



The Whisper

March 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 April 2017 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, March 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.

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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
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	

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Sales from 0900 to 1200
(Sellers must arrive from 0700 to 0900,
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Come and enjoy Bywong's 20th Car Boot Sale, with over 100 stalls selling 'must-have' items!

Free entry for buyers - or why not clean out the house, get a site for \$15 and make some money as a seller? Search for toys, books and treasures on sale. Relax with tea and cakes inside our hall. View demonstrations by your local fire brigade. Watch the dog flyball and Pony Club displays. Enter the raffle with great prizes donated by generous local businesses. Proceeds from the Car Boot Sale are used by the Bywong Community Association for local projects, such as the Bywong Community Playground.

If you would like to sponsor the event by donating a prize, email Merle at blackbird@iinet.net.au. For more info, visit www.bywongcommunity.org.au

See you there....



Wamboin - Bywong Market Update October - December 2016

Introduction

This report has been compiled using data sourced from allhomes.com.au and EAC redsquare.com.au which link into NSW Land and Property Information Services. The analysis and report has been prepared by Daniel Gilbert, a licensed NSW real estate agent who holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the ANU, with combined majors in mathematics & statistics. He is a current working principal of Gilbert Real Estate and has over 20 years hands on experience.

Scope Of The Report

Our previously prepared Wamboin – Bywong market report summarised the entire 2016 calendar year sales activity. This data was then compared with activity over the 2014 & 2015 calendar years to identify market trends and movements over the 3 year period. The report showed a definite upward shift in market values over the three year period, with an average sale price for the 2016 year of \$980,000.

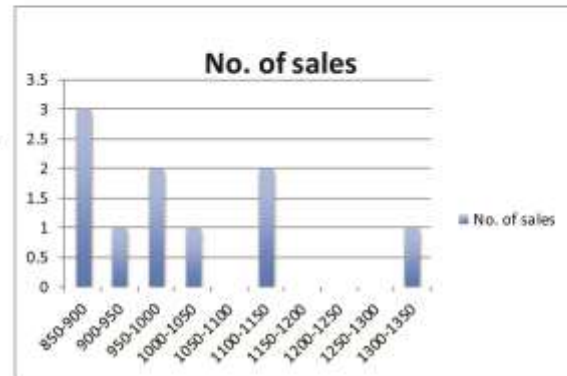
This report (and future reports) will analyse market activity on a quarterly basis, which will provide more timely information to identify movements and trends in the market. This report covers sales activity over the October – December 2016 quarter (DEC Qtr).

Analysis

Sales activity over the DEC Qtr consisted of 10 sales. Sale prices ranged from \$850,000 - \$1,310,000, with the average sales price just over 1 million dollars (\$1,005,000).

The following bar chart shows the spread and number of sales within each price sector. We can see that 6 of the 10 sales (60%) were under \$1M, whilst the remaining 40% were over \$1M. This is fairly consistent with the annual 2016 figures of 65% of sales under \$1M, and 35% over \$1M, and if anything, shows a very minor increase in sale prices toward the end of the year.

This increase may just due to minor fluctuations and the small population size, so a more accurate picture of market performance and trends will emerge over the coming quarters.



What is interesting to note, is that in 2014, just 14% of sales were over \$1M, in 2015 this figure had jumped to 22%, then reached 35% in 2016.

Summary

2016 has shown to be a strong market for the region, backed by a very strong Canberra market, favorable economic conditions, continuation of record low interest rates and lifestyle benefits. The start to 2017 has seen continued strong enquiry, with several properties in the region under offer in the past few weeks. This trend looks like it will continue as we head into Autumn 2017.

Disclaimer

This report has been compiled from sources that we deem to be reliable and accurate. However we make no guarantees as to its accuracy and parties should rely on their own enquiries. Sales used are exchanged sales for the period, and do not include inter-party related transactions, commercial property, development or sub-division sites or vacant land sales.

Market Appraisal



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	<p style="text-align: center;">Bywong Community News www.bywongcommunity.org.au Anne Goonan, President</p>	
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The Big Event For March Is The 20th Anniversary Bywong Car Boot Sale

Bywong Car Boot Sale: The 2017 CBS will be the 20th anniversary of this signature event on Sunday 26 March at the Community Hall on Birriwa Road. Sales start at 9.00am, but stall holders should arrive and set up between 7.00 and 8.00am. Entry is free for the public and \$15 for stallholders. This should be a truly memorable event, with proceeds to go towards a childrens' playground at the Hall and other community causes. If you would like to get involved, particularly by donating items or services to the Raffle, please contact us at - president@bywongcommunity.org.au.

Playground Project: Work on funding this project is ongoing. Debbie Sibbick from QPRC Parks and Recreation will manage the construction effort. Sufficient funds are available to start the project but further money will be required to purchase some of the more expensive items. If you would like to help the playground project 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).

Bungendore, Braidwood and Queanbeyan Sketches: As mentioned in the February Whisper, John-Pierre Favre has created a series of sketches of historic buildings in these three QPRC towns. These unique drawings have been made into collages and printed onto a series of "collectible" tea towels. The profit from sale of these has been generously donated by JP to the playground funds. The "Bungendore" tea towels are presently available through a number of retail outlets in Bungendore. The collage tea towels for all three towns should be available at the Car - Boot Sale and later at retail outlets. They are also available directly from the BCA at - president@bywongcommunity.org.au. JP is also working on a series of Goulburn sketches.

Wamboin Communications Action Group (WCAG) Presentation: WCAG made an informative presentation to the BCA committee to a number of interested residents at the 13 February meeting, outlining issues that will affect rural residents in the area of Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton. Internet services in these rural areas is to be provided by the NBN "Sky Muster" satellite – many current satellite users have discovered (too late) that service offerings have limited download capacities, and are reportedly significantly more expensive than some current ADSL services. WCAG is not linked to any commercial or political entities, but is trying to raise awareness of this problem. More information is available from the WCAG web site at <https://sites.google.com/site/wamboincommunications/home>

Fires and Other Hazards: Thankfully our general district has not suffered from serious fires, unlike our neighbours in Carwoola. It has been suggested that BCA make some financial contribution to the fire relief fund, but this proposal is still being considered.

Next BCA Meeting: The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 10 April 2017 at the hall. Time is as usual at 7.30 pm.



