



September 2019 CIRCULATION: 1,331

Wamboin Community Assn: www.wamboincommunity.asn.au
Bywong Community: www.bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade: <http://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the Wamboin Community Association which started The Whisper as a community newsletter in 1981 and continues to own it. The newsletter comes out at the start of each month, except January. It is distributed to all letterboxes in Wamboin, Bywong and of Queanbeyan Palerang Council residents just southeast of the Federal Highway. Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. On contentious matters the Community Association will strive to maintain a balance. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or to nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mail them or drop them off. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before, so the deadline for the October 2019 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, September 29. 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 Women of Wmb | Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact | 0416 097 500 | Whirlwind1@argonite.com.au |
| Lake George VIEW Club | Pauline Segeri, contact | 6238 1996 | |
| Wambn/Bngndr Book Group | Sally Saunders | 0419 303 229 | Sally.saunders1@bigpond.com |
| Wamboin Thurs Social Grp | Denise Hales, contact | 0400 310 685 | deniselynnehales40@gmail.com |
| Table Tennis | Mike Muston | 0406 606 238 | mikemuston@gmail.com |

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

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

Changing Climate – Risks and Opportunities – Spring Talk – Wamboin Hall Tues 17 Sept 7:30 pm

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

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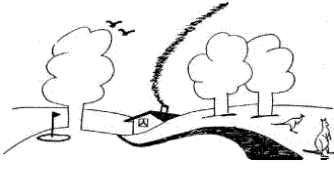


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| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  | <p>Wamboin Community Association Presidents Paragraphs Keep Calm It's Spring</p>  |  |
|---|---|---|

As the late and great Robyn Williams said "spring is nature's way of saying let's party." So here is hoping the spring rain turns up this year (at time of writing August received only 17mm out of our long term average of 45.7mm). The columns of smoke for the many pile burns dot the landscape on the weekends and now is the time to clean up all the winter leaves and trim the garden ready for summer. There are a few things happening here at the WCA this spring and beyond.

The 2019 Bonfire and Fireworks Night - This year's bonfire and fireworks night should be run and done by the time the publication hits mailboxes. A huge thank you to Sam and Col for being the key to making it all happen.

Home Produce Market – will start up again on the third Saturday in September (21st). Please contact Meriel if you would like a stall.

Spring Talks – The Spring talks will be once again a feature over the next three months. This year our speakers will include for September, Dr Steven Crimp, Research Fellow of the Climate Change Institute at ANU. Steven will speak on the impact of climate change in our local region. In November we will have Neville Plumb the QPRC Team Leader Biosecurity Weeds speaking on local weed identification and he will bring along examples to help you spot them on your piece of utopia. We are waiting on our October guest speaker confirmation. A great effort in coordinating from Diana.

Kowen Moonlighter Trail Run - will be on September 7th starting at 6pm and finishing at 6.00am. The run is for an amazing 12 hours with options for solo along with teams of two or four runners on a 7.5km loop. It is anticipated around 200 runners will participate.

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.

Bush dance – In March 20 we are planning a fundraising bush dance. Keep your eye out for further details. Yee haa.

Table Tennis - Thursday evening table tennis is on at the Wamboin Community Hall between 6 & 8 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.

WCA Monthly General Meeting –The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 September 2019 at 7.30 pm at the Wamboin Community Hall. We are Wamboin! - **Peter Evans - President.**

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Author Catherine Bird

Key herbs for LAMINITIS support



Nutritional support for a horse who suffers laminitis is vital. For the horse that is prone to laminitis, clivers is a useful daily supplement to improve the integrity of the hoof as it is one of the most nutritional herbs available and especially high in Silica.

With the older horse whose circulation may be sluggish, hawthorn berry is a further support and full of bioflavonoids that improve the elasticity of the supportive connective tissue that can become strained when the feet are sore while improving the health of the blood vessels that supply the feet.

For the horse that has low grade inflammation in his feet, turmeric powder will help lower the levels of discomfort. Often when there is systemic inflammation, there may also be arthritis in joints or irritated tendons and ligaments, with these horses adding ginger powder to the mix will increase the efficacy of the turmeric in a similar way black pepper is sometimes used.

For pain relief, where there is ongoing pain yarrow combines well with turmeric as a general management and recovery approach. Devils claw powder can be very effective with acute stages, however if the horse is already on Bute, do not combine these two as you could increase the toxic effects of the drug or irritate the horse's gut. For the horse with a sensitive gut, white willow bark is a gentler option and hawthorn berry will increase the potency of this herb if needed.

Once a horse is through the acute stage, using liver herbs to address the two phases of detoxification will help cleanse the effect of the stress on the body. Dandelion root or St Mary's thistle powder will address phase one, while turmeric powder will address phase two so that any residual drug therapy is not recycled back into the body and the recovery period can then follow on with clivers, restoring integrity to the hoof.

For the horse where stress has been a trigger to the laminitic episode, chamomile flowers will support the nervous and hepatic systems, and help the muscles that have become tense while the feet have been sore.

Choose your herbs carefully when dealing with laminitis, keeping the selection simple also helps not to overload the horse further with too many herbs. Combining a nutritional herb with an anti-inflammatory herb and liver support herb is often enough to start restoring health, and a maintenance program can follow on with nutritional and circulatory support once the hoof is sound again.

For correct dosage rates on the herbs mentioned in this article please contact Carol when placing your order.

Copyright: Catherine Bird, who is also the author of a Healthy Horse the Natural Way, has been an equine natural therapist for 27 years working closely with Country Park Animal Herbs for over 13 years offering advice to their clients.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this article is for educational purpose only and is not meant to replace veterinary advice or treatment.

02 6238 1135 Carol

07 5596 4387 Ruth



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Ad-Design Sandy Morphet



Bywong Community Association News – September 2019

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.

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.

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

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St Andrews, St Peters Church Notices

With the wattles starting to bloom we know that spring is just around the corner. There have been a few faces missing in the congregation with the usual winter exodus to warmer climates but numbers in the congregation have held up due in no small part to the hardy souls who come in early to put the heaters on! We look forward to welcoming the travellers back and hearing of their adventures. In the meantime we have been supporting St Benedicts in Queanbeyan to assist those especially in need during the cold winter months. St Andrews/St Peters will again be at the Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks on Saturday 31st with the gluhwein stall and apple pies. The few volunteers able to help this year will be very busy indeed, and we will miss Robyn, a fixture for many, many years. She is unable to be there but we have been assured that she will be back with her delicious gluhwein in 2020.

