



WAMBOIN

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

November 2018 CIRCULATION: 1,326

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 Queanbeyan 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 December 2018 / January 2018 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, November 25. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month and is also available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au.

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

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

LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Wamboin Community Assn | Peter Evans, 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 | Belinda Robinson, Convenor | 0422 262 426 | B_Robinson35@hotmail.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 | Bookings Officer, contact | | lrrhallbywong@gmail.com |
| Wamboin Hall Bookings | Joan Mason, contact | 6238 3258 | joan.mason@internode.on.net |
| Church - Anglican | Bronwyn Elliott, Warden | 6238 3359 | |
| 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 | deniselynnhales@gmail.com |

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Ethan Laver Outdoor Jobs 6236 9809 Alex Lea Pet&House Sitting, Gardening 6236 9657 or 0439 219 865
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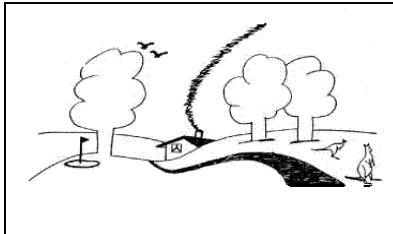
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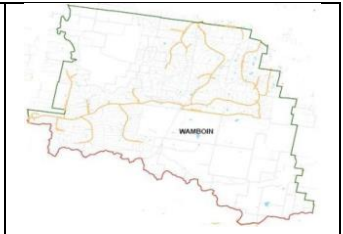
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Wamboin Community Association Presidents Paragraphs “Big Brother”



Our residents who travel into Canberra along the federal Highway might have noticed some sneaky little camera's on a pole just over the ACT border. Many mornings I see cars rapidly slowing down from the 110kph Federal Highway speed to the 100kph ACT speed limit. Rest easy folks it is part of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's National Safety Camera Network. The network is an Australia-wide network of heavy vehicle monitoring cameras installed to collect real-time monitoring and compliance data. The camera data will help the NHVR target unsafe and non-compliant behaviours. Targeting this behaviour will help make safer roads for all users. Given the number of trucks on our roads it sounds like a good idea to me.

Spring Talks - The 2018 Spring Talks Series continued this month with the October talk featuring a presentation from Bungendore local area command from NSW Police. Both Tim and Kim spoke passionately about their role in the community and I for one came away very impressed with their commitment and understanding of the local issues.

Meet your Federal Member – Our final event in the 2018 series of Spring Talks will feature our Federal Member the Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP. Mike is the Federal Member for Eden-Monaro and the Shadow Assistant Minister for Defence Industry and Support. With a Federal election looming (who knows when) come along to hear what Mike has to say on local Federal issues. Lock it in your diaries for Tuesday the 20th November at 7.30pm.

Letterbox and Gate Decorating Competition –the Christmas letterbox and gate decoration competition is back up and running thanks to the Wonderful Women of Wamboin. The WCA and BCA will support and provide the prizes. Deadline for emailed entries is 8pm Sunday 9 December and look for more details in this month's Whisper.

Christmas carols - Calling all Local Children to be in the Christmas Play at the Wamboin Community Christmas Carols. The annual carols will be held on Friday 7th December at 7pm in the Wamboin hall. Come along and support the local children in the play and then sing your hearts out like Tom Jones to spread some Christmas cheer. Please contact Jenny Richards on 6238 1329 as soon as possible if your kids would like to take part in this great community event.

Home Produce Markets –Make sure you duck down for the spring vegetables, local crafts and Lou's great coffee on the third Saturday of the month (17th November).

Wheels of Wamboin 2019 – reserve the date - 18 May 2019 for the Wheels of Wamboin.

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 and a chat.

Facebook and the Website – Just a reminder that we now have a Facebook page (please like or follow us) and of course heaps of info on our website at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au we also have our Yahoo Electronic Noticeboard, You can subscribe by sending an empty email message to wamboin_noticeboard-subscribe@yahoo.com.au (just click on this link to create the email message, then simply send the empty message). The sender's address on this email will be submitted for subscription, and the mail 'robot' will immediately send a return email to this address, requesting that the recipient confirm the subscription request. You should simply reply as requested in the second part of this message (don't bother with a YahooID unless you need one for some other purpose).

WCA GM – next General Meeting and Spring Talk will be held commencing at 7.30 pm, Tuesday 20th November at the Wamboin Community Hall on Bingley Way.

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Diary dates:

Bywong Community Association meeting, Thursday 8 November, 7.30pm at the Bywong Community Hall, Birriwa Road Bywong. New faces very welcome. We will be planning our **Xmas Drinks (Friday 14 December)** and the calendar for 2019. If you have an issue you would like the BCA to take up—roads, rates, rubbish, or anything else—come along and discuss it.

QPRC Mobile Library Bus, Thursdays 8 and 22 November, 6 December at the Bywong Hall at 12.00 -12.45pm. This is a fantastic community service, so please use it - you can even become a library member on the spot. The Playground and toilets are always available and, whenever possible, we will open the Hall so you can enjoy a cuppa!

Art Sale and Raffle, Saturday 10 November 2018, 2.30-4.30pm Bywong Hall The Geary's Gap Pony Club and the Bywong Community Association are holding a joint fundraiser after recent thefts (hall gas cylinder and Pony Club jumps trailer) and anti-social behaviour (rubbish dumping) at the Hall. Come along for an afternoon of socialising, fundraising and good company. Bring your wallet as there will be local artwork, crafts, a raffle and other opportunities to help us raise money. Thanks to JP Favre for donating his sketches and prints of scenes local and not so local, and to Tony Mansfield of 'Contentious Character' for his very generous donation of wines.

