



February 2017 CIRCULATION: 1,312

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 March 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-urgent assistance and advice
Justice of the Peace	Peter Greenwood, JP	6238 3358	
Justice of the Peace	Keith France, JP	6238 3596	
Justice of the Peace	Margaret Fletcher, JP	6238 1211	
Justice of the Peace	Jill Sedaitis, JP	6236 9559	
Wamboin Pony Club	Leanne Quick, Club Captain	6238 3435	
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Cameron Smith, contact	0419 449 747	
Wamboin Play Group	Linda Uzubalis, Convenor	0410 294 420	Linda.uzubalis@gmail.com
Bywong Hall Bookings	Ann Sloan, contact		lrrhallbywong@gmail.com
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	joan.mason@internode.on.net
Church - Anglican	Robyn Robertson, Warden	6238 3202	
KYB Bible Study Group	Yvonne Barrett, contact	6230 3539	
Golf	Peter Greenwood, Golfer	6238 3358	p.greenwood2@bigpond.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare, Helpline	6299 1966	
Wonderful Wmen of Wmb	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	Whirlwind1@argonite.com.au
Lake George VIEW Club	Pauline Segeri, contact	6238 1996	
Wamboin Book Group	Alice Scott, Secretary	6238 3178	

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Alana Stenning	Pet sitting	6238 3030	Lydia Milos	Babysitting, petsitting	6238 3559
Fiona Skea	baby sitting	6238 3290	Ashleigh Caird	baby sitting	6238 0746
Genevieve Phipps	Babysitting/pet sitting	6238 1660	Gabrielle Simpkin	baby sitting/ pets sitting	6238-1335
Mara Sutcliffe	pet sitting	6238 3228	Jack 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		April Lloyd	babysitting services 0434 468 772	

Better Internet and Phone – Will you help? - Pg 6-7

Our Customers have their say.

We highly recommend Sutton Real Estate. From the outset David and Ben provided us with a service which was professional, friendly and knowledgeable. Their appraisal of our property was well researched and proved to be an accurate evaluation.

David and Ben and the Sutton team kept us informed at every step along the way, and they were always available to speak to us, or returned calls immediately. We were very impressed with their expertise, attention to detail, and their ability and willingness to follow up on any interest shown. All in all, a very good experience.

Chris Luttrell and Chris Counsel

We were really impressed by Ben and David's communication through the whole process from first appraisal to after the settlement.

It didn't matter who you spoke to regarding your property they knew where it was at, which shows true team dedication. Also they would always return your calls, even for the simplest of questions.

Additionally Ben is very approachable, friendly and true to his word at any time of the day. A big thank you for your time and effort Sutton.

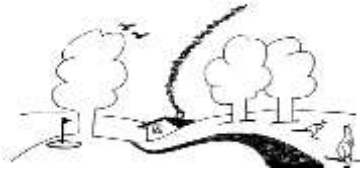
Thanks again Megan & Steve

To be honest best experience of selling we have had. Great that Ben and David work together, not like other agents who are out for their own wallet. Made it far easier knowing we could talk to either of you around any issues. Obviously, quickness of sale and price were very satisfactory as far as we were concerned.

John and Maree Wadell

The team is excellent and functions well. They go above and beyond what is expected of a real estate agency and takes on full responsibility of the sale of the property especially post exchange.

Chris Campbell



Wamboin Community Association Vice President's Paragraphs



Welcome to 2017 Happy New Year and welcome to 2017. The year has begun with a prolonged hot and dry spell prompting a number of grass fire emergencies. Unfortunately it has been reported that the recent fires in Sutton and Wamboin were deliberately lit. It is beyond imagination that a person would deliberately light a fire putting people's homes, pets, livestock, all their precious lifetime memories and most importantly lives at risk. It is a direct act of utter stupidity not to realise what damage an out of control fire can do and the devastating effect it could have.

As locals we can keep a vigilant eye out for suspicious vehicles and motorbikes in the area and in the days of mobile phones take a photo of anything out of the ordinary or even write down a number plate. It is easy to pass on to Police if an incident does arise. We are a community and we must look out for each other and ensure we catch these halfwits.

Christmas Carols – The carols were once again an outstanding success. The night raised \$500 for the Salvation Army along with a generous donation of Christmas gifts. Thank you to Adam Conroy who provided the music and vocals for the crowd to sing along too. Well done to Jenny Richards for once again organising a great community event.

Local Champion – Congratulations to one of our own local residents, Laura Worden. Laura was awarded the QPRC Young Citizen of the Year 2017. Many will know Laura through her many local activities including representing Australia in the recent International Mounted games competition in South Africa and the Bungendore Show Society. It is great to see our local youth really showing true inspiration.

Wamboin Social Drop-In Group – the drop in group is now running 10am – 12 noon every Thursday from February 2nd. Drop into the Wamboin Community Hall for a morning tea and activities. Everyone is welcome.

WCAG – The December meeting listened to a presentation from a new community group the Wamboin Communications Action Group. The group is seeking to improve telecommunications in the area and outlined the current issues. You can find more information on the WCA website.

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. Start polishing.

New Members – Be a part of your local community. 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 and be part of something great.

Next WCA Meeting - The next General Meeting of the Community Association will be at 7.30pm Tuesday 21 February in the Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin. Let's make Wamboin great.

- Peter Evans - Acting President.



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	<p style="text-align: center;">Bywong Community News www.bywongcommunity.org.au</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Anne Goonan, President</p>	
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THE BIG EVENT FOR FEBRUARY IS- PREPARATION FOR THE 20th BYWONG CAR BOOT SALE

Car Boot Sale Planning: The 2017 CBS will be the 20th anniversary of this signature event and committee members and helpers are hoping to come up with some particular creative approaches which should make this event truly memorable. If anyone would like to offer help in the planning or would like to get generally involved with this, please contact us at - president@bywongcommunity.org.au.

Wamboin Communications Action Group (WCAG) Presentation: WCAG is a small group of Wamboin residents trying to raise awareness about the poor state of our current internet and phone services and the possibility of offering more choice to residents and to voice objections to the NBN Satellite service that we are currently being offered. WCAG have asked to present at the next BCA meeting (7.30 pm on Monday Feb. 13 at the hall) to explain what they are all about and answer any questions. Anyone with an interest in this issue (probably the majority of residents) is welcome to attend. WCAG are not affiliated with or represent any commercial organisation.

Playground Project: Work on this is ongoing, with the major efforts directed at securing additional funding. Sufficient funds are presently available to start the project but further money will be required to purchase some of the more expensive items. A summary of the current status of this project –as of the end of 2016- was published in the December Whisper and a more personal presentation and detailed description was given at the Xmas Drinks on 9 December which was very successful with well over 40 people attending..

The BCA committee is actively applying for grants and looking at various options for raising the extra money required. As indicated in previous editions of The Whisper, many of the possible grants require an “in kind” contribution from the community so if you would like to help you can either email the BCA at - president@bywongcommunity.org.au. , or 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 give your name as a reference).