Our next venture is the St Andrews/St Peters recipe book which we hope will have community appeal. The idea for this book came from the shared enjoyment of morning teas after each service; morning teas that go beyond a tea bag, a packet of Tim Tams and polite mutterings. Our morning teas have been a big part of informal pastoral care; a time to relax, get to know each other, share thoughts and stories and discuss matters both related and unrelated to the church. A special time that reflects the unique community and environment in which we live, the changing seasons, the ups and downs of life generally and in particular, life as it's lived here.

The seasons are reflected not just in the switch from ceiling fans to heaters, but in the flowers, mostly gathered from our own gardens or the bush, that appear in the church each Sunday. And there are the Church "seasons", the festivals and celebrations in the Church calendar with the associated special foods. We would like this to be a recipe book that reflects our whole community, a community that goes beyond the church. To this end we would welcome contributions from YOU. We are also looking for anyone with photographic skills and illustrating/artistic skills, or knows of anyone who may be prepared to offer their services or help in any way. wamboinchurchrecipes@gmail.com

Church services are held on the first and third Sunday of each month at St Andrews, Poppet Rd, Wamboin, and the second and fourth Sunday at St Peters, Sutton. All services start at 9am. A warm welcome is extended to all. If you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to call any of the numbers listed below. - Pastor Royce Thompson 0416265600, David McCarthy 62555451, Bronwyn Elliott 62383359, Alan Rope 0429434944, Gai Donald 0438400364

St Andrew's & St Peter's



Recipe Book

You are invited to contribute your favourite family recipes to our recipe Book. We encourage your recipes to be accompanied by a few words about the recipe, eg perhaps a family favourite, heritage or origins of the recipe, seasonal association and any modification from original source. Recipes may be hand written, typed or emailed with name attached to:

wamboinchurchrecipes@gmail.com

Handwritten/typed recipes can be placed in the boxes provided at St Andrew's and St Peter's.

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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

I chose the Gang-gang Cockatoo for September, as they are winter visitors to Wamboin.

Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*)

Size: 33-36cm

Status: Fairly common winter migrant.

Gang-gang Cockatoos are beautiful birds. They are grey in colour, with a curly crest. The male differs from the female in having a red head (the female's head is grey). The female has pink and yellow edged breast feathers. Their call is raucous squawking that sounds like a squeaky or creaky door. These birds are typically found in pairs or small groups. They sit quietly in the trees, feeding on gum nuts, spittle caterpillars and berries of cotoneaster bushes, before flying off squawking. Their flight is erratic and often low. The flight can resemble that of a Galah. They spend summers at higher elevations, where they breed. These birds nest in tree hollows, where they lay 2 eggs. Gang-gang Cockatoos are the bird emblem of the ACT and are emblem on ACT Parks and Conservation Service Logo. They are becoming rare in Canberra and surrounds and are listed as vulnerable in New South Wales.



Female



Male

(Photos from Google images)



SHERONY PARK

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Bookings:
sheronypark@bigpond.com

Be Herd Networking Neighs
breakfast 3rd Friday
Bi-monthly Bookings:
caithe78@gmail.com

Tanja Mitton – Rider Posture and Mindset for Coaches Workshop
30 August 2019
Bookings:
sheronypark@bigpond.com

Tanja Mitton – ‘When you learn how to get out of your head, you can connect more deeply with your horse’ Clinic 31 Aug - 1 Sept 2019
Bookings:
sheronypark@bigpond.com

David Lichman – 11-13 Oct 2019
Bookings: wamboinnh@gmail.com

Lauren Woodbridge – 19 October 2019
Bookings:
lauren.woodbridge@gmail.com

David Stuart – 25-27 Oct 2019
Bookings:
cndlemesurier@bigpond.com

Belinda Bolsenbroek – The Art of Horsemanship
30-31 October 2019
Bookings: caithe78@gmail.com

To book facilities at Sherony Park contact Sheridan

www.sheronypark.com.au

M: 0422 244 433 Sutton NSW E: sheronypark@bigpond.com

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 |

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

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|----|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----|
| Joan Mason | Bingley Way | 44 | Margaret Hekeimin | Merino Vale Dr | 19 |
| Sue Ward | Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona) | 32 | Anne Gardner | Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors) | 31 |
| Kathy Handel | Norton (Weeroona to Hilltop+Wimdra) | 22 | Phil Leeson&Coleen Fogarty | Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley) | 32 |

231: 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 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 | | | |

140: 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) | 34 | | | |

186: 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) | 17 |
| Attila & Cherry Hrgsi. | Snowgum Road | 27 | Murray Goodridge | B'dore Rd (MRR to & nclgdg Smmrhill) | 38 |
| Advertisers & Misc | Out of area advertiser mailouts | 30 | | | |

TOTAL 1,331

**The Truth Behind happy Thursday
Calamity Jane Trivia Night.**

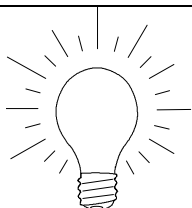
Calamity Jane, as she is known affectionately by the Contentious Characters is a waitress and raconteur, but more than that she is a woman reinventing herself in mid life, in the wilds of Wamboin, just like the original Calamity Jane did back in the wild frontier. As unconventional and wild as the territory she roamed, Jane became a legend through her association with Wild Bill Hickok, her hard drinking and tough approach to the men around her. Her warnings to men were that to offend her was to 'court calamity'. Doris Day later starred in the movie of the same name. Trivia with Calamity Jane is a fun community night where your intelligence, attitude and sense of fun will be put to the test. Bring a group or come alone, you won't be for long!

