



May 2020

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The Wamboin Whisper: The Whisper is a monthly community newsletter established in 1981 by and owned 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. Any 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. 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 June 2020 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, May 31st**

Bywong and Wamboin Facilities and Contacts

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Wamboin Community Assn www.wamboincommunity.asn.au Bywong Community www.bywongcommunity.org.au

Fire Brigade <http://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>

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	6128 0600 bsn hrs	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	
Justice of the Peace	Andrew Stainlay - JP	0408 469 880	stains@bigpond.net.au
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	deniselynnhales40@gmail.com
Wonderful Women of Wamboin	Gail Ritchie Knight	0416 097 500	Whirlwind1@argonite.com.au
ARF (Rescue Dogs)	Lisa Whitney	0408 260 796	Lisawhitney059@gmail.com

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



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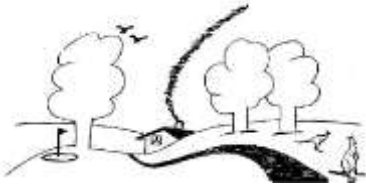
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Wamboin Community Association Presidents Paragraphs “It’s a Mad World”



Well, here we are still in lock down at the time of penning this President’s paragraph. Actually Wamboin is probably one of the best spots to be in lockdown, social distancing not an issue, plenty of opportunity to get out and about and finish those jobs before the winter chill takes hold (all good as long as you have loo paper as newspapers do not work in the septic!). Good opportunities to exercise in fresh air (have you noticed the increase in people walking the dog. That’s got be good for both dogs and humans). ANZAC day has passed so everyone now has permission to start the wood heaters and the days are getting shorter. The recent rains have kept the landscape green but also spurred on a growth of weeds that I have not seen for years. Marsh mallow weed (*Malva parviflora*) seems to be the winner from the recent rains and is a hazard for horses. Time to get out and on top of this if you can. What a change to be talking about weeds and rain after our experience in January. As I write a chilly change and a good dump of rain is forecast for the beginning of May. Snow next!!

Not much else to report with everything either cancelled or postponed. We are eagerly looking forward to the lifting of restrictions and the world getting back to some sort of normal. It’s seems the news gets worse for many places around the world but hats off to Australia in getting it under control early to the benefit of many in the community. The massive question is what happens next as we start to look at the economic recovery. I’m hoping things will ramp up quickly and minimise the impact and implications. Let’s pour money into infrastructure and get new jobs moving. Infrastructure is an investment for the future not like cash handouts and Chinese televisions.

And finally some good news. Council is currently repairing the section of Macs Reef Road at the Federal Highway end and also a poor section of Denley Drive. Also news that the recycling area at the hall is budgeted for bitumen improvement in the 2020/21 financial year.

Please keep in touch with your elderly or vulnerable neighbours with a regular phone call.

We are still Wamboin !! Peter Evans – Still President.

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What to REDcycle:

YES please!

- ✓ Biscuit packets (outer wrapper only)
- ✓ Bread bags (without the tie)
- ✓ Bubble wrap (large sheets cut into A3 size pieces)
- ✓ Cat and dog food pouches (as clean and dry as possible)
- ✓ Cellophane from bunches of flowers (cut into A3 size pieces)
- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Chip and cracker packets (silver lined)
- ✓ Chocolate and snack bar wrappers
- ✓ Cling film - GLAD, COLES HOME brand and WOOLWORTHS Essentials Home brand ONLY
- ✓ Confectionery bags
- ✓ Document sleeves (remove the white reinforcement strip along the holes)
- ✓ Dry pet food bags
- ✓ Fresh produce bags
- ✓ Frozen food bags
- ✓ Green bags (Polypropylene Bags)
- ✓ Ice cream wrappers
- ✓ Large sheets of plastic that furniture comes wrapped in (cut into A3 size pieces)
- ✓ Netting produce bags (any metal clips removed)
- ✓ Newspaper and magazine wrap
- ✓ Pasta bags
- ✓ Pet food bags (chaff/horse/chicken) - both the plastic and woven polypropylene types (but not woven nylon). Cut into A3 size pieces and shake free of as much product as possible
- ✓ Plastic Australia Post satchels
- ✓ Plastic carrier bags from all stores
- ✓ Plastic film wrap from grocery items such as nappies and toilet paper
- ✓ Plastic sachets
- ✓ Potting mix and compost bags - both the plastic and woven polypropylene types (cut into A3 size pieces and free of as much product as possible)
- ✓ Rice bags - both plastic and the woven type (if large, cut into A3 size pieces)
- ✓ Snap lock bags / zip lock bags
- ✓ Squeeze pouches with lid on (e.g. yogurt/baby food)
- ✓ Wine/water bladders - clear plastic ones only
- ✓ Please make sure your plastic is dry and as empty as possible.

NO thanks!

