



WAMBOIN  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

# The Whisper

July 2017 CIRCULATION: 1,313

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

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the Wamboin Community Association which started The Whisper as a community newsletter in 1981 and continues to own it. The newsletter comes out at the start of each month, except January. It is distributed to all letterboxes in Wamboin, Bywong and of Palerang Council residents just southeast of the Federal Highway. Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. On contentious matters the Community Association will strive to maintain a balance. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either [whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au) or to [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or mail them or drop them off. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before, so the deadline for the August 2017 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, July 25. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month and is also available at [www.wamboincommunity.asn.au](http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au).

**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		lrrhallbywong@gmail.com
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	joan.mason@internode.on.net
Church - Anglican	Robyn Robertson, Warden	6152 1711	
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	deniselynnehales@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 0439219865
Justin Phipps	pet sitting	6238-1660 or 0491 107 336	April Lloyd	babysitting services	0434468772



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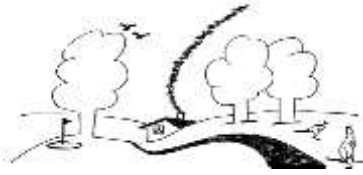
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## Wamboin Community Association Acting President's Paragraphs



### “Winter Wonderland”

Well a few good frosts have ushered in start of winter although no snow has fallen on our higher peaks just yet. There is nothing better than waking up to a crisp winter frost and then develop into a beautiful winter's day with a clear blue sky (well maybe there are one or two things that might be a bit better).

Things are a little quiet this month so I'll have a little rant. This weekend I was overtaken by a darkish blue lowered commodore ute with a P plate. The reason I rant, is that I was towing a horse float, there was another falcon ute behind me and yet this half-wit overtook both of us on a double white line on a corner with no vision and then sped off into the distance. I truly hope the 30 seconds earlier he arrived at his destination was well worth the effort. I can assure you it was not worth the risk to the other road users who watched in disbelief at the demonstration of utter stupidity. If this is your son please have word to him and keep the rest of us safe, better still sell his ute and by him a pushbike. There are already effort hazards on the roads out here to deal with.

So what's been happening in wonderful Wamboin.

**The Blues Brothers** – The WCA hosted a night with the Blues Bros to trial our new AV system acquired with funds from the Stronger Communities Grants from the NSW Government and Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council. The night was a great occasion and continues our efforts to build our community.

**Australian Mountain Running Association** – held a cross country running event (Kowen Trail Run) based from the June Home Produce Market. Over 200 runners plus support crews and staff attended the run and the day was a great success. Congratulations to all involved for making Wamboin great.

**Home Produce Markets** – Just a note to say that the markets now go into hibernation for the winter and will reopen on Saturday 16 September 2017.

**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.

**IT Issues** – Our Community association server has had a few bugs delivering emails lately. If you have sent an email and not received a reply, please re-email to ensure it has been received.

**Businesses of Wamboin** – Time to speak up and tell us about yourself. As a community we are really interested to know about businesses based here in Wamboin and spread the word. Drop us a line and tell us about your business in about half a page and we will run a feature each month in the Whisper. The business must be based in and operate out of Wamboin. Send an email to [president@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:president@wamboincommunity.asn.au). Decision to run or publish will be purely decided by the WCA Committee. Submissions due by COB third Friday of every month.

**WCA Meeting** – next meeting is 7.30 pm, Tuesday 18 July 2017. Get some community into your life. Let's make Wamboin great!

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## REAL ESTATE

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### **Now is the perfect time to sell!**

If you are thinking of selling your home, but don't think it's the best time over the Winter months —think again!

Below are just some of the reasons why the Winter months are the best time to sell your property:

- \* There is less competition on the market .
- \* The potential buyers that are looking are serious, more motivated and often ready to buy.
- \* The cold weather gives the opportunity to present your property accordingly, by lighting your fire places and putting the heaters on—making a cosy ambience for buyers.
- \* Homes that are listed in winter sell faster - Yes it actually pays to list in the colder months, when buyers tend to have more urgency. A realestate.com.au study has found that on average, sellers get a better price during the months of June, July and August than they do from September through December. Plus homes listed in winter sell faster, on average, than those posted in spring.

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**Bywong  
Community News**  
[www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au)  
**Anne Goonan, President**



## Major Focus For July – The 2017 Trivia Night And Continuing Progress On The Playground.

**2017 Trivia Night:** This annual BCA event is an institution and is always well patronised by fun-loving and knowledgeable folk from Bwyong, Wamboin, Bungendore and surrounds. In a change from tradition - master quiz maker JP has sourced this year's questions from a range of locals with their individual specialties. Rumours suggest that the questions range from exotic to esoteric and from outrageous to quite crazy, so it will, as usual, be a very entertaining and amusing evening. The Trivia Night function will be held on Saturday 22 July (7.30 at the Bywong hall), and bookings can be secured by contacting – Jeanette Krah at [jeanettekrah@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jeanettekrah@yahoo.com.au) or by phone on 62369098

**Playground Project:** Our last meeting included a detailed progress report from Merle and Debbie Sibbick (QPRC), who is generally overseeing the project and ensuring that this new community facility meets all the relevant Council requirements.

