



The Whisper

March 2018 CIRCULATION: 1,312

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

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the Wamboin Community Association which started The Whisper as a community newsletter in 1981 and continues to own it. The newsletter comes out at the start of each month, except January. It is distributed to all letterboxes in Wamboin, Bywong and of Palerang Council residents just southeast of the Federal Highway. Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. On contentious matters the Community Association will strive to maintain a balance. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or to nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mail them or drop them off. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before, so the deadline for the April 2018 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, March 25. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month and is also available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au.

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	
Wambn/Bngndr Book Group	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	Sally.saunders1@bigpond.com
Wamboin Thurs Social Grp	Denise Hales, contact	0400 310 685	deniselynnehales@gmail.com

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Alana Stenning	Pet sitting	6238 3030	Lydia Milos	Babysitting, petsitting	6238 3559
Fiona Skea	baby sitting	6238 3290	Ashleigh Caird	baby sitting	6238 0746
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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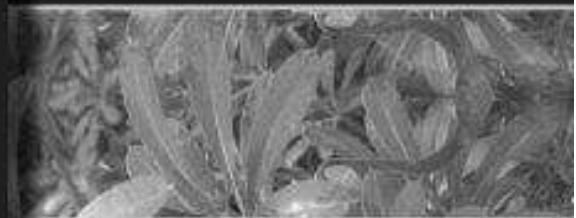
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Calendula Flowers high in pro-Vitamin A to aid in healing body tissue and inflammation



Clivers supports the body via the lymphatic system



Marshmallow Root, a herb that soothes and improves the function of the digestive system

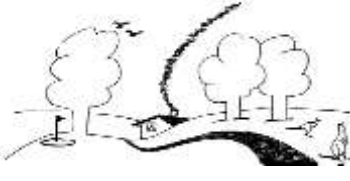



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Ad-Design Sandy Morphet

	<p>Wamboin Community Association Presidents Paragraphs</p> <p>“Marge, the rains are here”</p>	
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Well the rains did come. Here in the gauge we had 52mm (or 204 points for the pre 74 crew members) and what a welcome relief it was. After a baking January and February the trees were really struggling. I would say it's the driest post Christmas period I have seen in our ten years here.

A few things to talk about this month.

Clean Up Australia Day – after 27 years I sadly report there will be no official Clean up Australia day in Wamboin. QPRC has decided that it is too much risk for us to clean up the Wamboin road verges. It will only support clean ups on roads under 50kph. Imagine the risk we have been taking over the last 27 years (with no incident) to undertake this event of Community pride. I guess we could all go in and clean up streets in Queanbeyan. I now look forward to seeing Councils workforce to come out and clean up our road verges regularly at rate payer expense. Picking up those glass bottles in long dry grass is an important grass fire risk reduction measure so I am keen to Council take up the task. Who said nothing would change with the amalgamations and how risky was our old Palerang Council all these years (or did they just manage the risk). Make sure you contact Council and the Councillors to express your disappointment and wave to those Council workers when they are out cleaning up for us.

WiFi at the Wamboin Hall – OOKI (with great help from Nev) has installed a Wi-Fi hot spot at the Wamboin Hall. It will only operate when the hall's power is on but will be a great benefit to the events when held there. Well done and a big thumbs up to OOKI, Nev and all involved.

Spring Talks – We have settled on our spring talk line up thanks to Jenny Warren. This spring we will have Mike Kelly our Federal MP, a talk on weeds and native plants for the area and a night with QPRC Animal Control Officers. John Barilaro MP our local state Member and Deputy Premier will also visit us on the 21st August. A great and interesting line up and we will have more details closer to the talks.

Wheels of Wamboin – The legendary Wheels of Wamboin will be held on **Saturday 21st of April 2018** from 9am to 1pm. I know people are starting to lose sleep because they can't wait to see those automotive beauties basking in the sun but please be patient. It will be worth it.

Wamboin Communications Action Group – At our last meeting we had an update from the WCAG detailing the current planning being undertaken with over 500 residents signing up. If you are interested the website is <https://sites.google.com/site/wamboincommunications/> and cut off for signing up is Feb 28th.

Wamboin Social Drop-In Group – the drop in group runs from 10 am – 12 noon every Thursday. Drop into the Wamboin Community Hall for morning tea and activities. The QPRC Mobile Library will visit the hall on Thursday 1st March. Everyone is welcome (PS look out for our upcoming push for a community transport bus).

WCA Meeting – next meeting is 7.30 pm, Tuesday 20th March at the Wamboin Community Hall.

Let's make Wamboin great!

Peter Evans - President.

Yoga Immersion – A 2 Week “Why not?!” Event

...featuring the Mini Meditation Immersion and NEW Ginger Compress evenings

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10am		10am		10am
6.30pm	6.30pm	6.30pm	6.30pm	
	8pm (Meditation)	8pm (Ginger Compress)	8pm (Meditation)	

Yoga...
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(the unlimited yoga class pass includes all 8pm sessions)
casual \$20

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www.healingartsevents.com.au/yoga-immersion-wamboin-apr-2018
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**Bywong
Community News**
www.bywongcommunity.org.au
Committee Report



THE BIG EVENT FOR FEBRUARY IS THE 21st ANNUAL BYWONG CAR BOOT SALE

Bywong Annual Car Boot Sale: The 2018 CBS will be held on Sunday 25 March at the Les Reardon Reserve. Buyers will be welcome from 9.00am, although stall holders should arrive and set up between 7.00 and 8.30am. As usual this signature event should be enjoyable for all participants, so feel free to come along and either get rid of your pre-loved but redundant items and acquire new ones. This event is BCA's major annual fundraiser, and we will put the proceeds towards future community projects to follow the completion of the new children's playground at the Bywong Hall. If you would like to offer help in the planning or generally get involved on the day, then please contact us at through our web site at- www.bywongcommunity.org.au/

Tea Towel Update: Sales of the Bungendore, Braidwood, Queanbeyan and Goulbourn tea towels are continuing through various outlets, and in the very near future they will also be available at the QPRC shop in the Q Theatre in Queanbeyan,

Clean Up Australia Day: Very recently the Wamboin Community Association announced that due to certain decisions of the Clean Up Australia administration it would not be possible for the WCA to participate in the event this year. Exactly the same issues face the BCA – due to ongoing uncertainty about Clean Up Australia insurance cover for volunteers, the BCA will have to cancel official participation in this year's event, scheduled for Sunday March 4. Consequently, any efforts by residents to clean up their own roads/streets would not be under the official auspices of the BCA or Clean Up Australia organisation. BCA will be contacting QPRC to see how they propose to deal with the endless litter that is particularly noticeable along our 'major roads' such as Macs Reef and Bungendore Roads.

Future Events: The Committee has been considering possible future community events like the Teddy Bear's Picnic held last December. Now that the Hall has the playground and improved surrounds, such events become more attractive and feasible.

One idea is to hold a Short Film Festival with entries based on a local theme, and any other suggestions for appropriate community oriented events would be welcome – again, contact us through the web site.

