

WAMBOIN



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

CIRCULATION 1,332



The Wamboin Firefighter

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.



The Wamboin Firefighter article is produced by the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade

These past few months have seen bushfires on an unprecedented scale in Australia and Wamboin Brigade members have been involved and active throughout - not just locally, but in Queensland, northern NSW and the Mid North Coast as well. However, since 26 November we have been very much focused on our own Lake George Rural Fire District with major fires in the Tallaganda State Forest west of Braidwood, the Charleys' Forest fire which surrounded Nerriga and the Currowan fire which caused so much havoc to the Clyde Mountain and Batemans Bay areas. Many other smaller communities have also been under threat or directly impacted. At the time of writing (mid-Jan) we have had a little rain and things have quietened down, though we are not out of trouble yet.

The Brigade has managed to continue some Community Engagement activities during this period and two more Community Fire Wise Groups have been created with another two in the pipeline. This is another step towards making the general Wamboin/Bywong/Sutton Park area (the Brigade area) more resilient to impact by fire. It is clear from the interviews on TV that in communities where neighbours were able to work together the survival rate of both property and people is higher. How would we fare in such circumstances?

We are also very grateful to the people who responded to our call for more Static Water Supplies (SWS – see image to right) to be nominated. This is part of a long-term strategy to identify dwindling water supplies which can be made available to firefighting tankers. We would not normally access your drinking water supply except to assist in protecting your own home. Generally we would prefer an SWS to have easy access for a 13 tonne tanker to get within 5m of the water's edge of a dam or tank connection; if it is easily visible from the road that is even better. For those who are grazing stock from a prospective SWS, the NSW Government has a scheme for replacing the water.

Our Community Engagement Team is always available at the monthly Wamboin Markets. We are very happy to give advice, arrange property visits and discuss your Bushfire Survival Plan. You haven't got one? Then we look forward to speaking with you very soon.



Useful Links and Contact Information:

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

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

Facebook Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade

GETTING READY FOR BUSH FIRE IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK

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The Wamboin Whisper

The Whisper is a monthly community newsletter established in 1981 by the Wamboin Community Association. The Whisper is published at the start of each month, excluding January. It is distributed to every letterbox in Wamboin, Bywong and of Queanbeyan Palerang Council residents just southeast of the Federal Highway. Each issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the month and is also then available at www.wamboincommunity.asn.au. All proceeds from advertisements in The Whisper after printing costs go to the Wamboin Community Association.

Contributions to the Whisper

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. Paul Downey of Cooper Road also shares in doing the editing. Please email contributions to either whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or to nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mail them or drop them off. On contentious matters the Wamboin Community Association will strive to maintain a balanced view, by seeking advice from the editorial team and by seeking alternative views to be published in the same edition. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before, so the **deadline for the March 2020 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, February 26th**.

Local Facilities and Contacts

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

Wamboin Community Assn
Bywong Community
Fire Brigade

www.wamboincommunity.asn.au
www.bywongcommunity.org.au
<http://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>

Facilities (alphabetical)	Contact person	Phone	email / web address
Bywong Community	Mike Wilkins - President	6230 3473	president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Bywong Hall Bookings	Bookings Officer		lrrhallbywong@gmail.com
Church - Anglican	Bronwyn Elliott - Warden	6238 3359	
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison - Bungendore	6238 1333	
Fire Brigade	Matt O'Brien - Captain	0409 991 340	wamboincaptain@gmail.com
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Cameron Smith	0419 449 747	
Golf	Peter Greenwood	6238 3358	p.greenwood2@bigpond.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare – Helpline	6299 1966	
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	
KYB Bible Study Group	Yvonne Barrett	6230 3539	
Lake George VIEW Club	Pauline Segeri	6238 1996	
Landcare	Kathy Handel - Treasurer	6238 3596	khandel@bigpond.net.au
NSW SES (assist – storm/flood)	NSW Call Centre	132 500	
NSW SES Bungend. (non-urgent)	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	
Sutton School Playgroup	Belinda Robinson - Convenor	0422 262 426	BRobinson35@hotmail.com
Table Tennis	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	mikemuston@gmail.com
Wamboin Community Assoc.	Peter Evans - President	6236 9779	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Wamboin-Bung. Book Group	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	Sally.saunders1@bigpond.com
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	6238 3258	joan.mason@internode.on.net
Wamboin Markets	Lance and Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	Lmsconsulting@bigpond.com
Wamboin Play Group	Jules Clancy - Convener	0439 586 188	wamboinplaygroup@gmail.com
Wamboin Pony Club	Stacey Burgess - Club Secretary	0414 672 979	wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com
Wamboin Thurs Social Grp	Denise Hales	0400 310 685	deniselynehales40@gmail.com
Wonderful Women of Wamboin	Gail Ritchie Knight	0416 097 500	Whirlwind1@argonite.com.au

Young Entrepreneurs

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

WAMBOIN PLAYGROUP

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

	<p>Wamboin Community Association Presidents Paragraphs “Happy 2020 – Sort of”</p>	
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Yes we are back for 2020 and Happy New Year from the WCA. It’s been a pretty ordinary start to the year with the intense bushfires burning most of the bush up the eastern seaboard not to mention the North Black Range Fire near Braidwood and even closer, the Piallago/Oaks Estate fire. Most evenings the thick smoke blows in from the east or south on the Wamboin doctor. Not forgetting the ongoing drought to which farmers are still struggling. Then further afield we have the Coronavirus outbreak (I bet those Mexican beer sales have tanked). It really makes a challenging start to 2020 with not much rain on the immediate horizon. All hats off and many thanks to our local RFS brigade heroes who have been engaged in fighting fires in the surrounding regions and Don Evans for providing the informative and accurate updates everyday via our local Facebook pages. So what can we do?

Wamboin Bush Dance - Well first up we have the Wamboin Bush Dance on Saturday 14 March 2020. It will be held at the Wamboin hall from 6pm starting with a BBQ before the Paverty Bush Bands entertains us and takes us back in time to a country dance. There will be an auction on the night and games like the bottle toss. Just like in the old days, guests are invited to bring a supper plate for all to share. Admission is \$20 per family and \$10 a single with all monies to be donated to Blaze Aid and the Burrumbuttock hay runners. Invite your neighbours and friends for this great community night out and let’s raise some funds for those effected by the bushfires and still suffering in the painful prolonged drought.

Wheels of Wamboin – next up is the Wheels of Wamboin for Saturday 18th April. Tell your friends and start to wake those sleeping beauties. There are some great automotive birthdays this year including the VeeDub Kombi, Nissan GTR, the Awesome Boss 302 and 429 Mustang, Range Rover classic and arguably one of the most beautiful cars in the world the Aston Martin DB4GT Zagato.

Mailbox and Gate Xmas Decorating Competition - was won this year by Best Mailbox, Three Wise Men of Bywong Jeanette Krahe of Brooks Road, Bywong and Best Entrance, Darth Claus - Star Wars Jedi/Sith Santa by the Urquhart clan in Wamboin. The wonderful \$150 hampers prizes were supplied by Sharwood Hampers. Thanks to all who participated and Gail Knight and the Wonderful Women of Wamboin for the organisation.

Life Membership –As many of you know and have been a part of, the Wamboin Community Association has been a part of the community for many years. Over this time there has been some outstanding contributions made by community members who have given large amounts of their time along with blood, sweat and tears to make our great community what it is today. Without these people many events such as the bonfire and Fireworks and, community infrastructure such as the Community Hall would not be present for us to all enjoy. At our February meeting we will vote to seek to amend our constitution with a new member class of Life Membership.

