

The Whisper

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Bywong Community www.bywongcommunity.org.au
Fire Brigade <http://wamboin.rfsa.org.au>

Bywong and Wamboin Facilities and Contacts

Bywong Community	Justin Jarvis - President	0404 460 568	president@bywongcommunity.org.au
Bywong Hall Bookings	Bookings Officer		lrhallbywong@gmail.com
Church - Anglican	Gai Donald - Warden	0438 400 364	peterandandrew2012@gmail.com
Community Nurse	Heather Morrison - Bungendore	6238 1333	
Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade	Matt Jackson - Captain	0409 991 340	wamboincaptain@gmail.com
Geary's Gap Pony Club	Cameron Smith	0419 449 747	
Golf	Ken Gordon	0455 839 840	ken.gordon1962@gmail.com
Injured Wildlife	Wildcare – Helpline	6299 1966	
Justice of the Peace	Andrew Stainlay – JP	0408 469 880	stains@bigpond.net.au
Justice of the Peace	Leanne (Lee) Ward – JP	0411 207 317	leannefward@gmail.com
Bee Swarm Support	Adrian Meijer	0427 101 550	rdoran4@bigpond.com
Landcare	Kathy Handel - Treasurer	6238 3596	khandel@bigpond.net.au
NSW SES (assist – storm/flood)	NSW Call Centre	132 500	
NSW SES Bungend. non-urgent)	After Hours Duty Officer	6238 0222	
Sutton School Playgroup	Felicity – Contact Person	0413 174 204	Playgroup.sutton@gmail.com
Table Tennis	Mike Muston	0406 606 238	Mike.muston@gmail.com
Wamboin Community Assoc.	Jenny Richards - President	0490 020 165	president@wamboincommunity.asn.au
Wamboin-Bung. Book Group	Sally Saunders	0419 303 229	sally.saunders1@bigpond.com
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Wamboin Markets	Meriel Schultz	6238 3309	lmsconsulting@bigpond.com
Wamboin Play Group	Kayla May – Co-ordinator		wamboin.playgroup@gmail.com
Gearys Gap Pony Club	Kate O'Connor, President	0413 008 824	gearysgap.ponyclub@gmail.com
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Wamboin Thurs Social Grp	Narelle Pumphrey	0438 917 206	pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au
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Wonderful Women of Wamboin	Merle Ketley		Wonderfulwomenofwamboin@gmail.com
ARF (Rescue Dogs)	Lisa Whitney	0408 260 796	lisa Whitney@gmail.com

The Wamboin Whisper: The Whisper is a monthly community newsletter established in 1981 by and owned by the Wamboin Community Association. The Whisper is 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.

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 March 2026 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, February 22, 2026.** Advertising prices, per issue, based on rough fraction of the inside the margins A4 area: 1/8 \$26 1/6 32 ¼ \$40 1/3 \$54 ½ \$80 2/3 \$108 Full Page \$160. email or phone the editor as above.

Young Entrepreneurs: Rebecca Purdie – pet/horse sitting 6238 3343 Kale Blundell, Fernloff Road, babysitting, 0493 556 689 Elly and Rex Collins house cleaning 0418 979 474

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	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Wamboin Community Association</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">President's Notes</h3>	
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Welcome back to a new year. The hot weather is certainly here.

1. First General Meeting of 2026. After a month long recess the Wamboin Community Association will begin monthly meetings again this February. Our first general meeting for the year will be on **Tuesday 17th February at 7:30 pm at the Hall.** Everyone is welcome to attend.

2. Christmas Carol Night. Last year on December 5th we held our annual Christmas Carols Night. I believe we can say the night was an outstanding success. I estimate approximately 100 people attended the night (including children). Sutton School performed wonderfully, and the children (not just from Sutton School) were keen and enthusiastic to take part in the Christmas Play. I realize that by now its 2 months gone by but I feel I should thank a number of important groups/people. Sutton School (as previously mentioned), the Rev. Royce, the Salvation Army, Ian and Gai Donald (for supplying the tree), Lofty Mason for doing drinks and Scott Mason who disposed of the tree when the time came. The Fire Brigade for helping Santa get to the Hall and of course Santa (you know who you are). Our musicians, Poetry in Motion, Anita and Neryssa Richards who bought and made up the Santa bags and on the night corralled the very excited children; Stephen Richards for his efforts on BBQ and all the members of my family who helped to serve the BBQ. Finally the Committee members of the WCA who helped make this event a great success. Thank you everyone and thank you everyone who came and I believe really enjoyed themselves.

Well that's it for now. Short notes this month but undoubtedly there will be more to say in later months. Stay cool and come along to the monthly meetings. Its your community and this is the best way to get your views across. *-Jenny Richard, President.*

Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market

Saturday 21 February 2026 9-12md

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

Our Christmas market was enormous and very good fun. Seems a long time ago now! We sang carols and celebrated with mince pies and bubbly.

