

#### November 2017 CIRCULATION: 1,292

Wamboin Community Assn: <a href="https://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au">www.wamboincommunity.asn.au</a> <a href="https://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au">www.wamboincommunity.asn.au</a> <a href="https://www.bywongcommunity.org.au">www.bywongcommunity.org.au</a>

Fire Brigade: <a href="http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au">http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>

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 <a href="whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au">whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au</a> or to <a href="mediangle-newsletter">nednoel@optusnet.com.au</a> 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 November 2017 issue issue is 7 pm Sunday night, October 29. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month and is also available at <a href="https://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au">www.wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>.

#### 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	Mike Wilkins, 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, Treasurer	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	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, p	etsitting	6238 3559
Fiona Skea	baby sitting	6238 3290	Ashleigh Caird	baby sitting		6238 0746
Jack Whitney	Pet&HomeSitting,OddJobs	0437-460-236	Gabrielle Simpkin	baby sitting/p	et sitting	6238-1335
Jordan Brown	baby sitting	0414-907-921	Ethan Laver	Outdoor Jobs		6236 9809
Rebecca Purdie	pet/horse sitting	6238 3343	April Lloyd	babysitting services		0434468772
Laura Worden	baby/pet/house sitting	0458788486	Alex Lea	petsitting	6236 9657	0439219865

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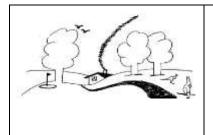


Call or text Angela now to book your lesson 0416 335217 Karelia Riding Instruction, 2 Clare Lane, Bywong 2621 See website <a href="www.kareliariding.com.au">www.kareliariding.com.au</a> and like us on Facebook.

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# Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs Wamboin Community Association Presidents Paragraphs

## "Can you believe it is only 8 Weeks to Christmas"



Well, the Christmas decorations are already up in the major shopping centres in Canberra and the countdown to the big red guy's annual visit has begun. Now's the time to start planning all those good intentioned projects for the Christmas holidays (remembering half of them won't get done), booking those holidays down the coast with the rest of Canberra at exorbitant prices, and getting the place ready for the family on Christmas day. A few years back on Christmas day, I had my family and in-laws arriving at the front door while I was dealing with a 1m long tiger snake at the back door. That's summer in Wamboin

On a serious note, summer is also the time for bushfires. I know all the usual warnings have started regarding cleaning up and getting prepared but when is the last time you checked your firefighting pump? After a winter with stale fuel or dried out seals, now is a timely reminder to give it an oil change, drain out any stale fuel and put fresh fuel in and check to see if the seals still allow it to pump (better now than when you actually need it). While the grass is still a little green there is still time to have any repairs done.

**November Spring Talk - Mayor Tim Overall** – the new Mayor will be our guest at the November Spring talk on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November. Tim will discuss his vision for the new Council and the benefits for Wamboin. Come along for our interview with Tim and the Q&A session following.

October Spring Talk – I would like to thank Rebecca Bradley, Senior Natural Resource Management Advisor, South East Local Land Services who spoke at our October meeting. Rebecca gave a great presentation on services offered to local residents. It employs local people like vets, rangers, livestock, agronomy and natural resource management advisors. The presentation can be found under local services on our webpage.

**ABC** and Wamboin – Some of you may have heard the radio interview or read the online story by the ABC on the "Outliers". The Outliers are described by the ABC as those who live in the rural areas surrounding the ACT. It was interesting recently as one of our neighbours who only moved here from suburban Canberra around 12 months ago said to me "I cannot believe we missed out on this lifestyle before moving here, life is just so much better". I'm sure you all know the feeling of richness in our lives out here. The in-liers don't know what their missing.

The Wheels of Wamboin – The date for 2018 has been set for the 15<sup>th</sup> April. Start polishing your rods.

**Christmas Carols** – Six white boomers, snow white boomers, the Wamboin Christmas Carols will be held on Friday 15th December at 7:00 pm. Put it in your diary or better still contact Jenny Richards to help out.

**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 morning tea and activities. Everyone is welcome.

**WCA Meeting** – next meeting is 7.30 pm, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November at the Wamboin Community Hall.

#### Let's make Wamboin great! - Peter Evans - President.



## A Record Selling Period for Sutton Real Estate!



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## **Bywong** Community News

www.bywongcommunity.org.au Mike Wilkins, President





#### Major Focus For November-Preparations For Grand Opening Of Playground And Xmas Drinks

Progress on the Playground Project: All the play equipment has been installed and another working bee was held on Sunday 22 October to spread the soft fall mulch around the play equipment. Around fifteen (adult) local residents and BCA committee members together with about eight enthusiastic children turned up with wheelbarrows, shovels and rakes to move and spread approximately 40 cubic metres of mulch. The overall effort was made substantially easier by the presence of a small excavator which could rapidly fill the barrows, and the work was finished within three hours. Despite having placed all 40 cubic metres of mulch within the enclosure, it appears that more is required, so a further 20 metres has been ordered and will be placed and spread shortly with the help of some of those generous volunteers.

The excavator was on site because it was being used to dig trenches for a new water system for the general use of the playground, the Geary's Gap Pony Club and other users of the Les Reardon Reserve. Thanks to Rhett for pipe and tap installation and Anthony for the trenching work.

After the mulching, while the adults enjoyed a cuppa and watched on, the kids that came along "test drove" the equipment, and from the general cacophony and delighted squeals it appears that the playground passed the test.

The BCA extends grateful thanks to all those who turned up to help lay the mulch.

For new developments, please visit the playground facebook page at

https://www.facebook.com/BywongCommunityPlayground/

Grand Opening of the Playground Project: This will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 16 December from 3.00 pm. Appropriate acknowledgments will be made to all sponsors of the playground, and these include the Veolia Mulwaree Trust (funded much of the play equipment), Bendigo Bank (contributed significantly for the equipment) the QPRC (funded much of the landscaping and general improvements to the hall entrance and the adjacent grounds) and Jenny Curtis of Fresh Landscape Designs (provided expert documented landscape design at only a nominal rate).