- X Plastic bottles
- X Plastic containers
- X Any rigid plastic such as meat trays, biscuit trays or strawberry punnets
- X Adhesive tape
- X Balloons (of any kind)
- X Bathroom/shower loofahs
- X Biodegradable/degradable/compostable plastics
- X Blister packs, tablets and capsule packaging
- X Blow up pool, pool toys or beds - plastic or PVC
- X Bread bag tags
- X Christmas tinsel and Christmas trees
- X Cling film - with the EXCEPTION OF GLAD, COLES HOME brand and WOOLWORTHS Essentials Home brand
- X Coffee bags
- X Cooler bags
- X Disposable food handling gloves of any variety
- X Drinking straws
- X Film negatives and x-rays
- X Fishing line
- X Foam or polystyrene of any kind (including soft flexible foam)
- X Foil / Alfoil of any kind
- X Food waste
- X Glass
- X Laminated materials and overhead transparencies
- X Medical waste materials
- X Nylon - woven, soft or fishing line
- X Paper and cardboard
- X Paper post packs
- X Plastic/clear vinyl packaging from sheets, doonas etc
- X Plastic packaging that has contained meat
- X Plastic strapping used for securing boxes and pallets
- X Polyester of any kind
- X Powdered milk packets, made of foil
- X PVC
- X Rope of any variety
- X Rubber, rubber gloves, latex
- X Solar pool covers
- X Tarpaulins
- X Tin cans
- X VHS Tape
- X Vinyl - any type of vinyl packaging
- X Wet plastic materials as mould is a problem for us
- X Wine/water bladders - foil based
- X Wrapping paper and cardboard, ribbons or bows

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Bywong Community Association (non-) News – May 2020

While our Community is in early hibernation due to the Covid-19 restrictions, should I feel guilty about actually *enjoying* being locked down at home? I realise there is a bit of novelty colouring my view, and that lockdown might be tedious if not depressing for some, but at least the news seems to indicate that the ‘short, sharp’ approach is being effective in reducing the fatalities and that the restrictions may ease soon.

WFH (Working From Home) can be just as intense as being in the workplace, and is even more likely to drift outside 9-5 Mon-Fri. On the upside, I certainly don’t miss the daily drive to/from the Bubble, and when there is a break in the work it is pleasant to be able to chat with family members/ pets, or pop a plant in the ground!

Like many, I have learned to use online tools to keep in touch with friends and work colleagues, and while the ageing copper wire has been OK for most purposes, I am looking forward to the future Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton area Fibre Broadband Network becoming a reality – you can read about the latest step forward, that a telecommunications provider will be selected by the end of 2020 – search for “Wamboin communications”.

While the lockdown has reduced our shopping frequency, the same amount of recycling seems to keep piling up in my shed! If like me you are keen to ensure your recycling can be fully used and not be rejected to landfill, you can check the Recycle Right tips at <https://www.tccs.act.gov.au/recyclopaedia/recycle-right>.

I was also excited to learn recently that many types of soft plastic (bags and wrappers) can be recycled via REDcycle, which has collection bins at Coles and Woolies (but NOT via Council’s waste depots). Check out their website at www.redcycle.net.au.

Once this pandemic has passed, the Bywong Community Association looks forward to “Bringing Bywong Together” through our local events.

In the meantime, stay well and stay connected to friends and acquaintances in the area.

On the page at left there is a list to help us get even better at recycling when using REDcycle. This is the recycling running at Coles and Woolworth and some of Australia’s large companies, to provide one more way to recycle many types of goods. It is meant to add another convenient option in addition to council recycling sites. QPRC recycling sites do have somewhat different lists of accepted and not accepted items.

-Mike Wilkins, President, Bywong Community Association, 0417458320, Email: president@bywongcommunity.org.au

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Can I have a fire bucket or fire pit?

With the cooler weather here and social restrictions in force, seems like everyone is enjoying sitting around a fire bucket/pit and relaxing in these crazy times.

Under Council Regulations you are permitted to have a small fire for recreational and /or cooking purposes.

Here are a few simple tips to ensure we don't gatecrash your next fire bucket session.

- Position your bucket or pit away from flammable materials, especially structures
- Make sure you have an adequate water supply and a responsible adult in attendance
- Only burn clean, dry timber such as firewood. Pallets are generally treated and the chemicals used aren't nice to anyone's health. Cancer sucks!
- Minimise smoke production and check that any smoke isn't going to drift across the neighbours washing and give them a friendly heads up so they don't mistake your fire for an unwanted one.
- Burning rubbish, building material such as painted timber and green waste is NOT permitted. Fines can apply if reported to Triple Zero '000'.

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>
NSW Rural Fire Service www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
Face Book Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade
Lake George Fire Control Centre 0261280600 BH's



