

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

# The Whisper

## Wamboin and Bywong Facilities and Contacts

Bungendore Police: 6118 1240 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 Community	Steve Walker - President	6230 3473	president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Bywong Hall Bookings	Bookings Officer		<a href="mailto:lrrhallbywong@gmail.com">lrrhallbywong@gmail.com</a>
Church - Anglican	Gai Donald - Warden	0438 400 364	<a href="mailto:peterandandrew2012@gmail.com">peterandandrew2012@gmail.com</a>
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison - Bungendore	6238 1333	
Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade	Neville Schroder - Captain	0409 991 340	wamboincaptain@gmail.com
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Cameron Smith	0419 449 747	
Golf	Ken Gordon	0455 839 840	ken.gordon1962@gmail.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare - Helpline	6299 1966	
Justice of the Peace	Andrew Stainlay - JP	0408 469 880	stains@bigpond.net.au
Justice of the Peace	Leanne (Lee) Ward - JP	0411 207 317	<a href="mailto:leannefward@gmail.com">leannefward@gmail.com</a>
KYB Bible Study Group	Robyn Doran	6238 3469	rdoran4@bigpond.com
Landcare	Kathy Handel - Treasurer	6238 3596	khandel@bigpond.net.au
NSW SES (assist - storm/flood)	NSW Call Centre	132 500	
NSW SES Bungend. (non-urgent)	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	
Sutton School Playgroup	Pip Easy - Contact Person	0414 366 856	Playgroup.sutton@gmail.com
Table Tennis	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	mikemuston@gmail.com
Wamboin Community Assoc.	Jenny Richards - President	6238 1329	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Wamboin-Bung. Book Group	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	sally.saunders1@bigpond.com
Wamboin Hall Bookings	Joan Mason	6238 3258	joan.mason@internode.on.net
Wamboin Markets	Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	lmsconsulting@bigpond.com
Wamboin Play Group	Denise Lang - Co-ordinator		wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com
Gearys Gap Pony Club	Kate O'Connor, President	0413 008 824	<a href="mailto:gearysgap.ponyclub@gmail.com">gearysgap.ponyclub@gmail.com</a>
Wamboin Pony Club	Stacey Burgess -Contact Person	0414 672 979	<a href="mailto:wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com">wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com</a>
Wamboin Thurs Social Grp	Narelle Pumphrey	0438 917 206	<a href="mailto:pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au">pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au</a>
Greenways Mgmt Commtee	Kathy Handel - Chair	6238 3596	<a href="mailto:khandel@bigpond.net.au">khandel@bigpond.net.au</a>
Wonderful Women of Wamboin	Gail Ritchie Knight	0416 097 500	whirlwind1@argonite.com.au
ARF (Rescue Dogs)	Lisa Whitney	0408 260 796	<a href="mailto:lisawhitney059@gmail.com">lisawhitney059@gmail.com</a>
Building Community Resilience	Amanda Jones		<a href="mailto:Ajones.advisor@gmail.com">Ajones.advisor@gmail.com</a>

**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 May 2023 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, May 28, 2023.** 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 \$97 Full Page \$140. email or phone the editor as above

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## It's what our clients say that counts

Dear Kim and Ben

We would like to express our gratitude for the wonderful way you handled the recent sale of our home, 37 Merino Vale Drive, Wamboin. From the very initial appraisal to the final settlement, you walked with, and guided us – qualities rarely seen in many real estate agents who often drop you as soon as an offer is accepted.

At the outset you understood that we wanted a realistic price and an expedient sale, and were able to advise what was worth improving to gain this, and what wasn't. Kim, you were particularly good at seeing what was needed, or not, in the house and garden; and you Ben, were able to grasp the big picture. We really appreciated that you could see that our loved home, whilst not the grandest property in Wamboin, had a good "feel" about it.

It turns out that your advice and pricing was "spot on" as you received an acceptable offer for us at the very first Open Home!! We were astounded and thrilled with this result.

From there on, you liaised brilliantly between the new owners and ourselves so that we were able to give them a comprehensive handover of the property, and successfully negotiate moving out dates etc. The ongoing communication between ourselves and you, Ben, was exemplary. We have never experienced an agent who answered calls literally within minutes! You kept us well informed and cheerfully explained every step of the sale process from start to finish.

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Yours sincerely  
Allison and Bob Pearson

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It has finally starting to turn cold in Wamboin but the last month has been busy.

**1. Wheels of Wamboin.** On the **15<sup>th</sup> April** Pete Evans hosted the highly successful Wheels of Wamboin which coincided with the monthly Market Day. Pete reports that there were over 420 entries for the day generating a great deal of interest. The event raised \$1,522.70 proceeds to be divided between Possumwood, Camp Quality and our local Fire Brigade. Hopefully Pete will supply a more detailed report of the day for the Whisper but it was clearly an outstanding success. Thankyou Pete for organising it.

**2. AGM.** On the **18<sup>th</sup> April** the WCA held its **AGM** I was disappointed by the small turn-out for this event. However there were some changes among the office-bearers. Three of our ordinary Committee members have decided due to work and/or health reasons that they could not continue this year. To our outgoing Committee members from last year I say thank you to Mike Bourke, Ian Donald and Gai Donald. Mike you always had a sensible word of advice at Committee Meetings; Gai and Ian you were tireless workers especially in organising last year's Spring Talks. Thank you. Our new Committee is as follows:

<b>President:</b>	Jenny Richards	<b>Vice President:</b>	Diana Boswell
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Keith France	<b>Secretary:</b>	David McDonald
<b>Committee Member:</b>	Ned Noel		

We could really do with at least one more Committee member so please consider joining. Also please come to the monthly meeting and join the Association. Remember we want to do things to help the Community but we cannot do this unless you help and you can help best by coming to meetings and letting us know what you think.

