

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

The Whisper

December 2020
- January 2021

Circulation 1,338



Winner — Best Mailbox
2019



Winner — Best Entrance
2019

The 2020 Christmas Decorating Competition

Two prizes: Best mailbox
Best entrance

Send one photo of your creation, with
your name, address and phone number to:

WWOW.XmasDecoratingComp@gmail.com

Deadline:
8pm Sunday 13 December

Winners announced at:
10.30am Wamboin Markets 19 December

Prize hampers funded by both Bywong and
Wamboin Community Associations

Coordinated by the Wonderful Women of Wamboin

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Wamboin Community Assn www.wamboincommunity.org.au

Bywong Community www.bywongcommunity.org.au

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

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 February 2021 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, January 31 2021. Advertising prices**, per issue, based on rough fraction of inside the margins A4 area: 1/8 \$24 1/6 \$29 1/4 \$35 1/3 \$44 1/2 \$70 2/3 \$87 Full Page \$140. email or phone inquiries to the editor as above.

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Well as Christmas rolls around, 2020 is certainly a year to put into the past file. We started with a massive bushfire crisis with 44 million acres burnt, 28 people died, and 3,000 homes were destroyed along with incalculable numbers of livestock and wildlife. We also suffered weeks of toxic smoke haze while the country burned. Then came the hail storm that did \$500 million in damage with an estimated 44,000 local cars being damaged. Then the biggy hit, the world wide pandemic of Covid-19 that threw the world into chaos. The hits kept coming, Holden closing in Australia, the toilet paper crisis and then isolation with the closing down of businesses and hospitality. This forced us to realise we can actually work from home and probably provide a paradigm shift in thinking that might just change our lifestyles for the better.

After all that some good news with drought breaking rains and the greenest landscape in Wamboin for many a year. Unfortunately we had to cancel our bonfire night, our Christmas carols and the Wheels of Wamboin this year but we will be back next year.

Christmas gate competition – Once again we will be supporting the Wonderful Women of Wamboin and the Wamboin and Bywong Christmas decorating competition. Now this is a great opportunity to put some spark back into 2020 and brighten up Wamboin and Bywong. I am sure this year has provided many themes for inspiration. Details of the completion in this issue of the Whisper.

Wheels of Wamboin - I am very happy to announce the date of Saturday April 17 has been claimed for the 2021 Wheels of Wamboin. Start your engines folks.

Wamboin Home Produce markets – The markets are back and running .Make sure you make it down to the December market on Saturday 19th. Grab a coffee and a bargain of local fare and products, you will find some local handmade Christmas gifts.

Christmas Carols Cancelled – Just a reminder that we have cancelled the Christmas Carols at the hall for 2020

Bush dance 2021 – this has also been cancelled due to Covid-19. It will make a return in 2022

Our local Businesses – Please take the time to support our local businesses this Christmas period. The local wineries in particular are welcoming visitors this holiday season, so make it a point to support our locals by having a meal or buying some local wine. They are our local community and support many community events so let's support them.

Thursday Drop in Group - The Thursday drop in group is back and running. The group meets every Thursday from 10am – 12 noon. Drop into the Wamboin Community Hall for morning tea and social activities and everyone is welcome. A Covid- 19 safety plan has been implemented.

The QPRC Mobile Library - will be at the Wamboin hall on December 3rd, this is the last visit to Wamboin for 2020. February 11th, is the first visit for 2021 and fortnightly from then on. The full calendar for the Mobile Library for 2021 will be on the QPRC Library Website from early 2021. As you would expect, the Mobile Library bus is well set up and COVID-19 Safe. There is seating if you have to wait and a sanitising station provided outside the bus. This is a case of use-it-or-lose-it!

WCA Meetings –The next meeting and last for the year will be held on Tuesday 15th December 2020 at 7.30 pm at the Wamboin Community Hall. The WCA will then be in recess until February 2021.

Christmas Wishes – To all our residents on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association we wish you a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year Period. It's time to celebrate with our family and friends if you can and also time to appreciate the special people around us in these very difficult times. We also would like to thank all the wonderful people who have made our community great over the past trying and unsettling year. Please drive carefully on our roads over the Christmas and New Year break and fingers crossed that 2021 is smoother sailing for all. Bring on a new start for 2021. *We are still Wamboin !!* **Peter Evans – Feeling positive President.**

Bywong and Wamboin Facilities and Contacts

Bywong Community	Mike Wilkins - President	6230 3473	president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Bywong Hall Bookings	Bookings Officer		lrrhallbywong@gmail.com
Church - Anglican	Bronwyn Elliott - Warden	6238 3359	
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison - Bungendore	6238 1333	
Fire Brigade	Matt O'Brien - Captain	6128 0600 bsn hrs	wamboincaptain@gmail.com
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Cameron Smith	0419 449 747	
Golf	Peter Greenwood	6238 3358	p.greenwood2@bigpond.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare – Helpline	6299 1966	
Justice of the Peace	Peter Greenwood - JP	6238 3358	
Justice of the Peace	Andrew Stainlay – JP	0408 469 880	stains@bigpond.net.au
KYB Bible Study Group	Yvonne Barrett	6230 3539	
Lake George VIEW Club	Pauline Segeri	6238 1996	
Landcare	Kathy Handel - Treasurer	6238 3596	khandel@bigpond.net.au
NSW SES (assist – storm/flood)	NSW Call Centre	132 500	
NSW SES Bungend. (non-urgent)	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	
Sutton School Playgroup	Belinda Robinson - Convenor	0422 262 426	brobinson35@hotmail.com
Table Tennis	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	mikemuston@gmail.com
Wamboin Community Assoc.	Peter Evans - President	6236 9779	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Wamboin-Bung. Book Group	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	sally.saunders1@bigpond.com
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	6238 3258	joan.mason@internode.on.net
Wamboin Markets	Lance and Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	lmsconsulting@bigpond.com
Wamboin Play Group	Coordinator		wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com
Wamboin Pony Club	Stacey Burgess - Club Secretary	0414 672 979	wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com
Wamboin Thurs Social Grp	Denise Hales	0400 310 685	deniselynnehales40@gmail.com
Wonderful Women of Wamboin	Gail Ritchie Knight	0416 097 500	whirlwind1@argonite.com.au
ARF (Rescue Dogs)	Lisa Whitney	0408 260 796	lisawhitney059@gmail.com

Young Entrepreneurs: Rebecca Purdie – pet/horse sitting 6238 3343 Alex Lea - Pet & House Sitting, Gardening 6236 9657 or 0439 219 865
Kathleen Dunkerley – baby sitting – 0435 794 070 kathleen.dunkerly07@gmail.com

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By the time you read this, the BCA 2020 Christmas Gathering will have come and gone. History will record whether we had a historic turnout at the Bywong Hall (historically low or historically high, who can predict anything in 2020?) or indeed whether the evening was cancelled due to, say, a ...volcanic eruption? – after all we haven't had one of those yet this year! After a COVID-induced lull since March, and having cancelled the annual Car Boot Sale and Trivia Night, BCA was determined the annual Christmas Gathering would go ahead within the COVID-SAFE rules.

