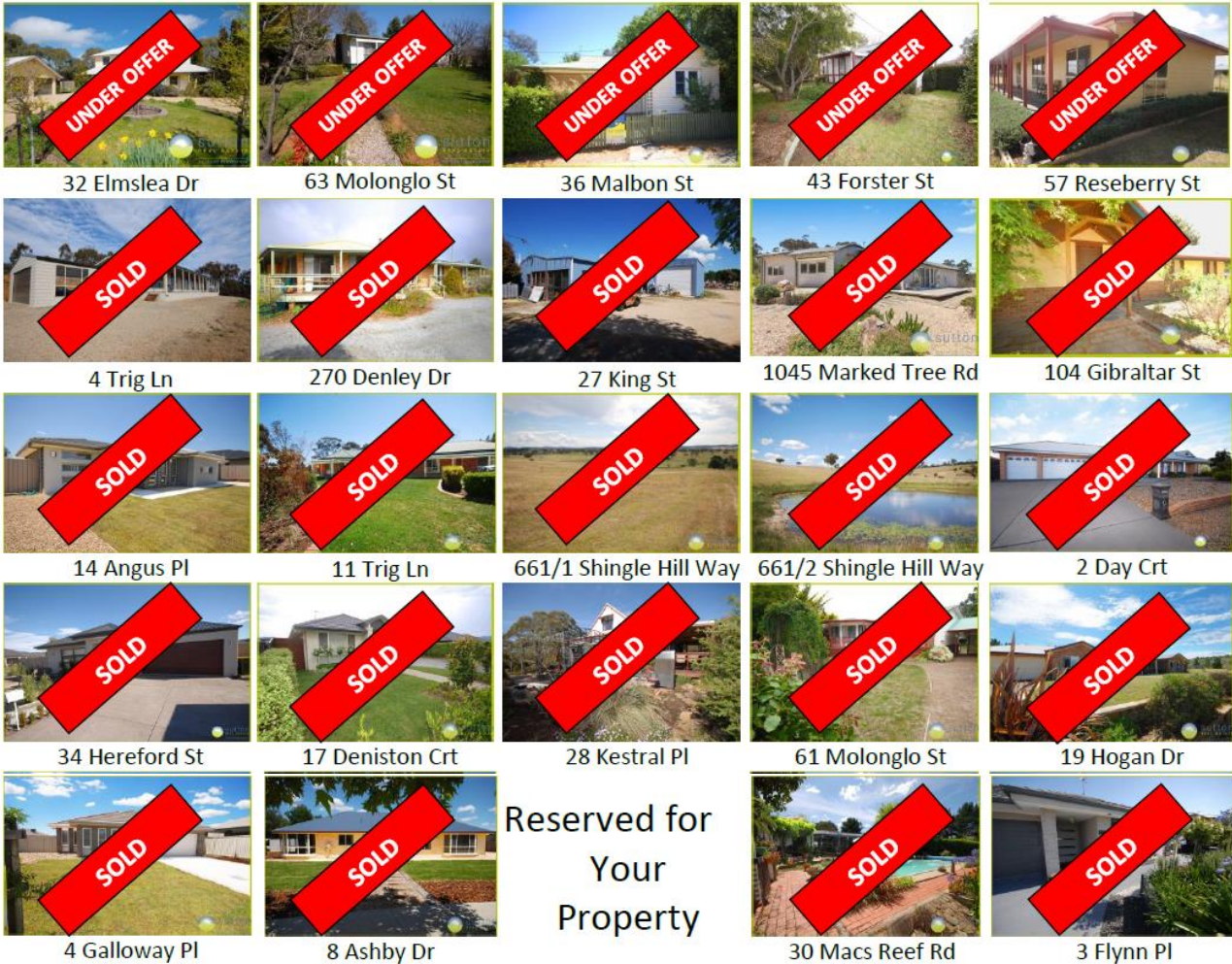
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### Table Tennis, Cards and Board Games

Great news. Our grant for 2000 dollars to start an activity drop in centre at the Wamboin Hall has been accepted by the Queanbeyan Palarang Regional Council's Grants Committee. This will enable us to buy three table tennis tables, four card tables, cards and board games. We are hoping to have the use of the Wamboin Hall on Thursdays. We plan to start just as soon as we find out when we are to receive the money and can buy the equipment. I have a list of people who showed an interest in playing and I will be contacting all of them. But if you are out there and would like to play table tennis or card games please either leave a message on my landline which is 6238-3413 or send me an email at [deniselynnehales@gmail.com](mailto:deniselynnehales@gmail.com) We are looking forward to lots of responses. Everyone is welcome. So come and meet your Wamboin neighbours I wouldn't live anywhere else ....to steal Jill's ending. - Denise Hales

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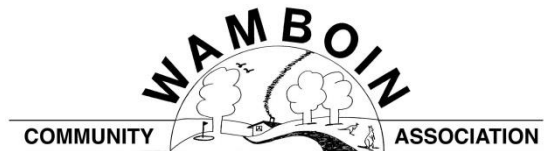


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## 3<sup>rd</sup> and FINAL SPRING TALK – 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

The Wamboin Community Association (WCA) would like to invite all residents of **Wamboin and surrounding areas** to the third and final event in our **Spring Talks Series - 2016**.



