



The Whisper

February 2019 CIRCULATION: 1,329

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 March 2018 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, February 24. 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	0409 369 559	
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		Irrhallbywong@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 Women 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	deniselynnehales40@gmail.com

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Rebecca Purdie	pet/horse sitting	6238 3343	Alex Lea	Pet&House Sitting, Gardening 6236 9657 or 0439 219 865
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Save the Date – Meet the Candidates Wamboin Hall, 7:30 pm, Tuesday, March 12 for the NSW State Election on Saturday 23 March

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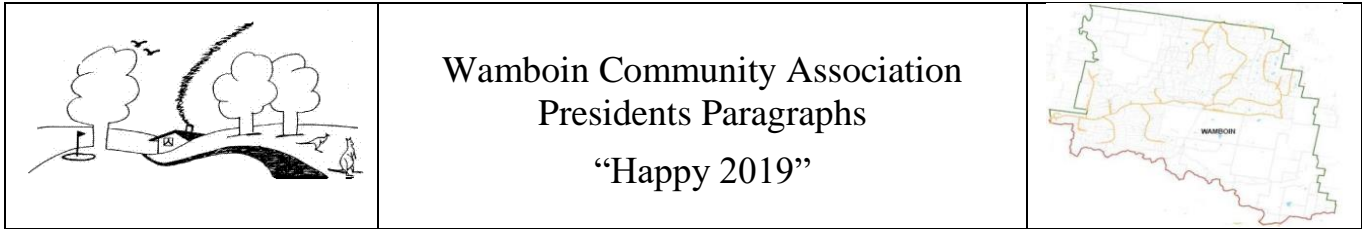
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Yes we are back for 2019 and Happy New Year from the WCA. It's been a pretty hot summer although we have received some intermittent relief with around our average rainfall for January of 58mm, thanks to those afternoon gully rakers keeping a slight green tinge on the ground. 2019 will be a busy year for the WCA with two elections, the Wheels of Wamboin, new date for the fireworks night, our monthly markets and a host of other activities.

Wamboin Communications Action Group Announcement (WCAG) – The Wamboin community was absolutely astounded by John Barilaro's bell ringer announcement of a \$5M grant to WCAG to help get the community fibre network into the ground for the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton communities. This is a significant community changing infrastructure to enable our communities to participate in the digital age with internet speeds on par with NBN fibre communities. It just shows how a hard working grassroots group can have the vision and tenacity to bring on a positive change to the greater community. Significantly it also provides an alternative model for other small communities not catered for by the NBN rollout, in fact I think it sends a clear message to NBN Co that the current rollout is not good enough for smaller communities.

Congratulations to the WCAG committee including Connie Tasker, Glenn Archer, Harold McCormick, John Rogers, Jon Gough, Lyn Randall, Olaf Theden and the many other helpers on this outstanding achievement. If you have not signed up for the newsletter further information is available at: <https://sites.google.com/site/wamboincommunications/home>

Wheels of Wamboin – pencil in the Wheels of Wamboin for Saturday 28th May this year (change to may due to Easter). Tell your friends and start preparing those sleeping beauties.

the Candidates Night – Well it's election time again and this time it is for the NSW State Government election on Saturday 23rd March. The WCA will once again host a "Meet the Candidates Night" at the Wamboin Hall. It will be held on **Tuesday 12th March at 7.30pm** (all major parties have committed to attending). This will be a close fought election so please make sure you mark it on your calendar and come down and hear what each candidate will do for our local community.

Wamboin Social Drop-In Group – the drop in group is now running 10 am – 12 noon every Thursday. Drop into the Wamboin Community Hall for morning tea and activities. Everyone is welcome.

New Members – Be a part of your local community and help make Wamboin. 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.

WCA Meeting – next meeting is 7.30 pm, Tuesday 19th February at the Wamboin Community Hall.

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

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Bywong Community Association News

BCA Meetings: Wed 30 Jan and Tues 26 Feb 2019, 7.30pm at the Bywong Hall, Birriwa Road.

CAR BOOT SALE

Sunday 24 March 0900-1200

Birriwa Rd, Bywong (off Macs Reef Road)

(Sellers must arrive by 0900, depart after 1200)

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Proceeds are used by the Bywong Community Association for local projects.

For more information, visit www.bywongcommunity.org.au

See you there!

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

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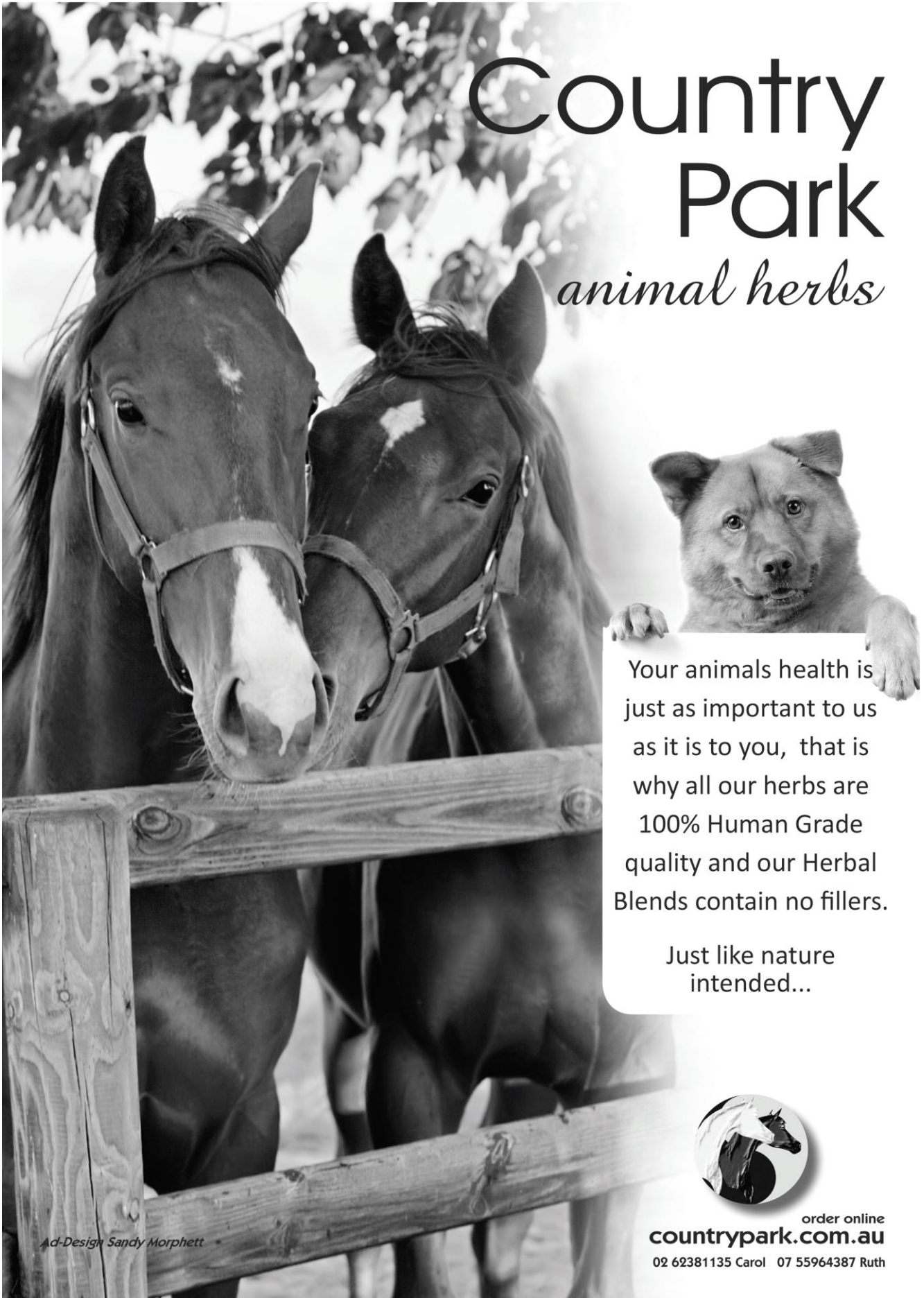
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Possum in the roof?

