

July 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 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](http://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](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au) or to [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto: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 August 2020 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, July 26<sup>th</sup>**.

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<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison - Bungendore	6238 1333	
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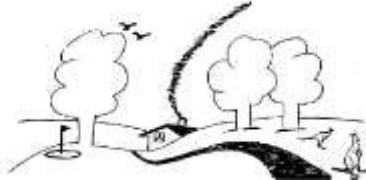

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	<p><b>Wamboin Community Association Presidents Paragraphs</b></p> <p><b>“Trying to Keep Each Other Safe”</b></p>	
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As I write tonight there is a major spike in new Covid-19 cases down in Victoria. Is it the start of the second wave or just some poor management? Only time will tell. Most other states have either low numbers or none as we emerge from our lockdowns. Should we be stockpiling Nescafe and Tim Tams again for going into another lockdown?

Still I have to say how well we have done as a country to get to this point. It is absolutely mindboggling how other countries have dealt with this pandemic and the sheer numbers of deaths. As we awake from a bit of a slumber things seem to be starting to return to a little bit of normal, from what I remember normal was anyhow. The roads to Canberra are busy again and Bungendore was so busy it was difficult to find a carpark when getting my much needed Sunday coffee.

**A few things have happened:**

**Fireworks** – With sadness I announce that the famous Wamboin fireworks and bonfire night has been cancelled for 2020. Unfortunately with the unknown situation and Government social distancing rules (noting we get up 2000 attendees) we just could not predict the position we would be in come August. So in order to give the food vendors and the fireworks providers notice we unfortunately had to make the call. Very sorry and it is disappointing for all of us but hopefully we will be back bigger and better next year. Please do not bring green waste to the oval as it will not be needed this year.

**Palerang vs Queanbeyan Local Environmental Plan** – Well the folk at the planning department at QPRC have tried to mash the former Palerang and Queanbeyan LEP’s together to make a harmonious and easy to read document covering all zones and scenarios telling you what you can and can’t do on your property. It did not really work with a couple of humdingers including trying to exclude dual occupancies, making you apply for consent with a development application to be able to work from home and to a lesser degree making sure there was no chance of a small shop to get some bread and milk. The WCA has prepared and submitted a detailed response to the QPRC planners outlining what we believe are incorrect decisions for the E4 zoned areas here in Wamboin. We look forward to the QPRC response and will keep residents up to date via our WCA Facebook page and website.

**Election Time** – By the time this issue hits the newstands (or letter boxes) the July 4<sup>th</sup> Federal By-election with have been run and probably won (depends how close it is to declare a winner). The WCA looks forward to working with our new Federal member whoever it may be. It was a real pity not to hold our meet the candidates night to give our residents a chance to meet and hear who they were voting for. Are we the bellwether or just another ewe?

**WCA Meetings** – The WCA has suspended all our monthly meetings with a view to recommence in September.

**Thursday Drop in Group** - The Thursday drop in group is close to recommencing. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details.

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



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## Bywong Community Association News – July 2020

We're not quite out of the woods yet, but there are signs the worst of the WHEELY CHALLENGING TIMES are passing. More shops and cafes have re-opened and Council facilities such as the Bywong Hall can be used again - with social distancing rules in place of course.

Now's the time to put on your creative hat, **unleash your inner artist, and** start imagining your entry to the **Bywong and Wamboin WHEELY CHALLENGE**. The brain-child of Bywong artist JP Favre, the competition has prizes for different age groups and the rules are simple:

- Make a sculpture / montage that includes at least one old wheel (car, bike, trolley)
- Display your creation on the boundary of your property where it is visible to passers-by.

Come on, Bywong/Wamboin: if enough of us join in, we can turn the locality into a 'rural sculpture park'! More details, including important dates, entry categories and PRIZES can be found elsewhere in this Whisper.

Talking of 'wheels' brings us to Recycling! If you want to make sure your recycling can be fully used and not be rejected to landfill, check out the Recycle Right Hints at <https://www.tccs.act.gov.au/recyclopaedia/recycle-right>. Many types of soft plastic (bags and wrappers) that CAN NOT be recycled via Council's waste depots CAN be recycled via REDcycle, which has collection bins at Coles and Woolies. Check out their website at [www.redcycle.net.au](http://www.redcycle.net.au).

As the first wave of this pandemic eases, the Bywong Community Association looks forward to "Bringing Bywong Together" through 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](mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au)

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## ***From the Corner***

**SEPPs**—I have referred to the State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) on various occasions in the past, but perhaps never dealt with the subject directly. With the new comprehensive Queanbeyan Palerang Local Environmental Plan (QPLEP) on the verge of completion I thought some further discussion might be of interest.

While land use within a Local Government Area (LGA) is generally controlled through an LEP, this is just one piece of legislation that is involved. Broadly speaking, SEPPs are state level priorities that generally override an LEP, although in most cases care will have been taken in drafting an LEP to avoid any confusing conflicts with SEPPs. Some SEPPs are ‘permissive’, allowing development freedom beyond the constraints that might otherwise be imposed by an LEP, while others are ‘restrictive’, designed to protect specific localities, like alpine areas, or land values, like koala habitat, regardless of what might otherwise be permitted under a particular LEP.

