



December 2016 – January 2017 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 Palerang Council residents just southeast of the Federal Highway. Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. On contentious matters the Community Association will strive to maintain a balance. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or to nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mail them or drop them off. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before, so the deadline for the February 2017 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, February 26. 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		Irrhallbywong@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 Whitney	Pet & home sitting, odd jobs	0437460236
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	Alex Lea	petsitting 6236 9657 or 0439 219 865	
Justin Phipps	pet sitting	6238-1660 or 0491 107 336.			

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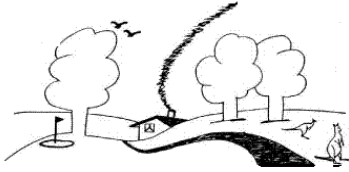
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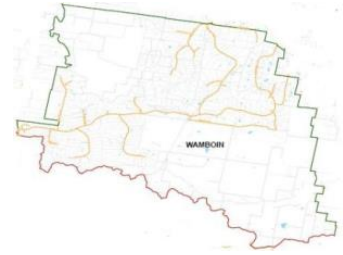


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Wamboin Community Association Vice President's Paragraphs



Let's make Wamboin Great

This line seemed to work for another President so I thought I would jump on the bandwagon. Wamboin is already great I hear you say, so I say let's make Wamboin even greater! There are lots of events and things that make Wamboin great but for me the greatest asset is the people. Remember a person is defined by the communities they belong to.

Spring Talks – the final of our very popular spring talks was held at the November meeting with local Ornithologists and local photographers David McDonald and David Cook giving an informative and entertaining presentation on "Birds of Wamboin" to a large and enthusiastic crowd.

Christmas Carols – Six white boomers, snow white boomers, yes you know you want to break into song at this time of year. Well here is your chance to sing along (sorry no Mariah Carey Christmas songs please). The famous Wamboin Community Christmas Carols and play will be held on Friday 16 December 2016 at 7.00pm. Support your local kids and come along for unique Wamboin a Christmas event. Please show your support and contact Jenny at vicepresident@wamboincommunity.asn.au for any more details.

New Name - Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council is embarking on a rebranding exercise post amalgamation. Our suggestion is the Greater Wamboin Council.

Disability Inclusion Access Plan – The future Greater Wamboin Council is inviting residents to help develop the Disability Inclusion Access Plan for the Queanbeyan-Palerang region. Disability can include people who are frail-aged, people with physical, cognitive or sensory impairments and people with mental health conditions. A meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 December between 6.00pm to 7.30pm at the Bywong Community Hall. For more information contact Debbie Gillman at debbie.gillman@qprc.nsw.gov.au

Wheels of Wamboin – The popular Wheels of Wamboin is on again but due to the Easter clash it has been moved to May 20th 2017.

New Members – Be a part of your local community and help make Wamboin great (greater see above). 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 20 December in the Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin.

Christmas – To all our residents on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association we wish you a very safe and happy Christmas. It's time for our family and friends and also time to appreciate the special people around us. We also would like to thank all the wonderful people who have made our community great over the past year. Have a magical Christmas and a happy new year - **Peter Evans - Acting President**



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Anne Goonan, President

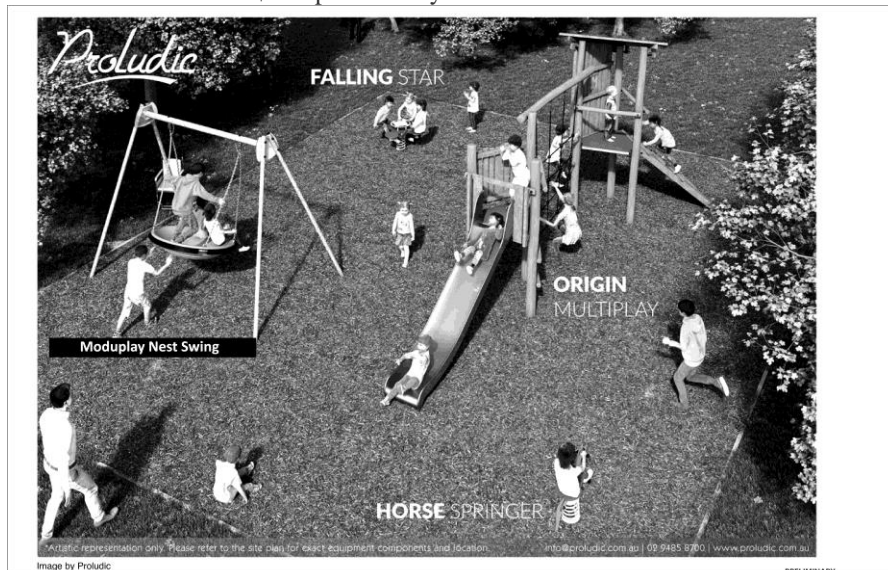


THE BIG EVENT FOR DECEMBER IS- XMAS DRINKS: This annual event will as usual be held at the Bywong Hall (Birriwa Rd.) on Friday 9 December from 5:00 pm onwards and this is a great opportunity to catch up with neighbors and friends from Bywong, Wamboin and surrounds. This year there will be a presentation by BCA committee members on the plans and significant progress made to date on the Playground Project which should interest a good proportion of residents. The presentation will include plans, diagrams of the playground layout and much more information. There will also be a mini-raffle to aid in fund raising. **NB** A summary of the current status and important developments regarding this initiative is included in another section of this article.

Retiring Committee Member: This year the BCA Committee farewelled former committee members, Bernie Greethhead and Prof Jeremy Shearmur who have both recently moved. Their past efforts are greatly appreciated but the committee has been energized with new members and ‘helpers’, and should generate new ideas for our community. In particular some creative approaches to the 20th anniversary Car Boot Sale are expected which should make this event truly memorable.

