



The Whisper

April 2018 CIRCULATION: 1,313

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 May 2018 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, April 29. 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-urgent 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		Irrhallbywong@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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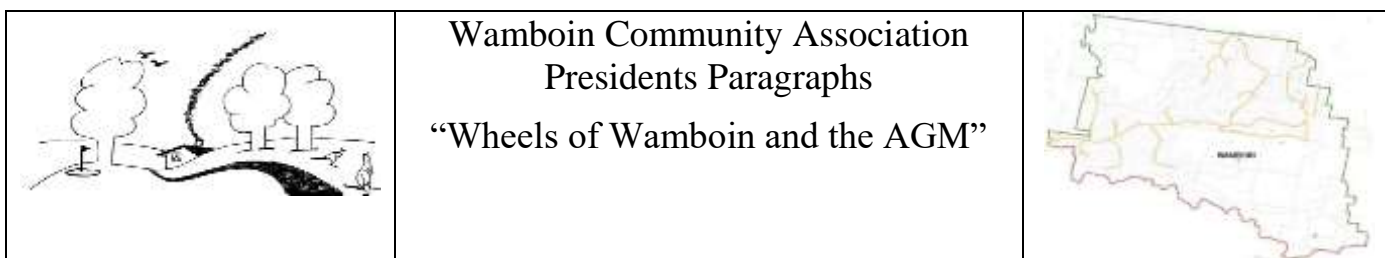
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April shapes up to being a great month with both the Wheels of Wamboin automotive spectacular and our Wamboin Community Association Annual General Meeting. The past committee year has seen some great highlights including:

- A great spring talks program, the fabulous bonfire night and the annual Christmas Carols.
- Installation of the new AV equipment at Hall
- Continuing monthly home produce markets
- Updating the New Residents' Guides and staffing the WCA table
- Meet the QPRC Candidates night

Things also happen behind the scenes with representations to Council on a range of matters including the Community Strategic Plan, the 2018 Delivery Plan and the R5 vs E4 zoning issue. We also expressed our disappointment with QPRC cancelling the Clean Up Australia day after 27 years even though surrounding Council still went ahead.

Of course these things do not happen without a hardworking team of local community members. Our AGM will be held on **Tuesday the 17th of April at 7.30pm**. This year it will be held upstairs in the fire station (due to a double booking in the hall). To ensure all the fabulous things outlined above keep happening we need your help. If you are new to Wamboin or just feel it's time to give a little back come along to the AGM and get to know the local community. It doesn't take long and there is only a once a month meeting.

Wheels of Wamboin – Not many sleeps now. The legendary Wheels of Wamboin will be held on **Saturday 21st of April 2018** from 9am to 1pm. Come on down for a day of automotive dreams and reminiscing.

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.

WCA AGM – next meeting is the AGM and will be held 7.30 pm, Tuesday 17th April at the Wamboin Rural Fire shed on Bingley Way.

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

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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!
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Bywong Community News

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

Committee Report



Bywong Car Boot sale

The weather gods spared us the worst, with just a few gusts of wind and sprays of rain until the last minutes of this year's Car Boot Sale. The forecast might explain the lower seller turnout this year, but the buyers were as enthusiastic as ever, with a wide variety of wares on offer, from vintage kids toys to handmade garden tools – a veritable trove of treasures. While Bywong Community Association members organise and run many aspects of the Sale, the day would not have been possible without the support of the Bungendore and Sutton SES units (helped with traffic control and parking), the Wamboin RFS (ran the life-saving BBQ), the Geary's Gap Pony Club (provided the usual scrumptious Morning Teas) and the Tuggeranong Dog Flyball team (with their enthusiastic canines). We ran our own 'in-house' coffee stall this year, which was a great success and helped contribute to a record financial result. However, just as importantly, we provided the opportunity for lots of locals and 'regulars' to get together and for non-locals to experience the best of the Bywong community and environment. We also received generous support from a range of sponsoring businesses, who donated prizes for the Raffle: Bungendore Rural, the Bungendore Vet Surgery, Casino Canberra/Natural Nine Restaurant, Contentious Character Winery, Springhill Road Vineyard and Bean!Roasters coffee suppliers. So, a big "Thank you" to all of those (you know who you are) who contributed to the success of this year's CBS!

The next BCA meeting will be at the Bywong Community Hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday 12 April – all are welcome.

- Mike Wilkins, President



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Wamboin's First Queanbeyan Library Tech Class

The first Queanbeyan Library tech class took place on Thursday 15 March. Ainslie did an excellent job in teaching us new tricks. The topic was an introduction to Tablet/iPad. Approximately 30 people came along, including from Sutton, Bywong and Bungendore. This was a great turn out. Feedback after the course suggested people had gained confidence to 'have a go' and they have started to use their tablets much more. Other items to be discussed over the coming months, include smartphones, email, particular online applications, such as Banking and shopping and anything else people want help with. The next session will be on Thursday 29 March at the Wamboin Community Hall from 10.00. The courses coincide with the arrival of the Mobile Library (1030) and of course the Social Club gathering. Contact Phil Machin and be included in a group tech class email: - machin4@bigpond.com.

Local Bird Observations, Wamboin & Bywong

Some years ago, David McDonald, David Cook and Kathy Cook compiled a comprehensive list of the wild birds that have been reported from Wamboin and Bywong. It was subsequently updated with information on additional species, contributed by other local birders, and published on the WCA's website.

The list has been updated again, and is online at <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/localservices/birds>. It is now in the form of a database that returns a photograph of each species, as well as a comment as to its status locally. The WCA is grateful to our Webmaster, Pete Harrison, for the time and expertise that he has put into creating and publishing this database.

If anybody has valid Wamboin/Bywong records of bird species not listed here, or comments on any aspect of the resource, please contact me at wamboinbirder@gmail.com, or phone me on 0416 231 890.

The species' names in the list are those used in BirdLife Australia's *Working List of Australian Birds*, v. 2.1, 2017, <http://birdlife.org.au/conservation/science/taxonomy>. - David McDonald

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Originally operating under the L.J. Hooker franchise banner, a business opportunity in 2005 required a switch to another franchise brand. This arrangement continued until 2012 when the Gilberts decided to shed the franchise label and operate as an independent agent.

Principal Daniel Gilbert says "Going out as an independent agency was not a difficult decision at all. We had belief in ourselves,



(l to r) Kim Gilbert, Ben Lee, Daniel Gilbert - Bungendore Railway

our business systems, we knew our marketing was 1st class, and we, as individual agents, had a great reputation for looking after our clients.

Fast forward to October 2017 and the agency moved to its current location at 24 Malbon Street Bungendore – the most prominent in Bungendore right on the Kings Highway and in the core of the café hub. Just after the move, Ben Lee joined the agency, bringing a solid track record of 18 years of local experience and success, and when combined with Kim and Daniel, a combined 60 years of experience – more than double any of our competitors.

