



May 2017 CIRCULATION: 1,314

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 June 2017 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, May 28. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month and is also available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au.

LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial Triple Zero (000) All Hours

Bungendore Police: 6238 1244 Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre: 0409 991 340 Ambulance Bookings: 131233

LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	: Peter Evans, Acting President	6236 9779	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Bywong Community	Anne Goonan, President		president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade	Matt O'Brien, Captain	0409 991 340	captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au
Wamboin Markets	Lance and Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	Lmsconsulting@bigpond.com
Sutton School Playgroup	Emma Harriden, Convenor	0448 478 953	ce.harriden@bigpond.com
Landcare	Kathy Handel, Secretary	6238 3596	khandel@bigpond.net.au
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison, Bungendore	6238 1333	
NSW SES	NSW Call Centre	132 500	For assistance in storms and floods
NSW SES Bungendore	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	For non-urgnt assistance and advice
Justice of the Peace	Peter Greenwood, JP	6238 3358	
Justice of the Peace	Keith France, JP	6238 3596	
Justice of the Peace	Margaret Fletcher, JP	6238 1211	
Justice of the Peace	Jill Sedaitis, JP	6236 9559	
Wamboin Pony Club	Stacey Burgess, Club Secretary	0414 672 979	wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com
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		Irrhallbywong@gmail.com
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	joan.mason@internode.on.net
Church - Anglican	Robyn Robertson, Warden	6238 3202	
KYB Bible Study Group	Yvonne Barrett, contact	6230 3539	
Golf	Peter Greenwood, Golfer	6238 3358	p.greenwood2@bigpond.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare, Helpline	6299 1966	
Wonderful Wmen of Wmb	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	Whirlwind1@argonite.com.au
Lake George VIEW Club	Pauline Segeri, contact	6238 1996	
Wamboin Book Group	Alice Scott, Secretary	6238 3178	
Wamboin Thurs Social Grp	Denise Hales, contact	0400 310 685	deniselynnhales@gmail.com

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	

Country Park

Winter Herbs

For our horses that are a bit stiff with their movements when the weather turns chilly there are a few approaches you can take to help them.

Traditionally herbs rich in minerals and vitamins that provide nutrients that are needed for joint repair along with diuretic actions to help remove excess metabolic wastes are chosen, such as nettle, dandelion, celery seed and parsley. However you may want to look at a general tonic to improve the blood flow in the tissues surrounding the arthritic joints so the muscles are more flexible. Such herbs might include yarrow, hawthorn, rosemary and ginkgo.

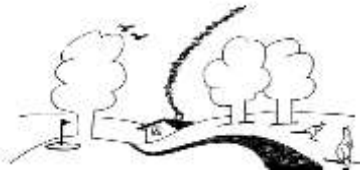


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Wamboin Community Association Acting President's Paragraphs



“AGM”

Well, it seems winter is upon us and the smell of wood smoke is in the air as temperatures start to drop. The landscape is a shade of green once again and the first frost is just about here (at the time of printing at least). The only down side is the end of daylight savings and the days are getting shorter. This makes coming home at night a little more hazardous with wildlife and slippery conditions.

Please take care and drive to conditions and speed limits (or less if conditions warrant). The Kangaroo's seem to be everywhere at the moment and they are not obeying the look both ways before crossing the road rule. We also would like to keep all the members of our valued community. Let's take that few extra minutes to get home safely.

AGM – The AGM was held on the 18th of April. All positions were returned with the addition of Samantha Urquhart to the general committee. We welcome Samantha as a new face and look forward to her helping hand in the many WCA events.

Fire Season – Contrary to my paragraph last month (rains turned up the following weekend) the fire season has actually ended. Please remember to contact your immediate neighbours 24 hours in advance and the Queanbeyan Office of the Rural Fire Service (6128 0600 or queanbeyan.fcc@rfs.nsw.gov.au) before lighting up.

Stronger Communities Grants – The projects are now underway. The Social Drop in Group is up and running, the Littlish Libraries are about to start popping up around Wamboin and the audio visual set up is also underway. More about this next month.

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

Wheels of Wamboin – The popular Wheels of Wamboin is on Saturday May 20th 2017 at the Wamboin Community Hall. Be there or miss out on a great day. Just remember the Home Produce Markets are also on the same day so bring some cash.

WCA Meeting – next meeting is 7.30 pm, Tuesday 16 May 2017. Get some community into your life. Let's make Wamboin great! -- **Peter Evans - President.**



