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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 March 2021 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, February 28, 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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Church - Anglican	Bronwyn Elliott - Warden	6238 3359	
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Fire Brigade	Matt O'Brien - Captain	6128 0600 bsn hrs	wamboincaptain@gmail.com
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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	
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NSW SES (assist - storm/flood)	NSW Call Centre	132 500	
NSW SES Bungend. (non-urgent)	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	
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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
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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	Can you be the convenor?		
Wonderful Women of Wamboin	Gail Ritchie Knight	0416 097 500	whirlwind1@argonite.com.au
ARF (Rescue Dogs)	Lisa Whitney	0408 260 796	lisahitney059@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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Yes, we are back on deck after our January/New Year hiatus. First off, Happy New Year, may it be better than last year! Last year at this time, I was writing about continuing drought, bush fires, smoke and the Coronavirus. The drought breaking rains and wet spring/summer have certainly renewed the landscape in what has been an outstanding season and mild summer. I still see green in paddocks in January and from a recent belting of thunderstorms and rain on the 1st of February, the good season looks to be continuing into autumn.

Alas the Covid-19 pandemic continues into 2021 and as I write, WA has gone back into a snap shutdown. News the vaccine will start to be rolled out at the end of this month, gives some hope we are making progress to a fightback. We should be proud that Australia has certainly fared much better than the rest of the world by making some hard decisions early. Just compare the USA and England as a start. The next six months will certainly be interesting.

Just a little note to the half wits back doing burnouts on our local roads. I suggest you do an internet search on Hoon laws in NSW and then remember that some of our local police actually live locally. Just note the fines, loss of licence and confiscation of vehicle. You can be reported for up to 2 weeks after your burnout by any member of the public.

Wamboin Bush Dance – Unfortunately the bush dance will not be held this year due to the unpredictable nature of the Covid-19 situation. Put your boot scooters back in the cupboard for next year. It will be back.

Wheels of Wamboin – Well this is one event we are certainly trying to make happen. The date of Saturday 17 April has been set, so please pencil it in your calendars. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and the website for any changes.

Wamboin Markets – The markets are still going strong thanks to Meriel and her team. The next market is Saturday 20th February at the Wamboin Community Hall. Come down to buy some local produce and fare and mingle with the local community.

Wamboin Social Drop-In Group – the drop in group is still in abeyance hoping to make a return soon.

QPRC Mobile Library - The QPRC Mobile Library - will be at the Wamboin Hall on Thursday February 11th from 10.30am to 11.30am. This will be the first visit for 2021 and will continue fortnightly from then on. The 2021 Calendar is available on the QPRC Library Website. As you would expect, the Mobile Library bus is well set up and COVID-19 Safe. Outside the bus there is a sanitising station and seating provided if you have to wait. This is a case of use-it-or-lose-it!

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

WCA Meeting – Meetings will resume on 7.30 pm, Tuesday 16th February at the Wamboin Community Hall.

We are Wamboin Peter Evans - President.



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Bywong Community Association News – February 2021

Happy New Year to all Bywongians, and Welcome to 2021 – we’re all hoping it is a more ‘normal’ year than the last one! BCA’s Christmas Gathering on Friday 4th Dec had a good turnout of 40+ Bywong and Wamboin residents, young and less young, all keen to socialise. Locals long-standing and recent mingled within the COVID-SAFE rules and formalities were kept to the minimum. The winners of the Bywong and Wamboin Wheelie Sculpture Competition were announced by our Independent Judge, local Sculptor Sally Williams of Wamboin from a strong field of entries. The three \$100 prize winners were:

1. Primary student category: Damian Walker aged 10
2. Secondary student category: Emily Krah aged 12
3. Adult category: Jeanette Krah



Well Done to these three creative geniuses. And Thank You to all the other plucky entrants, to Sally for the difficult task of deciding between them, and to JP Favre for coming up with the idea for the Competition (which we are considering running again in 2021).

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.

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 a range of events to “Bring Bywong Together”. First up we have to decide whether to continue the Bywong Car Boot Sale, revamp it or do something completely different – if you wish to contribute suggestions, please email me and/or join the **BCA meeting on Wed 10th Feb at 7.00PM at the Bywong Hall**. Whatever we decide to do, this small group will need your help - watch this space for how/when you can pitch in!

Best wishes for the year ahead. -Mike Wilkins, President, Bywong Community Association, 0417-458-320, Email: president@bywongcommunity.org.au

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3. Know where you can move your animals to safety
4. Check and maintain firefighting equipment like pumps and hoses
5. Make sure a fire truck can access your property- think about gates and obstructions
6. If you are planning to use fire on your property contact Lake George Fire Control Centre for information and advice (0261280600) during business hours
7. Always be aware of fires in and near our area- visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or get the Fires Near Me app for you smartphone

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

<http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

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

Whisper Classifieds
I live in Wamboin and hope to find a regular gardener / lawnmower / lawn slasher who lives locally and can do this sort of work. If you are interested, or know someone whom you would recommend, please contact me. - James McLachlan, M: 0450 007 139 E: mclachlanshanghai@hotmail.com
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 lrrhallbywong@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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PIZZA ROSSO - red base

Margherita 22 v

San Marzano tomato, fior di latte, Basil, mozzarella

Funghi 24 v

San Marzano tomato, fior di latte, portobello mushroom, parsley, truffle oil, mozzarella

Tropicale 24

San Marzano tomato, mozzarella, ham, pineapple

Capricciosa 24

San Marzano tomato, fior di latte, ham, artichoke, portobello mushroom, mozzarella

Diavola 24

San Marzano tomato, fior di latte, spicy salami, roasted capsicum, chilli, mozzarella

Massimo 24

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

San Marzano tomato, mozzarella, salami, ham, roasted capsicum, caramelized onion, portobello mushroom, olives, pineapple

Meatlover 26

San Marzano tomato, mozzarella, salami, ham, Italian sausage

PIZZA BIANCA - white base

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

PIZZA DOLCE - sweet

Nutella 16

nutella, hazelnuts, icing sugar

SAN MARZANO TOMATO

Our sauce is made from sweet Italian plum tomatoes grown at the base of Mt Vesuvius

FIOR DI LATTE

An artisan fresh cow's milk mozzarella

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.



Wamboin Pony Club - Calling New Members for 2021

Welcome to 2021 with all of us are hoping this year will be a better one than last. Your local Wamboin Pony Club have been as active as things allowed last year and are back ready and looking forward to another riding year. Wamboin Pony Club has been active in the area for over 30 years. We have a small but dedicated group of riders and would love some more members to join our enthusiastic group who range in age from 3 to 25. All our riders are helpful, supportive and encouraging of each other, no matter your age or riding ability.

Pony Club is about learning and gaining new experiences and having fun with your horse while making new friends. We have a group of dedicated experienced instructors and an active committee made up of parents of our riders. Our Pony Club grounds are at the end of Canning Close. We have 3 fully enclosed arenas for our members to safely ride in - useful for beginners to maintain control. Our other facilities include a large clubhouse with kitchen, plenty of horse yards so you can prepare your horse safely and all of our facilities have been built up over the years to create a safe riding environment.

To become a Pony Club member you just need access to your own horse and can even come along and try for a day to see what goes on. Rally days are a great social day out and as the year goes on Pony Clubs in the area hold different events such as Gymkhana's, Jumping competitions, Mounted Games events etc so there is always plenty to experience with your horse and to improve your riding skills. At Wamboin Pony Club we also try to bring in some guest instructors throughout the year. On rally days not only do you have fun riding and learning new skills or just gaining confidence but there is always a BBQ lunch for you and the family too.