Daniel says "Ben on board is, without doubt a huge asset to our agency. Together with Kim, myself and Renee, our office administrator, the office dynamic and energy between us is amazing and obvious to all our clients who meet us. We all share a common desire to help each other and go the extra mile to do the very best for all our clients, whether they be sellers, buyers, investors or tenants".

In February 2018, the agency expanded their office space, and the office now includes an access from Ellendon Street with a wide walkway that leads out to the Pie Shop courtyard.

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Contentious Character - Event News



The good news is we are open all Easter from Good Friday!

Good Friday night – Fish n’ Chips w’ Kids Menu, with happy hour 5-7pm, 25% off all drinks.
Easter Egg Paint & Hunt Easter Sunday April 1 for kids and big kids! - Kids (5-17rs) \$35 includes the hunt, choice of pizza or vegetarian pasta, ice cream and drink, while Mum and Dad enjoy their lunch. From 11:30am Sunday April 1st

Canberra Wine Week – Weekends April 7 & 8, 14 & 15. Vintage Flights with Paired Plate
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WAMBOIN WEATHER: (rainfall and temperature records)

43 years from Cooper Road by Christine Rieber

March Rainfall Stats

March rainfall to the 25th 3.0mm
 2018 total rainfall to 25/3..... 120.25mm

Average March rainfall..... 58.1mm
 2017 March rainfall..... 79.5mm
 2017 total rainfall to 25/3..... 108.0mm
 43yr Av. to end of March..... 177.0mm

April Rainfall Stats

2017 April rainfall..... 32.5mm
 Wettest April..... 174.5mm in 1989
 Wettest day..... 70mm on 20/4/84
 Driest April..... 0.5mm in 1997

Average April rainfall..... 45.9mm
 Average no. rain days in April..... 7.2
 Highest no. rain days..... 19 in 1989
 Lowest no. rain days..... 1 in 1997

April Temperature Stats

Hottest April day..... 30°C on 5/4/86
 Hottest April night..... 16°C (5 times) on
 6/4/81, 11/4/83, 4-5/4/86, & 5/4/89
 Average day temperature..... 17.4°C
 Warmest April..... 2005
 (Av. max day temp. 20.4°C & night 10.3°C)
 (warmest night temp. 11.0°C in 1989)

Av. April temp.. 12.8°C (day+night comb.)
 Coldest April day..... 8°C (4 times) on
 13/4/94, 27/4/09, 26/4/12 & 22/4/15
 Coldest April night..... -1°C on 25/4/13
 Average night temperature..... 8.3°C
 Coldest April 2011
 (Av. min day temp. 14.5°C & night 5.7°C)
 (coldest night temp. 3.5°C in 2013)

Last month I presented data on the number of days $\geq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ per year for Wamboin. Some stats for March:

- (a) 1983 had the highest number of $\geq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ days with 12 (all before the 15th),
- (b) other high years were 1998 (10 days) and 1978 (5 days) and,
- (c) the 42 year average is 1.5 days.

As of 25th we have had 6 days in March 2018

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Roo For Thought

As a volunteer for Wildcare (your local wildlife rescue group), I have attended a number of incidents where a kangaroo has been hit on the road. Most motorists are really good; contacting Wildcare and then waiting by the accident scene until someone arrives. Sometimes it is good Samaritan who stops to check an animal. Now I don't suppose for a minute that anyone intentionally wants to hit a kangaroo, so 'why me?'

Having stood by the side of the road, during the rush hour, even 80 km/hr (or more?) seems quick. And it might be speed that is the problem that makes some drivers more at risk than others. We are all different and individual reaction times and driving ability will vary. Motorists who avoid hitting kangaroos are not necessarily lucky, they might just be more vigilant, be expecting the unexpected, or driving slower, so they have time to react.

The Safe Driver Training website, suggests there is more to avoiding an accident than just hitting the brakes. Total stopping distance is made up of human perception & reaction time, plus vehicle reaction time & a vehicle's braking capability.

Realising there is a hazard – such as a camouflaged kangaroo, may take the brain half a second; doing something, such as moving the foot from the accelerator to the brake can be as long as three quarters of a second; and if there is fatigue, tiredness or your mind is somewhere else, then reaction time can blow out to three or four seconds. In four seconds at 100 km/h a car travels 110 metres before the brakes are applied. This is why tailgating is so dangerous – you simply cannot react in time to avoid an accident if the guy in front hits the brakes. And one of the most common accidents is rear end collision.

Once the brakes are applied there will be another set of factors that determine stopping distance, such as the car's type of braking system, weight, tyre tread and pressures and so on. And in regional areas, the state of the road! Modern cars can stop quickly, but it could still take 40 metres, depending on speed.

It is not easy to be specific, as there are too many variables, but the Safe Driver Training website suggests a best-case scenario (excellent driver, healthy, vigilant and aware – is that me?) and at 80 km/h, it will take perhaps 60 metres to stop. But if your reaction time is longer because you are not consciously looking for unexpected risks, it could be a much greater stopping distance.

The point I suppose is that we can drive more slowly in wildlife-rich areas to give us more time to react, be more vigilant (an active lookout) and expect the unexpected – particularly at dawn and dusk and through the night. It doesn't really matter if there is a string of traffic sitting on one's backside, pushing us ever faster down the road – it is your safety that's important, as well as the wildlife you are about to hit.

If you get caught out, please do the right thing. Stop and check the animal, then contact Wildcare on 6299 1966 (put it in your Mobile), so they can send someone out to help the injured animal. - Philip Machin, 6238 3717



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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For April I chose the Scarlet Robin, a very beautiful bird that has been around at our house a lot lately.

Scarlet Robin (*Petroica boodang*)

Size: 12-14cm

Status: Fairly common / Uncommon breeding resident.

Scarlet Robins can often be seen sitting on a low perch in a tree or a fence post and then flying down to the ground to get an insect. They are very colourful birds, and often stand out against grass or leaves. The male has a bright red chest and belly and a black head, wings and tail. If you see him from behind, you will notice the white "V"-shape on his wings. He also has a white vent and edges of the tail. The female isn't as colourful, but she shares the white forehead of the male. Where the male is black, she is a dark brown and she sometimes has a hint of or a bit of pale red on the chest. She has a faint white "V" and is pale brown underneath. These birds are mostly seen in pairs in grassy areas with a few trees to grassy woodlands. They are usually found in mixed flocks with thornbills, flycatchers, etc. They are classified as vulnerable in NSW and the ACT.



Male



Female

(Photos from Google images)

Erratum: In the March edition of the Whisper the labels for the photos of bird of the month (Leaden Flycatcher) we inadvertently swapped during printing and thus the male photo was mislabelled as a female and vice versa. Sorry for any confusion this may have caused.