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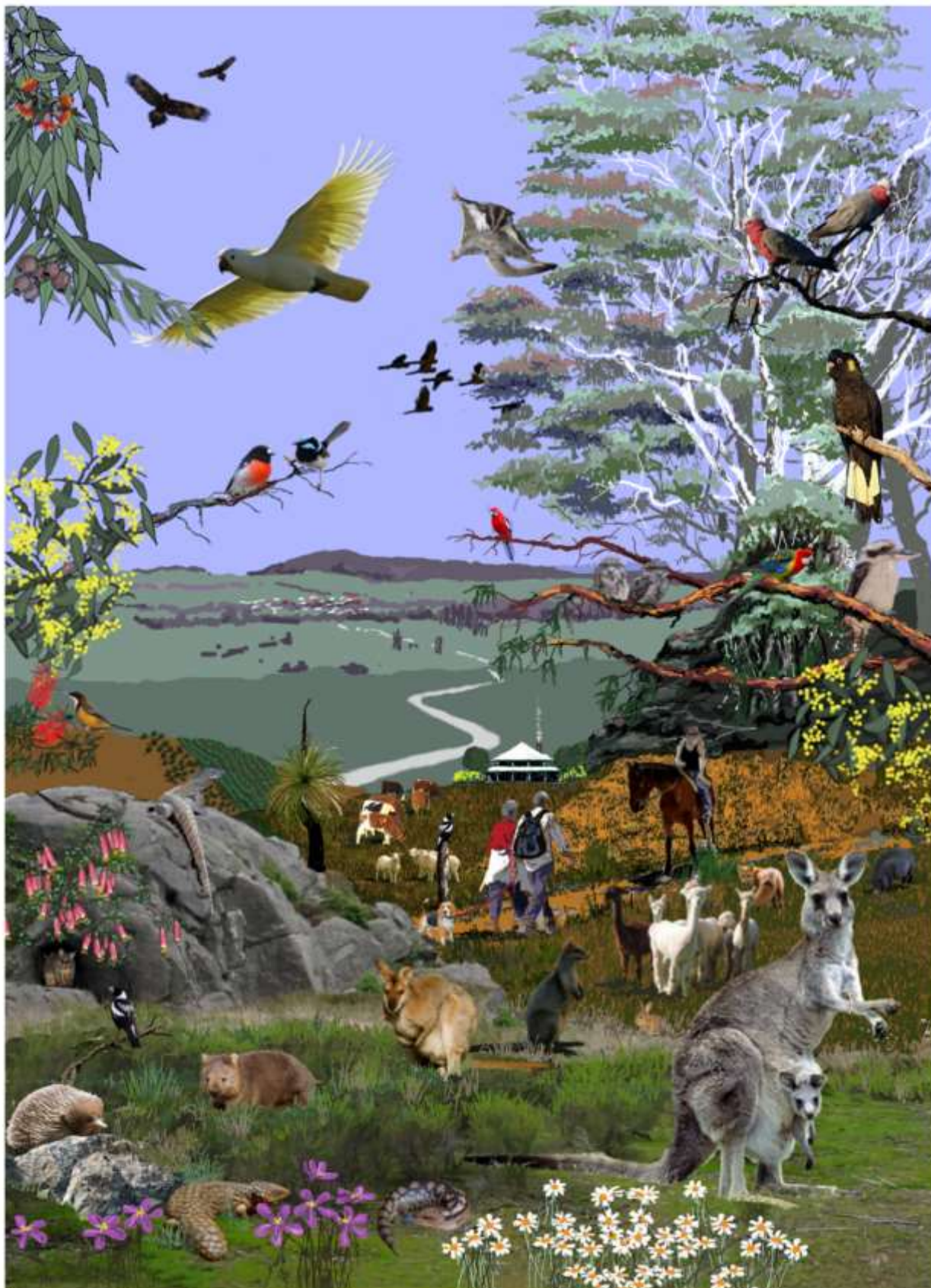
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'Why I live where I live...' Looking over Bungendore for the Bywong/Wamboin escarpment with a selection of the local wildlife, native flora and domestic animals often seen in the locality. The area is popular with walkers for its extensive network of greenway trails. – John-Pierre Favre

John-Pierre created this picture. The colour version is spectacular – please check it at <http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au/news/bywong-card>



Major Efforts For May – Continuing Development Of The Playground At The Hall.

Bywong Car Boot Sale: The 20th anniversary CBS was very successful and funds for the BCA were raised from stall holders, the raffle and the sale of our custom tea towels (see further below).

Other community groups also benefit from the event including -

The RFS from donations at the gate and income from their hot food stall;

Landcare from sale of their plants;

The Geary's Gap Pony Club from their Devonshire tea stall.

The Bungendore Scouts who will receive a donation for their efforts in selling our raffle tickets.

This year the committee decided to hold back some of the CBS revenue for other contingencies. It was considered that to give back to our community we hold other events which we can fund directly without appealing for external donations. For example the playground opening could be funded this way.

Tea Towels Have Been Made Great Again (very bigly): As reported previously John-Pierre Favre (current treasurer of BCA) has done a series of very good and honest sketches of a large number of historical buildings in Bungendore, Braidwood, Queanbeyan and Goulburn. The sketches for each town are being reproduced on printed tea towels at JP's expense, and are being sold as a general fund raiser for the BCA (although the Goulburn set has not been printed yet). JP is of course reimbursed for his production and marketing expenses but all profits accrue to the BCA. This is a really great boost to our funding, and sale of the Queanbeyan towels has already allowed the BCA to make a significant (four figure) contribution to the Carwoola Fire Appeal. This was presented to the Appeal administrator (Mr. Tim Overall) last Monday. The Queanbeyan towels have actually completely sold out and another batch is being produced.

Tea towels for Bungendore, Braidwood and –when newly available – Queanbeyan are being sold at Food Lovers and the Bendigo Bank in Bungendore. The profit for these sales will go towards the playground project.

JP is to be commended for this effort as are Merle and others who have packaged and actively marketed these products. They are well worth buying for personal use or as gifts. A colourful card showing flora and fauna of our area is also being printed and will be sold by the Bungendore Post Office. Hopefully, this card will last for many years and keep selling to raise fund for the BCA.

Playground Project; The playground is a major project, this year and we have contributed some of the CBS proceeds to this effort, and profit from tea towel sales is also expected to be a significant revenue source for the project.

Construction has begun on necessary infrastructure for the playground and we expect to see new steps and edging along with additional paving in place at the front of the hall by the end of the month.

The Passing of Guy Cotsell; It is with great sadness that we farewell Guy Cotsell who died on the 24th April after a long illness. During his time in Bywong, Guy was an active community member and we all benefited from his work. He was instrumental in surveying the community for its locality name – Bywong.

Guy was very active in the Community Association and several other local committees, and for many years he wrote and was responsible for this regular BCA contribution to the Whisper.

The BCA extends sincere sympathy to Guy's wife Morag, and he will be very much missed.