The Club tries to meet twice a month on Sunday's at our grounds from 9am - 1pm. The first Rally day of the year will be on Sunday 14th February so if you are interested come along and see all that Pony Club can offer. Our club is a registered provider for the NSW government Active Kids' Voucher so you can receive up to \$100 off your membership fees. Should you like some more information about Wamboin Pony Club and our upcoming rally days feel free to contact our club Secretary Stacey on 0414 672979 or email wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com we are also on Facebook. We hope we will see you soon. - **Steve Quick**

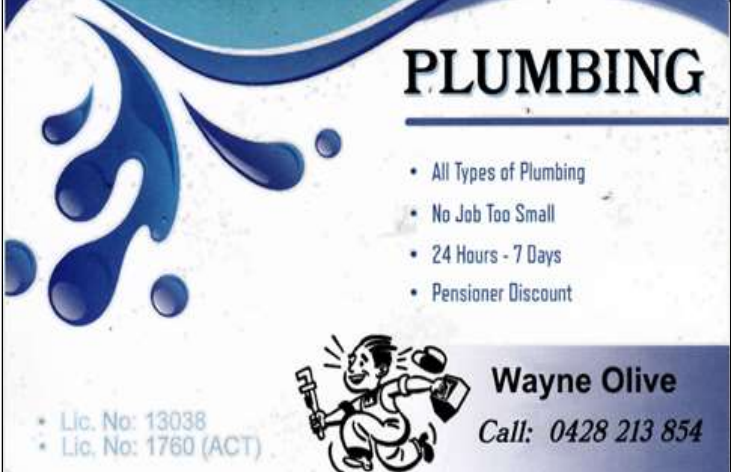


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On Saturday, December 12, at the Wamboin Community Centre about 20 locals from the Wamboin fire brigade, the Hall Management committee, the Wamboin golf club and the Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare group spent a couple of hours slashing, mowing, pruning, chain sawing, picking up rubbish and planting shrubs donated by the Landcare group. The hall surrounds are a lot better prepared for the remainder of the fire season and much safer for people walking their dogs now that most of the long grass and dead trees have gone. It is a sign of how strong our community is that we can come together to do such a great job, particularly just before Christmas when we are all really busy with our own properties and with Christmas preparations. Thanks to all who attended and for the great morning tea provided by Adrienne who even cooked gluten free food for the couple of us who can't have gluten.

- Vicki Still

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

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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market

Saturday 20 February 2021 9-12md

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By the time the Whisper comes out we will have held our Christmas market and our January one! Both had a good turn out of stall holders and customers. As we have to get people to sign in we now know how many people come through the markets and it is averaging around 150 people each market which is good news. Always happy to see more! Coffee machine has now been repaired and so we can all be assured of a constant flow of good coffee. Egg and bacon rolls sold out on both markets and there has been a growing supply of seasonable local produce, garden plants and flowers. We have an interesting mix of craft stalls now with woodwork, tie dye clothing, jewellery, photos, art work, knitted items, hand stitched cards and a new stall with lovely handmade quilts.

Alert! "Hang It On The Community Clothes Line"

This stall is working well. We have now run it three times and each time donations have exceeded \$100. So far we have donated to Cancer Council NSW, St Andrew's Church, Wamboin and Possum Wildlife Sanctuary. The proceeds from the sales will go to a different charity each month. Unsold items will be passed on to local charity shops. It was chilly yesterday at the January market and we could have done with a larger supply of jackets and hoodies!! All items are \$5.00. Hanging racks and coat hangers are provided!. We encourage you to sort out your cupboards and bring along clean and useable items of clothing. Someone donated a nice bright ski thermal top yesterday and I can tell you I was very happy to pay \$5 to stay warm for the morning!

See you at the market!

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Wamboin Golf – January 2021

Sunday, 3 January. So you made it through to 2021. Congratulations! One of the many great things about playing golf on the well-manicured Wamboin course is that on golf day, with the permission of the property owner, you can play at any reasonable time of the day (provided you play with someone who can be relied on to count all your strokes). This is handy if the day is expected to be excessively hot, cold or rainy. In the later case some took that advantage in January, mindful of the BoM's advice. Unfortunately those who played early got wet while those who teed off at the scheduled time experienced mild and pleasant conditions. BoMed again! The day was sponsored by Matt Hawke whom we thank for the prizes and eats. We played a shortened competition of nine holes for all, in unfulfilled expectation of a hot day. The field was slightly down owing to the holiday season, many preferring the South Coast or the Northern Beaches of Sydney (some weren't expecting to stay for 14 days). Still, that left time to work on our new year's resolutions. Here are your correspondent's: 1. I will not catch COVID 19. (So far so good); 2. I will not have a beer at the Newport Arms after surfing at Avalon; 3. I will quit smoking. Tick. I did that in 1986); 4. I will start wearing a mask. (I have a very attractive one from the Venice Biennale.); 5. I will give in to my neighbours and stop using fissile fuels; 6. I will send all the money back to China.

Back at the Hall, as the Captain struggled with the maths, we discussed the New Year. Firstly, Trump's still whingeing that his election was stolen by the Democrats" – at least I think that's what he said. If I'm wrong he can probably get help from his go-to COVID vaxx provider. On the other hand we have a new word in the national anthem. Except they got it wrong. It should be "we are old and reasonable". "Old" because the blackfellas have been here since before written history and "otherfellas" for more than 200 years. "Reasonable" because you don't get us for free. For example, if you do a reasonable deal with our peerless government, you might get to set up a fracking operation at the edge of, say, the Pilliga Scrub - most likely contaminating the ground water. Not smart if you want to increase the population of regional areas. Guess what those peoples' greatest need will be? Imagine drilling shale oil wells near Bungendore, Braidwood and our other regional townships. The Captain stopped us playing the "ain't it awful" game by calling for order and introducing our guest, Gerard Ryan. Paul Griffin told the Ted Evans memorial joke. The googly ball went to Pete Harrison for a 20 metre putt from off the green to birdie Short 'n Sweet. The dummy spit became controversial when your correspondent attempted to move a motion restricting the award to events occurring on the course. Debated without resolution. NTP/LD ball winners were Tim Barter 3, Vicki Still 2, Ken Gordon 2, Gerard Ryan, Pete Harrison and David Thompson. Winner of the juniors was Robert Thompson with 53 off the stick returning 25 after deducting handicap. The senior >20 handicap comp winner was Pete Harrison 40/27 from Vicki Still 40/28. Winner of the <20 handicap comp was Ken Gordon 33/29 from Tim Barter 36/31. Well done, everybody!



Next month's comp will be the annual February Liver Rinse & Spin Dry Pennant. Unless otherwise advised, join us at the Hall at 12.15pm for the usual 12.30pm start. Meanwhile think about this: Trump spelled backward could almost be a phonetic rendering of "peanut" if the M was an N. Yes, I know it's a long bow but we shouldn't overlook even the smallest clue. – Larry King, golfer



Still a supermodel at 60.

60 years ago in March 1961, at the Geneva Auto Show, the covers came off one of the most influential cars of the modern era. So much so that Enzo Ferrari described the new Jaguar E type as "the most beautiful car in the world". To this day some 60 years later many would consider this still to be true.

The original Series one roadster and coupe still present as perfect from every angle. The sublime design stole every automotive headline in the world and changed motoring in an instant.

Just imagine that for the average family car, 70mph was considered rapid, yet this new machine could do 150mph and look so beautiful and fast just standing still.

It's clear to see D-Type Le Mans racer's DNA in the E-Type's sleek lines and the 3.8-litre straight-six engine was sourced from the earlier XK model. Originally intended as a racing car, the E-type eventually emerged as a road-going sports and grand touring car, although many E-types also distinguished themselves in motor racing. The style of the E-type was clearly based on the D-type, the work of the aerodynamicist Malcolm Sayer.

In 1964 the 3.8 litre engine was replaced by a 4.2 litre version, with uprated brakes, better seating and a Jaguar designed and built gearbox replaced the aged Moss box. Then in 1966 a third option was launched – a 2+2 on a slightly longer wheelbase providing rear seats for two children.

In 1968 the Series 2 was released and is often seen as a poor relation to the Series 1 however, for many the Series 2 is seen as righting the mechanical wrongs in the Series 1. It was all change again in 1971 when the 5.3 litre V12-powered Series 3 E-Type was introduced.