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Kowen Trail Run – Wamboin Hall, Sunday June 17

This is a quick note to let you know that entries are now open for the Kowen Trail Run planned for Sunday 17 June. To enter click the 'Enter Here' button at kowen-trail-run.com

And if you want to know more about the race, we've put together a Race Entry Info Pack at <https://kowen-trail-run.com/race-information/>

We have some new surprises in store, including exclusive use of the community hall for runners, a stall by Mont selling trail running goodies as well as stalls by Wildcare and Landcare and much more.

See you at the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, on Sunday 17 June!



<p>NEW CALEDONIA</p> <p>FRANCE</p>	<p>Tour dates</p> <p>NEW CALEDONIA Gourmet Tour 14th – 19th May 2018</p> <p>French Cheese Festival Tour 15-17 June 2018</p> <hr/> <p>FRANCE 14th – 25th September 2018</p>	<p>BEAUTY ESCAPE NEW LOCAL BUSINESS AT SUTTON</p> <p>Specialising in massage and facials Waxing, pedicure, tinting and makeup Flexible hours, including weekends</p> <p>Serene country setting</p> <p>72 Wattle Flat Road Sutton 0487 294 408</p>
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Something for You to Do this Winter

The current fire danger period ends on 31 March 2018. If you need to carry out any vegetation pile burns on your property after this date you will need to notify the Queanbeyan Fire Control Centre on 6128 0600 before midday on Friday and your neighbours at least 24 hours beforehand.

The recent events in Victoria and at Tathra on the south coast of NSW clearly demonstrate that we cannot be complacent about the threat of bushfires given the relatively unusual weather patterns we have been experiencing.

The NSW RFS website provides some good advice about preparing your property. It is reproduced below.

A well prepared home is more likely to survive a bush fire. Even if your plan is to leave early, the more you prepare your home, the more likely it will survive a bush fire or ember attack. A well prepared home can also be easier for you or firefighters to defend, and is less likely to put your neighbours' homes at risk. A well prepared home will also give you more protection if a fire threatens suddenly and you cannot leave.

Here are some maintenance tips from the NSW RFS to prepare your property:

- Clean your gutters of leaves and twigs
- Install metal gutter guards
- Repair damaged or missing tiles on the roof
- Install fine metal mesh screens on windows and doors
- Fit seals around doors and windows to eliminate gaps
- Enclose the areas under the house
- Repair or cover gaps in external walls
- Attach a fire sprinkler system to gutters
- Keep lawns short and gardens well maintained
- Cut back trees and shrubs overhanging buildings
- Clean up fallen leaves, twigs and debris around the property
- Clear under solar panels and inside evaporative coolers
- Have hoses long enough to reach around your house
- If you have a pool, tank or dam, put a Static Water Supply (SWS) sign on your property entrance, so firefighters know where they can get water
- Check and maintain adequate levels of home and contents insurance. Ensure it is up to date.

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E: sztrural@yahoo.com.au

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- **Tree Service** – Firewood preparation, log splitting & mulching.
- **Machinery** – Paddock clearing, rock removal, slashing, spreading, driveway maintenance, erosion & fire hazard reduction.

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

In addition to the activities on the previous page, there are 3 other things you and your family can do to be better prepared for a bush fire:

1. Discuss what to do if a bush fire threatens your home. It is best to do this in a calm and relaxed atmosphere with everyone in your household before you smell the smoke. You should stick to your plan and try not to change your plan when the stress levels are rising in response to the fire threats.
2. Know and keep track of the bush fire alert levels and how they relate to what you need to be aware of and what you should consider doing. If there is a fire in your area you will find its alert level on the NSW RFS website and in the 'Fires Near Me' app.
3. Keep and maintain all the bush fire information numbers, websites and smartphone apps so you can stay up to date about the conditions in your area. Listen to the local emergency radio station (usually ABC 666 on the AM band)

You can also make your bush fire survival plan with the help of MyFirePlan app, which is available for iOS and Android devices. Other tips and guides to assess your fire risk are also available on the RFS website.

A Cautionary Note

If our reader follows the suggestions in this article or from the NSW RFS website, including the extra dot point about solar panels, their property should be well placed if a bush fire threatens. The areas surrounding the buildings are tidy. Vegetation and flammable material has been collected and is away from the house. Gaps under the house are covered. Gutters are protected. A petrol or diesel powered pump (including extra fuel) is available to supply water through a long hose. Rakes, shovels, buckets with water, and knapsacks are all handy to deal with embers and any small fires around the property.

However, there is also another risk that may not have had much publicity. If your house is fitted with solar panels or other things such as an evaporative cooler mounted on the roof, you need to check if they are clear of windblown material that could either catch fire or become a trap for embers during a bushfire. This picture shows the result of leaves and other windblown debris being trapped under a solar panel of a local house. Over time, the debris dried out and with the heat generated by the wiring to the solar panel began to smoulder. Luckily for the residents of the house the wiring short-circuited before any serious damage occurred. If embers blew in under the solar panel during a bush fire, the result could be worse.



Charred leaves and windblown material under a solar panel

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

wamboincaptain@gmail.com or 0409 991 340

Queanbeyan Fire Control

6297 1840

Wamboin Community Hall Project with Landcare

On Sunday the 11th of March about 20 people from our local communities and Landcare got together to improve the landscaping and safety of the entrances to the Wamboin community hall. We worked solidly from 8.30 to 11.30 am with the buzzing of chainsaws surrounding us. The focus was on clearing out dead trees and shrubs and improving the sight lines of the entrances which we managed to do in the time. We had the help of Tim Oliver from TLO Tree Services who volunteered his mulcher, truck and time to mulch a mountain of trees and shrubs for later use in the replanting of the Memorial Grove and other areas. Tim has a business based in Bungendore and is a qualified arborist with years of experience in the industry.

Apart from a few people bleeding from scratches, we all survived the experience and enjoyed the slices and scones provided by Joan and Adrienne!

Thanks to everyone who helped and worked so hard for the community. We will be finishing the project later in autumn with the help of a grant from Landcare to plant and mulch the area.