Locals long-standing and recent mingled while appropriately-distanced and formalities were kept to the minimum. The winners of the Bywong and Wamboin Wheelie Sculpture Competition were announced and doubtless Donald has trumpeted his views already in a Tweet. We had a strong field of entries for the three \$100 prize categories and were very fortunate that trained Sculptor Sally Williams of Wamboin kindly agreed to use her knowledge to be our Independent Judge and to provide mentoring tips to all the entrants to help them develop their talents further. The three winners were:

- Primary student: Damian Walker aged 10
- Secondary student: Emily Krah aged 12
- Adult: Jeanette Krah.

Well Done, you three creative geniuses. And Thank You to all the other plucky entrants, and to Sally for the difficult task of deciding between ! Thanks go to JP Favre for coming up with the idea for the Competition. We're already planning to run a similar creative competition in 2021, with the aim of turning our locality into an open-air sculpture park!

Revellers at the Xmas Gathering also enjoyed a selection of around 100 of JP's sketches of local faces (human and non-human) and international celebrities – perhaps we'll run a future competition to see who can name the most...

After a year that was memorable for all the wrong reasons, BAC looks forward to a more normal year in 2021, defined as one that includes an (evolved) Bywong Car Boot Sale and Trivia Night and any other events we can run to "Bring Bywong Together". Watch this space for how/when you can pitch in to help!

Best wishes to all Bywongians and Wamboinites for a safe and enjoyable festive season.

Mike Wilkins, president, Bywong Community Association

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Understanding Bush Fire Risk, Warnings and Responses

Research into the 2018 Reedy Swamp fire on the NSW South Coast highlights how many people consider bush fire preparation as something that is undertaken when directly threatened by fire, not well in advance of an active threat.

The research, which investigated community preparedness and response, was undertaken by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, the university of Wollongong and the Macquarie University, and was commissioned by the NSW RFS.

Importantly, the research found that many people believe preparing for a bush fire means actions that are undertaken when directly threatened by fire, not preparation activities that can and should be undertaken well in advance of an active fire threat.

For help with making your bushfire survival plan, check www.myfireplan.com.au

Useful Links And Contact Information: NSW Rural Fire Service: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

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

Facebook: Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade Queanbeyan Fire Control: 6128 0600



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House Clearance Sale..- Saturday 12 Dec, 9 am – 2 pm. 703 Norton Rd. Furniture including book cases, bed, cupboards, desk, electric leather recliner, - Crockery & Various other Household items. " No early birds please". Simon & Cindy Scott-Findlay. mob 0407 491 476.

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>

FOR HIRE: BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL. Suitable for smaller functions and seminars, groups etc. Check availability and booking information on www.bywongcommunity.org.au. or email the booking officer at lrhallbywong@gmail.com.

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

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



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Snakes Out and About

With the warmer weather, snakes are again very active. For many people, this is scary. Our reaction to snakes occurs in the part of the brain known as the amygdala, triggering a fight or flight response. Of the two, flight is definitely the safer option.

Less than 2.5% of snake bites are fatal and the majority of those bitten are trying to kill the snake or chase it away. Some people are bitten while working in the garden, and for this reason, ideally you should always wear gloves, long pants and sturdy, enclosed footwear whilst gardening during the warmer months. Appropriate actions will also improve the likelihood of survival if you are bitten by a snake: First Aid is pressure and immobilisation. Moving around causes venom to move through your lymphatic system and into your bloodstream, so stay still and get someone to apply a snake bite compression bandage and call an ambulance. If alone, and you have to walk for a bandage or help, apply pressure to the bite site, e.g. with your hand. Better still, carry a phone and let people know where you are going.

There is no denying that snakes can be dangerous, albeit they are more frightened of us than the other way around. However, they are essential for keeping populations of rodents under control. This is why they are frequently found near chicken pens and horse stables. Many snakes eat frogs and are found close to rivers, dams, creeks and backyard ponds, so it is important to keep a look out for snakes when you are in these environments. If you see a snake, stop moving and it will probably move on. If it remains, slowly back away to a safer location.



Sometimes snakes become trapped or tangled in netting covering fruit trees or vegetables (to avoid this, keep netting off the ground). Without assistance they will die a slow, horrible death over many days or even weeks. If you find an injured or trapped snake, if safe put a damp towel over them, and then phone Wildcare on 6299 1966. An experienced volunteer snake handler will give advice, come and remove the snake at no cost.

If you have a snake on your property that you want removed, having phoned Wildcare, continue to watch it from a safe distance. We cannot remove a snake if we don't know where it is. If a snake is injured, it will come into care and be rehabilitated. For snakes coming in at the end of the warmer months, this may mean being in care over winter. In this region, snakes go into a period of torpor known as brumation, over the colder months. Their metabolism slows down and the snake stops eating. An injured snake needs to be kept warm

over winter so its metabolism remains high and its body can heal itself. It will live indoors in a secure, locked box and continue to be fed with the hope that this will enable it to recover from its injuries. It will then be released when the weather warms up again. This year, Wildcare released a snake that was in care for seven months for injuries suspected to be caused by entanglement in barbed wire.

In summary, if you see a snake, leave it alone and then you won't be bitten. Prevention is definitely better than cure. Always carry a snake compression bandage if you are working in a garden, paddock or bushwalking. Keep one in your car and carry it with you. You probably won't ever need it, but if you do, it could save your life. Compression bandages are available from Wildcare (Mont Adventure Equipment, Fyshwick, sells Wildcare bandages too).

Call Wildcare on 6299 1966 if you find an injured snake or if you have one that is currently visible and you would like it removed and relocated. Remember, snakes play an important role controlling rodents and are a part of our fantastic wildlife ecosystem. **Photo: Keep bird netting off the ground -Bec Quinn, Wildcare**



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San Marzano tomato, fior di latte, spicy salami, portobello mushroom, anchovy, olives, mozzarella

Vegeteriana 24 v

San Marzano tomato, fior di latte, zucchini, roasted capsicum, portobello mushroom, caramelized onion, olives, garlic oil, mozzarella

Gamberetti 26

San Marzano tomato, fior di latte, prawns, zucchini, parsley, garlic, mozzarella

Lorenzo 26

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Salsiccia 24

fior di latte, Italian sausage, caramelised onion, rosemary, mozzarella

Patata 24 v

wood roasted potato, rosemary, gorgonzola

Garlic Focaccia 12 v

garlic, olive oil, sea salt

Rosemary Focaccia 12 v

rosemary, olive oil, sea salt

Add Tapenade Dip 3 v

Olives, Basil, Garlic, Olive Oil

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nutella, hazelnuts, icing sugar

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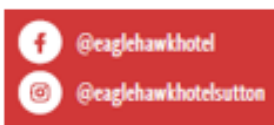
Make it gluten free 4

Add vegetables, mozzarella, fior di latte, anchovy 3

Add meat 4

Add prawns 5

* Disclaimer: Although our gluten-free dough is made and cooked using dedicated kitchen utensils and trays, they are prepared in the same facility and ovens as our regular, flour-crust pizzas. We cannot guarantee that our pizzas and other menu items are 100% free of gluten and traces of nut or soy as there is always a possibility of trace amounts crossing over from other kitchen areas. Please consider this when ordering from our menu.



Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For December I chose the Common Bronzewing, a species of pigeon that forages on the ground and has a loud, deep booming call.

Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*)

Size: 32-36cm

Status: Fairly common breeding resident

The Common Bronzewing is a distinctive resident that is a member of the pigeon family. They are mainly ground-dwelling birds, typically seen foraging on the ground in pairs. They are a large pigeon, earth-brown above with pale grey, pink-tinged underparts and rufous on the underside of the wings. This bird's name is derived from the iridescent bronze-shedded patches on the wings, which can be seen well when the bird is in the sun. The male is differentiated from the female by having a cream-coloured forehead and darker brown head, as opposed to a grey head in female. Common Bronzewings have a loud, deep, booming call "oom", which is repeated every few seconds. They are generally a bit shy, and will fly away when you approach them. Their nest is a flimsy stack of sticks located in a tree fork or sometimes an old nest of another bird. They then lay 2 white eggs, which are cared for by both parents.



Male

(photos from Google images)

Female



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Weekend Cellar Door Tastings & Sales Attendant

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Wheels of Wamboin 2021



Claiming the Day

Saturday 17th April 2020

9.00am to 1.00pm

(in conjunction with Home Produce Markets)

Wamboin Hall - Bingley Way

Wamboin

Hopefully the current Covid-19 restrictions will allow the 2021 Wheels of Wamboin to proceed. Please set aside this date in your calendar for a great day out at Wamboin.

Please email peter.evans@wamboincommunity.asn.au for further information

Christmas Gifts from the Wamboin Markets

From Imogen's Upcycle Photography: (check out her Facebook page!) A framed original photograph. Using upcycled frames in various sizes, Imogen has printed her own photographs that she has taken both locally, around Australia and internationally. Alternatively purchase one of Imogen's many and varied frames to use for your own photograph.

From Christine: Handmade items include patchwork animal canvases. Made from fabric and collaged onto a canvas there are many different animals available in a huge variety of colour combinations.

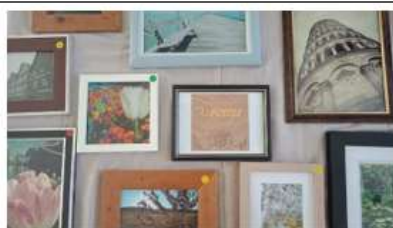
They are \$14 each or 2 for \$25. Would you like to pre-order a particular animal in a particular colour combination to collect at the markets? Contact Christine on 0411 447128. Handmade Christmas decorations and home baked goodies are also available, as well as living terrariums in various sizes.

From Eleanor: Locally grown pot plants. Natives, flowering annuals and fruit and vegetable plants available. Homemade potpourri in glass bowls. Bunches of fresh flowers. Homemade Strawberry jam and rollups.

We accept card payments with zero fees.

Call in and see us at the Wamboin markets (we are right next to the stage).

9am - 12pm on Saturday 19th December.



Church this Christmas

Christmas and New Year are fast approaching and, unfortunately, at the time of writing COVID-19 is still impacting our lives and therefore our services. In keeping with the current restrictions, our church services are still limited to the 4 square metre rule and therefore the number of people able to attend is limited.

An outside carol service is planned for St Peter's Sutton (Middle Street) on Christmas Eve at 6.00 pm. Being outside will allow more people to attend as there is plenty of space to keep the required distance from others.

For the Christmas Day services at St Andrew's Wamboin, (corner of Norton and Poppet Roads) only 17 people will be able to attend so three services are being offered. Because of the current rules determining number of people allowed, we are asking people who wish to attend to email peterandandrew2010@gmail.com with the preferred time and number of attendees. Unfortunately, unless the restrictions change, only the first 17 people who reply will be able to attend each service.

The Christmas services are as follows:

Christmas Eve 6 pm St Peter's Sutton - Outside Carol Service **11.30 pm** St Andrew's Wamboin – Midnight Communion Service

Christmas Day 8.00 am St Andrew's Wamboin - Communion Service **9.30 am** St Andrew's Wamboin - Communion Service

A New Year's service or Watchnight service is planned for 9.30 pm at St Andrew's Wamboin, and again, notification of desire to attend is required so email peterandandrew2010@gmail.com as only 17 people will be able to attend. Let's hope and pray that 2021 is a far better year than this last one!

Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For January I chose the Yellow-faced Honeyeater, a small, common bird found in the region only during the warmer months (i.e. later spring and summer).

Yellow-faced Honeyeater (*Caligavis chrysops*)

Size: 16-18cm

Status: Common breeding summer migrant

The Yellow-faced Honeyeater is smallish bird that is mainly brown in colour, with a dull-yellow stripe that runs 'through' or under the eye, bordered above and below by a black stripe. Males and females look the same. They are usually seen in flocks feeding in flowering plants (especially eucalypts) or around water sources. They can often be heard with their distinctive call "calip, calip, calip, calip, calip" as they forage in the trees. When flying, they have a different call, "dep", which is repeated at a few second intervals. Whilst typically occurring as single species small flocks, these birds can form large flocks with other honeyeaters in spring and autumn as they migrate throughout southern Australia. They are a common bird in woodlands in Wamboin. They sometimes get "bullied" away from flowering trees by larger honeyeaters such as wattlebirds, to gain access to the nectar source. Yellow-faced Honeyeaters build a small cup nest in foliage high in trees, where they lay 2-3 pinkish eggs, splotted brown. (Photo from Google images)



Land For Wildlife Assessments For Bywong/Wamboin Residents

The Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group has sponsored three Land for Wildlife Assessments for people living in the Bywong/Wamboin area. Land for Wildlife encourages and assists landholders to include nature conservation along with other land management objectives. The assessment is free and includes an individual consultation, advice on environmental sustainability, integrating wildlife conservation into farming and how to manage issues such as weeds and erosion. You will get a species list, a report and gain a better understanding of plants living at your place. The assessment is valued at over \$300.00.

The Land for Wildlife program is free to join and is not legally binding. You can find out more about the program at the Community Environment Website at <https://cen.org.au/projects/land-for-wildlife> If you are from the Bywong/Wamboin area and would like to submit an expression of interest for a Land For Wildlife Assessment for your property please contact Alex James by email admin@smallfarmscapital.org or by phone 0406 338850.

Thank you to the Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group for the generous sponsorship.

- Alex James, Coordinator, Small Farms Network Capital Region, 0406 338 850

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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market

Saturday 19 December 2020 9-12md

Contact: Meriel Schultz 62383309 or 042 261 4304 Email: lmsconsulting@bigpond.com

The November market was busy with well over 100 people coming through. We had some new stallholders selling craft items, some gorgeous tie dye T shirts and baby jumpsuits - and also some unusual plants. There was plenty of produce including some lovely cheeses and great cherries. Despite some hiccups with the coffee machine, there was good coffee to sip in the sunshine and splendid egg and bacon rolls to munch on. Come along to the Christmas market for those last minute gifts - and remember we have Wildcare and ARF calendars on sale too.