Xmas Decorating Competition. It's back again, organised by the Wonderful Women of Wamboin, with prizes sponsored by the Wamboin and Bywong Community Associations. We look forward to lots of festive gateways and mailboxes in the lead up to Xmas. Competition closes on 9 December, with winners announced at the **Bywong Xmas Drinks on Friday 14 Dec** and Wamboin markets on Sat 15 Dec. See advert elsewhere in the Whisper for details.

Other news:

Thanks to **Fairy Godmother Merle** for running the School Holiday StoryTime on 11 October. A great time was had by a small but enthusiastic audience!

Thanks also to Richard Hobbs and Ian Coillet from the **Wamboin Rural Fire Service Brigade** who came along to the Bywong Community Association meeting on 11 October to provide advice and answer questions on Bushfire Preparedness for the hot, dry summer ahead of us.

Come and check out our new Littlish Library at the Bywong Hall. You'll find it next to the steps from the carpark, all you need is to bring a book with you to replace the one you take away.

Post cards of Bungendore are for sale at the Bungendore Community Bank. The set of six cards has been created by Bywong resident JP Favre and showcases some of the most notable buildings in the town. The set of six costs \$12 including envelopes! The Bank also has some of JP's "Why I live where I live" cards (\$3 each with envelope) and a few of the Bungendore tea towels (\$15 each), which are also available from Foodlovers Market Bungendore. These are all great gifts for visitors or to post overseas to friends and family -they show people what Bungendore's historical buildings look like, and help the Bywong Community Association to raise money for local events, activities, and infrastructure in Bywong.

QPRC Land Use Assessment: E4 Zones, Bywong and Wamboin.

At the QPRC meeting on 8 August, Council voted to "seek expressions of interest for consultants to undertake relevant studies..."

Council has recently written to owners of land zoned E4 Environmental Living in Bywong and Wamboin to advise further details of the review, that will be carried out by AQ Planning and Biosis.

Keep in touch via the **BCA website:**

www.bywongcommunity.org.au and **BCA Facebook Page**, where we welcome YOU to contribute your ideas and/or get involved with any of our events.

Mike Wilkins, President, Bywong Community Association

The advertisement for Innovative Metalworx features the company name in a stylized font at the top. Below it is a list of products: Fire pits, Fire balls, Gates, Light boxes, Custom letterboxes, Privacy and wall screens, Garden decor, Custom signage, and Custom Laser Cutting & Metal Fabrication. Two images show examples of their work: a fire pit with a horse silhouette and a fire ball with star patterns. Contact information is provided at the bottom.

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WAMBOIN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Friday, December 17th, 2018 @7:00pm At Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way

Everyone is invited to come along and ...

Join in the singing of Christmas Carols (both traditional and modern), ably led by our local musicians.

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

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

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

Enjoy the traditional free sausage sizzle (There will be a donation box with all proceeds to be given to the Salvos).

Soothe your tired vocal chords with a cold drink.



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Belinda Bolsenbroek
25-28 November 2018
Bookings: Caithe caithe78@gmail.com

Lucie Klaassen 3 day Clinic
22-24 March 2019
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Tanja Mitton 2 day Clinic
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Wildcare's Magic Towel

Many readers will be aware 'the magic towel' has been mentioned before. Carrying a towel in the boot of the car is not only useful to keep your hands clean or for first aid. A towel can be part of your tool kit, to rescue small native animals from the road or backyard and putting them somewhere safe. It can be used to securely hold small animals that need to be taken to a Vet or handed over to Wildcare.

Spring is a lovely time of the year. Everything is taking off – and so is our wildlife. It is an absolute delight to watch a joey kangaroo take its first hops and to listen to the ever demanding baby birds calling out to be fed. It's a busy time for Wildcare with a steady stream of orphaned and injured animals coming into care, such as, abandoned baby birds; turtles with cracked shells from being run over; lizards with puncture marks from dog attack; orphaned wombats and kangaroos from road accidents; and a growing number of calls for Wildcare's snake handlers to relocate snakes that turn up in the wrong place.

But you don't have to belong to Wildcare to help wildlife. And with new people moving into the area it's good time to remind ourselves what we can do to help out. Reptiles come onto our roads to get warm and motorists must keep a wary eye open to avoid them. If you see a turtle or lizard on the road, and if it is safe – stop the car, hazards on and move them off in the direction they are headed. Pick up turtles from the front and back, not the sides, as this is where the scent glands are! If you are squeamish, this is where the magic towel comes into play. Lightly drop it over the lizard, turtle or bird and scoop it up. For snakes, just stop and let them pass by (including in the garden), whilst alerting others.

Injured reptiles can be placed in a box, kept cool, then seek help. Echidnas can be difficult to pick up, but a rolled towel or other material will help to avoid their spines, as you wriggle your fingers underneath the shoulders to lever them off the ground – don't use a spade, as this may injure the animal. In the garden, try to keep dogs and cats under control and inside at night. If you discover a lizard in the dog run, then move it somewhere else, nearby. Check that bird netting is off the ground to avoid snakes and lizards getting tangled up. And keep the land around your house clear and well tended, so you can see what is around.

If you come across a baby bird on the ground, just keep an eye on it for a day, as it might continue to be fed by its mother. Contact Wildcare (6299 1966) and talk about what to do. A rescued bird can be placed in a box with material at the bottom to hold it secure and then kept in a warm place. Often baby birds end up on the ground, as they learn to fly and haven't quite got the knack. They can also be carefully placed back in a tree – in a container if you cannot reach the nest.

At this time of the year there are less orphaned kangaroos and wombats coming into care, as there are less being hit on the roads. – but as you know, there is still a risk in coming across them on our rural roads during dusk and over night. Driving slower will give you more time to react to the unexpected. If you come across a large injured animal be careful how you approach it. A towel can be used to protect you and to place over the head of an animal to calm it whilst you wait for help.

- Philip Machin, Wildcare, 62383717, *Photo: Baby Tawny in care*



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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market Saturday 17 November 2018 9am -12md

Contact: Meriel Schultz 02 62383309: 0422614304 lmsconsulting@bigpond.com.