Many SEPPs are directed at specific activities in specific areas—Bushland in Urban Areas, Coastal Management, Sydney Drinking Water Catchment, Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas to name but a few—but others address issues considered to be of state-level significance more broadly, such as Affordable Rental Housing, Building Sustainability Index (BASIX), Remediation of Land, and [Significant] Infrastructure [Development].

Not many of the location-specific SEPPs apply in our local area, but others come into play from time to time. The SEPP that has most often been referred to in recent times is the *Exempt and Complying Development Codes* SEPP (*Codes* SEPP). This SEPP lists a wide range of predominantly minor developments that may, under specific circumstances, be undertaken without the need for development approval from council, regardless of what might be specified in the prevailing LEP.

I will make a cautionary note at this point and emphasise that ‘conditions still apply’ and at times these can be more [practically or financially] onerous than the development approval (DA) process itself. It should not, therefore, be assumed that undertaking development as Complying Development, for example, is necessarily ‘easier’ than seeking formal approval through council. Builders often promote the Complying Development path because this approach is often easier for them, but this does not always play out in the customer’s favour.

The *Codes* SEPP lists literally hundreds of activities, ranging from the erection of TV antennae or the display of advertising and signage all the way through to the construction of a dwelling. As previously noted, conditions still apply to all of these activities—each must conform to the ‘development standards’ identified for that activity in the *Codes* SEPP—but the intent is to avoid unnecessary bureaucracy in relation to straightforward development activities. An LEP may, nonetheless, allow development identified within the *Codes* SEPP to be undertaken without the imposition of *any* conditions—i.e. it can be more ‘relaxed’ than the *Codes* SEPP by, for example, allowing a specific land use to be ‘permitted without consent’ in a council area—but it cannot impose more stringent conditions on a given activity than are specified in the *Codes* SEPP.

The *Building Sustainability Index: BASIX* SEPP is another that is generally applicable through both the DA and Complying Development processes without most people actually noticing. It generally applies implicitly through one of the consent conditions associated with all new building developments to ensure that BASIX principles are applied consistently throughout the State.

While most of council’s activities are subject to the same development controls as the rest of the community, maintenance of assets such as transport infrastructure is covered by the *Infrastructure* SEPP, which specifically allows councils a degree of flexibility in providing essential services. This does not, however, cover development related council buildings and the like, which are still subject to the normal development approval process. As a side note here, council’s own DAs are not generally assessed by council staff, they are delegated to another council or, for higher value developments, the Regional Planning Panel or the Independent Planning Commission.

Another SEPP that comes into play from time to time, perhaps again behind the scenes, is the *State and Regional Development* SEPP, which, as the name implies, gives the State the necessary authority to carry out development it deems to be of State or Regional significance without being constrained by provisions that might otherwise be imposed by a particular LEP.

So, as you casually flick through the pages of the new LEP, it’s good to remember that it’s just part of the story.

The full list of State Environmental Planning Policies is available at <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/browse/inForce/EPIs/S>

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

SEPPs (Jun 2020) Planning Legislation (Sep 2018) Exempt and Complying Development (Apr 2015)

Planning Instruments (Nov2011)

Cr Pete Harrison Ph. 6238 3640 Mob. 0427 711 028 Email: [contact@peteharrison.id.au](mailto:contact@peteharrison.id.au) Website: [www.peteharrison.id.au](http://www.peteharrison.id.au)

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Call LAKE GEORGE FIRE CONTROL CENTRE on 0261280600 during business hours. Please remember that you are responsible for keeping the fire contained and under control on your property.

On Friday 26 th June Wamboin brigade responded a tanker and crew to yet another un notified burn in our brigades area. The notification process is state wide and been in force for more than 15 years. As a landowner, you should be aware of the rules. With many areas drying out already, grass fires have already got the potential to spread easily.

Remember if you are having a pile burn make sure you have a water supply available at the burn site before you light up.

## USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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## Wamboin Golf - June 2020

Silverwater Correctional Centre, Sydney, Sunday, 7 June. Your correspondent enjoyed a short but exciting ride until they got him. I'm pleading temporary insanity: all that Covid 19 largesse dangled before me disturbed the balance of my mind. First it was the JobKeeper subsidy. As a self-employed pseudo journalist I applied for it after my gig at the Whisper became redundant (I've just been re-engaged). Then, as a redundant employee of my own company, I put my name down for the JobSeeker allowance (well, why not?). As the money began rolling in I lost my sense of proportion and successfully sought the cash flow grant for small business, an advance on a superannuation policy I didn't have, as well as grants from the Public Interest News-gathering program for regional areas and the ACT's Homefront Arts Funding package. I think I went too far in getting a loan from Westpac and immediately applying for compassionate deferral of repayments. By that time I was working two jobs in the APS, one at Services Australia and one at the ATO, both created to handle the increased demand from applicants for various financial support schemes. At Services Australia I worked in the fraud section and was lucky enough to be given my own file to chase up. I figured it was time to pull the pin so I cashed out and stowed away aboard the Ruby Princess just as she was leaving Port Kembla. However, be sure your sins will find you out. When the ship pulled into Bora Bora I was arrested by two AFP officers and here I am on remand in the infirmary at Silverwater. You guessed it: I caught the damn virus on the damn boat. I'll be out of isolation by the time my case comes up in July when I will be represented by Cleaver Greene.

