

November 2021

Circulation 1,343

**Life Threatening Emergencies Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial Triple Zero (000) All Hours**

**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**

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<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>
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<b>Wamboin Markets</b>	Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	<a href="mailto:lmsconsulting@bigpond.com">lmsconsulting@bigpond.com</a>
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<b>Wamboin Thurs Social Grp</b>	Narelle Pumphrey	0438 917 206	<a href="mailto:pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au">pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au</a>
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**The Wamboin Whisper:** The Whisper is a monthly community newsletter established in 1981 by and owned by the Wamboin Community Association. The Whisper is printed at EnvoPrint in Fyshwick 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 December 2021 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, November 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 the editor as above.

## 2021 NSW LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

### MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT

**16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 7PM FOR 7.30PM START**

Wamboin Community Hall NSW Covid Rules Apply

Masks must be worn and only double vaccinated persons will be allowed entry

Jointly hosted by the Wamboin and Bywong Community Associations

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.

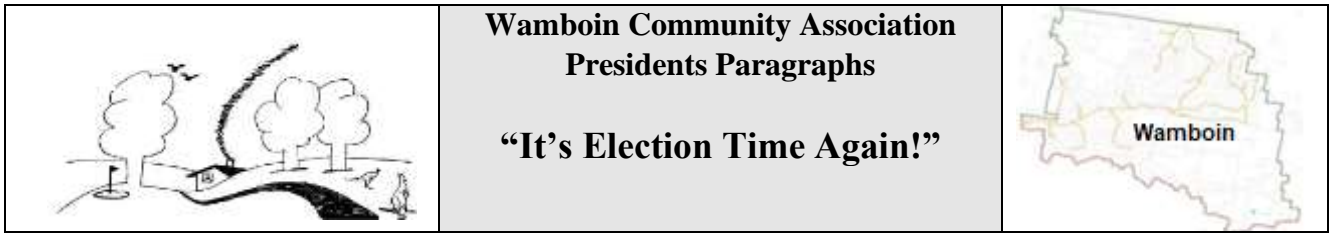
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“Yes now that the Covid -19 restrictions are being rolled back it’s time to get back to some fun. What I hear you ask? Well let’s have a Local Government election!!! That sounds like fun doesn’t it?”

Ok, the deferred NSW Local Government election for local Councils seems to be back on and will be held on Saturday 4 th December 2021 and it’s compulsory to vote. There will be three polling places in our local area to run the pamphlets gauntlet, the Wamboin Community Hall on Norton Road, Sutton Public School or Bungendore Public School. Polls open from 8.00am to 6pm for a whole day of fun. At the time of writing there is a massive 54 nominated candidates in seven groups and one individual.

This will be an interesting election with the current Mayor Tim Overall retiring along with a number of other long term Councillors getting their Wednesday nights back. To that effect so is our own local and ex Palarang mayor Pete Harrison (Barb might pop some champagne). This change over will throw the fields wide open.

I’m super happy to announce that three local candidates will be running. Louise Burton and Ross McDonald from Wamboin and Mareeta Grundy from neighbouring Bywong will hopefully give a local voice to the new Council.

**2021 Local Government Elections –4 December 2021.**

**Meet the Candidates Night** – Yes we are back on. The Wamboin Community Association along with Bywong Community Association will host our famously fabulous “Meet the Candidates Night” at the Wamboin Community Hall on Tuesday 16th November. Please come along early at 7 pm for a 7.30pm start. There will be delays in entering due to Covid checks and entry requirements. NSW Covid 19 protocols will be in place and a mask and proof of double vaccination will be required upon entry. Please come along and listen to each candidate’s intentions and why they deserve our vote above the others.

**WCA AGM – postponed TBA**

**Home Produce Markets** –The November market (Saturday 20th) will be a Bring and Buy a Book Fair Market. We will have tables of books - novels, other, large print, audio, kid’s books on offer. Bring your books down and you may go home with some new reading. Gold coin donation to our charity of the day (ARF). The **Queanbeyan Mobile library bus** will also be in attendance.

**Christmas Carols – Sorry Folks**, the carols are cancelled this year due to Covid-19 logistics. Best go and get a copy of Mariah Carey’s Christmas album instead.

**Wheels of Wamboin 2022** – Grab a pencil and mark May 21st on the calendar (May this year due to Easter)

**Wamboin Social Drop-In Group**—has resumed. The club is open to anyone who wants to get out of the house and have a chat over a cup of tea/coffee; join in a game of scrabble, cards or something else; or have a game of table tennis. It is an informal, friendly, atmosphere that caters for both young and old alike. And every fortnight the Queanbeyan-Palarang mobile library comes along. Give it a go! For further information, please contact Kaye Johnston on her mobile phone: 0422 183 284.

Please look after yourself, families, friends and pick up the phone to your neighbours in these trying times. With the easing of restrictions who knows what another month will bring. We are Wamboin Peter Evans – President

## News from the QPRC Library

Queanbeyan and Braidwood Libraries are now open with density limits and reduced services. Queanbeyan opening hours are Monday-Friday 11am-4pm & Saturday 10am-1pm. Braidwood is open Monday-Friday 11am-12.30pm & 1.30-4pm. Click and Collect options are still available for both branches. The Library continues to offer a Click and Deliver service to the Bungendore township, while Bungendore Library remains closed.