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Flooded Hall Toilet

On Wednesday evening, the 31st of July, someone left the wall tap running in the male toilet. I would like to believe this was by mistake however mindless vandalism seems more likely. Unfortunately the lowest part of the floor in this toilet is at the actual toilet pan and the doorway is about 85mm higher. The result was a flooded toilet plus a considerable amount of water wasted. Also wasted was a lot of electricity to power the pump. The water flow could be followed almost down to the dam. An early fire brigade call-out saved even more water and electricity being wasted. Having to set up a syphon and then sweep and mop out the remaining water on a cold day was not my idea of fun. Thanks to Don there is now a keyed tap fitted to the wall outlet and both hand basins are fitted with timer taps. Lofty Mason

Wildcare Seeks Special Volunteers

Wildcare's role in rescuing and rehabilitating injured and orphaned animals is well known and hopefully everyone has the Wildcare helpline – 6299 1966, in their Mobile contacts list. Among our volunteers is a small group of specialists who we call upon to euthanise injured animals that cannot be rehabilitated. Especially when hit by vehicles on our roads.

It's illegal to harm native wildlife unless appropriately authorised. Wildcare volunteers are authorised to euthanise (harm) wildlife using a firearm, including in a public place, such as a road, because their NSW firearms licence is endorsed with "animal welfare", as an additional genuine reason. This requires successful completion of Wildcare's one-day firearms safety & basic rescue course.

Wildcare is seeking additional volunteer shooters throughout its operating area (Bredbo to Young and out towards Braidwood, Collector and Tarago). The workload is not onerous and becomes even less so the more it is shared in numbers and geographic coverage. If you own a firearm, please consider volunteering. Even if you work in town, you may be able to help out after hours or at the weekends. Contact Wildcare's Firearms Coordinator at: firearms@wildcare.com.au.

In our urban-fringe and rural areas we can all do much more to stop animals being hit on our roads in the first place.

Most native animals have no instinctive or learned "road sense", and except for birds, poor judgement about vehicle speed. At night, when blinded by headlights, their instinct may be to stop, not move, or move suddenly and towards the danger, not away from it. Wombats in particular will often stop to assess a danger (such as an approaching car), not scurry off to avoid it. Kangaroos and wallabies cannot move their back legs independently so can't move backwards or swerve easily. They may jump further into the road rather than off it, or hop in front of you rather than veer off to safety.

When driving at night in unlit rural areas, the 60-80-100 rule-of-thumb helps. Given the range of high-beam headlights, at 60kph you are likely to see nearly every animal on or aside the road with enough reaction time to avoid hitting it. At 80kph you will still have enough reaction time to miss most of them but still hit some. At 100kph you are likely to hit most of them before you can otherwise react.

If you hit an animal, and if it safe to do so, please stop and check the condition of the animal. But be very careful because there is a danger to you of also being hit by an oncoming vehicle. No matter whether the animal is dead or injured, please contact the 24/7 Wildcare number 6299-1966 so that help can be given. An injured animal may be treated and/or a pouched joey saved from a dead mother. Or it may be necessary to euthanise the animal.

When ringing Wildcare we need your contact number and, especially at night, accurate location information. Include the name of the road, your direction of travel, the side of the road the animal is on, the nearest property number and/or the distance from the nearest junction or geographical feature. Tie a rag or shopping bag to a tree or fence if having to leave before Wildcare can arrive.

Depending on the location, and the extent of any traffic hazard involved, you may also need to notify the Police.

Please consider volunteering to help Wildcare. And safe motoring. - Philip Machin for Wildcare



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Make this your **'GET READY' WEEKEND** Sat 14 & Sun 15 September

The NSW Rural Fire Service is encouraging all residents and property owners across the state to use this weekend to improve or make a plan that will give their property, their family and themselves the best chance of survival should they be threatened by a bush fire.

HOW FIREPROOF IS YOUR PLAN?

~ OUR INVITATION TO YOU ~

On Sunday 15 September several firefighters in the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade will be at the Wamboin Fire Station ready to answer any questions and provide guidance.

- Learn how to 'get ready' for the bushfire season.
- Talk 'one-on-one' with a knowledgeable and experienced local firefighter about your bushfire preparations.

WHEN: Sunday 15 September
 WHAT TIME: Between 10am – 1pm (pop in any time within this window)
 WHERE: Wamboin Fire Station, 112 Bingley Way Wamboin

By coming along you'll be able to check out a typical domestic fire pump setup, peruse and take away bushfire-related brochures and electronic information sources, and obtain a NSW RFS template that helps you prepare your bush fire survival plan. The Brigade's latest large fire tanker will also be on display. For more information on what you can do to prepare for bush fire this season visit the NSW Rural Fire Service website: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au and www.myfireplan.com.au However, nothing beats personal contact, we look forward to helping you.



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The Wamboin Firefighter

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

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS Ring Triple Zero



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

YOUR 'GET READY' WEEKEND?

PREPARE FOR THE BUSHFIRE DANGER PERIOD

At the time of writing, the Bush Fire Danger Period in our area is expected to begin on 1st October. The NSW Rural Fire Service is calling on residents across NSW to join with volunteer firefighters and prepare for the bushfire season on 'Get Ready' Weekend - September 14 and 15.

The Captain of the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade, Matt O'Brien said the NSW RFS statewide 'Get Ready' Weekend is a great opportunity for residents and property owners to get to know their local firefighters and find out about the fire risk in their area. He added, we've already seen during August how quickly fires can develop and threaten homes and lives in NSW, so it's a timely reminder to get ready.

The first step in getting ready is knowing your risk, and members of the brigade can help on this 'Get Ready' Weekend. We can provide valuable advice on preparing your home and family, and making your bush fire survival plan.

In the lead up to last year's fire danger period, NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said recent research showed that 67 per cent of people living in bush fire prone areas have some sort of plan for what to do during a fire, but it is worrying that a third of people have not even talked about it. He went on to say, "research also shows that while two thirds of people surveyed acknowledge that it is their responsibility to get ready for bush fires, nearly half of people have not taken any steps to protect their home."

As was the case last year, nearly 100 per cent of NSW is drought affected and there's a forecast of ongoing dry and warm conditions. Once again, we're all facing a potentially long and protracted bush fire season – so now is the time to get ready. Brigade members have been busy preparing by maintaining firefighting equipment and undergoing training.

The 'Get Ready' Weekend in September is a chance for residents to do their bit to prepare and protect their family and property. Several firefighters will be available to talk to you about the simple things you can do to reduce your risk. We'll be at the Wamboin Fire Station on Sunday 15 September between 10am – 1pm. (Refer separate promo elsewhere in The Whisper). Preparing for bush fires is easier than people may think. It could be as simple as talking to your family about what you would do if a bush fire were to start nearby. 'Get Ready' Weekend is the ideal opportunity to take that action.