I was away for the January market - many thanks to Joan for fielding it for me! I believe all went well and the hall was full as usual, despite the holiday season. We are lucky to have such a good mix of stallholders - offering craft, produce, plants, jewellery and baked goods. Also on offer were egg and bacon rolls, sausage rolls and barista coffee. The recycled clothing is always popular - but I'm still looking for people to help run it. St Andrew's can manage a couple of times a year but not every market. If you put your hand up to run it once a year or more, you get to donate the proceeds to the charity of your choice!

Please check out the photos and range of stalls plus news about the markets on the Wamboin Market Facebook page. Either google 'Wamboin Market' and follow links to the Facebook postings or put in:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61571684975208>

See you at the February market!

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It's been a hot, dry few weeks as we've watched the dam levels gradually sink alongside the beautiful pink and red sunsets (with a Campari spritz in hand). The snakes are a plenty and we've seen lots of wildlife taking advantage of the dog's water bowl, including a very inquisitive Jacky dragon. Welcome back to a Bywong January and our first Whisper news update for the year!

From a community perspective I ran in the Kowen Trail Run again this year. This event has been going for several years and is a great community event. It is run by a Local Legend Runner and has been raising funds for the RFS, it is a great series of events with a summer "New Years Resolution" event and a "Winter Trails" version. I enjoyed seeing so many locals at the event. There were definitely a few members of the Bywong Community Association Running and some famous faces Volunteering including the Editor of the Wamboin Whisper and his trusty pooch.

The Bywong Community Association, with our great friends of the Wamboin Community Association, once again shared the honour of co-hosting the Christmas driveway and letterbox decorating competition.

This year the battle was bigger and better than last year. The increased numbers of entrants this year which is a nod to the Wonderful Women of Wamboin and Gail who has been putting this competition on for a very long time. The winners of the BEST DRIVEWAY were Well I'll leave that story to Gail...

We are now moving from a restful Christmas and New Year period into the delights of the Car Boot Sale. The Car boot Sale is our biggest event for the year and is a major fundraiser. With that in mind we like to get everyone excited. The Car Boot Sale is the classic "bring your stuff down and sell it" type event. If you have things that you need to buy, this is probably the place to do it and if you need to catch up with a friend you haven't seen for a while they will almost certainly be at the Car Boot Sale... So far, the planning is going well. We have been in discussions with the Bungendore Guides who are lining up again for an amazing Devonshire team room. We have Wildcare and Landcare, some representatives from QPRC all planning to come down. We are lucky to have the Wamboin RFS assisting us again as one of our long-term community relationships.

If you are a local community organisation who would like to come down, please reach out and we will see what we can do. So, start getting your things ready for sale. If you need to make space in your shed, if you have some things in the shed, or small furniture that you no longer want, maybe some arts and craft or maybe you have a secret talent at making things. This is the place. If you have some friends get together and make a stand and have the chance to peruse the other stands. This is always a great event. Hopefully it'll be a nice Sunday so come one come all.

SUNDAY March 29 is the day in question. Sellers arrive from 7 to set up, buyers from 9 am till 12. – There will be more on this in the next edition. - **Justin Jarvis**



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	<h1 style="color: red; margin: 0;">The Wamboin Firefighter</h1>	<p>FOR <u>ALL</u> EMERGENCY CALLS</p>  <p>PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.</p>
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Callouts, and what we have been up to: The brigade has been busy since the last article, with 3 smoke sightings, 5 x MVA's, 5 x grass fires, 1 x bushfire, 1 x car fire, 1 x pile burn fire and 1 x search and rescue. A substantial fire on Mayfield Road required crews over a 48-hour continuous period. Brigade members have also been deployed out of area, to help other districts with grass and bushfires.

Summer continues with high fire danger: Most brigades in the Lake George District have been very busy since December. Strong winds and dry conditions have resulted in a number of grass and bushfires in the area. Despite some occasional cooler days and even some rain, there is virtually no difference to fire danger ratings. Dry grass is dead grass. "Fully cured" grass is common in the area, meaning there is no moisture left in it, and ignites easily. There are still those that take no precautions when using outdoor machinery, such as mowers, slashers, grinders and welders. Those people put the community at risk, and we see hundreds of accidental fires starting each year from people just not taking precautions. Remember if you start a fire, and it spreads to another property, you are liable for any damage it causes.

Recruitment of new members: The brigade continues to recruit new members each year. We will again seek new members this year. Being a member of the RFS requires a commitment that isn't just when there is a "big fire". As an "Active member", it is expected



that you attend regular training, attend callouts and participate in brigade activities, fundraising and even help in support roles if required throughout the entire year. Callouts aren't just about fires. Members also attend floods, motor vehicle accidents, assist the ambulance service, search and rescues just to name a few. There is a substantial cost associated to train and provide personal protective equipment and clothing (which is free for members), so we need a commitment that you will stay a member for some time. Why volunteer? There are many reasons why people choose to join the RFS. Some want to protect their families, their friends, their assets, their community and their way of life. For many, it's also about being part of a wonderful tradition and an organisation with a very proud history. Volunteering also offers the opportunity to learn new and valuable skills that will not only assist you in your voluntary role but in day-to-day life and your workplace. It is

