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Wamboin Community Assn <https://wamboincommunity.org.au>
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		lrrhallbywong@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	adrian.meijer@gmail.com
Landcare	Kathy Handel - Treasurer	0447 289 638	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	playgroup.sutton@gmail.com / Sutton Playgroup Facebook page.		
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
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Wamboin Pony Club	Stacey Burgess -Contact Person	0414 672 979	wamboinpcsecretary@gmail.com
Wamboin Thurs Social Grp	Narelle Pumphrey	0438 917 206	pumpbnjc@westnet.com.au
Greenways Mgmt Commtee	Chris Schweizer - Chair	0404 823 022	beltrim1108@gmail.com
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ARF (Rescue Dogs)	Lisa Whitney	0408 260 796	lisawhitney059@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 May 2026 issue is 7 pm Sunday night, April 26, 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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Autumn is beginning to show and things are getting busy around Wamboin.


1. **Meet Local Council Representatives.** On the **21st April at 7:30pm** QPRC members will be coming to Wamboin for a **Meet and Greet Night**. This is a local council initiative organized so that anyone in Wamboin and surrounding areas can come and speak with people from Council about issues that affect them hopefully to make their voices heard. It will be held at the Wamboin Hall and both representatives from different areas of Council will be present as will a number of Councilors. Please come and attend this meeting particularly if you have ideas/issues that you want aired. At least in this forum you know they will be heard. The more attentive of you will have noticed that this date is the date for our regular Monthly meeting of the WCA. We **will not** be holding a meeting that night but giving the night over to the Council and the Community, however refreshments will be served. The aim is to make this casual, informal, relaxed and enjoyable so please come on the **21st**.
2. **Annual General Meeting.** As a result of the upcoming Council meeting here in Wamboin the Committee elected last February to postpone the **AGM** until our **May** meeting. Normally I would be reminding people of this upcoming event but I guess we get an extension for 4 weeks.
3. **Committee Meeting.** The WCA Committee met on the 23rd February and among other things (like the Council meeting) discussed the date of our annual **Bonfire and Fireworks Night**. I'm happy to say that at the current time the date has been set for **29th August of this year** and now members of the Committee are beginning the first part of the many preparations to bring this event off. You will hear more from me as the year progresses and it gets closer to the actual time of the event.

That's it. I hope as many of you as possible will attend the upcoming April Meeting which is also advertised in this edition of the Whisper. - **Jenny Richards – President**.

Important Notice: Council Community Meeting in Wamboin

Tuesday 21 April, 7.30pm – Wamboin Community Hall

Several members of Council will be on site to answer community questions about projects and general Council matters. The goal is to hear from locals and gain a thorough understanding of what the Wamboin community hopes to see in this year's upcoming budget. Council aims to provide better outcomes for the community with a clearer understanding of local aspirations before the draft Operational Plan is presented on the 13th of May. There is no set agenda for this meeting, but items that have already been raised include: more grant support for projects and activities aimed at youth/teenagers, more support for seniors, and plans for the Macs Reef Road transfer station. Any additional items are welcome at this meeting, and community attendance is highly encouraged. Complimentary coffee, tea and light snacks will be provided courtesy of the Wamboin Community Association. -**Denise Lang,- Secretary**



WAMBOIN WINTER DANCE

We plan to hold a Winter Dance in June. The 'Soul Plumbers', a great local band who get you out of your wheelchair, will supply the music. **Casual dress**, and to reduce cost we are planning a **Barbeque** meal.




Plenty of details to finalise so if you are interested in helping as a committee member, please contact Trent Abel on 0428887753.



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The 2026 Car Boot Sale on March 29th was a resounding success with around 40 stall holders divulging themselves of surplus pre-appreciated items.

The Les Reardon Reserve was full of people looking, haggling, trying to make up their minds or generally chatting with friends and acquaintances not seen for a while.

Stall holders set up shop early in the day, and were then promptly descended on by “bargain hunters”- both from the local area and further afield.

The Car Boot Sale is the major fund raiser for the Bywong Community Association and will help fund some of the activities for the coming year.

In addition, the Wamboin RFS did another amazing job of managing the traffic smoothly and with great efficiency.

This year we were graced with the presence of "[We Got This Flyball Team](#)", who showed some amazing demonstrations of skills and speed.

Again we had a delicious Devonshire teas from the [bungendore girl guides](#), some great plants from Landcare, the Friendly faces from the Greenways and Possumwood Animal rescue teams.

We had the QPRC mobile library. The Police Community Engagement team gave some great advice, and of course the Wamboin RFS helping make sure everyone was ready with their fire plans.

I also had the pleasure of meeting up with some of the previous members of the Bywong Community Association and got some more history of this great Car boot sale event.

The first CBS was in 1997 and continues to be an important local fixture.