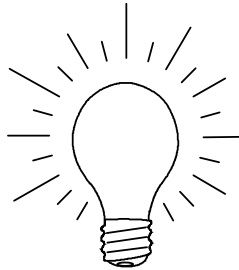
A casual visit to the hall will reveal extensive new steps and paving and the excavated area (filled with some sand) where the play equipment will be set up. There is clearly more to be done and a working bee/workshop devoted to the planting and care of the new trees is planned for Saturday 15 July starting at 1.00 pm, and participants are asked to bring a shovel and any other implements necessary for hole digging. A professional horticulturist will be present to demonstrate the correct methods for planting trees and also acceptable pruning techniques. All the play equipment items should be installed by end of October and the project should be completed by the end of November. Another working bee will be organised for some time in that month.

The cost of construction and installation has been a fair shock to many of us who would have happily knocked up something in timber for a fraction of the cost. However, while such an approach is fine for your own backyard, these days it is not acceptable for a Council facility which must meet minimum safety standards. Nevertheless our intrepid playground campaigner has obtained grant funds and donations from a variety of sources, to the extent that the bulk of the project has been paid for with only limited pressure on the Association's meagre finances.

The final result will be more than just a playground and will considerably enhance the appearance and useability of the whole hall facility. A Grand Opening is planned for December and this event will likely be combined with the traditional BCA Xmas Drinks function, with representatives from the various playground sponsoring organisations invited to attend. Any suggestions from the community for making this event truly memorable would be welcome at - [president@bywongcommunity.org.au](mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au).

**Tea Towels Update:** The Bungendore and Braidwood tea towels are available at Food Lovers in Bungendore and at the regular weekend market. The Queanbeyan version has sold out (proceeds to Carwoola fire appeal), and due to the popularity, new print runs of all three of these have been ordered. All these along with other highly desirable products from the BCA and Bywong residents will be available at the Queanbeyan Xmas in July function -The Goulburn towel should also be available shortly, and will be available at various outlets in that city. They will be sold by Goulburn's Abbeyfield House (for Intellectually Disabled Young Adults) - JP is donating the profits to them.

**Next Meeting:** The BCA committee has moved the bi-monthly meetings to the second Thursday of each second month. So the next meeting will be **the 2017 AGM** to be held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30 pm at the hall.



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# 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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*Ad-Design Sandy Morphet*

## Wildcare Goes Batty

Did you know that bats are the only mammals capable of sustained flight? We don't often hear about bats needing help, but Wildcare rescues and rehabilitates several each year. During the colder months you might come across tiny bats – microbats – taking shelter inside some of your outdoor belongings. Throughout the year they move around to different roosts, depending on mating and raising their young, food sources, predators and migration patterns. Over winter, bats go into a state of 'torpor', which is a kind of semi-hibernation. This enables them to conserve energy during the cold season when their main food source (insects) is scarce. While in torpor, bats can appear almost lifeless, as their breathing and heart rate is lowered.

There are many species of microbats in our region, with such delightful names as the 'chocolate wattled' bat, 'little bent-winged' bat and the 'white-striped free-tailed' bat. They range in size from just a few grams to larger ones (40 gms), but they are all very small! (The larger megabats of our region include the 'grey-headed flying fox' and the 'little red flying fox' species.)



The types of unusual places that microbats have been found by people reporting them to Wildcare include: in firewood, umbrellas, outdoor furniture, Driza-Bones and up the exhaust pipe of a horse truck. Anywhere dark and dry, that appeals to them and might provide long-term shelter through winter!

If bats are seen together in clusters, and you are able to leave them where they've chosen to settle, they can stay until spring (Oct/Nov), when they will depart. But ensure that they are safe from dangers, such as cats, otherwise they will need to be relocated to a safe place and, for this, you should contact Wildcare. However, if you do find one on its own, or a few together, they could be in trouble and need to be checked out and rescued by a vaccinated Wildcare member (or other relevant wildlife handler). Any microbat disturbed from its roost during winter, and therefore out of torpor, needs to be taken into care. Otherwise it will probably starve.

If you find a lone microbat, or a few together, and have concerns, please call Wildcare on 62991966. Don't encourage a bat to fly off, as it will need to be assessed and come into care. Please also be aware of checking any netting over trees, as like birds and other wildlife (lizards, possums), bats can also get caught up in it.


Bats can carry a rabies-like disease called Lyssavirus, which is transmitted through a bite or scratch. It is unlikely that they will be carrying the virus, but they shouldn't be handled by anyone who is not vaccinated. Members of Wildcare and other wildlife rescue groups who are vaccinated have been specially trained in rescuing and caring for bats.

- Merran Laver & Philip Machin for Wildcare, 62383717 Photo: 'Bean' is a lesser long-eared microbat in rehab


## Can You Add Something Readable to the August Whisper?

You've probably noticed that each person who thinks about and writes up something about living in Wamboin or Bywong for the Whisper makes it better. Do you ever ponder on something that could interest other residents, or help them focus on something that happened or is happening now out here. If so, please consider writing it up for the next Whisper. Deadline is Sunday night, July 30, 7 pm. – Ned Noel, email to [whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au) or [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) , 6238-3484.

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## Local Runners Present \$5,000 Donation to Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade



On Friday 23 June, organisers of the Kowen Trail Run, Jessica Robson, Peter Komidar and Pam Muston, presented the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade with a donation of \$5,000. The donation was the proceeds of the Kowen Trail Run, held the previous weekend at the Wamboin Community Hall, in conjunction with the Wamboin Home Produce Market.

The race was a huge success. We got over 260 competitors, including Olympian Shaun Creighton. As a not-for-profit event, we decided that all proceeds over and above the cost of holding the race should go to the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade in recognition of their dedication to the protection of life and property in the region.