A common request of Wildcare is for removal of possums from houses, often above ceilings and in chimneys. Roof cavities in particular are favoured as a home, if the possum can get in and out. This can be problematic for the people living below them who can be adversely affected by their nocturnal noises. However, possums are territorial and they cannot be relocated beyond their current surroundings.

In our area there are three types of possum – the larger brush tail, the smaller ringtail and the tiny, less common, sugar glider. They will readily seek out roof cavities if there is access, or climb into a disused chimney where the capping is displaced. Possums can be excluded from rooves if the entry and exit points are identified and blocked off, after dusk, when the possum has left to forage and move around outside in darkness. Fix a gap with timber, chicken wire, or make a proper repair. Of course, the possum will need to find an alternative home at dawn the next morning and Wildcare urges people to provide this by way of possum box hung and tied in a nearby tree.

Owner-occupiers and tenants (with the permission of the landlord) are best placed to do the job of removing possums from their houses themselves; however, it is first necessary to prepare for where it can go. Being territorial, ideally there should be a new home for it to go to (see photo). A possum box is easily made or Wildcare sells them. The box needs to be placed close to the area they'd nested and some distance off the ground (ideally 4 metres); and if possible away from cats and dogs. You can attract a brush tail possum to the box by placing fruit, such as banana or apple, on and around it. Ringtail possums eat gumleaf shoots and flower heads. If you can find the possum's nest you can put some of it inside the box, as well as other dry leaf litter.

Having given a possum some alternate accommodation, one way of encouraging it to move out of your house is to place a light in the roof cavity, or wherever the nest is, and leave in place for about three days and nights. Some people also use quassia chips (obtained from a pharmacy) and mothballs in and around the area. The combination of light and foul smell should be enough to drive the possum away. If you no longer see or hear the possum, then it has likely found a new home – possibly the one you put out. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage also provides instructions on removing a possum, and reiterates that an alternate home should be provided within 150 metres. It is illegal to relocate beyond this distance, or to harm the possum in any way. Businesses employed to remove possums must also abide by these regulations. Please remember that Australian native wildlife is protected and to intentionally kill, injure or keep native wildlife, as pets, is illegal.



Photo:

Relocated possum

Wildcare can be contacted on 6299 1966. - Merran Laver & Philip Machin, for Wildcare

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Wamboin Communications Action Group (WCAG) 25 JANUARY 2019

NSW Government provides \$5 million to enable Residents and Businesses in Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Region to be connected to a Fibre Broadband Network.

Over the last two years the Wamboin Communications Action Group (WCAG) has worked to promote the need for better Broadband services for our Community. Based on the feedback from numerous community interactions and survey responses, the WCAG determined that there was an overwhelming demand for a fibre based broadband network to support the over 4,000 residents that live in this region. As a consequence, WCAG have worked closely with the local and state governments, as well as a number of commercial parties, to understand how this could best be achieved.

Today, the WCAG is very happy to announce that, the NSW Government is providing our community with \$5 million from the Regional Growth Fund to support this initiative. As a consequence, a Fibre based broadband network connecting the 1,300 residences and businesses in our community is now achievable. Based on discussions with a number of telecommunication providers, the WCAG is confident that construction can commence in the next few months and be completed by early next year.

A Fibre to the Premise (FttP) Network, supporting such a substantial regional community, establishes a new benchmark for high-performance, reliable and future proof telecommunications in regional Australia.

The WCAG applauds the efforts of the NSW State Government to better enable regional communities to be economically and socially successful through better broadband. WCAG believes that this network can become a showcase example of what is possible when innovative technology is enabled by core, high speed network infrastructure. The additional health, educational and safety aspects represent further major benefits for our community. The WCAG is conscious of the fact that, as the first such regional community to be given the capacity to demonstrate what is possible, we need to continue to be closely involved with the project – in particular to represent the interests and expectations of residents and local businesses. WCAG feels that it has a duty to make this a success in order for other regional communities across NSW to benefit from what is learnt. Consequently, the WCAG will remain actively involved with the project - supporting the infrastructure provider in its design, deployment and service offerings.

Finally, and most importantly, on behalf of the community, the WCAG wishes to thank the NSW Government, and in particular our local member - Mr John Barilaro, whose support for our proposal was fundamental in making this project possible.

WCAG Contact : wamboincommunications@gmail.com

Further information is available at: <https://sites.google.com/site/wamboincommunications/home>



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David Stuart 3 day Clinic

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JENT '101' 6 April 2019

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Tanja Mitton 2 day Clinic

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Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade

Happy New Year. So far, so good. The brigade haven't had a fire call of any significance through this period of very hot and very high fire danger. Our brigade members are working very hard to keep you safe, however we need your help. If you suspect that lightning has struck on or near your place during the recent thunderstorms please take the time to check for smoke or fire. Trees that have been struck by lightning can smoulder for days before bursting into fire. Take the time to check your place (especially if its windy) if there is any sign of smoke or fire call "000".

Wamboin Brigade now has its own Facebook Page "Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade". Points to consider about our page:

1. Wamboin Brigade's Facebook page will provide general information and advice for the Bywong, Wamboin and Sutton Park communities about fire prevention and property preparation. It will also describe general fire brigade activities that may be of interest.
2. Information about bushfires and related issues should be first sought from the NSW Rural Fire Service website (<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>) or Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/nswrfs/>), the Lake George Zone RFS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/LGZFireCom/>) or the App "Fires Near Me".
3. Warnings and emergency information will be issued on the NSW Rural Fire Service website and emergency information will be broadcast by the AM radio station ABC 666.
4. If a response to a question sent to this page is necessary, it will usually be posted within 24 hours.
5. This page will not provide any personal information about or the causes of incidents. This is a matter for NSW Police.
6. This page is not the place for advice or comments about incidents.

Would You Like to Play a Game of Bridge?

A group of locals get together every Monday at 1 pm in the church on Poppet Rs to play a friendly game of bridge. Once a month we are given a short lesson before play. If you would like to join up, please phone me. - Margaret Gilligan, phone 6238-3755.

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Wamboin Golf – December 2018

God rest ye merrie gentlefolk, let nothing you dismay. Remember 2 December was a jolly golfing day. And so it was, with Christmas just around the corner and everyone full to the brim with *joie de vivre* and *bonhomie* and all that other Gallic stuff. The day's sponsors were the Petermen – Harrison and Greenwood - and we thank them to the utmost for the prizes and eats especially the braised holly, the boiled ivy, the fricasseed mistletoe and the barbecued partridge in the deep fried pear tree. The day's competition was declared to be handicap stroke play and so, with our sleigh bells a-jingle we set off into the countryside hoping that good old Saint Nick would grant our yuletide wishes.

Back at Santa's workshop at the North Pole (via Bingley Way) our captain, the Grinch, set about tallying the score while we all reviewed the events of 2018. We were aided in this exercise by your correspondent's new neighbour, Rainbird Waterfall, who plied us with freshly-baked cookies. Don't know what was in them but *Yummo!* Anyway we all agreed what an absolutely, spifficatingly wonderful year it had been. Australian democracy was safely in the enlightened and stable custody of a parliament chosen from the brightest and most beneficent statesmen and women in the land. Highly trusted institutions were continuing their sympathetic and benevolent mission of looking after the most vulnerable in their care (mmm, these cookies are great!). The royal commission found the finance sector a model of responsibility, altruism and probity and its regulators the very criteria of efficiency (I must get the recipe). The US, our major ally, is under the control of an intelligent, honest and upright administrator (wheeee!). Science has reduced greenhouse gas and ozone levels and energy prices are no longer an issue of concern thanks to decisive and bipartisan national action (far out and solid, man!). And our rugby and cricket teams are the scourge and envy of the world (why is that cow on the ceiling?).