The opening will have a "Teddy Bear's Picnic" theme, and of course Santa will be there to meet the children..

BCA Annual Xmas Drinks: This traditional function will be held immediately after the playground opening with the usual happy contingent of residents from Bywong, Wamboin and surrounding areas expected plus more. This is a great opportunity to catch up with neighbours and friends, and while nibbles and drinks will be provided by the BCA attendees, more contributions are always welcome.

Tea-towel Project: JP Favre continues to produce and promote these excellent novelty items. It seems as if they will remain a steady source of revenue for the BCA over the next few years.

New BCA Website: This is a significant upgrade over the previous site but work on adding content and general improvements is ongoing. The site is very easy to navigate and may be found at http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au/bywong/.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday 30 November at 7.30 pm at the hall.

## **Local Gardening** TidyUp Service \$80:2 hours

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#### **Nature Notes October 2017**

Jo Walker

The intermittent light showers and one or two thunderstorms have been just enough to keep the countryside looking green, but not enough to get the creeks running.

My dam is only about half full now and the exposed mud is beginning to exhibit a pattern of cracks. However, there are plants that make use of this occasional habitat. The tiny reddish leaves of *Glossostigma elatinoides* are forming carpets on the damp mud interspersed with bright green Creeping Sneezeweed (*Centipeda minima*) – and the taller-growing Brooklime (*Gratiola peruviana*) is germinating well too.

On the drier ground, *Daviesia mimosoides* (Bitter Pea) is heavy with delicately-scented yellow and brown flowers. And the larger *Pomaderris angustifolia* shrubs are still covered in perfumed cream flowers here, although most of the ones on Sutton Road seem to have finished flowering. Daisies are beginning to show some colour – ranging from the tall white-flowered *Olearia lirata* shrubs to the tiny but numerous Austral Sunray (*Triptilodiscus pygmaeus*) forming lemon-yellow carpets in the drier grassy areas. And, vying for a bit of space in the same type of ground, are lots of dainty *Vittadinia muelleri* (Narrow-leaved New Holland Daisy), their tiny blue flowers just beginning to make an appearance.

Because of the rather dry winter, the little white and maroon flowers of *Wurmbea dioica* (Early Nancy) that usually herald spring were almost entirely absent this year. Except, I discovered recently, on a small damp hillside on the ACT side of Poppet Hill where there were literally hundreds of them growing thickly together in what was obviously one small spot of ideal conditions.

An uncommon visitor, a large White-necked Heron, was down at the dam a few mornings ago and flew ponderously off as I approached. I've seen one here before but not very often. A much more frequent visitor is a White-faced Heron who is finding plenty to feed on there judging by the Yabby claws, large and small, scattered along the edge of the water.

A pair of Grey Fantails, probably the ones that built a nest and reared their chicks just outside my fence last year, began to build a nest in a bush by the dam a week or two ago. But, after painstakingly weaving the base of the nest, they left it unfinished and I haven't seen them there since – a mystery.

Lizards and snakes are finding it warm enough to be out and about. There was a small Brown Snake making its way across Poppet Road recently. And I had a much closer encounter with a very large Red-bellied Black Snake while I was searching for a plant and temporarily oblivious to the rest of my surroundings. As snakes usually do, once I stepped aside it slithered rapidly away. The Cunningham's Skinks (less numerous than they used to be here) are sunning themselves on their home logs, and I watched a large and lethargic Blotched Blue-tongued Lizard for some time one morning until it summoned up enough energy to crawl away. And, moving an old and damp piece of sponge matting recently, I uncovered a large spider, two Grass Skinks and another rather lively lizard all sharing the same space. The third lizard was *Hemiergis decresiensis* (it doesn't seem to have a common name). It has only three digits on both its fore-limbs and hind-limbs which makes it very similar to the Three-toed Skink (*Saiphos equalis*). They are a similar colour too. The main difference seems to be that *Hemiergis decresiensis* gives birth to live young while *Saiphos equalis* lays eggs. However, the Three-toed Skink lives in the ranges and along the coast, north of our part of the world.

Eastern Grey Kangaroo joeys are beginning to hop around exploring their piece of the countryside, loudly calling for their mothers when they temporarily lose their way, although most are still pouch joeys for part of the time.

The Wombat that comes through my place fairly often, judging by its droppings, doesn't often come anywhere near the house. But, a few weeks ago a day after I got back from a three week trip, the Wombat turned up in the evening to feed on the green grass down by the creek. She turned her back in this direction and I could see she had a joey in her partly open pouch (Wombat pouches have their opening towards the rear). And then a little arm emerged from the pouch and the baby Wombat waved in in my direction. What a welcome home!



#### WAMBOIN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Friday, December 15th 2017 @7:00pm At Wamboin CommunityHall,BingleyWay

Everyone is invited to come along and ...

Join in the singing of Christmas Carols (both traditional and modern), ably led byour local musicians Listen to a special performance by the Playgroup children.

Experience the Christmas Story, as presented by the children of Wamboin.

Give generously to the Giving Tree (gifts and non-perishable food, preferably unwrapped or in a Christmas bag) for distribution by the Salvos.

Say Hi to Santa when he arrives on his special transport, a FireTruck.

Enjoy the traditional free sausage sizzle (There will be a donation box with all proceeds to be given to the Salvos) . Soothe your tired vocal chords with a cold drink.



#### **Bird Of The Month**

By Luke Downey

Each month I will be describing a local bird you might see in your garden. For the November Bird of the Month I selected the **Painted Buttonquail** (*Turnix varius*). This female was in our garden in Wamboin for several days in late October 2017. Size is 17-19cm. Status is uncommon to rare. This female seems to be a breeding resident. These birds are small and mostly grey, with small white spots, black patches on the wings and chestnut sides. The male is duller than the female. You can see the colours of the bird better in the web version at

<u>www.wamboincommunity.asn.au</u>. They are ground-dwelling birds, rarely flying. They are found in areas with lots of leaf litter - e.g. woodlands and forests. Signs of its presence are small, circle shaped holes on the ground –



when digging, they turn around in a circle. They blend in well with their surroundings and they often don't fly off until you almost tread on them. They are quite unusual because the female is more colourful than the male, also the male incubates the eggs and raises the chicks. Sorry the picture is a little blurry, but we didn't want to scare it by getting too close.