That's it. I really do hope to see as many of you as possible at this next month's meeting especially our new interest groups like the Playgroup and others. Hope to see you around. *Jenny Richards – President.*

## Let's Recycle Right!

**What goes in your Yellow Bin?**  
Keep it simple! Only five things go in the Yellow Bin.

Paper and Cardboard

Glass Bottles and Jars

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Plastic Milk Bottles

Aluminium and Steel Cans

Tetra Paks and Milk/Juice Cartons

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**Keep this out of your Yellow Bin!**

- Plastic bags
- Soft plastics
- Food waste
- Clothes or fabric
- Polystyrene
- CDs/DVDs/Videos
- Windows
- Shredded paper
- Paper towel
- Any broken glass
- Lids

- Crockery, cutlery and glasses
- Batteries
- Nappies
- Electronics
- Sharps
- Chemicals or asbestos
- Cigarette butts
- Anything smaller than a credit card
- Anything that isn't on of the five listed above!

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**Keep it loose!**

Never put your recycling in a plastic bag, inside other items, or even inside a cardboard box. Our recycling machines are not able to sort recycling properly if it's not seperated, and your recycling can end up in landfill. Always put every piece of recycling in seperately!

## Recycling – What And How

In Wamboin we are fortunate to have a collection of yellow bins located at the far front part of the Community Hall precinct. These are emptied, free of charge, each Friday morning by Council. However it has become very clear to members of the WCA and the Hall Management Committee that some people are **NOT** doing the right thing. Either they do not understand what is acceptable for recycling or they think these are ordinary waste bins. If you are unsure about what is acceptable please refer to the ad just left of this article. We are fortunate to have this service but if it continues to be abused it is very likely that we will lose it! **PLEASE** note the ad and do the right thing! - Jenny Richards - President

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### Bywong News

! Event: Bywong Trivia Night - For All Ages

Theme: The Letter 'C'

Date: 17 June 2023

Time: 7:30pm

Place: Bywong Hall (67 Birriwa Rd, Bywong)

Cost: \$10 cash per head (or email

[events@bywongcommunity.org.au](mailto:events@bywongcommunity.org.au) to arrange payment prior) All welcome.

- Steve Walker, President



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10AM Sun May 13 10 am  
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# The Wamboin Firefighter



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Again it's been a busy month for us. Training continues regularly during the month, on one week night and one Saturday. We continue to work closely with adjoining brigades, even some from other "zones". Major incidents will use resources from anywhere in the state if needed. We often have our crews travelling long distances to incidents in the state to assist other brigades. If we were to have a large incident in our area, we would expect the same assistance from other brigades.



**Callouts this month.** Callouts included 2 x ambulance assist, 4 x MVA's, 1 x power pole fire, 1 x assist public (cat rescue), 1 x grass fire, 1 x vehicle fire.

## **"Out of fire season" – what can you do to better protect your property?**

Did you know that 85% of houses are lost from ember attack? The following provisions are designed to give existing buildings improved protection from ember attack during a bush fire event. Ember attack can occur over distances greater than 100 metres from the bush fire front. Any gaps, cracks or areas where embers and fuel can lodge (leaves, twigs, debris), significantly reduces a building's resistance to bush fire attack. To mitigate against ember attack you should consider some of the minimal upgrades as detailed below. Additional protection measures may also be considered and this will be dependent on the individual circumstances of the building, proportionate with the level of threat from bush fire attack. The potential level of threat to the property from bush fire attack should also be taken in to account when deciding what level of protection should be used. Factors to be taken in to consideration include the location of the buildings and how easily you can react in the event of a bush fire. Owners are cautioned that existing buildings may contain materials made from asbestos or have painted surfaces that contain

lead. These materials should be handled in accordance with appropriate guidelines.

(The following list shows some, not all, of items which come from the RFS publication "Upgrade of existing buildings" which generally can be done without removing building components.)

### **BUILDING ELEMENT PROTECTION MEASURES**

**GENERAL** - Seal all gaps (>3mm) around the house (excluding subfloor) with appropriate joining strips; flexible silicon based sealant or mesh with a maximum aperture of 2mm, made from corrosion resistant steel, bronze or aluminium. Consider a bush fire sprayer system. (Please contact a bush fire consultant or relevant industry expert to discuss options)

**SUBFLOOR** - Removal of combustible materials and keeping areas clear and accessible. Enclose subfloor with non-combustible material.

**DOORS** - Install weather strips, draught excluders or draught seals at the base of side hung doors. Replace external doors with non-combustible or solid timber doors with minimum thickness of 35mm. Install weather strips, draught excluders or draught seals at the base of side-hung doors.

**VENTS & WEEPHOLES** - Seal vents and weepholes in external walls with mesh (with an aperture size of 2 mm) of corrosion resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

**ROOFS** - Seal around roofing and roof penetrations with a non-combustible material. If installed, gutter and valley leaf guards shall be non-combustible. Seal around roofing and roof penetrations with a non-combustible material. **WINDOWS** - Install mesh with a maximum aperture of 2mm, made from corrosion resistant steel, bronze or aluminium to all external doors and openable windows. Installing appropriately tested shutters to doors and windows can give much improved protection. Replacing glass with toughened or laminated safety glass, double glazing and "BAL" rated windows and window frames will give vastly improved protection. Consult with window manufacturers for advice. Replace overhead glazing with 'grade a' safety glass.

**EXTERNAL STRUCTURES** - External structures to be located >10 metres from the main dwelling.

**DECKING** – Consider replacing decking with non-combustible "BAL" rated materials.

### **Useful links**

**Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade**

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

**NSW Rural Fire Service**

[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

**Wamboin Facebook page**

[Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade](#)

**Queanbeyan Fire Control**

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## Cindy Scott-Findlay's Recipe for May

**Roast tomato, garlic, and onion soup.:** Well, we had a dismal summer with our tomato crop, too wet and too cold so not many tomatoes. If you were lucky to have a good crop this soup concentrate is ideal to use up the end of season tomatoes. I don't really have any measurements but it easy and absolutely delicious. In the winter when you need a taste of home-grown tomatoes you can pull a container out of the freezer.

NOTE: This cannot be made with the horrible thick skinned, tasteless supermarket tomatoes.