Disability Inclusion Access Plan: A consultation on this plan will be hosted for both the Bywong and Wamboin communities by Debbie Gillman at the Bywong Hall between 6.00 and 7.30 pm on Tuesday 13 December. Anyone with an interest in this issue is welcome to attend.

Playground Project: This is quite a large and expensive undertaking and while sufficient funds are presently available to start the project further money will be required to purchase some of the more expensive items. So far around \$16,000 has been raised to fund the project. This is comprised of a \$10,000 grant from the NSW Government Community Building Partnerships, a contribution of \$5,000 from the Bendigo Bank in Bungendore, a \$300 donation from the Wonderful Women of Wamboin with around \$600 provided by the BCA itself.



The cost of the desired play equipment (4 large items) is estimated to be around \$28,000 with an extra \$7,000 required for the installation. However, additional money will be required for site preparation and necessary improvements to the hall and associated infrastructure for general Health and Safety reasons. The BCA with the Hall committee are finalising details of a QPRC ‘Stronger Communities Grant’, which will fund the necessary modifications and improvements, and which are in accord with the new “Master Plan” for the Les Reardon Reserve.

The committee is also very actively looking at options for raising the extra money required for the play equipment, but many of the possible grants require an “in kind” contribution from the community. Consequently the

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BCA would be very interested to hear from anyone willing to volunteer their skills/labour or otherwise to assist the project. In particular we would welcome assistance from anyone with Project Management experience. Although the playground is not a huge construction job, organising the work flow, liaison with Council etc. will require some time and application.

On this note we would like to acknowledge the assistance of Jennie Curtis from Fresh Landscape Design, who has donated her professional knowledge and skills in designing the playground and developing the Master Plan for the LRR. The project would not have progressed to its present stage without Jennie’s help.

If you would like to help you can either email the BCA at - president@bywongcommunity.org.au. To make a donation to our funds you can deposit into our specific bank account, the details of which are - Bywong Community Inc Playground Account Number: 158 685 339; Bendigo Bank Bungendore BSB: 633 000. (Please nominate your name as a reference).

Next BCA Meeting: The BCA committee wish everyone a happy and safe Xmas and New Year, and the next committee meeting (the first for 2017) will be held on Monday 20 February 2017 at the hall. Time is as usual at 7.30 pm.



He Said What??



Daniel Gilbert discusses the hot topics and questions often raised but seldom answered by other real estate agents.

DON'T ALWAYS TRUST THE STATISTICS

"I keep seeing some agents publishing statistics and charts claiming their success and market share etc. How reliable are these figures and statistics?"

Statistics can give such a distorted picture of the true situation and they should only be relied upon once they are viewed in their whole context. For example, some agents will use statistics as a measure of success to claim a whopping market share or level of sales success in their market. They dazzle home sellers with bar charts and pie charts showing dominant market share, or to show that they are No.1 (whatever that means). Most of the time, they cherry pick a timeframe where they had a successful run of sales and use that time period to broadcast their success. It is just simply misleading. I remember about 8 years ago, one of the websites we were advertising on showed 15 properties as sold in the last month, and 8 of those were ours. What fortunate timing!! We could have used that cherry pick to spruik that we had over 50% market share, which was garbage, neither we, nor any agent had 50% market share. The agent's true measure of success is their long term track record over 5-10 years.

Some agents will use their average days on the market as a measure of success, which is really meaningless because as agents, we don't have control over the time that a property is for sale. Look at this example. Let's say I had 10 listings, vendors all realistic and motivated and I sold all 10 properties after just 30 days on the market. I could beat my chest and say list with me – my average time on the market is only 30 days. Now let's look at the same scenario, except one of my vendors has a highly inflated value of their property, is not that motivated, and it takes a year to sell. Look at the numbers now – 9 properties sell in 30 days, so that's a total of 270 days on the market. Add on the 10th property and that's a total of 635 days on the market, which equates to an average of over 60 days on the market. See how rubbery those figures have become? One unmotivated vendor who took a year to sell, has more than doubled the average days on the market.

The message is this – don't be bluffed or hoodwinked by cherry picked statistics and grandiose claims by agents. Look at their marketing, their proven ability to negotiate and their selling fees (and make sure not one dollar of your money gets siphoned off as franchise fees to fund exorbitant CEO salaries and gala black tie awards nights). Gilbert Real Estate is the longest established agency in Bungendore (established 2001) with an unrivalled consistent track record over that period.

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Daniel Gilbert has a B.Comm (Accounting) from the ANU and is a licensed real estate and stock & station agent with over 20 years industry experience.



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Wamboin Community Carols Night

Yes it's 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.

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The Inaugural Wamboin Pet Parade

On Saturday, 19 November, the day of the Produce Market, the inaugural Wamboin Pet Parade was held on the oval at the Community Hall. The event was organised by Lisa Whitney, a foster-carer with ARF, ACT Rescue and Foster, to give pet owners the opportunity to get together and to display their companion animals for the interest and admiration of fellow pet owners and others. Not surprisingly, adults were outnumbered by children. But clearly the animals were the stars. As you might imagine, dogs featured prominently, but other species were represented including a ferret, a duckling, a rooster and a green tree frog which had migrated to the region from Queensland in a case of bananas. (It seems there is some rule which prevents you from sending them back. Not that the owner would now want to do so, having shared her home with the amphibian for the past three years.) The



occasion was one where the pictures should tell the story. I hope Ye Ed Ned has room to include as many as possible of the

wonderful photos taken by Pete Harrison.



