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Local community group information



**Sunday 24 March 2024**  
**Buying & selling from 9:00 am–12:00 noon**

**Sellers \$25/Car Boot**  
**Buyers entry optional gold coin donation**

*Sellers must arrive and set up from 7:00–8:45am, and depart after 12:00 noon  
(no early departure for the safety of all).*

If you would like to have a food stall please contact us ASAP. [president@bywongcommunity.org.au](mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au)

**Where: 67 Birriwa Rd, Bywong (the Les Reardon Reserve)**



Proceeds from the Car Boot Sale are used by the Bywong Community Association for local projects and events.  
Other local community groups also attend with fundraising and information stalls.

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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.

## Bywong and Wamboin Facilities and Contacts

|                                       |                                |              |  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Bywong Community</b>               | Justin Jarvis - President      | 0404 460 568 | president@bywongcommunity.org.au   |
| <b>Bywong Hall Bookings</b>           | Bookings Officer               |              | <a href="mailto:lrrhallbywong@gmail.com">lrrhallbywong@gmail.com</a>           |
| <b>Church - Anglican</b>              | Gai Donald - Warden            | 0438 400 364 | <a href="mailto:peterandandrew2012@gmail.com">peterandandrew2012@gmail.com</a> |
| <b>Community Nurse</b>                | Heather Morrison - Bungendore  | 6238 1333    |  |
| <b>Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade</b>     | Neville Schroder - Captain     | 0409 991 340 | wamboincaptain@gmail.com   |
| <b>Geary's Gap Pony Club</b>          | Cameron Smith                  | 0419 449 747 |  |
| <b>Golf</b>                           | Ken Gordon                     | 0455 839 840 | ken.gordon1962@gmail.com   |
| <b>Injured Wildlife</b>               | Wildcare – Helpline            | 6299 1966    |  |
| <b>Justice of the Peace</b>           | Andrew Stainlay – JP           | 0408 469 880 | stains@bigpond.net.au  |
| <b>Justice of the Peace</b>           | Leanne (Lee) Ward – JP         | 0411 207 317 | <a href="mailto:leannefward@gmail.com">leannefward@gmail.com</a>               |
| <b>KYB Bible Study Group</b>          | Robyn Doran                    | 6238 3469    | rdoran4@bigpond.com  |
| <b>Landcare</b>                       | Kathy Handel - Treasurer       | 6238 3596    | khandel@bigpond.net.au   |
| <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>        | Felicity – Contact Person      | 0413 174 204 | Playgroup.sutton@gmail.com   |
| <b>Table Tennis</b>                   | Mike Muston                    | 0406 606 238 | mikemuston@gmail.com   |
| <b>Wamboin Community Assoc.</b>       | Jenny Richards - President     | 0490 020 165 | president@wamboincommunity.asn.au  |
| <b>Wamboin-Bung. Book Group</b>       | Sally Saunders                 | 0419 303 229 | sally.saunders1@bigpond.com  |
| <b>Wamboin Hall Bookings</b>          | Joan Mason                     | 6238 3258    | joan.mason@internode.on.net  |
| <b>Wamboin Markets</b>                | Meriel Schultz                 | 6238 3309    | lmsconsulting@bigpond.com  |
| <b>Wamboin Play Group</b>             | Denise Lang – Co-ordinator     |              | wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com  |
| <b>Gearys Gap Pony Club</b>           | Kate O'Connor, President       | 0413 008 824 | <a href="mailto:gearysgap.ponyclub@gmail.com">gearysgap.ponyclub@gmail.com</a> |
| <b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>              | Stacey Burgess -Contact Person | 0414 672 979 | <a href="mailto:wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com">wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com</a> |
| <b>Wamboin Thurs Social Grp</b>       | Narelle Pumphrey               | 0438 917 206 | <a href="mailto:pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au">pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au</a>           |
| <b>Greenways Mgmt Commtee</b>         | Kathy Handel - Chair           | 6238 3596    | <a href="mailto:khandel@bigpond.net.au">khandel@bigpond.net.au</a>             |
| <b>Wonderful Women of Wamboin</b>     | Gail Ritchie Knight            | 0416 097 500 | whirlwind1@argonite.com.au   |
| <b>ARF (Rescue Dogs)</b>              | Lisa Whitney                   | 0408 260 796 | <a href="mailto:lisawhitney059@gmail.com">lisawhitney059@gmail.com</a>         |

**Young Entrepreneurs:** Rebecca Purdie – pet/horse sitting 6238 3343 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)  
 Kathleen Dunkerly - baby sitting - 0435 794 070 [kathleen.dunkerly07@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.dunkerly07@gmail.com) Elly and Rex Collins - house cleaning 0418 979 474.

**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 [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. There is, by tradition, no January Whisper, mainly to give all its volunteer workers a rest. The **deadline for the April 2024 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, March 31, 2024. 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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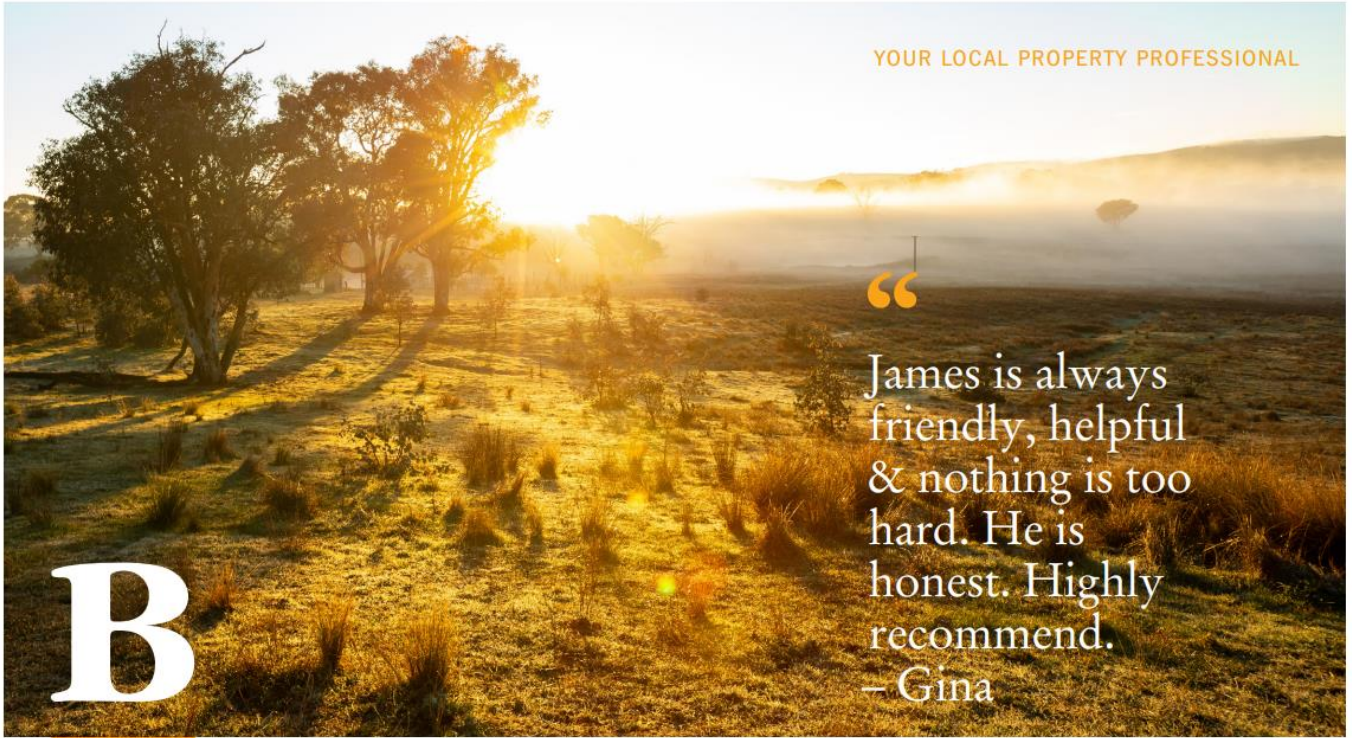
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**BLACKSHAW**



