



# The Whisper

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**Bungendore Police: 6238 1244 Ambulance Bookings: 131233**

**Wamboin Community Assn [www.wamboincommunity.org.au](http://www.wamboincommunity.org.au)**

**Bywong Community [www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au)**

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

## Bywong and Wamboin Facilities and Contacts

<b>Bywong Community</b>	Mike Wilkins - President	6230 3473	<a href="mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au">president@bywongcommunity.org.au</a>
<b>Bywong Hall Bookings</b>	Bookings Officer		<a href="mailto:lrrhallbywong@gmail.com">lrrhallbywong@gmail.com</a>
<b>Church - Anglican</b>	Gai Donald - Warden	0438 400 364	<a href="mailto:peterandandrew2012@gmail.com">peterandandrew2012@gmail.com</a>
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison - Bungendore	6238 1333	
<b>Fire Brigade</b>	Matt O'Brien - Captain	6128 0600 bsn hrs	<a href="mailto:wamboincaptain@gmail.com">wamboincaptain@gmail.com</a>
<b>Geary's Gap Pony Club</b>	Cameron Smith	0419 449 747	
<b>Golf</b>	Peter Greenwood	6238 3358	<a href="mailto:p.greenwood2@bigpond.com">p.greenwood2@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare – Helpline	6299 1966	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Peter Greenwood - JP	6238 3358	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Andrew Stainlay – JP	0408 469 880	<a href="mailto:stains@bigpond.net.au">stains@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>KYB Bible Study Group</b>	Robyn Doran	6238 3469	<a href="mailto:rdoran4@bigpond.com">rdoran4@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Lake George VIEW Club</b>	Pauline Segeri	6238 1996	
<b>Landcare</b>	Kathy Handel - Treasurer	6238 3596	<a href="mailto:khandel@bigpond.net.au">khandel@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>NSW SES (assist – storm/flood)</b>	NSW Call Centre	132 500	
<b>NSW SES Bungend. (non-urgent)</b>	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	
<b>Sutton School Playgroup</b>	Belinda Robinson - Convenor	0422 262 426	<a href="mailto:brobinson35@hotmail.com">brobinson35@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Table Tennis</b>	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	<a href="mailto:mikemuston@gmail.com">mikemuston@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Community Assoc.</b>	Peter Evans - President	6236 9779	<a href="mailto:president@wamboincommunity.asn.au">president@wamboincommunity.asn.au</a>
<b>Wamboin-Bung. Book Group</b>	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	<a href="mailto:sally.saunders1@bigpond.com">sally.saunders1@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason	6238 3258	<a href="mailto:joan.mason@internode.on.net">joan.mason@internode.on.net</a>
<b>Wamboin Markets</b>	Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	<a href="mailto:lmsconsulting@bigpond.com">lmsconsulting@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Play Group</b>	Coordinator		<a href="mailto:wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com">wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com</a>
<b>Gearys Gap Pony Club</b>	Kate O'Connor, President	0413 008 824	<a href="mailto:gearysgap_ponyclub@gmail.com">gearysgap_ponyclub@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Stacey Burgess -Contact Person	0414 672 979	<a href="mailto:wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com">wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wamboin Thurs Social Grp</b>	Narelle Pumphrey	0438 917 206	<a href="mailto:pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au">pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au</a>
<b>Wonderful Women of Wamboin</b>	Gail Ritchie Knight	0416 097 500	<a href="mailto:whirlwind1@argonite.com.au">whirlwind1@argonite.com.au</a>
<b>ARF (Rescue Dogs)</b>	Lisa Whitney	0408 260 796	<a href="mailto:lisawhitney059@gmail.com">lisawhitney059@gmail.com</a>

### Young Entrepreneurs:

Rebecca Purdie – pet/horse sitting 6238 3343 Kathleen Dunkerly - baby sitting - 0435 794 070 [kathleen.dunkerly07@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.dunkerly07@gmail.com)  
Grace Taylor 0490 758 476 baby sitting and tutoring for primary school students [gracetaylor145@gmail.com](mailto:gracetaylor145@gmail.com)

**The Wamboin Whisper:** The Whisper is a monthly community newsletter established in 1981 by and owned by the Wamboin Community Association. The Whisper is published at the start of each month, excluding January. It is distributed to every letterbox in Wamboin, Bywong and Queanbeyan Palerang Council residents just southeast of the Federal Highway. Each issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the first Sunday of the month and is also then available at [www.wamboincommunity.asn.au](http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au). Any proceeds from advertisements in The Whisper after printing costs go to the Wamboin Community Association.

**Contributions to the Whisper:** Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. The current editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 0409 997 082. Paul Downey of Cooper Road also shares in doing the editing. Please email contributions to either [whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au) or to [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or mail them or drop them off. On contentious matters the Wamboin Community Association will strive to maintain a balanced view, by seeking advice from the editorial team and by seeking alternative views to be published in the same edition. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before, so the **deadline for the October 2021 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, September 26, 2021. Advertising prices,** per issue, based on rough fraction of inside the margins A4 area: 1/8 \$24 1/6 \$29 ¼ \$35 1/3 \$44 ½ \$70 2/3 \$87 Full Page \$140. email or phone the editor as above.

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	<p><b>Wamboin Community Association Presidents Paragraphs</b></p> <p><b>“Here we go again, everything is cancelled!”</b></p>	
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Well the NSW and the ACT have sort of stopped since our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the Whisper last month, Unfortunately the Covid-19 situation that exploded out of Sydney and has put us all into lockdown once again. The ACT has recognised the surrounding communities including Wamboin and Bywong and created a fringe dweller bubble. So with the current health orders in place pretty much all events have been cancelled until further notice. Please check our Facebook page for more frequent updates on our local events.

The big thing to do to avoid these ongoing cancellations is to **GET VACCINATED**. If you are not doing it for yourself, then do it for others in community, your family, your friends, our elderly and our vulnerable. You may be happy to run the gauntlet but it is your impact on others. Don't be selfish. This way we can stop cancelling things.