In a recent new and welcome development Debbie Sibbick from QPRC Parks and Recreation offered her services to manage the playground development project.

Bungendore, Braidwood and Queanbeyan Sketches: Current BCA treasurer, John-Pierre Favre has expertly drawn a series of sketches of historic buildings in these three QPRC towns. These are REALLY GOOD and are striking depictions of these old structures. The calendars using the Bungendore sketches were sold out well before we got to 2017 These beautiful drawings will be published in some “collectible” form, possibly reproduced on a set of “collectible” tea towels. Any profit from these sketches is generously donated by JP to the playground funds. This is an example of an “in kind” contribution to the general playground effort.

Fires and Other Hazards: Finally the BCA would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the Wamboin Fire Brigade and associated organisations for their diligence and expertise during the recent fire alerts in the area.

Next BCA Meeting: The next committee meeting (the first for 2017) will be held on Monday 13 February 2017 at the hall. Time is as usual at 7.30 pm.

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Wamboin Communications Action Group

The current telephone & broadband situation

The Wamboin telephone exchange has been showing its age for quite some time, but it has provided a 'mostly' reliable voice & data service except during and after heavy rain. This exchange is probably the oldest exchange currently in use by Telstra and this has an implication for its maintenance, as the parts are no longer available (Telstra techs have confirmed this), so it can be considered obsolete. Currently Telstra are 'just' maintaining it, although they frequently fail to meet their obligations under the Universal Service Obligation (USO). However, it gets more bleak than this:

Telstra's regulatory obligations to satisfy the standard telephone service universal service obligation (USO) do not define the type of technology that Telstra must use to supply a standard telephone service...

Telstra currently uses its fixed line copper network, satellite and wireless solutions for the provision of the standard telephone service. The Department expects satellite and wireless technologies will continue to be used, where available, for supply of the standard telephone service in the residual 7% of Australia if the copper serving a premises is too degraded for use.

What this means is that when our exchange equipment dies completely (something that can happen at any minute), Telstra may well just hand you a mobile phone or satellite phone to provide you with a standard telephone service (STS). However this means your current ADSL connection will be gone, and your default option for internet connectivity will be the NBN Sky Muster satellite; a service already overwhelmed and under-delivering to Australians in regional and remote areas (with only 10% of its projected user base currently connected). There is currently no obligation to give you ADSL or any other internet connection!

Sky Muster and what it means for you

Sky Muster NBN services typically cost more than 4x the comparable ADSL or Fixed line NBN service, or up to 20x the cost when higher data requirements are factored in.

Importantly downloads are capped at 70GB in peak periods (@~\$200/month), with NO ability to increase this at the present time. In fact, NBNCo enforce an average 30GB per connection per 4 week period limit on the service as satellite bandwidth is limited and already congested.

To put this into perspective, the average Australian fixed-line connection downloads 82GB per month, while the average NBN fixed-line connection downloads 112GB per month (when you have a faster connection, you tend to use more), and this has been rising about 50% year-on-year! (continued on next page)



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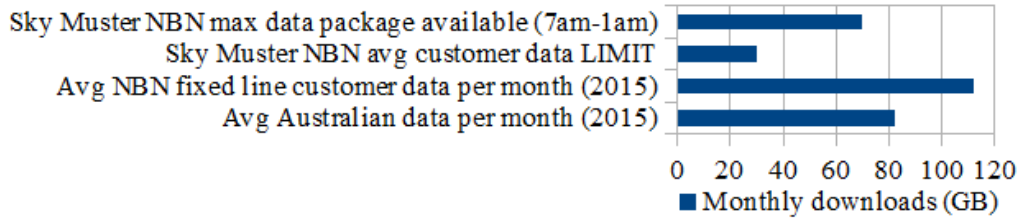
We try to be cheerful in these ads. But we do also spend a lot of our days being very serious about using the many options for road safety barriers and metal fences to provide as much safety as possible for people who drive long hours during the day and during the night. Many fences have important moments.

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To add to this, the satellite service comes with high latency (delay) making it difficult to use for telephony/Skype/Facetime services. Remember the days of making an international call and needing to wait a few seconds before speaking to ensure you didn't talk over the other person? This will be the new normal when you call your next door neighbours via Sky Muster!

If the claimed satellite speeds were accurate, you could use up your entire monthly data in as little as 6 hours! Although you would incur the 'Fair use limit before this and be throttled to 128KB/s for the rest of the month.

NBN Co's Fair Use Policy

- NBN Co requires each customer to limit their Data Usage to no more than 150 GB in any four week period.
- Furthermore, NBN Co requires each customer to limit their Peak Hour Data Usage to no more than 75 GB in any four week period.
- NBN Co requires all RSPs to limit their average customer Peak Hour Data Usage to no more than 30 GB of downloads and no more than 5 GB of uploads in any four week period.
- As a result of this policy, Plans with smaller data allowances represent better value than Plans with larger ones.

The Alternatives

- Lobby for fixed-line or fixed-wireless NBN for our area
- Engage with alternate service providers to set up other internet options

What we aim to do & why we need you

We aim to explore the alternatives, in order to facilitate the delivery of fast, reliable, and affordable internet, and possibly VOIP(phone via internet) for Wamboin & the surrounding districts.

What we need from you:

In order to achieve this goal, we need you to join us by emailing:


wamboincommunications@gmail.com

This will help us get an understanding of where high-speed, and/or high data requirements are desired in our area, and will help amplify our voices when it comes to lobbying politicians, service providers and departments.

We need to act before our current ADSL services die of old age and neglect. Don't wait until it is too late!

More information

More information is available from our website: <https://sites.google.com/site/wamboincommunications/>

 <p><i>Training your Puppy and Dog Naturally</i> <i>A well-behaved dog is a pleasure to own and in our classes we will be focusing on solving common issues in training pups and dogs such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Walking well on lead, -- Manners with children, dogs, in and around the house, -- Preventing: jumping, nipping, mouthing, -- Socialisation and addressing of developmental phases. -- Control of dogs around livestock and wildlife, -- Advice on how to train your dog to avoid snakes. <p><i>In-your-home training also available</i> <i>The classes run for 6 weeks @ 1 hour per week. Children are very welcome.</i> <i>For more information, please call Heike Hahner on 4842 7143</i> <i>email: hhahner@bigpond.com web: heike.braidwoodnsw.com</i> <i>www.facebook.com/heike.hahner</i></p>	<p>The Feed Shed Bungendore <i>Supplying Quality Lucerne & Pasture Hay</i> <i>Good Range of Bagged Feed and Chaff</i> <i>Steel Cattle and Horse Yard Panels Stock</i> <i>and General Transport Open 7 Days</i> <i>Locally Owned</i> Steve Hughes Ph 62380900 0408 481 664 32 King Street Bungendore</p>
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Wamboin Community Association (WCA) General Meeting - Summary

Date of Meeting: 20 December 2016 Meeting Chaired by: Peter Evans, Acting President, WCA

General outline of topics discussed:

Acting President Peter Evans thanked Vice President Jenny Richards for organising another successful and very well attended Wamboin Community Christmas Carols at which \$500 and numerous gifts were donated for the Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal.