The October market is always a weekend where we compete with Murrumbateman Field Day, school fetes, handmade craft markets in Canberra and more. But we were lucky and the market was busier than we thought it would be. Everyone was eyeing the sky and listening to the thunder – but at 12md we thought we had time to pack up and load cars etc before the storm hit. NO – we were wrong – and it was so heavy we had to wait it out before even attempting to load up and drive home. But wasn't that rain welcome!

Thank you to everyone for helping with the market and for clearing up and putting tables and chairs away for me – not viable on crutches! By next market I should be more mobile.

After our call for new stalls we do now have several new stalls including Valuelifefarm selling their locally produced, free range pork. You order and pay for whatever size 'pack' you want and then it appears in cryovac packs at designated local drop off points once ready - or you can collect from the farm (Jo Rocks Road).

With the wi fi working in the community hall, stall holders can now start taking electronic payments if they want. That made life much easier for the pork as the cost of a 5, 10 or 15 kg pack was more than the cash you would probably take to the market otherwise. Come and check out this stall and others at the November market!

So.....**SEE YOU AT THE NOVEMBER MARKET!**

SPRING TALKS SERIES – 2018 -- TALK #3: “THE MIKE KELLY TALK” NOVEMBER 20th, 7:30PM WAMBOIN HALL

The Wamboin Community Association (WCA) invites all residents of Wamboin and surrounding areas to the **Spring Talks Series – 2018**. *The WCA is very happy to welcome The Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM, MP, Member for the Federal electorate of Eden Monaro as our guest speaker in November for the third and final event in our Spring Talks Series - 2018.*

Spring Talk #2 Report: Bungendore Police team members Sergeant Tim Saunders and Senior Constable Kim Wegner were the guest speakers at the October Spring Talk. Tim and Kim demonstrated their professionalism and formidable knowledge of local events and issues, firmly positioning their objective of helping to keep all members of the community and their property safe. Topics ranged from how to prevent thefts from homes and farm sheds - including being circumspect about posting your upcoming holiday plans on Facebook - use and storage of firearms and the impacts of organised crime on the community. The recurring issue of poor driver behavior was a major topic. Tim and Kim acknowledged the problems on our local “feeder” roads, particularly Macs Reef Road, and confirmed that Highway Patrol presence will continue. They gave advice on collection and use of dash cam footage and stressed the value of “driving to the conditions” in reducing the likelihood of an incident.

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

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DRAWING OF THE ESCARPMENT IN THE DROUGHT WORTH



The Wamboin Firefighter

The Wamboin Firefighter newsletter is produced by the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade for the benefit of residents and property owners in the brigade's area that includes the localities of Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton (south of the Federal Highway) and Bungendore (along and west of the Lake George escarpment).

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS
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PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

Outlook

We are in the bush fire season. The state of NSW (including our region) is 100% drought affected. Sure, we've had a little rain recently and it's nice to see the resultant green flush. But don't be fooled. It does not mean the fire danger has gone away this summer. The ground below remains dry, as are the paddocks, pasture and bush. Just a few warm and windy days will quickly see a return to parched pasture and bushland. The drought is not expected to ease in the southern part of the continent any time soon. The latest Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook (23 Oct) remains at El Nino ALERT indicating there is approximately a 70% chance of El Nino occurring in 2018 – around triple the normal likelihood. According to the BOM this, along with movement of other indicators, increases the likelihood of a dry and warm end to the year across most of Australia and raises the risk of heatwaves and bush fire weather in the south. This makes it all the more important for all residents to have a sound bush fire survival plan.

Bush fire!! - Are You Really Prepared?

Research on behalf of the NSW Rural Fire Service shows that while the majority of people have some form of plan for what to do during a bush fire, these plans often won't hold up to the test of a fire. Ask yourself – would your plan stand up to the test of a fire? How fireproof is your plan? You can find out in five minutes at www.myfireplan.com.au



There are simple things you can do to protect yourself and your family this bush fire season:

- **Discuss** with your family what you will do if a fire starts near you.
- **Prepare** your home and get it ready for bush fire.
- **Know** the bush fire alert levels.
- **Keep** key information like websites and emergency details handy & download the 'Fires Near Me' Smartphone app. (provides information on bush fire incidents)

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

- **NSW Rural Fire Service** www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
- **MyFirePlan** Smartphone app. in both iOS and Android versions.
- **Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade** <http://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>
- **Wamboin Brigade Captain** wamboincaptain@gmail.com or ph 0409 991 340

If you have any non-emergency enquiries, e.g. need guidance with your Bush Fire Survival Plan or you would like a brigade member to visit you to provide helpful comment on your property preparations, please contact the Brigade directly by email or phone.

Finally, while you can always find us at the Brigade's Information Shopfront on Wamboin Market Days, **we're running a special bush fire preparedness information session on the third Sunday in November. Further details are outlined elsewhere in the Whisper.**

**** YOUR INVITATION ****
TO ALL NEW RESIDENTS AND OTHERS
From the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade



**BUSH FIRE PREPAREDNESS
INFORMATION SESSION**

Sunday 18th November

2pm - 4pm

Wamboin Fire Station - 112 Bingley Way Wamboin

We'll cover:

** where 'we' live * what it means * fire history
* what you can expect * property preparedness * personal preparedness * staying informed*

Have your questions answered.

Wamboin Community Carols Night

It might not feel like it yet but the end of year is approaching faster than we might believe. So too is the annual Wamboin Community Carols Night! Put on by the Wamboin Community Association, this is a wonderful way to celebrate the end of the year with a community get together. This is a non-denominational event and the emphasis is on the community enjoying themselves, particularly the younger residents. Admission to the event is a gift under the Christmas tree for the Salvation Army to take to someone less fortunate.