The race will be back again next year. We want to make this race a key fixture on the national running calendar. In addition, we hope to hold smaller low-key races throughout the year. All races will be held in conjunction with the Wamboin Home Produce Market and the profits from these events will be returned to the local community.

For most of the runners that participated in the race, it was their first trail run in Kowen Forest and their first experience of the Wamboin Home Produce Market. From the comments we've received, it seems that they were overwhelmingly impressed by both.

In accepting the cheque on behalf of the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade, Peter Greenwood said he was astonished by the size of the donation and the generosity of the running community. He stated that the funds will be directed towards the purchase of important thermal imaging equipment that will be able to detect fires blazing below ground level. These fires, which cannot be detected by the naked eye, are often responsible for the re-ignition of fires thought to have been extinguished.

– Pam Muston



Claire Hollis pushing her baby around 12 km course  
Photo Bob Miller



John Winsbury coming through the fog near the Horse Poles  
Photo by Bob Miller



Editor's Note: Pam, in her usual collaborative way, said choose the pictures to use. Unpictured images that stick in my mind are dozens of Canberra Mountain Runner members standing in the cold to at key points along the trails and scores of arrows posted at points along the 42, 21 and 12 km trails they must have spent days laying out. And two kangaroos bounding past some runners, ignoring the trails. Fire brigade volunteers producing hundreds of bacon and egg rolls. Even more home produced items for sale than usual, along with good hot coffees and cakes. To enable hundreds of walkers and runners, about as many other people put in marathons of their own preparing and staffing the markets, directing parking, a perfect sound system, and doubtless other work few of us saw, but benefitted by.

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## Nature Notes June 2017

Jo Walker

We've finally had a few noticeable white frosts to greet us in the mornings. And, on the cooler days, the frost lingers under the shade of trees well into the day. When I walked past the dam this morning at eleven o'clock, it was still covered in thick ice patterned with angular markings.

Rain is a different matter – just a few stray drops this month. My dam is well down, only about half full now. But, there are obviously a few Yabbies and other tasty items there, as a White-faced Heron, a Little Pied Cormorant and several Pacific Black Ducks have been in or near the dam in recent weeks.

Not much is flowering at present, but in a few places the prickly Early Wattle (*Acacia genistifolia*) is displaying clouds of cream flowers.. Guinea Flowers (*Hibbertia obtusifolia*) are bearing a few bright golden flowers too. And, one of the heath plants, *Monotoca scoparia* is covered in tiny cream flowers – but this species is not very common in this area and the flowers tend to blend into the background so it's not often noticed.

The lizards all seem to have found shelter for the winter by now, but one little Grass Skink was sunning itself in the garden last week.

The Wombat, whose presence had only been indicated by droppings for some months, made an appearance twice recently. One late afternoon, it spent an hour grazing some green grass just down from the house - and, a few days later, it trundled down the hill towards another feeding spot. The Possums, both Brush-tailed and Ring-tailed, are still visiting judging by the droppings under some large trees near the house. And an Echidna has been rummaging in the Meat Ants' nests – I saw a large one tucked into a hollow tree stump last week.

Up at the top of the hill here, a large Red Stringybark tree (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*) has had a large patch of bark removed down to the cambial layer, quite a feat with such tough bark. Similar markings a few years ago were identified as being made by a Yellow-bellied Glider, although they had a more triangular shape than these. Wamboin is full of surprises and interesting creatures – which we should do our best to protect and preserve.

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# The Wamboin Firefighter

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## Dave Hubbard Life Member

At this year's AGM Dave Hubbard was awarded life membership of the brigade. Dave has given nearly 40 years of service to the RFS and Wamboin in particular. Dave has been a Wamboin deputy captain and senior deputy captain and was a Lake George Zone group captain for several years. He helped in the building of the new fire shed in Bingley Way and was back on site for the extension in 2004. Dave is known by RFS members across the Lake George Zone and beyond. Dave has attended fires all over southern NSW and has been the incident controller for several major fires. In more recent times Dave has been working with Fire Control Centre in Queanbeyan, assisting with logistics planning and simulations exercises.

Congratulations Dave.

## 2017-18 AGM

Your brigade held its AGM in June. The Field Officers elected for 2017-18 are:

- |                                |                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Captain Matt O'Brien           | President Chris Powell             |
| Sen. Deputy Captain Tim Barter | Vice President Peter Greenwood     |
| Dep. Captain Don Evans         | Secretary Kevin Rowe               |
| Dep. Captain Neville Schroder  | Treasurer Neville Schroder         |
| Dep. Captain Cliff Spong       | Community Engagement Richard Hobbs |
| Dep. Captain Dave Cochrane     |                                    |
| Dep. Captain Geoff Foster      |                                    |

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the market @ bungendore

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| local art & craft  |   | beads & findings     |
| garden products    | textiles  | pottery & ceramics   |
| toys & models      | preserves   | local grown plants   |
| cakes & pastries   | hand knits  | prints & paintings   |
| tea & fresh coffee | candles   | hats and fascinators |
| soaps & lotions    | cookies   | clothing & footwear  |

Our Captain and the outgoing President acknowledged all the members of our community who have supported our brigade. A special thanks to Anthony and Anne from YLESS4U for their support in being our ISP at no cost to the brigade; we wish Anthony and Anne all the best for the future.

A special mention was made of those groups and individuals who have made donations to the brigade over the past year. Thank you, through these contributions we will be looking to purchase additional hand held radios, and cold and wet weather apparel for our fire fighters. After the experience at Carwoola and the other big fires of last summer we are also keen to purchase a thermal imaging camera for the brigade.