Although many thousands of cars have been designed before and since, the E-Type Jaguar is an enduring lesson in how beautiful a design can be. As our modern cars start to look more and more alike with sometimes only a badge to recognise the difference, take a look back at one of the truly iconic designs and imagine piloting this car down a English lane on a summers day in 1961 (or a drive to the Wheels of Wamboin in 2021). – Peter Evans

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Wildcare: Wrapping Up 2019–20

Recent statistics for Wildcare show that over the year to July 2020 we responded to almost 4400 calls about wildlife needing help. Road collisions accounted for almost a third of all calls, involving all animal types.

A large proportion (45%) of all calls related to macropods: mostly eastern grey kangaroos (95%) and some wallabies (5%). Road collisions were the primary reason for more than half of macropod calls (56%). Calls were also for: orphaned or abandoned joeys (12%), often related to road deaths of mother; being caught in fencing (6%), and dog attacks (2%).

Around 1000 calls about birds came in, and while this covered 84 different species, the most commonly reported were: magpies; galahs; sulphur crested cockatoos; crimson rosellas, and wood ducks. A couple of the more unusual species were a white-bellied storm petrel and two red-tailed tropicbirds that blew inland during a storm.

Unfortunately, around half of the birds couldn't be saved or had to be euthanased – many were victims of road vehicle collisions and also a large number of cockatoos had beak & feather disease (not treatable). The good news is that we were able to help many birds, including 377 released, 30 juveniles successfully reunited with their parents, 24 transferred to neighbouring rescue groups for care, a number of escaped pets returned to owners or rehomed and a juvenile Gang-Gang unable to be released and in permanent care.

Reptiles also made up a large bulk of calls (612) to Wildcare, including lizards, eastern long-necked turtles and snakes. Attacks by dogs and cats were a major cause of injury for lizards (40% of lizard calls). Most turtles called in were found injured on roads (70% of turtle calls). *Photo: Gunter's shell is repaired*



Snake calls (400) differ from calls for other reptiles, as people tend to report sightings in their gardens or on their properties. Half were identified as brown snakes, as well as tiger (19%) and red-bellied black snakes (11%), leaving many (20%) as unidentified. While many calls were for sightings, some were in real trouble and needed rescuing, such as being entangled in netting, in water tanks/pools, head stuck in Coke can. Our intrepid snake handlers attended many snake sightings, and while many couldn't be found, over 25% were relocated; some were also taken into care.

Small mammal calls – a total of 247 – mostly included possums (66%) and echidnas (27%), as well as gliders, koalas and a native rat. The number of calls about bats for the year was 62: split fairly evenly between microbats (28) and flying foxes (32). Of the wombats called in over the year (226 in total), many were due to the skin disease, mange (38%), car collisions (22%) or being orphaned (12%).

What is the outcome for these calls about wildlife in strife? Our statistics for 2019–20 show that: sadly, 1179 animals died or were euthanased; 947 were taken into care; 421 disappeared before assessment; 237 were left in the wild, and observed; and 194 were released or relocated upon assessment. This year we received 260 calls in the 'Information' and 'Other' categories. Many of these were generous offers of donations and help from members of the public, during and following the bushfires in the region. A number of calls about animals (50) also related to fire and drought.

Wildcare is run totally by volunteers and has charity status. Contact Wildcare on 6299 1966 (put it in your mobile). If you would like to make a donation (tax deductible), then check out the website: www.wildcare.com.au - Merran Laver, for Wildcare



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Church Notices – Sutton Road Mission District Good-bye 2020 – Welcome 2021

2020 was an emotionally exhausting year. It began with the continued drought, then bushfires raged across Australia, burning 18.6 million hectares and killing an estimated billion animals, domestic stock and wildlife. Then, months of pungent thick smoke, hail storms and floods. Then came the pandemic. As we face 2021 and an emerging New Normal, we will have to change. Change can be difficult; Inspirational quotes can help us to work toward our goals and get in the right frame of mind for the transition into a new decade. Here are some New Year's quotes that might help to motivate us to make the best of our lives this year:

Dr. Seuss: "You'll never get bored when you try something new. There's really no limit to what you can do." Frank Sinatra: "The best is yet to come." C.S. Lewis: "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." Karen Kaiser Clark: "Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely." Mike Dooley: "Life's not about expecting, hoping and wishing, it's about doing, being and becoming." Socrates: "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new." Anne Frank: "What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven't even happened yet." C.S. Lewis: "There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind."

As we engage 2021, live for what today has to offer, not for what yesterday or 2020 has taken away from us. COVID is driving people to God – both Christians and non-Christians alike – according to new research released recently by Mainstreet Insights a partner of McCrindle Research. The research shows one in three Australians spent time thinking about God during the pandemic, while many Christians are experiencing resurgence in their faith. Some think that health only comes from medicine. But true health and wellness also comes from peace of mind, peace in the heart, peace of the soul, and from love, forgiveness and laughter.

Church Services: The Sutton Road Mission District includes three congregations St Andrew's Wamboin, St Peter's Sutton and St Mark's Gundaroo. So far St Andrew's Church Wamboin has been set up for COVID and has been approved by the NSW Government as a COVID Safe venue. **Real Services are being held at St Andrew's Wamboin on first, third and fifth Sundays at 9.30 am**, supported by an e-mail version being sent to those unable to attend. Services are also being e-mailed out for the second and fourth Sundays. To receive an e-mail version of our services please contact our Warden, Alan, at peterandandrew2012@gmail.com and he will include you in the mail out.

Take care of each other. Take care for yourselves. Every Blessing ... - **Royce**, The Venerable Dr Royce Thompson, Archdeacon in Charge, Sutton Road Mission District

Nature Notes December 2020 – January 2021

Jo Walker

Well, summer got off to a really good start with plenty of rain keeping the rapidly growing vegetation green and fresh. It was a white Christmas at my place. Not snow, but masses of white flowers covered the Burgan bushes (*Kunzea ericoides*) all along the creek followed by a thick covering of flat white flower-heads on the *Cassinia longifolia* (Cauliflower Bush) further up the hill. Extensive patches of *Xerochrysum viscosum* (Sticky Everlasting Daisy) and *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* (Clustered Everlasting Daisy) added more colour – until the landscape was an absolute picture of gold, white and green.

The white-flowering Cassinias are fading a bit now, but the Rosemary Cassinia (*Cassinia quinquefaria*) are taking their place with long, pyramidal straw-coloured flower-heads swaying above the thin green leaves.

Most of the local herbaceous plants have finished flowering now and are producing seed. Grasses have grown high and densely this year and are now producing copious amounts of seed. *Austrostipa scabra* (Corkscrew Grass) is a beautiful grass when flowering with wispy delicate heads waving in the slightest breeze. But, its method of spreading its seed seems to be attachment to anything passing. It has definitely earned its common name, as the sharp tip can pierce skin quite deeply.

Usually at this time of the year, the Cherry Ballart trees (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*) are bearing yellow and red fruit (actually a soft swollen and sweet-tasting stem with the seed at the tip), but there were almost none this year. The same goes for the edible (but tiny) pinkish fruit of *Lissanthe strigosa* (Peach Heath). It flowered fairly well but didn't produce fruit.

Back in November, several *Ottelia ovalifolia* (native water-lilies) appeared on the dam after it filled again. I was looking forward to seeing the lovely white flowers eventually. But, it looks as if the ducks found them – only a few torn leaves left.

Frogs were chorusing in the dam earlier but no tadpoles have appeared. When the dam re-filled, a lot of eucalypt, tea-tree and other leaves washed into it. Although the water is quite clear, it is tea-coloured and toxins from the leaves may be deterring the frogs from laying their eggs. A few frogs have turned up nearer the house – there was a little Crinia frog (*Crinia signifera*) in the animals' water bowl recently, and a Spotted Marsh Frog (*Lymnodynastes tasmaniensis*) was sheltering under a rock in the garden.

There didn't seem to be many Noisy Friarbirds or Red Wattlebirds here this summer – possibly because my Grevilleas didn't flower very heavily or for long. Usually, these birds spend the summer chasing each other around between feeds.

There have been a few more of the small insect-eating birds around. Beetles and large moths that spend part of their life-cycle in the soil are still few and far between, but many of the insects with short life-cycles spent in more habitable places are noticeable again – including a few clusters of Sawfly larvae and quite a few Dragonflies around the dam. And the March Flies are back – and definitely biting!