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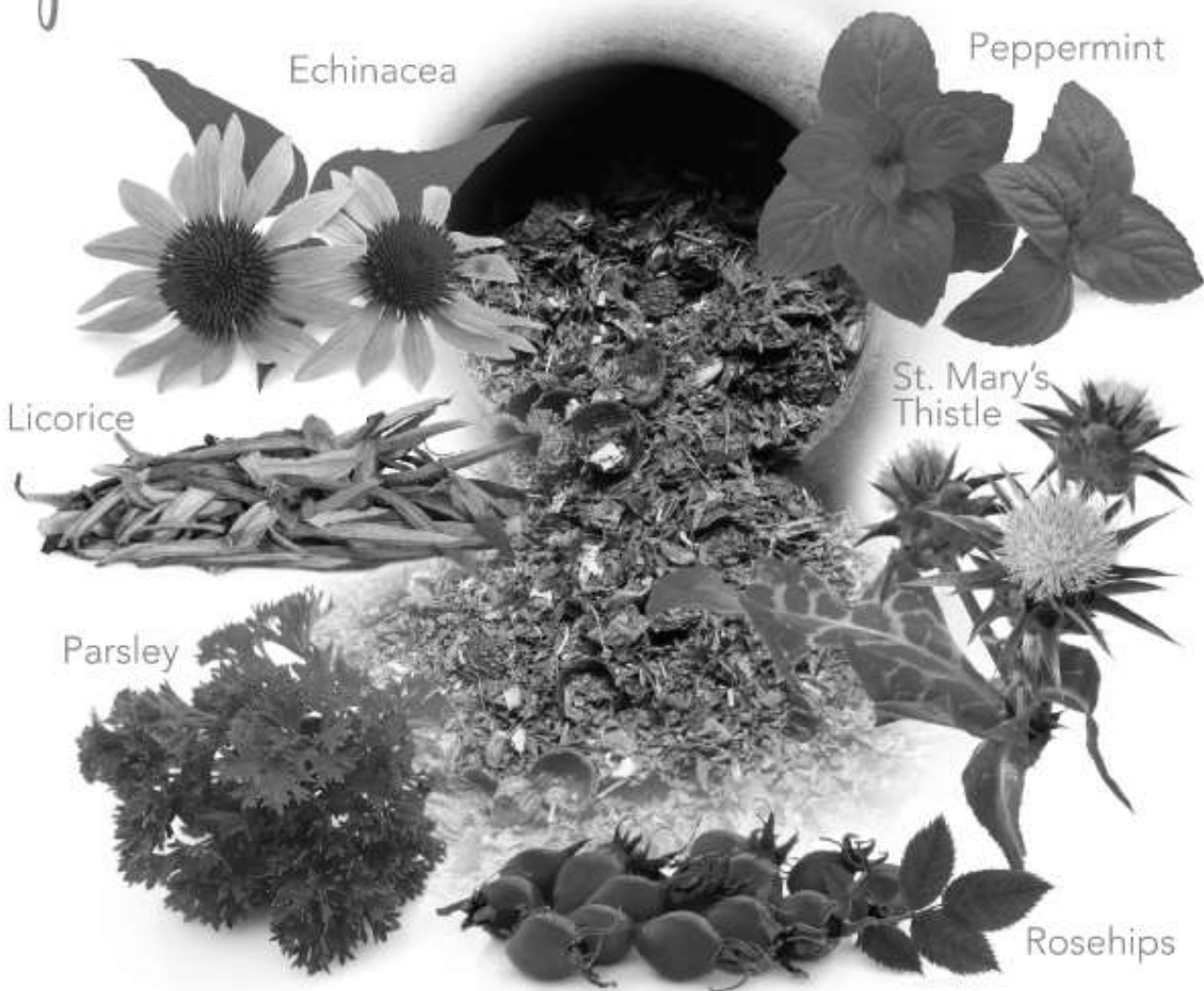
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Wamboin Golf – April 2020

Mahogany Ridge, Sunday, 5 April. Your correspondent is in a bit of a spin. Here he is at home, self-oscillating. Also self-isolating, social-distancing, hand-washing, mask-wearing and all that. What's inducing the mood swings is the sheer bloody dreariness of it all. In the early days of the pandemic it was exciting: going around all the supermarkets, panic buying, hoarding stuff, elbowing pensioners aside, and playing the frail aged off the hip. Happy days! I've got enough toilet paper, kitchen paper and tissues to insulate a three-bay machinery shed. But now, utter boredom! And the word is they've cancelled the Masters! Not only that paltry effort in the US but also the Wamboin Mini Masters. So here I am like my close personal friend, Samuel Pepys, writing in my diary about a great plague ringing changes to the world as we knew it.

Excuse me, it's 3pm. Time to scratch myself (who said I was lazy). I really look forward to these little highlights of my days in hibernation. Now, where was I? Ah yes, great changes in life. But it's good to know that COVID-19 is even-handed and impartial. It attacks the great and small without discrimination. In the UK Charley and Boris have got it. (I hope the Groom of the Stool has access to sufficient toilet paper.) I am attracted to the advice Boris was getting from his CMO: let the virus run wild through the population to generate "herd immunity" – over 70s to be quarantined in the interim. It would be quicker but produce more fatalities which raises moral issues for the squeamish. Nevertheless, it would thin the ranks of those pesky baby boomers who will spend the best part of the next 20 years bludging on later generations. However, your correspondent is a committed moralist (two years in Callan Park) and believes we should support the civil authority in times of crisis. I therefore go along with "flattening the curve" despite the mounting cost. It is a melancholy reflection that no Australian alive today is ever again likely to see a balanced federal budget. But if it stops us fighting in the streets that's a good thing, isn't it?

If this really was a golf report the googly ball would go to Donald Strumpet who, like the excessively cheerful Pollyanna, continues to predict an early resumption of business as usual. The dummy spit would go to the whingeing cruise ship passengers quarantined – for free – in five star hotels without having to worry about where their next four course meal is coming from.

If the stars align you may consider joining us at the community hall on Sunday, 3 May for a game of golf. Meanwhile I hope you are safe, well and employed or at least benefitting from the various economic safety nets like JobKeeper. I'm OK (thanks for asking). As a reporter for a respected regional newspaper I'm in an "essential occupation". In fact, Ned has promised to double my wages. - Larry King, hermit

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. – Ned Noel, editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association

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WAMBOIN WEATHER – Rainfall And Temperature Records

(45 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

April Rainfall Stats

April rainfall to the 26th 60.25mm
2020 total rainfall to 26th 276mm

May Rainfall Stats

2019 May rainfall..... 48.75mm
Wettest May..... 171.0mm in 1995
Wettest day..... 52mm on 3/5/95
Driest May..... 0mm in 2001

