



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 Elect Printing 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. Any proceeds from advertisements in The Whisper after printing costs go to the Wamboin Community Association.

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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 the editing. Please email contributions to nednoel@optusnet.com.au or mail them or drop them off. On contentious matters the Wamboin Community Association will strive to maintain a balanced view, by seeking advice from the editorial team and by seeking alternative views to be published in the same edition. The deadline for each issue is the last Sunday night of the month before. There is, by tradition, no January Whisper, mainly to give all its volunteer workers a rest. The **deadline for the June 2024 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, May 26, 2024.** Advertising prices, per issue, based on rough fraction of the inside the margins A4 area: 1/8 \$24 1/6 29 ¼ \$35 1/3 \$44 ½ \$70 2/3 \$97 Full Page \$140.email or phone the editor as above.



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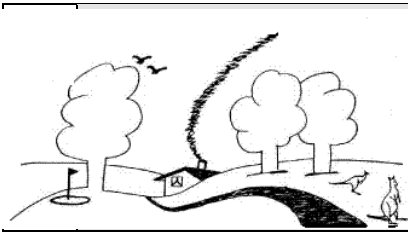
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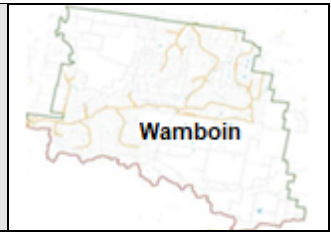
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President's Notes



April has been an exciting and eventful month. Time to recap some of the events of April as we proceed onward to May.

1. **A.G.M.** On the 16th April the WCA held its Annual General Meeting. Office bearers were elected for the incoming year.

They are:

President

Jenny Richards

Vice President

Diana Boswell

Treasurer

Keith France

Secretary

David McDonald

Ordinary Committee Members

Ned Noel, Denise Lang, Denise Hales

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to serve and a special welcome to our 2 new Committee members. We welcome your fresh input.

2. **Wheels of Wamboin.** On the 20th April the mighty *Wheels of Wamboin* was held – coinciding as it does with the monthly markets. This event is entirely organized by Pete Evans and this one was the 10th Anniversary of the event. What started out small (well smallish) has grown in leaps and bounds. The event was extremely well attended and the whole oval was filled with cars. Great weather always helps but clearly interest in this event is strong. Pete (hopefully) will supply a more detailed report in the Whisper but I will simply thank all who participated (either in cars or stall holders); Shannons; our local Fire Brigade for organizing parking and of course Pete himself.

3. **WWOW.** In an initiative organized by Gail Ritchie-Knight the *Wonderful Women of Wamboin* organized an early ANZAC day talk at the Hall on Monday 23rd. Bruce Legge gave a moving talk on how war and the services affect the families left behind. This event of the WWOW's was well attended with somewhere between 15-20 guests. Everyone who attended felt the event both moving and worthwhile. Thank you Bruce and Gail.

4. **Rabbit Talk.** Speaking of community talks the WCA have one coming up in **June**. Rabbits and how to manage them. A more detailed brief of this talk is included further in this edition of the Whisper but keep an eye out on electronic media, the Whisper and the chalk boards advertising the event which will held at the Community Hall, Bingley Way on the **18th June at 7:30 pm.**

Well that's it for now. Next meeting for the Wamboin Community Association is on **21st May at the Community Hall.** All welcome. **Jenny Richards – President.**


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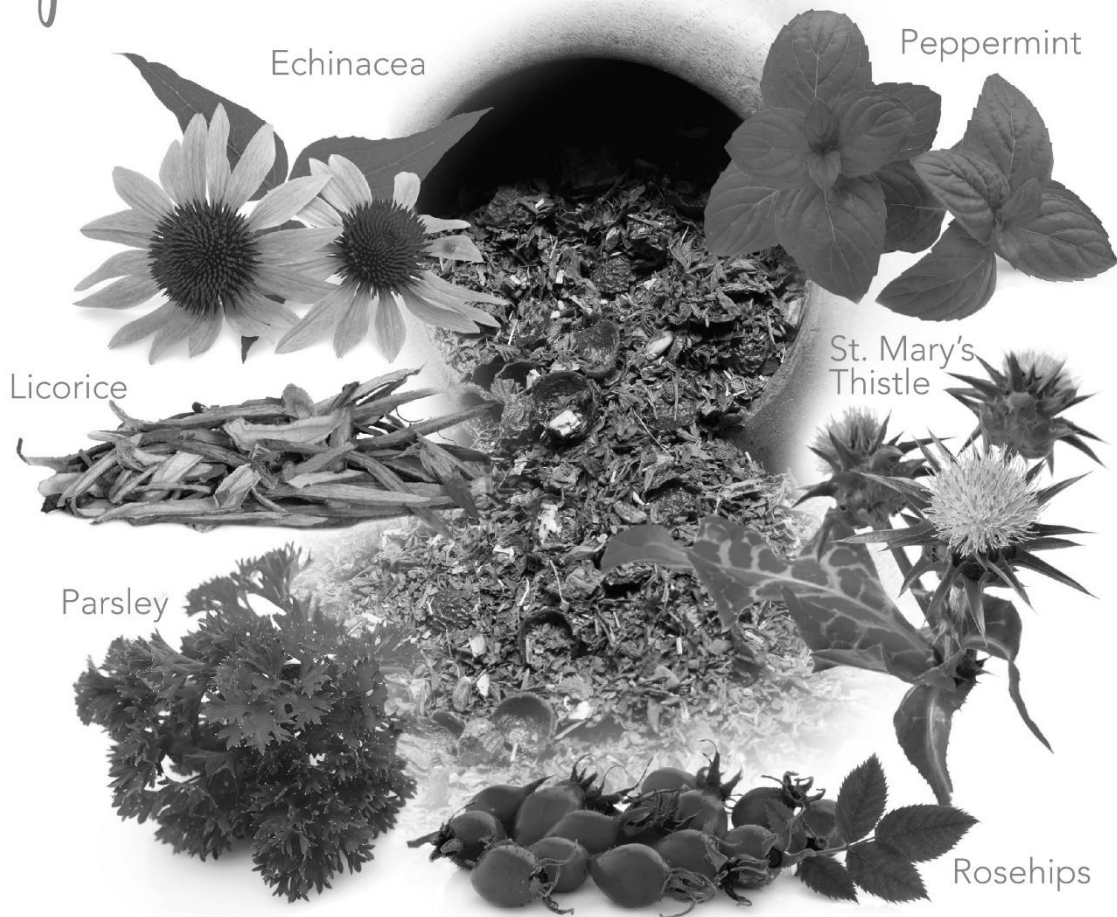


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Hi neighbours!