Meanwhile the lucky devils are back playing golf at Wamboin. Although the hall is still closed we held the 19<sup>th</sup> outside the machinery shed adjacent to the green on Lamberts Leap, the home of the Covid 19 Bridge. While the captain did the tally we marveled at his suggested "improvements" to the bridge and appurtenant works. Yes, he's a qualified civil engineer with some national infrastructure projects on his CV but do we really need hand rails, flood level indicators, signs that say "No Swimming, Diving or Fishing", "No Passing or Overtaking", "Children Under Adult Supervision", "Do Not Feed the Troll", a life saving ring on a pole with CPR instructions, emergency phone numbers, security lighting, seating both sides, landscaping and a hot dog stall? No we don't. We do need to thank those



who pulled the day together at short notice: Lofty Mason (kick starter and fluid loss adjusters), Steve Lambert (venue and prizes), Joan Mason and Libby King (food). Despite all, we had a fair-sized crowd who meticulously observed social distancing. It was particularly encouraging to see Jude Evans.



After your correspondent phoned-in the Ted Evans Memorial Joke the googly ball and the dummy spit went to Colin Urquhart for missing his wife's birthday. Winner of the nine hole event was Joan "I played very well today" Mason 43/32 OCB from Nev Schroder 39/32 with Lofty Mason 49/36 in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Winner of the 18 hole comp was Tim "Hangover" Barter 74/65 equaling the course record and showing that you can play good golf with a furry tongue. Runner-up was Paul Griffin 83/67 from Colin Urquhart 100/74. Join us inside or outside the community hall on Sunday 5 July for another exciting exercise in mind over matter. We sign in at 12.15pm and tee off at 12.30pm. You don't have to be a great golfer to have fun. As Tim has demonstrated you can still play on three cylinders and a flat tyre. - Larry King, golfer



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## Memories of Ted

Ted and Judith Evans moved to Wamboin in the mid 90s. By that time Ted was head of the Treasury. People choose Wamboin for all sorts of reasons: solitude, hobby farming, a country upbringing for the kids, or just elbow room and lifestyle. You can join in or remain aloof, we don't care. Mostly Ted and Jude joined in. They lived in Cooper Road where Jude would tend her wonderful garden and grow vegetables in the poly tunnel. Ted was an outstanding woodworker. His workshop was equipped with an array of lathes, drop saws, mounted multi drills and other stuff you'd find in an industrial joinery. These he used to manufacture and repair furniture and the like. Their garden featured a dam with an island on which Ted built a rotunda with a connecting wooden arch bridge. When Lofty Mason's sister admired an ornate bed head he'd made he surprised her some weeks later with a replica (signed on the back). He was that sort of guy.

Ted found life in Wamboin a counterbalance to government service and, after that, the board of Westpac. It provided a pressure valve and relaxation as well as a variety of other dimensions to life. He would never willingly miss golf, curry night, fireworks night (and the clean up afterwards), the gentlemen's boree log or the old fire brigade fancy dress ball. Who could ever forget Ted's outlandish costumes. We saw him as 'The Royal Butler', dressed in a napkin as 'Baby Bob' (Irwin), and of course 'The Banksia Man (with apologies to May Gibbs). When golf became physically impossible he'd still turn up at the 19<sup>th</sup> and tell a joke or two. He loved those corny jokes that make you think. How do you round up 37 cows? Answer: 40 cows. You can take the boy out of Treasury...Towards the end, when ill health had forced a move into Queanbeyan, he confided that the highlight of his month was the trip from town to the Wamboin golf presentations. He said his heart was still in Wamboin.

Ted never actively sought anonymity out here. But nor did he go to any trouble to make himself known. Most who knew who he was gave him space and he appreciated that. He was never above his company. Around a boree log in winter he was just another bloke shooting the breeze. If topics turned to matters on which he might be considered expert he would listen carefully but say little – the soul of discretion. When he did speak he was worth listening to. Sometimes, as the night wore on, he would listen with the patience of Job to progressively outlandish suggestions for improvements to macroeconomic policy, smiling all the while. Occasionally he would interpolate a comment but he never made anyone feel inadequate or foolish.

Ted's Wamboin friends will always remember a man of luminous intelligence, infinite jest, impeccable manners and a great love for humankind. - Larry King

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## How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

Joan Milnor has for around a decade delivered Whispers to Birriwa Rd, Gum Flat Rd. and to mailboxes eastward on Macs Reef to Harriott Road, but is now moving on. Richard and Jill Gregory have for many years delivered Whispers to Canning Close. and have moved to Bungendore. Thank you Joan and Richard and Jill for taking, month after month, a slice of your time and energy to add a little to community communication. Maria Taylor has agreed to take on most of Joan's task, and Vicki Still put up her hand to do the Canning Close deliveries.

