



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

December 2017 – January 2018 CIRCULATION: 1,317

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

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the Wamboin Community Association which started The Whisper as a community newsletter in 1981 and continues to own it. The newsletter comes out at the start of each month, except January. It is distributed to all letterboxes in Wamboin, Bywong and of Palerang Council residents just southeast of the Federal Highway. Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. On contentious matters the Community Association will strive to maintain a balance. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or to nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mail them or drop them off. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before, so the deadline for the February 2018 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, January 28. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month and is also available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au.

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

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

LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	Peter Evans, Acting President	6236 9779	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Bywong Community	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, Convenor	0410 294 420	Linda.uzubalis@gmail.com
Bywong Hall Bookings	Ann Sloan, contact		lrrhallbywong@gmail.com
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	joan.mason@internode.on.net
Church - Anglican	Robyn Robertson, Warden	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	deniselynehales@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
Jack Whitney	Pet&HomeSitting,OddJobs	0437-460-236	Gabrielle Simpkin	baby sitting/pet 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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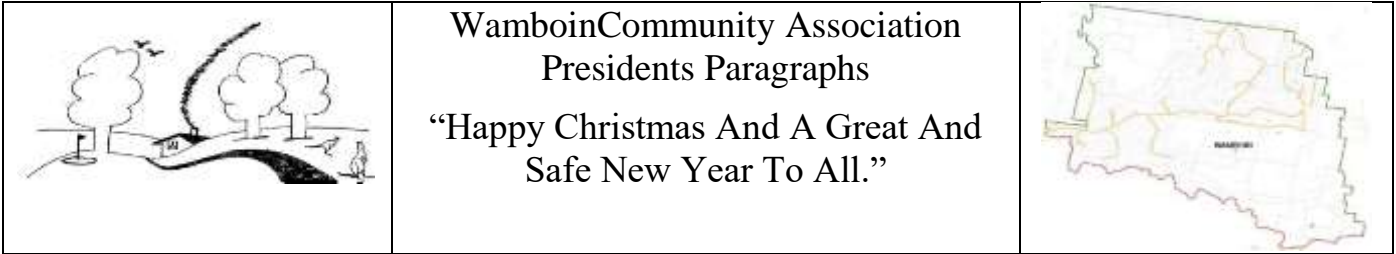
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Well another year has rapidly passed. By the time this edition hit’s post boxes, the Christmas shopping will be in full swing and hams will have been ordered. It does not seem that long ago we counted down the advent calendar and then put up the new calendar for the year of 2017. Christmas has many meanings but personally I think it all about family and friends. It’s a time of year to down tools and take a well earned break from the rush and bustle of everyday. A chance to recharge the batteries for the year ahead and relax in the hammock on a warm summers day soaking up the Wamboin doctor (the breeze that makes everything alright).

So from my family to yours, Happy Christmas and have a great New Year. Just remember one of the best messes in the world is the mess from presents on Christmas day. Don’t rush to clean it up too soon.

Christmas Carols –The famous Wamboin Community Christmas Carols and play will be held on Friday 15th December at 7:00 pm. Support your local kids and come along for unique Wamboin a Christmas event. Please show your support and contact Jenny at vicepresident@wamboincommunity.asn.au for any more details.

November Spring Talk - Mayor Tim Overall attended the November Spring talk. It was a great night to discuss his views on the direction of QPRC under this term. Tim outlined his election promises that he is now intent on delivering for the community. The discussion covered many items and his responses are outlined later in this issue of the Whisper. We thank Tim for being so accessible and attending our general meeting.

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.

Wheels of Wamboin – The popular Wheels of Wamboin is on again so pencil in Saturday 15th April 2018. Tell your friends and start preparing those sleeping beauties.

New Members – Be a part of your local community and help make Wamboin great. We welcome new members to our monthly meetings. It’s only one evening a month and you get to meet others in the local community (PS no meeting in January).

WCA Meeting – next meeting is 7.30 pm, Tuesday 19th December at the Wamboin Community Hall.

Christmas Wishes – To all our residents on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association we wish you a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year Period. It’s time for our family and friends and also time to appreciate the special people around us. We also would like to thank all the wonderful people who have made our community great over the past year. Please drive carefully on our roads over the Christmas and New Year break.

Have a magical Christmas and a Happy New Year

Let’s make Wamboin great! - Peter Evans - President.

St Andrews
Nativity Pageant
Christmas Eve
6pm

Calling all shepherds, angels,
unemployed innkeepers and wise men.

Bring your goats, sheep, donkeys and camels

Contact: Robyn-6152 1711
Gai- 6238 3899



Wheels of Wamboin 2018



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



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**Bywong
Community News**
www.bywongcommunity.org.au
Mike Wilkins, President



**MAJOR FOCUS FOR DECEMBER—GRAND OPENING OF PLAYGROUND AND XMAS DRINKS –SATURDAY
16 DECEMBER FROM 3.00 PM.**

Progress on the Playground Project: This project has been successfully completed thanks to the dedication and drive of BCA committee members and many generous community members who gave help –either financial or by “donation” of time and labour. The BCA extends sincere and grateful thanks to all those who helped in bringing this major project to fruition and in particular to those who originally conceived the idea and then tirelessly worked to make it actually happen. This new playground and the improved grounds are a real investment in the future of the general Bywong community, and this achievement deserves to be acknowledged. For new playground developments, please visit the playground facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BywongCommunityPlayground/>

It remains only to officially open the new facility, **AND SO...**

Grand Opening of the Playground: The official opening of the playground will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 16 December from 3.00 pm with free tickets available from the Eventbrite site. Appropriate acknowledgments to all benefactors of the playground will be made. Representative from many of the contributing companies and organisations will be present as well as a number of our local dignitaries. The opening function will have a Teddy Bear picnic theme with Santa Claus to help out with gifts for children. This has been sponsored by many local businesses, and it is anticipated that we may make this an annual event for the local nippers. For more information please see the Eventbrite site (look for the-bywong-community-playground-grand-opening-teddy-bears-picnic-community-christmas-gathering-tickets).

If you have missed out on getting a free ticket to this event and the following Xmas Drinks please email. Bywongplaygroundgrandopening@gmail.com to register your attendance. This offer will remain open till early in December. The Grand Opening will be immediately followed by the traditional BCA Xmas Drinks at the Bywong Hall – **AND SO**

BCA Annual Xmas Drinks: This traditional function will be held immediately after the playground opening and a large contingent of residents from Bywong, Wamboin and surrounding areas is expected. This is a great opportunity to catch up with neighbours and friends, and although some nibbles and drinks will be provided by the BCA attendees are invited to bring their own refreshments if they feel so inclined. Of course all children will be welcome to use and test out the playground while their parents are generally socialising.

Directions of BCA into 2018 and Beyond: The new grounds and playground are a major community resource, and while the BCA has been heavily involved in this development –and we will continue our interest – we would very much welcome any help from the wider community who will be using the facilities in general maintenance of the playground, hall and grounds/new gardens etc. This could be organized through semi-regular working bees and the like, and we will canvass support for this at a later date.

In addition to the annual Car Boot Sale and Trivia night, the BCA is also considering holding events like outdoor film nights, or even a short film festival. Again if people would like to help these efforts or have any ideas for what they think might work, please let us know by coming along to one of our regular meetings and telling us about the proposal.