Many of you will know that the last Bywong Car Boot Sale in 2023 post COVID was a huge success. But now in 2024 it is back again, and with your involvement it can be back with a vengeance!

The idea is to bring your car boot with things to sell; other people will bring theirs and do the same. Most people have items they no longer need and want to sell for some extra cash, so here is your chance. We will have a BBQ run by the Bywong Community Association, to help fundraise, as well as a tea and cakes stall in the Hall run by Bungendore Girl Guides (they will raise funds from this too). We will also have a range of community groups attending with information booths, such as the Bungendore Lyons Club, and the QPRC Mobile Library. Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group will also be there with a native plants stall too. As well as the Empire Performing Arts, offering face painting to raise funds for performance competitions. Plus many more!

If you are interested in holding a stall there is a \$25 /car boot charge (we do not have an EFTPOS machine so bring cash please). Don't forget to organise a float to give change to your buyers. Turn up at the Les Reardon Reserve (67 Birriwa Rd, Bywong) between 7:00 am – 8:45am on Sunday 24th March with your items to sell. First in to get a spot, places are not reserved. RFS will guide you to a spot then you set your items out ready to sell. No Food stalls are permitted unless you have gained permission from our organising team (we want the Girl Guides and BCA to benefit with their fundraising food stalls). However, if you are a local and have a food stall then please email [president@bywongcommunity.org.au](mailto:president@bywongcommunity.org.au) and we can discuss if it is appropriate to have at the car boot sale.

If you don't have anything to sell then come along to buy, you never know what you will find. Buyers have an optional gold coin donation to enter (donations go to Wamboin RFS). Again bring some cash to make your purchases or bring your card and use the ATM on site. Buying starts at 9:00 am and ends at 12:00 noon. Once the buying has ended and our buyers have left then we can move the cars off the reserve. No cars can leave between 9:00 am and 12:00 noon for the safety of everyone.

The Car Boot Sale is a major fundraiser for the Bywong Community Association who use the money to Bring Bywong Together and put back into the community. We are looking forward to being back on the calendar and being the biggest one day event in Bywong.

- 24th March -Sellers arrive 7am -Buying between 9 and 12 -Pack up and leave from 12. -Sellers \$25 per stall
- Buyers Gold coin donation for parking. -BRING CASH!!! - Car Boot Sale Coordinators Justin Jarvi



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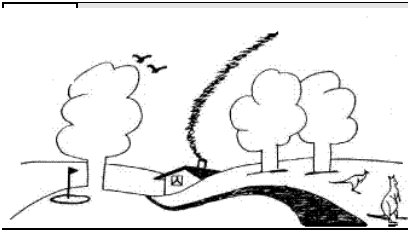
Doug Merriman - 0419 999 001

Ava Merriman - 0429 517 003

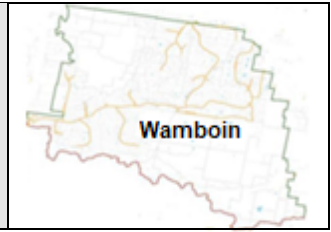
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## President's Notes




We are into 2024 with a rush I'm pleased to say.

1. **First General Meeting of 2024.** Our first general meeting of 2024 was held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February at the Hall on Bingley Way. The meeting was well attended. Kathy Handel gave an interesting update on the Greenways developments for the local area and other social groups gave reports that affected their particular areas of interest. Councilor Ross Macdonald was present and was asked to either give feed-back or take issues of concern to Council of a number of different topics. All in all a well attended and informative meeting.
2. **Changes to Monthly Meeting Format.** One thing that became very apparent at the last Meeting was a clear desire for a change of format. Members of the community are interested in learning about a large variety of topics that concern us here in Wamboin. So with that thought in mind the Wamboin Community Association are keen to have people come in for meetings and discuss topics that interest or concern YOU. However to do this we need to know what does concern you. Do you want more information on weeds; what is a weed, how do you deal with it etc. Are you a young family and want to know things in regard to groups for toddlers, or school issues or even public transport. Are you an older resident and want to know what facilities are available to you and how to navigate your way through Aged Care Services. Do you want to know what to do in case of snake bite. The potential list can be as long as you – the Community of Wamboin – want it to be. The Wamboin Community Association is here to help the Community as a whole, but to do this we need to know your thoughts and concerns. If you have an idea or an issue PLEASE email me or ring me on **0490020165** or contact David MacDonald our Secretary via email. Or contact Ned Noel the Whisper editor (contact number on front of Whisper). Don't be backward with ideas because the more we have the more we can help.
3. **Social Drop In Group.** There are a number of social groups in Wamboin who make use of the Hall at different times and days of the week. The **Social Drop In Group** is a comfortable group of older residents who come on Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00 for a cuppa, play a game or Scrabble, cards, anything you want really. The Coordinator is Narelle Pumphrey and she is delighted to welcome everyone. If you just want to pass a bit of time in a relaxed environment contact Narelle (see front page of Whisper of contact details) and see if you can make it to one of the Drop In sessions.

Well that's it for now. Remember the monthly meetings of the Wamboin Community Association are held at the Hall in Bingley Way every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7:30 pm and everyone is welcome. It is after all your community. - *Jenny Richards – President.*



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# The Wamboin Firefighter



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The brigade has been busy with training and callouts. The last month has had: 1x Mower fire, 2 x MVA's, 1 x Truck fire, and 1 x Tree down over main road and 1 x Grass fire.