Webmaster Steve Richards advised that Wheels of Wamboin event now has its own page on the WCA website.

Lofty Mason has registered the WCA for 2017's Clean-Up Australia Day and will advertise via the regular channels.

A number of other local organisations gave reports on their activities including:

□ Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade President Peter Greenwood reported that the Brigade had attended 9 call outs and the Boro fire. Fire Investigation attended a grass fire on Norton Road which appeared to have 3 start points. He reminded attendees of the dangers of slashing, welding and angle grinding during Fire Season, these being the cause of 3 recent local fires.

□ David McDonald advised that a well-attended meeting chaired by S355 Committee Chair, Bill Taylor at Bywong Hall relating to Greenways Master Plan for expansion and consolidation of Greenways in Wamboin and Bywong, contributing to ongoing land use planning in the district. Council members attended and were very supportive of the community's efforts.

□ Wamboin Social Drop-In Group – Denise Hales advised that the trial run of the group was very successful and that the intention is to operate at Wamboin Hall on Thursdays, 10am – 12 noon starting in February.

□ Wamboin Communications Action Group (WCAG) – John Gough explained how and why the WCAG formed with the aim of establishing a register of residents interested in joint representation regarding our area's poor current and proposed telecommunications capabilities. He said that there is a general lack of understanding of NBN capabilities including that our area has been defined "remote/rural" with satellite as our NBN solution which is of little reliable value. He stressed that the WCAG does not support any particular technology or service provider. He also alerted attendees to the imminent failure of the obsolete Amungula Place exchange which would affect landline service as well as ADSL. The WCA agreed to support the activities of the WCAG such as by including a link to WCAG's website on the WCA's website and Acting President Peter Evans invited WCAG to give updates at future meetings.

The WCA meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except January) at 7:30pm at the Wamboin Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin. Next meeting: Tuesday 21st February. All welcome. - Jenny Warren, Assistant Secretary, Wamb Community Assn.



January 2017

Dear Resident

The Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade (RFS) is recruiting Support Crew volunteers!

Wamboin RFS members are local people (possibly even your friends or neighbours) who need your help to keep our community safe during bush fires and other emergencies.

Our brigade relies on members to fulfill firefighting role. In addition, roles in areas like catering, administration, communication, community engagement and training. We would like to tell you more about volunteering with the Wamboin RFS.

People choose to join the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade for many reasons. Some want to protect their families, their friends, their assets and their way of life. For many it is about being part of a wonderful tradition and an organisation with a very proud history. Volunteering with our brigade will offer you the opportunity to learn new skills that will not only assist you with voluntary roles, but in day-to-day life and maybe even your workplace. It's also a chance to form friendships and meet other people who live in our community.

Whatever your reason, be assured that when you join the Wamboin RFS you are joining a team of hard-working, professional and dedicated volunteers who are committed to giving back to our local community.

If you would like any further information, please contact Pauline Chambers, as outlined below.

Pauline Chambers Support Crew Coordinator Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade
Mobile: 0411 492 896 Email: paulinechambers@yahoo.com.au

The advertisement for Haidong Gumdo features a central illustration of a woman in a purple and grey uniform performing a sword art move. The text "Haidong Gumdo" is at the top in a stylized font. Below it, the text reads "Learn the Dynamic Korean Sword Art" and "HEIGHTEN YOUR INNER STRENGTH". Further down, it says "COMBINING FITNESS TRAINING OF THE MIND AND THE BODY". At the bottom, it lists "Master Jason Kim" and the phone number "0430 436 437". The address "KIM'S HAIDONG GUMDO 399 NORTON ROAD WAMBOIN" and website "www.haidonggumdo.net.au" are also included. A small illustration of a man in a purple uniform is in the bottom right corner.

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Ad-Design Sandy Morphett

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 resident. Murray Goodridge of Morrison Road has offered to take on, at least for now, delivering the 38 Whispers along Bungendore Rd between Macs Reef and Summerhill, and Summerhill Road itself. Sue Aunella has delivered Whispers to Brooks Road for a long time.

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
Cheryl and David Steele	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 Nrtn Rd	23	Rob Henry	South end Clare Valley	41
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
Dominica Lorima	North end Clare Valley	42			

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

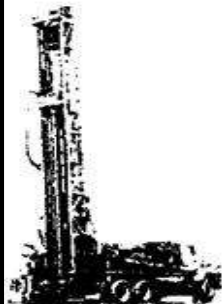
Phil & Pam Dawes	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln	27	David Featherston	Summerhill to B'dore Rd to CreekB Rd	26
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	21	Ken Steinman	Wyoming & Doust Rds	34
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	32	Chris Fowler	Millyn Rd	20

153: 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	Susie and Brad Edwards	Weeroona (417-512)	18
Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Road	27	Murray Goodridge	B'dore Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill)	38

TOTAL 1,312

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2016 Wamboin Nativity Pageant – Truly Amazing

by Alan Rope

Six o'clock in the evening on Christmas Eve, the time and date for the World famous Wamboin Nativity pageant, held at St Andrew's church.

For 2016 a slightly different format was planned, rather than the traditional way of a narrator, locals acting out the parts of the characters, and sometimes unco-operative animals. This time we were going to move around and use all the church grounds and have the onlookers involved, not just actors and animals. Unfortunately, an hour before it was due to begin, the heavens opened up and we received a downpour. But in the true theatre spirit of 'the show must go on' – it did. Not even a storm was going to stop our 'professional' actors putting on their show.

We had a gorgeous baby Jesus, a radiant Mary and a proud Joseph (obviously, how can you have a nativity pageant without those three). There was an authoritarian Archangel Gabriel, six beautiful angels, three excited shepherds, one grumpy innkeeper, one moving star of Bethlehem, three extremely wise men bearing expensive gifts, and a church filled with an enthusiastic audience. The church building was crowded, and at times it was necessary to use a little imagination as to the locations and animals.

Gabriel arrived first, and spoke with Mary, then to Joseph, who then had to travel to Bethlehem for the census, with Mary at full term. Poor Joseph was almost down on his knees begging the grumpy innkeeper for a room, but to no avail.

Finally Mr Grumpy allowed the use of the stable, (which he had to because that is the story as we all know). Not long after settling in at the stable, Jesus was born, (no television close-ups). Nearby, the host of angels arrived and surprised the terrified shepherds who eventually calmed their fears and went to visit the baby Jesus. A short time later the brilliant star of Bethlehem appeared, followed by the three wise men bearing gifts. Intermingled with this was lusty boisterous carol singing by all, accompanied by organ, viola and three violins.