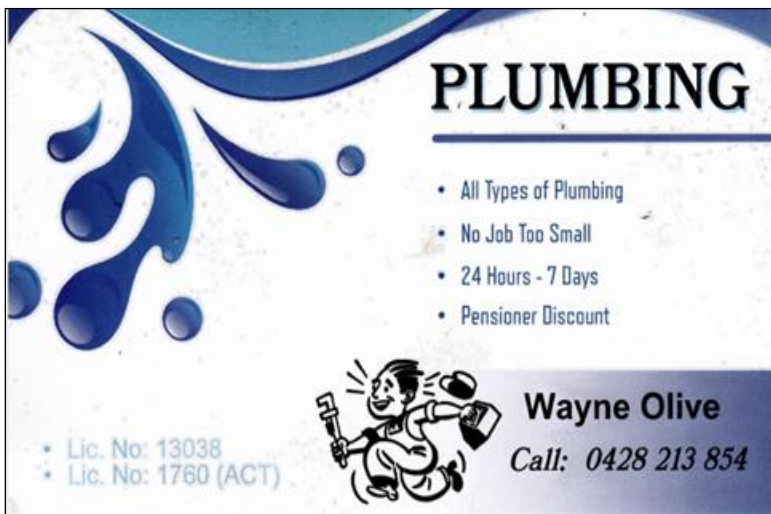
Oven on 170C One large roast tin

2 heads of garlic top cut off, so the cloves are exposed. 1 medium onion peeled and cut in half vertically.

Home grown tomatoes any shape of size, cored but not peeled. Lots of fresh tarragon

Pepper and pinch of salt 1/2 teaspoon of sugar Olive oil

Cut your tomatoes across the middle. Put the garlic, onion and has many half tomatoes as you can fit in the roast pan just squish them in, drizzle with a little olive oil and sprinkle with some pepper, salt, and the sugar. Cover the whole dish in a thick layer of tarragon drizzle with more olive oil cover with foil and put in the oven till everything is soft especially the garlic. Take out of the oven and allow to cool, pop the garlic out of the skins discard the skins and put garlic back in roasting tin. When cool blend everything together in a blender, if you need more than one blender full, put in bowl and mix. Freeze as a concentrate. To serve add some vegetable or chicken stock to the consistency you desire. Heat then sprinkle with a little grated parmesan and season to taste before serving.

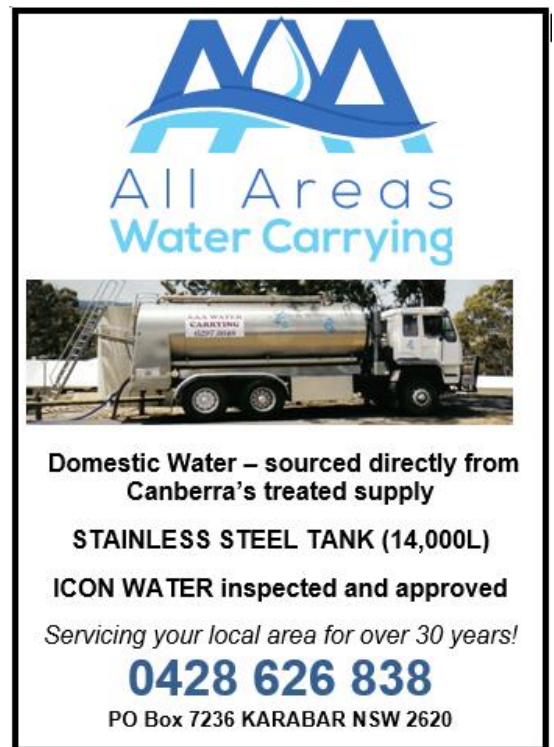


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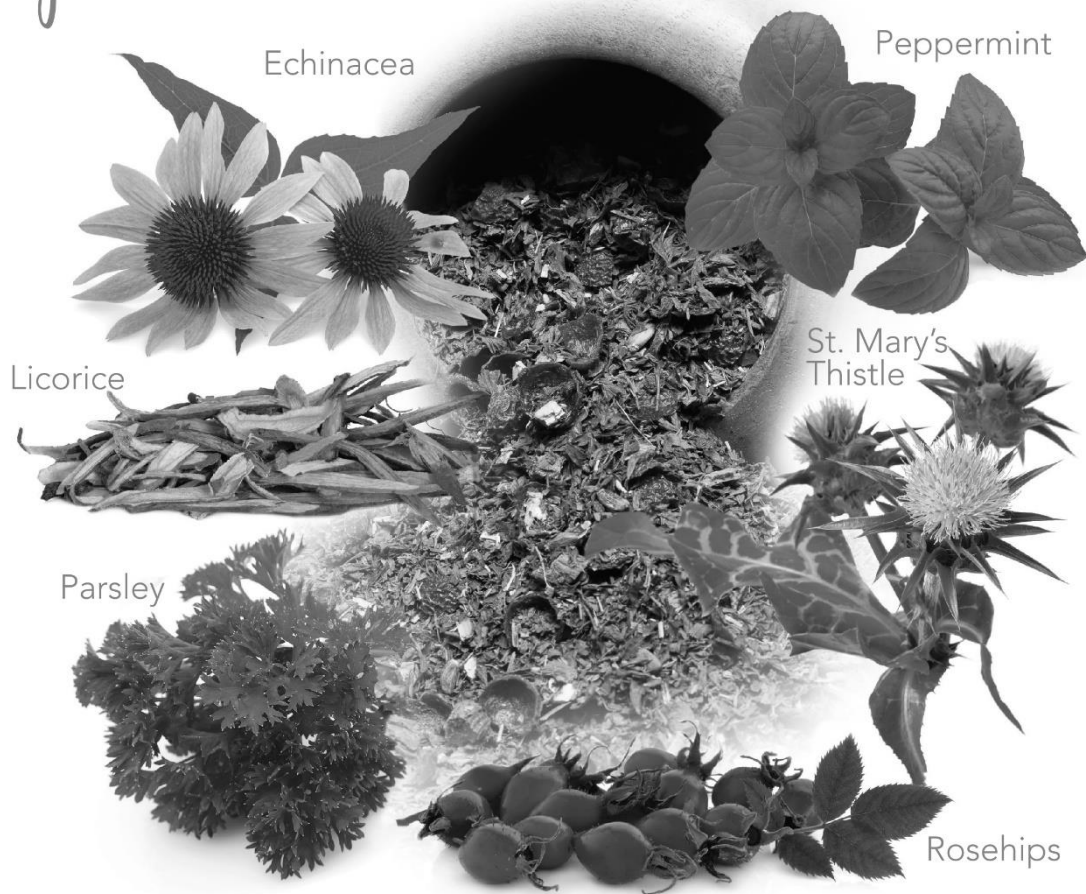
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## Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For May I chose the Common Blackbird, an introduced bird species which can often be detected by its musical call.

### Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)

Size: 25-26cm

Status: Fairly common (introduced) breeding resident

The Common Blackbird is a species of thrush native to Europe and western Asia, hence its alternative name, Eurasian Blackbird. It is a popular bird in Europe well known for its sweet musical whistling song. When European migrants came to Australia this was one of the many species that they brought with them and let free to acclimatise themselves into the new land. By 1862 Common Blackbirds were established in Melbourne and aided by subsequent introductions they spread throughout most of New South Wales to south-east Queensland and across to Adelaide, as well as establishing in Tasmania. The species usually occurs in pairs or small numbers and is generally regarded as less invasive than other introduced birds such as Starlings and Mynas. Males are jet black with a yellow bill and eye ring and dark legs. Females and young birds are mottled dark brown, paler below, with a duller bill and eye ring. They prefer denser vegetation such as gardens, hedges and treed areas, and can be somewhat secretive, often first noticed by the loud and melodious carolling call. When disturbed they also make a harsh “tshuk-tshuk-tshuk” or “seep” alarm call. Blackbirds forage on the ground in the leaf litter, eating a range of insects as well as fruits. When foraging on the ground they often flick sticks and other material around with their bill looking for insects. If you have mulch, they can quickly spread it all over the place. They often hop along the ground, flicking their wings and tail. They also often perch in trees, and fly fast when disturbed. Common Blackbirds are the



Male

only introduced bird species that I regularly see at my property, since other introduced birds like Starlings prefer more open farmland areas and the Blackbirds prefer the bush and gardens. They nest in summer in dense vegetation, building a cup nest and raising 3-5 young. Males may appear similar to other black birds like Choughs but are smaller and have a distinctive yellow bill and eye ring, and very different song. Females may look similar to the Bassian Thrush but that species appears more ‘scaled’ below with white and occurs in wetter forests. Keep a listen and look out for this non-native bird in your area.

(Photos from Google Images)



Female



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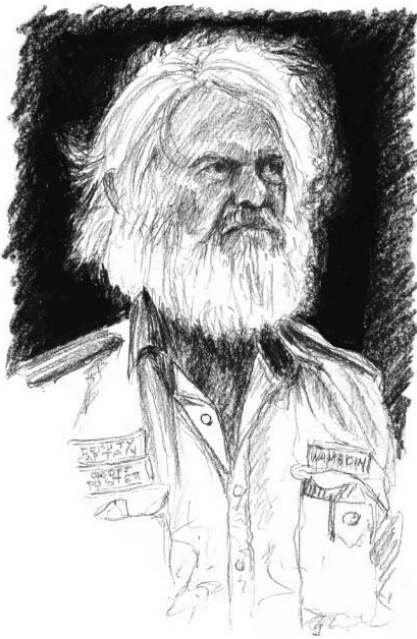
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## Drawings of Us

Drawn by John-Pierre Favre

Geoff and Colleen Foster and their son Scott moved to Bywong in 1994, to take up commercial vegetable growing. Geoff and Scott joined the Wamboin Bushfire Brigade in 1995, Geoff serving for several years as a field officer, community liaison officer and for 2 years captain. He no longer jumps onto big red trucks at the sound of the pager, but tends to the fire danger sign at Joe Rocks Rd.

For several years now Geoff has been active in the Southern Harvest Association, a farmer-led organisation which markets fresh chemical-free produce from local farmers to local consumers and runs the weekly Bungendore Farmers Markets, where you can usually see him at the Community Stall on Saturday mornings, rain, hail, wind, shine or COVID.

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## Wamboin Golf

Sunday 2 April 2023. Twenty-two golfers remembered to adjust their watches/clocks for the end of daylight savings and eagerly registered to participate in the annual Mini-Masters event sponsored by the Wamboin Community Association. We thank them for the refreshments and prizes.

The competition was played using the two holes at the Hall and four of the holes at the Mason's. After receiving some basic instructions from the starter, all players headed out for their first six holes and returning to submit scores. A rest break, possibly with refreshments took place before players returned to the course for the next six holes. Well, most players returned to the course. A couple may have decided themselves that they hadn't made the cut for the prestigious Greenish jacket and it was more prudent to keep Lofty company at H19.

To complete the days competition, a series of novelty shots were attempted from the tee in Firefighters Grove. Players were given two shots from each of three different 'tees' with the aim of getting nearest to the pin. The first of these tees was from a sloping plank angled down from a 300mm log to create an uneven stance. The second was a tyre on which players had to stand and take their shots and the third a wooden box filled with sand to create an above ground bunker to hit out of.

A number of shots did little to create work for the official measurer, as they either dribbled off the tee, went towards the fire shed or across the carpark.

After all of the calculations were done the prizes were awarded. Each of the ten players making the cut were awarded a golf ball. The winner of the 2023 Mini-Masters was Tim Barter with a score of 49. A close second was Clint Pickin with a score of 50. The winner of the Junior Mini-Masters was Robert Thompson from Emma Crafter. Robert is about to head off to sunny QLD for a competition before competing in the Hunter Valley on the way home.