The Grinch didn't welcome our guests – only because there weren't any - but he did award the googly ball to Vicki Still who refused to turn down her loud shorts. The dummy spit went again to Alex Gordon for blaming the handicapper for his rotten score. (Very low behaviour. Like ball tampering in cricket.) LD and NTP ball winners were Vicki Still X 3, Tim Barter X 2, Keith France X 2, Joan Mason, Ken Gordon and Samuel Urquhart. Juniors comp winner was Alex Gordon 56/38 despite the whining. Winner of the nine hole comp was Deb Gordon 52/34 OCB Ken Gordon 38/34 with Lofty Mason in 3rd place 48/35 OCB from Joan. Winner of the 18 hole comp was Keith France 73/61. Runner-up was Vicki Still 86/62 form 3rd place getter Paul Griffin 81/65. Well done all competitors.

It is now a new year (2019 for the less numerate). Here's a new year's tip: if visiting Poms want to discuss cricket or rugby, cunningly

change the conversation to Brexit. That'll divert 'em for hours. You can then join us at the community hall on the first Sunday of the month for a game of skill and cunning. Make a resolution to be here at 12.15pm for the regular 12.30pm cannonade. Meanwhile, the members of the R&A Wamboin GC wish you and yours as good a new year as 2018 has been (must get more of those cookies...).
- Larry King, golfer



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Sutton Landcare Group – Next Meeting - Wild Native Birds Of The Sutton District

On 12 February 2019 at 8 PM David McDonald, a keen birder based in Wamboin, and an active member of the Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group, will talk to us about native birds in our region. He has done regular bird counts in the Sutton Common's area. His presentation will focus on the wild native birds of Sutton and its surrounding district.

What birds do we have here? Are any of them special? What trends are we observing: perhaps some species are increasing in abundance while others are disappearing? What do you do, and what can we do as a community, to make the Sutton district a better place for birds and birding? And what about your bird observations? Do they remain in your head or in notebooks seen only by you, or are you a citizen scientist, sharing your data with the birding and ornithological communities so as to contribute to conservation science? What are the best ways of sharing your observations?

David, and our skilled Landcare members, will also try to answer any tricky questions that you may have about bird identification, based on your visual observations and the birds' calls.

The meeting will start with our **Annual General Meeting** (19:30-20:00), and will finish, as is usual, around 20:45 with a light supper. It will be held on 12 February, from 7.30 pm, at the Sutton Primary School. All welcome (you do not need to be a member of Sutton Landcare Group). - Arnold Dekker Coordinator Sutton Landcare Group



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Wamboin Golf – January 2019

Sunday, 6 January. Not too hot, not too cold. Not too windy but not still. Not too cloudy, not too sunny. Neither one thing nor the other. Just like Schrodinger's cat. Not that I was all that familiar with the poor old moggie. Or Schrodinger for that matter. I know Nev Schroder but I'm not sure he has a cat. And if he does he wouldn't keep it in a radioactive chamber like bloody Schrodinger. Where's the RSPCA when you need them? Where was I? oh, yeah, the Welcome-the-New-Year comp normally sponsored by Wiyagiba Trading but Dave Hubbard's back in hospital again so the club stepped up to provide the prizes and eats with the help of Joan Mason and Libby King whom we thank profusely. We also wish Dave a swift recovery from his latest medical adventure. In keeping with the Hubbard spirit the day was declared a ten hole three-club day determined by stroke play adjusted for handicap.

Afterwards, back in the Wamboin "bubble", we were all anxious to compare New Year's resolutions. Here are your correspondent's. 1) I will reduce my contribution to global warming. This is not easy. First I tried reducing my footprint by going down a shoe size and becoming a vegan but all I got was sore toes and excessive flatus. Turns out that vegans, like all ruminants, create inordinate volumes of methane. So I have now resolved to eat as many ruminants as possible to prevent them from passing greenhouse gas. 2) I will enter a car in the Summernats. So I polished up the old Nissan Cedric and took it along but was laughed out of EPIC by people with high BMIs and mullets. 3) I will not celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Armistice. I'm on safe ground here. 4). Rather than whinge from the sidelines I will actively participate in the political process. I have applied to join the Deadly Serious Party who, unlike the others, take politics very, umm, well, err, like, seriously. 5) I will ingest alcohol for medical reasons only. I'm encouraged in this endeavor by the advice of my old mate, local pharmacist, W C Field, who said he always carried a bottle of "the tincture" with him in case he was bitten by a snake which he also carried with him.

The captain welcomed our guests, Brenda Beamont all the way from London and Nick and Ultima Thule from even farther out. Ted Evans described the qualifications needed to be a lemon picker. The googly ball went to the person whose foursome lost 20 minutes looking for his car keys which turned up where they should be – in the ignition. Colin Urquhart won the dummy spit for complaining about the three-club day after bringing his new full set of clubs (a Christmas present). LD and NTP ball winners were Scott Mason X 3, Glen Crafter and Colin Urquhart. Junior comp winner was Lila Mason from Phoebe Beckett 2nd and Tim Nelson 3rd. Place getters, in ascending order, in the senior ten hole comp were: in 6th place Glen Crafter 51/43, 5th Scott Mason 49/42, 4th Lofty Mason 57/41, 3rd Keith France 46/40, 2nd Paul Griffin 48/39 and the winner Colin Urquhart 50/36 with those new clubs.

Next month is February - a dry month for those suffering the seasonal liver complaint. Join us at the community hall on Sunday, 3 February. You can forget about cricket: the so-called Indian summer will be over. Be here at 12.15pm for the usual 12.30pm start. And wear a smile. It's going to be a marvelous year! - Larry King, golfer



Can You Write Something For The March Wamboin Whisper?

If you can put together some words that might educate, entertain or invite the rest of us to a new experience, please think about putting it down and making the March issue better. If it can help increase your income, run it, but think about paying for it as an ad. The Whisper is owned by the Wamboin Community Association and supported by the Bywong Community, and the point of it is to provide one more thing to make the two places a little better. Deadline is 7:30 pm, last Sunday of February. Emails to whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or nednoel@optusnet.com.au - Ned Noel, volunteer editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Assn, ph 6238 3484.

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How the Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

A thank you to Sheryl Barnes who has delivered Whispers to the to the southmost 15 homes on Denley Drive for a number of years. And thank you also to Robyn Elsom who has volunteered her time to take over the job, and the three other residents along that stretch who volunteered a bit after Robyn did.

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 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			

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

Robyn Elsom	Denley Dr (Sth End to 429)	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 Bacher	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	31
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Ln	6	Tony Bond	HoganDr/OranaDr/Yuranga Dr	48
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			

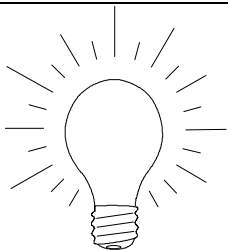
137: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 6236 97223 bushranger_au@hotmail.com

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			

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WAMBOIN WEATHER: (rainfall and temperature records) 44 years from Cooper Road by Christine Rieber

January Rainfall Stats

January rainfall to the 27th 55.5mm
2019 total rainfall to 27/1..... 55.5mm

Average January rainfall..... 60.5mm
2018 January rainfall..... 40.5mm
2018 total rainfall to 27/1..... 26.75mm
2018 total – 467.5mm (5th driest year)

February Rainfall Stats

2018 February rainfall..... 76.75mm
Wettest February..... 170.75mm in 2010
Wettest day..... 49.5mm on 14/2/10
Driest February 1mm in 1986

Average February rainfall..... 58.3mm
Average no. rain days in February.... 7.2
Highest no. rain days..... 18 in 1976
Lowest no. rain days..... 1 in 1995

February Temperature Stats

Hottest February day... 37°C (8 times) on
2/2/77, 2 & 10/2/83, 3/2/87,
6/2/91, 8/2/09 & 12/2/17, 9/2/18
Average day temperature..... 26.0°C
Warmest February 1983
(Av. max day temp. 29.5°C & night 16.9°C)
Feb 18... Av. max 28.9°C & Av. min 12.5°C