ALERT! "HANG IT ON THE COMMUNITY CLOTHES LINE" The first session of this good quality second hand clothes stall went well with \$100 raised for the Cancer Council. We will keep running this stall as long as you keep bringing men's, women's and kid's clothes on the day (and buying others)! All items are \$5.00. Hanging racks and coat hangers are provided! The proceeds from the sales will go to a different charity each month. Unsold items will be passed on to local charity shops. - **See you at the market!**

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Landcare Working Bee Saturday Morning December 12

Thanks very much to all the Landcare volunteers who turned up to the Wamboin Hall on Saturday the 14th of November to weed around the plants previously planted. Some of the weeds were at head height so it was very satisfying to pull them out! It is now possible to see the plants, many of which are flowering at the time of writing. One of the tea-trees is looking quite spectacular with large white flowers although the display may be finished by the time you receive The Whisper. A couple of volunteers are going back this week to do more work and their time and effort is very much appreciated.

On Saturday the 12th of December we are having another working bee to remove some dead branches, prune plants, slash the long grass and do more weeding. If you are prepared and able to help between 9 am and 11.00 am, please email me: vickistillnow@gmail.com so I have an idea of numbers. Your efforts will make the area safer for walking dogs and more usable for all our community. Please bring your own tools and PPE including gloves and a hat. – Vicki Still, for Landcare

Tomatoes

I'd like to skite about my ripe tomatoes, and to include some photographs in the December Whisper, but unfortunately I can't, because I haven't any this year. For some reason or other (let's blame covid) my tomatoes have a lot of growth (they are about 2m high) but the flowers drop without producing any fruit. Oh well, there's always next year. - Lofty Mason.

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. Without the month by month donation of time by our neighbours residents listed below, it would not be possible for Wamboin and Bywong to have 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.

Advertisers in the Whisper pay their not so easy to earn income to offer you what they sell. Please give them consideration when you want to buy a good or a service they offer.

The articles you read in the Whisper are written by Wamboin and Bywong residents to inform or entertain you. If you read something you like, think about letting the author know. It's the only pay they will get. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor

171: 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
Dave Power	Fernloff Rd	34	Vicki Still	Canning Cl	15
Andrea Sadow	Poppet Rd	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	44

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			

159: 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	Birriwa Rd & Macs Rf to Harriott	19	Tony Bond	HoganDr/OranaDr/Yuranga Dr	49
Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf incl Bchm Gr	35	Misc		1
Liza Davis	Macs Reef Birriwa to Harriott	14			

104: 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	26	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 COLLET ph 6238 3425 lodestar@ozemail.com.au

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

146: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 6236 97223 bushranger_au@hotmail.com

Chris Fowler	Millyn Rd	20	David Featherston	B'doreRd SmHill to&nclgdCrkBRd	28
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
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At the Heart of It

It started in Wuhan...or did it?

It started with the pangolin, or the bat...or did it?

Or is this virus a symptom of a much larger problem? A problem that we have created over many generations, through which the Earth has been pushed to the edge. Squeezing our natural systems dry, wanting more for less, disconnecting ourselves from the true costs of our actions and creating the perfect conditions for a virus to morph and spread as this one has.

Is there another way?

Is there a way to live that values life...and death; the cycles that continue to bring new life? Is there a way to live without waste; to learn from what happened before; where ecosystems thrive and so do we? Is there a way to live on this Earth as part of it, rather than by dominating it? A way of living through which we truly get out what we put in; where we are valued for who we are, rather than for the status acquired at birth, our bank balance, skin colour, gender or species?

This pandemic has made the class divide abundantly clear—when stores are sold out of basic food items like pasta and rice, what happens to those of us who live week to week? Many folks lost their jobs, how will they afford rent, or repayments? What do you do without a fixed address? How do you isolate at home if there is no such place? What if that home is not safe?

I was blessed enough to discover in my 20s that something was deeply unsustainable about what I had thought was ‘normal’. It’s been over a decade of actively questioning that normal, changing my life and lifestyle—shifting from city living and eating takeaway, to rural living and growing food in my garden; shifting from eating anything, to vegan, to raising animals; shifting from buying new, to making do and repairing where possible; shifting from working away from home, to working from home, to making home my work.

We’re not doing it all, far from it—I don’t even think that is possible—but we question, and continue to question. The more questioning that we’ve done, the more we’ve realised how intricately linked our globalised systems of oppression and exploitation are to this ‘normal’.

The global industrial food machine that fills supermarket shelves brings us food without life. This food is made in factories, vegetables are sprayed with toxins and animals are crammed into sheds and given antibiotics, without which they couldn’t stay alive in such conditions. Whether it be animal or vegetable, it has been fed and altered to require the least time and input for the greatest output. Our disconnection to where our food comes from has allowed this system to grow, while our feeling of connection and belonging evaporates even further.

What’s the true cost of this capitalist system we’ve created? How can we possibly account for poisoning waterways, tilling soil, eroding our earth, shrinking wild spaces, dependence on fossil fuels, ignoring traditional methods and Indigenous wisdom, and so much more?

There are so many flaws in our current system that it can be hard to know where to put our energy. I’ve found that the only way I can wake up most days with hope is to place my efforts into the things that make me tick, finding spaces that shift the system and invigorate me at the same time.

For me, that invigorating passion is linked to food and community. By growing, foraging, gleaning, cooking, preserving and sharing food, we’re able to partially remove ourselves from the extractive, capitalist system and take responsibility for some of our own basic needs. We have the privilege of a massive pantry that we spend lots of time filling with passata, bone broth, ferments, pickles, relish, jam, lard, honey, dried herbs, fruit, mushrooms, bottled fruit, mead, cider, wine (and so much more!)—all preserved for later use. We feed ourselves with our own hands, from land that we know and care for. We grow as much as we can, harvest the leftovers from a few friends’ farms and buy our staples in bulk from good local farms. We also buy a few luxuries, of course—who wants to live without good coffee and chocolate (though we are particular about where we buy these, as these industries can have deep humanitarian and ecological effects).

Those of us in a position to use some of this time for thinking and growing, must. We must reimagine the way that we do things on a day-to-day basis, the way that we meet our own and our community’s basic needs. We need to think about the way that we live on this Earth now, and how these actions will impact our collective future. We must listen to traditional cultures, to those who have been in reciprocal relationships with the Earth for a very long time, and make sure that corporations and governments listen to this reimagining, and act accordingly.

Through all of our questioning allowed by our privileged lives, it’s apparent to us that disconnection is at the heart of it—which means connection can bring solutions. Therefore, I try to keep questioning my thoughts and actions, to keep learning. I try to keep reconnecting. Reconnecting with self, place, food and community. Reconnecting to what it takes to survive and thrive, and striving to return to the deep reciprocal relationship with the land that we once knew.