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In the event of a bushfire, it is very important as a horse owner to have pre-planned actions and proper information to make rapid decisions that may save your horses and also your own life. It is your choice to relocate or stay, but remember YOU are responsible for developing your own plan and putting it in place. Once you have a plan, let friends, family and especially neighbours know, this allows sharing of information and resources. Below are some ideas to get you thinking, planning and acting. For more information on preparing your property, house and yourself, please see the ACT Rural Fire Service website www.esa.act.gov.au and the NSW Rural Fire Service website www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

ASSESS YOUR RISKS - What are your major vulnerabilities? Secluded properties, dirt roads, bush and scrub, limited water supply. What can you do to minimise the damage? Clear dry/dead scrub, empty roof gutters, invest in water pumps or generators. What plans do you have in place for relocation, transport and alternative accommodation for your horse(s)? Who do you need to contact and are the details at hand?

DEVELOP A BUDDY SYSTEM - Talk with a neighbour or friend and make arrangements to check on each other after a disaster. Tell one another if you are evacuating and to where, so authorities will know. Buddies may agree to pool resources, such as generators, water tanks, horse floats, etc. Permanently identify each horse by tattoo, microchip, brand, tag, photographs (front, rear, left and right side) and/or drawing.

BUSHFIRE PLAN - Relocate horses early if you plan to do so, don't wait until the fires are close. Keep in mind horses are flight animals and need the ability to run and jump in a catastrophic event.

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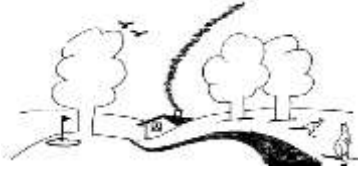
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If you missed our Equine Bushfire Safety Seminar or would like more information about a bushfire plan, please contact Misty Stebbing on hmh5959@hotmail.com. If you would like veterinary advice or have any other concerns with your horse, please contact Canberra Equine Hospital on 6241 8888 or by email on equine@canberravet.com.au.



Wamboin Community Association Vice President's Paragraphs



“It’s bloody hot around here”: Well the year is now in full swing and it is March already (here come the march flies). The recent heat has really sucked the moisture from the ground and turned some of our paddocks to dust and any grass is crunching underfoot. It’s been interesting to hear everyone complain about the heat which takes me back to when I was a kid growing up in the Riverina. In summer we did not have air conditioning and I remember sleeping out on the gauzed in veranda on hot summer nights and filling up the mobile breeze air with water every couple of hours or so. Our car had the old four by one hundred air conditioning (four windows down at one hundred kilometres per hour). I guess this brings me to my point, are we just getting soft and forgetting the old ways? Do we forget to build houses with large verandas, large windows to allow the breeze to blow though and light coloured roofs to reflect the heat? Is it easier just to put in another air conditioner to load up the power grid on a hot day? This evening, as I sit here it is nice and cool because the Wamboin doctor has arrived (why the doctor I hear you ask, it’s the easterly breeze that makes everything better). Here’s hoping for the cooler days of March as we turn to autumn (although statistically the Wamboin RFS tells me that it is the month for most bushfires in the past) so then around ANZAC day we can complain how cold it is getting.

Carwoola Bushfire Donation – In February a fast moving grass fire burned through 3,144 Ha of land in the Carwoola, Hoskinstown area. The fire destroyed 11 houses and damaged a further 12 houses with a further 45 outbuildings were either destroyed or damaged. At our February meeting, we voted to help our Carwoola neighbours with a \$1000 donation to the Carwoola Community Association. Palerang Queanbeyan Council has also launched the Carwoola Bushfire Appeal. Residents can make direct donations by depositing funds into the Carwoola Bushfire Appeal account BSB – 032724 Account No – 362257. Donations can also be made in person at Westpac branches. Also, once again a timely reminder to do your own Bushfire plan.

Contentious Character - previously Lamberts Winery is back open. Having a local place of food and more importantly wine is an asset to our small community. Please support them (only lunch at the moment but maybe take away pizzas in the near future) as they have offered to support events and good causes in our community.

Wamboin Social Drop-In Group – the drop in group is now running 10 am – 12 noon every Thursday from February 2nd. Drop into the Wamboin Community Hall for a morning tea and activities. So far about 20 attendees have been turning up and everyone is welcome.

WCAG – The February meeting received an update from 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. Don’t forget Ted Bullpit’s advice and shampoo the Kingswood, duco the tyres, glad-wrap the aerial or Mr Sheen your number-plate! (Pickle me grandmother).

Next WCA Meeting - The next General Meeting of the Community Association will be at 7.30pm Tuesday 21 March in the Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin. Don’t forget that the AGM will be held on April 18th. New committee members sought. Let’s make Wamboin great! -- **Peter Evans - Acting President.**



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Special thanks to Robyn Robertson who has delivered Whispers to Cooper Road for many years, and also, for decades, provided the Whisper with a month by month weather summary as well as researching old Whispers for "Wamboin 15 years ago". Christine Rieber and her son, Luke, have generously offered to take on the job of delivering the Cooper Road Whispers.

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

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

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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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Wamboin & Bywong Social Club & Drop-In



As you read in last month's Whisper, the Wamboin (& Bywong) Social Club is up and running – every Thursday 10.00 to 12.00ish at the Wamboin community hall. Come along and join in the table tennis, cards (Bridge and 500 is very popular), scrabble, trivia pursuit maybe and something else. Or just have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee! All are welcome. People have popped-in from Queanbeyan, Canberra, Sutton, Bungendore and elsewhere too. There is a small charge of \$2 to cover the 'rent' and refreshments. See you there next Thursday. Philip Machin, 6238-3717

PS By the way.....well done to Denise Hales for getting this regular social gathering off the ground! Photo: Geoff, Jo, Denise & Heather try their hand at scrabble – article by Phil Machin

RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES IN WAMBOIN

42 year statistics from the Robertsons

(for the first 25 years or so by David Robertson, since then by Robyn Robertson – Ned Noel)

February rainfall to 26/2 ... 26.75mm

(average Feb ... 58.3mm)

(2016 to 29/2 ... 155.25mm)

(March 2016 ... 23.75mm)

Driest March ... 3mm in 1986 & 1998

Hottest March day 35C on 8/3/82

Coldest March night ... 3C on 28/3/99 & 29/3/15

(Feb 2016 ... 47.25mm)

2017 to 26/2 ... 39.5mm

average March rainfall ... 56.9mm

Wettest March ... 303mm in 1989

Wettest March day ... 160mm on 15/3/89

Coldest March day ... 13C X 3 times

Wheels of Wamboin

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

2017 celebrates 70 years of passion for the prancing horse of Ferrari. The Ferrari name is probably the most recognised name in motoring but where did it start? Motor racing was actually Enzo Ferrari's real passion. Road cars were said to be an annoyance, a distraction to Enzo but Ferrari needed to build road cars to sell to wealthy customers to fund his racing team. The story of Ferrari road cars goes back more than 70 years, in fact, when in the 1920's Enzo Ferrari worked for Alfa Romeo. The first "real" Ferrari, the 125 S sports racer, appeared in 1947, thus marking the starting point of the 70th anniversary.