Date, Time & Place	Topic	Speaker/s
Tuesday 15th November, 7:30pm Wamboin Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin	Birds of Wamboin ("The Bird Talk")	David McDonald & David Cook Local Amateur Ornithologists
<p>What's one thing that we all agree contributes to the enjoyment of life in Wamboin? Our wonderful native birds! But do you know the difference between a Spotted and a Striated Pardalote? Do you know a Gang-Gang from a Galah? Hear about the habits of our resident and migrant bird species including nesting needs, behaviours such as why some magpies swoop and what to do about it.</p> <p><b>Local bird lovers and experts David Cook and David McDonald will share their passion for our area's fascinating birds. David Cook's photographs of local birds will leave you speechless! Bring your photos and birdcalls along to have them identified (remember – there's no phone signal or internet access at the Hall!)</b></p> <p>David Cook is an amateur ornithologist and photographer and a long-time resident of Wamboin. He has recorded 145 species of birds on his property since 1986, as well as many species elsewhere in Wamboin.</p> <p>David McDonald, also a Wamboin resident, is an amateur ornithologist who conducts regular surveys of the birds of Wamboin and the surrounding districts. He was awarded the 2016 Steve Wilson Medal by the Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG) for his support of Canberra region birds and COG.</p>		

### Report on October's Spring Talk - "The Horse Talk"

Thank you to Dr Suzanne Polak from Canberra Equine Hospital for her very informative presentation at our October Spring Talk. Suzanne spoke about some of the issues that face ageing horses such as nutrition, dental problems and arthritis. She kindly stayed on to answer questions from the floor on topics ranging from why horses appear to be eating tussock this year to the problems that arise from overstocking. We look forward to having Suzanne and her colleagues back next year.

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. **Spring 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!**

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## How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

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

**170: CO-ORDINATED BY ALICE SCOTT: ph 6238 3178 email alicehscott@bigpond.com.au**

Fay Kelly	Norton Rd West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20	Robyn Robertson	Cooper Rd	26
Mario Larocca	Fernloff Rd	35	Jill & Richard Gregory	Canning Cl	17
Julie Veal	Poppet Rd (for all on road)	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	40

**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

**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**

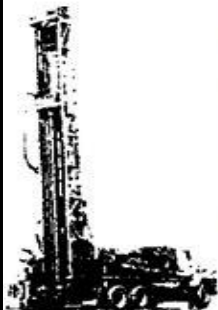
Phil & Pam Dawes	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln	27	David Featherston	Summerhill to B'dore Rd to CreekB Rd	26
Kevin Anderson	B'dore Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill)	37	Ken Steinman	Wyoming & Doust Rds	34
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	32	Chris Fowler	Millyn Rd	20
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	21			

**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**

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## Nature Notes October 2016

Jo Walker

After another rather wet month, the creeks are still running and the dams are full and overflowing. Frogs are filling the air with a noisy chorus and there are already tadpoles in the ponds along the creek here. There are new Yabbie holes along the edge of the dam, but the White-faced Heron has been busy as there are several blue claws lying nearby.

And, now that the temperatures are rising a bit, the vegetation is taking advantage of the moist soil and sunshine. The lush new growth on the eucalypts this year is exhibiting stronger than usual colours. There is one tree I can see from my windows that is almost completely covered with bright red new growth that seems to glow in the sunlight.

Along Sutton Road, the *Pomaderris angustifolia* bushes are just beginning to bloom and their masses of tiny cream flowers will soon be wafting their perfume through the air. The golden Common Buttercups (*Ranunculus lappaceus*) and the yellow Bulbine Lilies (*Bulbine bulbosa*) are adding some cheerful colour to the landscape. And Billy Buttons (*Craspedia variabilis*), with their tall yellow flowerheads are contributing to the picture. Because of the wet season, they are growing very tall this year – some are more than knee-high here. At the other end of the size scale, carpets of the tiny Austral Sunray (*Triptilodiscus pygmaeus*) are just opening their little yellow flowerheads.

Most of our local spring flowers are shades of yellow and cream, but there are a few with different colours. The Violets (*Viola betonicifolia*) just beginning to flower are usually bright purple, but occasionally mauve or pink flowers can be found. The white flowers of Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*) are well past their peak and are now forming shiny dark seed capsules. In the wetter areas, populations of the insectivorous Pale Sundews (*Drosera peltata*) are forming extensive bright yellowish green carpets. These plants trap small insects in sticky droplets at the margins of their leaves. Right now, their white flowers are opening. Creamy Candles (*Stackhousia monogyne*) are flowering too, their pale starlike flowers clustered thickly along tall stems. And then there are those thousands of Hoary Sunray daisies (*Leucochrysum albicans*) along the roadsides on several of our local roads.

The birds are enjoying the masses of flowers on local and planted shrubs at my place. The White-eared Honeyeaters and Eastern Spinebills are spending a lot of time in the Grevilleas feeding on the nectar. And a few days ago I heard a pair of King Parrots that occasionally visit. Usually they call and follow me around until I give up what I'm doing and go and fetch them some sunflower seed. But, this time they didn't bother me. They'd found the ripening red seed capsules on a Hopbush (*Dodonaea viscosa*) and were feasting on them. The Spotted Pardalotes I mentioned last time inspected their previous nesting hole for two days but didn't use it this year – there could probably have been a puddle at the end of the long tunnel after all of the recent rain.