also an opportunity to meet people you wouldn't normally meet. Whatever your reasons, joining the RFS is a great way to give back to your community, learn important life skills and develop friendships that can last a lifetime. Our volunteers are ready to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year round. NSW RFS volunteers are a familiar sight in local communities but there's more to it than just firefighting. The NSW RFS relies on a team of dedicated men and women behind the scenes, filling important roles in areas such as: Administration, Communication, Catering, Community Engagement, Training, Operational logistics support, Welfare support and Equipment maintenance. What can you expect from the RFS? The NSW RFS provides training and education opportunities to all members free of charge, giving you the knowledge and skills to work safely. As a Registered Training Organisation, the RFS offers nationally accredited qualifications, which means you can take those qualifications and use them in your day-to-day life. The RFS also has several flexible training options available for members, including manuals and workbooks that allow for the flexible delivery of training as well as some online options. Once trained, your brigade will arrange the appropriate personal protective clothing and equipment required for your role. The welfare of our members is important to us, and we have services in place that support our members and their families. If you are considering joining the RFS, contact the brigade on the email link below – "membership enquiries" - Till next time, stay safe! - Don Evans (Deputy Captain)

Membership enquiries	Wamboinmembership@gmail.com
Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade	https://wamboin.rfsa.org.au
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Wamboin Golf – by Ken Gordon 2025 Christmas Cup

Sunday 7 December was the date for the 2025 Wamboin Golf Club Christmas Cup. It really was a merry occasion with a great turn out of twenty players venturing out to play all attired in their Christmas bling. The sponsors this month were Matt Hawke and the Hansens with assistance as well from Col Prest. We thank them for the refreshments and prizes. We welcomed Andrew Huggett this month for his first game, and the return of David Searle.



The best dressed Christmas prize went to Larry King, albeit the choice was decided using AI. Not wanting to be outdone by the YSC proposed rate increase, a proposal for an increase of 40% to the competition fee was put to the members present. After some robust discussion a counter proposal of a 100% increase was proposed and accepted. The monthly competition fee is now \$10. This represents the first increase since the early 1990's at least.

The nine-hole competition was played using the Western course this month. The 9-hole competition was taken out by Steve Lambert (43/33) from Gerard Ryan (38/34) and John Whitney (41/35). Emma Hansen was the winner of the junior competition. The eighteen-hole competition was very tightly contested with David Bailey (86/65) winning from Tim Barter (79/70) and Andrew Huggett (88/70). Handicapper is

sharpening up the trimming tools for David.

Ball winners for longest drives and nearest the pins went to: David B (2), Paul G (2), Steve L, Ken G, Matt H and Tim B. Googly balls went to Steve Harrison for hitting the same rock as last month; Pete Harrison for 'losing' his putter which he'd carelessly placed in Steve Lambert's identical bag; and Stephen Miners for standing on a fallen tree to apply the club length rule. Note: you don't have to be called Steve to play golf. Dummy spitters were David Bailey (handicap change); John Whitney (new green fees); Tim Barter/Vicki Still double act – he missed a birdie opportunity by hitting her drink bottle. The Ted Evans Joke referenced the positive support offered to a homeless man by a frustrated golfer.

Next month, the January event will be on Sunday 4 January 2026 and sponsored by Libby and Larry King. We will contest the traditional 9-hole, 3-club event, commencing at 2:30.

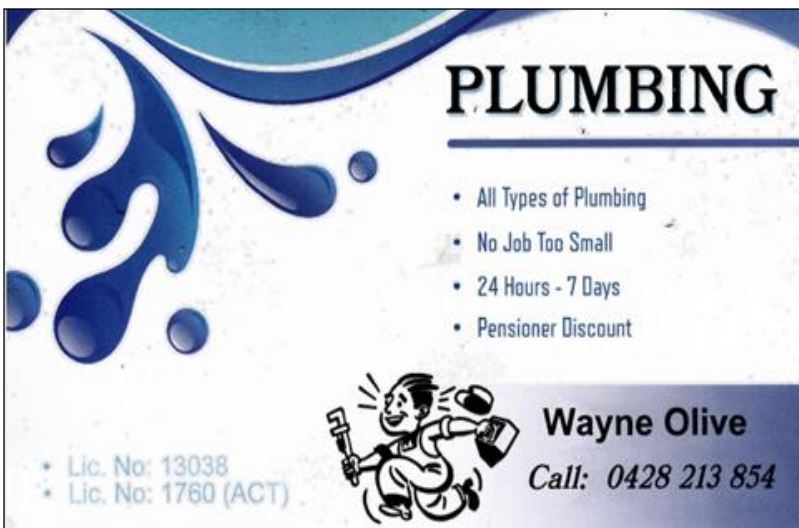
January 2026 Story

Sunday 4 January 2026. A hardy group of 15 golfers welcomed the New Year by playing a nine-hole, three club event. A possible storm was predicted and a couple of golfers did manage a free shower thanks to the precipitation that came through later in the afternoon. The sponsors this month were L & L King and we thank them for the refreshments and prizes. We welcomed Jacob Todd (a visitor from across the border in the ACT). We look forward to seeing Jacob again.