One very important thing is to keep an eye out for your friends and neighbours and other vulnerable people in our community during this lockdown period. As it extends it will put pressure on people in many different ways. Please take the time for a quick phone call and chat to see if they are ok for groceries and essential items if they cannot get into town or their usual services or family from Canberra cannot reach them. Just a mere phone call can make them feel connected back in to the world and can make a huge difference to mental health. Make a list and call one person per day, you both might be better for it. The site below is for free, and offers not for profit, evidence-based mental health supports for young people at Smiling Mind <https://www.smilingmind.com.au>

Just a little thought I came across the other day. When we are born we get a chance to look out many rooms, through big landscaped windows to see multiple views of the world all around us. As we get a bit older we start to form our views and opinions which are reinforced by when we surround ourselves by people that are usually like minded, because it makes you feel more comfortable. Then those multiple views from different windows and different rooms begin to get slowly boarded up one by one to a point where we are just looking out our single room with a narrow single window getting more and more narrowed and more and more people surrounding us reinforcing this narrowing view. Then we get to a point thinking everyone else should see and think the same thing as us because we only see our narrow view from our narrow window. During this lock down maybe it is time open up some of those boarded up windows.

**2021 Local Government Elections** –postponed to the 4 December 2021.

**WCA AGM 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021** – postponed date TBA

**Macs Reef and Bungendore Road Intersection** – now fully sign posted and marked so now enforceable.

**Home Produce Markets** –September market cancelled

**Wamboin Social Drop-In Group**– Drop in group in abeyance till further notice.

**QPRC Mobile Library** - Due to the current lockdown the Mobile Library is not operating. All three QPRC Libraries are closed until further notice. For any Library queries you are able to contact the Queanbeyan Library. Phone:6285 6255 or 6285 6238 Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm or check the website <https://library.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Services/mobile-library>

**Whisper Archives** – I hope everyone enjoyed the blast from the past in our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition last month. Just a reminder, that other archived issues of the Whisper are available on our website. They make some pretty interesting lockdown reading of events and challenges over the past forty years. Great to know the history of where you live.

Please look after yourself, families, friends and your neighbours in these trying times..

*We are Wamboin*

- Peter Evans - President.



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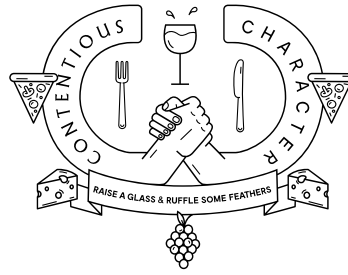
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Normal trading including takeaway services will resume as lockdown lifts Thursdays & Fridays 11-9pm, Saturday, Sunday & Monday 11-5pm

## CONTENTIOUS LOCKDOWN MENU

### KOREAN PORK STEW WITH RICE \$26

Kookie's famous Korean Pork stew with Korean chili paste, (Gochujang) potato & onion. Served with a side of rice. **GF, DF**

### HOUSE BEEF STROGANOFF WITH RICE \$26

Fried Beef strips, onions, mushroom and cream sauce combined to create this classic Russian favorite. Includes a side rice.

### PRAWN LAKSA \$26

Prawns, vegetables, & vermicelli rice noodles in our house version of this Southeast Asian spicy noodle soup.  
**\*GF, \*DF,**

### TOFU LAKSA \$26

Fried tofu, vegetables, & vermicelli rice noodles in our house version of this Southeast Asian spicy noodle soup. **\*GF, \*DF,**

### THAI GREEN CHICKEN CURRY \$26

Thai Chicken Curry with coconut milk, fresh green chilies & vegetables. Includes a side rice. **\*GF**

### THAI GREEN VEGETABLE CURRY \$26

Thai vegetable Curry with coconut milk, vegetables & fresh green chilies. Includes a side rice. **\*GF**

## SIDES

### Naan Bread \$4

Traditional Naan Bread. **V.**

### Additional Rice \$4

Side of house boiled rice.  
**V, \*DF, \*VG**

## LOCKDOWN PIZZA MENU

### THURS – SUN EVENINGS

17.00 – 20.00 (LAST ORDERS 19.45)

### CHEESY GARLIC BREAD \$18

Rich garlic and cheese. **V**

### MARGARITA \$22

House tomato sauce, bocconcini, fresh basil. **V**

### KOREAN BEEF \$26

Bulgogi beef, Spanish onion, capsicum, shallot.

### PEPPERONI 🍕 \$26

House tomato sauce, pepperoni, jalapeno.

### CHICKEN \$26

House tomato sauce, chicken breast, artichoke, Spanish onion, balsamic glaze. **V**

### FUNGHI \$24

Porcini bechamel, mushroom, rocket, parmesan, truffle oil. **V**

### POTATO & BACON \$24

House tomato sauce, topped with potato, bacon, aioli.

### QUATTRO CHEESE \$24

Honey, four cheese topping. **V**

### GLUTEN FREE BASE \$4



**Annual General Meeting – Bywong needs YOU!**

**Postponed to: Wednesday 13 OCTOBER, 7:00pm** at the Bywong Hall, Birriwa Road.

In a “normal year”, the Bywong Community Association organises a number of community events, including the Car Boot Sale, the Trivia Night and the Christmas Gathering. We also raise funds from the sale of local artwork (postcards and teatowels) and use these funds to benefit the community and to add to our local facilities, such as the amazing playground at the Bywong Hall.

We are an enthusiastic group, but few in number, which limits our potential. So, if you have ideas for new/improved events or community activities and energy to help organise and participate in them, we invite you to join us! Membership is free, and you can also join the Committee. All Committee positions become vacant at the AGM. If you would like to find out more, please email [president@bywongcommunity.org.au](mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au) , or just come along to the AGM.

IF it becomes necessary to further postpone the AGM, we will advertise this on our webpage and in Bywong-related Facebook groups. – Mike Wilkins, President

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Author: Catherine Bird

# Key herbs for LAMINITIS support



Nutritional support for a horse who suffers laminitis is vital. For the horse that is prone to laminitis, clivers is a useful daily supplement to improve the integrity of the hoof as it is one of the most nutritional herbs available and especially high in Silica.

With the older horse whose circulation may be sluggish, hawthorn berry is a further support and full of bioflavonoids that improve the elasticity of the supportive connective tissue that can become strained when the feet are sore while improving the health of the blood vessels that supply the feet.

For the horse that has low grade inflammation in his feet, turmeric powder will help lower the levels of discomfort. Often when there is systemic inflammation, there may also be arthritis in joints or irritated tendons and ligaments, with these horses adding ginger powder to the mix will increase the efficacy of the turmeric in a similar way black pepper is sometimes used.