New Web Site; Development of our new website is underway and it should be up and running soon. It will have a simpler design and be more intuitive to use. We'll welcome your feedback

Next Meeting: The most recent committee meeting decided to move the bi-monthly meetings to the second Thursday of each alternate month. So the next meetings will be 8th June/10th Aug (AGM) /12th Oct/30th Nov.

The meeting times and venue are unchanged –at 7.30 pm at the hall.

Vital Signs of the Adult Horse



Normal vital signs for adult horses (at rest):

- Heart rate 32 - 44 beats per minute
- Rectal temperature approximately 37 - 38.5°C
- Respiratory (breathing) rate 12 - 24 breaths per minute
- Gums should be light pink & moist with capillary refill time less than 2 secs
- Sounds of the intestines should be heard on both sides of the abdomen
- 6-10 manures and 3-4 urinations should be passed every 24 hours
- A 500kg thoroughbred-sized horse drinks 20-25 litres every 24 hours

How to find your horse's vital signs:

Your horse should always be safely restrained while taking vital signs. Some horses may become fidgety during parts of this examination, so extra care should be taken. Learn your horse's normal vital signs when at rest and after exercise to know when they are feeling off.



Heart Rate (HR): Place the flat side of the stethoscope head behind your horse's left elbow, in front of where your girth would sit. Count each "lub-dub" sound as one beat.

Temperature: Lubricate your thermometer (eg. with KY Jelly). Stand safely to the side of your horse's rump. Gently but firmly hold the tail at the base, and lift it to one side. Insert the thermometer into the anus, holding it firmly flat against the wall of the rectum. When the thermometer indicates it has finished reading, remove it and record the reading.

Respiratory Rate (RR): Watch your horse's flank and rib cage rise and fall as he/she breathes. Count each inhalation (breathe in) and exhalation (breathe out) together as one breath. You can also listen for the respiratory

rate with your stethoscope, or watch the flare of the nostrils.

Oral Mucous Membranes: Lift your horse's lips to show the gums – what colour are they? If they are any shade of purple, blue or red, call us urgently. Feel the gums with your finger tip – do they feel moist, or dry? Press your finger firmly against the gum, then release. Watch to see how long the gum colour takes to return to normal. This is known as the capillary refill time (CRT).

Abdominal Sounds: Listen with the stethoscope on each side of your horse's abdomen, above and below the flank area. The sounds you hear will vary, and can be described as gurgling, rumbling, tinkling etc. Sounds will vary in frequency and loudness, depending on which area you listen to. You should always be able to hear sounds in all quarters if using a stethoscope.

Remember: If you are concerned about your horse at any time of the day or night, we have our team of dedicated equine vets and nurses on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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Wildcare Snake Reporting

With the cooler months upon us, Wildcare's snake handler volunteers can look forward to a well-earned rest. This year Wildcare attended a large number of callouts across the region and gave telephone advice to many more people who were troubled by our venomous friends. It's important to realize that snakes are shy animals and are more fearful of us than the other way around. Like all native animals they are protected by Law and shouldn't be harmed unnecessarily.

Wayne, who has been Wildcare's snake coordinator for several years, commented, "It has been a very interesting snake season. In November and December we ran our well-known and over-subscribed snake rescue course. We aim to get all snake handler volunteers to complete a refresher course to keep them current and motivated; there is also a need to train new volunteers; and this year the focus was on more rescuers in the North/West of the ACT. We trained and refreshed 70 volunteers, including a group of keepers from the National Zoo and Aquarium. We now have 10 people covering Hall, Gundaroo, Sutton, Murrumbateman and Yass, with 79 other rescuers covering Queanbeyan, Bungendore and surrounds to the South/East of the ACT.



"Prior to the training course, we collect snakes from all around. One big brown snake (see photo) from Fernleigh Park had some serious attitude, which caused even our most senior trainers to give a moment of pause in handling.

"This year, as well as the usual callouts to remove snakes from houses, sheds, bird netting and pathways, we had two instances of snakes caught in humane mouse traps – essentially a steel box with a one way door. The snake goes in to investigate a trapped mouse; gets a free dinner; but is then trapped. One brown was successfully released, the other, not so lucky. He was in extremely poor condition and could have been in the trap for several weeks during the hot stretch of 40-degree days. Dehydrated, shedding, and generally not happy. I took him into care to rehydrate. I was pleased to see him gobble up a mouse I offered after just a few days. Unfortunately, two days later, I found him dead with the mouse regurgitated. It's impossible to know what happened, but I think he may have been too over heated in the mouse trap, and he couldn't cope."

Here are Wildcare's top tips for autumn to avoid being surprised:

- Clear up your property of loose piles of debris that look inviting, as a wintering place for snakes,
- Turn over compost heaps, keeping them well aerated and less of a target for mice to setup a nest,
- Get bird netting off the ground – perhaps install mouse mesh around the base of things you want to protect, with netting draped higher up. This way you can still protect your fruit/vegies, but won't trap lizards and snakes.

Contact Wildcare on 62991966. - Philip Machin for Wildcare *Photo and caption: A brown with attitude*

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WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE AND CRAFT MARKET

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

The Easter Saturday market was great fun with some new or returning families turning up for the Easter Hat Parade. We only had four in each of the age groups for the parade which meant that everyone got a prize! See photos below. Many thanks to Contentious Character, Inland Trading and LMS Consulting for donation of the prizes.



The May market will be a busy one as we are combining with the Wheels of Wamboin and Fire Brigade again for this event. See elsewhere in the Whisper for details. As usual we will be providing our excellent coffee and café items – including soup for the colder months; the much-sought-after egg and bacon rolls; Sally’s excellent pies, lasagna and sausage rolls (yes she will be back in May!) and great french-style cakes and delicacies and other goodies. Pauline and Jon will be back with local produce and Chris will be there with the final round of this years’ garlic – so don’t miss out!