Without the month by month donation of time by our fellow residents listed above and below, 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 alicehscott@bigpond.com**

Fay Kelly	Norton West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20	Christine Rieber	Cooper Rd	26
Cheryl and David Steele	Fernloff Rd	34	Vicki Still	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**

Joan Mason	Bingley Way	44	Margaret Hekeimin	Merino Vale Dr	19
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	31
Kathy Handel	Norton(Wrona2 Hilltop+Wirndra)	22	Phileeson&CFogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	32

**231: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489**

Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	45
Colleen Foster	B'dore Rd to Nrtn Rd	22	Rob Henry	South end Clare Valley	41
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
Dominica Lorima	North end Clare Valley	42			

**162: 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
Maria Taylor & Ned Noel	Birriwa Rd & Macs Rf to Harriott	32	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

**103: CO-ORDINATED BY GARETH JONES: ph Ph: 6238 1988 givrjones@bigpond.com**

Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Sandra Favre	Newwington Rd	20
Daryl Bourke	Harriot Rd	25	Don Malcolmson	Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat)	7
Carol & Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (Bankers2 Fed Hwy)	33	Cheryl Warnock	Macs Reef Rd (Nwington2 Bankers)	11

**157: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425 lodestar@ozemail.com.au**

Peter Huckstopp	Federal HwSvcRd	22	Louise Baldwin	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Lyn Parkinson	Bidges/Hickey/OldGoldMines	50	Penny & Russell Ball	Macs Reef (Denley Dr to Bungdre Rd)	20
Glen Dorahy	Sutton Park Estate	53	Fire Brigade	Headquarters on Bingley Way	1

**145: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 6236 97223 bushranger\_au@hotmail.com**

Chris Fowler	Millyn Rd	20	David Featherston	B'doreRd SmHill to&nclgdCrkBRD	27
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	24	Leigh & Derek Morris	Wyoming & Doust Rds	40
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	34			

**190: CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 0409-997-082 email nednoel@optusnet.com.au**

Diana Griffin	Majors Close	19	Judy Smith	Weeroona (254 – 400)	18
Diana Boswell	DonnellyRd 29 & Grove Rd 9	38	Susie and Brad Edwards	Weeroona (417-512)	17
Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Road	27	Murray Goodridge	B'dore Rd (MRR to&nclgd Smrhill)	38
Advertisers & Misc	Out of area advertiser mailouts	33			

**TOTAL 1,336**

**Wamboin Community Association's Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display**  
by Fireworks Australia

Wamboin Community Centre,  
112 Bingley Way, Wamboin.  
Lost Saturday Lost Day Lost Month 2020  
Food stalls from 5.30  
Bonfire lit at 6.33 and  
Fireworks light-up 7.03 precisely  
on a date now lost in the coronaverse.  
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## WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(45 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

### June Rainfall Stats

June rainfall to the 28<sup>th</sup> ..... 49.25mm  
 2020 total rainfall to 28<sup>th</sup>..... 378.5mm

### July Rainfall Stats

2019 July rainfall..... 8.65mm  
 Wettest July..... 142mm in 1993  
 Wettest July day..... 50.5mm on 10/7/91  
 Driest July..... 4.5mm in 1982

### July Temperature Stats

Hottest July day..... 17.3°C on 22/7/19  
 Hottest July night..... 9°C (5 times)  
 1988 (3 times), 24/7/90 & 8/7/93  
 Average day temp. .... 8.9°C  
 Warmest July..... 1993  
 Av. day temp. 10.8°C & nights 5.1°C  
 (highest day 12.5°C in 2019)

Average June rainfall..... 54.4mm  
 2019 June rainfall..... 22.35mm  
 2019 total rainfall to 28/6..... 233.1mm  
 44yr Av. to end of June..... 319.9mm

Average July rainfall..... 51.8mm  
 Average no. rain days in July.... 10.8  
 Highest no. rain days..... 17 in 1980  
 Lowest no. rain days. 4 in 1982 & 1994

Av. June temp. 5.3°C (day+night comb.)  
 Coldest July day..... 1°C on 14/7/16  
 Coldest July night..... -5°C (7 times)  
 10/96, 12/11, 3 & 5/15, 22/17, 16 & 22/18  
 Average night temp. .... 1.7°C  
 Coldest July..... 2015  
 Av. day temp. 5.5°C & nights -1.5°C  
 July 2019. Av. max 12.5°C & min 2.2°C

Daylight hours in July increase by 30 minutes from 9.7 to 10.2 hours.

As at 28 June 2020 Wamboin has had 30mm more rainfall than for the whole of 2019 and 58mm above the 44 year average.

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## Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For July I chose the White-throated Treecreeper, a smallish bird that climbs vertically up trees with a loud call.