With our beautiful crisp autumn days and the leaves starting to fall, what better time than now (we thought) for our another community working bee collaboration!

This month on 11 May 10-12 the BCA together with the Bywong Hall committee and the Greenways committee will be holding a planting day to revegetate the grounds of the community hall - with big thanks also to our amazing Landcare association who have donated the plants. It's a great facility we all have access to and we can give nature a bit of a helping hand whilst getting together as a community.

So come along and join the fun and bring your planting gear and garden tools! If you are reading this too late and missed this one - don't worry we will be holding another one in spring.

In the interim make sure you have a reminder in your diary for our annual trivia night. This will be at the Hall on 29 June at 6:30pm for 7pm start. We are going Grecian with an Olympic theme this year to get us warmed up for Paris :) Tickets are \$15pp (bring cash on the night). Book your table now! Email president@bywongcommunity.org.au - Justin Jarvis

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Callouts and what we have been up to.

The brigade has been busy with training and callouts. The last month has had: 2 fire calls and 1 ambulance assist. We have also been busy with parking at the Bywong car boot sale and Wheels of Wamboin.



Permit free Burning off period

With one month already gone, you have 5 months left before the start of the next fire season. So, what's the rush? The coldest time of the year is definitely the safest time to burn off with low temperatures and higher humidity, meaning an easily managed fire. Its advisable to burn only dry vegetation so if you want to cut or trim those overhanging branches, do so sooner than later, so they can dry out before setting fire to them. Remember your responsibilities as in notifying (365 days a year!) the RFS, via the online portal or if you don't own a computer or smartphone, by ringing the Queanbeyan Fire Control Centre on 61280600 (Business hours only). You **MUST** also notify **ALL** your adjoining neighbours at least 24 hours prior to lighting your fire. Are you wondering why

we keep reminding you of what to do? One of our callouts last month was to a burn where no notification was done. Please do the right thing to save a callout!

Vehicle access & property address numbers



It's alarming to still see many properties around the area where we see access for a fire vehicle is not possible or restricted, or we can't even find a property because of poor identification on a mailbox or gate, or even no number visible. Over hanging branches, and narrow tracks are the biggest issues. Our crew leader and driver will make a decision if it is safe to take a truck on a property, or if the truck or communications equipment will be or damaged by vegetation. Our new data terminals in our vehicles relay critical information back to RFS

Operations in Sydney where additional resources are despatched depending on the type of incident. A house on fire, or a life can be saved only if communications can be uninterrupted with those that need to be informed. The RFS recommends a clearance of 4 metres high and wide beyond the gate. As a fire vehicle may approach your property from either direction, any numbering should be visible from both sides if possible. As many of our incidents are at night, some numbers are not visible, especially stencil or laser cutout numbers. Consider a reflective number or background. The next time you drive home at night, see if you can easily identify your number, and even look for other properties along your road to see if you can see theirs!

Membership enquiries	Wamboinmembership@gmail.com
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Native Mint Bushes (*Prostanthera spp.*)

You may have seen Vicki's wonderful article last month about the ecosystem services and beauty that wattles (*Acacia sp.*) can bring to your block. Well, this month we're talking about prostantheras, or the native mint bushes.

The native mint bushes certainly do live up to their common name. Most species are highly aromatic, releasing a beautiful fragrance from their foliage, particularly strong when crushed. Sometimes used for their oils, these are mostly small to medium shrubs, very rarely growing into trees with a bit of pruning and coaxing needed for that. They do need some tender loving care at planting, but once established in a well-drained sunny position with just a bit of watering, they can be a real showstopper with their white to mauve flowers (red in some species), attracting insects and birds to your garden.

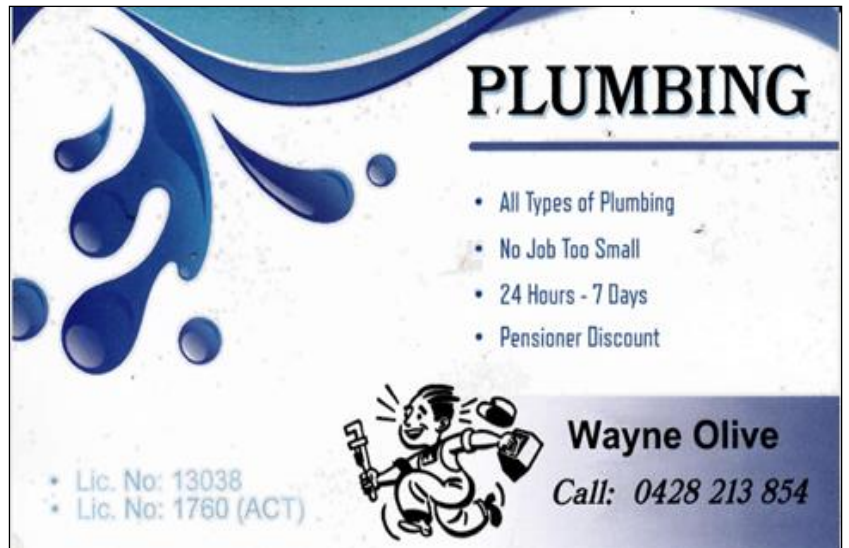
The Landcare team often have prostantheras available, propagated from local members' gardens. They are hardy tubestock grown for our tough local conditions. One of the species you will find at our plant stall is *Prostanthera rotundifolia*. With grey-green foliage and dark mauve flowers in spring, it is often called the native oregano. It can be used in salads and pruned into an excellent small hedge. Not all species are edible though, so do your research before including prostanthera on your menu!

Prostanthera ovalifolia is another species with pretty, dark mauve flowers that you will see at our stall. This species has dark green leaves and grows to around 2.5 metres. It flowers prolifically and is great for attracting bees and butterflies to your garden.

Keep an eye out for *Prostanthera ovalifolia* 'Variegata' to create some real interest in your garden. It has distinctive variegated foliage and a spreading, erect habit to 2 metres. It is another edible variety with prolific, pink to mauve flowers in spring. It wilts when thirsty but tolerates dry spells, responding quickly when watered once again.

Just like wattles, these species are ornamental, fast growing, long flowering and used for erosion control and habitat for our native fauna.