The whole event was 'truly amazing' – if you were there you know what comes here. Go on, say it. If you were not there, then you will have to be at this year's pageant to find out what it is we are saying. Hopefully Christmas Eve will be without rain in 2017, but whatever the weather the show will go on. It will be 'truly amazing'!

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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market Saturday 18 February 2017

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

The first market for 2017 was busy and fun with more families and several new groups coming through. Maybe it was the effect of Amy's new signage? The markets were greatly enhanced by Poetry in Motion who played for us throughout the morning. They will be back next month – on the stage this time!



By law, we are not allowed to have animals inside the hall while the markets are on. For two months running now we have had a little, unattended Jack Russell spend the morning with us. This causes concerns for us, stall holders and those with dogs tethered outside. As he had no tag, we had no alternative but to take him to Queanbeyan Pound and leave notices on the community chalk boards.

**PLEASE keep pets safe and secure at all times
SEE YOU AT THE SEPTEMBER MARKETS**

Small Farms Network – Capital Region

Are your sheep up to their armpits in grass? Do you have lots of grass but don't know if it is good for your horses? Are you making your animals fat and wasting dollars with unnecessary supplementary feeding? It's a wild time for pastures right now but how can you plan to have enough for your cattle or alpacas to eat in late Summer?

The Small Farms Network – Capital Region has organised Col Langford to deliver PROGRAZE® for Small Farms starting in February 2017. Some might remember Col from the Sheep Husbandry workshop where he shared some of his 40 years of experience in working with farmers to improve grazing and livestock management.

The PROGRAZE® course builds skills in understanding and managing pasture to improve sustainability and productivity, fodder budgeting for a wide range of livestock and using grazing management to help control parasitic worms. Prograze is a series of eight one-day field days run over a year and our version in the Capital Region will focus on strategies suited to small farms with sheep, cattle, alpacas or horses. See smallfarmscapital.org/events-workshops for more information and to register for PROGRAZE® for Small Farms.

We would also like to say 'happy birthday Small Farms Network – Capital Region'. We've had an amazing first year! Starting from an idea to help local small farmers learn rural skills, we've managed to deliver six field days about various aspects of running small (and larger) farms and every one of them has been oversubscribed. We thank South East Local Land Services, FuturePLANS, ACT Regional Landcare, the Australian Government and the Bungendore Weekly for their assistance. – Alex James, Bywong



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Its been a long hot summer....

Over the past two months the Wamboin Fire Brigade has been called upon to provide equipment and crews on some 16 events involving 46 individual tanker callouts. These events have included motor vehicle accidents, truck fires, grass and bush fires some small, some large; patrolling controlled fires and attending to smoke sightings.

It's been a very busy period and of course summer is not over so we can expect more callouts over the coming weeks.

With all this activity it's time to reflect on your preparations. Are you receiving alerts on your mobile phone for local fires and are you keeping up to date on fires using applications such as

Fires Near Me or via the local ABC Radio Canberra 666. Maybe you are checking on local weather conditions utilising the Wamboin weather station. www.wamboincommunity.asn.au/weather

Brigade Activity

We have seen fires in our immediate neighbourhood and slightly further afield but still within the RFS Lake George Zone and the QPRC. The incidents reported in this Whisper cover the period 30 November through to 30 January. There is a good chance considering the temperatures lately that the Brigade will be out on the last days of January.

Call Outs

Wednesday 30 November: Two heavy tankers (Wamboin 1A and Wamboin 1B) attended a truck fire on the Federal Highway at Lake George.

Saturday 3 December: A crew of five was dispatched to a motor vehicle accident on Macs Reef Road at 6.30pm and were back an hour later.

Friday 9 December: A fire was reported on Norton Road just opposite Merino Vale Drive. All four tankers responded to very quickly extinguish what could have been a dangerous (and suspicious) fire.

Monday 12 December and for several days: Lower Boro Road, Boro. This was the first of the big fires this season. Over several days we dispatched one of our heavy tankers and both of our light Cat 7 tankers. A total of 18 crew members, some for repeat callouts, attended what became an extensive grass fire. Our crews were involved in direct firefighting and in patrolling the fire ground on subsequent days and nights. This was a major commitment by the Wamboin Brigade with some crews on the fire ground for 12 hour shifts either through the day or overnight.

Saturday 17 December: One of our heavy tankers was dispatched at 4.00pm for a fire on Lake Road. They were turned around and sent back to the shed. Our services weren't required.

Saturday 17 December: One heavy tanker and 2 light tankers were dispatched to a fire in Clare lane. A total of 9 crew were busy from 7.00pm to 11.00pm.

Tuesday 3 January: It was our training night when the pagers went off. There was a fire at the Queanbeyan effluent treatment works and we were able to contribute three trucks and a total of 13 crew members. We arrived at 8.00pm and were back at the shed at 9.30pm.

Monday 9 January: Back to the Queanbeyan effluent treatment works. This time 9 crew members in three trucks were on scene from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. The fire was well extinguished through the efforts of ACT and NSW crews and helicopters.

Wednesday 11 January: A total of 10 crew members in three tankers attended a fire in Bidges Road. It was a pile of dirt including composting vegetation that had created enough heat to start burning. We were out of the station at 9.30am and back by 11.00am.

Friday 12 January: Many will remember the day Sutton Road, north of Norton Road was closed all day. A B-Double truck had rolled. Whilst Sutton Brigade had managed the scene during the morning, Wamboin had a heavy tanker and a crew of 4 present for fire protection from 12.00 noon to about 3.30pm during the recovery period.

Tuesday 17 January and for several days: Currandooley/Mt Fairy, this was the second big fire for the season and at the time of writing we still had a truck patrolling the fire ground.

Over several days more than 50 crew members were dispatched to this fire, some for repeat tours. In addition to the crews in the fire trucks our support crew was also assisting in the Station preparing meals and food packs. Whilst all 4 of our tankers were at some stage on the Currandooley fire ground we always retained at least on truck at the Wamboin Fire Station.

Our crews were involved in the suppression and extinguishment of the fire, along with patrolling the fire ground and blacking out during the days and nights after the fire had been controlled. Many of our crews were involved in some long shifts.

Tuesday 17 January: A fire was reported on Norton Road. Three Wamboin tankers (W1A was already at Currandooley); assisted by the Queanbeyan Brigade and some ACT RFS tankers brought the fire rapidly under control. The fire was threatening two houses on Norton Road.

Wednesday 18 January: A smoke sighting on the Federal Hwy was investigated by W7B but turned out to be smoke from the Mulligans Flat fire north of Sutton.

Thursday 19 January, A fire was reported at Snow Gum Lane. A heavy and light tanker were despatched with 5 crew on board. They were out of the shed at 3.00pm and back by 4.00pm with the fire extinguished.

Community Engagement

Watch out for our community education team at the Wamboin Community hall on market days.

Maybe you would like to invite a member of the Brigade's Community Education Team to visit your property to discuss your preparations and any improvements they might suggest to protect you and your family and your property against the threat of bush fire.