Since 2014, I’ve been blessed to live in Wamboin, near Canberra with my partner and his parents—collectively building a second



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dwelling over the first years and renovating the original house over the last few years, doing most of it ourselves with salvaged materials. We’ve also been building soil and animal systems, water harvesting systems and living systems, building and using appropriate technology like rocket stoves, and sharing as much as we can. We’ve been observing how this land cycles, learning what this region was like a couple hundred years ago and in what ways we can assist it to return to the life-sustaining land it once was. Through all of this, we have valued relationships and community building as integral parts of being here, and we look forward to so much more of this.

Find us on Facebook at AWOL - Another Way of Living. We do a voluntary pickup “service” for locals from The Food Co-Op (organic bulk food co-operative) and hope that the Southern Harvest Produce Box will have a pickup hub here soon too - talk to us if you’re interested! helloawol347@gmail.com - Samantha Hawker, Living on and nurtured by Ngunnawal, Ngambri and Ngarigo land.

WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(45 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

November Rainfall Stats

November rainfall to the 29th 75.5mm
2020 total rainfall to 29/11..... 820.25mm

December Rainfall Stats

2019 December rainfall..... 4.35mm
Wettest December..... 177.75mm in 2010
Wettest day..... 68mm on 2/12/10
Driest December..... 0mm in 1979

December Temperature Stats

Hottest Dec. day..... 41.5°C on 21/12/19
Coldest December day.. 12°C on 16/12/16
Average day temperature..... 25.5°C
Warmest December 2019
(Av. day temp. 32.0°C & night 12.3°C)
(warmest night 14.9°C in 1994)

Average November rainfall..... 76.2mm
2019 November rainfall..... 19.6mm
2019 total rainfall to 29/11..... 343.75mm
44yr Av. to end of November.....620.6mm

Average December rainfall..... 63.1mm
Average no. rain days in December... 8.2
Highest no. rain days..... 17 in 2010
Lowest no. rain days..... 0 in 1979

Av. Dec. temp.. 18.9°C (day+night comb.)
Hottest December night.... 23°C (2 times)
on 20/12/94 & 24/12/05
Coldest Dec. night..... 2°C on 5/12/11
Average night temperature..... 12.4°C
Coldest December 2011
(Av. day temp. 19.5°C & nights 8.7°C)
Dec. 2019. Av. max 32.0°C & min 12.3°C

To date, rainfall in 2020 is 200mm over the 44-year average, and is the seventh wettest year to the end of November. Three of the other six had above average December rainfall and three didn't.

Interestingly, rainfall to the end of November in 1983 was 827mm, the year following the previously driest year (i.e. 1982).

January Rainfall Stats

2020 January rainfall..... 21.0mm
Wettest January..... 197.5mm in 1995
Wettest day..... 74mm on 21/1/95
Driest January 5.5mm in 2010

January Temperature Stats

Hottest January day..... 43.6°C on 4/1/20
& 43.5°C on 31/1/20
Coldest Jan. day..... 12°C on 29 & 30/1/78
Average day temperature..... 27.7°C
Warmest January 2019
(Av. day temp. 34.1°C & night 16.8°C)
(highest night 17.1°C in 91)

Average January rainfall..... 59.7mm
Average no. rain days in January..... 7.6
Highest no. rain days..... 16 in 1976 & 78
Lowest no. rain days..... 2 in 2003 & 14

Av. Jan. temp.. 20.9°C (day+night comb.)
Hottest January night.... 26°C on 25/1/82
Coldest Jan. night..... 5°C (4 times)
on 24/1/00, 12-13/1/12 & 1/1/13
Average night temperature..... 14.2°C
Coldest January 2012
(Av. day temp. 11.1°C & night 23.2°C)
Jan. 2020. Av. max 32.0°C & min 14.2°C

The three hottest average daytime January temperatures are:
2019 with 34.1°C, 2020 with 32°C and 2019 with 31.6°C



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It Really is A Dog's Life

Hello. It's me, Molly, back to tell you about my adventures. Last time I wrote it was cold and wet. Today it's VERY hot... and windy. Luckily we've had rain so there's lots of grass (and weeds). I love lying in the grass – I can lie still for a very long time and just watch the world go by. I particularly like watching roos. My owner is very pleased I am learning to be calm... for at least some daylight hours. All the rain means there's a lot of 'Aussie summer noises' with rowdy machines which make the grass short. That's apparently safer for me... and my friends – our owners can more easily spot unwelcome reptiles.

I am still finding shingle back lizards and long necked turtles. I do like to look at them... but I don't go too very close. I am learning to leave them. When walking on Pine Tree Hill the other week, I stopped in my tracks as something had caught my eye. My owner stopped too. She said it was a snake, maybe a brown snake, sunning itself. My owner said I was a *very good girl* to not want to sniff it. And that I needed to **LEAVE IT!!!** I was on a lead but I can still leap a long way on the lead if I want to. But I didn't. My owner hopes I might be like Meg, my predecessor... also a kelpie... who used to stop and look at snakes rather than go near them. We're hoping I don't get too much more practice... we'd rather not have snakes near us AT ALL.

One of the reasons I've been on a lead is because I cut my leg while running and exploring with Gretta. The cut meant trips to the vet, tablets, creams AND more Elizabethan collar wearing. I was good with tablets and creams but I really don't like the collar. The one I have is getting broken – I crash into furniture and doors and logs ... and legs... when exploring. I didn't have to wear it on special occasions. And since I last wrote there has been a VERY SPECIAL OCCASION.

My very **first birthday!!!** (My owner says my birthday is when I moved to Wamboin, that's what's on the calendar at my home.) Daisy was 6 months old so we had a combined 1½ year old birthday party... in Daisy's field. Gretta and Trixie and Bailey...and Wilma and Nina... and Jock and Beau... *all* came. With their owners. And my person friend from Queanbeyan. Not all my friends knew each other... that made the owners a bit nervous... would there be 'altercations'??? We spent some time checking each other out then we just played, and played and played. We did running and chasing and 'over the jumps' and bobbing for apples and running through the tunnel and ... and... I've forgotten what else! It was just soooooooooooooo much **FUN**. We even had doggie treat party bags to take home (Hobson couldn't come but I remembered to make sure he got a treat bag too.)

It was also exhausting, delightfully so. I think we all probably just collapsed when we got home. I certainly did. So did Bailey – we got a photo of him lying zonked on his verandah.

We haven't decided who is fastest. That's for another day. And because *everyone* had such a good time, Daisy's and my owners are arranging another party – Canine Christmas Celebrations. I'm hoping my local friends can come to that too.

I am still doing some trail work – I had to help mark the Moonlighter ISO events... and unmark them. I made some new people friends doing that. We had another bakery trip and one of my new people friends introduced me to snow peas – I wasn't that keen on them though I did enjoy the carrot. And she and I had fun shaking hands, but I had to do SIT before shake. It's good to make new friends.

Gretta and I are doing more early morning walks now. Sometimes we meet Sybil and Squirrel and their owner. They have a regular morning walk too. There's still some excited barking but I think we are all getting better at just saying hello. They live down the road. We are all so lucky to have the trails and the forest nearby.