The night features carol singing, the telling of the Christmas story (in its rather unique style), a BBQ (gold coin donation which also goes to the Salvos), and of course the arrival of Santa to distribute gift bags to the children.

The date for this extravaganza is 7th December 2018 at 7:00 pm sharp at the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin. Please come along and enjoy yourselves. Parents of children wishing to perform in the Christmas Play are invited (PLEASE) to ring Jenny Richards on **6238 1329** as soon as possible to organise parts.

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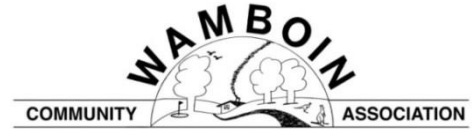
1761 SUTTON RD, SUTTON

Wamboin Community Association Inc. (WCA) October 2018 General Meeting (GM)

Date of Meeting: 16 October 2018

Meeting chaired by: Peter Evans, President, WCA

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.



Outline of topics discussed

President: Peter Evans thanked everyone who had worked to arrange – and then de-arrange – the Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks evening, which was unfortunately cancelled due to a Total Fire Ban. He mentioned Lofty Mason and Keith France in particular, and thanked the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade for working with the WCA to complete the bonfire burn.

Christmas Mailbox Decorating Competition: Convenor of the Wonderful Women of Wamboin, Gail Ritchie Knight explained the timetable for entries, judging and the awarding of prizes (see separate ad elsewhere in the Whisper and local social media).

President: Peter Evans noted that the WCA’s Facebook page is live and encouraged Facebook users to like/follow it - www.facebook.com/WamboinCommunityAssociation/

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade: Peter Greenwood said that last month the Brigade had responded to a false alarm and a late night fire at Eaglehawk Holiday Park. Ian Coillet reinforced that the predicted conditions for this fire season are similar to 2003, the year of the Canberra fires.

Wheels of Wamboin: Peter Evans confirmed that the Wheels of Wamboin will be held in conjunction with the May Wamboin Market on 18 May 2019 and that the event’s Facebook page reflects this - www.facebook.com/wheelsofwamboin/

Following the meeting Sergeant Tim Saunders and Senior Constable Kim Wegner from Bungendore Police addressed the meeting, covering a wide range of topics of interest to the assembled Wamboin and Bywong residents.

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 20 November which will be followed by an interactive information evening with The Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, Member for Eden-Monaro. All welcome. - Jenny Warren, Assistant Secretary, Wamboin Community Association, Inc.

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Melbourne Cup Party

Tuesday 6 November 12.30pm–4.30pm

\$65 for 3 courses, add \$45 for 4hr drinks package. Groups welcome.

Happy Friday - Sunday 16 November

Fresh summer seafood menu.

New Years Eve

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Tastings & Antipasto

Wednesday–Sunday, 10am–5pm.

Lunch

Saturday & Sunday, 10am–5pm.



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'Why Would We Live Anywhere Else'? A Big Thank You Is Due To Many In The Community.

This has proved an especially challenging winter and spring for our family. First of all Lance, my husband had several weeks in Queanbeyan hospital with a bad chest infection that didn't help his long term lung condition at all. The cat ruptured her cruciate ligament and had to be kept quiet indoors for 10 weeks (??) Then I went for a respite weekend plus our son and helper Rohan, plus our eldest and her familyleaving youngest daughter Kiri to manage Dad, farm, bored cat and everything else.....and guess what - as Lofty, the sage of our Wamboin community put it - I went for a break and came back with a break.....(a fractured hip)!! Great skiing, perfect weather and snow - no excuses.....had a wonderful weekend until last hour of skiing. I quite enjoyed the long sled ride back to the other side of Thredbo looking up at the trees instead of down at the snow. A new perspective.

Since this accident (am now suitably screwed back together but non weight bearing – non driving for 6 weeks) we have had overwhelming help and support from our kids and from Wamboin and Bungendore - with Wamboin coming up with carefully prepared meals, cakes and goodies; fetching cars from servicing; shopping, transport, collecting and stacking wood, sending flowers, providing equipment and dropping in for cups of coffee and visits, We have had assistance with feeding horses and chooks plus immediate help with managing Wamboin produce market responsibilities. Outside that, both Bungendore IGA, Bungendore Medical Centre and the pharmacy have been outstanding in terms of help and cheerful positive approaches. IGA for example sat Lance down at that big table for coffee, provided me with someone to help with a trolley and to grab stuff off shelves and then put the bags into our car; Medical Centre organised scripts and took to pharmacy for us and the pharmacy carried everything for me in and out of the shop. All done with a smile and lifted our spirits no end.

Of special note is that the Wamboin 'meals on wheels' service has been so good it would almost be worthy of 'learned helplessness' on our part in order for its continuation..... In fact the only hiccup in this Wamboin food support system was when a helper fell through her shed roof and injured herself and was forced in desperation to eat the casserole she'd prepared for us! Understandable. All this help seemed to happen seamlessly and by word of mouth - which is in stark contrast to what is meant to pass as help from the aged care system. But we won't whine (wine?) too much on that score as Queanbeyan Community Health has also been fantastic and indeed the physio that comes to visit Lance weekly now doubles for me too!

However we could not have managed without our local community's support and help - so thank you to everyone involved and we hope we can return the care and support should you ever need it. Bless you all. Meriel and Lance Schultz

| | |
|---|---|
| <p><u>SZT RURAL 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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| <h2>FIREWOOD SUMMER SPECIAL</h2> <p>Quality Yellow & Red Box \$220 per tonne split and delivered</p> <p>Discount to \$190 on 6 tonnes and over Offer ends 30 December 2018 Be sure to order early in order to avoid the winter rush Under new management practices, we have worked to make changes so as to respond more quickly to your phone calls.</p> <p>Family owned business for 50 years Phone David Skillin 0435 732 351 or 6227 6129</p> | |  |
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|--|--|
| <h2>Domestic Water Direct</h2> <p>Water Cartage</p>  <p>Tel 0419 613 387 02 6238 2142 PO Box 129 Bungendore NSW 2621 ACTEW Approved ABN 85 133 228 628 www.domesticwaterdirect.com.au</p> | |
|--|--|

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

Gail Ritchie Knight

It's been sad for us this year as we farewelled the husbands of two of our members.