The BCA would also welcome any offers of help in running the event. If you have any enquiries or suggestions please email us at president@bywongcommunity.org.au

In the next few months we have some Greenways walks and the Trivia night to look forward to.

So from me personally and the BCA as a whole, Thanks for being a great bunch of people and a great Community. – Cheers,, Justin Jarvis

Yoga in Sutton



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Beginners welcome
Maureen – 0402 900 033

The advertisement for Innovative Metalworx has a dark grey background. At the top, the company name 'innovative Metalworx' is written in a red and white font. Below the name is a list of products in red text: 'Fire pits', 'Fire balls', 'Gates', 'Light boxes', 'Custom letterboxes', 'Privacy and wall screens', 'Garden decor', 'Custom signage', and 'Custom Laser Cutting & Metal Fabrication'. To the right of the list are two square images with red borders: the first shows a fire pit with a large fire, and the second shows a fire pit with a starburst pattern. At the bottom, contact information is provided in white text: 'Email: sales@innovativemetalworx.com.au', 'Website: innovativemetalworx.com.au', 'Facebook - Innovative Metalworx', '1/43 Aurora Ave Queanbeyan NSW 2620', 'PH 0428 381 932', 'PH 02 6232 9207', and 'ABN - 85 168 525 513'.



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I am passionate about providing high quality person centred care to individuals who are experiencing mobility, neurodevelopment, neurodivergent, and other health challenges.

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Callouts, and what we have been up to

The brigade has had three callouts in the last month; 1 x ambulance assist and 2 trees down over major roads. The brigade has also been busy with community and fundraising activities.

End of the fire danger period

The end of the statutory danger period will end on 31 March 2026. This means you can burn off from April 1 2026, until 30 September 2026 without a fire permit, but you must “notify”, read on... (note that the BFDPP can change if weather conditions deteriorate)

There are mandatory things you HAVE to do (By law) for 365 days a year!

Those things are: An online notification, or QR code attached or the website link :

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/BFDPP/notify> where you identify yourself as the person in charge of the fire, your property and agree to comply with some rules and regulations. **ALSO, you must notify ALL your adjoining neighbours. BOTH of these, you must do at least 24 hours prior to lighting the fire.** Failure to do both, can result in our, or other brigades responding to what might be thought of as an out-of-control fire and wasting the time of volunteers and paid RFS staff. Every callout is normally run from RFS in Sydney. It is treated as an emergency until a RFS brigade arrives on

scene to assess the incident. If our brigade is busy or unable to respond, then the closest brigade will be paged. Sometimes 2, 3 or more brigades will be paged to attend and may involve dozens of people being involved. The RFS recommends that burning off is done in the off season and during the cooler months, when the fire risk is low. The season just finished showed that most requests for permits were denied or cancelled because of early season high fire danger ratings. Burning off what is known as a “pile burn” is permitted. Piles should be no more than 1.5 metres high and a recommended width of 2 metres wide or long. Pile burns should be located well away from buildings, power lines and trees. Material should be dry and vegetation only. No pallets, treated pine or building materials should be burnt. Large bonfires are not

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pile burns and can throw off huge amounts of radiant heat which can damage buildings and powerlines that might be considered a safe distance away. They are also very hard to extinguish and control once lit. These recommendations are provided for your safety, and more information can be found on the RFS website, “Standards for pile burning” and “Before you light that fire”. Burning off larger areas of native vegetation or a “Hazard reduction” will require approval from your fire control centre and possibly environmental approval. Contact your local fire control centre if in doubt.

Safe Burning: Even if you've been using fire on your property for years, safe burning is your responsibility.

Every year, fire services attend to hundreds of fires which start due to the careless use of fire. In some cases, fires have been lit illegally. Many have escaped, threatening homes, crops and livelihoods. There are simple things you can do to make sure you use fire safely on your property and avoid becoming the fire risk to your community. Always check the forecast before, during and after your planned burn, especially wind speeds. Till next time, stay safe! - **Don Evans (Deputy Captain)**

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Membership enquiries | Wamboinmembership@gmail.com |
| Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade | https://wamboin.rfsa.org.au |
| NSW Rural Fire Service | www.rfs.nsw.gov.au |
| Wamboin Facebook page | Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade |
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Jane Nock and Gail Ritchie Knight attending the WOW stand at the Bywong Car Boot Sale on a glorious Sunday.

Sutton Playgroup

Sutton Playgroup is an informal play session in a relaxed and friendly environment. We welcome babies and children up to 5 years old (and their grown ups) to enjoy some playtime, art, craft, music and morning tea. It is a great way to meet people in our community.



