



May 2018 CIRCULATION: 1,317

Wamboin Community Assn: www.wamboincommunity.asn.au
Bywong Community: www.bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade: <http://wamboin.rfsa.org.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 June 2018 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, May 27. 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.

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

LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	: Peter Evans, 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	wamboincaptain@gmail.com
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	Bronwyn Elliott, Warden	6238 3539	
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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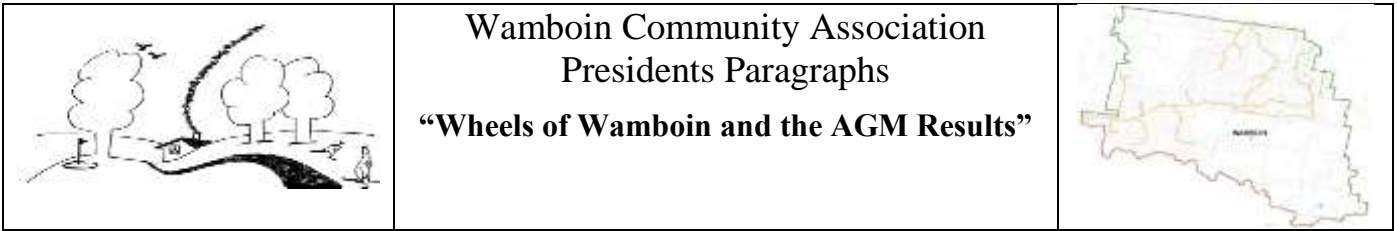
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Well April was a busy month. We held the Wheels of Wamboin automotive spectacular and our Wamboin Community Association Annual General Meeting.

AGM – The AGM was held on the 18th of April. All positions were returned with the addition of Diana Boswell to the general committee. We welcome Diana as a long time Wamboin resident and a new face to the committee.

Wheels of Wamboin – Well the day was a spectacular success with 175 cars, bikes, trucks and a Haflinger! The sunny autumn day certainly helped, as over 400 people placed votes in the “Peoples Choice” awards. I thank everyone who bought their pride and joy along as well as all the onlookers who make the owners feel special. It was great to see the crowd enjoying the automotive master pieces on display. Great effort Wamboin

QPRC Draft Policy for the Engagement of Volunteers – we are very concerned regarding the current proposed policy on volunteers working on Council property. This policy covers all individuals and organisations undertaking volunteer work on Council property including Community Halls, Pony Clubs, Landcare groups, greenways and the now defunct Clean up Australia Day. The policy basically states that a QPRC project supervisor would need to be appointed and document the activity, the volunteers would have to apply (on the prescribed form) to be involved, the applications would have to be approved by the supervisor, all activities would have to be undertaken under the provisions of various acts of Parliament such as work health and safety, all volunteers have to meet with the supervisor before the activity (an interview), Volunteers will be assigned a supervisor who will be responsible for providing access to necessary training. Volunteers will begin with an identified trial period after which they will be assessed on whether they are suitable for the role. Sounds like red tape and risk elimination gone mad. Maybe an episode from Utopia.

The proposed QPRC draft policy on volunteering seems to be lazy poorly thought out policy and will have a huge effect on local country communities. Our country communities rely on community spirit and volunteers to get things done and maintain facilities saving Council time and money. It should be remembered many facilities such as the WCA Hall and Fire Station were built by volunteers and the community maintains a sense of ownership. Please take the time to read the policy on the QPRC have your say website (submissions close 7 May) and write to Council and all Councillors expressing your concern with the policy and the impact it will have on our local community. This policy will put at risk the Fireworks night, Wheels of Wamboin, any work on the community halls, Landcare groups and Greenways and work on Pony Club facilities. Please make your voice known.

May Market – Just remember the May Wamboin market is horse gear trading day. Bring your surplus gear and see if you can sell it on or maybe you can buy some more (you always need more horse gear).

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 GM – next General Meeting will be held 7.30 pm, Tuesday 15 May at the Wamboin Community Hall on Bingley Way. *Let’s make Wamboin great!* **Peter Evans - President.**