Enzo Ferrari was not initially interested in the idea of producing road cars when he formed Scuderia Ferrari in 1929, with headquarters in Modena. Scuderia Ferrari (pronounced [skude'ri:a]) literally means "Ferrari Stable". The famous symbol of the Ferrari race team is the Cavallino Rampante ("prancing horse") black prancing stallion on a yellow shield, was from the house of Baracca. In 1923, Enzo Ferrari won a race at the Savio track in Ravenna where he met the Countess Paolina, mother of Count Francesco Baracca, an ace of the Italian air force and national hero of World War I, who used to paint a horse on the side of his planes. The Countess asked Enzo to use this horse on his cars, suggesting that it would bring him good luck.

The first Ferrari-badged car was the 1947 125 S, powered by a 1.5 L V12 engine. 1954 saw the introduction of the 250 Europa GT, a 3.0-litre V12 road car that marked the start of Ferrari as a serious manufacturer of Gran Turismo cars. To me there are many beautiful Ferrari's, from the 1957 250 California to the 1962 250 GTO. What about magnum PI's 308? The beauty continues with the Ferrari Enzo in 2002 and the recent 2013 F12 Berinetta and the new hybrid la Ferrari. One thing for sure a Ferrari makes money. A 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO recently became the most valuable car in the world selling for \$38 million USD at auction (it was \$18,000 in 1962).

Throughout its history, the company has been noted for its continued participation in racing, especially in Formula One, where it is the most successful racing team, holding the most constructors championships and having produced the highest number of winning drivers. Ferrari road cars are generally seen as a symbol of speed, make mine red.

I know there are a few prancing horses sitting sheds in the local area, wouldn't be great to have one at the Wheels of Wamboin. – Peter Evans





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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.

Studies under Adam's tuition involve vocal and guitar technique across many genres, style suitability, reading, recording and song writing.

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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

Seasonal Outlook

If you're over this fire season, the fire season is not yet over and is not about to be.

According to the RFS and the Bureau of Meteorology:

- Autumn (March to May) rainfall is likely to be below average over the southern two-thirds of Australia.
- March is likely to be hotter and drier than average across most of Australia, except the far north and west.
- Warmer autumn days and nights are likely across most of Australia, except northwest Australia where days and nights are likely to be cooler than average.
- The drier than average outlooks are likely a result of forecast higher than normal pressure across western and southern Australia, meaning fewer rain-bearing systems are likely to cross the coast.

Brigade Activity

As reported in the last issue of the Whisper from 30 November 2016 to 17 January 2017:

We attended 16 events with 46 tanker call-outs.

The incidents reported in this March Whisper cover the period 20 January through to 26 February.

Call-outs

Sunday 12 February: 0453 – 0700, Cabin fire in Bidges Rd Resort Sutton. 2 Wamboin tankers with 9 crew plus other brigades' assistance.

Monday 13 February: 0046 – 0330, motor vehicle accident (MVA) with on roof on Federal Hwy. 1 tanker with 5 crew.

Monday 13 February: 0621 – 0736, motor cycle vs kangaroo Macs Reef Rd. 1 tanker with 3 crew.

Wednesday 15 February: MVA on Macs Reef Rd. 1 tanker with 3 crew.

Thursday 16 February: 1 tanker with 4 crew responded to fire in Collector. Tanker returned to station, not required.

Friday 17 February through to Friday 24 February: Major fire in Carwoola along both sides of Captains Flat Rd. Wamboin Brigade along with many local and distant brigades, graders and dozers, helicopters, Hercules aircraft (large aerial tanker), plus DC10 jet (very large aerial tanker) fought this fire on Friday and Saturday with continual patrolling and mopping up through to the following Friday. Wamboin had 8 tanker operations (up to 12 hours per shift) involving 31 crew members during this fire.

Sunday 19 February: Grass fire under the wind farm turbines at Currandooley, north of Bungendore. 1 tanker with 6 crew at the fire plus 1 tanker with 4 crew providing fire protection for helicopter refuelling operations.

Friday 24 February: MVA Federal Hwy Lake George. 1 tanker with 5 crew.

In summary, since 20 January to 24 February: 8 events, 17 tanker call-outs with 70 crew members involved

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 *Still* 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.

Be extra careful using mowers, tractors with slashers, welders and angle grinders during dangerous bush fire periods.

And remember what the Canadians have to say about fire danger!



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



VLAT DC 10



LAT Hercules



Erikson Air Crane "Elvis"



Category 1 Tanker



Category 7 Tanker

NATIONAL ELITE CHAMPION

Penny Slater, a twenty year old university student from rural Wamboin, NSW has just claimed the [Triathlon Australia](#) Cross Triathlon Championships Gold medal in the elite race. In scorching heat in Queensland, Penny excelled, finishing a close second across the line, but she was the 1st Aussie, behind 3x ITU European Cross Triathlon Champion [Renata Bucher](#) (Switzerland) and a minute in front of top Australian U23 triathlete, [Sophie Malowiecki](#). This has now guaranteed her a spot at the World Championships in Canada in August.

What is astounding is that in March 2016 Penny had ankle surgery after a car accident on her way to cycling training. Not only that but Penny has only just received her professional license. In November 2016 she became the World Champion in the 20-24 age group at the ITU World Championships in Lake Crackenback. This inspired her to become a professional and she received her license in January this year.



Penny completed her first professional race in the Victorian Gatorade Series on road triathlon and came a creditable third. Off road being her passion, though, she was hoping to improve on this result at the National Champs in Queensland. Under very trying conditions, Penny came out of the swim 4th and was in front by a wheel width after the first lap of the 30km mountain bike. She came off the bike and into the trail run in second place when the temperature had peaked at 39 °C. Penny maintained this position and managed to move closer to the Swiss Champion in the 11km trail run.