A secondary competition was held using handicaps. This was taken out by Matt Hawke (56/28) from Clint Pickin (50/33). Handicapper will be keeping a close eye on the improvement in Matt's game following the tutoring by Scott Mason (making his annual Easter pilgrimage from Cairns to his childhood home – and resisting the desire to light the fireplace to signal the arrival of some cooler weather – well cooler for Queenslanders!)

The novelty nearest the pin competitions were taken out by:

Ramp – Vicki Still (1.85m), Tyre – Deb Gordon (2.95m), Bunker – Col Urquhart (4m), Overall – Deb Gordon (25.95m). The highest score was shared by seven golfers who failed to get a shot from any of the tees within 10m of the hole. The googly ball was presented to Scott Mason for not wanting to damage the fairways so carefully manicured by his father. The dummy spit was passed around as usual, this month spending time with Ken Gordon, Vicki Still and Tim Barter. Robert Thompson entertained us with his joke about a rancher and his 'rounding-up' technique. It was also noted that Robert has recently had the honour of meeting a number of dignitaries, including the Deputy Prime Minister, as an invited guest to the Junior House of Golf clinic. Tim Barter presented the Ted Evans memorial joke which involved two employees at a zoo dressed as a gorilla and a lion.

Vicki Still was presented with the Ned Kelly trophy after her March effort which was duly noted and punished by the handicapper.

Next month, the competition will be held on Sunday 7 May and is sponsored by Paul, Tim and Vicki. We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm for a 12.30pm start. – **Ken Gordon**



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## The Roads of Wamboin, Part 13: an Update on Weeroona Drive

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

**Introduction:** This is the 13<sup>th</sup> contribution in a series of articles on the origins of the names of Wamboin's 31 roads. (The Bywong Community's website has corresponding information on many of the Bywong roads.) The previous articles were published in *The Whisper* between April 2020 and April 2021. Brief summaries for all 31 roads are at the local history pages of the Wamboin Community Association's website <https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/localhistory/index.php?op=roads>. This article provides additional information on the origins of the name Weeroona Drive.

Apparently, the Drive is named after 'Weeroona Park', a grazing property owned by Selwyn John Clark and Jessie Margaret Clark. Its location was described as off Macs Reef Road, Bungendore, and was at the northern end of today's Weeroona Drive. The property was subdivided, and placed on the market in 1985: 4-16 ha blocks ('Advertising' 1985). In October 1987, the *Wamboin Whisper* reported that 'The Norton Rd. to Macs Reef Rd. connection (Weerona (*sic*) Drv.) will be completed shortly. This road will be formed but unsealed and is primarily a fire access and exit road. It should be noted however that in the longer term this road will be sealed' (Greenwood 1987).

Lake Weeroona is a major feature of Bendigo, Vic. Staff of the City of Greater Bendigo have advised (pers. com. 26.01.18) that 'Weeroona' is a word in the language of the Dja Dja Wurrung people of central Victoria, particularly the Bendigo region, probably meaning 'tranquillity' or 'we rest'. This word has been widely used to name properties, businesses, etc., across the nation, since the colonial era.

'The Lake Weeroona area is part of Jaara Country, the traditional land of the people of the Dja Dja Wrung language. The Dja Dja Wrung language group is one of the five distinct but closely related communities comprising the Kulin Nation in south central Victoria' (City of Greater Bendigo 2011, p. 15).

Note the 'Weerona' property at the end of Woodfield Drive, Amungula. 'Weerona' is a not uncommon spelling of the word, though 'Weeroona' is used far more frequently. Also note Weeroona Place, Jerrabomberra.

'Weerona' means 'resting place' (McCarthy 1959, p. 31.)

Note the Bendigo gold rush of 1851. Perhaps gold prospectors and/or miners brought the word with them from Bendigo to the Brooks Creek, Bywong and/or Macs Reef goldfields, resulting in the name of the local 'Weerona' and 'Weeroona Park' properties, both of which are relatively close to the Macs Reef mine site? Or perhaps the name was used simply because of its euphonious nature?

**References:** - 'Advertising', *The Canberra Times*, 30 March 1985), p. 51, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article122506419>.

-City of Greater Bendigo 2011, *Lake Weeroona Master Plan, Landscape & Open Space Planning*, the author, Bendigo, p. 15.

-Greenwood, P 1987, 'President's paragraph', *Wamboin Whisper*, Oct 1987, p. 2.

- McCarthy, FD 1959, *New South Wales Aboriginal place names and euphonious words, with their meanings*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn, Australian Museum, Sydney, p. 31.












**Recent Wamboin local history publications** McDonald, D 2023, 'Wamboin ... a Wiradjuri word all over the place', *Placenames Australia*, March 2023, pp. 6-8 open access <http://www.anps.org.au/newsletter.php?pageid=3>.

---- 2023, 'What happened to the first Wamboin parish map?', *Placenames Australia*, March 2023, p. 9, open access <http://www.anps.org.au/newsletter.php?pageid=3>.



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World Frog Day was, and always is, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. The world population of frogs is diminishing, and this is a tragic thing. World Frog Day was first established in 1995 as a way to raise awareness about frogs and other amphibians. Not only are frogs fascinating creatures, but they also play an important role in our environment. They help to keep insect populations in check, provide food for other animals, and can even be used as indicators of environmental health.

Australia currently has 247 known native species of frog, many of which occur nowhere else in the world. Sadly, frogs are in a lot of trouble. 1 in 6 frog species in Australia are threatened with extinction, with at least four frog species in Australia already extinct.

Through the Australian Museum FrogID Project, launched in 2017, more than 35,000 FrogID participants have helped gather over half a million recordings. This has resulted in more than 850,000 expert-verified frog records! I have been recording frogs for several years, mostly of those living on my property. Thus far I have recorded eight different frog species living around my dam. Further afield, at Lake Crackenback, I was the first to record a species living in that alpine region. A recent FrogID recording of the Barking Frog (*Limnodynastes fletcheri*) in Broken Hill NSW has extended the western range of this species by about 50 kilometres. This recording will result in an update of the distribution map of this species. It is one of thousands of FrogID recordings improving the understanding of Australia's frogs to help mitigate their decline.