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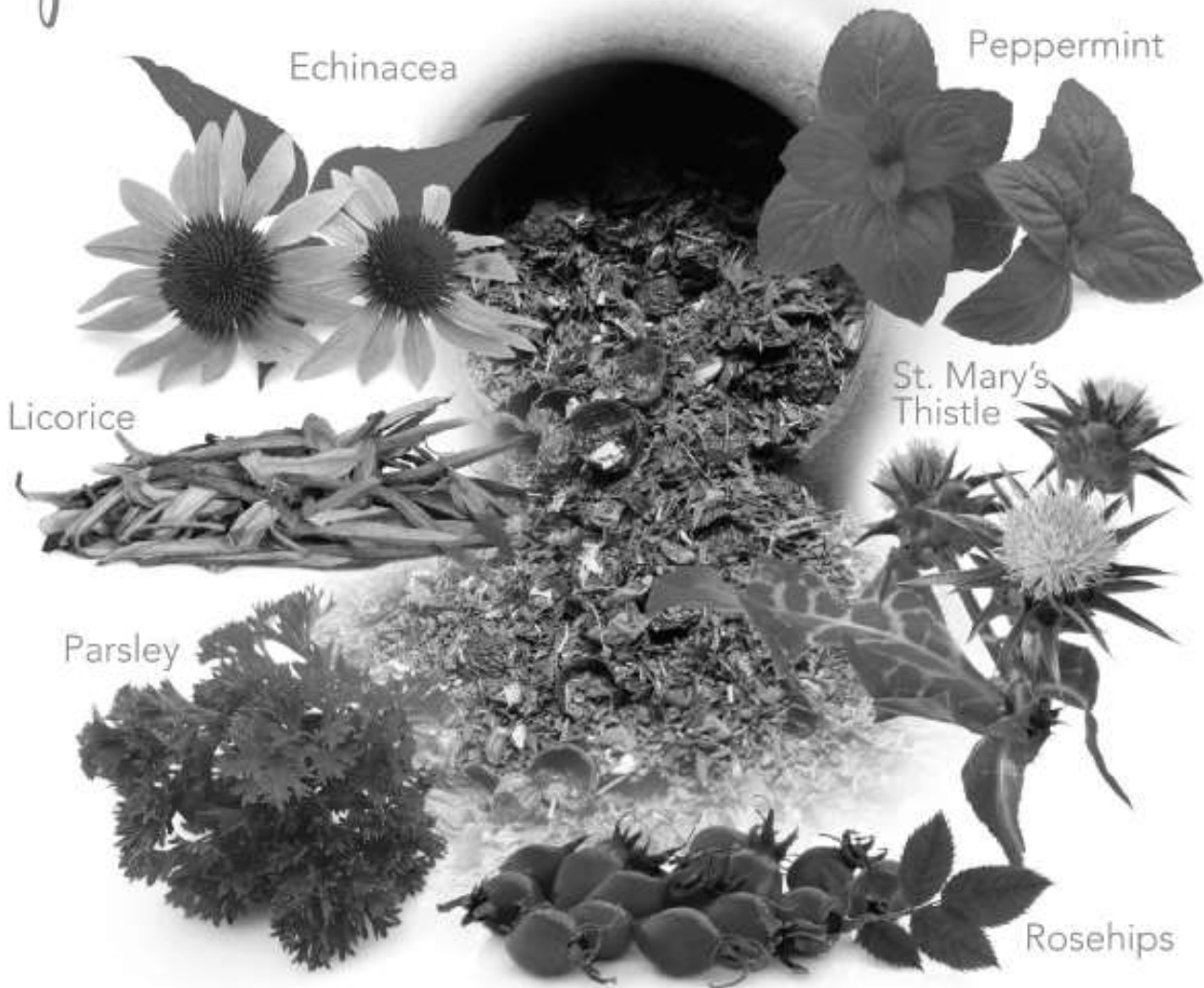
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Bywong Community News

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

Committee Report



After the successful Car Boot Sale in March, BCA has had a quieter month in April as we start planning our next events:

Thursday 14 June, 7.30pm: BCA public meeting with a placeholder for QPRC to provide an update to the community on its process for reassessing land use zones in parts of Bywong and Wamboin (TBC).

Saturday 14 July, 7.00pm: the famous annual Bywong Trivia Night! The winning tried-and-tested formula of brain-teasing trivia and mouth-watering soups! Start getting your “Trivial Brains Trust” of 8 friends together for the evening! More info on the BCA website.

Sunday 29 July. Queanbeyan “Christmas in July” fair. BCA will have a stall selling JP’s famous teatowels featuring local sketches – come along and get your Xmas shopping underway!

October TBA: Film Night. Plans are underway for either a “Classic Cinema night”, or a “Bywong Tropfest Awards night” for the winning and runner-up entries from a local short film competition.

Stay tuned and keep an eye on the BCA website: www.bywongcommunity.org.au, where we welcome YOU to get in touch and contribute your ideas and/or help with any of the above.

Mike Wilkins, President, Bywong Community Association



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The Wamboin Firefighter



The current fire danger period ended 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. If you are lighting a fire or burning you will need the means to put it out.

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

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	6128 0600

How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month.

Cheryl Warnock has generously offered to deliver the Whisper to the mailboxes on the challenging stretch of Macs Reef Road between Bankers Road and Newington Road.

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.

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+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			

267: 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	Cheryl Warnock	Macs Reef Rd (Newington to Bankers)	12
Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr	35	Daryl Bourke	Harriot Rd	28
Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Sandra Favre	Newington Rd	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		3			

154: 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			

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			

185: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484

Diana Griffin	Majors Close	18	Judy Smith	Weeroona (254 - 400)	18
Diana Boswell	Donnelly Rd & Ln 29 & Grove Rd 7	36	Susie and Brad Edwards	Weeroona (417-512)	18
Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Road	27	Murray Goodridge	B'dore Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill)	38
Advertisers & Misc	Out of area advertiser mailouts	30			

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From the Corner

Principal Certifying Authority — You may recall that I have been doing a bit of building work of late. Well, actually, I've only just finalised all the necessary paperwork and appointed a Principal Certifying Authority (PCA). The process of appointing a PCA, in particular, has been quite educational.

The avid reader of this column may recall that, several years back, I discussed the building approvals process in some detail. The relevant part of that process in the present context is that, after your Development Application has been approved, before you begin any work you will need to apply for a Construction Certificate (CC) and appoint a PCA. Council can issue your CC and act as your PCA, or you may appoint a private certifier to provide either or both of these services.

If you choose to have your CC issued by council, as did I, you will also receive a quote from them for PCA services. Quite unfairly, I must now confess, I assumed that the council quote would be at the top end of the scale and that a private certifier would be more efficient and therefore less expensive. I will say right now, I couldn't have been more mistaken. Having received a quote of a little under \$1,000 for PCA services from council, I checked out the Yellow Pages and phoned around for a 'fee proposal'. Each of the three organisations I contacted asked me to forward details via email so that they could provide a quote, and here's where the 'fun' began.

One of the organisations replied, providing a quote as requested, the very next day. Excellent service, addressing the needs identified in my approval paperwork, but more than double the quote I had from QPRC.

A couple of days later, I received a response from the second organisation asking me to sign the paperwork appointing them as my PCA. I responded, politely advising that I was not wanting to appoint a PCA at this time, that I was simply seeking a fee proposal. Imagine my surprise when they replied, claiming that the signing of the paperwork they had provided, which included a formal contract for their services, was simply "a technicality required by the council for their archives". Needless to say, my subsequent response was brief, and I still have no idea what they might have wanted to charge for their services.

The third organisation provided a proposal about ten days later, but it was even more than the first quote I had received. This proposal also included inspections that were not required by the Schedule of Conditions attached to my DA.