Tea-towel Project and Other Entrepreneurial Activities: JP Favre continues to produce and promote these excellent novelty items. The BCA's latest foray into marketing these towels and other craft items was at the recent Queanbeyan show. Together the tea towels, cards and other items produced by JP and others are expected to remain a steady source of revenue for the BCA over the next few years.

New BCA Website: The site contains a great deal of pertinent information regarding Bywong and the surrounding district. It is very easy to navigate and may be found at <http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au/bywong/>.

Next Meeting: The BCA holds regular meetings at the Bywong Hall, which are open to all local residents. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 30 November at 7.30 pm at the hall.

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Wamboin Christmas Home Produce and Craft Market with Landcare

Saturday 16 December 9am-12md

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


The November market saw some new stallholders join us with Kathleen selling her delicious scones, jam and cream and James showcasing his handmade beads and bracelets. Poetry in Motion returned to entertain us, much to everyone's delight. They really do play for all ages! Landcare brought a trailer load of tube stock and will be back this coming month. The Sutton Road Mission District supplied Christmas cakes and other goodies and will return for the Christmas market.

We flag the following:

- **Saturday 16 December 2017.** *Forgotten those last minute gifts?* Christmas market: cakes and other Christmas goodies, and last minute gifts on offer. Music a plenty. Tube stock from Landcare....more.....
- **Saturday 20 January 2018** - *Getting to that stage where you need new things to entertain the kids over the summer holidays? Made a New Year Resolution to improve your fitness levels?* The market will combine again with the Wamboin Trail Runners– this time including half marathon, 12 km, 1.5 km kids races and novelty races back at the Community Hall for the littlies. *See elsewhere in the Whisper for details and watch out for more advertising about this event nearer to the time.*
- **Saturday 17 February 2018** – *Feeling like a lazy Saturday before all that school sport starts up again?* Contentious Character will host a wine tasting at the markets. What better than to choose your wines, check out the market and then move on up the road to Contentious Character to collect your wines and have lunch!

We are always open to more new ideas especially if they connect local business or young entrepreneurs with the markets. 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 CHRISTMAS and SUMMER MARKETS!

	<h3 style="margin: 0;">WAMBOIN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">Friday, December 15th 2017 @7:00pm At Wamboin CommunityHall,BingleyWay</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Everyone is invited to come along and ...</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">Join in the singing of Christmas Carols (both traditional and modern), ably led byour local musicians</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">Listen to a special performance by the Playgroup children.</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">Experience the Christmas Story, as presented by the children of Wamboin.</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">Give generously to the Giving Tree (gifts and non-perishable food, preferably unwrapped or in a Christmas bag) for distribution by the Salvos.</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">Say Hi to Santa when he arrives on his special transport, a FireTruck.</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">Enjoy the traditional free sausage sizzle (There will be a donation box with all proceeds to be given to the Salvos) .</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">Soothe your tired vocal chords with a cold drink.</p>
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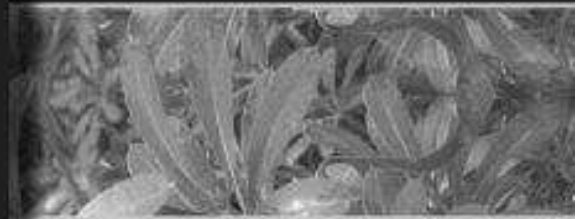
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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For the December Bird of the Month I chose the Sacred Kingfisher which is a summer migrant to Wamboin who has been calling at our house for the past month – a call you may also have heard.

Sacred Kingfisher (*Todiramphus sanctus*) Size: 20-23 cm

Status: Fairly common breeding summer migrant

This bird is mostly a creamy-white colour, with aqua-blue on its back, tail, wings and on top of its head. It also has a black stripe through the eye and a large bill. Sacred kingfishers are summer migrants to this area, so look for them between September and April. These birds have a distinctive call: a loud eeh-eeh-eeh-eeh, repeated several times. They are found in the tree canopy and are usually in pairs. Although they are only found during the summer months, they breed in

Wamboin. Unusually for a kingfisher, they are not normally found near water and rarely eat fish or other water animals. (Photo sourced from Google Images)

Wamboin Book Club

Gail Ritchie Knight

The Wamboin Book Club recently held its last meeting for 2017. In fact, it was our end-of-year party and I'm afraid we didn't get around to discussing much in the way of books. But 2018 we'll be back on track. Alice Scott, our inaugural convenor for more than a decade, has decided to hand over the baton at our next meeting in February. She has done a wonderful job of keeping us in tow. I, in particular appreciate her commitment to the group — always there on time regardless of the weather.

Our group is not large so there is plenty of room for new members. If you like the idea of discussing a variety of books, both fiction and non-fiction, then come along to next year's February meeting. It will also be an opportunity to meet other people from the region. The more networks we build, the better sense of community we have. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month not including January. Next meeting: Wednesday 7th February 2018

Everyone is welcome at St Andrew's church, corner of Norton and Poppet Roads, Wamboin on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm. For more information contact [Alice Scott 6238 3178](mailto:Alice.Scott@62383178).

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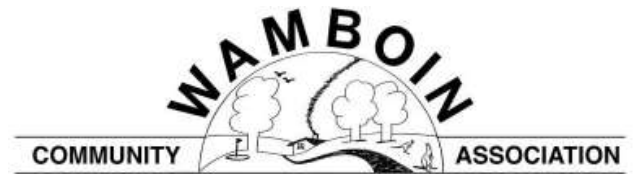
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SPRING TALKS 2017 – “THE QPRC TALK”



Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Mayor, Tim Overall, was the guest speaker at the Wamboin Community Association's (WCA's) third and final Spring Talk – 2017 at the Wamboin Community Hall on Tuesday 21 November. In a break from the traditional “presentation and Q&A” format, WCA President, Peter Evans, asked the Mayor a series of questions, which are published here along with the Mayor's responses. The interview was followed by a Q&A session and light refreshments. (*Questions posed by the WCA President are preceded by “Q”, in bold italics.*)

General:

Q) What are your priorities, as Mayor, for Council for the next three years? What key outcomes (as different from activities) do you want to achieve by September 2020?

Mayor Overall referred the audience to the Group A Election Campaign Flyer “Your Vision, Our Commitment” as distributed by Australia Post to all letter boxes from 27 October 2017 (which many attendees said they had not received). He said the flyer lists nine regional commitments for inclusion in Delivery Program and that commitments for inclusion in Delivery Program for Bungendore - Bywong – Wamboin are shown as (1) New sports complex and new Mick Sherd Oval facilities; (2) Town Centre improvements; (3) New Halfway Creek Bridge, Bungendore Road.



QPRC Mayor Tim Overall (L) answering questions from WCA President Peter Evans (R)

Budget

Q) What are the proposed Special Rate Variations for the next Delivery Plan?

“Council's next Delivery Program will cover the period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2021. In announcing the merger, the NSW Government announced a rate path freeze for a four-year period (up until 2020). The next Delivery Program will not contain a Special Rate Variation. The Long Term Financial Plan which makes up the draft Resourcing Strategy references the possibility of an increase in general rates of 1% above the rate peg limit set by the Independent and Pricing Regulatory Tribunal.”