For pain relief, where there is ongoing pain yarrow combines well with turmeric as a general management and recovery approach. Devils claw powder can be very effective with acute stages, however if the horse is already on Bute, do not combine these two as you could increase the toxic effects of the drug or irritate the horse's gut. For the horse with a sensitive gut, white willow bark is a gentler option and hawthorn berry will increase the potency of this herb if needed.

Once a horse is through the acute stage, using liver herbs to address the two phases of detoxification will help cleanse the effect of the stress on the body. Dandelion root or St Mary's thistle powder will address phase one, while turmeric powder will address phase two so that any residual drug therapy is not recycled back into the body and the recovery period can then follow on with clivers, restoring integrity to the hoof.

For the horse where stress has been a trigger to the laminitic episode, chamomile flowers will support the nervous and hepatic systems, and help the muscles that have become tense while the feet have been sore.

Choose your herbs carefully when dealing with laminitis, keeping the selection simple also helps not to overload the horse further with too many herbs. Combining a nutritional herb with an anti-inflammatory herb and liver support herb is often enough to start restoring health, and a maintenance program can follow on with nutritional and circulatory support once the hoof is sound again.

For correct dosage rates on the herbs mentioned in this article please contact Carol when placing your order.

Copyright: Catherine Bird, who is also the author of a Healthy Horse the Natural Way, has been an equine natural therapist for 27 years working closely with Country Park Animal Herbs for over 13 years offering advice to their clients.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this article is for educational purpose only and is not meant to replace veterinary advice or treatment.

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*Ad-Design Sandy Morphet*

## The Wamboin Firefighter

'Get Ready' Weekend 11-12 September



'Get Ready' Weekend (GRW) is just around the corner!

Preparing for the bush fire danger period is as important as ever. We encourage you to set aside 11-12 September to start or strengthen your preparations for the fire season.

We've all seen the devastating impact that bushfires can have – on people, properties and communities in Australia and overseas. The statutory Bush Fire Danger Period in our region of NSW commences on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Last month's article provided information about the upcoming NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) state-wide 'Get Ready' Weekend (GRW) initiative in September. Unfortunately, in the intervening weeks the Covid-19 environment has worsened. At the time of finalising this article, NSW is under tighter Covid-19 rules and restrictions. In line with those changes, the RFS advice to brigades is that face-to-face GRW events are not permitted while the current NSW Public Health Orders *Stay at Home* restrictions are in place. The restrictions are in force till midnight 10 September. **The invitation for individual residents to come to the Wamboin Fire Station on 12 September to talk-one-on-one with an experienced firefighter is CANCELLED.**

We will continue to provide regular posts on the brigade's Facebook page and our website. Keep an eye out for our posts that bust common myths and misconceptions about bush fire risks and provide advice to help you get ready for bush fire.

**BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL PLAN:** If you haven't taken steps already, now is a good time to get yourself, family and property better prepared for bush fire. **It's a fact - if you and your home are well prepared, you stand a better chance of surviving a bush fire - regardless of whether you opt to Stay & Defend or Leave Early.** The NSW RFS website contains much useful information and offers a guide to preparing a bush fire survival plan. There are four simple steps:

Step 1 – Discuss what to do if a bush fire threatens your home

Step 2 – Prepare your home and get it ready for bush fire season

Step 3 – Know the bush fire alerts

Step 4 – Keep all the bush fire information numbers, websites and the smartphone app readily available.

**BURNING OFF/FIRE PERMITS:** From 1<sup>st</sup> October (start of the statutory Bush Fire Danger Period) you will need a Fire Permit to light a fire in the open (other than a cooking fire in an appropriately prepared site). **However** there have been some bad experiences of escaped fires in NSW over the past few years and there is now a reluctance to issue permits when there have been adequate opportunities to complete burning before the season starts. We were spared the devastation of two years ago and notwithstanding the recent rains there is a lot of volatile fuel in the local landscape. It is **strongly recommended** that you complete all hazard reduction and pile burning **before** the Fire Season starts otherwise it will probably have to wait until April next year.

### USEFUL LINKS and CONTACT INFORMATION

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade: <https://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>

NSW Rural Fire Service: <https://rfs.nsw.gov.au> and <https://myfireplan.com.au>

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade is on Facebook

Lake George Fire Control Centre 6128 0600



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## WCAG – Community Fibre Project Update - 31 August 2021

Earlier this month the project team undertaking the procurement process for our fibre network, in the Department of Regional NSW, contacted WCAG to advise that its evaluation of the RFT had been completed and that none of the tenders submitted met the requirements specified in the tender documents.

While this is obviously disappointing, it is by no means the end of either the process, or more importantly, our fibre network project. The WCAG subsequently met with senior officers of the Department of Regional NSW to discuss this outcome and agree on options to move forward.

The WCAG remains focused on the construction of a fibre network to support our community. Importantly, so does the Department and they have given us a firm commitment that they will continue to work with WCAG in order to identify an alternative approach to improve our access to high-speed broadband. The Department has also confirmed that the funding allocation, to support our project, continues to remain available.

Over the course of the next few weeks the WCAG will work with the Department to consider the relative benefits of these alternatives.

Obviously, in the current environment, where we are all locked down, we know that the absence of access to reliable, high-speed internet is proving extremely challenging to many residents – adding stress to our families, limiting alternatives for social interactions, complicating our capacity to meet work demands and disadvantaging students' educational needs. In its first submissions to government – some three years ago – the WCAG identified the critical importance of broadband to our community in responding to a crisis or natural disaster. If we ever needed proof of this, then Covid-19 has certainly delivered that. In the meantime, please stay safe and we will provide an update as soon as we are able to.

**If you or any of your neighbours is new to the area then please sign up with WCAG so that we have an email for future correspondence. Our current mailout list is now 2 years old and it is more important than ever that we are able to stay in touch with the community.** - Regards, WCAG

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## “Shift-on” Sifton Bush (*Cassinia sifton*)

A background and some management techniques  
by Geoff Butler and the Geary’s Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group

(you can see the 2 pictures in colour at [wamboincommunity.org.au](http://wamboincommunity.org.au) or via Google searches)

Considerably large areas of Bywong and Wamboin have been invaded over the last decade by a plant commonly called Sifton Bush, a drought-hardy perennial native shrub. Sifton Bush is also known by other common names, being: Chinese Bush, Chinese Scrub, Chinese Tea Shrub, Sifting Bush, Drooping Cassinia, Tear Shrub and Biddy Bush. It has made considerable ingress in the region, especially over the last 3-4 years. It has not, however, reached its full invasive potential regionally. Sifton Bush is regarded in our region as a *Class 4: Locally controlled weed*, defined as: “Plants that pose a **potentially serious threat to primary production, the environment or human health**, are widely distributed in an area to which the order applies and are likely to spread in the area or to another area (**bold our emphasis**). The management actions associated with Class 4 weeds are: “The growth of the plant must be managed in a way that reduces its numbers, spread and incidence, and continually stops reproducing. The plant must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed”.

