

# The Whisper

December 2018 / January 2019 CIRCULATION: 1,326

Wamboin Community Assn: [www.wamboincommunity.asn.au](http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au)  
 Bywong Community: [www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://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](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au) or to [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or mail them or drop them off. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before, so the deadline for the February 2018 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, January 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](http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au).

**LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial Triple Zero (000) All Hours**  
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## LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

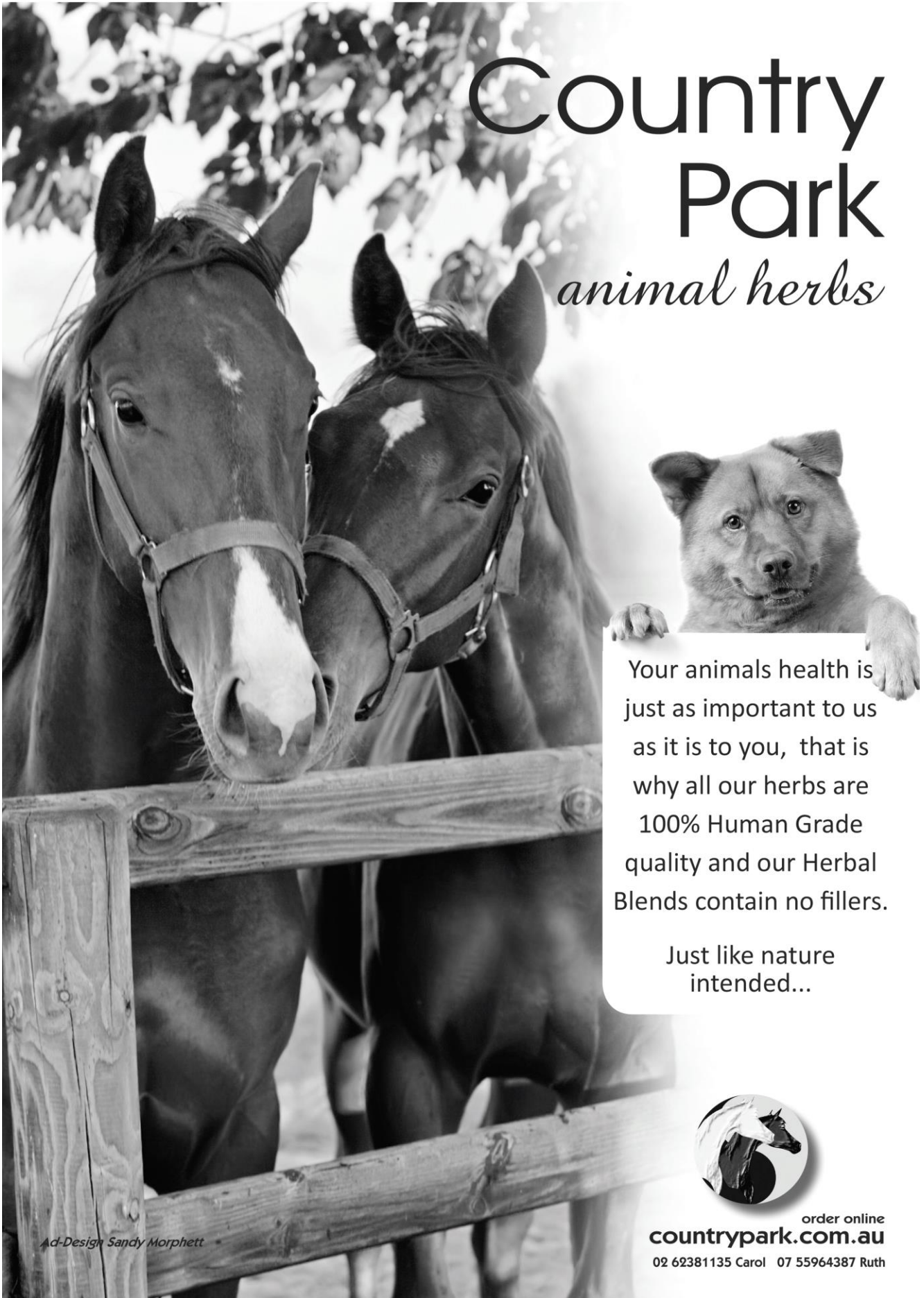
<b>Wamboin Community Assn</b>	Peter Evans, President	6236 9779	<a href="mailto:president@wamboincommunity.asn.au">president@wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>
<b>Bywong Community</b>	Mike Wilkins, President		<a href="mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au">president@bywongcommunity.org.au</a>
<b>Fire Brigade</b>	Matt O'Brien, Captain	0409 991 340	<a href="mailto:wamboincaptain@gmail.com">wamboincaptain@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Markets</b>	Lance and Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	<a href="mailto:Lmsconsulting@bigpond.com">Lmsconsulting@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Sutton School Playgroup</b>	Belinda Robinson, Convenor	0422 262 426	<a href="mailto:B_Robinson35@hotmail.com">B_Robinson35@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Landcare</b>	Kathy Handel, Treasurer	6238 3596	<a href="mailto:khandel@bigpond.net.au">khandel@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison, Bungendore	6238 1333	
<b>NSW SES</b>	NSW Call Centre	132 500	For assistance in storms and floods
<b>NSW SES Bungendore</b>	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	For non-urgnt assistance and advice
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Peter Greenwood, JP	6238 3358	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Keith France, JP	6238 3596	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Jill Sedaitis, JP	6236 9559	
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Stacey Burgess, Club Secretary	0414 672 979	<a href="mailto:wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com">wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com</a>
<b>Geary's Gap Pony Club</b>	Cameron Smith, contact	0419 449 747	
<b>Wamboin Play Group</b>	Linda Uzubalis, Convener	0410 294 420	<a href="mailto:Linda.uzubalis@gmail.com">Linda.uzubalis@gmail.com</a>
<b>Bywong Hall Bookings</b>	Bookings Officer, contact		<a href="mailto:lrrhallbywong@gmail.com">lrrhallbywong@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	<a href="mailto:joan.mason@internode.on.net">joan.mason@internode.on.net</a>
<b>Church - Anglican</b>	Bronwyn Elliott, Warden	6238 3359	
<b>KYB Bible Study Group</b>	Yvonne Barrett, contact	6230 3539	
<b>Golf</b>	Peter Greenwood, Golfer	6238 3358	<a href="mailto:p.greenwood2@bigpond.com">p.greenwood2@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare, Helpline	6299 1966	
<b>Wonderful Wmen of Wmb</b>	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	<a href="mailto:Whirlwind1@argonite.com.au">Whirlwind1@argonite.com.au</a>
<b>Lake George VIEW Club</b>	Pauline Segeri, contact	6238 1996	
<b>Wambn/Bngndr Book Group</b>	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	<a href="mailto:Sally.saunders1@bigpond.com">Sally.saunders1@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Thurs Social Grp</b>	Denise Hales, contact	0400 310 685	<a href="mailto:deniselynnehailes@gmail.com">deniselynnehailes@gmail.com</a>