The judgement of Solomon was exercised by Libby King – former Wildcare member and at one time the proud mistress of four dogs, a cat, two horses and a floating population of about 70 kangaroos. She awarded the following prizes: Most Senior was Jim, a brown Kelpie/Staffy X from Wagga who had been subjected to extraordinary cruelty by having acid poured down his back. (The story has a happy ending. He is a much-loved member of the Taylor family.) Best

Rescue went to the very lucky green tree frog. The ferret, a charming and friendly chap, won



Most Interesting. A labradoodle was adjudged most like its owner on the basis of hair colouring and length of eyelashes – although the Pug gave it a run for its money, instead taking out Best Local dog. Honey Mango, the rooster, was the Best Dressed and Decorated. Somewhat ambiguously, the duckling was assessed to be the Most Appealing, while a Staffy named Rowdy was adjudicated to be the Friendliest. Best Trick was awarded to Holly the Heeler who, on command, rolled over and caught her ball. Best Dog was won by the Rhodesian (now Zimbabwean) Ridgeback and the Judge's Favourite was Cora the Cattle Dog X.

An enjoyable time was had by all – humans and others – for which we have to thank Lisa, ably supported by Caitlin James who made up all the awards and the balloon dogs given to the children. Based on the support for this first endeavour, the Pet Parade will

become a permanent part of the Wamboin calendar. Next time let's see some cats, alpacas, ponies, lions and tigers! -- Photos by Pete Harrison, words by Larry King



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Christmas Nativity Pageant

Yes, it is nearly that time of year for the annual Wamboin Nativity Pageant, to be held in the grounds of St Andrew's church. Each year the young and old of the district, together with live animals, have come together on Christmas Eve to act out the story and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

As usual we have a real live baby Jesus, along with Mary and Joseph, wise men, an innkeeper, donkey, lamb, and other assorted animals, and, of course, many charming and endearing youngsters as angels and shepherds.

All residents and visitors to the area are invited to come and join in the singing of some well known carols, and support our budding young stars of the future.

A short time after the pageant a Communion service will be held in the church and all are welcome to stay and participate, regardless of beliefs. After all, it is Christmas, a time of peace and goodwill.

For more information or if you, your child or your animal would like to be part of the pageant, contact Royce 0416 265 600, Robyn 6238 3202, or Alan 0429 434 944.

Christmas Eve at St Andrew's church on the corner of Norton and Poppet Roads from 6.30pm. Just look for the Star of Bethlehem. – Alan Rope

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

by Robyn Robertson

From: **The Wamboin Firefighter**, compiled by Cliff Spong: "Brigade Donation Drive: Even though we all pay a levy in our annual rates for the rural fire brigade service in our Shire, the amount of money raised does not fully cover all the costs of running the brigades. There are many things such as better radios, new first aid kits, fuel storage facilities, new suction hoses for the trucks, map printers, filing cabinets, overhead projectors, security light systems, a winch for the hose drying mast, alterations to the fire shed and a trailer for the support crew which are not covered by the levy but are needed and have to be purchased.

During November members of the brigade will be visiting all properties in our area to collect donations. This exercise will also give us a better appreciation of what problems could exist, if any, when a fire threatens. It will also give residents an opportunity to meet members of their brigade. Please give generously because in the end the whole community benefits from a better fire brigade."

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Tony, Ben, Jeremy, Ross



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What is a Foaling Kit?

BY: Cassie Duddy of CEH

A foaling kit is not only necessary items you may need in the event of an emergency, it will also include having all the regular equipment needed to deal with the normal events in foal birthing.

Most foals will be born within 20 minutes from the time the mare's water breaks, sometimes referred to as an explosive process, therefore it would be very helpful to have everything you need right there on hand before the time comes!

Photo: With thanks to Candy, Len Batten and Ms Roxie

- 1) List of key contacts (vets no. including after hours no.) & anyone else you may want in the case of an emergency.
- 2) Fully charged mobile or cordless phone DEFINITELY IN RANGE OF WHERE

THE MARE IS TO FOAL.

- 3) A torch, as 80% of mares will foal after dark.
- 4) Flash cards to help memorise the typical intervals of birthing so you can call the vet ASAP if it differs.
- 5) A watch to keep time with and then record on notepad to make sure foal is progressing through the birth canal.
- 6) Halter and lead rope.
- 7) Clean towels. (REMEMBER you are not the foals mum, you only need to wipe down the new foal if conditions are cold or the mare is not doing her job well.) It is good practice to check and clean the foal's nostrils.
- 8) Tail wrap, things will be much cleaner if you can manage to put a tail wrap on the mare before she enters the birthing stage.
- 9) Strong garbage bag or bucket to collect placenta so it can be examined later to ensure it is complete and no parts have been left behind in the womb.
- 10) Lengths of string incase you need to tie off umbilical cord. Additionally, tie up the placenta if the mare takes a couple hours to shed it as it can be either easily stepped on destroying it for future observations or even ripped from the mare before she is ready to let it go.
- 11) Enema, as foals sometimes have trouble passing their first faeces the meconium. KY jelly is handy for lubrication to insert.

NOTE: PLEASE CALL YOUR VET BEFORE YOU GIVE AN ENEMA AS A FOAL'S BOWEL IS VERY DELICATE AT THIS STAGE IN LIFE.

- 12) Sharp blunt scissors incase you need to pierce the placental sac in the case of 'red bagging'.
- 13) Antiseptic dip for the umbilical stump. A dilute solution of chlorhexidine is used as a dip for the first couple days to minimize infection to this entry point.
- 14) Lastly, have a conversation with the vet prior to parturition to know the available options for colostrum or plasma administration if the concern should arise. **It is imperative that you call your vet as soon as possible should you think there is problem with your mare foaling!**

Visit our website on www.canberraequine.com.au to read a list of different fact sheets on such things like; 'The Expectant Mare and Foaling' and 'Stages of Foaling'.