Yesterday evening, after another substantial fall of rain, the Mole Crickets were whirring and two half-grown Leopard Slugs were moving slowly across the pavers – both smaller members of the local wildlife that have been experiencing hard times. It's good to see the landscape green and flourishing and becoming a suitable home for these little creatures again.



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It Really is A Dog's Life

Hello. Happy New Year to you all. It's me, Molly, back again with more tales of my adventures. There have been some new people and pets come to live in my street so I thought I might remind you that I'm a very VERY active kelpie pup. I've lived in Wamboin for 15 months and I LOVE IT.

I've had a busy summer so hopefully I can remember the things I wanted to tell you about... I am pleased it hasn't been too hot and that there's been no smoke like there was last year. And there's been lots of rain so I have been able to continue my water experiments. I've now trying to figure out why balls thrown into pools bounce in different directions when they hit the sides. It's very hard trying to decide where I need to bob my head to get them out! I'm not sure I'm getting any better at it but I am practicing because my friend Gretta has a pool. I've been visiting her a lot. I've also been responsible and helped with mail and newspaper collection for her owners as they were away for a few days. I don't like it when they aren't home.

There's been lots of trail work but I haven't been able to help as much as usual as my owner is a bit nervous that I'll use my shingleback finding skills to find other reptiles like snakes. And they aren't the best creatures to make friends with if you're not sure what you're doing. However I've not minded being left out of trail work as I've been lucky enough to spend the time with Gretta and her owners. They have a big dam. I like to chase balls. They throw balls, and sometimes sticks, for Gretta and me to get. I thought Gretta had been having more fun than me because she was swimming out further to collect the balls and sticks. So, after lots of encouragement and patience, Gretta's owners have taught me to **SWIM!!!** It's such fun. You can get all the balls and you can keep cool and you can shake very hard and get people wet so they can cool down too. I'm even swimming in my own dam now. I've demonstrated to Daisy how it works. She's not convinced. But she might get used to it. I'm soooo very pleased I'm able to swim. In the dam. NOT in the pool. If I fall into the pool I have to scramble out very quickly. Then get ready to get the ball. I can find it hidden under floating Frisbees, pick it off floating Frisbees and I've shown Gretta how that is done. Now she can do it too.

The New Year's Resolution Run was a couple of weeks ago. That's why the trail work became super important. This year I didn't have to stay home while my owner marshalled on the day – she can remember that last year I destroyed my bed because I was bored. This year I was invited to stay with Daisy. One of her owners was in the 21km event. We barked encouragement at the first few runners. Then **WHOA!** I'd never seen **so** many people. We were stunned into silence. And that's *not* normal for us. Gretta joined us for a while. Then a small group of runners came past. We all barked encouragement. But then **EVEN MORE** runners!!!! Amazing. I've been told it was a very successful event. I'm very pleased about that because lots of my human friends worked very hard for the event. And some of my canine friends did too. And lots of people I've not met. Thanks everyone. I might see lots of you on the trails. They are very good.

Have I mentioned the Canine Christmas Celebrations? They were in mid-December. There was a big storm not long before we had to leave for the field. Daisy's and my owners were 'monitoring BOM'... whatever that means... They decided we'd go ahead. There was still a bit of thunder. I can be very brave and not mind thunder. But I know that's not possible for all my friends and I was disappointed that Nina and Wilma couldn't come – they aren't very brave about thunder. Bailey and Trixie and Jock and Beau and Gretta, and of course Daisy, came. And more owners and family and friends. There was lots of food but we dogs were too busy for that. We had games (not ball games, I'm too focussed on balls to be a good host so the balls are hidden) and running and tunnelling and wrestling and the sun came out and ... and... I've decided I *do* enjoy parties. This time we had doggy Christmas Crackers as well as doggy treat bags. Yum! I've discovered I'm rather good at opening Christmas Crackers. I had to help Daisy... or at least that's my story... We did share the contents... I think... A lovely day.

My owner was leaving me inside to rest (yes, me, rest!?!?!?) a lot and I didn't really like that. But then I discovered all the work of mowing and whipper snipping meant I have my own mini field, and some tracks to get there. It's not fenced all around like Daisy's but it's far enough away from the road that I can play there safely. And my owner and I spend time there playing games and also just watching the world go by. I have a mob of kangaroos I like to *watch* – not chase – I can be a very good girl! And I found another echidna. And some shinglebacks. And Christmas beetles. And grasshoppers. And dragonflies. And butterflies – there are lots of butterflies this year.

I'm still leading expeditions into Kowen Forest and nearby bushland. It's so much fun exploring there. Sometimes I'm on a lead. Gretta quite likes it when I am on the lead because we do less running. But we can still wrestle. And sit for treats. I'm learning 'I must not jump up... I must not jump up...' It's a bit hard because, when I was very little, people didn't mind me jumping up. Now I'm bigger I need to just sit. We know where lots of dams are so we can cool down. Most of the puddles have gone, including our favourite one on the trail our friend Trixie 'discovered'.

I've also been checking on the swans and their baby in Queanbeyan. They look very well. They are great swimmers! There had been a fallen tree across the river which meant branches and things built up to make a mini island. The moorhens liked that because they could walk on the island and still be protected in the middle of the river. They had babies too. Quite a few. But then the fallen tree went away. I've not seen the platypus again. I'll have to remind my owner we should go exploring along the river soon. So much exploring to do... I'd best be off and do some now.

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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The Roads of Wamboin, part 10: Norton Road, Hogan Drive, Majors Close & Ryans Road

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

Introduction: This is the tenth 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 covers the four roads that are named after 20th century people and organisations. As always, readers are invited to contact me, or the Editor, with any additional information, or corrections.

Norton Road: In the April 2014 issue of *The Whisper* I asked if someone could give the origin of the name of Norton Road. Three responses were published in the May 2014 issue (p. 22): Lofty Mason responded: 'The road was named after the Norton Towers group. This was the company who developed the "Canberra Country Estate". "Canberra Country Estate" was the original marketing name of the area that is now Wamboin.'

Dave Hubbard responded: '... back in the days when rural subdivisions were becoming popular a development company from Sydney opened up Canberra Country Estates. The name of this company was Norton Towers Estate Pty Ltd. When we bought our property in 1977 Norton Road stopped at Fernloff Road. From there all was just a wide open sheep paddock with survey pegs showing what was to come and very few trees to block the view. How things have changed.'

In the same issue of *The Whisper* Larry King provided a third explanation, the veracity of which may be judged by the reader! 'Canberra Country Estate' was always a marketing name; it was never registered as a legal name of the area that was gazetted as Wamboin in 1981. The first advertisement for blocks in Canberra Country Estate, that I have located, was published in the *Canberra Times* on Saturday 2 December 1972, page 31: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/110623597>. Based on that, it is likely that the first part of Norton Road was built in the 1971-1972 period.

The company Norton Tower Pty Ltd still operates as a real estate consultant. They have offices at the MLC Centre, Martin Place, Sydney.

Hogan Drive: Wilhelmina Stewart Hogan (1857-1925), née Mackay, purchased five portions of land in the Hogan Drive area, one in 1914 and the rest in 1920. She purchased them from the original selectors, the Leahy family, and sold them in 1923 to F. W. Hyles. At the time of purchase, she was described on the conveyancing documents as a 'widow of Strathfield'; her husband (William Joseph Hogan) had died at Strathfield in 1912. She and her husband formerly lived at Cobar where he was a prominent solicitor, mine owner and local landholder. It is not clear to me why she purchased the Wamboin land, and who worked it. If anyone has additional information on this, please contact the author.