**The Mobile Library** service has resumed its regular fortnightly stop at the **Wamboin Community Hall** located in Bingley Way from 10.30-11.30am on the following Thursdays:

- 4 & 18 November
- 2 & 16 December

It will also make an additional stop in Bungendore at Mick Sherd Oval every Friday between 9.30am–12.30pm until 1 December 2021.



**The Mobile Library will be attending the Wamboin ‘Book Fair’ Market on Saturday 20 November. Please remember to bring your proof of vaccination to come aboard.**

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**Meet Kristy McBain, federal MP for Eden-Monaro**

**Wed 17 November, 6-8pm**

**Meet federal member for Eden-Monaro**

**KRISTY MCBAIN MP**

Wednesday 17th November, 6-8pm  
 Bywong Community Hall  
 Birriwa Road (off Macs Reef Road)



An opportunity to catch up with other locals and to meet our federal MP.  
 Light refreshments will be provided.  
 Please arrive early, as seats may be limited.  
 This event will be conducted according to the applicable COVID-19 regulations.  
 For more information contact the Bywong Community Association on [president@bywongcommunity.org.au](mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au)

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

**Wednesday 24 November, 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.



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# The Wamboin Firefighter



## BUSH FIRE DANGER PERIOD

The bush fire danger period is here. It runs from 1 October to 31 March. One of the most important things to do before a bush fire is to make a plan. If you haven't done so already, now is a good time for you and your family to prepare and practise your bush fire safety plan.

### 'LIVE BUSH FIRE READY'



Fire is part of living in the places where we live. Whether it's on the coast, mountains or rural areas, fire is a part of our life, and so is living with the risk. We live with bush fire, so we need to live bush fire ready.

'Live Bush Fire Ready' is the theme of the NSWRF's bush fire Prepare Act Survive public awareness campaign this fire season. Its messaging is based on research and findings recognising the impact of the devastating the 2019-20 'Black Summer' bush fire season. The message is simple. If you live near the bush, you need to live bush fire ready.

The campaign asks questions of us all, including: *'We're prepared to leave if fire comes. Are you?'* *'My plan is ready. My house is ready. You ready?'* *'We live with bush fire so we're ready for it. Are you?'*

The campaign will be broadcast widely including on television, online, and on the radio.

### GRASS FIRE THREAT

Recent rain and the now warmer weather have certainly kicked the grass growth on. It's good to see that many residents are keeping the grass growth in check on their property. It can take just a few days of hot and windy weather for fire conditions to return. In the coming weeks and months, as the grass dries out and cures, it is likely to present a real fire risk for property owners and fire fighters. When mowing, be sure to carry a means to suppress a fire, should one start, eg 9L water fire extinguisher or 0.9kg dry powder fire extinguisher, or a 16L knapsack spray pump filled with water.

### FIRE PERMITS REQUIRED

If you are planning to light a fire in the open during the bush fire danger period, other than a cooking fire in an appropriately prepared site, you will need to apply for and be issued with a Fire Permit. To seek a Permit, contact the local Fire Control Centre. For property owners in the Queanbeyan-Palerang LGA this is the Lake George Fire Control Centre in Queanbeyan. The issue of a Permit is not automatic, requires an inspection of the planned burn and is subject to certain conditions and undertakings. In addition to securing a free Permit you still need to notify the local fire authority and neighbours at least 24 hours before lighting up.

For further information on any of the above, particularly the 'Live Bush Fire Ready' campaign, or to view the NSWRF's guide to making a bush fire plan, visit the NSWRF's website.

Subject to any tightening of the NSW public health orders between the time of writing and the third Saturday in November, we will be resuming our regular information shopfront at the Wamboin Market. If you want some helpful, free, and friendly practical advice on property preparations and bush fire planning, please visit us at the Market.

## USEFUL LINKS and CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade is on Facebook – you can follow us

Lake George Fire Control Centre 6128 0600 (business hrs)

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**Community notification Proposed telecommunications tower Harriott Road, Bywong**

**Bungendore residents set to receive better connectivity from new tower at Bywong**

A new telecommunication tower proposed in Bywong under the NSW Government's Connecting Country Communities Program is set to provide faster more reliable internet connectivity for residents in the Bungendore and surrounding communities.

Under the Program, communities across the region will receive improved fixed wireless broadband services through the enhancement of existing assets including towers, fibre, and the construction of new infrastructure by local communications carrier YLess4U.

**Why was the Harriot Road site selected?**

The proposed tower at Bywong is a replacement for the former proposed site at Millpost Hill, which will no longer proceed.

The Crown Land site initially planned at Millpost Hill was selected to ensure Bungendore residents could benefit from improved internet access, particularly for private landowners who are unable to receive fibre services.

To ensure residents in Bungendore don't miss out on internet access as a result of not proceeding with the Mill Post Hill location, we have identified a viable location at 148 Harriott Road, Bywong that will serve the residents of Bungendore.

Suitability assessments for the Bywong site are being finalised, including discussions with the landowners on agreement to install new communications equipment or infrastructure on their land.

**What will the tower look like?**

The proposed tower at Bywong will look like the tower below situated on private property near Gundaroo. The single monopole tower will be 12 metres in height and operate on mains power.

We have designed the towers so they can blend into the environment and not be an eyesore that could be potentially seen for kilometers in every direction.



**Will the aesthetics of the surrounding area be considered?**

We will not be removing any trees or shrubs from the site and where possible, we will plant additional flora to assist with some shrouding of the site.

**Find out more**

A Public Meeting will be held on 13 November at 10am via ZOOM. <https://zoom.us/j/99232193908>

If you would like an electronic copy of the link please send an email to us requesting that and we will forward it on.