5 hours later she fronted up for an 8km trail run and beat the Swiss master to take out first in the run and then on the Sunday morning completed a 50km mountain bike course. These 3 events comprised the Dirt Master Series in which Penny came second to the Swiss Champion.

Penny is looking forward to her next Triathlon in Melbourne. She is also travelling to NZ and the Phillipines for their off road championships and is looking for any local businesses to help her in her attempt to rise to the top of her field. As a full time student and with her rigorous training regime as an elite athlete there are significant financial costs involved with travelling and competing. With this in mind, Penny would be delighted to gain any support from local businesses willing to help her in her quest to achieve her dreams. Please contact her at slater3@aapt.net.au if you think you can help her in any way. - by Robyn Slater

Sacrament of Reconciliation, St Mary's, Bungendore 2017 Preparation Program

Parent/child info session - Sun 19th March 9:30am, St Mary's Hall, 28 Turallo Tce, Bungendore. Preparation sessions during Sunday Mass 8:30am 19th, 26th March & 2nd April. First Reconciliation celebrated in St Mary's Church Wed 5th April at 6:30pm. More details and enrolment forms. <http://www.stmarysbungendore.org.au/> or phone 6238 1247 (11- 5 Wed); email: bungendore@cg.org.au

Wamboin 15 Years Ago – From The Whisper, March 2000 Circulation: 900

From: The Stable Door, contributed by Ian Coillet “Key Words For Making People Feel Important:

The most important SIX words: “I appreciate you and your efforts”

The most important FIVE words: “I am proud of you”

The most important FOUR words: “What is your opinion?”

The most important THREE words: “If you please”

The most important TWO words: “Thank you”

The most important ONE word: “We”

The LEAST important word: “I”

Worth remembering! - prepared by Robyn Robertson, (like those she has supplied for the last 20 years or so – Ned Noel)

SZT RURAL SERVICES



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E: sztrural@yahoo.com.au

SZT Rural is a small, locally owned business in the Carwoola area. We offer a range of services for small and large property owners including:

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- **Tree Service** – Firewood preparation, log splitting & mulching.
- **Machinery** – Paddock clearing, rock removal, slashing, spreading, driveway maintenance, erosion & fire hazard reduction.

Please call to arrange a free quote and to discuss the best solution for your needs.



Carwoola Bushfire Appeal: Council thanks the community for the support shown to those affected by the Carwoola Bushfire. Council agreed to donate \$10,000 directly to the appeal as well as supporting affected residents by waiving tip charges for the disposal of debris generated by the fire and meeting the costs of DA fees associated with the construction of a new dwelling.

For those able to support financially, a direct deposit can be made into the Carwoola Bushfire Appeal account via BSB 032724, Account No. 362257 or at Westpac branches. Non-financial donations are being handled via the Bargain Hunter Anglicare store in Queanbeyan. There is further information on the appeal on Council’s website and Facebook page.

Our Future – Make it Yours: Council wants you to help set the strategic direction for the new council. There is an online survey at <http://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/our-future-make-it-yours> to find out what you value about your community and what your aspirations are. This survey will help guide the Community Strategic Plan as well as provide information for service reviews. Council is eager to hear from as many people in the community about what they want their Council to look like and the services they want their Council to offer. If you are unable to complete the survey online, there are paper copies available at the libraries and customer service offices. The feedback received from these surveys will be on the table for the newly elected Council in September 2017. The survey will close on 10 March, so have your say soon.

Your Voice: The Our Future survey is not the only item on the yourvoice website. This will be a one-stop location for engagement with Council. Some of the items that are currently on exhibition include the proposed projects under the Stronger Communities Fund, supplied by the NSW Government for new councils and the plans for transformation of the Queanbeyan CBD. -- **Tim Overall, Administrator**

WAMBOIN AND BYWONG CLASSIFIEDS

<p>Wildcare needs help: Wildcare has mobilised to rescue and treat wildlife burnt in the Mt Fairy, Sutton and Carwoola fires. About 20 kangaroos, some reptiles and turtles have come into care so far. Wildcare is also providing fodder drops to keep wildlife alive whilst their habitat regenerates over the next few months. What with Vet bills, treatments, medications, food and sedative used in darting - this is a long and expensive operation. Wildcare needs to raise \$20,000! Please donate to: Commonwealth Bank Account name: Wildcare Queanbeyan Inc BSB: 062-593 Account number: 10216803 Email treasurer@wildcare.com.au for a tax deductible receipt</p>
<p>Civil Celebrant - Lorraine Bird highly experienced, living locally. Available for weddings, civil partnerships, civil unions, renewal of vows, namings and commitment ceremonies. Please contact me to arrange an obligation free meeting. Phone 62303321, 0401267851 or www.lorrainebird.com.au</p>
<p>Mums and Dads learn BABY MASSAGE. Great benefits for baby. Contact Judy Shellard (Certified Infant Massage Instructor by IMIS (baby massage.net.au)) 62 383 050. judyshellard@gmx.com , 0417-130-052.</p>
<p>Guitar/vocal/musicianship tuition. 33 years full time experience. Classes run Monday to Saturday after school into evening. All ages welcome. Phone Adam Conroy on 6238 3677.</p>
<p>Stuart Myers from Equiculture is back to present an advanced property planning workshop for people interested in setting up their property to be horse and human friendly while maximising the natural resources available. This workshop, Healthy Land, Healthy Horse 2 on Saturday 25 March 2017, is the next in the popular Small Farms Network – Capital Region workshop series. It will be held in Bywong and bookings are now open. More info at www.smallfarmscapital.org</p>
<p>Animals tended – big and small. I will tend to your pets, horses, plants, livestock, bring in your mail, and any other jobs to increase your peace of mind while you are on holidays or when you just need a hand short term or longer term. Mature, responsible, reliable, employed person. Call Carolyn, 0414 738 365.</p>
<p>The Whisper is one of the many ways we help each other get along in Wamboin and Bywong. Can you add anything to the upcoming April issue? Deadline is this Sunday night, 7:00 pm, March 26. Email to whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or nednoel@optusnet.com.au</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>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</p>
<p>Civil Marriage Celebrant. Dorothy Skea. Mobile No: 0403 215 336 (easier to get a hold of me on my mobile). Ph: 6238 3290. E-mail: dorothyskea@outlook.com</p>
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<p>FOR HIRE: BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL. Suitable for smaller functions and seminars, groups etc. Check availability and booking information on www.bywongcommunity.org.au. or email Ann Sloan at lrrhallbywong@gmail.com.</p>
<p>FOR HIRE:- from Wamboin Community Hall - 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, - Trestles and chairs. All damages are the responsibility of the Hirer. Must be securely tied during transportation - or they don't go!</p>
<p>FOR HIRE :- from Wamboin Community Hall -Gas BBQ'S x 2. Hire cost and cleaning Bond applies. Enquiries - Joan Mason 62 383 258</p>
<p>FOR HIRE: - WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL. Bookings arranged by Joan Mason, 62 383 258. Please note: Hall is not available for teenage, 18 or 21st birthday functions.</p>