QPRC Re-zoning Decision: The recent decision by QPRC (December 13) to revisit the land use zoning of Wamboin and Bywong has been noted by the BCA but the Association adopts no official position on the issue. Nevertheless the BCA encourages all interested residents to familiarise themselves with the issue and the ramifications of any future zoning changes.

Next Meeting: Thursday 1 March at 7.30 at the Bywong Hall - the main item of business will be planning for the Car Boot Sale. All interested locals are welcome, so bring your ideas and energy with you!

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NEW TANKER FOR WAMBOIN

The Wamboin Fire Brigade recently took delivery of a new Category 1 (heavy) tanker. Three brigade members collected the truck from RFS Engineering in Sydney and drove it back to Wamboin.

The truck is the first of this iteration of heavy tankers to be allocated to a brigade in the Lake George Zone. Apart from having automatic transmission and improved and easier to operate pump controls the truck is more comfortable and easier to get into and out of.

If anyone is interested in looking over the vehicle it is always out of the shed on market day, and will be at the Car Boot Sale and if you drop in to Wamboin Fire Station on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm you can see the members of our brigade training with the new truck, Wamboin 1A and the other tankers in our brigade.

You can also view the tankers every Friday afternoon when we carry out our weekly tanker inspections, you could also join us for a cup of tea and biscuit.

A big thankyou to the Kowen Trail Runners for their continued support of the brigade. Your support is gratefully appreciated by our members and the community.

The brigade has a new web page, go to www.wamboin.rfsa.org.au.

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade

www.wamboin.rfsa.org.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

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Healing Arts Events presents...

A Healing Arts Wellness Day

Sunday 15 April 2018 9.30am - 4pm
Wamboin Community Hall



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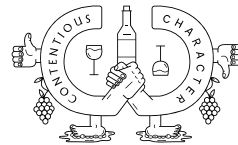
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Contentious Character



Event News

Happy Friday Nights – Seasonal Pasta, Pizza & Salad w’ Kids Menu Every Friday night, **with happy hour 5-7pm**, 25% off all drinks

Blues and Roots Festival Sunday 25th March from 12pm till 6pm, the line up is Chris O’Connor from 1-2pm, Doggin It Blues Duo 230-4pm, and The Guitar Cases 4 piece band, 430-6pm. *After the fantastic show they put on for us on New Years Eve, The Guitar Cases return by popular demand to Contentious Character. This time they are putting the band back together (their four piece) for a great afternoon of original blues and roots music. They’re also bringing some of their old mates from the east coast blues festival scene. The renown Doggin It Blues duo will be performing their own style of Australian story-telling blues, and Chris O’Connor will take us to the Delta with his authentic country blues stylings. This is an afternoon you won’t want to miss. You can check them out at www.theguitarcases.com, www.facebook.com/Doggn.It/, thecountryblues.com/artist-reviews/chris-oconnor/*

The Adult Ticket includes your choice of Pulled Free Range Pork Roll with apple and fennel, Braised Brisket Roll with cheese and pickles or a Bean and Beetroot Burger with horseradish mayo, all served with fries plus a beer, glass of wine or soft drink.

A Snack & Bar Menu will also be available with Cheese Boards, Shoestring Fries, Loaded Fries, Ice Cream Sundaes and a range of wines, beers and soft drinks.

Adult tickets <https://contentiouscharacter.com.au/collections/specials-gift-cards/products/blues-roots-festival-contentious-character>

Children (5 - 17 yrs) <https://contentiouscharacter.com.au/collections/specials-gift-cards/products/copy-of-blues-roots-festival-contentious-character-child-ticket>

Children’s Ticket includes a choice of Margherita Pizza, or Pasta Salad and Mini Ice Cream Sundae.

Vintage Flights with Paired Plate for Canberra Wine Week – Weekends April 7 & 8, 14 & 15 . *Quality vintages from 2001 to 2016 - unheard of!! Choose Shiraz or Riesling and sit back and listen to some funky tunes in the fireside lounge or be out in the sunshine on the deck soaking up the views, while we prepare your flight. \$55 for five vintages plus delicious morsels paired to each vintage. Book through [info@contentiouscharacter](mailto:info@contentiouscharacter.com.au) and let us know which Flight takes your fancy, leave your baggage behind and have a great Flight at Contentious Character. Limited Sittings at 11am, 130pm and 330pm*

Queanbeyan Symphony by the River – Saturday 3rd March – we’ll be there!

Bungendore Harvest Festival Saturday 17th March – we’ll be there!

Gift Vouchers available for your loved ones; go to website under ORDERS, scroll to Gift cards.

Character filled special events and magical weddings - Talk to Jordan for further information.

Nature Notes February 2018

Jo Walker

For the last few weeks the more open areas of the landscape have looked bleached and tired. But, as I sit writing this on the last Sunday of the month, solid rain has been falling all morning and thunder is rumbling somewhere to the north. The creek is already running, the dam will be full in a day or two and with a bit of warm weather still to come the grasses should soon begin to give the countryside a green tinge again.

Colour in the landscape is mostly dependant on the wide range of colours in the foliage at this time of the year. But the *Cassinia quinquefaria* bushes are still bearing lacy masses of greenish yellow flowers.

There still seems to be very few insects around, but the local birds are evidently finding enough food to raise their young. There was a Grey Fantail family in the driveway the other day searching through the shrubs along with a pair of Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes with two young ones in tow. And recently a pair of Plovers were escorting two juniors along our roadside watched by five Wood Ducks. The Wedge-tailed Eagles have drifted across the sky with their single offspring several times lately. And a flash of bright colours across the creek turned out to be a family group of five Eastern Rosellas. I don't often see them here, although they often fly across Poppet Road further along. Another bird that seems to have moved away from my place is the Crested Pigeon. There used to be a flock of about a dozen here, but I seldom see them here now – although, again, they do seem to inhabit places further along the road. They probably prefer Denise's bird seed to mine! Anyway, I did get a visit from two of them the other day and they stayed around for a while.

Recently I noticed a lot of European honey-bees busy in the front garden. As there is nothing flowering there at the moment, I went out to see what was interesting them. There are several *Myoporum bateae* shrubs growing there. These plants are native to the coastal ranges, growing along creeks and gullies, but they seem to like Wamboin. I started off with one plant but now have about a dozen that came up as seedlings. The leaves at the tips of their stems are sticky, and the bees seemed to be excitedly feeding on this exudation. It wasn't sweet (yes, I did taste it) so I'm not sure what attracted the bees to it.

I was considering cutting out the few Scotch Thistles by the creek – but left them to grow a little longer when I saw several native Blue-banded Bees (*Amegilla cingulata*) feeding on them. Our native insects don't spurn an exotic weed if it has nectar or pollen on it.

The Wombat and its joey made another appearance on the hill across the creek one evening at the beginning of the month. I haven't seen them since, but occasionally come across droppings so they are still around.