- Leanne Hodge

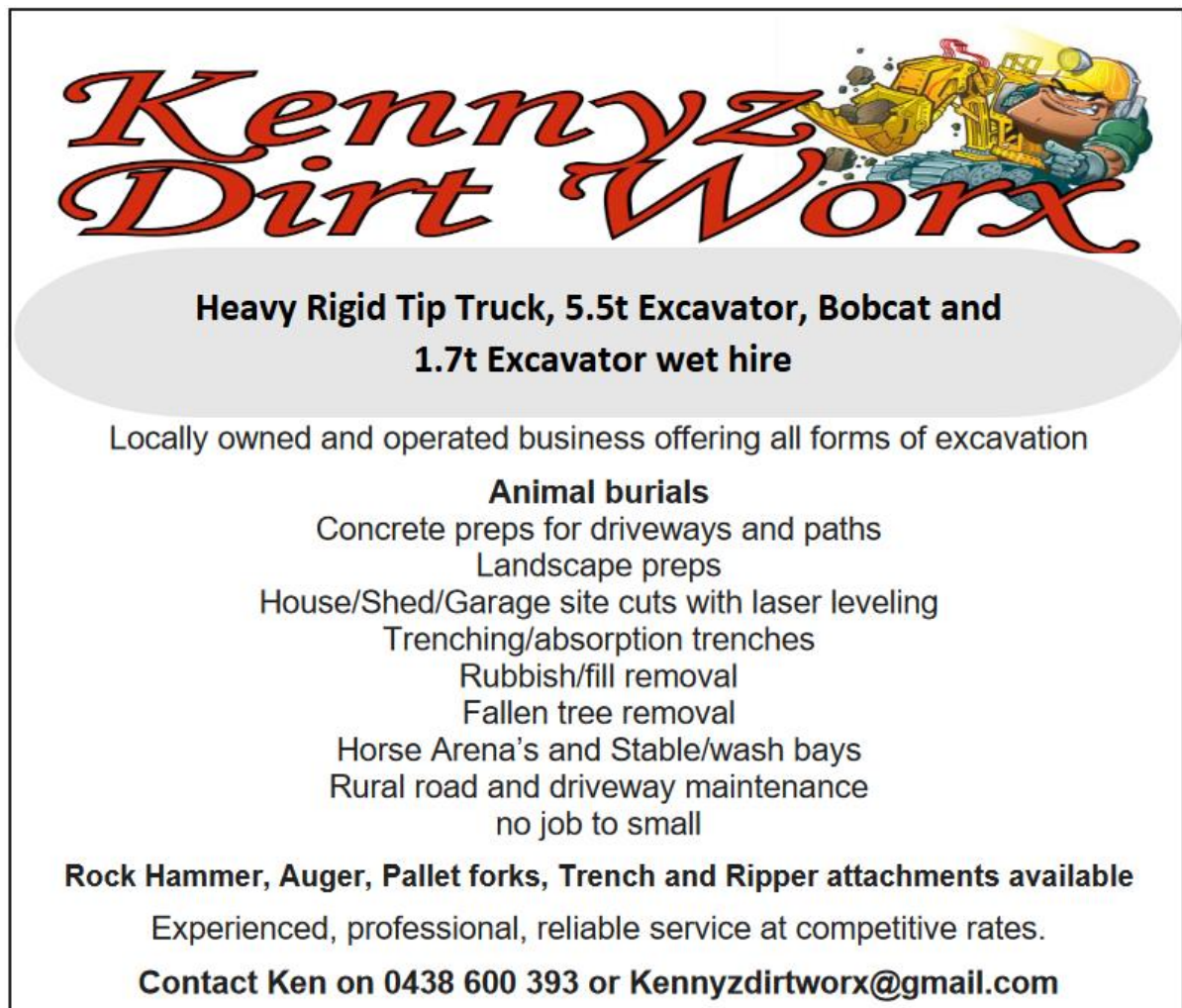


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What The Heck Chapter 23

Many of you will know that later this month, Saturday the 25th to be precise, the SRMD will be holding its annual Bonfire Night in the Sutton church grounds.

But when was the first bonfire? And what was the motivation for the first bonfire?

In the minutes of annual meetings of St Peters, the first reference to the possibility of a bonfire is in the 1980 annual report. Written by the then Secretary, Betty Danahay, it states; *“A matter of great concern for 1981 should be the dangerous state of the trees in the church grounds.*

There have been quite a few people picnicing (sic) in and around the church grounds over the last few months, and a serious accident could have happened if a limb or tree had blown down. I urge the Wardens to take whatever action necessary ...to avoid such a disaster happening”.

At the February 1981 meeting it was accepted that the trees ‘represent a potential danger’ to people in, and passing by, the church grounds. So it was agreed to fell the trees, after the planned removal of the fence, but before the erection of the replacement fence.

Presumably the trees were felled, though there is no mention of this in subsequent minutes, but there are regular reports of the difficulty in keeping up water to the ‘tree plantings’, and the loss and replacement of some seedlings.

In April 1989 it is reported that; *“the trees planted in 1981 have responded well to recent rainfall and supplementary plantings in 1989 has replaced some trees lost earlier”.*

Also at the 1989 meeting the subject of *“the pine roots”* was raised and *“that the removal of these be looked into”.*

Then in 1990 Joan Hardy says; *“as the pine roots are ready for burning (I suggest) we have a bonfire...and (invite) the community (to) come and join us for a barbeque”.*

So the first bonfire was 1990, on 9th June. – Alan Rope

St Peter's (Sutton) Annual BONFIRE NIGHT



Saturday 25th May 2024 St Peter's Church Grounds, Middle Street, Sutton 5pm start (we will light the bonfire at 6pm) Live music, fun around the fire, hot food and drinks to purchase (soup, curry and BBQ), toasting marshmallows for the young and young at heart. All proceeds to the church hall building fund

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Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market Saturday 18 May 2024 9-12md

Contact: Meriel Schultz 042 261 4304 Email: imsconsulting@bigpond.com

The April market was huge! More than 40 stalls and lots of new stall holders. Of course the attraction was the 'Wheels of Wamboin' on the oval. The oval filled up quite early and cars were parked in the driveway and down the road! Fortunately all those attending were hungry and also interested in what our craft stalls displayed, so egg and bacon rolls were gone in a flash and Maria's Italian goodies and the scone stall sold out. Biscuits and cupcake stalls all did well too.

Many thanks for all the help with set up and clear up provided by volunteers from the RFS and the WCA.

Next month will no doubt be quieter. Hopefully some of the new stall holders will return. Always welcome.