Wamboin Social Drop-In Group and Table Tennis Night– the drop in group is now running 10 am – 12 noon every Thursday. Drop into the Wamboin Community Hall for morning tea and activities. Everyone is welcome. Thursday evening the popular table tennis is also on at between 6 & 8 p.m. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be provided & a gold coin donation will help cover costs. Contact Mike on 0406 606 238, or mikemuston@gmail.com

New Members – Be a part of your local community and help make Wamboin. We welcome new members to our monthly meetings. It’s only one evening a month and you get to meet others in the local community.

WCA Meeting – next General Meeting and a Special General Meeting is 7.30 pm, Tuesday 18th February at the Wamboin Community Hall. *We are Wamboin* Peter Evans - President.

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Bywong Car Boot Sale 2020 - Sunday 22 March: Preparations are well under way for the 23rd annual CBS to be held at the Bywong Hall on Birriwa Road. **Sellers** should turn up between 0700-0845 and pay \$20 – you then depart after 1200. **Buyers** can enter the Reserve from 0900. The Car Boot Sale brings the local community together, as well as visitors from further afield – one regular plans a visit from Melbourne to be here each year!

Bring the family along to: (a) hunt for toys, books and ‘treasures’; (b) watch the Dog Flyball and Pony Club displays © grab a barista coffee; (d) enjoy a snack from the BBQ or € relax with tea and cakes in the Hall.

Locals – Here’s how YOU can help! BCA will run the BBQ and the Car Parking – but we need YOUR help to make the most of the day. We invite you to help for a few hours on the morning of Sunday 22 March with any of the following roles: You don’t need prior experience, and guidance/equipment will be provided as needed:

- **BBQ: Cooking, serving food, cash handling, or general multi-tasking.**
- **Parking: directing cars into parking areas.**

Choose from 2 shifts: 0730-1000 or 1000-12.30, or tell us a time slot that suits you. Yes, it’s a bit of effort on a Sunday morning, but I’m prepared to bet you will enjoy pitching in and renewing old acquaintances and/or making new ones! Please email Mike Wilkins at president@bywongcommunity.org.au advising which task you can help with and the best time slot for you. Thank You in anticipation of your help.

Public meetings/talks: All are welcome to attend and join the discussion at the Bywong Hall. We will hold the following talks:

Thursday 13 February, 7.30pm. Short BCA reports will be followed by a talk/ demonstration by **Wildcare NSW**. We will demonstrate some simple ways to support native wildlife, which is under severe pressure due to the long drought, now intensified by the devastating bushfires, until the natural vegetation grows back. We will show how to make a PVC water tube and bird/possum boxes, so you can build one and put it on your own property OR donate it to Wildcare to be put out around firegrounds.

Thursday 19 March, 7.30pm. **Bywong Boffins** discussion: Do you want to learn how to **reduce your electricity costs?** We’ll have tips on what to look for if you want to choose a new energy provider and how to reduce the amount of energy you use in your home. Come along to hear new ideas and contribute your own experiences to the discussion.

Bywong Young Goalseeker Grants. Do you know a local youngster who is pursuing their goals and needs a financial boost to get there, to help pay for equipment or to attend training? BCA invites nominations for the 2020 round of Bywong Young Goalseeker Grants. See the BCA website for more details.

Don’t forget the **Littlish Library** next to the Bywong Hall. No membership required, just take home an interesting-looking book and donate one of your own in return.

Recycle Right. To make sure your recycling can be fully used and not be rejected to landfill, follow the Recycle Right tips at <https://www.tccs.act.gov.au/recyclopaedia/recycle-right>

A reminder to register your interest in the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Region (WBSR) **fibre optic network project**. 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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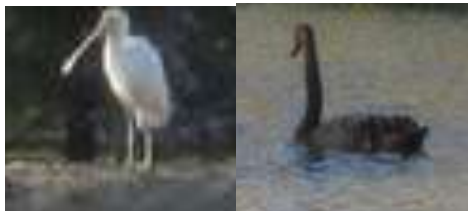
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Spoonbill and Black Swan In Local Dam

At the Bywong Community Christmas Drinks I mentioned that recently we had a Spoonbill at our dam, at the same time as a Black Swan. I was asked by the editor to send a copy of the photograph that my wife took. The photograph shows both, not the clearest I am afraid. Also attached is one of a goanna that has been patrolling our block. He is the first we have ever seen here. The photo was taken from our kitchen as he approached a small garden at the front of the house. Taken from indoors through the flyscreen.

I videoed a trio of wild pigs a few days ago as they transited the block, but the video was not of good quality and I kept my distance. Likewise, a big echidna did the same, again just in front of the house, but I would presume that you get lots of photos of them. Regards, **Tim Sloane**, Macs Reef Road.




Editors note:  This is a yellow-billed spoonbill.

The Royal spoonbill also occurs in this region, which has a black bill.

Editors note: This “goanna” is a Rosenberg’s monitor – rare in the Wamboin region.






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WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(45 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

January Rainfall Stats

January rainfall to the 26th 21.0mm
 2020 total rainfall to 26th 21.0mm

Average January rainfall..... 60.6mm
 2019 January rainfall..... 64.25mm
 2019 total rainfall to 26/1..... 55.5mm
 2019 total – 348.2mm (driest on record)

February Rainfall Stats

2019 February rainfall..... 31.0mm
 Wettest February..... 170.75mm in 2010
 Wettest day..... 49.5mm on 14/2/10
 Driest February 1mm in 1986

Average February rainfall..... 57.7mm
 Average no. rain days in February.... 7.2
 Highest no. rain days..... 18 in 1976
 Lowest no. rain days..... 1 in 1995

February Temperature Stats

Hottest February day... 37°C (8 times) on
 2/2/77, 2 & 10/2/83, 3/2/87,
 6/2/91, 8/2/09 & 12/2/17, 9/2/18
 Average day temperature..... 26.1°C
 Warmest February 1983
 (Av. max day temp. 29.5°C & night 16.9°C)
 Feb 19... Av. max 28.9°C & Av. min 12.4°C

Av. Feb. temp.. 19.9°C (day+night comb.)
 Coldest February day.... 12°C on 10/2/96
 Hottest February night.... 23°C on 2/2/83
 Coldest Feb. night..... 5°C (3 times) on
 17/2/98, 22/2/17 & 10/2/19
 Average night temperature..... 13.7°C
 Coldest February 2012
 (Av.min day temp. 21.0°C & night 11.4°C)

December Rainfall Stats

December 2019 rainfall..... 4.35mm
 2019 total rainfall..... 348.2mm

Average December rainfall..... 63.1mm
 2018 December rainfall..... 96.25mm
 2018 total rainfall..... 467.5mm

2019 a year of extremes

Temperature

2019 was the hottest year on record with an average daytime temperature of 22.3°C which was 4.3°C above the 43-year average of 18°C. New daytime maximum temperatures were recorded for four months and were equalled in three others (see Table below). New maximum monthly average daytime temperatures (i.e. for the whole month) were recorded on five occasions in 2019 (see second Table below).