The Magpies and White-winged Choughs were disturbing the peace a few days ago. The Magpies were diving and screeching at the Choughs who were trying to feed on the ground – until they got fed up and returned the attack. A pair of Wood Ducks have already hatched their fluffy ducklings – the family was parading along the road recently.

Some of the Mint-bushes (*Prostanthera* spp.) planted here are flowering heavily this year and are attracting bees, Syrphid Flies and lots of butterflies at present. The butterflies are mostly Yellow Admirals (*Vanessa itea*) and Painted Lady Butterflies (*Vanessa kershawi*) with a few Meadow Argus (*Junonia villida*).

The wet weather during winter might have been a bit hard to take sometimes, but has resulted in so much colour and activity now that spring is here.

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- 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](http://www.mulwareetrust.org.au)

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

**Veolia Mulwaree Trust**



## VIEW focuses on Poverty Week

Article by Maureen Boss, Publicity Officer

The third week in October was designated 'International Poverty Week', and October 18 was the International Day of the Girl Child'. Lake George Day VIEW Club, therefore, being dedicated to helping relieve these two problems through their support of the Smith Family invited Janette Dale from the Louisa Domestic Violence Service as their speaker for October.



The definition of Domestic Violence can include *Physical Abuse*, *Mental/Emotional Abuse*, *Social Abuse* isolating the victim from family and friends or criticism of victim in presence of family and friends; or *Economic Abuse* by keeping money and any means of gaining any it.

The Louisa Domestic Violence Service (LDVS) operates in our region as a part of the Molongo Support Services; and is a non profit community based organisation to help children, women and men. The two main aims are to make the community more aware of the problem and to provide a means for anyone to escape to a safer environment. The LDVS thus is not just a passive organisation, but ready to take action when someone asks for help.

The safe house has about six short term crisis rooms, but the aim is to find a more permanent place as quickly as possible; and be linked up with low rental

accommodation, Centrelink, counselling and other necessary support services. It is essential that the person is given these supports to help them remain safe and independent in the long term.

Advice and information is also available in regard to other issues associated with domestic violence such as finance, legal, education, health and importantly, emotional support and understanding. Help is provided for any children who are experiencing trauma and stress due to family violence. The availability of these support networks and links are essential if a woman is to feel confident and safe in taking the huge step of escaping a domestic violence situation. Thankfully today, things are changing and there is greater community awareness and more support from the police and courts ...but we still have a long way to go in solving the problems associated with Domestic Violence and to ensure all women and their children can live a life free from violence and abuse.

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## 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.**

**WE ARE IN THE BUSH FIRE DANGER PERIOD (FIRE SEASON)!!**

**Bush Fire Danger Period**  
**1 October - 31 March**

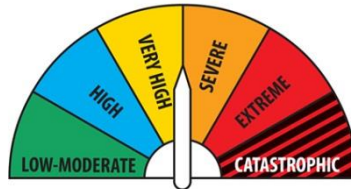
**FIRE PERMITS ARE REQUIRED**

Just a reminder - if you are planning to light a fire in the open during the Bush Fire Danger Period, you will need a Fire Permit.

- Fires lit without a valid permit are illegal and attract severe penalties.
- Permits are free but issued subject to various conditions.
- Requests for permits should be made at least a week before the intended burn.
- Permits for properties in the Wamboin Brigade area (see banner above) can be arranged by contacting the Brigade Captain on 0409 991 340 or email: captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au



### FIRE DANGER RATING – A TRIGGER FOR ACTIVATING YOUR BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL PLAN



The Fire Danger Rating (FDR) is an early indicator of the consequences of a fire, if a fire were to start. It is an assessment of the potential fire behavior, the difficulty of suppressing a fire, and the potential impact on the community should a bush fire occur on a given day. The rating is based on predicted conditions such as the temperature, humidity, wind speed and dryness of the landscape. When a FDR is advised, you need to take it seriously and be prepared to act. It should be your first trigger for activating your Bush Fire Survival Plan. The safety of you, your family and your home may depend on it.

There are 5 FDR roadside signs in the brigade area. They are located near the intersections of:

- Norton Rd and Sutton Rd (Wamboin)
- Macs Reef Rd and Harriott Rd (Bywong)
- Bungendore Rd and Joe Rocks Rd (Bungendore)
- Bungendore Rd and Summerhill Rd (Bywong)
- Federal Hwy Service Rd and Goolabri Dr (Sutton Park).

The FDR for our area can also be viewed on the brigade's website at: <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>  
You can also find it on the NSW RFS website <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/> - (note: the NSW Fire Area and FDR for properties in the Queanbeyan/Palerang Regional Council area is the 'Southern Ranges').

### THREAT THIS SEASON - GRASS FIRES

There really shouldn't be anyone in the region who is complaining about the lack of rain so far this year. According to the Robertson's rainfall stats in The Wamboin Whisper, looks like we're up some 200mm as at the end of September 2016 compared to same time last year. The dams are full. The ground is saturated and soft. The landscape is verdant. Now, with the cold months behind us, the sun is peeping out a little more; it's getting warmer; the grass is responding - crescendo-like. So, as the grass grows and cures (i.e. dies and dries) over the coming months, the risk this fire season is an increased likelihood of a serious bout of grass fires.