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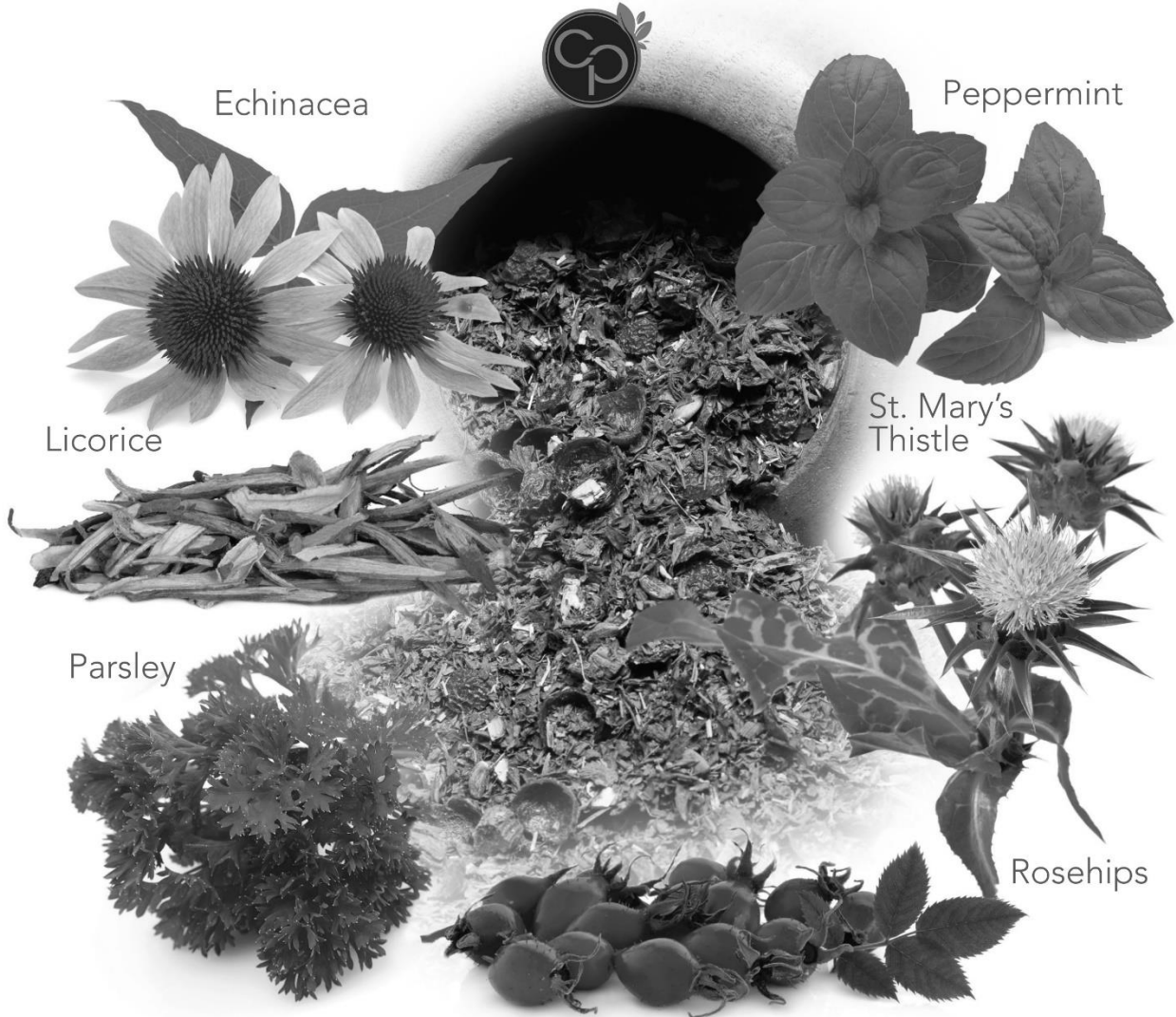
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Kowen Kapers - Going for Gold

Despite being situated between the two biggest goldfields in the region, Bywong and Captains Flat, no gold-bearing lodes have ever been discovered in Kowen. Gold was discovered, however, in the form of alluvial gold, transported downstream over the millennia by the movement of water. Around 200 metres upstream of the confluence of Glen Burn Creek and the Molonglo River, on the right-hand bank of the Molonglo, you will find the site of Kowen's alluvial gold mining activities. In fact, the confluence with Glen Burn Creek is the most likely site of at least three alluvial mining operations. The site was likely chosen for two reasons: because of the large horseshoe bend in the river, slowing the velocity of the river in flood, and causing it to drop its load of heavier objects (including gold) caught up in the flow; but also because it was close to a ford (near Collier's homestead), and therefore more readily accessible. Importantly, however, such gold as there was in the Molonglo, was never present in truly commercial quantities.

The first reported find of gold in Burbong was in 1864, when some local residents brought into Queanbeyan the results of prospecting activity in the form of gold. However, even at that early stage, it was reported that the efforts required far outweighed the amount of gold produced.