Lest there be any doubt, there is absolutely no legal requirement to sign anything at all when requesting a fee proposal for PCA services, not for a prospective certifier nor for council. Nor is there any requirement to undertake inspections that are not identified in your approval paperwork—you can do that if it makes you feel more comfortable, if you want someone to check work done by subcontractors for example, but there is no formal requirement.

This account is not so much an advertisement for council's building certification services as it is an illustration of the sad fact that not everyone out there has *your* best interests at heart. In the end, my choice was pretty simple and I'm now signed up with QPRC as my PCA.


The QPR Blog—New or related entries in my Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) include:
Principle Certifying Authorities (Apr 2018) Building Approvals (Dec 2013)
- Cr Pete Harrison, Ph. 6238 3640, Mob. 0427 711 028, Email: contact@peteharrison.id.au,
- Website: www.peteharrison.id.au

[This article is provided for information purposes only and does not represent any recommendation or formal position of the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council.]

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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market Saturday 19 May 2018

Contact: Lance and Meriel Schultz 02 62383309: 0422614304 imsconsulting@bigpond.com.

Market stall holders were kept busy with a much larger than usual number of people coming through – thanks to the incredibly successful Wheels of Wamboin and the lovely sunny weather.

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 elsewhere in the Whisper for details.

SEE YOU AT THE MAY MARKETS!

Kowen Trail Run - In It For The Long Run

On Sunday, 17 June, over 300 runners will again gather at Wamboin to take part in the second annual Kowen Trail Run.

Starting and finishing at the Wamboin Community Hall, the race will see competitors running up Bingley Way and into Kowen Forest. Three events are offered: a marathon (42.2 km); half marathon (21.1 km); and a 12 km run/walk.

The courses are both challenging and scenic; and runners/walkers will rack up some serious elevation. But with each climb, they will be rewarded with stunning views over Canberra, Queanbeyan, Carwoola and Wamboin.



Organised by the Wamboin Trail Runners, the Kowen Trail Run is a not-for-profit endeavour with proceeds going to the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade. So far, with two successful events under their belt (the Kowen Trail Run in June 2017 and the New Year's Resolution Run in January 2018) the Wamboin Trail Runners have been able to provide the Fire Brigade with over \$11,000 in donations.

Local vineyard and restaurant, **Contentious Character**, will once again be sponsoring the race, providing prizes for the winners of each event. There will also be a coffee cart and stalls by Landcare, Wildcare and adventure clothing retailer, Mont.

If you'd like to be part of the action, entries are now open. For more information, visit kowen-trail-run.com or check out the Kowen Trail Run Facebook page. Photo: Bob Miller
Article by Peter Komidar

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**Wamboin Home Produce
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9-12md**

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- Drop into the markets and buy some local produce or craft and have a coffee and various home cooked goodies in the café.



See you there!

*Enquiries to Meriel Schultz, Market Convenor
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175 Wheels for Wamboin in 2018

Well the weather shined on the Wheels of Wamboin this year producing a beautiful sunny autumn day for the utopia of Wamboin. This enticed a record breaking 175 automotive dreams from garages to attend the annual event on a dusty Wamboin oval (reflecting our very dry autumn). This year we also had our first automotive market stall, hoping this kick off our swap meet part of future events. The cars started to arrive in their droves and at one stage lined down Bingley Way as they took their place on the oval and as usual we had cars, trucks (one with a vintage Howard cultivator on board and a bushfire truck from the former Dungog Shire) and an increasing number of bikes. True to the theme we had a wide variety of marques and models. From early last century to recent end of the line Commodores, from shiny and bright to a worn and charactered patina, from rare to once we saw them everywhere. They all had their place in somebody's heart and sometimes a sparkle in an eye. The American muscle classics were represented with a beautiful Dodge Charger, Corvettes. Thunderbird and a herd of Mustangs. Post war Americans included Pontiacs, Dodges, Buicks and Plymouths. The British had Rolls Royces, Bentleys, a Doretti, MG's and Morris's of all shapes and sizes, Humber's, Vauxhall's and a cache of Mini's. Jag's were there and a super red Lotus Espirit. A Triumph TR3 undergoing restoration this year had some panels attached inching closer to finishing. We look forward to next years version. Europeans had VW beetles, Alfa's Fiats and a rare Audi Quattro Turbo from the early 80's. An unusual Tatra made the journey. The rear engine V8, 603 is super rare in the west and drew a constant crowd of interested onlookers. A rare Haflinger 4 wheel drive also prompted many conversations. Pre-war favourites was a superb 1923 Packard single six with the imposing solid disc rims and the winner of Peoples Choice this year, a 1928 Dodge DA (second year running) complete with period picnic setting and Clarke Gable director chairs. Both cars were deserved leaders in People Choice votes.

The now departed Australian car industry was well represented and clearly demonstrated the rising interest in Aussie made cars from Australia's car making heyday. Fords included Fairlane's and Cortina's and the GT's on show included a yellow XY and a black XB along with a rare 2 door Landau. Holdens ranged from FE and FC's to EH's and HD's to a number of super Monaro's (HG 350, 1970 GTS and two fantastic HK 327's) a wide range of Torana's including SLR's to a great original 4 door LJ Torana. In fact the Torana's were probably the most represented model on the day. From current Commodores to FJ's (and there was some great ones including a ute with a period teardrop caravan), Holdens had a great history on display. The Mopar Valiants really made you reflect on the now defunct Aussie car industry. When you see all the great cars that have been produced it is a shame we can no longer support a car industry.

All money raised went to the Wamboin RFS and I would like to thank everyone who bought their pride and joy along so it could be enjoyed by others. I also thank the bumper crowd who came along to vote and appreciate the awesome display. I look forward to seeing you all again next year. If you would like to see some great photos from the day courtesy of Keith France and Jenny Warren check our new Facebook page Wheels of Wamboin. Next year's event which is likely to be in May due to 2019 Easter break. - Peter Evans

Classifieds

WANTED: Wamboin or Bywong rural residential property of between 5 and 40 acres, with or without home. If you or someone you know is thinking of selling please get in touch. We are ready to buy now and can accommodate a short or long settlement period. No agents please. Neil: 0412727271 and Jane 0417224778.