Wamboin Golf – February 2017

Sunday 5 February 2017. A very hot day. 35 Celsius in the shade of a barbed wire fence. But a steady breeze over a healthy sweat had a kind of evaporative effect so the plucky golfers of the region sucked it up as they contested the Wamboin February Stableford. The day was sponsored by the Whitney and Schroder families to whom we extend our gratitude for the prizes and food at the 19th.

Back at the community hall we stood around comparing our Australia Day gongs. Did you get one? Your correspondent's must be in the mail – which bothers him a bit because that nice but underpaid Mr Ahab Fervour, the Australia Post CEO, got his already. I think it was for delivering a postal service slightly faster than Cobb & Co but slower than the Pony Express. And it explains why I didn't get my invitation to the Incarceration Ball in DC (as we *Deplorables* call the epicentre of power-without-purpose) in honour of the old "alternative fact" machine himself, President Donald Trumpet. But I was buoyed by the news that my old mate, David Sodey, the lisping former CEO of Telstra, got a gong too. (Can't remember what got him across the line.) Go Dave! All consumers of information and communications technology salute you. Good to see that Bungendore pastry chef, Cosi Panini, was made our Australia Day local hero. Cosi is starting his own political party, the Australian Preservatives, which will give a voice to those otherwise disenfranchised people who make conserves and stuff like that. Break a leg, Cosi!

After the captain welcomed our guest, Tony Fitzgerald, Ted Evans and his straight man injected an air of cabaret with some ancient golf stories. Deb Gordon was awarded the googly ball for enjoying the day without the usual encumbrances. The dummy was passed around between Lofty Mason - who complained that because he played early in the morning to avoid the heat of the day he missed out being a ball winner - to Tim Barter who whined about ripping his finger on the fence at Ron's Dam Hole (what a *big girl's blouse!*). NTP and LD winners (sadly not including Lofty) were Tim Barter 4 (!), Tony Fisher 2, Matt O'Brien 2, Ken Gordon and Larry King. Third placegetter in the 9 hole comp was Deb Gordon with 17 Stableford points, 2nd OCB Lofty Mason also 17, 1st Ken Gordon 19. (John Whitney scored 21 but being a sponsor was deemed by tradition to be

ineligible for a prize.) Third in the 18 hole comp was Pete Harrison 32, 2nd Matt O'Brien 34 and the winner was Tim Barter 37. Well done, all!

Next month will feature the Mad March Hare competition so we're hoping that Australia's acknowledged master of the brainfart, Bud Abbott MP, will present the prizes. So join us at 12.15pm on Sunday 5 March for the 12.30 pm cannon. Meanwhile, keep your paddle clean and bright. - Larry King, golfer



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WCA Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 18 April 2017

The WCA's 2017 AGM will be held in the Wamboin Community Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 18 April 2017. The main business of the meeting will be the election of a new Committee for 2017-2018. Nominations for the election of Committee members should be made in writing, signed by two Association members, and contain the candidate's written consent.

A person nominated as a candidate for election as an office-bearer (other than the president or vice-president) or as another committee member, must have been a member of the Association for at least one year. A person nominated as a candidate for election as president or vice-president must have been a member of the Association for at least two years which should include at least one year as an office bearer or as another committee member.

Nomination forms can be obtained from me or downloaded from the back of the WCA Constitution on the WCA's website. The Committee is keen to have some new members, so please consider nominating as an office-bearer or as an ordinary Committee member. The WCA and the events it has promoted have been very well managed for many years, and the Committee would benefit greatly from some new members to help maintain this momentum.

Should any member have any business to be dealt with at the AGM, please advise me more than 14 days before then, or more than 21 days before if it is about a change to the Association's constitution.

Agenda Opening, Apologies for non-attendance, Adoption of the minutes of the 2016 AGM, Presentation of the President's report, Adoption of the President's report, Presentation of the annual statement of accounts, Adoption of the annual statement of accounts, Presentation and adoption of other reports, Election of the office-bearers of the Association (the president, one or two vice-presidents, the treasurer & the secretary) and at least three other committee members, Other matters for which notice has been given, Close of meeting. - David McDonald, WCA Secretary, Email secretary@wamboincommunity.asn.au, tel: 0416 231 890/6238 3706

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

by Gail Ritchie Knight

If you popped into the church in Wamboin on a Monday you would find The Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) chatting, putting on the coffee, knitting, crocheting or even tatting. And yes, one of our own, Robin Asman, pictured, is very talented in this ancient form of lace making. It is fascinating to watch as she quickly moves the many bobbins. I don't know how she keeps track of them. She says it's simple but I'm sure if I had a go my knots would end up in a huge mess, certainly nothing like the fine lace that Robin creates.

A handful of WWOW responded to the call to help Blaze-aid, the volunteer organisation set up to help local farmers in the Tarago and Sutton areas affected by the recent fires. Blaze-aid is camped out at the Bungendore show ground and a kitchen truck drives out every morning and night to feed the volunteers. The WWOW who helped, produced a huge amount of food making salads, cakes, scones, a leg of lamb and chicken wings. I'm sure the food was greatly enjoyed by Blaze-aid.

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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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market Next Market - Saturday 18 March 2017

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

The February market was full of good produce this month. A wide variety of vegetables, salads, tomatoes and fruit were on offer. Sally's pies and lasagne sold out quickly as did Joan's sausage rolls. Poetry in Motion played for us again throughout the morning and their busking money was donated to a Carwoola family who lost their house and belongings in the recent bushfires. Poetry in Motion will also play at Contentious Character Vineyards in the coming months.