The Fire Season is In Force - Fire Permits Are Required



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

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

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

Useful Links and Contact Information

NSW Rural Fire Service: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

The NSW Rural Fire Service website provides an electronic copy of its **Bushfire Survival Plan guide** that you can download and complete. You can also access its **MyFirePlan** smartphone apps. in both iOS and Android versions.

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

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

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Our Rock-Like Turtles

Often confused as a tortoise, one of our most endearing creatures that we commonly come across is the eastern long-necked turtle. With one of the wettest spring and early summer periods, Wildcare has been busier than normal with 40 injured turtles rescued in the last four months – often picked up and handed into Wildcare by members of the public. Normally Wildcare rehabilitates only about 35 turtles over a year. So, the increase in numbers could be due to wetter than normal weather or maybe it is just people being more aware of our wildlife and knowing what to do.

As Alicia, Wildcare's turtle and reptile coordinator, says, "Speeding along at 100km/hr, doesn't give much time to react to a turtle loitering on the road – or realise that "rock" on the road is actually moving. A lot of turtles (and lizards) get squished or injured, but more and more drivers are chucking a U-ey, to get back to either safely remove animals from danger or to check for injuries. To avoid getting 'scented', gently scoop up the turtle by carefully putting your hands exactly where your instincts say not to put them: right in front of the head and tail. Don't worry about his head – that will pop into its shell. Turtles are shy and don't bite. If the turtle is obviously healthy then pick it up (front and back) – hold them at arm's length, and release it as far off the road as possible, in the direction it was already going.

"Turtles are termed 'Pleurodira', or 'side-necked' turtles, meaning they fold their head into the side of their shell - tucked as far under their "veranda" as possible, instead of retracting it inwards like other turtle or tortoise species. As many would know, our smiling snake-necked friends are more likely to dissuade you from picking them up by releasing a pungent orange liquid from their scent glands just in front of their back legs – that's why we pick up the animal from the front and back, not from the side. Turtles are tough critters and can remain alive for hours or even days after receiving a fatal crack to their shell, so it is worth checking injured animals. With badly injured turtles, they need to go to a vet to be euthanised. If a shell crack is minor, Wildcare has volunteers that are trained to fix the break and it will regrow and fuse back together over time." If you are squeamish, a Wildcare tip is to have an old towel in the boot of your car. This can be used to throw over a turtle (lizard or other small non-venomous animal) to then scoop them up as a bundle to move off the road or hold if you need to get help. Lastly, please watch out for our rock-like friends on the roads and have the 24/7 Wildcare helpline - 6299 1966, in your phone to get help and advise. Philip Machin for Wildcare, ph 6238-3717

Wheels of Wamboin

Saturday 20th May 2017 - 9.00am to 1.00pm - Wamboin Hall - Bingley Way

2017 will see the anniversaries of some notable cars and motoring milestones. Among the most notable will be 50 years of the

Toyota Corolla (the world's bestselling car), 70 years of passion for the prancing horse of Ferrari, 40 years of Williams Formula 1 team, 75 years of the Jeep (I didn't buy one but the neighbour did and he yells it out every night across Wamboin), 30 years of the BMW M3 and fifty years of the Mercedes-AMG marriage.



The Corolla made its debut in 1966 and was assembled at a brand-new factory in Takaoka, Japan. Corollas still roll off the line at Takaoka and production has now expanded to 19 other factories worldwide. The Corolla is sold across 140 countries across the world.

The Corolla name stands for a ring of petals central part of a flower. The name was chosen for the hope of an automotive bloom. It certainly did that for Toyota. Australia was Corolla's first export market and the first to build the model outside of Japan (666,700 were built in Melbourne over 31 years). Did you know:

- The Corolla won its class at Bathurst in 1968 and again in 1969. Corolla achieved a Guinness World Record in 1985-86 by scoring 24 consecutive class wins in the Australian Touring Car Championship
- The Corolla was the first car to introduce white reversing lights
- Corolla was the first mass-produced small car to employ twin-cam multi-valve engine technology
- By 1994 Corolla had overtaken the Volkswagen Beetle's production record. Beetle sales topped out at 21.5 million. Corolla sales now total over 43 million, and at an ongoing annual rate of about 1.5 million per year worldwide
- Corolla was rebadged as the Holden Nova for two generations; both were built in Melbourne until 1999.
- Australians have bought more than 1.37 million Corollas since 1967
- Somewhere in the world, someone buys a Corolla every 36 seconds

Let's hope we can see some Corolla's at the Wheels of Wamboin.

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Local Laura Worden Represents Australia In Mounted Games



As a member of the Australian Mounted Games Association of NSW Laura was selected to represent Australia in the Nations Competition in Pietermaritzburg in South Africa in December 2016. This competition was held against USA, New Zealand and South Africa and the Australian Team were victorious. The team consisted of members from Vic (3), Sth Aust (1) and NSW (1). We were required to select five horses from a pool of seven donated by local riders.

The Australian team members also rode in the South African Individuals competition, allowing us the opportunity to ride the borrowed ponies before the Nations competition.

She would like to thank the local businesses and community for their support, raffle donations and sponsorship that made it possible for her to have this fantastic experience. Special thanks go to Hiscock's Saddlery, Cartridge World and John Res Mechanical of Queanbeyan and Bungendore Rural Services, Bungendore Vet Surgery, Bungendore Cellar, Bungendore IGA, The George Bar and Dining, the Well-Being Centre, The Wicked Cackle, Wild Rose Organics, Cuts on Gibraltar, Lerida Estate Winery, CWA Bungendore, Kathy Shand, Gunning Lyons Club and John

& Pearl Van Der Stratten. As always, her parents were there to help her achieve this opportunity, supporting Laura in raising money and assisting with finance to help with flights and give me the chance to not only compete but to spend several days' prior to the competition sightseeing.

The raffle was drawn before Laura departed and all winners have been notified. We encourage riders of all ages to try this sport, as it is not only challenging but good fun. Anyone interested should contact the secretary of AMGA, Maureen Purdie 0427383343.



Save the date! Saturday 1 April 2017, come to Sutton Public School for our annual Country fair. There will be food, crafts, raffles, a car carnival and much more



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Adam studied vocals at The Canberra Jazz Campus School of Music at Manuka and has been fronting bands and performing solo before, during and after his studies over 4 decades.

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Email = dastudio777@gmail.com

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Tutor Available: Experienced local high school teacher is available to tutor privately in mathematics (all levels), physics (all levels) and science (to year 10). I am a registered teacher with police clearances in both NSW and the ACT. I have been teaching and marking external exams for 10 years and am an experienced tutor. \$50/hour. Rates are negotiable for groups. This is a great time to start exam preparation. Phone 0421 323 428.
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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Nature Note January 2017

Jo Walker

With only a few millimetres of rain since Christmas and temperatures above 30 degrees most days, the countryside is beginning to look parched. That does apply mostly to the low vegetation though - with the high winter rainfall and warm Spring days, the trees and larger shrubs put on masses of new growth and are still looking quite lush.

