



# The Whisper

July 2019 CIRCULATION: 1,330

**Bywong Trivia Challenge Saturday 7:00 pm 20 July Bywong Hall**  
**Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks 5:30 pm Saturday August 31 Wamboin Hall**

**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 July 2019 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, June 30. 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**

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

## 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:BRobinson35@hotmail.com">BRobinson35@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-urgent 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	0409 369 559	
<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>	Jules Clancy, Convenor	0439 586 188	<a href="mailto:wamboinplaygroup@gmail.com">wamboinplaygroup@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 Women 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:deniselynehales40@gmail.com">deniselynehales40@gmail.com</a>
<b>Table Tennis</b>	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	<a href="mailto:mikemuston@gmail.com">mikemuston@gmail.com</a>

## YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Rebecca Purdie    pet/horse sitting    6238 3343    Alex Lea    Pet&House Sitting, Gardening 6236 9657 or 0439 219 865

# Wamboin Community Association's Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display

by Fireworks Australia



**Wamboin Community Centre,  
112 Bingley Way, Wamboin.  
Saturday 31 August 2019  
Food stalls from 5.30  
Bonfire lit at 6.33 and  
Fireworks light-up 7.03 precisely**

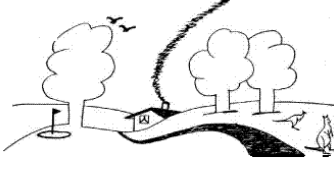
**Support local community groups,  
including Wamboin Community Association, Church,  
Fire Brigade, Wonderful Women of Wamboin, Golf  
Club, Pony Club, Play Group, Sutton School**

**- with Traditional Stalls of:  
Hot Dogs, Gluhwein, Soups, Rice & Meatballs, Steak  
Sangers, Bacon & Egg Sangers, Baked Spuds, Curry  
Dishes, Glo Sticks, Soft Drinks, Tea, Great Coffee and  
other Beverages.**

**Adults \$5, Children \$2 or Family \$10**

No drones are permitted other than the Fireworks Australia Drone. They provide high quality fireworks for us at a low price. One of the things they ask in return is exclusive rights to video the event from a drone.

**Please note: by law the only fireworks allowed will be  
the display by 'FIREWORKS AUSTRALIA'.**

	<p><b>Wamboin Community Association Presidents Paragraphs</b></p> <p><b>“Frosty”</b></p>	
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Brrrrr a good minus 4 frost certainly makes an invigorating start to the day. A great chance to get out and about to do those tasks like burning off those piles of trimmings and getting on top of those weeds before the spring flourish. It would be nice however to have a few more drops of rain to get some soil moisture a little deeper. I feel a snow fall on the way sometime soon. So take advantage of the winter season and sit in front of that wood fire and enjoy our Wamboin. It really is a magical time of year.

**2019 Federal Election** – Well the Federal election results are now finalised. On a two party preferred basis in our seat of Eden Monaro, Mike Kelly polled 50,472 votes to the Liberals Fiona Kotvojs 48,787 votes . A very close 1.7% margin (2% swing towards Liberal party from last election). Mike also won the Wamboin booth 426 votes to 360 votes.

**2019 Bonfire and Fireworks Night** - This years Bonfire and fireworks night will be held on **Saturday 31 August**. Brought forward this year to avoid any early declaration of the fire season, this very family oriented experience is one of the most anticipated community gatherings of the year. Don't miss out on the food & drink, the bonfire, the spectacular fireworks - the fun. Food and drinks from 5:30pm at Wamboin Community Hall.

**Kowen Winter Trail Run** – Over 500 brave runners ran the course. Thanks to Pam Muston and all the volunteers that make this such a great event. For results lookup [www.kowen-trail-run.com](http://www.kowen-trail-run.com) The next event is in warmer September.

**Home Produce Market** – The market is now in winter shutdown (next one in September). Thanks to Meriel for doing such a great job as market convenor.

**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.

**Table Tennis** - Thursday evening table tennis is on at the Wamboin Community Hall between 6 & 9 p.m. All are welcome (you don't have to be an expert). Come for as long as you wish. Light refreshments will be provided & a gold coin donation will help cover costs. Contact Mike on 0406 606 238, [mikemuston@gmail.com](mailto:mikemuston@gmail.com) for more info. See you there.

**New Members** – Be a part of your local community and help make Wamboin great. 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 Monthly General Meeting** –The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 July 2019 at 7.30 pm at the Wamboin Community Hall.

*We are Wamboin!* ~ Peter Evans - President.



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*Ad-Design Sandy Morphett*



## Bywong Community Association News

**Bywong Trivia Night 2019: Saturday 20 July:** Put it in your diary and start getting your team of 8 together, or let us put you on a table with some new friends! Come and join us for a fun evening of friendly rivalry, with questions to tease your brain and soups to tickle your taste-buds. Tickets are \$10 per person. See full advert in this month's Whisper or go to the BCA website / Facebook page for full details and to make bookings.

**BCA Meeting:** Thurs 18 July 2019, 7.30pm at the Bywong Hall, Birriwa Road. All are welcome to join the discussion and contribute ideas that will 'Bring Bywong Together'. We will be discussing ideas for projects to enhance the Bywong Hall facilities, including picnic table/bench(es), outdoor exercise equipment and/or a built-in BBQ. If you have any views on these or any other ideas for our community, please contact BCA via the website and/or come along to this meeting.

**Tree pruning along Bungendore Road.** Following concerns on social media, BCA has been in contact with QPRC regarding recent tree pruning work on Bungendore Road. While this work is now complete, it raised questions on whether/how QPRC could consult with rural communities like ours in relation to roadside vegetation management, given that many locals are concerned over the aesthetic and conservation values of these nature strips. You can read the ongoing email corro and/or contribute your views on the BCA website or Facebook page.

**Reminder: Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Region fibre optic network project:** This note is just to alert/remind you to the benefits from registering your interest in the **Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Region (WBSR) fibre optic network project SOON.**

Signing up/registering your interest does NOT commit you in any way but DOES mean:

- the network can be designed to include your residence on potential cable routes
- connection costs will be lower than if you register after the network has been laid
- you may be connected to the network earlier than otherwise
- you will receive news updates.