Av. Feb. temp.. 19.9°C (day+night comb.)
Coldest February day.... 12°C on 10/2/96
Hottest February night.... 23°C on 2/2/83
Coldest Feb. night..... 5°C (2 times) on
17/2/98, & 22/2/17
Average night temperature..... 13.8°C
Coldest February 2012
(Av.min day temp. 21.0°C & night 11.4°C)

December Rainfall Stats

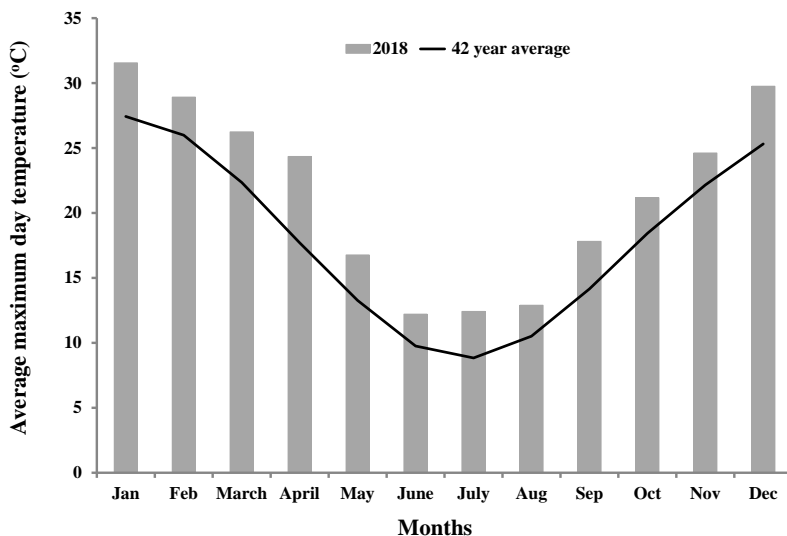
December 2018 rainfall..... 96.25mm
2018 total rainfall..... 467.5mm

Average December rainfall..... 64.5mm
2017 December rainfall..... 97.25mm
2017 total rainfall..... 521.75mm

2018 was the hottest year on record with an average daytime temperature of 21.6°C compared to the 42-year average of 18°C, with day time temperature for all months above average (see figure). New maximum monthly average day temperatures were recorded on six occasions in 2018 (see table below). Average night temperatures however, were 0.5°C below the 42-year average, despite April nights being 1.5 degrees above average. Note: 42-year average as temperature data was not recorded in the first year (1976).

	Average day time maximum temperatures (°C) for month					
	January	April	May	July	September	December
New highest records in 2018	31.6	24.3	16.8	12.4	17.8	29.8
41-year highest (i.e. pre-2018)	30.6	23.0	15.7	11.8	17.6	29.4

The graph below shows the 42-year average maximum day temperature (°C) per month (black line), and the 2018 monthly average maximum day temperatures (grey bars) for Wamboin.



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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For February I chose the Brush Cuckoo, a summer migrant who has been calling day and night for the past few weeks.

Brush Cuckoo (*Cacomantis variolosus*)

Size:20-23cm

Status: Uncommon breeding summer migrant

The Brush Cuckoo is a species which is more often heard than seen. Luckily, its call is very distinctive and it is easy to identify. It is a series of descending trills, "fear, fear, fear, fear, fear.....". You can listen to it here:

<https://www.hbw.com/ibc/video/brush-cuckoo-cacomantis-variolosus/adult-calling-1>

This bird calls day and night, trying to attract a partner for breeding. If you are lucky enough to see this bird, it is pale buff underneath with a grey head and has a dark grey back and tail, and the underside of the tail has a white 'scallop-like' pattern. The juvenile bird has a brown, white and black barring pattern all over. This species does not have a yellow eye ring like the Fan-tailed Cuckoo. Brush Cuckoos occur in the treetops, and typically call from an exposed perch near the top of a tree. Being a cuckoo, they parasitise other birds, by laying their similar coloured eggs in the nests of robins, flycatchers, honeyeaters, fairywrens and other small birds, which then look after the chicks.



Adult



Juvenile

(Photos from Google images)

Kowen Trail Run – New Year's Resolution Run

By Lisa Brunswick

Sunday 20th January dawned cool and misty, a welcome reprieve for all of us but especially for the 425 runners who lined up to compete in the 2nd Kowen Trail Runners New Year's Resolution Run, hosted by the Wamboin Trail Runners.

The spectacle of hundreds of eager racers lining up at the Wamboin Community Hall is becoming a pleasingly familiar and stirring sight. Seventy volunteers contributed to the fun and success of this event, and it's definitely not just the famous Wamboin welcome on the day that continues to grow our events. Most of the work is done before the day of competition, course marking took over 18 hours, raking and clearing the track took 80 hours – and all in that record breaking heat we all endured and complained about.

While these tracks are enjoyed by hundreds of runners during our events, they are there and available every day for local residents and nearby visitors. Feel free to contact us for more information and maps.

It wouldn't be a race report without some statistics and ours just keep getting bigger and times keep getting faster. We expected a smaller field for this event given the time of year and the extraordinary heat, but we were happily surprised by more entries than last year. And times were faster too- Elizabeth Humphries completed the half marathon in 1:49:48 and Shaun Creighton, who currently holds our June marathon record, set a new course standard too, finishing the half marathon in 1:39:21. We had one competitor from as far as Townsville; two 70 year olds racing in the 12km and an intrepid 71 year old ran in the half marathon.

Our sponsors and supporters add hugely to the success and local vibe of these events. We are grateful for the continued support of: Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade who seamlessly organise catering and parking; Wamboin Community Assoc; Wamboin Hall Committee; Mont Adventure Equipment; Contentious Character and Sportsman's Warehouse. Wildcare are an ongoing, very welcome presence at every race. Thank you all.

The Wamboin Trail Runners are developing a reputation for professionally run events with a unique community feel, and the New Year's Resolution Run embodied both of these qualities. Our entrants returned to the hall to enjoy icy poles, watermelon and, the always overwhelmingly popular and delicious breakfast burgers made by the amazing Wamboin Firies. As always the friendly and inclusive atmosphere inside and outside the hall elicited lovely compliments, particularly about the fastidious course clearing and marking, and more promises were made to return in June (Sunday 16th, to be exact) and September for the Moonlighter (Saturday 7th). For more information about these and other upcoming events, please visit our website kowen-trail-run.com or find us on Facebook.



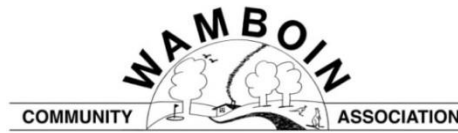
Wamboin Community Association Inc. (WCA)**November General Meeting (GM)**

Date of Meeting: 20 November 2018

Meeting chaired by: Pete Evans, President, WCA

Over 35 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**WCA President:** Peter Evans referenced the current QPRC "Review of the Application of E4 Environmental Living Landuse Zone in the Localities of Bywong and Wamboin" referring interested parties to Council's website<<https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Major-Works-Projects/E4-review-in-Bywong-and-Wamboin>>and to a summary of the background to the issue in the online newspaper, *The District Bulletin*<<https://districtbulletin.com.au/qprc-bid-to-review-rural-residential-zoning-whats-behind-it/>>**WCA Vice President:** Jenny Richards said that the organisation of the December 7 Wamboin Carols Event is going well. She reminded community members who make use of the Hall's First Aid Kit to write in the Kit's book if any items are used so they can be replenished.**Council:** Councillor Peter Harrison advised that roadworks to repair the pavement will soon commence on Norton Road between Fernloff and Poppet Rds.**St Andrew's Anglican Church:** Church Warden Bronwyn Elliot advised that the Christmas pageant is on December 15 at St Andrew's, this year featuring a donkey for a truly authentic Wamboin pageant.**Landcare:** Kathy Handel presented a cheque for \$250 to the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade to acknowledge their ongoing assistance in watering of new plantings around the Hall.**Wamboin Communications Action Group:** Jon Gough said that everyone who registered their interest in fibre solution has received an email today with an update and it's not too late to sign up. Grant opportunities are being explored by interested providers.**Following the meeting The Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM, MP, Federal Member for Eden-Monaro addressed the meeting and engaged in a wide ranging discussion with the attendees.***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 18 December 2018. All welcome. Jenny Warren, Assistant Secretary, Wamboin Community Association, Inc.*

Weed Out Gazanias!