The Cauliflower Bushes (*Cassinia longifolia*) are about the only plants in flower at present, although there were a lot of Yellow Rush-lilies (*Tricoryne elatior*) flowering a few weeks ago in the damper areas. But, you have to be there at the right time of the day to see them - they are one of the species that only opens its flowers around midday. And the little suckering patches of Australian Mint (*Mentha diemenica*) are still bearing a few mauve flowers along the creekline. This year, the Twining Fringe-lily (*Thysanotus patersonii*), usually a frail and difficult to find little plant, put on a good display in places. I had four plants growing up through the *Kunzea ericoides* near the dam, covered in what looked like several hundred little mauve flowers.

The birds have been busy over the last month or two. The Grey Fantails that nested just beyond my lower fence reared two little chicks, and a pair of Red Wattle Birds built a nest high in a tree in my driveway which managed to survive the recent wind storm. Recently, they were carrying food to the nestlings. Leaden Flycatchers, Eastern Spinebills and a noisy pair of Kookaburras have all been seen with young ones. And the Wood Ducks raised a sizeable family of ducklings, even though they spent a lot of time crossing or resting on the road. The King Parrots were attracted to the heavy load of seed capsules on some Hopbushes (*Dodonaea* spp.) growing here, and spent several days feasting on the seed.

One very hot day recently, I was watering some large shrubs when a couple of little Silver-eyes flew in for a drink. I gave them a fine spray with the hose and they fluffed their feathers and had a shower as well as a drink. Then two more arrived. After about five minutes, I was giving a communal shower to a little flock of about ten of grateful-looking birds!

There are quite a few little Grass Skinks skittering around, but, on the whole, lizard numbers seem to be decreasing. I've only seen one Jacky Lizard here this summer, and the only large lizards around are the Cunningham's Skinks - and even they seem to be less numerous. It's possible that the increasingly hot summers are affecting the breeding or survival of insects and other arthropods that lizards feed on. Ants and termites still seem to be doing all right, but a lot of insects that were once common here are now much less evident. However, I did see one little lizard the other day that I hadn't set eyes on for a while - a little Red-throated Skink searching through the flower-pots in the shadehouse.

I wasn't expecting to see frogs very far away from the dam in this weather, but a small Peron's Tree Frog (*Litoria peronii*) visited a waterbowl near the house for a couple of days. And, when I was digging a large hole to accommodate a plant, I dug up an Eastern Pobblebonk or Banjo Frog (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*). These are quite large frogs and have the unfortunate habit of sheltering deep in compost heaps and sand piles where spades and forks are a constant danger. Fortunately, this one was unhurt and was returned to its hiding place - one of the lucky ones.

Wamboin 15 Years Ago Wamboin Whisper, February, 2002 Circulation 900

From the Yarrowlumla Council News, compiled by Councillor Peter Greenwood. "Bush Fire Action. The Shire's Bush Fire Brigades have been extremely busy over the past two months. Most Brigades, including Wamboin, were in attendance at the Oaks Estate fire on Christmas Day and again on New Year's Day when the fire at Penrose Pines threatened Fernleigh Park. Brigades also assisted at fires in the ACT, Deua National Park and the Illawarra fires south of Sydney. There have also been a number of fires in the Shire but fortunately all were contained very quickly. With the big dry continuing and February and March being our worst fire months, members of all Brigades are being kept on their toes." This all sounds very familiar, and we all owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our wonderful fireies. Thank-you all from a very grateful community. And let us all hope and pray for lots of rain - soon. - by Robyn Robertson



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It's 'Clean Up Australia' Day Again

On Sunday, the 5th of March the Wamboin Community Association will again organise the 'Clean Up Australia' (well at least the 'Clean Up Wamboin') activities. Our focus will be on Wamboin roadways. We will be at the Hall from 9am till midday. We encourage you to register so that you are covered by insurance and so that we can have an organised plan to achieve the best results. Please register in via Phone: 62 383 258, or Email Lofty.Mason@internode.on.net if you plan an early start; or come down to the Hall and register in on the day. I assume Council will give financial assistance for the issue of drinks, nibbles, sun screen and Hi Vis jackets. All participants are invited to join the golfers from 4.30 pm so they can boast about their activities over H19 patronage. - Lofty Mason.

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 Wingecaribee
- 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



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 Wingecaribee
- 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



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Jan. 2017 to 29/1 ... 12.75mm	(Jan 2016 ... 108mm)
(Jan average... 61.8mm)	Average February rainfall ... 58.3mm
(Feb 2016 ... 47.25mm)	Wettest Feb ... 170.75 in 2010
Wettest Feb day ... 49.5mm On 14/2/10	Driest Feb ... 1mm in 1986
Hottest Feb day ... 37C X 6 times	Coldest Feb day ... 14C on 3/2/12
Coldest Feb night ... 5C on 17/2/98	



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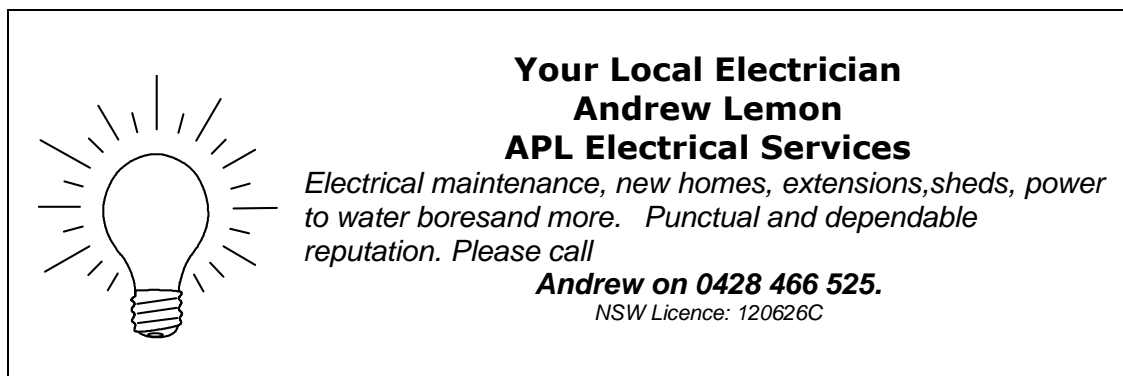
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Roads, Rates and Rocket Science

by Graham Bailey

As a retired civil engineer, I couldn't believe what I was reading about wet weather, and how it has affected our sealed road network (Q.P.R.C. news, Oct, 2016).

I did get a laugh out of the subsoil drainage issues, and then I remembered that residents are paying . Road engineering is not rocket science, although I sometimes try to get our grandchildren to believe otherwise.

Subsoil drainage can be an interesting challenge, but this certainly not the real reason behind most of the pavement distress we continue to witness around our region and elsewhere in NSW.