Kangaroos are supposed to eat grass and other vegetation, but there is a 'roo here who always follows me when I go with food scraps up to the 'compost heap' – nothing ever actually composts after the birds, possums, etcetera have had their fill. Usually the friendly 'roo eats vegetable pieces and the odd banana skin. But this time she found a piece of cake, grabbed it in her fore-paws and stood munching on it with a look of bliss on her face. It probably wasn't a good addition to her diet, but I think she would have vigorously resisted any attempt to take it away from her. Kangaroos do seem to sample unlikely foods – including the joey who ate a friend's tax return!

It's still raining as I finish these notes and parts of North Canberra are flooded. What a change from the rest of the month!

Expressions of Interest..... in getting better acquainted with those pesky devices and software applications! The Queanbeyan-Palerang Council library has offered to run introductory classes covering the internet; email; cyber security; devices; iPads; tablets; smartphones; online shopping/banking, library e-resources and much more (at your request).

Where? On a Thursday morning at the Wamboin Social Club, at the community hall, starting at 09.30 for a two-hourly session.

The first step is for you to let me know whether you are interested. Contact 62383717 or machin4@bigpond.com. I will then create a group email address and be in touch. Philip Machin, 62383717



Wheels of Wamboin 2018

Saturday 21st 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 with automotive beauties.

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



Wamboin's Meals on Wheels service WCA general meeting, Tuesday 20 March, 7.30 pm

The Committee of the Wamboin Community Association has invited Ms Jen Ramirez, the Manager of Meals on Wheels Queanbeyan, to brief our community on the services that her organisation provides to the Wamboin and nearby communities. She will attend the WCA's monthly general meeting on Tuesday 20 March, at 7.30 pm, and tell us about their services. All welcome!

This links to the broader topic of providing supports for facilitating ageing in the home, something highly relevant to those of us in the rural residential area.

Meals on Wheels supports our valued community members who are of advanced age, and those who are living with a disability.

About Meals on Wheels in our community: Meals on Wheels is one of Australia's most recognisable brands. In 1973 the service was established in Queanbeyan where it continues to this day. Meals on Wheels Queanbeyan provides a home-delivered nutritionally balanced meal to frail, aged people, people with a disability and their carers within the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council LGA, and beyond. The service is not means tested and anyone who is on the NDIS can obtain the meals.

It is our aim to enable people to be independent and comfortable within their own homes for as long as possible. This avoids premature admission to aged care facilities and allows people to live in the comfort and familiarity of their own homes. Our volunteers are often the only daily point of contact for recipients, serving to decrease their social isolation and assist in monitoring their health and well-being. Studies show this saves the families and the government thousands each year in unnecessary hospitalisation. In 2018, Meals on Wheels Queanbeyan will undertake a period of proactive and rapid growth for the benefit of our clients and the wider community. It is an exciting time for our business and we rely on the generous support of our community to aid us as this growth takes place.

Anyone interested in Volunteering or Sponsorship opportunities should contact Jen Ramirez, Manager, Meals on Wheels – Queanbeyan, on 02 6299 3000 or mob: 0409 418 783 or email admin@mealsonwheelsqueanbeyan.org.au .



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What's That Lump On The Road?

It might appear as a rock on the road, but on closer inspection a living, breathing turtle could be sitting there on the bitumen. Just by increasing driver awareness, the lives of these long-necked reptiles on our roads in the summer months can be spared. While turtles have hard shells that provide great protection, these will crack if driven over by a vehicle. In the worst case, the whole animal will be badly damaged. A cracked shell can be repaired and with no internal injuries the animal can eventually be released back into the wild.

Not enough research has been done to determine why long-necked turtles roam between water sources. Theories include: looking for a mate; looking for a nesting site in spring and summer; and movement to avoid in-breeding. However, we do know it tends to happen more following rainfall.

If you spot a turtle on the road, it could be injured after having been run over, or it may be unharmed. Sometimes the passing of cars can cause them to 'freeze' and be reluctant to move on. If this happens, then it will obviously be in great danger from any following vehicles. Physically moving it off the road will be a life saver. Yes, turtles can be stinky – but just think, you could be saving a life that could go on for another 50 years!



What to do? Avoid running over the turtle by slowing down; drive around it, or drive over it so that the wheels avoid crushing the animal. Pull over, and when safe to do so, lift the turtle up to inspect it for injuries. There is a special way to do this without getting 'scented' by the turtle's musk glands (this is a defence mechanism). Avoid the sides of the shells where the scent glands are. Lift the turtle up with the fingers at the front of the shell – the head will pop in – and at the back of the shell. Holding it in this way allows you to look over the animal and check for injuries. Check underneath the turtle by lifting it higher, not by turning it over. If the turtle looks fine, place it on the ground well away from the road in the direction it was heading. If it is injured, or if there is any doubt, please take it with you and call Wildcare 6299 1966 (or ACT Wildlife in Canberra: 0432 300 033). Injured wildlife can also be dropped off at a local Vet.

A useful tip is to carry a towel in the boot of the car. If you are unsure about picking up a turtle, a towel will allow you to scoop it up, keeping your hands clean. A towel is ideal to help other native animals too, such as for gently scooping up injured birds or lizards.

Never put an injured turtle in water, as this can facilitate infection – keep it dry. If the shell is cracked, under guidance from Wildcare, it can have a bandage or tape applied to give stability, before it is fully repaired by a wildlife carer or Vet.

Lastly, with a little more driver awareness, many turtle road deaths (and other native animals) can be prevented if we simply look and wonder what that small, dark lump on the road is.

Merran Laver & Phil Machin, *Photo: Straddling the white line (photo by Alicia Perritt).*

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Don't be a Wamboin Tosser

Most days I walk my four dogs (two at a time) on leash, from the corner of Poppet Road, a short distance along Norton Road, down Canning Close and round Pony Club. This makes a pleasant 2km walk for each set of dogs. I take a plastic bin liner with me for any poo my dogs may deposit and collect any roadside rubbish as I go. Canning Close alone means I fill the bin liner with rubbish most days. I know the general comment among locals is 'it's the tradies' but then why do I find multiple fast food containers and bags at the END of Canning Close (no tradies' vans in sight) and disposable coffee cups with lipstick on them and lolly wrappers near the bus stop?

Most disappointing is that quite often I walk one way and collect rubbish and by the time I have returned home, retraced my steps with the second set of dogs, there is MORE NEW RUBBISH. Mostly fast food containers, plastic or paper cups and chip packets. Not so many cigarette packs these days – excellent!

We are so lucky to live in this beautiful environment. But if you MUST eat fast food, please keep a rubbish bag in your car and dispose of the packaging when you get home; please give your kids a bag to put their rubbish in on their way to and from school; and if you spot a *Wamboin Tosser* driving past, take their number plate and report them to the police. Tossing is an offence that will result in a fine.

We can't apparently continue our organised annual Wamboin 'Clean up Australia Day' event because of council rules - so please don't be a *Wamboin Tosser* and help keep our roads and waterways rubbish free – ALL year round.