Gold panning recommenced throughout the mid to late 1880s, undertaken by local resident William Cooper. There is a Wamboin connection here, as William was the son of James Cooper, Queanbeyan police officer and Wamboin resident. James' 300-acre property was situated on the site of today's Cooper Road, named in his honour. As an adult, William amassed 900 acres of freehold and leasehold land in Gorooyaroo Parish to the northwest of Kowen. While the droughts of 1880-1886 and 1888 would have played havoc with his agricultural interests, they would have also had a silver (golden?) lining as they also exposed parts of the Molonglo river bed, normally inaccessible, for panning.



But there is a mystery here. According to received wisdom, William, his wife Susan and their children lived on land adjacent to his gold panning operation (Amungula Parish, Portion 44). Why would William build a house so far from his pastoral landholdings? And further, why build a house on land he didn't actually own? You see, William leased it from local farmer William Collier. Let's face it, it doesn't make logical sense. Why not build a house on land he owned further north and commute to Burbong to fulfil his gold panning hobby in his free time? Even if he managed to arrange a perpetual lease, it still fails to make economic sense once you deduct the cost of the lease from any profits derived from gold panning. As luck would have it, I have nussed out a possible solution to this dilemma. But it is way too convoluted to do it justice in an article. You'll have to wait until my book on Kowen is released, touch wood, towards the end of the year.

In 1889, it was recorded in official records that alluvial mining was being conducted "on the Molonglo River, about 6 miles from Queanbeyan" but "sluicing [hosing with a jet of water] has not yet started". Cooper's site is 5.8 miles by road from Queanbeyan. In 1890, what is likely to have been the same locality was still being worked. The prospectors, identified as Guyormand and

party, were reported as constructing a race (a wooden aqueduct) about 2 miles long, and a dam (most likely on Glen Burn Creek). Excellent prospects were said to have been obtained, but the following year floods destroyed the work, and the syndicate abandoned their claim. William Cooper, who was most likely a member of the syndicate, died in December 1891, and his family left the location. At this point, all serious gold panning ceased in Kowen.

Should you wish to check out the site, and maybe even try your luck at gold panning, be aware that access, in recent years, has been impeded by the vigorous regeneration of *Kunzea* along the riverbank. Don't forget to pack a machete to hack your way down to the river.

Directions: From River Road, follow the sign-posted track down and across Glen Burn Creek. Do not attempt to cross if the creek is in flood. Follow the trail for another 200 metres and then bush bash down to the river. And good luck!

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A Wavering Tradition

During the Wamboin craft and produce markets in February, I joined a thoughtful group conversation in which Denise Hales (one of Wamboin's shining personalities and a long-term resident), was lamenting the declining incident of residents exchanging a quick wave as they pass in a car. To Denise, the act is more than being friendly as it also harboured an element of belonging and familiarity in the area.

That got me thinking about similar types of etiquette one might see. Those in the military would be accustomed to exchanging a salute. There are a few theories of the origin of the salute. Some say that it dates back to medieval knights raising their helmet visors with their right hand to identify themselves and show peaceful intentions. Others support that, historically, raising the right hand—the "weapon hand"—signified friendship and that the person was not holding a weapon. Lastly, in the 18th century, soldiers removed their hats to superiors. Because this became impractical with elaborate headgear, it evolved into merely touching the hat. Regardless of which theory you prefer (and there might actually be a bit of truth to all of them), there is a common theme of respect and even friendliness in the act.

Another example one might see is when merchant ships dip their flags (ensigns) to warships as a traditional maritime salute, demonstrating respect, courtesy, and recognition of the naval vessel's authority. This voluntary gesture of deference involves lowering the flag to half-mast and returning it back to the top, which warships typically acknowledge by returning the salute. Sadly, this professional maritime etiquette is now rarely practised as ships become minimum crewed, but the voluntary tradition remains a recognised gesture of respect.

I also remember back to when I was a boy, and my father purchased a Renault 12 car (his first car purchased new). The car driver's manual (possibly just for the Australian market) suggested that as Renault drivers encounter another Renault car on the road, that both drivers give a quick flash of their headlights. I loved the concept, and was always on the lookout for another Renault to make it happen. Looking back, I suppose that the non-binding act was to inculcate a feeling of being in a select club of car owners, but there can be no doubt of the friendly nature of the deed that acknowledges the presence of others.

I think that Denise is on to something important in our little society. She is right to want the friendly gesture reinstated back on our roads. The simple act of a friendly wave as we pass in cars on our rural roads is etiquette and respectful. It's a custom that might be fading, but can still be practiced. I realise that drivers might be inclined to look towards the verges for kangaroos, but looking up and offering a polite wave as a car passes is a lovely custom to uphold. It's one of the aspects of living outside a city that I like and is a sign of community. A wave is a bit like a hug. You shouldn't get one unless you give one.

