

The **Mhisper**

August 2019 CIRCULATION: 1,330

Wamboin Community Assn: www.wamboincommunity.asn.au
www.bywongcommunity.org.au
https://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 medocal@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 September 2019 issue issue is 7 pm Sunday night, August 25. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the new month and is also available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au.

LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial Triple Zero (000) All Hours Bungendore Police: 6238 1244 Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre: 0409 991 340 Ambulance Bookings: 131233 LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

Wamboin Community Assn	Peter Evans, President	6236 9779	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Bywong Community	Mike Wilkins, President		president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade	Matt O'Brien, Captain	0409 991 340	wamboincaptain@gmail.com
Wamboin Markets	Lance and Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	Lmsconsulting@bigpond.com
Sutton School Playgroup	Belinda Robinson, Convenor	0422 262 426	BRobinson35@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	Jules Clancy, Convener	0439 586 188	wamboinplaygroup@gmail.com
Bywong Hall Bookings	Bookings Officer, contact		lrrhallbywong@gmail.com
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	joan.mason@internode.on.net
Church - Anglican	Bronwyn Elliott, Warden	6238 3359	
KYB Bible Study Group	Yvonne Barrett, contact	6230 3539	
Golf	Peter Greenwood, Golfer	6238 3358	p.greenwood2@bigpond.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare, Helpline	6299 1966	
Wonderful Wmen of Wmb	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	Whirlwind1@argonite.com.au
Lake George VIEW Club	Pauline Segeri, contact	6238 1996	
Wambn/Bngndr Book Group	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	Sally.saunders1@bigpond.com
Wamboin Thurs Social Grp	Denise Hales, contact	0400 310 685	deniselynnehales40@gmail.com
Table Tennis	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	mikemuston@gmail.com

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Curry Night Sat 17 Aug, 7.00 for 7.30, Wamboin Hall, Bkngs to dave.hubbard@bigpond.com

Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks 5:30 pm Saturday 31 August Wamboin Hall

Wamboin Community Association's Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display

by Fireworks Australia

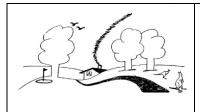
Wamboin Community Centre, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin. Saturday 31 August 2019 Food stalls from 5.30 Bonfire lit at 6.33 and Fireworks light-up 7.03 precisely

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.

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.

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

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



Wamboin Community Association Presidents Paragraphs "Bonfire and Fireworks"



The 2019 Bonfire and Fireworks Night - This year's bonfire and fireworks night will be held on <u>Saturday 31 August</u> weather permitting (keep an eye on our facebook page for updates). The night has been brought forward this year to avoid any early declaration of the fire season in what's tipped to be a dry spring. 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 and the fun. Food and drinks from 5:30pm at Wamboin Community Hall. Bring your friends along for a true country night out (remember everything is cash only).

Home Produce Market – The markets are now in winter shutdown (next one in September).

Spring Talks – we are once again in planning for the very popular spring talk's series commencing in September and running for October and November. Next month we will announce our guest speakers but Community members are very much invited to suggest interesting topics or speakers.

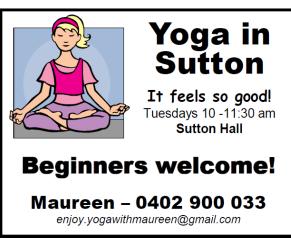
Wamboin Social Drop-In Group – the drop in group is on 10am - 12 noon every Thursday. Drop into the Wamboin Community Hall for morning tea and social activities. Everyone is welcome.

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 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 20 August 2019 at 7.30 pm at the Wamboin Community Hall. We are Wamboiw! ~ Peter Evans - President.









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Christmas

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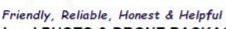


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Bywong Community Association News – August 2019 Annual General Meeting – Bywong needs YOU!

Thursday 19th September 7:30pm at the Bywong Hall, Birriwa Road. Refreshments provided.

The Bywong Community Association organises a number of events each year to bring the community together, including the Car Boot Sale, the Trivia Night and the Christmas Gathering. We also raise funds from the sale of local artwork (postcards and teatowels) and use these funds to benefit the community and to add to our local facilities, such as the amazing playground at the Bywong Hall.

Bywong needs YOU! We are an enthusiastic group, but few in number, which limits our potential. So, if you have ideas and energy to help organise and participate in community activities, we invite you to join us! You can become a Member for free (form below), or can also join the Committee (form also below). If you would like to find out more, please email president@bywongcommunity.org.au, or just come along to the AGM.

All Committee positions become vacant at the AGM. If you would like to join the Committee, please email secretary@bywongcommunity.org.au to nominate for a position.

Bywong Trivia Night 2019 BCA hosted another very successful Trivia Night on Saturday 20 July. The Hall was packed, the questions were challenging and the soups were satisfying! Special thanks go to: Steve for painstakingly organizing the trivia questions and onscreen presentation; JP Favre for his entertaining MC-ing; Prof John Rayner for his scientific demonstrations and insights; and to the wonderful Souper Stars for concocting such tasty offerings!

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 <u>after</u> the network has been laid you may be connected to the network earlier than otherwise

you will receive news updates.

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 and **BCA Facebook Page**, where we welcome YOU to contribute your ideas and/or get involved.