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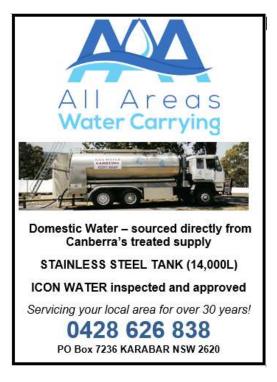
A well-behaved dog is a pleasure to own and in our classes we will be focusing on solving common issues in training pups and dogs such as:

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- -- Preventing: jumping, nipping, mouthing,
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- -- Control of dogs around livestock and wildlife,
- -- Advice on how to train your dog to avoid snakes.

In-your-home trainingalso available The classes run for 6 weeks @ 1 hour per week. Children are very welcome. For more information, please call Heike Hahner on 0474-936-281 email: flashmobdogs@gmail.com web: heike.braidwoodnsw.com

www.facebook.com/heike.hahner





#### From the Greenways Committee

## Written down here by Ned Noel at their Request

Just a reminder, that Bywong's and Wamboin's Community Common Ground

are looking pretty good this spring.
All sorts of animals and plants are checking them out this spring.
You can find more information at <a href="https://www.bywongcommunity.org.au">www.bywongcommunity.org.au</a>
or at the facebook page —
<a href="mailto:Greenways Bywong & Wamboin">Greenways Bywong & Wamboin</a>.

There is also a map available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au



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

Date of Meeting: 17 October 2017

Meeting chaired by: Peter Evans, President, WCA



A meeting of members of the WCA and attended by many other local residents preceded the second in the WCA's Spring Talks Series - 2017. As always, the meeting was informative and demonstrated the limitless efforts members of the WCA and other local community-based organisations go to, with the intention of enhancing the livability and enjoyment of our rural-residential area for all residents.

#### General outline of topics discussed

**WCA President:** Peter Evans thanked everyone who contributed to the success of the annual bonfire and fireworks event. He also reported on the progress of the Denley Drive Telstra tower which is expected to be operational before Christmas, and that Optus will co-locate on the tower.

Treasurer: Keith France tabled the WCA financial statement, concluding that the Association is in a good financial position.

Hall Management Committee: Lofty Mason advised that he had been unable to complete the clean-up of the oval after the bonfire because it was still smouldering 2½ weeks after the event, thanks to a load of inappropriate material having been dumped.

**Wamboin Pony Club:** President Peter Evans thanked the WCA for putting on the bonfire and fireworks event. He reported that at the NSW State Championships on the October long weekend, 9 riders from Wamboin made up the majority of the Canberra Zone team which, among other successes, achieved 2nd place in the Mounted Games event.

The meeting was followed by the second WCA Spring Talk – 2017, "The LLS Talk" in which Rebecca Bradley from South East Local Land Services (LLS) spoke about the role of LLS, biosecurity, current programs and how LLS can assist all land holders, regardless of the size of a property (see report in the Spring Talks #3 advertisement elsewhere in this issue of The Whisper).

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. All welcome.

Next meeting: Tuesday 21 November which will be followed by Spring Talk #3, "The QPRC Talk" with Mayor Tim Overall. All welcome!

Jenny Warren, Assistant Secretary, Wamboin Community Association, Inc.





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## Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market Saturday 18 November 9-12md at the Community Hall, Bingley Way with LANDCARE and the ANNUAL PET PARADE

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

The October market was fairly quiet – always the way when we compete with the Murrumbateman Field Day! This month we will have Landcare back again with tube stock – please note, even in this rather dry weather, our little correas bought last month from Landcare have already doubled in size!

**There will also be the annual pet parade**. See notice elsewhere in the Whisper for details. Come along with your pet(s) and see if you can win a prize!

We are always open to new ideas. If you would like a stall let us know - it's only \$5.00 and we set up the tables for you.

Come along and enjoy the café, the local produce and craft and the great food on offer!

#### SEE YOU AT THE NOVEMBER MARKETS

and ... you can see or, even better, bring you pet to be in ....



#### Wamboin Market Pet Parade 2017

Back by popular demand...... Wamboin Market Pet Parade 2017 at the community hall, Bingley Way, on 18 November 2017, between 10.00 & 11.00. Come one and all from far and wide for a fun event! All manner of pets are welcome – dogs, cats, rats, mice, pet lizards & snakes, green tree frog anyone(?), chooks, spiders. The list is endless.

Judging will be in the following categories: best dressed and/or decorated; best rescue pet; most interesting animal; most like it's owner; best senior pet; and of course the Judge's favourite. And there are surprise prizes to be won too.

Contact Lisa 0408260796 for more information, or just come along. See you there. Whoof whoof!"







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Michael Godding Fortnightly lessons at SP Bookings: 0414 626 577 First Aid for Equine Enthusiasts

3 December 2017

Time: 8:30am – 3:00pm

Bookings: \$175 each or as a

Christmas Special, bring a friend and both receive a \$50 discount webbequineeducation@gmail.com

'Practical Horse Nutrition Seminar', 23 November 2017

Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm Bookings: \$30 pp

webbequineeducation@gmail.com

Lucie Klaassen Body Awareness & Release for Horses and Riders 9-11 February 2018

Tanja Mitton Mindset & Rider Position Clinic 16-17 February 2018

'Let it go' Clinic Fran Griffen 3-4 March 2018

Yoga for Horse Riders Starts 9 October 2017 Bookings:

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www.sheronypark.com.au

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## Now it's November

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Sunday November 19th 9am - 2pm at the War Memorial Hall

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FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS



#### Bushfire insurance is complicated but makes a difference when disaster hits

With the Bushfire Season upon us part of being prepared is to not only have our homes prepared and our Bush Fire Plan updated, we also need to check that we are financially protected with the right insurance.