Chris Davies lost Peter after a long illness. You may remember them from the old Shepherd's Run days. What great memories we have of the good times spent there. We farewelled Peter at St Andrew's Church in Wamboin.

Yvonne Barrett, one of the originals from the early days of WWOW, lost her husband Stewart after a long illness as well. Stewart was a much loved and respected member of the Sutton Fire Brigade. He was farewelled at St Peter's in Sutton.

To lose such stalwarts of our community is so very sad. They were taken too soon and we can only extend our condolences to both Chris, Yvonne and their families, wishing them love and strength as they embark on their new journeys in life.

Last month, local Wamboin resident Jenny Warren was guest speaker. She spoke of her battle with breast cancer. Five years later she is drug-free, strong and healthy. Rather than mutely accept the drugs prescribed by the medical profession, Jenny took matters into her own hands, totally changing her diet and adding serious exercise to her routine. Her story was inspirational. We came away from her talk determined to take charge of our lives.

As many of you may already know, the Christmas letterbox decorating competition has come out of hiatus. WWOW will once again coordinate it with additional support from both Wamboin and Bywong community associations. They will fund the prizes: best letterbox and best gate or fence. The winners have an opportunity to be awarded their prizes in public, either at the Bywong Christmas drinks party or at the Wamboin Markets. See the ad elsewhere in this newsletter.

All women are welcome. 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.

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How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

Sheryl Barnes has for a number of years generously donated time to deliver every Whispers every month to the 15 mailboxes between 429 Denley drive and to its southern endpoint. She won't be able to do this task after December. I thank her very much for doing it all these years. Without her donation of time, just as without the volunteering of the other 50+ individuals and families below, we could not have a printed, free, Wamboin and Bywong Whisper written by residents, as mailing a printed one costs \$2.

John van der Stratten will be placing a note in each of the 15 mailboxes along with the Whisper asking if another one of them could take on the job Sheryl has been doing.

If your own 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 (Weeroona to Hilltop+Wirndra) | 23 | Phil Leeson&Coleen Fogarty | Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley) | 32 |

232: 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 Nrtm Rd | 22 | 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) | 11 |
| 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 | Newwington Rd | 20 |
| Carol & Clive Boughton | Macs Reef Rd (Bankers to Fed Hwy) | 33 | Joan Milner | Birriwa Rd plus Macs Rf Rd to Harriott | 30 |
| Beth Hope | Gum Flat Ln | 6 | Tony Bond | HoganDr/OranaDr/Yuranga Dr | 46 |
| Miscellaneous | | 3 | | | |

156: 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 | 50 | Penny & Russell Ball | Macs Reef (Denley Dr to Bungdre Rd) | 20 |
| Glen Dorahy | Sutton Park Estate | 53 | | | |

137: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 6236 97223 bushranger_au@hotmail.com

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|----|-------------------|------------------------------------|----|
| Chris Fowler | Millyn Rd | 20 | David Featherston | B'doreRd frm SmHill to&nclgdCrkBRd | 27 |
| Sue Aunella | Brooks Rd | 24 | Ken Steinman | Wyoming & Doust Rds | 34 |
| Kerrie Gougeon | B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy) | 32 | | | |

187: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484


| | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----|------------------------|-------------------------------------|----|
| Diana Griffin | Majors Close | 19 | Judy Smith | Weeroona (254 - 400) | 18 |
| Diana Boswell | Donnelly Rd & Ln 29 & Grove Rd 7 | 37 | Susie and Brad Edwards | Weeroona (417-512) | 18 |
| Attila & Cherry Hrgsi. | Snowgum Road | 27 | Murray Goodridge | B'dore Rd (MRR to & nclgd Smmrhill) | 38 |
| Advertisers & Misc | Out of area advertiser mailouts | 30 | | | |

TOTAL 1,326


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Wamboin Golf – October 2018

Sunday, 7 October. Another day another royal commission. Aged care, gender quotas in politics, bullying and sexual harassment, climate change – specifically the relationship between greenhouse gas, energy prices, the reliable energy target and an emissions trading scheme – and, of course, what to do with the ABC (how to how to retard its relentless and unreasoning insistence on independence, factual depth and even handedness). Your correspondent understands from sources close to SloMo and BulSho, that all inquiries will be completed in time to have sensible, bipartisan policies in place before the federal election around May next year. Can't wait. And, in fact, I won't. Where was I? Ah yes. 7 October. A superb day for motor sport (Bathurst, Japan and Thailand) and, naturally, the Wamboin Oktoberfest Monthly Medal. Sunny, crisp, a light breeze. The day was sponsored by L & L King whom we thank for the prizes and eats. The order of the day was for stroke play rather than the fiendish Stableford system and so with the stench of high octane and burning rubber in our nostrils we set off down Con Rod Straight, hearts aflutter.