### White-throated Treecreeper (*Cormobates leucophaea*)

Size: 16-17.5cm

Status: Fairly common breeding resident

The White-throated Treecreeper is a smallish bird, which is often found in pairs or small groups. They prefer areas of woodland or other treed areas where they occur predominantly on rough-barked trees. Their foraging technique involves 'climbing' up the tree trunk and onto the branches, probing their beak into cracks and crevices in the bark for their insect prey. This behaviour of 'climbing' up the trunk is characteristic of treecreepers. If you see a bird climbing downwards on a tree it is most likely a Varied Sittella not a treecreeper. Whilst White-throated Treecreepers are rarely seen away from rough barked trees, they are occasionally seen on smooth barked trees, large rocks and even house walls (one roosts overnight clinging to the brick wall of our house). White-throated Treecreepers are grey-brown above, with white-grey scalloping on the sides and a distinctive white throat and breast. The female has a rufous ear patch which is absent in the male. These birds have a distinctive call, a loud, high-pitched piping or trilling, repeated many times. They are often seen in mixed flocks with other small birds (thornbills, robins, honeyeaters).



Female

(Photos from Google images)

Male

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#### Belinda Bolsenbroek

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## Wamboin Trail Runners: Winter Trails 2020

The third Sunday in June each year brings the Winter Trails Event organised by the Wamboin Trail Runners. This year was different. After the fires and heavy rains, coronavirus had made its presence known across the globe including in our QPRC region. Would COVID-19 restrictions be eased in time for the event to be held? What changes would be needed if we could proceed?



During May it began to look like an event would be possible. The usual 12 kilometre and half marathon races had to be abandoned. Their popularity was their ‘downfall’ – we simply couldn’t have 400-450 people on the day. Concentrating on the marathon meant participants would be able to use the run as a qualifying event for other major races. And our marathon is seen as a good challenge for even the most experienced runners. (There are sooooo many hills in Kowen Forest...)

The planning of the revised event started in earnest. By early June, we’d had our permit to use Kowen Forest reissued. Tick. We checked, re-checked and checked ‘just to make sure’ the expected numbers of participants and support crew would fit within the relevant restrictions (100 in Kowen Forest, 500 in open spaces in NSW and tens in assembled public gatherings, all subject to physical distancing). We had tape measures, chalk and witches hats to ‘mark the spot’ where people could stand. We bought six litres of hand sanitiser for use at the Hall and at aid stations. We planned waves of starters – smaller groups at

the start line, leaving at intervals, to ensure the participants were spread across the course. So we *could* have a ‘COVID-19’ compliant event.

Registrations for limited numbers of marathoners opened – the event was so popular that registrations closed early. Our generous supporters added donations to the Wamboin RFS and many would be smartly decked out in Kowen Trail Run 2020 merchandise.



Our wonderful team of volunteers – from Wamboin and beyond – worked hard in the lead up with marking & course preparation, on the day helping the runners & assisting at the start and finish and after the event with unmarking & storing gear for the next event. As has become customary, the weather forecast was not favourable. Race Eve was memorable for heavy downpours and strong winds. Pam, our dedicated Race Director, was especially nervous on Saturday evening – the thought of marathoners meandering aimlessly in a 4,670 hectare forest did NOT appeal. Would our markings staying in place? Could we recheck? (The answers to the second question was “NO, really, at 10:00pm on race eve there is NO time to recheck”. The answer to the first question was YES. The arrows, crosses, logs, marking tape held their positions admirably.) Thankfully the rain stopped around 3:30am Sunday and the first wave left the Hall at 6:45am. Event on!!

The runners get an early taste of the hills with the run up Bingley Way and on to the horse poles and Poppet Hill. They are then lulled into a false sense of comfort with flat and downhill sections. Then, our extra special feature – a creek crossing. Our intrepid marathoners shown crossing the creek have completed over 900 marathons completed between them so a creek crossing – or three – wasn’t going to deter them!



Next more ascents – Mt Reedy and Doom. From the top of Doom, runners hurtle down to another creek crossing and a V-shape ascent up the opposite bank. A few kilometres of relative flat then up to Mountain Break, 6 kms of roller coaster (think amusement park ride, with three bogs) then a descent. Yay! No – too early to celebrate. The steep, really steep, kilometre ascent of Mt Amungula spans KM36. Are you serious!!! But now it’s the home stretch, and the race *will* end. The welcome site of the horse poles on the return journey – only 2.6 kms to go – and it’s mostly downhill. Just after 10:00am the first competitors started

crossing the finish line to enjoy the hot soup served up by the fires. The race records came close to falling but remain as the challenge for next year. By 2:00pm we were celebrating another successful event.

We look forward to being able to make a sizeable donation to the Wamboin Brigade. After the fire season we had, I’m sure they’ll spend it wisely.



Words: Jenny Kruse

Photography: Carolyn Young, Mel Bingley & John Harding. (Photos are better viewed in the online Whisper.)

## Kangaroos In The Fence Line

Kangaroos often come in for a bad wrap, but as the years go by, their numbers are falling and in some areas they have been wiped out. Annually, Wildcare deals with thousands of calls for help, around half of which relate to kangaroos. In the 18 months to December 2019, there were 3460 calls for kangaroos. Many of these were for kangaroos involved in motor vehicle accidents (1918), but a substantial number (233) were for kangaroos found caught in wire fences. Photo: *A typical fence hanger*



'Fence hangers' are kangaroos that have not seen, or misjudged, the wire strands of a fence and have become caught by one or both legs. We used to think that these animals should be euthanised, because of the difficulty in extracting the animal. However, Wildcare has built up the capability to safely extract and rescue these animals using experienced volunteers, devices to lever wires apart, as well as treatments to calm the animal and then provide first aid. Members of the public are advised not to attempt to remove a fence hanger themselves; it would be too dangerous without the knowledge of an animal's behaviour and how to handle it – rather, stand back to prevent further distress and contact Wildcare for advice.