Monitoring frog presence at sites over time is also helping understand how frogs and their ecosystems are responding to a changing planet- from fires, droughts, floods and urbanisation.

You can be a citizen scientist and contribute too. Simply go to this web page and download the app: <https://www.frogid.net.au/get-involved> - **Bill Gillespie, Wamboin**

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Dave Power	Fernloff Rd	34	Vicki Still	Canning Cl	15
Andrea Sadow	Poppet Rd	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	47

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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)	27

229: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489

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Colleen Foster	B'dore Rd to Nrtn Rd	24	Dominica Lorima	Norton Rd – North End	42
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
Jules Clancey	Norton Rd #1033-#1240	37			

201: CO-ORDINATED BY GARETH JONES: ph Ph: 6238 1988 [givrjones@bigpond.com](mailto:givrjones@bigpond.com) done in Aug & Sept by Dominica Lorimer

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James Houlcroft	Macs Reef Rd (DenleyToGumFlt)	7	Maria Taylor	Birriwa Rd & Gum Flat Lane	19
Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Justin Jarvis /Joel Smith	Macs Reef Birriwa to Harriott	14
Megan Wallace	Harriot Rd	28	Belinda Morris	Macs Reef Rd (Nwington2 Bankers)	11
Sandra Favre	Newwington Rd	20	Carol &Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (Bankers To Fed Hwy)	34
Chrystal Earle	Snowgum Road	26			

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Lyn Parkinson	Bidges/Hickey/OldGoldMines	53	Fire Brigade	Headquarters on Bingley Way	1
Glen Dorahy	Sutton Park Estate	53	Russell Ball	Macs Reef – Denley Dr to BngndrRd	25

146: 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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## Letter

This is official notice .... I am a fridge killer!!! It's my citizens duty to warn you.

I know some people are Dragon slayers, or life savers, or have some other notable label ..... but me - I am a killer of fridges. I didn't choose this label. It revealed itself during a renovation project, a job that was reliant and budgeted on the restoration/reuse/resurrection of everything to keep the \$\$ down.

It was during the work process I saw the fridge ('60's???) - it looked so tired, looked how I felt really, and as though it needed a spa day like me .....so I scrubbed. I scrubbed and worked for hours ....., I chipped away the decades of ice in the icebox, I removed stains and unidentifiable debris. It started to shine

I worked for days (it felt like it). Then, proud as punch I painted it – I even re-chromed the shelves I did.... and it was as I was preparing the outside for its final coat the fridge hissed...yes it hissed, and then it hissed again, at me!!! Shocking!!!

It continued hissing..... and so I went outside to mentioned it to the site manager (aka my husband) who informed me this item was in a habit of hissing. So, taking his words as 'words of wisdom', I continued with my work plan ..... and eventually the hissing stopped.

But ..... this was not for the good. Turns out my efforts caused the fridge to go into shock, or some such thing ..... and its heart stopped. I'd killed it.

So, I'm sharing this as a warning ..... not to let me clean your fridge, or really anything if you want it to live (that's my excuse and I'm sticking to it). - **Gail Macauley, Wamboin**

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## What the Heck

A few weeks ago there was a baptism service in the Wamboin church. Now I am not talking about the 2004 music album by Lenny Kravitz, or the 1968 album of poetry by Joan Baez, nor the Randy Travis song all titled 'Baptism'. I am not even referring to the black metal band from Finland, or the novel by Max Kinnings, both also titled 'Baptism'.

I am talking about 'Affusion', which is a method of baptism where water is poured on the head of the person being baptised. Baptism is the Christian rite of sprinkling or pouring water on to a person's forehead, or of immersing them in water, symbolizing purification and admission to the Christian Church.

It is quite a while since the last baptism was held at St Andrews. Actually, this time there were three baptisms, one adult and two children. These bring the total number of baptisms in this church to 58, not bad for a small country church. The affusion method as used by the Anglican Church, involves the pouring onto the head of the candidate a small amount of water (we use warm water in this climate) often from a scallop shell. This is done three times for the trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Then the Priest traces the sign of the cross on the forehead of the candidate.

Pouring the water onto the head of a small child is relatively easy for the priest, who simply holds the child with its head over the font. However it becomes a little tricky with an adult. But the other week at St Andrews, common sense prevailed and the priest had no need to attempt to lift the adult, who managed to position herself so that the excess water returned to the font, not to her clothing, despite attempts by her hair to interrupt the pouring.

Baptism, sometimes called Christening, is a rite practiced by all religions. Many different styles and sizes of a font are used at churches all over the world. At St Andrew's the font used is quite a modern version. It was gifted to the church in memory of Father Jack, one of the regular preachers in the early days of Wamboin services at the Community Hall, who was tragically killed in a motor vehicle collision on the notorious Barton Highway, in 1995. The font consists of a turned timber base and large light weight metal bowl in a golden finish, then mounted on a timber pedestal.

At St Peters we use an older style font, also mounted on a timber pedestal, but with a stone bowl, considerably smaller than that at Wamboin, but weighing substantially more. This has no inscription to advise how the font became an item in the church.

Maybe some of our older readers or descendants of the early worshippers may know the history of the font and would like to contact me with the story. – **Alan Rope**



**Person wanted to give interested 8- year old piano lessons.** Please contact Sally Clouston 6238-3360.

**Wamboin Thursday Social Group:** The Thursday Social Drop In Group operates each Thursday morning from 10 – 12 noon at the Wamboin Hall, Bingley Way. If you have some time free on a Thursday morning pop in, have a cuppa and chat. We love to welcome new people to the group.

**QPRC Mobile Library:** Currently the QPRC Mobile Library bus is off the road and library staff are uncertain when it will return. If you want to keep up to date with the progress of the bus getting back on the road, check the library's Facebook page or phone the library.