We would like buskers for the May and June markets – if there is anyone out there willing to give it a go?

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New Stage Carpet at Wamboin Hall

If you have been to our Hall lately you may have noticed the new carpet on the stage. At the last meeting of The Hall Management Committee we decided to replace the old, rather worn carpet. After checking around we found 'Isa Street Carpets' gave us the most professional deal (and the best offer). Peter Greenwood and I had installed the original carpet at a time when we wore younger men's clothes. However, we decided to have the new carpet fully installed by Isa Street Carpets. Yes, it cost a few dollars however it looks very good. We request that Hall users help us to preserve the new carpet by ensuring there is no food and drinks carried on to the stage at the Hall. - Lofty Mason.

Ok, you're right. We can't really take credit for the flowers. But, if you've got the flowers, we'd love to put in that fence you need at your garden's edge. Contact us if we can help, even if it means the fence doesn't get noticed because your greenery and flowers steal the show. We'll just have to put up with the way your plants ignore the fence, as seems to be happening below.



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Introducing the Kowen Trail Run Series

The Wamboin Runners Group, in association with the Australian Mountain Running Association, will be holding the inaugural Kowen Trail Run on Saturday, 17 June in conjunction with the Wamboin Produce Market.

Starting and finishing at the Wamboin Community Hall, the race will see competitors running up Bingley Way, through the Council reserve and into Kowen Forest.

The race will consist of three trail running events; the Marathon (42.2 km), the Half Marathon (21.1 km) and a 12 km Run/Walk. All three events will showcase the beautiful forest and the spectacular views that we enjoy here in Wamboin.

Proceeds from the event will go to the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade and the Australian Mountain Running Organisation. It is expected that the race will draw up to 150 people from Canberra and beyond to the Wamboin market.

If successful, we intend to hold the race three to four times a year in conjunction with the Wamboin Produce Market. For further information on the races or if you are interested in joining the Wamboin Runners Group, phone/email Pam Muston 0408234126 email: pammuston@gmail.com or Peter Komidar on 0407760083 email: pskomidar@bigpond.com or find us on Facebook "Kowen Trail Run"



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Time: Morning Tea from 10.30 Buffet Lunch from 12.30

Cost: \$10.00 Morning Tea Only \$25.00 Buffet Lunch Only \$30.00 Morning Tea and Lunch

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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.veoliawareetrust.org.au



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Sutton Real Estate would like to introduce our newest team member



Jordan Barratt

Jordan Barratt has recently joined our team here at Sutton Real Estate, bringing an abundance of customer service experience, providing valuable input to both our Property Management and Sales divisions.

She recently moved to the local area from Wagga Wagga and has just purchased her first puppy, a little chocolate Labrador called Arlo who loves to go for walks around the lake. Her other interests include artwork, especially drawing.

With her employment at Sutton Real Estate, Jordan has engaged her passion for the industry – a passion which was evident, as she had already undergone the study and obtained a certificate of registration in this field. Her country background, having lived the lifestyle, gives her knowledge of rural properties, which will prove invaluable to our service. Jordan looks forward to providing the very best of care to our Landlords, Tenants, Vendors and Prospective Purchasers.



THE WAMBOIN FIREFIGHTER

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PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

The Fire Season has ended

The end of the Bush Fire Danger season in our area means you may light fires but please remember, you must advise the Queanbeyan Office of the Rural Fire Service of your intentions and also notify your immediate neighbours with 24 hours notice.

Queanbeyan Fire Control Centre ph 6128 0600 or queanbeyan.fcc@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Seasonal Outlook

Drier May to July likely for southern two-thirds of Australia (Bureau of Meteorology)

- May to July rainfall likely to be below average over the southern two-thirds of mainland Australia. Chances of a drier three months are highest in southeast Australia, where there is a greater than 75% chance that the season will be below average.
- May is likely to be drier than average across most of Australia, except far northern Australia and Tasmania. This outlook is influenced by warming in tropical Pacific sea surface temperatures and a cooler eastern Indian Ocean.
- Historical outlook accuracy for May to July is moderate over most of eastern Australia and WA, but is lower in patches across the central south, and the tropical north.

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Brigade Activity

April has been a very quiet month for the brigade, with only three incidents so far.

Crews attended two separate motor vehicle accidents (MVAs) on Shingle Hill Way and Macs Reef Road, Bywong. Only one call-out related to a fire but it was a false alarm.

The Brigade's training sessions have focussed on moving quickly and efficiently through pumping and drafting activities, concentrating on minimising duplication of efforts that is often a cause for crewmembers fatiguing faster.

Coming up next month on 13th June is the AGM at the Fire Station at 7.30.

Community Engagement

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

Now is the time to prepare your property for the next fire season, but it can be difficult to know where to start. 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.

Check on local live weather conditions utilising the Wamboin Fire Brigade weather station.

www.wamboincommunity.asn.au/weather

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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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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Email = dastudio777@gmail.com



30+



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We can confidently say that we are dealing with all the current buyers - a buyer for your property is probably listed in our database right now, which means if you list your property for sale, they'll be contacted within 48 hours with your property details. **We just sold the property at 119 Creekborough Road Bywong to a buyer on our database at the vendor's asking price before it was advertised.**

They are not casual browsers who are considering the rural lifestyle, they are qualified active buyers who will buy now if they find the right property. If you're looking to sell, let me show you our market plan and process for putting your property in front of the buyers. At a recent property preview, a buyer said to me "This is a great turnout for a property that's not even advertised".