- **Bruce Legge, Wamboin Resident**



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Proposed Wamboin Oral History Project: an invitation

Are you interested in our local history? Would you like to record oral history interviews with some of the earliest residents of Wamboin?

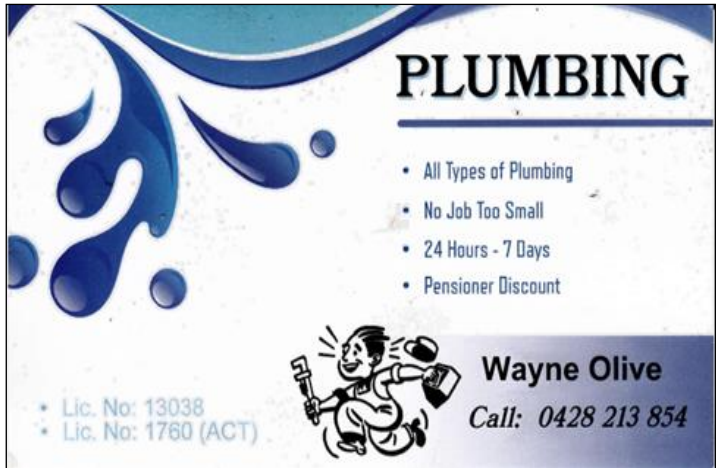
At the suggestion of a local resident, the Wamboin Community Association is exploring a project to collect and preserve the experiences and reflections of some of the area's earliest residents, including people who were born here during Wamboin's first decade. The first settlers moved into the area and built their homes just over 50 years ago. In 1997, Ned Noel (*The Whisper's* current editor) undertook a series of oral history interviews that yielded valuable insights into the history of the district prior to closer settlement (see *The Whisper*, March, June and September 1997). Nearly 30 years later, it is timely to gather further recollections, building on Ned's work and focusing on the post-subdivision era.

The project may particularly suit a university history student or senior secondary history student, though anyone with an interest in local history may wish to participate. The WCA may provide a modest honorarium for the person undertaking the role of oral historian. If you are unfamiliar with oral history research, an overview can be found here:

<https://oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/guidance/practise/>

Expressions of interest are invited. Please email: secretary@wamboincommunity.asn.au

If you would like to discuss the project before deciding whether to submit an expression of interest, please contact David McDonald on 0416 231 890.



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Wamboin Playgroup

Hello everyone. We're delighted to welcome families, carers, grandparents and children from all walks of life in 2026. Our playgroup continues to grow as a warm, supportive and truly multigenerational community where everyone belongs. Grandparents remain a cherished part of our group, bringing connection, wisdom and joy to our weekly gatherings.

Wamboin Playgroup offers free, unstructured play every Tuesday during the NSW school term, from 10 am to midday. There's no pressure or expectation — come every week or just when it works for your family. Beautiful friendships continue to grow here, and you're welcome to bring whole fruit or baked goods to share if that's something you enjoy.

We meet at the Wamboin Community Hall on Bingley Way, with access to a wonderful indoor space and a fully fenced playground. As we head into the colder, wetter months, we'll also be providing indoor crafts and activities for children and adults to enjoy together. We've recently added a Bluetooth speaker and music to our weekly gatherings, bringing even more fun, movement and energy to our mornings.

Thank you to the broader Wamboin community for your ongoing support. Your generosity and involvement help our playgroup thrive. We look forward to sharing another year of play, connection and friendship with you in Term 2 of 2026.

- Clare Camilleri

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Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council **Yass Area Network of Landcare Groups**

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This is a chance to get together with your neighbours, share experiences, tackle challenges like weeds together, and build a supportive local network for managing our grasslands and woodlands. When we work across fencelines, we create healthier landscapes for everyone.

11 Apr 2026 | 9am-1pm
Sutton
Details & Registration
SCAN FOR MORE

NATIVE GRASSLANDS WORKSHOP
Below Our Knees: Grassland & Weeds Gathering

Australian Government **NSW GOVERNMENT** **Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council** **Yass Area Network of Landcare Groups** Friends of Grasslands

This event is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program and delivered for Local Land Services, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.

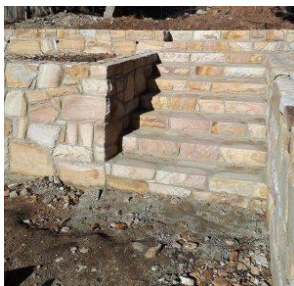
How the Whisper Gets Into Your Mailbox Each Month

Thank you Sandra Favre for delivering Whispers to the mailboxes on Newington Road for more than a decade. Georgina Goonan for generously offered to take over Newington's deliveries. She said she didn't want me to thank her because she won't start till the 28 Newington copies of this issue get to her