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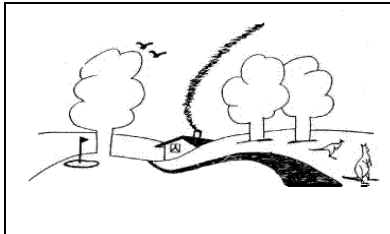
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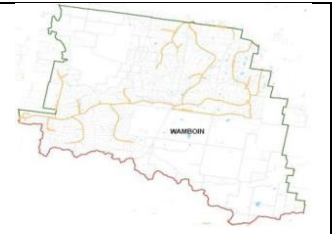
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## Wamboin Community Association Presidents Paragraphs “Merry Christmas”



Well another year has passed as we close in on the Christmas and New Year period. This year had some ups and downs with a very successful Spring Talks series (a big thanks to Jenny Warren), a huge Wheels of Wamboin but unfortunately our fireworks and bonfire night was cancelled due to fire danger. So don't get your tinsel in a tangle this Christmas, all is not lost as the Christmas Carols are still to come. This Christmas maybe we should take some time to look around and take a breath while we have a chance and reflect on how lucky we are to live in Wamboin. Maybe look at contacting friends or family you have not talked to for a while and make a reason to say hello at this truly special time of year. So from my family to yours, have a magical Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

**Spring Talks** - The 2018 Spring Talks Series concluded with an evening with our Federal Member the Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP. Mike presented his views on climate change and energy and took a number of interesting questions from the crowd. This concludes our very successful spring talks for the year. We will soon be looking of speakers for next year's events.

**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 to spread some Christmas cheer. No need to go on The Voice, everyone sounds good singing a Christmas carol. Please contact Jenny Richards on 6238 1329 for further information on this great community event. Please remember to bring a small present for the giving tree to make a child's Christmas special.

**Home Produce Markets** –The last chance to get local crafts and Lou's great coffee on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Wheels of Wamboin 2019** – reserve the date - 18 May 2019 to find precious metal at 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 heaps of info on our website at [www.wamboincommunity.asn.au](http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au)

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

**WCA Meeting** – next WCA general meeting is 7.30 pm, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at the Wamboin Community Hall.

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

## Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market Saturday 15 December 2018 9am -12md

**Contact: Meriel Schultz 02 62383309; 0422614304 [lmsconsulting@bigpond.com](mailto:lmsconsulting@bigpond.com).**

The November market was busy with a full hall and sales of local organic pork, cherries from Young, Ellen's home made cosmetics and skin care range, screen printed tea towels and a great selection of recycled and handcrafted furniture to add to our mix. Poetry in Motion returned to entertain us.

Come along to the Christmas market on 15<sup>th</sup> December for:

- Garden produce and home made preserves
- Curabita natural products
- Delicious Danish pastries
- Jams, preserves and pickles a plenty
- Orders for local organic pork
- Apple strudel
- Hand made cards including last minute Christmas cards
- Art work and recycled handcrafted furniture
- Last minute Christmas gifts
- Lucky dips for the littlies
- ARF and Wildcare calendars
- Knitted goods and handmade craft work
- Native tube stock and other plants
- Jewellery
- Information to help your fire plan from the RFS
- Freshly cooked egg and bacon rolls and sausage rolls
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**Diary dates:** Christmas drinks Gathering, Friday 14 December at 6-8.30pm at the Bywong Community Hall, Birriwa Road Bywong. All local residents and families are warmly invited, and we hope you'll take the opportunity to come along to meet new faces and catch up with those you know. A selection of festive beverages and nibbles will be provided for all ages, or feel free to bring some food/drink to share. The evening will include:

- **Raffle draw** for great prizes of **wine/dining vouchers** (donated by Contentious Character winery) and **local artworks** (by John-Pierre Favre)
- Announcement of one of the two winners of the **Xmas Decorating Competition** (closes on 9 December (see below and elsewhere in this Whisper)
- **Presentations** to supporters of the Bywong Community Association

**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.

**QPRC Mobile Library Bus, Thursdays 6 December** at the Bywong Hall at 12.00 -12.45pm. Unfortunately, this will be the final visit of the mobile library to Bywong, as there has been minimal patronage. The Playground and toilets will be available. The bus will continue to visit Wamboin every two weeks – see timetable at <http://library.qcc.nsw.gov.au>.

**Other news: Art Sale and Raffle, held on Saturday 10 November 2018.** The Geary's Gap Pony Club and the Bywong Community Association held a successful joint fundraiser and social event, which included a range of local artworks and refreshments.

Thank you to J-P 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 and dining vouchers. Thanks also to local artists Lynn Randall and Nora Stewart for displaying their work and supporting the cause. The **Raffle** for artworks and wine/dining will be drawn at the Bywong Christmas Drinks Gathering on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December. **Raffle Tickets** are available from the Bendigo Bank and Foodlovers in Bungendore.

**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 wrote 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 consultants AQ Planning and Biosis. The consultant will analyse aerial images to determine biodiversity value or lack of, followed by targeted site visits, including at the invitation of the land owner. The consultants will produce a report for QPRC, which will not necessarily be made public. While BCA has remained neutral in relation to QPRC's review of E4 zoning in Bywong and Wamboin, we consider it important that the findings are transparent and the consultant's report is made public. If you have views either way, you can contact QPRC at [council@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@qprc.nsw.gov.au)

Keep in touch via the **BCA website:** [www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://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

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## Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade

### 'I reckon we'll stay' is not a fireproof plan, Wamboin Brigade and the NSW RFS

'I reckon we'll stay' is not a fireproof plan. Wamboin Brigade and the NSW RFS are asking residents to ask their friends, ask their neighbours, ask their family and ask themselves, "How Fireproof is Your Plan?" The rain that we have had recently doesn't mean that the Bushfire risk is over.

**BUSHFIRE SAFETY INFORMATION SESSION:** In mid November, members of the brigades community engagement team facilitated a bushfire preparedness information session, held at our fire station. In the discussion-based session several topics were covered including: preparing your home, your property, and your family; preparing a bushfire survival plan and a way to determine how fireproof your plan is. Other topics covered were fire behaviour and the fire danger ratings plus the bushfire alerts including what they mean and how you should use them. The practicalities of a sudden onset of a bushfire were highlighted with particular reference to the serious fires in the area recently.

An enthusiastic and interested group of residents took time out of their busy routines to understand how to best prepare themselves, their families, home and property for the threat of bushfires in the coming weeks and months. There were lots of questions answered by brigade members. The brigade has received very positive feedback from the residents who attended. The Captain and members of your brigade would like to wish everyone a Merry and Fire Safe Christmas and New Year



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## Update On Happenings With Wamboin Communications Action Group

As a result of media coverage in July 2018 WCAG were approached by a number of potential network builders interested in our area. This necessitated briefing them on the area and the communities expectations as well as understanding their proposed solution types.