-Mike Wilkins, President, Bywong Community Association, 0417-458-320 Email: president@bywongcommunity.org.au



SZT Rural is a small, locally owned business in the Carwoola area. We offer a range of services for small and large property owners including:

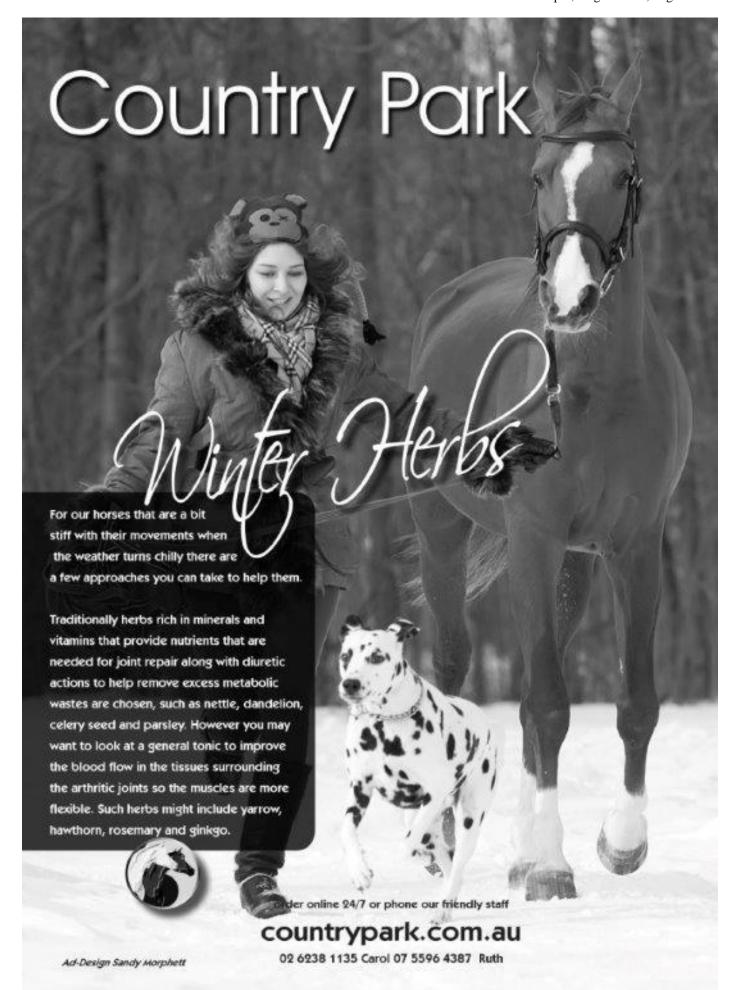
- Spot spraying Twin 100m remote reels with 1000l tank with up to 2 qualified operators.
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- All types of Fencing construction, repairs and electric fence maintenance.
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WAMBOIN PLAYGROUP

We welcome everyone in our community and cater for children aged 0-5years.

TUESDAYS 10am - 12pm Wamboin Community Hall Enquiries: Jules Clancy wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com 0439 586 188



The Wamboin Firefighter

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS



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.

GET READY WEEKEND S

SUNDAY 15th SEPTEMBER

HOW FIREPROOF IS YOUR PLAN

Meet your local firefighter at the Wamboin Rural Fire Service Station, Bingley Way Wamboin on Sunday 15th of September.

CONDITIONS: Drought conditions are continuing to affect most of NSW, with little prospect of relief over the next few months. Approximately 98 percent of NSW is drought affected, with an intense drought impacting large parts of our state. Latest forecasts by the Bureau of Meteorology are pointing to warmer and drier than average conditions continuing through winter and into spring. Forest fuels across large areas of the state (including in our area) are currently drier than normal for this time of the year, and without significant rainfall we maybe likely to commence our fire season earlier than normal.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE BUSHFIRE DANGER PERIOD

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

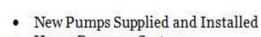
Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au

NSW Rural Fire Service www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Wamboin Brigade Captain wamboincaptain@gmail.com or 0409 991 340

Queanbeyan Fire Control 6128 0600

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Wamboin Community Association Inc. (WCA) 16 July 2019 General Meeting

The meeting was chaired by WCA President, Peter Evans. Participants heard from WCA Committee and general members, as well as representatives of 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

Council: the President reported that he had earlier that day held one of his regular meetings with the QPRC Mayor, Cr Tim Overall. Matters discussed included community transport, a local cemetery, dangers inherent in roadside vegetation, and the need for reconstruction/repairs of some of the roads in the local area. Discussion took place about the draft Bungendore Structural Plan 2018-2048; the consultation period closes on 21 August. It includes proposals for upgrading Bungendore Road and downgrading Macs Reef Road to a local road with significant traffic calming.

The Whisper: editor Ned Noel thanked all who had contributed by writing for, advertising in or delivering the June *Whisper*, noting that more than 100 people are involved in the process each month.

St Andrew's Church: Bronwyn Elliott advised that, since June had five Sundays, on the 23rd a combined service took place at Gundaroo between members of the Wamboin and Sutton Anglican congregations and a range of other denominations. The value of such inter-denominational events was highlighted.

Wamboin Pony Club: Peter Evans reported on the late-June Mounted Games that were held at Bungendore and managed by the Wamboin Club. It was a very successful event, although some of the prominent senior riders are now reaching the end of their membership period. Currently, two members of the Club are in Wales as part of the Australian team at the World Mounted Games Championships. The meeting wished them well in the competition.

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

Spring Talks: the meeting was advised that the WCA Committee is developing the program for the 2019 Spring Talks series, building on the great interest that the community has shown in these over the last couple of years. Community members are invited to suggest topics or speakers.

Next meeting: the WCA meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except January) at 7:30 pm at the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 20 August 2019. All welcome.