## Farm Fire Units



The NSW RFS recognises and values that in many parts of the state, our NSW RFS resources are supported by the use of private equipment, including Farm Fire Units (FFUs), to fight and contain fires. Safety at fires is everyone's responsibility, and the NSW RFS is committed to working with property owners and community members to ensure we can manage fire together in a safe and coordinated way.

### Safety

Safety at fires is the number one priority of the NSW RFS, and must also be yours. If you are preparing to fight fire or attend the fire ground, you need to take responsibility for your own safety and the safety of any persons for whom you have responsibility under the WHS legislation. This responsibility doesn't just cover your activity while physically fighting a fire, but extends well before it to your preparation and planning. **Preparation** The decision to engage in firefighting should be carefully considered and planned well before an actual outbreak of fire. It is essential that FFU operators are adequately prepared by: having the appropriate skills and knowledge being mentally and physically prepared understanding the risks involved accepting responsibility for decisions and actions having suitable PPE liaising with their local NSW RFS brigade. You can use the "IMSAFER" checklist to consider if you are physically prepared to fight a fire. You will also need to prepare your equipment and vehicle/s to make sure they will operate as intended. The best time to do this is prior to the bush fire danger period beginning in your area. Equipment preparation includes: compliance with any relevant legislation, including not driving unregistered vehicles on public roads ensuring your vehicle is not overloaded ensuring load and fittings are properly secured ensuring your vehicle and equipment is mechanically sound and reliable ensuring your vehicle has precautions in case of fire overruling equipping your vehicle with UHF communications, a portable handheld UHF radio and amber beacon. It is also the duty of an owner or occupier of land to prepare their property for fire. There are many practical steps you can take to prevent the occurrence of bush fires and minimise the spread and associated dangers of bush fires on your land. To find out about the bush fire risks in your area and the prescribed strategies for dealing with them, you should read your local Bush Fire Risk Management Plan. You can find a copy of the plan at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/managingbush-fire-risk/bush-fire-management-committees](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/managingbush-fire-risk/bush-fire-management-committees) or by contacting your local Fire Control Centre. You can also download the NSW RFS Farm Fire Plan at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/farm-fire-safety](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/farm-fire-safety) to help manage fire risks on your land.

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Membership enquiries       | Wamboinmembership@gmail.com   |
| Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade | <a href="https://wamboin.rfsa.org.au">https://wamboin.rfsa.org.au</a> |
| NSW Rural Fire Service     | <a href="http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au">www.rfs.nsw.gov.au</a>            |
| Wamboin Facebook page      | <a href="#">Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade</a>                            |
| Queanbeyan Fire Control    | 6128 0600 (business hours only)                                       |

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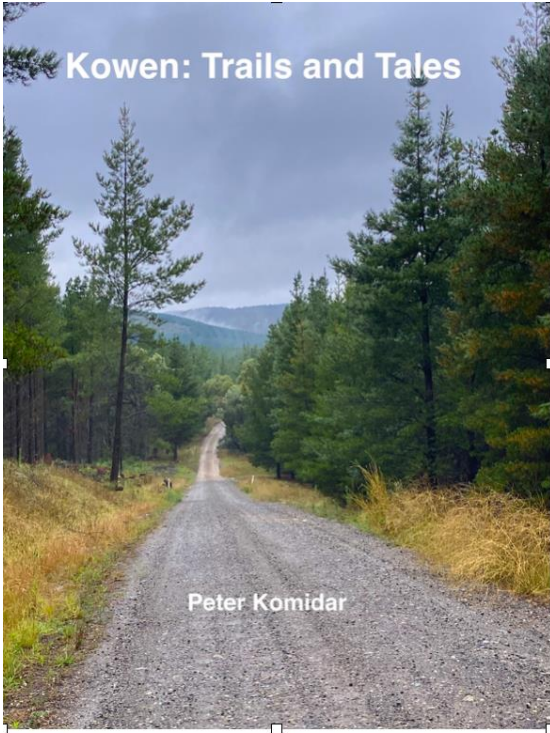
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## Wamboin Communications Action Group

Below is an update on the WCAG originated project. WCAG has continued to keep government focused on the importance of the project to the community and ongoing problems with Communications Providers across the community. This has included the recent spike in residents being advised by the Internet Service Providers that their ADSL service is to be disconnected. WCAG has raised these concerns with the Department of Regional NSW and we briefed the February 2024 WCA meeting on the Department's response. Opticomm subsequently provided the statement below to the Whisper which expanded on the Department's advice.

– Glenn Archer, WCAG



Friday 23 February 2024

We're writing to provide you with an update regarding Opticomm's Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) network rollout in Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton. With thanks to funding from the NSW Government's Regional Digital Connectivity program, this project will potentially connect over 1,400 addresses within these communities to superfast fibre broadband.

Opticomm remains committed to delivering this rollout, which will be one of the largest digital infrastructure rollouts for the Monaro and Yass Valley regions to date. Since commencing this project, we have already made significant progress across the planning, design and build phases.

As you may be aware, the network rollout is temporarily paused because one of the construction partners working on the network build entered into financial administration unexpectedly at the end of 2023.

We appreciate the importance of this project for Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton residents and we are working to resolve this short-term challenge, as soon as practicable.

We have a formal tender process underway to appoint a specialist delivery partner, who can deploy the FTTP network in this region. We will provide further updates about this process, and when you can expect works to recommence, as soon as possible.

When the project resumes, we will continue to build the network throughout Sutton and into Wamboin and Bywong, with the majority of the street network already completed in Sutton.

If you have any questions or need to speak to one of our team, you can contact us via our website [opticomm.com.au/nsw-regional-network](http://opticomm.com.au/nsw-regional-network) with the nature of your enquiry and one of our representatives will respond to you via email or call if you supply a preferred telephone number.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

- The Opticomm team

An advertisement for APL Electrical Services, featuring a green and blue color scheme. At the top right, it lists the ABN 91 085 836 317. The main heading is "APL Electrical Services" followed by "ANDREW LEMON" and "NSW Lic: 120626C". Below this, it says "Your local electrician" and "Punctual and dependable reputation for:". There are five icons in white boxes: a house for "new homes", a shed for "sheds", a house with a wrench for "renovations", a plug for "electrical maintenance", and a water tap for "power to water bores". At the bottom, a green button says "Contact Andrew on 0428 466 525" and a footer says "Proudly servicing the local area for over 18 years".

**QPRC Mobile Library.** The QPRC Mobile Library bus will be at the Wamboin Hall from 10.30-11.30am on Thursday 7 and 21 March 2024, and then fortnightly.

The Mobile Library provides a wonderful opportunity to borrow books, CDs, audio books etc.

Please support this great service. After you have visited the library drop into the Social Group and have a cuppa

**Wamboin Thursday Social Group.** The Thursday Social Drop In Group operates each Thursday morning from 10 – 12 noon at the Wamboin Hall, Bingley Way. The group provides a wonderful chance to meet up with some local residents. If you have some time free on a Thursday morning pop in, have a game of scrabble, or rummykub, a cuppa and chat. New people are very welcome to attend.