At around the same time the NSW State government opened an infrastructure grant with internet being one of the categories. This grant is only available to commercial companies to assist with building costs. WCAG has been working with all the companies interested in our area providing information to assist with the bid process. We have been providing the same information to all companies.

The grant process is supposed to close in the first quarter 2019, so we are hoping to have some news then.

We are still interested in hearing from everyone, and if you have not signed up to our mailing list would encourage you to do so at: "<https://sites.google.com/site/wamboincommunications/home>" This web site has links to many relevant articles that you may find of interest. – Jon Gough, for WCAG



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## Nature Notes November 2018

Jo Walker

Rain at the end of the month has been just enough to keep the landscape green, but not sufficient to get the creeks running or soil moistened to much depth.

Because of the dry and rather warm Spring most of the small grassland or woodland plants either failed to flower or produced few and tiny flowers. However, some of the daisies are doing well. There are great stretches of white Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans*) growing along parts of Norton Road and Weeroona and Denley Drives. The tiny blue-flowered New Holland Daisy (*Vittadinia muelleri*) is covering large areas of dry hillsides on my place. And the tall shrubby *Cassinia longifolia* and *C. aculeata* are beginning to put on a show of large white flowerheads.

One area that is covered in bright green foliage is the wide expanse of heavy clay mud left by the retreating waters of the dam. The dominant plants are the pink-flowered Austral Brooklime (*Gratiola peruviana*) and the totally ground-hugging Swamp Isotome (*Isotoma fluviatilis*) bearing lots of pale blue flowers. The green background creeping across the mud includes Common Sneezeweed (*Centipeda cunninghamii*) and Spreading Sneezeweed (*C. minima*), Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle tripartita*) and Creeping Knotweed (*Persicaria prostrata*). There are a few reddish-green patches of Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum variifolium*) and a scatter of the rather inconspicuous Hyssop Loosestrife (*Lythrum hyssopifolium*) which is just beginning to show a few small mauve flowers.

Amongst the taller and more noticeable plants, quite a few of the Red Box trees (*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*) were bearing heavy loads of cream flowers during the month. The *Pomaderris angustifolia* growing along Sutton Road produced their usual mass of cream perfumed flowers

but they didn't last long, probably due to a few hot and windy days. At present, the Black Wattles (*Acacia mearnsii*) are bearing masses of cream flowers along Sutton Road, the western end of Norton Road and down Smith's Gap

While I was walking near the dam recently I noticed a swarm of tiny Mosquito-fish at the shallow edge. I hadn't seen any previously after winter and thought something might have finally wiped them out (they feed on frog spawn and small tadpoles) but obviously not. The Long-necked Turtles are on the move from dam to dam during their egg-laying season. I've moved quite a few off local roads. The lizards, mostly Bearded Dragons so far, are also resting on roads and there was a Brown Snake enjoying the warmth of the tarmac recently on Poppet Road.

While on the subject of reptiles, a neighbour recently brought one here for identification. It had been found indoors, probably brought in by the cat, but had no injuries. I thought it was probably a Pink-tailed Lizard although the tail didn't appear markedly pinker than the rest of its body. It wasn't easy to see, as the little creature kept rolling up into a curly ball. After leafing through a few more reptile books I think it is more likely to have been a Blind Snake (*Ramphotyphlops nigrescens*). Although I've lived here for thirty years now, Wamboin is still capable of coming up with surprising and interesting discoveries of wildlife.

# SUMMER @CONTENTIOUSCHARACTER

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## Wamboin Golf – November 2018

Sunday, 4 November. There's the Australian Open, the US Open and the British Open but they are all barely discernible in the umbra of the Wamboin Open, hotly contested every November. It was a warm and pleasant day which suited the thousands thronging the short rough flanking the fairways to watch the cream of the region's golfers vying for immortality. There were two competitions in each of the nine and 18 hole divisions: handicap and gross. The day was sponsored by the Wamboin GC itself and we thank the club for the prizes and refreshments. After having the rules and etiquette of the game explained to them by joint acting captain, Deb Gordon, contestants loaded their shootin' irons and headed out onto the field of battle.

After we handed in our cards back at barracks joint acting captain, Ken Gordon, sorted truth from fiction as talk turned to the vexed question of inappropriate street and place names, the current hot issue. Take Malbon Street in the heart of this earthly paradise's capital city, Bungendore. It's made up of two French words, *mal* meaning bad and *bon* meaning good. Who could live comfortably on Goodbad Street? A Street that can't seem to make up its mind on how it feels (like Crookwell). Why not rename it Verygood Street? Or we could keep the French theme and call it Rue Tres Bon which seems appropriate. Then there's Ellendon Street. The local historical society is pretty sure it's named after Ellen and Don someone-or-other but who they were is lost in antiquity, making it an unsatisfactory address for people who like things cut and dried. And the word *Bungendore* itself sounds like someone out of J K Rolling's imagination. Your correspondent has previously reported on the derivation of Norton Road, a corruption of *nought on* meaning naked, which has upset those who like to go fully clothed. Let's hope the Queens Park Rangers can solve these dilemmas to everyone's satisfaction.

Jt A/g capt called us to order by tendering an apology from Dr Brengun Nelson (brother of Half Nelson) who was still working out how to spend \$½ a billion on the new AWM Theme Park. Ted Evans brought us up to date with goings-on in the thriving metrolops of Queanbeyan. Lofty Mason and your correspondent scored the googly ball for (a) slowing the game by stopping to watch two shingle backs making little shinglebacks (it's not as exciting as you'd think) and (b) restoring the Rob Gorham Perpetual Dummy Spit to the trophy cabinet at Rob's request. Dummy spit of the day went to Joan "not me again!" Mason. LD and NTP ball winners were Colin Urquhart X 3, John Whitney X 2, Tim Barter, Ken Gordon, Joan Mason and Pete Harrison. Junior champion was Madison Gordon with a net 26. Junior encouragement award winners were Phoebe Beckett and Alex Gordon. Winner of the nine hole eclectic was Joan Mason while the 18 hole eclectic was taken out by Tim Barter. The club champion (nine holes net) was Ken Gordon 37/33 from Lofty Mason 47/35 and Deb Gordon 3<sup>rd</sup> 53/36. The club champion (18 holes net) was Colin Urquhart 88/52 from Paul Griffin 79/62 and John Whitney 3<sup>rd</sup> 79/64. Now the crowd is hushed as the Jt A/g Capts announce the names of the Open Champions. And they are: Ladies Open Champion (nine holes), Joan Mason 42; Men's Open Champion (18 holes), Tim Barter 73. Congratulations to our worthy winners and all who took part.