Trenching/installation for the fibre network will commence after consultations with NSW Government and should be complete around 18 months later. You are encouraged to visit the WBSR project website (see below) and make an informed decision whether to register your interest in the Project, noting that:

- There is a high likelihood ADSL internet services will cease sometime after 2022. After that, in the absence of a fibre network, our internet services will be a choice between the NBN Skymuster satellite (which is already overloaded and slow) or a Wireless/4G mobile service. Apart from issues of reliability and highly variable speeds, both of these options are subject to a limited data allowance.
- A fibre optic network will bring a much faster, more reliable internet service than ADSL, NBN Skymuster satellite or wireless/4G services, and will offer unlimited data plans priced according to the connection speed you choose.
- Internet service plans for the WBSR network will be available through a range of competing providers, so will be similar in price to NBN plans available in Queanbeyan and ACT (and possibly similar to your current costs).
- Connection fees are estimated at around \$300 per premise if you are registered (significantly less than a connection to the NBN Skymuster satellite). However, if you join the project after the network has been laid, then you may not be able to be connected at all, or the connection cost will be far higher.

It is generally accepted that a fibre network connection will likely add 1-8% to your property value

For more information and to sign up/register your interest, go to the WBSR fibre network project website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/wamboincommunications/home>.

Keep in touch with BCA 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.

-Mike Wilkins,

President, Bywong  
Community  
Association,  
0417458320, Email:  
[president@bywongcommunity.org.au](mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au)

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# The Wamboin Firefighter

When lighting a fire outside of the Bushfire Danger period, whether you rent, lease or own the property its both your responsibility and a legal requirement to notify both your neighbours and your local Rural Fire Service Fire Control Centre twenty-four (24) hours prior to ignition.



Call LAKE GEORGE FIRE CONTROL CENTRE on 0261280600 during business hours.

Please remember that you are responsible for keeping the fire contained and under control on your property.

Your brigade has a Facebook page “ Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade”

The brigades page will provide general information and advice for the Bywong, Wamboin, Sutton Park, Donnelly Road, Joe Rocks and the Forest Road communities about fire prevention and property preparation. It will also describe general fire brigade activities that maybe of interest.

Information about bushfires and related issues should be first sought from the NSW Rural Fire Service website ( <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/> ) or the NSW RFS App “ Fires Near Me “

Warnings will be issued on the Phone network ( mobile and Fixed ) and the NSW Rural Fire Service website and emergency information will be broadcast by the AM radio station ABC 666

The page will not provide any personal information about or the causes of of incidents.

## USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade	<a href="http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au">http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>
NSW Rural Fire Service	<a href="http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au">www.rfs.nsw.gov.au</a>
Wamboin Brigade Captain	<a href="mailto:wamboincaptain@gmail.com">wamboincaptain@gmail.com</a> or 0409 991 340
Queanbeyan Fire Control	6128 0600

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## Bonfire And Fireworks Night – Bonfire Fuel Wanted

The 2019 Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks Night is planned for Saturday the 31st of August. So why not reduce the fire hazards on your property by clearing unwanted branches, prunings and brush. Delivering suitable material to the Bonfire site at the Community Centre, Bingley Way will help make the night a memorable occasion. **Please do not mix in: treated timber, old carpets, soil, metal fittings, or large green logs. It may be hard to believe but other non-burnable materials such as wire, bricks and old sheets of corrugated iron have been illegally dumped in past years. Pallets are not wanted** because after they burn they leave a bed of nails, which can puncture the tyres of the clean-up tractors. **Very large logs and stumps are also a problem** as they smoulder and smoke for many days. All of these unsuitable items have to be separated and taken away. So what should you bring? The ideal is to have a large fire that burns quickly. This calls for prunings, branches and brush compacted and stacked high. We need to stop delivery of material by about the August 25th to allow for compacting and stacking. Bonfire Night is the major, and sometimes the only, fund raising activity for our Community groups who run all the food, drink and novelty stalls. – Sam and Colin Urquhart 0408-463-150.

## How the Whisper Happens Each Month

Over a hundred Bywong and Wamboin residents work together each month to add a piece to Bywong's and Wamboin's community property. The 50+ individuals and families listed below donate time to drive, bicycle, run or walk down roads to put a Whisper in each mailbox. Another 30 or 40 business owners, most of them local, pay hard earned money to run an ad in it. And 30 or so individuals take time to come up with worthwhile words to fill its pages with articles or invitations of interest to residents. So, for one more month, we did it again, thanks to 100 or so of us each doing part of another issue. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor on behalf of the Community Assn.

### 168: CO-ORDINATED BY ALICE SCOTT: ph 0407 005 506 email alicehscott@bigpond.com

Fay Kelly	Norton Rd West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20	Christine Rieber	Cooper Rd	26
Cheryl and David Steele	Fernloff Rd	34	Jill & Richard Gregory	Canning Cl	17
Julie Veal	Poppet Rd (for all on road)	31	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	40

### 179: 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)	22	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 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	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			

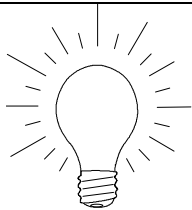
### 138: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 6236 97223 bushranger\_au@hotmail.com

Chris Fowler	Millyn Rd	20	David Featherston	B'doreRd frm SmHill to&nclgdCrkBRd	26
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	24	Leigh & Derek Morris	Wyoming & Doust Rds	36
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	32			

### 187: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 6238 3484

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

**TOTAL 1,330**



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## Another Great Day Out - Kowen Winter Trails

564 keen trail runners gathered at the Wamboin Community Hall on Sunday 16th June to compete in our annual Winter Trails event. Wamboin threw on its best winter coat for our runners with a perfect, cold, dry morning and we lit up the pre dawn with cosy fire pits and a roaring fire inside the hall.

We were delighted to welcome participants from as far off as North America and New Zealand as well as our more local runners. People of all ages can and do compete in our events, and this time our youngest runner was just 8 years of age and our oldest participant (73 years old) both running in the 12 km. Not to be outdone, we also welcomed the participation of a fit and fantastic 72 year old in the full marathon who completed the course in 5hrs 2mins. Trail running really is for everyone. This is the third year we have offered this event, and once again records fell. Matthew Bennington topped the 12km field with a new time of 46:52 and Joseph Hughes cut an amazing two minutes from our previous Marathon record holder, winning in 3:18:03. Congratulations to them and to all our runners.


As these events increase in popularity we draw more and more from our wonderful community of volunteers. This time our tireless Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade directed parking for nearly 500 cars as well as attending to the most important task of cooking their famous bacon and egg rolls for our hungry finishers. The fires also gave us a good reminder of why we are raising money for them. Our 12 km race start was briefly delayed as we waited for them to move their trucks to attend an accident on the Federal Highway.