- Vicki Still (For Wamboin Hall Management Committee)



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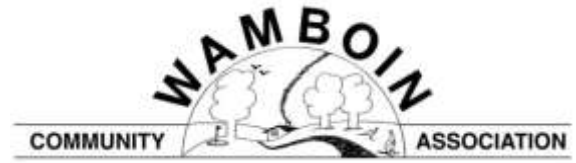
Tel **0419 613 387** 02 6238 2142
PO Box 129 Bungendore NSW 2621 ACTEW Approved ABN 85 133 228 628
www.domesticwaterdirect.com.au

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

Date of Meeting: 20 March 2018

Meeting chaired by: Peter Evans, President, WCA

A meeting of members of the WCA and other local residents preceded a presentation by Jen Ramirez, Manager, Meals on Wheels, Queanbeyan. 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 reminded about the upcoming Wheels of Wamboin on 21st April. He had learned that neighbouring Councils, including Yass Valley, had supported roadside clean-ups on Clean Up Australia Day, and reiterated that the decision of QPRC not to support the long-standing (27 years) community event on Wamboin's roadsides was a major disappointment. He summarised the WCA's submission to Council regarding the Delivery Program with a focus on a three year program for road maintenance, roadside vegetation and line marking; prioritisation of control of weeds that are taking hold because they have been taken off the noxious weeds list and are therefore no longer managed by Council, e.g. sweet briar rose; review of outdated tourism signage; Greenways repair erosion and general maintenance.

Treasurer: Keith France showed two First Aid kits that had been purchased by the WCA for the Hall, one being a snake bite kit.

Whisper: Editor Ned Noel thanked everyone who had written for or delivered the March Whisper and reminded that the deadline as always is the last Sunday of the month.

Hall Management Committee: Lofty Mason and Peter Greenwood reported on progress of improvements to the Hall and that the driveway and parking areas have been cleared thanks to the efforts of community and Landcare volunteers, the latter also managing a planting program.

Wamboin Pony Club: Club President Peter Evans reported that the Club's membership continues to grow, with 20 riders at the last rally day, the largest number in ten years.

Wamboin Social Drop-in Group: Convenor Denise Hales said that new members were joining, young and "not so young". Coinciding with the Group's recent Thursday morning gathering, QPRC's Mobile Library staff conducted the first of a number of technical education sessions, which was attended by 30 people.

Following the meeting, **Jen Ramirez, Manager, Meals on Wheels, Queanbeyan**, gave a valuable presentation on the services offered by and aims of the organisation, being to assist people to stay in their homes longer. The service is available after assessment to anyone over 65 and NDIS participants, and their carers. Jen asked that members of the WCA help spread the word in the broader community and handed out relevant brochures. Contact 6299 3000 or mealsonwheelsqueanbeyan.org.au

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. The next meeting, which is also the 2018 Annual General Meeting, will be held on Tuesday 17 April (upstairs in the Fire Shed attached to the Community Hall). All welcome.

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

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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



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23-25 March 2018
Bookings:
cndlemesurier@bigpond.com

Tanja Mitton and Fran Griffen

4 day Clinic
12-15 May 2018
Bookings:
sheronypark@bigpond.com

First Aid for Equine Enthusiasts

19 May 2018
Time: 8:30am – 3:00pm
Bookings:
webbequineeducation@gmail.com

Seminars

'Wounds and Bandaging',
16 May 2018
'Teeth, Sheaths and Vaccines',
23 May 2018
Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm
Bookings:
webbequineeducation@gmail.com

www.sheronypark.com.au

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The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

Gail Ritchie Knight

It continues to amaze me just how fingers can be so nimble. There are people out there who produce beautiful work. One of them is textile worker extraordinaire, the Fairy Godmother of Bywong, Merle Hergosi. Merle belongs to the group Ghawazee Moon Bellydance. When one of the dancers moved away and subsequently began missing her fellow dancers, Merle gave her a doll. She had transformed a brown-haired Barbie doll into Hester, the belly dancer. So good does Hester look that Merle will be busy for some time making belly dancer dolls for the rest of the group.

And there's more, Cynthia Budd has been busy knitting a collection of trauma teddy bears which she brought in a couple of weeks ago. With their smiley faces it's not hard to understand that children love to cuddle these little cuties especially in times of distress. So we donate the bears to the Queanbeyan Ambulance Station who say their patients draw much comfort from the trauma teddies.

All women are welcome. Some come from Bywong, Queanbeyan and Sutton as well as Wamboin. We meet 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



Merle and Hester the Belly Dancer



Trauma Teddies knitted by Cynthia Budd

How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month.

Thank you Peter Huckstepp, who generously offered to put Whispers into the 22 mailboxes along the Federal Highway Service Road between Sutton Road and the Ibis Hotel, which Michael Deane delivered previously..

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. a bit of time you could spare, think about offering to take over the job or help out. - Ned Noel, volunteer editor

167: CO-ORDINATED BY ALICE SCOTT: ph 6238 3178 email alicescott@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+Wirndra)	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			

263: CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN: ph 6238 3590 jnpvds@bigpond.net.au

Sheryl Barnes	Denley Dr (Sth End 1/2 way2 Kestral)	15	Rhonda&Neville Parnell	Denley Dr (Birchmans to 1/2 way to end)	26
Don Malcolmson	Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat)	7	Volunteer Hoped For	Macs Reef Rd (Newington to Bankers)	10
Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr	35	Daryl Bourke	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwgtm& Harriott & Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott	30
Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Sandra Favre		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

Peter Huckstepp	Federal HwSvcRd	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 1,313

Nature Notes March 2018

Jo Walker

March had a few temperatures higher than one would expect in autumn, but the overnight temperatures are now becoming comfortably cool.

The greenish yellow flowerheads of *Cassinia quinquefaria* are still the main providers of colour in the landscape – although there are quite a few large Brittle Gums (*Eucalyptus mannifera*) bearing heavy loads of flowers to the extent that the trees appear as creamy clouds from a distance. Some of the Hickory Wattles (*Acacia implexa*) are also flowering at present. These usually flower in November and December and there were certainly plenty of them flowering here in those months so I'm not sure what has persuaded these trees to flower now.

Not many Golden Stars (*Hypoxis hygrometrica*) showed their bright yellow flowers this year, but I did find one a few days ago. These little plants grow in soakage areas, but the ground has been rather too dry for them this summer.

The Correas are just beginning to flower and look as if they will flower well this year. We do have one local species, a quite tall form of *Correa reflexa*. It has long tubular red and yellow flowers or, in some areas, greenish flowers. It is one of the favourite food sources of Eastern Spinebills at this time of the year. They feed by inserting their long bills into the flowers to reach the nectar. The Crimson Rosellas are also attracted to these shrubs, but tend to pull off the flowers and nibble them to reach the sweet nectar at the base of the flower. Many times I have admired a Correa shrub adorned with colourful flowers only to return a few hours later to find the flowers forming a colourful carpet on the ground and the shrub bereft of colour.

I'd heard some little bird calls – a short rolling sound – for several days recently, seemingly from quite a few birds. And then, a few days ago, there was a flyover of about fifty energetic little birds. They were Rainbow Bee-eaters on their annual migration back north to spend the winter somewhere warmer than our area. Interestingly, there was a similar migration along Poppet Road on exactly the same date in 2015. Just after I bought my piece of land over thirty years ago a large migratory flock passed through here with the Rainbow Bee-eaters flying around for several days. These brightly coloured birds arrive in our area in spring to breed, building their nests at the end of tunnels often constructed in the banks of deeply eroded creeks.