For more information contact Jason Green on (02) 6230 3699 or email [sales@yless4u.com.au](mailto:sales@yless4u.com.au) or get in touch with the NSW Telco Authority in [connectingcommunities@customerservice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:connectingcommunities@customerservice.nsw.gov.au)

For more information on the Connecting Country Communities Program can be found at [www.nsw.gov.au/regional-growth-fund/connecting-country-communities-fund](http://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-growth-fund/connecting-country-communities-fund)



## Watch Out For Echidnas!

Wildcare is encouraging people to be on the lookout for echidnas. As we enter what wildlife rehabilitators call “puggle season” reports are coming in thick and fast of echidnas needing assistance or seeming to be in the wrong place. Wildcare already has five echidnas in care and are hoping people can help to ensure that number doesn’t increase.

If you were lucky, you may have seen an “echidna train” during breeding season (July – September). This is where numerous males follow a female hoping to be the “chosen one”. Following breeding and a short gestation period the females will have laid a single egg directly into their pouch. An echidna pouch is created by the female echidna contracting muscles in her abdomen to form a pouch like fold. They do not have a permanent pouch.

After roughly 10 days a baby echidna, called a puggle, smaller than a jellybean will have hatched. It will remain in the pouch until it begins to get spines at about 55 days of age and mum decides it would be more comfortable for the puggle to live in a burrow. It will remain in the burrow for about 7 months with mum returning every 4 to 6 days to feed it. When she weans the puggle she will feed it for the last time and then leave the burrow entrance open and walk away. The young then fends for itself.

Within Wildcare’s area of operation, adult echidnas weigh between 2 kg and 6.5kg. Size is no indication of age or sex. In the field it is virtually impossible to tell male from female unless there is a puggle or egg in a pouch. They don’t breed until they are about 6 years of age. They do not have teeth but instead have grinding plates to squish and eat their meal of termites, ants, and small invertebrates. Their mouth is very small (5mm) and their tongue is very long (18cm) and sticky. They often blow clear bubbles from their nostrils; this is perfectly normal. They are inquisitive, incredibly strong, and most love to swim.

They have no attack method but instead rely on a few simple defence habits. They’ll curl into a ball, burrow in or jettison poo and urine if you pick them up.

These enigmatic, intelligent, spikey little balls of fun can live for 50 years in the wild. Sadly, not many will make it to that age however and 10 years is thought to be more usual. They have a home range which they generally remain in for their lifetime, but they are not territorial. Many of our suburbs and roads have been developed within the resident echidnas’ lifetime. Imagine the changes they have experienced.

Most of the calls Wildcare receives are about echidnas that have been hit by a car, attacked/harassed by dogs or are in



someone’s yard or a “strange” place. Occasionally we get a call about a puggle that has been unearthed or found.

Please be vigilant when you’re driving. An echidna’s top speed is a mere 2.3kph so it takes them a little while to get across the road. If they are scared, they will hunker down and not move.

If an echidna is hit by a vehicle, or you think it may have been hit, please check if it is still alive. Also, check the pouch and surrounding area for a puggle as a puggle can be thrown long distances from the pouch. You are looking for something that may resemble a grey tennis ball. If the echidna is alive, please move it and yourself to safety and call Wildcare immediately.

Should you decide to “assist” an echidna off the road please move it in the direction it was going. You might use a double towel or your car mat to help move it. Please ensure your own safety.

When an echidna has been hassled by a dog and there is blood on either the echidna or the dog, or you think the dog has bitten the echidna, but no blood is present, the echidna should come in to care

for an assessment.

The best method to get an echidna to leave your garden is to keep people, dogs, and noise away and let it move on. If they are stressed, they will dig in and then it can take hours before they feel safe enough to come out of hiding and move on. Remember, they are within their home range and know where they are.

It is important not to use any sharp implements when rescuing an echidna. Echidnas are often badly injured when people try to pick them up or dig them out using a shovel. They suffer cuts, fractures and even internal injuries from the pressure exerted when the shovel is levered.

When it comes to echidnas, PATIENCE is your best tool. Should you rescue an echidna please ensure you carry it in a very sturdy container like a clean 60 litre rubbish bin or heavy-duty pet carrier and provide a cool, dark, and quiet environment. Contact Wildcare or a vet urgently.

Please DO NOT RELOCATE echidnas. Leave them in their home range. At this time of year, we must assume all echidnas may be female and have a puggle in a burrow. If you relocate the mum, the puggle will starve.

By being vigilant while driving, keeping your dogs away, by letting them go about their business and by caring you can stop more echidnas from needing Wildcare’s assistance.

Please contact the 24/7 Wildcare Helpline on 6299 1966 for assistance with sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife.

- by Diane Hinton, for Wildcare Photo: Diane Hinton

### 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)

Rebecca Purdie – pet/horse sitting 6238 3343

Grace Taylor 0490 758 476 baby sitting and tutoring for primary school students [gracetaylor145@gmail.com](mailto:gracetaylor145@gmail.com)



Council  
election  
Dec 4

## Fresh · Positive · Labor

### Part of the community

- ✓ *A fresh team, led by Bryce Wilson, that represents our diverse community.*
- ✓ *A team with experience and understanding of small business, the not-for-profit sector and government.*

### A positive plan

- ✓ *Maintain Wamboin & Bywong's current zoning. We want to maintain the area's environmental and aesthetic look and feel.*
- ✓ *Building a sustainable, cleaner and carbon neutral QPRC.*
- ✓ *Delivering local jobs, keeping services in Council hands and rates fair.*

### A strong Labor voice

- ✓ *A Council with fairness and community values at its core.*
- ✓ *A Council that is progressive, inclusive and advancing Reconciliation with our local Aboriginal community*
- ✓ *A renewed energy to tackle the challenges that matter to our area.*

Meet the team & find out more.