	Maximum day time temperatures (°C) for month						
	Jan.	June	July	August	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
New highest records in 2019	42.6	17.6	17	20	32.4	39	41.5
43-year average	27.6	9.8	8.9	10.6	18.6	22.2	25.5
Year of previous high	2018	2017	2018	1982	1997	1997	2018
Increase on previous max.	2.2	0.6	0	0	1.4	0	3.2
Above average	15	7.8	8.1	9.4	13.8	16.8	16

	Average day time maximum temperatures (°C) for month				
	January	July	September	October	December
New highest records in 2019	34.1	12.5	18.6	23.7	32.0
42-year highest (i.e. pre-2019)	31.6	12.4	17.6	22.8	29.8
Year of previous high	2018	2018	2017	2018	2018
Increase on previous max.	2.5	0.1	1.0	0.9	2.2

Rainfall

2019 was the driest year on record with 348.2mm which was 15.8mms below the previous lowest of 364mms in 1982. On a monthly basis, no lowest rainfall records were observed in 2019, but April (2.75mms), July (8.65mms) and December (4.35mms) were the second lowest and August (15.5mms) the third lowest on record. Nine months had below average rainfall (see Table below).

	Month rainfall (mms)								
	Feb.	April	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2019	31	2.75	22.35	8.85	15.5	37.75	21.75	19.6	4.35
44-year av. (1976-2019)	57.7	44.4	54.4	51.8	52.9	62.2	57.5	76.2	63.1

Comparison with the 1982 drought

Temperature

Whilst 2019 was the hottest year on record 1982 was also a very hot year with February, August and November being similar to 2019 (see Table below) in terms of average monthly temperatures. 2019 however had higher maximum daytime temperatures in every month except August, with maximum temperatures in most exceeding 4°C over the respective 1982 maximum (e.g. January was 6.6°C, May 5.7°C, July 6.3°C and December 7.5°C higher). 1982 was however much warmer at night than 2019 with temperatures higher in most months including August, November and December (August and November 1982 are the hottest night time average temperatures on record).

Rainfall

Below is a comparison between 2019 and 1982, which is considered by many to be the worst drought in living memory. Whilst 1982 had a rainfall of 364mms, the years pre and post were very wet, with 893mms and 958mms, respectively, and above average rainfall was recorded by March 1983. The rainfall for 2018 was 468mm (6th driest on record). Thus 2019 started with a significant rain deficit. In 1982, January, April, May, July, August, October and November were all very dry months, with no rainfall in November. These dry months were interspersed with the wet months of March (121mms) and September (71.5mms). In comparison rainfall after May in 2019 was below average (see Table) with no overly wet months.

November and December in both years appear to have contributed to the drought with low rainfall over a prolonged period and high temperatures. Examination of the 1982 records showed that 19mms fell on the 30th September with the next significant rainfall being 20mms on the 26th December. During the intervening 85 days only 22.5mms was recorded. Examination of the 2019 records shows that 19mms fell on the 3rd of November and to the date of writing (January 26th 2020; a period of 84 days) a total of 26mms has fallen; with no sign of significant rainfall on the forecast. Whilst the 44-year average rainfall for November and December combined is 139.2mms.

Thus apart from warmer nights, the 2019 drought is worse than the 1982 drought.

Year	Measure	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1982	Max day (°C)	36	34	30	23	17	13	11	20	20	30	36	34
2019	Max day(°C)	42.6	35.3	34.5	27	22.7	17.6	17.3	20.2	24.4	32.4	38.8	41.5
1982	Av. Max (°C)	29	28.5	22.3	17.8	13.4	9.4	8.8	13.8	13.5	19.2	26.8	27.5
2019	Av. Max (°C)	34.1	28.9	25.4	22.7	16	13.1	12.5	13.7	18.6	23.7	26.5	32
1982	Min night (°C)	15.4	14.6	12.4	9	5.8	2.6	1.6	4.2	4.6	7	12.5	13.6
2019	Min night (°C)	16.8	12.4	11.8	8.5	4.5	2.4	2.2	1.3	3.3	6.9	9.5	12.3
1982	Rainfall (mm)	10.5	45.5	121	18	1	28	4.5	14.5	71.5	12.5	0	37.5
2019	Rainfall (mm)	64.3	31	72.5	2.75	47.8	22.4	8.65	15.5	37.8	21.8	19.6	4.4

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Wamboin Golf – January 2020

Larry King, golfer

Sunday, 5 January. A mild Summer's day, 25C with a consolatory breeze coming in from the NW at a steady 15 clicks. The 120mm of rain over the previous week had washed out the smoke as it filled tanks, topped up depleted dams and generally gave new life to the parched earth and its unique and variegated flora and fauna. The golfers of the region, revitalized by the benign turn in the climate, sang like the larks in Spring as they set off into the fresh and verdant landscape garden we call Wamboin knowing that, like Candide, we live in the best of all possible worlds. Sure, the US Senate had failed to convict impeached Prez D Strumpet but the man himself, with his usual self-effacing modesty and respect for tradition, had voluntarily resigned making way for the much-admired Abraham Lincoln. Our own SkocoMo had returned refreshed from an extended family holiday on Devil's Island to capably retake the reins. He thanked the charismatic acting PM (whose name your correspondent may recall in the fullness of time), for his competent interim management of government affairs including his ubiquitous and empathetic handling of the national emergencies. Former Nats leader, Inspector Barnaby, got his new year's wish granted – "I just don't want the Government any more in my life!" – when the government cancelled all subsidies, bounties and tax deductions for primary producers. Farmers and graziers thanked him with tears of gratitude (or something) streaming from their eyes.

And then I woke up. Turned out it was, in fact, a coolish day. But the sun was red and the throat-scorching smoke as thick as a fog on a Winter's morning. So rule 579 kicked in: start time arbitrary and only nine holes played. The day was sponsored by Wiyagiba Trading and we thank Dave Hubbard for the prizes. Or we would if he'd turned up. Instead he was trapped at Fire Control marshalling tankers for the battle to our East. He made his mark though, by declaring a three-club Stableford competition. So it was Lofty and Joan Mason to the rescue, for which they earn our gratitude.

Back in the fog machine, as the captain tried to decipher the smoky score cards, we expressed our admiration for the way the media (other than, of course, the Whisper) were bolstering the nation's confidence in the civil authority by putting the slipper into poor old ScoMo and his talent-rich cabinet at every opportunity. We wondered if anything worthwhile could emerge from the present adversity. Then we remembered those good ol' one-trick-ponies down at the Reserve Bank using the blunt instrument of monetary policy to kick the economy along by dynamiting interest rates ("it didn't work, let's do it again"). Looks like Guv Low will get his wish and Treasurer Friesanburger will blow the surplus on fiscal measures to rebuild infrastructure and peoples' lives. Anyway, let's hope so.

The captain welcomed our guests, Brenda Barnard all the way from the UK, Alan, Maureen and Lorraine Schroder from Adelaide and Scott and Lila Mason from Cairns. Ted Evans told us why he could be a bit late. Pete Harrison got the googly ball for insisting on playing his shot where it lay on the fire brigade's wire mesh hose-drying rack (see photo). Your correspondent was unfairly awarded the dummy spit for his good manners in informing his golfing partners of his playing intentions (i.e. DNP). The encouragement award went to Phoebe Beckett. There were no LD or NTP balls awarded due to the slackness of the green keepers. Winner of the junior comp was Lila Mason on a count back. Winner of the senior comp was Samuel Urquhart (now officially a senior) with 19 Stableford points on a count back from Tim Barter with Pete Harrison in 3rd place on 17. Well played, one and all.

Next month is February. My, hasn't the year flown past! Join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 2 February for the usual 12.30pm start to a spirit-lifting game of golf. Meanwhile keep safe and watch your neighbour's back.