Foxbait [1080] will be laid at 79 Millynn Road, Bywong, 2621 for a period of 14 days from 13th May 2018. Local landholders are advised to muzzle or confine dogs during that period

Wildcare training – basic macropod course, covering rescue & caring. Sat 5 May, (09.00 for) 09.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., at the Wamboin Community Hall (112 Bingley Way, Wamboin). BYO lunch. New recruits are very welcome. Contact Helen 0433 010 318, or macropods@wildcare.com.au for more information.

Animals tended - **big and small. I will tend to your pets, horses, plants, livestock, mail, and any other jobs you need to increase your peace of mind while you are on holidays or when you just need** a hand. Mature, responsible, reliable service. No roaming pets. Call Carolyn, 0414 738 365.

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.

Civil Celebrant - Lorraine Bird highly experienced, living locally. Available for weddings, civil partnerships, civil unions, renewal of vows, namings and commitment ceremonies. Please contact me to arrange an obligation free meeting. Phone 62303321, 0401267851 or www.lorrainebird.com.au

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

Civil Marriage Celebrant. Dorothy Skea. Mobile No: 0403 215 336 (easier to get a hold of me on my mobile). Ph: 6238 3290. E-mail: dorothyskea@outlook.com

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FOR HIRE: BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL. Suitable for smaller functions and seminars, groups etc. Check availability and booking information on www.bywongcommunity.org.au. or email Ann Sloan at lrrhallbywong@gmail.com.

FOR HIRE:- from Wamboin Community Hall - 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, - **Trestles and chairs.** All damages are the responsibility of the Hirer. Must be securely tied during transportation - or they don't go!

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

FOR HIRE: - **WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL.** Bookings arranged by Joan Mason, 62 383 258. Please note: Hall is not available for teenage, 18 or 21st birthday functions.

Contentious Character - Event News



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Truffle Festival Special – throughout Truffle season we will have a choice of truffled dish and glass of wine for \$45.

Saturday 4th August – Truffling @contentiouscharacter Blue Frog Truffles and Contentious Character will again work together on delivering an amazing 5 course truffle dinner for \$95 per head, (option for paired wines \$135), with an evening of entertaining delights planned, including talks by Tom and Wayne on their experiences of farming and cooking with Truffles.

Xmas in July, Saturday 28th July – We'll be singing carols by the fireside and enjoying a family and community ambience, fostered by Santa, snow and a tree.....Please enquire to info@contentiouscharacter.com.au

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Nature Notes April 2018

Jo Walker

Only a few drops of rain fell in April, just enough to dampen the surface of the ground for a few hours before the windy weather dried it out again. And temperatures were unusually high, still in the above 30 degree zone at the beginning of the month – and 27 degrees was exceptional for Anzac Day.

Nothing much is flowering at present, just the odd yellow flower of Sticky Everlasting Daisies (*Xerochrysum viscosum*) and some of the eucalypts. Two *Eucalyptus stellulata* (Black Sally) that I planted here many years ago are flowering at present. And the *Correa reflexa* plants are still carrying their tubular pink and yellow flowers much to the delight of the Eastern Spinebills.

A few years ago, a pair of White Ibis used to visit this part of Wamboin, and twice nested in a tall eucalypt further up the road and reared their young ones there. Then they disappeared – but last week one of them was standing near the edge of my dam. The more usual residents were there too – a Little Pied Cormorant sitting on a fallen branch jutting out over the water, patiently waiting for something to move, a pair of Pacific Black Ducks and several Long-necked Turtles of various sizes.

Speckled Warblers were once here pretty regularly, but I hadn't seen one recently – probably not for two or three years. Then recently I was watching a group of Yellow-rumped Thornbills and White-browed Scrub-wrens searching for food amongst and under the *Cassinia quinquefaria* bushes when I noticed a slightly different bird in a rather shady spot. After a while it flew out into the sunlight and the dark speckles across its cream chest were quite clear – a Speckled Warbler! It was good to see one again. They are vulnerable to feral predators as they nest at ground level under tussocks or low shrubs.

Another increasing problem for insect-eating birds- as most of our woodland birds are – is the increasing decline in insect numbers. This year has really been a six-legged 'silent spring'. A good indicator, amongst more careful observations, is the number of insects on car windscreens and in our animals' water-bowls. My windscreen hasn't needed much cleaning this summer, and, whereas I used to scoop swathes of insects of various species off the surface of the water-bowl near the house, this year it's unusual to find more than two or three if any. We had few Christmas Beetles this summer and no Bogong Moths. A whole list of insects that used to be common here are either scarce now or absent. This seems to be a world-wide phenomenon (Google 'decline of insects in Australia' to read some disturbing data). There could be a range of causes depending on where the decline occurs. But I think that locally climate change is beginning to take effect. Many insects need a small rise or fall in temperature or soil moisture to bring on pupation or emergence of adults, and these triggers are possibly being disrupted by unusual weather patterns. As insects are a vital part of food chains and most ecosystems, maybe we should be treating their study with as much urgency as the Great Barrier Reef.

Two groups of insects that do still seem to be thriving in the hotter and drier conditions are Termites and Meat Ants which should at least keep the Echidnas happy. I met one the other day, waddling nonchalantly up the track that leads down to the road and watched it until it had safely detoured through the dry grass to an ants' nest.