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade <http://www.wamboin.rfsa.org.au> or <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

NSW Rural Fire Service <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au>

Wamboin Brigade Captain wamboincaptain@gmail.com or ph 0409 991 340 (non-emergency only)


Queanbeyan Fire Control Centre 6128 0600



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Opening Hours:
Wednesday - Sunday 10am - 5pm, Friday 10am - 10pm
Visit our website or Facebook page for public holiday opening hours.

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How the Whisper Really Gets Printed Each Month

Poem by David Schuster, sent in by Suzannah Walton, Instant Colour Press's General Manager, with these words: I just wanted to send you the poem below. It is written by one of my staff who writes poetry. David has been a staff member for over 25 years and he does the finishing work on the Whisper each Month. I thought you might enjoy this, feel free to pop it in the newsletter if you ever have a spare section. I think other people might enjoy these words and get a small insight into the production of the Whisper. - *Regards, Suzannah*

Wamboin Whisper Words.

Even after the copiers have left their mark on the page.
It takes lots of noises to make each Whisper.

Sheet after sheet the rhythm repeat,

Flip,
Flip,
Flip,
Flip,
Flip,
Flip,

Click, bump, bop, snick.

Each cycle begins before the previous completion,

Flip,
Flip,
Flip,
Flip,
Flip,
Flip,

Click, bump, bop, snick.

Working my day to a tune of mechanical recreation.

Flip,
Flip,
Flip,
Flip,
Flip,
Flip,

Click, bump, bop, snick.

Hundreds of whispers in an hour with saying a word.

Sometimes the rhythm enters my head and continues when I've left work behind!

Flip,
Flip,
Flip,
Flip,
Flip,
Flip,
Click, bump, bop, snick.

- David Schuster. 1st August 2019



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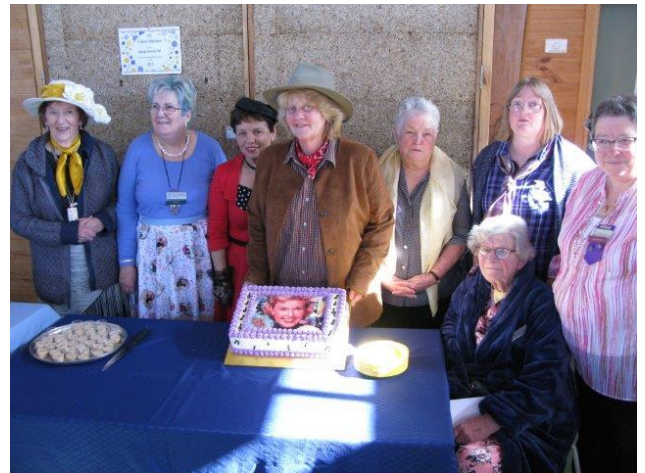


Lake George Day VIEW Club

(VIEW - Voice Interest & Education for Women) It is hard to believe that our Club celebrated our 15th Birthday last Tuesday. And what great fun it was celebrating a theme of the beautiful Doris

Day. Around 50 members and guests attended dressed in attire to suit the occasion. Everyone enjoyed a three course meal mainly prepared by our members and a delicious and amazing cake from Kellie's Cakes of Bungendore. For entertainment, there was quizzes, trivia, karaoke and prizes.

The Club meets third Tuesday of the month and we have members from all walks of life from surrounds including Queanbeyan and Canberra. Guest speakers inspire us to achieve our dreams. Enquiries welcome and we thank The Whisper for the ongoing notice which is found on the front page. - Pauline Segeri, Program Officer, LGDVC



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Nature Notes August 2019

Jo Walker

Another month has passed with very little rain – although we did get a slight dusting of snow. But, the Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) are flowering, their bright yellow flowers contrasting with an otherwise entirely green background of shrubs and trees. The grasses and small herbaceous plants, however, are going to need some rain to moisten the soil before they can be persuaded it's spring and time to start growing and flowering.

Some local plants fared badly here during the winter, possibly because of some of the white frosts we've had combined with the dry conditions. Several *Lomandra longifolia* (Spiny-headed Mat-rush) are dead or nearly so. This is the large tufted perennial plant with long strap-like leaves (one of the local plants that has been used for basket weaving). Another Mat-rush, *Lomandra filiformis* ssp. *filiformis* has also been affected. Mat-rushes have separate male and female plants, and a very robust little male plant with tightly-clustered narrow leaves has been happily growing in a rocky area above the dam for as long as I've lived here. But, this winter it turned brown and dry and I thought it had died. Then we had a few millimetres of rain and a scatter of thin green leaves have appeared amongst the dead ones. This one may survive, but some of our local plants may be reaching the limits of their tolerance of the drying conditions we are experiencing.

A few insects are making an appearance – mostly Honey-bees, but I scooped six small black native bees off the water-bowl this morning, and there were some Hover-flies (probably *Simosyrphus grandicornis* – Syrphidae family) darting around the flowers on the Silver Wattles. And, a few days ago, I found several colourful little Shield Bugs (Pentatomidae family) sheltering in my letterbox – which is close to a large Cherry Ballart tree (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*). These little bugs, *Commius elegans*, feed on the fruit – and possibly the foliage - of the Cherry Ballart and the seed capsules of some other plants.

Apart from the Magpies, there don't seem to be many birds building nests yet – although I did hear the Bower-birds calling from some dense vegetation.

A few night ago, I opened the door onto the verandah and heard a strange noise. At first I thought it was a rabbit being caught by a fox, but the screaming and screeching merged into growling and gurgling. It sounded rather like the noises Tasmanian Devils make when they are in a dispute over food. And, no – I didn't for one moment think it was really one of those!...But, a Spotted Quoll was seen some time ago on a property further along this road, and, as the Quolls are in the same family (Dasyuridae) as the Tasmanian Devils, it's possible there is now more than one Quoll. Of course, Possums and Gliders have been known to make weird noises too sometimes, so it may have been one of our more common residents. Wamboin can still come up with new mysteries!