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Kowen New Year's Resolution Trail Run – 19 January 2020

We have all experienced that moment when the space time continuum is suspended. Einstein's theory of relativity does not explain those moments when your whole life unfolds in extreme slow motion.

I have tripped on an unseen rock. This wasn't my first stumble but I had recovered from my earlier interactions with the shale formations of Wamboin. I think I can recover from this if I can just get my leg stretched out to control the drop in my centre of gravity. Nope, that's not going to work. Gravity is taking over and I am heading down; it's not going to be pretty. Will there be blood, will my bones remain intact, will this hurt?

Time to look for a soft spot in this world of rocks. Ah, there's some soft sand. Landing gear down (my hands) and stretched out. Right hand hits the sand, the left hits soft gravel. Left knee hits the tracks. I'm down but this track is narrow and there are runners behind me. I don't want to get in their way. Of course they will just run over me and there is nowhere to roll out of the way. I quickly extend my legs and am back upright. Damage reports come in from all parts of the body and it seems nothing is broken. I survived this fall. Shaken, not stirred.

Of course this all happens in a nano second and I am suddenly jolted out of my slow-motion reverie.

I call out to the runner behind me seeking an appraisal on the degree of elegance of my fall. She offers no appreciation of my display. I ask for a point score and am told, no blood no points. I check my hands and knees, no blood. This trail running game is tough. I heard a woman broke her arm in three places on this track just days ago. Did she qualify for points I wonder?

I am often asked what I think about when doing a long run. This question has caused me to wonder as I am running, what am I thinking about? I was wondering what I was thinking about when my right foot went into a hole and rolled. Again it was a hole I didn't see. If I'd seen it I wouldn't have put my foot in it. The sole of my shoe was vertical and the side of my foot was in contact with the track. That didn't feel natural. I quickly flexed my foot to the natural position and tested it with some pressure. Foot fine. Note to self, concentrate on the track and don't daydream. That advice lasted about 200 metres when I rolled the same foot again. This time my head went a bit woozy from the immediate shot of pain but that wasn't enough to slow my pace. I did get the message and concentrated a little bit more on the track. No more trips or twisted feet for the rest of the run.

At the presentations Pam asks the injured to come forward for a prize for the most damaged. I was not in their league. Some of these runners had scrapes from shoulder to knees and had clearly tumbled and rolled. I have more work to do; must try harder.

I am talking about the latest Wamboin Trail run. This is the New Year's Resolution, a half marathon or 12 km run. Unlike the runs later in the year, this course is all within the reserve off Bingley Way.

There are some 360 runners on the course and for the half marathoners it's a loop they run twice. This all leads to some congestion on the trails and you are never sure whether you have a fast half marathoner wanting to pass or a 12km runner who has had enough of following you. No dogs this time with so many runners and limited space on the trail.



most likely to meet the half marathoners with encouragement for high fiving our fellow runners.

There is about 2 km of sealed or gravel road before you reach the single width track through the bush. This track is very well prepared by Pam and her crew and has been raked of all leaf litter, branches and twigs for its entire length. Dangerous tree roots and rocks are marked by tape and if you look carefully there are little characters hiding in nocks and crannies along the track. Nothing, however, as obvious as Pooh Bear on the Clyde.

Concentration is required as this is a course of twists and turns, climbs and descents. There are rocks and erosion holes to avoid. In places there are rock ledges that require a climbing technique rather than a running pace. Sometimes the best line is on the other side of the track and that's ok until a runner is coming towards you and it doesn't seem right to force them over to where you should be. Pam has also designed this course so we are running in the opposite direction to the runs earlier in the year. This means what was an enjoyable downhill trot is now an uphill slog. What you previously thought was pretty flat is now a climb. This is a course that keeps your interest, there are no boring bits where you can see great distances ahead and settle into a pace.

I quickly discover there are two distinct types of runners on the eroded sections. There are the gazelles who leap from rock to rock. This group clears the eroded sections in a few leaps and they are gone. The conservationists look for each foot hold as they seek to conserve their knees, ankles, skin and vascular system whilst maintaining a respectable pace. I am not a gazelle.



Finally I emerge from the bush and am back on the gravel road down the Bingley. I try to find a line that is free of rocks and is easier on my feet. On to Bingley and time to lift the pace. Maybe I can catch and pass those people in front of me. Seems their pace matches mine and its unlikely I can catch them before the Community Hall.

Onto the driveway to the hall and over the timing cables. I am done. Another Kowen run completed and I am out of breath and energy. No injuries, a mark of success I think. Even with the stumbles I manage a time 8 minutes faster than my previous 12 km Kowen run some 2 years ago.

Thanks to Pam Muston and her team for designing such an interesting and challenging course and for her and her team's organisation skills that are so evident in these runs that happen three times a year. Thanks also to the fire brigade for managing the parking and the after run nourishment. – Kevin Rowe, The Three Score Plus Trail Runner



<i>Final results:</i>		<i>Name</i>	<i>Time</i>
Half marathon:	First male	Michael Daly	1:38:49
	First female	Alice Arch	1:56:16
12 km run	First male	Tom Banks	0:55:11
	First female	Bernadette Connors	1:03:05
Your correspondent			1:36:53

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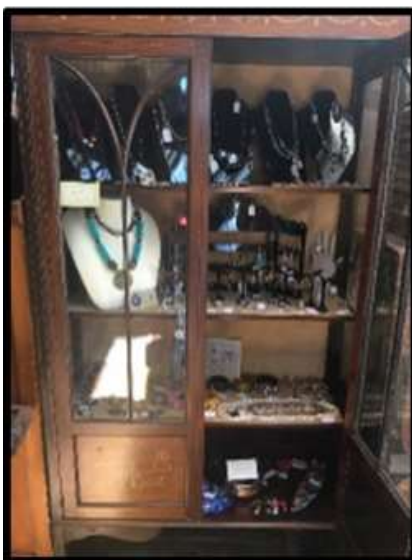
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Wheels of Wamboin 2020

Well it is on again. The Wheels of Wamboin returns in 2020 as the best car show in Wamboin (only one actually). Last year we had the bumper democracy edition with over 280 vehicles of all shapes and sizes making the trip for the day on the field. The 2020 Wheels of Wamboin will be held on Saturday April 18th and is again supported by Shannon's Insurance. Let's take a look at 2020 from a motoring point of view. There are a number of significant milestones and anniversaries to start off the decade.

One of my favourites is the **VW Type 2, the Kombi** – celebrating its 70th anniversary. Following the success of the VW Beetle (Type 1), in 1950 VW began production of their first Transporter model, the VW Type 2. On 8th March production began at the rate of 10 vehicles per day. For the next four decades roughly 5 million buses were produced, the basic design remained the same but numerous different body combinations were made. It would be great to see some Kombi's at the Wheels of Wamboin in 2020 and I know there are a few around the district with a father and son restoration underway. Kombi's are commanding big money now days with some topping over \$100,000.

One a little left field is the **Bond Bug** – celebrating a 50th birthday. Famous for its wedge shape, lift up canopy and tangerine paint, this small British two-seater car was designed by Tom Karen for Reliant. Karen also famously oversaw the design and production of the 1977 Star Wars Landspeeder. The Bond Bug was based on Reliant's newly designed chassis and Reliant Regal running gear. Production ran from 1970 until 1974 with 2,268 vehicles made. I wonder if there is one in a shed somewhere locally.