Majors Close: The land in the Majors Close area was originally selected by John Leahy and subsequently owned by Wilhelmina Hogan and then Frank Hyles. In 1965, Hyles sold it to Kenneth William (Bill) Major (1917 - 2000) and Beverley Vickery Major (1918 - 2010). The Majors also purchased other land in the Merino Vale/Weeroona Drive from the Harriotts. 'Cecil [Guy] built the shearing shed which now sits alongside the old cottage just northwest of the Weeroona Drive/Norton Road intersection. The cottage had already been there for many years by that time. Ray [Murphy] also did the shearing for the Majors, and remembers they had about 1800 sheep at Merino Vale. The Majors lived in Canberra, but stayed in the cottage occasionally' (Noel 1997, p. 16). They subdivided the land in the 1980s. The first advertisements of land for sale on Majors Close that I have located were published in 1987.

Ryans Road: In 1970, Sidney Victor (Vic) Southwell sold the land in the vicinity of what is now Ryans Road to the Gundaroo-based Ryan family company, Carstensz Properties Pty Ltd who, in 1988, transferred it to another Ryan family company, Yalana Estate Development Pty Ltd. Ray Murphy recalled that 'The Ryans kept the land in the present Yalana and ran stock on it until about 1990. Around that time Bill Ryan bought the westernmost part of Yalana from the Majors so that he could extend Norton Road eastward from its then terminating point at Weeroona Drive in the land subdivided by the Majors. This enabled the rural residential development of the Yalana area. Eventually the stretch of Norton Road in Yalana was linked at its western end with the stretch of Norton Road for the rural residential development in Clare Valley' (Noel 1997, p. 16).

The Yarrowlumla Shire Council files include a letter from Eunice Ryan,

Director, Yalana Estate Development Pty Ltd, Gundaroo, dated 14 October 1991, which requests approval to use the name Norton Road '... for the main arterial through the Yalana Estate subdivision and the use of the name Ryans Road for the spur road that leaves Norton Road and proceeds in a southerly direction'. Obviously, her request was agreed to by Council. The road is currently being rehabilitated and upgraded.

Reference: Noel, N (compiler) 1997, 'A bit of Wamboin's history. Provided by Ray Murphy, Bernie Reardon, and Tony Reardon', *The Whisper*, September 1997, pp. 13-6.



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WCAG – Community Fibre Project Update 20 January 2021

This is a quick update on our Fibre network project. Members of the WCAG committee met (virtually) with the NSW Government Project team last month and again on the 19th Jan 2021 to discuss aspects of the projects progress and schedule. As mentioned in our update in September, the Request for Tender (RFT) to select a commercial organisation to construct and operate our future community network was the major item on the agenda. The RFT was released to the market later that afternoon.

While this network will be a really important piece of infrastructure for the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton communities, perhaps the most notable aspect of the RFT's release is captured in the government announcement about it:

The proposed network upgrades in Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton will be the first piece of major digital infrastructure to be delivered under the \$400 million Regional Digital Connectivity program. The tender requires "market suppliers to install and operate core fibre network infrastructure to provide access to high speed and reliable internet services in the area." The map below is included in the tender documents and shows the coverage area for the network and one possible design for the fibre runs.

The tender closes on 3 March 2021, and following the evaluation of the responses, the Government will make a decision on the preferred bidder. The project team have advised that this should see them "award a contract for delivery, which is expected in late 2021."

As per our previous note, this process is taking much longer than we had hoped but we are certainly making progress, nevertheless. You can find further details on the NSW Government's web site at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/snowy-hydro-legacy-fund/regional-digital-connectivity-program/gig-state/wamboin-bywong-and-sutton> The WCAG will continue to meet regularly with the project team to represent the community's interests and we will keep you posted on significant developments as they happen.

Regards on behalf of the WCAG team, - Olaf Theden, Jon Gough and Glenn Archer

Media Announcement: *Tuesday, 19 January 2021*

Tender Kicks Off For Regional Digital Connectivity

The NSW Government today announced the start of an open 'Request for Tender' to build network infrastructure for the communities of Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton as part of the \$400 million Regional Digital Connectivity program. Led by the Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW), the Regional Digital Connectivity program is focused on improving internet access in key regional locations, with families and residents in the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton communities expected to be the first to benefit under this NSW Government investment.

The tender is the second part of a two-stage process that started with an Expression of Interest in 2020. The tender is calling on suppliers to install and operate network infrastructure to provide access to high speed and reliable internet services.

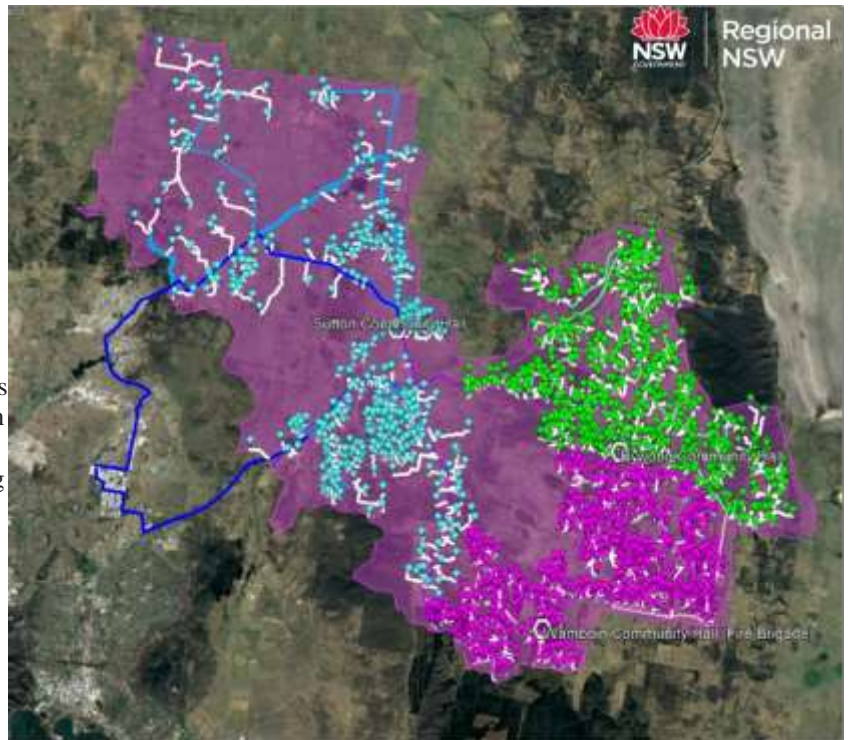
With COVID-19 impacting the way people live and work, it is more important than ever for regional communities to have access to a fast and reliable internet, to support remote working, e-commerce, and staying in contact with friends and families. Full details of the tender are now available on the NSW Government's eTendering website. The tender will close on Wednesday, 3 March 2021.

The Department of Regional NSW looks forward to receiving innovative proposals from the private sector to make the best technologies available to residents. An industry briefing will be held to provide more information to interested companies. The tender will help provide a blueprint for how government investment can capitalise on and expand existing fibre infrastructure to deliver a faster and more reliable service to towns on a satellite internet service. The Regional Digital Connectivity program is part of the \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund, led by the Department of Regional NSW.

Can You Help Fill Up the March Wamboin Whisper with Paragraphs Bywong and Wamboin Residents Would Appreciate Reading?

Thank you to everyone who distributed, ran an ad in, or wrote something for this February 2021 Wamboin Whisper.

To all Whisper readers: Can you contribute an article or item of some sort to help fill the upcoming March 2021 issue? Deadline is 7 pm Sunday night, February 28, the last Sunday night of February. Articles should somehow relate to living in Bywong or Wamboin, and be respectful of the variety of lifestyles and opinions we residents come up with. Thanks for anything you can create. You'll likely be adding to the number of good moments in possibly hundreds of your neighbours' lives. The main reason for the Whisper's existence is to provide one more way for those of us who live out here to communicate stories, ideas and offers that help us to get along with our days. - Ned Noel, volunteer editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association, nednoel@optusnet.com.au or whisper@wamboincommunity.com.au or mobile 0409 997 082.



The Trip to Nowhere

We walked into the motel room, dropped the bags on the floor and put on the kettle to make a drink. Why had we checked into this motel in central West NSW, in the town the locals call Coona? (With no intention of changing it 'Cheera' or 'Cheesa')
Short answer... Covid-19

The story starts in December 2019 when a very good friend, our chief bridesmaid, stood in a cleared area on a property near Gladstone Qld, watching a small plane carrying her husband and brother, coming in to land. Her brother, a licensed pilot, had been loaned the aircraft and he had invited his brother-in-law to join him on a flight. Tragically the plane nosedived and crashed to the ground killing both occupants. She saw both her husband of almost 50 years, and her brother, taken from her in an instant.

