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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

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 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 0409 997 082. 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 July 2020 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, June 28th**.

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Community Nurse	Heather Morrison - Bungendore	6238 1333	
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Justice of the Peace	Jill Sedaitis - JP	0409 369 559	
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Wamboin Pony Club	Stacey Burgess - Club Secretary	0414 672 979	wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com
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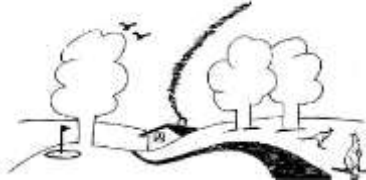



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	<p>Wamboin Community Association Presidents Paragraphs</p> <p>“Will we just go back to the old normal”</p>	
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So as we emerge from the first wave lockdown, what will the new world look like? Overseas the Covid-19 virus is still running its course killing thousands more day by day with maybe worse to come as it does the world tour. Australia has done a mighty fine job in the first wave lockdown and at time of printing we are starting to roll back the isolation measures and opening up schools and businesses. It was really interesting to see the effects on businesses. Hospitality, gyms, retail and tourism copped a beating but interestingly it benefited some, like bike shops, fitness equipment (try and find a yoga mat) and the local bottle shops.

So what will the corona virus period change in our everyday lives? Will we change some things forever or will we just slip back to the pre virus normal. Will handshakes and welcome kisses still be a normal part of greeting or will the foot or elbow shake become the new norm, will we return to office work stations or will we decide we can actually work from home, have we realised it's not the teacher but maybe our child that's the issue. Will the practise of squeezing us into an open plan office continue and I imagine the architects favourite design of hot desking is now consigned to the good idea at the time basket. Instead of asking, "Is there a reason to do this online?" we'll be asking, "Is there any good reason to do this in person". Unfortunately, places like Wamboin and Bywong without easy access to broadband will be further disadvantaged. This illustrates the important work the Wamboin Communication Action Group is doing to give us access to high speed broadband. Will we be able to consciously stop washing our hands constantly and is hand sanitiser going to be a staple in our weekly grocery shopping (will we also maintain a six month stock of toilet paper just in case)? Will all religions recover to hold live attendances again or will there be a shift to on line telecasts for our message from god? Will there be large sporting events and concerts again, packing 100,000 people into a small area like a stadium or is the podcast the new norm? Will St George ever win again (sorry now feeling depressed) and will there ever be live crowd noise at a game again?

But moments like this also present opportunity like the more sophisticated and flexible use of technology, less polarization, a revived appreciation for the outdoors and life's other simple pleasures like appreciating your family time. This is not your conventional war, those on the frontlines against corona virus aren't soldiers with guns. Our new heroes are our researchers, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, teachers, caregivers, store assistants, utility workers, small-business owners and employees. When this is all over, we will be saying thank you to these new heroes. Maybe we will learn the value of cultivating the health and love of your own community. Will it change with telemedicine, we will be able to meet with our GP over Zoom or even email rather than going into a waiting room infested with more sick people. Did anyone see the image of the Himalaya's due to the clearing of smog, the skies in China when manufacturing closed down? Surely this is a lesson in climate change and what we could achieve. Exercise and dog walking has skyrocketed around Wamboin of late, will this fitness craze continue or will winter Wamboin wind bring us back to reality. Will we start to be more self sufficient and restore those veg patches and regain lost gardening skills from our grandparents? Will there be an emergence of a stronger local barter economy rather than relying on supermarkets? Will we keep checking on the vulnerable in the community or maybe bring our elderly closer to our family nest? Will there be a second wave and will there be a great depression? Will people seek our great lifestyle away from the crowds and look to move to rural areas? Will we see a tree change population shift? Will we take the lessons handed to us by our time dealing with the virus and do a paradigm shift to make our world a better place? Will we just go back to old normal?

Jill Gregory – “I wouldn't live anywhere else” is actually going to live somewhere else. Jill has been a much appreciated regular contributor with an article on the back page of the Whisper as the Wamboin Muse. We will very much miss Jill's contribution and thank her for her 18 years of Musing. I'm sure we will hear from Jill from time to time down in the big smoke of Bungendore, maybe our own foreign correspondent.

New benches at the Wamboin Community Hall – three new benches have been installed at the Community Hall. If you need some space for your isolation they are well spread out around the oval. See the article in this month's Whisper.

Election Time – Well it's By-Election time for the Federal seat of Eden Monaro on Saturday 4th July. Due to the closure of the hall to events unfortunately we cannot hold our famous “meet the candidates” night. At this stage the Wamboin Community Hall will probably be a polling place on the day but we are awaiting final confirmation from the AEC. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates. Will it regain bellwether status?

Roadworks - And a thumbs up for QPRC on the major works undertaken on Macs Reef Road and Denley Drive over the past month. The new work looks great and will make our local roads safer for all users. .

We are still Wamboin

!! - Peter Evans – Still President.



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Bywong Community Association News – June 2020

Yes, we are living in WHEELY CHALLENGING TIMES, but even so “Iso-creativity” is bursting out all around as folks make use of some extra time in the house. Perhaps you have found time to explore - or (shock) even tidy up - your shed? Chances are you came across at least one old WHEEL: from a disused bike, a rusty trolley or forgotten wheelbarrow?

Well, so you can do something with that old wheel, inspired by memories from a Swiss village, BCA’s creative genius John-Pierre Favre has devised the **Bywong and Wamboin WHEELY CHALLENGE, with prizes-a-plenty and fame for the winning!** The rules are simple:

- Find at least one old wheel
- Make a sculpture / montage that includes at least one wheel
- Display your creation where it is clearly visible from the road.

More details, including important dates, entry categories and PRIZES will appear soon on the Bywong Coop Facebook Group and the Wamboin Noticeboard email group.