SEE YOU AT THE MARCH MARKET

Sutton Country Fair and Classic Car Carnival

Cars, castles, carrots and cacti. All of this and more will feature in this year's Country Fair and Classic Car Carnival at Sutton Primary School on Saturday 1 April 2017. There's something for everyone at the Sutton Country Fair. Adults can relax and browse the plant and veggie stalls, the book and cake shops or pick up a bargain at the White Elephant Stall. Children of all ages will be entertained by a jumping castle obstacle course, face painting, crafts and games. Car enthusiasts will be delighted with the Classic Car Carnival.



This event was a great success last year and this year it promises to be even better. So bring your vintage car or just come for a look. Our school's unique Fair allows the wider community to come together at our wonderful country school to celebrate and connect. Sutton Primary is a unique school that is small enough for every child to be known and valued, yet large enough to provide a rich array of learning opportunities for all students.

The Sutton Country Fair & Classic Car Carnival is the major annual fundraiser for the school. It will take place at Sutton Primary School, Saturday 1 April 2017, 10am – 2pm. For more information go to our school's website : www.suttonps.com.au, Event details - Saturday 1 April 2017 Country Fair 10am – 2pm Sutton Primary School Bywong Street, Sutton **General Fair Enquiries:** Lou – infoscfcc@gmail.com **Classic Car Entry:** Felicity – flickitty.sutton.cfcc@gmail.com
– by Illaria Catizone, Sutton School P&C Communications Officer

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News from St Andrew's and St Peter's

by Alan Rope

With Christmas and New Year behind us the members of these two local country churches, now look forward to the Easter season, a major time in the Christian church calendar.

As with the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas, we also celebrate Jesus' rising to new life following his Crucifixion at the hands of the Romans (with encouragement from many Jews), as he tried to convince the population of the time that peace and love were better options than hatred and fighting.

We mourn his death on Good Friday, then rejoice and celebrate his Ascension on Easter Day, which this year will be April 16. So here in Wamboin and Sutton we commence our Lenten activities on March 1 (which is Ash Wednesday), when we hold a service in St Andrews. Then we begin a series of events of reflection and learning, with Lenten studies on three Tuesday evenings, March 21 and 28, and April 4, concluding these studies with a Passover Meal on Thursday evening April 13.

Good Friday there will be a service at St Peters from 9.00am and on Easter Sunday we will gather at St Andrews from 9.00am. St Peters is Middle Street in Sutton, and St Andrews is on the corner of Norton and Poppet Roads Wamboin. Both St Andrews and St Peters are Anglican based community churches which welcome all who wish to worship, regardless of any other church affiliation, or even no church affiliation. If you would like to attend any or all of the mentioned activities you are most welcome. Just come along at 7.30pm for the studies, 6.00pm for the meal, and 9.00am for the church services. You are guaranteed a warm welcome.

Regular services are held each month at St Andrews on the first and third Sundays, with St Peters having services on the second and fourth Sundays, commencing at 9.00am and followed by a 'morning tea eat and talk-fest'.

'Kid's Club', a club for kids of all ages, is held at St Andrews each Friday during NSW School Terms from 4.30pm till 6.00pm. Kids enjoy friendship, hear a story, get involved in activities (such as colouring), have a sing-song and demolish a meal.

If you would like further information regarding St Andrews and/or St Peters please contact Pastor Royce 0416 265 600 or Robyn 6328 3202 or Alan 0429 434 944



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Wildcare Mobilised

by Phil Machin

Over the last few weeks Wildcare has been very busy rescuing wildlife that have suffered burns or habitat loss during the recent grassfires – first at Mt Fairy, then Mulligans Flat (Sutton) and now at Carwoola. Property owners in areas affected by the fires, have turned to Wildcare for help with injured and orphaned wildlife and animals that are acting ‘strangely’. And to get advice, as to what food (& water) to put out to keep wildlife thriving in and around burnt-out areas.

Wildcare has asked members of the public be on the lookout for kangaroos moving around slowly– they may be

avoiding standing due to burns on feet and hands; ground dwelling animals, such as lizards and turtles in charred areas – they may have burns or be starving; birds having difficulty landing or standing – they may have burnt feet too; and possums at night behaving unusually as they may have trouble climbing. Wombats may be ‘confused’ and need help with food and water.

With habitat destroyed, wildlife may turn up in unusual places, as animals search for a new home, food and water. Possums taking up residence in roofs and wombats taking shelter in sheds and outhouses are fairly typical situations. Wildcare has encouraged property owners within the burnt-out areas and at the periphery to keep a good look out and make sure there are water sources available, as well as food if needed. Wildcare can advise what foodstuffs are appropriate for different species. For instance, hay can be placed for kangaroos and wombats, which have nothing to eat.

An RFS volunteer saved an orphaned joey during the Mt Fairy fire and so far. Wildcare volunteers – with the help of property owners, have taken in a number of kangaroos (14 so far), turtles and a lizards. Treating an animal’s burns can be challenging and expensive. Dressings and treatments have to be changed every few days, fluids administered and where necessary pain relief and antibiotics given. Some animals cannot be recovered and have to be humanely euthanised using licensed shooters.

Catching an injured kangaroo can be tricky. Wildcare makes use of a dart gun that can inject a sedative from a safe distance. The gun is operated by a licenced and trained volunteer. What with the cost of sedative, treatments and medications, this is an expensive operation. Wildcare relies on the generosity of its volunteers and donations from members of the public. Donations can be made via the Wildcare website: wildcare.com.au – there a number of ways to donate and its tax deductible!

Contact Wildcare on 62991966 if you see a native animal in distress or need advice as to how you can support wildlife in your area.



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Wamboin Community Association (WCA) General Meeting - Summary

Date of Meeting: 21 February 2017 Meeting Chaired by: Peter Evans, Acting President, WCA

General outline of topics discussed: Another well attended and productive meeting of the WCA heard brief reports from members of the WCA Committee including Acting President and Vice President Peter Evans who reminded attendees that the WCA's Annual General Meeting would be held as usual in April (18th). He briefly explained the role of the WCA Committee and asked members to consider nominating for a place on the Committee. Committee member and co-convenor of the Wamboin Home Produce Market, Lance Schultz, reported that the February market had been very active, made all the more entertaining by local musical group *Poetry In Motion* whose performance drew a sizeable total donation which they generously re-donated to the Carwoola Fire Appeal.