Sifton bush was first recorded in our region in the 1960’s. When sifton bush first arrived in Wamboin, it was referred to as *C. arcuata*. The taxonomic status of sifton bush was somewhat confused, with some accepting *C. arcuata* as a synonym of *C. sifton*, while others recognised two similar species (*C. sifton* and *C. arcuata*). The latter is now well-described in a revision of *Cassinia* (Orchard A. E. 2017), with *C. arcuata* (common names millet scrub, cough bush and rosemary cassinia) now regarded as a rarer species from Western Australia, South Australia, western Victoria and south-west NSW. Sifton bush is a pioneering species, well suited to invading and establishing on disturbed/degraded sites and where similar general human and climate-induced disturbances occur, and does it very rapidly. There is a very useful section of the revision paper (Orchard A.E. 2017) that shows the possible early spread of this species from the early 1800’s to the 1860’s, which was potentially through early goldmining ventures and other rural developments. Despite various references to being invasive of disturbed or degraded circumstances, sifton bush has also successfully established and reproduced in moderately dense stands of re-generating native vegetation, both in open situations and in more stable areas of woodland in Wamboin/Bywong.



One reason for the sudden widespread expansion of Sifton Bush in our region was assisted by the depletion of ground cover over wide areas during the last drought, providing ideal conditions and thus the opportunity for its rapid spread. This species has not reached its full potential in the region yet, and is still spreading. With the current moist soil conditions, its exponential spread will continue this spring and summer.

Sifton Bush has a massive seed production (up to the millions in fully-mature plants) with a viability of 2-4 years, and its seedlings establish most rapidly on bare ground and pastures that have been degraded or lost through drought and/or overgrazing, but also places more stable areas of native vegetation at risk. Sifton Bush can also harbour various invasive feral animal species (e.g. rabbits and foxes), and the (now) not uncommon dense infestations may be a fire hazard.

Needless to say, local land managers/holders have recognised the problems created by this species, and even though a native plant, realise that sifton bush has to be managed for the reasons stated above, and under their legal obligations as land managers. It is also worth remembering that badly-infested properties are often less sought after and land and property values can be impacted. It is highly recommended that landholders read the DPI factsheet “Sifton Bush (*Cassinia sifton*)” ([- see reference at the end of this article](#)). [It provides useful information on management and photos of this species at various stages of growth and flowering.](#)

**Management:** While the above factsheet provides useful information on various means of management, it is worthwhile emphasising the manual management suggestions, as these are relatively easy and “softer” on the environment.

**Maintain ground cover:** Maintain ground cover at least at 75% cover - the denser the better. Maintain the density of native or exotic pastures and forbs by not overgrazing and, wherever possible, allow perennial grasses to seed. Maintaining ground cover helps by competing with germinating seedlings of Sifton Bush.

**Removal of mature (seeding) plant:** Mature plants (1m and taller - usually about 2 years old when

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seeding) can simply be cut off at ground level, and usually do not re-shoot. If they do, wait until the shoots are up to 150mm tall and spot spray. Alternatively, cut off at ground level and immediately treat the cut area with Glyphosate.

It is important not to transport or drag seeding or recently seeded plants too far. It is far better to heap in one spot for burning at a later stage or spread a large tarp and lay plants on that so they are kept contained, allowing transport to where they can be piled for disposal. Always cover any mature pruning's if the load is moving any distance. All areas surrounding removed mature plants will need to be monitored (potentially for up to 4 years) for any seedlings that emerge.

If plants are seeding, slashing will spread the seed, and seed can also be transported on slashing machinery to un-infested areas. Slashing also cuts higher and shatters the stems, and they probably will reshoot if not immediately spot-sprayed with Glyphosate.

**Removal of immature (non-seeding) plants:** Learn to identify seedlings and remove all small isolated or scattered plants before they flower and seed. Flowering occurs over an extended period, but generally from October to December in our region, and seed production late summer and autumn. Seedlings take from 2-3 years before they mature and flower. Young plants up to 300mm tall are easily removed as they occur, and is a very easy process when the soil is moist. Monitoring could and should be implemented immediately so plants do not reach maturity. Foot patrols over your property should be conducted twice per year, and all observed seedling uprooted. This one action will seriously reduce future infestations, and is the easiest and most efficient means of managing Sifton Bush.

**Grazing management of Sifton Bush:** Sifton Bush is unpalatable to most grazing animals, so should not be relied on for management purposes.

**Ground disturbance:** Avoid too much widespread soil disturbance, as this prepares a ready seedbed for new germinants.

**Broadscale herbicide spraying:** This method should be used with great caution, and only by experienced invasive plant control specialists. Herbicides commonly used for Sifton Bush will destroy or damage surrounding vegetation, and in areas of predominantly native vegetation, could have environmental impacts. The potential for herbicide damage to existing ground cover is high, thus creating patches of bare soil prone to re-infestation. At the very least, professional advice should be sought before implementing broadscale herbicide use.

**Conclusion:** Sifton Bush is now well-established over wide areas in the local region, and will always be with us. Regular and efficient management is the only way we will keep it under some control.

**References**

NSW DPI Undated. A factsheet on Sifton Bush. Observed August 2021. Has colour photos.

Available at: <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/SiftonBush>.

Orchard, A. E. 2017. "A revision of *Cassinia* (Asteraceae: Gnaphalieae) in Australia. 7. *Cassinia* subgenus *Achromolaena*". Australian Systematic Botany published by CSIRO Publishing, available at <https://www.publish.csiro.au/sb/sb17033>

There is further information on this species available through the internet.

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## Ramblings From 700 M Above Sea Level

This time last year I was too preoccupied trying to establish a new garden on a blank canvas at 700 m to miss the delights of my winter garden in Wamboin; daffodils, jonquils, muscari, triteleia, my instant ikebana/japonica, and the gradual return of the many small birds. I've heard some familiar twittering of late here, but where are my dapper blue wren boys? And where are my smiling daffodils?