## A Visit – by James Houlcroft

### Highly Commended Entrant in the Short Story Contest


I was out for a morning walk, when out of nowhere they arrived. The small strange craft buzzed softly like a wasp caught in the folds of a rarely opened curtain, mute but distantly angry with a potential for violence as yet unknown. Shaped vaguely like a knitting needle pushed through a pomegranate, their craft landed upright in the middle of the path that snaked through the greenway, startling both myself and a pair of crimson rosellas preening themselves in a nearby tree. I felt strangely serene as, with a hiss and a soft pop, the passengers emerged. They looked like misshapen croquemouches and they quickly surrounded me. With compound eyes glittering, they began gesturing at me to enter the ship with their numerous thin, ribbonlike arms, while others scattered and began taking cuttings of dogwood, black wattle and brittle gum saplings using unfamiliar apparatus that sung angelically as they sliced off leavings of kangaroos with small hoots of delight and sudden convulsions that rippled through their lumpy torsos. I almost called out to them to take only photos and leave only footprints, but I couldn't see any ears and was being prodded forward towards the teetering ship so decided it was best to just leave it.

As they cajoled me forward towards that ship I distinctly remember asking "Why me?" as if there was ever a chance it wouldn't be me. I'm a lightning rod for events like this. Just last week a sinkhole to a subterranean world opened up in my backyard taking my brand new mower, the second-hand trampoline my wife scored off the Buy Nothing group and my eldest daughter. Each of them lost in those vast and time-forgotten prehistoric depths. Earlier this year, could have been April or May, I had to call Council to report that Bigfoot was back again, sitting on roof, picking his toenails with a bent star picket. The lady on the other end of the phone, when she eventually answered, asked if I'd completed the Application for Sasquatch Habitation, available online and, when I told them that the website was confusing and I couldn't find it, she laughed derisively and knowingly before asking for a payment of \$330. I quickly hung up and ignored all calls for the rest of the day.

A I trudged up the lolling tongue of the craft, the floor underfoot was warm and slightly malleable. My boot prints appeared as physical indentations that slowly healed over as I moved forward. Once inside, I looked around and watched as the remaining flock of visitors filed in behind me carrying their samples, scattering quickly towards various rooms that opened up awaiting them, revealing countless pens with various animals and assorted plant life. In one room I swore I caught a glimpse of a single canoe, dusty and dirty and covered with deep gouges, propped up against a wall to the back.

I was ushered into a space that reminded me of my doctor's office but as I practiced my cough and prepared to drop my trousers, the room began to thrum as a cone lowered from the ceiling, twitching lightly. One of my hosts reached upwards and began to guide it towards me as another crooned in my ear. "Ahhhh, so this was their game", I thought. "I've been around the block long enough to know when someone is trying to copy my memories." The Government tried that in '07 in a misguided door-knocking campaign and more recently the guy who looks after my daughter's horse when we head to the Coast tried to talk me into trading all my memories from 1996 to 1999 for a second hand bridle. I didn't know this new mob's end goal but I figured they had been polite enough so far so I'd go along with them for a bit.

The whole process took about a month and a half from my rough estimate. During this time, my new friends took me on a small sightseeing tour around the planets and fed me some rather interesting meals. I won't lie, snacking on Unicorn jerky while watching the ring rise over Saturn sure beats microwaving last night's leftovers, but it didn't quite have the same feel as a Lamb Pie from Gunna Do. Eventually the duplication process began to wrap up and it was time to get back to life back on earth. However, despite what I felt were very clear instructions, once we returned to Earth, the ship set down on the other side of the rise behind the Macs Reef Waste Transfer Station. Four of them pushed me out, those ribbonlike arms flapping against my back like wet seaweed in rough surf, while the other cried what I could only imagine was good riddance out of the thick crystalline windows. Then, with a soft snap of a bubble bursting, they took off, leaving me alone again. As I climbed the rise, the familiar sounds of cars tailgating each other on Macs Reef Road rose up to meet me, and I wondered if the dragon that hoards old milk cartons and squashed cardboard boxes was awake, as he owed me money from last month's poker game. When I found his den empty, I assumed he must be visiting family overseas as he often does, and grudging out to the toad and crossed it, avoiding a pothole and stepping over the twisted body of the first of many road kill kangaroos. Then I began the long walk back into town.



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## Our Experience with Putting Power Back into the Grid

I read in the Whisper that some people are having issues with not being able to put power back into the grid due to high supply voltages. We went through this some years ago and forced the energy company to comply with the Australian Standards for low voltage domestic supply. The applicable standard is AS 60038 2000, which changed the supply voltage point from 240v/415v 3-phase to 230v/400 3-phase. It also specifies the tolerance that must be met by all suppliers and in our case +10/-6%, which gives a single phase voltage of 216.2v min and 253v max. These should be measured at the power board on the main dwelling. There is also a time limit to the length of time that the power can vary from that.

Also of interest is another standard introduced in 2016, AS 4777.2, which set the maximum output voltage, (i.e. from your inverter to the grid), at the main power board, of 255v. So if the voltage at the power board goes over 255v the inverter will stop inverting. In our case the power at the power board was 253-256v all the time. It now runs between 235-241v after they changed the tapping on the transformer on the Norton Road power pole opposite our property.

I have included links to this information if the readers are interested. The power companies want to see as little power put back into the grid as possible so they can charge for the power consumed. However, they do have to stay legal and most of them seem to be hoping the residents are ignorant of the fact that there are regulations about supply that have to be abided by.

Here are some links:

<https://solarlinkaustralia.com.au/grid-over-voltage-and-overcoming-it/>

[https://www.evergreenpower.com.au/voltage\\_equipment%202012.pdf](https://www.evergreenpower.com.au/voltage_equipment%202012.pdf)

<https://www.australianrectifiers.com.au/regulatory/ac-supply-voltage-ratings-in-australia-have-been-lowered/>

<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/asmade/sl-2017-0223>

You do have to look around for some of this stuff as some companies are charging over \$100 for a copy. But it is available free if you look hard enough.

The supply voltage is not only of interest to those with solar. Every consumer has electrical appliances which are built to operate with the standard supply voltage. It would be interesting to see the response from the power companies to a domestic fire caused by electrical equipment that was subject to higher than standard voltage. One would suspect that they would become liable for causing the fire and subsequent damage, but proving it may be difficult.

- by Jon Gough, Wamboin

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## A Belated Thank You

You might have noticed that the area around the recycling bins and fuel store at the Wamboin Hall looks a lot better. This is due to the kind donor who left 2 piles of mulch at the hall and to Tim Barter, Geoff Butler, Steve Lambert and the Hurley brothers who helped move it. The Wamboin RFS, Geoff and I did hours of clean-up work beforehand to pick up rubbish and remove blackberry and dead wattles and then Darren Hurley and his brother donated another truck load of mulch and moved all the mulch with their small front end loader. Tim, Geoff, Steve and I raked it over but Darren did most of the moving work with his machine which enabled us to finish the job in a couple of hours.