Thanks in advance. - Meriel Schultz

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Take Advantage Of The Recent Rain! Stock Up On Native Plants For Autumn Planting

At the Bywong Car Boot Sale on 25 March, the Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare stall will have a good range of fast growing wattles of varying growth habit well-suited to dry situations and habitat for small birds, and a range of smaller ornamental native plants for minimal/no water rural homestead gardens. *Reasonable prices – much cheaper than commercial nurseries. Landcare members on hand to give expert advice on planting and ongoing care*

WAMBOIN WEATHER: (rainfall and temperature records) 43 years from Cooper Road by Christine Rieber

February Rainfall Stats

February rainfall to the 25th 27.75mm
2018 total rainfall to 25/2..... 68.25mm

Average February rainfall..... 57.9mm
2017 February rainfall..... 26.75mm
2017 total rainfall to 25/2..... 39.5mm
43yr Av. to end of February..... 117.7mm

March Rainfall Stats

2017 March rainfall..... 79.5mm
Wettest March..... 303mm in 1989
Wettest day..... 160mm on 15/3/89
Driest March.. 3mm (2 times) 1986 & 1998

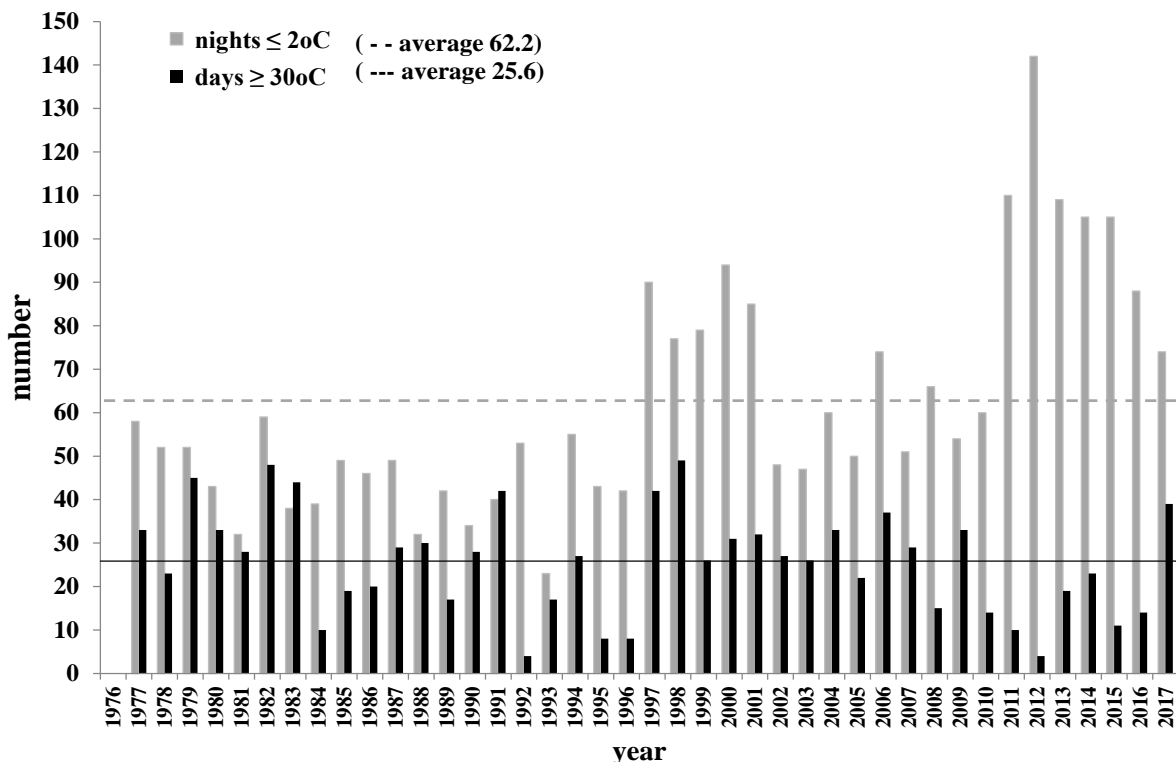
Average March rainfall..... 58.1mm
Average no. rain days in March..... 8.2
Highest no. rain days..... 17 in 2017
Lowest no. rain days..... 3 (7 times)
81, 86, 92, 98, 02, 06 & 09

March Temperature Stats

Hottest March day..... 35°C on 9/3/83
Hottest March night..... 26°C on 9/3/83
Average day temperature..... 22.3°C
Average night temperature..... 11.8°C
Warmest March..... 1983
(Av. max day temp. 25.5°C & night 15.2°C)
(warmest day temp. 26.3°C in 1998)
March 2017... Av. max 21°C & min 11.4°C

Av. Mar. temp.. 17.0°C (day+night comb.)
Coldest March day.... 13°C (3 times) on
14/3/94 & 3-4/3/12
Coldest March night.... 3°C (2 times) on
29/3/99, & 29/3/17
Coldest March 2012
(Av. min day temp. 17.3°C & night 8.6°C)
(coldest night temp. 7.9°C in 2015)

The graph below shows the number of days $\geq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ and nights $\leq 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ per year and 42-year averages for Wamboin. These values are used by BOM.



The 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Wamboin Community Association, Inc., ...

... will be held in the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 17 April 2018. The main business of the AGM will be the election of a new Committee for 2018-2019, and some minor amendments to the Association's constitution. Nominations for the election of Committee members should be made in writing, signed by two Association members, and contain the candidate's written consent.

A person nominated as a candidate for election as an office-bearer (other than the president or vice-president) or as another committee member, must have been a member of the Association for at least one year. A person nominated as a candidate for election as president or vice-president must have been a member of the Association for at least two years, which should include at least one year as an office bearer or as another committee member. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary or downloaded from the WCA's website:

<https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/communitygroups/index.php?op=wcadocuments> .

The Committee is keen to have some new members, so please consider nominating as an office-bearer or as an ordinary Committee member. The WCA and the events it has promoted have been well managed for many years, and the Committee would benefit greatly from some new members to help maintain this momentum.

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

Agenda: Opening; Acknowledgement of Country; Apologies for non-attendance; Adoption of the minutes of the 2017 AGM; Presentation and adoption of the President's, Treasurer's and other reports; Election of the office-bearers of the Association (the president, one or two vice-presidents, the treasurer & the secretary) and at least three other committee members; Amendments to the constitution; Close of meeting.

The proposed constitutional amendments are to remove from the constitution Appendix 2—the Application for Membership of the Association form—and some minor consequential amendments to Rule 4 'Nomination for membership'.

- David McDonald, Secretary

How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

Kerry and Rhett Cox have delivered Whispers to the mailboxes on Macs Reef Road between Newington Rd and Bankers Rd. for many years. I thank her very much for doing this. Wamboin and Bywong would struggle to have a free community owned and written newspaper if it wasn't for them and the other 50 or so other residents who give up time to put it into our mailboxes. She's hoping now that someone else, preferably someone else who lives in one of the other six properties along that stretch, will take a turn.