Q) What items are in the proposed budget in the Wamboin area?

“The 2017-18 Operational Plan can be found at <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-business/Budgets-and-planning>.

Council has allocated:

- \$700,000 towards the Macs Reef Landfill reinstatement.
- more than \$9M towards upgrades to local regional and state road networks.
- The full grading, resealing and rehabilitation program is currently being developed and will be implemented in early 2018. At the moment there are 3 reseals planning in Wamboin area for the 2017-18 resealing season –
 1. Norton Road, 500m past Bingley Way
 2. Bungendore Road, from Doust Road to the Federal Highway.
 3. Bungendore road, from Millyn Road towards Emu Flat. This section of road consists of a considerable amount of heavy patching to be completed prior to the reseal taking place.

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There will be further reseals programed in the Wamboin area in the following year's schedule, but exact locations have not yet been finalised. Apart from the reseals there will be routine maintenance carried out consisting of, but not limited to, such things as pothole patching, edge repairs, shoulder grading, drainage works, tree trimming and ground vegetation control. The Forward Capital Works Program will be included in the Delivery Program for 2018-2021. This document will be developed in consultation with council and the community in early 2018. It is expected that public exhibition will occur in March-April 2018."

QPRC Local Environmental Plan

Q) What is the scope and timetable for developing a QPRC LEP?

"The current timetable remains as previously reported to Council at its meeting of 28 September 2016 which is:

Task	Targeted Date for Completion
Discuss the project and requirements with government agency staff	30 December 2016
Compare land use permissibility, prohibitions in a matrix of principal local environmental plans	30 December 2016
Compare provisions including land uses, lot sizes, height	30 December 2016
Undertake current local environmental planning tasks. For example:	September 2017
-Palerang Local Environmental Plan 2014 – heritage items - Palerang Local Environmental Plan 2014 – vegetation layer	September 2017
Prepare draft local environmental plan (including maps) except for the challenging issues and the Planning Proposal	September 2017
Prepare an issues paper on the challenging issues. For example:	September 2017
- E4 Environmental Living - RU1 minimum lot size - RU1 'averaging' subdivision provision	
Councillor workshop on the challenging issues.	October 2017
Finalise the draft local environmental plan	December 2017
Council resolution to send the Planning Proposal to the Minister	March 2018
Gateway determination	April 2018
Government consultation	June 2018
Community consultation	October 2018
Council meeting to consider report on submissions	December 2018
Amend draft local environmental plan	March 2019
Council recommendation to adopt draft local environmental plan	April 2019
Prepare report for the Department of Planning and Environment	April 2019
Gazettal of the draft local environmental plan	June 2019
Inform government agencies and community of the gazettal of the draft local environmental plan	July 2019

For the comprehensive Local Environmental Plan (LEP) the preferred scope at this stage would be essentially an administrative merger of the six principal local environmental plans currently applying to the LGA. However at the same time there is recognition of a number of priority policy issues (some being long standing ones) which the comprehensive LEP will also address. These are:

- Review of E4 Environmental Living zone (with a focus on Bywong and Wamboin),
- Rural Lands Study, and
- Proposed Bungendore Aged Care Facility.

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Responsible person to feed 3 cats
and 2 dogs for 4 days
from 23 to 27 December at
Bingley Way.
Please call Jo – 6238 3788



This preferred scope for the comprehensive LEP has been reported to the Planning and Strategy meeting of 8 November 2017 and staff intend to report to Council on the first two issues at the meeting of 13 December 2017.

However in addition to the comprehensive LEP Council will be continuing with other land-use projects such as the planning proposal for the rezoning of North Bungendore (Elmslea – 300 lots) and the planning proposal for the rezoning of South Jerrabomberra (1500 lots in total including South Tralee). Should these be finalised in time then they will also be incorporated into the comprehensive LEP.”



- **L to R: WCA President Peter Evans, Mayor Tim Overall, Bywong Community President Mike Wilkins at the WCA Spring Talk**

Lands arrangements, Council has made no provision for improvement or maintenance of such areas should this occur, nor is it in any foreshadowed budget.”

Roads

Q) Please explain the difference between local, State and Federal roads in terms of funding and maintenance responsibilities.

Mayor Overall provided information in a handout that will be published on the WCA website and in an upcoming issue of the Wamboin Whisper.

Q) Wamboin and Bywong’s roads have sections that are potholes over potholes. What road projects are specifically proposed for the Wamboin area in the term of the current Council? .

“Bitumen Resealing 17/18: Bungendore Road – Doust Road to Federal Highway; Bungendore Road – Emu Flat to Millyn Road

Routine maintenance 17/18: Maintenance grading of unsealed roads; Vegetation control; Drainage maintenance; Pothole patching

The reconstruction of about 1km of Macs Reef Road on the Federal Highway end is also proposed however this may not be done until later in 2018.

The Possible Construction Projects over the next few years are:

- Macs Reef Road: Pavement rehabilitation – from CH880m Federal Highway to CH2380
- Bungendore Road: Pavement rehabilitation – from Macs Reef Road to Summerhill Road
- Bungendore Road: Halfway Creek Bridge Replacement”



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Greenways

Q) The Wamboin/Bywong Greenways - official and informal - are among the key assets of the QPRC area. What action is Council taking, or will it take, to remediate the severely damaged parts of the Greenways Network, and to expand, protect and strengthen the Network, such as when Crown Roads are released?

“QPRC Service Manager – Urban Landscapes, Tim Geyer, advises that a small amount of money has been made available for Greenways maintenance and that he has been liaising with the relevant s355 Committee to identify priority areas for maintenance. He considers it would be beneficial for staff to review the situation on site. Tim is the contact point in Council in regard to Greenways. In terms of new areas that may come under Council’s control as a result of changes to the Crown

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Road Safety

Q) Does Council have Road Safety Officers/Co-ordinators as do other Councils? If so, what are their roles and activities, what have they achieved and what goals do they aim to achieve over the next three years?

Q) Is there a Road Safety Committee and, if so, what is its composition, what does it do, and what outcomes has it achieved to date?

Mayor Overall provided information in a handout that will be published on the WCA website and in an upcoming issue of the Wamboin Whisper.

Companion Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership

Q) Roaming domestic dogs are a major issue in our area with numerous attacks on stock and wildlife reported to Council. We are pleased to see recent advertisements for the new role of Animal Management Officer. The WCA will be happy to work with this Officer to arrange community meetings and other avenues for advertising their remit and providing community education on responsible pet ownership. Has the position been filled and how do we best engage with the newly appointed Officer?

“In developing its Transition Structure, Council took into consideration the vast area it covers and the issues with roaming dogs, especially in rural areas. In doing so, Council has created a new position for an Animal Management Officer. The recruitment process that is currently underway (interviews late October), will result in two Animal Management Officers being appointed. It is expected that these two officers will rotate between the Queanbeyan Pound and Bungendore Office with the intention of undertaking more patrols in rural areas and working with groups such as yours on education. The Association is encouraged to engage with Sheree Curwen, our Animal Management Team Leader and when resources become available, we will be in a better position to provide education and information to your Association.”