The Kowen Trail Runners committee is dedicated to working with our community members and for this event we called on over 40 good people to assist us before, during and after the event. One of the real pleasures of working at these races is being able to tell our participants that everyone working to make their day special is a volunteer. Some are runners, many are not. Every one of our "vollies" provides an essential service - trail marking and grooming, registration, drink and lolly stations in the forest, first-aid provision, hot soup, "firie" food and finally pack up. That figure of 40 official volunteers doesn't begin to take in the interested community members who just turn up and lend a hand where needed. It's friendly and a great look for Wamboin and is always commented on by our race participants.

Last Friday brought the best bit! We were pretty pleased to be able to present another cheque to the WRFB - this time for \$16,000. **A big thank you to the Wamboin Community, all our participants, volunteers and sponsors. Kowen Trail Run team and the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade are very grateful.** We'll be back on Saturday 7th September for our Kowen Moonlighter event. Watch this space for details. – by Lisa Brunswick

## Can You Write Something For the August Wamboin Whisper?

If you live in Bywong or Wamboin, the main reason for the Whisper is to provide a place for your words to inform, invite, caution or entertain your fellow residents. The main guideline is write in a way that doesn't hurt, but helps. If it could increase your own income, put it in, but think about paying for it as an ad. Deadline for the August issue is last Sunday night of July, so 7 pm July 28. Email to either [whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au) or [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au), - Ned Noel, volunteer editor, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, ph 6238 3484.




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### WAMBOIN WEATHER: (rainfall and temperature records)

44 years from Cooper Road by Christine Rieber

June Rainfall Stats  
June rainfall to the 19<sup>th</sup> ..... 14.75mm  
2019 total rainfall to 19/6..... 233.0mm

July Rainfall Stats  
2018 July rainfall..... 10.5mm  
Wettest July..... 142mm in 1993  
Wettest July day..... 50.5mm on 10/7/91  
Driest July..... 4.5mm in 1982

July Temperature Stats

Average June rainfall..... 55.2mm  
2018 June rainfall..... 35.5mm  
2018 total rainfall to 30/6..... 195.25mm  
43yr Av. to end of June..... 321.8mm

Average July rainfall..... 52.8mm  
Average no. rain days in July.... 10.8  
Highest no. rain days..... 17 in 1980  
Lowest no. rain days. 4 in 1982 & 1994

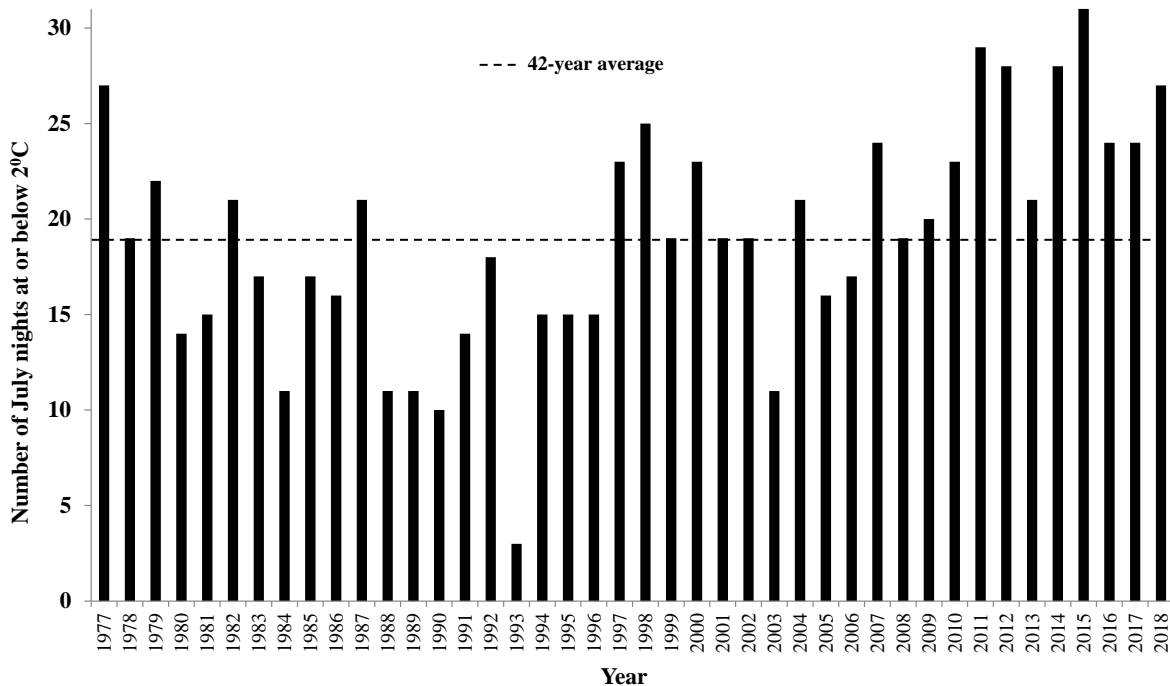
Av. June temp. 5.2°C (day+night comb.)

Hottest July day..... 17.1°C on 8/7/18  
 Hottest July night..... 9°C (5 times)  
 1988 (3 times), 24/7/90 & 8/7/93  
 Average day temp. .... 8.8°C  
 Warmest July..... 1993  
 Av. day temp. 10.8°C & nights 5.1°C  
 (highest day 12.4°C in 2018)

Coldest July day..... 1°C on 14/7/16  
 Coldest July night..... -5°C (7 times)  
 10/96, 12/11, 3 & 5/15, 22/17, 16 & 22/18  
 Average night temp. .... 1.6°C  
 Coldest July..... 2015  
 Av. day temp. 5.5°C & nights -1.5°C  
 July 2018. Av. max 12.4°C & min -0.3°C

Daylight hours in July increase by 30 minutes from 9.7 to 10.2 hours.

The graph below shows the number of July nights at or below 2°C for 42 years in Wamboin and the long-term average (dashed line) – indicator temperature used by the Bureau of Meteorology. The highest was 2016 with 31 nights and lowest 3 nights in 1993.