This article by Tammie Galvin of Riverina Land Services has been recommended for reprinting in the Whisper by Chris Fowler of Bywong. Chris prefaces it with: "In recent times a number of invasive weeds have been removed from the NSW Noxious Weeds list. Prominent among them are all *thistles* which are now usually referred to as being out of control! Given that that leaves most rural residents with no more than a social or moral responsibility to attempt to control such damaging pests [but still leaves Council weeds officers with plenty to do] it was interesting to see this article from Riverina LLS. In rural residential areas being 'neighbourly' can sometimes extend to more than just looking after the paddocks and bush on the property."

Gazanias are a large plant with daisy-like flowers of varying colours that are garden escapees! They are appearing more as roadside weeds and encroaching into bushland and valuable farming lands. abundantly along our local roadsides and in bushland throughout Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and New South Wales.

Gazania's are an introduced garden species from South Africa. In many plant nurseries they are promoted as drought resistant and hardy species. Many hybrids have been developed in cultivation between *Gazania linearis* and a closely related species *Gazania rigens*- which is also an environmental weed. The following sterile cultivars, all subject to Plant Breeders Rights in Australia, are exempt from the declaration:

- (1) GT20 (marketed as Double Gold TM) (2) Sugaja (marketed as Sunset Jane TM) (3) Sugamo (marketed as Montezuma TM)

Gazania plants produce abundant wind-blown seeds that can be dispersed many kilometres from the source, producing ever-increasing patches that compete with local native plant species. Gazanias also have the ability to re-grow from their bare roots, which enables them to spread into our bushland by the dumping of garden waste containing the tuberous root systems of these plants.

Gazania's are extremely prolific seed producers, with seed spread by wind and water. Refer to the attached picture of masses of gazania seeds.



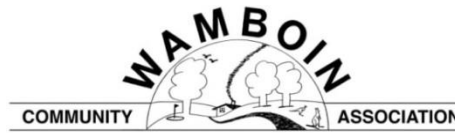
Control methods: If the infestation is small they can be **dug out** or **pulled out by hand** (make sure all roots are removed to avoid regrowth). Bag up and bin plants to reduce any further spreading of seed, particularly if plants are flowering. If infestations are larger consult local Council Weed Officer or agricultural retailer for advice.

Get onto Weed Removal EARLY. To avoid weeds increasing in numbers to the point where significant tax payer and rate payer \$ need to be injected, it is critical that all of the community look after their own patches and control weeds early. Don't let them get to the stage of flowering and setting seed or spreading by roots or other means. Put that bit of effort in early and communities will not end up with massive problems as what can be seen in the other photographs where gazania's have escaped the residential garden.

**Wamboin Community Association Inc. (WCA)
December General Meeting (GM)**

Date of Meeting: 18 December 2018

Meeting chaired by: Pete 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

WCA President: Peter Evans wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He complimented Jenny and Anita Richards on another successful community Christmas carols event.

Vice-President: Jenny Richards reported that the Christmas carols event had been attended by 100 people with Santa giving 70 gift bags to the children. The performance by Sutton School was a highlight and they hope to return in 2019.

Wamboin Whisper: Editor Ned Noel gave a comprehensive financial report on the long-running community newsletter. The meeting agreed that the community value of the publication to readers and advertisers outweighs any possible financial loss, though it was noted that a small profit was currently being achieved.

Christmas Letterbox Decorating Competition: Convenor of Wonderful Women of Wamboin, (organisers of the event) Gail Ritchie-Knight reported that 18 entries were submitted with prizes being presented at the December Wamboin Market with photos of all entries being displayed via the Hall's audio-visual equipment.

Council: President Peter Evans met with QPRC Mayor Tim Overall. He requested a breakdown of the roadworks planned for the area, with particular focus on Macs Reef Road, which is scheduled after truck movements cease following the completion of the tip capping project. A discussion took place about debris left on the road after recent rain events and attendees were encouraged to notify Council if any Council assets had been impacted, such as choked culverts.

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade: Peter Greenwood said that the season's first fire has occurred on the Macs Reef Road verge at Bankers Road. The cause could not be determined, and it was quickly contained, but it was of concern considering the conditions.

Following the meeting attendees enjoyed Christmas refreshments.

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 19 February 2019. All welcome. Jenny Warren, Assistant Secretary, Wamboin Community Association, Inc.

	<p>Lightshow lasted from 8pm Sat Jan 19 to 8am Sun Jan 20!!</p>	
	<p>Photos taken from my video. This allowed frame by frame analysis! who could sleep through that?! It was like I was living in the tropics!! Not to mention the 2 day downpour a few days ago which allowed both my dams to refill! Anna (Anneke) O'Halloran</p>	

Well A (Fox) He Would A Wooring ???? Go

Just before Christmas, while walking my medium sized dog along the greenway at the top of Majors Close, walking toward the Denley / Weeroona intersection I had two close encounters with a fox. The first was when I stumbled across a fox about to make a kill of a joey. I yelled loudly and assertively and the fox abandoned the chase. The joey disappeared, hopefully to live another day.

The second, about a week later, felt like payback but could have been more benign. I started along the same greenway and immediately noticed a fox only four or five meters away, on the other side of the fence, shadowing us and uttering a constant staccato cough/bark. I tried aggressive yelling, planned ignoring (joined by the dog), telling myself it was just playing, or wooring and it would go away... but the fox continued to shadow us with occasional forays closer for at least a km as we walked north. By then both the dog and I were spooked so we returned back the way we had come. So did the fox, maintaining the same distance and constant coughing/barking. We only lost contact when we turned off the greenway and walked back toward the roundabout at the top of Majors Close.

Searching Dr Google it seems that foxes usually do not kill kangaroos (or dogs or people) so this seems to be a special Wamboin fox, but they do create caches of remains of kills (bits of skin and bones) to retrieve at times of famine. My dog often has the joy of discovering bits of fur and bone on our walks and moves them but does not take them away (good dog training). Perhaps we were being warned off? But this behaviour seemed targeted at us – no one else that I have met on the greenway has had a similar experience and I am sure their dogs pick up bits of bone. Have we been marked as 'threat' in the fox's brain? Any other ideas?

– Diana Boswell

Wamboin's Name: The Wiradjuri Origins

By David McDonald

This article is the third in a series providing information on the origins of the name of the parish and locality of Wamboin, and on its early maps. It is an abridgement of a longer piece *Origins of the Name, the Parish and the Locality* which is online 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.

'Wamboin' is a Wiradjuri word for one or more species of kangaroo. As pointed out in previous articles in this series, the surveyors who determined the boundaries of the NSW parishes in the 19th century, and named them, were not required to use names that bore any relationship to where the parishes were located. The early surveyors were instructed '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'.

The fact that Wamboin is a Wiradjuri word tells us nothing about the Aboriginal people who were the custodians of the lands that we now call Wamboin. The traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people extend from the Albury/Tumbarumba region in the south-east, to Coolah in the north-east, Willandra in the north-west, and Darlington Point/Lockhart in the south-west (Kabaila 1998, p. 6).

Early European records of the Wiradjuri meaning of Wamboin/Womboin include the following:

- Word lists from various parts of Wiradjuri country collected by Curr, and published in 1886, contain several references to 'wamboin', 'wamboine' and 'womboin', all meaning 'kangaroo'.
- *Wambangalang (aboriginal, wamboin goolah). Mob of grey kangaroos* (Garnsey 1900, p. 98). [Wambangalang is a rural locality about 27 km south of Dubbo.]
- *Wamboin Meaning: Red kangaroo, black or dark*' (Mackenzie 1904, p. 43).
- *Vocabulary of Wiradyuri Words...Kangaroo womboin* (Mathews 1904, p. 300).