Next month is the Christmas Medal. Join us at the Hall at 12.15pm for the 12.30pm sleigh bell. And watch out for cane toads. They're coming this way. - Larry King, golfer



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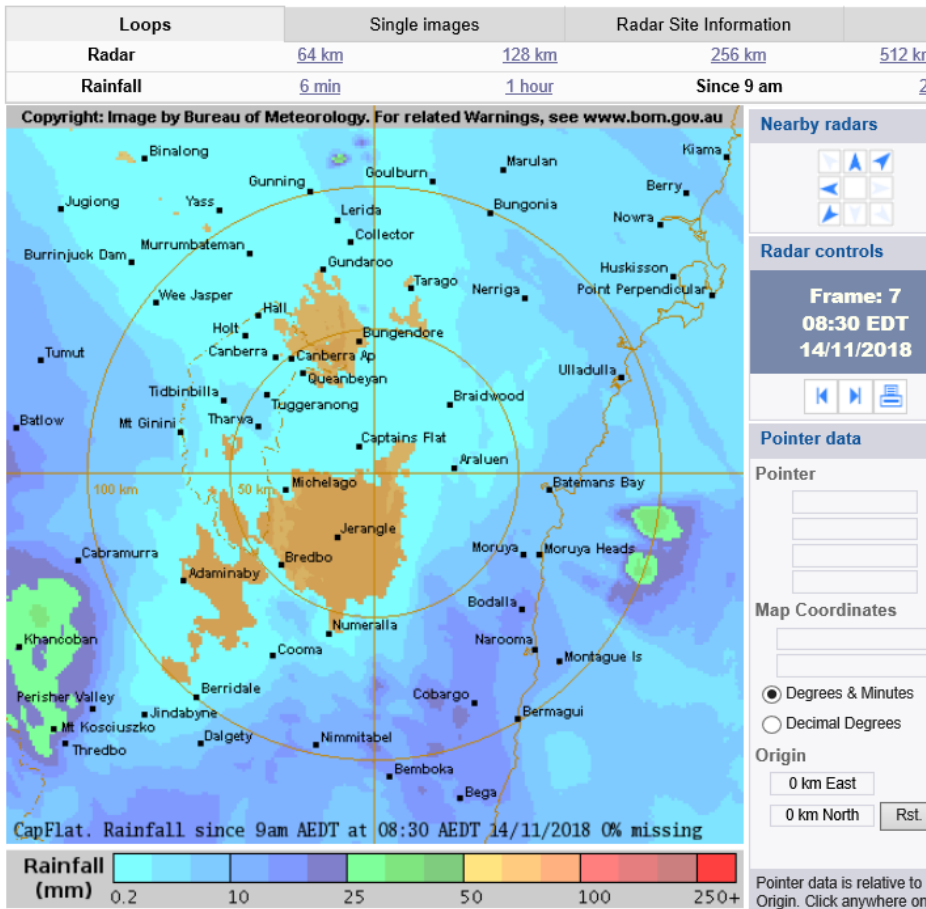
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## “See, there IS an umbrella over Wamboin and Bywong”

How many times do we see storm clouds pass to the north and south of us and yet we get not a drop of rain?

This screenshot (captured 0830 14/11/18 and best viewed in colour in the online “Whisper”) of the Bureau of Meteorology Captain’s Flat radar (128km) showing rainfall since 9am 13th November clearly shows the umbrella over Bywong and Wamboin (if you draw a line between Hall and Bungendore, you’ll pretty much dissect Wamboin and Bywong).

My husband says “that’s the Monaro”. He should know – he was born on the southern Monaro. He also says “If there’s rain about, it will always rain at Michelago.” Look at the little finger of rainfall covering Michelago that proves his theory.

OK, it’s all a Monaro Myth, but every picture tells a story! - *Jenny Warren*

## Church Notices St Andrews St Peters

December is here and a new church year has begun. This month the members of the SRMD celebrate the birth of Jesus along with the majority of people throughout the world. For us it is a time of jubilation, but around the world it is many other things. For some it is a holiday period, for others it is the annual family get-together, and for some the time to watch and enjoy cricket and yacht racing. Then there are those for who it is just a day or two off work, which they accept without thinking of why it is a public holiday. And, tragically, for some, it is a time of fear and sorrow.

Children (of all ages) love it because it is when they receive presents, and then there are those who receive nothing. Life can be cruel. There are many, even in our area, for whom poverty is a way of life. Think about them as you head towards Christmas day and if you can assist in any way to improve their day, there are many charities who will gratefully receive your gift.

Meanwhile here in Wamboin and Sutton, there will be a series of Advent study held at St Andrews from 7.00pm on each of the three Tuesdays prior to Christmas Day.

Our churches will celebrate with a carols singing evening in the grounds of St Peters on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> commencing at 5.00pm.

Then there will be the annual Nativity Pageant held in the grounds of St Andrews on Christmas Eve from 6.00pm. Everyone is invited to join with us at either or both of these events. Children are welcome to be shepherds or angels at the pageant. If you don’t have a costume that is okay, just turn up a little before the start as we have costumes available. Of course “older” children are also invited to join us as a ‘wise man’, or inn-keeper, or just as a baby-admirer. Suitable animals are also welcome to attend. The regular Sunday services will be held at 9.00am each Sunday, plus on Christmas Eve at Wamboin after the pageant, and on Christmas Day at 9.00am at Sutton. “I bring you good news of great joy for ALL people, to you is born a saviour, Christ the Lord” (Luke.2.10-11)

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## 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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## The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

Gail Ritchie Knight

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) continue to meet up once a week sharing stories of what's happening in their lives and planning for the hectic season that's come uponst us.

Alice Scott spoke of a distance education program that she has been participating in for some months. It's called Understanding Dementia and is administered by the University of Tasmania. Remarkably the course is free up to Diploma level. Her enthusiasm was infectious as she related some of what she had learnt. The two most important factors in preventing the onset of dementia are 30 minutes of exercise a day and a healthy diet, particularly a Mediterranean diet which includes fish three times a week and including tomatoes and green vegetables. Important as well is building a social network and stimulating the brain.

Enhancing our social network, WWOW will have a Christmas party on 10 December at 6pm at the church. BYOG and finger food to share plus a BOWWOW or two if you have any.

Time is fast closing in on our Christmas letterbox decorating competition. Remember the closing date for entries is 8pm 9<sup>th</sup> December. See the ad elsewhere in this *Whisper*.

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  
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## Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

Because this Whisper covers both December and January, I have done 2 bird of the months for everyone. For January, I chose the Black-faced Cuckooshrike, a summer migrant who is dull but has a distinctive call.

### Black-faced Cuckooshrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*)



Size: 30-36cm

Status: Common breeding summer migrant

The Black-faced Cuckooshrike is a medium-sized bird, who breeds here in summer, sometimes staying for the winter as well. They are pale grey all over with a very distinctive black face, throat, bill and eye. The grey becomes almost white under the tail (vent). Young birds (immature) have a large black eye patch rather than the fully black face.\* When perched, they sometimes flick their wings. These birds have an interesting flight pattern, where they flap twice and then glide for a few seconds with their wings held in. This feature is a good way to identify birds in flight. These birds are usually found in woodland and sometimes grassland – especially in the trees. Their diet consists almost entirely of insects, and occasionally small reptiles. Their call is a series of churring noises, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C50iU5vRGmc> to listen to it. It also sound similar to the call of the Olive-backed Oriole (*Oriolus sagittatus*), who looks a lot different. Its call is much deeper, louder and is also continuous.