Lyn Parkinson, on top of all the chores that come with moving into her new home in the area, has generously offered to take on the deliveries that Michael Deane did for years to Bidges Rd, Hickey Rd and Old Goldmines Rd. ... and it gets into your mailbox thanks to one of 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. - Ned Noel, volunteer editor

167: 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	23
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+Wimdra)	23	Phil Leeson&Coleen Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	32

231: 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	21	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	Volunteer Hoped For	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			

190: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425 lodestar@ozemail.com.au

Not Covered by local	Federal HwSveRd	22	Louise Baldwin	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Lyn Parkinson	Bidges/Hickey/OldGoldMines	48	Penny & Russell Ball	Macs Reef (Denley Dr to Bungdre Rd)	20
Glen Dorahy	Sutton Park Estate	53	Not Covered by Local	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln	29
Not Covered by Local	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			

149: 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

TOTAL 1,312

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Memories of CUA Participation

The first time Wamboin participated in the Clean Up Australia campaign was March 1990. It was a Community effort organised by the WCA with valuable assistance from the Fire Brigade. We had about 30 walkers and the Brigade ran a communications exercise controlled from the Fire Shed where they also set up a First Aid post. The Fire Trucks patrolled the roads, handed out bags, drinks and nibblies. They picked up the filled bags and also made radio checks to the Fire Shed. This enabled the Brigade to locate any flat spots of radio contact. The Yarrawlumla and Palarang Councils were behind the effort; supplying signs, a cash incentive and Hi Vis jackets. The Councils also took away the accumulated rubbish. In those days the main rubbish seemed to be mainly building materials.

We have taken part every year (27 in all) since then, and when you consider that each year we gather about two very full ute loads of rubbish, to me that is a pretty good community effort. I would also note we have never had an accident or injury. In those days the Brigade was more of a community organisation however, after about the year 2000 the overall control of the brigade moved towards central RFS and it became too hard (paper work) to have the Brigade involved.

The way the CUA Council works; they first request organisations to nominate areas to be cleaned. The WCA has always nominated local roadways. CUA then has to approach the local Councils for their approval. Unfortunately, this year the QPRC decided not to give approval as they decided it was too dangerous to have people walking along road verges. Thus no organised CUA Day for Wamboin or other country areas in the QPRC area.

So where to from here? Will the QPRC take responsibility for the clean up of roadsides or will the rubbish just build up? Will Nanny Laws prohibit even walking along the roadside for exercise? As is obvious I am very disappointed by the decision of the QPRC not to approve the clearing of roadsides by community members. - Lofty Mason.

St Andrews, Wamboin and St Peters, Sutton Church Notices

Renovations and additions are progressing at St Peters. Work on the portico and ramps at the entrance to the church will begin on 5 March. St Peters will be closed for at least a fortnight. Because of this the usual service on 11 March will be moved to St Andrews, Wamboin. The Community notice board will post any further changes. Along with the covered entrance, new carpets will be laid to complete the interior restoration which included the painting enabled by a Heritage grant from the Yass Valley Shire .

It was a busy Sunday in the middle of the month with Bishop Stuart's farewell service at Wamboin where he conducted two Baptisms and three Confirmations; a very special occasion for the girls and their families as they were officially welcomed as members of the Christian Church.

The congregation and community representatives then gathered in the grounds of St Peters where the Bishop dedicated the Interpretive Sign marking the history of the Church in Sutton, as part of Sutton's 150 year celebrations. Jodie Hadlow, from UC, was commissioned to research the history. The sign depicts St Peters in a graphic and informative way, anchoring the little church in the history of our area.

Kids Club, formed nearly 10 years ago, sadly farewelled one of the stalwarts of the Friday activity group. Judy Shellard has given her care and support selflessly for most of that period, but has had to leave because of competing family demands for her time. We thank you Judy and will sorely miss your input. However, others have stepped up to the mark, and because of this Kids Club can continue, meeting each Friday afternoon during the NSW school term from 4.30 until 6pm at St Andrews, Poppet Rd, Wamboin. Come along and join the fun, games, stories and songs, and share a light meal together. A gold coin is appreciated to defray costs.

Services are held at St Andrews on the first and third Sunday of each month, and at St Peters on the second and fourth Sunday. All services start at 9am and are followed by morning tea and a chance to catch up with others in the community. Please come along. For further information contact any of the people listed below.

Ven Dr Royce Thompson, 0416265600; Dr David McCarthy, 0409383620; Robyn Robertson, 61521711; Alan Rope, 0429434944;

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The February Market was busy and buzzing! Lots of new people coming through – maybe all the new owners of the many properties sold in the area in the last months?? Very welcome - please return!

Contentious Character provided wine tasting and our regular produce providers were laden with fruit, veggies etc . There were also new stall holders with stone fruit and tomatoes so there was a wide choice of plums, peaches and nectarines and tomatoes available. As a result the next markets will have chutneys and jams on sale made from Pauline, Christine and Callie’s fruit! Sally provided pies and quiches for us to sell and sold out within the first hour of the market and Vicky’s new venture with sausage rolls went really well with all sold. She will be back....The three ‘Joans’ fielded the egg and bacon stall superbly in the real Joan’s absence. The café was popular as usual and Kathleen sold out of her ‘award winning’ scones (She won at the Bungendore show).

The March market will be full of produce again. April market will combine with the famous Wheels of Wamboin and the May market will combine with the GREAT HORSE GEAR SALE – so start sorting out all your unwanted horse gear, rugs and tack NOW! LET YOUR RIDING MATES KNOW IT’S ON – sell from your car, ute or float or we can supply trestle tables.

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Wheels of Wamboin 2018 -- Saturday 21st April

There are many anniversaries in 2018 but this month I am going to talk about 70 years of the iconic Land Rover (mainly because I have one).



The story of Land Rover was born 1947 by Maurice Wilks. It was simply called Land Rover (seriously what a great name for a car compared to some of the ones these days, honestly what sort of a name is Qashqai or a Juke or even a Kona). Wilks was the chief designer at the Rover Company, was on his farm in, working in conjunction with his brother who was the managing director of Rover at the time. Early vehicles like the Series I were designed to be field-serviced with simple but robust mechanics. It was designed as a farm vehicle that could fulfil the role of a cross between and light truck and a tractor. The original Land Rover even had a power take off (PTO) to run farm machinery. The early choice of colour was dictated by military surplus supplies of aircraft paint, so early vehicles came in any colour you wanted as long as it was a shade of light green. The first Land Rover model, the Series 1 debuted to the public in 1948. In 1958, the Series II launched, and in 1961, the Series IIA was in production. In 1970, Land Rover introduced the first Range Rover model, and in 1971, the Series III model debuted on the roads. By 1976, the millionth Land Rover model had left the production line, proving that drivers all over the world were craving the vehicle that looked great and could seek out adventure anywhere in the world. Many military forces around the world used the Land Rover as a light weight go anywhere vehicle in many different forms.