May Temperature Stats

Hottest May day..... 24°C on 2/5/95
Hottest May night..... 14°C (4 times) on
2/5/88, & 1-2/5/95 & 3/5/19
Average day temperature..... 13.4°C
Warmest May..... 1980
(Av. max day temp. 14.2°C & night 7.5°C)
(highest 16.8°C in 2018 & 8.1°C in 1989)

Average April rainfall..... 44.4mm
2019 April rainfall..... 2.75mm
2019 total rainfall to 26/4..... 170.5mm
44yr Av. to end of April..... 220.0mm

Average May rainfall..... 45.5mm
Average no. rain days in May..... 8.3
Highest no. rain days..... 20 in 1989
Lowest no. rain days..... 0 in 2001

Av. May temp.... 9.3°C (day+night comb.)
Coldest May day..... 3°C on 29/5/00
Coldest May night..... -6°C on 31/5/01
Average night temperature..... 5.2°C
Coldest May 2012
(Av. min day temp. 10.1°C & night 0.8°C)

May 2019. Av. max 16.0°C & min 4.5°C

During May the daylight length will decrease by 42 minutes from 10.5 to 9.8 hours



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Anzac Day 2020

Every year we make the journey to the Australian War Memorial to pay our respects for our fallen soldiers, listen to their stories and watch the names and faces of those who never made it home beam proudly across the beautiful building. We listen intently as the presenters remind us of why we do this. Why we commemorate and why we celebrate Anzac Day.

This year it's different. This year we can't travel to the Australian War Memorial and pay our respects.

Instead, we will do our own Dawn Service. In our driveway. Saturday 25th April 2020, We will walk to our gate, light some lanterns, tune into ABC radio, stand proudly with our neighbours and listen to the dawn service.

We will listen to the ode.

We will listen to the last post.

We will remain standing for the minute silence.

We will pay respects.

We will remember them.

The hub cap was designed and painted by Toni Moore

By **Karyn Thompson, Norton Road**

(Toni Moore, our neighbor, painted the hubcap. My 5 year old son helped with painting the rocks.)



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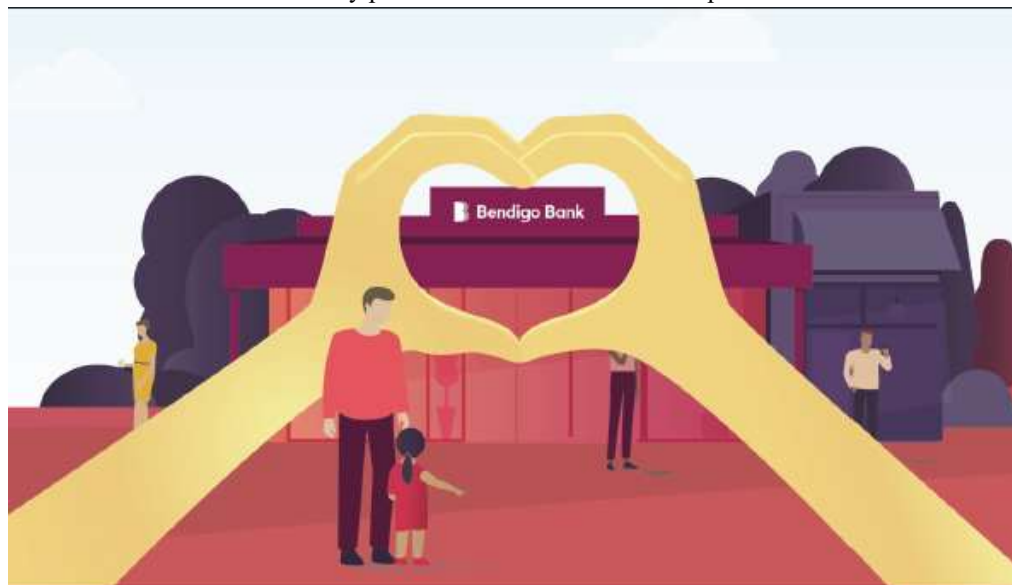
Jo Walker

A bit more rain at the beginning of the month has kept the local vegetation green and growing and the dams full.

The wattles have grown quickly and are developing clusters of buds for the spring flowering. Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) are making the most of the moisture in the soil and are producing little thickets of suckers from their surface roots.

There should be a good show of herbaceous flowers this spring. *Wurmbea dioica* (Early Nancy) are sending up their first slender green leaves and a few Buttercup (*Ranunculus lappaceus*) leaves are appearing. And a few of the tiny daisies are covering extensive areas. The Narrow-leaf New Holland Daisy (*Vittadinia muelleri*) has been expanding its territory at my place for some years now. It has tiny blue flowers followed by fluffy seed-heads that Crimson Rosellas sometimes feed on. It is usually interspersed with patches of the tiny but numerous *Triptilodiscus pygmaeus* (Austral Sunray) covered in tiny yellow button flowers. A less common tiny daisy is the Grass Daisy (*Isoetopsis graminifolia*), so named because of its resemblance to a little tuft of bright green grass. Its flowers are not as noticeable as the others – pale greenish flat buttons nestled at the centre of the plant.

Another small plant that seems to have taken off after the earlier rains is the little Rock Fern (*Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*) that has come up in lots of new places including many of the local roadsides. Its description in many botany books includes the comment 'often found in rocky places' so Wamboin is an ideal place for it!



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Since my dam filled up, a few Dragonflies have appeared. And there are lots of tiny aquatic insects zig-zagging around just beneath the water surface. There haven't been many butterflies around this year, but recently a few Caper Whites (*Anaphaesis java teutonica*), Australian Admirals (*Vanessa itea*) and Painted Lady Butterflies (*Vanessa kershawi*) have flitted around in the sunshine. And I found one large empty pupal case of a Hepialid moth – although it's a while since I've had any of those large moths at the windows.