Fence injuries can range from none, with animals released immediately, to severe cuts or wrenched and broken legs. If the animal is caught for too long, it will become dehydrated and malnourished. A small kangaroo held off the ground by both legs is better off than a large animal held by one leg. In the latter situation, the kangaroo may well break its leg or dislocate a hip in its attempt to free itself.

It is not uncommon to come across joeys caught up in ring lock fencing. The mother hops over and the youngster attempts to squeeze through at the bottom. In these incidents it may be necessary to snip the wire (to be repaired later) to release the animal. Again, please call Wildcare for help and avoid causing it more distress.

If a kangaroo is injured in fencing it can often be brought into care, rather than letting it go with an injury that could impede its mobility and possibly become infected. In the 18 months to the end of 2019, over a third (39%) of fence hangers were brought into care.

Barbed wire is a danger to both stock animals and native wildlife. A fence hanger caught up in barbed wire will obviously have more severe injuries. Barbed wire also injures and captures birds and bats. Many landowners are removing barbed wire and choosing to use other fence designs to contain stock animals.

If you need help with wildlife issues, please call Wildcare 62991966. - Phil Machin, Merran Laver 0407 383 704

## Hey Kids, Young And Old



Are you "wheelie creative?" Surely, somewhere in your shed, under the house or in the old dunny, you have an old wheel lying around, perhaps from a car, wheelbarrow, bicycle or ride-on mower?

Well, here's your chance to get "wheelie creative" and build a sculpture. It can represent something obvious or be an abstract collection of bits and pieces. You can weld, glue, paint, polish, bend and twist ... we don't care as long as it has at least one wheel!

Kids, as well as two prizes for "Best Local Sculpture", there will be prizes for "Best Primary Student Sculpture" and "Best Secondary Student Sculpture". Ask your dad or mum if you need help to build your creation.

To enter, send us a photo of your sculpture (which must be mounted and displayed near the entrance gate of your property, so that passers-by can see it), along with your Name, Age, Address and your Sculpture's title to:

[wheelsculpture@bywongcommunity.org.au](mailto:wheelsculpture@bywongcommunity.org.au) Competition entries will close on 30 August 2020. – John Pierre Favre

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July 2020

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Thursday to Saturday 11am to 8pm and Sunday 11am to 5pm for tastings, lunch, dinner and takeaway

**EVENTS, so you can plan ahead**

- 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 Gala Night all inclusive \$150
- 8 August Truffle Cooking Class with Chef
- 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!
- 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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## Nature Notes June 2020

Jo Walker

A couple of substantial falls of rain during the month have got the dam overflowing again and the creek is still running gently. Even the several expanses of soakage areas are still glistening with water. The nights are getting colder and there have been a few dustings of frost, but the clear sunny days are making it feel more like spring than winter. The plants seem a bit confused too. The large Australian Blackthorn bushes (*Bursaria spinosa*) here are in full flower at the moment – although late spring to summer is their usual flowering period. Likewise for several of the planted Bottlebrushes (*Callistemon* spp.) which really don't usually flower in mid-winter!

Not a lot else is flowering, but it's the time of year to appreciate the tapestry of different shades of green provided by the trees and shrubs – especially with all that new growth they've put on this year. And there are a few Billy Buttons (*Craspedia variabilis*) bearing their bright yellow flowers on long stems.

Even though there is not a lot of colour at the moment, there is promise of much to come in spring - especially from the smaller herbaceous plants. The fine leaves of Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*) are coming up everywhere, surrounded by hillsides of Austral Sunray (*Triptilodiscus pygmaeus*) and New Holland Daisies (*Vittadinia muelleri*). One intriguing plant that has appeared in a lot of places here where I haven't seen it before is the little Grass Daisy (*Isoetopsis graminifolia*). This small plant, as its name suggests, looks like a tiny soft grass tussock at present. But, later it will bear small yellowish green button flowers clustered at ground level. I first saw it here some years ago in one small patch, but this year it has come up in many places a long way away from that original population.

The Honeyeaters are enjoying the flowers of the Bottlebrushes and Grevilleas. There were three Eastern Spinebills feeding together on the nectar of *Callistemon brachyandrus* flowers in the garden a few days ago. And White-eared Honeyeaters and a Red Wattle-bird have been busy amongst some hybrid Grevilleas which are flowering heavily this year. The Wood Ducks I mentioned last time are still searching for their ideal nesting hollow in the old trees here – or perhaps that pair has found its perfect piece of real estate and this is another couple.

After those recent dry years when we were losing so much, it's good to be able to look forward to a, hopefully, abundant and colourful spring this year.