Social Development

Q) We are aware Council has Community Development Officers but are unaware who they are, what their roles are, and what they achieve. Please discuss.

Mayor Overall provided information in a handout that will be published on the WCA website and in an upcoming issue of the Wamboin Whisper.

Community Services

Community Health Services for the Wamboin area

Q) Wamboin residents have access to medical services in Bungendore and Queanbeyan. However, more is needed for community services in our area including those focusing on ageing in place and preventive health services. Please discuss Council's plans.

“QPRC plays an important role in planning programs and developing/encouraging community networks. We recognise and support Seniors' Week, and are aware that the current QPRC Active Ageing Strategy 2014-2017, will need to be reviewed. We also promote healthy eating and activity programs through schools throughout the region. However, QPRC does not provide Community Health Services directly. NSW Health offers the Community Health service in Queanbeyan and the surrounding region. According to their web page, “...a range of health services are provided to the local community. Services include Community Nursing, counselling, children's services, women's health, sexual health, immunisation, continence nurses, ACAT, asthma clinic, OT for children, dementia advice, diabetes education, physiotherapy, dietician, cancer care, foot clinic, audiology, lactation consultant, men's health, needle exchange, sexual assault counselling, palliative care, TB service, and social work. Contacts for further Community Health information are:

Harry Williams, Director of Nursing - harry.williams@health.nsw.gov.au/6150 7237

Dot Nicholson, Community Nursing Manager - dorothy.nicholson@health.nsw.gov.au/ 6150 7507.”

Crisis Response Service

Q) What action is Council taking, or will it take, to have an ambulance station located in Bungendore?

Mayor Overall committed to taking this up with the Minister for Health/Ambulance Service of NSW to ascertain current position and forward plans.

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Christmas

The brigade members wish you a fire safe Christmas and New Year, and to thank you for your ongoing support.

The Wamboin Bushfire Brigade volunteers are members of our community that repeatedly provide their time to support those impacted by bushfires, severe weather events and motor vehicle accidents. These volunteers and their families have a multitude of other commitments that they put on hold when the need arises and this has in the past included missing Christmas lunch.

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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'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

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Sheronypark@bigpond.com

www.sheronypark.com.au

M: 0422 244 433 Sutton NSW E: sheronypark@bigpond.com

St Andrews, Wamboin and St Peters, Sutton (SRMD) Church Notices

Christmas is just around the corner; a very special time of the year and a busy time in the Church calendar.

Advent studies begin at St Andrews, 7pm on Tuesday 28th November, and will continue at the same place at the same time for the next two weeks. Come along and share with others insights and the message of Christmas.

Thursday, 30th November, is St Andrews Patronal Festival, celebrating Andrew, our Patron Saint. There will be a communion service at 6pm followed by a Pot Luck dinner, which is always a very happy occasion.

On Saturday, 2nd December, from 4-7pm, the Sutton District Christmas Party is at the Sutton Oval. The congregation is providing food and drink with proceeds to the SRMD.

Join the **carol singing at St Peters, December 10th at 6pm** and afterwards enjoy some Christmas food and drinks. There will be a Church **Christmas stall** with cakes, short bread and Christmas baubles at the **Wamboin Markets on Saturday, 16th December.**

All shepherds, angels, wise men and inn keepers looking for a Nativity pageant will find one at St Andrews on Christmas Eve. Starting time is 6pm. Come along in costume, no rehearsal required. There will be some props available at the church, and flocks of sheep or goats, and alpacas masquerading as camels, are welcome. If you have any questions, please phone Robyn or Gai, listed below.

There will be a communion service at St Peters, 9am, Christmas Eve, and following the Nativity, a communion service at St Andrews.

The Christmas Day service will be at 9am, at St Andrews.

On New Years Eve there will be a Watchnight service at St Andrews, starting at 9pm.

Kids Club will be in recess for the NSW School holidays.

Services are held on the first and third Sunday of each month at St Andrews, and the second and fourth Sunday at St Peters. All services start at 9am, followed by a delicious morning tea and a chat with others from our communities. For any further information, be it about a wedding, baptism, funeral service or pastoral care, please call anyone listed below.

Pastor Ven Dr Royce Thompson 0416265600 Robyn Robertson 61521711 Dr David McCarthy 0409383620
Alan Rope 0429434944 Gai Donald 62383899



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P: 0433 702 308

E: sztrural@yahoo.com.au

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Bywong Community Notices

Saturday 16 December at 3 pm – Official opening of the new playground followed by traditional Bywong Xmas Drinks.

For further details see the BCA column near start of Whisper.

HELP the HALL –

BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL NEEDS YOU!!!

The Bywong Hall is now 27 years old and in need of a little attention. For example, we need to fill some gaps between the ceiling and wall. This would not be a problem except that they entice little bats to squeeze through and hang around the light pole! There are a few more window gaps that could be filled (floor level) to keep in the warmth in winter, and a cupboard door or two that needs to be fixed. If you have handyman skills and some time- would you let us know please.

Contact the Hall Bookings Officer lrhallbywong@gmail.com with your details and we'll be in touch.

Willy Willy at Macs Reef Waste Transfer Station

From the person attending the WTS on Sunday morning, November 26, I learned that on Saturday afternoon, November 25, an incoming resident stopped his ute at the shed at the entrance to discuss his load. Just at that moment a strong willy willy cyclonic wind swooped down at the back of the ute. Because he was inside the ute, the driver could not see what came at him from above and behind. The willy willy pulled open the tops of the wheely bins. Within seconds it sucked great volumes of paper and other materials a hundred meters or more into its swirling upward rush. It scattered many of them around the entrance and other parts of the WTS. Many more seemed to go hundreds of meters upward, then southward, beyond the boundaries of the Transfer Station, then gently descended. In the few seconds while this was happening, the driver inside the ute said "What the ***** was that?"

The worker said it took a long time to pick up those inside the WTS. None were noticeable on Sunday around 9 am.

– Ned Noel



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Wildcare: Wrapping Up 2016–17

Recent statistics for Wildcare show that over the past year we responded to over 3300 calls about wildlife needing help. The largest number of calls related to macropods (1560) – mostly eastern grey kangaroos, as well as wallabies and the odd wallaroo. Road collisions were the primary reason for more than half of macropod calls (56%). Other reports were for



orphaned or abandoned joeys (often related to road deaths of mother), those caught in fencing, and dog attacks. Over summer, due to the bushfires in the region, we also assessed or brought in to care around 75 macropods with burn injuries. Other burn victims included birds, possums, echidnas and wombats.

Around 1000 calls about birds came in, making this the second most-reported animal type needing assistance. A diversity of species was called in, from common magpies, cockatoos and rosellas etc. to several raptors and some with unusual names, such as the olive-backed oriole, nankeen night-heron and white-winged triller. The main reasons for calls also

varied and included habitat loss, juveniles needing care, car collisions, cat attacks, disease, domestic escape/release and others. In many cases injured birds are found with cause unknown.

Reptiles also made up a large bulk of calls (438) to Wildcare, including lizards, the eastern long-necked turtle and snakes. As for all wildlife, many reptiles were found injured on roads, particularly turtles for which this was the main reason for reporting (65 calls). Many lizards were victims of cat or dog attacks (79) and a fair number, along with snakes, had become entangled or trapped in netting or similar materials (26). Snake calls (230) are quite different to those for other reptiles, as people tend to report sightings of snakes in their gardens or on their properties. A few frogs and monitors were called in, and this year we had a blind snake called in from Burra – a rarely-seen species.