As it's getting warmer, we try to combine walks with water games. I'm getting better at retrieving sticks and balls... and judging just how far I can stretch out to get them without having to actually s-w-i-m.

I've also been doing more study into fluid dynamics. My owner is realising how fascinating puddles and drains and gutters can be. As you might remember, I discovered that *ages* ago. I dig next to where there's water and then the water comes into my new holes. And if I dig more holes it does the same. I can probably do this for hours... my walking companions aren't quite as interested so usually I just study for short periods. Luckily I have lots of outings so I can study more.

I have been doing more urban walks. Mostly in Queanbeyan. My Queanbeyan friend showed me that the swans did have more babies. First there were four... then two... There's still one. It's smaller than my ducks but it is growing. Hopefully it's now big enough to be able to swim carefully between Mum and Dad near the weir. I hope it stays safe so I can watch it as it grows up.

We've not yet made it all the way to the Ellerton Drive Bridge... we get distracted. Mostly by beaches... where Gretta and I can chase each other and play in the water. Did you know that you have to be very careful about fish hooks? I 'caught' a big one which had a dozen small hooks. Gretta's owner and mine were very worried I might be injured. Thankfully my harness chest strap was a very good shield. Phew!

I've learnt about other traps too. I *finally* convinced my owner there was something living under our front deck. I could smell it. It was a wild cat and her 3 kittens. The mum chased me once – that was scary. Gretta tried to protect me. My owner and I used a rat trap and a cat/possum trap to catch them. That took quite a while as the kittens were too small to set off the pressure plate. We had to experiment with other weights on the plate. I do like experiments (and cat bikkies, they were used as bait). When we had caught them all, my owner took them to the RSPCA to be looked after. I hope they can find new homes.

I'm getting used to having my puzzle box when my owner goes out. It is entertaining and I'm not left alone too often. If my owner has to go out, I am very lucky because my friends invite me for play dates while she's out. I've had a couple of play dates with Oscar and Sunny. They live in Murrumbateman. Oscar loves to chase balls and frisbees... and me! Sunny is calmer so is trying to teach me that. She's taught me about bananas... yum yum YUM!

I'm so lucky to have learnt I don't need to live anywhere else. - **Molly** (with quite a bit of help from Jenny) *Full name supplied*



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"Hundreds for Thousands" is a Salvation Army Christmas fundraiser with a goal of raising \$100 for 1000 families across Canberra, **Queanbeyan**, Yass, Cooma & Goulburn.

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www.hundredsforthousands.salvationarmy.org.au/queanbeyan

Fighting with Saint John

In my efforts to control St John's Wort I've been walking the paddocks spot spraying or pulling out the weed as I do every year. Last year I only saw a couple of beetles on our St John's Wort but this year the number of beetles has increased dramatically. Some of the St John's Wort has been completely defoliated so I thought it was worthwhile putting the below information pulled from the Department of Primary Industries NSW Weedwise website in The Whisper:



“... two species of Chrysolina beetles have established in Australia: “Chrysolina hyperici and C. quadrigemina. They are black with bronze, dark-blue or purple reflections, and are oval in shape. Chrysolina quadrigemina is slightly larger (6.0 to 7.1 mm) than C. hyperici (5.3 to 6.1 mm). Some individuals of C. quadrigemina are distinctly bluish. The Chrysolina larvae and beetles feed on the leaves of St John's wort. The larvae attack the winter growth and the adult beetles attack the spring growth. At favourable sites, beetles may reach densities high enough to cause complete defoliation, and this suppresses flowering and seed production. The best control is achieved when the beetles and larvae attack the weed in the same or consecutive years. The damage produced by the beetles can appear

spectacular, but the impact tends to be sporadic and inconsistent. They can provide effective control in open, unshaded situations, but without follow-up pasture improvement the weed frequently reestablishes. The beetles are not effective in timbered country, as they mate only in sunlight. Chrysolina beetles have low mobility, and therefore it may be worthwhile to assist their movement by collecting batches in spring and transferring them to new infestations. Do not use herbicides as an additional method of control when high numbers of Chrysolina beetles are present, because partially defoliated plants are unlikely to absorb enough herbicide to kill them.”

So, if some of your St John's Wort is completely defoliated like some of mine, save your money and don't poison them this year. (Disclaimer: Please note that I am not an entomologist and have no expertise in weed management other than what I do on my property) – **Vicki Still**

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From the Corner

Swimming Pools—We're on a bit of roll now discussing legislative changes, so here's another one for you to contemplate over the Christmas break. The Swimming Pools Act 1992 and its Regulations work together with Australian Standard 1926 (AS1926) to establish the safety standards for 'backyard' swimming pools. The Swimming Pools Regulation, in particular, was updated in 2018 to clarify a number of matters relating to swimming pool safety.

Under the Act, a swimming pool is defined as an excavation, structure or vessel:

- that is capable of being filled with water to a depth of greater than 300 millimetres, and
- that is solely or principally used, or that is designed, manufactured or adapted to be solely or principally used for the purpose of swimming, wading, paddling or any other human aquatic activity.

The definition includes in-ground, above-ground, indoor, portable and other types of pools and spa pools that are capable of being filled to a depth of 300mm or more of water. The Act does not generally apply to indoor spa baths as these are generally emptied after use.

Part of the reason for broaching this particular subject is that people may not be aware that, for historical reasons, the requirements for child-resistant barriers, basically fences, around swimming pools vary depending on when the pool was built and where the pool is located.

There are 3 different Pool Safety Standards that apply in NSW, depending on when the pool was constructed:

- AS 1926 – 1986, fences and gates for private swimming pools which applies to pools constructed prior to 30 August 2008
- AS 1926.1 – 2007, swimming pool safety, Part 1 safety barriers for swimming pools which applies to pools constructed between 1 September 2008 to 30 April 2013
- AS 1926.1 – 2012, swimming pool safety, Part 1 safety barriers for swimming pools constructed after 1 May 2013

Pools built before 1 August 1990: Access to the pool from the house must be restricted at all times. Windows and doors may form part of the barrier, but they must be compliant.

Pools built after 1 August 1990 but before 1 July 2010:

The pool must be surrounded by a fence that separates the pool from the house. Some exemptions apply if the pool is part of a very small property (less than 230 square metres) a large property (2 hectares or over) or a waterfront property.

Pools built from 1 July 2010: All new pools must be surrounded by a fence that separates the pool from the house.

As in many situations where structures are modified, if the swimming pool barrier is modified or altered, the current Swimming Pools Act, Regulation and AS1926 are applied and any previously applicable exemptions cease.

Unfortunately, Australian Standards are protected by copyright and it's often not a simple matter to just check on details in these documents without purchasing them—the electronic version of AS1926 comes in at \$135 and a print copy at \$150. In the present case, however, Clause 29 of the new Regulation requires each local authority—that's your council—to ensure that an electronic version, and if requested a paper copy of a relevant extract of the applicable Australian standards, the Building Code of Australia and the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Guideline are made available for public inspection at no cost, at each public office of the local authority, during ordinary business hours.