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 <a href="mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au">whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au</a> or phone editor on 0409 997 082.
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FOR HIRE:- from Wamboin Community Hall - 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, - Trestles and chairs. All damages are the responsibility of the Hirer. Must be securely tied during transportation - or they don't go! Contact person is Joan Mason 6238-3258



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## Wamboin Community Hall

*Lofty Mason has written the following because over the last 3 months we have had several calls from people who have the mistaken idea that the community owns the Hall.*

When a new area is planned, the developer has to reserve areas for community activities and also to donate money to Council for future development of buildings, such as a Hall, on that area. In Wamboin one of those areas was the allotment on Bingley Way where the Hall and Fire Shed are located.

In 1983 Council granted the Wamboin Community Association \$1000 to purchase a water tank, toilets and a septic tank. Later that year the Council granted a further \$12,000 towards a Hall. Fortunately many residents provided labour so that by July 1984 we had built a basic Hall, with a concrete floor and a veranda that was enclosed both ends to form a kitchen and a storeroom. We had also set up a water tank, shed toilets and a septic system. Continued money raising efforts by the community, plus generous donations from residents, enabled us to put in wall lining, heating, a ceiling and to fit out the kitchen with second hand cupboards and white goods.

After completing this we were initially surprised to find that 'our' Hall was now the property of the Council. However, the Hall is on Council land and the Council is the obvious owner. The Council requested that members of the Wamboin Community form a Hall Management Committee (responsible to Council) to manage the Hall and the Reserve. The Hall had to be on a stand alone/user pays basis.

The Wamboin Hall Management Committee (WHMC) hires out the Hall to users, and the money from this hire pays for the electricity, cleaning, repairs, repainting, upgrades etc. Running expenses for a typical year: Upgrades/repairs \$1200. Electricity and Cleaning \$2,600 added to this is the cost of biennial painting. The Council will not pay for these general running expenses or for the replacement of chairs and tables. All money for running the Hall must be recovered from the hire of the Hall.

Additions to the original Hall, organised and built by the WHMC with assistance from other volunteers, are the concrete block toilets, the large meeting room, the wood fired heater, the enlarged and modernised kitchen, and the re-roofing of the toilet block. In the grounds we also managed the forming and landscaping of the oval and excavating the dam. We have received some grants for these works however you can appreciate the value of volunteer labour when you realise we were quoted \$20,760 just to have the roofing framework of the toilet block supplied and erected by an engineering company. Using volunteer labour we pulled down the old roofing, strengthened the walls, erected the framework, resecured the partitions, clad the roof and ceiling, fitted lighting and trim, and painted the walls and floor for a total outlay of \$9,269.

*Covid19 has shown how the Hall is the heart of the community and highlights how we think of it as 'Our' Hall however, the Hall and the reserve come under Council Covid19 restrictions and the WHMC is to ensure that key holders and the people responsible for events are aware of these restrictions.*

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## The roads of Wamboin, part 4: Wirreanda Road & Yuranga Drive

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

### Introduction

This article is the fourth in a series on the origins of the names of Wamboin's roads. (The Bywong Community's website has corresponding information on the Bywong roads.) It concludes the six roads that have Aboriginal names, or names that people mistakenly believe to be Aboriginal. As always, readers are invited to contact me, or the Editor, with any additional information or corrections.

### Wirreanda Road

'Wirreanda' is Aboriginal word that is widely used across Australia, presumably owing to its euphony. It may have its origins in the Hawker region of South Australia (Manning 2012):

*Wirreanda is not necessarily a Kurna name, even though it appears to be analysable as wirra 'forest' + yarnta 'large, wide'. Cooper ... lists a meaning 'place of big trees' compatible with this analysis. However, Manning ... refers to Wirreanda in the Hawker district, established in 1877, as being derived from wirra 'gum tree' and ando 'rock wallaby', an etymology consistent with Adnyamathanha ... Perhaps the old property in the Morphett Vale area could have been named after this place in the Flinders Ranges. Perhaps the names are quite independent, and it does have Kurna origins. (Note: the Kurna people are from the Adelaide, SA, region.)*

It was said to mean 'A place of big trees' in a monthly magazine produced by the former, notorious N.S.W. Aborigines Welfare Board. The Wirreanda Public School in Newcastle states that it means 'Place where wallabies live under tall trees'. The hundred (i.e. parish) of Wirreanda in South Australia was named in 1877 when it was said to mean 'a forest of knotty trees'. Numerous homesteads, creeks, businesses, institutions, etc. bear the name. Note the 'Wirreanda' property in the Nanima area.

The road marks the southern boundary of the former Gundaroo Gold field, and of the parish of Wamboin. It is shown as a road on the second, 1891, edition of the Wamboin parish map, and is today still shown as a crown road in QPRC's Public IntraMaps. It is on a straight line to the trig station atop Turalla Hill off to the east. Interestingly, the short north-south section is on the old track from Queanbeyan to the Gundaroo Road (now Bungendore Road). William Guise, the proprietor of Bywong Station, purchased two contiguous 640 acre (one square mile) blocks on the southern and south-western sides of the road, the headwaters of the Yass River, in 1839. It was one of the first land acquisitions in the Wamboin/Bywong area. The road's name was gazetted on 29 May 1998.