We hope you’ll all join in and turn the Bywong/Wamboin locality into a rural sculpture park, with your creativity on display for passers-by!

Talking of ‘Wheels’ brings to mind Recycling! If 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>.

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.

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

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EVENTS, so you can plan ahead

20 June	Truffle Dog Hunt & Lunch – demonstration, talk, 2 course lunch from \$65 adults, \$40 children
2 July	Sip, Swirl & Learn Riedel Workshop – includes glasses and dinner \$145pp
18 July	Christmas in July Lunch or Dinner 3 courses with paired wines \$125pp Children \$40
25 July	Holy Trinity Cheesemaking – make your own while tasting other cheeses with paired wines, followed by lunch with a glass of wine \$160
1 August	Truffle Season 4 course Dinner & wines
8 August	Truffle Cooking Class with Tom
22 August	Pig n Pinot by the Fireside
5 September	The Contentious Cabaret
6 September	Father's Day
12 September	Floriade comes to Wamboin for a month of tulips, budding vines and long table lunches
13 September	Smokin Dad's Workshop
2 October	Floriade Long Lunch in the Vines
31 October	Halloween Party
3 November	Melbourne Cup Lunch
5 November	Sip, Swirl & Learn Riedel Workshop

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FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

The Wamboin Firefighter

With our area looking green and most dams are full, the last thing on your minds is preparing for the next Fire Season. It is never too early to start your preparation for next summer.

Consider even an hour each week to make a start cleaning up the dead vegetation and fuel load (which is a build up of dead vegetation under trees and shrubs) or removing those shrubs too close to your house.

As it is out of the Fire Season, you can burn off this material.

Remember there are still rules for burning off out of the Fire Season such as notifying our local Fire Control Centre (02- 6128-0600 during business hours Monday to Friday) and your neighbours 24 hrs prior to lighting up.

Covid -19 restrictions are easing somewhat, but we are not intending to re-start evening training sessions just yet. If restrictions remain as they are, or ease future, we will hold daytime (open air) training sessions on the third Saturday of each month.

The next scheduled brigade training session is on the 20th of June at 13:30

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade is on Face Book

Lake George Fire Control Centre 6128 0600

Flying Foxes Fly into Trouble

In recent years Wildcare has seen an increase in the number of flying foxes in need of rescue around our region. This is often due to being caught in barbed wire fences or netting over trees. Their injuries unfortunately are often fatal, and if not rescued they are likely to die in a slow and agonising way.

Flying foxes belong to the megabat group due to their larger size – in contrast to the tiny microbats – and in our region include the ‘grey-headed flying fox’ and the ‘little red flying fox’ species. Now listed as vulnerable to extinction, all flying foxes in Australia are legally protected. Australia-wide, populations have suffered dramatic declines due to habitat loss and other factors, such as heatwaves. Photo: flying fox with adopted pup.

Flying foxes form colonies and congregate in large ‘camps’, which are more commonly appearing in urban settings. We are seeing more camps in our region; Canberra has a long-established one in Commonwealth park and others have appeared in Queanbeyan, Braidwood, Jindabyne, Yass, Cowra and Young.

Flying foxes feed on blossoms, fruits and nectar from flowering plants, such as the many gumtrees in our region, and have an important role as pollinators in the ecosystem. Gardens and orchards can attract flying foxes due to cultivated fruits, such as figs, peaches, apples etc. Please consider using ‘wildlife-friendly’ netting rather than netting that can entangle wildlife of all types (birds, bats, snakes, lizards etc.): a good rule of thumb is if you can put your own finger through the holes, then animals can be snagged and trapped by it, so the friendly netting has smaller holes (available at stores such as Bunnings). See this link for more information about wildlife-friendly netting: <https://www.wires.org.au/wildlife-info/wildlife-factsheets/wildlife-friendly-netting>

If you are covering fruit trees with netting, please consider leaving some trees uncovered for bats/birds to access; there has been a lack of native food sources recently, which can cause a great deal of stress for wildlife.

Many animals also get caught on barbed wire, so please consider removing this if it is on your property’s fencing.

If you come across an injured flying fox, it will need to be rescued by a vaccinated Wildcare member (or other relevant handler). If it is badly entangled, great care will be needed to remove it while minimising injury to the animal. Any bat on its own during the day is likely to not be okay and will need assessment (usually they return to camp to sleep). It might be injured or ill, or could be an orphaned baby, due to mum being killed (eg electrocuted on powerlines) or somehow separated.

Bats can carry a rabies-like disease called Lyssavirus, which is transmitted through a bite or scratch. It is unlikely that they’ll be carrying the virus, but they shouldn’t be handled by anyone who is not vaccinated. (If they are dead, however, it is safe to pick them up for disposal.) Members of Wildcare and other wildlife rescue groups who are vaccinated have been specially trained in rescuing and caring for bats. If you come across a flying fox or any bat in need of help, please call Wildcare 62991966.