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Mediterranean Lamb Cutlets

To make this dish you will need:

8 lamb cutlets bashed to 1-1.5 cm thick	1/3 cup olive oil
1/3 cup white wine	juice of 1 lemon
1 tsp dried oregano	1/2 tsp salt
1/4 tsp crushed black pepper	

To make the marinade combine all ingredients except lamb and stir until combined. Place the cutlets in a container and pour the marinade over cutlets and leave to marinate for at least a couple of hours. To cook, grill over high heat for 2 minutes either side if you like your lamb medium rare, an extra 1-1&1/2 minutes either side if you like the meat medium.

Serve with Greek salad or mashed potato.



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Wamboin Social Club - What's that?

I went to the last Wamboin markets and challenged people to "Ask me about: The Wamboin Social Club?". Some people did and learnt about this new initiative for the first time. Somehow the Whisper, Facebook and Wamboin Noticeboard messages had been missed. A few people thought the club was a 'Men's Shed', which it isn't and one likened it to a sheltered workshop, and it's not!

The Wamboin Social Club is very much about having a meeting place for people of all ages to have a chat over a coffee; or have a go at an activity, such as playing cards (Bridge and 500 is currently popular), or scrabble, or table tennis. Many people cannot make a Thursday get together at the Wamboin Community Hall between 10.00 to 12.00, as they are at work, but if you are at home and want to get away for an hour or two, then come on down. The Club is a good way to get out of the house and meet like-minded people. Give it a go. And as for the question "Ask me about....." Give me a call on 6238 3717 and find out.

PS The community hall has a play ground area for youngsters too. Regards, Phil Machin,

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

With the very busy period of Easter behind us things will be a little quieter this month, but there is still plenty happening in our Church community.

Mothers Day is Sunday, May 14, and this will be the focus of the service at St Peters that morning, followed by a morning tea in honour of all Mothers, and inviting everyone who has been blessed by a mother.

With the new school term, Kids Club has resumed each Friday evening at St Andrews, Poppet Road, from 4.30pm until 6pm.

There is a craft activity, stories, singing and a light meal provided. Parents are invited to stay and participate. All children are welcome, big and little. A gold coin donation is appreciated to help defray costs.

You may have noticed the growing pile of fuel in the grounds of St Peters, Sutton, in readiness for the Community bonfire. This is guaranteed to be another happy family event with participating community groups providing food and drinks. We'll keep you posted.

Food or cash donations are always well received at St Andrews to continue our support for St Benedict's, Queanbeyan to assist those in the community, in need. As winter approaches and heating bills mount, greater assistance is always needed to provided meals.

After contributing to the welfare of a boy and a girl in Sri Lanka over many years especially in the traumatic post Tsunami days, we have been advised that our assistance is no longer needed. The good news is that the local authority is now able to assume the financial role in full. We were thanked for our long term support.

Church services are held on the first and third Sunday of the month at St Andrews, and the second and fourth Sunday at St Peters. All services start at 9am, with a delicious morning tea afterwards. Come along, meet others in the community and enjoy a warm and friendly chat.

If you have any inquiries or need help, please do not hesitate to call any of the people listed below.

Pastor: Rev.Dr Royce Thompson 0416265600, Dr David McCarthy 0409383620, Yvonne Barrett 62303539, Gai Donald 0438400364, Alan Rope 0429434944



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

Wheels of Wamboin



Saturday 20th May 2017

9.00am to 1.00pm

(in conjunction with Home Produce Markets)

Wamboin Hall - Bingley Way Wamboin

All sorts of automotive machines including old, new and interesting cars, motor bikes, trucks, tractors even Kingswood's are welcome.

Now is the time to start ducoing the tyres, glad wrapping the aerial and Mr Sheening your number plates!

Tell your friends to get prepared for a great day out at the wheels of Wamboin.

Display entry is a gold coin donation (Wamboin Rural Fire Service) and swap tables are \$5 (remember to bring your cash as there is no EFTPOS).

A bonus on the day is the opportunity to pick up some healthy bargains at the monthly home produce markets. There will also be freshly brewed coffee and a sausage sizzle.

Please email peter.evans@wamboincommunity.asn.au for further information

How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

A special thanks to Philip Leeson and Colleen Fogarty who, between them, have offered to take on mailboxing the 26 Whispers for Norton Road between Campbell Place and Bingley Way. Penny and Don Evans delivered these for years.

It costs \$2 to mail a complimentary copy of the Whisper to each "out of area" advertiser. Because they pay, month after month, the Whisper printing costs, this is a welcome task. At present, the Whisper, if it is 28 pages and 1,314 copies, costs exactly \$1 per printed issue. Our invaluable and generous advertisers, collectively and on average, pay in each month around \$1,400 or \$1,500.

Any surplus over printing goes to the Wamboin Community Association. The WCA deliberately sets the price for advertisements at just over printing costs, because printing needs to be paid for. Another goal of the Whisper ads, though, is providing a reasonably affordable way for locally based businesses and out of area businesses to gain trade with Wamboin and Bywong customers.

An occasional activity by those who attend the monthly WCA meetings is to approve use of any surplus funds from Whisper advertising. Over the years these meetings have voted to contribute money to many things they judge will benefit the community. A few examples are contributing to fire brigade projects and to hall management projects, helping to pay for the playground shade cloth and donating \$1,000 to the Carwoola Community Association to use at its discretion to help those recovering from the fire.

You can probably see that the 50 or so deliverers below, by walking, running, cycling or driving to each of our mailboxes, along with its advertisers and its contributors, are a key guarantee for the Whisper's existence. Australia Post would charge \$2 x around 1,280 mailboxes, and any other deliverer would probably want a similar amount. Finding that money month after month would be tough.