I haven't seen the Wombat and her joey this month, but occasionally find some fresh droppings. And Denise, who lives a little way up the road from here, had similar evidence of a visit on her verandah one morning!

The first tiny Kangaroo joey of the season tipped itself out of its mother's pouch a few days ago. And a few other little furless joeys are already peering out at the world from the safety of a warm pouch. One or two of the Swamp Wallabies are already carrying quite large pouch joeys. The Kangaroos and Swamp Wallabies often feed quite close to the house whereas the Red-necked Wallabies are a bit more wary and usually keep their distance. But, one evening recently, three of them spent some time feeding on some green grass quite close by. We're so lucky to have so many interesting animals around.

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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market - Saturday 21 April 2018

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

We were away for the March market driving across the Hay plains to and from Adelaide in 38 degrees and a dust storm! Thank goodness for air conditioned cars...bit different from the days when we used to drive in the old Ford Consul with all the windows open to catch the breeze (and the dust).

Many thanks to Joan and others who managed the market on our behalf. We hear it was a good morning, enhanced by music from Poetry in Motion. As we were in competition with the Bungendore Harvest markets, numbers were probably down a bit on recent months.

The April market will be full of produce again including lots of pickles, chutneys, relishes and jams (resulting from all the great local stone fruit this year) and of course we will combine with the famous Wheels of Wamboin (see elsewhere in Whisper for details). Check out the cars, check out the produce and craft and enjoy a cup of coffee and some scones – or a sausage roll or egg and bacon roll or two.....

Don't forget - 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.

SEE YOU AT THE APRIL MARKETS!

Letter

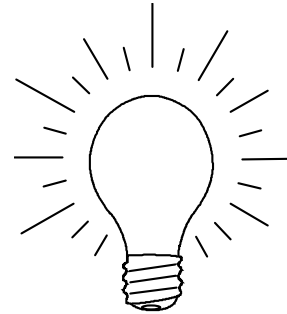
I lost my wallet this last Saturday and after a frustrating day retracing my steps, I'd given up all hope of finding it. There was a knock on our door late Sunday night and a young fella named Michael and his mum from Weerona Drive, having found the wallet, returned it to me, complete with money and cards thus saving me from the tedium of cancelling credit cards and getting a new driver license.

Michael, if you or your mother see this letter, would you please call me. You deserve more in the way of a thank you for your neighbourly and honest actions. My number is 0412 983 783.

Yours, Philip Leeson, Wamboin



A promotional poster for the Sutton Country Fair & Car Carnival. At the top, there is a string of yellow and green triangular bunting. Below it, the text reads "SUPPORT OUR COUNTRY SCHOOL!!!". The main title is "SUTTON COUNTRY FAIR & CAR CARNIVAL" in large green letters. The date and time are "Saturday April 7th, 2018 10am-2pm". In the center is a logo for "Sutton Country Fair" featuring a yellow dinosaur and a green banner. To the left of the logo is a list of activities: Pony Rides, Face Painting, BBQ, Devonshire Tea, Book Stall, White Elephant, Craft Zone, and Marketplace. To the right is another list: Plant Stall, Inflatable Rides, Petting Zoo, Classic Cars, Games, Raffle, Cake Stall, and Local Produce. At the bottom, it says "GREAT FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!" and provides the location "Sutton Public School Oval, Victoria Street, Sutton NSW 2620" and instructions to "Follow the signs from the Federal Highway Exit Ramps".



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Wamboin Golf - February 2018

Sunday, 4 February, very warm, like the greeting a foreign donor gets from a political party. Despite the breaking news of the serious security SNAFU embroiling the Wamboin Golf Club (more later), a pleasing number of finally-tuned athletes rolled up for the February liver-cleansing comp sponsored by the Schroder and Whitney families whom we thank for the healthy eats offset by the countervailing prizes. Stroke play was the order of the day and with a song in our hearts we struck out for various parts of the manicured Wamboin course with our ears pricked for the sound of the trusty 410 shotgun which would signal the beginning of hostilities.

Back at base, talk turned to the scandalous breach of security referred to above. In case you're not across it, let me summarise. A number of the club's filing cabinets containing files classified TOP SECRET and AUSTEO (something to do with Panadol) were removed from club premises and found their way into the hands of the *Australian Bolshevik Comintern* (ABC). Instead of immediately returning them to the club, the ABC broadcast scurrilous reports of a confidential proposal to radically reduce the handicaps of junior players. In the event, the club decided not to go ahead with the idea but both ABC News and *1930hours* (presented by that talented inquisitor, Red Sails) made it their lead story for the week. In other words, a story about something that didn't happen! At least they got something right when they correctly reported ABS analysis of data confirming the global death rate had remained stable at 100%. The captain noted that if you torture a statistic long enough it'll confess to anything. He then welcomed our guests Jen Cass, David Major, Lee Beamont and Timothy Nelson. The googly ball was awarded to one of the club's junior greenkeepers for getting his car locked in at Ron's Dam Hole. The dummy spit went to his wife who complained – some thought reasonably - of the resulting inconvenience. After an absence Ted Evans brought us up to date with the goings-on in Queanbeyan.

The encouragement award went to Tim Nelson. The junior comp was won by Madz Gordon with 25 strokes from Alex Gordon and Phoebe Beckett. NTP and LD ball winners were Glenn Crafter 3, Vicki Still 2, Ken Gordon, Jen Cass, Keith France and Tim Barter. It was a tie in the senior nine hole comp with Deb Gordon 49 and Ken Gordon 35 both equal on 30 after handicap. (The captain was wise enough not to separate them on count back.) The senior 18 hole comp was taken out by Glenn Crafter 79/53 from runner-up Vicki Still 86/54.

Next month will be March according to the magnetic calendar on your correspondent's fridge door. We look forward to all you mad March hares joining us at 12.15pm at the Wamboin community hall on Sunday, 4 March for the 12.30pm signal to begin another essay at that enjoyable but frustrating game invented by the fiendish Pictish people.

Larry King, golfer

Wamboin Golf – March 2018

Mahogany Ridge, Sunday, 4 March. Your correspondent had a strange dream last night. I dreamt I was in Sydney, sitting up front in St Mary's cathedral listening to the King's Singers (no relation) all the way from King's College (not mine), Cambridge. Next door the LGBTIQ community were having their annual Coming Out Party, known as the G&L Mardi Gras. The church's first female bishop was leading the parade on a float bedecked in precious jewels which she was throwing to the crowd (they clearly weren't hers) who were shouting "Jewelry, Bishop! Jewelry, Bishop!" I was about to trouser a diamond the size of the Koh-I-Noor when a large uncouth individual wearing jockey shorts and an over-sized Akubra leaped off the float of the Gay Farmers of New England and ripped it from my hand, screaming "What about my unborn child!" At that point I awoke, regretting the *cassoulet* of green apples, curried eggs and baked beans I had consumed the night before. All of which explains why I didn't make the monthly Wamboin golf day and this report comes to you second hand.