The Swimming Pool and Spa Association of Australia (SPASA) nonetheless provides an 'overview' of the requirements that very closely resembles the actual standards document (<https://www.spasa.com.au/consumer-info/fencing-laws/>).

Pool owners should be aware that a Certificate of Compliance, issued by a registered certifier, is required for any swimming pool or spa (per the above definition) and must be renewed every three years. The new Regulation also requires that details of any non-compliance identified during these requisite periodic inspections be explicitly entered into the NSW Swimming Pools Register.

It is often seen as anomalous that such stringent regulations should surround the construction and maintenance of swimming pools, while, in our rural residential areas in particular, there are no such conditions applicable to farm dams. But this is just the way things are—the legislation as drafted refers to an excavation, structure or vessel "that is solely or principally used, or that is designed, manufactured or adapted to be solely or principally used for the purpose of swimming, wading, paddling or any other human aquatic activity". For safety in regard to anything else, including your average farm dam, we still rely on the exercise of a degree of common sense...

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

Swimming Pools (Dec 2020) Building Certification (Sep 2020) Swimming Pools (Jan 2014)

-Cr Pete Harrison, Ph. 6238 3640, Mob. 0427 711 028, Email: contact@peteharrison.id.au, Website: www.peteharrison.id.au

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Can you write something for the February 2021 Wamboin Whisper? The paper is meant to be one more way that stories and items of interest to Wamboin and Bywong can see the light of day. Yours should too! Items should relate to living out here, and respect other residents.

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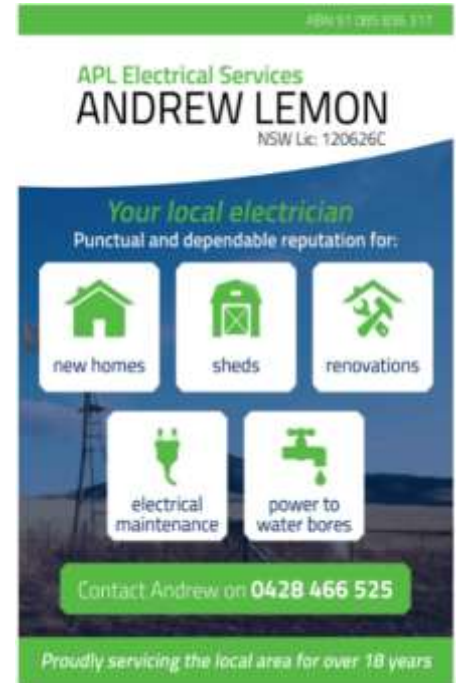
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The Roads Of Wamboin, Part 9: Cooper Road, Denley Drive, Gallagher Crescent & Mcenally Place

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

Introduction: This is the ninth in a series of articles on the origins of the names of Wamboin's 31 roads. (The Bywong Community's website has corresponding information on the Bywong roads.) It concludes coverage of the eight roads that are named after the early settler families of the Wamboin area, during the 19th century. As always, readers are invited to contact me, or the Editor, with any additional information, or corrections.

Cooper Road: James Cooper, a former Queanbeyan policeman, was one of the early selectors in the area. The 1882, first edition, of the Parish of Gurooyaroo map shows Cooper family selections along Sutton Road and further east in the (current) Cooper Road area. William Cooper took up two selections immediately east of today's Cooper Road, a conditional lease in 1876 and an additional conditional lease in 1879, each 50 acres. They are shown as being held in the name of Susan Cooper on later maps.

It is reported that, 'At Woodfield [the property on Sutton Road], J. Deacon and the Bingley brothers built with local subscriptions a tongued and grooved weatherboard Methodist chapel which opened in August 1901; it measured about 15ft. X 20ft. and was capable of seating sixty worshippers. In that area there developed a sizeable Methodist community in the early free selection period [1861 onwards] with the settlement of the families of James Cooper, a former Queanbeyan policeman, and William Bingley, an ex-brewer from Queanbeyan who was converted and became a pillar of Methodism' (Lea-Scarlett 1972, p. 125). The Cooper and Gallagher (see below) families inter-married.

Denley Drive: It appears that the first Denleys to settle in our area were John Denley (1854-1925) and his wife Elizabeth Amelia Denley née Hines (1860-1933). As Lea-Scarlett (1972, pp. 129-30) explains, 'In the rural areas close to Sutton the 20th century brought changes in land tenure, partly because that was the portion of Gundaroo most affected by the development of the Federal Capital Territory and partly on account of the breaking-up of the huge Bywong station in 1923. ... On Donnelly's Creek close to Lumley another significant farm was that of John Denley who married Elizabeth Hines, daughter of the wheelwright, Edward Hines, and founded a family which in due course bought into large areas fronting the Federal Highway and the Queanbeyan Road [i.e. Sutton Road] near Woodfield'. Their son Alan Robert Denley (1894-1969, incorrectly named in one prominent source as Robert Alan Denley), took up a selection in 1827 on the western side of the Yass River, establishing their property 'Fernloff'. The original 'Fernloff' homestead is on a block off Finn Place. Bob Denley (the son of A. R. Denley?) purchased the land at Birchams Creek when the Hyles family sold their blocks in the area in 1950. Frank Watson (1997, p. 13) recalls that the Hyles' former 'Birchmans Gully' block '... was owned by Bob Denley, a shearer, and his family was based on the Sutton Road, apparently'. I will be grateful if any reader can confirm, or correct, my suggestion that Bob Denley was the son of A. R. Denley.

Gallagher Crescent: In the 1870s and 1880s, John Gallagher (c. 1832-1916), and his offspring including son John Jnr (1858-1946), were among the first settlers in the Browns Flat/Fell Timber area near what became the Kings Highway (near the JoC HQ turn-off). Various family members subsequently took up additional selections in the Glenburn/south-west Wamboin area. Some details are to be found in McAlister 2007. Thomas Gallagher and S. F Gallagher took up selections in what is now the south-western part of Wamboin, with the latter's 300 acre section, taken up in 1912, being where Gallagher Crescent is now located. Part of the history of the area was documented by Ned Noel, based on his interviews with Bill Cartwright, in 1997.

The name is pronounced locally as 'Gall-a-ger', with a hard 'g' in the middle, rather than the Irish pronunciation 'Gall-a-her'.

Interestingly, Flora ('Florence' in some records) & Evelyn Gallagher, daughters of John Jnr, and their niece Janet Gallagher who was raised as their sibling, served abroad as nurses in the First World War. Their biographies note that 'Gallagher family tradition identifies their property as Murryong plus adjacent land including Amungula and Cohen Peaks. The Murryong complex includes a tennis court, supporting its identification with Browns Flat, as the Gallaghers were keen tennis players and had a tennis court' (Clarke 2016, p. 1). Gallagher Crescent was developed in the early 1970s as part of the Canberra Country Estate, the first subdivision in what was to become known as Wamboin.