Fast forward twelve months and her eldest daughter decides to hold a surprise 70th birthday party for her, inviting friends she had had little contact with over the twelve months due to Covid restrictions. We were included in the invitation, and accepted, subject to the existing State border controls at the time. The party was to be held in a village on the northern outskirts of Brisbane, so it made sense for us to visit and stay with our son who lives in a Brisbane suburb, just north of the CBD

As the date neared, the Sydney Northern beaches outbreak occurred, creating the Sydney Hotspot. We had already decided not to risk plane travel and that we would drive to Brisbane, so this outbreak ensured we would take the inland route so as not to traverse the Greater Sydney area hotspot. We applied for, and received, permits allowing us to enter Queensland at Goondiwindi, the day before the party. We confirmed with the daughter/hostess that we would drive up for the party, she being excited that we were coming, knowing how thrilled and surprised her mother would be to see us.

At 9.00am on Thursday morning we drove away from home, aiming to get as far as we could on day one, without over-tiring ourselves, aiming for Narrabri, roughly half-way. Light traffic and good driving conditions saw us make it through to Moree, where we checked into a motel, then achieved our daily exercise by managing to walk to the Chinese restaurant next door (where we enjoyed an excellent meal) and back to the room, to retire for the night.

Checking out and heading off the next morning shortly after 8.00am, gave us hope that allowing for the one hour time difference with the states, we could be at our son's home early afternoon, giving us plenty of time to relax before the party, midday the next day.

The Qld town of Goondiwindi, is around an hour's drive from Moree, and mobile coverage along the highway is not particularly good. When we arrived at the NSW town of Boggabilla, 10 kilometres short of the border, the phones in the car went into overtime receiving many missed calls, from both our son and the hostess.

We pulled over to ensure we maintained a mobile signal and called our son. The news he gave us was devastating. The Queensland government had declared a three day lockdown for Brisbane, commencing 6.00pm that day. To continue to his home and stay with him would force us into lockdown with him. A call to the hostess confirmed our suspicions that even though her home is on the rural outskirts, it was officially within the Greater Brisbane area, so the party had to be cancelled. She was heartbroken.

We had to make a decision. We had driven almost 900 kilometres to be told that if we continued to Brisbane, we may have to go into lockdown. There was no guarantee that the Qld government would not extend the three day lockdown, keeping us there longer. Nor was there any guarantee that the NSW government would not declare Brisbane a hotspot, preventing us returning home without a 14 day isolation period. After many phone calls and heart searching we decided that our safest option was to turn around and drive home. To travel another 350 kilometres to see our son and friends for just a few hours, before having to leave Brisbane by 6.00pm and driving back, seemed to make no sense.

A check on the 'Fuel Spy' app showed that fuel was considerably cheaper over the border, so, seeing as we had our Qld entry passes, we drove the further 10 kilometres and crossed the border, amusing the police officer with the story of our intended plan. We refuelled the car, had a drink, and a toilet break, and drove back into NSW.

Driving back south at a more leisurely pace, we decided that there was no need to rush, as family were looking after animals and house, so why not have a short break.

So that is why we find ourselves in this motel room, checked in for the next two nights, with some local sightseeing planned for tomorrow. – **Alan Rope**



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Visitor

I live on Newington Road, Bywong, on a largely undeveloped bushblock. I used to keep chooks, geese and turkeys, but now, at 90 years of age I have just wild birds as company, and my youngest daughter Barbara about 300 metres down the valley.

Recently I looked out of my study window, noticing a single cockatoo being very active. he was surrounded by tall mature grasses, close to a boulder. The cockatoo hopped down from the boulder into the grasses, which were seeding. He could not reach the seeds as they were well above his head. So he snapped the stalk off near the ground. Then he clawed the stem with one foot and then, to my surprise, he gently took the stem into his beak and slid it through with the aid of his foot until he could reach the seeds.

They may be able to crunch a one inch stick, but can also be very gentle. Once cockatoos are accustomed to being fed, they can be a nuisance. But they give me a lot of pleasure too. I used to have a bin of bird seeds under the window of the laundry. One of them could open the lid, even with a brick weighing it down. I had no option but move the bin to a safer place. – Erwin Feekin



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Kowen Trail Run New Year's Resolution Half Marathon 17 January 2021

COVID is my excuse for my poor preparation. It's been a year with few running events. After the bushfires and unbreathable air then it was COVID 19 and all sorts of border restrictions not to mention restrictions on public gatherings. The result being running events across the country were cancelled. My last half marathon was in March in the Victorian high country and that ended with a stress fracture in my foot. Added to the challenges of 2020 my running mate from Victoria can't join us because of border restrictions and my sons who have run in previous events are nowhere to be seen. I'm on my own.

So here I am in the starting grid wondering am I up for this, have I done sufficient training? Nah, I'll be fine. I've run this course before. Sure, there is a steep hill, but I got up it last time. I wasn't thinking last time was two years ago.



We have all registered with lots of social distancing. I have the requisite snake bandage, mobile phone and water. Of course, my snake strategy is to be so far back in the pack that any self-respecting snake would have cleared out by the time I come through.

It's 6.30am and I hear a faint "go" and the pack seems to shuffle towards the timing cables. Pam has managed to attract a capacity field of 191 runners. I am sure this is due to the reputation of the Kowen trails and that there have been so few events these past months. It's a perfect morning, it's cool at about 9c and still with a hint of heat to come.

We are off, up Bingley and up the gravel road toward the section of native forest and hence into Kowen. Already what was a tight pack is now stretched over a kilometre. The elite runners, the gazelles, are way out of sight, running up hills I will choose to walk.

We cross the horse gate and into Kowen. We are now in the ACT and the "green zone" as designated by the Victorian government. If I stay here

for 2 weeks I can visit Victoria without restrictions. I might be slow but not that slow.

We turn east running along the forest road that follows the border. The road surface is covered in rocks and some concentration on foot placement is required. One of my aims today is no falls, no rolled ankles and no blood; lofty goals I realise. I hear later a running friend has taken a serious tumble on the 12km run and required a visit to hospital and stitches to her forehead.

I have reached the first steep descent. The surface is challenging as is the inclination of the road. I criss-cross the road looking for a better line. Am I annoying people coming up behind me? That will be their problem. Must look after my knees. The gazelles would have run down this hill at full tilt, leaping over the rocky erosion.

At the bottom of this descent it's time to get back into a rhythm and to pick up the pace, then bam another hill. A run halfway up this slope and then I join my fellow runners in a brisk walk to the top. Gravity assists with getting back into running as we head down and along a straight and wide open section.

A water point and we head off on to what has been labelled the "roller coaster". This can't be good; roller coasters don't have flat sections. We are off through the forest with steep short climbs and short descents. There are small erosion gullies where a quick leap is required and on we go. There are some flat sections that tempt you into a rhythm and then it's back down an incline or up a steep climb. Why am I doing this? There seems to be no one in front of me and no one behind. Am I the last runner? I glance back through the trees and sure enough there are runners way down the track behind me; we are spread out over several kilometres.

There is a sound of the Kowen sirens emanating through the trees. It is hard to get a sense of the direction from which the sirens were calling. Their calls come from everywhere, echoing around these hills. Are they trying to distract and confuse the runners as they tire? I'm not good at my Greek mythology but I'm pretty sure the sirens are up to no good. Suddenly the track drops and we head to the bottom of the escarpment. It's a long, steep downhill. This can only mean one thing. That hill, Amungula is about to consume our energies. It's a sharp right and there it is, a kilometre of UP.



A short effort at running and then it's the realisation that I can't run up this slope. I'm down to a tough walk up to the top of the escarpment. The surface is loose rock. A quick turn around to rest cramping muscles and the view is amazing. I trudge on. The call of the sirens continues they seem to be coming from everywhere. And there they are at the top of the hill whooping and cheering as each runner achieves that peak, without oxygen, crampons or ropes. They are celebrating runners that peak that hill. Of course the runners can't cheer, they are too distracted trying to manage their heart rate. Is that Mallory on the left?