The competition was played using the Western course as is traditional for this event. The junior competition was taken out by Robert Thompson (43/32). The winner of the open competition was Tony Bond (38/27) from Deb Gordon (47/29) and Pete Harrison (44/30). Given the number of low scores this month the handicapper will be busy prior to the February competition. Ball winners for longest drives and nearest the pins went to: Ken G (2), Clint P (2), Tony B, Tim B, Pete H, Robert T, Vicki S and Dave H. The googly ball was awarded to the BOM for correctly forecasting the afternoon weather change. The dummy spit was awarded to Alex G for blaming his poor performance on following his mother's advice (probably one of the few times he may have listened to or heard the advice provided!).

Robert Thompson (who recently met with Cameron Smith at a competition in Qld) provided us with his joke about a Skydiver and golf fairways. A couple of other jokes were offered up as the Teds joke. They related to addition, 36 holes and bequeathing of golf clubs.

Next month, the competition will be on Sunday 1 February and sponsored by the the Baileys and Gordons. Nine-holers will play the Eastern course (Lambert's and France's) next month. We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 1 February for a 12.30pm start.





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Kowen Kapers - Canberra International Clay Target Club



The Queanbeyan Rifle Club was established on 13 November 1886. One hundred years later, in 1986, the National Capital Development Commission was considering a proposal to locate a shotgun firing range in Kowen near the current entrance to today's Defence Headquarters Joint Operations Command. The 40 ha site, known to locals as the 'south pub paddock', was once the location of the Hibernian Inn, Kowen's 19th century pub. (Yes, Kowen had its own pub - at least three in fact.)

The proposal, which had not been released for consultation, elicited strong opposition from locals. Concerns were raised relating to the loss of quality pasture and its close proximity to a rural homestead, *Tara II*, being only 350 metres away. Local opposition was such that the NCDC withdrew the proposal, but four years later, a new home for the Canberra International Clay Target Club was found at Glenburn. This new site, which was further distant from local landholders, nonetheless seems an odd fit within the landscape of 19th century pastoral heritage.

The complex itself was constructed in 1990 following receipt of a \$45,000 grant from the ACT Government.

Facilities offered at the club include Simulated Field, Skeet, Down the Line, Automatic Ball Trap, Universal Trench and Olympic Trap.

- Simulated Field is a form of clay target shooting where the targets are thrown in a manner imitating the quarry that hunters would shoot, such as ducks, quail, pheasants, and even rabbits.
- In Skeet shooting, participants shoot clay targets fired from two fixed stations into the air at high speed and at a variety of angles.
- A round of Down the Line consists of 25 targets fired randomly from five positions.
- In Universal Trench, targets are thrown from one of a group of five traps installed in a trench. Targets are released at different angles, elevations and speeds in random order.
- An Automatic Ball Trap squad consists of up to six shooters; only one target is taken at each stand before moving right to the next stand. Two shots are allowed at each target. Automatic Ball Trap targets are faster and have a wider range of angles and heights than Down the Line and are thrown on random trajectories from a single trap in front of the centre stand.
- As the name suggests, Olympic Trap is an Olympic shooting discipline. When a competitor calls for a target, it is immediately released randomly from one of a group of three traps directly in front of the competitor. It is more difficult than other trap versions in that the distance to the targets and the speed with which they are thrown are both greater.






The club offers corporate/group events, clay target shooting lessons and 'Come and Try' sessions. A firearms licence is not mandatory; however, parental permission and supervision are required for people aged between 12 and 17. For members, the club offers Universal Trap Practice on the first Sunday of every month, Simulated Field competition on the second Sunday of every month, Skeet practice on the third Sunday of every month, and Down the Line competition on the fourth Sunday of every month.

Directions: Using the directions in the previous edition of the *Whisper* (available at the Wamboin Community Association's web page), travel an additional 75 metres west along Charcoal Kiln Road, and you will come to an intersection. The left turn will take you to the Gun Club. - **Peter Komidar, Wamboin**

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2025 Christmas Decorating Competition

By Gail Ritchie Knight

The Bywong and Wamboin Christmas Decorating Competition last year was fantastic. The quality was outstanding and there were many more entries. Clearly people gave their works a lot of thought, as evidenced by the wide variety of designs, which ranged from the whimsical to the stunning. At the Wamboin Markets in December, the winners were presented their

rewards by Justin Jarvis, President of the Bywong Community Association and Jenny Richards, President of the Wamboin Community Association, The prizes included gift baskets from our local treasure Pauline Segeri, sponsored by both Wamboin and Bywong Community Associations and \$50 vouchers donated by the Bendigo Bank in Bungendore. And the winners were:

Best entrance Santa's Six White Boomers by Terry Jasch and family and best mailbox Santa's New Tractor by Russell and Penny Ball and family. (You can see the photos in colour Whisper on WCA website.)



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Anyone can rescue an injured or sick native animal. There are some important provisos, however. A native animal rescued by a member of the public must be given to an authorised wildlife carer or licenced veterinarian and vet hospital within 72 hours. Consideration also needs to be given to whether you have the skills, knowledge, and equipment to effectively carry out the rescue so as not to cause further distress to the animal or cause injury to yourself or others.