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

174: CO-ORDINATED BY CHRISTINE RIEBER: phone 6238 3518					
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Dave Power	Fernloff Rd	34	Vicki Still	Canning Cl	15
Andrea Sadow	Poppet Rd	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	47
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Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	32
Kathy Handel	Norton(Weero2Hilltop+wWrmdra)	23	Phil Leeson&C Fogarty	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	27
Alison Evans	East Wirreanda	9			
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Ken Gordon	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	65
Jules Clancey	1115 – 1240 Norton Rd	38			
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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
Georgina Goonan	Newington Rd	28	Darrin Lincoln	MacsReef 538,565,587,623,625,649	6
Merle Ketley	Snowgum Road	26	Carol&Clive Boughton	Macs Reef (BankersTo FedHwy)	34
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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 chrisf1@pcug.org.au					
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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&BrichmansFrnSarah2End	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 1,380					

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 someone else in Bywong or Wamboin took the time to create it.



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WAMBOIN WEATHER – rainfall and temperature records

(51 years from Cooper Road) by Christine Rieber

March Rainfall Stats		Average March rainfall..... 59.3mm
March rainfall to the 29 th 101.75mm		2025 March rainfall..... 42.75mm
2026 total rainfall to 29/3..... 207.0mm		2025 total rainfall to 29/3..... 169.0mm
		50yr Av. to end of March..... 180.2mm
April Rainfall Stats		
2025 April rainfall..... 31.25mm		Average April rainfall..... 47.9mm
Wettest April..... 174.5mm in 1989		Average no. rain days in April..... 7.2
Wettest day..... 70mm on 20/4/84		Highest no. rain days..... 19 in 1989
Driest April..... 0.5mm in 1997		Lowest no. rain days..... 1 in 1997
April Temperature Stats		
2025 April maximum..... 28.5°C		2025 April minimum..... 2.3°C
Av. April temp.. 13.2°C (day+night comb.)		April 2025. Av. max 22.7°C & min 8.0°C
Hottest April day..... 31.7°C on 4/4/21		Coldest April day..... 8°C (4 times) on
Hottest April night..... 16.5°C on 13/4/18		13/4/94, 27/4/09, 26/4/12 & 22/4/15
Average day (max.) temperature.... 18.1°C		Coldest April night..... -1.6°C on 22/4/21
Warmest April..... 2018		Average night (min.) temperature.... 8.2°C
(Av. max day temp. 24.6°C & night 9.7°C)		Coldest April..... 2011
(warmest night temp. 11.0°C in 1989)		(Av. min day temp. 14.5°C & night 5.7°C)
		(coldest night temp. 3.5°C in 2013)

March 27th was the coldest March day on record, with a maximum temperature of 11.7°C. The previous coldest March day was 13°C.

To the 29th March 2026, the average day (max) temperature was 24.8°C and the average night (min) temperature was 12.4°C, both of which are above the 50 year average, being 2°C and 0.7°C above respectively.]

Can you create an article, drawing, poem or short fiction piece that will make the May 2026 Whisper a good experience for Bywong and Wamboin residents?

First of all, Thank you if you are one of the deliverers, content providers, or financers through an ad for this April 2026 Whisper. It's one more little part of living in Bywong and Wamboin. Deadline for the May 2026 issue is 7 April 2026.

Guidelines for content that seem to me to likely help are:

- written by a Bywong or Wamboin resident and signed by name so residents can trust that a real neighbour stands behind your words
- about or at least relating to life out here
- respectful of the many views and lifestyles among us
- can be an article, an invitation, a question, a poem, a drawing or a short story relating to life out here
- not printed elsewhere
- if it could increase your income, write it, but consider running it as an ad to help pay the printer
- a little humour never hurts
- Ned Noel, volunteer editor, nednoel@optusnet.com.au or whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au or 0409 997 082



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Pickleball comes to Bungendore!

Bungendore Park Tennis Club now has one Pickleball court and another two to follow shortly. If you have always fancied trying this popular game then head over to the Tennis courts on a Tuesday morning between 9-11am to join our clubs Social Pickleball group, where you can join in the fun. All levels of experience are welcome so even if you have never played before you can have a go, all equipment provided. You can pay a casual rate of \$6 per session or if you decide it's your game then Club membership is only \$95 per year giving you free access to all courts during daytime, 7 days a week.

If you can't make a weekday but would like to play on a weekend then please email us. If there is enough interest then we have the option of running another group on a Saturday morning. Email: bptc.pickleball@google.com – Lyn Randall, Norton Rd.

What the Heck Chapter 44

Who said going to a church service was boring?

Whoever did has never attended a service locally with the Sutton Road Anglicans. Since the arrival of Covid, the use of prayer books in churches has not been permitted, so here at Wamboin and Sutton, we installed big screen smart TV's and we project the words, allowing the congregation to follow the service. This also allows us to use videos for the hymns, overcoming a problem of having no organist. Over the years Royce, David and Alan have all had hiccups with connecting computers to the big screen, and recently it was Revd. Wendy's turn.