Contact: David McDonald, Secretary, Wamboin Community Association, Inc., secretary@wamboincommunity.asn.au, ph. 0416231890.





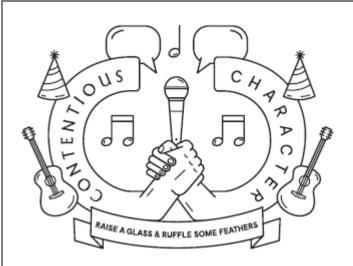
Wamboin Golf – July 2019

Sunday, 7 July. You may be able to help me. Your correspondent was updating his blog, *AlmostTheTruth*, to provide an alternative perspective. My antithesis, using the Hegelian Dialectic, has it that the putative Hell-bound would not reach their destination. Anyway, to cut to the chase, my ISP threatens to shut down my blogsite for expressing views contrary to its social policy. It's my intention to sue the pants off them for denying me freedom of expression. GoFundMe says the subject matter doesn't qualify for crowd-funding so I'm making a direct appeal to the public. Readers who wish to support the freedom of the press may send their donations to A/c No. LK47, Gnomes of Zurich Bank, Jarlsberg M16, Switzerland. Please note that funds will be used at my total discretion. If dissatisfied please contact #GoFindMe.

Ah, yes. Golf. Well, it was the NotSoDryJuly Stableford comp sponsored by L&L King whom we thank for the prizes and eats. The day was typical for the end of the beginning of the middle of Winter: middling cold. Singing "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas in July" we rugged up, donned our snowshoes, straddled our Ski-Doos and, like Scott of the Antarctic, set off with gritted teeth into the blizzard. Back in the tent with the wind beating a staccato tattoo as it sprinted across the roof's corrugations, acting captain Mr L Mason did the tally while the vast crowd amused itself by reviewing SnoMo's efforts to broker a truce in the trade war at the G20 meeting in Japan (where he's known as SuMo or SudoKo). We gave him a tick for having a go. Which is more than you could give the Brumbies who didn't even turn up. Apparently the bus driver got lost. The captain introduced our guests, Ash Wednesday and Wensley Dale. Ted Evans told us how they'd exhumed that dead barista: he was decoffinated. The googly ball was awarded to the thirsty golfer (name withheld) who sliced his tee shot from Memorial Drive into the Hall in search of bottled goods. The dummy spit went to Tim Barter for whinging about a par 3 which should have been a birdie. Some people! NTP and LD ball winners were Tim Barter 4, Vicki Still 3 (hmmm), Pete Harrison and Samuel Urquhart. The junior comp was won by Phoebe Beckett. Winner of the nine hole comp was Samantha Urquhart on 35 Stableford points (call the police!) from Samuel Urquhart 22 points. Winner of the 18 hole comp was Vicki Still 36 points from David Bailey 34. Well played all.



Next month, August by name, will feature the eminent or venerable competition synonymic of the month. Join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 4 August for the customary 12.30pm charge for the line. Meanwhile think about this: what does the new leader of the federal opposition and the lateral epicondyle of the humerus have in common? First neatest correct entry wins a box of recycled golf balls. And thanks, Jean-Pierre Favre, for the kind words. They were balm to this poor scribbler's soul. - Larry King, golfer



Happy Thursday!

From Thursday 8th August, we'll be open for Happy Thursday nights, and if you're game join Calamity Jane, for a game of Trivia.

Happy Hour 5- 7pm, seasonal pizza, pasta, and much more!

Book a table as usual, warm up, and have a laugh with Calamity Jane!

Nature Notes July 2019 Jo Walker

After a month of above average daytime temperatures and very little rain the countryside continues to dry out. The eucalypts and the larger shrubs have been putting on a lot of new growth and look green and healthy – but the grasses, herbaceous plants and small shrubs are struggling.

My place slopes in all directions so there are some soakage areas and shaded places where mosses are providing some welcome patches of bright green. And the wattles will be contributing gold soon as some of the Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) are just beginning to flower here and there.

One plant that seems to be doing very well this year is *Diplodium truncatum* (Little Dumpy Orchid). This one doesn't flower until February and beyond, but its leaves appear as clusters of rosettes at this time of the year. It grows in heavy, often shallow soil and seems to do well in this area. Several populations here are over a metre wide. They don't necessarily flower every year waiting, like most orchid species, for the conditions that suit them. But, occasionally they put on a good display of flowers which look like elongated helmets striped white and brownish -green. Many years ago I came across a wide, packed cluster of these little orchids and it looked rather like a conference of gnomes!

There are enough moist areas here where there is a bit of soakage through the soil for the leaves of Billy Buttons (*Craspedia variabilis*) to have made an appearance. And the thin, delicate young leaves of Early Nancy plants (*Wurmbea dioica*) came up after just enough rainfall a few weeks ago.

The drier north-facing slopes are not faring as well. Even the tough Red-anther Wallaby Grass (*Rhytidosperma pallida*) is dying. This seems to be happening all along the roadsides at the western side of Wamboin too. From near Valley View Lane eastwards this grass seems to be doing much better. A bit more rain that side or slightly deeper soil? Our local plants seem quite tough, but some of them are possibly beginning to reach their limits of tolerance of increasing dryness.

The Eastern Spinebills are enjoying the nectar of the Grevillea flowers at present. But there are not a lot of small insectenting birds around. It is winter — but the birds used to find insects sheltering under bark or developing in rotting logs, but there is very little there for them now. I did recently see a small flock of Yellow-rumped Thornbills (about ten birds) but there used to be many more around.