Given a slight hint of precipitation, out come the potholes, loss of shape, and pavement failures. Residents need look no further than Sutton Road, from Queanbeyan to Norton Road. (It is not part of the QPRC jurisdiction.) On this section we have experienced all of the above, and within months of project completion.

What is needed is a return to the old approach to project management, starting with the investigation phase. Water catchments and drainage paths are part of this equation, along with presence of rock and subgrade evaluation. Having agreed on the "design storm" and drainage solution, we can then proceed with the pavement design. It will take into account this run-off, materials testing and construction quality control measures.

What we are seeing far too often these days is loose stone "missiles" after sealing, along with shape loss, poor riding quality, bitumen flushing and potholes, often very soon after project completion, along with cost blow-outs.

Ratepayers would appreciate a return to the 'old days', when road projects were delivered on time, to quality and on budget. Any cost blowouts, potholes, loose stones and premature pavement distress in these bad old days would trash the reputation of the responsible engineers and jeopardise their careers. Times have changed.



Table tennis, Scrabble, Cards and Board games start on Thur 2nd Feb at the Wamboin Hall, on Bingley Way from 10 am to 12 and every thursday from then on. All welcome...contact Denise Hales 0400-310-685



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Wamboin Golf – January 2017

New Year's Day in the 2,017th year of the Current Era. Your correspondent will not lie to you (see below for plausible explanation). As he teed up for the Wamboin New Year Spectacular he was feeling decidedly spare to capacity as the result of a convivial New Year's Eve. The tongue was swollen, the mouth was dry, the eyes were gritty and the hand was shaking. But we of the QPR are made of tough stuff so he valiantly fought the reflux and soldiered on. The day was sponsored by Dave and Jane Hubbard of Wiyagiba Trading (a free burial at sea if you can pronounce it) to whom we extend our thanks for the refreshments and the prizes. In keeping with the prevailing weather conditions the January comp is restricted to the ten holes along Bingley Way. By tradition, Hubbard's day is supposed to be a three-stick Ambrose. But the Captain stuffed up the message so most of us played stroke. Still, it was a joy to see Nev Schroder putting with his driver (and sinking them!).

Back at the Hall the tetchy bickering between the Captain and Mr Hubbard continued *ad nauseum* until the crowd grew restless and began talking amongst themselves. And what we discussed, of course, were our new year's resolutions. Here are mine. 1, I will not vote for the Communist Party (I think I'm safe here. I've never done so before and there is no foreseeable reason why I should). 2, I will extol the virtues of President Trump (and I will too as soon as they are vouchsafed to me). 3, I will consume more sugar (the way science progresses I think sugar is due for a good rap and I've always wanted to be ahead of the trend). 4, I will always speak well of our political leaders (they're just a group of misunderstood people doing the best they can in our interests). 5, I will write the absolute unvarnished truth in this august journal of record (I admit I've stretched it a bit in the past but those days are over). Only time will tell if I can live up to those high ideals.



The googly Ball went to Tim Barter for his role as a gondolier in a romantic night on Lake Burley Griffin (named after Paul Griffin's stout Aunt Burley). The dummy spit was tossed back and forth between our Captain, Peter Greenwood, and Dave Hubbard. A right pair of tossers. It was like watching Obama and Putin. Ted Evans sent in a story about golf in heaven. The encouragement award was taken out by Lila Mason. NTP and LD ball winners were Nev Schroder 2, Larry King 2, Pete Harrison 2, Paul Griffin 2, Joan Mason and Tim Barter. Sixth place in the day's ten hole competition was Joan Mason with a net 38, 5th Lofty Mason 36, 4th Scott Mason 34 (much rejoicing at the "lodge"), 3rd Paul Griffin 34 OCB, runner-up was Tim Barter 33 and the winner was Pete Harrison 30. The February comp will be sponsored by the Whitney and Schroder families. Do join us at 12.15pm on Sunday 5 February for the 12.30pm getaway. Meanwhile, may 2017 be a year of unutterable boredom compared with the shenanigans, outrages and atrocities of the previous year in which, with some shining exceptions, personkind failed to distinguish itself from its atavistic, Darwinian progenitors. -- Larry King, golfer

St Andrews, Wamboin, St Peters, Sutton

Church Notices

With the start of the new year church activities are in full swing.

A special service was held at St Andrews on the last Sunday in January, to mark Australia Day. "Australians **all** let us rejoice...". After the service we shared a morning tea which included not only old fashioned lamingtons but food that reflected our multicultural society.

Kids Club will start for the new school year on Friday, 10th February, from 4.30pm til 6pm at St Andrews. There will be a craft activity, songs and a story and will conclude with a shared meal. No child is too young or too old to participate, and parents are encouraged to stay. A gold coin donation is appreciated. We are always looking for volunteers to help with Kids Club as it grows and changes.

Both churches continue to support St Benedicts, Queanbeyan, with donations of food or cash to assist those in need. Several members of the congregation volunteer at St Benedicts to help with the preparation of hot lunches.

Services are held on the first and third Sunday of each month, at St Andrews, Poppet Rd, and the second and fourth Sunday at St Peters, Sutton. All services start at 9am, followed by a delicious morning tea and a chance to catch up with members of our communities. Our congregations are made up of people from different church backgrounds, or no background at all. Everyone is welcome.

If you have any inquiries please feel free to call any of: Pastor Ven Dr Royce Thompson 0416265600, Dr David McCarthy 62555451, Robyn Robertson 62383202, Alan Rope 62383224

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Wamboin Wanderings by Simon Scott-Findlay, Norton Rd

Living in a place like Wamboin allows us to get away from the city/work activities and appreciate our surroundings. Waking to the dawn chorus is a pleasure, with the magpies usually first, calling out to each other while it is barely light, and again this year, we have a black bird that serenades us for long periods. There are lots of other bird calls that add to the variety of sound, but the kookaburras are usually a bit later after the sun breaks the horizon.

I like to walk my dog when I have a day off or a late start for my Clinics, and on week days I ask my wife to drop us 3kms down the road. I take a couple of plastic bags to pick up litter thrown from cars as I like walking through this lovely countryside without the rubbish, which careless passers-by throw out to create an eyesore.

Over time, I have picked up tape measures, screw drivers, a chisel, a safety helmet, hats, gloves (usually single), "L" & "P" plates, reflection jackets and other clothing. The clothing I usually hang on the roadside posts to alert the hapless owner (or others) that this is lost & "up for grabs".

The nature of the rubbish as evolved over the years, with mostly take-a-way food, soft drink and water containers now. A steady background of grog containers persists, from the drink-drivers hoping not to be detected by throwing the evidence out. The long-necks are rare, but the stubbies & cans (including mixed drinks) remain a steady stream. Also there are a lot less of the cigarette packets now, as the smokers have either given up, are incapacitated, or have died out.