Small mammals included possums, gliders, bats, echidnas and native rats (antechinus) – a total of 222 calls for a range of reasons. The 90 calls about brushtail possums, for example, were due to loss of parents, habitat loss, entrapment, being hit by cars and dog attacks, among others. There were more than 20 calls about gliders over the year - mainly for sugar gliders, a few feathertails and one greater glider. The stats show that sugar gliders are particularly susceptible to attack by cats, dogs and birds. Of the small mammals, 32 bat calls were received; most being microbats and others included the Lesser Long-eared bat, Little Forest bat and the wattled bat species. There were over 30 calls about flying foxes (most Grey-headed), often due to entanglement, electrocution or young being orphaned.

Wombats form another category, and over the year there were 88 calls received caused by car collisions (31), skin disease – mange (21), and being orphaned (13).

So, what is the outcome for all of these calls about wildlife in strife? Our statistics for all wildlife called in during 2016-17 show that: 1434 died or were euthanised; 584 were released or relocated; 357 were taken into care; 326 are unknown; 278 disappeared (before rescue); 172 were transferred to other wildlife groups and Vets; and, 125 were left alone and observed.

Wildcare is run totally by volunteers and has charity status. If you would like to make a donation (tax deductible), then check out their website: wildcare.com.au. Contact Wildcare on 6299 1966 (put it in your mobile).

- Merran Laver, For Wildcare

Photo: Lesley releases a Tawny Frogmouth

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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)

November Rainfall Stats

November rainfall to the 26th 47.0mm
2017 total rainfall to 26/11..... 402.75mm

Average November rainfall..... 77.8mm
2016 November rainfall..... 62.25mm
2016 total rainfall to 26/11..... 836.0mm

December Rainfall Stats

2016 December rainfall..... 57.75mm
Wettest December..... 177.75mm in 2010
Wettest day..... 68mm on 2/12/10
Driest December..... 0mm in 1979

Average December rainfall..... 62.9mm
Average no. rain days in December... 8.2
Highest no. rain days..... 17 in 2010
Lowest no. rain days..... 0 in 1979

December Temperature Stats

Hottest December day... 37°C on 22/12/94
Coldest December day.. 12°C on 16/12/16
Average day temperature..... 25.1°C
Warmest December 1990
(Av. day temp. 29.4°C & night 14.3°C)
(warmest night 14.9°C in 1994)

Av. Dec. temp.. 18.7°C (day+night comb.)
Hottest December night.... 23°C (2 times)
on 20/12/94 & 24/12/05
Coldest Dec. night..... 2°C on 5/12/11
Average night temperature..... 12.3°C
Coldest December 2011
(Av. day temp. 19.5°C & nights 8.7°C)

The mean annual rainfall is 701.1mm and Year-to-end of November is 632.5mm

Driest year was 1982 with 364mm

January Rainfall Stats

2017 January rainfall..... 12.75mm
Wettest January..... 197.5mm in 1995
Wettest day..... 74mm on 21/1/95
Driest January 5.5mm in 2010

Average January rainfall..... 61.0mm
Average no. rain days in January..... 7.5
Highest no. rain days..... 16 in 1976 & 78
Lowest no. rain days..... 2 in 2003 & 14

January Temperature Stats

Hottest January day..... 39°C on 16/1/98
Coldest Jan. day..... 12°C on 29 & 30/1/78
Average day temperature..... 27.3°C
Warmest January 1981
(Av. day temp. 30.6°C & night 16.8°C)
(warmest night 17.1°C in 1991)

Av. Jan. temp.. 20.7°C (day+night comb.)
Hottest January night.... 26°C on 25/1/82
Coldest Jan. night..... 5°C (4 times)
on 24/1/00, 12-3/1/12 & 1/1/13
Average night temperature..... 14.1°C
Coldest January 2012
(Av. day temp. 11.1°C & night 23.2°C)



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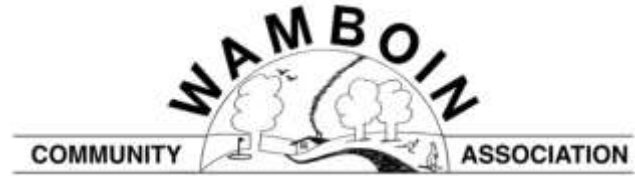


Email stokes.contractors@hotmail.com

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

Date of Meeting: 21 November 2017

Meeting chaired by: Peter Evans, President, WCA



A meeting of members of the WCA and attended by many other local residents preceded the third 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 confirmed the date for next year's Wheels of Wamboin as 14th April 2018.

Vice-President: Jenny Richards confirmed all was in order for the Christmas Carols at 7pm on 15th December, but that children were still needed for the play.

Treasurer: Keith France said that 2018's Bonfire and Fireworks event would be on 15th September.

Secretary: David McDonald advised on discussions with internet supplier OOKI regarding establishing a Wi-Fi network at the Hall.

Home Produce Market: David McDonald presented a brief report on behalf of Market Co-Convenor, Meriel Schultz, reminding everyone that the Christmas Market is on 16th December. The January market will be combined with the second Australian Mountain Running Association event and the February market will see local winery Contentious Character holding a wine tasting.

Wamboin Social Drop-in Group: Convenor Denise Hales said that the table tennis and Scrabble groups were very active. The QPRC Mobile Library attended in October as a trial and future visit dates will be advised via the normal channels, potentially including a Saturday market day.

The meeting was followed by the third WCA Spring Talk – 2017, "The QPRC Talk" during which WCA President Peter Evans "interviewed" Mayor Tim Overall, asking questions of interest to our local community. (See report 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. Next meeting Tuesday 19 December. All welcome.

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

BYWONG MOVING SALE...



PICK UP SOME BARGAINS FOR CHRISTMAS!

- Air compressor, with tyre inflator hose (new) 2.2hp 5.0L 174 litres per min (value \$550) **\$350**
- Pressure washer (new) 180 bar 522 litres per hour (value \$400) **\$200**
- Ford Ranger XLT 2017 rims (as new) **\$450**
- Cross-fit cage (new) (value \$1600) **\$1000**
- Torpedo7 mount 4 bike rack (as new) (value \$280) **\$100**
- Subaru Forester wheels (4 brand new tyres) **\$400**
- Gym equipment (used) punching bag & stand, barbell, weights and bench... **\$200** the lot!
- Action table tennis table (used, good condition) **\$100**
- Masport 6 burner BBQ (used, good condition) **\$100**
- Some furniture items...

Call Nigel 0407 434 650

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

Gail Ritchie Knight

The year is closing but the Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) continue to meet on Mondays. On the evening of Monday 11th of December we will have an end-of-year Xmas party. All WWOW past and present are welcome as well as BOWWOWs (boyfriends). If you haven't received an email regarding this event, then please drop in at the church any time from 6pm — BYO drinks and a plate of finger food to share.