**Vote for a fresh approach on Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council.**

## Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For November I chose the Rufous Songlark, a medium-sized, brown bird found in grassy areas during summer.

### Rufous Songlark (*Cincloramphus mathewsi*)

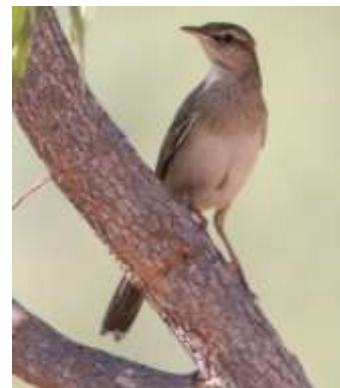
Size: 16-19cm

Status: Uncommon breeding summer migrant

The Rufous Songlark is quite a plain brown bird. Overall, they are a pale buffy-brown colour, with the upperparts covered with a darker 'net-like' pattern. The crown, nape and tail are also darker. They have a dark stripe through the eye, with a pale eyebrow clearly visible below the dark crown. The rump is a bright rufous which is quite noticeable. Their legs are pale cream and the eyes are dark. Rufous Songlark males are larger than females and have a black bill, compared to the female's creamy-coloured bill. The female is also duller. Rufous Songlarks are quite similar to female Brown Songlarks (which are rarer in the region), Australasian Pipits and female White-winged Trillers. The key differences visually are the rufous rump and pale eyebrow. Their behaviour is also very different from similar species. Rufous Songlark males are highly territorial and fly around and call loudly within their territory during spring and summer, which is very distinctive. Their call starts as trilling and develops into a full refrain of warbling and trilling, including the most common call "a-witchy-weedle". They often perch on emergent high points where their call carries far, and also fly up into the sky while calling. After spring when they cease calling, they often go unnoticed due to this overall brown colour. Rufous Songlarks inhabit grassland, farmland and open grassy woodland. They are unlikely to be found in forested or densely treed areas. Their nest is located on the ground in dense grass. They are typically only found from September to March locally (occasionally they are seen in winter), mainly moving to northern Australia in winter.



Male



Female

(Photos from Google images)

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**BRING & BUY 2<sup>nd</sup> HAND BOOK FAIR**

*We are holding a book fair at the market this month – outside next to the Queanbeyan library mobile van. Take the opportunity to join up as a library member. Bring along your unwanted books (in good condition please) to donate to charity and buy others to read at your leisure. Unsold books will be donated to Lifeline.*

Our first market post-lockdown went well; a bit smaller than usual because of the border restrictions between ACT and NSW. Thank goodness those are now lifted. Let's cross fingers that it stays that way! We can now use the community hall again, which is a great plus for all concerned.

This month we have a large array of goodies on sale –

- A number of stalls will have Christmas decorations and gift ideas – so stock up on jewellery, art work, beautiful wooden chopping boards, hand made quilted items, knitted goods and more.
- Reward your garden with new plants; purchase regional produce from Jon and local produce from Pauline; cakes and sweet treats from other stall holders; jams and preserves.
- Enjoy Joan and Marita's yummy egg and bacon rolls and Lou's coffee (and a chat) and take away packs of sausage rolls for those friends that now can drop by for a chat and a bite to eat!

COVID-19 regulations continue - so please observe social distancing and come double vaccinated and ready to show your proof of vaccination or exemption certificate. Masks remain mandatory inside the hall and we shall have to see what the latest rules are about wearing them outside. Changes frequently!!

*See you at the Market!*

*Wamboin locals Louise Burton and Ross MacDonald are seeking election to Council on Saturday 4 December and need your backing for them to support our urban and rural communities.*



***Vote 1 Liberals to ensure Wamboin and Bywong are represented and heard on Council.***

*Authorised by Chris Stone, NSW Liberal Party, Level 12, 100 William St, East Sydney NSW 2011*

## The Wonderful Women of Wamboin Gail Ritchie Knight

It's been ages since I've been able to write about WWOW. But finally I can announce that the Wonderful Women of Wamboin have resumed activities. We have changed venue and are now meeting at the Wamboin Community Hall where there's plenty of space, parking is easy with a maximum of 30 attendees. COVID-19 is still rearing its ugly head so only double vaccinated WWOW may attend. By the time you read this we will have had two get-togethers. It was so good to see everyone in the flesh. We all had much to share and still do. If you would like to join us, please contact Gail Ritchie Knight (0416 097 500, [whirlwind1@argonite.com.au](mailto:whirlwind1@argonite.com.au)). We meet on Mondays 10am to noon.

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Sung to the tune of Oh Christmas Tree

Oh Sifton Bush

Oh Sifton Bush, Oh Sifton Bush  
How green is thy shrubbery  
Oh Sifton Bush, Oh Sifton Bush  
Such fluffy, puffy, fine thuggery.

How marvell-ous it is that you  
Grow here and there and everywhere  
In sand or clay or even rock  
Oh so fast, and quite ad hoc

(chorus)

Oh Sifton Bush, Oh Sifton Bush  
How green is thy shrubbery  
Oh Sifton Bush, Oh Sifton Bush  
Such fluffy, puffy, fine thuggery.