- Merran Laver, Wildcare



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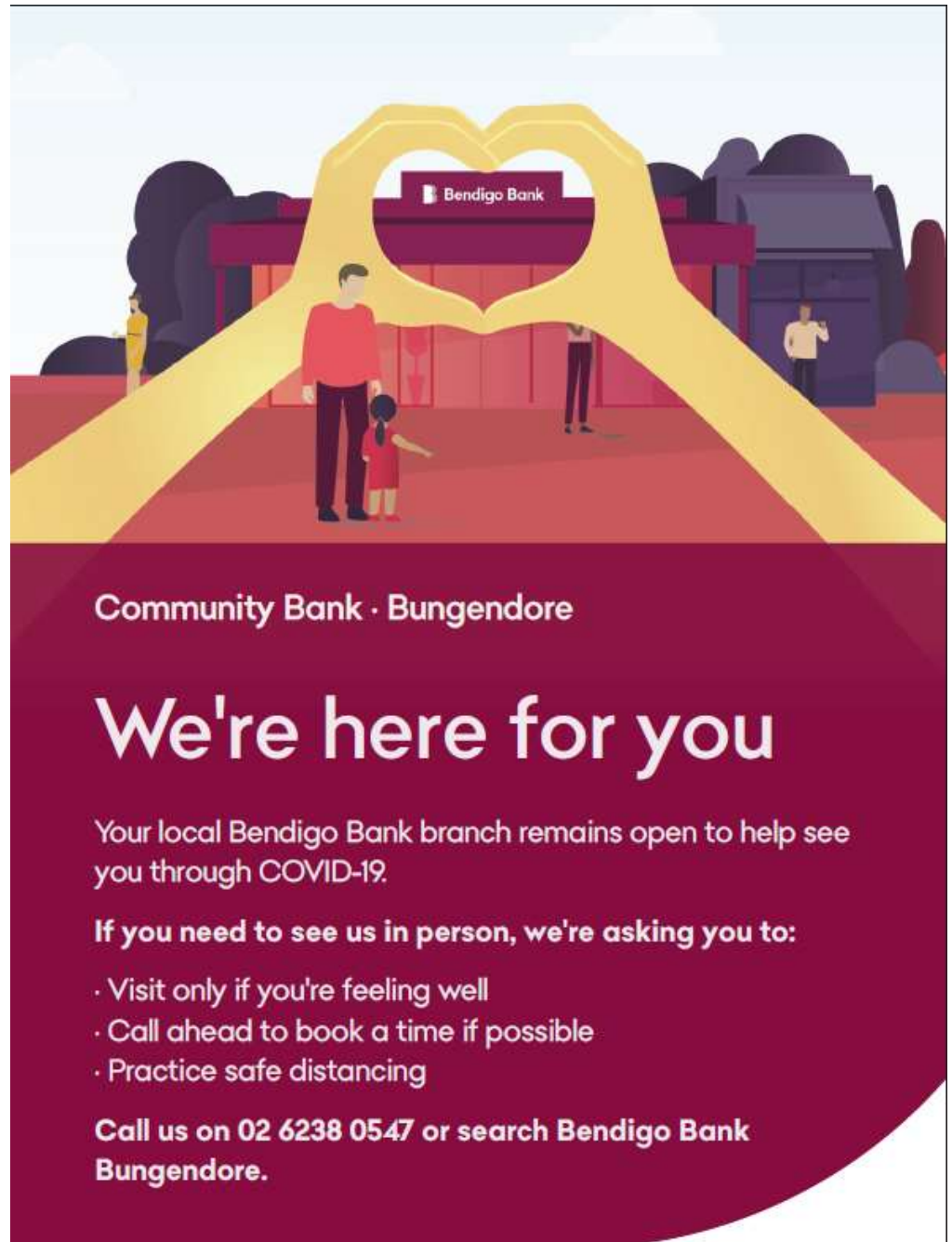
A few of you may have noticed some new benches installed recently around the Wamboin Community Hall. There is one in the Memorial Garden, one opposite the fire shed under a Chinese elm and another in the far corner overlooking the oval. These were paid for by the Wamboin Hall Management Committee and the work was done by locals, Don Evans, Timothy Nelson, Alex Gordon, Tim Barter and Vicki Still. Don organised the buying and installing, Alex and Don (with Timothy) dug the holes and Tim and Vicki were part of the planning and planted the tree which is a *Melia azedarach* commonly known as the Chinaberry tree or white cedar. It grows from 6 to 35 metres (depending on rainfall, soil and how many rocks its roots find!), and is one of a few Australian native deciduous trees. In spring it has beautiful, pink to lilac flowers which are star-shaped, have a chocolate scent and are reminiscent of a wisteria flower. The flowers are followed by yellow clusters of fruit which are poisonous if eaten by humans and some animals. Many birds seem partial to them and appear not to be affected. This tree, which is planted next to the bench in the far corner, was donated by a local and has been cared for by Kathy Handel for a number of years. We have already seen some people using the benches and hope they will continue to be used over the years. Certainly the golfers will be using the bench while waiting their turn to hit off on the 18th hole! Roger, the dog certainly approves of the seating and is happy to sit by the benches anytime – in preference to having to move that is!

If you are not into benches you might enjoy a walk around the oval to admire the native plantings done by Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group on the embankment. Who says natives are not colourful? At the moment the *Crowea* are providing a wonderful display. They have survived all the challenges of Wamboin - impoverished soil, drought, frost and harsh summers. *Croweas* are easily grown, long lived and very suitable for gardens in our area. Mostly these plants will grow less than a metre high and wide and have very few pests and diseases.

Occasionally they may get scale which can be controlled with pest oil. Many other plants are growing well on the embankment so it is a good time to have a look at their growth habit and decide if they would be suitable to fill a spot in your garden. If you are looking for plants check out the Landcare stall when next you see one or you can contact Landcare by emailing ggw.landcare@gmail.com. You can also go to the Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare website, click on "Documents" and there you will find advice on a number of topics such as suitable plants for our area and fire retardant native plants.

– Vicki Still

Without the businesses who pay their hard earned cash to explain their offerings in Whisper Ads, the Wamboin Community Association could not print the Whisper. If you need something they might be able to help with, please give them a look in. - Editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association



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Wamboin Golf – May 2020

Mahogany Ridge, Sunday, 3 May. An upside of the loneliness of the long distance corona virus is the stuff you can accomplish around the property in isolation. Let's say you're the proud owner and green keeper of four new golf holes, one of which has a deep gully between the tee and the green. What does this suggest? Of course, a bridge! And so it came to pass that Steve Lambert, member of the R&A Wamboin GC, set about the Herculean task of bridging Lambert's Leap (hole 18, par 4). Please see the photo of the Covid 19 Bridge. I know what you're thinking: Ponte Vecchio, Millau Viaduct, and the old Sydney Coathanger. It is a sobering thought that in centuries to come archeologists will be propounding theories on how it was constructed – no doubt by thousands of slave labourers – using only the rude instruments and measurement of the 21st century.