Initially we'd decided to take the easy way out and get a landscaper in to transform our new backyard, but we hadn't factored in COVID. The earliest anyone could start was five months away. So we decided, with a generous spring in our favour, to spring into action ourselves.

Under the tutelage of a very generous Wamboin friend and gardening guru, and with cuttings and bits and pieces from friends' gardens, we started. The garden's only original features were swathes of brilliant red pine chips along the fence and a large garden bed of pebbles; a quick fix by non gardeners to prepare a house for sale.

The red chips were the first to go and that was a story in itself. Once gone I discovered to my dismay heavy wet clay, builders' blue metal, pieces of concrete and thirty odd socks buried at random, obviously pinched from the clothes line. I was, however, consoled by the big fat worms but puzzled as to what they found desirable there. Choosing plants and digging in that heavily shaded place was difficult, but trying to soften and add life to the pebbled area with leaves, colours and textures was sheer hard work! They did leave behind three ornamental Buddhas. At first I thought they might go the way of the red pine chips, but in fact they turned out to be invaluable; perfect markers to shift around when deciding where to plant a tree. I've grown quite fond of them now, and I can't believe how easy it is to dig holes and plant trees wherever you fancy.

Apart from the socks, there is soil. It is wet and lacking humus but the clay is much deeper. I can dig rather than scratch the surface between the bands of shale and plant both natives and exotics from pots, not tube stock. There are now 14 trees, and the first spring blossoms are appearing. Maybe there will be daffodils next year, and wrens and spine bills in the grevilleas, callistemons and correas. There are cockatoos around, but not in the garden.

I picked up a scrap of paper where I'd scribbled a few words not twelve months ago. A gardening friend and I had been exchanging bird stories. She complained about the pesky rosellas that were snipping off her rose buds. I recounted my tale of woe about the ungrateful cockatoos that, after eating all the birdseed I'd put out on the breakfast stump, showed their appreciation by flying around to the front garden and lopping off the heads of all my yellow pansies and daffodils. Not to be outdone by my cockatoo story she countered with a tale that trumped mine!

Her Auntie Myrtle, long gone and mercifully with it the name, ran a general store in country Victoria. Customers would phone with their orders. Unbeknown to her when the phone rang and she wasn't around, her pet cockatoo took over, knocked the phone off the hook and imitating her perfectly would say, "Good morning, Myrtle Roberts speaking, can I take your order? Yes, Yes,... hmmm, aha, yes...yes... Is that all? Thank you. Goodbye." It wasn't until a few days later when some of her loyal customers complained that their orders weren't being filled did she realise what had been happening.

What would a home and garden be without birds...and in winter time, daffodils. I'm doing my best to encourage them here, and waiting for the blossoms and new leaves to appear over the back fence. - Jill Gregory

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## Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For September I chose the Rose Robin, a very small and pretty bird that I have seen recently in Wamboin for the first time.

### Rose Robin (*Petroica rosea*)

Size: 11-12.5cm

Status: Uncommon, nomadic breeding resident

The male Rose Robin is a very colourful bird. The breast is a vibrant rose-red. The upperparts, tail, head and throat are dark grey, with a small white forehead. The vent and lower belly are creamy-white, as is the undertail and outer tail feathers. The underwings are dark grey, and white on the 'armpits', extending along the leading edge. The female in comparison, is duller in colour, but just as pretty, being mainly grey-brown above and greyish-white below, with a white forehead, white outer tail feathers and white wingbars bordered black. Sometimes females have a pale rose-pink wash on the breast, but this is not always present. Both sexes have black eyes, small black bills, and black legs. Juveniles resemble females but are drabber. Rose Robins are more arboreal than other Robins (species in the genus *Petroica*), and are often seen in the canopy, whereas other Robin species usually reside closer to ground level.

Male Rose Robins are distinctive, but females can pose ID problems with other female robins (mostly the Scarlet Robin and Flame Robin in the local area). Female Rose Robins are the smallest of these species. If present, a pink tinge on the breast can help separate them from a scarlet tinge on female Scarlet, and brown chest on female Flame Robin. The posture of the bird is also another important feature.

Rose Robins nearly always perch with their wings drooped below the tail (which is often raised), and generally have a more horizontal posture, whereas Scarlet and particularly Flame Robins have a more vertical stance when perched, and rarely have their wings drooped like the Rose Robin. The call is also distinctive, and can be used to help with identification as call is often the first distinguishing of the bird's presence. An onomatopoeic rendering of the call is "dee-dee-dee-dee-dee-ZEET-ZEET" with emphasis on the last 2 syllables. A recording of the call can be heard using the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jgi6uEAlhyo>.

The birds often 'shiver', and fan their wings, while calling. Rose Robins are generally uncommon, mainly occurring in dense, wet forests, such as Warks Rd in Namadgi National Park. They are also somewhat regular at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. In winter, they disperse widely across south-eastern Australia into more open woodland, which is when they are likely to be seen in the



Male

Wamboin area. In the past month, I saw a male in a patch of dense vegetation, and then a female, in the top of a tree calling. This was my first sighting of a Rose Robin in 11 years. They are evidently around in the local area, so keep an eye (and ear) out for them.



Female

(Photos from Google images)



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## Nature Notes August 2021

Jo Walker

The last month of Winter is just about over, with much of the landscape already looking Spring-like. Quite a few Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) are flowering – as are the Red-stemmed Wattles (*A. rubida*). Both of these are brightening up Sutton Road at present along with a patch of the introduced Cootamundra Wattle (*A. baileyana*). On my place, I've recently seen profuse cream flowers on several little Ploughshare Wattles (*A. gunnii*). These are tiny shrubs, usually about 30 cm tall, and have small, pointed, almost triangular leaves.

Spring is definitely a time for yellow flowers. In addition to the Wattles, a few Buttercups (*Ranunculus lappaceus*) are flowering in the damper areas and, up on the hillsides, bright yellow daisy flowers nestle amongst the large ground-hugging leaves of Bears Ears (*Cymbonotus lawsonianus*).

There are a few dark purple patches of *Hardenbergia violacea* flowers (False Sarsparilla) along some of the local roadsides. This plant is a climber and often adorns local shrubs too. Another smaller blue-flowering pea plant showing some colour right now is the little *Hovea heterophylla*. And the small, but usually abundant yellow flowers of *Dillwynia sieberi* are just beginning to appear amongst the plant's short spiny leaves.