If you would like any further information, 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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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. Thanks go to Kevin Anderson who for years has managed distribution of Whispers to those who deliver them in the northern parts of Bywong and Wamboin and personally delivered Whispers to Summerhill Road and to Bungendore Road between Summerhill and Macs Reef. David Featherston has been good enough to take on this role besides continuing to deliver Whispers Creekborough Road. Thanks also to Mario Larocca who has delivered Whispers to Fernloff Road for over a year to fill in for the Montessins in a pinch, and to Cheryl and David Steele who have offered to take on this task. If your deliverer has been on the job for a long time and you have a bit of time you could spare, think about offering to take over the job or help out. If you already have too many tasks in your month, every now and then give your volunteer paperwoman/man/boy/girl a thank you. - Ned Noel, volunteer editor.

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

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

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

Joan Mason	Bingley Way	44	Margaret Hekeimin	Merino Vale Dr	19
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	31
Kathy Handel	Norton (Weerona to Hilltop+Wirndra)	23	Penny Evans	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	26

233: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489

Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	45
Colleen Foster	B'dore Rd to Nrtn Rd	23	Rob Henry	South end Clare Valley	41
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65

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	HoganDr/OranaDr/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			

160: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 6236 97223 bushranger_au@hotmail.com

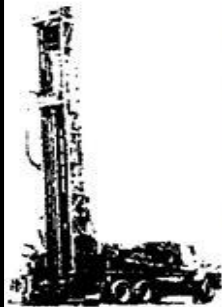
Phil & Pam Dawes	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln	27	David Featherston	Summerhill to B'dore Rd to CreekB Rd	26
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	21	Ken Steinman	Wyoming & Doust Rds	34
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	32	Chris Fowler	Millyn Rd	20

152: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484

Diana Griffin	Majors Close	18	Judy Smith	Weeroona (254 – 400)	18
Advertisers & Misc	(Out of area mailouts)	34	Suzie and Brad Edwards	Weerona (417-512)	18
Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Road	27	Ned Noel	B'dore Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill)	37

TOTAL 1,311

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



The Fire Brigade recommends that you do not burn off during the fire season. It is far better to hold off pile burns or hazard reduction burns until after the fire season. If you find it necessary to have a burn you will need a fire permit and tending your fire has onerous requirements.

Fire permits are free and can be arranged by contacting the Wamboin Brigade Captain on 0409 991 340 or email: captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au

We have to inspect any burn site before we can issue a permit, which means we may be unable to issue a permit at short notice. So please make your request for a permit at least a week before the intended burn.

Cooking fires are OK as long as they are in a properly constructed fire place with a 2 metre cleared border around it, and a continuous supply of water (e.g. garden tap & hose) is readily available.

Useful Links and Contact Information

- Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>
 - NSW Rural Fire Service www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
 - Wamboin Brigade Captain captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au
or 0409 991 340
-



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Warmer than average Summer expected

The Bureau of Meteorology has forecast a warmer than average Summer for eastern Australia. Whilst we have had a wet Winter with moist soils, this has resulted in heavy vegetation growth providing fuel for possible bush fires when it dries out during a hot December. We can expect drier than normal conditions in our region and particularly bushland areas.

Please be very careful around your home. Many of the Summer fires we attend are caused by motor mowers, welding and angle grinding operations. We also attend motor vehicle accidents for the purpose of fire protection for the vehicle passengers and also to prevent the spread of fire following the accident.

The Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade is totally a VOLUNTEER Brigade and members provide their services and time for free

**We wish all members of our local communities
a very Merry Christmas and a
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ON BRAIDWOOD DIGGERS DAY

THE R & A (Rustic and Agrarian) Braidwood Golf Club were kind enough to invite the R & A (Rural and Agricultural) Wamboin Golf club members to play in the Braidwood Diggers Day Ambrose on Saturday 12 November. For those who don't know it, the Braidwood Ex Servicemen's Club doubles as an RSL, golf club, bowls club, fishing club and general hub of organised activity in that attractive heritage-listed town. It is the home base of the Braidwood Redbacks Rugby Club. Need I say more?

Disappointingly, Wamboin could muster only one team of three players. Many weak and barely credible excuses were offered. The only one not advanced was Spike Milligan's famous "I left the cat running the sink." Putrid bad form, Wamboin! Lift your game. I promised at least three teams for next year. Be that as it may, what we lacked in quantity we more than made up in luminously outstanding quality: your correspondent, his neighbour Ian Picker and Ian's son-in-law, Shannon Mould. Shannon plays off 8. Ian and I play off 26. So we thought with Shannon's ability and our handicaps we stood a chance in an Ambrose competition. The day started fine then clouded over followed by a stiff breeze which turned into a howling wind as the sun reappeared and the humidity increased. Got the picture? A perfect day for golf. After a breakfast of bacon and egg rolls washed down with certain fluid substances the starter set us off in two teams of three on each tee of the pretty and undulating nine hole course. Let me now introduce you to Daniel, Beau and Marty, the other team on our tee – three friendly guys whose conversation and banter kept us amused throughout. Daniel and Beau have a Bungendore connection via Capital2Coast Auto Repairs in King Street. They are two smallish but perfectly-formed men who can hit a golf ball out of sight. In fact, Beau won the longest drive with a truly prodigious shot. He said he was going to "open his shoulders" and it didn't seem to faze him when his mate said he'd seen bigger shoulders on a brown snake.