If a bushfire destroys your home, having sufficient insurance can make the difference between successfully rebuilding and suffering irrevocable loss.

Despite bushfires, floods and cyclones being an annual feature of life in Australia, many people are not financially protected. In a recent ABC news article it was noted that about one in 20 properties are not insured at all and about two thirds of renters don't have any contents insurance and upwards of 70 percent of properties are inadequately insured.

The article had an example of a property that was totally destroyed by a bushfire and the homeowner discovered that the insurance payout would not cover the full cost of rebuilding his home. His insurance company had been increasing the insured value of his house by 3 per cent per year, but unbeknownst to the owner building costs in his rural area had increased by far more than that since the home was built 15 years earlier.

#### **Contentious Character Event Calendar**

#### Brunch has begun!! 10am - 12pm Saturday and Sundays



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#### New Year's Eve Party at Contentious Character

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#### **Contentious Holidays**

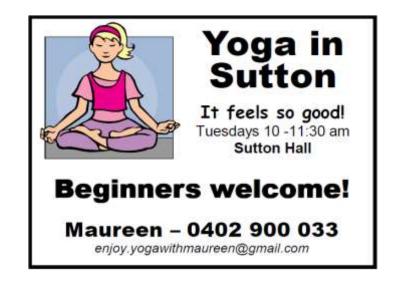
We'll be closing from Monday 18th to Friday 29th December inclusive, reopening Saturday  $30^{th}$  December 2017.

#### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November Melbourne Cup Luncheon at VIBE Hotel, Canberra Airport

Watch the race that stops a nation. Enjoy a two course menu with glass of sparkling on arrival. \$65 per person or \$85 with paired Contentious Character wines. Prizes for best dressed and raffle proceeds go to the Royal Institute of Deaf and Blind Children. To book call 02 6201 1500 or email meet.canberraairport@vibehotels.com.au

Enquiries 02 6238 3830





If a property is in a bushfire prone area, then rebuilding may need to comply with the building standards for building in bushfire prone areas.

The article also noted that neglecting basic maintenance can also affect a claim. Insurers can deny part or all of a claim if a building has not been properly maintained or has suffered damage in the past and has not been repaired. This is because as part of the policy you are expected to maintain that the building and reduce the risks of something happening to that property. Which goes back to your preparation and bush fire survival plan.

#### USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade

http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au

**NSW Rural Fire Service** 

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

**Wamboin Brigade Captain** 

captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au or 0409 991 340

**Queanbeyan Fire Control** 

02 61280600



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

With Christmas decorations already appearing in the shops it is probably time to start thinking about Christmas and getting a few dates in your diary. But before December is upon us, one date to remember is St Andrews Patronal festival on Thursday evening, 30th September, at 6pm. After a short service the chairs will be stacked up and the tables set for a Pot Luck dinner. All are invited to join us for a great meal, good wine and good company to celebrate St Andrew, our patron saint. Kids Club is held each Friday evening at St Andrews, Poppet Rd, from 4.30 to 6pm during NSW school term. Children from preschoolers to high school age meet, engage in activities and share a meal together. Parental assistance is always valued. A gold coin donation is welcomed.

Sutton Community Christmas party is on Saturday, December 2nd, for everyone in the Sutton area. Food and drinks will be supplied by St Peters and St Andrews. All are welcome. Come along and sing Christmas carols together at St Peters on December, 10th, starting at 6pm. Bring your best voices and we will provide drinks and snacks. Advent studies start in early December at a date to be advised. However, reserve Tuesday evenings in advance.

There will be a communion service at St Peters at 9am on Christmas Eve. The Christmas Pageant for the young and young at heart will be at St Andrews on Christmas Eve, starting at 6pm, followed by Holy Communion. On Christmas Day, at 9am, there will be a service at St Andrews. Services are held on the first and third Sunday at St Andrews, Wamboin, and at St Peters, Sutton on the second and fourth Sunday. All services start at 9am, followed by a cup of tea or coffee, a delicious morning tea and a chance to catch up with others in the community. If you have any enquiries about church activities or pastoral care, please call any of these numbers: Pastor: Rev Dr Royce Thompson 0416265600, Robyn Robertson 61521711, Dr David McCarthy 0409383620, Alan Rope 0429434944.







#### Claiming the Day

Saturday 15th April 2018 9.00am to 1.00pm (in conjunction with Home Produce Markets) Wamboin Hall - Bingley Way, Wamboin Start getting ready for another great day out. Please email

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



#### The Best Bonfire?

"The best bonfire ever." That was the comment of a family from Sydney who have been attending our Bonfire Night for 5 years.

The 'best bonfire' was made possible by several inputs. The first was by a community effort in delivering the large quantity of material to the site. This year we had more than normal 'good' bonfire material delivered. Yes, there was one load of dirt and quite a few large green pine logs but very little other unburnable rubbish. Our thanks to the Community for your

Then there was the heaping up of the material. When the task became beyond my capabilities, and those of my tractor, Nick Stokes came in with his tracked bobcat. As Nick picked up the material and climbed up the side of the bonfire he put on a display of acrobatics that was worth buying tickets to watch. He finished by clearing a strip around the base of the heap. Thank you Stokes Contractors.

Finally the weather and safety came into play. There was a 'high fire danger' on the day and we would not have gone ahead in windy conditions. The Fire Brigade monitors the situation and will warn off proceedings if there is any danger. The Brigade also position the tankers and crews in strategic places. Fortunately the wind had dropped to 5K by 6 o'clock and down to below 2K by 6.30, so at 6.33 up went 'The best bonfire ever'.