### Yuranga Drive

'Yuranga' is an Aboriginal word, widely used by non-Aboriginal people because they like the sound of it, or like what it is alleged by some to mean ('extensive view'), without any connections to country nor etymology.

Approved by the NSW Geographical Names Board (GNB) on the recommendation of Yarrawlumla Shire Council who advised them in 2008 that 'Yuranga' is 'the Aboriginal word for "extensive view"'. Gazetted 25 September 2009.

The Quinn family, who owned the Birchmans Estate area for over three decades prior to subdividing their land (Noel 2008), requested the Yarrawlumla Shire Council to name the road 'Quinn Drive', after their family. The GNB rejected this name as it is a long-standing policy not to name roads, or other features, after living people. Subsequently, on 4 December 2008, Council resolved to name the road 'Yuranga Drive' in the belief that that 'yuranga' is 'the Aboriginal word for "extensive view"' (source: Yarrawlumla Shire Council file G3/1).

Thorpe (1921, p. 16) states that 'yuruga' means 'extensive view', but he provides no further information on the word; its source is not stated. His dictionary is notoriously fallible, as are its subsequent editions edited by McCarthy.

'The name Yuranga means "bend in the river", which is where Mildura sits along the Murray River. Aunty Thelma Chilly knows the name well. She is the Local Indigenous Network (LIN) broker for the Northern Loddon Mallee Region, working for the Victorian Government. "Yuranga was chosen as the Aboriginal name for the LIN," Thelma said.'

<http://www.sunraysiadaily.com.au/story/2932835/thelma-makes-a-difference/>

Also said to mean 'young man' and numerous other meanings: <https://www.aboriginallanguages.com/aboriginal-language-insights> and <http://naabawinya.blogspot.com.au/2011/12/nsw-words-yarrangobilly.html>.

### References

Manning, GH 2012, *A compendium of the place names of South Australia, from Aaron Creek to Zion Hill, with 54 complementary appendices*, State Library of South Australia, Adelaide SA, <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/digitalpubs/placenamesofsouthaustralia/>.

Noel, N 2008, 'Birchman's Estate. Based on information provided by David Rouse Principal Consultant/Project Manager to the owner/developer Mr. Neil and Mrs Marie Quinn', *The Whisper*, April 2008, p. 22.

Thorpe, WW 1921, *List of New South Wales aboriginal place names and their meanings*, Australian Museum, Sydney.

**Correction:** In the June 2020 issue of *The Whisper* (p. 19) I discussed the origin of the name of Warramunga Close. I incorrectly stated that it was the RAN ship on which Keith Gascoine (the landowner there) served. In fact, it was Diana Gascoine's father who served on the HMAS Warramunga and named his property after the ship; Keith and Diana followed suit. During the Viet Nam war Keith served on HMAS Sydney. (Source: Gascoine, K 2016, *Peaks and troughs: reflections 50 years on from the Naval College*, the author, Tallebudgera, Qld, p. 131).

## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

“Moving” implies a progression, but moving house is a very slow journey along a bumpy road that seems endless. Finally, however, the end is in sight. Bits and pieces that I couldn’t possibly part with for all sorts of reasons have become less precious with the passage of time, and I have finally reached the ruthless, emotionless “chuck it out” end of the road. But I did stumble across this poem in my filing cabinet, written in Malaysia in 1983, and I have kept it.

I have never mastered the filing system, whether it’s a metal cabinet or a computer. Do I file Poems under “P”, or “S” for Scribbles or “T” for trivia, or simply bury them in any old folder when I do a quick tidy up? I’m not sure where I found this, but it brought back many memories. Little did I know when I penned it on a scrap of paper that five years later I’d be back in Malaysia, albeit a different part, making preparations for yet another move back to Australia. So here it is...

Nothing much has changed except Brezhnev, who had once been at the helm of a proud Empire has been lost in the miasma of history and the Soviet Union is no more. “Bringing up Father”, the comic strip in the Straits Times, would be laughed at these days, but not for its humour, and instead of newsprint there is bubble wrap and a magical sticky tape dispenser that takes all the hard work out of making boxes. But moving, because it unlocks so many emotions will remain a monumental task.

I feel like Nellie Melba, except she kept her voice, but this really will be my last Wamboin Muse. I had thought I’d escaped and you had, too, but what could I do when Ned’s monthly email arrived in my mailbox calling for contributions for the Whisper. Now they can “take me out in a box”, but I’ll carry it.

### Moving

If you’ve never moved house  
you’ll never know what it’s like  
to be packed up in little boxes.

Torn limb from limb,  
suffocated in shredded paper  
newsprint, not even the stipulated white  
so as likely as not  
you’re sandwiched between Brezhnev’s death  
and “Bringing up Father”.

Entombed then in rough pine boxes  
with a red kangaroo stamped on the side  
and a “This Way Up”, which it never is.  
Your soul departs, leaving an empty shell  
but it still goes on, this soul-less living  
new faces, fresh and eager  
having just arrived  
and you smile mechanically  
hardly registering their names.

You’ve been there before.

Butterworth, 1983.

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