In the past we have supported a village in Cambodia. Recently Sally brought along water bottle holders sewn by the village women. Sale of the bags provides an income for the women and support for their school which teaches children Khmer culture and morals, English and IT/Computing. WWOW happily snapped up many of the bottle holders. This is such a good news story



especially significant to us as a handful of WWOW had previously travelled to Cambodia specifically to teach the women basic sewing skills.

But we haven't forgotten those closer to home. This year we also made donations to both Bungendore and Sutton primary schools geared specifically to their literacy programs.

Many of us are of a certain age, but we still have family commitments. Some of us are unable to visit every week, but when we do, it's great to catch up and meet the latest grandchild or even a pet. Margaret occasionally brings her horse along — great dane actually. Beryl treated us to a lovely demonstration of her dog doing tricks. What will we see next year?

All women are welcome at St Andrew's church, corner of Norton and Poppet Roads, Wamboin on Mondays 10 am–noon. For more information contact Gail Ritchie Knight 0416 097 500 whirlwind1@argonite.com.au.

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Community Meeting Proposed Fibre Broadband Network

Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Region 13th December, 7pm, Wamboin Community Hall


The Wamboin Communications Action Group (WCAG) has been working over the last year to identify options to deliver a better broadband network for our community. Our efforts here picked up pace once it became clear that, notwithstanding our proximity to Canberra, we were being relegated to the poorest NBN option - the Satellite based SkyMuster service. You can find more details about this and the background to the group at our web site <https://sites.google.com/site/wamboincommunications/home>

A few months ago we commenced discussions with a commercial party to investigate the potential of building a local Fibre based network - with Fibre connection to the Internet delivered right to your home or business ! Significant progress has now been made and we would like to share with local residents the detail - including timing, speeds, data allowances and costs. With your support the answers you'll hear to these are 2018, very fast, lots and comparable.... in that order.

At the meeting you'll get to hear from members of the Action Group with a detailed presentation on the proposed network being delivered by our possible network builder and operator and followed by a Q&A session.

We do need your support to make this a success - so join us on the 13th to learn what is being proposed and what you have to gain by being an early participant.

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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 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
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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 . or email Ann Sloan at lrrhallbywong@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.

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Drains, Ditches and Swales

by Lofty Mason

The Hall was built in 1983, which was a very dry year. In '84 we had record rains and the large catchment area to the east of Bingley Way drained a lot of water towards the Hall. My father-in-law and I went to check and we found water banking up against the east wall of the Hall and running under the door. We dug a rough ditch to run the water down the north side of the Hall. Some time later the Council came and dug a deep drain between the Hall and the playground. A Community working bee laid an agricultural pipe and covered in the drain.

Problems with the concrete floor indicated that water was still getting under the Hall so the Council built a bank from the Hall running towards the entry gate to divert the water via a swale around the north of playground. Another swale was formed running south from the Hall however this had to be concreted when the flow of water cut this swale to a dangerous ditch. There is a slight problem with low-slung cars getting hung up on the banks however the earthworks ensure the Hall area remains high and dry.

The recent drainage works were required because with heavy rainfall the water from under the road, which was diverted by a culvert and swale along our northern boundary, combined with the overflow from the neighbouring dam to the north and flooded the western end of the parking area. During wet weather there was quite a stream behind the Hall. Access for Fire Vehicles behind the Hall was further restricted by the siting of the large RFS tank.

The Hall Management Committee contacted Nick Stokes who not only gave excellent advice but also carried out the earthworks and supply of topsoil for out-of-pocket expenses only. We now have a much enlarged parking area, good access behind the Hall, a useable grass area behind the Hall and better fire protection for the Hall and Fire Station. In case you are wondering. Swale: a small valley.

How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

The 50 or so people below each donate 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 khandel@bigpond.net.au

Joan Mason	Bingley Way	44	Margaret Hekeimin	Merino Vale Dr	19
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	31
Kathy Handel	Norton (Weerona to Hilltop+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: ph 6238 3590 jnpvds@bigpond.net.au

Sheryl Barnes	Denley Dr (Sth End 1/2 way2 Kestral)	15	Rhonda&Neville Parnell	Denley Dr (Birchmans to 1/2 way to end)	26
Don Malcolmson	Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat)	7	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef Rd (Newington to Bankers)	7
Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr	35	Daryl Bourke	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott	30
Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Sandra Favre	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott	20
Carol & Clive Boughton	Macs Reef Rd (Bankers to Fed Hwy)	33	Joan 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

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			

178: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484

Diana Griffin	Majors Close	18	Judy Smith	Weeroona (254 – 400)	18
Advertisers & Misc	(Out of area mailouts)	30	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)	29			

TOTAL 1,317



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Kowen Trail Runners Return To Wamboin

On 16 June, the Wamboin Trail Runners Inc. held the inaugural Kowen Trail Run. The event, attracted over 250 competitors and their families. Being a not for profit event, proceeds from the race (\$5,000 in total) were donated to the Wamboin Rural Fire Service.

On 20 January, in conjunction with the Wamboin Home Produce Market, a second Kowen Trail Run event, the 'New Year's Resolution Run', will once again see competitors running up Bingley Way and into the Council Reserve.



Three run/walks are planned. A 21.1 km trail half marathon, a 12 km trail and a 1.5 km kids trail run/walk. The half marathon will see competitors running into the eastern reaches of Kowen Forest and summiting the formidable Mt Amungula before returning to the Community Hall. The 12 km will be held on trails within the Council Reserve while the 1.5 km kids trail run/walk will be held in the bush behind the Community Hall.

The event will also include novelty races for junior runners, five years and under.

Local vineyard and restaurant, Contentious Character, will once again be sponsoring the event and race organisers are hoping

to match June participation rates.

One spin-off of the event has been the improvement of trails within the Council Reserve. Regular visitors to the reserve will be well acquainted with the two main trails, the saddle trail linking Bingley Way with Kowen Forest and the southern boundary trail which follows the boundary with Kowen Forest. In addition, Wamboin Trail Runners have been busy maintaining some existing but less well used trails in the forest, raking them and placing fallen timber along the edges to make them easier to follow. Long after the event, the improved trails will remain as a legacy for locals wishing to enjoy this important local greenway.

For further information on the event visit kowen-trail-run.com or visit the Kowen Trail Run Facebook page.

– Pam Muston

Letter

Having read the recent Whisper articles on the poor status of the internet in Wamboin; an issue I am personally



connected to – about the only reliable connection around here, one can only imagine my surprise when I discovered the underlying cause of our problems on a recent holiday to Western Australia. We observed the below sign showing exactly why we have such poor internet – it is actually hidden down a backstreet of Hyden near Wave Rock! -- Paul Downey

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New hand wraps \$10.00 a set New boxing boots \$70.0 a pair 50 x padded fold-up seats \$2.00 each

Phone Jo 6257 7381 (w) or e-mail: jo@empirechambers.com.au

Nature Notes - November 2017

Jo Walker

Although we haven't had much rain this month, the landscape here is still quite green. But the soil is getting dry again and we've already had two summer-like days with temperatures of 30 degrees.