You don't need care, no H<sub>2</sub>O  
You don't need love, you just love to grow  
Full sun is sweet but shade is beaut  
Oh little seedlings, aren't you cute.

(Repeat chorus)

You're a native, what a plus  
Tick the box, what is the fuss  
You're not a triff-id or cane toad  
But you advance in similar mode.

(Repeat chorus)

But now at last the word is out  
You're a weed, a rampaging lout  
We'll seek you out, we'll stop your spread  
Oh Shifton bush, your cred is dead.

-Mary Beneforti

**Author's Note:** This is a silly song about sifton bush, set to the tune of 'Oh Christmas Tree'. It seemed appropriate, with Christmas approaching and Sifton Bush having been quite topical lately. It is designed purely for entertainment and not intended to offend anyone. I do love that it has recently been dubbed 'Shifton Bush' and have borrowed that title for the last verse.

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## How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

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 Cheryl Warnock, who has delivered the challenging hill stretch of Macs Reef Road for several years now. Thanks to Belinda Morris, who agreed to do this job each month starting in November. Please remember these two persons and all the others listed below, as they do what they do in order to make Bywong and Wamboin a little bit friendlier and more communicative.

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

171: CO-ORDINATED BY ALICE SCOTT: ph 0407 005 506 email [alicehscott@bigpond.com](mailto: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](mailto: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)	32
Kathy Handel	Norton(Wrona2 Hilltop+Wirndra)	21	Phil Leeson& C Fogarty	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			

200: CO-ORDINATED BY GARETH JONES: ph Ph: 6238 1988 [givrjones@bigpond.com](mailto:givrjones@bigpond.com)

Sophie Davis	Weeroona (254 – 400)	18	Susie & Brad Edwards	Weeroona (417-512)	17
Don Malcolmson	Macs Reef Rd (DenleyToGumFlt)	7	Maria Taylor	Birriwa Rd & Gum Flat Lane	19
Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Liza Davis	Macs Reef Birriwa to Harriott	14
Darryl Bourke	Harriot Rd	27	Belinda Morris	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			

157: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 0402 027 452 [lodestar@ozemail.com.au](mailto: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

145: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 6236 9722 [bushranger\\_au@hotmail.com](mailto: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 Road	20
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	33	Peter Sharp	Doust Road	20

259 CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 0409-997-082 email [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au)

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 1,343**



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### Church is back....almost

Due to finally receiving the okay to resume a sort of normal existence, church services in the Sutton Wamboin region will resume in St Andrews from Sunday 5 December. There still may be some minor changes, but overall we will be having 'normal' church services. Regular monthly services at St Andrews in Poppet Road will be a Communion service on the first Sunday of each month at 0930, conducted by our Pastor, Archdeacon Royce, and a Service of the Word on the third Sunday of each month at 0930, presented by Lay Minister David or Lay Minister Alan. On the second Sunday (Communion) and fourth Sunday (Word) of each month, services will be held at 0930 in St Peters in Middle Street, Sutton. Same Ministry team, different readings and talk (no excuse not to attend all four). Also a communion service is held at St Marks in Gundaroo at 4.00pm on the first Sunday of each month.

The timing is right for the build-up to Christmas, and all are welcome regarding what, if any, religious affiliation you may have. We are a multi-denominational church, operated by and based on Anglican beliefs, welcoming everyone.

- Christmas services will include:-
- Carol service at Sutton on 19 December from 6.00pm with live music.
  - Christmas Eve, Gundaroo at 4.00pm and Wamboin at 8.00pm.
  - Christmas Day, Sutton at 9.30am

If you want more information please email us at [peterandandrew2012@gmail.com](mailto:peterandandrew2012@gmail.com) or call Royce 0416 265 600, Gai 0438 400 364 or Alan 0429 434 944.

### Can You Create Something for the Next Whisper?

The Whisper is just one of the many ways we residents of Wamboin and Bywong can inform, entertain or invite each other. The main content is meant to be items created by residents. It should relate to living in Bywong or Wamboin. It should respect the many views and ways of life that we pursue. Deadline for the December 2021 / January 2022 issue is 7 pm, the last Sunday night of November, which is Sunday November 28. Writing something for the rest of us is one way you can do something nice for possibly one or more persons living in the 1300 or so homes around you. If what you contribute could increase your income or improve your business, put it in, but think about paying for it as an ad. If you've ever appreciated someone else's effort to fill up a Whisper, you could repay them by taking a turn.

- Ned Noel, volunteer editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association, ph 0409 997 082 or email [whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au) or [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or mailbox at 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin



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## During my COVID cleanup, I came across a little piece I penned when we first moved out here. Here it is.

Lisa Whitney

Wamboin was always worth a visit, on a lazy Sunday afternoon when you wanted to get out of the suburbs. We were regular visitors from about 1988 onwards: checking out any properties that hit the market, doing the round of exhibitions, or tramping the new blocks. We must have walked most of the Yalana Estate stage 1 blocks that came up for sale. Eventually, John decided to take the plunge and put a deposit on one. Unfortunately, circumstances changed, interest rates went up to around 18% (remember those years?), work contracts finished, and we had to renege on the deal - much to the vendor's disgust.