If you need an arborist, any tree work, stump grinding, mulch or mulching, call Darren Hurley on 0431 546 702. Darren is a local and has helped us out voluntarily and very efficiently with the maintenance at the hall on several occasions.

Our next working bee at the hall will be in late autumn to do some more planting, pruning and weeding. - Vicki Still



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## Sutton Playgroup

Sutton Playgroup is an informal play session in a relaxed and friendly environment. We welcome babies and children up to five years-old (and their grown-ups) to enjoy some playtime, art, craft, music and morning tea. A great way to meet people in our community!

Thursdays 9:30 - 11:30am

at Sutton Public School

\$2 per family and a piece of fruit or sandwich to share for morning tea. Hats and sunscreen also recommended.




Playgroup is held at the After School Care building and courtyard next to the hall.

Contact us at:

e: [playgroup.sutton@gmail.com](mailto:playgroup.sutton@gmail.com)

ph: 0413 174 204

 Sutton Playgroup

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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 be impossible for Wamboin and Bywong to have the Whisper. Please remember all the residents listed below, as they do what they do in order to make Bywong and Wamboin a little bit friendlier and more sociable. Without the businesses who pay to advertise in the Whisper we could not pay for printed copies. Finally, the articles, invitations and notices you read in each Whisper are only there because one of your neighbours took the time to write it.

174: CO-ORDINATED BY ALICE SCOTT: ph 0407 005 506 email [alice.scott178@gmail.com](mailto:alice.scott178@gmail.com)

|              |                                |    |                  |            |    |
|--------------|--------------------------------|----|------------------|------------|----|
| Fay Kelly    | Norton West Area from Cmpbl Pl | 20 | Christine Rieber | Cooper Rd  | 27 |
| Dave Power   | Fernloff Rd                    | 34 | Vicki Still      | Canning Cl | 15 |
| Andrea Sadow | Poppet Rd                      | 32 | Alan Rope        | Sutton Rd  | 47 |

177: 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) | 27 |

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

|                |                             |    |                 |                                  |    |
|----------------|-----------------------------|----|-----------------|----------------------------------|----|
| Lesley Page    | Valley View Ln              | 4  | Deb Gordon      | Yalana East                      | 45 |
| Colleen Foster | BdoreRd BtwnJoRocks&NortnRd | 25 | Dominica Lorima | Norton Rd – North End            | 44 |
| Cassie Fisher  | Clare Ln                    | 12 | Lyle Montesin   | The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks | 65 |
| Jules Clancey  | Norton Rd #1033-#1240       | 37 |                 |                                  |    |

204: CO-ORDINATED BY Dominica Lorimer [dlorimer@internode.on.net](mailto:dlorimer@internode.on.net)

|                 |                               |    |                       |                                  |    |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|----|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----|
| Sophie Davis    | Weeroona (254 – 400)          | 18 | Susie & Brad Edwards  | Weeroona (417-512)               | 17 |
| James Houlcroft | Macs Reef Rd (DenleyToGumFlt) | 7  | Maria Taylor          | Birriwa Rd & Gum Flat Lane       | 19 |
| Nora Stewart    | Rovere Ln                     | 7  | Justin Jarvis Smith   | Macs Reef Birriwa to Harriott    | 14 |
| Megan Wallace   | Harriot Rd                    | 28 | Belinda Morris        | Macs Reef Rd (Nwington2 Bankers) | 11 |
| Sandra Favre    | Newwington Rd                 | 23 | Carol &Clive Boughton | Macs Reef (Bankers To Fed Hwy)   | 34 |
| Chrystal Earle  | Snowgum Road                  | 26 |                       |                                  |    |

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

|               |                            |    |                |                                   |    |
|---------------|----------------------------|----|----------------|-----------------------------------|----|
| Simon Lewis   | Federal HwSvcRd            | 24 | Louise Baldwin | Wattle Flat Rd                    | 11 |
| Lyn Parkinson | Bidges/Hickey/OldGoldMines | 53 | Fire Brigade   | Headquarters on Bingley Way       | 1  |
| Glen Dorahy   | Sutton Park Estate         | 55 | Russell Ball   | Macs Reef – Denley Dr to BngndrRd | 26 |

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

|                |                               |    |                      |                                |    |
|----------------|-------------------------------|----|----------------------|--------------------------------|----|
| Chris Fowler   | Millyn Rd                     | 22 | 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 |

252 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     | 52 | Mary & Paulo Beneforti | Dnly Dr frm MacsReef to Birchmans     | 12 |
| Janey & Paul Pedersen | BirchmansFrmDenleyUp2SaraRf    | 15 | Helen Longdon          | SarahReef&BrichmansFrmSarah2End       | 11 |
| Murray Goodridge      | B'dore Rd (MR to&nclgd Smrihl) | 40 | Diana Griffin          | Majors Close                          | 19 |
| Diana Boswell         | Donnelly Rd 29 & Grove Rd 8    | 36 | Advertisers & Misc     | Out of area advertiser mailouts & msc | 26 |

**TOTAL 1,354**



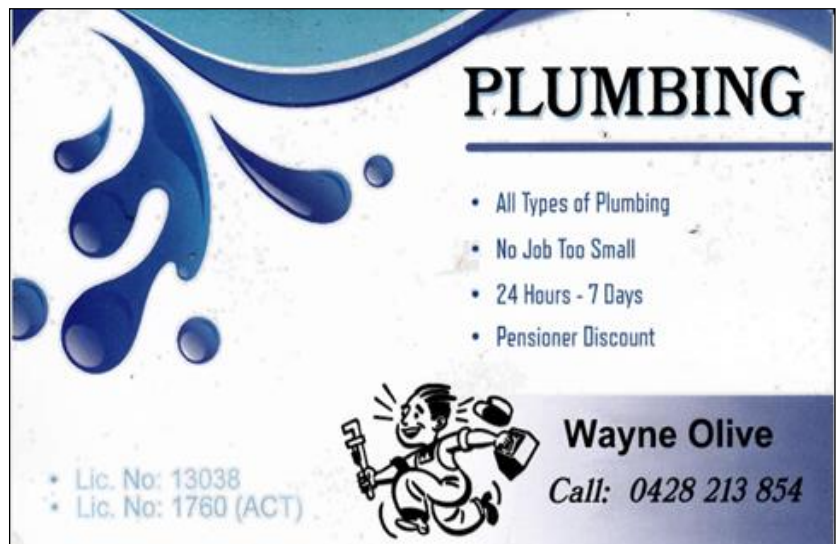
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## Wamboin Playgroup Update: January 2024

Playgroup would like to take a moment to update the residents of Wamboin on a matter concerning our playshed, which sits on the Wamboin Community Hall groups adjacent to the playground. Last October, some keen playgroup volunteers (Ross and Marianne Ackland) discovered that the (very old) paint on the shed tested positive for lead traces. Playgroup volunteers and coordinators, hall management, and the Wamboin Community Association acted immediately to empty the shed and escalate this community issue. The QRPC was informed, who quickly carried more complex testing on the playshed and its surroundings. It was discovered through these tests that the traces were below 1%, and subsequently not a health and safety risk requiring a soil analysis. With this information, a team was organized by council to pressure wash the playshed inside and out, and afterwards a deep clean in and around the shed area was led by Denise, who moved all toys, craft supplies and play equipment back. Playgroup has reached out council for a timeline on when the playshed will be repainted...and have (jokingly) requested rainbow or zebra print. Playgroup would like to acknowledge and thank all involved in addressing this community issue, especially hall management, who graciously made space in their storage area for playgroup to use until the playshed was stripped.