One of the Magpies, however, is looking on the bright side and has decided it's spring. A week or so ago, it was picking up some sticks before flying up to a tall eucalypt on the hill.

One insect that seems to be doing okay is the Meat Ant (*Iridomyrmex* sp.) which builds those large mounds covered in fine gravel. They feed on sweet substances and tiny fruits including those of *Einadia nutans* (Nodding or Climbing Saltbush), a common plant in the area. I once noticed a line of tiny bright red dots moving through a grassy area, and, on inspection, it turned out to be Meat Ants marching along one of their narrow paths, each one carrying a tiny *Einadia* fruit. The Meat Ants seem to be a substantial part of the Echidnas' dietary requirements and there are some cave-like excavations in some of the nests this winter.

There are a few clouds gathering in the distance as I write this, but they seem intent on drifting past Wamboin.

Matt O'Brien Solicitor

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WAMBOIN WEATHER: (rainfall and temperature records)

44 years from Cooper Road by Christine Rieber

July Rainfall Stats July rainfall to the 28 th	Average July rainfall
August Rainfall Stats	
2018 August rainfall 41.75mm	Average August rainfall 53.8mm
Wettest August 170.5mm in 1985	Average no. rain days in August 10.1
Wettest August day 35mm on 7/8/85	Highest no. rain days 17 in 1981
Driest August 5.5mm in 1994	Lowest no. rain days. 3 in 1994 & 1995
August Temperature Stats	Av. Aug. temp. 6.4°C (day+night comb.)
Hottest August day 20°C on 31/8/82	Coldest August day 3°C on 5/8/15
Hottest August night 13°C on 26/8/95	Coldest August night5°C (6 times) 18/8/10, 2014 (4 times), 4/8/15
Average day temperature	Average night temperature 2.3°C Coldest August 2012
Av. day temp. 13.8°C & nights 4.2°C (highest night 4.5°C in 1995)	Av. day temp. 8.0°C & nights -1.0°C Aug. 2018. Av. max 12.9°C & min 0.8°C

Rainfall to the end of July 2019 is the 7th driest with just 66% of the 43 year average. We gain 1 extra hour of daylight during August (from 10.2 to 11.2 hours). The six coldest weeks following the winter solstice end on 2nd August

Be prepared for stormy weather.

With storms, floods and cyclone season fast approaching, it's timely to think about the protection of your home, contents or investment property.

And knowing your biggest assets are properly covered is important.

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How the Whisper Happens Each Month

"It takes about an hour and a half" says John van der Straaten about the monthly task of distributing batches of between 3 and 48 Whispers to 15 other residents who then deliver them to mailboxes. John and Pearl are moving from Wamboin in a couple of months. Is there anyone who would be willing to take on half of this monthly task? I think it would be best split into two, because John "distributed" more batches to "deliverers" than anyone else in the list below. If so, could you please contact John on 6238 3490 or email him at inpvds@bigpond.net.au or me on 6238 3484 via nednoel@optusnet.com.au. Most of all I thank John for carrying out this task, for many years. These efforts, along with many, many other ways he has contributed to Wamboin and Bywong community life, have helped make living out here enjoyable.

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	del Norton (Weerona to Hilltop+Wirndra)		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 Nrtn 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 ½ 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					
	BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425 lodes						
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&ncldgCrkBRd	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 email nednoel@optusnet.com.au						
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 & ncldg Smmrhill)	38		
Advertisers & Misc	Out of area advertiser mailouts	30					
TOTAL 1,330							



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Bonfire And Fireworks Night - Bonfire Fuel Still 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.



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National Landcare Program – 13 August 2019

On 13 August, Vanessa Whelan and Sue Bestow will come and talk with Sutton landcare about the National Landcare program. They both work for the Department of Agriculture and together with their colleagues, they are delivering the \$1billion National Landcare Program (NLP). Their talk at the Sutton Landcare Group titled '*Protected and Productive Environments*' will focus on the agricultural component of the NLP. They will present some background information on the program, looking at Landcare's journey so far, what it has achieved and what this next phase of the program is looking to deliver. They will discuss the two main elements of the NLP, the Regional Land Partnerships component, which is delivered through a network of 54 Management Units nationally and the Smart Farms component, which is currently supporting over 200 projects Australia wide, and there are more to come. Their talk will also give examples of Landcare work being done locally and other work that is relevant to the Sutton area.

There will also be plenty of opportunity to ask questions about Landcare, so you are encouraged to attend and take this opportunity to talk to representatives of the government directly. The meeting will start at 7.30 at the Sutton Primary School. It will be followed by supper, and an opportunity to ask questions, and talk with other people from our community. We hope to see you there. -- Arnold Dekker – Coordinator Sutton Landcare Group.

Can You Write Something for the September 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. It should be related to living in our two rural residential communities. The main guideline is to 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 September issue is last Sunday night of August, so 7 pm August 25. Email to either whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or nednoel@optusnet.com.au, - Ned Noel, volunteer editor, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, ph 6238 3484



Kowen Moonliahter

Saturday 7 September 2019

7.55 km

Double loop 15.1 km

Triple loop 22.65 km 6.00 pm 6 hour Solo 6.00 pm 12 hour Solo or Relay 6.00 pm

The September Kowen Moonlighter race is set for Saturday 7 September 2019. This Kowen Trail Run event offers participants a unique night trail running experience.

Starting and finishing at the Wamboin Community Hall all events take runners along a 7.55 km loop into eucalyptus forested single track and fire trails. There is a choice of three short distances or for those who want more, there is the 6 or 12 hour Ultra Marathon event.