So we stayed where we were, but kept up the odd Sunday afternoon drive to the country, walking Stage 2, 3 and 4 of Yalana. We started a family and extended the home, but we were still in the suburbs and the extended home was not quite right for our little family - especially after a break-in. That decided it, time to leave Canberra. So, we started looking around in earnest and eventually made our way back out to Wamboin. Yalana Estate was now well established, homes built, dams dug, fences up and even a new road through to Clare Valley. We checked out some homes and vacant blocks, until at last we found our new home. It was a bleak and windy August day, but somehow it looked very inviting. Just after we exchanged contracts a huge wind storm hit Wamboin, that was October 1997, but the new home stood firm and we took possession in November. Forty degree heat for the move and then bushfires in the hills overlooking Bungendore at the end of the year, but we were very happy with our move and the rest is as they say history.....or should I end that with the obligatory "I wouldn't live anywhere else.....".



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# WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(46 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

### October Rainfall Stats

October rainfall to the 31<sup>st</sup> ..... 50.25mm  
2021 total rainfall to 31<sup>st</sup> ..... 807.5mm

### November Rainfall Stats

2020 November rainfall..... 75.5mm  
Wettest November..... 175.5mm in 2010  
Wettest day..... 77mm on 19/11/86  
Driest November..... 0mm in 1982

### November Temperature Stats

Hottest November day... 39°C (2 times) on  
27/11/97 & 21/11/19  
Hottest November night... 22°C 26/11/02  
Average day temperature..... 22.3°C  
Warmest November ..... 1982 and 2009  
82 (Av. day temp. 26.8°C & night 12.5°C)  
09 (Av. day temp. 26.2°C & night 12.7°C)

Average October rainfall..... 59.6mm  
2020 October rainfall..... 151.75mm  
2020 total rainfall to 31/10..... 744.75mm  
45yr Av. to end of October ..... 548.8mm

Average November rainfall..... 76.2mm  
Average no. rain days in November... 9.5  
Highest no. rain days..... 19 in 1992  
Lowest no. rain days..... 0 in 1982

Av. Nov temp... 16.2°C (day+night comb.)  
Coldest November day..... 9°C (2 times)  
on 11 & 12/11/13  
Coldest Nov. night..... -1°C on 1/11/16  
Average night temperature..... 10.1°C  
Coldest November ..... 1992  
Av. day temp. 18.8°C & nights 8.5°C  
(lowest 6.5°C in 13)  
Nov. 2020. Av. max 26.7°C & min 10.6°C

Rainfall to the 31<sup>st</sup> October was 253mm above the 45-year average to the same date. If we receive the average rainfall for November and December (136mm combined), the 2021 total could be 943mm, which would be the equal 6<sup>th</sup> wettest year. The 45-year full year average rainfall is 690.4mm.



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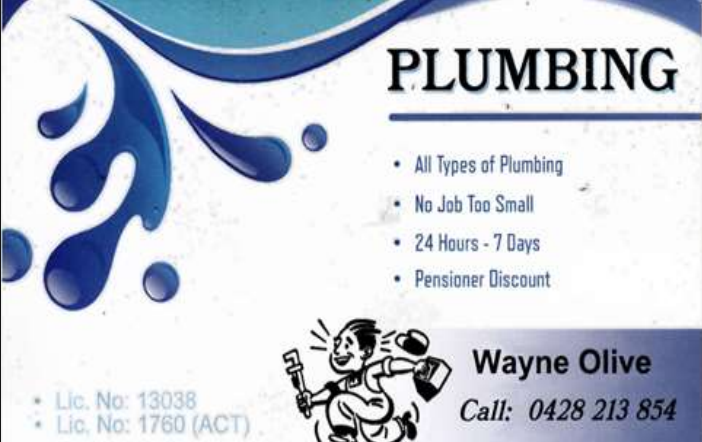


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## ***From the Corner***

**Development Approval**—To close out our recent discussion on the subject of land use zones and permissible land uses, it's worth looking briefly at a couple of aspects of the approvals process.

The fundamental difference between land uses that are permitted without consent, or classified as exempt developments, and those that require consent is that, in the latter case, conditions apply. It is a common misunderstanding that *permitted with consent* means that consent is guaranteed, that the application process is just bureaucratic red tape and that the only question lies with the conditions that will ultimately accompany consent.

The fact is that, while a nominated land use may be permitted within a particular land use zone, it may not necessarily be permitted just *anywhere* within that zone. A significant part of the consent process is the determination of whether or not the location and style of the proposed land use is appropriate, and there are many factors that come into play in making this assessment.

As mentioned last month, there is a raft of LGA map overlays that identify specific development controls—Land Zoning, Lot Averaging, Lot Size, Height of Buildings, Heritage Items—or landscape features—Riparian Lands and Watercourses, Flood Planning, Drinking Water Catchment, Terrestrial Biodiversity, Landscape (salinity, slope and erodible soils), Scenic Protection and Bushfire Prone Land—and each of these is tied to specific clauses in the LEP that must be able to be satisfied, where relevant, before any approval can be granted. As I've noted throughout, the land use zone is just one consideration and none of the other maps and their associated conditions is explicitly tied to any particular land use zone.

For example, apart from the actual list of permitted land uses within a zone, environmental controls are applied through the above mentioned map overlays and apply regardless of the underlying land use zone. There will often be a correlation between land use zoning and other features, but specific controls are invariably applied through the relevant feature map and its LEP clauses, not the underlying land use zoning.

The second aspect of the approvals process that I thought worthy of mention is the approval mechanism, specifically determination through a Development Application (DA) versus a Complying Development Certificate (CDC).