Grass fires can spread quickly. Grass fires are very hot and can produce huge amounts of heat that can kill anyone out in the open. The safest place to be during a grass fire is well away from the fire. When in the vicinity of a grass fire, always keep the burnt ground in mind as a safe refuge.

### **Prepare your property for grass fires**

Some of the things you can do to protect your home, crops and livelihood include constructing effective fire breaks as a means of preventing fire escapes from your property and reducing the likelihood of fires entering. You can establish firebreaks by mowing, grazing, brush cutting or ploughing around buildings, crops, pasture and along fence lines.

Machinery such as tractors, slashers, ride-on mowers, chainsaws, welders and grinders can start grass fires so please ensure they are free from faults or mechanical defects that could start a fire and are not used during hot and windy conditions. With machinery such as tractors and ride-on mowers it is also important to carry a working water fire extinguisher or knapsack.

Further information on any of the above and other matters to help you GET READY for the fire season can be found on the NSW RFS website.

### **BRIGADE TRAINING**

With the onset of the fire danger period, training during October focused on working with live-fire on a property in the brigade area. Our firefighters practised tactics for property protection and relay pumping. The added issue, which may be a problem for some time yet, was to make sure none of the tankers got bogged! Mission accomplished.

### **BRIGADE CALLOUTS**

October has been a busy month with eight callouts these past four weeks. These included five calls to motor vehicle accidents (MVAs), a tree across Macs Reef Road, an unapproved burn and an unsuccessful search for a reported smoke sighting near Eaglehawk.

Our role at MVAs has been traffic management and to be prepared for fire. The MVAs this month ranged from single vehicle through to multiple vehicle accidents; most were on the Federal Highway.

The unapproved pile burn involved the brigade sending a large tanker with a crew of three to the north end of Lake George. This was a two hour round trip that could have been avoided if the property owner had sought a fire permit from the Brigade captain. A timely reminder about the need to seek a permit.

The fallen tree had been cut up and cleared before we arrived at the scene.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

*Wamboin Market Day – Fire Brigade's Community Engagement Information Shopfront:*

Sat 15 Oct - We fielded a number of enquiries covering the requirements for Burning Off, Volunteering in the RFS; and what this year's Bush Fire Danger season might look like.

Sat 19 Nov – The next market day. We'll be there to answer your queries and offer advice to help you with your personal and property preparations for the bush fire season.

### **PROPERTY VISITS**

We still continue our practice of offering to conduct property visits on request to help residents identify and mitigate potential risks to their home and guide them in developing a personalised bush fire survival plan. The brigade has been providing this free service for a number of years. If you'd like to arrange a visit, contact the Captain – details below.

### **USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**NSW Rural Fire Service:** [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://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 the free **MyFirePlan** smartphone app. in both iOS and Android versions.

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

**Wamboin Brigade Captain:** [captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto: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 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.

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

On the last Sunday of the month, St Andrews was filled with spring garden flowers. It looked a picture for the simple Flower Communion service. Each person, in turn, placed a flower in a bowl on the altar, and stated why it meant something to them, and at the end everyone took home a flower brought by someone else; "no two flowers are alike, as no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make." It was a beautiful service, moving in its simplicity.

There is plenty to note in your calendar for November at St Andrews. On 13 November Bishop Stuart will be taking the service at St Andrews with a "back to church" theme. The churches will have a stall at the Wamboin Markets on 19th, Advent Studies start on Tuesday 29, at 7.30pm with the lead up to Christmas, and on Wednesday, 30th, there will be a short service at 6.30pm before a dinner at the church to celebrate St Andrew, our patron saint. All are invited.

The service with Bishop Stuart on 13th means that services at St Andrews will be on the first and second Sunday of this month, and St Peters on the third and fourth Sunday. All services start at 9am, followed by a chance to catch up over a cup of tea or coffee and a delicious morning tea.

Kids Club meets each Friday afternoon at St Andrews, from 4.30 until 6pm, during the NSW school term. For further information or inquiries about the roles of the two churches in the Sutton or Wamboin community, please contact any of the people listed below.

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

## Illegal Dumping

### From Lofty Mason

On Thursday October 20 the oval had finally dried enough to allow the clean up of the bonfire residue. This took a bit of time because the rain had put out the embers before the entire residue was converted to ash. I then ran my drag leveller over the area to leave it all neat and clean.

So you can imagine my surprise, when after being alerted by a phone call, I went to the oval to see about a trailer load of garden waste dumped in the middle of the cleared area!

Made me wonder what the person was thinking when they illegally dumped the rubbish. Were they worried that someone would see them? Surely they aren't so naïve as to think they were doing the 'right thing'?

OK, I've cleared it away now: but please, no more rubbish on our oval. Surely pride in the area is stronger than fear of prosecution?

Finally, thanks to the person who saw the dumping and reported it to the Hall Management Committee.