## Burning Off

You can now burn off and reduce the fuel levels on your property without a permit. However, whilst you no longer need a permit from the Captain you still need to call Fire Control, Queanbeyan on 6297 1840 during business hours to advise them you are lighting a fire. You will also need to tell your neighbours about the fire. A simple note in your neighbours' letterboxes should suffice. If you are calling Queanbeyan on a Friday make sure the call is before 12.00 noon.

Advising your neighbours and Fire Control will lessen the chance of a big red truck coming down your driveway because some one reported smoke in the area.

## BRIGADE ACTIVITY

### Call Outs

It's been very quiet.

Sunday 4 June. A crew of five in one of our heavy tankers attended a fire near the Federal Highway at Bywong. The fire ignition was by accident and the truck was back at the shed by 7.30pm in time for a quiet Sunday evening.

Sunday 18 June. A crew of three, again in a heavy tanker left the shed at 6.15pm to attend a fire that neither Queanbeyan nor our brigade had been notified of. The fire was a small pile burn and the crew was back at the shed by 7.00pm.

## USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade	<a href="http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au">http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>
NSW Rural Fire Service	<a href="http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au">www.rfs.nsw.gov.au</a>
Wamboin Brigade Captain	<a href="mailto:captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au">captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au</a> or 0409 991 340
Queanbeyan Fire Control	6297 1840




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## The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

### Gail Ritchie Knight

Though we call ourselves the Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WVoW), it ain't necessarily so. Some of us even come from Bywong. Then there are those who travel from Sutton and Bungendore. In fact, one WVoW moved from Wamboin to Bungendore, downsizing in acreage but continuing to catch up every week. And yes, in the depths of winter we still get together over a cuppa and why not? The heat is on. Once a month we celebrate birthdays with a special cake made by one of our own. I particularly like this custom. I may be of a certain age but I still like to blow out birthday candles. And whenever there is a fifth Monday in the month we stay on to enjoy a shared lunch. Though in May we broke bread and drank wine at the Café Woodworks in Bungendore. The next fifth Monday lunch will be in August, so mark the date.

Do you know that another WVoW, Victoria Jones, recently made it to the front page of the *Canberra Times*? She is a volunteer horticulturist at the Old Parliament House rose gardens. We already know of her passion. In 2014 she gave a talk and slide show on the gardens. Then late last year she guided us through the gardens on a sunny summer's day. Victoria is one mean dead header.

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](mailto:whirlwind1@argonite.com.au).



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## For One Night Only - The Blues Brothers...And What A Night!

*"It's 106 miles to Wamboin, we got a full tank of gas, half a pack of cigarettes, it's dark... and we're wearing sunglasses." .....* "Hit it."



1980 cult classic *The Blues Brothers* was the Wamboin Community Association's (WCA's) choice for the first Community Movie Night at the Wamboin Hall on Saturday 24 June, showcasing the new audio visual equipment.

Local Jakes and Elwoods arrived in their hats and sunglasses. Their support teams brought bean bags and movie snacks. All enjoyed the movie, dancing and post-movie music.

The event was made possible thanks to new audio-visual equipment paid for by a grant under the NSW Government's 2016 *Stronger Communities Fund Program* via the *Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Community Grants program*.

In applying for the grant, the WCA felt that making this modern technology available would allow a

broader range of events to be staged at the Wamboin Hall, with a broader appeal across all age groups and would enable a more vibrant, sustainable and inclusive local community.

Before this equipment was installed, events at the Wamboin Hall were conducted without any AV aids, or guest speakers had to bring their own, or events were simply held outside the area.

The new installation will enhance the format of community events such as the WCA's Bonfire & Fireworks Night (this year 23/9/17) and Christmas Carols (this year 15/12/17), Meet the Candidates events, and other community events.

Themed movie nights are only one possible use, with a number of suggestions from Blues Brothers attendees including *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* or *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*. Watch this space!

Anyone who says there's nothing to do in Wamboin just isn't paying attention!

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

**Date of Meeting: 20 June 2017 Meeting chaired by: Jenny Richards, Vice President, WCA**

**General outline of topics discussed:** Members of the WCA met in the warm Wamboin Hall to hear from WCA Committee members and representatives of other community organisations active in our community and associated, in some manner with the WCA. WCA Vice President Jenny Richards commented on the very successful Wheels of Wamboin event held in May. She also gave her perspective on the inaugural Kowen Trail Run held on June 17<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Monthly Home Produce Market. Assistant Secretary Jenny Warren advised that the installation of the audio visual equipment at the Wamboin Hall was now complete and that it had been used to display real-time race results at last weekend's running event and that plans were being finalised for The Blues Brothers movie night on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

- Peter Greenwood and Lofty Mason from the Wamboin Hall Management Committee shared some of the more interesting statistics and performances over the three races at the Kowen Trail Run.
- Chair of the Wamboin Hall Management Committee, Peter Greenwood, reported that the WCA's annual Hall hire fee and rental arrangements had been agreed. He advised that there was renewed interest in the Fireman's Grove, an area of tree planting next to the driveway commemorating members of the Brigade who have passed away.
- Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade Vice President Peter Greenwood reported a quiet month with one call-out to a registered pile burn and parking and traffic control at the Kowen Trail Run. He also advised of the outcome of elections at the recent Brigade AGM.