Drawings found at the site suggest to your correspondent that the basic unit of calibration was the cubit – the length of the forearm from elbow to fingertip or approximately 44cm. Had the more generous covid - two arms lengths, approx 1.5 metres - been used there would have been a wider span higher up the gully. But these things happen. That tower in Pisa didn't decide to lean all by itself. The bridge will have its official opening when the plague passes and we are again able to gather. The club would like to hear from any members of the De Groot family who might be prepared to cut the ribbon.

Meanwhile, as I shoot up on disinfectant recommended by my old mate Donald Strumpet, I am mindful of his equally apposite advice re the spread of the virus. Like you, I listen very carefully to his fact-laden press conferences and was particularly impressed by the assertion that China couldn't be blamed entirely for the proliferation (already well under control) of an innocent little concoction circulating within parochial Wuhan. When asked directly by the annoying CNN reporter "if not China, then who?" The Prez responded in his open, direct way "correct! WHO!" (Not to be confused with The Who or Hu Jintao – look him up.) I thought to myself: POTUS is on to something. WHO has form. Remember WHO killed Roger Rabbit? (They probably did it with myxo.) Anyway, I'm with ScoMo. There ought to be an inquiry. At least it'll help the struggling legal profession.

Now, if I may change the subject (and, of course, I may - you're not here to stop me) our cancelled competition would have been held two days before the anniversary of a most significant day in the march of civilisation. 5 May 1789 marks the beginning of Modern History. Why? The French Revolution, that's why. Over the course of the following ten years the foundations were laid – somewhat bloodily, I acknowledge - for legal, political and social reforms which those of us lucky enough to be living in countries such as ours tend to take for granted. It was, admittedly, bad luck for Louis XVI and his cake-scoffing consort but you and I haven't done too badly out of it. So think about it while you're isolating and maybe sing the famous barricade song ('Do You Hear the People Sing?') from 'Les Miz'. And if gatherings of more than two are permitted in June, join us at the community hall on Bingley Way at 12.15pm on Sunday, 7 June for a game of golf, a sport introduced to Scotland by Mary, Queen of Scots upon her return from France – according to the French. - **Larry King, once was golfer**

Photo, STP Lambert

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WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(45 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

May Rainfall Stats

May rainfall to the 31st 14.25mm
 2020 total rainfall to 31st 329.0mm

Average May rainfall..... 45.5mm
 2019 May rainfall..... 47.75mm
 2019 total rainfall to 31/5..... 218.25mm
 44yr Av. to end of May..... 265.5mm

June Rainfall Stats

2019 June rainfall..... 22.35mm
 Wettest June..... 178.25mm in 2016
 Wettest June day..... 84.75mm on 6/6/16
 Driest June..... 0mm in 2017

Average June rainfall..... 54.4mm
 Average no. rain days in June.... 10.0
 Highest no. rain days..... 22 in 1978
 Lowest no. rain days..... 0 in 2017

June Temperature Stats

Hottest June day..... 17.6°C on 7/6/19
 Coldest June day..... 3°C (4 times)
 9/6/11, 24/6/14, 30/6/14 & 25/6/16
 Average day temp. 9.8°C
 Coldest June..... 2015
 Av. max day temp. 7.5°C & night -0.3°C
 (lowest -0.6°C in 2001)
 June 2019. Av. max 13.1°C & min 2.4°C

Av. June temp.... 6.3°C (day+night comb.)
 Hottest June night..... 11°C (7 times)
 1991 (5 times) & 1995 (2 times)
 Coldest June night..... -6°C on 9/6/96
 Average night temp. 2.8°C
 Warmest June..... 1991
 Av. min day temp. 12.5°C & night 7°C
 (highest 13.2°C in 2017)

The six coldest weeks occur after the winter solstice which is on 21 June

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It Really Is A Dog's Life

Hello, it's me, Molly, back again. I know some of you have enjoyed my first column – thanks!!! I've excitedly wagged my tail when my owner has told me that.

I've been getting up to a bit of mischief. I followed a runner into the bush. He had to bring me back to my owner. He was running fast and I love running so that's what tempted me. Luckily I didn't upset him too much as he's got a pup named Bailey and I've been invited to Bailey's to play games. Bailey isn't (yet) quite as energetic as me so he's taught himself to lie down and wait for me to come closer... then he can pounce on me! That's fun. He's got children at his home. They play on the trampoline – sometimes when we're resting underneath. We've not been squished yet!! And they do skipping – I'd like to grab the rope... but that's not the right thing to do... really...

Bailey and I are in the Monday walking group. We have to get up very early for that. Before it's light even!!! The humans do something called "social distancing". I'm not good at social distancing. I like to get very close to my special friends like Gretta and Bailey. I'm better with Trixie because mostly I remember she doesn't like being jumped on and I don't want to her to be upset. It's rained a lot since I last wrote. That's made my owner very happy – "the dam is nearly full and the tanks are overflowing". And there's grass for me to roll in. I've learnt about catching tadpoles. It's quite hard – they are even faster than me. I am very curious about a croaking noise – apparently that's something called frogs. Sometimes they jump on the windows when I'm watching television. They have very big toes. I can't walk up windows like them.

The pesky coat my owner puts on me is actually quite useful. It keeps me dry so if we walk in the rain, I don't try to undo it. And I get to be dried on my head and neck when we get home. I love a towel rub!! I've been exploring lots of puddles. Did you know that if you dig in puddles to get the water away, it comes back? Even deeper! I've tried it several times and it just keeps happening. My owner thinks it's cute because I do the kelpie head twist thing as I try to figure out why.