The day was sponsored by Ken and Deb Gordon and their vivacious children whom we thank for the prizes and refreshments. Play was deemed to be on the Stableford scoring system, so with a muttered oath or two from the mathematically challenged, golfers of the region girded their loins (not a pretty sight) and set off into the heart of darkness as my old mate, Joe Conrad, would have it. Back at the disco, as we all danced to the rhythms of Bronski Beat and marveled at the magical *a cappella* sound of the The Nylons (who could have given the Kings Singers a run for their money), discussion turned to the meltdown by QPR Councilor Malaria Hash, the Calamity Jane of local politics. Seems she has been casting aspersions on the staff of The Dear Leader, Kim Working Trousers, whose missile program is going great guns and has already taken out Clean Up Australia Day in the outlying regions of our hermit state. The captain called us to order by welcoming our guests, Gerhard Ryan and Katie and Samantha. Ted Evans celebrated his birthday by pointing dramatically to his new golf shoes. The googly ball was awarded to Vick Still and the dummy spit went to Tim Barter (details redacted under privacy law). NTP and LD ball winners were Colin Urquhart X 2, Tim Barter X 2, Ken Gordon, Deb Gordon, Gerhard Ryan, Pete Harrison and Paul Griffin. Phoebe Beckett took out the juniors' prize. Winner of the nine hole competition was Joan Mason on 21 Stableford points from runner-up Colin Urquhart 20 followed by Samuel Urquhart 16 OCB. Winner of the 18 hole comp was Tim Barter 38, from Gerhard Ryan 37 and Vicki still in 3rd place on 35.

Next month is April. Green fees will be waived for the first reader to correctly identify whether T S Eliot said it was (a) the cruelest month (b) the only month starting with A (c) the only month with 28 days. But the most important thing about April is that it's the month of the Wamboin Mini Masters – the most fun you can have standing up with a golf club in your hand. So why not join us at 12.15pm on Sunday, 1 April at the community hall for the usual 12.30pm start. There will be enough of us golfing April fools present to give you all the camouflage you need.

Larry King, golfer.

The Hills Of Wamboin And Bywong: An Introduction, And Bywong Hill

By David McDonald

The Local History page on the Wamboin Community Association's (WCA's) website contains valuable information on the early European settlers in our area: <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/thewhisper/index.php?op=localhistory>. An additional aspect of local history is the hills of Wamboin and Bywong: where they are and the origins of their names. The Wamboin and Bywong localities are not renowned for their hills as they are on a heavily eroded plateau, the Cullerin Uplift (aka the Cullerin Horst), lying between the Queanbeyan Fault to the west and the Lake George Fault to the east (Finlayson 2008). The seven hills that we have, however, are important parts of our landscape.

The Geographic Names Board of NSW (hereafter GNB) defines a 'hill' as 'A small portion of the earth's surface elevated above its surroundings, of lower altitude than a mountain. Generally its altitude is less than 300 metres above the surrounding country but this can change in areas of low relief' (GNB 2017, p. 4). There are no 'mountains', as defined by the GNB, in Wamboin or Bywong.

In 1971 the GNB gazetted, under the *Geographic Names Act 1966*, seven features in Wamboin and Bywong as 'hills': <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article220051311>. They are Bywong Hill, altitude 858 m; Guise Hill, 750 m (approx.); Millpost Hill, 890 m; Poppet Hill, 918 m; Purrurumba Hill, 888 m; Schofield Hill, 760 m; and Smalley Hill, 866 m (approx.). The altitudes mentioned are those provided by the GNB and/or shown on the former LPI's 1:25,000 topographic maps of our area, i.e. altitudes based on the Australia Height Datum. They are not GPS altitudes.

Other hills, and a mountain

As noted above, the features listed here are those designated as 'hills' by the GNB, and found within the localities of Wamboin and Bywong. Three other hills, and one mountain, are nearby:

- Amungula Hill and Mount Cohen: in the District of Kowen, ACT, a little south of Wamboin, across the NSW/ACT border
- Turalla Hill: Bungendore locality
- Shingle Hill: Gundaroo locality.

Over the next few months I will provide information, here in *The Whisper*, on the individual hills, and invite contribution from *Whisper* readers, especially contributions that fill gaps in the information that I provide, or that correct any errors. Contact me, David McDonald, ph. 02 6238 3706 or 0416 231 890, email david [at] dnmcdonald.id.au. The information on the hills will be added to the Local History pages of the WCA's website.

Let us start the list of hills alphabetically, with **Bywong Hill and Bywong Trig, altitude 858 m**

GNB: 'A hill about 3.5 km ENE of the village of Sutton'. 'A major trig station situated about 4 km NE of Sutton.' Located 1.6 km west of the end of Shepherd Road, Bywong. The communications tower there provides mobile phone services from Telstra, Optus and Vodaphone.

Name origin: An Aboriginal word meaning 'big hill' (McCarthy 1952, p. 8, but this source is notoriously fallible). The GNB gives this origin and word meaning, however, and sources them to McCarthy.

Additional information: 'The hill is identified on a map of southeast New South Wales published in 1837, and was included in a dictionary of Australian place names, published in 1848' (Bywong Community n.d.). The map referred to here is probably Robert Dixon's (Dixon & Walker 1837).

Brothers William and Richard Guise are believed to be the first European settler in the area: 'The date of the Guise brothers first occupation of land in the district remains ... uncertain ... but it was much earlier than February 1828 when William applied unsuccessfully to lease two thousand acres at Bywong as a cattle station. He was undoubtedly using the land already ...' (Lea-Scarlett 1972, p. 5). The Guises' landholdings in the vicinity of Bywong Hill are shown on Dixon's maps.

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WCA Meeting with NSW Shadow Cabinet Minister for Finance, Services & Property

The NSW Shadow Cabinet met in Queanbeyan on Wednesday 21 March 2018 and during the afternoon met with representatives from a variety of organisations in the Monaro electorate. The WCA was invited to discuss issues with a Minister and was allocated a session with the Shadow Minister for Finance, Services and Property, the Hon Clayton Barr MP.

The Minister was not well acquainted with this part of the electorate and appeared very interested in our main concerns, namely, the forced amalgamation of Palerang with Queanbeyan Council and the subsequent disenfranchisement felt in this locality, the poor communications (mobile phone coverage & internet) despite being close to the national capital, difficulties with access to educational and health facilities (cross border issues), and the deteriorating infrastructure (regional and local roads and wooden bridges). He commented that he had heard similar comments from other representatives during the afternoon but was particularly concerned about the perceived poor consideration of local issues at Council.