Cream flowers are still visible on *Melichrus urceolatus* (Urn Heath), and pinks buds on two other heath plants (Epacridaceae Family) – *Lissanthe strigosa* (Peach Heath) and *Brachyloma daphnoides* (Daphne Heath) – indicate an imminent flowering.

And, the first *Wurmbea dioica* (Early Nancy) of the season was flowering here on 30 August.

The Magpies are usually the first birds here to consider it's time for nesting, but I haven't seen them picking up sticks yet. But, the Fan-tailed Cuckoo obviously thinks it's about time some birds started laying eggs as their call, a downward musical trill, can be heard amongst the trees most days now. A pair of Wood Ducks has been looking at some local real-estate – a hollow where a large branch dropped off a lofty eucalypt tree several years ago. And, this morning, a pair of Grey Fan-tails were flitting around amongst some shrubs near the house when one of them flew over to examine the windows for spider webs, one of the main structural components of their nests.

One or two Grass Skinks have emerged to skitter around in search of food, but I haven't seen any of the larger lizards yet. Echidnas are already digging large holes in Meat Ant nests and one of the Wombats is leaving a pile of droppings inside the gate now and then to remind me who the place belongs to.

And gangly little Kangaroo joeys with just a dusting of short fur are leaving their mothers' pouches to explore their lovely surrounding - a sure sign of Spring.

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To my understanding there has not yet been an accident, but there have been several near misses. I have had one of these experiences, and it left me very shaken. The other residents have also experienced dangerous situations when leaving the driveway.

I have several carers who come to me every week and they have also voiced their concern when leaving my residence.

I went to the Palerang Council Offices in Bungendore and advised them of our safety issues. I suggested a mirror may help. The council representative provided me with a job number and said she would assess the problem.

Council representatives came 2 weeks ago, but unfortunately no one was available. They called afterwards, agreed there was a problem and that some scrub needed to be cleared. The solution for the danger of the oncoming traffic from the right, was to tell people to exit to the left, go to the end of the road, turn around and come back. This does not solve the problem of there still being little notice of the oncoming vehicles. When I suggested the mirror again I was advised they never do that. I then asked if she would give me a letter containing their findings, but she said no, they don't do that either.

I'm not happy with this decision and welcome any other ideas that will keep people safe. - Chris Davies



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## Wamboin Golf – August 2021

Mahogany Ridge, Sunday, 1 August. A grey day with patchy rain and a light breeze. Not ideal for golf but not impossible. Unless of course you're in the middle of a pandemic and the course is sodden. The Greens Committee cancelled the competition. This is getting to be an annoying habit. Although most of our members stayed home your correspondent was able to quickly round up some willing golfers from the multitude wandering the streets of South West Sydney and bus them to Wamboin - cunningly avoiding the mounted police and the sniffer dogs (trained to detect the Delta variant) - to tackle the Western Nine. The Eastern Nine is out of play pending the completion of construction of the Pfizer Bridge across the source of the Yass River (discovered by John Hanning Speke in 1858).

Back at a certain large shed, socially distanced and wearing masks (except when taking a mouthful or two of a restorative throat lubricant), we agreed there are some people you just have to feel sorry for. Firstly there's poor Delta Goodrem. After a valiant battle with cancer she carves out a glittering career in the music industry but do they give her an OAM? No, they name a virus after her. Then there's that clever low security prisoner in Goulburn. His meticulously-planned escape (he opened the back gate and fled) was foiled by the late arrival of the get-away train. And of course that chap in charge in Brazil whose name I've forgotten (sounds like balls-in-a-row): after ruthlessly prosecuting a policy of herd immunity by doing nothing he's rewarded by a case of chronic hiccups after orthodontic work. With deaths at over half a million and rising, Ballsy clearly bit off more than he could chew. But the people I'm feeling sorriest for at the moment are the poor old Afghans now the war's over. If you can believe the Taliwhackers, they now control a fair chunk of the country. This not good news for peace and harmony, respect for women, education for girls, cultural monuments, religious tolerance and prosperity (unless you're a Taliwhacker). It is your correspondent's melancholy observation from examples of conflict throughout the ages that war can be concluded by a decisive victory in only two ways: (a) if you are willing and able to kill lots of people including yours, theirs and anyone else who gets in the way (note that an estimated 60,000 French civilians were killed in the WW 2 battle for Normandy; by the time Paris was liberated it was well over one million); (b) if the invaders just call it a day and go home, which is what we did in Vietnam and now Afghanistan. This raises the question of what we were doing there in the first place. The conventional reason advanced was to rob terrorists of a breeding ground. I can't see much difference between the Taliwhackers and ISIS. Still, the troops are no doubt happy to quit the land where, according to a formerly "embedded" ABC journalist (a real one, not one of those current affairs communists), the women cannot be seen, the men cannot be trusted and the food cannot be eaten. Not to mention all those dangerous IUDs by the roadsides. No doubt they'll relish their redeployment to fight the virus breakout in Sydney.

Meanwhile back home, tough-talking NSW CMO, Dr Gregorienne Chant, has come down hard on the Travelling Wilberries. She, like you, has seen David Williamson's play "The Removalists" in which three furniture movers travel from Sydney to Melbourne, Adelaide and back again, spreading joy and mirth wherever they go. The play's moral is that unless we look after each other everything ends in tears, a fine uplifting thought. Dr Chant and our Glad (bless her) share that thesis. So embrace the lockdown. I can say that because my business – fearless reporter – is based on the three golden rules: no rent; no debt; no stock. I sympathise with those who carry the burden of all three. The rest of us, via the money we give to the civil authority (taxes), must help if we mean to heed Williamson's warning.

Having put our Sydney guests back on the bus for home we speculated on the name of the dimwit who signed the advice to the immigration minister to deny Quade Cooper Australian citizenship. I guess we'll never know. He/she/it and the minister should be red-carded. Poor old Quade has only lived here since he was 13, played with distinction for the Wallabies and has recently been recalled to the squad for the Bledisloe Cup. And talking of sport, aren't we doing well in the Olympics! Thank god for the women. And in 2032 they're going to be in Brisbane. I can't wait. No wonder AOC supremo, John Outergarments, was keen to bolster the Australian presence at the opening ceremony by insisting on a good roll-up including his pal, O'Shea (I think that's what he said). Whoever O'Shea is remains a mystery. Also mysterious is when we'll be able to use the community hall as the 19<sup>th</sup> hole. Sydney's lockdown is scheduled to extend another eight weeks at time of writing. But golf will continue one way or another. In the meantime look after each other and get vaccinated! - Larry King, isolated golfer.