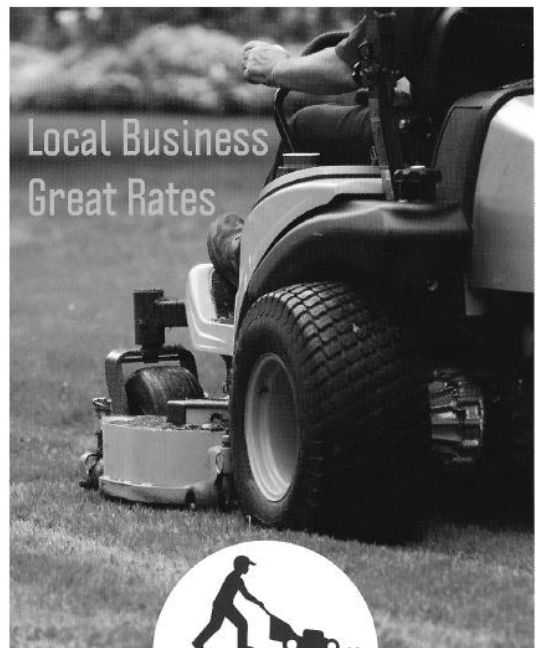
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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market
Saturday 21 September 2019 9-12md
Contact: Lance and Meriel Schultz 62383309 or 042 261 4304
Email: imsconsulting@bigpond.com

We welcome new stall holders from the local area, aiming for home produce from your garden, paddocks or kitchen, as well as craft items. Check out our new signs - you won't be able to miss them! We will be back on the third Saturday of September (21st) and every third Saturday from then until next July! We have some new stall holders joining us and all your old favourites. Come and support your local market!

Expect to find: Garden Produce Plants Succulents Native tube stock Indoor plants and cut flowers Knitted goods
Crocheted toys and other craft Home made cosmetics and skin care products
Art work Recycled furniture Home baking Jewellery Jams and Preserves Freshly brewed coffee
Honey Local organic porkand more *See you at the markets*

Wamboin Golf – August 2019

Sunday, 4 August. "One small step etc, etc..." But was that all Mr Armstrong said before stepping out onto the Moon's surface? By no means! The Whisper has the full story courtesy of a NASA mole. But first the golf. It was a halcyon sort of day as the crowd mustered for the August Skilled Trades Spectacular sponsored by those dextrous people who solve technical problems, Trent Able (electrical) Don Evans (plumbing/gas fitting), Col Prest (automotive) and Henk Berlee (mechanical) whom we thank profusely for the rewards for effort and the bodily sustenance. Competition was to be settled by stroke play. Singing *Moon River* and *Blue Moon* and so on, we climbed into our command modules and blasted off for the great unknown. Back at Mission Control, as the captain did the sums, your correspondent revealed to the astounded gathering, mouths agape, the scoop of the century i.e., what Neil really said. And here it is:

"Buzz, kill all external comms while I struggle into the damn back pack. It takes an age to get it over the space suit. Haven't JPL heard of Velcro? OK here we go. Dammit! I can't open the bloody door. Just wait until I see those idiots back at the Skunkworks. OK, got it. All it needed was a good kick. This ladder is a real bastard – 500 billion pictures of George Washington and they give us something you could buy at Walmart. Right, nearly there. What a dump! Looks like the bottom of a cement mixer. I hope we've got enough fuel left to get out of here. Let's just take the pictures, grab the rocks and go. OK, Buzz, external comms back on for the deathless statement". PAUSE. "One small step....." And there you have it. You read it here first.



The captain welcomed or guests the Thompson family, Robert, David and mum; Chris Hansen, Mrs Hansen and Emma Crafter. Also present were members of the Palarang Girls' Marching Team – Katherine Gorge, Alice Springs, Rose Bay, Margaret River, Adelaide Hills and Marie Bain. Ted Evans told us how to insure a wooden leg. The googly ball went to Emma Crafter for advancing her ball by use of the foot (just like her dad). The dummy spit went to Samantha Urquhart for dobbing in Emma's dad. Encouragement awards were bestowed on Robert Thompson and Emma Crafter. LD and NTP ball winners were Colin Urquhart 3, Ken Gordon 3, Tim Barter 2, Vicki Sill and Pete Harrison. The juniors comp was won by Phoebe Beckett with 28 after handicap off 66 strokes. The nine hole comp was taken out by Samantha Urquhart 58/30 from runner-up Ken Gordon 36/32. Winner of the 18 hole comp was Paul Griffin 75/58; 2nd Glen Crafter 75/61 OCB from Vicki Still. Well done, everyone!

Next month is glorious Spring. Time to emerge from the diapause of Winter and gambol about the Elysian Fields of Wamboin like woolly lambkins. And compete for the Spring Trophy. And scoff a few of Joan's famous spring rolls. Join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 1 September for the ever-dependable 12.30pm shotgun start. We are hoping that our mayor, Mr Working Trousers, will kindly donate to the winner of the Spring Trophy a weekend stay in Sydney at the QPRC's luxury penthouse in Macquarie Street. Meanwhile please note that King Street, Bungendore, is not named after any member of my family, none of whom can drive an excavator. - **Larry King, golfer**

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Near Miss In Valley View Lane Neville Page

Early in August this year, at about 8.00am, I took my dog, a black Labrador named Georgia, for a walk in Valley View Lane, Wamboin, where I live. The weather conditions were not ideal. It was windy, and drizzling with sleety rain. Valley View Lane is a dead end street, 1.2km long, partly bitumen sealed and partly gravel pavement. Unfortunately the gravel starts just over a slight rise and is not visible to oncoming traffic until they hit the gravel. On this morning I was just over the rise when a car approached, travelling at the speed limit, 80km per hour. The driver saw me just as the car hit the gravel. The driver hit the brakes hard and the car went into a sideways skid and ended up at about 90 degrees to the road. Had the car hit me I would have been seriously injured or perhaps killed. Fortunately that didn't happen, but it did cause me to ponder on what constitutes safe driving on our side roads which don't go anywhere, and which only service the rural properties in those roads. Valley View Lane seems to attract a few reckless drivers who go to the turning circle at the end of the road and make high speed turns and circles that are unsafe.