The NSW Government, through the Exempt and Complying Development Codes State Environmental Planning Policy (the Codes SEPP), identifies a range of land uses that can be carried out either without need for any level of approval or as what is known as complying development, the latter involving the issue of a CDC, rather than approval of a DA. Additional potentially exempt or complying land uses can also be specified in an LEP.

The same conditions will invariably apply, regardless of whether the development is undertaken via a DA or with a CDC. The fundamental difference is that a CDC can be issued more quickly if the proposed development can demonstrate up front that it satisfies the *Development Standards* specified in the Codes SEPP or LEP. Any specific development that cannot satisfy all of these preconditions, must be assessed via a DA. (continued on next page)



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It is important to recognise that land uses not explicitly listed in the Codes SEPP as being exempt may, nonetheless, already be exempt, either implicitly as ancillary to an approved land use or as explicitly exempt development, under a particular LEP. The point here is that, when reading the Codes SEPP, the fact that a land use is not identified as being exempt in a particular land use zone does not imply that it requires approval. The Codes SEPP simply overrides any other approval requirements—it doesn't create any requirement that doesn't already exist in an LEP.

Similarly, exempt or complying Codes (e.g. the Housing Alterations Code) that do not explicitly identify any land use zone apply in all land use zones.

The key issue with complying development is not so much that it's easier, or even cheaper, but rather that it can be quicker when that's important. Development will still be required to comply with all relevant provisions of the LEP, it's just that, if it can be established that it satisfies a predefined set of conditions up front, the process of issuing approval can be streamlined. Someone still has to verify that all conditions have been satisfied, it just doesn't need to be a council officer.

For a building company, delivering a standardised product into a well-defined environment, where 'time is money', there can be real savings. For a bespoke product, this may not be the case, assuming that it can satisfy the complying development preconditions in the first place. The bottom line is that, while a CDC may cost less than a DA up front, the cost of certifying the development may prove to be the opposite. Once again, there are many factors that come into play, so there's no simple answer as to which approach might generally be better.

In my own case, time has never been a limiting factor. I have always been an owner-builder, have never had a problem with a DA (all done when I was not a councillor), and have found the DA process, with council as my certifier, to be a more cost effective path than the complying development/private certifier alternative.

**The QPR Blog**—New or related entries in my Blog (<http://peteharrison.id.au/blog>) include: Development Approval (Oct 2021) SEPPs (Jun 2020) Ancillary Land Uses (Mar 2019) Exempt and Complying Development (Apr 2015)  
Cr Pete Harrison Ph. 6238 3640 Mob. 0427 711 028 Email: [contact@peteharrison.id.au](mailto:contact@peteharrison.id.au) Website: [www.peteharrison.id.au](http://www.peteharrison.id.au)

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### Belinda Bosenbroek

11-14 November 2021  
**Bookings:** [caithe78@gmail.com](mailto:caithe78@gmail.com)

### Mark Langley

2-5 December 2021  
**Bookings:** [jenny@equineability.com.au](mailto:jenny@equineability.com.au)

### Tori Jeffrey

15-16 January 2022  
**Bookings:** 0400 370 753

Hope to see you at Sherony Park again very very soon! Until then stay safe!

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## Wamboin Golf – October 2021

Mahogany Ridge, Sunday, 3 October, two days after the shocking news that Our Glad (bless her) had resigned as boss of NSW. It's because she is being investigated by ICAC as part of its probe into the property affairs of former boyfriend Jerry ("show me the money") Maguire. ICAC, which is Latin for 'I Regurgitate', is where they spew out all the bad things they suspect you of. You then get an opportunity to defend yourself. They got a former NSW Premier, Farry O'Barrel, for accepting a bottle of Grange. Big deal. Your correspondent is showered with cases of Grange (I also accept Hill of Grace, Lafitte and Latour) to write articles supporting various causes. My policy is to accept all wines and write the absolute truth. But Our Glad will be OK. She'll probably be represented by her new boyfriend, Moses. That's right, Moses. Mr Ten Commandments. She has to be safe with Moses on her side, so let's stop worrying about her and concentrate on golf.

Having missed Aunty Joan's spring rolls in September, the R&A Wamboin GC was determined to have a traditional golf day complete with a fully-attended 19<sup>th</sup> hole. So we slipped into Sydney two weeks ago, joined the Rabbitohs entourage and flew to Brisbane where we'd booked the Royal Queensland Golf Club's top notch course for Sunday. Premier Palerskerzuk met us at the airport (she does that for all top sporting teams) and personally conducted us to the club's beautiful riverside course. It was a 'perfect' day for golf (it was merely 'beautiful' the previous day) 26C and fine. Back in the well-appointed club house, as the captain passed around our tickets to the NRL Grand Final that evening, we all expressed our surprise at the sudden recall by the French government of their ambassador in Australia. We wondered what the poor chap had done wrong. It couldn't have been for getting drunk on the diplomatic cocktail circuit. That's standard operating procedure. A few thought it had something to do with the submarine contract. The word from Paris is that when the news filtered through, the French President, Monsieur Macaroon, was heard to whisper to his wife "Je suis ropeable ce soir, ma cherie". But when ScoMo called to explain the change of heart, the President's assistant, Mlle Ada Camp, informed him that M Macaroon was "tied up" and would not speak to him. So it probably had nothing to do with the subs after all. Talking about under water warfare, the terms of the recently-announced Orcas Agreement with the US and the UK, permits us to buy eight nuclear-powered killer whales from the US. I don't know who's going to train them. Or feed them, for that matter. They eat a prodigious quantity of seals, tuna, squid and dolphins. You'll never be told when they're in port, either. The crew always carry on with this "refusal to confirm or deny" nonsense. And notice how they're never interviewed at night. That's because they all glow in the dark. Naturally, ScoNuke is over the moon. And so he should be. By 2040 we'll have eight nuclear whales to take on the 90 or so the Chinese already have. And it kicks along the push for nuclear power stations to take over from Eraring, Bayswatwer and Loy Yang.