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## Kowen Winter Trails Half Marathon

Mount Doom! What was I hearing, was this a Lord of the Rings quest? I was standing in the cold waiting for the start of the half marathon listening to Pam's pre-race briefing. Actually, I wasn't listening. I was thinking about what I was wearing and how cold or warm it might be over the course of the run. Do I need to wear more or less? Next, I hear 'Mount Doom' which is the half way mark and according to Pam only a kilometre long with an elevation gain of 170 metres. She had my attention.

A short while later Pam counts down the start and we are off. There are 151 runners in the event, and we all start in a tight huddle. Maybe that's just to keep warm. Actually, it's not as cold as last year when the threat of sleet and snow was very real.

We head up Bingley Way and by the time we reach the dirt road it's a long thin line of runners, no more bunching. We run through the native forest on a single track. This is the best piece of trail running on the course. Feeling good. My mate from Victoria passes me, it's the last time I will see him until the end. Over the horse gate for a right-hand turn onto the Kowen timber roads. This is familiar country as it's where I have been training. My legs don't feel fast, maybe when I warm up things will be better.

I have two goals today: finish and come in within 2.5 hours.

We run up to Poppet Hill, and I do mean up and then down along the ACT/NSW boundary. A left hand turn and it's a steep descent to Sutton Road. The track here has a good surface, it's where the B-Double trucks haul out timber. I am not sliding down this descent, I am looking after my knees. Running trails you quickly realise that any downhill section is always followed by an ascent. Not to worry. A left-hand turn and the track runs parallel to Sutton Road. A long gentle downhill. Time to improve my pace.

This nice straight downhill section can't last. And then, there it is, the drink station marking the climb up Mount Doom. A left-hand turn and suddenly everyone stops running, as a brisk walk is all we can muster on this climb. Pam's words 'it's only 1 kilometre long' resonate in my head. I am thinking the elite runners probably ran up Mount Doom, not an option for me.

We walk and climb.

Suddenly word passes though the group that we are past half way. This is a timely morale boost. Trudging continues up Mount Doom.

The marathon runners that joined us on Mount Doom peel off to the right, and I think they are now facing the infamous Amungula peak.

I am chatting to a young runner. This is her first half marathon and she chose a Kowen Trail run. What was she thinking? We match each other's pace. I pass her going up hills and she passes me going down.

I offer reassurance that she is doing fine and she will make it. The fire control tower is suddenly visible just over the trees. Another boost, we are on the way home. I've warmed up and my gloves are off.

A downhill and across Seven Mile road. A drink station offering snakes. I have a choice - a snake and gasping for air or no snake but breathing continues. I do like snakes. But I can't chew and breathe. I choose to breathe. I take a sip of my water with an endurance supplement. It does seem to make a difference; I must drink more.

The run along the boundary is familiar territory. I explain to my young colleague that we only have two peaks to go. She assumes the one



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Pairing Workshops, Christmas  
in July, Fathers Day, Halloween  
Trick & Treat for children  
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we are on is one of the peaks. I quickly reassure her this isn't a peak. We come around the corner and there it is, Poppet Hill in all its glory. I explain there is one more peak and after that we are back through the horse gate.

I am down to a bit of a shuffle. The other side of Poppet is a steep descent, followed by a couple of rises and then the one last steep pinch.

I reach the horse gate and call out *What time is it?* The marshals tell me its 10.15. I have 15 minutes and 3 kms to go. I can still figure out that's 5 minutes per km. My pace over the last km is 8:36 minutes. Not sure the legs are up for it but it's time to use that last bit of energy. No more words of encouragement for my running partner, it is time to focus on these last 3 kms.

Just a minute, who are those runners coming in from the right? It's the three-and-a-half-hour mark for the marathoners but these people are way too fresh. Who are they? It turns out they are 12 km runners.

It's through the bush on a single trail. The legs are stretching out and I am trying to get some air into the system. Chest is aching. I keep looking for that dirt road, you can see it through the trees when you get close. A couple of turns and a drop down an eroded section and there it is, the dirt road to Bingley.

I cross the ditch and get onto the middle of the road where the surface has few loose rocks. Down to Bingley, a left turn and one last little climb. Not sure I have the energy to run up this little climb.

I stretch out my stride and I am off down Bingley. I can't hear footsteps behind me. Being passed by someone in the last 200 metres is tough. The person in front is too far away to catch.

I turn onto the Community Hall driveway and down to the finish line. The legs are at their limits and I am done. I have finished the winter half marathon.

Pam comes up for a comment but I am not particularly coherent. It will take time to get my breath back and to get my heart rate down to something reasonable.

So, the final wrap: the first male, Craig Benson, crossed the line in 1:30:06 and the first female, Emma Just, did it in 1:47:19. I bet they ran up that Mount Doom. For me, I achieved both goals: finished and in under 2.5 hours. My time was 2:28:56. My mate from Victoria was 14 minutes ahead of me.

Oh, and my running partner; she came in just after me explaining that she couldn't catch me, but she was trying. Next time maybe I won't be so lucky.

Now what about the September run, a 12 hour relay with friends or two 7.5 km loops?

Thanks to Pam and the Kowen Trail Runners, to the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade and to all the other volunteers that make this event possible. It's getting bigger every year. --Kevin Rowe, The Three Score Plus Runner

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## Peter Cullerne Oam

Peter Leslie Cullerne (known to his friends as Rat), a resident of Wamboin since 1996, was acknowledged in the Queen's Birthday honours list this year with the Medal in the Order of Australia for services to veterans and their families.



Peter joined the RAAF in 1976 as an apprentice airframe fitter and was subsequently assigned to No. 5 Squadron, which flew Iroquois helicopters, as a maintenance helicopter fitter. He was a serving member of the RAAF for 20 years. When they left the service, he and a friend determined to set up a sub-branch of 5 Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force Association to assist other veterans. They discovered that there was already a semi-active sub-branch of 4 and 5 Squadrons formed by WW II veterans – semi-active because of the declining numbers of the ageing vets. Peter's offer to take over the administrative burden was gratefully accepted. He served on the committee, rising to the office of president. As part of the committee and with family support Peter organised Anzac Day activities, squadron reunions and get-togethers, newsletters, AGMs and special events such as the 4 Squadron centenary of formation and the 5 Squadron centenary of formation. He did this until 2018.

On leaving the RAAF, Peter had set up his own business, Ratz Mobile Welding. He worked throughout the region including as a maintenance contractor for the helicopter training squadron formerly based at Fairbairn. He helped rebuild a Beaufort bomber for the Australian War Memorial. In addition to his volunteer work for the 4/5 Squadron sub-branch, he continues to assist the Vietnam Veterans and Veterans Federation (ACT) rehabilitation programs as a volunteer metal work teacher. He has served as a member of the Wamboin rural fire brigade since 1998, often contributing his professional skills to the maintenance of the brigade's plant and equipment.