Gretta and I take our owners on very big walks now. We're exploring lots of the forest. It's a very big forest. We all love it. Gretta and I do get tired though – there are some very big hills!! We go so far they even have to bring maps so they can keep track of where we are. And to get us home safely. It's very important to get home safely. Then I can cuddle Muggles, my cat brother. I've met Jock and Beau again. At the dam near the Fire Shed. I can't fit under Jock's tummy any more as I've grown... a lot. They swim and chase balls with Gretta. I'm not good at chasing balls (although I do love my soccer ball) and I'm trying to get better. I paddle a bit deeper than I used to, but I still say no to swimming.

My friend Oscar came for a sleepover at my place. He's very big. I'm not supposed to be kept apart from chocolate but he's chocolate (labrador) and I like to have him close. He's owned by my human friends who'd look after me if my owner was away. I can't visit him at the moment ... my owner says it's not an essential outing. I've not won that argument... yet... I want to meet his new big sister...

Sometimes for my roadway walks we bring Wilma and Nina. They are very VERY calm. My owner hopes I'll learn to be more like them. I'm not so sure...

We still go to the bakery ... but only for bread and sometimes a takeaway coffee ... and a walk around the oval... and to get greens from the shed...

I've become a very good explorer. I've found quite a few echidnas – on my block and in the bush. I don't go too close as

they've got prickly backs. Did you know humans get very excited when they see wombats? And lyrebirds? We've done that a few times now. I've even found turtles. And shingle back lizards. Luckily only one snake... at a distance...

I'm being kept a quiet at the moment. I was 'desexed' and now I have to wear a big collar. I don't like it. At all. It scares Muggles so he won't give me a cuddle. But it won't be for too very long. Then I'll be back exploring. Again, to quote the Whisper's Wamboin Muse, "I wouldn't live anywhere else".

- Molly (with quite a bit of help from Jenny, full name supplied)

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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. It is the only pay they will get. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor

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

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Cheryl and David Steele	Fernloff Rd	34	Jill & Richard Gregory	Canning Cl	17
Andrea Sadow	Poppet Rd	31	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	40

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

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Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	31
Kathy Handel	Norton(Wrona2 Hilltop+Wirdra)	22	Phileeson&CFogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	32

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Colleen Foster	B'dore Rd to Nrtn Rd	22	Rob Henry	South end Clare Valley	41
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
Dominica Lorima	North end Clare Valley	42			

161: CO-ORDINATED BY JESSICA GOURLAY: mob: 0401 249 778 jessicagourlay@hotmail.com.au

Robyn Elsom	Denley Dr (Sth End to 429)	15	Rhonda&NevParnell	Denley (Birchmans to 1/2 way to end)	26
Joan Milner	Birriwa Rd & Macs Rf 2 Harriott	31	Beth Hope	Gum Flat Ln	6
Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf incl Bchm Gr	35	Tony Bond	HoganDr/OranaDr/Yuranga Dr	48

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Carol & Clive Boughton	Mac's Reef (Bankers2 Fed Hwy)	33	Cheryl Warnock	Mac's Reef Rd (Nwington2 Bankers)	11

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Glen Dorahy	Sutton Park Estate	53	Fire Brigade	Headquarters on Bingley Way	1

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Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	24	Leigh & Derek Morris	Wyoming & Doust Rds	40
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	34			

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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For June I chose the New Holland Honeyeater. This bird made an appearance in our garden last month (for about a week), which was the first time I had seen the species in 10 years living here! It was the 109th species recorded at our property.

New Holland Honeyeater (*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*)

Size: 17-18cm

Status: Rare visitor

The New Holland Honeyeater is a smallish honeyeater (a bit larger than an eastern Spinebill – see December 2019 edition) with a long, slightly decurved black bill. The bird is black on the face and upperparts, with bright golden wing panels and golden and white edging on the tail, distinctive white eye, white rear eyebrow, ear patch, whisker and white streaking on the upper back. Its underparts are white, streaked with black, becoming whiter towards the vent. The spiky white feathers on the forehead and chin sometimes give the impression that this bird has facial hair. The males and females look very similar. The female is slightly smaller in size. Juvenile birds are browner in colour and have a grey eye. This species is generally found in more coastal areas, where it is quite common, especially around flowering native plants. Canberra is towards the inland limits of its distribution, which is why it is less common locally, however it can be found regularly at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, because of the abundance



of native flowers. New Holland Honeyeaters have 2 distinctive calls. The first one is a loud sharp, whistling “jik”, often heard and repeated. The other call is the alarm rattle, which is a harsh, scolding noise, also repeated. They call regularly as they forage, and it was this bird’s call which alerted me to its presence in the Callistemon (bottlebrush). Keep an eye out for these birds in your flowering native plants. Even if you’re unlikely to see one in Wamboin, try looking for them down the coast or at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. Adult bird (Google images)
Bird in Bottlebrush in our backyard (early May)





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GREENWAYS: WE ARE FORTUNATE TO LIVE WITH...

By Maria Taylor

Last month via the Whisper I started to collect information from Wamboin and Bywong residents on what native animals are sharing the environs of the Greenways with us: an informal resident survey for the Greenways Management Committee.

As they were established by local government 25 plus years ago, the Greenways add to our area precious recreational and biodiversity corridors.

Please consider sending in your observations from the last three years to add to the picture of richness of native animal life surrounding us in this area and the habitats that are involved.

For example, here is one detailed response from a property west of Macs Reef Road adjoining a section of Greenway (20 metres wide) with similar remnant native vegetation.