The countryside is bright with golden yellow, cream and white flowers at present, the dominant colours of Australian plants in this area. The tall robust Cauliflower Bushes (*Cassinia longifolia*) are displaying their large white flowerheads as a backdrop along the roadsides to lots of golden Sticky Everlasting Daisies (*Xerochrysum viscosum*). Clustered Everlasting Daisies (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*) are less common, but also occur in this area. They are about 40 cm tall and crowned with clusters of tiny yellow button flowers. The ground-hugging, suckering little *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* are also showing some small yellow flowers above their grey-green leaves. And the white flowers of the Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans*) are covering an increasing area of roadsides every Spring.

Black Wattles (*Acacia mearnsii*) have been flowering heavily this year, bearing clouds of cream flowers. Those at the bottom of the hill on Norton Road and along Sutton Road have been flowering for some time now. But, two very large ones at my place are only just beginning to show a few flowers. It shows what a difference elevation and aspect can make to plants.

Years ago, I planted a few *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* here (they are South Australian trees, but often used locally, sometimes as street trees). They bear masses of red, pink or white flowers at this time of the year and seem to be a favourite food source for the Red Wattlebirds and Noisy Friarbirds. There are often disputes as to whose trees they are, but, so far this year, the Wattlebirds seem to have the flowers to themselves.

There were four Kookaburras calling loudly for some time from the trees in the driveway this morning – looked like two adults and two young ones. Some birds began nest-building quite early this year so there could already be some young birds around. I recently saw a pair of Eastern Spinebills flying back and forth to a large *Melaleuca linariifolia*. I could hear grateful nestlings but the foliage was dense enough to hide the nest. And, this morning, I saw a pair of Spotted Pardalotes pulling strong fibres off a wide strip of bark which had fallen from a dead Stringybark Tree. Both finally flew off with their booty to build their nest at the end of a long tunnel in a creek bank or a steep piece of hillside.

One morning recently, there was a freshly dead Kangaroo in the dam, presumably another victim of an attack by roaming dogs as Kangaroos often take refuge in a dam under those circumstances. But, it seems, one animal's disaster is another's gift. A few days later, two small Long-necked Turtles had found the corpse and were snapping at and catching flies and maggots infesting it. Although the dam is getting low, there are still several large Long-necked Turtles visible at times.

The Swamp Wallabies seem to be visiting here more frequently. There were three up on the hill opposite the house a few days ago – a large male and a female with a joey.

After my sighting of the Wombat with a little joey in her pouch, I hadn't seen her again for nearly two months – although fresh droppings now and then indicated she was still around. Then, one evening, I looked out of the kitchen window while I was washing up not expecting to see anything in particular. And there she was – with the little joey out of the pouch and close beside her as they nibbled the grass together. A lovely sight to end the day.

The 2017 Regional Wellbeing Survey Is Now Open – Please Consider Taking Part

This survey is really important for Wamboin and for the wider QPRC LGA! It has been conducted annually since 2013, and is a survey of residents living in Australia's rural and regional areas. It examines the wellbeing of people in rural and regional communities, and how this wellbeing is influenced by the many social, economic and environmental changes occurring in these communities. The results of the survey enable the provision of insights that support the development of strategies to build wellbeing, resilience and adaptive capacity in rural and regional Australia. The survey produces high quality data from University of Canberra researchers committed to examining the issues that matter to people living in rural and regional Australia.

Your participation in the survey makes a difference, as it means that the University of Canberra research team can produce data communities like ours can use to inform our planning and decision making. This year the survey has a special section asking about access to support, including how easy it is to access support services such as GPs, mental health and other services in our community.

The data from the 2016 survey are here

<http://www.canberra.edu.au/research/faculty-research-centres/ceraph/regional-wellbeing/survey-results/2016-survey-results>. In 2016, only 127 people from the LGAs of Queanbeyan-Palerang, Yass, and the rural parts of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) took part in the survey. Let's see if we can boost the western Palerang numbers for 2017!

Do the survey online at www.regionalwellbeing.org.au . Call 1800 981 499 if you'd like a paper survey, or for help with the survey. All survey participants aged 18 or over can enter the draw to win one of 16 prizes worth a total of \$7,000. Winners receive their choice of either a Flight Centre, Coles-Myer, WISH or Bunnings giftcard, to the following value - First prize: \$2,000; Second prize: \$1,000; third to sixth prize: \$500; 10 runner-up prizes of \$200. The survey is voluntary, confidential and anonymous, and **closes on 21 December 2017, at midnight**. Thank you for taking the time to participate, and for sharing your valuable insights. - **David McDonald, Wamboin**

Are You Looking For Funding For Your Community Group?

Are you from one of the following?

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

Are you located in one of these local government areas?

- Goulburn Mulwaree
- Upper Lachlan
- Oberon
- Former Palerang
- Wiggamillie
- Wodanilly
- Shoalhaven

Grant and Donation Funding

The Veolia Mulwaree Trust runs three funding rounds per year and has provided over \$6.5 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.veoliamulwareetrust.org.au

Veolia Mulwaree Trust

Wamboin Community Carols Night

Yes it's fast approaching that time of the year again. Christmas is much closer than you think and the annual Wamboin Community Carols Night is likewise much closer too. Put on by the Wamboin Community Association this is a wonderful way to celebrate the end of the year with a community get together. This is a non-denominational event and the emphasis is 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 its rather 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 15th December 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Community Hall in Bingley Way. 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.

Early Tomatoes

I need to tell someone that I had ripe tomatoes on the 22nd of November. This has broken my all time record. I attach the photo as proof although not much point in printing it in the black and white Whisper. Lofty Mason.



Wamboin Golf – November 2017

Your correspondent recently celebrated a significant birthday ending in zero. I won't tell you what it was. Many readers of these reports think they're written by a 12-year-old and I don't want to puncture their illusions. I mention it merely to emphasise the passage of time leading us to the 32nd Wamboin Open which was contested on Sunday, 5 November, a warm breezy late Spring day. The Open is sponsored by the Wamboin Golf Club which we thank for the refreshments and prizes. And speaking of food a special thanks to Joan and her legion of helpers in the kitchen. Thanks also to Jerry at Dan Murphy's for some wine and the handy carry bags. Out on the course a rare Phoenix egg was discovered - actually a melted golf ball found in the ashes of the bonfire from that September night of the world famous Wamboin Fireworks staged by local pyrotechnical engineer, Robert Louis Stevenson (Stevenson's Rocket), and the rest of the team at Fireworks Australia. More of that later.

Back at the station while the captain toted the scores we all scratched our heads at the plight of the poor old federal government and its run of bad luck over the dual citizenship imbroglio. It seems the High Court has confirmed that two isn't, in fact, better than one (even if you're a Tasmanian). The court appeared to reaffirm an earlier judgement that unless you've taken "reasonable steps" to repudiate any previous foreign entanglements, you're gone. But you have to have done so *before* accepting the Queen's Shilling, so to speak. And talking of Her Maj, monarchists are up in arms at the suggestion that if the Constitution is to be changed to fix the section 44 mess, we may as well become a republic at the same time. Menzies would be spinning in his grave. The former PM famously said of HM QE II, "I did but see her passing by, so I hit her with a custard pie". Deep, very deep.