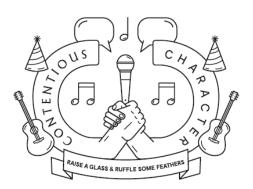
Short race entries include a vegetable soup or sausage sandwich to enjoy after the events. The 6 and 12 hour entries will include hot food during the night and hot porridge or a bacon and egg sandwich for breakfast after the event.

There will be music, warm fires, hot food for sale and lots of fun so bring some friends to join this unforgettable night trail run. All proceeds from the event will go to the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade.

To enter and for more information please visit our website or Facebook page.

Race entries close Midnight Thursday 5 September 2019.





Pig & Pinot Night 23 August from 6pm

Indulge yourself on a feast like no peasant. The feast for our Lords and Ladies \$40pp. Diners will be served at the bbq station by our culinary director Tom Stoneham and served some delicious Dewsbury slow cooked house smoked suckling pig where Tom and our in resident smoker Jonathan has spent all day roasting, accompanied with a selection of sides.

Lords & Ladies menu: Smoked and slow roasted Dewsbury pork roll. A selection of apple sauce or gravy. House smoked roasted potatoes and side of apple slaw.

The Ultimate King & Queens feast \$80pp. Be treated like royalty as you feast on a very extravagant pig experience. As royalty, you will be served and waited on by your Contentious Character team for the entire night. Add in a drinks package to complete your royal experience.

Kings & Queen menu. Crumbed Dewsbury ham hock, pea veloute. Johnathan's house smoked bacon and spinach pizza. Smoked and slow roasted Dewsbury pork roll. A selection of apple sauce or gravy. House smoked roasted potatoes and side of apple slaw. Salted caramel pannacotta, apple sorbet.

Add a 3 hour unlimited drinks package: Over 18 - Contentious selection of Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir and house beer \$65pp. Under 18 - soft drinks, filtered and sparkling water & hot drinks \$25pp.

A La Carte dine in or takeaway: For our lords and ladies, we also have an A La Carte menu available for those who wish eat like pigs and warm their winter cockles even more! Crumbed Dewsbury ham hock, pea veloute \$14. Fill up with the full affair. Pea and Dewsbury ham risotto \$26. Johnathan's house smoked bacon and spinach pizza \$26. Dewsbury pork sausage and rosemary pizza \$26. Classic margarita pizza \$22. Finish of Salted caramel pannacotta, apple sorbet \$14

Special Contentious Character and Founders Museum Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir will be available by the glass or bottle on the night.

Don't be afraid to arrive dressed up to meet the occasion and go in the draw to win Contentious Character prize for the best dressed of the night. Think the middle ages and be as creative as you desire!!

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Tanja Mitton - 'When you learn how David Stuart - 25-27 Oct 2019 to get out of your head, you can connect more deeply with your horse' Clinic 31 Aug - 1 Sept 2019 Bookings:

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Sabine Holle - Rider Biomechanics/ Free Your Horse to Move 28-29 Sept 2019 Bookings:

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Wildlife Close Encounters

Anyone else seen wallabies on their place? I live in Hogan Drive Wamboin. Never had them here before. One of them had very yellow fur on its back around its back legs.

On a different note, I wish some drivers would have more patience for cars driving more slowly at night. Driving up to our back bumper bar with headlights on high beam is not going to make us drive faster. We got one car being repaired now after a crash with a roo and can't afford another repair bill!! Thank you!! – Anneke O'Halloran

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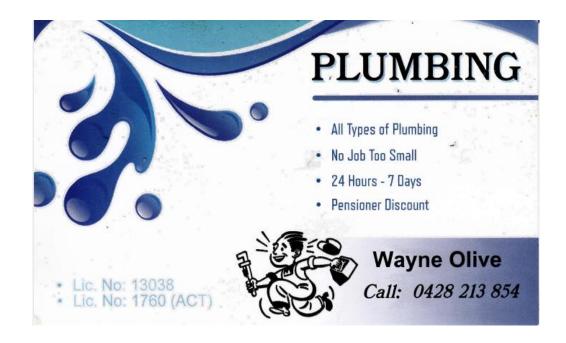
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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

Recently I travelled to South Africa for a holiday, whilst there I saw many unusual and interesting birds that we don't have here. For a change I thought I would select one group, the bulbuls which are not native to Australia for this month.

Bulbuls (Family *Pyconotidae*)

Bulbuls are a large group of birds with 150 species, that are native to Africa and Asia, including the Middle-East, many species are widespread and common. When I was in South Africa, I saw 2 species. The most common one was the Dark-capped Bulbul (Pycnonotus tricolor), which we saw nearly every day. We also saw the very similar African Red-eyed Bulbul (Pycnonotus nigricans), which differs only in having red (not black) around the eye. When I came home, I decided to find out why bulbuls do not occur in Australia. The reason is that they were unable to cross over Wallace's Line. This line runs through Indonesia, and marks the boundary where many species of animals including monkeys and birds such as barbets and woodpeckers, were not able to naturally cross over from Asia to New Guinea and Australia. But unfortunately, 2 species of bulbuls have been deliberately introduced to Australia by people. One species did not establish in the wild (Red-vented Bulbul). The other, the Red-whiskered Bulbul (Pycnonotus jocosus) from Southern Asia, was introduced to Sydney in 1880 and Melbourne in the mid-1900's. This species of bulbul has successfully established in the wild in Australia. This pest is rapidly spreading along the east coast, both north and south, and has now been recorded as far south as Jervis Bay. There have also been a few records in Canberra, with the most recent ones being at Cook in May 2015 and at the Lanyon Shopping Centre in June 2018. It is not known if the birds in Canberra are escapees or illegal captive birds, or birds from the wild population. The Red-whiskered Bulbul has a distinctive black crest, head and chest band, brown wings, white underneath and a red ear patch and vent (under the tail). Please keep an eye out for this bird and report any sightings (with photos) to Canberra Nature Map (https://canberra.naturemapr.org/) to help keep the species out of the Canberra and Wamboin area.