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	Christine Rieber	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 (Weerona to Hilltop+Wimdra)	23	Phil Leeson&Coleen Fogarty	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			

263: 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	44
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

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 1,314

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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 last Sunday of the month, 7 pm. Email to whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or nednoel@optusnet.com.au
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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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.

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- Information provided by Alex James of Bywong

Nature Notes April 2017

by Jo Walker

Although there wasn't enough rain to get the creeks running and the rather low dams topped up, there was enough (about 32 mm here) to keep the grasses growing well. Even my dry and rocky hillside is still green. And we've just had the first frost for the season. A very light one though – just a dusting of white here and there.

Not much is flowering at the moment – just a few of the native Small St. John's Wort (*Hypericum gramineum*) and one or two Bluebells (*Wahlenbergia communis*). The Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) should look good in spring as they are heavily covered in buds this year – and some of them are already showing a bit of colour. The leafy rosettes of the Scaly Buttons (*Leptorhynchos squamatus*) are growing fast into robust little plants in the soakage areas, and the leaves of the Billy Buttons (*Craspedia varia*), another moisture-loving daisy, are making an appearance too.

The Powerful Owl that inhabited Poppet Road for a while a year or two ago may be back in the area. Last week, I found the large fluffy tail of a Glider under a large tree in the driveway. The Wedge-tailed Eagles have glided over a few times this month too. The family of White-winged Choughs seems to have decided to stay here and they're busy turning over the leaf litter – and the garden – looking for food. Although most of the Dusky Wood-swallows set off on a migration to warmer areas last month, a few seem to have stayed.

A male Mistletoe-bird was feeding in one of the many mistletoes here recently. We have two common mistletoes locally, *Amyema pendulum* and *A. miquellii* – the former being the more common one in Wamboin. There are many other different species of mistletoes on a variety of host plants throughout the whole country which probably accounts for the wide distribution of this beautiful little bird. It is brightly coloured – its back and head are black, the upper chest bright red and the lower chest white with a central black vertical stripe. That's the male – the female is much less noticeable, mostly grey and white with just a patch of reddish feathers below the tail.

There are still a few Grass Skinks out and about, mostly tiny young ones. And I did see a rather large Shingleback Lizard recently, sunning itself beside the track at the top of the hill and showing no inclination to move away from its warm spot as I approached. The Cunningham's Skinks seem to have taken shelter in their logs for the winter.

And, judging by the smoke rising from a few chimneys across the landscape in the evenings, some of the other inhabitants of Wamboin are beginning to feel the same way.

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Wamboin Community Association Inc. (WCA) General Meeting - Summary

Date of Meeting: 18 April 2017 Meeting chaired by: Peter Evans, Acting President, WCA

General Outline Of Topics Discussed

Another well attended and productive meeting of the WCA, held back-to-back with the 2017 AGM, heard brief reports from members of the WCA Committee and from representatives of other community organisations active in our community and associated, in some manner with the WCA. Treasurer Keith France indicated that the Association has now received the funds from the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) covering our successful grant applications. This includes a relatively large grant for installing contemporary AV equipment in the Wamboin Community Hall. Installation should be finished by the time you receive this *Whisper*. Some discussion ensued about what should be the first use of the equipment, with the screening of a popular film being favoured!

Committee member and co-convenor of the Wamboin Home Produce Market, Lance Schultz, reported that the April market had been very active, and that it was good to see there some young entrepreneurs.

As agreed upon at an earlier meeting, the Association has made a donation of \$1,000 to the Carwoola Community Association to support its bushfire recovery initiatives, and Kathy Handel from the Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group advised that the Group was donating plants to the Carwoola Landcare Group for distribution to residents there.

The meeting noted that, following a brief community consultation, QPRC has decided to brand itself by means of an uppercase logo, and to adopt the multicoloured “brand mosaic” of the Local Government Area’s boundary’, to quote its design consultants.

A number of local organisations gave reports on their activities, including the following:

-Lofty Mason from the Hall Management Committee drew attention to the new carpet on the Hall’s stage, and indicated that the price that Isa Street Carpets charged the WCA constituted a welcome donation.



-Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade President Peter Greenwood reminded the meeting that anybody wishing to light a fire on their property should give their immediate neighbours 24 hours notice, and notify the Queanbeyan Rural Fire Service. He shared the news that there had been no fires in the area over the previous month, but that the Brigade had attended motor vehicle crashes on Macs Reef Road and Shingle Hill Way.

- Wamboin Social Drop-In Group convenor Denise Hales advised that the Group was proving popular, but that more participants will be very welcome. Participants enjoy social table tennis, Scrabble, card games and sharing of local news and information. The Group operates on Thursdays, 10am – 12 noon at the Wamboin Community Hall.


- Peter Evans advised that the Wheels of Wamboin will be held on 20 May and that he is receiving many enquiries about it, indicating that it was likely to be one of the events that Makes Wamboin Great!

The WCA meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except January) at 7:30 pm at the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin. Next meeting: Tuesday 16 May. All welcome.

- David McDonald, Secretary, Wamboin Community Association, Inc.

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Wamboin Golf – March 2017

Mahogany Ridge, Marlin Hotel, Ulladulla, Sunday, 5 March. “I had written her a letter which I had, for want of better knowledge, sent to where I’d met her down Maroubra years ago. She was surfing when I knew her so I sent the letter to her just on spec addressed as follows – Nancy of the Undertow.” Those immortal words of Mandolin Paterson (cousin of Banjo) steal into the vacant spaces of your correspondent’s alleged mind as he sits here nursing one of Dr Resch’s fine neck oils and contemplating the pellucid waters of this attractive coastal town’s fine harbour. Meanwhile two great sporting events were taking place on either side of the continent. In the Golden West, Rocky Burnett’s coalition parties were playing extreme politics. In the East the fit and toned athletes of the QPR were engaged in the extreme golf of the Wamboin Mad March competition. Rocky went down in a screaming heap. Even an appeal to the DRS didn’t help. It confirmed that (a) he’d been at the crease too long and (b) he shouldn’t have done his Faustian preferences deal with Pauline’s Onanist Nation.