When Wendy went to connect her computer, it was discovered that the adapter she needed had been borrowed by a family member, and even though returned, had not been put in the carry case, so was still at home. No one in attendance had an adapter to loan so connection to the big screen was a problem. Several attempts to re-programme the equipment failed and time was marching on. Meanwhile most of the female portion of the congregation was happily gossiping, blissfully unaware of the panic setting in at the business end of the church.

Then came the eureka moment! The service is emailed out to all members, so all attendees would have received a PDF version. Alan asked all to stop talking (quite a challenge for a mere male), get their mobile phones, and then open the email so each could follow the service. Half an hour later than scheduled, the service commenced, with the majority of the congregation looking at a mobile phone. Things went smoothly till we came to the first hymn. Trying to activate all the phones at the same time, so as to synchronise the music, proved a challenge. Then another eureka moment! Just one phone to play the music, and retrieve and dust off the unused for four years hymn books. Perfect, until we came to a hymn not in the hymn book. Luckily we all knew the words so did not need printed lyrics. The service was successfully completed in time for a late morning tea.

As I mentioned above, who said church was boring? So if you are near enough to join us at Sutton and/or Wamboin on a Sunday at 9.30am come and have some fun. It is guaranteed to not be boring. Look forward to seeing you there. Oh.....and thank God for mobile phones. - Alan Rope – Rector's Warden.



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Wamboin Golf

Sunday 1 March 2026. A group of 14 golfers ventured out to play in the Wamboin Golf competition on a warm and humid Autumn day.

The sponsors this month were the Schrodgers and the Whitneys and we thank them for the refreshments and prizes. We welcomed Craig Purdham this month and hope he is able to join us again now that he is a Wamboin resident. The competition was played using the Western course this month and was declared as a stroke competition.

The 18 hole competition was taken out by Paul G (77/59) from Andrew H (79/60) and Col U (81/60), all of whom will come under scrutiny of the handicapper. The 9 hole competition was taken out by Jacob T (58/28) from Tony B (40/30) and Ken G (38/33). Handicapper will be busy with the 9 holers as well. Ball winners for longest drives and nearest the pins went to: Tim B, Glenn C, Col U, John W, Ken G, Steve L and Vicki S.

The googly ball was awarded to Vicki S as she recounted how 3 players from their group of 4 managed to chip in from off the green, with the scores on that hole being 2, 3, 4 and 5.

The dummy spit was initially awarded to Steve L who bemoaned the fact that he had managed to play the entire round without losing a golf ball (nearly),

before being handed to the member of the aforementioned group who didn't chip in. The Ted Evans Joke referred to a rarely used golfing term – A rider. Next month, the competition will be on Sunday 5 April and is the annual Wamboin Mini Masters sponsored by the Wamboin Community Association. This is our traditional 12-hole competition followed by the novelty golf shots back at the Hall.

We hope you can join us at the community hall at 12.15pm on Sunday, 5 April for a 12.30pm start.

-Ken Gordon



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Bird Of The Month

By Luke Downey

For April I chose the Rainbow Bee-eater, a summer migrant that I saw recently on its migration back to northern Australia

Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) Size: 22-38cm Status: Uncommon summer migrant

The Rainbow Bee-eater is the sole representative of the Bee-eater family in Australia. Like other members of the family, it is a brilliantly coloured bird, sporting an orange-golden head with a green forehead, a bold black stripe bordered by blue that runs through the red eye, a golden-yellow throat with a dark chest crescent, continuing into aqua-green-yellowish underparts, and greenish-blue upperparts that are bluer on the rump and vent. Bee-eaters are insectivores, as the name suggests, and as such are equipped with a long, curved black bill which is utilised for catching insect prey while on the wing. They are very active birds, often perching on an exposed branch or wire from which they hawk insects in acrobatic, swift flights from their chosen perch.

Whilst Bee-eaters take a variety of insects, they have a specialised tactic of bashing bees and wasps on a branch until it releases the stinger so they cannot get stung. In flight, Rainbow Bee-eaters show off their bronzy underwings and long black tail.

The brighter male sports a pair of long, fine tail streamers, which are shorter in the female. Immature birds are duller green, lacking the dark throat crescent and tail streamers. Rainbow Bee-eaters are highly social, occurring in pairs and small flocks. Their rolling trill-like “purr, purr, purr” and sharp “pik” calls are loud and often give away the presence of these charismatic birds. Recently I could hear some calling at my place and located 5 birds which hung around for a few minutes before moving off. Being a summer migrant to the region, at this time of year they are on migration from the south-east back to northern Australia and New Guinea, and they can sometimes be seen in more unusual locations where they are not resident. Locally they are somewhat scarce and mostly a passage migrant through areas like Wamboin, and as such this time of year becomes good for sighting the species. Over the spring and summer Rainbow Bee-eaters reside in open woodlands, forests or parklands, typically with banks for nesting, especially along rivers and creeks. The Murrumbidgee River and associated tributaries are a local hotspot for them, and they become increasingly common along rivers and creeklines heading inland and north. (Photo from Google Images)



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Bywong And Wamboin Greenways – Autumn Update For Users

With the advent of cooler weather, it's a good time to be out and about on the Greenways Network.