**Can You Write Something for the June Whisper?** Thank you to each of you who delivered, ran an ad in or provided content for this May Issue. It would not exist without you. The Whisper is one of many ways we can talk to each other. Can you write a mini short story, a poem, an invitation, or provide food for thought or discussion for the June issue? It should relate in at least some way to living in Bywong or Wamboin. It needs to be attributed to you so readers will trust that it comes from a real resident. Deadline is last Sunday of May. It's a way to put out something for residents to enjoy or think about. – Ned Noel, volunteer editor, [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or [whisper@wamboincommunity.org.au](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.org.au) or mobile 0409 997 082.

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## The Wonderful Women of Wamboin

Gail Ritchie Knight

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) continue to meet on Mondays at the Wamboin Community Hall. It's a great opportunity to take time out for a couple of hours from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Some of us still do the clickety-clack, knitting trauma teddies, while others continue making post-operative drainage bags for breast cancer patients. Sadly they are still in demand. A couple of weeks ago, we celebrated Leatrice's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. She is a remarkable woman. Still lives in her own home, still has all her marbles and still has a great sense of humour. She is delightful, bringing joy to everyone. She is an absolute treasure. We are a disparate group of women from different walks of life with varied interests. But that's what makes us interesting. So if you would like to join us, pop in on Mondays 10am to noon at the Wamboin Community Hall. Gail Ritchie Knight (0416 097 500, [whirlwind1@argonite.com.au](mailto:whirlwind1@argonite.com.au)).

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### ALERT - COMING SOON! STORY WRITING COMPETITION!

- Last year the market ran an art show and competition
- This year we will run a story writing competition
- Look out for the details in the NEXT Whisper and social media
- You will have the winter to dream up and write/illustrate your stories
- Winners will be announced and prizes distributed at the September Wamboin market

The April market was super busy because of the large numbers attending the magnificent 'Wheels of Wamboin' + we had a beautiful, still, sunny autumn day. Sitting in that sun was a real treat - especially when accompanied by coffee and the wide choice of sausage sandwiches or egg and bacon rolls, apple strudel, home made cupcakes/biscuits, marvelous Italian cannoli and other goodies!

There were plants (including Landcare) and craft a plenty and fresh apples, local spuds and other garden produce. The 'Hang it on the Community Clothesline' was popular - we could do with some more autumn/winter gear if you have any to offer. Some more helpers would be terrific too.

Message or email me (see above) if you are interested in a stall or would like further information.

Supporting the market is a key part of our Wamboin/Bywong community.

See you there!

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Johannes van Zyl

## A Chronology of Wamboin and District, Part 15: 2004 to 2007

David McDonald

The fifth edition of an historical timeline of our local area, titled 'A Chronology of Wamboin and District, NSW', has been published at the Wamboin Community Association's (WCA's) website. Visit <https://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au/localhistory/> and navigate through the left-hand-side menus Wamboin Locality | Chronology. It commences with a two-page synopsis for readers seeking a brief overview of the history of the area.

This is the 15<sup>th</sup> article presenting some items from the Chronology that focus specifically on Wamboin and district, rather than the broader, contextual happenings. It covers the period Jun 2004 to May 2007, and future issues will continue the series. The full version of the Chronology at the WCA website provides the documentary sources underpinning these contents and, in some cases, additional information, as well as other entries for the time period covered below.

Date	Occurrence/comment
2004, 26 Jun	First election of the Councillors of the new Eastern Capital City Regional Council.
2004, 13 Jul	Cr Terry Bransdon elected as the first Mayor of Eastern Capital City Regional Council. The Mayor is reported to have stated that, among Council's priorities were 'Moving council's Queanbeyan offices to Bungendore'.
2004, 20 Jul	'A 65-year-old Wamboin man is in a stable condition in Queanbeyan Hospital after he was gored by a kangaroo on Sunday evening. Queanbeyan Ambulance Station Officer Paul Hitchman said the unit was called out to Norton Road at 6.40pm after the man "startled a kangaroo in his front yard. The man received lacerations to his thigh and lower leg and was taken to Queanbeyan Hospital for treatment. Fortunately, one of his relatives as a doctor who had tended to a damaged artery." The man, whose name has not been released, is in a stable condition in hospital.'
2004, 6 Sep	Bywong-based rural telecommunications company Yless4U Pty Limited was registered, proprietors Anthony Goonan & Anne Goonan. The company gained a National Telecommunications Carrier License in November 2004, and launched fixed wireless broadband services in the local area in February 2005.
2004, 8 Oct	The Bungendore to Captains Flat Rail Trail Steering Committee wrote to the Wamboin Community Association seeking the Association's support for the concept of establishing the Rail Trail. The extant records do not reveal the WCA's response to the request.
2004, 10 Oct	Opening of the extension to the Wamboin Bicentennial Fire Station by Gary Nairn MP, Member for Eden-Monaro.
2004, 13 Oct	The Bungendore Community Bank® Project held a Public Meeting in the Bungendore War Memorial Hall to discuss the possible creation of such a bank.
2004, 10 Dec	Council's name changed from Eastern Capital City Regional Council (ECCR) to Palerang Council. The Council was named after Mount Palerang, aka Palerang Peak.
2005, 15 Jun	Palerang Council moved from 11 Farrah Place, Queanbeyan to its new premises at 2 Majara Street, Bungendore.
2005, 02 Sep	The Geographical Names Board of NSW amended the boundaries between the localities of Bywong, Wamboin and Bungendore in the Palerang Local Government Area.
2005, Sep	Cr Jim MacLachlan elected Mayor of Palerang Council.
2006, 20 Feb	The Wikipedia entry on 'Wamboin' created by 'Lfoley'.
2006, 27 Jul	The Wamboin Community Association (WCA) wrote to the Premier of NSW expressing deep concern about decisions of Palerang Council and the Minister for Local Government, especially regarding what the Association saw as biased, unfair rate rises in the western part of the LGA, owing to 'the dominance of the eastern Palerang Councillors which represent a minority of Palerang residents ...'. The submission advised that the WCA has passed a motion stating, <i>inter alia</i> , 'The WCA has no confidence in the Palerang Council', and requesting that 'The New South Wales Government appoints an Administrator to the Palerang Council'.
2006, 08 Aug	Australian Census of Population and Housing: Wamboin population 1,980, median age 41 years. This was the first census that dealt with Wamboin as a separate entity. Previously it was part of the much larger Yarrowlumla (A) – Pt A Statistical Local Area.
2006, 11 Sep	Inaugural meeting of the Wamboin Wobbles: the Wamboin Ladies Social Group. Associated with it was The Wobbles Walking Group and The Wobbles Book Club. Apparently, Claire Ayling and Moira Power were the key organisers.
2007, Jan	The Wamboin Wobbles adopted a new name: WWOW – The Wonderful Women of Wamboin.
2007, 30 Apr	The Wikipedia entry on 'Wamboin' vandalised by an anonymous editor. David McDonald (Wamboin resident) advised Wikipedia and, on 02 May 2007, they reverted the entry to the previous text.
2007, May	Don Evans commenced a series of fascinating articles on Wamboin local history in <i>The Whisper</i> . This article commenced 'My first recollection of the Wamboin area was in late 1972'. A few paragraphs later we read that 'We decided to build in 1976, the third house to be built in the area. Two others had been already built in Cooper Road. In those days, Norton Road was only 2km in length. It came to a dead end where it joined Fernloff Road' (p. 3).