After the first nine we paused at the clubhouse for a barbeque lunch and a number of fluid loss adjusters. Your correspondent was DD for the day so was able to observe dispassionately the enervating effects on those around him of the sun, wind and bottled goods as the day progressed. Fortunately the other team had the forethought to be driven by non-playing family members as were many of the locals. It is good to see the rules of the road being generally observed. The Wamboin team drove to and from the game at a steady 100 kph courtesy of cruise control. The only drivers who found it necessary to overtake were P platers driving Hilux's. I guess one has to make up somehow for a deficiency in the wedding furniture department. But I digress.

Back at the clubhouse afterwards your correspondent had a schooner of his favourite neck oil and fell asleep during the prize-giving – a victim of sun-and-wind burn. As it turned out the acceptance speech was not required. Our 73 off the stick for a net 63 meant we were out of contention. (I wonder how that handicapper can sleep at night!) The winners and runners-up scored a net 51 and 53 respectively. Now let's be clear about this. I'm not saying that they were out on day release from Goulburn. But perhaps there was a spiritual affinity with the late, lamented Kelly gang. Anyway, congratulations to all, many thanks to Braidwood golfers for their kind invitation and we look forward to returning in numbers next year, and hopefully before then. -- Larry King

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Dive into December
the market @ bungendore

Sunday December 18th 9am - 2pm
at the War Memorial Hall

Looking for Xmas presents?
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jewellery		mosaics
giftware		homewares
collectables		greeting cards
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garden products	textiles	pottery & ceramics
toys & models	preserves	local grown plants
cakes & pastries	hand knits	prints & paintings
tea & fresh coffee	candles	hats and fascinators
soaps & lotions	cookies	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

WAMBOIN OPEN – November 2016

Sunday 6 November, Wamboin Open day. A beautiful, mild, early Summer's day which brought golfers in their thousands – or thereabouts – to the fray. Naturally, the crowd was agog with the amazing developments in the US presidential campaign. Who would have thought you could rent the FBI? Regular readers of this column will know that your correspondent, a renowned psephologist (the P is silent – as in *surfing*) has for many months been predicting a landslide victory for Donald Trumpet. Oh yes, he has! What you don't know is the remarkable connection the Donald has with our region, viz: that he acquired his distinctive hairstyle right here in the QPR. When he and his wife came out here on their honeymoon Don's rapidly receding hair, fluttering in a stiff Wamboin breeze, attracted the attention of a semi arboreal marsupial of the family *Phalangeridae*, otherwise known as the common brushtail possum. Long story short, Donny and the possum have been inseparable ever since. He refers to it as the GOP (Grand Old Possum) and wears it on his head on every occasion. What's this got to do with the Wamboin Open, I hear you cry. Well, buckle up and come for the ride because it turns out that in a deal brokered by Don-boy and our own decisive and charismatic PM, local golfer and stone mason, Mick Buonarroti, has been appointed to take the asylum seekers on Nauru and Manus to the US where they will build a wall along the Mexican border: two problems solved simultaneously.



Meanwhile back at Trumpet Tower on Bingley Way the captain welcomed our guests Craig Bradley and Peter Kelly and thanked the club for providing the food and prizes. The googly ball went to your correspondent who arrived just in time to play the 19th, having spent a long weekend fishing in the mountains (watch for separate report). Len Ivey spat the dummy but we don't know why considering his result (read on). LD and NTP ball winners were Rob Gibson X 2, Ken Gordon, John Whitney, Lofty Mason, Charles Guscott and Craig Bradley. Junior Champion was Logan Beckett with 45 off the stick for a net 29, from Madison Gordon with 75/32 on a count back. The encouragement award for juniors was awarded jointly to Alex Gordon and Logan Robinson. The annual eclectic for nine holes was won by Ken Gordon net 27 from Lofty Mason 28.5. The 18 hole eclectic winner was Charles Guscott net 57, closely followed by Pete Harrison 58.

As John Philip Sousa strikes up the band we can announce that the 2016 club champions (net scores) are: **nine holes** 3rd Deb Gordon 51/30, 2nd Michael Fileman 45/29, champion Rob Gibson 38/28; **18 holes** 3rd Keith France 81/62, 2nd Charles Guscott 82/60, champion Paul Griffin 81/60 OCB. And as the pipes and drums of Her Majesty's Loyal Burpers join in we can reveal to the world that the **2016 Ladies Open Champion (nine holes)** is Joan Mason with 42 strokes and the **2016 Men's Open Champion** is Len Ivey with 76 off the stick. Congratulations to our worthy winners and all the enthusiastic sportspeople who took part.

Join us on Sunday 4 December for the Christmas Comp. Be at the community hall at 12.15pm for the 12.30pm start. Wear a sprig of mistletoe and remember – it's only a game. - Larry King, deplorable golfer

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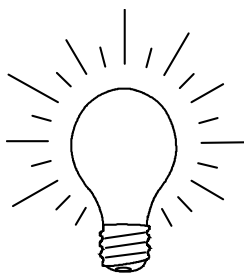


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The Inaugural Wamboin Pet Parade - Wamboin Markets on 19 Nov 2016

Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Markets

Saturday 17 December CHRISTMAS 2016 (9am to 12 noon)

Contact: Lance and Meriel Schultz 62383309 or 042 261 4304

Email: lmsconsulting@bigpond.com



We welcome new stall holders from the local area, aiming for home produce from your garden, paddocks or kitchen, as well as craft items.