# Now it's November the market @ bungendore

Sunday November 20th 9am - 2pm  
at the War Memorial Hall

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clothing & footwear

## WAMBOIN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

**Friday, December 16 2016 @ 7:00pm**

At Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way

Everyone is invited to come along and:



Join in the singing of Christmas Carols (both traditional and modern), ably led by our local musicians



Listen to a special performance by the Playgroup children



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



Give generously to the Giving Tree (gifts and non-perishable food, preferably unwrapped or in a Christmas bag) for distribution by the Salvos



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



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



Soothe your tired vocal chords with a cold drink



## Future Greenways Meeting -- Come Along And Help Us Plan The Future Greenways for Wamboin and Bywong. 22 November 2016, 7.30pm, Bywong Community Hall, Birriwa Road, Bywong

Established over 20 years ago, our Greenways are a network of walking and riding trails throughout the Wamboin and Bywong area that provide a unique community resource for a range of recreational activities. With the current review of how Crown Lands in NSW are managed, there is an opportunity for us to identify those Crown Lands that might be productively incorporated into our existing Greenways network. There is also an opportunity to identify where Greenways might be most effectively included in future rural residential developments within the area.

We welcome your interest in Greenways and positive input on how best to develop and use our Greenways network. Come along and help us plan our future together. For more information, contact: Bill Taylor, Chair, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Greenways Committee Ph. 6236 9386, Email: bill.taylor45@gmail.com

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## Wamboin Community Association (WCA) General Meeting - Summary

Date of Meeting: 18 October 2016 Meeting Chaired by: Peter Evans, Acting President, WCA

### General outline of topics discussed:

Regular brief reports were delivered by members of the WCA including by the Acting President, Peter Evans, who updated the meeting on actions regarding the proposed Crown Land Sale and its potential impact on the Weeroona Drive/Denley Drive Greenway. He advised that the WCA had written to Council on the matter. Lofty Mason advised that a Pet Show is planned for the November WCA Home Produce Market.

A number of representatives of other community groups gave brief updates on their activities including:

Wamboin Pony Club's President, Peter Evans who reported that the Wamboin/Gearys Gap Shield at Gearys Gap had been cancelled due to wet weather;

Lofty Mason who commented on the wet weather's impact on the Wamboin Golf, with the September and October events being washed out and reminded the meeting that the 27<sup>th</sup> Wamboin Golf Open was scheduled for 6 November.

SPRING TALK: The General Meeting was followed by a presentation and Q&A session by Dr Suzanne Polak from Canberra Equine Hospital.

-- Thank you to all attendees for your active participation.

-- Jenny Warren, Assistant Secretary, Wamboin Community Association

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## Community Effort

Great to see the community get together to help out the Beckett family after Jason's fatal accident on Sutton Road. Raising money, cutting firewood, fixing: electrical wiring and doors, completing decking, repairing the driveway, feeding the workers, cleaning out sheds, preparing cooked meals and the list goes on. All activities also need organising. Col Prest gave me the job of repairing the driveway and very fortunately Charlie Montessin volunteered to 'lend a hand'. I will report only on this activity as I have not been involved in others.

Day 1 saw Charlie with his Kanga, and Don Evans and I with out tractors fixing the drainage and shaping the foundation for the driveway. It was too wet to achieve much more. By Day 2 it was dry enough and activities went up a gear. I was amazed at the way Charlie used his Kanga machine. We had five, 12 tonne loads of road-base delivered during the day. The money for this material came from: Spud Sales, The Curry Night and the Golf Club. The truck loads came at about one hour intervals. Unfortunately, due to the recent rains the road-base didn't flow out evenly which caused the delivery to be a series of dumps. However, Charlie was able to level the dumps of road-base by the time the next truck-load arrived. When I say I was working with Charlie, all I was doing was being the water-boy. (At my age water-boy sounds better than water old fxxt). Anyway, I was using my fire trailer to spray extra water as needed. I think Charlie must have laser eyesight because he continued to move the road-base around, then to level it and finally to grade it, all with his Kanga and attachments. Then came the final touch. Charlie loaded his truck (using the Kanga) with about 2 tonnes of dirt. The heavy vehicle became a roller to give a great finish.

Charlie doesn't know I am writing this and will probably be embarrassed but that is the way I saw events unfold.

- Lofty Mason.

## Wamboin Pet Parade

Hear ye, hear ye..... come along and join in Wamboin's inaugural pet parade – show & tell, on Saturday 19 November from 10.00 a.m. at the Wamboin markets, Bingley Way, Wamboin. Bring your dog, cat, snake, reptile or any other adorable pet and let others see what you have. Certificate for the best dressed, exotic, companion dog or cat, interesting, appealing, handler lookalike, friendliest, unusual & the judge's choice. Gold coin entry. All animals must be under control and/or contained and children must be supervised. Contact Lisa, on 0408260796, for more details. - Philip Machin  
For the Wamboin Pet Parade -- Photo: Libby – ready to go



  
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### Coming events at Sherony Park