A new addition will be Geoff McGInley and his 'SemiHouse' exhibition. A 40m2 modular container home, permanently mounted on a semitrailer. As he says - a real house - just on wheels! Many people are interested in, or need to add a second dwelling on their properties - granny flats, teenage retreats, space for visitors etc. Come and view what life in a 'SemiHouse' will look like and how it combines the flexibility and affordability of a tiny house with the liveability and spaciousness of a full-sized dwelling! Better still, it's legally classified as a caravan suitable for short-term or permanent occupancy. See advertisement elsewhere in the Whisper.

See you at the May Market!\

Date	Kowen Events May/ June	More Info
April - Sept	Canberra Sled Dog Club - Training/Social Gathering - Old Homestead Picnic Ground	www.canberrasleddogclub.com
April - TBC	Logging operations in Sparrow Hill. No access	https://www.facebook.com/groups/2081973678727841
16 June	Kowen Trail Run - Wamboin Community Hall	kowen-trail-run.com
22-23 June	Winter Solstice Rave Party - Old Homestead Picnic Ground	NA



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Nature Notes – April 2024

Jo Walker

We're coming to the time of the year when things slow down as we approach winter – although most days this month still produced temperature of 20+ degrees. It's warm enough – and the soil is still moist enough - for many of the trees and shrubs to continue putting on new growth. So, although there are very few flowers open at present, there is a great variety of many shades of green in the vegetation.

And there are a few flowers. The summer-flowering daisies such as *Xerochrysum viscosum* (Sticky Everlasting Daisy) and *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* (Clustered Everlasting) are still producing a few of their yellow flowers. And some of the short-tubular, cream flowers of the Urn Heath (*Melichrus urceolatus*) are already beginning to open. These flowers carry sweet nectar which attracts some of the smaller Honeyeaters such as the Eastern Spinebill. Quite a lot of shrubs might flower early this year as their buds are already quite advanced.

The little flock of Crested Pigeons that has been here for a while has expanded recently. There were five regulars for a long time – they would feed down between the house and the creek, then rest on a horizontal tree branch nearby, all sitting closely side-by-side. Then two more joined them. Then recently there were ten of them feeding together on their favourite area.

And there were twenty-four White-winged Choughs scratching around and turning over the carefully placed rocks in the driveway a few days ago. It looked like one flock as there was no fighting. The Magpies were not happy though, and there was Magpie versus Chough warfare after they arrived.

There is still a Wombat around although I haven't seen one for a while – but the droppings on a rock near the gate indicate its presence. There are sometimes one or two of the local native dung beetles in the droppings – the small, thumb-nail sized *Onthopagus granulatus*. Although Australia had to import dung beetles from overseas to deal with cattle dung, there are several native dung beetles that feed on dung and use it for egg-laying, but, because they have evolved with the smaller and much drier droppings of our marsupial mammals, they are much less effective in dealing with large, wet cow-pats.

There are still a few little Grass Skinks skittering through the grass or sunning themselves on rocks, so autumn hasn't quite taken hold in Wamboin yet.

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Commemorating Anzac Day

Gail Ritchie Knight

On Monday 22 April, the Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) opened their regular weekly meeting to all residents of Wamboin and Bywong in order to commemorate Anzac Day, albeit a few days early. As there is no war memorial in either Wamboin or Bywong, I believe this gathering was a first for our communities. We gave very little notice to this meeting, but I was pleasantly surprised for the nearly 20 people who attended.

The event was instigated by one of our BOWWOWs, (Boyfriends of the Wonderful Women of Wamboin) who offered to give an Anzac theme presentation to WWOW. He is Captain Bruce Legge CSC, RAN who has served in the RAN for 37 years both in Australia and overseas.

Bruce began by showing a short video, titled *The Mission*, depicting what our Navy does when not in harbour. It spanned many decades of naval operation from war battles to humanitarian aid to rescuing lone sailors at sea. Remember Tony Bullimore? The video also showed scenes of the sailors docking back home to the emotional welcomes of their families. It is a powerful film.

In Bruce's speech he stated: 'We commemorate our fallen, not to glorify war, but to remember, honour and give thanks to those who have sacrificed so much on our behalf.' He then stated a statistic that has blown my mind: Our WW1 losses were 61,700 killed and 155,000 wounded out of a 1914 population of 4.9 million (about equal to Melbourne today). In today's terms that would mean, if Australia with a population of 26 million was at war for 4 years, on a per capita basis 224 dead and 563 wounded would be returned to Australia every day for 4 years! Bruce said 'Anzac Day is a day of great sadness and yet one of justifiable pride; pride in the men and women who have displayed great courage, discipline and self-sacrifice in choosing a life of service to their country, their family and their friends. Today, we thank them for their sacrifice and remember that their sacrifice has not been in vain.'

I thank Bruce for his presentation. I also thank the Wamboin Community Association for facilitating the event and to those stalwart, diehard WWOW for providing a delicious morning tea. I do so value your support.

WWOW has faced a fall in numbers particularly since the COVID outbreak, as have other organisations across the country. Our speaker Bruce, who lives locally, suggested that his talk may initiate a comeback. You never know. But would you believe a WWOW Merle who was present with her daughter and a friend, has offered to run some middle eastern themed workshops at WWOW. I can't wait.

The Wonderful Women of Wamboin (WWOW) meet on Mondays from 10am to noon at the Wamboin Community Hall. If you would like to join us for a cuppa and a chat, pop in on a Monday. We look forward to meeting you. Contact: Gail Ritchie Knight (0416 097 500, whirlwind1@argonite.com.au).



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How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

Sutton Park Estate: Thanks very much to Glen Dorahy who has delivered the currently 55 copies of The Whisper newsletter into fellow-resident letterboxes since 2018. This is his last delivery. Thanks also to Chris & Kate M who have offered to take over this task. Without the month by month donation of time by the residents listed below, it would be impossible for Wamboin, Bywong and other residents in the newsletter's catchment area to have The Whisper. Please remember all residents listed below, as they do what they do in order to make the communities a little bit friendlier and more sociable. Without the businesses that 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 you or others in the community took the time to write it.