Besides the playshed excitement, playgroup is giddy to report record attendances of children and carers coming to our free play sessions. Nearly twenty children and babies joined in our Christmas party fun, where ornaments were painted, and a veritable feast of fruits and baked goods were served up for all. Playgroup is a wonderful place to bond and create memories that last a lifetime! Come be a part of this weekly opportunity for our kids to head outside and get some fresh air, sun and socialisation.

**How Wamboin Playgroup Works:** Our local playground facilities are fenced in and child safe—so we can let kids run free and enjoy a cuppa with other adults. We are an unstructured Playgroup with lots of space to explore and variety of toys for babies and children. We also organize structured activities based on interest and input, but most of the time, the children decide what they want to do. Playgroup is a great opportunity to introduce our children to each other and establish new friendships.

## WHEELS OF WAMBOIN



**Saturday 20 April 2024**

**9.00am to 1.00pm** (in conjunction with Home Produce Markets)

Wamboin Community Hall - Bingley Way (off Norton Road) Wamboin NSW.

We kindly request each carer bring prepared fruit to add to a healthy morning tea platter for our children to enjoy. We maintain and encourage a rotating baked goods roster for those who like to get crafty in the kitchen and bring in something tasty. Carers are also requested to bring along any essentials their children may need: water/drink bottles, sunhats, sun cream, etc.

**When and Where:** If you are home with little ones aged 0-6, please make it a priority to come to our free, local Playgroup every **Tuesday from 10-12:00 at the Wamboin Community Hall at 112 Bingley Way.**

- Denise Lang- Wamboin Playgroup Coordinator If you have any enquiries email [wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com](mailto:wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com)

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### 100 or so of us residents ...

... brought this March 2024 Whisper to life. Thank you to each of you who wrote something for, ran an ad in or delivered this issue. We've again built one more way Bywong and Wamboin residents can listen to each other. Contributions from Bywong and Wamboin residents for the April issue will be welcomed with open minds by at least some hundreds of your co-residents. Deadline is Sunday night, March 31. Characteristics that seem to me help to make what's in the Whisper appreciated include:

- Written by a Wamboin or Bywong resident
- Is about or at least related to living out here
- Attributed to the writer, so residents will feel confident the words are from a real local person taking time to write them
- Isn't prompted by a desire to increase the writer's income, unless run as a paid ad that helps pay for printing
- Entertains, educates or invites readers Respects the diversity of opinions and lifestyles our 1300+ homes
- Hasn't been printed elsewhere
- A little humor never hurts
- Ned Noel, volunteer editor on behalf of the Wamboin Community Association, [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or [whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au) or mobile 0409 997 082

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## What the Heck Chapter 21

Quite a few chapters back we mentioned the pews at St Peters and how they were modified by Russ Ferrett to be a more comfortable seat for the congregation. Like others, Russ and Margaret found them most uncomfortable for sitting through a service, even if it was only for about one hour. Yet for sixty years or so, people had persisted so as to be able to attend the twice monthly service. The existing pews were approximately 28 centimetres deep, which is not much less than today's chairs which are around 35 centimetres. But whereas today's chairs have either a moulded or slanted back, the pew backs were straight up and down with a wooden rail support. This would have meant being unable to sit right back on the seat to use the 28 centimetres of leg support. The size of one's posterior would have controlled the amount of leg able to fit on the seat. Even the thought of it causes discomfort. A hard wooden base seat for one's buttocks with a hard wooden back rail biting into one's back below the shoulder blade!

Russ decided he would bring the congregation of St Peters into the modern world! With the (probably unanimous) approval of the congregation, he set to work modifying the ancient pews.

First he removed the back rail. Then he added timber to both the front and back of the seat. This increased the depth to around 35 cm, and created a pocket to accept a cushion. Next were new end pieces which sloped back around 25 degrees and were joined by a new back rail some 8 cm higher than the original. All this timber was chamfered and moulded to increase the comfort, particularly when the

cushions, made by the ladies, were inserted into the pockets. Drop in one day and see his handiwork. Thanks Russ. — **by Alan Rope**



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## WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(49 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

### February Rainfall Stats

February rainfall to the 25th .....73.0mm  
2024 total rainfall to 25/2 .....186.5mm

### March Rainfall Stats

2023 March rainfall..... 71.25mm  
Wettest March..... 303mm in 1989  
Wettest day..... 160mm on 15/3/89  
Driest March.. 3mm (2 times) 1986 & 1998

### March Temperature Stats

2023 March maximum..... 37.4°C  
Hottest March day..... 37.4°C  
on 19/3/23  
Hottest March night..... 26°C on 9/3/83  
Average day temperature..... 22.6°C  
Average night temperature..... 11.7°C  
Warmest March..... 1983  
(Av. max day temp. 25.5°C & night 15.2°C)  
(warmest day temp. 26.3°C in 1998)

Average February rainfall..... 58.6mm  
2023 February rainfall..... 51.0mm  
2023 total rainfall to 25/2..... 139.75mm  
48yr Av. to end of February..... 119.4mm

Average March rainfall..... 59.7mm  
Average no. rain days in March..... 8.4  
Highest no. rain days..... 17 in 2017  
Lowest no. rain days..... 3 (8 times)  
81, 86, 92, 98, 02, 06, 09 & 18

2023 March minimum.....4.0°C  
March 2023. Av. max 25.6°C & min 11.7°C  
Av. Mar. temp.. 17.1°C (day+night comb.)  
Coldest March day.... 13°C (3 times) on  
14/3/94 & 3-4/3/12  
Coldest March night..... 1.1°C on 31/3/19  
Coldest March ..... 2012  
(Av. min day temp. 17.3°C & night 8.6°C)  
(coldest night temp. 7.9°C in 2015)

During the month of March daylight length will decrease by 1.1 hours from 12.7 hours on the 1<sup>st</sup> to 11.6 hours on the 31<sup>st</sup>.  
The **autumn equinox** is on the 20<sup>th</sup> March during which the daylight and night times are both 12 hours long.