<p><b>First Aid for Equine Enthusiasts</b> full day course 13 November 2016 8:30am to 4pm <b>Bookings:</b> <a href="mailto:webbequineeducation@gmail.com">webbequineeducation@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Yoga for Horse Riders</b> 6 week term starting Tuesday 1 November 2016 7pm to 8:15pm <b>Bookings:</b> Maureen 0402 900 033</p>	<p><b>Working Equitation Clinic with Michael Godding</b> 17-18 December 2016 <b>Bookings:</b> Nicole Godding Fully booked</p> <p><b>So your Child Wants a Pony.. Seminar</b> 9:00 to 12:00 5 November 2016</p> <p><b>Tanja Mitton Mindset Seminar</b> 6.30 for 7pm start - 2 hours duration 27 October 2016</p>	<p><b>Tanja Mitton Introduction to Equestrian Success and Mindset Confidence Clinic</b> 28-29 October 2016</p> <p><b>Tanja Mitton Advanced Equestrian Success and Mindset Confidence Clinic</b> 30-31 October 2016</p> <p><b>Bookings:</b> Sheronypark@bigpond.com</p>
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Jerra would have hatched earlier this year. At some point the parents disowned it (that’s what happens) and chased it away. At about four and a half months, unable to fly and apparently injured she was rescued by Nicole, a Wildcare volunteer.

Nicole ended up rehabilitating and commented, “I received a call from a neighbour that there was an injured swan on the bank of the lake. Fortunately, she was easy to catch and I noticed there was a problem with its wing. I had the swan checked out by a local Vet and an X-ray indicated it had a dislocated wing. In order to get the right advice, we sought out a specialist avian Vet in Canberra to help treat the bird. Unfortunately, after several weeks, the swan didn’t fully regain use of its wing. Rather than euthanise such a majestic bird, it was suggested the National Zoo and Aquarium might be interested in caring for Jerra on a permanent basis and this is what has happened – with the necessary TAMS and NPWS agreement and paperwork in place of course!



“Looking after the swan was a great experience. She took over my small backyard and helped to keep the grass in check, as well as my flowers. Otherwise she was fed on lettuce, seeds, corn and a turkey starter. She was kept in a cage at night to keep her safe from foxes, but during the day she roamed around the backyard and enjoyed wallowing in a tiny clamshell pool.” Jerra now has a permanent home at the zoo and is the only resident black swan. She has taken charge of three companion geese in her enclosure and may live the life of luxury for another twenty-five or more years.

If you come across injured or orphaned native wildlife, or want information about becoming a volunteer, contact Wildcare on their 24/7

helpline – 6299 1966 or visit their website ([www.wildcare.com.au](http://www.wildcare.com.au)).

- Philip Machin, for Wildcare, 62383717



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## Wamboin Golf – October 2016

Sunday, 2 October 2016. Well, smuggle me budgies! What a beautiful day it was. A fine, bright day. A great day for sitting around in your undies drinking from your shoe or just fishing for navel lint and solving the world's problems. Or maybe oiling your brand new 7-shot Adler and wondering if we'll ever get back the Bledisloe Cup. Or just doing a little macramé or cross stitch. Because golf was out of the question after the late September deluge. The politically aware were still discussing the debate in that great big reality TV theme park, the United States of Disneyland, between Donald Duck (wearing a Davy Crockett hat) and Minnie Mouse (wearing a fixed smile). Those who prefer a bit more body contact in their sport were talking about the two grand finals over that weekend. First there was that weird four sticks game played by the southern socialists down Mexico way. But more relevant to us in Bungendore Tiger land was the NRL decider. Turns out we were all going for Cronulla despite their appropriation of the Viking Clap (not to be confused with a Scandinavian STD). But the real breaking news for the golfers of the QPRC was (a) the death of our patron saint, Arnold Palmer, and (b) the invitation to the R & A (Rural & Agricultural) Wamboin from the R & A (Rustic & Agrarian) Braidwood to attend the Braidwood Diggers Day Ambrose on Saturday, 12 November. Put it in your diary.

After the greens committee ruled out play to protect the course, disappointed golfers gathered at the community hall to attack the 19<sup>th</sup>. They were disappointed because the *Oktoberkomp* is the traditional occasion when you play as badly as you can to ensure a higher handicap for the Wamboin Open in November - an example of the low, bucolic cunning typical of the natives of this region. The day's sponsors, L & L King, provided the solid refreshments for which we thank them. Ted Evans travelled out from Queanbeyan to provide his usual report on golfing matters elsewhere. The Googly Ball went to that ex-parliamentary thrill-seeker, Wyatt Earp MP (ret'd) for his starring role in *Gunfight at the IS Corral*, a low budget indie shot entirely on location in Iraq. The Dummy Spit Award was given to Donald Duck for refusing to pay any income tax to the US IRS since 1996 on the grounds that he was a billion dollars in the hole after various businesses had "crapped out" - as they used to say in his failed casino.

If you've been concentrating you'll have picked up that next month will feature the Wamboin Open. You are most welcome to join us at the hall in Bingley Way at 12.15pm on Sunday, 6 November for the prompt 12.30pm start. Queanbeyan players are reminded to wear a shirt. We have certain standards to uphold. -- Larry King, golfer.