The vegetation on our block and adjoining greenway is dry sclerophyll woodland. The trees include Stringy Bark (*Eucalyptus Macrorhyncha*), Brittle Gum (*Eucalyptus Mannifera*), Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus Rossii*) and Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus Melliodora*), amongst others. A dam attracts water birds.



Mammals seen in last 3 years: Eastern Grey Kangaroo,

Swamp Wallaby, Red Necked Wallaby, Brushtail Possum, Ringtail Possum, Sugar Glider, Squirrel Glider, Echidna, Forest (?) Bat.

Other mammals seen in last 4-14 years: Common Dunnart

Reptiles seen in last 3 years: Little Whip Snake, Heath (Rosenberg's) Monitor, Three-Toed Lerista, Long- Necked Turtle, Cunningham's Skink, Shingleback Lizard, Blotched Blue-Tongue Lizard, Eastern (Common) Blue-Tongue Lizard, Sun Skink, Jacky Lizard

Other reptiles seen in last 4-14 years: Eastern Bearded Dragon

Birds seen in the last 3 years (landed on our property, as opposed to simply flying over). Noted where we have also located their nests: Striated Thornbill, Crimson Rosella, Easter Rosella, Black-Backed Magpie, White-Backed Magpie, Pied Currawong, Superb Fairy Wren (nesting), White-Throated Tree Creeper, Gang Gang Cockatoo, White Ibis, Wattle Bird, Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoo, Maned Duck, Pacific Black Duck (nesting), Little Pied Cormorant, Grey Butcherbird, Common Bronzewing Pidgeon, Brush Bronzewing, Galah (nesting), Eastern Spinebill (nesting), Tawny Frogmouth, Scarlet Robin, Noisy Friarbird (nesting), Choughs, Grey Fantail, White-Faced Heron, Grey Shrike Thrush, Red Browed Finch (nesting), Wedge-Tailed Eagle, Kookaburra, White- Eared Honeyeater, White-Necked Heron, Sacred Kingfisher, King Parrot, Speckled Warbler

Other birds seen in last 4-14 years: Little Eagle, Little Friar Bird, Satin Flycatcher, Golden Whistler, Boobook Owl (identified from call), Silvereye, Collared Sparrowhawk

Amphibians: Identified Peron's Tree Frog and Pobblebonk (identified from call), plus have heard six different frog/toad calls coming from our dams.

Other wildlife: Emperor Gum Moth, Swift Moth

Send us your sightings: If you live within 1km of a greenways section [\\image of GW map if you can repeat\\](#) please send an email with the following information to inbox.greenways@gmail.com

1. Name. Address. Email.

2. How close to a greenway section are you

3. Describe the predominant vegetation on your block and on the neighbouring greenway and note whether they are connected. E.g. predominantly woodland with trees and understorey, predominantly pasture – please note (if you know) whether your pasture is native pasture – or mixed woodland and pasture in roughly what proportions.

4. Please list by common name what native land-based wildlife you have seen/see within the past three years.

I.e. Mammals, birds, reptiles, insects and amphibians.

Note: If you like please add, in a separate section, non-native species you have seen/see. (That does not include humans on foot or horseback!)

Thank you, your help and participation are invaluable.

How to use the Greenways

[\\Photos of sign and walker with dog on leash \(partic use the latter if you can\)](#)

The Greenways offer the community opportunities for walking, running, non-motorised bike riding and horse riding. The rules are that companion dogs should be leashed (unless under perfect voice command).

If you would like to be added to an updated list of community 'Friends of Greenways' please contact us at the same email. inbox.greenways@gmail.com



Nature Notes – May 2020

Jo Walker

A few showers now and then over the last month have provided sufficient moisture to keep the countryside green and growing. The ground is still damp enough in many areas of my place to encourage the growth of carpets of bright green mosses.

Some of the Red Stringybark trees (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*) are flowering. And, at the other end of the size scale, a few Billy Buttons (*Craspedia variabilis*) are providing spots of golden yellow here and there in the swards of fresh green Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*) covering the soakage areas. And there is even one little Golden Star (*Hypoxis hygrometrica*) showing a single flower on the creek bank.

Although not a lot of the local plants are flowering at this time of the year, there looks to be the promise of a colourful springtime as many of the shrubs and trees are bearing lots of buds. This is especially true of all of the Wattles growing here. And lots of the small but attractive herbaceous plants are also making a vegetative appearance at the moment as well. In fact, the fine green leaves of *Wurmbea dioica* (Early Nancy) are so numerous it's difficult to avoid treading on them. And the small daisies mentioned last month are still flourishing.

There haven't been many orchids evident here this year, but this might change in their next flowering season as there are leaves of several species of orchids making an appearance. The most abundant are the Little Dumpy Orchids (*Diplodinium truncatum*), one of the Greenhood Orchid clan. These produce ground-hugging rosettes of ovoid leaves at this time of the year and flower at the end of summer and into autumn the next year. There are about twenty populations of them at my place, ranging from a dozen rosettes to patches up to a metre across.

The butterflies have been a bit sparse this year, but there have been a few Australian Admirals (*Vanessa itea*) flitting around recently. And, finally, a Bogong Moth (*Agrotis infusa*) found its way here and flew inside as I opened the door a few nights ago.

Although the insects are still not very plentiful, there have been a few more small birds around recently. A small flock of Silver-eyes has been here for a while, and a Scarlet Robin and a White-throated Tree-creeper were examining the same tall tree a few days ago. And the planted Grevilleas (and their seedling offspring) are flowering well and providing nectar for Eastern Spinebills and a White-eared Honeyeater.

Some of the birds seem to be a bit confused and are behaving as if spring is here. A pair of Wood Ducks are already inspecting tall old trees for nesting holes giving a call that sounds like a distant jackhammer or drill. Also, two Sulphur-crested Cockatoos are tearing away at holes in separate large dead trees. And this week, a Pallid Cuckoo has been calling somewhere close by.