My old mate John Milton used to say: "They also serve who only stand and wait". Peter certainly hasn't stood and waited. He got stuck in and has been recognised for it.

If you're wondering how he came by the *sobriquet* 'Rat', he got it as 16 year old apprentice on a transport to the Forest Hill air force base at Wagga. A companion on the plane described him as a "skinny little runt". That man is known as Ferret.

- Larry King.

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## Wamboin Golf – June 2019

Mahogany Ridge, Sunday, 2 June. I'm writing this in a tearing hurry because at any second the AFP will be busting through my door. (Thank God my underwear are all clean and tidy.) They're after me for revealing certain state secrets. More of that in a minute. Meanwhile let me apologise for the tardiness of this epistle. Two reasons: firstly, your correspondent did not actually play and had to closely interrogate those who did as to what happened; secondly the cause of his absence was the fact that, as a member of the Bungendore Community Choir, he was engaged in a concert at the Memorial Hall – along with the absolutely marvellous Bungendore Youth Orchestra – in aid of the Abbeyfield project. Yes, not only a golfer but also a chorister. My voice has been compared, flatteringly I believe, to a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. I almost missed the 19<sup>th</sup> because of the persistence of the autograph hunters. No, no. Not for me. For our choir master and musical director, Dr Tracy Bourne. (I was merely holding her baton). But back to the reason for my haste: in this column some years ago I wrote that a friend had told me that his son was off to Afghanistan to fight the Taliban. Apparently he should have said that he was off to “drive a caravan”. It seems I had inadvertently let it slip that our continuing military presence in the sand pit was bellicose rather than benign. Whereas the government line was that they were going there for R&R after Iraq (where, it turned out, there weren't any WMDs after all).

I'm informed it was a terrific day for golf. The sky was blue (just like the ceiling of the Memorial Hall) with the mercury in the temperate teens and a gentle breeze. The day was sponsored by the Urquhart family whom we thank for the prizes and edible refreshments. Competition was decided by stroke play adjusted for handicap. Afterwards, back at the Hall, acting captain, Tim Barter, called for order and introduced our guests Tess and Aldo Tosstirone, Don Giovanni, Mary Jeffigero and Barbara Seville. Ted Evans assured us that the search for a new leader of the parliamentary Labor Party had “all been easy”. The googly ball went to Keith France for a long and rambling story. Bill Shorten claimed the dummy spit for attributing the ALP's surprise loss in the federal election to “corporate leviatons” and “media behemoths”. The encouragement award went to Don Evans and Lee Beamont. LD and NTP ball winners were Ken Gordon 2, Pete Harrison 2, Keith France, Deb Gordon, Col Urquhart and Tim Barter. Placegetters in the juniors comp were 1<sup>st</sup> Madz Gordon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alex Gordon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Phoebe Beckett, and 4<sup>th</sup> Timothy Nelson. Winner of the nine hole comp was Deb Gordon 47/28 from Ian Picker 48/33. 18 hole victor was Tim Barter 72/63 from David Bailey 90/65 OCB. Well done all and sundry!

Next month the club will host the Non Dry July comp. Join us at the community hall on Sunday, 7 July at 12.15pm for the traditional 12.30pm shotgun start. Sorry, I have to go. I can hear 27 hob-nailed boots coming up the drive (must be a unidexter in the group). “I hope you're going to pay for that door! Hey, watch the Ming vase...!” - **Larry King, golfer**



### Classifieds

The next meeting of the Queanbeyan Evening Branch Country Women's Association (CWA) of NSW is Tuesday 9th July commencing at 6.30 pm at St Gregory's Parish centre, Molonglo Street, Queanbeyan. The CWA aims to improve conditions for country women and children. We reach that aim in various ways including lobbying for change, helping the local community, creating a network of support and meeting together. New members are welcome. For further information or inquires about us, please contact the Branch Secretary Nicole Lyons via email: [cwagebsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:cwagebsecretary@gmail.com)

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.

Wildcare training. Beginners possum care course will be held at the Karabar community centre, 183 Cooma St, Karabar, on Sat, 11 May 2019, between 9.30 a.m. & 4.30 p.m. BYO lunch. New recruits are welcome to attend and join Wildcare. For more information, contact [training@wildcare.com.au](mailto:training@wildcare.com.au), or telephone 6297 3442.

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

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## Polly's Biggest Cancer Morning Tea Thank You

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A HUGE THANK YOU for all the support received from many of you especially with well over 100 acceptances. An ENORMOUS THANK YOU goes to Leigh and Tanya Hamilton who worked tirelessly on preparation of food and serving. Sally Clark for soup and salads. My right hand Tina Kelly. My sister Joan Vella whom I could not have had such success with her amazing support for goods in kind from many establishments in Canberra.

Phil's Emporium in Bungendore, THANK YOU for hosting such a wonderful morning tea for me and to our local newspapers for advertising - The Wamboin Whisper and The Bungendore Weekly.

To local businesses- Woodworks Cafe, Woodworks Gallery, Bendigo Bank, Bungendore Butcher, Purity by Cassie, Gossips, Foodlovers and Bungendore Quilters. Thank you to my fellow Parishioners at St Mary's and to Danny Velnaar for giving up his time to entertain my guests with music and melodies. THANK YOU to the Bywong Community Hall for the venue. An amazing, contribution at such short notice. Thank you to all those that attended, for donations and for the goods in kind.

Lastly but not least THANK YOU EVERYONE as I cannot name each and every individual who has made this possible. These funds could not be raised **WITHOUT YOU!** Love to all with deepest gratitude. *Polly*



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## Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For July I chose the Satin Bowerbird, a shy bird who builds an amazing structure called a bower. Having seen the birds for many years on our property and searched for the bower without success, I was lucky to see it when my neighbour found one at their place.

### Satin Bowerbird (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*)

Size 28-32cm

Status: Uncommon breeding resident

The Satin Bowerbird is a very beautiful bird. The male is a dark satin-blue colour with a pale yellow bill, and the female is green on top, scalloped brown and white below and has brown wings and tail. Both have a pale bill and legs. To impress the females, male bowerbirds build a "bower", a stick structure with two curved walls (see picture). He decorates it with blue items, (e.g. plastic like pegs, bottle tops, straws, etc, feathers and other blue things). When the female comes to investigate, the male tries to impress her, and if successful, they will mate and the female will build a nest nearby. These birds also have a variety of calls, including mimicking other birds and chirping, trilling, hissing and other noises. They prefer denser areas (especially pines and native cherry) where they are often heard calling.