Energy is flagging but we have probably run three quarters of this race and there is relief that hill is behind us. Back along familiar tracks and there is one more hill that was a descent on the way out. It's like a cliff in front of us. Another walk up a steep climb and it's an undulating track back to the horse gate.

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Twelve kilometre runners appear on our right, does that mean we are close to the gravel road and Bingley Way. Don't be deceived it's a good kilometre before we re-enter the native forest. We cross the horse gate, careful that my tired legs don't trip on the parallel logs. This track is a pleasure with few rocks and a sandy base but watch out for tree roots. This section is well swept by Pam's crew. Down to the gravel road and a downhill run to Bingley.

This is the best part of the run, the downhill to the finish line. A sealed road with no rocks and a gentle decent. I suggest to my running partner who has been with me since peaking Amungula that we should pick up the group that are about 200 metres in front of us. There is another group a further 100 metres beyond them. Her reply is let's get both groups. That's the attitude. We pick up our pace, open up our stride and settle our breathing. The first group is picked up in a flash and the second soon vanish behind us. This is the way to finish.

Where is that finishing line? Bingley Way seems to be longer today. We turn into the community hall precinct and cross the line together; done. My main goal of no bleeding, trips or falls has been achieved.

I have crossed the line and suddenly I am approached by someone who wants to talk about the fire brigade. Sorry, I can't form a sentence just at the moment much less think straight.

After settling the heart rate and a large drink it's time to join the queue for a breakfast of an egg and bacon roll prepared by the Wamboin fire brigade support crew.



A magnificent morning, perfect weather, and a great challenge to complete the Kowen Trails New Year's Resolution half marathon.

The results of the 12km run: 1st male, Bernardo Palmo in 53:14 1st female, Bernie Connors in 1:02:52

For the half marathon: 1st male, Adrian Mclean in 1:31:18 1st female Claire Rayner in 1:51:26

I am in awe of these elite runners and the times they achieve. I ask a 1:40 half marathon runner did he run up Amungula and if so how. He tells me he runs up the hill with his hands on his knees pushing down on his legs. I'll probably stick with walking.

Thanks to Pam Muston and her crew for the amazing organisation that goes into the Kowen Trails series of running events. Thanks also to the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade for managing the parking and for the wonderful munchies at the end of the run.



The next Kowen run will be the Kowen Winter Trails in June when the weather is guaranteed to be bracing if not snowing. - **Kevin Rowe, The Three Score Plus Runner**




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- Sat & Sun Feb 13 & 14 Valentine's Day Weekend
- Sun 21 Feb & 21 Mar & every third Sunday Namaste Yoga & Rose w' brunch
- Fri 2 Apr Good Friday Fish n Chips
- Sun 4 Apr Kids Easter Egg Hunt & Paint
- Sat Apr 24 & Sun Apr 25 Mother's Day Shopping Fair – Try before you Buy!
- Mon Apr 26 Yoga Retreat
- Sat May 1 Club & Friends Night – bring a friend or 2 or 3
- Sun May 9 Mother's Day Lunch
- Sat May 15 Harvest 2021 Dinner – explore behind the scenes!
- Thurs May 20 Riedel Workshop & Dinner
- Sat 5 Jun & July 17 Holy Trinity of Cheesemaking
- Fri Jun 11, Sat 12, Sun 13 & Mon 14 Creative Juices@ contentiouscharacter Weekend Arts Festival
- Sat Jun 19, Jun 26 & July 3 Truffle Dog Hunt n Lunch
- Sat 24 July Xmas in July
- Sat 31 July Annual Truffle Gala Dinner
- Sun Aug 8 Wine & Chocolate Tasting
- Sat Aug 14 Pig n Pinot Fireside
- Sun Aug 15, 22 & 29 Wine & Chocolate Tastings
- Thur Aug 19 Riedel Workshop

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WCA Noticeboard

Unfortunately, Yahoo has ceased operation of its Yahoo Groups service that we have hitherto been using to manage our electronic noticeboard and we have had to create a 'new' Noticeboard. As a result of the way our previous service was withdrawn, we were unable to obtain a list of current subscribers and we have had to resort to compiling a list simply from the log of subscription requests that had been received since the original list was established. This was not a 'perfect' process and a number of existing subscribers have not had their subscriptions transferred to the new Noticeboard system.

If you have noticed that the Noticeboard has fallen silent since December, or if you are interested in subscribing to the new WCA Noticeboard, please read on. First of all, the name and email address of the Noticeboard has changed slightly. The new Noticeboard is hosted on the WCA website, so the address for posting on the Noticeboard is now:

Noticeboard@wamboincommunity.asn.au The new list also uses a different, although more widely used, list manager, so there are a few changes in the way things are presented, but the same general procedures that applied to the old list still apply.

Rather than going into any more detail here, to subscribe to the new list, to manage your subscription details or for general information about the new Noticeboard, please visit (you'll need to go there to do anything you need to do anyway): <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard> We apologise for any inconvenience caused by these changes and, in advance, for any wrinkles that still need to be ironed out in the new system. Please bear with us. - **WCA Web Management Team**

How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

Thank you to Rhonda and Neville Parnell, who have delivered Whispers for many years to mailboxes along Denley Drive between Birchmans Grove and about the halfway point from there to Hogan's southern tip. Like all the people listed below, they were the were key to transforming the Whisper from a file on a single computer to a locally generated newspaper in residents' homes.

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+Wirdra)	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 ½ 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 COILLET ph 6238 3425 lodestar@ozemail.com.au

Peter Huckstepp	Federal HwSvcRd	22	Louise Baldwin	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Lyn Parkinson	Bidges/Hickey/OldGoldMines	50	Penny & Russell Ball	Macs Reef (Denley Dr to 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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TOTAL 1,338

Wamboin Whisper – weather February 2021 article

WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(46 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

January Rainfall Stats

January rainfall to the 31st 65.25mm
2021 total rainfall to 31st 65.25mm

Average January rainfall..... 59.7mm
2020 January rainfall..... 21.0mm
2020 total rainfall to 31/1..... 21.0mm
2020 total.....867.75mm

February Rainfall Stats

2020 February rainfall..... 79.75mm
Wettest February..... 170.75mm in 2010
Wettest day..... 54.5mm on 9/2/20
Driest February 1mm in 1986

Average February rainfall..... 58.2mm
Average no. rain days in February.... 7.3
Highest no. rain days..... 18 in 1976
Lowest no. rain days..... 1 in 1995

February Temperature Stats

Hottest February day... 42.8°C on 1/2/20
(5.8°C higher than the previous high 37°C)
Average day temperature..... 26.1°C
Warmest February 1983
(Av. max day temp. 29.5°C & night 16.9°C)
Feb 20... Av. max 27.5°C & Av. min 14.2°C

Av. Feb. temp.. 19.9°C (day+night comb.)
Coldest February day.... 12°C on 10/2/96
Hottest February night.. 25.9°C on 1/1/20
Coldest Feb. night..... 5°C (3 times) on
17/2/98, 22/2/17 & 10/2/19
Average night temperature..... 13.7°C
Coldest February 2012
(Av.min day temp. 21.0°C & night 11.4°C)

December Rainfall Stats

December 2020 rainfall..... 47.5mm

Average December rainfall..... 62.8mm



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Closure of the Unsealed Section of Ryans Road

Ricky Tozer, QPRC's Service Manager - Customer and Communication, advises as follows: Apparently there is some roadwork happening around Wirreanda/Ryans Rd. Our Development Engineers have provided some information that we're hoping you can share within the WCA. Let me know if you need anything else. Council has previously approved a development application for a 12-lot rural subdivision at 395 Wirreanda Road, Wamboin. As part of the development approval, the developer is required to reconstruct, widen and bitumen seal the existing unsealed section of Ryans Road from the end of existing bitumen seal to and including the intersection with Wirreanda Road. Due to these works, this section of Ryans Road is currently closed, with a bypass for local traffic at the end of Wirreanda Road. All residents on Wirreanda Road west of the road closure are able to access Norton Road. These works are being undertaken by a private contractor for the developer, not Council, with a road closure approval granted under Section 138 of the Roads Act 1993. It is expected that the works will be complete by May 2021. Regards, Ricky Tozer

Yellow Climate Action Now signs about to go viral: introducing the CANSign logo & New Website

A lot has been happening behind the scenes as Gundaroo, Collector, Wamboin, Bywong, Sutton, and surrounding villages and localities all the way to the NSW south coast, gain notoriety for highly visible signs declaring "We Want Climate Action Now". This is spawning a national campaign! Starting as a grass roots response to the Black Summer bushfires, a new not-for-profit organisation known as Climate Action Now Signs, Inc. (or CANSign Inc.) has been established, and recently launched its CANSign website www.cansign.org.au.