As is usual, various questions were asked by WCA members seeking advice from those more experienced with matters such as electricity, internet, recycling, green waste – a wide variety of issues affecting all of us who share this rural residential community. *The WCA meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month (except January) at 7:30 pm at the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin. Next meeting: Tuesday 20 June. All welcome. -- Jenny Warren, Assistant Secretary*



### **Contentious Character Calendar**

## **Our Winter Menu and Brunch Menu has commenced!**

### **Christmas on 22nd July by the fireside, with carols, at Contentious Character**

Everyone is welcome to join us for a very special evening. With Entrées such as Parsnip and local chestnut soup, Whisky cured salmon with chive hollandaise, paired with our 2003 Riesling. With Mains such as Roast Turkey with all the trimmings, Terrine of local nuts and mushrooms for our vegetarian friends, or try the fresh market fish paired with our 2014 Pinot Noir. Finish with a traditional Christmas pudding, or a classic sherry trifle, paired with a 2004 late harvest Riesling. Transport can be arranged and even accommodation at The Carrington Inn. Pricing and bookings through [www.executiveeventssolutions.com.au/bookings-online](http://www.executiveeventssolutions.com.au/bookings-online)

### **Truffle Lunch Special**

From the 18th June to the 31st August we will have a truffle lunch special of pizza or pasta with a glass of wine for \$35, bookings through our website <https://contentiouscharacter.com.au/pages/book> or use [info@contentiouscharacter.com.au](mailto:info@contentiouscharacter.com.au)

### **Truffle Dinner Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup>**

Join us and Blue Frog Truffles for a very special truffle dinner with paired wines, from our Founders Museum Collection, and a Truffle 'taste and learn' experience led by Blue Frog. Enquiries [info@contentiouscharacter.com.au](mailto:info@contentiouscharacter.com.au)

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Email [tony@contentiouscharacter](mailto:tony@contentiouscharacter) with your resume.

## St Andrews and St Peters

### Church Notices

As winter bites, some members of the congregation are heading or have already departed for warmer climes, including the Ferrets and the McCarthys. We wish both families a happy and reinvigorating holiday.

Kids Club will be in recess for the NSW school holidays but will begin again with the new term, meeting each Friday afternoon from 4.30 til 6pm at St Andrews, Poppet Road. All children from little ones to “biggies” are invited to come along, join in the stories, songs and craft activities and share a meal together. Parents are always welcome. A gold coin donation helps defray costs and assist an overseas child in need, at Christmas. For further information, please contact Robyn Robertson. Both congregations continue to support St Benedicts, Queanbeyan, with food donations for those experiencing hard times.

Several members assist with the preparation of hot meals provided by St Benedicts.

Services are held on the first and third Sunday of each month at St Andrews, Poppet Rd, Wamboin, and the second and fourth Sunday at St Peters, Sutton. All services start at 9am. Come along, get to meet others in your community and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and delicious morning tea after the service. If you have any enquiries, or are new to the community and would like to know more about church activities, please call any of the numbers listed below.

Pastor: Rev. Dr Royce Thompson 0416265600, Dr David McCarthy 0409 383 620 Robyn Robertson 61 521 711 Alan Rope 0429 434 944

### Roaming Dogs

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June Tessie didn't come up to the verandah in the evening as she usually did. Tessie was a local kangaroo. Twenty-two years ago, she was Kicka's first joey. I'd reared Kicka after finding her as a very young joey soon after I came to Wamboin. Kicka lived here for more than twenty years. Eventually, she died a peaceful death here. Tessie did not. When I went to look for her on Thursday, I found her with her throat torn out and much of her body consumed by what must have been a powerful dog.

Lots of people keep dogs in Wamboin and the vast majority are responsible dog-owners. I know some dogs are escape artists – over the years I've returned many dogs to grateful owners. But some residents do allow their dogs to roam beyond their properties indiscriminately.

To those people – you may not appreciate the local wildlife, but please consider your neighbours, many of whom live here to enjoy the company of the birds and animals who share this space with us and who are deeply distressed by the horrible deaths of animals like Tessie who are part of their life here.

PLEASE, keep your dogs at home. - Jo Walker

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## A Birthday Party in the Bush Gail Ritchie Knight

Recently my grandson Sebi celebrated his seventh birthday. With two weeks' notice we thought we had plenty of time to prepare the party. I did spend some time thinking about it. But really, how much do you have to do for a kid's gig? The day beforehand, we bought the food. As well as the usual party food, I decided to make some pumpkin soup for the adults plus my daughter Jacq was going to bake some tasty zucchini and garlic. We would also have a large platter of fruit and a huge salad.

Then there was the cake. Sebi had asked for a truck design. I thought, yep, can do. After spending too long at the shops, we bought pizzas for tea as we still had much to do. But the cake took longer than I anticipated. Why does this happen? I suppose I'm an eternal optimist, believing things take much shorter to do than the reality.

Meanwhile, Ron had spent ages tidying up as well as brushing off cobwebs and washing windows. Why hadn't we noticed beforehand just how dirty they were? We have quite high windows and initially I thought he had done some serious damage to his neck when he finally came inside. He was holding his head at the weirdest angle.

On Saturday morning we spent more time tidying up, inside and out. By midday I was still in my dressing gown. 15 minutes to start time, I tore down our track to put some balloons by the front gate. They turned out to be the only decorations on the day.

Suddenly the guests arrived, the noise level rose and the chaos escalated. If it wasn't for Lisa and Bobbie we would still be in the kitchen hours later. At least Ron had the drinks sorted and people could help themselves. Well, they had to because we couldn't. We were still busy.