My personal opinion is that 80km per hour is too fast for our side roads. I wrote to the Council with three suggestions: firstly the speed limit should be reduced from 80km per hour to 60km per hour, secondly a warning sign should be erected ahead of the change from bitumen to gravel, and thirdly the turning circle at the end of the road should be restricted, perhaps by inclusion of a central roundabout similar to those on Clare Valley Place and Ryans Road. I'd be interested to hear if anyone else has had a similar experience to mine.

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

August Rainfall Stats

August rainfall to the 25th 14.75mm
2019 total rainfall to 25/8..... 264.0mm

Average August rainfall..... 53.8mm
2018 August rainfall..... 41.75mm
2018 total rainfall to 25/8..... 233.0mm
43yr Av. to end of August..... 428.4mm

September Rainfall Stats

2018 September rainfall..... 19.75mm
Wettest September..... 154.75mm in 2016
Wettest September day. 64mm on 17/9/13
Driest September..... 6mm in 1994

Average September rainfall..... 62.8mm
Average no. rain days in Sept. 9.8
Highest no. rain days..... 19 in 1984
Lowest no. rain days..... 2 in 2018

September Temperature Stats

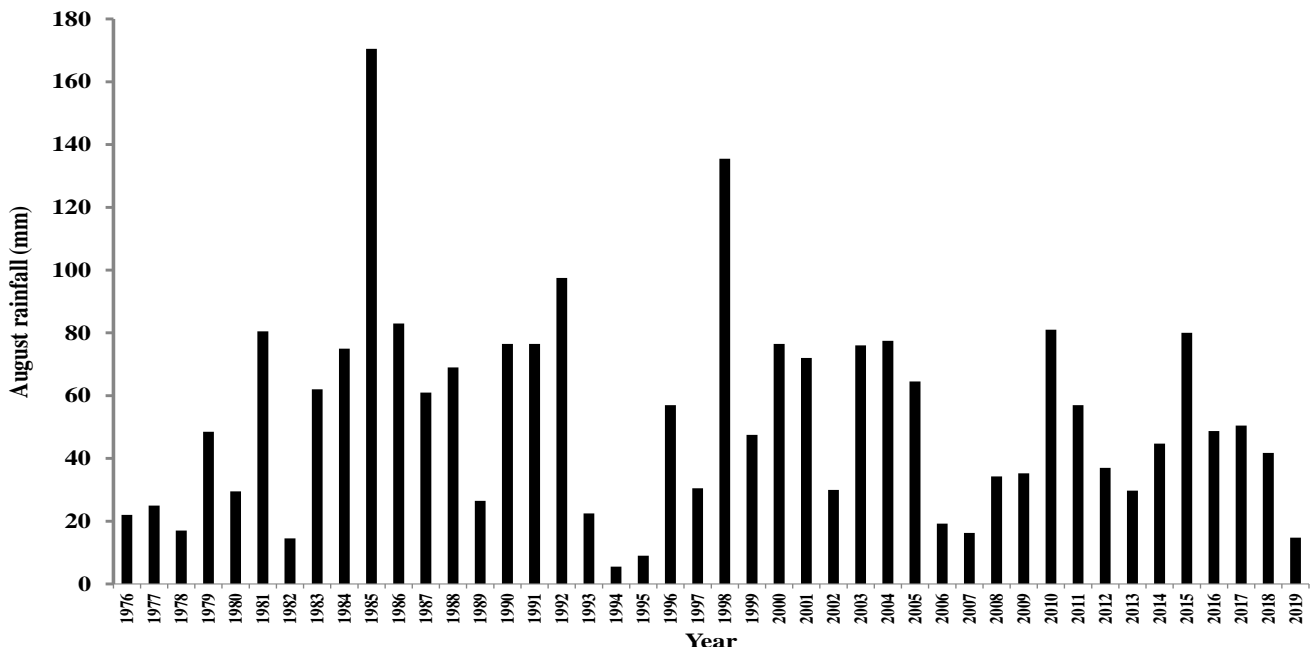
Hottest Sept. day..... 29.5°C on 23/9/17
Hottest Sept. night..... 15.1C on 13/9/17

Av. Sept. temp... 9.4°C (day+night comb.)
Coldest September day.... 5°C (2 times)
on 4/9/1982 & 28/9/2009

Average day temperature..... 14.2°C
Warmest September..... 2001
Av. day temp. 16.5°C & nights 6.3°C
(highest 17.8°C in 18) (highest)

Coldest September night... -4°C on 1/9/12
Average night temperature..... 4.6°C
Coldest September..... 2015
Av. day temp. 12°C & nights 1.8°C
(lowest 11°C in 16) (lowest 1.6°C in 12)
Sept. 2018. Av. max 17.8°C & min 2.9°C

21st September is the spring equinox where day & night are equal length (12 hours).
August was the 4th driest, behind 1982 (14mm), 1995 (9mm) and 1994 (5.5mm).



Local History Book Review: *Sutton stories: in the words of the locals: 150 years 1867-2017*

Alan McNeill & Alison Walker, compilers. Published by the Sutton and District Community Association Inc., Sutton, NSW, August 2019. ix, 170 p.: ill., maps. Reviewed by David McDonald (email david[at]dnmcdonald.id.au)

It is interesting how diverse are people's opinions about published local history. Some of us (and I am in this category) find them rather boring unless they relate to an area or people or event of particular interest to me. Others find them intrinsically interesting, whether the reader has a special interest in the locality covered or not. Yet others have no interest whatsoever in them, and cannot see the point of publishing them!

Sutton Stories, the newly published local history of the Sutton area covering the period 1837 to 2017, is one that is likely to be of considerable interest not only to people living in, and in the immediate vicinity of, Sutton village, but also to people from Wamboin and Bywong, considering the artificiality of the locality boundary that separates the parishes and localities of Sutton to the west and Wamboin and Bywong to the east.

One of the compilers of this wonderful local history, Alison Walker, points out in her introduction that: *This is a history project to record what people have told us, or we have researched about the family life, homes and community in and around Sutton since European settlement. It is not intended to be a comprehensive historic reference book. It is as true a record as is possible based mainly on people's memories and stories shared with us after pleas for information ... It is intended ... as a flavour of what life was like in Sutton through the last 200 years* (p. vi).