In the early 1970s, the Musée du Louvre in Paris exhibited a Range Rover as an "exemplary work of industrial design". The 1970 Range Rover is the grandfather of all those lesser SUV type vehicles dominating the car market now. The original Range Rover was not designed as a luxury-type vehicle. While certainly up-market compared to preceding Land Rover models, the early Range Rovers had fairly basic, interiors with vinyl seats and plastic dashboards that were designed to be washed down with a hose. Convenience features such as power steering, carpeted floors, air conditioning, loth/leather seats, and wooden interior trim were fitted later as demand rose. The Range Rover used coil springs as opposed to leaf springs, permanent four-wheel drive, and four-wheel disc brakes. Now days the Range Rover is a luxury upmarket vehicle (Jeremy Clarkson described it as the best vehicle in the world) with real off road capability. Regularly associated with Royal family duties it also seems to be the preferred steer for bad guys and eastern block criminals in movies. I can tell you first hand that they are absolutely fantastic to drive with airbag suspension, lightweight aluminium body and wrapped leather interior with lots of buttons and things, just don't mention the word service and spare parts. See you at the Wheels of Wamboin.





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Sci-fi, Solar Farms and Monitors at the Wamboin Markets

Gail Ritchie Knight

On the 17th of February, I was sitting at the breakfast table enjoying the quiet while my grandsons were at cricket, when I suddenly remembered the Wamboin Markets were on that day. There was still time and even though I didn't have much cash I decided to make a visit.

Parking was easy and as I walked in I stopped to look at some jewelry, including sapphires dug by the seller and her late husband. Aware of my rather light wallet, I went on to the next stall where I looked yearningly at some pastries. I declared that I am a recovering sugarholic and moved on.

I then came across my friend Nancy-Lea womanning a stall full of a diverse range of handmade items, including shoulder bags for little girls. I thought, 'There's one that would be perfect for my granddaughter's sixth birthday'. It had a stylized picture of a girl with some serious attitude, not a pretty-in-pink bit of floss. Luckily, I had enough cash and snapped it up. Maureen and Anna appeared. In no time, we struck up a wide-ranging conversation about books on historical fiction and sci-fi. I didn't realise we enjoyed similar authors.

Moving on, I bumped into fellow customers Sue and Judy. I hadn't seen them in a while. Next was Jo and her table of native plants. She has a great selection of very healthy plants that are bound to survive as she grows them on her property in Wamboin.

Finally I bought a cappuccino from Lou's stand. Who'd have thought I could order any type of coffee in a place where there are no shops. As I settled down with my cuppa, David sat down to say hello. We discussed wind and solar farms and the nimby attitude of opponents of such power generation. I then mentioned that I'd seen a goanna on our property. To be correct, it is a Rosenberg's Monitor. David suggested that I enter it on the Canberra Nature Map website <http://canberra.naturemapr.org/>.

Canberra Nature Map provides a means for people to have their photos identified and contribute to citizen science. I encourage everyone to post their images of plants, animals and insects that they find out here. I did and the moderators have stated that it is a significant sighting of a vulnerable species, filling in a previous distribution gap. I came home, not having spent much but I thoroughly enjoyed myself. My experience left me with a feeling of belonging. We have no village, but we are a community. Where else can we catch up with friends, chat about native plants, literature and technology and have a great cup of coffee? Why, it's the Wamboin Markets, of course.

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The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

Gail Ritchie Knight

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) are continuing to meet every Monday catching up with old friends and welcoming new members. Besides our regular morning teas we also go out for lunch on the last Monday of the month, usually in Bungendore. It's an opportunity to further develop our friendships over fine wine and food.

In February our Wonderful Woman Sally Saunders took a group of WWOW and BOWWOW (Boyfriends of ...) on a tour of the National Gallery of Australia (NGA). This time she showed us a selection of watercolours and oils of Arthur Streeton when he was a WWI war artist. What an eye-opener, there was definitely more to Streeton than most of us realised. We may live in the bush but being so close to the nation's capital and its many national institutions allows us to enjoy the best of both worlds.

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.



From the Corner

Home Building Regulations — Last month's column on Owner Builder Permits referred to recent changes in home building regulations. These changes were directed at the home building industry in general, not just owner builders, but there were a couple of areas that might be worth a little further discussion.

While they came into force several years ago (Jan/Mar 2015), it seems many people were not aware of the impact of these changes. It's not all bad—there's a degree of give and take involved. With regard to owner-building, thresholds have been raised but owner-builders must now accept more responsibility.

As previously noted, the threshold for requiring an owner-builder permit has increased to \$10,000. All owner-builders must nonetheless undertake basic work health and safety training, and for work over \$20,000 an applicant will need to have completed more comprehensive owner-builder training with an appropriately accredited training institution.

Owner-builders are required to name all other owners of the land on an application for an owner-builder permit. This is recorded on the permit to prevent the use of this system to carry out unlicensed commercial building work. Any owners so named cannot apply for another owner-builder permit, for a different property, for 5 years.

As a general rule, an owner-builder permit will no longer be issued for a dual occupancy development. Depending on the types of development permitted in a particular location, this may be a bit of a technical issue, given that a permit can be issued for the construction of a secondary dwelling. The difference is that the former often leads to subdivision and this new restriction is intended to discourage the use of an owner-builder permit where there is no intention of actually living in the subject dwelling.

While contractors working for an owner-builder need to provide certificates for work over \$20,000, thus formally accepting responsibility for their work, owner-builders are not eligible for statutory insurance through the Home Building Compensation Fund. If the subject property is sold within the subsequent warranty period (6 years), the contract for sale must clearly state that there is no statutory insurance on the property and the owner-builder must carry the warranty burden.

For reference, builders must warrant their work for 2 years after completion and for 6 years for 'major defects'. A 'major' defect is a defect occurring in a 'major element' of the building that causes or may cause the building or part of it to be uninhabitable, to be unable to be used for its intended purpose or the partial or total collapse or destruction of the building. A major element includes an internal or external loadbearing component and, under the new regulations, fire safety systems and waterproofing.

Once again, you can find more background and detailed information on the above commentary on the NSW Fair Trading website (fairtrading.nsw.gov.au).

The QPR Blog—New or related entries in my Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) include:
Home Building Regulations (Feb 2018) Owner Builder Permits (Jan 2018) Building Approvals (Dec 2013)
-- Cr Pete Harrison, Ph. 6238 3640, Mob. 0427 711 028, Email: contact@peteharrison.id.au

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[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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The Waterways of Wamboin

by David McDonald

More than two decades ago Ned Noel undertook a valuable oral history project, interviewing long-term Wamboin residents. The products of that endeavour were published in the *Wamboin Whisper* in 1997, and may be found at the Local History page on the Wamboin Community Association's (WCA's) website

<http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/thewhisper/index.php?op=localhistory> .

An additional aspect of local history is the waterways of Wamboin: where they are and the origins of their names. Wamboin is not renowned for its waterways, but what we have are important parts of our landscape. Furthermore, some of their names reflect both the almost 200 years of European exploration and settlement here and, less prominently, the possibly 2,000 generations throughout which Aboriginal people were the custodians of the country that we call Wamboin.

What follows are some notes on the waterways of Wamboin. Please let me know if you can fill in any of the gaps or correct anything that is mistaken. Contact the author, David McDonald, ph. 6238 3706 or 0416 231 890, email david [at] dnmcdonal.id.au. I will use your contributions to update the document, and then ask the WCA's webmaster to add it to the website's Local History page.