The **Range Rover Classic** (first generation) also celebrates its 50th anniversary. Launched in 1970 as 'A Car For All Reasons', the Range Rover Classic was produced initially by the Rover division of British Leyland (later Land Rover), and then latterly the Rover Group, from 1970 to 1996. Original models were powered by Rover's ubiquitous 3.5 litre V8 engine making this first-generation model popular with wealthier members of the farming community and those in towns too. And it's come a long way since. Today's well-heeled urban owners would be shocked by the original three-door car's four-speed manual box, unassisted steering and hose out rubber floor interior.

Mazda as a company celebrates 100 years but started as a manufacturer of machine tools and did not build its first car, the 360 until 1960. Mazda began as the Toyo Cork Kogyo Co., Ltd, founded in Hiroshima, Japan, 30 January 1920. The company

formally adopted the Mazda name in 1984, though every automobile sold from the beginning bore that name. The Mazda R360 was introduced in 1960, followed by the Mazda Carol in 1962. The name was also associated with Ahura Mazda (God of Light), with the hope that it would brighten the image of these compact vehicles.



Mazda 360



Bond Bug



VW Type 2



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Notice of a WCA Special General Meeting: Tuesday 18 February 2020

A Special General Meeting of the Wamboin Community Association, Inc. (WCA), will be held in the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 18 February 2020.

The business of the meeting will be to consider and vote upon the proposed special resolution (below) that, if carried, will amend the WCA's constitution to create a WCA membership category of Life Member. The proposal does not change the existing provisions relating to membership of the Association.

As many of you know and have been a part of, the Wamboin Community Association has long been a part of the community. Over this time there has been some outstanding contributions made by community members who have given large amounts of their time along with blood, sweat and tears to make our great community what it is today. Without these people many events such as the bonfire and Fireworks and, community infrastructure such as the Community Hall would not be present for us to all enjoy. These efforts by special people in our community have made Wamboin what it is and who we are. Our community is the envy of many others through many years of hard work, effort and participation.

With this in mind and considering the age of some of our original members I seek support to add a category of life membership to the WCA to recognise the outstanding efforts by some of the longstanding members of the community.

Proposed special resolution: That the constitution of the Wamboin Community Association, Inc. be amended as follows:

1. Categories of membership

Amend clause 3 by deleting subclause (1) and inserting in its place the following subclauses:

- (1) The categories of membership are ordinary members, and life members.
- (2) Ordinary membership of the Association is open to all residents, property owners and tenants of the Wamboin area and to any other person where he or she can demonstrate a prior long-standing interest and involvement in the community to the satisfaction of the committee.
- (3) Life members
 - (a) Individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Wamboin community, over an extended period, are eligible to be elected as life members of the Association.
 - (b) Upon recommendation by the committee, persons deemed worthy of being elected as life members of the Association may be elected as such by at least 75 percent of the vote of those members present at a general meeting of the Association.
 - (c) A life member has all the rights and privileges of membership, including the right to vote, and is subject to this constitution.
- (4) Additional categories of members may be created from time to time by the members at a general meeting.

2. Membership fees

Amend clause 9 by deleting subclause (1) and insert in its place the following subclause:

- (1) The annual membership fee payable by members of the Association (other than life members) shall be \$2, or any other amount determined by the committee.

3. Voting

Amend clause 30 by deleting subclause (1) and insert in its place the following subclause:

- (1) On any question arising at a general meeting of the Association, each ordinary member, and each life member, has one vote only.

-Peter Evans, President, WCA, email president@wamboincommunity.asn.au , tel: 0427 699 118.



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- ♥ White anchovy bruschetta, garden tomatoes, whipped ricotta
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- ♥ Seared duck, pickled cucumber, chive oil, plum sauce
2017 Pinot Noir ♥

— Main —

- Slow roasted free range pork shoulder, peach, pork jus
2017 Pinot Noir
- Roasted chicken breast, cauliflower and pomegranate salad
2008 Chardonnay
- ♥ Market fish, white beans, gremolata
2015 Pinot Gris Wooded ♥
- ♥ Grilled satay broccolini, lemon Myrtle rice
2018 Riesling ♥

— Dessert —

- Lemon-myrtle panna cotta, strawberry compote
2013 Late Harvest Pinot Gris
- ♥ Chocolate brownie, chestnut ice cream, spiced carrot
Barrel aged port from the cellar ♥

(Every Day, All Day menu also available to order A La Carte)

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Lofty Mason

Visitors to the Hall used to slow down at the correct position but then read the WAMBOIN FIRE STATION sign on the Fire Station building. This would get them confused when looking for the Hall. We have now installed a sign at the entrance. The sign was designed and manufactured by Kyle Abell of Integrity Signs and installed at a working bee. Charlie Montesin with his posthole-drilling machine did the backbreaking work.

Maybe you have never noticed but there is a 50mm high doorframe to step over at the main entrance to the Hall. This step caused problems to some people particularly to wheel chair users. To give better access to the Hall we now have aluminium checker plate ramps at the main entrance to the Hall. These ramps were manufactured by Clint and installed by Don Evans.

What was my input? I take the credit, as any coordinator would.

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Wildcare has been very busy dealing with injured and displaced wildlife this summer as a result of the fires, heat, drought and hailstorm in the region. Our Wildcare phone hotline is manned by volunteers and operates 24/7. Wildcare's jurisdiction covers a large area in NSW bordering the north, east and south of ACT, extending to beyond Yass, Collector, Bungendore and Michelago. Residents and other members of the public are encouraged to call Wildcare on 62991966 to ensure help is initiated as quickly as possible for wildlife that are found injured or heat stressed.

TIPS FOR ENGAGING WITH INJURED WILDLIFE

1. Safety is paramount! Do not put anyone at risk attempting a rescue.
2. Wildlife can bite, scratch or may be venomous so take extreme care. Sick or injured animals are fighting for survival so they may be scared and can lash out if approached. They don't know that you are there to help.
3. If you are concerned about an animal, watch from a safe distance and contact Wildcare. One of our trained members can attend and assess.
4. Do not approach snakes, monitors, bats, large kangaroos, large wombats or raptors. Handling these animals requires specialist training and for bats, specialist vaccinations. If you feel that you can safely capture a small animal you may do so but leave the large animal rescue to experienced rescuers.
5. Keep a pet carrier or strong cardboard box, pillowcase and a towel in your car in case you find a small injured animal that you can safely capture without putting yourself or anyone else in danger. Small animals can be placed in a pillowcase, a cloth bag or wrapped loosely in a towel and then inside a box. Birds and small reptiles can simply be placed in a covered box, which has a cloth or suitable substrate in the base.
6. Keep any rescued animals in a cool, quiet, dark place. Please do not smoke around a wild animal and be sensitive to loud noises (e.g. dogs barking, kids playing, car radios playing, TVs etc.). Resist the temptation to open the bag or box to show other people; the animal will already be very frightened and further stress may lead to its death.
7. If the animal is observed on a roadway please remain near the animal if you are able to stay until a rescuer arrives. If you cannot stay please give a detailed description of the exact location of the animal, and mark the area by tying a piece of string or something from your car to a fence or tree, or by placing some sticks/rocks in a pattern on the fence line.
8. If you pick up an animal that has been burnt, orphaned or injured, please get it to a vet or wildlife rehabilitation organisation as quickly as possible. Call Wildcare if you are unsure of anything on 62991966.

Wildcare relies on the generosity of its volunteers and donations from members of the public. Donations can be made via the Wildcare website: wildcare.com.au – there are a number of ways to donate and it's tax deductible!