Near the beginning of this month, there was the first white dusting of frost, and next week winter will be here – although it doesn't quite feel like that yet does it?



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Can You Write Something for the July Whisper?

The main reason for the Whisper is to print ideas from Bywong and Wamboin residents about the experience of living out here. If you can write something and it helps or entertains or invites others, please know it would be welcome. If it could increase your income, write it and send it in, but run it as an ad to help the Whisper pay for printing. Try to avoid things that might hurt other people. The Whisper is meant to allow us to share our thoughts and opinions and experiences with each other. Deadline for each issue is, as always is 7 pm last Sunday of the month before, so for July it is 7 pm Sunday night, June 28 – Ned Noel, volunteer editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association, email either of whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or nednoel@optusnet.com.au, ph 0409 997 082.

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From the Corner

Minimum Lot Sizes—There have been a couple of situations recently that revolve around subdivision lot sizes, a key element of the subdivision potential of a parcel of land—a dwelling cannot be constructed on just any parcel of land. In some cases, however, size is not all that counts. Lot size issues generally come into play when a property owner:

1. Wants to subdivide an existing dual occupancy development;
2. Wants to subdivide an existing lot for the purpose of sale and subsequent development; or
3. Wants to build a dwelling on a vacant lot.

The bottom line is that, in each of these situations, if approval for a dwelling is being sought, the size of the lot(s) involved must generally be greater than the minimum specified on the Lot Size Map in the relevant Local Environmental Plan (LEP). Within our rural and rural residential areas, the situation becomes a little more complicated if the option of lot size averaging is or has been exercised in creating a lot.

In our western rural areas (the former Yarrollumla Shire), the minimum lot size for a dwelling is 80ha (200 acres), in the east (the former Tallaganda Shire) it is 40ha (100 acres), while in our rural residential areas it is generally 6ha (15 acres). In the rural areas, the lot size is set largely to help preserve agricultural land. In our rural residential areas the lot size is set to help create and preserve the amenity of the areas in question.

In the present context, the subdivision of a dual occupancy development is subject to two conditions. The first is the prevailing minimum lot size, and the second is whether or not the lot in question was created under lot size averaging provisions. If the latter, no matter how large the lot is, under the current LEP it cannot be further subdivided. This condition notwithstanding, for subdivision of a dual occupancy development to be considered, the existing lot must generally be at least twice the applicable minimum lot size, so that subdivision could create two lots of at least the minimum permissible size.

In relation to subdivision, similar conditions apply. If the lot in question was created under lot size averaging provisions, it cannot be further subdivided, whatever its size. If the lot is an original crown portion, or has not been subject to lot size averaging provisions, subdivision may be possible if the resulting lots satisfy minimum lot size requirements.

Lot size averaging provisions were designed to provide a degree of flexibility in the style of permitted development. The basic principle is that lots smaller than the minimum lot size would be permitted provided that the average size of all lots created through a subdivision is no less than the applicable minimum. This will necessarily also then require the creation of at least one lot that is larger than the minimum and, to preserve the intent of lot size averaging, a subsequent condition applies that such lots cannot be further subdivided, no matter how large they are.

In our western rural areas, a subdivision may include up to five lots that are as small as 8ha (20 acres), provided the average of all lots in the subdivision is not less than 80ha. In our rural residential areas, lots (the number is not limited) can be as small as 2ha (5 acres), provided the average of all lots in the subdivision is not less than 6ha.

The result of the various lot size conditions is that the average density within our rural residential areas should not exceed one dwelling per 6ha, dual occupancy and secondary dwelling developments notwithstanding. This is fundamentally why further subdivision of a lot that has been created under the lot size averaging provisions is not permitted—smaller lots will have been created on the proviso that the larger lots that were created to offset these smaller lots remain as such.

In the rural areas, the intent is more the preservation of larger agricultural and environmental areas, while providing rural landholders some flexibility in how they finance their agricultural operations.

Whatever the situation, it is important to appreciate that the fact that subdivision of, or development within a lot might be permitted within a particular land use zone does not mean it automatically will be. Conditions invariably apply and the only way to be certain of what conditions might apply in a given situation is to talk to council’s planning staff. It doesn’t cost anything to ask.

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

Minimum Lot Sizes (May 2020) Rural Subdivision (Mar 2013) Lot Size Averaging (Jul 2012)

-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 3: Orana Drive, Warramunga Close & Weeroona Drive

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

Introduction: In the May 2020 issue of The Whisper I provided some background of the word 'Amungula', commencing this exposition of the origins of the names of the roads of Wamboin. I continue this month with those that have Aboriginal names, or names that are purported to be Aboriginal, in alphabetical order. Readers are invited to contact me, or the Editor, with any additional information or corrections.

Orana Drive: A Polynesian word meaning 'be well' in the Cook Islands and 'hello' in Tahiti. Widely mistakenly attributed to Australian Aboriginal languages. The road name was gazetted on 25 September 2009.

The Quinn family, who farmed the Birchmans Estate area for over three decades prior to subdivision in the late 2000s, requested the Yarrowlumla Shire Council to name the road 'Griffin Road', as that was the name of the main street of the nearby former mining community of Newington (established to service the Mac's Reef and nearby mines). The Geographical Names Board rejected this proposal as there was already a 'Griffins Road' at Wyabene (110 km away by road) which, they considered, could cause confusion. Subsequently, on 4 December 2008, Council resolved to name the road 'Orana' in the mistaken belief that that 'Orana' is 'the Aboriginal word for "welcome"' (source: Yarrowlumla Shire Council file G3/1).