With an alarming melting clock logo and new sign designs, the website is now live and taking orders directly from the public at cost-price, with pickup depots established at Gundaroo, Wamboin, and the south coast, others being established in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne, and plans for more.

CANSign will also design and work with Australia's 70+ environment groups with an impressive total collective membership approaching one million. CANSign aims to have its logo recognised nationally in Australia as the symbol for Climate Action and its signage helping to build awareness and galvanise communities and businesses in the growing effort to combat the effects of climate on our own and our children's lives. To find out more, to read the news, and/or order a sign or two, please visit www.cansign.org.au.

Or contact David McDonald to arrange to pick up a sign or two in Wamboin, or for him to drop them off to you in the Wamboin/Bywong/Sutton area: phone 0416 231 890, email david.mcdonald@cansign.org.au. The signs are 900 mm x 600 mm in size, and cost just \$15 if you pick them up, or if David delivers them. Four cable ties for use in attaching the sign to your fence, etc., are included with each sign. Let's turn Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton into the region's *Climate Action Now* epicentre! – David McDonald



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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For February I chose the Rufous Whistler, a very common summer migrant with a loud, distinctive call.

Rufous Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*)

Size: 16.5-17.5cm

Status: Very common breeding summer migrant



The Rufous Whistler is a noisy and common bird in Wamboin during the summer months. The male (after which the species name “Rufous” comes from) has bright rufous underparts, a grey back and head with a white throat bordered black. The less colourful female is grey-brown above and has buffy underparts covered with dark streaks up onto the throat. The juvenile looks similar to a female. The group of birds classified as “whistlers” is aptly named for their call and the Rufous Whistler is no different. Both sexes have a large repertoire of whistling calls. Well-known calls include the classic, loud, descending “eee-chong!” and fast, rapid-fire “joey-joe-joe-joe-joe-joe...”, however they have a much larger variety of whistles and calls. These birds are found in any treed areas but are usually less common in dense wet forests and open areas. They can often be first detected by their call. The similar looking and similar sounding Golden Whistler (not yet a Bird of the Month) also occurs locally but it is mainly an altitudinal winter migrant to

Wamboin and can be found in the higher altitude wet forests during the summer. There is overlap in the two species during Spring and Autumn when Rufous and Golden Whistlers are both found in the Wamboin region. When seen, Golden Whistlers can be distinguished by the male’s bright gold underparts (not rufous) and a gold collar, with a black head and olive-brown wings. The female can be distinguished by having a plain olive-brown, paler underneath and lacks the dark streaks on the underparts as is present in female Rufous Whistlers. A key difference in the calls of Golden and Rufous Whistlers is that Rufous starts on the higher note and descends on the second note, whereas Golden Whistles starts on the lower note and ascends on the second note. Female Rufous Whistlers may look similar to some other species such as Brown and Striated Thornbills and Speckled Warblers but are much larger than those birds.



Male

(Photos from Google Images)

Female

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From the Corner

Land Use Zoning—This is a subject that comes up from time to time, often in the context of new subdivisions and development. Land use zoning is one of the tools available to council planners within a Local Environmental Plan (LEP), the legislation that provides the basis for land use planning within a Local Government Area (LGA), to help manage orderly development and promote the style of land use considered appropriate throughout an LGA.

The impact of land use zoning is perhaps most apparent in more structured urban areas, where different development styles are more clearly delineated. There are commercial areas, perhaps office blocks or industrial areas, parks and gardens, and often a range of residential development styles, from detached dwellings to high-rise apartment blocks. Land use zoning allows council planners to identify specific areas within a city, town or broader rural area where the sorts of land uses consistent with the existing landscape or a particular development style are to be promoted.

In the most obvious cases, town planners will identify a business district, in a town or city, in a central location, surrounded by residential development, higher density (town house or apartment) development closer to the centre of the town or city and lower density development further out. Industrial areas will generally be located away from residential development and parks and recreational areas will be sited according to demand. All of these areas will be defined within an LEP by distinct Land Use Zones that specifically identify the types of land use that are considered appropriate for the area in question. This element of town planning is one of finding a balance between identifying appropriate locations for particular land uses, providing an appropriate mix of land uses for a population and seeking to minimise conflicts between different styles of land use. Of course, historical development patterns present their own challenges and often conspire against any otherwise ordered system.

Rural areas are managed in a similar manner, with a general focus on agricultural and other compatible land uses. Our rural residential areas sit somewhere in between areas of more concentrated residential development and agricultural lands. The LEPs for all LGAs in NSW are based on a common legislative template known as the Standard Instrument (SI). As part of providing a standardised base for all LEPs, the SI includes a predefined set of Land Use Zones, grouped into general categories—Business, Environmental Protection, Industrial, Recreation, Residential, Rural, Special Purpose and Waterways. Each of these categories includes several specific Land Use Zones, so that the Residential category includes predefined zones for different styles of residential development, from a General Residential zone, and Large Lot through Low, Medium and High Density Residential zones. Similarly, the Rural category includes general Primary Production and Rural Landscape zones, and more specific Forestry and Rural [Primary Production] Small Holdings zones. Interestingly, the Rural category also includes a general Rural Village zone, which accommodates the mixture of compatible small business and residential land uses that typify smaller residential settlements, if not the more general rural landscape.

The other category that has some local relevance is the Environmental Protection category. Like the other categories, the specific Land Use Zones herein cover a range of land uses, from National Parks, through Environmental Conservation, Environmental Management and Environmental Living, the latter being the zoning that has, to date, been applied to our rural residential areas, which broadly embrace a style of residential development that is compatible with local environmental constraints, rather than residential development just for the sake of it.

But all of this is only one part of the land use management story. With the development of Geographic Information Systems over the past 20 years, land use planning is now managed on many different planes, of which land use zoning is just one. No longer are controls tied simply to Land Use Zones. A SI LEP also includes individual mapping elements that specify controls such as subdivision lot sizes and building heights, as well as the identification of terrestrial biodiversity, watercourses and many other landscape features. While there may be relationships between these different characteristics and their legislative controls, all of these conditions are managed independently. While lot sizes in the middle of town might well be smaller than those in rural areas, the Land Use Zone does not dictate the lot size. Similarly, while apartment blocks may well be higher than detached dwellings, the permissibility of apartment blocks or detached dwelling in any particular location and the height of buildings in the same location are managed independently. And controls that relate to environmental features such as terrestrial biodiversity, erodible soils or watercourses don't only apply in areas where environmental land uses are promoted through land use zoning, they apply where ever these features have been identified in the relevant LEP maps.

Land use planning has come a long way from the days when the only controls were on the locations of 'trades' and 'industries'. But still, we've really only had formal planning legislation in NSW since the EP&A Act was introduced in 1979 and even the way in

which this legislation is implemented has changed dramatically as we have been able to make use of modern mapping and GIS methodologies to support the planning process.

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

Land Use Zoning (Jan 2021) Permissible Land Uses (Apr 2019) In the Zone (Jul 2013) -Cr Pete Harrison Ph. 6238 3640 Mob. 0427 711 028 Email: contact@peteharrison.id.au Website: www.peteharrison.id.au

[This article is provided for information purposes only and does not represent any recommendation or formal position of the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council.]

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