I also recently found a large Leopard Slug in the shadehouse where it had found a moist place to shelter under some pots. These robust slugs grow to about 15cm long and get their name from their mottled skins. In wetter times they were quite common here and came out of their hiding places to crawl on the pavers after rain, but this one was the first I'd seen for a long while. It is still safely ensconced in the shadehouse.

Most of the wildlife here live their lives framed by habitual behaviour, but occasionally a bird or animal seems to work out a plan of action outside that norm. A few days ago, there was a lone Sulphur-crested Cockatoo in the feeding area near the house. Over the years, the rocks there have become increasingly exposed with deep crevices amongst them. The Cockatoo could obviously see some seed in one of those spaces and set to work to retrieve it. It spent about twenty minutes digging around one end of the upturned shale rock, then going to the other end and digging there. Finally, it grabbed the rock in its beak, moved it from side to side, then heaved it out of the soil and reached into the cavity to feed on the well-earned seed. The fascinating wildlife here certainly gives us a good excuse for just standing and looking out of the window for a while sometimes.

Haydrop South: Wildcare's Response To The Bushfires

Many local property owners and wildlife volunteers across Australia have been providing ongoing support for surviving animals that lost their habitat to fire last summer. In our own backyard, many people have focused efforts to provide food, water and in some cases shelter for many animals requiring supplementation to adequately survive. Wildcare volunteers, with the help of many others in the community, have been busily delivering essential food – grass, hay, pellets, bird seed, fruit/vegetables and 'browse' (native tree and shrub cuttings). Following is an account by one Wildcare volunteer involved in driving this support, Mike Wilkins, on how wildlife has been helped at firegrounds around the small township of Michelago.

The Calabash and Clear Range fires near Michelago flared up in late January and destroyed an area of around 17,000 hectares of bush and farmland. Drawing on its experience responding to the much larger (37,000 hectare) North Black Range (Tallaganda



Forest) fires, which burned from November to January, Wildcare quickly put together a plan to provide essential feed to wildlife affected by these latest fires. In contrast to the 'Tallaganda model', of using a large number of volunteers to deliver feed to fire-affected properties, the Michelago model was to invite the owners of fire-affected properties to collect wildlife feed from a depot in Michelago village. This new approach was chosen mainly because the distance from Queanbeyan and Canberra would make it much harder to sustain a labour-intensive model of delivering feed. *Photo: Feed drops with help of Southern Tablelands 4WD Club*

It was crucial that the owners of properties affected by the Calabash and Clear Range fires be contacted as quickly as possible, but this was a challenging job given the damage to access tracks and phone lines/towers. A few 'expeditions' provided an initial list of property owners, soon added to by word of mouth. Local Facebook groups were also very useful for quickly spreading the message to property owners interested in supporting native wildlife.

On 14 February, two shipping containers were delivered to Michelago and stocked with hay, pellets, birdseed and fruit and veg (sweet potatoes, apples and carrots). There was also a stock of PVC water stations, nestboxes (rosellas and possums) and hanging bird/possum feeders.

Meanwhile, as soon as it was safe to do so, Wildcare carried out a series of 'Black Walks' on fire-affected properties. As well as delivering feed, these teams were able to rescue a number of injured/orphaned animals (roos, wallaroos, wombats) and log others that needed monitoring.

We also organised a feed delivery to a few properties in the Bumbalong Valley that had been totally destroyed and whose owners were flat out getting their lives running again. "Thank you" to the Southern Tablelands Four Wheel Drive Club for turning out to ensure we could negotiate dirt roads and cross the Murrumbidgee after recent heavy rain.

The Michelago feed depot continues to receive weekly top-ups of fruit and veg (purchased at 'mates rates' from Ziggy's at Belconnen/Fyshwick Markets) and fresh 'browse' delivered by enthusiastic volunteers from Queanbeyan or Canberra. The hay, pellets and birdseed are restocked as necessary. These HayDrop South volunteers ("Thank you", All!) are coordinated through a Facebook Group of the same name: Facebook can definitely minimize the effort of communicating with large numbers of busy individuals!

The Michelago depot will be kept open until the local bush has regenerated and there is no longer a need for supplementary wildlife feed. Because only one volunteer at a time is needed for the restocking tasks (helped by a family member if needed), we can comply with the COVID-19 social distancing requirements, and the travel restrictions allow essential volunteer activity like this to continue.

Thanks to all who have contributed to these efforts – while you are too many to name here, you should feel proud you have helped the wildlife when it was most needed.

If people wish to donate, visit wildcare.com.au and find out how this can be done. Call Wildcare on 62991966 for further advice on wildlife matters (put it in your mobile). – **Mike Wilkins and Merran Laver, for Wildcare**

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Road Works and Cement Stabilisation

So you might have seen some roadworks happening on Mac's Reef Road and Denley Drive. There are many methods of road construction and the method that has been used recently is commonly called cement stabilisation. I'll attempt to briefly explain the construction methodology in layman's terms for anyone who is bored and looking for something to read in lockdown.