174: CO-ORDINATED BY ALICE SCOTT: ph 0407 005 506 email 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

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(Weero2Hilltop+Wirdra)	21	Phil Leeson&C Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	27

235: 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 Lorimer	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 GARETH JONES Ph: 6238 1988 givrjones@bigpond.com

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	Harriott Rd	28	Belinda Morris	Macs Reef Rd (Nwington2 Bankers)	11
Sandra Favre	Newington 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

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 B'doreRd	26

148: CO-ORDINATED BY DAVID FEATHERSTONE ph 6236 9722 bushranger_au@hotmail.com

Chris Fowler	Millynn Rd	23	David Featherston	B'doreRd SmHill to&nclDgCrkBRd	28
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	24	David & Connie Jansen	Wyoming Road	20
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	33	Peter Sharp	Doust Road	20

247 CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 0409-997-082 email 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 (McsRf to&nclSmrhil)	40	Diana Griffin	Majors Close	19
Diana Boswell	Donnelly Rd 29 & Grove Rd 8	36	Advertisers & Misc	Out of area advertiser mailouts & msc	21

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Kowen Kapers - Kowen Tip

In last month's article, we explored the remains of a once thriving forestry settlement in Kowen. While much physical evidence has been erased from history, ironically, what was thrown away remains the best surviving evidence of its existence. By that I mean the ghosts of the Kowen Forestry Settlement live on at Kowen tip!

Eight km from the Bingley Way entrance, and 3 km from the forestry settlement itself, what remains of the Kowen rubbish tip provides a different view of life at the Kowen Forestry Settlement back in the day. At the tip, you'll find literally dozens of wrecked cars along with other reminders of life at Kowen, such as children's toys, building material, rusty cans and broken crockery.

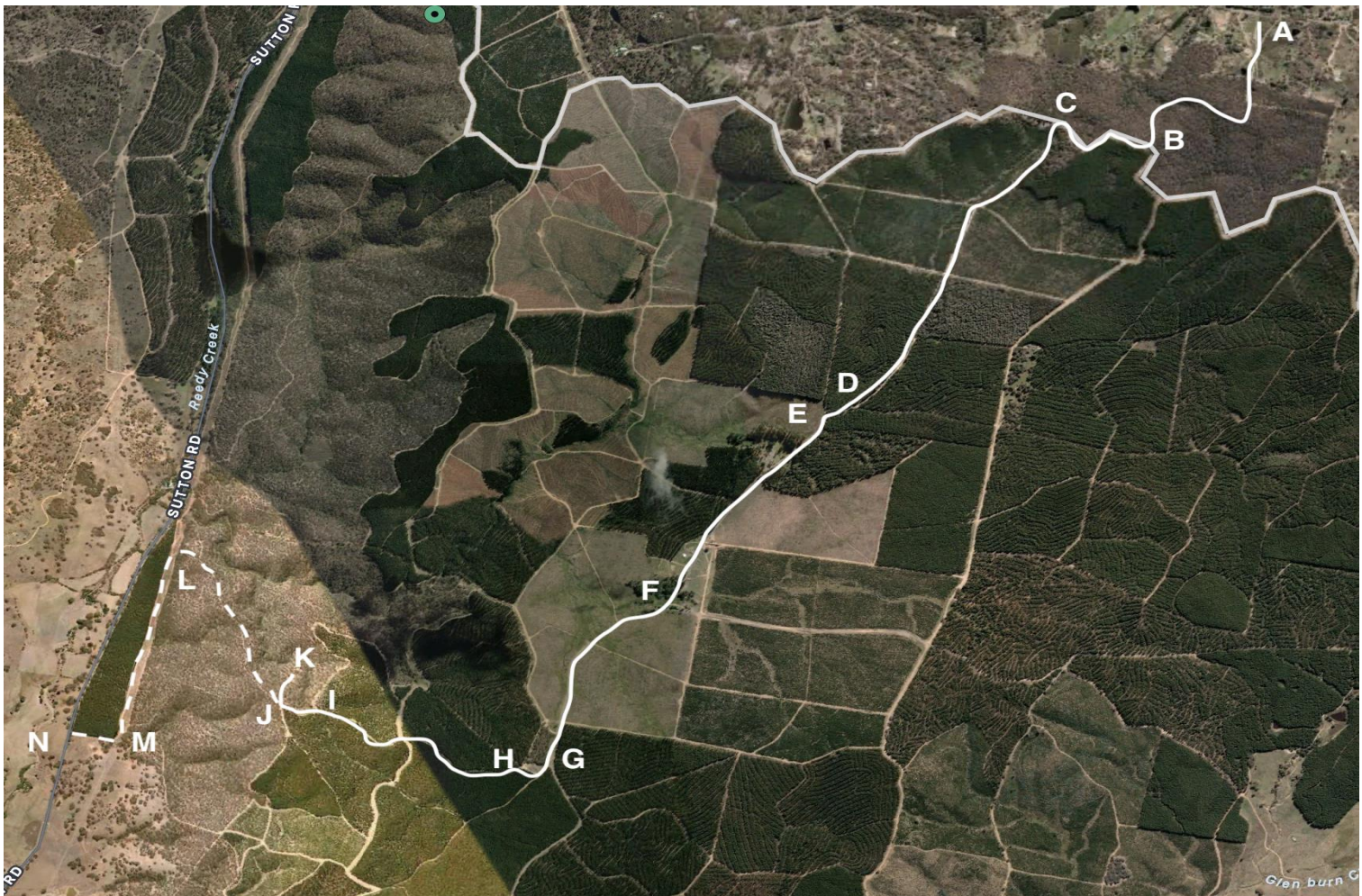
To find the tip, you need to have your eyes peeled for the tell-tale signs of a long abandoned road. In a few metres you'll find car bodies half buried beneath the soil. Follow the road as it weaves down hill and along the way you'll see more artefacts from a forgotten time.

Did I mention car bodies? There are lots of them, as well as car engines and engine blocks rusting away on the surface. It's not as if the forestry workers were avid car collectors. Instead, back in the day when unhindered car access was allowed, Canberra's pine plantations were a haven for abandoned stolen cars. It appears that those which were not collected were consigned to the dump.

Of course, the casual visitor can only see what's on the ground. Below the surface, however, lie the true ghosts of Kowen past. When the forestry settlement closed so too did the rubbish tip, its contents bulldozed beneath the soil. Perhaps one day archaeologists will survey the site and resurrect those long buried ghosts.