Our Market Charity Stalls for December are:

ACT Rescue and Foster (ARF dogs)

selling their popular 2016 calendars
and Christmas cards

Native Animal Rescue Group

Selling their famous Wombat calendars

Our November market was memorable for us because we actually made it back from Europe! Lance had a few scary weeks in intensive care in London and Joan took over the markets in our absence (good on you Joan and thank you Lofty for putting up the signs!) However the November markets powered on and Lisa and Lybbie and Pete did a wonderful job sorting the pet parade (see Larry's inimitable account elsewhere in the Whisper).

December will be a good market with lots of Christmas produce and last minute gifts. Imelda will be back with her wonderful lotions and creams for all sorts of remedies. Lance and I might need some!!

One thing we should mention is that after the markets we thought we should go along for a quiet coffee to celebrate the reopening of Lambert's Vineyards and Contentious Creatures Café and met half of Wamboin there and spent several hours of pleasurable convivial pizza and wine. Such a lovely welcome home. Go and try it – Great stuff!

Last thought. Amy has made us this amazing sign for the markets and we are having it made into multiple versions to put up around the area. Thank you Amy – great job!

See you at the Christmas markets!

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

November rainfall to 27/11... 62.25mm
(average Nov ...77.7mm)
(2015 to 30/11 ... 564.25mm)
(Dec 2015 ... 35.25mm)
Driest Dec ... 0mm in 1979
Coldest Dec day ... 13C On 13/12/87
Average January rainfall ... 61.8mm

(Nov 2015 ... 55 25mm)
2016 to 27/11 ... 830 00mm
December average ... 63.3mm
Wettest Dec ... 177.55mm in 2010
Hottest Dec day ... 37C on 21/12/99
Coldest Dec night ... -3C on 9/12/99
(January 2016 ... 108mm)

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Wildcare Trains Snake Handlers

If you had visited the Wildcare webpage recently you would have read about their annual snake handler training courses are taking place. Wildcare has a large number of trained snake handlers (albeit there is a shortage in the Sutton/Gundaroo area) and the courses are aimed at new recruits who are keen to become snake handlers and there are refreshers for ongoing volunteers.

To run the courses there is a need to get hold of some snakes to train with – typically local tiger, eastern brown and red-bellied black snakes. One such opportunity to capture a snake arose during a recent and not uncommon request for Wildcare help.

As Wayne, Wildcare’s snake coordinator commented, “A lady rang Wildcare on the 6299 1966 helpline to report a brown snake that had been hanging around her kitchen garden for a few days. When I spoke to her, she couldn't see it anymore, so I advised that, since we were in the process of collecting snakes for the snake handling courses that we run each spring, I would appreciate it if she could call back if she spots it again, hopefully at a time that I could get there before it disappeared again.



“While running the first training course, she called back. And when we broke for lunch, I returned her call and asked if she could still see it. Apparently it was cruising around her strawberry patch, but it was definitely there! I left the course venue and went to her place, which was 10 minutes away. She had put a stick in the hole where it normally retreated, and was watching it from a safe distance - absolutely perfect! She pointed it out to me and I used my jigger to pull a loop out and gently grab the tail, extricating it from the strawberry plants. I popped it in my snake bag – all done and dusted.

“The property owner was extremely grateful that I could remove the snake safely, and I was impressed that she did exactly what was needed - called Wildcare (6299 1966) and watched it from a safe distance, so I could find and remove it when I got there. “Strawberry” (see photo)

was used on the snake handling course that very afternoon and will be released once she has contributed to the training of at least 40 more Wildcare snake handler volunteers!”

There is no need to be fearful of snakes – they are shy animals and would rather keep out of our way. Left alone they will generally move off and not be seen again. But they can surprise us when we come across them unexpectedly. It is a good idea to get your family to keep the Wildcare number in their mobile phones, so they can readily get help and advice when needed. -Philip Machin for Wildcare 6238 3717 *Photo: Strawberry at the training course*

Wheels of Wamboin 2017



Claiming the Day

Saturday 20th May 2017

9.00am to 1.00pm

(in conjunction with Home Produce Markets)

Wamboin Hall - Bingley Way

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WCA Electronic Noticeboard: The WCA electronic noticeboard is a convenient way to keep up with community activities. Subscribe by visiting the WCA website at http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard	
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Wamboin Community Association (WCA) General Meeting - Summary

Date of Meeting: 15 November 2016 Meeting Chaired by: Jenny Richards, Vice President, WCA

General outline of topics discussed:

Regular brief reports were delivered by members of the WCA including by the Vice President, Jenny Richards, who reported that the WCA's four grant applications to the Stronger Communities Fund had been successful and a publicity photo shoot with Administrator Tim Overall of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and John Barilaro MP, Member for Monaro had taken place.

A number of representatives of other community groups gave brief updates on their activities including: Wamboin Pony Club's President, Peter Evans who reported on the Club's two successful rally days in the last month; Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade President Peter Greenwood reported on nine call outs this month including a burnt out stolen car on Norton Rd and two motor vehicle accidents. He reminded attendees that permits are required for all fires until April. Peter Greenwood also reported that the 31st Wamboin Golf Open was held on November 6 with the Mens and Ladies Championships being won by Len Ivey and Joan Mason respectively.

SPRING TALK: Following the General Meeting, local amateur ornithologists David McDonald and David Cook gave an informative and entertaining presentation on "Birds of Wamboin" fielding numerous questions from the 70 attendees. *Thank you to all attendees for your active participation.* - Jenny Warren, Assistant Secretary, Wamboin Community Association



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The Wonderful Women of Wamboin by Gail Ritchie Knight

Early November the Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) were treated to a tour of the Old Parliament House rose gardens by our very own Victoria Jones. At nearly 90 years old, the gardens still retain their original design and continue to enchant visitors young and old today. Victoria was a font of information showing us roses from Asia and Europe including hybrid teas, floribunda and climbers amongst others. It was a perfect day that provided us with many visual and sensory delights. Victoria is a volunteer horticulturist who works regularly in maintaining the roses and it was an honour to have her as our guide.