Contact Wildcare on 62991966 if you see a native animal in distress or need advice as to how you can support wildlife in your area.

- NY Merran Laver & Alissa Willacott for Wildcare *Photo: An echidna on a fireground at Carwoola*



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How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

Without the month by month donation of time it would not be possible for Wamboin and Bywong to produce the Whisper. If you enjoy finding this community owned newsletter in your mailbox, and if you see someone putting it there, think about thanking her or him. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor

168: CO-ORDINATED BY ALICE SCOTT: ph 0407 005 506 email alicescott@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+Wirndra)	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 Nrtm Rd	22	Rob Henry	South end Clare Valley	41
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
Dominica Lorima	North end Clare Valley	42			
161: CO-ORDINATED BY JESSICA GOURLAY: mob: 0401 249 jessicagourlay@hotmail.com.au					
Robyn Elsom	Denley Dr (Sth End to 429)	15	Rhonda&Neville Parnell	Denley Dr (Birchmans to ½ way to end)	26
Joan Milner	Birriwa Rd & Macs Rf Rd to Harriott	31	Beth Hope	Gum Flat Ln	6
Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr	35	Tony Bond	HoganDr/OranaDr/Yuranga Dr	48
106: CO-ORDINATED BY GARETH JONES: ph Ph: 6238 1988 givrjones@bigpond.com					
Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Sandra Favre	Newwington Rd	20
Daryl Bourke	Harriot Rd	28	Don Malcolmson	Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat)	7
Carol & Clive Boughton	Macs Reef Rd (Bankers to Fed Hwy)	33	Cheryl Warnock	Macs Reef Rd (Nwington to Bankers)	11
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			
144: 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	40
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 8	37	Susie and Brad Edwards	Weeroona (417-512)	17
Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Road	27	Murray Goodridge	B'dore Rd (MRR to & nclgd Smmrhill)	38
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Status of the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Fibre to the Premises Project

Ned Noel, based on information supplied by Wamboin Communication Action Group's local leaders

In early 2016 several members of the Wamboin Community proposed that community members work together to greatly improve internet connectivity. We could lay optical fibre across adjoining properties and tie them into high speed optical connection points like Telstra's Anmungula Road terminal. This could be done within a year or two.

WCAG had a commercial party willing to contribute approximately half of the install cost, but this still meant that each resident would have to fork out a few thousand dollars to get their connection. WCAG did not want this to be a service for those who could afford it, but rather a service that everyone in the area could benefit from. To that end they approached John Barilaro to see if he could help. WCAG knew that the average cost to install an NBN service in the cities was around \$3000, heavily subsidised by the govt. so felt that rural residents should also be so subsidised.

In January of 2019 WCAG and John Barilaro announced that the NSW Regional Growth Fund had awarded a grant of \$5,000,000 to support the Broadband Project for Wamboin, Bywong and Southern Parts of Sutton.

Around July of 2019 WCAG local organisers asked to see information on progress to date. They were asked to first sign a very punitive confidentiality agreement and as they felt this was not reasonable or fair they refused to sign, so far no information has been released to them about progress on the project by the NSW government.

Suggestions frequently come to WCAG to settle for less than fibre optic to the premises, as the costs could be less. There are three less expensive options and having recently experienced great wireless service overseas I asked why they are pushing for fibre. Their response was as follows: The NBN satellite is already oversubscribed and is only providing relatively slow connection speeds at a high price to those who do use it. Increasing the supply of fixed wireless points in the area will be incapable of providing connection speeds and data limits that are even close to those supplied by fibre optic cable to a premise. It will also mean having many more unsightly towers in the area and, to give the best speeds, all of them would have to be linked by fibre anyway.

Another popular myth is that 5G will provide the service but 5G's advantages only come if access points are available within 200 metres of each end user, which is unlikely to be affordable in rural areas like Wamboin and Bywong and once again would mean many more towers to blot the landscape.

With the recent horrific bushfires and the problems experienced when the NBN infrastructure failed as a result, the most effective solution for our area is to bury fibre to each property.

WCAG local organisers feel the project still looks viable and that the NSW Government should be given more time, perhaps a year, to show progress. The \$5m grant will be a huge boost to a project the WCAG local leaders feel will cost around twice that. WCAG's local leaders are happy to provide any information they can if you email their joint address of wamboincommunications@gmail.com, or you can email John Barilaro, who has championed the project, at monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au or the NSW Regional Growth Fund at regionalnsw.business@dpc.nsw.gov.au

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February 16, 23 — Jeff Prime
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Nature Notes January 2020

Jo Walker

With more than half of the daily temperatures this month above 30 degrees plus windy days and hardly any rain, the countryside is parched and dry and the wildlife distressed. At least we didn't get the golfball-sized hail that fell in Canberra causing substantial damage to cars and houses. And, although we've had many days of choking smoke from the fires burning all around NSW, we've so far been spared that disaster – although there is still a fair bit of summer to get through!

Hardly any of the local plants have been flowering this month. And many of those that did manage a few flowers earlier on haven't produced seed. The pea plants seem particularly susceptible to high temperatures and drying winds, their seed pods and capsules desiccating and shrivelling up before any seed has a chance to form.

Many of the hardy Australian native plants that I planted here are probably not going to see the summer out, even some from local areas. Local plants growing naturally along roadsides are having a bad time too. Some of the Bitter Peas (*Daviesia mimosoides*) are dying and many of the *Pomaderris angustifolia* growing all along Sutton Road are brown and withered.

Most of the eucalypts appear to be coping with the extreme weather so far. And *Eucalyptus melliodora* (Yellow Box) are flowering at present, some of them quite heavily. This is probably the drawcard for the Honeyeaters that have turned up recently albeit in small numbers. I've only seen one Noisy Friarbird, but about a dozen Red Wattle-birds came through together a few days ago and a few Yellow-faced Honeyeaters have been here occasionally.

Apart from several species of Ants and Mud-wasps there are very few insects around. But recently there were two large and healthy-looking green crickets – probably Garden Katydid (*Caedicia simplex*) up in the shadehouse. They were probably nibbling my plants, but, under these conditions, I'm not going to grudge them a few leaves.

I'm sorry if the Notes this month sound a bit glum. But, the natural world that we are more dependent upon than a lot of people seem to realise is in a bad way right now.

Bird Of The Month

Luke Downey

For February I chose the Rufous Fantail, a rare bird in Wamboin that is only seen at this time of year.

Rufous Fantail (*Rhipidura rufifrons*)

Size: 15-16.5cm

Status: Rare summer passage migrant

The Rufous Fantail is an eye-catching small bird that is sometimes seen locally as they migrate through the area. They generally prefer patches of dense, wet vegetation and I see them near my bird bath. Their plumage is distinctive – white underneath with black scalloping on the breast, a white “moustache” stripe and throat, rufous forehead, black eye and brown back and wings. The tail is the most obvious thing about this species. It has a relatively long black tail with a rufous base extending midway up the tail and onto the lower back, and white tips on the ends of the tail feathers. The name of this group of birds (fantails) refers to their habit of fanning out their tail feathers in a display; which they do regularly. They are very active birds, rarely sitting still for more than a few seconds. Rufous Fantails have 2 close relatives in the local area. The Grey Fantail is a common summer migrant, which is grey instead of rufous, and the Willie Wagtail which is a fairly common resident in more open areas with black upperparts and white underparts. The Grey Fantail will be featured in a later edition of the ‘bird of the month’, so keep an eye out for this article and the bird.