Not so dramatic, but also required, was the clean up next day. Thanks to the large number that turned up to help, the cleanup was completed in record time. Congratulations Wamboin! - Lofty Mason

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NSW: 5077997 ACT: EA1066

#### Wamboin Golf – October 2017

Sunday, 1 October. A pleasantly warm Spring day with a gentle breeze fanning the sports fans of the P part of the QP Region who had gathered at the community hall for the Oktober Komp sponsored by L & L King whom we thank for the prizes and eats. We were all over the moon, beside ourselves and cock-a-hoop (which isn't as painful as it sounds) at the previous day's result in the AFL grand final. Would you believe it? After 37 years our very own Bungendore Tigers had prevailed over the Adelaide Mudchooks. No, not the Mudchooks. It was some other form of inedible poultry from South Australia. Your correspondent is not normally a follower of the "four sticks" game – described by an American viewer as "one long fumble". It was instructive, however, to observe 100,000 people in one place; it instructed him to stick with the sensibly-sized crowds at the Mick Sherd. Before play commenced L King (not to be confused with L King) moved the suspension of so much of standing orders as would prevent a sponsor from winning a prize. This motion failed for lack of a seconder. The mover then petulantly decreed that completion would be based on the mysterious and impenetrable Stableford scoring system.

Back in the dressing shed as we sucked on oranges and peptides and applied the Dencorub and Voltaren, the irrepressible grand finals fever continued. Many were eagerly anticipating the NRL grand final that evening when the FNQ Bovinepersons (the F stands for *Far*, by the way) would take on the Melbourne Tempest. But *all* of us were nervously awaiting the outcome of the biggie, the Superbowl of the silly haircuts: Donald Trumpet's Basket of Deplorables versus Kim Wrong-un's Hermit Crabs (unless there was a late scratching) to be played out on the Korean Peninsula – and elsewhere if things get messy, in which case any seat will be a good one.

The Captain welcomed our visitors from the coast, Len and Linda Ivey, former residents of this parish. Ted Evans regaled us with anecdotes from that regional power base, Queanbeyan, to be ruled for the next three years by that nice Mr Working Trousers. The googly ball went to the mover of the motion above. He was lucky to avoid the dummy spit which, for the first time, went to the normally even-tempered Paul Griffin who queried why he had to accept a two stroke penalty when after teeing off the ball hit a rock, came back and struck his club. LD and NTP ball winners were Tim Barter 2, Keith France 2, Paul Griffin 2, Pete Harrison 3 and Joan Mason. The winner of the nine hole comp was Joan Mason with 13 Stableford points from Lofty Mason 12 and Samuel Urquhart 3<sup>rd</sup> on 11. The 18 hole comp was taken out by Vicki Still 42 (goodbye current handicap) from Keith France 40 and Pete Harrison in 3<sup>rd</sup> place on 39 points.

The month of November will mark the region's golfing grand final, otherwise known as the 32<sup>nd</sup> Wamboin Open. Join us at the community hall at 12.15pm for the 12.30pm start on Sunday, 5 November to see if you can get your name on the honour board as open or handicap champion in the nine or 18 hole events. US rapper, Macklemore, will provide the après golf entertainment when he premiers his new hit single, *Old White Dudes.* -- Larry King, golfer



#### Wildcare Lookout

"One in seven crashes on country roads involves and animal" (*Transport for NSW*). But generally, road accidents involving animals, are less than 2% of all incidents.

With winter fast disappearing over the horizon, there are less kangaroos and wombats munching grass at the side of the road at dawn, dusk and through the night. But with spring - as we all know, there are other risks for motorists to encounter, such as lizards and other reptiles basking on the tarmac; echidnas and turtles scurrying across the road; and low-flying birds. And it won't be long before we encounter the odd family of ducks and ducklings waddling along the highway. Even though most of these animals cannot hurt us if we hit them, wouldn't it be great if we could avoid smashing into them?

It can be extremely distressing, and costly, if you have an accident with a kangaroo or wombat. But most people don't hit animals on the road. Why is that? Maybe we can learn some techniques from aircrew training. From the moment a pilot straps in, they are indoctrinated to switch on; be vigilant to what's going on around you; to "get your head out of the cockpit", to actively look out – not just ahead, but up, down, left and right. To identify risks, as soon as possible, and avoid them. Peering into the distance; keeping one's eyes moving to avoid tunnel vision and to see what is in the peripheral area is vital to avoid having unnecessary accidents. Clean windscreens are also important to avoid focussing on that dirty dot one metre in front of your eyes that won't go away. Helicopters and fixed wing aircraft often slow down to increase a pilot's response time. But these techniques are also espoused in the NSW Road Users' Handbook too.

The Handbook encourages motorists to become a low risk driver by having good observation, speed management and positioning skills. Scanning the road into the distance, looking left and right and behind means a driver will have a great awareness of what might get in their way. Whilst motorists can be frustrated by a driver travelling at less than the speed limit, the Handbook does say "if you cannot see at least five seconds ahead, you must slow down". It discusses the need for good reaction and response time and the need for a three-seconds crash avoidance space in front of you (that's equivalent to 84 metres at 100 km/h). By moderating our speed, and being more vigilant, especially in known wildlife rich areas, we might be able to reduce the number of animals hit and squashed on our country roads.

If you are unfortunate enough to hit an animal, then it is important to stop, check and assess what needs to be done. But do this safely. As has been written previously, smaller animals, sat in the middle of the road, such as lizards, turtles and echidna, can be picked up and placed in the direction they were going and well away from the road. Having a towel in the boot of the car can be used to scoop up animals if you are unsure what to do. And if you need any help with wildlife matters, then get in touch with Wildcare on 6299 1966 (website: wildcare.com.au). -- **Philip Machin, For Wildcare, 62383717** 

#### Classifieds

**Wildcare training.** Wildcare is keen to recruit additional shooters in many regional areas. The Firearms Safety Course is an essential requirement for new & continuing firearms volunteers. Sat 18 Nov, between 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, at the Letchworth Community Neighbourhood Centre, 28 Miller St. Queanbeyan Contact Phil, Tel. 62383717.

Looking to buy: Welder - MMA(stick)/TIG, inverter, single phase, 130-200A. Do you have one in the shed you no longer use? Please call Peter 0428 021 709.

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Wamboin Social Club. A meeting place - every Thursday, 10.00 & 12.00 at the Wamboin community hall. Pop in for a coffee & chat or linger longer and join in a game of ping-pong, card games, scrabble etc. All are welcome – young and old, bring a friend. Contact Denise 0400 310 685 for information.