Male



Female at bower, male in background

(Photos from Google images)



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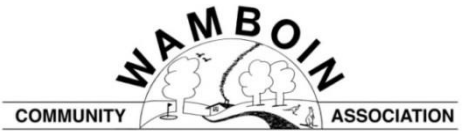
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## Wamboin Community Association Inc. (WCA) 18 June 2019 General Meeting

The meeting was chaired by WCA Vice-president, Jenny Richards, as the President was delayed. Participants heard from WCA Committee and general members, as well as other local community groups, about the extensive efforts of members of our community to enhance, for all residents, the livability and enjoyment of our rural-residential area.



### Highlights of topics discussed

**Wamboin Trail Runners:** the meeting was advised that some 540 runners/walkers participated in the 16 June Winter Trails event, and it was a great success. The profits generate from the entrance fees will be donated to the Wamboin Bushfire Brigade.

**Council:** Cr Pete Harrison reported on the outcome of Council's 22 May meeting discussing the staff recommendation that the E4 Environmental Living parts of Wamboin & Bywong retain that zoning, in light of the consultants' findings about flora and fauna biodiversity. As the motion was defeated, Council will now contract consultants to prepare a planning proposal that will go to the State Government for a Gateway Determination through which the Minister (or delegate) will decide whether or not the planning proposal can proceed (with or without variation).

**Wamboin Whisper:** Editor Ned Noel thanked all who had contributed by writing for, advertising in or delivering the June *Whisper*, noting that more than 50 people are involved in the process each month.

**Greenways:** Cr Pete Harrison, Chair of the QPRC Wamboin Locality Committee, advised that the Greenways s. 355 Committee is developing an application for funding to fix and prevent further gullying along the delightful greenway that connects Weeroona Drive and Norton Road.

**Wheels of Wamboin 18 May:** WCA President and the powerhouse behind the Wheels of Wamboin event, Peter Evans, advised that the Wheels event raised over \$1,000 in gate takings from entrants. More than 270 vehicles were on display, and Shannons Insurance provided a \$500 donation. Pete thanked everyone who contributed to the success of the event.

**Bonfire & fireworks:** Sam Urquhart confirmed that this event will be held on Sat. 31 August 2019: please note your calendar. As usual, the WCA, Fire Brigade and Hall Management Committee are collaborating to make it an enjoyable event for everyone.

--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 16 July 2019. All welcome. - David McDonald, Hon. Secretary



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## Looking out for Wildlife

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Quite a lot of trauma happens on our rural roads. In winter, it's kangaroos that are at risk of being hit, as they loiter by the roadside, seeking out the best pick of grass. Motorists, who routinely drive through wildlife-rich areas, know all too well of the dangers in coming across a kangaroo or wombat on the road. And most drivers who don't hit wildlife know the black spots; they are vigilant and drive slowly where they know animals hang out and cross the road.

It has been said before, but if you want the best chance to avoid an expensive bump, then reduce speed to give time to react to the unexpected; avoid 'tunnel vision' and look around much more. Taking extra care at dawn and dusk, and through the night, is essential, as this is when animals are moving around.

By the way, if you come across a wombat on the road, don't expect it to run away. On hearing an oncoming car or truck, the first instinct of a wombat is to stop, crouch and listen intently. It will not move away until it understands what the noise is, but by that time it is often too late. If you hit an animal or come across one that has been injured, please go back and check it out from a safe distance – even an injured animal can be dangerous. It's even more important at this time of the year to check an animal, as female kangaroos and wombats may well have a joey on-board, that can be saved. However, before you attempt to do anything, such as taking a joey out of a pouch, contact Wildcare for advice – extracting a joey from its mother's pouch needs great care and it is necessary to do it right to avoid further injury.

Reptiles will occasionally emerge from their 'brumation' in winter and move around, sometimes for a drink of water and to enjoy some warmth from the sun. It's best to let them be, if there are no obvious injuries or signs of illness or distress. Don't bring lizards indoors to warm up, just place them somewhere safe, away from dogs, cats and sheltered from birds. By now most snakes and lizards in our area would have moved into hibernation, but on a warm day, people often report seeing one sunning itself.

At home take care in tackling a woodpile or fallen tree, as there may be reptiles hibernating, an echidna or microbat tucked away. In a previous winter, a family of blue tongue lizards were taken into care having been disturbed by a chain saw! Dead trees that are standing also provide homes for small mammals, birds and possums, so you can help protect creatures by leaving these trees alone. Some property owners are happy to leave large areas undisturbed to give wildlife a chance to get on with life.

And winter is a great time to have a spring clean around the backyard. Why? By having a tidy space around the house, you will deter snakes from approaching and you will have a better chance of seeing them. Feed and animal sheds are ideal spots for snakes to hunt for mice. But if these areas are tidy and mice/rat populations reduced, there will be less danger next spring and summer. *Photo: Wombats don't always move off the road*  
Wildcare can be contacted on 62991966 for help and advice. - Philip Machin, for Wildcare



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### *From the Corner*

**Signage**—Coincidentally, I’ve had two calls recently from people who have ‘bumped up against’ council’s signage regulations. The two situations were quite different, but the problematic regulation was effectively the same.

The simple fact is that *signage*, as defined under the NSW Standard Instrument, the template for all NSW Local Environmental Plans (LEPs), is prohibited under both the Queanbeyan and Palerang LEPs in essentially all but commercial and industrial areas. Nonetheless, the Exempt and Complying Development Codes State Environmental Planning Policy (the so-called Codes SEPP), an overriding piece of legislation, exempts certain types of signage from this prohibition, so lets look at the details here.

One resident was in the process of selling his property and, as is often the case in our rural areas, the property was located on a road that did not carry through traffic. As such, it seemed quite logical that a sign located at the intersection of his road with a connecting through road, might well attract the attention of more potential purchasers, all the more so because there were already several signs advertising real estate in exactly this way at the intended location.