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

### Magic Hands Reiki Explainer

10 February 2024

**Bookings:** Marisa: 0434 782 853

### First Aid for Horses

18 February 2024

**Bookings:** Sinead

[boyneequinehealth@gmail.com](mailto:boyneequinehealth@gmail.com)

### Tanja Mitton Lessons and Clinic

23-25 February 2024

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

### Tori Jeffress Classical Horsemanship

2 March 2024

**Bookings:** Heidi Jessup via Messenger

### Belinda Bolsenbroek Classical

Training

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## Blackberry

Be a good neighbour. Blackberry is a Weed of National Significance (WoNS) and must be controlled. Under the National Weeds Strategy, it is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts. As landholders we have a responsibility to manage this weed and there are various control measures available <https://weeds.org.au/profiles/blackberry-european/> It's not too late to spray as we head into autumn.

– Andrew Groom, Norton Road

## Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For March I chose the Royal Spoonbill, a wetland bird that is scarce in Wamboin, but which I saw flying over recently.

### Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea regia*)

Size: 74-80cm.

Status: Rare visitor

The Royal Spoonbill is a large all-white waterbird, with a contrasting and distinctive huge black spoon-shaped bill and black legs. The black bill extends onto the face, with a small yellow eyebrow and red forehead, which become more pronounced in breeding plumage, during which time they also develop their “royal” attire, consisting of a large tuft of long plumes on the back of the head. Their bill shape is a unique adaptation of Spoonbills, which forage in shallow water for prey such as fish and other aquatic invertebrates. They “spoon” their bill, slightly open, through the water, and snap up anything that is disturbed by this motion. Therefore, Royal Spoonbills are always seen around water, particularly shallower edges of wetlands, lakes or dams. They are often nomadic, wandering in response to rain. Since there is not much wetland habitat in Wamboin, it is unusual to see one here, so I was pleasantly surprised to spot one flying over while driving along Macs Reef Road recently. I imagine it was passing through between suitable bodies of water. Whilst a rare sight in Wamboin, there are actually a fair few Royal Spoonbills currently around Lake George, which is very full at the moment. A good spot to see them is the rest areas on the highway past the lake, or sometimes they can even



be spotted from the window while driving. Here there are also many of the similar Yellow-billed Spoonbill, which differ in having a yellow bill and legs. Royal Spoonbills are usually easy to identify, though sometimes they sleep by standing with their head tucked into their feathers, at which time they can be confused with an Egret or White Ibis, however note the black legs, and often the posture and thickness of the neck can separate them. Spoonbills, like ibises, lack a voicebox, so only give an occasional alarmed grunt if disturbed. Royal Spoonbills are a very striking and unusual bird and I always enjoy seeing them around, as it is not a regular occasion. Whilst your chance might be low in Wamboin, you may have better luck to encounter one along Lake George. (Photo from Google images)



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## Nature Notes - February 2024

Jo Walker

Although autumn is just a week away, the grass is still green and the eucalypts and wattles are still putting on new growth of various colours – producing a tapestry of many shades of green across the local countryside. Most of the grasses are seeding at the moment, making it obvious how many different species of native grasses we have here. After the fairly consistent rainfall during summer, the Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*) is doing particularly well. It grows in moist areas and probably gets its name from the long drooping seed-heads.

There are still a few flowers providing a bit of colour. The Sticky Everlasting Daisy (*Xerochrysum viscosum*) has one of the longest flowering seasons and is still bearing golden papery flowers -and the tiny yellow button flowers of the ground-hugging Common Everlasting Daisy (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*) are still evident amongst its greyish foliage. Another ground-cover, *Goodenia hederacea* (Ivy Goodenia), also has a few yellow flowers still showing. And, amongst the grasses, the native Small St. John'sWort (*Hypericum gramineum*) is carrying a few tiny yellow flowers on slender stems. The Bluebells, *Wahlenbergia stricta* and *W. communis*, have almost finished flowering, but are still adding a few spots of blue.

I mentioned the Slender Mint (*Mentha diemenica*) last month and described it as growing to 15 cm tall – quoting from one of the books on local flora and also from my own observations as most of those growing here are less than that. But today I found a patch of the Mint growing by the side of the creek close to a thicket of Tall Sedges (*Carex appressa*). Several of the Mint stems had grown up through the foliage of the tall tussocks and were about 40 cm tall. So, their height depends on where they're growing!

There was a small flock of Red-browed Finches, ten or so, here recently. I hadn't seen them for a while. And a family of Choughs has returned after a long absence. And, just as I sat down to write this, two Wedge-tailed Eagles soared over the hill opposite and drifted around high in the sky for a while before taking off in different directions. The Eagles were seen here fairly regularly once, but they probably find it difficult to spot prey as the vegetation has increased and spend their time over more open country now.

There are still a few Painted Lady butterflies (*Vanessa kershawi*) flitting around during the day, but still a dearth of moths after dark. It's a long time since I've seen the micro-bats at dusk or have heard a Boobook Owl. But, I did find a passalid beetle (*Mastachilus australasicus*) on the verandah recently. They are shiny, dark brown beetles about three centimetres long and are described as living in small colonies of adults and larvae in rotting wood. There were plenty of them around many years ago, but I hadn't seen one for a long time. They are one of the insects able to vocalise, emitting a loud squeaky creaking noise when disturbed. Nice to know they're still around in Wamboin.



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## Kowen Kapers - Kowen Homestead

By Peter Komidar

The Old Homestead Picnic Ground is situated on the site of the McInnes family home, called Kowen Homestead, which dates back to the 1860s.

From a modest start, the family's land holdings progressively grew in size over the years, at one stage stretching from Sutton Rd to Bungendore Rd. As their landholdings increased, so too did the homestead. By 1916, the complex consisted of a four bedroom main house surrounded by a verandah, a skillion (extension), and a room mysteriously called the honey room. There was also a second house, a shed, stables, buggy shed, fowl house, brick oven, scullery, dairy, workshop, orchard and garden. The house even had a telephone, strung tree by tree by single wire over from Sutton Rd.

Following the establishment of the ACT (originally called the Federal Capital Territory) in 1910, the McInnes family's land holdings in Kowen, including eventually the homestead itself were, over time, resumed by the Commonwealth for plantation establishment.

In the late 1920s the homestead, now vacated by the McInnes family, was occupied by the original forestry overseer, Harold Tuson and his family, before becoming repurposed as accommodation for forestry workers with the establishment of the Kowen Forestry Settlement.

Unfortunately, due to a prolonged lack of maintenance, this important historical building was left to deteriorate and was subsequently bulldozed in 1979. Today, only the foundation stones of a single room remain.