Let's get back to the basics. Water is the arch enemy of road pavements (worse than Batman vs the Joker). It has a few fellow evil gang members including poor construction, heavy axles and time, but overall water is the main villain. By and large water can enter the pavement area (the gravel under the road) by a number of methods, poor drainage (the table drain either side of the road in rural areas), subsurface or springs and through the surface via cracks or holes in the bitumen (wearing surface). When water enters the pavement it weakens the bond between the aggregate (gravel) and causes the aggregate to loosen its bonds and the pavement then begins to fail. From here it is all downhill as this is where water will sit when it rains again and it is further pumped into the pavement by vehicles causing more and more damage. Ever notice that potholes form right after rain? That's why the maintenance of the table drains to make sure they keep the water out of the top 300mm to 500mm of the pavement is so important. Too often without proper maintenance the table drains fill up with silt and debris/vegetation and block the drainage path and the water starts to soak under the pavement area. The edges of the road usually failing first.

Around here springs seem to pop up in odd places after heavy rains and these can attack pavements from underneath. (I suspect some of the Macs Reef Road trouble areas at the Federal Highway end are springs.) I noticed Council has installed subsoil drains below the table drains to intercept these springs). Finding and draining springs is often a black art and sometimes hit and miss as they have a habit of rerouting. The other way of water entering the pavement is the old or oxidised bitumen surface. As the bitumen gets old it hardens and loses its plasticity or flexibility and starts to crack. These cracks then let water through the usually sealed surface and weaken the underlying pavement and that's when new potholes start to form. You will often see Councils spray a new bitumen seal over an existing bitumen road. This provides a new flexible seal to fill the cracks and help extend the life of the road.

Overweight vehicles are the other impact on roads. Roads have a design life based on the number of vehicles (axles) expected over a design life of around 30 years at the time of our roads construction (notice why a lot of our roads are now starting to fail). An overweight vehicle or heavy truck increases the number of axles and therefore shortens the life of the road pavement (we can go into this some other time but one heavy truck axle is equal to over 10,000 cars and overweight trucks produce an exponential increase in damage. This part gets pretty technical).

So now the process of cement stabilisation. Basically, it is the adding of say 200mm of new aggregate, cement dust and blending it all by a big mixing specialised machine. The existing road is either ripped or overlaid with a fresh aggregate layer. The cement dust is usually laid out in a layer that is around 2-3% by weight of the area being stabilised and the stabilising machine mixes the old pavement, old bitumen, new aggregate, cement dust together with water and places a new pavement (the amount of cement is limited as too much will cause reflective cracking through the bitumen seal and once again let water in). This new pavement has a limited time to work and shape prior to the cement "going off" and becoming hard to work. The new pavement is worked and compacted with heavy road rollers and shaped by a grader similar to traditional road building methods. That is why you will see the crews only working on enough area they can do in a day to get the compaction and shape correct. You will also see a water truck keeping the pavement wet to ensure the cement continues to hydrate and bind the aggregates together.

Once the pavement is finished it receives a double coat of new bitumen and aggregate. We call this a double/double spray seal. Basically the first coat of bitumen bites into the new pavement and has a larger stone applied. The second coat of bitumen sinks between the first layer of stone and smaller layer of stone fits into the voids. Stone sizes for roads around here are typically 14mm with a smaller 10mm stone or for a quieter road maybe 10mm with 7mm as the second coat. The application rate of the bitumen is calculated to fill up around a third of the aggregate height (you may see on a really hot day where the heat resoftens the bitumen and the aggregate sinks further into the bitumen creating that shiny or wet look in the vehicle wheel tracks). Finally after a week or two to let the volatile oils evaporated from the bitumen and excess stone has been swept away the line marking is applied. One reconstructed road. Cement stabilisation is cheaper than traditional full road reconstruction and used by many local Councils. There is still a bit of debate, plus and minus, regarding whole life cycle costs, longevity and environment benefits of this type of construction. We could be here for many more pages if we were to start exploring this.

So there are far more technical reasons for all the above but I thought I might try and explain as simply as possible. Hope this gives you a better understanding of when you next see the lollypop man holding you up for roadworks and a big white stabilising machine chewing up the road. - **Peter Evans**



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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For May I chose the Australian King-Parrot, a very bright and distinctive parrot.

Australian King-Parrot (*Alisterus scapularis*)

Size: 41-44cm

Status: Fairly common breeding resident

The Australian King-Parrot is one of the most colourful birds in Wamboin. The male has a bright red head, neck and underparts with a green back and wings and a black tail. The female has a green head and neck, extending down onto the breast with a red belly. Additionally, females have a green tail on the upperside and black underneath. Both sexes have a blue rump, pale green stripe on the wings and yellow eyes. King-Parrots are larger than similar species in the area such as Rosellas and Red-rumped Parrots. They also have a distinctive call: a slow “eek-eek-eek-eek” which is repeated many times, as well as chattering squawks and a fast “chack chack chack” repeated when in flight. These birds feed on fruit and flowers and can be a pest, damaging fruit crops. They nest in tree hollows, raising 3-5 young. Immature females look like adult females, but immature males have motley green and red on the head. Many people feed them, and they can become quite tame and habituated (see photos – in color if you look at Whisper on web).



Male on my bike handlebars

Male (rear) and female (front)

Photos taken at my place in Wamboin



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From the Corner

Dual Occupancy Developments and Secondary Dwellings—Long-time followers of my ramblings may recognise this subject from years gone by. Interestingly, it last came up in the context of the development of the Palerang LEP and so it is that it comes to the fore again as the new consolidated Queanbeyan-Palerang LEP is being finalised.