The book is fairly long—170 pages—and in four chapters. The first deals with 'Before 1837—a French connection, Ben Hall, a tragic murder and true grit'. Chapter 2 covers 1867-1914: 'Sutton born and drawn, a lost gold village, pleas for a school, a hotel appears and a little red church'. Chapter 3 covers 1914-1967: 'Letters from the trenches, the school in flames, skating and dancing... Sutton pulls together'. Chapter 4 covers 1967-2017: 'Dragon hunting, growth, and a warm community 150 years on'. It includes photographs, maps and other illustrations, a comprehensive bibliography, and an appendix presenting a self-guided heritage walk of the village. The book is skilfully designed and presented, and unlike too many self-published books, its perfect binding is such that one can open it without breaking the spine.

Co-compiler Alan McNeill, in his preface, explains that the origin of the book lies in the 150th anniversary of Sutton village that occurred in 2017. Considering the huge amount of work involved in eliciting information from members of the local community, and reviewing the published literature on the history of the area, the compilers have done an amazing job of producing a high-quality publication, of such diversity, over such a short time period.

The accuracy of information in local histories is always an issue. The compilers point out that, wishing to base the book on the recollections and family documentation of people who have lived in the Sutton area since the time of the first European settlers, there are bound to be inconsistencies, and probably some errors, in the information that came to hand. They have done an excellent job, in my view, in balancing the oral histories with the formal, documented history of the area.

Readers who live in the Wamboin/ Bywong area, rather than in Sutton itself, will find much interest in the stories about prominent Wamboin and Bywong settlers and families, commencing with William Guise whose property *Bywong*, established in the 1820s, covered a substantial area and was the base for him grazing stock from the Sutton area into what is now Wamboin and Bywong.

The book contains a comprehensive bibliography, with its contents categorised under the headings official sources, books, online resources, and other sources. It lists more than 50 people and organisations 'who contributed by providing information through conversations, photographs, maps and books'.

A feature of the book that will intrigue some, and possibly irritate others, is that it does not include an index. I can understand why. This type of book, providing information obtained from, and about, a huge number of individuals, families, locations, events, etc., if fully indexed would produce an index many pages long. It would also be a time-consuming and expensive task were it compiled by a professional indexer. The Introduction invites us to 'Read it from front to back in its entirety and you too will feel the true heart of Sutton over the last 150 years'. I read it front to back in its entirety, enjoyed it immensely, and learned a lot from it. I anticipate, however, that other users of the book will not read it cover-to-cover. They will be interested simply in a particular topic, for example the references to an individual family (say the Darmodys), a location (say Sutton's first store), or an event (say the 1979 bushfire). They may be put off by having to search through the book to find the piece of information of interest.

This issue—to include an index or not—has been a matter of contention for many hundreds of years. Just as some worry that, with the current ubiquity of Google and Wikipedia, people no longer seek after knowledge and understanding—instead, they simply seek out individual facts, presented out of context—similar concerns were expressed in the past. As pointed out in the wonderful book by Jack Lynch, *You could look it up: the reference shelf from ancient Babylon to Wikipedia* (Bloomsbury, 2016):

In eighteenth-century Britain, some readers felt particularly threatened by the rise of indexes ... Alexander Pope dismissed this kind of knowledge as mere 'Index Learning' ... Pope's friend Jonathan Swift took aim at all literary aids to comprehension, including marginalia, footnotes, dictionaries and indexes—especially indexes ... Someone who depends on indexes is getting erudition on the cheap [was the claim] (pp. 323-4).

Were *Sutton Stories* to have an index, I would have found the book easier to use. That is a quibble, however, compared with the value of the book. Its compilers, Alan McNeill and Alison Walker, have done a wonderful job, as have the members of the Sutton community and their descendants who contributed their stories, and the historical material, that compose the core of the book. I have no doubt that it will be referred to, for many years into the future, as an outstandingly valuable piece of local history covering our area.

Sutton Stories costs just \$15.00. Purchase it at the Sutton store, or pay by bank transfer to BSB 062904, account no. 10246239, a/c name Sutton and District Community Association, and use the reference 'BOOK (your name)' and email sutton.community@outlook.com with your mailing address so they know whom to send it to.

WCA Spring Talks Series at the Wamboin Hall – 2019

The WCA invites all residents of Wamboin and surrounding areas to the Spring Talks Series – 2019. Bringing the community together face-to-face to discuss topics relevant to life in our rural-residential area, the aim of the Spring Talks Series is to entertain, inform and encourage active participation in our community. We normally commence with a brief monthly general meeting of the WCA, followed by the guest speakers who usually present for 30-40 minutes, followed by refreshments and an opportunity to meet the guest speakers and more of your neighbours, and importantly, get to know more about what is going on in our community – it's where we all live! Given the dire state of the land in our 'surrounding areas' this spring, we are delighted to present the first of our talks:

Talk #1 A Changing Climate – Risks and Opportunities Tuesday 17 September 2019, 7.30pm, Wamboin Hall

An increasing body of scientific evidence regarding the impact of human activity on the earth's climate has shifted the debate from "Is climate change real?" to "What can we do about it?" Adapting current management activities must include considerations of both climate variability and change. Many of the actions required for adapting to climate change are extensions of those currently used for managing climate variability. For this reason, efforts to improve current levels of adaptation to climate variability will have positive benefits in addressing likely climate change impacts. Dr Steven Crimp, will present information of global national and regional changes in climate and discussion some of the opportunities for adaptation. Dr Crimp is a Research Fellow at the Climate Change Institute, Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU College of Science, at the ANU.

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From the Corner

Rating Season—Rarely are residents' interests in council activities piqued as consistently as they are with the issue of the annual rates notices. This year has been no exception and with the recent release of the report from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) on their review of the NSW rating system it seemed like an entirely appropriate subject for discussion.

I did cover the basic principles that apply to the 'making of a rate' some years ago (QPR Blog, Nov 2013; The Whisper, Dec 2013) but there are two issues that may be of particular interest in the present context.

The first involves the way in which 'rating categories' are used. As an amalgamated council, we have not hitherto been permitted to change the rating structures that existed in the two former Local Government Areas (LGAs) prior to the amalgamation. The current situation and the ultimate harmonisation of the rating system are complicated somewhat by the fact that each of the former council areas had adopted a different approach to the use of rating categories.

The former Palerang Council had adopted only the four mandatory rating categories of farmland, residential, mining and business. As a result, residential rates in our rural residential areas, for example, were levied in exactly the same way as those for Braidwood or Bungendore.