Directions: From the Bingley Way entrance (A) proceed to the Bingley Way horse entrance (B) and turn right onto Wamboin Break. Follow the road for 500 m and take the second turn on your left (C) (at the base of the climb to Poppet Hill). Follow this road to its end at a T intersection (D). Turn right and after 150 m you will arrive at another T intersection (E). Turn left and follow this road past the Old Homestead Picnic Ground down to the remains of the Forestry Settlement (F). Here you will find a signposted intersection of 7 Mile Rd, Fearnside Way and Kowen Rd. Head south along Kowen road for 1 km passing Macquarie Rd (sign posted) then take the next turn right (G). You are now on Old Kowen Rd. After 100 m, take the first road right (on the south side of the road plant) and then after another 100 m take the first left (H). Follow this road for 1 km to its end and turn left (I). Follow the road to the next intersection (J) where you'll find a road heading down into the native forest (Kowen Escarpment Nature Reserve). If you look carefully you'll notice a disused roadway into the forest starting just metres from the intersection. Follow this track to the old Kowen Tip (K). The return journey is 15.5 km.

Alternatively, if you had arranged for someone to pick you up at the Mt Reedy Rd entrance, you could continue down through the nature reserve on the enigmatically named Provost Stump Rd. This road ends at a T intersection (L) where you could turn left and follow the road to its end in another T intersection (M). Turn right here and follow the road to Sutton Rd (N). Your total journey is 10.5 km. – Peter Komidar



The Wamboin Entrance Sign A Community Effort by Vicki Still

The rebuilding of the entrance sign after being knocked down by a car has taken a while but has finally been achieved with a lot of effort from many members of our wonderful community. The sign was originally built in 2008 by Dave Argaet (24/7/52 - 02/7/22), a local Wamboin stone mason and it was the Argaet family who funded and erected the temporary fencing and then rebuilt the sign. Once the entrance sign was built I designed a couple of options for the planting but then a local, Pascal Savary from Endura Build Pty Ltd (0422 305 397) offered to supply (at minimal cost) sandstone blocks to surround the sign. This was accepted after discussion about the design with Keith France as the



representative of the Wamboin Community Association, Pascal and me. Very quickly Pascal scraped the area using the large equipment at his disposal, delivered and installed the blocks and also delivered and paid for the soil. Unfortunately progress was then slowed by a large amount of rain that fell leaving the surrounding ground a muddy mess. Once the ground had dried another local, John McGrath came in with his tractor and helped me move the soil. Darren Hurley from Hurley Bird Tree Services (0431 546 702), yet another local, donated mulch and then helped Tim Barter and me move it. Tim and I picked up more soil and moved it and then members of the Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group (David and Noela McDonald, Kathy Handel, Vicki Still and Geoff Butler) planted the area with locally grown plants and protected them with wire and bags which will be removed once the plants are established. Still to be done at the time of writing, Pascal will scrape the ground and then Darren will spread some more mulch to neaten and complete the job. We are hoping to get some lighting to highlight the sign but are still waiting on the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council for this.

Thanks to the following:

- The Wamboin Community Association via Keith France for managing the project
- The Argaet Family (Renee 0402 654 150), local stone masons for the temporary fencing and the rebuilding of the sign
- Pascal from Endura Build for donating time, machinery, labour and soil
- John McGrath for donating time and machinery
- Darren from Hurley Bird Tree Services for donating time, machinery, labour and mulch
- Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group for donating time, labour, plants and tree protection as well as the ongoing care plants
- A true community effort!

P.S. from the WCA Committee: We would like to thank Vicky Still and her partner Tim Barter for all of their work on the Memorial Garden.



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QPRC Mobile Library: The QPRC Mobile Library bus will be at the Wamboin Hall from 10.30-11.30am on Thursday 2, 16 and 30 May 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 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 welcome to attend.

Rabbits galore! What we need to know: At a recent meeting of the Wamboin Community Assoc. (WCA) people discussed the current proliferation of rabbits in our area. They asked the WCA to arrange an information/discussion session about rabbit control. Accordingly, at the WCA meeting on Tue 18 June (7.30 pm at the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin) a biosecurity expert from South East Local Land Services will meet with the community to provide information about rabbit control, and to respond to questions. All welcome! See the June *Whisper* for further details.

Thank you if you delivered, ran an ad in or wrote something for this May Whisper. It would not exist without you and other residents like you. Deadline for the June issue is last Sunday of May, 7 pm, so Sunday May 26. If you can write something for it, you may well be adding a bit of life in winter for more than a few of our 1300+ homes. – nednoel@optusnet.com.au or at wamboincommunity.asn.au or on 0409 997 082.



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April Golf

By Ken Gordon

Sunday 7 April 2024. Eighteen 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 course was saturated by the downpour of the previous two days, but deemed playable by greens staff. 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 returned to submit scores. A rest break, possibly with refreshments took place before players returned to the course for the next six holes.

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 (although some did decide to stand in the tyre) 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. Thankfully no damage to adjacent people or property and no rebounds thanks to the newly planted turf (thanks to Scott Mason).

After all of the calculations were done (a big thank you to Lila for her computing skills managing the scoring sheet) and the prizes were awarded. We welcomed John Helgesen for his first game and hope to see him become a regular. Each of the nine players making the cut were awarded a golf ball (Ken G, Tim B, Rob G, Dave H, John H, Paul G, Vicki S, Matt H and Keith F).



The winner of the 2024 Mini-Masters was Ken Gordon with a score of 45 from Tim Barter (51). The winner of the Junior Mini-Masters was Ewan Prest.

A secondary competition was held using handicaps. This was taken out by Scott Mason (making his annual Easter pilgrimage from Cairns to his childhood home) with a score of 42. From Rob Gorham (44 ocb) The novelty nearest the pin competitions were taken out by: Ramp – John Helgesen (1.2m), Tyre – Ken Gordon (4.2m), Bunker – Chris Hansen (3.75m), Overall – Ken Gordon (18.7m). The highest score was shared by six golfers who

failed to get a shot from any of the tees within 10m of the hole. (Thanks to the assistance measurers and ball retrievers).

Next month, the competition will be held on Sunday 5 May. It is the GST trophy celebrating the approaching EOFY and is sponsored by Judith, Keith and Kathy. The competition rules will be explained at the registration desk.

We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm for a 12.30pm start.

Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

I chose the Gang-gang Cockatoo for April, a declining species that is primarily a winter visitor to Wamboin.

Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*)

Size: 33-36cm

Status: Fairly common resident/winter migrant.