Dark-capped Bulbul

African Red-eyed Bulbul

Introduced Red-whiskered Bulbul



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Wildcare's Tiger in the Lounge Room

As you may know, over the cold months our scaly reptilian friends go into a long sleep called 'brumation'. They do this so that they can wait out the cold winter; their body temperature drops; and all functions slow down so that they don't need to eat. You might come across a curled up shingleback while gardening, or a sleepy snake hidden beneath something. Eastern long-necked turtles also go into brumation over winter, and will bury themselves in the mud in dams etc.

Occasionally Wildcare receives a snake that is so badly injured that we need to keep it in care over winter. This can be a challenge, as the snake knows it is winter, but if it goes into brumation, healing will not occur – so it needs to be tricked into thinking it's still summer. In care, the snake is artificially heated with lamps and mats so that it can heal from its injuries, which



can take a long time. The snake will also be fed a (frozen, but thawed out) mouse every couple of weeks. Naturally the rehabilitation of highly venomous snakes need great care and they are held in a secure, locked, box to ensure family and public safety.

One such snake was rescued at the end of summer by two of Wildcare's experienced snake handlers (see photo). It was a challenging rescue, as it needed to be cut out, using an angle grinder. Another snake that wasn't so fortunate had died in the same entrapment. As Wildcare reptile carer, Frances Carleton, said, "it completely knotted itself in one hole. The snakes had become trapped in a metal wok ring with vent holes, which was being used as part of a plant stand in a garden".

The lucky survivor, covered in ants when found, earned the name of Sugar Ray. He had constriction wounds and a lot of scale damage, but his biggest threat was the ant poisoning. Sugar Ray didn't eat for a few weeks, but drank a

lot of water and dipped into the water to soothe his pain. He is now eating and enjoying a warm daily bath, while being kept warm at all times and continuing to heal; and will be released as soon as spring arrives. Frances explained that his "raggedy" appearance is due to shedding "one scale at a time".

Reptiles will occasionally emerge from their brumation in winter and move around, sometimes for a drink of water or to enjoy some warmth from the sun. If there are no obvious injuries or signs of illness or distress, it's best to let them be. Don't bring them inside to warm up (and keep well clear of a snake!), just place them somewhere safe, away from dogs & cats, and sheltered from birds. If you still see them a day or two later, please call Wildcare on 62991966 for help and advice.

Merran Laver, for Wildcare

Photo: Sugar Ray in rehabilitation



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Top

What is the link between the Wamboin/Bywong area and the 1804 Castle Hill rebellion? By David McDonald, email david [at] dnmcdonald.id.au, phone 0416 231 860

In the early days of the NSW colony, many of the convicts were political prisoners: Irish men who had been sentenced to transportation to the colony because of their roles in attempting to free Ireland from the oppressive British occupiers of their homeland. That's a fact, but did you learn, in school, about the Castle Hill Rebellion of 1804? In brief, as the National Museum of Australia puts it:

The Castle Hill Rebellion or 'Australia's Vinegar Hill' began on 4 March 1804. Rebel leaders — Irishmen Philip Cunningham (a veteran of the 1798 rebellion [in Ireland]) and William Johnston — aimed to overtake Parramatta and Port Jackson (Sydney), establish Irish rule and return willing convicts to Ireland.

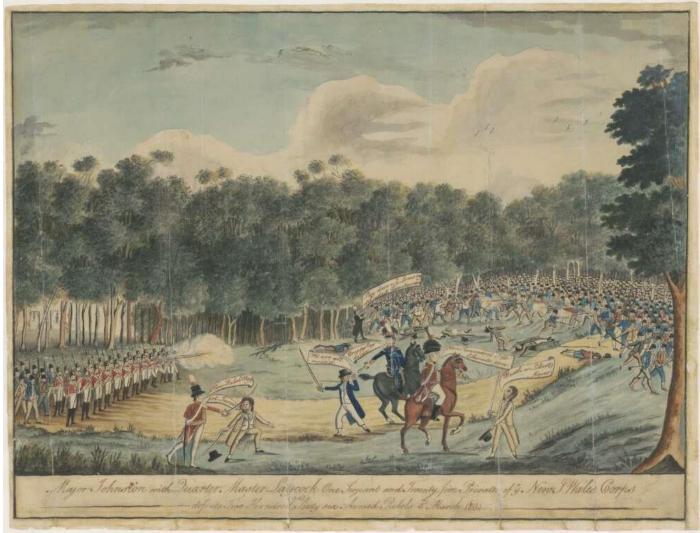
The plan involved joining with around 1000 other convicts planning to escape from the Hawkesbury region before moving on the settlements. 'Death or Liberty' was adopted by the rebels as their rallying call...

Alerted to the rebellion late in the evening, New South Wales Governor Philip Gidley King declared martial law and Major George Johnston of the New South Wales Corps organised troops and civilian volunteers from the Sydney settlement to pursue the convicts. Government forces undertook a forced march through the night until they came within a few kilometres of the rebels.