But what about the kids? I was going to organise lots of games for them. Isn't that what you do? But, you know what? We live in the bush. These kids are resourceful. They had the best time simply running in and out of the kunzea. We never made the soup, baked the zucchini or cut up the fruit. But we did make a salad. At the end of the day, Seb agreed he had the best time. Despite the chaos we still achieved our goal — a birthday party for a happy little boy. For his brother Lachlan's birthday we'll be more organised, maybe.



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## Wamboin Golf – June 2017

Sunday, 4 June. Winter. But that didn't prevent a number of the region's hardy denizens with reasonable hand-eye coordination from gathering at the community hall for the Wamboin Winter Whack sponsored by Matt O'Brien and Kevin Rowe. We thank both those ornaments of the local bush fire brigade for the prizes and eats at the 19<sup>th</sup>. And talking about prizes, you'll never guess who agreed to present them this month. No, not Margaret Court. Someone less controversial - Schapelle Corby! At least we think it was Schapelle. We're pretty sure we invited her, but the woman who turned up was covered from head to toe in a hessian bag. It could have been a case of mistaken identity, like when a humble KGB cipher clerk, Donalovitch Trumpski changed his name by deed poll (according to the FBI) and went on to become the *Great Equivocator*.

Back at Kerobokan-on-Bingley, your correspondent tried to get a few quotable quotes for the *Whisper* from our guest of honour— seeing how we'd scooped the mass media – but all she muttered was “in a minute” or “sixty minutes” or something and then she was off like a baggie of *Acapulco Gold* in the sun. The acting captain welcomed our guests, Logan Robinson, Emile and Gorgon Zola, as well as Ivan and Anna Felactic. Ted Evans played a game with everyone's nick names. The googly ball went to Matt O'Brien for his breach of golfing etiquette by mendaciously falling over while another player was addressing the ball. In yet another travesty of justice your correspondent got the dummy spit award for complaining that he was struck by Deb Gordon's ball. He was accused – get this – of misogyny and chauvinism. Bring back the glass ceiling, I say!



The encouragement award went to Alex Gordon for playing his first 18 hole comp. LD and NTP ball winners were Ken Gordon 3, Pete Harrison 2, Larry King, Joan Mason, Logan Beckett and Paul Griffin. The junior comp was won by Logan Beckett with 48 off the stick and 30 after adjustment for handicap. The nine hole comp was taken out by Lofty Mason 40/25 from Ian Picker 45/31, with the homicidal Deb Gordon

50/31 in third place. The winner of the 18 hole comp was Paul Griffin 80/60 from runner-up Pete Harrison 99/62, followed by Ken Gordon 74/64.

The sponsors of next month's comp will be the Old Sailors and Airmen. So join us at the community hall on Sunday 2 July at 12.15pm for the 12.30pm blast off. The five new holes are still a bit raw but we understand that the cost of the landscaping will be covered by the flood of Chinese cash that's washing around Australia at the moment – when we can prise some away from Malcolm and Bill. -- Larry King, golfer



### Coming Events at Sherony Park

<p><b>Facilities available for hire at reasonable prices.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covered Arena with lights</li> <li>• Classroom with Kitchenette</li> <li>• Stables, day yards, round yard</li> </ul> <p>Available for hire individually or in various combinations.</p> <p>Why not hold your next clinic or equine activity here!</p> <p><b>Bookings:</b> 0422 244 433 Sheronypark@bigpond.com</p>	<p><b>'Caring for the Older Horse'</b> 15th June 2017, 6:30 - 8:30pm <b>Bookings:</b> \$30 pp webbequineeducation@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Affinity Equitation - Classical Horsemanship Clinic with Tamara Coakley</b> 29 September- 2 October 2017 <b>Bookings:</b> 0412 626 802 <a href="mailto:s.e.vaughan@hotmail.com">s.e.vaughan@hotmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Michael Godding</b> Fortnightly lessons at SP <b>Bookings:</b> 0414 626 577</p>	<p><b>Tanja Mitton Advanced Equestrian Success and Mindset Clinics</b> 15-16 &amp; 17-18 September 2017</p> <p><b>Chantelle Hardy-Matthews Manolo Mendez Approved Trainer</b> 6-8 October 2017</p> <p><b>Tanja Mitton &amp; Fran Griffen Ultimate Horsemanship Clinic</b> 10-13 November 2017</p> <p><b>Yoga for Horse Riders</b> <b>Bookings:</b> Sheronypark@bigpond.com</p>
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## How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

After many years of delivering the Whisper to Donnelly Road and Donnelly Lane, Phil and Pam Dawes are moving to a new home out of the area. I thank them very much for taking on this volunteer job for so long.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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	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 Nrtm Rd	23	Rob Henry	South end Clare Valley	41
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
Dominica Lorima	North end Clare Valley	42			

### 262: CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN: ph 6238 3590 [jnpvds@bigpond.net.au](mailto: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 Nwgtm& 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 Milner	Birriwa Rd plus Macs Rf Rd to Harriott	31
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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 1,313**

## WAMBOIN AND BYWONG CLASSIFIEDS

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Mums and Dads learn BABY MASSAGE. Great benefits for baby. Contact Judy Shellard (Certified Infant Massage Instructor by IMIS (baby message.net.au)) 62 383 050. [judyshellard@gmx.com](mailto:judyshellard@gmx.com), 0417-130-052.

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.