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WCA Electronic Noticeboard: The WCA electronic noticeboard is a convenient way to keep up with community activities. Subscribe by visiting the WCA website at <a href="http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard">http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard</a>

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: <a href="mailto:dorothyskea@outlook.com">dorothyskea@outlook.com</a>

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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.

#### **VIEW Club celebrates International Literacy Month with Local Author**

by Publicity Officer Maureen Boss and Photographer Nancy-Lea Legge

At our September meeting members of the Lake George VIEW Club celebrated International Literacy Month with Julie McCarron-Benson, a local author. Julie's theme showed that every mature woman was capable of being creative and producing at least one book!

Julie related how a few years ago, living on an isolated farm and burnt out by her last job, she found a manuscript written previously and sent it off to the publishers. After many rejections Julie self-published her first two books under the name "Old Chook Books' which are described as 'women's crime/murder fiction' and pitched at the mature woman - "Snatch and Grab" and "Hide and Seek". She now has several books in print and describes them as 'comfort books', with characters based on people she knew and admired. She shows the way they had journeyed from being 'every day house wives' with the usual mundane problems to women of note in their community. Her style and language is easy reading Australian. Julie hopes her books will lead the way for others to discover their own 'character' or place in society and change the popular perception of mature women.

Julie also answered questions about her association with the Women's Electoral Lobby group and her recent art exhibition titled "Canberra's Feminist Strength" which recognised the extraordinary work of many local Canberra women whose work had often gone unnoticed. She is a strong believer in women supporting each other to realise their dreams and change the world.

Continuing the Literary theme members also brought along books and dvds for the Trade Table which raised a nice sum to donate to The Smith Family's 'Learning for Life' education program.



Member Philida Sturgess-Hoy thanking Julie McCarron-Benson for sharing her journey as an author.

#### CLEARING SALE 12 NOVEMBER, 2017 NO RESERVE AUCTION

'RESCHS CREEK' - 2217 HOSKINSTOWN RD, ROSSI NSW (PROPERTY SOLD)

FARM: Ferguson 165 Tractor & Blade, 1998 Nissan Patrol ute with tipper winch & crane, ride on mowers (2), 5 KVA generator, pumps, chainsaw, fencing materials (panels, wire, star droppers etc), fire water tank etc etc

TOOLS TOOLS TOOLS & more TOOLS (Vintage, electric, hand tools, tool cases)

BUILDING MATERIALS: Windows, timber (incl oregan), plywood, custom wood, corrugated metal sheets, plumbing, electrical (old & new), large quantity of masonry fixtures, nuts, bolts, nails, door furniture, lights (fluros, globes, commercial)

VINTAGE: dining room table & chairs with matching sideboard, dressing table with mirror, ½ round hall table, fire nozzles & hoses & other sundry items

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE: Pine dining table & 8 chairs, desks, filing cabinets, 2 seater couch, sofa bed, bookcases, fridges, dryer, queen bed & mattress (2), chests of drawers, wardrobe, bedside tables, theatrette seat sets (3)

Gardening tools & lots of pots. Sundry items to numerous to list

#### Something for everyone!!

View from 10.30am & Auction to commence 12.30pm

Local Fire Brigade will be selling sausages & drinks for lunch

Payment: CASH preferred & EFT available Enquires: 2217clearancesale@skymesh.com.au



## "The Snake Talk" - Follow up on a great question from the audience about possible allergy to antivenom

At the first of the Wamboin Community Association's Spring Talks Series – 2017 on September 19<sup>th</sup>, Wayne Alford, Snake Coordinator for Wildcare gave "The Snake Talk" to a very interested group of more than 80 local residents.

Wayne asked the audience "Did you know that snake antivenom is made from the blood of Percheron horses?"

This prompted a question from a young man in the audience who asked "I'm allergic to horses. Does that mean I'd be allergic to antivenom?"

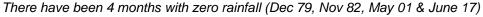
Wayne promised to obtain an official response from Australia's manufacturer of snake antivenom, the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (CSL). Here is their response: "It would be up to the clinician to make the determination on a risk/benefit basis. Antivenom is administered intravenously in a hospital, and resources are on hand to deal with any anaphylactic reaction."

Wayne has clarified this response by adding "The Emergency Department Doctor would, in the case of a definite envenomation, weigh up the consequences of dealing with the venom vs dealing with any possible allergic reaction to the antivenom. In short, they may decide to administer antivenom in the minimum dosage and deal with any allergic reaction with available clinical treatments."

Thanks for the question "B" (you know who you are!) and thanks to Wayne for following up. Written by Jenny Warren, Assistant Secretary, Wamboin Community Association.

## RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES IN WAMBOIN 42 year statistics from Cooper Road

·- <b>j</b> · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
October Rainfall Stats	by Christine Rieber, with help from her husband & son) Average October rainfall 59.0mm
October rainfall to the 29 <sup>th</sup> 52.25mm	2016 October rainfall 45.5mm
2017 total rainfall to 29/10 346.75mm	2016 total rainfall to 29/10 768.25mm
November Rainfall Stats	
2016 November rainfall 62.25mm	Average November rainfall 77.8mm
Wettest November 175.5mm in 2010	Average no. rain days in November 9.4
Wettest day 77mm on 19/11/86	Highest no. rain days 19 in 1992
Driest November 0mm in 1982	Lowest no. rain days 0 in 1982
November Temperature Stats	
Hottest November day 39°C on 27/11/97	Av. Nov temp 16.1°C (day+night comb.)
Coldest November day 9°C (2 times)	Hottest November night 22°C 26/11/02
on 11 & 12/11/13	Coldest Nov. night1°C on 1/11/16
Average day temperature 22.0°C	Average night temperature 10.1°C
Warmest November 1982 and 2009	Coldest November 1992
82 (Av. day temp. 26.8°C & night 12.5°C)	Av. day temp. 18.8°C & nights 8.5°C
09 (Av. day temp. 26.2°C & night 12.7°C)	(lowest) (lowest. 6.5°C in 13)