Different animals and their rescue situation require a different approach, skills and equipment for a rescue. A snake rescue for example requires a different approach to that required in rescuing a raptor, kangaroo, possum, or wombat. Some, animals, such as bats, require specific vaccination that rescuers must have. Many authorised rescuers tend to specialise in certain species, whether mammal, reptile or bird.

At the Possumwood Wildlife Vet Hospital and trauma recovery centre, our six live-in volunteers have an intense rescue training program covering safety and graded 'at the coal face' exposure to mammal rescue under supervision over a two-month period. A good rescue outcome can be a rewarding experience. At the same time, some rescues can be emotionally traumatic for the rescuer requiring a compassionate approach to the rescue debriefing.

In many ways the volunteer wildlife rescuer embraces similar work to SES volunteers and paramedics, generally without the same fanfare or financial support. Another important role of the wildlife rescuer is to provide briefing to the staff undertaking emergency treatment and ongoing rehabilitation for the injured and sick animal. The nuances of a rescue event can have important input into treatment for stress and dehydration. –

Professor Steve Garlick, Possumwood




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Wamboin Crown Reserve - Guided Walk - Sunday 8 March

The Friends of Wamboin Crown Reserve are pleased to invite you to our next walk on Sunday, 8 March! Come along and enjoy the sights and sounds of Wamboin's very own Reserve.

We'll meet at 8:45 am at the Wamboin Community Centre, 112 Bingley Way, and then we'll carpool to the Wamboin Crown Reserve. The walk is about 5.5 km and will take us through most of the main trails, except for the steep Poppet Hill trails. It's a fun and safe way to explore the reserve for the first time!



Just a heads-up, the trails can be a bit steep and rocky in some spots with exposed roots. It's best if you're in good shape to handle the walk comfortably.

The walk should take about three hours, and if you're up for it, there's an extra loop for those fast walkers who want to go a bit further. To make sure you're comfortable, wear long trousers and good shoes, and don't forget to bring water and some snacks.

The adventure starts on Sunday, 8 March at the Wamboin Community Centre. See you there! To register, click on the QR code at right. -



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How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

Without the month by month donation of time by the 50+ 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 this place 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, each article, invitation and notice you read in each Whisper is only there because you or others in the community took the time to create it. - Ned Noel, volunteer editor

174: CO-ORDINATED BY CHRISTINE RIEBER: phone 6238 3518

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

182: 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+wWrmndra)	21	Phil Leeson&C Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	27
Alison Evans	East Wirreanda	7			

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

Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	44
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	38			

207: CO-ORDINATED BY GARETH JONES Ph: 6238 1988 givrjones@bigpond.com

Sophie Davis	Weeroona (254 – 400)	18	Rachel Palmer	Weeroona (417-512)	19
James Houlcroft	Macs Reef Rd (DenleyToGumFlt)	7	Maria Taylor	Birriwa Rd & Gum Flat Lane	19
Chelsea Moore	Rovere Ln	8	Justin Jarvis Smith	Macs Reef Birriwa to Harriott	14
Megan Wallace	Harriott Rd	28	Barbera.Wilkins	MacsReef 670,622,618,568,566	5
Sandra Favre	Newington Rd	23	Darrin Lincoln	MacsReef 538,565,587,623,625,649	6
Merle Ketley	Snowgum Road	26	Carol&Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (BankersTo FedHwy)	34

172: 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
Chris & Kate M	Sutton Park Estate	57	Russell Ball	Macs Reef – Denley Dr to B'doreRd	26

150: CO-ORDINATED BY Chris Fowler ph 0438 591 098 chrift1@pcug.org.au

Chris Fowler	Millynn Rd	21	David Featherston	B'doreRd SmHill to&nclgdCrkBRd	31
Cheryl Le Mesurier	Brooks Rd	25	David & Connie Jansen	Wyoming Road	20
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (CreekB to Fed Hwy)	33	Peter Sharp	Doust Road	20

253 CO-ORDINATED BY NED NOEL ph 0409-997-082 email nednoel@optusnet.com.au

Robyn Elsom	Denley Dr (Sth End to 429)	17	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	16	Helen Longdon	SarahReef&BrihchmansFrmSarah2End	12
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	23

TOTAL 1,374

Can you create an article, drawing, poem or short fiction piece that will make the March 2026 Whisper a good experience for Bywong and Wamboin residents? Thank you if you are one of the deliverers, content providers, or financiers through an ad for this February 2026 Whisper. It's one more little part of living in Bywong and Wamboin. Deadline for the March 2026 issue is 7 pm February 22. Ned Noel, volunteer editor, nednoel@optusnet.com.au or whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or 0409 997 082

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Ross' Report

I'm almost certain that saying Happy New Year at this late stage is against some archaic Greetings and Salutations Act though I'm willing to run the risk for all those I haven't seen yet! I hope you had a great end to 2025 and a nice start to the new year.