(Photo from Google images)

\*White-bellied Cuckooshrike (*Coracina papuensis*, *race robusta*) is a rare summer migrant to the area. The dark form (more often seen) has a **fully black head and throat and is white underneath**. The normal form (rarer) has a black eye patch only **but it does not extend behind the eye**. They are also a bit smaller than Black-faced Cuckooshrike.

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Many residents take time and thought to produce the items you read. Writing can be fun, but it can also be hard work. If you like an article, think about thanking the person who wrote it. Many residents have come up with words for us that are new and different and interesting each month for a decade or more. Others think about writing something for the rest of us only once ... and do it. Your thanks will be the only pay each one of them ever gets for his or her initiative. – Ned Noel, editor

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## How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

Without the donation of time and energy by the 50+ individuals and families below, we could not afford to have the Wamboin Whisper printed and delivered to your mailbox. Mailing them out costs \$2 per issue. Added to the \$1300 or so it already costs to print the 1,326 copies, we'd have a price it's very hard to see that advertisers could afford to bear. So each volunteer deliverer adds up to Wamboin and Bywong having the power to circulate a printed copy into each area mailbox.

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 alicescott@bigpond.com.au**

Fay Kelly	Norton Rd West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20	Christine Rieber	Cooper Rd	23
Cheryl and David Steele	Fernloff Rd	35	Jill & Richard Gregory	Canning Cl	17
Julie Veal	Poppet Rd (for all on road)	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	40

**180: CO-ORDINATED BY KATHY HANDEL: ph 6238 3596 khandel@bigpond.net.au**

Joan Mason	Bingley Way	44	Margaret Hekeimin	Merino Vale Dr	19
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	31
Kathy Handel	Norton (Weerona to Hilltop+Wirndra)	23	Phil Leeson&Coleen Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	32

**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 Ntrn 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
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## A Fleet And Fun Start To 2019 Kowen New Year's Resolution Run – Saturday 20 January

Are you looking forward to the festive season? All the drinks, all the chocolate, all the relaxing and all the "Yes please, I'll have another duck fat roasted potato"? It's such fun to indulge, to treat ourselves and throw dietary moderation out the window for a while - we all do it don't we?

Then along rolls January, the tinsel and wrapping paper is gone for another year, our thoughts focus on the year ahead, we set goals (earlier to bed, less screen time, get involved with my local community) and, let's be honest, we often regret those duck fat potatoes too. We can help!

The Kowen Trail Runs are back for 2019, and we are excited to kick off the year with the return of our very popular **New Year's Resolution Run**. Commencing and finishing at the Wamboin Community Hall, this event offers competitors the choice between a 12km walk/run or a 21.1km half marathon on beautiful Kowen Forest trails.

Sam, one of our returning competitors recently ran the half marathon trail recently with our Race Director, describing it as "the gorgeous Kowen Trail Run course... plenty of pretty views, and an abundance of wildlife... lots of roos, an echidna casually making his way across the trail too". She didn't mention the presence of screens, or duck fat roasted potatoes (tick, two of your resolutions achieved), she almost certainly had an early night after running the trail in the glorious fresh air (tick off another one) and her entry in the New Year's Resolution Run on Sunday 20 January will see her running the trail with other locals (community involvement, tick ) AND Sam's entry fee directly benefits our local Firies. A WIN for everyone!

We love showcasing our region and we love supporting our fantastic Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade, who work so bravely to protect the beauty we sometimes take for granted. Our not-for-profit organisation has so far donated \$26,200 to the Brigade and we're looking forward to increasing that total this year. Our committee is dedicated to keeping our running costs to a minimum which maximises our donation and helps create the professional, friendly, warm and welcoming atmosphere our events are becoming famous for.

Find us on Facebook or visit [kowen-trail-run.com](http://kowen-trail-run.com) to register for this fun, well organised, full of smiles and laughter event. We welcome runners, walkers, hoppers and cartwheelers - although the last two disciplines, being a bit slower, could miss out on the end-of-race egg and bacon or veggie sandwich fresh cooked by our Firies. They don't just run around being brave and keeping us safe, Brigade members also give their time on race days to organise parking and traffic flow and show off their BBQ skills. We are so grateful for their time and input and for the support of all our volunteers and sponsors.

Registrations are open now and close at midnight on 17 January. We can't wait to welcome new and returning competitors who are spreading the word and growing our events. We love what we do and we'd love to see you there.

-by Lisa Brunswick for the  
Wamboin Trail Runners

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## WAMBOIN WEATHER: (rainfall and temperature records)

43 years from Cooper Road by Christine Rieber

### November Rainfall Stats

November rainfall to the 25<sup>th</sup> ..... 61.75mm  
2018 total rainfall to 25/11..... 354.75mm

Average November rainfall..... 77.5mm  
2017 November rainfall..... 65.25mm  
2017 total rainfall to 25/11..... 411.75mm  
42yr Av. to end of November....633.1mm

### December Rainfall Stats

2017 December rainfall..... 97.25mm  
Wettest December..... 177.75mm in 2010  
Wettest day..... 68mm on 2/12/10  
Driest December..... 0mm in 1979

Average December rainfall..... 63.7mm  
Average no. rain days in December... 8.3  
Highest no. rain days..... 17 in 2010  
Lowest no. rain days..... 0 in 1979

### December Temperature Stats

Hottest December day... 37°C on 22/12/94  
Coldest December day.. 12°C on 16/12/16  
Average day temperature..... 25.2°C  
Warmest December ..... 1990  
(Av. day temp. 29.4°C & night 14.3°C)  
(warmest night 14.9°C in 1994)

Av. Dec. temp.. 18.8°C (day+night comb.)  
Hottest December night.... 23°C (2 times)  
on 20/12/94 & 24/12/05  
Coldest Dec. night..... 2°C on 5/12/11  
Average night temperature..... 12.4°C  
Coldest December ..... 2011  
(Av. day temp. 19.5°C & nights 8.7°C)

*The mean annual rainfall is 696.8mm. Driest year was 1982 with 364mm. If we get the December average of 64mm, 2018 will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> driest year across the 43 years of measurements*

### January Rainfall Stats

2018 January rainfall..... 40.5mm  
Wettest January..... 197.5mm in 1995  
Wettest day..... 74mm on 21/1/95  
Driest January ..... 5.5mm in 2010

Average January rainfall..... 60.5mm  
Average no. rain days in January..... 7.5  
Highest no. rain days..... 16 in 1976 & 78  
Lowest no. rain days..... 2 in 2003 & 14