For the purposes of this listing, Wamboin is taken to be the locality of Wamboin, not the parish of Wamboin. This is because Wamboin straddles three parishes, and parts of the parish of Wamboin lie well beyond the boundaries of the locality of Wamboin. The boundary of the locality is shown in reddish dashes on the map in the QPRC online mapping system <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Building-Development/Planning-Zoning/Online-mapping> . Select the layers Boundaries | Suburbs, and zoom in to Wamboin. The waterways listed are those named on present-day maps, primarily the 2015 editions of the former NSW LPI's 1:25,000 topographic maps 'Sutton' & 'Bungendore'.

Birchams Creek: Birchams (*sic*) Creek rises near the Denley Drive/Hogan Drive intersection and flows south through Birchmans (*sic*) Estate, to join the Yass River near the northern end of Merino Vale Drive.

Name origin: 'Guise's blocks in the high country ["Bywong" station] were first applied for in 1837 by Stephen Burcher of Liverpool who, although unsuccessful in his bid, is commemorated in "Bircham's Creek" which, with Kowan Creek, forms the source of the Yass River' (Lea-Scarlett 1972, p. 14).

Additional information: Quote from the *Sydney Monitor*, Saturday 17 September 1836, page 3:
NOTICE. THE-following Cattle have been running for some time on Mr. Stephen Burcher's station at the head of Yass River [.] One Cow, with yellow sides, white back, and belly, branded off side on thehip (*sic*), U. R. O. ALSO - Two Heifers and a Steer. S. BURCHER. September 17, 1836
unquote

Stephen Burcher, born c. 1796 (UK), arrived Sydney 1814 as a convict under a life sentence for stealing a horse when he was 17 years of age, granted ticket of leave, lived Liverpool (NSW), died 1838 aged just 42 years (Australian Royalty n.d.).

Black Joes Creek: The creek rises on the ridge running south from Birchmans Grove and flows north-west to join the Yass River 1 km south of Macs Reef Road, in Bywong. Approximately 2 km of the creek loops south into Wamboin, flowing west from the southern end of Newington Road, Bywong.

Name origin: Oral history, attributed to the Bingley family whose members have farmed in the area since the 1840s, has it that there used to be an Aboriginal shepherd living in the area whose name was 'Black Joe'. We have not been able to corroborate this from documentary sources.

Additional information: The *Queanbeyan Age* newspaper, Thursday 13 May 1869, page 3, published a notice: 'AMATEUR CONCERT, in aid of raising funds to pay the remaining debt on the Presbyterian Church, will be held in the ASSEMBLY ROOM OF THE ROYAL HOTEL, GUNDAROO On Friday, the 21st inst., When the following Programme will be strictly carried out...'. One of the items on the program was 'Old Black Joe', to be performed by 'D. S. C.'. 'Old Black Joe' is a parlour song composed by Stephen Foster (1826-1864), first published, in the USA, in 1853 (Wikipedia 2018, 'Old Black Joe').

Brooks Creek: Brooks Creek rises in the high country—the western edge of the Lake George Range—close to the southern end of Ryans Road. From there it flows north, paralleled by Valley View Lane, crossing under Bungendore Road just south of Clare Lane. It continues north, on the eastern side of Bungendore Road, goes under the Federal Highway at Grove Road and soon afterwards turns west to join the Yass River near the Sutton Road/Shingle Hill Way junction.

Name origin: named after Richard Brooks, the first large landholder in the Bungendore region (including Wamboin), who initially occupied the area in about 1823-1824. Born in Devon, England, c. 1765, died Liverpool (Sydney) 1833 'after being gored by a bull' (Proctor 2001, p. 28).

Additional information: 'The pioneer settler in the district was Richard Brooks who in May 1825 was allowed to purchase for £1000 a tract of 4000 acres which he selected "at a place known by the Native Name of Bungendore in the County of Argyle two miles Southwd. of Lake George"' (Lea-Scarlett 1968, p. 227).

'William Moore of Piper's Hill, Campbelltown, purchased 640 acres at the head of Brooks Creek on the track from Gundaroo to Bungendore in 1838 and for many years lived quietly but industriously on his property that he named Creekborough. He died there in January 1861 aged 84 ...' (Lea-Scarlett 1972, p. 14.).

The creek was first visited by Europeans (Charles Throsby Smith, Joseph Wild & James Vaughan) on 3 December 1820. They camped there that evening on an expedition heading west from Lake George aiming to locate the Yass River, a waterway that had been described by local Aboriginal informants (Lea-Scarlett 1972, p. 2). Their campsite was probably in what we now call Bywong.

Both alluvial and reef gold mining took place along the creek and in the adjoining hillsides, mostly to the north of Wamboin in the southern Gundaroo area, during various stages between the early 1860s and the end of the 19th century.

Brooks Creek, especially its downstream section from near where it turns west, was formerly known as Shinglehouse/Shingle House Creek. This part of the creek was probably the Yass River until the Cullerin Uplift occurred 10-5 million years ago (Finlayson 2008).

Kowan Gully: Kowan Gully is the most prominent of the headwaters of the Yass River. It rises near the ACT border in the high country south of Wirreanda Road. The official NSW spelling for the waterway/gully is 'Kowan', whereas the official spelling for the nearby ACT locality is 'Kowen'.

Name origin: 'The district of Kowen has been spelt in different ways, including Kowan, Kohan, Coen, Cohen and even Kohn ... A phonological reconstruction of Kowen suggests that it was partially derived from the Aboriginal placename for the area, which was "kuwain"... Kuwin was also the first element of the aboriginal Kuwiniyan, from which Queanbeyan was derived, although its meaning is unknown...' (ACT Heritage Council 2015, p. 2).

Mill Post Creek: The creek rises in the high country along the ACT border in the vicinity of Mt Cohen, and flows north-east, through 'Millpost' station and the Lake George Range, to join Halfway Creek in the paddock to the west of Trucking Yard Lane, Bungendore.

Name origin: Not known.

Additional information: We are not aware which was named first, Mill Post Creek or 'Millpost' station. Furthermore, the origin of the name does not seem to be recorded, nor available in oral histories. It is possible that the creek and property are named after an early post mill (see Wikipedia contributors, 'Post mill') in the area, but residents are not aware of any reports of one there. It is also possible that it is named after a locality or farm in the UK from which early settlers came but that, and the post mill possibility, remain speculation. Note Millpost Hill and Millpost Trig between Denley Drive and Hogan Drive, and the old property 'Millpost' on the Gundaroo-Nanima Road (Lea-Scarlett 1972, pp. x, 66).

Reedy Creek: Two waterways called 'Reedy Creek' are found in or close to Wamboin. The one which flows through Wamboin rises near Norton Road at around the 10 km mark, flows north between Norton Road and Weeroona Drive, past the end of Reedy Creek Place, passing under Bungendore Road immediately south of the Bungendore Road/Macs Reef Road junction, and there joins Brooks Creek.

Name origin: the middle part of its course meanders, as a reedy waterway, through Clare Valley.