McEnally Place: In mid-1856, brothers William John McEnally ('Mac', frequently referred to as 'John McEnally') and Joseph McEnally discovered gold near the 'Woodbury' property, located on the eastern side of Sutton Road, owned then by Elizabeth Jane Lintott (née Guise) and her husband Henry George Lintott. Nine years later, in October 1865, the same William John McEnally discovered a gold reef nearby, at the top of the steep hill on what is now Macs Reef Road, near his selection. This was subsequently developed as the Mac's Reef goldfield, named after McEnally (Lea-Scarlett 1972).

The road name was gazetted on 25 September 2009 as part of the Birchmans Estate.

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Nature Notes November 2020

Jo Walker

November has been an interesting time. By the middle of the month we were getting temperatures usually above the average November temperature, and several times it was above 30 degrees. There were some impressive storms – including the three-hour storm in the middle of the night last Sunday with a very close lightning strike that destroyed my phone.

Rain has continued fairly regularly so the vegetation is still green and growing rapidly. Some of the trees here have put on so much growth that they look more like exotic Weeping Willows than eucalypts. I think that an increase in plant growth was forecast as one of the results of the rise of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Perhaps this is it.

The *Acacia mearnsii* (Black Wattle) are presently covered in their scented cream flowers along Sutton Road and at the end of Norton Road. It will be interesting to see if they produce much seed.

For some reason, most of the earlier-flowering Wattles seem to be devoid of seed. Even the Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) which usually have a heavy load of seed-pods don't seem to have developed any.

The Burgan shrubs (*Kunzea ericoides*) are just beginning to flower and there seem to be quite a few pollinating insects (mostly flies and beetles at present) feeding on the nectar. And the local Bottlebrush (*Callistemon sieberi*) has a few of its cream flowers about to make an appearance.

Splashes of yellow in the landscape are provided at present by the golden-flowered Sticky Everlasting Daisy (*Xerochrysum viscosum*), the ground-hugging Common Everlasting Daisy (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*) and the tall clusters of *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* (Clustered Everlasting Daisy). Scaly Buttons (*Leptorhynchos squamatus*) are still flowering in damp areas. Billy Buttons (*Craspedia variabilis*) are beginning to seed with fluffy grey fringes around their yellow flower-heads. And the white Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans*) is still producing lots of buds and flowers while beginning to scatter its seed around.

The colour blue is represented by the many Bluebells now flowering – mostly the hairy-leaved *Wahlenbergia stricta* and the narrow-leaved *W. communis*. And today I saw the first Fringe-lilies (*Thysanotus tuberosus*) flowering here. They seem to be doing very well this year, bearing many more flowers than usual.

Cicadas are now calling loudly during the day and the frogs are chorusing from the dam and along the creek in the evening – although I haven't seen any frog-spawn yet.

An interesting visitor that turned up here recently was a large female Peacock! She stayed around for a day, scratching and scraping around the garden and occasionally coming up on the verandah to watch me through the door, but she hasn't appeared again since.

Another solitary bird that was here for a day was a Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. They don't usually arrive on their own and used to be regular visitors, but I haven't seen them for quite a while now.

This is the last week of Spring and, with the changing conditions, it will be interesting to see where Summer takes us.



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Wamboin Golf – November 2020

Sunday, 1 November. So the Donald is immune from the plague and could have played in the 35th Wamboin Open. Well I guess that's good news for the old fraud and those around him. Your correspondent's call is that it didn't come cheap. That Regeneron stuff costs an arm and a leg. And then there are the seven young guys in white coats tending to him (possibly doctors or Mormons like Howard Hughes had in his degenerative period). It all adds up to a pile of folding money that Dick Fosbury couldn't 'flop' over. But it made POTUS look like he was on Love Potion No. 9 so I want some of it too. Professor Google tells me I can make Regeneron at home. The recipe's straightforward but don't forget to sign an Enduring Power of Attorney. Your correspondent required only a sniff of the stuff to play out of his skin in the 35th Wamboin Open, sponsored by the Wamboin Country Golf Club whom we thank for the prizes and finger food arranged by the Gordons and the Masons. Organisers were impressed by the number of entrants for the club's marquee event despite the course being under water.

Back in the tally room, as we removed our wetsuits and flippers and the captain did the sums, the talk was of politics in general and elections in particular. It was good to see our state member and leader of the NSW Country Party, feisty Jack Barrelo (Porky, to his friends) back from leave to carry on his good work in Macquarie Street. No doubt a period of quiet reflection has convinced him to encourage his colleagues to tone down their attack on those pesky koalas, clearing of useless, fire-prone native vegetation, draining the Murray-Darling basin, giving a leg up to down-trodden developers and redistributing taxes to worthy electorally-sensitive causes. Our Glad, the Premier, would be happy to see him back. It could shift the focus from her erstwhile boyfriend, Jerry Maguire or Happy Gilmore or Deuce Bigalow. The only surprise in the ACT poll was the swing to the Greens. Look out for more pedal-powered trams. As expected, the harridanish Annerstakia (Nark of the North) got up in Queensland – a pity, considering her shabby refusal to allow our Raiders to fly in early to prepare for the NRL semi final v the Storm. We wished that nice Mr Trump well in his quest for re-election in the US but nice guys often finish last, so they say.

The captain welcomed our guests, David Whitney (brother of John), Matt Hawke (new resident) and Jerry and Estelle Mander from Queensland (where else?). Pete Harrison told the memorial Ted Evans joke. Later that night the googly ball was awarded to Huey for sending it down in bucketfuls. Your correspondent got the dummy spit for pointing out the temperamental failings in others. LD/NTB ball winners were Alex Gordon, Colin Urquhart, Tim Barter 2, Ken Gordon, Glen Crafter, Vicki Still 2, Pete Harrison and Nev Schroder. 2020 junior champion was Alex Gordon 51/34 in his last year as a junior. He'll find out that up in the seniors it's a body contact sport. Encouragement awards for juniors went to Madison Gordon and Phoebe Beckett. Winners of the 2020 Eclectic were Ken Gordon (9 holes) and Tim Barter (18 holes). We now come to the 2020 handicap division. Winner over 9 holes was Lofty Mason 49/35 from runner-up Deb Gordon 59/37 and Larry King 62/45 3rd place. Winner over 18 holes was John Whitney 80/64 from Keith France 82/69 and Glen Crafter 85/71. The crowd then became silent as the captain, orb and mace in hand, mounted the rostrum to announce the names of the Wamboin 2020 Open Champions. They are: 2020 women's open champion (18 holes) Vicki Still 104/81; 2020 women's open champion (9 holes) Joan Mason 56/44. 2020 men's open champion (18 holes) Tim Barter 80/72; 2020 men's open champion (9 holes) Ken Gordon 43/39. Congratulations to our worthy winners and all who took part. Those who were unplaced in the comp were given a bottle of wine or a tomato plant. We gave the captain a bottle of whiskey for his good work over a long period.

Join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 6 December for the Christmas Medal, pursuit of which will kick off at 12.30pm on the dot. Meanwhile we must continue to live with the virus and be wary of it. Keep your distance, wash your hands and wear your mask. You don't want it and you don't want to pass it on to friends, family and acquaintances. Remember the 10th Commandment: Thou shalt not COVID thy neighbour's wife – as advised by a prominent family lawyer. - **Larry King, golfer**