## Maybe a Telstra Mobile Phone Tower at Birchman's Grove and Denley Drive Soon?

Way back on September 24 one resident sent in this photo. Another resident said in an email to me on Oct 4<sup>th</sup> that "yes, the pole went up yesterday after a few weeks of trucks delivering pieces. He ssaw it sticking out above the tree line. Good visual result rather than impacting a bald hill at Millpost". He said an email from Telstra a few months ago to say it would be operational by the

end of the year. If this item proves wrong, it's my fault, but thanks to these two for their snippets of what seems to be happening. I didn't identify the two persons only because I didn't manage to make time to check with them if it was okay to use their names, but I have no reason to doubt either of them and know one of them reasonably well. – Ned Noel editor

#### **How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month**

The 50 or so people below each spend time every month to make sure that Wamboin and Bywong homes own and receive a free community newspaper written by residents. 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		
180: CO-ORDINATED	BY KATHY HANDEL: ph 6238 3596	khand	el@bigpond.net.au				
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	44	Margaret Hekeimin	Merino Vale Dr	19		
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	31		
Kathy Handel	Norton (Weerona to Hilltop+Wirndra)	23	Phil Leeson&Coleen Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	32		
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					
262: CO-ORDINATED	BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN: pl	ı 6238	3590 jnpvds@bigpond.net.au				
Sheryl Barnes	Denley Dr (Sth End 1/2 way2 Kestral)	15	Rhonda&Neville Parnell	Denley Dr (Birchmans to ½ 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 Nwgtn& 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					
	BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425 lodes	star@c	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					
133: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 6236 97223 bushranger_au@hotmail.com							
Chris Fowler	Millyn Rd	20	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					
182: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484 email nednoel@optusnet.com.au							
Diana Griffin	Majors Close	18	Judy Smith	Weeroona (254 – 400)	18		
Advertisers & Misc	(Out of area mailouts)	34	Susie and Brad Edwards	Weeroona (417-512)	18		
Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Road	27	Murray Goodridge	B'dore Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill)	38		
Not Covered by anyone	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln (29)	0					
TOTAL 1,292							





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#### SPRING TALKS SERIES – 2017, TALK 3 OF 3 - "THE QPRC TALK" NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>, 7:30PM – WAMBOIN HALL

The Wamboin Community Association (WCA) invites all residents of Wamboin and surrounding areas to the third and final event in our **Spring Talks Series - 2017.** 



#### THE NEW QUEANBEYAN-PALERANG REGIONAL COUNCIL

Newly elected Mayor, Mr Tim Overall, will be our guest for Spring Talk #3 – "The QPRC Talk". Tim will address issues such as the new Council's priorities, budget and timetable for a new QPRC LEP, along with topics of interest unique to life in the rural parts of QPRC, such as Greenways maintenance, protection and expansion, road safety, access to community health services and Council's response to the recurring problem of domestic dog attacks. Plenty of time will be set aside for questions from the audience.

Covering a variety of topics relevant to life in a rural-residential area and presented by local experts, the WCA's **Spring Talks Series** will entertain and inform. **Spring Talks** will be preceded by a short meeting of the WCA, and will be followed by refreshments and an opportunity to speak to the presenters, meet more of your neighbours and get to know what's really going on in your community - **it's where we all live!** 

Date	Topic	Speaker/s
21st November	"The New Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council"	Tim Overall, Mayor
		Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

#### Report on Spring Talk #2 - "The LLS Talk"

Thank you to Rebecca Bradley, Senior Natural Resource Management Advisor with South East Local Land Services who spoke on the subject of "How Does Local Land Services (LLS) Help Local Landholders?" Rebecca's excellent comprehensive presentation covered the mission of the LLS, it being the NSW Government's single organisation that provides local advice in production, biosecurity, natural resource and emergency management. She explained how LLS is funded, including partly by rates on all properties 10ha and over. The biosecurity information was excellent, including changes that came into effect on 1 October. LLS also supports local community groups in educational initiatives, and many Whisper readers will be familiar with some of these including: Capital region small farms network; Landcare; Molonglo Catchment Group. Considerable interest was shown when Rebecca spoke about the "Save our scarlet robin" program. After answering numerous questions from the audience, Rebecca closed her presentation with a question for the community – what would we like to see more of from LLS? Among other useful suggestions, it was agreed that weed management workshops and resources are always well received.

Rebecca's full presentation is available on the WCA website <a href="http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au/">http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au/</a>



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**Contact Mitch on 0429 116 338** 

#### From the Corner

**Bush Fire Prone Land** — As we head into the summer months, I thought it might be worth looking at some of the specific conditions associated with development in areas prone to bush fire.

Bush fire prone land (BFPL) is land that has been identified by a local council as that which can support a bush fire or is subject to bush fire attack. Bush fire prone land maps are prepared by council and certified by the Commissioner of the NSW RFS.

In a recent article (Aug 2017) I referred to the NSW Planning & Environment planning portal (http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/find-a-property). Amongst other things, this on-line tool provides access to current BFPL maps and the associated status of any given parcel of land. If you want to know the BFPL status of your property, this is a good place to start. This information will also appear on a Section 149 certificate, but virtually all of the rural residential areas of the Queanbeyan-Palerang LGA are identified as bush fire prone.

A property does not need to be heavily treed to be considered bush fire prone. As many residents of the Currandooley and Carwoola areas will attest, a grass fire alone can present a serious risk to both property and life.

General information relating to building in a bush fire prone area is available from the NSW RFS website at http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/building-in-a-bush-fire-area.

More specifically, planning law in NSW requires all new development on bush fire prone land to comply with the provisions of Planning for Bush Fire Protection (PBP) 2006. This and other related publications designed to assist [prospective] home owners at the various stages of building in bush fire prone areas are also available through the NSW RFS website at http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/publications/building-in-a-bush-fire-area.