I've had a great start to the new year and survived another Kowen trail run with around 650 others. Local Wamboinian and runner of very, very long distances Pam Muston deserves much credit for her work in pulling the event together over the last decade. The run brings people to our little part of the world and gives them an opportunity to see our beautiful natural environment and community spirit and I'm told has even been the inspiration for some people to make the move to Wamboin!

Of course, if you prefer the car to running up and down our roads, this has been made even easier with the extensive works on Norton Road. The work is almost complete with line markings taking place when weather conditions allow. Thank you all for your patience while the works have been underway.

This is the time of the year that I start to consider budget bids from community members and organisations, in short, what I champion for funding in Council's budget (also known as the Operational Plan). Typically, these are community infrastructure projects though the budget is a point to consider all items of expenditure. The best ideas I've ever had have come from the community so please take time to consider what you'd like Council to invest in and get in touch with me with your ideas. I'm conscious that the money I'm talking about ultimately comes from yourselves as ratepayers so I take a very focused approach to the projects I champion and offer support and in saying that my biggest test is, "will this make our community a better place?" Please get in touch soon as I begin to develop my ideas ahead of this year's budget.

I attended the first of the 2026 Markets recently and it was great to see so many local stall holders there with their array of products. I was also pleased to meet some new residents, some who had moved in just that weekend and already getting involved in the Wamboin life. It was a good reminder to let local friends and neighbours know about more of the great events we have locally. One thing I hope new residents and locals know about is the work of our local RFS. We live in a beautiful environment though it also comes with living in an area of high fire risk. If you haven't made a fire plan, then please get in touch with our local crew. For the last few years, I've sat on the Australia Day awards committee with our work culminating through awards for outstanding locals as we did recently. It's one of the best parts of my role because I get to learn about so many amazing locals who work to make our community better which is very motivating for me. One thing I have noticed is a lack of nominees from Wamboin and Bywong. We all know about the dedicated people in our local community organisations who toil away behind the scenes – we see their faces and their work at almost every event. Please take note of those people and consider nominating them for a Council Australia Day award in the next round.

I'm about to kick off my community catch ups and will be looking to host a stand at the Wamboin Markets soon so please come and have a chat or in the meantime, get in touch via email or on social media with anything I might be able to assist with.

Cheers, - **Ross Macdonald**, ross.macdonald@qprc.nsw.gov.au

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Wamboin Playgroup

Hello everyone and welcome to another exciting year at Wamboin Playgroup.

We extend a warm welcome to families, carers, grandparents and children from all walks of life to Wamboin Playgroup for 2026. As I have shared in previous articles about Wamboin Playgroup, this group continues to grow as a warm, supportive and truly multigenerational community where everyone belongs.



Wamboin Playgroup offers free, unstructured play every Tuesday during the New South Wales school term, from 10 am until midday. There is no expectation or pressure. You are welcome to attend every week or simply drop in once or twice when it suits your family. Each week is relaxed, friendly and nonjudgmental, with open arms for all who join us. Many beautiful friendships have formed here, for both children and adults.

Our playgroup meets at the Wamboin Community Hall on Bingley Way. We are incredibly fortunate to have access to this wonderful space, including a fully fenced playground. This allows children to play freely and safely while carers enjoy a cuppa and time to connect. If you are able to, we encourage everyone to bring something small to share to eat, although this is always optional.

As noted in earlier Wamboin Playgroup articles, we love following the seasons together. We soak up the last of the summer warmth, enjoy gathering through the golden days of

autumn and continue to connect as winter settles over Wamboin. No matter the season, the sense of community remains at the heart of our playgroup.

We also want to reflect on the fantastic Christmas period just gone, with many wonderful events held across the local community. Wamboin Playgroup extends a thank you to the broader community for the ongoing support you give. Your generosity in supporting our fundraisers, encouragement and involvement make a real difference and help this playgroup continue to thrive. Thank you for being part of Wamboin Playgroup. We look forward to sharing another year of play, connection and friendship with you in 2026.

- Clare Camilleri

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Thursday Social Drop In Group

The Thursday Social Group commenced operating a number of years ago. An application for funding was developed in 2015 and granted by Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council in 2016. The aim of setting up the group was to provide a meeting place for the community to get together during the day. The group commenced in 2016 and people attending the group played scrabble or other table games, whilst others played table tennis. Now the group predominantly plays table games (such as rummykub, scrabble, Mexican trains and more recently mahjong) and table tennis is held each Thursday night.

The group currently has been approved for a grant by Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council to help with the venue costs for this financial year. In doing this, those people who attend the group make a small donation each week to pay for morning tea, snacks and equipment as required. The group has approximately 20 participants (male and female) on its books and on any day, we normally have 10-12 people attend. Most of the group are retirees with a couple of participants still working.

In mid 2019, I attended my first Thursday social group. The group was very welcoming and I was thrilled that people remembered my name each week!! In March 2021 it looked as though the group would fold, due to disruptions caused by COVID and other factors. By this time, I had made some wonderful friends and knew how important the group was to each person attending, so decided to take on the role of Convenor.

The Thursday Social group has been operating now for 10 years and remains a wonderful opportunity for people to come along, have a chat, a cup of coffee/tea and a game of something if you would like. Members of the group are very supportive of others and a small network has developed if anyone needs help with anything.