Gang-gang Cockatoos are beautiful birds. They are grey in colour, with a curly crest on their head. The male differs from the female in having a red head (the female's head is grey). They have pale edging to the feathers, especially the female which has red-yellow feather edges below. Their call is very unique, and a lovely sound. It is raucous squawking, likened to a squeaky door. These birds are typically found in pairs or small groups. They sit quietly in the trees, feeding on gum nuts, spitfire caterpillars and berries on cotoneaster or hawthorn bushes. They are often rather quiet and unobtrusive when they are feeding, however become very vocal when disturbed or in their erratic flight. These birds nest in tree hollows, where they lay 2 eggs and have a long breeding period. They mainly breed up in the mountains in the surrounding regions e.g. Namadgi National Park, where they move for the summer months, and seasonally disperse to lower altitudes including right down to the coast over winter. Some birds breed and stay through the lowlands year-round. Some Wamboin residents have been noting their presence in the local area recently which coincides with their local movements back to the tablelands. Gang-gang Cockatoos are the bird emblem of the ACT, and can often be seen in treed suburbs of Canberra where they visit suburban backyards. However, they are becoming rare in Canberra and surrounds and are listed as vulnerable in New South Wales, with their population in decline. Keep an eye out for them over the next few winter months.

Female (Photos from Google images) Male



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Community Association President's Report 2023-2024 Wamboin

As usual 2023-2024 has been a busy year. This period saw re-invigoration of old favourites such as our Bonfire/Fireworks night as well as new links within the community.

Markets: The monthly markets run from January through to December with a 2 month hiatus during July and August.

Generally they appear to be well attended, very social events.

Bonfire/Fireworks: Once again the annual Bonfire/Fireworks Night was an overwhelming success. This is held on the last Saturday night in August to escape possible early fire restrictions preventing the event, although that hasn't been an issue in the past 2 years due to the weather. The night attracted its usual large crowds numbering about 2,000 patrons. Most food stalls (run by different service groups) completely sold out giving those groups welcome profit. Naturally this night would not be the success it was without the invaluable help of Fireworks Australia and support and help of our local fire brigade.

Spring Talks: From September, October and November we try to organise community talks of interest to the wider Wamboin community. Although I had some doubts these would proceed at one point, the excellent efforts of Ned and David (helped by Diana) showed me differently. The Spring Talks were large events (numbers between 30-80 people) and very well received.

Christmas Carols: Held on the first Friday in December this community Christmas Carols Night rounds off the year and is made to appeal to anyone but especially those with younger children. Once again numbers exceeded expectations. Anita reported that of the 75 Santa bags made only 4 remained and Stephen reported all sausages were sold. Everyone seemed to enjoy the night as a great way to kick off the coming Christmas season. Numbers were estimated somewhere over 100.

Additional: In addition the Wamboin Community Association has been active throughout the year promoting our area in the minds of Council with some success. It is my hope to extend this in the coming year with the help of local Councillors and also bring in Local Members in the Federal and State forums so that these admittedly busy people are reminded that the community of Wamboin exists and matters. **-Thank you. Jenny Richards, President Wamboin Community Association.**

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2024 Wheels of Wamboin Wrap up

Our 10th anniversary Wheels of Wamboin celebrated a spectacular day with an equally spectacular variety of automotive marvels on display.

Over 400 vehicles made the trip out to wonderful Wamboin including fantastic cars, some trucks, motorbikes, trikes, Shannon's big green super rig and our local racer Zane Morse with his Dunlop Super2 Series touring car.

The day got off to a stunning start with cars rolling in from around 7am. By around 9.00am the oval was fast reaching capacity with the Wamboin RFS trying to find infill spots as the cars kept coming. In the end we had to turn some late comers away as per just ran out of space. The variety again this year was outstanding with a bit of everything from every era of motoring.

The event was held with Meriel's monthly Home Produce Markets along with a number of car themed stalls. The Wamboin RFS provided the BBQ on the day to keep the hordes fed.

The only trophy "The People's Choice", voted by the attendees was won this year by a highly modified 1976 Ford Escort. The owner purchased the car when he was 14. He built the car up over the years with help from his dad and mates with a 2.4 Pinto engine, stage one rally head cam, fuel injected with a micro tech computer. The little Escort produced 194 kilowatts (that's 260 horsepower in old speak) at the back wheels. Unfortunately, Tim the owner passed away before Christmas last year at the young age of 43. The owner's father, his children and close friends brought the car out to the event in loving memory of Tim. We are very touched and honoured that they chose our little event to make this tribute.

Fundraising for the day went to The Wamboin RFS, Possumwood the local animal hospital and recovery centre up on Joe Rocks Road and Camp Quality.

Huge thanks on the day to the Wamboin RFS, without the support on the day from the RFS the event simply would not happen. Huge asset to our community. Also a big thanks to Meriel and also our major sponsor Shannon's Car Insurance as well as providing the Super Rig to our little event. I also thank all the admirers and the custodians who bought their pride and joy along for others to enjoy. - **Peter Evans**



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Come learn more at the 18 May Wamboin markets or
Call Geoff on 0413382235 to schedule a site visit.



WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(49 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

April Rainfall Stats

April rainfall to the 28th 89.25mm
 2024 total rainfall to 28/4 332.75mm

Average April rainfall..... 47.3mm
 2023 April rainfall..... 117.0mm
 2023 total rainfall to 28/4..... 255.0mm
 48yr Av. to end of April..... 226.4mm

May Rainfall Stats

2023 May rainfall..... 31.25mm
 Wettest May..... 171.0mm in 1995
 Wettest day..... 52mm on 3/5/95
 Driest May..... 0mm in 2001

Average May rainfall..... 46.2mm
 Average no. rain days in May..... 8.4
 Highest no. rain days..... 20 in 1989
 Lowest no. rain days..... 0 in 2001

May Temperature Stats

2023 May maximum.....20.2°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..... 13.6°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)

2023 May minimum.....-2.7°C
 May 2023. Av. max 15.5°C & min 2.5°C
 Coldest May day..... 3°C on 29/5/00
 Coldest May night..... -6°C on 31/5/01
 Average night temperature..... 5.1°C
 Coldest May 2012
 (Av. min day temp. 10.1°C & night 0.8°C)

Av. May temp.... 9.3°C (day+night comb.)