Donation to Carwoola Community Association – Lofty Mason proposed that the WCA make a donation to assist people affected by the Carwoola fire. After a brief discussion regarding the amount and the most appropriate recipient, it was agreed that a \$1000 donation would be sent to the Carwoola Community Association to assist that community in fire recovery and that the WCA would offer assistance into the future.

Clean-Up Australia Day - Lofty Mason confirmed that arrangements were on track for the Wamboin community's participation in Clean-Up Australia Day on Sunday March 5th.

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

- Wamboin Pony Club President Peter Evans, who reported that the year was off to a good start with two rally days and 6 new members.
- Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade President Peter Greenwood, who reported that the Brigade had been kept very busy during January and February with motor vehicle accidents, small fires and large incidents. The Brigade had personnel at the Currendooley fire for a week and crews had spent 4 days at the Carwoola fire which was unfortunately started by someone using an angle grinder. He reminded attendees of the dangers of slashing, welding and angle grinding during Fire Season, especially on days of Total Fire Ban and that in our area, March is historically our most dangerous fire month.
- Wamboin Social Drop-In Group convenor Denise Hales, who advised that the Group was proving very popular with approximately 20 people attending the previous Thursday's session enjoying social table tennis, Scrabble, card games and

sharing of local news and information. The Group operates on Thursdays, 10am – 12 noon at the Wamboin Hall, all welcome.

- Wamboin Communications Action Group (WCAG) – Jon Gough advised that 162 households have now registered with the Group. The WCAG has had stands at the Wamboin Home Produce Market, the Bungendore Show and has been invited to give regular updates to the WCA meetings. The WCAG has made a submission to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into

Telecommunications Universal Service Obligation stressing that satellite is not an effective solution.

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 March. All welcome. – Summary by Jenny Warren, Assistant Secretary, WCA

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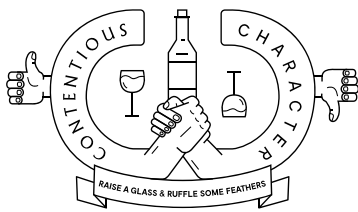
Wamboin Pony Club February 2017

It was great to see lots of the Wamboin Pony Club members back for our first rally day of 2017. We welcomed some new riders. Some came with their horses and some on foot just to see what goes on at our club. After troop drill warm up our instructors split the groups into 3. Riders worked their way through jumping, dressage and mounted games activities and it was great to see all the riders getting to do lots of different activities through the morning giving all some different riding experiences. At Wamboin Pony Club we are very lucky to have a number of experienced instructors. Our next rally day is on Sunday 12th March so we would hope any interested riders might come along and have a look at what goes on. I also must mention our club riders who competed at the Bungendore Show as well as the Michelago Pony Club sporting event recently. The great thing about Pony Club is that as well as the club rally days every local club also holds events throughout the year all can enter. We look forward to our clubs mounted games event which will come up later in the year. So remember your local Wamboin Pony 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. Wamboin Pony club usually meet twice a month on Sunday's at our grounds from 9am gear check to 1pm. 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



Pine Trees

This morning I met up with one of the fire fighters from last weeks fire at Carwoola. He is not an immediate local. However he is a volunteer firefighter in the wider district. He was at Carwoola. He asked me why does everyone through Wamboin and this area generally plant pine trees? He could see my block was free of them. I said I thought maybe as wind protection. His next comment, that I am passing on now, if you do have any...., He said get them to remove all lower branches from grass height, it is spreading the grass fire up the trunks, that is what happened at Carwoola. I then remembered the Canberra Bush fires of 2003. Whole pine forests, homes and sadly some people died then. Why wasn't the lessons learned then? Someone I know lost her house. Why isn't repeated each fire season from the fire authorities? New people in the district won't know, it is up to us or Council or the Fire Brigade to notify newcomers. – Diane Royal, Weeroona Drive



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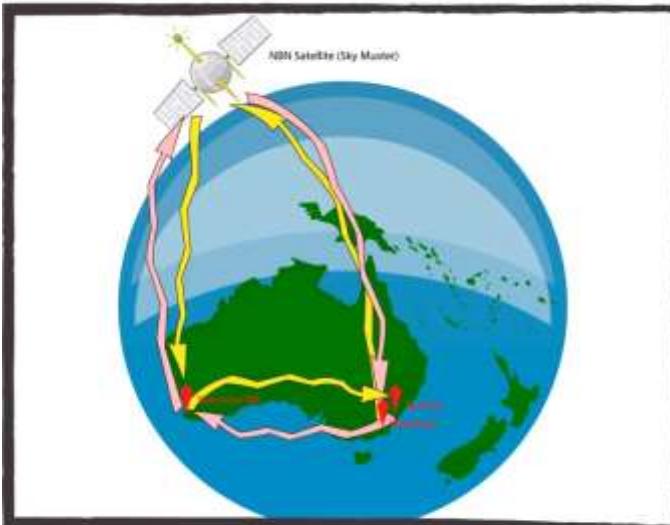
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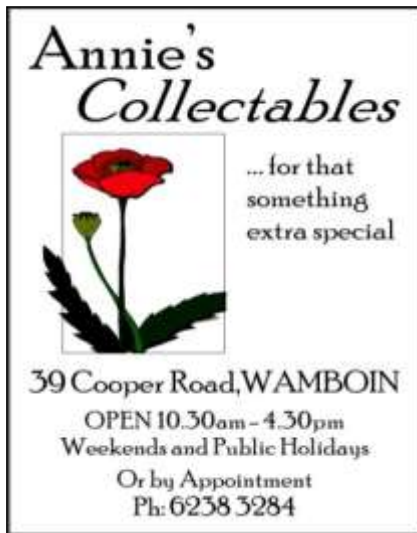
The Firefighter's Wife

Got a call from Mr Allan Schmidt
 Saying that everything had turned to shit
 Out at the Carwoola fire
 Things had turned rather dire.
 John was being medevac'd off the scene
 Where somehow he was stuck between two 'machines'
 Being squashed between two trucks
 He was more than just a little bit stuffed.
 Lucky for John nearby was Fire Rescue paramedic Mick
 Who tendered to the pelvis and hip
 Along beside was Fire Rescue paramedic Dan
 Who looked after John's left hand.
 They packed him up into a fire rescue truck
 Then drove him out through flames, smoke and muck
 Down the road to the ambo's they raced.
 The ambo's prodded, poked and pepped him up
 Cooled his burns and drugged him up.
 Step by step I took it all in
 Then drove safely, but went like Flynn'
 As I arrived at TCH, I hear Anna the ED Nurse say
 He's OK but in X Ray.
 Top to toe showed he was not as bad
 As he might have originally thought to be had
 X Ray cleared the pelvis and chest
 CT Scan cleared the organs and rest.
Phew – a large sigh of relief for me
 To Rev James Wood – thanks to thee
 For a 'Blessing of the Fleet'
 That was obviously complete.
 On scene next was the plastics bloke
 Upon whom John let out a joke