Few of us would think this an unreasonable idea, or imagine that this might not be acceptable practice, given the number of real estate signs or various boards advertising businesses or local events that we see around, in our rural areas in particular. The unfortunate reality, however, is that many of these are actually illegal, although quite clearly under legislation that is not very actively enforced. Enforcement almost invariably only occurs following a complaint. Council is then obliged to take appropriate action, which, in the first instance, is usually just to request that the signage be removed or moved to a permitted location.

In the present case, the resident wasn’t actually complaining about the existing signs, nor did he want them removed, he just wanted his real estate agent to be permitted to display a sign in the same location—being aware of the applicable regulations, his real estate agent had advised that this was not possible. Unfortunately, none of the signs were actually permitted, and council’s only option was to seek removal of them all.

To comply with Division 2, Subdivision 12 of the Codes SEPP, and thus be permitted without council consent, a real estate advertisement must, amongst other specific requirements, be *located on the property for sale or on the site of the property for sale*.

The second case arose during the lead-up to our recent federal election. In this case, the resident lived in an urban area and had placed an electoral advertising sign in his front yard.

To be exempt from council approval, however, even election signage must comply with the standards articulated in the Codes SEPP, in this case those under Division 2, Subdivision 13. These not only relate to the size and location of the sign, but also to timing, relative to the date of the election involved—five weeks before the date of the election, and one week after.

In the present case, the sign was ‘somewhat larger’ than was permissible under the SEPP, and the resident received notice from council to address the matter—remove the sign or seek formal development approval. The resident thought it was ridiculous that council would go to the trouble of writing a formal letter requesting that a sign be removed when it was obvious that the sign was only temporary in any case.

At this point it’s worth noting again that council’s action only followed receipt of a complaint. In such cases, regardless of how trivial the prohibited activity may appear to be, council staff are obliged to investigate and, if necessary, issue directions or take action in relation to that activity.

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

Signage (June, 2019)

Cr Pete Harrison, Ph. 6238 3640, Mob. 0427 711 028, Email: [contact@peteharrison.id.au](mailto:contact@peteharrison.id.au), Website: [www.peteharrison.id.au](http://www.peteharrison.id.au)  
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## Smiths Gap: its history and naming

By David McDonald, email david [at] dnmcdonald.id.au, phone 0416 231 860

In the early days of European settlement of the Wamboin/Bywong area (characterised as the wild country in the ranges at the head of Brooks Creek) which commenced in earnest in the 1860s once people were permitted to occupy unsurveyed land by means of conditional purchases (i.e. by selection), there was no route for wheeled vehicles from our area down into Bungendore: 'Although a surveyed road from Bungendore to Gundaroo ran close to the settlement, communications were inconvenient because the pass through Smith's (*sic*) Gap which today simplifies travel from Bungendore through Wyanga to the modern Federal Highway was not then in existence. With Bungendore only a few miles away, the only link was by horseback or on foot. To the north it was far easier to travel to Gundaroo, about sixteen miles distant, and westward there was a rough track connecting with the busy town of Queanbeyan' (Lea-Scarlett 1972, p. 7).



I am sure that all would agree that Smiths Gap is a prominent geographical feature: a gap in the Lake George Range through which Bungendore Road runs. It is a point where three different fault lines intersect on the edge of the Range. The current road cutting, and the wall of the quarry, reveal the complicated folding of the gap's ancient sedimentary rocks: Ordovician turbidites of the Pittman Formation, deposited in the deep ocean to the east of the Gondwana super-continent 460-444 million years ago. It is the only gap in the Lake George Range, through which a public road runs, between Gearys Gap and the ACT border.

Although we do not know the Aboriginal name for the gap, there would certainly have been an Aboriginal walking track through it, providing a route from the headwaters of Brooks Creek down to the highly productive Lake George plain.

The first record that I have found of the use of the name 'Smiths Gap' is in the *New South Wales Government Gazette* of 7 May 1867, page 1144: 'BUNGENDORE.—Impounded at Bungendore, on the 3rd day of May, 1867, from Smith's Gap: damages, 1s.:—One red snail-horned bullock, top off both ears, white spots on both flanks, small white spot in forehead, illegible brand off rump, like blotch brand or whip mark near rump. If not released, will be sold according to Impounding Act. J. WILLIAMS, Poundkeeper. 2270 Is.'

In 1870 the colonial government had the first road constructed through the gap, although it was on a different alignment from the current road: *Queanbeyan Age*, 18 August 1870, page 3: 'Tenders Wanted FOR the CUTTING and FORMING of the ROAD known as SMITH'S GAP, near Bungendore. Plan and specification can be seen at Mr. McMahan's, Bungendore; or, at Mr Donnelly's, Bywong Gundaroo. Tenders to be opened at noon on the 20th August at Mr Leahy's, Gundaroo. Trustees. ALEX. McCLUNG J. McMAHON P. B. DONNELLY'

The completion of a road through the gap greatly facilitated transportation between Bungendore and Gundaroo. The road was known as Gundaroo Road. The name was changed to Bungendore Road in recent decades because (I am advised by an informant who has lived in the local area for many years) the name duplicated that of the nearby, pre-existing Gundaroo Road that connects Sutton, Gundaroo and Gunning.

Apparently, the design of the road through the gap did not have traveller safety as a prominent consideration: *Goulburn Herald and Chronicle*, 13 November 1878, page 4: 'BUNGENDORE\_...On Thursday last Mr. David Gordon, in company with his sister and her two children, were proceeding on their way from here [Bungendore] to Top Flat, and when about half-way up the hill the horse suddenly refused to pull, the consequence being that the cart ran backward, and before Mr. Gordon had time to jump out it was capsized over the edge of the cutting into the gully. How they escaped instant death seems marvellous, as they were all under the cart, which had fallen some six feet over the edge of the cutting. With great difficulty Mr. Gordon succeeded in extricating himself, and at once set to work to free his sister and the children from their perilous position. This he effected by getting on the upper side and giving the cart another turn down the hill. He fully expected to find them dead, as he had also a bag of flour and one of sugar in the cart; but I am glad to state that beyond receiving a severe shaking they are but little worse for the mis hap. This piece of road is in a most dangerous condition and should certainly be made more secure or some lives will be lost. About two years since a dray loaded with wheat went over within a few yards of the same spot. I should strongly advise the inhabitants of that part of our district to call a meeting and urge upon the authorities the necessity of erecting a substantial fence throughout the whole length of the cutting. It would not cost a great sum, and might be the means of saving life.'