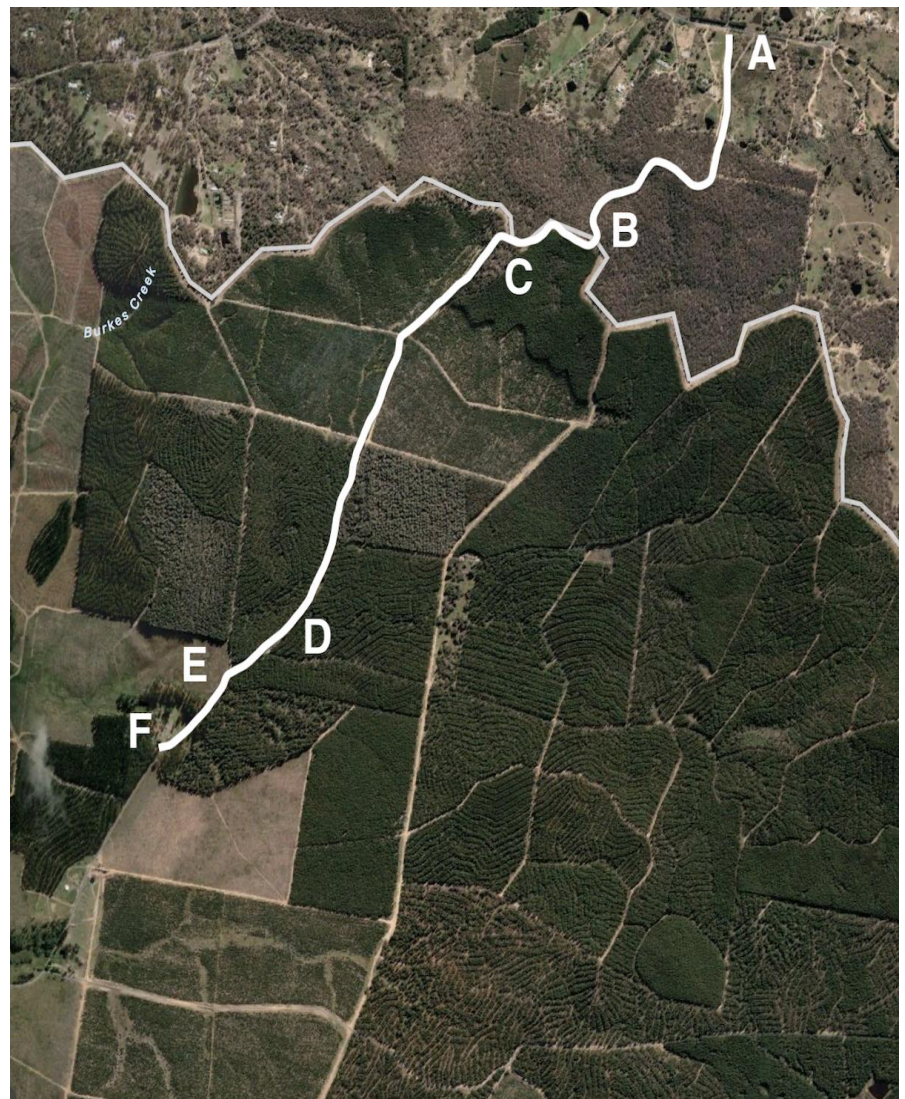
However, the site lives on as a picnic ground with toilets, electric BBQs, and sheltered picnic tables. (Please note that drinking water is not available, so bring your own). The picnic ground can be booked for camping and is a venue for events such as the Canberra Sled Dog Club annual race, Queanbeyan scout camp-outs and an annual winter solstice rave party.

### Route Description:

Starting at Bingley Way (A), enter Kowen at the Bingley Way Horse Entrance (B) and turn right. Follow Wamboin Break west until you reach the second T intersection at the base of Poppet Hill (C). Turn left here and follow the road for 1.8 km to its end at a T intersection (with Welches Rd) (D). Turn right and in 150 m you will arrive at another intersection (with Poppet Rd) (E). Turn left and in 400 m you will arrive at the Old Homestead Picnic Ground (F). The return journey from Bingley way is 8 km.



The McInnes family at Kowen Homestead (G Costello).  
Taken from interpretative signage on site.



## Kowen Events: March-April 2024

| Date          | Event  | More Info  |
|---------------|--|--|
| 24 March 2024 | Orienteering - ACT Classic Series: ACT Relays, Hibernian Rd, Kowen | <a href="http://attackpoint.org/eventdetail.jsp/event_57213">attackpoint.org/eventdetail.jsp/event_57213</a> |
| 5-7 April     | Rally of Canberra, Race village at old Kowen Forestry Settlement   | <a href="http://rally.com.au/rallyofcanberra/">rally.com.au/rallyofcanberra/</a>                             |

## 2024 Wheels of Wamboin

When you are driving to Wheels of Wamboin on Saturday the 20th of April, you might wonder why most of you are driving a right hand drive (RHD) vehicle here in Australia when the US and Europe drive a left hand drive vehicle (LHD).

LHD is used in 165 countries and territories, mainly in the Americas, Europe, northern Africa and mainland Asia (except South Asia), while 75 countries use RHD, which account for about a about a third of the earths population (mostly former British Territories). In 1919, 104 of the world's territories were RHD and an equal number were LHD. Between 1919 and 1986, 34 of the RHD territories switched to LHD. So why the difference? There are a few theories but the one I like best goes back to medieval times and right hand knights.

Like today, most people in the time of knights were right handed so they would have held their swords in their right hand and carried them on the left side of their body. When meeting another person coming towards them on the road, it was natural to be on the left side of the path since that would allow them to offer a hand in greeting (yes you shake hands with your right hand) or defend themselves should they get attacked. It also kept their swords away from the passerby should they try to steal it. All knights were right handed as back in those days as being left handed was considered evil (therefore you didn't qualify to be a knight).

Since knights wore their swords on their left side, they would mount their horses from the left as well since that way the sword would not get in their way. It then made sense to place the horse against the left kerb so they would be able to mount their horses from the kerb, not the middle of the street. They must have had some traffic congestion back in those days as, in the year 1300, Pope Boniface VIII decreed that all pilgrims traveling to Rome should keep to the left.

So where did the left hand drive come from. The French of course, because they hated the English they did everything opposite. Napoleon was doing his marauding across much of Europe and he decreed that France would drive on the right just because he was a little nutso and wanted everything anti-British. Hence the US as well, after the war of Independence they took to the left as well.

The same goes for the military salute. The military salute was originally to raise your helmet visor to show the other knight your face so they could identify you when meeting on a road. Also, if your right hand was saluting you could not grab your sword which was on your left (remembering you're not evil if you're a knight), this also carried forward as a form of greeting as per the right hand handshake.

Enjoy your right hand drive to Wheels of Wamboin this year (unless your maybe driving a USA or Euro automotive marvel). Don't forget to follow us on Facebook. Cheers. - **Pete Evans**



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