Back East we were faring better. For starters, the day was sponsored by the finely-tuned members of the Gordon family who provided the prizes and the food for which we thank them from the bottom of our hearts or thereabouts. The captain welcomed our guests, Ted Evans from the thriving metropolps of Greater Queanbeyan, and the Gorhams all the way from Boorowa (where Barnaby Joyce is relocating the Australian Wheat Board). The googly ball was awarded to the female members of the Beckett and Gordon families for reasons which will remain obscure but which, I am assured, do not raise questions of misogyny or sexism. The dummy spit went to a young gentleman we shall identify only by his name, Alex Gordon. The encouragement award (junior 9 holes) was presented to Phoebe Beckett while a similar award (seniors 18 holes) went to Rob Gorham for getting out of bed. NTP and LD ball winners were Ken Gordon X 3, Matt O’Brien X 2, Tim Barter X 2, Pete Harrison, Alex Gordon and Rob Gorham. The longest drive for a drink was won by Marylou Gorham. The junior comp winner (9 holes) was Madison Gordon with 65 off the stick for an adjusted 23 (and they reckon the handicapper isn’t an old softie!). The seniors 9 hole comp was taken out by Ken Gordon 36/31 from his close personal friend, Deb Gordon 53/35. Winner of the 18 hole comp was Tim Barter 75/59 from runner-up Matt O’Brien 103/66 with Pete Harrison in 3rd place on 108/70. Tim’s mojo was really working: his 75 off the stick makes him a contender for the course record, subject to checking club historical documents.

Next month – April, in case you’ve been drifting – will see the annual struggle for the grey (formerly green) jacket as the region’s golfers vie for the famous Wamboin Mini Masters. You are cordially invited to join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday 2 April for the 12.30pm kick off. In the meantime, isn’t our flash new supermarket on the Kings Highway the ant’s pants? They should put up a great big neon sign with an equally flash name chosen by public competition. To start the ball rolling your correspondent suggests *Bungendore’s BIGA IGA*. Keep those entries flooding in! - Larry King, golfer



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***** Public Notice *****



Kowen Forest will be CLOSED Saturday 27 May 2017

The Brindabella Motor Sport Club would like to notify all residents in the Wamboin area that the Kowen Forest will be **CLOSED** to the public from **5pm Thursday 25th May to 12.01am on Sunday 28 May 2017.**

The forest will be closed due to a high speed car rally.

Kowen forest will be closed for the running of the “National Capital Rally”. The Rally is the second round of the Asia Pacific Rally Championship, the third round of the CAMS Australian Rally Championship; and a round of the NSW Rally Championship and the Techworkz Automotive ACT Regional Rally Series.

The forest will be chained up on Thursday night 25th May in preparation for the event. We will be locking all gates; Styes and horse cavaleties. Notices will be put up before the event advising of the forest closure. “Forest Closed” signs will be put up when we chain up the forest.

There will be **NO PUBLIC ACCESS** via Seven Mile Road.

The Brindabella Motor Sport Club requests that residents do not enter the forest from the Wamboin side – as this will endanger you and the competitors.

The Forest will be re-opened after the event, and open to the public for Sunday morning. We will open the forest as early as possible to let the early risers in for their Sunday walk!

There will be a spectator point at the old Kowen Forestry Settlement – entry only via Kowen Road. Please join us, to see some of the best Asia-Pacific, Australian and local rally talent.

We are always in need of volunteer officials to help us run the event over the weekend. If you are able to assist, please register your details at www.nationalcapitalrally.com.au

Competitors will be conducting reconnaissance on Thursday the 25th May between 7.30am and 5.00pm. The forest will be open to the public – however, Wamboin residents should be aware that there will be increased traffic.

If you have any questions, please contact ACT Parks, Conservation and Lands - 6207 2486 or Adrian Dudok – 0417 251 011 or via email: cofc@nationalcapitalrally.com.au

Rainfall And Temperatures In Wamboin – 42 year statistics from Cooper Road

by David and Robyn Robertson until 2017, since by Christine Rieber, with help from her husband and their son

April rainfall to 30/4... 32.5mm	(April 2016... 12.5mm)
(average April... 45.9mm)	2017 to 30/4... 155.75mm
(2016 to 30/4... 191.5mm)	Average May rainfall... 46.8mm
(May 2016...49.5mm)	Wettest May... 171mm in 1995
Wettest May day 52mm on 3/5/95	Driest May... 1mm in 1985
Hottest May day... 20C x 3 times	Coldest May day... 3Con 25/5/00
Coldest May night... -5C on 28/5/01 and 15/5/11	

Wamboin Golf – April 2017

Sunday 2 April 2017. The Masters. Not that cheap, tawdry thing they have in Augusta GA, but the real thing – the Wamboin Mini Masters, famed in song and story. In case you're unfamiliar with this great sporting event, here's how it works. Of the 18 picturesque holes of this PGA status course, only six are in play: Firebreak Five, Pine Slice, Short-and-Sweet, Saddle Up, Ron's Dam (or damn) Hole and Shep's High Drive. All players – men, women, children, domestic animals and passing aliens – play those holes then return to the Hall where the tournament officials determine who has made the cut. Then we play the same holes again to sort out who wears the Grimy Jacket. Got it? But wait, there's more! At the Hall the novelty shots are played, viz: closest to the pin standing on a tyre, a ramp, in a sand box and with one arm. (No, not simultaneously, you idiot!) Everyone must do this. No churlish backsliding is accepted. The hilarity engendered defies description.