<p><u>SZT RURAL</u> <u>SERVICES</u></p>  <p>Contact Sean: P: 0433 702 308 E: sztrural@yahoo.com.au</p>	<p><i>SZT Rural is a small, locally owned business in the Carwoola area. We offer a range of services for small and large property owners including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Spot spraying</u> – Twin 100m remote reels with 1000l tank with up to 2 qualified operators. • <u>Boom Spraying</u> – 8M Boom with GPS and rate controller on a Toyota Landcruiser. • <u>All types of Fencing</u> – construction, repairs and electric fence maintenance. • <u>Tree Service</u> – Firewood preparation, log splitting & mulching. • <u>Machinery</u> – Paddock clearing, rock removal, slashing, spreading, driveway maintenance, erosion & fire hazard reduction. <p><i>Please call to arrange a free quote and to discuss the best solution for your needs.</i></p>
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Wamboin Golf – April 2018

Sunday, 1 April. No joke. A beautiful day which apparently saw the concurrence of Easter Sunday, April Fools day and the end of daylight saving – a coincidence as rare as Halley’s Comet. And, of course, the Wamboin Mini Masters, famed in song and story. It’s played in two rounds, each of six holes - the first to see who makes the cut. Competition is determined on stroke play with handicap and open divisions. The open winner gets a real green (well it used to be green) jacket, just like the ones they give out at Augusta National, except you’ve got to hand it back afterwards. There’s also the NTP novelty shots but we’ll save them for later. The Mini Masters is sponsored by the Wamboin Community Association, represented on the day by Palerang Mayor-in-perpetuity, Pete Harrison. We thank the WCA for the post-game food and prizes.

Back at the clubhouse, while the acting captain coaxed the computer into revealing the names of the place getters, we all bemoaned the end of the world as we knew it as a result of the appalling treatment of our upright Australian cricketers, just for making certain necessary adjustments to the surface of the ball to ensure a better and faster game. But it’s an ill wind etc, etc. For every unctuous hand-wringer there are probably a dozen pubescent youths sniggering about the evocative term “ball tampering”. The acting captain then welcomed our guest-of-honour, Mr Potus Trumpet, and invited him to present he prizes. That honour was to have gone to the QPR Mayor who was recently outed as a former member of the Liberal Party and thus ineligible: Wamboin GC rules exclude anyone with strong political convictions from officiating. So it was either Mr Trumpet or that vigilant guardian of your privacy, Mr Dark Suckerberg, boss of social media engine, MugShot. The googly ball was awarded to Joan Mason for the remarkable feat of driving *over* Shep’s Dam but still landing in the water. She accomplished this by hitting a stump on the other side. That’s golf at Wamboin, folks. The dummy was passed around from Tim Barter (general whingeing) to Joan Mason (specific whingeing – Shep’s dam refers). The winner of the handicap division was Vicki Still 70/53 from Runner-up Larry King 70/57. The winner of the Wamboin Mini Masters for 2018 was Tim Barter with 53 strokes from Paul Griffin on 58. It was another good day for Tim who won the NTP Novelty with an aggregate 38.2 metres from Paul 44.5. There are four obstacles: standing on a ramp; then on a tyre; one-handed; in a bunker. You can believe your correspondent when he says that the ramp and the tyre leave you feeling as precarious as a Russian spy delivering a handful of nerve agent.

Next month is the merry month of May. The Commonwealth Games will be over and we can concentrate on the only sport at which you can’t cheat – apart from moving your ball or your opponent’s, treading on your opponent’s ball, dropping your bag during your opponent’s back swing, over-shadowing the cup when your opponent is putting and a thousand other things we just don’t do because it just *isn’t cricket!* So join us at the hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 6 May for the well-known 12.30pm start. - Larry King, golfer

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Egg 'N' Bacon Rolls @ The Markets

I am looking for someone to take over the preparation of the famous 'Wamboin Market Egg and Bacon Rolls'. It is a great opportunity to be involved and to meet other community members. I have been working with the markets since they started: 'Sausage Rolls, Organiser, Egg and Bacon Rolls' etc. however I would like someone to take over the responsibilities of providing the Egg and Bacon Rolls next year. (You may note I have been unable to be present for the last 2 Markets). There are 2 more markets this year and I would be happy to 'show the ropes' to anyone who is willing to take over. If interested contact me on 62383258. Joan Mason.

Tech Library Classes.

Given the Easter break and school holiday period, the last two Library Tech classes have been reasonably well attended. For the time being, we have finished looking at Tablets and iPads (you can still come along and raise any queries). Our next adventure of discovery will be with the Smartphone. We will meet on Thursday 10 May, at the Wamboin Community Hall, from 10.00 a.m. As most of you know, these classes coincide with the Wamboin Social Club gathering and there is tea/coffee & nibbles (a \$2/3 contribution helps cover cost). The Mobile Library also comes along from 10.30 a.m. and if you haven't checked out the Library, then it is a pretty good service, with not only books, but DVDs (films and talking books) and magazines. You can also get advice on how to use the library services on-line. And the Library will also bring out any books you have ordered. Get in touch if you need any information (Tel 62383717 or machin4@bigpond.com) or just come along.
- Phil Machin

 <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> <p>FRANCE 14th – 25th September 2018</p>
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Wamboin Community Association – President’s Annual Report

Well another successful WCA year has come and gone with a number of great highlights.

The WCA committee has worked hard behind the scenes, including coming to grips with the direction of our new elected Council. This year we have made representation and submissions to Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) on a number of issues including:

- Community Strategic Plan
- Delivery Plan
- Council’s decision to cancel Clean Up Australia Day in Wamboin (and other localities)
- E4 zoning

We are quickly becoming disappointed with QPRC’s attitude to the contribution made by volunteers and community groups in areas outside of Queanbeyan City. The Clean Up Australia Day decision and the latest draft policy on volunteers are two significant examples, with the latter potentially being a major issue for us going forward with any volunteer work proposed to be supervised and volunteers needing to be trained by council staff.