### EXPRESSIONS of INTEREST

#### Two Part-Time Opportunities to deliver a local Community Resilience Project

These two part-time contract opportunities involve implementation of the Building Community Resilience Program in the Bywong and Wamboin areas of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council. The contracted activities are planned to be delivered over approximately 18 months, from September 2021 depending on COVID-19 lockdown developments.

Background information together with full details of the deliverables are available from <https://www.resilientbywongwamboin.net/post/two-part-time-opportunities-available>

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Without the month by month donation of time by the residents listed below, it would not be possible for Wamboin and Bywong to have the Whisper. Thank you to Leigh Derek Morris and their family who have delivered Whispers to the 40 mailboxes on Doust Rd and Wyoming Rd for several years.. Thanks also to Peter Sharp, who has offered to deliver the 20 on Doust Road so as to split the mailboxing with the Morris family.

The Whisper is owned by the Wamboin Community Association and written by locals who volunteer to provide content they hope will be interesting and beneficial to the rest of us. Remember that any resident of Bywong or Wamboin is welcome to contribute to the Whisper. In doing so you will almost certainly be doing something nice for your 1300+ neighbours. The main guidelines are that it (1) be related to living in Bywong or Wamboin, (2) be beneficial to and respectful of the rest of us and that (3) it be paid for as an ad if it may benefit the writer's own income or business.

Without the businesses who pay to advertise in the Whisper we could not pay the printer, so please consider these advertisers when you are searching for services or products that they supply. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association

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Colleen Foster	B'dore Rd to Nrtm Rd	22	Rob Henry	South end Clare Valley	41
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
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Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Liza Davis	Macs Reef Birriwa to Harriott	14
Daryl Bourke	Harriot Rd	26	Cheryl Warnock	Macs Reef Rd (Nwington2 Bankers)	11
Sandra Favre	Newwington Rd	20	Carol & Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (Bankers To Fed Hwy)	34
Attila & Cherry Hrgsi.	Snowgum Road	26			

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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

145: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 6236 9722 [bushranger\\_au@hotmail.com](mailto:bushranger_au@hotmail.com)

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Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	24	Leigh & Derek Morris	Wyoming Road	20
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	33	Peter Sharp	Doust Road	20

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Robyn Elsom	Denley Dr (Sth End to 429)	15	JonesFmly+JulieJohnsn	Denley 191 to 414	26
Tony Bond	HoganDr/OranaDr/Yuranga Dr	49	Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf incl Bchm Gr	35
Murray Goodridge	B'dore Rd (MR to&nclgd Smrihl)	39	Diana Griffin	Majors Close	19
Diana Boswell	DonnellyRd 29 & Grove Rd 9	38	Advertisers & Misc	Out of area advertiser mailouts	38

**TOTAL 1,342**



## Wamboin Pony Club

Wamboin Pony club's July rally day was held on our grounds combined with our riding friends from Queanbeyan Pony Club. We had some Pony club instructors come and instruct on how to do a Stockman's challenge. The riders learnt how to go over bridges, open and close gates, go through hanging noodles as well as many other fun activities. All the riders and horses had a great time and learnt many new skills. We also had sessions in Sporting, dressage and show jumping. It was a great fun day and all the riders, horses and instructors had a blast.

If you have access to your own horse and are aged between 2-25 years and are interested in joining a small local pony club please get in contact with us. We have 3 fully enclosed arenas for great piece of mind knowing that all the horses and riders can't "disappear" 😊 We have great instructors

with a wealth of knowledge between them in many different disciplines and all our members are welcoming and friendly no matter what your age or riding level. Follow us on face book or visit our website and get in Contact with us today.

– Stacey Burgess, Wamboin Pony Club Secretary

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**Bookings:**  
[yorohling@gmail.com](mailto:yorohling@gmail.com)

**Giorgia Rose – Instructor**  
Saturdays weekly  
**Bookings:**  
[giorqialr@hotmail.com](mailto:giorqialr@hotmail.com)

#### **JENT: Redlight Therapy Intro**

4 September 2021

**Bookings:** [education@jent.net.au](mailto:education@jent.net.au)

#### **Tanja Mitton – Coaches Clinic**

1 Oct 2021

**Bookings:** [office@sheronypark.com.au](mailto:office@sheronypark.com.au)

#### **Tanja Mitton – Mind & Matter**

2-3 Oct 2021

**Bookings:** [office@sheronypark.com.au](mailto:office@sheronypark.com.au)

#### **The Barefoot Bloke – Trimming workshop**

23 Oct 2021

**Bookings:**[thebarefootbloke@bigpond.com](mailto:thebarefootbloke@bigpond.com)

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## A Year Of Birds

Despite its name, the area of operation for Wildcare Queanbeyan covers 22000 square km of the region surrounding the ACT, from Bredbo in the south to Collector in the north, Warri in the east to Young in the west. Throughout this vast area, volunteers work tirelessly to assist sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife.

To provide an understanding of the scope of this commitment, here are some statistics for the 2020/21 reporting year relating to bird rescues.

It was a big year for bird calls to our 24/7 Helpline, with the number of calls up almost 50% from 1150 the previous year to 1615 calls reported, possibly due to an increase in rainfall following years of drought, and birds searching for habitat following the 2020 bushfires. Of these 1615 calls, 1290 calls resulted in birds from 80 different species being rescued. The top 3 most common species were Australian Magpie (266), Galah (219), and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (173). Some of the less common species include a Spotted Quail-thrush, an Australasian Shoveler and a Buff-banded Rail. An interesting statistic for this year was the number of juvenile rainbow lorikeets (8) that came into care over the winter. This has not occurred previously in the Wildcare area of operation.

The most common reasons for birds coming into care in the 2020/21 period were being hit by a car (332), or as juveniles unable to care for themselves (217). Sadly, some of the birds that came into care did not survive, either dying or requiring euthanasia because of diseases from which they would not recover, such as Beak and Feather Disease, or due to injuries that prohibited their future release. On a happier note, over 500 birds were released, reunited with their parents, or were transferred to another wildlife rehabilitation organisation. Transfers usually occur with species that have specific needs. For example, a single duckling rarely survives, so it is buddied with other ducklings of a similar age and species. Larger raptors need specialised flight aviaries to ensure they have adequate flight fitness prior to release.