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](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au) or [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au)

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>

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](mailto:dorothyskea@outlook.com)

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FOR HIRE: BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL. Suitable for smaller functions and seminars, groups etc. Check availability and booking information on [www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au). or email Ann Sloan at [lrhallbywong@gmail.com](mailto:lrhallbywong@gmail.com).

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!

FOR HIRE :- from Wamboin Community Hall -**Gas BBQ'S** x 2. Hire cost and cleaning Bond applies. Enquiries - Joan Mason 62 383 258

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.

## Community Halls

The following is written by Lofty Mason to explain the management of Community Halls.

When a new area is planned the developer has to reserve areas for community activities and also to donate money to Council for future development of buildings, such as a Hall, on that area. In Wamboin one of those areas was the allotment on Bingley Way where the Hall and Fire Shed are located.

In 1983 Council granted the WCA \$1000 to purchase a water tank, toilets and a septic tank. Later that year the Council granted a further \$12,000 towards a Hall. Fortunately a lot of residents provided labour so that by July 1984 we had built a basic Hall, a concrete floor and veranda that was enclosed both ends to form a kitchen and a storeroom. We had also set up a water tank, shed toilets and a septic system. Continued money raising efforts by the Community, plus generous donations from residents, enabled us to put in wall lining, heating, a ceiling and to fit out the kitchen with second hand fittings and white goods.

After completing this we were initially surprised to find that the Hall was now the property of the Council. However, when you think about it, the Hall is on Council land and the Council is the obvious owner. The Council requested that members of the Wamboin Community form a Hall Management Committee (responsible to Council) to manage the Hall and the Reserve. The Hall has to be on a stand alone/user pays basis.

The Wamboin Hall Management Committee (WHMC) hires out the Hall to users and the money from this hire pays for the electricity, cleaning, repairs, repainting, upgrades etc. Peter Greenwood is the present Convenor of the WHMC. Deb Gordon is the Secretary; Joan Mason is the Treasurer and Hire Representative. Don Evans, Pete Harrison, Keith France, Ken Gordon, Tim Barter, Trent Abell and self are on the WHMC as the body of tradesmen and willing workers.

Major additions to the original Hall, organised and built by the WHMC with assistance from other volunteers, are the concrete block toilets, the large meeting room, the wood fired heater, the enlarged and modernised kitchen, and the re-roofing of the toilet block. In the grounds we also managed the forming of the oval and excavated the dam. We have received some grants for these works however you can appreciate the value of volunteer labour when you realise we were quoted \$20,760 just to have the roofing framework of the toilet block supplied and erected by an engineering company. Using volunteer labour we pulled down the old roofing, strengthened the walls, erected the framework, resecured the partitions, clad the roof and ceiling, fitted lighting and trim, and finally painted the walls and floor for a total outlay of \$9,269.

Other expenses to consider: so far this year, upgrades/repairs \$1200. The average annual cost for Electricity and Cleaning is \$2,600 added to this the cost of biennial painting. The Council will not pay for these general running expenses or for the replacement of chairs and tables. All money for running the Hall must be recovered from the hire of the Hall. From my point of view, the WHMC is doing a pretty good community service.

**Are You Looking For Funding For Your Community Group?**

Are you from one of the following?

- o Sporting Groups
- o Rural Fire Brigades
- o Service Clubs
- o Schools
- o Preschools
- o Progress Associations
- o Community Health Services
- o Churches
- o Charities
- o Any other non-for-profit organisation which complies with the Veolia Mulwaree Trust guidelines?

Are you located in one of these local government areas?

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

**Grant and Donation Funding**

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

Further information about the Community Grant and Donation Program including dates, guidelines and application forms can be found at [www.mulwareetrust.org.au](http://www.mulwareetrust.org.au)

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## Things that Happened

by Diane Royal

Tagasaste, Tree Lucerne, High Production Fodder Crop. By Laurence C. Snook. Publisher Night Owl. 1986.

This is the title of small book which I bought in 1988. The price then was \$7.95.

When my late husband and I moved here (Wamboin) neither of us had owned country land before. Our knowledge and experience was very slim. Neither having farmed before!

We enrolled in appropriate courses then available at the TAFE in Woden. So began our discovery and a steep learning curve for approximately four years. My husband particularly wanted some Merino sheep, so 40 Merino wethers were selected and we kept them for approximately three years. I had enrolled in a course of horticulture which I eventually completed. Finding the drought and quite harsh winters a challenge I eventually abandoned the idea of having my own nursery. However during those four years we did learn enough not to damage our place too much! We did have a small bush fire I think it was on one of the long week ends enjoyed by Canberrans. We of course had used the weekend to plant tree seedlings and hand-watered them all.

Our neighbours at that time had hired a young man to help with some of their heavier work. He borrowed some sort of tool from my husband. In using it he created sparks which ran under his caravan and the grass caught fire. At this time we had no phone or house, just a garage, from its roof we had connected a small water tank which hadn't even had time to fill! As soon as we realised what was happening, my husband went to try and put it out with the hired man! I jumped in the car and drove to the road to try and find a neighbour with a phone! (pre mobiles!)

The brigade seemed to take a while to arrive, but they did stop the fire spreading off our land! However we lost all the baby trees we planted that weekend. The Fire captain then was Mr Reardon. He scolded us for using the cutter machine. He didn't listen when we tried to explain it wasn't us. The guy who had used it had by then disappeared! However we were very grateful to Mr Reardon because the following weekend he turned up again with a full tank of water which he then proceeded to pour it all down an old hollow tree which I was sure was about to die, but is still upright with us now.