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## WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(48 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

### April Rainfall Stats

April rainfall to the 30<sup>th</sup> ..... 88.0mm  
 2023 total rainfall to 30/4 ..... 299.0mm

### May Rainfall Stats

2022 May rainfall..... 99.5mm  
 Wettest May..... 171.0mm in 1995  
 Wettest day..... 52mm on 3/5/95  
 Driest May..... 0mm in 2001

### May Temperature Stats

2022 May maximum.....22.3°C  
 Hottest May day..... 24°C (2 times) on  
 2/5/95, & 1/5/21  
 Hottest May night..... 14°C (5 times) on  
 2/5/88, & 1&2/5/95 & 3/5/19 & 15/5/22  
 Average day temperature..... 13.5°C  
 Warmest May..... 1980  
 (Av. max day temp. 14.2°C & night 7.5°C)  
 (highest 17.1°C in 2021 & 8.1°C in 1989)

Average April rainfall..... 45.8mm  
 2022 April rainfall..... 93.25mm  
 2022 total rainfall to 30/4..... 257.5mm  
 47yr Av. to end of April..... 224.2mm

Average May rainfall..... 46.6mm  
 Average no. rain days in May..... 8.4  
 Highest no. rain days..... 20 in 1989  
 Lowest no. rain days..... 0 in 2001

2022 May minimum.....-1.4°C  
 May 2022. Av. max 16.4°C & min 5.3°C  
 Coldest May day..... 3°C on 29/5/00  
 Coldest May night..... -6°C on 31/5/01  
 Average night temperature..... 5.2°C  
 Coldest May ..... 2012  
 (Av. min day temp. 10.1°C & night 0.8°C)

Av. May temp.... 9.4°C (day+night comb.)

During May the daylight length will decrease by 42 minutes from 10.5 to 9.8 hours



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## Nature Notes - April 2023

Jo Walker

We had quite a few pleasant sunny days throughout the month, but rain seems to have set in for some good falls at the end of the month. Over 30 mm has fallen over the previous three days and rain is falling steadily as I write this.

Apart from the pale yellowish-green flowerheads on the *Cassinia quinquefaria* bushes, the landscape relies on new growth on the eucalypts and the wattles for a touch of colour at this time of the year. Judging by the masses of buds on the Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) there should be a good show of flowers in spring.

After a few years without White-winged Choughs here, a flock of about a dozen birds has returned and settled in. But warfare between them and the Magpies has broken out and is now a common occurrence - they really don't like each other.

The birds seem to come and go and move around a lot. I hadn't seen Magpie Larks here for a while but a pair recently moved in and are here regularly. The birds that once frequented the dam moved on last time it dried out. The Pacific Black Ducks returned and, last week, a little Hoary-headed Grebe was there doing its underwater dives. But the White-faced Heron hasn't appeared again yet.

Another winged resident, a little microbat, made a recent uninvited visit when I opened the verandah door after dark. They're hard to catch, can bite and can cause health problems so I've found the easiest way to deal with this situation is to turn all the lights on in the house except for one room. The bat quickly finds the dark space and stays there until morning with the door shut, by which time it is usually hanging on a curtain sleeping and easy to remove in a jar or other container to a safe place outside. This one was placed in a sheltered area on the rough bark of a tree and stayed there all day until dusk.

It's good for the countryside, and so much in it, to be getting so much rain, but for some of the tiny inhabitants here it can be a bit of a problem. After some rain a few days ago a colony of Sugar Ants (*Camponotus consubris*) were painstakingly cleaning out their home. These ants are about a centimetre long and have a shiny black head and abdomen and a dark orange thorax. Their nest is dug into the ground below a circular mound of soil topped by a shallow dip with a central hole through which the ants appear periodically carrying a tiny load of soil to deposit at the side of the mound. Some time ago I saw an interesting interaction between some of these ants and a colony of Meat Ants (*Iridomyrmex purpureus*). The Meat Ants' low, gravel-covered nests usually have a wide, straight (and often quite long) track leading from them along which the ants depart in the morning in search of food. In this instance, a colony of Sugar Ants decided to build a nest right on the track. The Meat Ants were not going to detour, so every one of them, on their way out, picked up a tiny stone and dropped it down the entrance hole in the Sugar Ants' nest. The Sugar Ants retaliated by bringing up the grit and depositing it on their pile. There were never any direct conflicts, but, after several days, the outnumbered Sugar Ants gave up and moved on.

Wamboin is never boring – there is always some drama being acted out somewhere, even if it's amongst our tiniest neighbours.



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