He was most interested in learning about our demographics, local enterprises and activities, the extent of the home-based industries, and the general issues in a "rural residential" area in close proximity to a major employment centre. He was particularly taken with the independent attitude of the community and its initiatives, eg the Wamboin Communications Action Group.

Although it was a short encounter with a Shadow Minister, I consider it had been worthwhile for him to learn something about a rural residential district. - John van der Straaten, WCA Committee member

Sutton Landcare Group meeting 10 April 7:30pm - Sutton Public School

AGM and presentation on innovations around assessing fuel loads and flammability of urban fringes.

Following the 2018 AGM, Dr Marta Yebra, from the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society, will speak about fuel loads in a peri-urban environment, and how remote sensing can help.

Dr Yebra will give a demonstration of the Australian Flammability Monitoring System (AFMS) web explorer (<http://wenfo.org/afms>) which provides easy and fast access to spatial information on live fuel and soil moisture and flammability. She will also present maps on fuel loads and structures derived from LiDAR for the ACT. The overarching objective is to assist users with better resource allocation in fire protection and response, and improved awareness of fire hazards to people and property.

For more information on Sutton Landcare group, please email our Secretary on Sutton.landcare@gmail.com.



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Cabinets For Sale/New Toilets

The Wamboin Hall Management Committee are clearing out the old Scout storeroom and we will have some items for sale at the next markets. Included: a 4-drawer filing cabinet, a 2-door steel cabinet 1980h, 915w, 460d, a single door cabinet 1520h, 820w, 660d with lock and keys, an under counter twin sliding door cabinet 1020h, 1520w, 460d, a covered barbecue with a 8.5 gas bottle and also two 2-kilo gas bottles. If you require further information on these items please contact Lofty Mason on 62 383 258. Bungendore Scouts have been offered, and have taken, any of the equipment they want. The proceeds from the sale of the above items will go towards the cost of installation of 2 extra unisex toilets.

NEW TOILETS: The Wamboin Hall Management Committee have been concerned about the demand for toilets at the Bonfire Night and lately, before the start of the Kowen Forest Races. The cost of Portaloos is prohibitive so we have decided to install 2 extra unisex toilets plus a hand basin that will be built into the old Scout storeroom. There is a need to move the water pump, which will be positioned in an enclosure under the hand basin, and quite a lot of other plumbing work. Fortunately we have Don Evans in our team so all plumbing will be done professionally. The inner western wall will be insulated and lined.

We plan to open this facility only for the above events. The Wamboin Trail Runners have offered to contribute. The Wamboin Communication Action Group have expressed interest in setting up a switching cabinet at the Hall; the storeroom is an obvious area. - Lofty Mason.

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Kowen 2018 Motorcycle Ride

Kowen Forest will be CLOSED over the extended weekend of 13 -15th April 2018.

The Dual Sport Motorcycle Riders Association (DSMRA) would like to notify all residents in the Wamboin area that Kowen Forest will be CLOSED to the public from Friday 13th April and will re-open on Monday 16 April 2018. This closure does not apply to the areas known as Sparrow Hill and Orchard Block.

The forest will be closed for a non-competitive motorcycling event - the DSMRA's Kowen Forest Ride 2018. This ride is held over two days and is organised as an annual membership drive for our association. It also raises money for charities and funds for the SES. All bikes are registered and each rider must have a motorcycle licence. All riders are required to comply with the 40km/h forest speed limit and will not enter the motorsport exclusion zone particularly that which is adjacent to the northern boundary of the forest on Wamboin Break.

The section of Seven Mile Road adjacent to Wamboin will not be used as a transport section for riders – though normal forest operations may continue to use that area.

Preparations for the event will commence from 8:30 am Friday 13 April 2018. Riders who have travelled from interstate and intend to camp (at the old Depot site), as well as others delivering event infra-structure, will start to arrive from this time. Notices will be put up before the event advising of the forest closure. "Forest Closed" signs will be deployed at more than 50 locations around the forest perimeter.

The DSMRA requests that residents, walkers, runners, hikers, horse riders and bicycle riders do not enter the forest during the closure, as this may endanger you, your animals and the riders.

As this is not a spectator event there will be NO PUBLIC ACCESS to the area via Seven Mile Road, Kowen Rd (the main gate), Millpost Lane (at either the seismic station gates or the sheep boundary gate), Charcoal Kiln Rd etc for the specified period.

However please be aware that there will be increased traffic on Kowen Rd and areas around the Depot site for preparation and the tidy up on the days before and after the event.

If you have any questions, please contact the DSMRA on 0417 427 494

St Andrews, Wamboin and St Peters, Sutton SRMD (Sutton Road Mission District)

Church Notices. At the AGM last Sunday at St Andrews, Robyn Robertson retired as Rector's Warden after 26 years serving the churches of St Peters and St Andrews in the community. Robyn has been unfaltering in her role, dedicating herself with love and commitment to the development of the two church congregations in their growth, outreach initiatives, and separation from St Johns, Reid, with the establishment of the SRMD. It is truly a success story and without Robyn's deep faith, vision, calm determination and hard work it may never have been achieved. St Andrews' church was a personal gift to the community from Robyn and her late husband, David. The land on which it was built was a gift from the Schultz family. It is a wonderful community story. To our delight, Bronwyn Elliott becomes the new Rector's Warden, but Robyn's corporate knowledge and legacy will not be lost.

Meriel Schultz, in conjunction with the church, will be involved once more with the Sutton School Fair on 7 April, with the popular "Plant in a painted pot" activity. All proceeds go to the School. Although our sponsorship of two children in Sri Lanka has come to an end, the SRMD will continue to support different charities on a regular basis. Hope behind Bars was the recipient last month. St Benedicts, Queanbeyan, is assisted with donations of non perishable goods and help in the kitchen. St Andrews is not an empty shell between fortnightly services. Many local groups use the facility; WOWS, Book Club and Bridge Club. When St Peters adjoining new hall with meeting room, kitchen and toilets becomes a reality, it is hoped that community groups in Sutton will take advantage of this facility.

Easter services: Good Friday 30 March St Peters, Sutton 9am, Easter Sunday 1 April St Andrews, Wamboin 9am, Passover Meal/Pot Luck dinner St Andrews, Thurs. 29 March 6pm

A happy and holy Easter....And a good holiday break! Kids Club will be in recess over the NSW school holidays.

Pastor Ven Dr Royce Thompson 0416265600 **Wardens** Bronwyn Elliott 62383359, Gai Donald 0438400364, Alan Rope 0429434944

From the Corner

Road Naming — Have you ever wondered how roads get their names? People will have noticed that there are roads that have been named in recognition of local features, historical or present, or in recognition of people who have been historically associated with the area being serviced by the road. But there are a few formalities that need to be addressed, if you'll pardon the pun, before a name appears on a street sign.