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From the Corner

Local Government Referenda — As I noted in the last Whisper, there are several matters that cannot be acted upon by Council unless explicit approval to do so has been given by electors at a constitutional referendum. Having discussed the process by which the Mayor is elected as one of these matters, and given that the subject comes up in discussion from time to time, I thought it might also be worthwhile revisiting the issue of electoral wards, formerly known as ridings (originally so-named to identify an area within which a representative could reach any constituent on horseback in a day's ride).

There's nothing novel about electoral wards. They are effectively used at both the state (electoral districts) and federal (electoral divisions) level to elect members of parliament. At the local government level, however, there are a couple of differences in the way electoral wards are implemented.

The first is that the electorate can choose, at any time (through a constitutional referendum), whether or not they would prefer to use either a ward system (like other levels of government) or a single area system (more like a Legislative Council election, where several candidates are elected across the entire state or area). The other main difference is that, while [lower house] state or federal electorates are represented by a single member, no NSW Local Government Area (LGA) currently operates under a system of wards comprising fewer than two councillors each. In fact, the Local Government Act (Section 224A (9)) does not allow the number of councillors representing a ward to be *reduced* to fewer than three.

Some years ago, I made enquiries to the NSW Office of Local Government as to how, given Section 224A of the Act, a Council could legitimately be organised into wards represented by only two councillors each—there are currently five Councils in NSW conducting elections under a such a system. I never did get an answer but that lack of response in itself did raise the question of legislative loopholes and the potential to operate a ward system with even just a single councillor per ward, as long as you didn't start out with more.

Nonetheless, the issue most commonly overlooked when constituents suggest the introduction of a ward system is the fact that it works just like the state and federal systems in that the population within electorates must not vary by more than 10%. In a relatively homogeneous area, like a typical metropolitan electorate or a large rural electorate, this may be of little consequence. Where the division can become challenging is in geographically large LGAs where the population or communities of interest are *not* evenly spread throughout the area. In an area like QPRC for example, where 75% of the population lives in around 2% of the council area, it could be difficult to find an acceptable structure where even just one ward is not dominated by the interests of an urban population.

The next complication, which follows on from this, is that the number of councillors to be elected must be able to be evenly divided across the proposed ward structure. The present QPRC Council of eleven (a prime number) councillors, for example, could not practically be elected under a ward system. To introduce a ward system, the number of councillors would need to be reduced or increased (and this change itself is another matter that can only be decided via a referendum) to something that was wholly divisible by the number of wards to be created.

Regardless, as we've noted, none of this can happen without the electorate's approval (expressed through an appropriate referendum). But while a Council can't change any of these things by itself, the astute reader will have twigged to the fact that the Council alone decides whether or not to hold a referendum in the first place. The result, of course, is that the only matters that go to a referendum are those that it suits the Council of the day to change.

As previously noted, around 25% of NSW Councils currently have their Mayor elected by the electors, rather than by the Council. By comparison, around 33% of NSW Councils conduct their elections under a ward system. Further, the three Councils that have most recently resolved (as a result of a referendum on the subject) to change the method by which their Mayor is elected, either already operate under or also resolved to concurrently introduce a ward system for the election of councillors. In our LGA, however, even though a change in the way the Mayor is elected would make it possible to introduce a ward system (there would then only be ten councillors to elect, an even number, divisible by either two or five), our Council recently rejected a proposal to seek the views of the electorate on the issue of wards at the same time as they seek their view on the method of election of the Mayor.

If you're interested in the legislative details governing ward systems, I've pulled together the relevant extracts from the Local Government Act in another post on the QPR Blog. Needless to say, there's a lot more in there than would be of interest to most readers. Of course, if you have a problem with insomnia...

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

Local Government Referenda (Jan 2020) Wards (Dec 2011)
The Act on Wards (Jan 2020)

Cr Pete Harrison, Ph. 6238 3640, Mob. 0427 711 028, Email: contact@peteharrison.id.au, Website: www.peteharrison.id.au
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The first Europeans to traverse Wamboin, Bywong and Gearys Gap

Part 1 of 2

David McDonald – email david [at] dnmcdonald.id.au, phone 0416 231 890

Acknowledgement: We respectfully acknowledge that Aboriginal people were the custodians of the lands that we call Wamboin, Bywong and Gearys Gap for probably scores of thousands of years before Europeans first visited the area. This article focuses, however, on the first Europeans to traverse the area. Out of respect to the Aboriginal custodians, I refer to these Europeans as ‘explorers’, and eschew the term ‘discoverers’, as the latter term implies a denial of prior Aboriginal occupation of the country.

Background: It is worth recalling that the Sydney Cove colonists were confined to a limited land area by the ‘Western barrier’ (the Blue Mountains) and the ‘Southern barrier’ (the Southern Highlands). The Western barrier was first crossed in 1813, and subsequently a route was found to the south-west, with Charles Throsby exploring the country around Moss Vale in 1817. The following year, Deputy Surveyor General James Meehan travelled further south-west, and was the first European to reach Lake Bathurst (known to the Aboriginal people as ‘Bundong’). In 1820 a road was built from Sydney to the Goulburn Plains, thereby opening a second route (after the road crossing the Blue Mountains) to the interior of the continent.

The two key figures in the first European exploration of our area were Charles Throsby (1777–1828) and Joseph (known as Joe) Wild (or Wilde) (c. 1773–1847), referred to many decades ago as ‘... each in his own way, a typical example of the virile pioneers of the Australian nation’ (Watson 1931, p. 455). Watson (*loc. cit.*) enlarges on this:

Charles Throsby, who was an educated Englishman, arrived in Australia in 1802 as a naval surgeon at the age of thirty-one years ... In 1819 he became the first land holder in the southern districts by forming a stock station (now known as Throsby Park) on the Wingiecarabee (*sic*) River near Moss Vale ...

Joseph Wild was illiterate, but, by instinct, a natural bushman and a natural observer. He was born in the year 1759, and was employed by Charles Throsby and participated in all Throsby’s explorations. Wild was of sturdy physique, retaining his vitality to a great age. He was fifty-eight years of age at the date of Throsby’s first exploring tour, and had reached eighty-eight when he was killed by a wild bull near the Wingiecarabee (*sic*) swamps.

Exploring south to Lake George: The NSW Governor, Lachlan Macquarie, who held Charles Throsby in high regard, gave him responsibility for building a road, using convict labour, from the more-or-less settled area of the Southern Highlands towards Lake Bathurst. While inspecting progress on the road, Throsby met Aboriginal people who spoke of a large lake to the south that they called Weereewa (our current spelling), and a substantial river a couple of days travel further south (the Murrumbidgee).

Once the road had been constructed past the Wollondilly River (Lea-Scarlett 1968, p. 2), Throsby sent three of his road construction crew, led by Joseph Wild, in search for the lake and the river. It took them just one day to reach the northern end of what was later named Lake George, on 19 August 1820. Although there is some dispute, it is generally accepted that this was the first European expedition to visit the lake (Barrow 2012, p. 17). From the eastern shore they noted the gap in the range on the opposite side of the lake, Gearys Gap. The party continued along the eastern shore to the southern end of the lake and camped for the night of 21 August on Turallo Creek, near the present site of Bungendore. They then ‘... Climbed the range of hills that bordered the lake to the west. From the top of what may have been Turalla Hill, or one of the peaks nearby ...’ (Mayer 2000, p. 17) they observed the snow-covered ranges to the south-west, almost certainly the Brindabella Range. (Turalla Hill is a high point on the top of the Lake George Range between Mathews Road, Bungendore and Wirreanda Lane, Wamboin.) Another source (Watson 1931, p. 455) suggests that it was ‘Gibraltar Mountain’ (which lies east of Bungendore) that they climbed, not Turalla Hill. The party then returned to the Southern Highlands by the same route.