'Top Flat' apparently was the area where the Smiths' property was located, in the vicinity of what is now Forest Lane, Bywong. David Gordon's daughter, Janet Smith, lived there. The Gordon family came from Rossi.

A decade later another mishap occurred in the gap, as reported in the *Goulburn Herald*, 14 August 1888, page 3: 'Mr. B. Leahy and Mr. Hayes met with an accident coming down Smith's Gap on Thursday last. Just as they were about a hundred yards down the hill in the steepest part the horse they had began kicking. Mr. Leahy, who was driving, ran the horse into the bank of the cutting. The buggy capsized and threw both occupants out. The horse managed to get clear of the buggy and bolted down the hill. Beyond a good shaking neither of the occupants was hurt. August 12.'

'Mr B. Leahy' is probably Blenner Patrick Leahy who had selections at the top of the range and other parts of the parishes of Wamboin and Bywong. The Leahy family took up many selections in our area and, in subsequent years, consolidated them and others to establish the 'Clare' property, with its homestead on what is now Clare Lane. 'Mr. Hayes' was probably William John Harwood Hayes, the Post and Telegraph Master at Bungendore 1886-1888.

The 'Smith' after whom the gap appears to be named is William John Smith: *Goulburn Evening Penny Post*, 10 June 1916, page 5, my emphasis: 'Mrs. Ellen Jane Smith, a very old resident, died at her son's residence on Wednesday morning. The old lady was 93 years of age and had been ailing for some time. Her husband, Mr. William Smith, predeceased her by very many

years, and was one of the early settlers over the range on the Bungendore-Gundaroo road. **The steep hill was called Smith's Gap after the late Mr. Smith.** Mr. and Mrs. Smith left a large family and numerous relations around this part. The remains were interred in the C.E. Cemetery on Thursday afternoon, and were followed to the grave by a large gathering.'

William John Smith was born in 1824 in Liverpool, NSW, and died at Bungendore in 1896, where he was buried. Both his parents were convicts; they moved, with their children, from Sydney to Creekborough (Bywong) in 1829. He married Ellen Jane McEnally (1823-1916) in 1846 in Braidwood. In 1847 he inherited his father's land at the top of the gap, and in the 1870s and 1880s added adjacent selections to it. As suggested above, it seems that the Smith's property, and/or its locality, were called 'Top Flat'. His descendants are active contributors to the Bungendore History Facebook group.

Despite the community at large, and Council in official documents and signage, referring to the feature as 'Smiths Gap', the Geographic Names Board advises that it has never been registered as an official Geographic Name. Last October I approached QPRC staff, requesting that they support my proposal to have the NSW Geographic Names Board register the name, and at its meeting on 22 May 2019 Council resolved to initiate the naming process.

Perhaps soon, after over 150 years of usage, Smiths Gap's name will become official!

References:

Brownlow, R & Jones, M c. 2012, *Descendants of John Smith*, Graeme Challinor's Genealogy Pages, Gundaroo, NSW, <https://www.gundaroo.info/genealogy/>,

Finlayson, D. M. (compiler) 2008, *A geological guide to Canberra region and Namadgi National Park*, Geological Society of Australia (ACT Division), Canberra.

Lea-Scarlett, E 1972, 'Magnum Bonum Plumb—terror of the Australian bush. A study of the teaching career of Samuel Edmonstone Plumb', *Descent*, vol. 6, pt. 1, T. D. Mutch Memorial Lecture, read before the Society of Australian Genealogists, 17 August 1972, pp. 3-29.

Note: the online version of this article, that will be published at <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/localhistory/>, will contain more information on the Smith and related families, and the development of the road through the gap in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and up to the present time.

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## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

At last I've found a "piece of peace", something my mother in law used to crave when our happy bubble arrived on her doorstep to enrich her life for the duration of the school holidays. She would find her "piece" most afternoons if she were lucky, wrapped in her chair, a well policed jar of Cool Mints beside her and "Days of our Drearies" unfolding at glacial pace on the TV in front of her. Occasionally she'd indulge in a cigarette. Our tonic, perhaps, had been a little too potent that day!

But nothing really changes, except in those days we'd head north to Queensland. Nowadays the lively lads arrive from Queensland. It is school holidays! The quiet, orderly life of two retirees on 20 acres is turned on its head.

First stop on arrival is a reconnaissance of the house. Everything has to be in its place; nothing new, nothing awry, let the holidays begin.

It starts with an "Eat Fest"; forbidden fruits like full cream milk, cakes, biscuits and lashings of buttered toast spread thickly with home made jam is the order of the day, but they soon settle down. And Grandma does, too, with deep sighs that grow deeper, longer and more meaningful. Once the goodies have gone, that's it!

Then their focus expands; the chook yard, worm farm, camp fires, cubbies, bush walks and exploration. Being companionable, but not really helpful with planting the last of the native tube stocks in the stubborn shale, leads to discussions about how much carbon is sequestered from our area of trees. Recycling and conservation of energy become a hot topic. "Shut the door, you're letting out the heat. Turn off the light. You've had enough time in the shower to wash a whole army!" Theory is simple, putting it into practice is harder.

Following in our parents' footsteps, we've always been conscious of recycling. In the early 80s our kids got a brand new bike to share; state of the art, bright yellow, cross country tyres and a hand brake. They pushed it up hills and along rough tracks and hurtled down gullies with glee, developing shapely calves and thighs of steel. It followed us around and eventually arrived in Wamboin where it faithfully served the next generation. But some things do change. This yellow bike... shock, horror... did not have a set of gears, and it weighed a ton! We finally had to accept that the youngest grandchild, now severely disadvantaged as he lined up with his helmeted grandparents on their multi geared, light weight machines, had out grown the vintage yellow! What were we to do?

This is when the well oiled Wamboin network came to the rescue. A note in a letter box, a brief discussion at the markets and a smart, almost new orange bike with many gears arrived from a third party. "Just like my bike at home." It was a bike with which we were not unfamiliar. A couple of years earlier we had found an orange bike, obviously stolen and dumped, in the bushes

off the road. We were wrong. It hadn't been stolen, just parked there by its owner, and "overlooked" for a while! It was reclaimed; bikes are expensive, and kids seem to outgrow the most expensive bikes even faster than the cheaper ones. It is good to be able to pass them on, to recycle them and keep the wheels turning.

The "new" bike put a huge smile on a young lad's face as he sped off!

And from this it was suggested that we should think about a "Two Wheels of Wamboin", a bike swap at the Markets one Saturday in the future.

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



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