The WCA organised and hosted a number of community events in the WCA year (April 2017- April 18) including:

- Wheels of Wamboin in May with over 125 vehicles
- Fireworks in September with around 1400 people attending despite a wild and windy evening
- Christmas Carols
- Meet the QPRC Candidates night in August with all but one candidate attending
- A great Spring Talks program with three guest speakers - Tim Overall (QPRC), Wayne Alford (Wildcare’s snake coordinator), Rebecca Bradley (South East Local Land Services)
- Audio visual system installation at the Hall and opening night screening of the Blues Brothers in June
- Free WiFi hotspot coming on line at the Hall
- And of course the monthly Home Produce Markets coordinated by Lance and Meriel Schultz.
- Other community items included:
- The donation to Carwoola Community Association of \$1000 for Bushfire recovery
- Updating the New Residents' Guides and staffing the WCA table at the monthly markets by the committee on a rotating basis
- Supporting the Wamboin Social Drop-In Group, a fantastic local initiative, proposed and nurtured by Denise Hales.
- All these activities don’t happen on their own and I would like to thank everybody both on the committee and within the community for a fabulous year. A community is what we make it and I think this committee makes it special.

In the next 12 months I would like the WCA look at opportunities to allow our senior residents to “age in place” with transport and other support options.

Thank you for the opportunity to be President for the past year. - Peter Evans

Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

This month I chose the White-eared Honeyeater, an autumn-winter migrant who has been visiting our garden almost daily this last month.

White-eared Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus leucotis*)

Size: 20 - 22cm

Status: Fairly common winter migrant



The White-eared Honeyeater is an easy-to-identify bird. It has dull olive-green body and a black head, grey cap and distinctive large white ear-patch. Being honeyeaters, their main food source is nectar, and they are often found around flowering plants (bottlebrush, grevillea, eucalypts, etc.). They also feed on other things including fruit and forage for insects under loose strips of bark on trees. They use our birdbath nearly every morning. White-eared Honeyeaters are mainly winter migrants to Wamboin (arriving in autumn), but occasionally you see one during the summer. I often see them in pairs or by themselves and they can be quite aggressive, chasing other smaller birds away from their flowering shrubs.

(Photo from Google images).

WAMBOIN WEATHER: (rainfall and temperature records)

43 years from Cooper Road by Christine Rieber

April Rainfall Stats

April rainfall to the 29th 17.5mm
2018 total rainfall to 29/4..... 143.25mm

Average April rainfall..... 45.9mm
2017 April rainfall..... 32.5mm
2017 total rainfall to 29/4..... 151.5mm
43yr Av. to end of April..... 222.9mm

May Rainfall Stats

2017 May rainfall..... 39.25mm
Wettest May..... 171.0mm in 1995
Wettest day..... 52mm on 3/5/95
Driest May..... 0mm in 2001

Average May rainfall..... 46.3mm
Average no. rain days in May..... 8.2
Highest no. rain days..... 20 in 1989
Lowest no. rain days..... 0 in 2001

May Temperature Stats

Hottest May day..... 24°C on 2/5/95
Hottest May night..... 14°C (3 times) on
2/5/88, & 1-2/5/95
Average day temperature..... 13.2°C
Warmest May..... 1980
(Av. max day temp. 14.2°C & night 7.5°C)
(highest 15.7°C in 2017 & 8.1°C in 1989)

Av. May temp.... 9.2°C (day+night comb.)
Coldest May day..... 0°C on 17/5/15
Coldest May night..... -6°C on 31/5/01

Average night temperature..... 5.3°C
Coldest May 2012
(Av. min day temp. 10.1°C & night 0.8°C)
(coldest day temp. 10.0°C in 2015)

In April 2018 we had 3 days over 30°C, with the highest being 31.5°C.

Over the past 42 years we have had only 1 April day of 30°C on the 5th April 1986.

During May the daylight length will decrease by 42 minutes from 10.5 to 9.8 hours



Coming Events at Sherony Park

Facilities available for hire at reasonable prices.

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- Short term horse accommodation available

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- Equine Assisted Therapy

Bookings: 0422 244 433
Sheronypark@bigpond.com

Michael Godding

Fortnightly lessons (Sundays and Mondays) at Sherony Park
Bookings: 0414 626 577

Yoga for Horse Riders

8 week course commencing 7 May 2018

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:

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Seminars

'Wounds and Bandaging',
16 May 2018

'Teeth, Sheaths and Vaccines',
23 May 2018

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Wamboin Community Association Inc. (WCA) April General Meeting (GM) Summary and 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Summary



Date of Meetings: 17 April 2018 Meetings chaired by: Peter Evans, President, WCA

The WCA held its 2018 AGM immediately following the April GM in the very welcoming atmosphere of the Wamboin Fire Brigade's meeting room. As always, attendees heard from WCA Committee and general members, as well as other local community groups, about the limitless efforts members of this community go to to enhance the livability and enjoyment of our rural-residential area for all residents.

General Meeting - Outline of topics discussed

WCA President Peter Evans updated on the arrangements for the fourth annual Wheels of Wamboin including the event's new Facebook page. QPRC's draft Volunteer Policy was tabled. Peter read a number of sections to the meeting and highlighted the issues this policy could potentially cause, suggesting that the activities of all 'volunteer' community groups could be severely curtailed. The meeting agreed that the WCA would write to all Councillors and senior QPRC staff to stress the impact this will have on rural and rural-residential communities.

Vice President and long term organiser of the Wamboin Christmas Carols event, Jenny Richards' proposal to hold the event one week earlier than usual, Friday 7th December 2018, was agreed. This was based on her research which indicated that many local families have end-of-school commitments which conflict with Santa's appearance in Wamboin. Sutton Primary School's Principal has also offered to have the School's choir participate which will be a welcome addition.

Hall Management Committee: Lofty Mason commented on the extensive improvements to the driveway of the Hall complex an area now signposted in memory of volunteers of our local Fire Brigade.

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade: Peter Greenwood advised the Brigade had attended 1 motor vehicle accident and 2 minor fires in the past month and he introduced the Brigade's new vehicle, Wamboin 1 Alpha.