The Wiradjuri word, as reconstructed by linguists, is spelled *wambuny* (Koch 2009, p. 133), *wambuwany*, and *wambuwayn* (Wafer & Lissarrague 2008, p. 699). The company that owns and operates Wamboin's Contentious Character winery is Wambuwayn Pty Ltd. The spelling differences between *wamboin* and *wambuwayn* (and their cognates) reflect (in part) the difficulties experienced by many colonial observers of Aboriginal languages to discern all the syllables in some words. The 'uu' in *wambuwayn* is pronounced like the vowel sound in 'book' or 'put', and the 'yn' is pronounced 'ny' as in 'onion' or 'canyon' (McNicol & Hosking 1994, p. 82).

Wamboin: an onomatopoeic Wiradjuri word?

To conclude, I draw attention to Mark Saddler, a Wiradjuri man who runs cultural tours in his country, who explains to his tour guests that 'There are certain Wiradjuri words for individual items, kangaroo is Wamboin ... which is like the noise of the kangaroo, Wamboin, Wamboin' (Tungandame 2017). He is suggesting that Wamboin is an onomatopoeic word that reflects the sound of the kangaroos' hopping!

Sunday 3 March 2019: Clean Up Australia Day

Sunday 3 March is the day designated for the 2019 'Clean up Australia' campaign. The Wamboin Community Association has been coordinating this event since inception, with a focus on our roadways and Norton Road high on the list of priorities. Due to a change in policy, council has declined to formally approve 'Clean Up Australia' activities along roadways. Residents who nonetheless wish to contribute to the effort to keep our area clean may deposit rubbish collected on the day at the Wamboin Community Hall or simply take it to one of the council waste transfer stations. Gate fees at Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council waste transfer stations will be waived on Clean Up Australia Day for Queanbeyan-Palerang tip pass holders depositing material collected on the day. – by David McDonald on behalf of the Wamboin Community Assn.

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Tomato Talk by Lofty Mason.

I'd like to tell you about my early tomatoes for 2018. But I can't, because I didn't have any ☹. For some reason unknown, my tomatoes were very, very slow last year. The first ripe tomatoes were picked on December 15, which is about a month later than usual. To make matters worse they were only about the size of golf balls. The packet description was 'An early, heavy yielding variety which produces round, bright red fruit weighing approx. 150g. Now 2 out of five is not good. Ever the optimistic gardener; perhaps we will have tomatoes very late this year. I also look forward to the challenge of early tomatoes for 2019.

My other vegetables took a very severe pruning (to ground level) by cockatoos and rosellas this season. So after 35 years of gardening in Wamboin I have finally started to build a netting wire cover for our vegetable garden. Slow learner. I agree!



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Nature Notes January 2019

Jo Walker

In the middle of December, we had a short but fierce storm with torrential rain for about half an hour. This was enough to get white water cascading across the hillsides and into my roaring creek. The dam was full and overflowing the next morning, but the water was a bit muddy and the surface was covered with a carpet of fine vegetable matter washed from the dry surface of the land. Much of that has now sunk to the dam floor and the water is clear enough to see several Long-necked Turtles of various sizes swimming around or floating near the surface.

We've had occasional rain since then, often enough to keep the country looking green. The eucalypts, wattles and other native shrubs have put on an unusual amount of growth this year. And some of the local Scribbly Gums (*Eucalyptus rossii*) had such a heavy covering of flowers that the leaves were almost invisible and the cream crowns of the trees stood out against the surrounding green on the hillsides. Some of the Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) which flowered a bit later were also noticeable for the amount of flowers they were carrying.

Not much is flowering at present except for the Cauliflower Bushes (*Cassinia longifolia*) which is getting almost to the point of setting seed. There are a few *Bursaria spinosa* (Australian Blackthorn) showing off their sweetly-scented dense cream flowerheads along Sutton Road.

The Kookaburras on my place are rearing two noisy young ones at the moment, and a few Galah and Magpie fledglings can be heard begging their parents for food. Although we've had a bit of rain, we've also experienced very high temperatures and some windy days, so the ground is mostly hard and dry here and getting increasingly unsuitable for insects and other arthropods that inhabit the soil and provide sustenance for many of the birds. A few days ago, a young and rather thin Magpie was following its parents around begging plaintively for something to eat. The adults were searching frantically on the ground but finding very little, certainly not enough to placate their hungry offspring.

In fact, insect numbers still appear to be generally low. There were no invasions of Bogong Moths or Christmas Beetles here (although I gather there were some of the latter in Bungendore). The *Kunzea ericoides* (Burgan) were laden with white flowers all along the creek a few weeks ago and there were Honey-bees and a few small native bees (but only two species as far as I could see) and very little else. These nectar-laden flowers used to attract a lot more insects in past years- beetles, flies, butterflies and moths to name a few. Butterflies have been almost entirely absent here this summer, just a few Common Browns (*Heteronympha merope*) and one or two Yellow Admirals (*Vanessa itea*). This seems to be a widespread occurrence – I drove up from Nowra, via Nerriga, on Boxing Day without needing to clean the windscreen when I got home.

Some insects are doing well though – the Meat Ant nests are increasing and there are plenty of other ants around. And the large, slender, yellow and black Mud-daubing Wasps (*Sceliphron laetum*) are adorning the brick walls of my house with their large and delicately decorated nests which take several days to construct. But, because ants and wasps are prone to sting or bite if attacked, I'm not sure if they are ever part of a small bird's menu.

It's likely that some insects will be more tolerant than others of increasingly hot and dry conditions, but it looks as if some are already reaching their limits and that this is affecting the spiders, small birds, bats, lizards and other creatures that are losing an essential food source.

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

With no Whisper over the Christmas period there are two markets to report on! We double booked ourselves for the Christmas market, which was managed instead between Lou and Joan. Thanks to both of you! By all accounts it was a busy and lively market with barely room to squeeze in all the stallholders. Plenty of customers too. The January market was also busy and fortunately not TOO hot. We currently have a good range of stalls selling:

- garden produce (especially good at this time of year!)
- native tube stock
- craft and knitting of all kinds
- jewellery,
- jams, preserves, pickles
- strudels and pastries
- eggs
- local art work,
- hand printed tea towels and book bags
- recycled furniture
- locally made creams and cosmetics
- local meat (pork)
- pasta and bread

There is always the café with great coffee and Kathleen's award winning scones. Most markets we have live music. The rural fire service is there to help you with your fire plan and to answer your questions and the WCA is on hand to provide newcomers to the area and long standing residents with questions and queries about the local area and its management.

We do hope everyone has survived the heat OK. This morning is light drizzle and much cooler – such a pleasant change. Holidays are nearly over, school is back in the next few days, grandchildren have been safely returned to parents and the garden needs a huge clean up after the summer storms!

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Kowen Trail Run – New Year’s Resolution Run

On Sunday 20 Jan the New Year’s Resolution Kowen trail run was held with a half marathon and a 12 km run on offer. After enjoying the Kowen Moonlighter so much I thought I would have to try the half marathon. After runs in Namadgi National Park and the Wanniasa Hills I thought Kowen can’t be too difficult; I was so wrong.



Race start at the Community Hall was at 6.30am so it was an early alarm to make sure we were ready for registration at 5.45am. The weather was perfect, overcast, cool and slightly misty. After lining up to have my mandatory gear checked and then to get my bib it’s the waiting time before the briefing and start. Fortunately, it was not an icy morning, but still there was that vibe that people just wanted to get going.

Right at 6.30 Pam says GO and we are off. Of course everyone now starts their clever technology that will tell them pace, distance, time, elevation, heart rate and the ins and outs of a ducks bum. These days you can’t run without the technology.