Riding ahead while the main group continued on foot, Major Johnston, trooper Thomas Anlezark and Father Dixon (a Catholic priest) attempted to convince the rebels to surrender. They met with the response: 'death or liberty, and a ship to take us home'.

When Johnston approached the convict leaders a second time, he and Trooper Anlezark took advantage of surprise caused by the sudden appearance of government troops and captured Cunningham and another rebel leader.

While retreating with Cunningham, Major Johnston ordered government forces to fire on the convicts: 15 were killed, the others scattering into the bush. At least 15 more convicts were killed in ongoing pursuits, and the majority surrendered or were recaptured.



We now focus on Trooper Thomas Anlezark. You have probably seen the famous painting of the rebellion: https://www.nma.gov.au/ data/assets/image/0015/581010/rebellion-MA46537888-1020x702.jpg. Anlezark is mounted, next to Major Johnston, and dressed in a blue military uniform. Anlezark—numerous spellings of the name exist—is an old family name derived from a place in Lancashire called Anglezarke. It is believed to be an old Norse word. Thomas was born in the UK, served as a soldier in the British army, was convicted of burglary, sentenced to death, and the sentence was commuted to transportation. He arrived at Sydney in 1802, and quickly changed his status from a common convict to a member of the military. He lived in

Liverpool for most of his time in the colony, dying there in 1834. Thomas Anlezark and his convict wife Ann Starmer had six children while living in Liverpool, the first being James Anlezark, born 1808, and the second John, born in 1812.

On 12 April 1837, James Anlezark purchased land at the top of Smiths Gap—one of the first land purchases in the Wamboin/Bywong area. It was one square mile in area (640 acres) and cost £160. The north-east corner of the block is the junction of the current The Forest Road and Forest Lane, which means that the property straddled the track that became the Gundaroo-Bungendore Road, and that we now call Bungendore Road.

Immediately after purchasing it, James Anlezark sold his block to John Smith (born 1776 in the UK, arrived Sydney as a convict in 1810, settled at Liverpool with his first wife Jane Falkland (many different spellings of her name exist)). It seems to have been a gentlemen's agreement, as no conveyancing documents recorded the sale. The Smith family moved to our area in 1829, settling at Creekborough (Bywong). Apparently, their first-born daughter, Elizabeth Jane Smith (born Liverpool 1813) stayed behind, as she married James Anlezark in Liverpool in 1830 (and died there at a young age in 1837).

On 8 May 1837, just weeks after Anlezark purchased the block and sold it on to John Smith, Smith sold the southern 250 acres (Bungendore Road is roughly its northern boundary) to William Lee. The Smith and Lee families remained prominent settlers in the area through the subsequent generations.

So, there is the link between the Castle Hill Rebellion of 1804, and the Wamboin/Bywong area: James Anlezark, who purchased the block at the top of Smith's Gap, was the son of Trooper Thomas Anlezark who played such a prominent role in putting down the rebellion. And Smith's Gap is said to be named after John Smith's son William John Smith, born 1824 in Liverpool, died 1896, and buried in Bungendore. *Notes*:

The first four editions of the Parish of Wamboin map incorrectly show John Anlezark as the purchaser of the block discussed here. The fifth edition, 1927, correctly shows James Anlezark as the first purchaser. I have seen the 1837 conveyancing documents that confirm this.

The information about James/John Anlezark's Bungendore region landholding is incorrect in Aubrey, K & Jenner, K 2011, *The story of John Anlezark & Mary Anne Doyle 1812-1889*, the authors, Hazelbrook, NSW. *References:*

Anlezark, T & Carmody, C 1988, *The Anlezarks*, the authors, Penshurst, NSW. (The information in this source about the block at the top of Smiths Gap is wrong.)

Brownlow, R & Jones, M c. 2012, Descendants of John Smith,

https://www.gundaroo.info/genealogy/other/johnsmith.doc.

McDonald, D 2019, 'Smiths Gap: its history and naming', *The Whisper*, July 2019, p. 22, https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/thewhisper/content/support/archives/2019/1907%20Whisper.pdf.

National Museum of Australia, *Castle Hill Rebellion*, https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/castle-hill-rebellion.

Whitaker, A-M 2009, *Castle Hill convict rebellion 1804*, The Dictionary of Sydney, https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/castle hill convict rebellion 1804.



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: cwaqebsecretary@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, or telephone 6297 3442.

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

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

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booking information on www.bywongcommunity.org.au. or email the booking officer at lrrhallbywong@gmail.com.

FOR HIRE:- from Wamboin Community Hall - 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, - Trestles and chairs. All damages are the responsibility of the Hirer. Must be securely tied during transportation - or they don't go! Contact person is Joan Mason 6238-3258

Whisper Advertising Rates: 1/8 A4 page \$24, 1/6 A4 page \$29, 1/4 A4 page \$35, 1/3 A4 page \$47, 1/2 A4 \$70, Full A4 page \$140

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From the Corner

Flood Planning—This may seem a somewhat irrelevant subject for those of us living in the hills around the ACT, where there's a far greater risk of bushfire than flood, but it's been a relatively quiet month on the Council front and little else worthy of discussion has surfaced, if you'll pardon the pun. Flood planning also involves a raft (there we go again) of acronyms that might benefit from some explanation.

Two items that have come before Council in the past month or so are the Floodplain Risk Management Plans for Braidwood and Queanbeyan. While the Bungendore Floodplain Risk Management Plan was presented to the Palerang Council back in 2015, the related subject of inundation due to overland flows has also been very much on the agenda in Bungendore of late.