Later in December, we will tour the National Gallery of Australia's blockbuster 'Versailles, Treasures from the Palace'. Another WWOW, Sally Saunders will lead us through this exhibition and if previous tours are anything to go by, then I'm sure we will experience a totally absorbing, professionally conducted visit with Sally.

Located on the doorstep of the nation's capital, we are in the unique position of enjoying many of the national institutions while at the same time living on acreage and experiencing all that that has to offer: space, starry nights, echidnas, roos, spiders, snakes OK, sometimes it's challenging, but we're way ahead of suburbia and to top it off, we have a group of talented, informed women ever ready to generously share their knowledge, skills and enthusiasm in a range of disparate fields. All women are welcome at St Andrew's church, corner of Norton and Poppet Roads, Wamboin on Mondays 10 am-noon. For more information contact Gail Ritchie Knight 0416 097 500 whirlwind1@argonite.com.au.



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Nature Notes November 2016

by Jo Walker

With continuing intermittent rain this month and increasingly warm days, the landscape is exceptionally green. And, the eucalypts are still putting on new growth of a range of different colours according to the species they belong to – from bluish and yellowish green to orange and red and all shades between. Black Wattles (*Acacia mearnsii*) are adding masses of perfumed cream flowers to the picture, while Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) are bearing crops of dark pinkish seed-pods.

Daisies are the most eye-catching plants at the moment. The golden Sticky Everlasting Daisies (*Xerochrysum viscosum*) are brightening up the roadsides adding a bit of contrast to the still-flowering white Hoary Sunrays (*Leucochrysum albicans*). The tiny yellow Austral Sunrays (*Triptilodiscus pygmaeus*) are still carpeting the more open dry areas, and Scaly Buttons (*Leptorhynchos squamatus*) are competing for notice with Billy Buttons (*Craspedia variabilis*) in damper sites. And the tall Cauliflower Bushes (*Cassinia longifolia*) are just beginning to open their white flowerheads. So many of our local daisies are yellow or white, but the less flamboyant, but equally beautiful, mauve-blue flowers of *Brachyscome spathulata* (Spoon-leaved Daisy) are just making an appearance.

The white star-like flowers evident on dry hillsides at present look superficially like daisies, but they are *Stellaria pungens* (Prickly Starwort) in the Caryophyllaceae Family. They tolerate dry, open sites, and were one of the first plants to recover in the mountains after the 2003 fires, forming vast white carpets. The golden Guinea Flowers (*Hibbertia obtusiflora*) are still flowering, but probably the most noticeable yellow flowers at the moment (excluding the daisies of course!) are those of the Wedge-peas (*Gompholobium huegelii*). There is one at my place growing through a Burgan bush with over forty large, bright yellow flowers.

The birds are busy at present, introducing their young to their surroundings or still nesting. The Sulphur-crested Cockatoos' nest in a large Stringybark hollow may have been raided by something as there was a smashed egg on the ground below the tree recently. At least one pair of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos has had more luck though – three of them flew over and landed in a nearby tree this morning, two adults and a noisily complaining young one. And a Noisy Friarbird is obviously still constructing a nest somewhere as it was pulling long pieces of Stringybark fibre from a tree near the house the other day. It was evidently a very discerning bird as most of the strands were dropped before it flew off with a suitable piece in its beak.

I don't know where the Friarbird nested, but a recently constructed Grey Fantails' nest is more obvious. It has been built in a sapling eucalypt on a narrow slanting branch about 2 metres from the ground and is visible from all directions. It is a small, very neat, wine-glass shaped nest, built of fine fibres and spider webs with a long tail of fine bark strands. It took the birds about five days to build, and the female was sitting on the nest for the first time this morning.

Reptiles are becoming a bit more noticeable now the warm weather has arrived – Cunningham's Skinks basking on warm rocks, Grass Skinks skittering through the grasses, Shinglebacks and Bearded Dragons crossing local roads and Brown Snakes appearing in unexpected places. I had two rather-too-close encounters with Brown Snakes within an hour the other day – one in the shadehouse while I was watering and the other on a ledge in the garage (they can climb!). Adds a bit of excitement to our peaceful Wamboin life, I suppose!

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 Former Palerang
- o Wingecarribee
- o Wollondilly
- o Shoalhaven

Grant and Donation Funding

The Veolia Mulwaree Trust runs three funding rounds per year and has provided over \$8.5 million in funding since 2005 to support projects for the benefit of the local community and for charitable purposes.

Further information about the Community Grant and Donation Program including dates, guidelines and application forms can be found at www.mulwareetrust.org.au

 **Veolia Mulwaree Trust**

Are You Looking For Scholarship Assistance In 2017?

Will you be studying at one of the following Institutions?

- o University of Wollongong
- o University of Canberra
- o Australian Catholic University
- o Charles Sturt University
- o Illawarra Institute of TAFE

Do you reside in, or did you complete your secondary schooling in one of these local government areas?

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

Academic Scholarship Funding

In 2017, two \$3,000 scholarships will be available to students studying at the University of Canberra, University of Wollongong, Australian Catholic University and Charles Sturt University.

Four open scholarships valued at \$1,500 each will be provided to students studying through TAFE NSW – Illawarra Institute and 3 scholarships valued at \$2,000 each will be provided to students studying Agriculture through TAFE NSW – Illawarra Institute.