### January Temperature Stats

Hottest January day..... 40.3°C on 7/1/18  
Coldest Jan. day..... 12°C on 29 & 30/1/78  
Average day temperature..... 27.4°C  
Warmest January ..... 1981  
(Av. day temp. 30.6°C & night 16.8°C)  
(high 31.6°C in 18) (high 17.1°C in 91)

Av. Jan. temp.. 20.8°C (day+night comb.)  
Hottest January night.... 26°C on 25/1/82  
Coldest Jan. night..... 5°C (4 times)  
on 24/1/00, 12-3/1/12 & 1/1/13  
Average night temperature..... 14.2°C  
Coldest January ..... 2012  
(Av. day temp. 11.1°C & night 23.2°C)

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### Vale: Edwin Stanley 'Stan' Bingley (16 May 1923 - 4 October 2018)

The Sutton District and local community has lost one of its last pioneer residents, with the recent passing of Stan Bingley of 'Woodfield', Sutton Road. Stan is survived by his wife of 68 years, Daphne, their children Judy (Harriden), James, Geoff and Leon, their respective partners, 11 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Stan was aged 95 years and 4 months at the time of his death. As reported in the Sutton Chatter – Anzac Day feature (May 2018), Stan was a WW2 veteran who served with the 2/10th Infantry Battalion in New Guinea. It is believed Stan was the last remaining member to have been trained for service with the 7<sup>th</sup> Australian Light Horse and that he was the last surviving soldier of the 2/10th, of his generation.

Stan was a founding member of the Sutton Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade in 1949. He continued his membership for more than 65 years. He was a Brigade Deputy for 32 years and Brigade Equipment Officer for 9 years. The Brigade awarded him and Daphne Life Membership in 2001 and his service was recognised through many Brigade and NSW Rural Fire Service awards and commendations. He held the Australian National Medal with Clasps for service to the nation. Please see the extensive interview with Stan and Daphne, reported by Brigade member Graham Scofield in the November 2016 edition of the Chatter.

The Bingley's came from Yorkshire, UK to the 'Colony of New South Wales', prior to 1844: then to the Queanbeyan area. William Bingley (1817-1893) Stan's great grandfather, selected land along the roadside creek close to Sutton Road, where the family eventually built 'Amungula' homestead. Stan's grandfather Thomas (1849-1937) and his wife Victoria Alberta Australia Rowley (1850-1941) later built their home further east near the Yass River and named it 'Woodfield'. Stan's father, Edwin Ewen Gordon Bingley (1896-1947) and then Stan, grew up on their farm. Stan and Daphne built their present house nearby, from their own hand made blocks, in 1950.

Over the years since those pioneering days, when the population was small and the families very large, the Bingley family married into many others in the Sutton-Bungendore-Gundaroo-Queanbeyan area. As a result, many local families can trace their ancestry back to links with Stan's family. It is unlikely that such a wide, shared family history will again arise in the Sutton district, or indeed any other small Australian community.

Leaving his 1639 days of WW2 service aside, and a few days here and there, Stan lived his life (34,804 days!) farming his large grazing property 'Woodfield', Sutton Road and his land at Gundaroo and Lake George. Of course, the original property was selected before there was officially a village known as 'Sutton'. That happened, the records indicate, in May 1867. By then Stan's great-grandfather and great-grandmother had built their original home and started their family of 11 children. Stan Bingley was farewelled by a large gathering at a Queanbeyan church service and then a moving tribute delivered by Major Steve Tizzard (Retd), (a friend of the Bingley family), Secretary of the City of Queanbeyan RSL Sub-Branch, accompanied by a rendition of The Last Post, on 12 October 2018.

Stan's contribution to the Sutton community, to Australia during WW2 and his life-long commitment to his family will be long remembered by those who had the pleasure of knowing him. He was also a man with a love of local history and stories, keen if sometimes sharp sense of humour and very clear understanding of what it means to be an Australian.

(Written on behalf of the Sutton community by a local resident, with our condolences to Daphne and all members of Stan's family.)



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## Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For December, I chose the Mistletoebird, a tiny bird who is around at the moment. I also chose it because it is a Christmas themed bird for December.

### Mistletoebird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*)

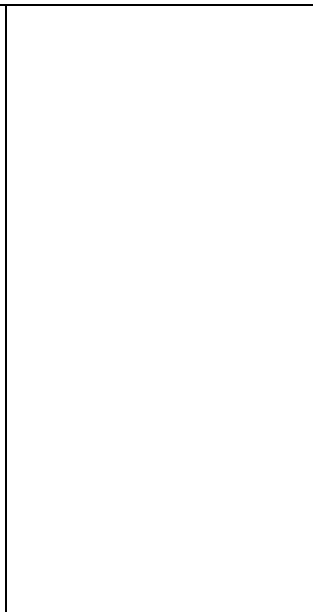
Size: 9.5-11cm

Status: Uncommon breeding summer migrant

The Mistletoebird is a tiny bird, found all over Australia. The male has a bright red throat and vent (under the tail), with a dark blue back, head, tail and a line down his chest. Underneath, he is a pale grey/white, blending to dark blue near the wings. He also has black legs. The female is quite different, but she also has a red vent and black tail and legs. Otherwise she is quite dull, being a pale grey underneath and a darker grey on the back. Mistletoebirds get their name because they mainly eat the fruit of mistletoes, but I have observed them taking nectar from a range of native flowers including banksia, bottlebrush and grevillea, and also eating insects. The Mistletoebird disperses the seeds of the parasitic mistletoe plant, which grows on the branches of a range of host plants (native and non-native). The Mistletoebird 'wipes' its bottom on the branch which helps to remove the seed and thereby sticking it to the branch where it germinates. These birds make several noises including a high pitched "zwitt", "wait-a-bit" and many other similar noises, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=of72j-CxKc> to listen to its call/s.



Male



(Photos from Google images)



Female

#### Classifieds

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 <a href="http://www.lorrainebird.com.au">www.lorrainebird.com.au</a>
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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 <a href="http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard">http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard</a>
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: <a href="mailto:dorothyskea@outlook.com">dorothyskea@outlook.com</a>
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FOR HIRE:- from Wamboin Community Hall - 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, - <b>Trestles and chairs</b> . All damages are the responsibility of the Hirer. Must be securely tied during transportation - or they don't go!

## Wildlife Surprises

The other day a person commented, "I've seen more snakes this year than in any previous year. Maybe it's the drought." Certainly drought can impact on a local habitat, thereby forcing wildlife to move and look for better options elsewhere, but there are other reasons too. If you have built a beautiful garden of shrubs and flowers – with perhaps a water feature – then that might be the reason one sees more snakes, reptiles and other animals close to the house. Snakes will hunt for frogs, which come with a water feature and they want to escape from the hot sun by slithering under some cool shady greenery. Likewise, if you have a new chook shed or stable block, the feed will attract rats and mice – followed by a snake on the hunt.