The Standard Instrument (SI) Local Environmental Plan (LEP) dictionary defines both of the subject entities as types of residential accommodation, meaning a building or place used predominantly as a place of residence. The difference between the two, how they are controlled from a planning perspective, depends to some extent on the way that respective provisions are described in the relevant LEP. Regardless, a property owner will usually be allowed at most one such development (either/or) on a lot before matters take on a commercial dimension and additional approvals come into play.

Dual occupancy developments are not uncommon in our rural residential areas. Back when these areas were first settled, it was not unusual for a property owner to build a modest structure and live on-site while building their ultimate residence. The original structure was then often rented out to provide additional income, or used as a dwelling by other (older or younger) family members.

Unfortunately, because dual occupancy developments often involve detached structures, the more so when these are well separated, there is a subsequent expectation that one should be able to subdivide the property in question. Councils then come under pressure to approve these subdivisions, regardless of whether or not the resulting lots would satisfy the prevailing minimum lot size or other relevant local provisions—the two structures are there already, occupied, so why does it matter if there's a property boundary between them or not?

Leaving aside that not insignificant issue for the moment, a secondary dwelling, while still self-contained, as its name implies has a more explicit [legal] relationship with the principal dwelling on a property—the hiving off of a secondary dwelling through subdivision is explicitly prohibited whereas the subdivision of a dual occupancy development is entirely legitimate provided the resulting lots satisfy the relevant planning provisions in their own right.

The real problem in the present context, however, is the floor area of the proposed second dwelling, be it a dual occupancy or secondary dwelling. In providing a set template for all LEPs in NSW, the SI is quite restrictive in the way it requires floor area controls to be specified. If floor area is to be restricted (it need not be, but it usually is) the SI allows only for the specification of either a fixed size or a size of one dwelling relative to the other. As a result, the current PLEP does not impose a floor area restriction on a dual occupancy development (for reasons pursuant to comments below), but the floor area restriction on a secondary dwelling is given as: (a) 60 square metres, (b) 33% of the total floor area of the principal dwelling

Under the draft QPLEP, it is proposed that dual occupancy developments will no longer be permitted outside of the urban areas (which include towns and villages). In conjunction with the introduction of this restriction, the floor area restriction on secondary dwellings has been relaxed slightly to 50% of the total floor area of the principal dwelling.

The prohibition of dual occupancy developments is one thing, but the mechanism used within the SI to limit floor area can create a quite perverse outcome, which is why it was decided to remove floor area restrictions for dual occupancies under the current PLEP.

Consider a property with an existing residence with a 200m² floor area. The way in which the SI restricts the floor area of a second dwelling means that, in this case, it would be restricted to a maximum of 100m². If the principal dwelling on the property next door has a floor area of 400m², all other things being equal the owner of that property would be permitted to build a secondary dwelling up to 200m², twice the size allowed on the neighbouring property, simply because the principal dwelling was larger.

Consider then the situation that would arise if the identification of a dwelling as principal or secondary were not temporally constrained (i.e. the first structure built need not necessarily be the principal dwelling), as is the case with a dual occupancy development. Should the owner of the current 200m² dwelling decide that they would like to build a new principal dwelling, with their existing dwelling becoming a secondary dwelling, the new dwelling would have to have a floor area of at least 400m² to satisfy the floor area restriction on what would become the secondary dwelling—they would not be permitted to build a new dwelling with a floor area in the range 100-400m². Not a major issue, perhaps, for urban dwellers, but maybe not such a well-considered outcome for those fortunate enough to be living in our rural and rural residential areas.

The problem was that although dual occupancy developments are permitted under the PLEP, they are not permitted in rural and rural residential areas under the QLEP and the philosophy of the latter seems to have prevailed in the draft of the new, consolidated LEP. If you feel that this is a matter of concern, you should make an effort to provide relevant feedback when the draft QPLEP goes on exhibition, which should be any day now...

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

- Dual Occupancy Developments and Secondary Dwellings (Apr 2020)
- Dual Occupancy Developments (Update) (Feb 2012)
- Dual Occupancy Developments (Sep 2011)

-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 roads of Wamboin, part 2: Amungula Place

By David McDonald, ph. 0416 231 890, email david [at] dnmcdonald.id.au

Introduction

In the April 2020 issue of *The Whisper*, pp. 17-18, I presented a brief summary of what I understand to be the origins of the names of the 31 officially-named roads in Wamboin. For two of them, Kestral Place and Proud Place, I was not able to provide name origins, and again invite members of the community to contact me, or the Editor, with information on this.

Commencing with this issue of *The Whisper*, I will provide some additional information on the origins of those road names. I will start with those that have Aboriginal names, or names that some erroneously consider to be Aboriginal. Amungula Place is the first, alphabetically. Rest assured that what I write about the origins of the other road names will be considerably shorter than this one!

Amungula Place: summary: Although located in the parish and locality of Wamboin, the road name reflects the nearby parish of Amungula, the creek of that name, the former Amungula school, and the 'Amungula' property on the nearby Sutton Road. Probably a local Aboriginal word, the meaning of which is unknown.

Additional information:

'Amungula Parish is a parish of Murray County, New South Wales, a cadastral unit for use on land titles. It is located in two non-contiguous sections, divided by the Australian Capital Territory, as most of the parish was transferred to the ACT in 1909 and now makes up much of the Kowen district.' https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amungula_Parish

It is unclear when the parish was first surveyed and named, but it was between 1829, when the county of Murray was notified, and the first reference in Trove which is the NSW *Government Gazette* of 8 Oct 1866: 'Sale of Leases of Crown Lands'. Note that parishes were neither notified nor proclaimed in the *Gazette*.