There is a mass of runners all trying to get down the driveway and on to Bingley Way. I need space so with a burst of acceleration I move to the side of the crowd and break free. My legs feel good as does my breathing. If only I could keep this pace going for the next 21 kms but that is unlikely. We run up Bingley and as I come around the bend I am amazed how spread out the group has become over such a short distance. I am on to the dirt road and still

running but as the track gets steeper more people are walking. You have to wait for someone else to walk, you can’t be first. I am now on the narrow trail through the bush. It’s cool and so nice to run through the native forest. I hear runners coming up behind but there is nowhere to pass. I call out and move over and three or four sprint past. Out of the bush and a quick leap onto the logs that form the gate into Kowen Forest. I didn’t trip on the logs, so far so good. A left turn and its down the forestry trails.



The tracks don’t seem too steep until I come over a crest and see that long steep downhill and way in the distance the faster runners at the top of a long climb. I focus on my foot placement as I try to run or walk down this slope. I am constantly checking for a better line with fewer rocks or a less eroded surface. I pass people as I run up hills and they pass me on the down side. I am conserving my knees.

Up the hills and my pace isn’t too bad; legs and breathing all ok. There are photographers at the top and I know smiling won’t be an option. No, this is not The Hill that the photographers tell me and I know because Amungula is at the 16 km and we have only gone 6 kms.

We have a dog running with is clearly doing an ultra-marathon. dog gets ahead of its master, so it back to check and then off again. So every kilometre we run its probably three. Fortunately the drink stations dog bowl out for our four legged companion that runs up and down

without any thought or any variation in pace, it just keeps going back and forth. It have doggy technology?

We continue along forestry roads and then it’s a sudden turn and we are inside the pine forest on a track that is one person wide. This is a track for hobbits. track follows the contour lines, over tree roots and rocks. You can hear fellow travellers as they come up behind you but there is no easy way to pass.

Out of the forest and back onto forestry trails however they seem to be getting a little steeper. I have to walk again up a steep climb; must conserve my energy there is a long way to go. The weather is perfect, warm, no wind, overcast and a mist that is almost drizzle. Is that a stone or twig in my sock? It can’t be I have gaiters to stop stones getting into my shoes. I try to flick the stone out while running. This is not easy and I don’t want to fall. The stone remains so I look for somewhere to stop and sit so I can get the stone out. If I sit down will I be able to get up again? I stop to discover my sock is red. It’s not a stone, it’s a blister and what felt like a twig was probably my skin that I flicked out of the sock. I am back up and need to pass those runners that took advantage of my momentary injury. I clean them up in a few metres, there must some energy left in the tank.

And there it is – in front of me poking through the trees it must be Amungula the high point of the run. This won’t be too bad as it’s not too much higher than where I am now. Feeling confident I run along – my spirits lifted I lift my pace. Suddenly there is an abrupt left turn and rather than going up the hill the track heads down, very down. This is a steep decline that takes us to the foot of the mythical Amungula hill. A bit of sliding and I make it to the bottom, a right turn and there it is, the climb to the top of Amungula. It’s got to be about a 700 metres section and



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you climb 120 metres. This is not quite like climbing the North Col of Everest but it is a challenge - I might need oxygen. Not a place for running, attempting a brisk walk will be challenge enough. (I am told the three lead runners ran up this hill.) Many have slowed down on the climb, stopping occasionally to turn around to stretch their muscles and enjoy the view. My pace is down to 10 min per km. And what would you expect at the top of this spirit breaking track; yes, it's the photographers! When you are down and gasping for air someone wants to take your picture. A quick wave of the hand and a hello and I am over the peak of the hill looking forward to a downhill section.



I am back on the same tracks I ran over an hour ago. This should be easy, after all I have conquered THAT hill. Energy levels are falling and the track is not flat by any means. My heart rate has come down and my breathing is more relaxed as I settle into a comfortable pace. There are two in front of me and a huge puddle. If they don't go single file I'll be in the mud. They move over and I pass them on the high ground through the puddle. I can see people in the forest to my right.

If there are people on my right I must be close to leaving Kowen and re-entering the bush track back to Bingley way. The finish can't be too far away. Wrong again; those people are running the 12 km run, my track continues to follow the border for a few more kilometres. More ups and down and then I see people ahead of me turning off the track. At last, the best bit, downhill and home.

I tentatively step up on the logs fearing I am so tired I might slip and break a leg. I am onto the bush track and after 18 kms this single track isn't quite as easy and scenic as I thought on the way out. There are still more climbs and foot placement is critical with lots of rocks and tree roots across the track. Suddenly there it is, the drain on the side of the dirt road that comes up from Bigley; I made it.

I'm on the dirt road now and I open up my pace, maybe I can regain some of the pace I have lost climbing those damn hills. Where is the dog? Am I in front of the dog or is it already home checking Facebook for pictures of the run? I hit Bingley and there is no reason to hold anything in reserve now. I feel like I am sprinting those last 3 kms. My legs are in overdrive maybe angel gear as I pass other runners. If I trip now it won't be pretty. Past Lofty's place and is that a Firie I see in the middle of the road. Sirens wail from the trucks maybe this is for me. Wow, am I the only RFS member running? I turn down the driveway thinking don't slip on the gravel. Over the timing cables and I am done, physically and in every other way. No thinking that I could do that again; I am spent. Cannot even talk until I get my breathing back and heart rate down. I am happy with my time of 2 hours 43 minutes.

These Kowen runs are getting more popular every year so I wonder how many will turn up for a chilly June morning for the next in the Kowen Trail run series. Congrats to Pam and the Kowen Trail Runners it's a great event that I think will continue to grow.

- Kevin Rowe, The Three Score Plus Trail Runner

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JP will also show how being rough and shaky will improve your computer aided drawing.
By the end of this seminar, you will know how to produce a reasonable computer aided sketch and hopefully, motivated enough to continue learning this modern way of producing images.
People attending can bring their laptops to this session. Notes will be given about the basic use of GIMP.
NOTE: The use of computer aided graphics makes it almost obligatory to have a tablet and stylus. A basic "WACOM" tablet will cost you just over \$100. On occasions, Aldi has been selling tablets for less than \$50

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Planning a Better Future for the Yass Valley Peri Urban Area Near the ACT NSW Border

Yass Valley Landowners near the ACT NSW border are caught in planning discussion and decisions between the NSW Government and the Yass Valley Council (YVC). The NSW government wants urban development along the border (see South East and Tablelands Regional Plan) and the YVC policy (see Yass Valley Settlement Strategy) is to freeze development in this 5 km (or 10 km?) area for 20 years- to make it easier to resume our land for urban development (means less landholders to deal with and assessing our land at rural use values only). It is also possible the YVC will swap our land for permanent ACT water access for Murrumbidgee and Yass. The losers are the landowners within 5km of the ACT NSW border and the broader community. Some landowners formed CCEPL (Capital Country Estate= Capital as close to ACT, Country as being focused on rural, environmental and social aspects and Estate= (y)our properties) to have a say ourselves.

A recent discussion with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment in Queanbeyan indicated that this area will be urbanised. Our current vision (could be amended by more landholders becoming involved) for the area along the border is a low density rural residential zone that would focus on the environment, heritage, economic and social benefits consistent with peri urban developments around other cities.

The landowners along the NSW-ACT border have not been consulted on any of these decisions regarding our land. The ACT is conflicted about wanting to protect nature reserves, retaining the rural landscape as well as have a seamless transition to rural NSW landscapes as well as agreeing it should be urbanised. It is "our homes, our land and our future" that's being impacted, Hands OFF.

Help us further develop this vision - to let us have a serious involvement in any decisions made about our land, our homes and our future. We are forming a not for profit association to better reflect our ideals for this area. A public meeting will be held on 24th February at 16:00 in Sutton Hall. See our website www.ccepl.com.au for more details. We hope to hold a public meeting in the near future. – Arnold Dekker, CCEPL landholder member on behalf of the group

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- Create a fairer, inclusive society
- Put people at the centre of planning laws
- Clean up politics so our democracy works for everyone

Contact Peter on 0428 597 227

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From the Corner

Building in Bush Fire Prone Areas—In my last column I presented an overview of the regulations relating to building in bushfire prone areas, with references to several relevant documents. It's a little difficult to draw from that a simple list of building requirements, because specifications are somewhat dependent on the threat level assessed at a given location. For those wishing to simply improve existing structures, which are not subject to current regulations, there are nonetheless some guidelines that can be followed.