Additional information: The other nearby Reedy Creek rises on the Queanbeyan Fault, at the NSW/ACT border in Kowen Forest, from where it flows west under Sutton Road, and then south, beside Sutton Road, joining the Molonglo River near Pialligo Avenue. This is outside the boundary of Wamboin.

Woolshed Creek: Woolshed Creek rises near Weeroona Drive and flows north-east, under Warramunga Close near its junction with Woolshed Lane, and joins Reedy Creek close to Bungendore Road immediately south of the Bungendore Road/Macs Reef Road junction.

Name origin: the woolshed after which it is named is found on Woolshed Lane, close to its junction with Macs Reef Road.

Additional information: 'Ray [Murphy] also notes that much of the Wamboin/Geary's Gap shearing was done in the shearing shed that still stands just south of the intersection of Macs Reef Road and Gundaroo Road [the old name for the current Bungendore Road]. The flocks from the Ryans, the Taylors, the Donnellys, the Reardons, and from Lumley were brought there.' Ned Noel, *Wamboin Whisper*, Sep. 1997, p. 16.

Stony Creek: Stony Creek rises on the ridge to the west of Birchmans Estate. It then flows north-west to join the Yass River near 'Woodfield' station.

Name origin: presumably named after the rocky nature of some of the terrain through which it flows.

Yass River: The Yass River rises in Kowan Gully near the ACT border in the high country south of Wirreanda Road. From there it flows north, under Norton Road, and then west to the vicinity of Fernloff Road and then north, forming the western boundary of the parish of Wamboin, heading to Sutton, Gundaroo, Yass and joining the Murrumbidgee River in Lake Burrinjuck.

Name origin: '... thought to be derived from "yarh", an Aboriginal term for which no meaning can be reliably attributed to... Also: for "waters"...

Origin: 1st origin-said to be named after an Aborigine's comments to Hume in 1821 "Yass boss, plains"
2nd Origin - said to be named after comments made by a Mr Angel to Hume in 1824. "Yas, yas, plenty of clear country here".
3rd origin-Yarrh or Yharr was the native name of the river that runs through the town (there is no "s" in the local dialect)' (NSW Geographic Names Board, n.d.).

Additional information

First visited by Europeans (Charles Throsby Smith, Joseph Wild & James Vaughan) in 1820, in what is now Bywong.

'Another sound that gave trouble to English speakers was the trilled r when it occurred at the end of the word. G. A. Robinson wrote it r.r - his full stop usually indicates syllable division. The placename "Yass" presumably ended in this trill, which was partly devoiced. This sound is probably what lies behind Hume and Hovell's spelling "Yarrh" ... According to Mowle..., "Yass should be Yarr"' (Koch 2009, p. 132).

'Yass' is an Aboriginal word for 'waters' (McCarthy 1959, p. 18).

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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For March I chose the Leaden Flycatcher, a summer migrant to Wamboin that has an interesting call.

Leaden Flycatcher (*Myiagra rubecula*)

Size: 14-16cm

Status: Fairly common breeding summer migrant

The Leaden Flycatcher lives in the treetops and seems to never stay still. It is very similar to the Satin Flycatcher which is less common than the Leaden. The females of the two species are almost identical, whilst the male Satin has a more shiny head and neck than the male Leaden. These birds are very active, flying around and catching insects. They often wag/bob their tails too. Their most distinctive call is a sharp "zwitt", but other calls include a variety of mimicry, whistles and warbles. They are usually found in pairs and associate with other small birds e.g. thornbills, robins, etc. The Leaden flycatcher has a dark grey tail, back, wings, nape and head above the eye and white on the belly and vent. The male is also dark grey on the neck and head, contrasting with the female which has a bright orange neck and chin.

(Photos from Google images)



Male



Female

Editor's Note: In the printed version of the Whisper the captions "Male" and "Female" were wrongly reversed by me while formatting the article. In this online version they are correct. I apologise to the author for my mistake. The last sentence of the article is correct, and has always been in the article.

Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

As I look outside the wind is tearing through the tops of the gums. A family of rowdy choughs has sought refuge in the shade and are taking turns at drinking from the fish pond, noisy black balls of feathers recently departed from the chook yard. Each morning they wait for the daily ritual, perched, brooding on the top of the chook yard gate, ready to pounce like vultures on the contents of the scrap bucket. They are hungry, just like the magpies that call at the back door. There are no worms in the dry, powdery ground, and few insects around. Many trees are already clad in their red and yellow autumn colours, some with crisp brown edges, but the gums are still strong and green. I seem to be filling bird baths almost every day. I must have missed one, but a considerate possum left me a reminder... neatly stacked in the middle of the dry bowl was a little pyramid of possum poo! Rain is promised.....promises, promises.


However, at the markets, last week, there was little evidence of a lack of rain. I was greeted with fresh plums and peaches firm and full of flavour. One bite and I was ten years old again, in our backyard orchard. I bought REAL tomatoes, parsley that tasted like parsley, not synthetic grass, garlic from down the road in Bungendore, not China, and potatoes that would have made an Irishman's heart sing. There was a real buzz, but it was not just the result of fresh produce or the craft or plant stalls, the buzz came because people were coming together, buying, chatting, catching up with each other and enjoying a late breakfast egg and bacon roll and a cup of good coffee. The market is just one example of the glue that keeps our community together.

I have some misgivings about the way "community," as a word, is bandied about as something warm and fuzzy that if said often enough will cure society's ills. A community is not something that can be plucked from a conjuror's hat on cue. A community is made up of us. It doesn't exist just because we do. It exists because of what we, as individuals do, and how we come together to do it. There are many groups and activities in our area, catering for many and varied needs. Good, community minded people have perceived those needs over the years and have worked towards providing them. But our needs are changing as the population changes.

When we arrived here the creek was running, dams were overflowing, the grass was green and the wildlife was abundant and in its place. We were energetic, maintained our acres, engaged with the community and still put in a week of work in town. But we were 20 years younger then. There are now many long term residents in our community, many alone, who want to stay where they are but without real support may be forced to leave.

Sitting around the table the other day over a home cooked lunch with "old" Wamboin friends, thumbs in neutral, laughing and chewing the fat twentieth century style, we acknowledged that our needs are changing and that we are no longer as spry as we used to be, and no longer as quick on our feet. However, we still desire and are able to contribute to our community, and we still have a need to feel useful and relevant. A lot of positive ideas were tossed around. Whilst wishing to retain our independence in our own homes we don't want to be socially isolated and lonely. Many of us now need some help, not just from each other but from the wider community. A community bus and a secure communal dog walking area were a couple of ideas floated. I'm sure the Thursday morning group at the Community Hall has further suggestions. All ideas are worthy of consideration, but putting them into practice can be the challenge, and take time.

The tree tops are still being buffeted by the wind, the shrubs outside my window are drooping as if they are desperate for a drink...and I share their sentiments. I only wish I could glue a few more cut out clouds in the holes in the sky to make the promise of rain more likely...but maybe I'll be more realistic and simply pour myself that drink. I wouldn't live anywhere else.

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