The captain welcomed our guests, Anna and Charles Conder. Ted Evans brought us up to date with goings-on in our twin city, Queanbeyan. The googly ball in the form of the Phoenix egg (see above) was awarded to the captain for being a hot shot – or something that sounds like it. Tim Barter got the dummy spit award for whingeing his way through the front nine while playing the game of his life (see below). The encouragement award was shared by Alex and Madison Gordon. LD and NTP ball winners were Len Ivey, Vicki Still, John Whitney 2, Charles Guscott, Tim Barter 2 and Pete Harrison 2. And now, as John Philip Sousa strikes up the band we can announce the 2017 Wamboin Open results. The eclectic nine holes, Lofty Mason. Eclectic 18 holes, Paul Griffin. Junior champion (nine holes), Phoebe Beckett 71/26. Nine hole club champion, Larry King 47/34 from runner-up Lofty Mason 48/37. 18 hole club champion, Pete Harrison 92/55, from Vicki Still 83/57 and John Whitney 3rd on 77/62. The 2017 Ladies Open Champion (nine holes) is Joan Mason 50. The 2017 Men's Open Champion is Tim Barter 70 – a new course record. Congratulations to our worthy winners and to all who took part.



With very few shopping days till Christmas, now is the time to rush out and by that new carbon fibre driver so you can dazzle us at the Wamboin Christmas competition when the community hall will be decked with boughs of holly or serrated tussock or lantana or something. Join us at 12.15pm for the 12.30 starting pistol on Sunday, 3 December. - Larry King, golfer

From the Corner

Regional Strategic Planning — While State and Local Government strategic planning can be a bit of dry subject at times, the recent release of the NSW South East and Tablelands Regional Plan 2036 seemed like an opportune time to take a brief look at the way that State-level strategic planning filters down into the local government arena.

The Plan, which is an update of the original Sydney-Canberra Corridor Regional Strategy 2006-2031, guides the NSW Government's land use planning priorities in our region. It provides an overarching framework for local strategic plans and more detailed land use plans in individual Local Government Areas. It feeds into areas such as economic development, environmental management, infrastructure planning and residential development strategies.

Apart from a degree of consistency that this promotes throughout the region, this sort of strategic planning allows local government to align relevant priorities with State government funding programs. When well-managed, this of course means that there is less pressure on, and councils have more flexibility in how they use their own rates revenues.

Another aspect of this recent Plan is that it formally recognises our proximity to Canberra and acknowledges the influence of the ACT on all aspects of the regional economy.

Only five years ago I sat in a meeting to provide feedback on a draft of the NSW Transport Master Plan for our region. I found it incredible that, until that meeting, this Plan, the 20-year master plan for infrastructure development in our region, completely ignored the impact of any traffic—road, rail or air—that went into or came out of the ACT. Thankfully, we've come a long way since then.

The ACT Government has recognised the mutually beneficial nature of its relationship with the surrounding NSW region for some time. Being able to showcase the diversity of opportunity that our region provides has been a key element of its campaign to attract international carriers to fly directly into Canberra. This also means that the surrounding region becomes and integral part of the ACT economic development and tourism strategies, once again relieving the financial pressure on local government within the region that might otherwise be associated with the development independent local programs.

As part of the local government reforms that included the recent amalgamation of Palerang and Queanbeyan City Councils, regional local government cooperatives known as Joint Organisations (JOs) were also formalised. In a further positive development, the boundary of our local JO, the Canberra Region JO (CBRJO), has been pretty much aligned with the SE & Tablelands planning region. Importantly, recognising the role it plays in regional planning and development, the ACT Government is an associate member of the CBRJO.

For anyone interested, the new Plan can be downloaded via the 'Plans for your Area' link on the NSW Planning & Environment website.

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

Regional Strategic Planning (Nov 2017) Planning Instruments (Nov 2011)

-- Cr Pete Harrison Ph. 6238 3640 Mob. 0427 711 028 Email: contact@peteharrison.id.au

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]

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Spring finally roused itself with a little help from some timely rain. Shrubs and trees now look refreshed with new leaves and new shade, roses are blooming, lettuces are leaping out of the ground, hell bent on going to seed before I am ready to eat them, and the cunning blowflies are finding any gap in the fly screen to come inside. The days have become longer and warmer and the air is beginning to feel and sound as if Christmas is near at hand.

I'm getting prepared. There are two small Christmas puddings, tied up with string, and several fruit cakes mellowing on the kitchen bench. A youthful Margaret Fulton shared her pudding recipe with me fifty years ago. She probably looks and feels a little like her old cooking book these days....tired, faded and falling apart. She would have had me use a pudding basin but I always preferred a calico cloth because that was what my Grandmother used. To me, that's what Christmas is about....traditions.

I grew up on Christmas card images depicting snow on roof tops and on the ground, freshly cut fir trees lit with candles, jolly Father Christmas snug in his red suit, bright eyed children with mufflers, mittens and lanterns carolling at candle lit windows, and everyone tucking into a hearty evening meal warmed by rich food and the fire in the hearth. An American lad, not called Donald, once asked why we, in Australia, have Christmas in summer!! I was somewhat taken aback. However, I do feel that we, in the southern hemisphere, are duped by Christmas.....and it's not just about food.

Our Christmas trees are not fragrant with pine needles, rather a musty, old plastic smell. Outdoor "carols by candlelight" are now minus candles for fear of starting a bush fire, and jolly old Santa's cheeks, smeared with sunscreen, glow unhealthily red below a brow beaded with sweat. Instead of snow covered ground there are thirsty lawns and plants crying out for a drink! And to add insult to injury, Christmas preparations come when we're all exhausted at the end of the school and working year and just want to call it quits! Then we sit down to a traditional lunch with all the trimmings as the thermometer on the back veranda nudges 40! But, I make no apologies. As I wipe the sweat from my brow with the corner of my apron and join the others at the festive table I have to admit that I am a sucker for "tradition". And when I'm the cook, I want the best ingredients.

And so, when I went to the chook yard the other morning to collect the best and freshest eggs for the puddings, I got a surprise; something that also spells the Christmas season.

I had begun to think that just when I needed plenty of eggs for Christmas cooking our three little brown girls had gone off the lay. They deserved a bit of down time, but perhaps the crows (ravens) I'd heard each morning might have been responsible for the drop in production. I decided to keep the girls in a little later hoping to foil the feathered suspects. Then I discovered a very fat, rather unhappy shingleback wedged in the fencing wire on its way out. Another possibility! Evidence mounted against the shingleback when I found another of its ilk looking well nourished and rather smug. I promptly removed it to the other side of the wire. But on this particular morning I got a surprise that made my heart miss a beat. Sitting on a nest in a dark corner of the shed like a broody hen, with every sense of entitlement, was a neatly coiled brown snake. Finally, I had nailed the culprit!

Spring is nearly over, the weather is warming, the natural world is responding and we in the southern hemisphere are starting to prepare for a traditional Christmas and gift giving. And the greatest gift I could wish for this Christmas is not snow, but mild weather and enough rain to fill our dam and yours.

Happy Christmas wherever you are.....I'll be here because....I wouldn't live anywhere else.

You're invited to the....
Bywong Playground Grand Opening *Bywong Community*
Teddy Bears Picnic 
16th December 2017, 3:00 – 6:00pm @ the Les Reardon Reserve, 67 Birriwa Road, Bywong

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 Godmother* and more! There's going to be a sausage sizzle, **cupcakes** 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