We congratulated Russian President, Ras Putin, on his stunning election victory. The irony is he doesn't even have to hold elections, being President-for-Life, banning opposition parties from standing candidates and sending Alex Nabokov off to the gulag to rewrite "Lolita". When asked by the media how he felt he said "I'm Stuffed". So would you be if you'd spent the day supervising the stuffing of ballot boxes in eleven time zones. Even the Communist Party is calling foul. The good news is that Russians may now settle back in comfort knowing a firm hand remains on the tiller. (continued on next page)



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In other news we rejoiced with Quade Cooper at the federal government's change of heart in agreeing to make him an Australian citizen. We congratulated the Jehovah's Witnesses for finally signing up to the restitution fund in the light of the findings of the Royal Commission into child abuse. I often invite them in for a cup of tea when they come around. We approved the notion of COVID passports. Your correspondent has produced a very reasonably-priced version, guaranteed to get you through border security in all states (it got us in and out). In other news we rejoiced with Quade Cooper at the federal government's change of heart in agreeing to make him an Australian citizen. and most other countries, including North Korea which is the new, exciting place to go now that Kim Jong-un has been "disappeared" and replaced by a guy with a better haircut and sharper suits.

Next month – November to be precise - will feature the annual Wamboin Open. It should be a good one with prize money donated by the PRC under the Belt and Road policy. Join us at 12.15pm at the community hall on Sunday, 7 November for the standard 12.30pm start. Meanwhile for those who haven't had two or even one job, may I recommend local GP, Dr Rekkers, COVID Retardant. It's not a cure or vaccine but it will mask the symptoms, which is handy for those runs in and out of Canberra and Russian athletes. It comes in a brown bottle and is taken internally. You can even wash your hair with it. - Larry King, golfer

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## Nature Notes October 2021

Jo Walker

Some good falls of rain in the first half of the month have kept the ground moist, and, with the approach of summer temperatures, all the local vegetation is growing fast – including the weeds!

Most of the Wattles have finished flowering, but *Pomaderris* plants have taken over the task of providing some yellow to the landscape – although the local species are mostly paler. At present the perfumed cream flowers of the *Pomaderris angustifolia* shrubs are adorning Sutton Road.

*Daviesia mimosoides* (Leafy Bitter-pea) is one of the few other shrubs still flowering, but there is still quite a bit of yellow colour closer to the ground. Buttercups (*Ranunculus lappaceus*) are still flowering as well as beginning to produce some seed-heads, Billy Buttons (*Craspedia variabilis*) are still standing tall and waving their round flowerheads in the breeze, and a few *Leptorhynchos squamatus* (Scaly Buttons) – with smaller and flatter flowers than the Billy Buttons – are just beginning to flower.

At the bluer part of the colour spectrum, Violets (*Viola betonicifolia*) are flowering, but there are not many of their purple flowers evident here this year. The ground-covering patches of Speedwells are showing their little blue flowers – *Veronica calycina* (Hairy Speedwell) in the drier areas and *V. gracilis* (Slender Speedwell) in the wetter soils.

And the magnificent display of *Leucochrysum albicans* (Hoary Sunray), the beautiful yellow-centred white daisies, is continuing along several local roadsides. There is a bright golden form of this daisy on the roadsides towards Braidwood and on the Tarago Road. The local white daisies occasionally produce some pale yellow offspring.

Many years ago there used to be a flock of Red-browed Finches here – twenty-two at one stage – and several of them would nest in two big wild rose bushes near the house. They disappeared quite suddenly during the dry years and hadn't ever returned. So, it was a lovely surprise recently when I saw four of them feeding on some grass seeds in the driveway. Two Bower-birds also turned up this month, both females. I hear them now and then somewhere in the shrubbery but don't often see them.

No tadpoles have appeared in the dam yet, but, in the warmer water of a small deep pond below the dam there are more than forty well-developed tadpoles. While I was walking beside the dam I noticed three muddy Long-necked Turtles resting on the other side, one on the bank and two of them perched on tree branches that had fallen into the water. They evidently have very good hearing – the dam is wide there, but they all dropped into the water at the sound of footsteps.

Another spider drama occurred inside my front door this week. There are several species of Huntsman Spiders, but the local ones that invite themselves inside occasionally seem to be Bark Huntsman Spiders (*Holconia montana*). There was a huge female Huntsman Spider above the door (noticed as I was ushering in two visitors!) and she was consuming something large. She finally dropped what remained of her prey, a male Huntsman Spider. Nature can be harsh sometimes.

To end on a happier note – many butterflies came to a densely flowering Mint-bush that was planted long ago and was covered in mauve flowers this year. It is *Prostanthera incisa*, and is not a local plant, but it attracted Yellow Admiral (*Vanessa itea*) and Painted Lady (*Vanessa kershawi*) Butterflies. Quite a few of them flitted around the bush at its peak flowering, enjoying the copious nectar. Nature can be kind too.

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