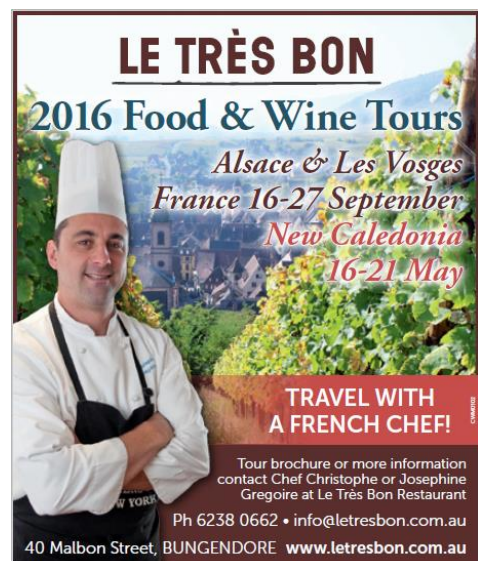


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## Sutton Primary School Wins Silver at the Snowsports Championships

by Linda Broadbent

The Sutton Snowsports Team did the school proud at the Australian Championships last week, winning the silver medal for snowboard racing. Jet Lange, 9, Caiden Broadbent, 8, and Jack Broadbent, 10, competed in the Division 5 Snowboard Giant Slalom race, for students from Kindergarten up to Year 4. The boys were very proud to have progressed through the regional and state championships to reach the national championships. Ms Clare Pritchard, Principal of Sutton Primary School, was delighted with the team's results in their first year of snowsports competition.



The Interschools Snowsports races attract over 12,000 entrants from over 320 schools Australia-wide. Sutton Primary was represented in both skiing and snowboarding events, and the team achieved some excellent results. The snowboard team won the gold medal in the ACT/Southern NSW Giant Slalom team event held at Perisher in August. Jet Lange blitzed the field to finish first overall, winning the individual gold medal as well. The team also won silver in the Snowboard X race at this event. Reuben Gillman-Wells, 7, and his

younger sister Lilla, 6, did extremely well in their first ski race, finishing towards the front of a very talented field.

The NSW State titles were held in Thredbo in late August, where Jet, Caiden and Jack won the silver medal in the Snowboard Giant Slalom. The course was extremely icy and proved very challenging for the racers. Despite the conditions, all three boys achieved individual times that placed them in the top ten competitors in NSW. The team was also very proud to bring home the bronze medal in the Snowboard X race at the State titles. Sutton Primary School ended the season with five podium finishes in the Interschools Snowsports races, and of course the school and the parents are extremely proud of the children's efforts. The children had a lot of fun racing with their friends and were full of encouragement for each other throughout the competition. They are looking forward to racing again next year.

### Wheels of Wamboin 2017



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Come along and join in the fun on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> November, we would love to see you there.

## Wamboin Community Carols Night

Yes its fast approaching that time of the year again. Christmas is much closer than you think and the annual Wamboin Community Carols Night is likewise much closer too. Put on by the Wamboin Community Association this is a wonderful way to celebrate the end of the year with a community get together. This is a non-denominational event and the emphasis is on the community. Admission to the event is a gift under the Christmas tree for the Salvation Army people to take to someone less fortunate. The night features carol singing, a performance (usually) by the local playgroup children, the telling of the Christmas story (in its rather unique style), a BBQ (gold coin donation which also goes to the Salvo's) and of course the arrival of Santa to distribute gift bags to the children. Date for this extravaganza is 16th December 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Community Hall in Bingley Way. So please come along and enjoy yourselves. Parents of children wishing to perform in the Christmas Play are invited (PLEASE) to ring Jenny Richards on **6238 1329** as soon as possible to organize parts.

## Land for Wildlife ...

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary property registration scheme for landowners who want to know more about managing part or all of their property for the benefit of biodiversity and wildlife habitat. It is a low-level entry scheme; free to join; and not legally binding. One of the great things about the Land for Wildlife program is that properties are assessed by a local person knowledgeable about the plants and animals in your area. Information is given about the different plantings on your property and how to overcome problems, such as weeds, as well as how to make improvements that will attract a wide variety of native plants and animals.

Being presented with a sign is the final step that acknowledges your commitment to the program. Joining up also puts you in touch with other like-minded people. The vast majority of NSW land is privately owned, this puts private landholders in a unique position to improve regional sustainability by helping conserve and value remnant bushland. These private reservoirs are important in our fragmented landscape because they can provide stepping stones for local birds, reptiles, insects and other animals... The Palerang Local Action Network for Sustainability runs the Land for Wildlife program in our area and is supported in this role by the Small Farms Network and the Geary's Gap Landcare Group. We have funding to provide free Land for Wildlife assessments now. The assessment usually takes about 2 hours and includes a report about what is living and growing at your place.

To sign up or for more information contact Alex James at [landforwildlife@futureplans.org.au](mailto:landforwildlife@futureplans.org.au) or 0406 338 850

**The two articles below have been paid for at normal Whisper advertising rates.**

### **Thoughts On Broadband And ‘Rural/Remote’ Localities**

Over the past eighteen months, I’ve read with keen interest the reports in the Wamboin Whisper on ‘things Internet’ in the Wamboin/Bywong localities. Back in 2004, prior to the introduction of ADSL in the local exchanges, 256kbps was considered to be high speed broadband. Many readers of the Whisper would be aware of Yless4u – a local company which established local infrastructure twelve years back, to provide services in these and other QPRC localities. Our view was that just because you lived rurally why should you have less? - so we provided broadband using fixed wireless technology – hence Yless4U.