This policy under which roads are named in NSW is managed by the NSW Geographic Names Board (GNB), under the Geographic Names Act 1966. Nonetheless, with the exception of State Roads, including National Routes and Highways, council is the Road Naming Authority for roads within its Local Government Area. As such, while the Board offers guidelines and advice for the selection of names, council has the formal responsibility for naming roads and enforcing the principles that support the practice of standardised addressing.

Under these guidelines, which were only formally articulated in 2014 so you may well see many, 'historical' and contradictory examples on existing street signs, a road is considered to be "an area that is open to and/or used by the public and is navigable by vehicle or foot and can be used for assigning addresses or allowing access between points or to a feature".

When it comes to the selection of actual names, the guidelines largely relate to the applicable restrictions: no punctuation marks, although the good old apostrophe is permitted in names such as "O'Connor" (just nowhere near a trailing "s"!), no abbreviations, initials or acronyms, although an exception is made of "St", which does not have to be spelled out as "Saint", and no numerals unless spelled out in full ("Third Street", not "3rd Street").

Roads in new subdivisions are obviously a lot easier to name consistently, following some neat theme. Nonetheless, following a recommendation of Council some years back, made in consultation with Council's Bungendore War Memorial Committee, new streets in Bungendore, for example, are currently being named after local residents who served in the Great War. Observers of the machinations of Council will also note a steady stream of naming proposals coming before Council as we go about ensuring that all residences in the LGA, particularly those in more remote rural areas, can be located easily in case of emergency. Each proposal will invariably include the naming options considered, with the reasons for nominating the respective options, and comments from residents impacted by or with an interest in the naming in question.

If you're interested, the NSW Addressing User Manual (a riveting read!) is available on-line from the GNB website. The actual URL is a little convoluted, but if you simply search for "NSW Addressing User Manual" in your browser, you'll find it.

And just in case anyone was not aware of the fact, rural property numbering is based on the distance, in tens of metres, of the access point to a property from the 'end' (known as the 'Datum Point') of the road on which it is located. For example, the address of the Wamboin Community Hall is 112 Bingley Way, indicating that its access point is located 1.12km from the beginning (the Norton Road end) of Bingley Way—rounded to the nearest even number for addresses on the right hand side of the road, or odd number for addresses on the left.

Unfortunately, as logical as all this might sound, there are ways to stymie even the best of plans. The observant traveller may have noticed that road numbering along the Kings Highway suffers a minor hiatus between Bungendore and Braidwood, where the numbering that was started from the Bateman's Bay end of the road smacks into the numbering that was started from the Queanbeyan end of the road—the identification of reasons why this might have occurred is left to the reader as an exercise. Numbers increase as you head out from Queanbeyan, as you might expect, then, about 50km out, numbers suddenly flick from 5000s to 8000s then decrease again as you head towards the coast. I kid you not...

So, next time you're on your way to the coast with the kids, get them to look for where the change actually occurs (between Bungendore and Braidwood) and where the odd and even numbers flip sides of the road (between Bungendore and Queanbeyan). Note also that it is permissible to flip to conventional street addressing as you enter an urban area, then flip back again as you leave.

The QPR Blog—New or related entries in my Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) include: Road Naming (Mar 18) -- 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.]

NYLEX RAIN GAUGE

If you rely on an older type Nylex rain gauge, as I do, you are probably aware that if you get more than 80mm of rain the top cup fills and then runs over. I know 80mm is a lot of rain however; it could happen if you are away for a couple of days. This is because the top cup forms an airtight seal with the main housing. The air can't get out and the water can't get in. This can lose you major bragging rights! My solution was to drill a small hole in the main housing just below the top cup.

Problem solved. Lofty Mason.

Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

It's been quite a week; the culmination of twenty years of motoring history in our family.

It started with the realisation that we needed a "new" car, so we headed to the Pickles Auction. After careful deliberation we settled on a midnight blue Ford sedan. We took a numbered card and waited for the auction to begin. Tension mounted. Suddenly, my right arm spasmed, my hand shot up and I was waving a number above my head. In that instant we became the owners of a two year old, sage green Holden Commodore station wagon that had defied the "car detailer's" skill by revealing its origins with the tell tale red dust of the Northern Territory. That was nearly the end of an almost perfect marriage! But time is a great healer. Without fuss or fanfare, the Holden, steady, reliable, unpretentious, purring, "Don't notice me", won a place in our hearts. It never had a real name. We'd had the Shark, the Hard Charger and the White Goat before it, but it just remained, "the Holden". It had wind down windows, a radio/cassette player, an air conditioner and a good sized glove box.

In its time it nudged a few unwary kangaroos and grew comfortably wrinkled and scratched. It failed to notice a tree behind it one day and thereafter was two toned, with a smart grey rear hatch door from the wreckers. There was always room for bales of lucerne and hay, bags of grain, potting mix and stinking fertiliser in the back. Animals were carried to the vet, the lamb to its annual Christmas Eve gig at the church and Cedric the rooster had his front seat ride to the letter box. It was never precious about what it carried. The dump was a favourite excursion especially when there were acres of sticky brown clay to bring home. It was the ambulance that made its way through the scrub to rescue our son and take him safely to hospital when he'd been mauled trying to untangle our terrified dog in the dam. Once we filled the car and the trailer to the gunwales with old, mouldy decking timber and brought it home from a Sydney renovation job. We looked like Ma and Pa Kettle in our working clothes, down on their luck with the last of their possessions, but the well seasoned hardwood kept us warm that winter. The Holden travelled the length of the East coast and made many forays into the back blocks. It crawled up Clyde Mountain at the end of a very hot February day, towing an old VW Beetle, and made it without boiling! It was a car for all seasons. Perhaps its stand out moment had been at our eldest son's country wedding. In the lush green church paddock the spotless Holden was positioned, the rear hatch door lifted and there was the "drinks cabinet," champagne glasses, silver salvers, and Mozart playing in time to the popping of corks.

But all good things come to an end, and for the past couple of months the old two toned station wagon has sat forlornly in the car port, gathering dust and cobwebs, only visited by huntsmen. It'd been replaced by two vehicles...a nifty little fuel efficient red thing and a battered brute of a ute.

I didn't see it loaded onto the wreckers' truck, but I was there when the young chap knocked at the back door and handed me a folded \$50 note in payment.....enough, perhaps, for ten soy lattes! After he'd gone I went out to see the hole left behind, and one of birdwatcher Luke's female Leaden flycatchers flew in, flittered around and filled the space. Magic!

The Holden never aspired to a place at the Wheels of Wamboin beauty pageant. It was plain, humble and accomodating, but it was an extraordinary, very ordinary Australian, and, after a less than auspicious entrance, served us well.

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



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