If you want to have a chat about the group, please give me a call on 0438 917206 or email pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au

- Narelle Pumphrey, Convenor

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Mobile Library Service

This wonderful service visits Wamboin Hall every second Thursday. The mobile library contains a wide selection of materials for all age groups. You are able to reserve items from Bungendore, Braidwood and Queanbeyan libraries and collect these from the mobile library when it visits. Printing and photocopying facilities are also available on the bus. This is a great community resource and I would encourage all residents to support the service. The next visits for the Library at Wamboin are scheduled for Thursdays 5 and 19 February 2026 (10.30-11.30am) **Regards, Narelle Pumphrey, 0438 917206**

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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For February I chose the White-plumed Honeyeater, a common bird of the Australian interior and often seen in open woodland and farmland locally.

White-plumed Honeyeater (*Ptilotula penicilata*)

Size: 15-17cm

Status: Fairly common resident

The White-plumed Honeyeater is a medium sized bird that is overall mostly pale brownish-toned, paler below, with olive-yellow wing edges and tail, and a yellow head with bold white plume on the side of the neck. Breeding birds are more brightly coloured and have a bold black bill and eye, with non-breeding and especially immature birds having a paler bill base and less distinct plume on the neck. White-plumed Honeyeaters are highly social, and are almost always in pairs or small flocks, sometimes up to 20 or so. They forage actively and noisily, usually in the canopy, on flowering vegetation or insects. They are nearly always vocal, giving a variety of calls, commonly a high-pitched “due-wick”, rolling “chick-wi-wee-wee” or “chick-wi-wee”, a rapid-fire “pip-pip-pip-pip”, begging “tseep” or “tseep-wert”. They have a very broad variety of call variation and can sometimes mimic other species which can be confusing, however the constant flurry of calls will usually make them easy to locate. They have a strong, fluttery and undulating flight, and are often quite aggressive and territorial, chasing and mobbing other birds out of their territory.



White-plumed Honeyeaters dominate the interior Australian landscape and are abundant in treed inland areas, especially around water and along inland rivers. Locally they favour open woodland and farmland, and also tolerate urban parks and gardens. They avoid treeless areas, and do also favour open treed habitats, avoiding denser forests or wetter habitats. They are also seldom found on the coast, at least in the south-east, and avoid higher altitudes where the similar Fuscous Honeyeater can be found. Fuscous Honeyeaters differ by having a completely brown head and yellow (not white) neck plume. If you are visiting rural farmland or inland areas, it will be hard to miss these charismatic birds. (photo from Google images)

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WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records
(51 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

January Rainfall Stats	Average January rainfall..... 62.1mm
January rainfall to the 25 th 22.75mm	2025 January rainfall..... 72.5mm
2026 total rainfall to 25/1..... 22.75mm	2025 total rainfall to 25/1..... 72.5mm
February Rainfall Stats	
2025 February rainfall..... 55.5mm	Average February rainfall..... 58.8mm
Wettest February..... 170.75mm in 2010	Average no. rain days in February... 7.4
Wettest day..... 54.5mm on 9/2/20	Highest no. rain days..... 18 in 1976
Driest February..... 1mm in 1986	Lowest no. rain days..... 1 in 1995
February Temperature Stats	2025 Feb. minimum..... 3.7°C
2025 Feb. maximum..... 34.8°C	Feb. 25. Av. max 28.9°C & Av. min 12.7°C
Hottest February day... 42.8°C on 1/2/20	Coldest February day... 12°C on 10/2/96
(5.8°C higher than the previous high 37°C)	Hottest February night... 25.9°C on 1/1/20
Average day (max.) temperature... 26.3°C	Coldest Feb. night..... 3.7°C on 16/2/24
Warmest February..... 1983	Average night (min.) temperature... 13.6°C
(Av. max day temp. 29.5°C & night 16.9°C)	Coldest February..... 2012
Av. Feb. temp.. 20.0°C (day+night comb.)	(Av. min day temp. 21.0°C & night 11.4°C)

December Rainfall Stats	Average December rainfall..... 64.6mm
December 2025 rainfall..... 49.75mm	50yr Av. to end of December... 702.1mm
2025 total rainfall..... 583.75mm	

2025 Wamboin Weather in review

2025 Rainfall Stats	2025 Total rainfall..... 583.75mm
Wettest month..... January with 72.5mm	(115mm below the 50-year average)
Driest month..... October with 30.75mm	Jan-Jun - 286.75mm & Jul-Dec - 297.0mm
Wettest day..... 44.5mm on 10 th September	Number of rain days..... 100
	(50-year average is 106.5 days)
October 2025 to January 2026.....137.5mm compared to the 50-year Av.266mm	
2025 Temperature Stats	2024 was the 6 th hottest year
Hottest day..... 37.9°C on 19 th December	Coldest day..... 4.9°C on 8 th June
Hottest night..... 19.5°C on 28 th January	Coldest night..... -3.3°C on 17 th August
Average day temperature..... 21.0°C	Average night temperature..... 7.1°C
Number of days above 30°C..... 47	Number of nights below 2°C..... 63
(50-year average..... 29.7)	(50-year average..... 64.3)