Possums and wallabies (and eastern greys) prefer to eat native grasses, shoots and flowers, but in times of hardship, they will gladly help us care for our gardens by nibbling on our plants and seemingly anything that is green. And, as we found out during this year's dry winter, kangaroos and wallabies can be overly helpful in pruning the shrubs and roses. Even so, having watched our rural gardens being seemingly destroyed over winter, with the onset of spring, everything is bursting back to life with half-eaten shrubs charging away with growth.

Changes to wildlife movement patterns can occur if there is a new development nearby. Or perhaps a neighbour has changed how they are using the land. Wildlife will take advantage if a property is vacant for a long period. There could be uncontrolled dogs that change the wildlife dynamics where you live. And in those rare times when it rains heavily, wombats that have set up home in a creek or river bed, can get a rude awakening and find they have to quickly vacate the area and set up a temporary home inside, or under a house or shed.

Possums are beautiful creatures and prefer a tree hollow, but they can become a 'pest' if they find their way into your attic. As for echidnas, Wildcare had an incident where an echidna walked through an open fly screen door and took up residence in the hallway!

Anyone who is new to living in a wildlife-rich area can reduce the likelihood of being surprised by: being extremely vigilant when working outside; tidying up around the backyard, so you can see what is around – and reduce hiding places; mending roofs and blocking off gaps; raising bird netting off the ground to stop reptiles and other creatures becoming trapped; keeping dogs and cats under control (the risk of snake bite is markedly reduced if companion animals spend more time inside the house); keep feed secure to reduce the likelihood of rodents; and don't leave the backdoor open!

Lastly, most people get bitten by a snake when they are either trying to kill them or pick them up. Often a disturbed snake will want to move away, never to be seen again, but as with all wildlife, if it feels threatened, it will defend itself. For all snake and wildlife incidents, contact Wildcare for advice on 6299 1966. Philip Machin, Wildcare, 6238-3717



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## Letter

This letter was sent to Tim Overall, Mayor and all QPRC councillors on 27 November 2018.

Good morning Tim,

RE: LEP Re-zoning in Bywong & Wamboin.

I am perplexed by the current situation we are facing at the possible re-zoning in Bywong & Wamboin.

Not because I particularly care one way or another about the zones because frankly, I don't understand how they impact when applied. But what I do know is that this issue divided our community back in 2014 and it is doing so again.

This is purely coming from the lack of transparency of the process, and lack of good straight information about what the impact of different zones will be. As far as I can see, in the last 4 years there has been no impact.

It is clear to me that people wanting a re-assessment are unable to articulate why they want it changed.

I have tried asking those people who have indicated they want a review, and the only answer I have got is that E4 is potentially more bureaucratic as the standard planning instruments don't apply.

So, if you please, I would like some proper answers to the following questions:

### QUESTIONS

1. Why was the issue of potentially changing LEP zones not raised as an election issue, particularly at the Meet the Candidates night in Wamboin?
2. Why did you, Tim Overall, cast the deciding vote against your own QPR Council staff report to leave the existing zoning as is, as they had concluded that E4 zoning best fit the land in Bywong and Wamboin?
3. Why is this study not being applied to other areas of E4 in QPRC or any other areas at all, as per Trevor Hicks policy platform to "Review the LEP to re-instate consistency and fairness"?
4. Why is the current study being rushed? We have been told by Tanya Hogg that there are 3 field days to look at potentially 520 properties? Why are there no terms of reference? Why are we not going to be able to see the final report?
5. What are the current threshold levels for zoning? What information from the study will be a deciding factor if a property is zoned one way or another? Who will be deciding that and when?
6. What actual impact will changing zones from E4 make to Bywong & Wamboin?
7. What other developments and assistance is Council willing to offer Bywong & Wamboin that will make a genuine difference to our community?

I am genuinely seeking answers to these questions.

I want to know that the serious conflict in our community is worth it, that all Councillors are fully aware of the divide this issue is creating here, and that there is going to be a resolution acceptable to all parties on the horizon that is properly communicated to residents.

I await your response.

Sincerely

Nora Stewart, 41 Rovere Lane, Bywong NSW 2621, (02) 62303305, 0491 164514, [nora@SetDancing.com.au](mailto:nora@SetDancing.com.au)

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## The Locality Of Wamboin: Its Creation And Naming

By David McDonald

This article provides information on the creation of the locality of Wamboin. The October 2018 issue of *The Whisper* dealt with the history of the creation of the parish of Wamboin which overlaps largely, but not entirely, with the locality of the same name. This 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.

The initial subdivision of the land that became known as Wamboin was called 'Canberra Country Estate'. The developer was Norton Towers Estate Pty Ltd. The first advertisement for the land published in the *Canberra Times* was in the issue dated 02 December 1972 (p. 31). It was the land along Norton Road from Sutton Road to Fernloff Road.

On 24 April 1980 Captain D. G. (David) Robertson, OBE, RN, one of the first residents of Wamboin and the first person from Wamboin to serve as a Yarralumla Shire Councillor, wrote to Council explaining that, on 20 April 1980, a meeting of local resident and non-resident landowners was held to discuss the name of the locality. Some 60 people participated. Robertson wrote:

### Geographical Names – 'Canberra Country Estate'

*For some time residents have been complaining that the name 'Canberra Country Estate' is both inelegant and inappropriate for an area of New South Wales. Furthermore it is understood that this name has no official status whatsoever. [It was the name used by the developers.]*

*This matter has been mentioned to Mr R. E. Guy as a representative of the present developers of the area. The present developers apparently have no particular liking for the name 'Canberra Country Estate' and would probably prefer a name which has some historical association with the area, for example 'Amungula' or 'Wamboin' which are the names of the two parishes covered by the development area.*

*... After considerable discussion and a series of votes I was asked to suggest to the Shire Council the following names, which are given in order of preference:*

*Kowen Hills; Kowen; Wamboin; Wamboin Hills; Amungula Hills; Amungula; Mount Poppet; Poppet Hills.*

*It is requested that the Shire Council take such steps as may be necessary to have one of these names officially bestowed on the area.*

*I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr R. E. Guy so that the present developers may have an opportunity to comment (letter reproduced in *The Wamboin Whisper*, November 1987, p. 17).*

The minutes of a Special Meeting of Yarrowlumla Shire Council, held in Queanbeyan on 05 September 1980, record Council's response to this request: 524. CAPTAIN D.G. ROBERTSON, (G3/1): *Advising that for some time residents have been complaining that the name 'Canberra Country Estate' is both inelegant and inappropriate for an area of New South Wales and stating that at a recent meeting, it was decided to submit possible names for Council's consideration.*

*It was resolved that the area commonly known as 'Canberra Country Estate' be officially known as 'Wamboin'.*

Consequently, the 'geographical name' 'Wamboin' was assigned and gazetted as a feature within the parishes of Amungula, Gorooyarroo and Wamboin on 04 Sep 1981, with the co-ordinates 35° 15' S, 149° 17' E. These co-ordinates are between Fernloff Road and Canning Close.