Back in Pit Lane while we carefully picked the needles out of the strawberries we discussed the poor man's royal commission into the "culture" of the ACT's peerless health system. The general consensus was that that there was no culture to speak of. Very few within the system could tell you if it was Mozart of Beethoven who painted the Mona Lisa. (It was Beethoven. Mozart invented the *Stradivarius*, a kind of ukulele you play with a stick.) The captain introduced our guests Ben, Skye and Jennifer from across the road and Klymut and Astrid Denier from Paris. Ted Evans took time out from looking for a couple of carers for SloMo's disabled aunty to tell the story of the senator and the cow. The googly ball went to Joan Mason who lost her pencil but signed the NTP marker at the Hall with a piece of charcoal from the remains of the bonfire. The dummy spit award was presented to Glen Crafter for uncivil language after breaking the head off his driver (see photo). Glen was then able to pass it on to Joan Mason who failed to submit a card but complained about missing out on a prize which "she would have won". NTP and LD ball winners were Paul Griffin X 2, Vicki Still, Tim Barter, Pete Harrison and Colin Urquhart. The winner of the nine hole comp was Lofty Mason 50/39. One of the sponsors came second but modesty prevents me from revealing his identity. In any event the strict rules at Wamboin GC exclude him from the prize-getters. Keith France took out the 18 hole comp 74/60 from Vicki Still 87/62 with Paul Griffin in 3rd place 81/64.



Next month will feature the 33rd annual Wamboin Open, the very apogee, zenith, apex and summit of golf. Join us at the community hall on Sunday, 4 November at 12.15pm for the always dependable 12.30pm start. We asked Gladys Berejiklian to present the prizes but have been informed that she will be busy painting a portrait of Winx on the sails of the Opera House.

- Larry King, golfer.

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WAMBOIN WEATHER: (rainfall and temperature records)

43 years from Cooper Road by Christine Rieber

October Rainfall Stats

October rainfall to the 28th 25.75mm
 2018 total rainfall to 28/10 293.0mm

Average October rainfall..... 58.3mm
 2017 October rainfall..... 61.75mm
 2017 total rainfall to 28/10..... 350.25mm
 42yr Av. to end of October 555.6mm

November Rainfall Stats

2017 November rainfall..... 65.25mm
 Wettest November..... 175.5mm in 2010
 Wettest day..... 77mm on 19/11/86
 Driest November..... 0mm in 1982

Average November rainfall..... 77.5mm
 Average no. rain days in November... 9.6
 Highest no. rain days..... 19 in 1992
 Lowest no. rain days..... 0 in 1982

November Temperature Stats

Hottest November day... 39°C on 27/11/97
 Hottest November night.... 22°C 26/11/02

Av. Nov temp... 16.1°C (day+night comb.)
 Coldest November day..... 9°C (2 times)
 on 11 & 12/11/13

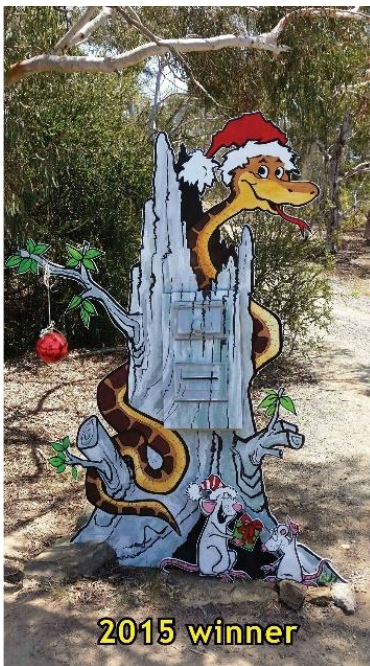
Average day temperature..... 22.1°C
 Warmest November 1982 and 2009
 82 (Av. day temp. 26.8°C & night 12.5°C)
 09 (Av. day temp. 26.2°C & night 12.7°C)

Coldest Nov. night..... -1°C on 1/11/16
 Average night temperature..... 10.1°C
 Coldest November 1992
 Av. day temp. 18.8°C & nights 8.5°C
 (lowest) (lowest 6.5°C in 13)

Rainfall totals for the seven driest years (<500mm) and, subtotals to the end of October and for November and December, along with 2018 for comparison.

| | Year | | | | | | |
|--------------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|------------|
| | 1979 | 1994 | 2002 | 2006 | 2004 | 1982 | 2018 |
| End Oct. | 401 | 348.5 | 412.5 | 402.75 | 286.5 | 326.5 | 293 |
| Nov & Dec | 98 | 125.5 | 47.5 | 56.25 | 149.5 | 37.5 | |
| Total (year) | 499 | 474 | 460 | 459 | 436 | 364 | |

Note The 42 year average for November and December combined is 141.3mm.
 December 1979 and November 1982 both had zero rainfall.



The 2018 Christmas Decorating Competition

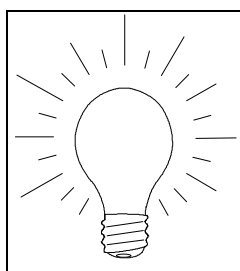
Two prizes: Best mailbox
 Best gate/fence

Send a photo of your creation, with your name, address and phone number to:
whirlwind1@argonite.com.au

Deadline: 8pm Sunday 9 December

Winners announced:
 Bywong Xmas Drinks 14 December and
 Wamboin Markets 15 December 10.30am

Prize hampers funded by both Bywong and Wamboin Community Associations
 Coordinated by the Wonderful Women of Wamboin



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The Parish Of Wamboin: Its Creation And The Parish Map

By David McDonald

This article provides information on the creation of the parish of Wamboin, and on its early maps. It is an abridgement of a longer piece at the Local History pages on the Wamboin Community Association's website:

<http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/localhistory/index.php?op=locality>. The references cited below are detailed there. Please contact the author with any corrections, etc.: email david [at] dnmcdonald.id.au, phone 0416 231 890. Subsequent articles in this series will focus on the origins of the name of the locality of Wamboin, and on the Aboriginal origins of the word 'wamboin'.

The creation of the County of Murray, in which the parish of Wamboin is located, was notified in the *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* (hereafter the *Gazette*) on 17 October 1829. The County was at the south-western extremity of authorised settlement, the 'limits of location' (Marshall 2006, p. 2).