New records set in 2025 (temperatures)

Coldest February night..... 3.7°C on 16/2/24 (previous record 5.0°C on 3 times). The previous record was also broken on the 17/2/24 with 4.4°C)
Hottest May... average day (max.) temp. 17.2°C (previous record 2021 with 17.1°C)
Hottest May on record with an average temperature (across day and night) of 11.4°C
The equal hottest August day of 20.4°C on 25 th with 22/8/21 (20.5°C)
The equal coldest November night of -1.1°C on 12 th with 1/11/16.
Virtual equal coldest December night of 2.5°C on the 2 nd with 2°C on 5/12/11 and 9/12/22.



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The Travelling Stock Reserves of the Wamboin/Bywong area, part 1: introduction & Gambles TSR

David McDonald (david [at] dnmcdonald.id.au)

Although many readers are familiar with NSW's Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs), I recognise that some are not. Here I identify the TSRs in our area, provide an overview of their individual histories, and highlight their conservation/biodiversity values. But first, a few words to answer the question, what are TSRs?

South East Local Land Services (LLS) manages the TSRs in our part of NSW. They describe them as 'parcels of crown land set aside for grazing or moving stock around the state of NSW. There are over 2 million hectares of TSR across NSW, with three quarters of these occurring in the Western division. Local Land Services is the agency responsible for the care control and management of over 500,000 hectares of TSR in the central and eastern divisions. In addition to grazing and moving stock the TSR network also has other values such as biodiversity conservation, Indigenous and European cultural heritage and recreation. TSR play a key role in landscape connectivity and biodiversity conservation across NSW. As TSR are largely uncleared they often contain the highest quality and most interconnected remnants of native vegetation in the rural landscape.' (source: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-and-primary-industries/travelling-stock-reserves>)

The initialism 'TSR' is also sometimes used to refer to Travelling Stock Routes. In south-eastern NSW none exists any longer east of Stockinbingal. A map showing the TSRs, with identifying information, is online at <https://tinyurl.com/rekcsuza>. See MacDonald *et al.* for a map of the State's stock routes in 1888. The TSRs along the stock routes were used for overnight camping and watering. Travelling stock were meant to be walked at least six miles (c. 10 km) each day to avoid them depleting the roadside feed in particular places.

Four categories are used to classify TSRs in the Eastern Division of NSW, reflecting their uses and values. They are detailed at the first URL, above. They include uses for travelling stock, biosecurity, biodiversity conservation, Aboriginal cultural heritage, recreation, and Category 5 'TSR that are no longer used or valued for any of the above reasons'.

Three TSRs are found in or close to the Wamboin & Bywong localities: Gambles TSR on Sutton Road, Schofields TSR on Bungendore Road, and Smiths Gap TSR, also on Bungendore Road.

Gambles TSR: This is the best of the three local TSRs, by a country mile! It is 7.1 ha in area, Reserve no. R25432, at 1631



Sutton Road, Sutton, on the western side Sutton Road. It was notified as a Travelling Stock and Camping Reserve in the *Gazette* of 13 Feb 1897, then much larger than now: 'about 140 acres', i.e. 56 ha, and labelled as TSR No. 51 under the former Yass Rural Lands Protection Board. The Reserve is on both sides of Amungula Creek (formerly known as Roadside Creek and before that Doughboy Creek), and to the west is a privately owned nature reserve. An unlocked gate opposite 1618 Sutton Road facilitates access to the Reserve.



The first family to settle there, perhaps in the 1840s, was William Gambell (born c. 1800 at Bath,

Somerset, England; died 08 Jul 1891 at Sutton, NSW) 'convict, bootmaker, labourer, settler'. His wife was Mary Dardas/Dardis (born c. 1806 at Allenstown, Meath, Ireland; died 1873 at Queanbeyan, NSW) 'convict'. The Gambell family subsequently took up a number of selections in the area, commencing with Edward Gambell's 40-acre Conditional Purchase in 1862. The late Les Reardon (1970) reported that the severe bushfire in the area in 1946 burned out the wooden markers of the family's graves on the western side of Amungula Creek, but Fisher (2001, p. 11) states that the Gambell family graves were, at that stage, located at portion 88, Parish of Goorooyarroo (1761 Sutton Road, Sutton). The nearby Gambell Road, Sutton, was constructed and named in 1998.

The Reserve is classified as Category 2, 'TSRs that are used for travelling stock, emergency management or biosecurity purposes, but they are also important and used for other reasons, e.g. biodiversity conservation, First Nations Peoples' cultural heritage or recreational purposes', owing to its high conservation value as a biodiversity hotspot. The spring wildflower display (including Yam Daisies *Microseris walteri*) is a treat, and the venerable Apple Boxes (*Eucalyptus bridgesiana*) along the creek are a special feature. It also contains some scarred trees that may well be Aboriginal Culturally Modified Trees.

Part 2 will deal with the other TSRs in, or near, Wamboin and Bywong, two of which are also biodiversity hotspots.

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