This is a Polynesian word, not Australian: 'In modern Australian usage Orana has gone feral ..., and has been anonymised from its linguistic and geographic origins. It is unclear how it arrived from Polynesia' (Nash 2016, p. 7). Nash (2015) speculates that it may have entered Australian English, and have been mistakenly attributed to one or more Aboriginal languages, from Australian people's awareness of Gauguin's famous 1891 painting (from his time on Rarotonga, Cook Islands) *Ia Orana Maria* 'Hail Mary, Ave Maria', which features a brown-skinned Madonna and child.

'Orana' was included in Thorpe's 1921 *List of New South Wales aboriginal place names and their meanings* as 'welcome'. This source is notoriously fallible, as are its subsequent editions edited by McCarthy.

Note the Orana region of north-central NSW, centred on Dubbo. And note what many call Australia's most famous Christmas carol: 'Carol of the birds' ('Orana, orana, orana for Christmas Day!') composed by William James, lyrics by John Wheeler, published in 1948 (Tunley 2007): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1PuZk6VBr4>.

Warramunga Close: 'Warramunga' was the name of a property between Norton Road and the vicinity of Woolshed Lane, formerly owned by Diana and Keith Gascoine. Named after the famous Australian Anzac class frigate HMAS Warramunga (II) upon which Keith Gascoine served as a naval officer (Gascoine, Cawthorn & Holliday 2016). Warramunga Close, and the Warramunga Greenway, were created as part of the sub-division of their property in c. 2011.

'Warramunga' is an Aboriginal word widely used without reference to the Warumungu people of Central Australia, after whom the two HMAS Warramunga warships were named: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warumungu>.

Weeroona Drive: Lake Weeroona is a major feature of Bendigo, Vic. Staff of the City of Greater Bendigo have advised (pers. com. 26.01.18) that 'Weeroona' is a word in the language of the Dja Dja Wurrung people of central Victoria, particularly the Bendigo region, probably meaning 'tranquillity' or 'we rest'. This word has been widely used to name properties, businesses, etc., across the nation, since the colonial era.

'The Lake Weeroona area is part of Jaara Country, the traditional land of the people of the Dja Dja Wrung language. The Dja Dja Wrung language group is one of the five distinct but closely related communities comprising the Kulin Nation in south central Victoria' (City of Greater Bendigo 2011, p. 15).

Note the 'Weerona' property at the end of Woodfield Drive, Amungula. 'Weerona' is a not uncommon spelling of the word, though 'Weeroona' is used far more frequently. Also note Weeroona Place, Jerrabomberra.

'Weerona' means 'resting place' (McCarthy 1959, p. 31.)

Note the Bendigo gold rush of 1851. Perhaps gold prospectors/miners brought the word with them from Bendigo to the Brooks Creek, Bywong and/or Macs Reef goldfields, resulting in the name of the local 'Weerona' property which is close to the Macs Reef mine site?

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Whisper Classifieds are available at no charge to Bywong and Wamboin residents to run for one or two months. Long running classifieds may incur a slight charge. Email your classified to whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or phone editor on 0409 997 082.

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

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Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Finally it's happening... We're moving, only our second voluntary move in fifty years! And although I am sad to leave, I know that I am moving with no regrets. This has been a very special phase in our life, and the longest either of us has lived in any one place. But...it's **not** easy to leave.

I used to say to my mother, "Don't leave it too late," but she did. At 87, my sister and I moved her from their retirement home in the hills on acreage. It was difficult. By then she was incapable of making hard decisions, and hated parting with so much of her identity. We felt as if we were picking over her bones. But, it happened and she enjoyed many more good years in a retirement village where she could still look at the sunset from her kitchen window and pick wildflowers from the gardens as she'd done all her married life in the hills. I'd always joked that when it came time for us to move I'd simply throw a match into the shed and depart without a backwards glance. The trouble is, sheds seem to take root and flourish in Wamboin, and no self respecting shed stays empty. I'd need a box of matches now and an accelerant!

It was a barbecue lunch at a friend's place in the early days of Poppet Road that sowed the seed. I have always loved the bush, the wildlife and growing things. As we packed up every couple of years and moved within Australia and around the world I kept the prospect of Wamboin in mind. When it came time to retire I was told that we could consider moving to the bush if I could find a place with, "good soil and good water." Well, I like a challenge and I did, except I didn't know that I had found it after a string of particularly good seasons, and I didn't exactly check the depth of soil. It was May, 1996. Then my husband learned his retirement gift was cancer, and he questioned my ability to manage twenty acres on my own. Ever confident, and just a trifle naive, I said of course I could. Hmmmm...the confidence of youth! I was filled with ideas of self sufficiency, saving money growing our own food, indulging interests that had been shelved during our gypsy years, immersing ourselves in the bush and finding a community. Well, we found a real community and friendship and markets to supplement my gardening efforts, but I doubt we saved much money. I became a composter and mulcher, and a not always successful importer of soil. Through trial and error, and sharing experiences, I learned a great deal about impoverished or non existent soils, shales, unpredictable rainfall, growing and establishing gardens within the traditional territory of kangaroos, rabbits, wallabies, possums and cockatoos, and the joys of having chooks, ducks and geese once we had discovered how to outwit foxes. The pleasures on our scrap of dirt outweighed the tears of despair. At times I appreciated the distance from neighbours and they probably did, too, when unsavoury language escaped my lips! I have learned a lot, but what has been the greatest revelation is that we are never in control. Nature rules. It is paramount...and I have learned to accept and adapt.

However, for the time being sorting and discarding remains to be done as the dreaded word, "downsizing" rings in my ears. With years of trying to live lightly on our patch, to recycle and reuse, I'm happy to pass on whatever someone else can now use. I just won't tell them that in twenty years time they will be wondering why they'd built another shed just to house all this precious "stuff". And I can still say... "I wouldn't live anywhere else"...Bungendore is just down the hill. Thank you Wamboin for everything, warts and all, and thank you for turning on such a beautiful farewell gift, this spring/autumn...I'll never truly leave you.



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