Wamboin Social Drop-in Group: Convenor Denise Hales said that Group continues to be well supported and that the QPRC mobile Library technical education sessions have been very successful.

Annual General Meeting

In his **President's Report**, Peter Evans stated that 2017-18 has been another successful year for the WCA. He reviewed the numerous events organised by the WCA including the Monthly Home Produce Markets; the Bonfire & Fireworks night; Christmas Carols; the Wheels of Wamboin; Spring Talks Series; Meet the Candidates; the June screening of the Blues Brothers; etc. He thanked the 2017-18 Committee and general members for their efforts and extended his thanks to other local community organisations which provide invaluable assistance and experience at these community events.

Presentation of the annual statement of accounts

Keith France, **Treasurer**, presented the annual statement of accounts showing the WCA's financial position as at 31 March 2018.

Vice President Jenny Richards reported on a good year including the purchase of First Aid kits for the Hall.

Secretary David McDonald advised that during the year Lance Schultz resigned from the Committee due to ill health and the meeting resolved that the Association write to Lance thanking him for his contributions as a Committee member, and for his ongoing contributions to the Wamboin community.

Election of the Committee of the Association

At the invitation of the chairperson, Lofty Mason assumed the chair in the capacity of Returning Officer to conduct the election of Committee members. He commenced by commenting on the ownership country people feel for their local facilities, reminding the meeting that the Wamboin Hall was built by volunteers and continues to be maintained by volunteers. He said that the Wamboin Hall is like our "Town Hall" and wondered if city people feel the same way about their Town Halls. Lofty advised the meeting that, as at the closing date for nominations to the Committee, one nomination had been received for each of the office-bearer positions:

President: Peter Evans, Vice-president: Jenny Richards, Secretary: David McDonald

He called for nominations from the floor for the second position of Vice-President, and for the position of Treasurer. Keith France was nominated as Treasurer, and accepted the nomination. Since there were no nominations from the floor for the second position of Vice-President, Lofty declared the office-bearers elected.

He advised that, at the closing date for nominations to the Committee, three nominations had been received for ordinary committee members, namely John van der Straaten, Samantha Urquhart & Jenny Warren. As there were no additional nominations from the floor for the position of ordinary committee member, he declared these ordinary committee members elected.

He concluded by advising that the Committee of the Association has resolved that John van der Straaten continue as the Association's Public Officer during the 2018-19 year.

Other matters which notice had been given:

Secretary David McDonald explained proposed minor changes to the Association's Constitution which were agreed. As required by legislation covering incorporated associations, notice will be given to NSW Fair Trading.

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 will be held on Tuesday 15 May. All welcome.

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

Cranky Over Cruelty To Native Animals

As a community, if we measured our performance against a quote, believed to be by Mahatma Gandhi, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated", we would probably not be doing very well. Both nationally and internationally we are no longer surprised by the animal cruelty incidents that routinely hit the headlines.

In our own back yard we have a tiny minority of people who can't help themselves, but be nasty towards our native wildlife. From one year to the next, Wildcare volunteers come across acts of cruelty – not many, but enough to make us all sit up and take note. The most recent incident involved a young adult kangaroo, which was hopping around with literally half its tail cut off. The cut seemed to be man made! Last year there were two incidents of kangaroos found with a crossbow bolt stuck in its rump and another having to cope with an arrow sticking out of its back. There are incidents of kangaroos left to deal with maggot infested bullet wounds. And some property owners think its OK to chase kangaroos on their quad bikes! Or let their dogs run freely. All this does is terrorise, so their joeys bounce out of the pouch or they later die from myopathy (muscle disease brought on by stress). Its not a good look.

Wantonly killing or harming snakes and other wildlife is simply against the Law. Only licenced wildlife groups and individuals can 'harm' (rescue, rehabilitate and euthanise) native wildlife, or where there is a permit in place. And did you know that 85% of snakebites happen when someone is trying to pick up a snake or kill it? Far better to call Wildcare and have a trained volunteer remove an animal that is in the wrong place.

People often ask, "What can we do?" Well we are not helpless in the face of perceived or observed cruelty to native wildlife – or any other animal for that matter. The people perpetrating these crimes are our neighbours – they're in our communities. And we can make a difference, and make these people accountable for their actions. If you don't feel able to talk to your neighbour, about their behaviour, then contact your local Police. The National Parks and Wildlife Service also have authority to act, as does the RSPCA (but contact NPWS first). Reports made to the authorities are in confidence.

Wildcare (6299 1966) can look after the needs of injured or orphaned animals. And just remember, if there is unusual shooting taking place nearby, it could well be an irresponsible idiot, with the next round coming through your kitchen window!

By the way, Wildcare is a charity and depends on volunteer's paying their way and fundraising. Cost drivers include

over \$20k per year on Vet fees and a similar amount to subsidise the cost of equipment and food. If you would like to help make a difference, how about an end-of-the-year tax-deductible donation. Visit wildcare.com.au or simply pay into BSB 062-593, account 10216803 and let the treasurer@wildcare.com.au know. - Philip Machin , For Wildcare, 6238 1717



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

A lot has been happening... and there is more to come.

The Church stall, A Plant in a Painted Pot, was once again a success at the Sutton School Fair, and the Schultz family welcomed the support from members of the congregation. All proceeds go to the Sutton School.

There was a Dawn Service this ANZAC day at the Sutton School gates. Pastor Royce Thompson conducted the deeply moving service accompanied by a lone piper and a rousing bugler. More than 200 people from the community attended. Afterwards the crowd was treated to a magnificent breakfast by the Fire Brigade and Anzac biscuits from Sutton Bakery. It was an inaugural service, paying due respects to those who have served, and reflecting the energy of the community that exists today.