So we learned early about fire in the country, never forgetting his advice. We started researching via the National Library for trees that had fire resistant properties. I think it was my husband who located my book Tagasaste.

I really don't remember where I tracked down that first brown envelope of seeds, It probably weighed 1/2lb. I think it was somewhere in Orange, NSW. I sowed the first seeds in trays and then transplanted them to tubes, eventually planting them along some of our fence lines.

They did not have a double fence line for protection as by then other priorities claimed any spare cash. My tree lines are all still flourishing, they drop their small seeds after the white flowers die, which by the way are popular with bees.

Just found my Tagasaste book and have re-read the 100 pages. "Fire Resistance". P. Wilson, S.A. page p.46 reports that in 1972 serious bushfire on Kangaroo Island which had defied the efforts of a large group of fully equipped fire fighters, was halted by a Tagasaste hedge around a home which had been abandoned as beyond hope. The leaves of Tagasaste are free from the oils and resins which make green eucalypts, native shrubs and pines so inflammable when heated. because of this Tagasaste hedges resist burning.

There is an Ag FACT available on line. and one or two 2nd hand copies of my small book. Seed seems to be available from various sources.



We'd like to think we have something common with this woman and her assistant. We care about the fences we make, don't mind spending time making them, and want the fence to do a good job.

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## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

School holidays, and with it the arrival of two lively little lads from the north; let the games begin!

As a working mother school holidays used to mean a longed for chance to break the daily grind, forget routines and the ticking clock and take a slow deep breath, look outside, dream a little and let the day be ruled only by your stomach. Nothing really changes. Today the lively lads are enjoying those simple things in a Wamboin way, feeding the chooks and collecting their eggs, stacking the wheelbarrow with kindling for the fire, shattering ice on the water troughs, building cubbies, propelling vintage bikes across rocky trails, and weaving stories as they slowly thread their way through the bush, ever alert for gold nuggets and relics from the past! Freezing hands in the morning, dripping noses, rosy cheeks and good appetites, engaged with the outdoors, fascinated, less fearful and with growing respect for the natural world.

With this in mind we decided to build a camp fire and grill sausages and corn for lunch. First we chose a cleared site, checked wind direction and made a fire place with scavenged bricks. We were being good boy scouts. We found an old sewer grate, very heavy and of uncertain provenance, for the grill, and then set off to find firewood. Rubbing two sticks together to create our fire was considered but matches seemed a better option especially with rumbling stomachs. And so we had “the best lunch ever” garnished with a little grit and ash....and a medicinal tippie for the grandparents. Just before we turned into ice blocks in the thin sunshine, we called it a day, quenched the fire and hailed the day as a success. The boys hadn’t had a real camp fire before and now they were a little more aware of the vagaries of fire.

The next morning I was up early to light the fire. It was minus 4 on the back verandah, a good frost, and an even better frost for the truffle farmers who’d been plagued for weeks by dripping fogs. I cleaned out some ash from the fire box, noticing a couple of embers in it, added it to the ash already in the metal bucket and left it on the brick path, just to be safe. Then I put a bunch of dried lavender spikes in with the kindling, lit it, and savoured the fragrance of a warm summer. All was good with the world.

We were sitting, chatting after a leisurely breakfast when the liveliest lad exclaimed, “There’s a lot of smoke outside!” And there was. Some innocent, helpful hand had emptied the ash bucket onto the composting heap of fallen leaves and dry cuttings and those tiny embers had been fanned by a whispering breeze into life. It could have been a disaster, but swift action soon had it under control. Nevertheless it fired up the adrenalin! We had wanted the boys from the suburbs to become aware of the dangers of fire, but perhaps we went overboard trying to press home our point. The boy scouts’ campfire seemed very tame after that.

I wouldn’t live anywhere else....and Wamboin is still their top school holiday destination.....but it was a salutary experience for all of us....

### Rainfall And Temperatures In Wamboin 42 Year Statistics from Cooper Road

(by David & Robyn Robertson until 2017, since by Christine Rieber, with help from her husband & son)

#### June Rainfall Stats

June rainfall to the 25<sup>th</sup> ..... 0.0mm  
 2017 total rainfall to 25/6.... 195.25mm

Average June rainfall..... 57.0mm  
 2016 June rainfall..... 178.25mm  
 2016 total rainfall to 25/6.... 430.5mm

#### July Rainfall Stats

2016 July rainfall..... 94.3mm  
 Wettest July..... 142mm in 1993  
 Wettest July day..... 50.5mm on 10/7/91  
 Driest July..... 4.5mm in 1982

Average July rainfall..... 54.2mm  
 Average no. rain days in July.... 10.7  
 Highest no. rain days..... 17 in 1980  
 Lowest no. rain days. 4 in 1982 & 1994

#### July Temperature Stats

Hottest July day..... 15°C on 22/7/79  
 Hottest July night..... 9°C (5 times)  
 1988 (3 times), 24/7/90 & 8/7/93  
 Average day temp. .... 8.7°C  
 Warmest July..... 1993  
 Av. day temp. 10.8°C & nights 5.1°C

Coldest July day..... 1°C on 14/7/16  
 Coldest July night..... -5°C (4 times)  
 10/7/96, 12/7/11, 3 & 5/7/15  
 Average night temp. .... 1.7°C  
 Coldest July..... 2015  
 Av. day temp. 5.5°C & nights -1.5°C

*The six coldest weeks occur after the winter solstice (i.e. till the 2nd August)*

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