Wildcare also reunited or rehomed a number of escaped pet birds, including a Rainbow Lorikeet, a Budgerigar, a Chicken, an Alexandrine Parrot, a Galah, a Muscovy Duck, a Zebra Finch and several pigeons.

If you find any sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife, please phone the Wildcare Queanbeyan 24/7 Helpline on 6299 1966. – Bec Quinn, for Wildcare

--Photo: Maryanne Gates Juvenile galahs rescued from a fallen tree in Jerrabomberra



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Local resident of Wamboin *Dave Collins*

## WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(46 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

### August Rainfall Stats

August rainfall to the 29<sup>th</sup> ..... 49.0mm  
2021 total rainfall to 29<sup>th</sup> ..... 607.25mm

Average August rainfall..... 54.8mm  
2020 August rainfall..... 136.5mm  
2020 total rainfall to 29/8..... 548.75mm  
45yr Av. to end of August..... 427.4mm

### September Rainfall Stats

2020 September rainfall..... 44.25mm  
Wettest September..... 154.75mm in 2016  
Wettest September day. 64mm on 17/9/13  
Driest September..... 6mm in 1994

Average September rainfall..... 61.8mm  
Average no. rain days in Sept. .... 9.8  
Highest no. rain days..... 19 in 1984  
Lowest no. rain days..... 2 in 2018

### September Temperature Stats

Hottest Sept. day..... 29.5°C on 23/9/17  
Hottest Sept. night..... 15.1C on 13/9/17

Av. Sept. temp... 9.5°C (day+night comb.)  
Coldest September day.... 5°C (2 times)  
on 4/9/1982 & 28/9/2009

Average day temperature..... 14.4°C  
Warmest September..... 2020  
Av. day temp. 18.1°C & nights 5.2°C  
(highest 18.6°C in 19 & 6.3°C in 01)

Coldest September night... -4°C on 1/9/12  
Average night temperature..... 4.6°C  
Coldest September..... 2015  
Av. day temp. 12°C & nights 1.8°C  
(lowest 11°C in 16 & 1.6°C in 12)  
Sept. 2020. Av. max 18.1°C & min 5.2°C

Rainfall to the end of August was 179.9mm above the 45-year average (being 427.4mm). Of the 20 other years that had above average rainfall to the end of August, 18 had above average rainfall at the end of the year (being >686.0mm).  
21<sup>st</sup> September is the spring equinox where day & night are equal length (12 hours).



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## From the Corner

**SI Land Use Zones** — There has been discussion recently in relation to the proposal to rezone parts of our rural residential areas. For residents who have moved into one of these areas since 2014, and even for some who have been there longer, this may all seem more than a little confusing. Without wanting to inflame any political debate, I thought it might be useful to at least provide a little background to the use of the NSW Standard Instrument (SI) template in the preparation of the Palerang Local Environment Plan (PLEP).

The SI template was introduced in 2006, as part of a NSW planning system reform, in an effort to standardise the structure of Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) across the state. The preparation of the SI took advantage of progress in the field of geographic information systems (GIS) to move to a more consistent and comprehensive planning system with a heavy reliance on the mapping of planning controls and landscape features rather than simply descriptive text. The task for all NSW councils at the time was to migrate existing LEPs to the new SI structure.

Land use zoning is just one part of an LEP. It helps to define the style of development to be promoted in a particular area—for example, residential, industrial, rural, environmental etc. The SI also breaks these general classifications down more specifically when defining individual zones, so that there are discrete residential land use zones, for example, for general (R1), low density (R2), medium density (R3), high density (R4) and large lot (R5) residential development. Similarly, the rural category includes individual zones to specifically promote broad acre farming (RU1), the general management of rural landscape (RU2), forestry (RU3), ‘small lot’ agriculture (RU4) and rural village (RU5) development, and the environmental category includes a specific zone for National Parks (E1) and individual zones that promote environmental conservation (E2), environmental management (E3) or environmental living (E4).

The preparation of the PLEP was largely a translation exercise, involving the LEPs of the six areas that were combined in the amalgamation that gave rise to the Palerang LGA. Where land use zones were concerned, this involved changing zone names from those used in the existing LEPs to appropriate alternatives from the list provided in the SI template. While there was initially some consideration given to dividing the rural areas of Palerang into new zones that reflected the primary use of the land, be it primary production, low intensity agriculture (e.g. livestock grazing) or environmental management, this was ultimately abandoned and the YLEP land use zones outside of the towns were simply mapped onto what was deemed to be the most appropriate SI alternative.

In the case of the former Yarrawlumla LEP 1(d) Rural Residential zone that covered most of our rural residential areas, there were originally three potential alternatives available under the Standard Instrument—E4 (Environmental Living), RU4 (Primary Production Small Lots) and R5 (Large Lot Residential). The SI template does not include a Rural Residential zone as such, preferring to use one of these three zones to identify the underlying character of development to be promoted in such areas.

While there was some discussion in relation to which SI zone would be the most appropriate replacement for the YLEP 1(d) zone, the E4 zone was selected on the basis of the correlation between the objectives of the YLEP 1(d) zone, which included:

- to ensure that development is compatible with the environmental capabilities of the land and to encourage the conservation and enhancement of natural resources by means of appropriate land management techniques,
- to assist in meeting the demand for rural residential development where it is consistent with the conservation of rural, agricultural, heritage and natural landscape qualities,

and the Departmental recommendation that, where the environmental capabilities of the land were a more relevant consideration than the accommodation of urban residential expansion (R5) or the promotion of primary industries (RU4), the E4 zone should be used.

In the event, this zoning has now been in place for seven years without any notable impact on land use practices or general amenity in our rural residential areas. Most residents will not even be aware that any change occurred. Development consent is required, at one level or another, for most permitted land uses, as it is in all land use zones, but this is exactly as it was under the former YLEP 1(d) zone and this seamless migration was precisely the objective of the zone translation process.

I’ll take a look at some other aspects of the Standard Instrument next month.

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

Land Use Zoning (Jan 2021) In the Zone (Jul 2013)

Lost in Translation (Mar 2013)

-Cr Pete Harrison Ph. 6238 3640 Mob. 0427 711 028

Email: [contact@peteharrison.id.au](mailto:contact@peteharrison.id.au)

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