In general, the objective is to minimise the opportunity for embers to come into contact with fuel (flammable material) and to provide appropriate protection of more flammable building elements from radiant heat.

In this context, fuel, in the first instance, is most often leaf litter and other debris, rather than the building itself. The aim here is to prevent the build up of combustible material either by regular cleaning or by covering collection points, like roof gutters, with appropriate litter guards.

With regard to the building structure itself, the regulations for new work effectively require that there be no opening of more than 3mm in the structure (excluding subfloor). Any opening that is greater than 3mm should be either sealed by an approved method or covered with a mesh, made from corrosion resistant steel, bronze or aluminium, that has openings no greater than 2mm. Sarking, behind weatherboards or external cladding and under roof tiles or sheeting, should be continuous and have a flammability index no greater than five (5). The installation of weather strips or draught excluders at the base of side-hung doors can also help. Like many houses in our rural residential areas, my own (1980s) house is cedar clad with a corrugated iron roof. This cladding would be entirely unacceptable today, but if recladding your house with a more fire resistant material is impractical, simply painting the cladding to 'bind in' the nice little wood filaments that characterise a natural, rough sawn timber surface, can help to reduce the risk of attack.

With regard to the roofing, I was quite surprised recently when I removed a section of roof in the course of my current round of renovations. The roof itself is fully sarked, in line with current requirements, but the gaps between the ridge capping and the corrugated roofing material had allowed a quite considerable build up of fine leaf material and what was probably wattle pollen along the ridge line. Small birds or other wildlife had also managed to make their way under the ridge capping and make holes in the sarking with the result that there was quite a deposit of this fine, combustible material in the actual roof cavity.

There are various products available to close off these sorts of gaps in corrugated roofing, from foam infill strips to profiled metal flashings. These can often be retrospectively fitted, but some care is generally recommended in relation to ensuring that the material used is appropriately fire resistant.

Current requirements also restrict the materials that can be used in window frame and door construction, depending on the assessed Bushfire Attack Level (BAL). Glazing (the outer element in the case of double glazing) must generally be toughened glass and at least 5mm thick. Once again, replacing existing elements is often not practical, but when opportunities present themselves, it's good to keep the relevant recommendations in mind.

These are just some of the more obvious building requirements. It should also be noted that building construction is only one element of protecting your property from bush fire attack. As noted in my previous article, the best place to start for anyone interested in further reading is the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) document *Planning for Bush Fire Protection* (PBP) (www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/building-in-a-bush-fire-area). If you are building or renovating, then the National Construction Code/Building Code of Australia (NCC/BCA) (www.abcb.gov.au/ncc-online/NCC) is the ultimate reference.

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

Building in Bush Fire Prone Areas (February 2019) Bush Fire Prone Land (November 2018)

■ Cr Pete Harrison Ph. 6238 3640 Mob. 0427 711 028 Email: contact@peteharrison.id.au Website: www.peteharrison.id.au

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

When the plastic tree, trussed up like a Christmas chook, was stuffed into its cardboard box and restored to the loft to hibernate until the next season of great joy, I felt as if the holidays had finally begun. Christmas was behind us. But there are some things that linger.....What do you do with old Christmas cards?

In a bygone era we kept them to make lanterns for the next round of Christmas decorations, and would cut out and proudly paste the best pictures onto the front page of our brown paper covered exercise books for the new school year; the magic of Christmas stayed with us a little longer.

In later years our lucky children were offered them for "craft activities". But by the time the grandchildren came along Christmassy pictures for craft were passe. And I don't blame them. Cutting up a pretty card to paste onto a fresh sheet of paper had always seemed somewhat pointless, even if you call it "collage". It's about as pointless as cutting perfectly good lengths of fabric into little squares then stitching different bits together again to make a patchwork quilt. I might admire the finished product but the process is tedious in the extreme. But I digress.

Christmas cards, I fear, are nearly time expired. They are reaching the end of their natural life. Once they arrived in your letter box, before Christmas, with a scrawled note inside stating that every one was "good" and they hoped you were, too. Then computers and printers appeared and we were blessed with the Christmas letter. Neatly folded inside a card, it was an annual report condensed into one glowing page with perhaps a "P.S.....Digger and Grandma have sadly passed on".

We all loved reading the Christmas letters which grew into a tidy pile on the sideboard. It was like a Facebook synopsis but one that you could have and hold. We "caught up" with news from far and wide, some from people we hadn't seen in thirty years and were unlikely to ever see again.

This year there were still Christmas cards on the sideboard, all supporting a good cause, but the pile of Christmas letters had shrunk. We enjoyed those that we had, however one stood out. It was from a dear friend of many years who had always written her message in a looping long hand on every space in the card. This one, however, was **typed on a computer!** She had finally embraced technology.....and we declared her the all time winner; the best Christmas letter, ever!! With her talents, however, we just hope she hasn't missed the boat.....

I have included her letter for you to share. I think she might have found her audience.

May the year ahead be a good one for you and for our community.

I wouldn't live anywhere else.

Christmas 2018

Hello dear Gregorys and Merry Christmas to one and all,

I hope 2018 has treated you all very kindly and it has been a happy and satisfying year that has provided you with many happy memories to look back on while tackling the turkey and ham.

Now I'll give you an overview of the excitement that was our lot this year.....ok, well that's done then. Our daily routine has become; get up, put the kettle on, check calendar to see which one of us has an appointment to see a specialist, GP, nurse or some form of ancillary service. Indeed we have nearly broken our record these past two days with 3 medical related appointments yesterday between us and 3 today. However, we are getting along ok and are resolutely hobbling towards 2019.

Following on from that, the other day I had a good idea while showering (where my best ideas originate), as it seems to me, that wherever 3 or more senior citizens gather together the conversation inevitably turns to doctors, medication or cruises. Now, isn't there a market for where all these obsessions could be combined? – a cruise for over 70s where instead of comedians, singers, female impersonators or fire-jugglers being the entertainment there would be cardiologists, oncologists, podiatrists, urologists, audiologists or as many ologists as can be found. There could be informative films on the latest miracle medical breakthrough which holds out the most hope for cures within the next 10 years – possibly too late for most of the passengers though. Volunteer members of the audience could be invited to come on stage and drone on endlessly about their experiences with hip replacements, shunts, triple by-passes, knee reconstructions and what rehab and medication they have found most effective. What do you think?, do you think I am on to a winner?

The family are also getting along quite nicely. Eldest grandson, T..., completed secondary school. To no one's surprise, he was not featured in the Canberra Times as being one of Canberra's most successful students. He is set on doing sports journalism when he completes his gap year doing what during that time I know not. His grandfather is quite perplexed at the notion of a gap year – he feels that if you are not studying, well, get out and get a job and be grateful for what you can get. Ah, things were different in the 50s K.... The rest are doing nicely without particularly distinguishing themselves. But all are good citizens and are not troubling the constabulary so that's something.

Very little has been done on the Christmas front as of today, Wednesday. The main problem is that S... and Co have gone on a cruise with D...'s side of the family. D... is our family's Special Events Manager and without her spreadsheets, organizational skills and prodding F..., R... and I are drifting listlessly and without direction – possible destination; a pizza or toasted cheese sandwich Christmas spread. I'm wondering how S... is doing, he was a reluctant starter on the cruise as (a) he has no interest in cruising and b) has a rather testy relationship with his mother-in-law (she seems not to enjoy S...'s particular inane sense of humour – can you imagine that?).

Hope all is well with you and yours and we can meet up sometime in the near future (that is if we can fit it in between things medical!). Look forward to hearing news of your family doings.

*Love to all
Aed*

**Save the Date – Meet the Candidates Wamboin Hall,
7:30 pm, Tuesday, March 12 for the NSW State Election on
Saturday 23 March**