The fifth Sunday of the month is always a departure from the norm, and last Sunday the congregation joined fellow worshippers along the Sutton Road in an ecumenical service at Gundaroo. Mothers Day, 13th May, is the next event on the calendar with a morning service at St Peters conducted by lay preacher Dr David McCarthy. A sumptuous morning tea will follow. Come along, enjoy the celebration and admire the portico, new carpet and interior paint work in this historic little church.

Saturday, 19th May, is the Sutton bonfire in the grounds of St Peters. It is always a great community occasion with a spectacular bonfire and food and drinks available. The Church will be providing hot drinks.

Beginning on 14th June, Bronwyn Elliott will be presenting, once again, a four week Scripture unit at Sutton School. Kids Club has resumed for the new school term, meeting at St Andrews, Poppet Road, each Friday from 4.30pm until 6pm for songs, craft and fun. A snack is provided. A gold coin to defray costs is appreciated and parents are most welcome to stay.

Services are held on the first and third Sunday of each month at St Andrews, and on the second and fourth Sunday at St Peters. All services start at 9am, followed by an excellent morning tea and a great chance to catch up with others in the community.

If you have any questions or would like further information about the role of either church in the community, please contact any of the people listed: .Pastor Ven. Dr Royce Thompson 0416265600, Bronwyn Elliott 62383359, Gai Donald 0438400364, Alan Rope 0429434944

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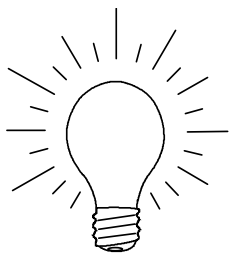
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The Hills of Wamboin and Bywong, no. 2: Guise Hill

By David McDonald

The April 2018 issue of *The Whisper*, p. 23, introduced this series of brief items on the hills of Wamboin and Bywong: where they are and the origins of their names. The information is being collated for inclusion in a Wamboin local history database that is being developed for the Wamboin Community Association's website:

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

I invite comments on what follows from *Whisper* readers, especially comments that fill gaps in the information that I provide, or that correct any errors. Contact me at ph. 02 6238 3706 or mob. 0416 231 890, email david[at]dnmcdonald.id.au.

Guise Hill, 750 m (approx.): *GNB*: 'A hill about 7 km ENE of Sutton'. Located 1.4 km NW of the Shingle Hill Way/Federal Highway intersection.

Name origin: 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).

'Notable early European landholders were the brothers William and Richard Guise. (Their father, Richard Guise, had fled from France to England in 1789, enlisted in the New South Wales Corps, arrived in Sydney in 1791, and had three children born in the colony). By 1826, the Guise brothers were running livestock on a property near the Yass River. After their homestead "Bywong", north of Sutton, had been built in 1829, they occupied it permanently in 1833. The holdings of William Guise expanded rapidly in the 1830s, to include properties covering a significant part of the present localities of Bywong and Sutton. After his death in 1850, many of these properties passed from the control of the Guise family' (Bywong Community n.d.).

Additional information: Some of the Guise properties are shown on Robert Dixon's 1837 map of the Nineteen Counties. The 1891 second edition of the parish of Wamboin map (contents compiled in 1881, the first edition appears to be lost) shows two adjacent 640 acre land holdings in William Guise's name in southern Wamboin. These blocks are named 'Duntroon' on the 1926, 5th edition, of the map. The 1906 3rd edition of the parish of Bywong map (apparently the earliest edition extant for Bywong) shows large landholdings in his name in the north-western part of the parish.

The trig station is on the Trigonometrical Reserve number 11,560, notified in the Gazette of 07 June 1890, 10 acres (Cannon 2015, p. 325).

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Another ANZAC Day is behind us and with it the usual range of loud voices expressing their opinions. Think what you may, but here's an opinion from a quieter voice. The simple, moving Dawn Service of remembrance, echoed around Australia as the new day dawns, signed off, on cue, by a lone magpie neither needs dressing up as entertainment nor needs to become a vehicle for yet another exercise in social engineering. It's not the place. "Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn." Let them be.

In the lead up to ANZAC Day there is a lot of talk about heroes. I have a suspicion that we use the word "hero" too lightly in modern discourse. A hero is defined as "a man who is idolised for possessing superior qualities in any field." What a burden to carry such a label through life! That some ordinary Australians, men and women from all walks of life, when called upon have done heroic things, endured unimaginable hardships, have been brave, impulsive, careless of their own safety to assist others, can't be denied. But for a "hero" to return home, resume ordinary life as an ordinary person after the uniform has been taken off, and try to live up to the unrealistic expectations put upon you by yourself and others, must be crippling.

When I arrived home just before ANZAC Day having being in different climes for a few weeks and saw my confused and arid autumn garden, my shoulders slumped. I felt very, very weary, crippled. It always takes time to reacquaint myself with the garden and its surrounds, reconcile the changes, good and bad, and start to hear individual bird song again.

Brushing past a lavender bush helped restore the soul. Rosemary did the same. Then I heard the butcher bird's call, saw Peace roses, my grandmother's pride and joy, on a bush that had limped through summer and an embarrassed flowering quince sporting a few pink blooms. A crab apple sprawls, draped in a lacy shawl of russet leaves and nearby manchurian pears pose naked, caught out by an earlier, unseasonal cold snap. A solitary chinese pistachio, planted many Easters ago in a rough patch of garden and wished lots of luck, however, steals the show; small things can help to overlook the scars.....And there are many scars. My garden, owned by night raiders is very ordinary, with a very ordinary overseer on very ordinary soil in an area of ordinary rainfall..... so why do I expect heroics from it. There have been individual casualties this "long summer," but overall it has survived. Some plants have been luckier than others; garden "heroes" in this particular season. I just have to accept what's there, and get on with it. Composting is next.

I wouldn't live anywhere else..... but it would be quite acceptable to have some decent rain..... lest we forget what it looks like.

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If you can write something, it has a 99% chance of being included and then, more importantly, of being appreciated by many of the 1200+ homes who receive the Whisper. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor, ph 6238 3484 or email whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or nednoel@optusnet.com.au.




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