The current approach to flood planning has its genesis in the 1955 floods along the Hunter River. Management has progressed since then from the implementation of targeted mitigation measures to the present, more uniform [across the State] strategic exercise. Typically, flood planning now focuses on potential impacts on residential areas, although a range of social, economic, cultural and environmental factors come into play in balancing the relative risks and benefits of allowing ongoing development on a floodplain.

Flood planning controls are currently applied in accordance with the Flood Planning Map within a Local Environmental Plan (LEP). The Flood Planning Areas (FPAs) identified on this map are those, invariably adjacent to a watercourse, that lie below the relevant Flood Planning Level (FPL).

Prior to the introduction of the NSW Flood Prone Land Policy in 1984, the adopted FPL was simply derived from the highest recorded flood in the relevant location. These days, sophisticated flood modelling software is used to predict the impact of flood events and FPLs are based on the calculation of Annual Exceedance Probabilities (AEPs). An AEP, expressed as a percentage, is a measure of the probability of a particular flood event occurring, or being exceeded, in any one year. A 1% AEP event is thus one that has a 1-in-100 chance of occurring in any one year, although it should be noted that the fact that such an event might occur, *on average*, once every 100 years does not mean that two or more successive events cannot occur within a much shorter period. Nonetheless, a 1% AEP event is more serious than a 2% AEP (1-in-50) event, which is more serious than a 5% AEP (1-in-20) event, and so on.

Interestingly, the ACT was one of the first jurisdictions to adopt the 1% AEP for determination of the FPL, following the Woden Valley flood in 1971 that had an AEP of around 1% and where seven lives were lost. The subsequent adoption the 1% AEP nationally followed a series of major floods, with 1% - 2% AEP, in the '70s. For anyone who can remember them, the 1974 and 1976 events in Queanbeyan reached levels slightly lower (less serious) than a 2% AEP event, while the 2010 floods in Captains Flat and Queanbeyan reached a slightly higher level (more serious) than a 5% AEP event.

Floods in Wollongong in 1984, Nyngan in 1990, Coffs Harbour in 1996, and Wollongong again in 1998 all exceeded the 1% AEP.

While the FPL is now broadly based on the 1% AEP, it usually includes some additional *freeboard*, to provide allowance for events that might exceed the 1% AEP. The appropriate amount of freeboard is usually determined by considering the level that might be reached by the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF), which is derived by modelling the impact of the Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) in the area in question. This freeboard is typically around 0.5 m, but can be more, with the result that the FPL, which is effectively the minimum floor level specified for dwellings constructed in the FPA, is typically 0.5 m above the 1% AEP.

So, to summarise, we have LEP controls that apply to FPAs determined by FPLs that are based on the 1% AEP together with the PMF that's derived from the PMP. Got it?

The QPR Blog—New or related entries in my Blog (http://peteharrison.id.au/blog) include: Flood Planning (July, 2019) Cr Pete Harrison, Ph. 6238 3640, Mob. 0427 711 028, Email: contact@peteharrison.id.au, Website: www.peteharrison.id.au

[This article is provided for information purposes only and does not represent any recommendation or formal position of the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council. Content was drawn from the *Floodplain Development Manual—the management of flood liable land*, NSW Government, 2005]







Wamboin Muse Jill Gregory

It's cold and desperately dry in the garden. The blanketing mulch is grey and lifeless, yet something is happening. The sun has started its journey south and if you look closely you can see the first daffodils spearing towards the light. A few winter iris are peeping through latticed leaves, the winter honeysuckle, alive with bees, is fragrant, and birds, big and small, their beaks stuffed with a tangle of coir matting are busy. Our chooks and ducks are aware that the days are getting longer. We are now finding a few eggs. The old girl who was long moved to the "nursing home" away from the bullies in the school yard has had a new lease on life. She's bulldozing her way through the mulch, spreading mounds of mouldering compost and practising genocide on the worm population. But she's happy and we have our reward; three eggs of pure gold!

And to this Wamboin winter landscape a group of us who has weathered many winters here gathered for lunch. Once it would have been "Dinner, 7.30 for 8pm", whatever that really meant, but nowadays we all prefer lunch. Once we would've started with a choice of mixed drinks or a "Cab Sav". Margaret Fulton's chicken liver pate, a work of art, fortified with slurps of brandy and lashings of butter, eased from an aluminium mould and capped with aspic, a creation that took the best part of a day to make would have accompanied the drinks. This time, however, we happily tucked into the supermarket version from a plastic tub and opted for bubbles; sparkling non alcoholic wine. The real red stuff languishes, gathering cobwebs in the cellar. How times change you!

The "organ recital" was over fairly quickly, and hip replacements and cataracts were put aside. Then it was to the table for first course...French Onion soup. The cut crystal sparkled in contrast to the expedient "shabby chic" table linen. The soup appeared, not au gratin this time, but at least served in real French bowls. Whatever would Margaret have thought! I hadn't needed her help when preparing the soup but her bible went on the bench out off habit; this old friend, now spineless, pages missing, others spattered and stained and some so well glued together that their instructions would never see the light of day again. It was a happy, noisy lunch.

As the afternoon shadows grew longer and we waved off the last guests, I came inside to hear the sad news.....Margaret Fulton, the doyen of seventies dinner parties, the woman who liberated us from the strictures of the CWA cookbook and taught us the joy and fun of cooking and entertaining in your own home was no longer with us. Thank you, Margaret Fulton.

Seated around a table by a roaring fire in cold, grey Wamboin it is the perfect place to share good food and good company. May it continue as the seasons change.......I wouldn't live anywhere else.



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