The Surveyor General's Regulations of 1864 provided that the size of parishes should be approximately 25 square miles (65 square kilometres), and that 'The boundaries should, wherever practicable, consist of creeks, ranges, or other natural features, but failing the existence of these in suitable positions, arbitrary lines may be adopted as boundaries, and which should, unless a strong reason to the contrary exists, be directed to the cardinal points' (Marshall 2006, p. 3).

The name of a parish did not need to bear any relationship to its locality, although sometimes it did, for example the parish of Bywong is named after Bywong Hill. Furthermore, 'Where euphonious aboriginal names can be ascertained, it is desirable that they should be suggested by the Surveyor for new parishes' (Surveyor General's Regulations of 1864, cited in Marshall 2006, pp. 3-4). 'Euphonious' means 'pleasing to the ear'. 'Wamboin' is a euphonious Aboriginal word however, as will be discussed in subsequent articles in this series, the word has no direct connection to where Wamboin is located. At least six other places in NSW are called Wamboin or similar names with slightly different spellings.

When was the parish of Wamboin created? The first thing to note is that the creation of parishes was not notified in the *Gazette* as they were developed for administrative (land management) purposes, and their boundaries could be changed from time-to-time, without formal notification (Surveyor General's Regulations of 1864, cited in Marshall 2006, p. 3).

It seems that the first notice of land for sale by auction in what is now Wamboin that was published in the *Gazette* occurred on 16 March 1841 (p. 4). It refers to a block in a 'parish unnamed near Bungendore'. However, William Guise, William Moore, Michael Day and John Anlezark had all purchased blocks one square mile (640 acres) in size before then, in or abutting what became the parish. Most of the land of the parish was alienated as small selections (40-60 acres) in the 1870s and 1880s.

The first mention of 'Wamboin' in the *Gazette* was the issue dated 1 February 1866 (No. 33 (Supplement)), p. 333: 'Department of Lands, Sydney, 31st January, 1866. APPROVED CLAIMS FOR PRE-EMPTIVE LEASES'. It was a notification of claims for three selections, situated in the 'Parish of Wamboin', for John Murphy whose address was given as 'Creekborough'. This property was originally taken up by William Moore in what was to become the parish of Bywong. Snowgum Road runs through the middle of it.

From this and related information we can conclude (with some, but not perfect, confidence) that the parish of Wamboin was created not long before February 1866.

The parish boundaries do not accord with those of the current locality of Wamboin. The parish is much larger than the locality. In particular, the parish's south-eastern border is Turallo Creek in Bungendore.

The parish of Wamboin maps. The first edition of the parish of Wamboin map can be accessed online via the Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) <http://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au/>. What is labelled there as the second edition of the map is actually the first edition, dated 1881. The map contains the annotations: *TRIGONOMETRICAL COMPILATION, Reserves charted and examined 13 Sep. 81, Compiled by C.G. Ireland 20th Oct. 81.*

The following year the *Gazette* of 7 February 1882 (No. 52), p. 684, included a notice: *PARISH MAPS FOR SALE. ON SALE at the Surveyor General's Office, Sydney, and at the respective Land Offices hereunder mentioned, the following Lithographs of PARISH MAPS: Price One Shilling each:—* ...*Parishes of Amungula, Wamboin, and Majura, county of Murray—Land Office, Queanbeyan.*

The parish of Wamboin map referenced in this notice is almost certainly the first edition, 1881.


I have had the second edition of the map, published in 1891, scanned. It available online (as a large, high resolution file, 118 MB) at the WCA's website

http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/localhistory/content/support/parishmaps/Parish_Wamboin_2nd_edn_1891.pdf .

The first official, government-published map of the County of Murray is dated 1888. It shows the parish of Wamboin:

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-233902109> .

The current parish boundaries are shown in blue dashes on the maps in the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council online mapping system <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Building-Development/Planning-Zoning/Online-mapping> . Select the layers Boundaries | Parish, and zoom in to Wamboin or other parishes of interest.

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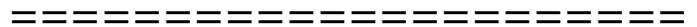
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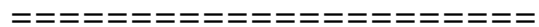


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| Wamboin Social Club. A meeting place - every Thursday, 10.00 & 12.00 at the Wamboin community hall. Pop in for a coffee & chat or linger longer and join in a game of ping-pong, card games, scrabble etc. All are welcome – young and old, bring a friend.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

Planning Legislation (Coda)—There are just a few loose ends to tie up in relation to our discussion of the last couple of months on the subject of land use planning.

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EPAA) has always supported a hierarchical approval structure that was intended to provide appropriate levels of transparency in the assessment process, balancing the interests of all parties involved without burdening the vast majority of applications with unnecessary bureaucratic red tape.

The Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) is the final piece of the puzzle. It was established under the same state planning reforms (Part 2A of the 2008 EPAA Amendment Act) that saw the introduction of Joint Regional Planning Panels (JRPPs). The PAC is effectively the highest authority in relation to the determination of planning matters. It operates independently of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment primarily to determine State significant development applications where there is ‘significant opposition’ from the community—where there have been 25 or more public objections, the local council has objected, or the applicant has made a reportable political donation. The Department of Planning and Environment itself is the delegated consent authority for State significant development where this level of opposition has not been encountered.

While high value and controversial developments are always in the public eye, and are thus the focus of most efforts to demonstrate transparency in the determination process, there has been an ongoing effort to simplify the process for the most simple or common forms of development (cf. the Exempt and Complying Development Codes State Environmental Planning Policy). The most recent (2012–2013) attempt to reform the NSW planning system, however, failed in fairly spectacular fashion, ultimately resulting in a ministerial reshuffle, the departure of the then Director General of Planning and a restructuring of the Department of Planning. The reforms were an attempt to ‘streamline’ the planning process but were perceived to have been the result of lobbying from property development interests. The resulting public outcry, particularly in metropolitan areas where there was significant concern in relation to the proliferation of residential flat buildings, led to the abandonment of this effort to replace the EPAA.