In setting up, our business objectives were based around the provision of high speed broadband services in the hard to reach, regional/rural and remote areas of SE-NSW. Our commitment to rural often resulted in community organisations receiving free broadband services. For example, we have supported the Wamboin RFS with the installation and maintenance of a free, unmetered high speed symmetrical broadband service since 2004. This service has been progressively upgraded as technology and our budget allowed, from its initial speed of 256/64kbps to 24/24mbps symmetrical speeds with latency < 20msecs.

Over the last decade, we have watched various versions of Federal & State Government regional telecommunication initiatives. While Yless4u welcomed the 2009 ‘national broadband initiative’, we had deep concerns over the project’s breadth, timeframes, deliverables and cost. - *‘93% of the population will have access to a 100mbps fibre based service, with the remaining 7% of the population having access to either a wireless or satellite provided service’*. Since then, the NBN has had several identities and directional changes. The promises of the NBN from both sides of the political spectrum have been many, from both Federal and State levels. Unfortunately, the delivery has lagged well behind these promises. Knowing that it was a dream, we have listened while aspirant political candidates at local community meetings, espoused the virtue of ‘fibre to the node’ for Wamboin!

Given the experience we have, and our knowledge of global wireless developments, we’ve made countless submissions and presentations to our local political representatives at Federal and State levels, which fall on ‘deaf ears’, especially when the representation deviates from the ‘party line’. However, occasionally a ray of sunshine and/or opportunity presents itself. In the meantime, our business direction has progressively moved from residential to a focus on very high speed services for the scientific, health and commercial sectors.

The recent articles in the Wamboin Whisper and the groundswell of discontent in the community are evidence that telecommunications via a fast broadband service is now viewed as an essential service like electricity and water. It is justifiable that communities so close to a capital city should be disgruntled with satellite being their only option.

– Anthony Goonan

### **Our Company Now Offers Internet Access for Regional Areas Around the ACT**

I share the thoughts and conclusions expressed in the ‘NBN Satellite Disaster’ article in the August’16 edition of the Wamboin Whisper. Over the past 18 months we have been developing a close working relationship with locally (Bywong) based Yless4u. With their assistance, we have been providing services in the Jerangle and Bredbo area. More recently, we have expanded this relationship to include the Michelago region and from January 2017, will further expand to include the Wamboin, Bywong and surrounding localities.

We are a genuine, local, regionally based internet service provider, with offices in Narrabundah and Bredbo, focussed on high speed, interactive low latency (~ 20msec) services. This extends to high upload speeds for ‘cloud push’ applications in the rural residential and small business sectors. We understand that there is a place for satellite based broadband services, as a ‘technology of last resort’ for difficult topographic installations in regional, rural and remote areas. However, we do consider that the commuter belt of the ACT, and especially closely settled rural areas like Wamboin and Bywong, should not have to rely on satellite delivery as the only mode of broadband delivery.

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I look forward to meeting with the Wamboin & Bywong local communities early in 2017. We will host community information sessions in Wamboin & Bywong. In the meantime, please visit our website [www.ooki.com.au](http://www.ooki.com.au) give us a call on 1300 858 295 or send an EOI via email to [info@ooki.com.au](mailto:info@ooki.com.au) -- Jason Green



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## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Spring takes my breath away! Each year it catches me by surprise as if I am seeing it for the very first time. This year, however, it has excelled itself with its abundance, vigour and variety. If I am to be honest I have to admit that my garden is very ordinary; unplanned, uncontrolled, never the stuff, even photoshopped, of glossy magazine photos, but it is my refuge and renewal, my solace and my joy. Spring tempts me to believe that I have green thumbs, but I know I can't accept the credit. Nature asserts itself..... and I just stand back in awe.

Mauve wisteria lanterns drape languidly over the wooden arch, spreading sweet perfume, flanked by viburnums and may bushes covered with tiny white flowers. Below there are irises, tulips, blue bells, columbines, daisies and wallflowers, and beyond are splashes of purple and mauve natives. Some of this colour I have orchestrated, but much of it has just crept in wherever it likes while I have been napping. Of course not all plants in the garden are welcomed. Some pop up each year, uninvited, and challenge me. Goosegrass appears out of nowhere and takes far too many liberties, wandering jew appears aimless as it steadfastly intrudes, and conniving periwinkle distracts you in one spot whilst stealthily invading another part of the garden. I do, however, have some guilt when it comes to pretty blue flowered periwinkle. In the drought I naively welcomed it. Against all odds it persisted, and I cheered, while its spineless neighbours waved the white flag. But persistent periwinkle, with no sense of place, has proven to be undisciplined in good times, and breaks all the gardener's rules.

However, there are always rule breakers. They are part of every garden and every society; rebels, reactionaries, non conformists, creative types, free spirits. And we need them even if they challenge our ideas, make us feel uncomfortable and compel us to re think long accepted norms. It can only be good to question some of the rules we blindly accept, and to walk in another's shoes.

This vibrant, breath taking spring will produce quite a few nonconformists to challenge me in the garden, but I may have to accept them as part of the bigger, spectacular picture. You can't have it all your own way, especially when your pale green thumbs played such a minor role in its overall creation.

I wouldn't live anywhere else.....but I rather wish that St John's Wort wasn't already breaking so many rules with such vigour, and in such abundance

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