"just a bit off my nose and widen the jaw"
 'What the – there's nothing wrong with his face'
 "No mate – look at the left hand case!!".
 The left hand has burns to display
 Why a glove should always be in play
 3 days later the hand re-appears
 From silver dressings that are made quite weird
 It's pink and clear and looking chipper
 So should not need to go in the tipper.
 Lots of soft tissue bruising and damage
 Around mid lower back and pelvic carriage.
 Some sceptics might say it was all a plot
 To not dance with me at the Burra Ball slot !!!
 With rest, drugs, coke and love
 He will mend and be back with a glove!
 He is of course in luck
 As he can truly now claim he knows how it feels to be hit by two
 trucks!!!!
 I can't leave this attempt at a 'Sandy'
 Without acknowledging all who have been handy.
 With many many thanks to the RFS
 Chaplain, CISS, the crews, Mick, Dan, Allan, Nathan, Ambos and all
 the rest.
 Burra, CGS, friends, family and all
 Reaching out with help, love and support.
 And a voice that resonates still today
 Anna the ED Nurse saying
 'He is ok'

Therese Flapper

**First Printed in the March Burra Intermittent.
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On Trout Fishing

The first thing you need to know about trout is that there aren't any. At least not in Australia. I haven't seen any and I went fishing for them for three whole days in the lakes and streams of the Snowy Mountains. There were five of us from Wamboin and my catch was equal to the sum of the other four. If trout exist they come in from overseas already smoked. The second thing you need to know is that it takes about ten years to learn how to cast a fly. And another ten years to learn how to tie infinitesimal knots in invisible fishing line. Fly casting line isn't one simple filament. It's four: the backing, the fly line, the leader and the tippet. I know this because the *Castmeister* made me recite them 47 times before I could remember the correct order. And they get thinner and thinner. You can't see the tippet at all. Then there's the fly itself – kind of like navel lint on a bent pin.

Once you've mastered all that it's time to go fishing. Firstly, you must have the right clothing. Your correspondent stuck out in a red flannie, jeans, hiking boots and a Nepalese beanie. But the real fly casters wore rubber overalls with integral boots, and multi-pocketed vests from which hung extra line and flies, clippers, scissors, pliers, pipes, tobacco and hand grenades. Secondly, there's a big difference between "fishing" and "catching". Catching is in inverse proportion to fishing. For the record your correspondent fished for a total of 12 hours and caught a stick, a wet rock, a dry tree (the famous Wattle Fish) and his right ear. And yet...

And yet it was a most enjoyable three days and I will willingly do it again. You can stand alone by a river with your hands in your pockets and be bored spitless in about ten minutes. But with a fishing rod in your hand and hope in your heart you'll never walk alone. It's the difference between the journey and getting there. As my old mate T S Eliot has been known to mutter: *Between the idea and the reality/Between the motion and the act/Falls the Shadow.* It's an almost spiritual thing and afterwards there's the company of fellow fishers. That is until they dig out their phones and insist on showing you the snaps of the fish they or others have caught. I dragged out my phone and showed them Dave's colostomy bag. That shut them up. Oh, yeah. Because as John H Bradley so wisely put it "...the supreme test of a fisherman is not how many fish he has caught, not even how he has caught them, but what he has caught when he has caught no fish".

My grateful thanks to our leader and *Castmeister*, Colin Prest, and fellow travellers Steve Lambert, Chris Reynolds and Paul Taylor. -- Larry King



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Nature Notes

Jo Walker

With such high temperatures this month and so little rain, the grasses and just about everything else at ground level are parched and dry.

Most of the flowering plants have finished blooming, but the Hoary Sunrays (*Leucochrysum albicans*) along Norton Road are bearing a second flush of white flowers. The cream flowerheads of the Cauliflower Bushes (*Cassinia longifolia*) are fading but still add a bit of contrast to the landscape. And the later flowering *Cassinia quinquefaria* are displaying their dainty yellowish-green flowers.

The birds seem to be finding enough to feed on so far, and, although some of the fledglings can still be heard begging for food, most of them are looking after themselves now. For years, there was a small flock of Crested Pigeons here. Then they suddenly disappeared – but a single bird was here last week for a few hours. It seems to have taken off again, but there seem to be plenty more elsewhere in the local area.

I still haven't seen many lizards this summer, but recently there were two Jacky Lizards sunning themselves on logs in the driveway, one an adult and the other a much younger one. When I first came here, there was a very large fallen log up along the creek that was home to a substantial family of Cunningham's Skinks. There were often five or six of them soaking up the sunshine, ranging from large adults to small offspring. The log eventually disappeared behind some bushes and a few branches fell on it too. When I realised I hadn't seen the lizards there for a while, I cleared some of the shrubbery and moved the detritus from the log. A week or two ago, a large adult was resting there and, more recently, it had been joined by a small young one – so it looks as if it is going to be a family log again. Cunningham's Skinks are one of the lizard species that gives birth to live young.

On the insect scene, the Christmas Beetles emerged in good numbers this year (from the point of view of the larger birds, anyway). And it seems to be a great year for Dragonflies too. There are a few clusters of Sawfly larvae on the eucalypts here, but I've only seen two Cup Moth caterpillars, once a common inhabitant here.

Back in January, I noticed four attractive large caterpillars on a wattle just outside a window here. Next day, there were only three, the other one presumably a tasty snack for a bird. I found an insect cage and rescued the remaining three. They were a pinkish brown colour with a false 'face' and a horn at their rear ends to frighten off predators. After a few days of heavy eating, they changed colour and began moving around the cage. I tried putting in some bark for them to pupate on, but they kept up their search for something else. I finally supplied a tray of damp earth and within ten minutes they had all burrowed into it. All three emerged a few weeks later. They had dark, speckled forewings and golden hindwings and were *Neola semiaurata* in the Notodontidae family of moths. They turned out to be very strong fliers when released and flew off into the trees to produce another generation.

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