Typically, dwellings constructed before 2002 will not have been built to these standards and while there is no requirement to retrofit existing buildings, any alterations or additions will need to comply with current provisions regardless. These provisions are not intended to prevent the development of land in bush fire prone areas, only to provide adequate protection from bush fire. As a result, due consideration will need to be given to the style, construction material and sighting of buildings in these areas.

One final note on bush fire preparedness: In addition to the above-mentioned documentation, the NSW RFS has an online Bush Fire Household Assessment Tool (http://bfhat.rfs.nsw.gov.au) that residents can use to provide an assessment of both their property's and the their own ability to deal with a bush fire situation—it's worth a look. As the summer approaches, it's a good plan to have a plan.

The QPR Blog—New or related entries in my Blog (http://peteharrison.id.au/blog) include:

Bush Fire Prone Land (Oct 2017)

NSW Planning Portal (Jul 2017)

Development Applications (Aug 2015)

Section 149 Planning Certificates (Jun 2015)

Cr Pete Harrison, Ph. 6238 3640, Mob. 0427 711 028, Email: <a href="mailto:contact@peteharrison.id.au">contact@peteharrison.id.au</a> Website: www.peteharrison.id.au [This article is provided for information purposes only and does not represent any recommendation or formal position of the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council.]



#### **Wamboin Community Carols Night**

Yes it's fastapproaching thattime of the year again. Christmas is much closer than you thinkand the annual Wamboin ommunityCarols Night is likewise much closer too. Put on by the Wamboin Community Association this is a wonderful wayto celebrate the end of the year with a community get together. This is a non-denominational event and the emphasisis on the community. Admission to the event is a gift under the Christmas tree for the Salvation Army people to take to someone less fortunate.

The night features carol singing, a performance (usually) by the local playgroup children, the telling of the Christmas story (in itsrather unique style), a BBQ (gold coin donation which also goes to the Salvo's) and of course the arrival of Santa to distribute gift bags to the children. Date for this extravaganza is 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Community Hall in BingleyWay. So please come along and enjoy yourselves. Parents of children wishing to perform in the Christmas Play are invited (PLEASE) to ring Jenny Richardson 6238 1329 as soon as possible to organize parts.

#### **Wamboin Muse**

#### Jill Gregory

We'd been away, up north, where no one seemed fixated on Donald's latest ramblings or considered whether his inane prattle might have stemmed from his time out in the "naughty corner" playing with wooden blocks while the other kids in grade 2 were learning that there really were words other than "nice" to use in "show and tell". No, the northerners were focussed on more important things, the Football Final; real football, not your wussy round ball stuff.

And so it was a bit of a shock to return home... a shock in more ways than one! Forget politics, or football... what had happened to the beginning of spring? I thought I'd missed it, as if spring had been a non event and we had leap frogged from the depths of winter to the end of summer. The garden was bone dry, good sized coreas and prosantheras had turned up their toes. Everything else that hadn't died looked forlorn and downtrodden. There was nothing to suggest a robust spring in sight. Reluctant to water over winter with little water in the dam I had not realised how dry the soil had become and how susceptible the plants were to frosts. We had to make a decision. Rather than abandon the garden, we decided to cage anything that showed some sign of life and foil the night raiders, remove what appeared dead, and water until the taps ran dry.....and then we got some rain, magic, blissful rain!

Despite some big gaps in the garden a few holes have been filled with tube stock, and now, dotted throughout, are wire cages in all shapes and sizes keeping the plants in and our treasured wildlife out!! While the animals and birds are free the plants are behind bars. At first all this wire offended the senses, but now I hardly see the wire for the trees!

There hasn't been much weeding therapy of late, but there have been other compensations with this slowly unfolding spring. In the dead of night I listen to the two mournful notes of a far off mopoke, a black bird enchants me from dawn to dusk with its melodic song, a busy little group of red brow finches flies unconcernedly through the wire of the chook coop in search of titbits and from the creek I hear the soft, slow, resonant "oom" of a bronze wing pigeon. Handsome spine bills snap their wings as they fly by and blue wrens display their brilliant spring fashions. In the shed a little bird has built an untidy nest between the metal clamps hanging from a rafter and another has chosen the rear wheel spokes of a bicycle hanging from the rafters in the garage. I nearly step on a sleek, fat shingleback, give wide berth to a jacky lizard sunning itself on the gravel drive and spy an echidna, head down, trying not to be caught out on a very bad hair day.

The old faithfuls in the garden are slowly rallying. The viburnums have shed their snow flake blossoms and the frothy white may bushes have assumed their place amongst golden diosmas and red berried nandinas. Happily the rosellas gave me just enough time to breathe in the fragrant wisteria before I was on my hands and knees scooping up the mauve flowers they'd picked for me to arrange awkwardly in vases inside. I have never had such a beautiful show of irises and now the hardy, caged salvias have answered the call of spring with new leaf and a hint of colour.

There's still compost to be dug into the soil and a mound of mulch to spread and a list of things to do that never ends, but a gardener must never give up. One must remain vigilant, be responsive, appreciative and have hope.....and perhaps one day even Donald might see the light, embrace gardening and realise that it is nice, very nice, in fact even a very very nice thing to do, and forget about politics altogether...... and that would be really very very nice for all of us!

I wouldn't live anywhere else.......



Bring along a picnic, a comfy blanket to sit on and of course your teddy bear!

It's going to be a community party. Fancy dress is the order of the day .... special visitors are coming .... Santa, Mrs Claus, Piggie, Cinderella, the Fairy Godnether and more! There's going to be a sausage sizzle, cuponker plus drinks for sale, face painting, teddy bear competitions, CRAFT TABLES, a jumping castle, a playground with slide, swings rockers and climbing parts, Christmas raffles and the famous tea towels, as well as Cake!

Then @ 6:00–9:00pm please join the Bywong Community Association's Annual Christmas Gathering. Come to one or come to both events, either way it's a time to celebrate!

Please register your interest via www.eventbrite.com.au/ (search for Bywong)

and choose a ticket for either event or BOTH!

For additional information or if you want to help out contact
bywongplaygroundgrandopening@gmail.com or call 0404 833 225