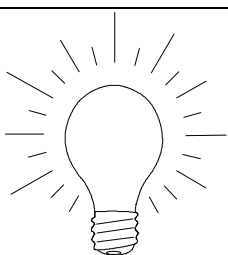
The name Wamboin was assigned as a 'Rural Place' on 8 November 2002 by the NSW Geographical Names Board (GNB): *Description: A Rural Place centered around the junction of the parishes of Wamboin, Amungula and Gorooyarroo and bordered in the south by the NSW/ACT border. Meaning: The Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies advised the proposer that the word Wamboin meant kangaroo in the Didawall language. Origin: A decision by [the Yarrowlumla Shire] Council at the Council Meeting of the 5-Sep-1980.*

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies advises that it has no record of the matters mentioned in the GNB notice, and they have no record of an Aboriginal language or population group called 'Didawall', or similar.

Wamboin was officially designated as a 'Locality', assigned 02 September 2005. A 'locality' is the rural equivalent of a 'suburb' in an urban area.

The locality of Wamboin's boundaries are shown in reddish dashes on the map 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 | Suburbs, and zoom in to Wamboin. You can view the parish boundaries by applying the layers Boundaries | Parish (the parish boundary is in bold blue dashes) and compare the two.

A future article in this series will focus on the Aboriginal origins of the word 'wamboin'.



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## From the Corner

**Bushfire Prone Land**—I was asked recently about issues relating to building in bushfire prone areas. Given the time of the year, and as this is a subject that is related to our recent dealings with planning matters, it seemed quite an appropriate subject for discussion.

At first glance it can seem quite extraordinary that it is only in the last 10–20 years that serious consideration of bushfire protection has been included in planning legislation. But if we recall from our earlier discussion that legislation specifically directed at environmental aspects of planning was only introduced in NSW with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act) in 1979, it's a little less so. The expansion of urban areas into bushland, and 'tree change' migration to life style blocks in rural areas such as ours, of course, has brought the issue into focus, as needs exceed those that can be satisfied with generally available fire fighting resources.

The best place to start for anyone interested in the relevant building requirements is the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) document *Planning for Bush Fire Protection* (PBP). At this point it should be noted that, while the 2006 version (PBP 2006) is the legally referenced document at this time, it is expected that PBP 2018, which is currently available for reference, will come into force in mid-2019 with the enactment of the updated *Building Code of Australia* (BCA) (part of the *National Construction Code* (NCC 2019)).

For building purposes, bushfire risk in any location is identified in terms of a Bushfire Attack Level (BAL), given as a measurement of the associated radiant heat flux in kW/m<sup>2</sup>. BAL ratings are identified in steps, from BAL-LOW (no specific building requirements) through BAL-12.5, BAL-19, BAL-29 and BAL-40, identifying measures that must be undertaken to protect from the associated radiant heat flux of 12.5, 19, 29 or 40 kW/m<sup>2</sup> respectively, to BAL-FZ, for structures in a 'Flame Zone'. As might be expected, protection measures increase with increasing BAL.

PBP provides the necessary background information relating to these requirements (PBP 2018 has been extensively expanded in this regard and as such is a much better reference than PBP 2006) and a comprehensive, step-by-step guide to assist in assessing the BAL at a given site. It also includes details for the establishment of an Asset Protection Zone (APZ) with reference to clearing practices identified under the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Scheme.

The actual building requirements under a particular BAL, as noted in the BCA, are articulated in Australian Standard AS3959 – 2009, for timber framed dwellings, or the National Association for Steel Framed Housing *NASH Standard for Steel Framed Construction in Bushfire Areas* (2014).

All of these documents are available on-line:

NCC/BCA [www.abcb.gov.au/ncc-online/NCC](http://www.abcb.gov.au/ncc-online/NCC)

PBP [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/building-in-a-bush-fire-area](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/building-in-a-bush-fire-area)

10/50 Vegetation Clearing [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/1050-vegetation-clearing](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/1050-vegetation-clearing)

AS3959-2009 [infostore.saiglobal.com](http://infostore.saiglobal.com)

NASH [www.nash.asn.au](http://www.nash.asn.au)

Most are free, and while Standards documents are typically quite expensive, free copies are out there (just Google "AS3959-2009", but note that there have been three Amendments to the 2009 document). NASH documents must also generally be purchased.

There's a lot of information to assimilate in there, and it can be a challenge to bring existing, and particularly older structures into compliance (although there is no regulatory requirement to do so). Solutions are, nonetheless, available and it is really a case of informed management of the risks associated with any given situation.

**The QPR Blog**—New and related entry in my Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) is: Bush Fire Prone Land (November 2018)

—Cr Pete Harrison Ph. 6238 3640 Mob. 0427 711 028 mail: [contact@peteharrison.id.au](mailto:contact@peteharrison.id.au) Website: [www.peteharrison.id.au](http://www.peteharrison.id.au)  
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## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

On my morning walk I saw an echo of Monet's garden... a coverlet of pink waterlilies floating on a pond... except the pond was a clay walled dam, the soft green willows were straggly grey gums and there were kangaroos standing where Grecian urns should have been; a faint antipodean echo. Wherever I go in Wamboin there is always something different to see. Every house has its own particular charm and every aspect is unique, beautiful in its own way and often quite unexpected.

This is the time of year, before the summer heat sucks the life out of everything, when all is at its best. But I particularly love the mornings, just before dawn; silence, stillness, the comma that separates night from a new day. On my front verandah, wrapped in my dressing gown, I watch "the morning star pale slowly" and recall the words of James Lister Cuthbertson's poem that I learned as a young child as the "lustrous purple blackness...waned in the grey awakening that heralded the light." And on cue, a magpie starts carolling, a kookaburra joins in with a chuckle and suddenly the still, quiet air is filled with bird song and busyness. It's too late to go back to bed. The day has begun and it's time for me to get busy, too.

But not every creature thinks dawn is the signal to start the day. Putting the ducks away the other night, shunning the light from a torch and using only his night vision and a little help from the moon, the ducks were ushered into their cage and the door firmly closed. To his surprise the next morning he found four puzzled ducks, an egg where it shouldn't be and a possum curled up in a nesting box. The possum was most aggrieved and reluctant to move in the new light. It insisted on "playing possum" all day. As dusk was falling the still resident and curled up possum was given a nudge and encouraged to make its dash for freedom. Last seen it was making its way as fast as it could up to the top of the nearest tree. I wonder if it were greeted with a hero's welcome or a rap across the knuckles!! I suspect, though, that it will have lost its appetite for duck food.

Christmas is just around the corner. I'm writing lists, thinking about cakes and puddings and wondering where I might have stowed the plastic tree after last Christmas. Soon we'll be singing carols and wrapping presents and sharing the joy and magic of Christmas through the eyes of our grandchildren. It's a busy, but happy time. I trust your Christmas will be a happy one, and with the end of year activities and preparations for Christmas I hope you will still have time to take a deep breath and savour the beauty of our special part of the world.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays.....wherever you may be.  
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