I wave to the drivers as they go to work, to wish them a good day. At first only about half waved back, but now I can count on the fingers of one hand those that don't, and many of the regulars (who are lucky enough to have full-time work) wave a greeting before I get even my hand up, or flash their headlights in greeting. (It is nice to live in such a friendly place.)

On the foggy, misty mornings, I am continually amazed at drivers who do not have their headlights on. Although with some of the 4WD you may think are large enough to be visible, they emerge from the fog suddenly, and surprisingly close without their lights on. Over a third and sometimes almost half the cars that pass me on foggy mornings, chance invisibility without their lights.

Speed is another concern as there is a lot of casualty carcasses on the roadside. When a roo crosses the road ahead, you need to slow down for his mate, who is often following along behind. Last week I found this sad picture of a double impact on Norton Rd.

At night the Roos will escape along the clear path they can see, usually the road that you illuminate in front of you. I've thought of approaching the smash repairers for a subsidy for the Roos we breed, for the business that we generate. There are so few of the larger old roos around in recent years.

The council has sprayed the road verges, but a lot of properties are still showing the yellow St John's Wart flowers. I've just completed my second spraying, and right now the flowers of the serrated tussock make it easy to distinguish from the native tussock that holds the soil near the Yass River as it passes through my place. The Palerang weed inspectors provided me with good advice on spray types, identifying weeds, timing spraying (for best result, to beat the seeds, etc) so now, besides the perennial St John'sWart, I only have a few thistles, and no briar rose or Paterson's curse any more.

The spring rain had grass up to the top of the fences making the mowing a challenge this year. This fire hazard just had to be eliminated, so there was no choice. (I should have hired a slasher I think.)

We've only had one snake down by the dam this summer so along with the mown open areas near the houses, the lizards are still a good deterrent as the have bred up and keep the spiders down.

Summer increases my time at home as there is so much to do. The garden is so productive with the vegetables now, but my tomatoes are a bit late again this year - (none for Christmas again!).

I have established a small orchard area with a variety of trees, but this year instead of trying to net them individually, I am netting the whole area this Year. I will slide the bird netting on & off just covering the developing fruit, so unless we get an unusually heavy hail storm or unseasonal snow, it should work well. The birds have already beaten me to the young apples, apricots, nectarines, peaches, and pears, but I still have the quinces to go, and next year there will be a much more productive result.

I also want to plant some raspberry, boysenberry, and Blackberry canes on trellises inside the netting in a clearing near the rain tank.

Now as my New Year break draws to an end, work starts up again for the coming year, and although this means less time in the garden, it is always nice to come home at the end of the day. We are so lucky to live in this area where we can escape to the peace of the country.



Calling New Members for Wamboin Pony Club 2017

It's 2017 and the first Wamboin Pony Club rally day for the year is on Sunday 12th February. Our small club has been active in the area for close to 30 years. We have a group of dedicated riders of all ages and experience and would love some more members to join our enthusiastic group. Pony Club is a great way to improve your horse riding skills with riders of all experiences around you. Our club has riders aged from 5 – 25 and we have a group of dedicated, experienced instructors. Our Pony Club ground at the end of Canning Close has fenced arena's and clubhouse facilities we have built up over the years to create a safe riding environment. You just need access to your own horse and can even come along and try for a day to see what goes on. Rally days are a great social day out, not only do you have fun riding with a group, there is always a BBQ lunch for you and the family too. Wamboin Pony club usually meet twice a month on Sunday's at our grounds from 9am gear check to 1pm. As mentioned our first Rally day for 2017 will be on Sunday 12th February so if you are interested come along and see all that Pony Club can offer.



If you would like some more information about Wamboin Pony Club and our upcoming rally days email our Secretary Stacey at wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com check our website www.wamboinponyclub.org.au or find us on Facebook. We hope we will see you soon. - **Steve Quick**

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

The Christmas holidays are over, the last of the visitors have gone and a quiet sense of order has descended, but perhaps it's a little too quiet and a little too ordered. When people depart I don't mind the business of washing sheets and towels, especially if the tanks are full, and stowing bedding. I don't mind retrieving kitchen items from strange hiding places, put there by helpful hands, but I do find that stripping the plastic Christmas tree of its finery, dismantling it and manipulating its unwilling limbs into the box I thought I'd lost is a tedious and time consuming chore. It spells the end of relaxation and the beginning of the new year's routine. Invariably the spaces where the Christmas paraphernalia came from have been filled by new "Christmas stuff" and it becomes the annual ritual of finding new spaces for the old. Once that's behind me, however, it is time to take a serious look outside.

There was an explosion of growth in late spring. The abundant winter rain had given us a free ride for some time and it seemed as if these halcyon days would stretch forever, but then the sun began to bite, the creek dried up and the ornamentals flagged. Suddenly it was back to the daily grind of watering. I was getting up with the birds to beat the day's heat and trying to keep track of those areas most in need of a drink, and those areas have expanded over the years. However, nothing beats the cool stillness of an early summer morning filled with bird song. It's a narrow window but it's a magical time of day! Almost overnight millions of Christmas beetles appeared and chomped relentlessly through the eucalyptus shade leaving the trees with no choice and no thought of who'd clean up afterwards but to shed their tattered leaves along with their bark coats. The canny lizards vanished, seeking refuge from the heat, but some little fellows were unfazed and pretended to be garden gnomes until they were exposed as frauds and promptly disappeared.

In the vegetable garden we are eating our first tomatoes, and I suspect the first of many zucchinis, picking basil, rhubarb and lettuces and waiting for the thirsty cape gooseberries to ripen. The chooks are relishing the last of the silver beet and I have nearly given up on the strawberries. The goannas and possums might win! Sometimes I think the super market may be a smarter option for vegetables!

There's not much flowering but I never fail to sing the praises of the summer stalwarts...agapanthus, oleanders, geraniums, petunias and salvias. Beyond the garden the bush is a collage of different shades of green...grey, olive, lime and dark green, under a relentless stinging sun. Everything that blooms is over so quickly, a reminder of the passing of time and the importance of living in the present and savouring what life offers.

And so, without too much navel gazing, we concluded our holiday season with a family lunch to celebrate Australia Day, tossing a well marinated lump of lamb on the barbecue (with an uncomfortable feeling that I may be a victim of advertising), and serving it with fresh salads and seasonal fruits. It was a quiet acknowledgement of how lucky we are, today, to share in life's rich bounty in this wide and diverse brown land of ours, and reflect on the struggles endured and the contribution made by those who came before us.

Holidays are over, and now it is back to serious things! From my study window I can see a forlorn looking bush crying out for a drink. The evening watering regime begins again.....but I wouldn't live anywhere else.



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And pre-purchase inspections.
We are located in Carwoola and service
the ACT and Palarang region. We are
licensed, experienced and ready to rid
you of your unwanted pests.



For further information

Contact Pete on 0458053444

Website:

www.carwoolapestcontrol.com.au

Email:

info@carwoolapestcontrol.com.au

Licence No's

NSW: 5077997

ACT: EA1066