Further information about the 2017 Veolia Mulwaree Trust Scholarships is available directly through your relevant University/TAFE or via links located under Applications at www.mulwareetrust.org.au

 **Veolia Mulwaree Trust**

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

December is a joyful and busy time in the church calendar. Advent studies have started at St Andrews each Tuesday night in the lead up to Christmas. If you missed the first evening come along for the next at 7pm for a cuppa and a chat before the session begins. There are Carols at St Peters on Sunday, 11th, at 9am, with students from Sutton School. The churches will have a stall at the Wamboin markets on 17th December, selling Christmas cakes, shortbread and other Christmas treats.

On Christmas Eve the Nativity Pageant will be enacted in the gardens of St Andrews, starting at 6pm, followed by a Christmas Eve service in the Church. We will need young shepherds to attend to the sheep and a host of angels prepared to bring “glad tidings” and watch over the manger. We welcome all young shepherds and angels to take part in our very “Wamboin” pageant. If you come without a costume we are sure to find something that fits. The Christmas story is told with a donkey for Mary, and camels disguised as alpacas to assist the Wise Men. As well we welcome lots of voices to join in the carol singing.

The Christmas Day service will be at St Peters at 9am. On New Years Eve a Watch Night service is held at St Andrews starting at 9pm.

The congregations continue to support St Benedicts, Queanbeyan, with hampers of non perishable goods, or cash, or preparing meals in their kitchen. These donations are even more important at Christmas time for there are many in our community without family support, or facing financial hardship.


Kids Club will be in recess over the NSW school holidays.

Services are held on the first and third Sunday of each month at St Andrews, and the second and fourth Sunday at St Peters. All services start at 9am, followed by morning tea and a chance to catch up with each other.

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

Pastor Ven Dr Royce Thompson 0416265600, Robyn Robertson 62383202, Alan Rope 0429434944

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Standing up for your right to fast, reliable, and affordable Internet access – Wamboin Communications Action Group

By Jon Gough, Paul Brugman & Olaf Theden

Following on from recent Whisper articles about the state of our internet connection options, a group of concerned residents has decided to get together to form the Wamboin Communications Action Group (WCAG).

We wish to investigate better communications options for our area and will need to approach ISP's and State/Federal politicians. Purely non-profit and working for the local community, we wish to get an understanding of who else might be interested in faster, cheaper, and more reliable internet connectivity.

Sign up to our mailing list at: wamboincommunications@gmail.com and let us hear from you or use the QR code above.



QPRC is hosting community consultation sessions to develop a Disability Inclusion Access Plan.



The Plan will help improve:

- attitudes and behaviours towards people with disabilities;
 - the liveability of the Community;
 - access to employment; and
 - the navigation of the systems, process and information provided by services
- Provide your ideas on how your community can become more inclusive of people with disabilities.

When: Tuesday 13 December 6.00pm to 7.30pm

Where: Bywong Community Hall, Les Reardon Reserve, Birrwa Road, Bywong

Wamboin and Bywong Residents: Please come if you can

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

I was quite content wandering around my late spring garden with its masses of flowering rock roses, pink and white salvias, marguerite daisies and pretty pink diosmas, much of which appears without too much intervention, until a dear friend arrived with a big pink bunch of peonies and said, "Haven't you got any? They're so easy to grow in Wamboin." Breathtaking peonies, looking like the tossing skirts of a chorus of Can Can lovelies. It was the second time in less than a week that I'd heard that statement, but I'll reserve my judgement. Each house site and garden in Wamboin is unique, but I feel ours would never be a peony paradise, even with perfect conditions. And then she added, "A garden reflects the gardener's personality." Oh dear!

However, there is one plant that has no trouble growing in any part of Wamboin and that is St Johns Wort! I'd heard that CSIRO had released a little black beetle with a luminous copper coloured sheen that EATS the beguiling yellow flowers of this pest, and once finished with the flowers steadily works its way down the stem. Hearing this I put out sign posts with an arrow pointing "This Way" and sure enough on my morning walk I discovered that the advance party had arrived. What a feast they have in store...And what a Christmas present for us! I do wonder, though, just what these little critters move on to when all the St Johns Wort is gone. Perhaps they have some regard for their future and conserve some for tomorrow. I'd rather hope not.

St Johns Wort spells the coming of Christmas, so I don't need piped carols and tinsel to remind me, but there is one sound that simply **says** Christmas and that is the incessant bleating of fledgling galahs. By Christmas Day I'm almost as tired of their toneless bleat as I am of syrupy shopping mall carols, but I'd never tell the babies that.

As I've walked around the Lake exposed to lycra clad runners and cyclists from the big smoke, small bulbs sprouting spindly vines from their ears, one chap stood out. He did have the mandatory disembodied female voice on his hairy wrist issuing commands, which he meekly obeyed, but he preserved some hint of individuality. Instead of lycra he was wearing baggy shorts, unremarkable runners that had seen better days, and a nondescript T shirt. Last Christmas, I suspect, he found the talking black wrist band in his stocking. This Christmas I am certain there will be a lycra body suit and dazzling lime green and black cross trainers. How can we possibly stay fit unless we are decked out in the right clothes in the latest colours, with monitoring gizmos and ear implants that blot out all natural sounds.

So it's farewell to a remarkable spring and welcome to summer watering and a chance to get fit with your Christmas gear and your New Year resolve. Happy Christmas wherever you are..... I'll be here, because I wouldn't live anywhere else!



Coming events at Sherony Park

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26 February 2017
8:30am to 4pm

Lameness Lectures Series
Part 1 – 16 February 2017
Part 2 – 23 February 2017

Parasites in Horses
Lecture 9 March 2017

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Working Equitation Clinic with Michael Godding
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