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

Growing Wattles (Acacia Sp.) A Word Of Caution – Many Species Are Highly Invasive!

by Paul Downey

In the April 2024 Edition of the Whisper, Vicki Still wrote an article outlining the virtues of planting and growing wattles (Acacia species) in the local area. Over the past few years, I have been working with the ACT Government to create three lists of invasive plant species in the ACT region, being (1) a list of 683 naturalised alien (non-native) plant species, (2) an alert list of 251 alien (non-native) plant species that don't presently occur in the ACT, but could spread to the ACT in the next decade, and (3) a list of 48 native plant species that are naturalised in the ACT outside of their native or natural distribution range ('weedy' native plant species); this third list was created to raise awareness of the growing environmental problem associated with 'weedy' native species. Of the 48 native plant invaders, 18 (or 38%) are wattles (Acacia species), and seven of the top 10, are wattles. A further 15 native plant species were deemed to be potentially naturalised in the ACT, of which 5 were wattle species. We also identified a further 21 wattle species that could naturalise in the ACT in the future, for a total of 44 wattle species of concern. *"The high number of naturalised Australian native Acacia species is a significant problem as most are now recognised to be posing a threat to native species, and as such native Acacia outside of their native range in the ACT should be given a higher priority for management."* [quoted from the report]. Furthermore, 40 wattle species have also been listed as environmental weeds in Victoria. Thus, I would urge you to carefully consider which wattle species you plan to plant on your property, to ensure that you are not planting a species which could become a serious invader, especially given that the seeds of most wattle species have a dormancy period of over 15 years in the soil, creating a long-lived legacy to manage. The local (or indigenous) wattle species would be the best option.

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The Greatest Secret of Poppet Road - by Imogen Warren - short story contest highly commended

I was out for a morning walk, when out of nowhere a yellow-tailed black cockatoo flies right in front of my face, startling me and causing me to drop my phone. That'll show me for looking at messages instead of looking where I'm going.

I pick it up and put it in my pocket, now grateful for the cockatoo scaring me because I'm actually appreciating my surroundings. I look up at the gumtrees all around me, watching the leaves rustle in the breeze. I see the very first golden rays of sunrise peek out from behind the foliage and squint as the wind moves the smaller branches, letting the beams shine directly into my eyes.

I turn around to look for the cockatoo. It has flown behind me up to a tree branch about five metres above me, where it is now grooming its feathers with its beak. *'What a beautiful bird'*, I think to myself. You know, sometimes I think I take living in a rural area for granted too much. We are lucky to have such a beautiful place we get to call home, and I wish I noticed it more instead of being so caught up in to-do lists and everyday life.

I turn back and continue my journey in the direction I was originally going. I don't even make it five steps before I stop myself. Something to my left has caught my eye in the darkness of dawn.

"What on earth?" I mumble out loud to myself. I'm on Poppet Road now, and whatever I saw must have been startled by my voice and disappeared behind St Andrews church. *'Well,'* I suppose, *'I did just admit I want to pay more attention to my surroundings.'* And that was all the justification my curiosity needed to follow.

Treading carefully so as not to make much noise, I edge my way around the side of the building. *'What am I doing?'* I wonder, *'There are always loads of animals around here, why am I bothering? It's probably just a rabbit.'* But something made me want to check anyway. I can't explain it, but I had this unshakeable feeling that I couldn't turn around and leave it. I had to know. I peer around the corner and see a grey kangaroo grazing peacefully. For the tiniest part of a second, I feel satisfied in my curiosity and go to walk away. But then I notice it glistening. Sparkling in the morning sunlight almost as if it...no.

That's silly.

It can't be. It's moving. There's no way! But it just...almost...looks like...

It's made of glass?

No. That's not possible it just can't be. I need to get my eyes checked. Or I'm dreaming. Or I didn't get enough sleep last night and now I'm hallucinating. Or I died and this is the afterlife. Or it's a really lifelike glass robot? It looks up at me without fear – just watching me watch it. It's none of the excuses I just made. It is a living, glass, kangaroo. I take a few steps closer and it straightens itself up but does not move away. I am around the back of the church now and – wait. There is a kangaroo-shaped hole in the stained glass window. Hang on a moment, the kangaroo in the window has come to life?!

I fumble for my phone in my pocket – to take a photo? To call National Geographic and tell them I've made the discovery of the millennium? I honestly don't know. I just reacted. With the sudden movement though, the glass kangaroo hopped away from me away from the church and further into the bush, leaving me standing there astonished and agape.

About a week later, I decided to wake up before the crack of dawn again and go for a walk to see that kangaroo again, tying my shoes with the most determination I have ever had. I've been going back and forth with myself for days whether what I thought

I'd seen was real or not. I had to know the truth. I'd never be able to sleep again if I didn't know for sure... ok that's a bit of an exaggeration but you get my point.

Reaching Poppet Road, I start creeping up towards the back wall of St Andrews again. This is the moment of truth. I poke my head around the corner, my heart beating thirty million miles an hour.

Was I right? Am I crazy?

Is this the real life or is this just fantasy? Wait – I've lapsed into song lyrics. Believing and disbelieving my own eyes at the same time, I see it standing there. Same spot as last week. I want to scream in my vindication but I hold back, knowing very well what happened last time. It looks at me again with curiosity as I stare open-mouthed. A million thoughts collide with each other in my head but my body won't move. After about three minutes I slowly reach a hand out towards it. It doesn't flinch, but it doesn't come closer either. This was to be expected. Several minutes go by and I don't move, but it suddenly hops towards me. Towards me?! Am I about to touch a glass kang-

My phone dings. The kangaroo gets scared again at the sudden noise and hops away. Worst timing ever, but hey, at least I know now that it's real! ***** **This was 16 years ago**

After that day, I came back on a weekly basis. Spending time with that stained glass kangaroo – always making sure my phone was on silent.

I would sit with it in the dark before the sun rises, even in the bleak middle of winter. Bonding a little more every day until eventually it let me touch it, cuddle it. I would meditate, or I would stretch, or I would read with a little headtorch. Honestly, I think coming across this wonder changed my life for the better. Taking time for myself off my phone and doing a relaxing activity really improved my mental health. But anyway, you're not here because you want to know about how it changed my wellbeing, I'm sure you're here for answers.

And I wish I could give them to you.

You see, dear reader, the truth is I never got answers. Sixteen years and even now I still don't understand it. Because the only one that knows how or why this happens is that glass kangaroo, and I'm certain I don't need to tell you that kangaroos don't speak English. I could make up any ending to try and give you some closure but I'm afraid that's on you to decide.

However, I can tell you that I know the glass kangaroo disappears soon after sunrise. Every morning before the sun fully emerges over the mountains, it would be back in the window as normal. I've never seen it though. Every single time over 16 years I was there, I would watch the sunrise next to it and something else would always take my attention, always distract me from watching the kangaroo so that by the time I turn around it's already back in the window. No matter what I tried, my attention would always turn away. One time I just sneezed, and by the time I opened my eyes it was back in its place. I think something in the universe didn't want me to know. And that is the greatest secret of Poppet Road.