Macquarie, Oxley, Throsby and party at Lake George, and the first exploration of the Wamboin/Bywong/Gearys Gap

localities: It is recorded that:

Governor Macquarie was so impressed with the discovery of the new lake and the prospect of finding a major river that might communicate with the south coast, that he decided to see these exciting features himself. He arrived at Weereewa on 27 October 1820 and, as he wrote in his journal, was ‘most gratified and delighted with this noble expanse of water, and the surrounding scenery’. The next day he renamed it Lake George, ‘in honour of His present Majesty, that is George IV’ (Mayer 2000, p. 17).

Charles Throsby had proceeded from Lake Bathurst to Lake George ahead of the Governor’s party, which was estimated to number more than 30 officials, servants and guides. Macquarie ventured into this ‘New Country’ in a carriage! Subsequently (on 27 October), the Governor’s party established a lakeside camp on Taylors Creek (about 15 km north of Bungendore, on the opposite side of the lake from Gearys Gap).

Meanwhile, Charles Throsby, Joseph Wild, Constable James Vaughan and two Aboriginal guides, set off to find the Murrumbidgee River, as Throsby was keen to accomplish this significant task while the Governor was in the area, with the potential to be able to take the Governor to the new-found river. Throsby’s exploration party failed to find the Murrumbidgee, but traversed Wamboin and Bywong, following the headwaters of the Yass River, known to the Aboriginal people as ‘Boongaroon’.

The route they followed from the eastern side of Lake George was, commencing on 27 October 1820, south along the lake-side, crossing Turallo Creek and then heading west, over the Lake George Range (possibly in the vicinity of Turalla Hill), through what is now the south-eastern part of the locality of Wamboin, to the headwaters of the Yass River in Wamboin. They followed the river to the west then north, through Wamboin and Bywong, to its junction with Brooks Creek, in the vicinity of which they camped the night. The next morning, 28 October, they proceeded east along Brooks Creek to Gearys Gap, descended to the lake, rode south along its western shore (Lake Road), and then rode north along the eastern shore to the Governor’s camp at Taylors Creek, arriving there on the afternoon of 28 October. (Mayer (2000) discusses the limitations of our knowledge of this expedition—Throsby’s journal has not survived—but argues convincingly that these were Throsby’s route and dates).

Conclusion: The early expeditions by the British colonists from the Southern Highlands (the ‘New Country’, as Macquarie called it) to locate the great lake and river that Aboriginal people had told them about—Lake George and the Murrumbidgee River—feature prominently in Australia’s early colonial history. Some of these expeditions traversed what is now known as Wamboin, Bywong and Gearys Gap. The many published works on ‘the discovery of the Limestone Plains’, and the early history of Canberra, generally omit or gloss over the fact that our area was on the routes taken by some of the first European explorers.

The second part of this account, to be published in the March 2020 issue of *The Whisper*, will include information on an expedition to our area that took place later in 1820, and a map of both explorations.

Tuesday 27 October this year, 2020, will be the bicentenary of the first Europeans to set foot in our area. I wonder if the community will develop any plans to mark the occasion?

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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market

Saturday 15 February 2020 9-12 midday

A good start on January 18th 2020 with a full hall of stallholders and quite a few customers. We welcomed both new and returning stallholders. All stallholder fees and other donations from the January market will go to our local Wildcare, who are helping out caring for a number of animals and birds affected by the bushfires. Altogether we raised \$305. Thanks to all for the generous donations received.



Lance christened the new wheelchair/pram ramp at the hall – see photo! Thanks to all those who went to some trouble installing it. Certainly makes heaving nearly 80 kgs of Lance and 40kg of oxygen plus wheelchair a whole lot easier!

*Come and join us for the February market: **Expect to find*** – Garden produce, smoked trout and cheeses, plants, succulents, native tube stock, indoor plants and cut flowers, knitted goods, crocheted toys and other craft, homemade cosmetics and skin care products, artwork, recycled furniture, home baking, jewellery, jams and preserves, freshly brewed coffee, local organic pork, and more. See you at the markets!

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

I have resolved to avoid the word “unprecedented” in the next little bit, so that must surely rule out any reference to droughts, climate change and bush fires. I’ll give it a go, but one can’t deny reality.

This has been a very different period between Christmas and Australia Day. Usually it’s a time to wind down, put away the paraphernalia of Christmas, take a very long deep breath, escape down the Clyde to the beach or lose yourself in Christmas reading at home. There are always disasters on the TV from the other side of the world punctuating the cricket or tennis; floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, snow storms, pandemics, riots. This year is no different, but this year the horrors are on our own doorstep, too. We are surrounded by loss, sorrow and grief, unease and tension, and it seems relentless. We have watched our beloved country burn. There has been little chance to rest, refresh and prepare for the year ahead... and yet we, here, must regard ourselves as the lucky ones... so far.


I haven’t been able to concentrate on anything but light reading from my Christmas cache. A book on Manners, with a catchy title, had me laughing out loud, stories of postwar immigration had my eyes glistening, but I keep pushing my “must reads” aside. I seem to sit at the end of a day after toiling in the struggling garden incapable of doing anything but a few crosswords.

Deciding what plants should be kept alive is something of a lottery. Watering has become a chore. It was once a chance to let my mind wander, savour the new morning or the closing of the day. Now I find myself simply counting from one to sixteen, or twenty if it’s deserving, as I move from plant to plant, metering precious drops of water. But the arc of water spurting from the hose presents moments of pure pleasure for the dog. She leaps and bites at the stream with measureless joy unbothered by the smell and colour of the dam water. Thank you Maggie! And the morning ritual, feeding the galahs, rosellas and cockatoos and observing the state of play before the squadron of choughs fly in, too late and find the cupboard bare, is a “must do.” Unfazed by the empty larder the choughs regroup on the bird bath; fifteen choughs, a duster of black feathers on a pedestal watched by twenty cockatoos looking on in sheer disbelief from the boughs above! The other night a screeching flock of corellas flew in at dusk and settled in a large eucalypt. They were gone by morning; just passing through. I’ve never seen corellas here, before..... There are still unexpected pleasures in the bush.

Pliny, the Elder, mused, a good few years before I was born, that, “It is far from easy to determine whether she (Nature) has proved to man a kind parent or a merciless stepmother.” At the moment I’d opt for the latter. But I suspect that man is not entirely blameless in contributing to her pitiless behaviour.

I wouldn’t live anywhere else...well maybe I would... if I could... but only on my terms!!





PRESENTS THE

WAMBOIN BUSH DANCE

FEATURING

Paverty Bush Band

Saturday 14th March 2020 Wamboin Community Hall
(Bingley Way Wamboin)

BBQ starts from 6pm and band starts from 7pm

Admission is \$20 per family or \$10 single (tickets at door)

Bring a traditional supper plate for the community to share (finger food or sweets) and BYOG

Don't forget your cash and gold coins for the bottle toss competitions and live auctions of some fantastic items and donations.

Come on down and support the bushfire and drought relief while having a great time with your community.

ALL PROCEEDS TO