The former Queanbeyan City Council, however, made use of subcategories (subgroups within the four mandatory categories, providing finer granularity in the distribution of the rates burden) to levy different rates, essentially based on locality but which generally reflected the standard of facilities that were available to residents in the respective localities. The result was that different formulae were used to determine rates in different parts of Queanbeyan, Googong, Tralee and its rural residential areas.

As a consequence of the way in which rural residential areas are defined in the Local Government Act (Clause 515(2)), all 'rural residential' areas in an LGA must be treated in the same way. The two rating structures are therefore incompatible as they stand and there will have to be a change, one way or the other, when the rating system freeze on amalgamated councils is lifted and the two systems are harmonised. This must currently occur no later than 2021, but could occur as soon as next year. Exactly what impact this might have on rates in rural residential areas, and it may well be minimal, is entirely in the hands of the Council as it adopts the necessary changes during the harmonisation process.

The second issue is perhaps more relevant at the other end of the scale—in more built-up, urban areas. Historically, property valuations used in rates calculations in NSW LGAs have been based on what is known as the Unimproved Value (UV) of a parcel of land. The IPART Review has recommended that, in future, the use of Capital Improved Value (CIV) be mandated for land valuations used by metropolitan councils and that this alternative be available for use in other LGAs. It should be noted that CIV is used quite widely in other jurisdictions in Australia.

The use of CIV takes into consideration the full value of a property, not just that of the land, and is generally considered a better indication of a property owner's 'ability to pay', even though it is recognised that owning a valuable property does not always equate with the availability of cash assets. Nonetheless, to illustrate the impact of the two different valuations, consider the example of a rate spread across two, otherwise identical lots, one hosting a single dwelling, the other a block of five flats.

Under a rating system based on UV, since the unimproved elements of the lots are identical, the UV of the two lots would be the same and the rate burden would be distributed evenly between the two properties. The owner of the single dwelling would thus carry 50% of the rate burden. The owners of the five individual flats, however, would share the 50% burden imposed on the second lot, with the result that each would carry only 10% of the rate burden.

Under a rating system based on CIV, the rate burden would be distributed based on the relative values of the properties as they stood, one with a single dwelling the other with a block of flats. The property containing the block of flats would generally be valued substantially higher than the one containing a single dwelling. To further the example then, if the block of flats were valued at three times that of the single dwelling, the rates burden would be distributed 25% to the owner of the single dwelling and 75% to the owners of the block of flats. The owner of each individual flat would then carry 15% of the rates burden.

Note that the rates yield to council will be the same, regardless of whether or not subcategories are used and no matter what method of property valuation is adopted. The use of subcategories, or the choice between UV and CIV, will only

[potentially] change the way in which the [capped] rates burden is distributed across rateable properties.

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

Rating Season (August, 2019) Property Valuations (March, 2016) You and Your Rates (November, 2013)

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

It's the end of August. Icy gales from snow capped alps are tossing the trees around and cutting through you like well honed knives. The ground is dry, the grass has gone but there is a glimmer of hope. Along the driveway wattles are poised, waiting for the starter's gun to fire; hellebores, violets and blue irises have appeared, and my first ikebana arrangement is starting to take shape; those pink flowers of the japonicas are spelling spring. Buds on the manchurian pears are swelling, viburnums look as if they have been dusted with snow and most of the native tube stocks, caged and planted before winter started to bite appear to have survived .

But the birds have been ahead of the push. The butcher birds have been calling from a distance, honeyeaters are staking out their claims and the boys of the blue wren brigade are throwing off their drab winter garb and coming out in their blue hats and scarves. The air is twittering.

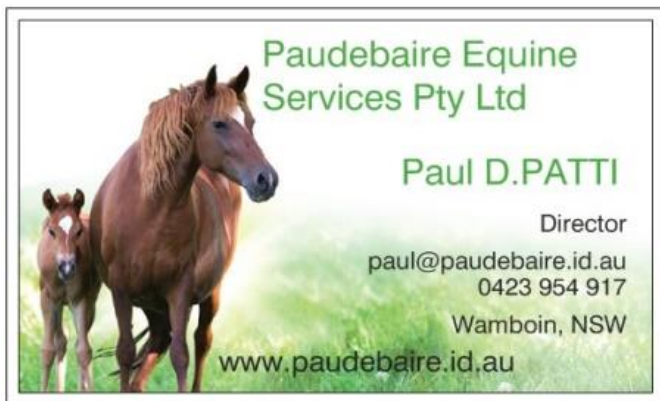
We must have left the garden shed open for a few days because some ingenious opportunist has woven a magnificent nest in the loops of rope hanging from a peg on the wall. The door must now stay open! Last year it chose the spokes of a bicycle suspended from the roof in the garage; a much better option than the pair of thrushes that for two years in a row chose the top of the gutter down pipe and lost all in successive downpours. I felt great sympathy for their plight at the time. Now I just wish for another downpour like that.

The birds are busy tip pruning, nest building and recycling garden litter. I found a nest from last year whilst pruning, stitched together with remnants of plastic twine. And with pruning, cutting back and removing time expired shrubs in an ageing garden, especially rose bushes finally defeated by the persistent efforts of a lone wallaby, we have piles of shredding and recycling ahead of us.

Recycling was in the forefront of my mind as we made our way by train from Melbourne to Yass Junction, recently. Forget plastics, for a moment, think of scrap metal; generations of rusting cars, outdated farm machinery, corrugated iron and discarded railway lines in backyards, paddocks and beside rail tracks. If I had a truck, a crane and fewer years behind me I could be occupied for the rest of my days clearing this stuff away. But then I'd need scrap metal yards and a recycling plant and a furnace and steel mill and a market and, and, and.....or I could just ship the scrap metal overseas to someone else's backyard. Maybe it's easier to turn a blind eye. We could just keep digging iron ore out of the ground, sending it overseas to be refined and processed, then importing the finished product to begin the cycle all over again. Or if it ever were to rain, maybe the grass would grow luxuriantly over everything and we wouldn't have to see or worry about it anymore.

With only a few old and rusting cars in our backyard we still have a long way to go to match the rustic environment of our train travels.

All praise to Wamboin. I wouldn't live anywhere else.....



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