In spite of the failure of the overall proposal, certain elements of the reform package have indeed since been implemented. The introduction of Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels (IHAPs) in metropolitan Local Government Areas (LGAs), removing all development assessment powers from Councils (elected representatives), was one element of the reform package that specifically targeted corruption in the assessment process. This is seen as one of the most significant shifts in the allocation of responsibility for development decision-making since the introduction of the EPAA. Whether or not this approach will lead to more efficient or even transparent processing, or when this model might be extended to embrace regional councils is yet to be determined.

And if all this wasn’t confusing enough, the planning agencies I’ve mentioned have recently been renamed, so that the PAC is now the Independent Planning Commission (IPC), JRPPs are now just Regional Planning Panels (RPPs) and IHAPs are now known as Local Planning Panels (LPPs). The hierarchy nonetheless remains the same, with the IPC responsible for the determination of state significant development, RPPs for regionally significant or high value local development and LPPs in metropolitan areas for local development that cannot, for one reason or another (generally local controversy), be determined by council planning staff under delegation. In regional areas, for the time being, Councils remain the local consent authority.

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

Planning Legislation (Coda) (October 2018) Planning Legislation (September 2018)

-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. Content was drawn from *NSW Planning Framework: History of Reforms*, Holly Park, NSW Parliamentary Library Research Service, June 2010]

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

I have just celebrated, with some degree of fanfare, a significant birthday. Although I had pleaded for “no fuss,” my dear family thought otherwise. As a consequence I have been doing a few rambles down memory lane, and something stirred. Back in the olden days, before Instagram, we had autograph books. I never quite understood their purpose but that didn’t seem to matter. Once you got past “by hook or by crook I’ll be the first in this book,” some of the messages became almost poetic, even a little clever for a ten year old, but there was one that frequently cropped up and it seems especially pertinent to me now.

“Can’t think, brain dumb, inspiration won’t come. Bad ink, bad pen. Best wishes. Amen.” But I can hear my mother saying, “Pull your socks up and get on with it,” and so I will!

I have just come in from watering my herb garden as well as a few patches where we are composting, with mulching next on the agenda. Despite the brave face of spring the garden is pretty sad and dry. Some trees and shrubs have died and the survivors are caged making the whole place look like a nineteenth century zoo. I planted bloomers in a very old wheelbarrow that had long failed as a piece of garden sculpture and now it is a bright splash of colour. I don’t even see the wire netting over the flowers anymore. After my morning wander around the garden and watering I went down to let out the chooks and holidaying ducks, and clean out the duck house.

Apart from all the native birds, we’ve had a succession of feathered friends...ducks, chooks, guinea fowls, geese and even a peacock. Guinea fowls are supposed to be good eating, but we never ate them of course and they were the least endearing of all. We enjoyed our ducks, chooks and geese. They were pets. Unfortunately the foxes enjoyed them even more, but we have always replaced our chooks.

Chooks are delightful creatures, friendly, curious, grateful, industrious, an interesting study of a society. Once we had a complete misfit in a tightly knit community. She was always on the outer and so slept alone, high in a wattle whilst the others snuggled together, tut tutting on their perch. Her exclusion, however, saved her and she was the sole survivor of a fox raid. But completely alone, she became miserable. We introduced some new girls and wondered how she’d settle. She didn’t just settle, she became head girl, the ruler of the roost, and thrived. Cedric, the rooster, was another character. He was hatched by a duck, abandoned by his surrogate mother and saved by an ugg boot in a fry pan on the lowest setting. Naturally he grew up with some issues, but he always knew where he belonged, even though his family had no feathers.

We had special ducks, too, and they wandered around, chatted contently and ate snails when times were wetter. We have scattered trees that mark their final resting spots. But there is no romance in cleaning out duck houses! I have known some messy individuals in my life but nothing rivals the mess and stench of confined ducks.

Mess aside, however, their eggs are beautiful, and an abundance of duck eggs sends me to my recipe books. I started making cakes. When I was little my birthday cake was a butter cake needing no recipe book, marbled with red and green swirls, spread with glaze icing and sprinkled with hundreds and thousands with a few used candles on top. A freshly plucked chook, stuffed and roasted, was part of the feast. If I could avoid the smell of hot feathers in the process then nothing could mar the perfect birthday treat! The other day I made a birthday cake for my grand daughter. The recipe was a photograph with “divine” scrawled on one side and despatched electronically across our wide brown land by a “lady who lunches”. It was a Persian Love Cake. Persia...Iran? When I was little I only knew the names of the red coloured bits on the world map....and my mother had me believe that all birthday cakes were marbled!

Sadly my bad ink has run out and my pen has a crossed nib.

We are all facing challenges living here at this time. Thank goodness we still have birthdays to celebrate and eggs to make beautiful cakes! I wouldn’t live anywhere else.

Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For November, I chose the Southern Boobook, a little owl whose call has been heard most nights for the past few weeks at our house. We think (and hope) that they are breeding nearby.

Southern Boobook (*Ninox boobook*)

Size: 25-36cm (Wingspan: 60-80cm) Status: Uncommon breeding resident

The Southern Boobook is the smallest owl in Australia. It is also known by several other names including mopoke, boobook and morepork. The latter is actually incorrect, as the morepork is a different species of owl found in Tasmania and New Zealand (**Morepork, *Ninox novaeseelandiae***). These names all relate to its call, which is a distinctive boo-book, mo-poke or more-pork. Being an owl, these birds are nocturnal, and their call can be heard at night. To see one of these birds, you can either be very lucky and stumble across one roosting in the daytime, or go out at night with a torch. They roost low down in dense trees, so check any pines or native cherry trees. Being small, their diet consists mainly of insects, especially spiders, wolf spiders and beetles. They also eat mice, but not possums or gliders. These birds nest in large tree hollows during the breeding season, which runs from September-February and the incubation period is 42 days.



(Photo from Google images)