The day, a beautiful mild Autumn one, was sponsored by the Wamboin Community Association. We thank that august body for the prizes and refreshments. And we acknowledge the catering skills of acting president, Peter Evans. The acting captain welcomed our guests, Scott and Lila Mason, on the chicken run from the big circular wind 'oop North. The googly ball went to Cyclone Debbie (Deb Gordon) after it was taken off Charles Guscott for spitting the dummy having played the shot of lifetime on a hole not in play! Ted Evans resolved that age-old issue of how long is a piece of string: if you cut off both ends it's endless. While club officials sorted out the scores, we all marvelled at the startling, new QPR logo, based on the Rorschach Test. (Not to be confused with the Raw Prawn Test.) Your correspondent blushes to admit to what he sees when he looks at it. Anyway, congratulations to our hard-working Administrator, Mr Timothy Working Trousers, for thinking it up.

But now the results. Encouragement awards went to Lila Mason and Phoebe Beckett. The Pitching Comp winners were: NTP ramp, Scott Mason 1.7 metres; NTP tyre, Scott Mason 6.4m; NTP one hand, Scott Mason 6.6m (he's very good with one hand); NTP bunker, Tim Barter 5.3m and best overall (not Tim) pitcher with an aggregate 24.7m - yes, you guessed it. The handicap comp winner was Pete Harrison with 71 strokes for a net 45 from runner-up, the ubiquitous Scott Mason 55/46. The junior master was Mads Gordon with 48 strokes over six holes. The Masters runner-up was Tim Barter on 51. And as the hautboys and sackbuts sound an alarm it can be revealed that the 2017 Wamboin Master, resplendent in a jacket of indefinite hue, is Ken Gordon on 50 strokes.

Next month the day will be sponsored by the Ancient Mariners and Sky Pilots Association so please join us at the Wamboin Community Hall on Sunday 7 May at 12.15pm for the usual 12.30 start. Meanwhile, to set the record straight, your correspondent did *not* say that the White House was occupied by an underclass of social degenerates led by a lying guttersnipe. I just *thought* it. Alright, sometimes I think out loud. But, either way, they can't do you for thinking. Yet. -Larry King, golfer.

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Wamboin Pony Club April 2017

by Steve Quick

The main event for Wamboin Pony club last month was the Zone 16 Camp at Bungendore showground. 240 horses and riders spent a week of intense riding. The weather was pretty good and days started early with feeding horses. After a hearty breakfast riders split into troops and instructors experienced in all riding disciplines took the groups through various lessons. Over the week riders were jumping, doing flat work, Dressage, Cross Country, Polo cross, learnt horse and human first aid and even did some Team Penning with real cattle. It was great fun and a week of riding at camp gives riders more experiences than months of normal riding. Wamboin had five riders at camp as well as a number of our older riders assisting the younger groups also thanks to all our parents and helpers who made camp possible. April finished with a normal rally day for our club and we had a good turnout of riders. Our next challenge is getting ready for our club Mounted Games event so riders are working out their teams and practicing their games. Our next rally day is Mothers Day Sunday 14th May.



So remember your local Wamboin Pony Club involves horse riders aged from 5 – 25 and we have a group of dedicated and experienced instructors. Our Pony Club ground at the end of Canning Close has fenced arenas and clubhouse facilities that 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 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 and find us on Facebook.

We hope we will see you soon. - Steve Quick

Wamboin Pony Club April 2017

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory


Today it is raining so I have no excuse. When the sun shines I am drawn outside as if by invisible threads and I lose myself in the bush or garden; the inside doesn't exist. But a spot of rain has brought me back to earth! What a spectacular autumn it has been, and perhaps it isn't over yet.

There has been fruit to pick and jams and chutneys to make; never mind if they're no longer sought after. A magic morning picking grapes in the calm crisp air with the promise of a glass or two of last years vintage in the sunshine, raking golden leaves, cutting back spent summer growth, building compost heaps, spreading blankets of mulch and collecting firewood for winter. And all the time hearing the songs of birds back from their long summer break.

The butcher bird calls from the creek, the koel and the currawongs, the spine bills are busy amongst the flowering salvias and coreas, Chinese elms are humming with bees, and rosellas are doing their utmost to thwart the bees by stripping the elms bare! The chough unit has reappeared, much to my delight after an absence of several years, ploughing through the mulch with military precision. I saw a red browed finch, a pair of flame robins and then a loose formation of velvety black cockatoos moving languidly across the sky, announcing rain. They obviously hadn't got their forecast, this time, from the BOM! Two sulphur crested cockatoos have warmed my heart. When they're not working with the steady hollow tap tap sound on their house renovations in an old grey tree trunk, they're on the verandah rails, preening each other, wrapped in the glow of young love. If only they'd coo, like story book lovers, and not squawk!!

And so to the melancholy call, not of birds, but ANZAC Day bagpipes. We went to the Queanbeyan Dawn Service once again, driving through the dark, eyes on stalks, ever alert for a kangaroo or three claiming their rights that they were here first. And for the first time in years there was rain around. But a little rain could not spoil the significance of this simple, poignant service, echoed in country towns and cities around Australia as we remembered them, their innocence, conviction, clarity of purpose and sacrifice, and reflected on the untold ramifications of war on future generations. "Man's inhumanity to man."

Outside my window the magical natural world, though at times harsh and brutal, follows the seasons in time honoured fashion, a constant well of comfort and joy. The magpie carolled as the Dawn Service ended and the damp day began I wouldn't live anywhere else.



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