The first edition of the parish of Amungula map was compiled on 18 Oct 1881 and is available through the Historical Land Records Viewer <http://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au/>.

Amungula Creek (originally known as Doughboy Creek (Lea-Scarlett 1972, p. 45)) rises in Gorooyarroo Nature Reserve (NSW), flows north beside Sutton Road and then north-east to join the Yass River a couple of hundred metres south of Macs Reef Road.

The Amungula school commenced as a provisional school called Woodfield on the Bingley family's 'Woodfield' property in September 1888. The name was changed to Amungula school in December 1908 as the Woodfield Receiving Office (a type of post office) had its name changed then to Amungula Receiving Office. The school closed in Nov 1913. 'Woodfield' runs north and east from Sutton Road near when Amungula Creek passes beneath it. See the c. 1910 photograph of the pupils of the school in Lea-Scarlett 1972, plate 82 between pages 162 & 163.

'Amungula [also Amungoola, Mungulla]. This area has been greatly reduced in modern times. It once stretched from south-west of Lake George (possibly from the lake itself, or at least from Bald Hill), incorporating the area now known as Kowen Forest as well as Molonglo Gorge and stretching almost as far as Sutton ... At present, only Amungula Creek bears the name of this once extensive Ngambri region. At one time, the Creek would have separated the Amungula [*sic*] region to the east and the Gorooyarroo region to the west (Jackson-Nakano 2005, p. 4; the author does not provide her sources for these conclusions).

Amungula might be more accurately rendered as *Ngamanggula*, and have been pronounced, by the Ngarigu/Monaro people of the area, something like nga-mang-gu-la, where underlining indicates that the syllable is stressed. The 'ng' consonants are pronounced like the 'ng' in the English word 'singer' (Dr Harold Koch, pers. comm., March 2018; and see Koch 2009).

An early local identity, Mr Frank Williams (1901-1975), in an oral history interview recorded in 1971, was explicit about his understanding of the pronunciation of the word: 'Well it was called Amungula in those early days ... And how it got the name of Amungula I don't know, I think it got/sounded better. It was Amungula always in the earlier days' (Mathews 1971, the underlined syllables are stressed).

One source (Slater 1934, p. 238) states that the correct word is Mungulla and that its meaning is ' "Alive with light or gleams"'. Sometimes the word is used for expressing a liveliness of spirit or a lively person'. However, Slater's work contains 'gross historical and linguistic errors' (Gojac 2018, p. 22).

Note the historic homestead 'Terramungula' at Currawang, and the nearby Terramungula trig station.

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

The subtle evening light that threads its way through the eucalypts spreads a softness that is in stark contrast to the harsh light and heat at the end of a summer's day. Bold red and cheeky yellow leaves amidst the sober green of the bush, a brilliant spray of stars across clear night skies, the biting chill of dawn surrendering to warm sunshine, and a grey dripping fog that covers all and is suddenly gone. Autumn has to be the best time of the year in Wamboin, and this autumn has brought the added bonus of rain and a brief, belated glimpse of spring; two seasons in one.

Easter and ANZAC Day are now behind us. It is usually a time with family, and a time to gather and reflect. This year, however, in our isolation they came and went with little fanfare. Even the Easter bunny, unlike his furry cousins, must have been "self isolating" down some hole. ANZAC day was observed quietly and respectfully, but alone. Social distancing, though, has its pleasures, and with a slower pace on 20 acres, with 24 years of accumulated treasures, it's like discovering an archeological dig on an ancient tel. We're digging, sifting and sorting, unearthing relics and reclaiming our history; half finished projects, moments of creativity, forgotten names of associates and the discovery of all sorts of things that were once too precious to throw out "just yet" but have since been overtaken by time. It's been a good time to declutter, but a bad time to try to get rid of it. However, trips to the dump in the old ute, with Maggie the dog wedged between us, hats firmly on heads because there's no space to put them if we take them off, have provided an occasional outing for a couple of old rustics, and even a chance to say, "G'day." The Bungendore tip the other day was humming.

Walking the dog, a solitary time, has taken on new meaning, too. At first light I open my eyes and there she is, waiting. Once breakfast is over she never takes her eyes off me. She follows my every move from the verandah that wraps around the house. It pains me to watch her. Hope, disappointment, hope, despair as I get about the business of the day. Her hangdog expression torments me. When I change from my dressing gown to my jeans her eyes light up. Hope...but when I finally pull on my boots she leaps with unbridled joy, and we're off. I now know what it's like to be hounded. But she's no lap dog. Once up the road and back is enough for her!

Walking one Sunday evening you could have been on a country road in an English village and not in Wamboin. The image may have been enhanced by the roadside greenery but I'd never seen so many families promenading with their hounds and enjoying the moment. The dogs were socialising, too, but not at a distance.

Unearthing old treasures, trips to the dump and walking the dog are not all we've been doing. I planted 225 bulbs, given to me by a dear friend who obviously thought I needed more in my life. The label on the bag said 225, but my body told me that there were at least double that number. Now I just have to wait until spring to see if I've planted them the right way up. I've also transplanted lots of self sown seedlings, a gift from the rain, and spent a meditative hour or so pulling real weeds that came effortlessly out of the ground. Where did they all come from? It's exciting to see weeds, and weeds that I have never before seen in Wamboin.

And if this doesn't sound like excitement, to you, I can assure you that it is enough for us at the moment. Thank goodness we live where we do... With the world in chaos around us I wouldn't want to live anywhere else.



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