For the Greenways Committee (a s 355 committee under the QPRC, and which provides advice to Council on the maintenance and development of the network), it's the autumn working bee season. This kicked off on Sunday 22nd March with the first leg of a two-stage clean-up of the blackberries choking parts of Greenway 7a, where the greenway crosses Black Joes Creek (just off Birchmans Grove in Wamboin). To minimise impacts on the watercourse the recommended approach (with thanks for expert guidance on the day from Martin Campbell of Tussock Land Management, courtesy of the Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group) is to cut the canes down into multiple small lengths, leave the material to break down in place and then carefully target the easily visible new growth with an approved, appropriate herbicide the following growing season (likely to be in September).

It was a wonderful collective effort on the day, with more than 20 volunteers, including local landholders and members of the Greenways Committee, the Landcare Group and the Bywong Community Association, wielding a mixture of brush cutters, mattocks, loppers and state of the art battery-operated secateurs and mini chainsaws. Neighbouring landholders provided space for volunteer parking and the venue for a tea break, and a sausage sizzle at the end of the morning. Both the morning tea and the sausage sizzle provided opportunities for new connections to be made and old ones revisited. The QPRC provided a portable first aid kit from which, happily, no content needed to be accessed on the day.

The Committee has two further working bees planned this autumn, one in May and one in June.

In May (Sunday 3rd) work will take place on Greenway 3 – this greenway runs from Denley Drive to Weeroona Drive (or vice versa, depending on where you live) – and there are significant erosion challenges on the greenway between its intersection with Greenways 4 and 5. Work is likely to involve the construction of risers (steps) and the infilling of erosion holes with blue metal and gravel. Overhanging vegetation trimming is a given, as is cutting back/digging out of any blackberry, briar rose and Sifton Bush.

In June (date to be finalised) work is planned to clearly define the preferred route of Greenway 7e, which runs past the community dam and bore in Birchmans Estate. QPRC Greenways signs will be installed at the greenway's two connection points with Yuranga Drive to increase awareness of the greenway for users, and a defined path will help to minimise disturbance to waterbirds using the grassy wetland habitat. The local weed problem at the site (blackberries, briar rose, serrated tussock and Sifton Bush) will also be tackled. Morning tea breaks and concluding sausage sizzles - and their associated community networking opportunities - are planned for both working bees.

While the dates and times of working bees are advertised on local Wamboin and Bywong Facebook pages (and in the *Whisper* if the timing works) the Greenways Committee also maintains a register of interested volunteers to whom it sends notices of upcoming working bees. If you would like your contact details to be included on this register, please send your name and email address to Kathy Handel (khandel@bigpond.net.au) who maintains the register for the Greenways Committee. There are no expectations that nominated volunteers will always be available to participate.

A map of the Greenways, together with a table identifying the segments of each Greenway, is in the Bywong/Wamboin Greenways Master Plan which is accessible on both the Bywong and Wamboin Community Associations' websites (<https://bywongcommunity.org.au/greenways/management-of-greenways>) and (<https://wamboincommunity.asn.au/facilities/index.php?op=greenways>). Also, a paper brochure on the Network which includes a map of the Greenways is available and can be dropped off at a local letter box, if requested.

The Committee has also recently been advised that its bid for a funding grant from the QPRC to install 'all weather' Greenways Network maps at both the Bywong Community Hall (at Les Reardon Reserve on Birriwa Road) and the Wamboin Community Hall (on Bingley Way) has been successful. This project is currently the subject of discussions with the QPRC s 355

committees that manage the halls. If the project proceeds along the lines suggested, users will also be able to familiarise themselves with the Greenways Network through these signs – they are planned to be large enough, and mounted at eye level, to allow them to be easily photographed by users before they head off on their Greenway Excursion.

Guided Greenways walks are also offered from time to time, together with the Bywong Community Association, and are advertised in the *Whisper* and on local Wamboin and Bywong Facebook pages. The next public walk is proposed for Sunday May 17th and will be advertised widely nearer the date. - **Chris Schweizer, s 355 Greenways Committee**



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Wamboin's Yass River/Boongaroon signage

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

The signage: Never let it be said that any rivalry or jealousy exists between the localities of Wamboin and Bywong! I have long been uneasy, however, about the signage on the Yass River in our area. Bywong's Macs Reef Road bridge over the Yass River, built in 1994, has 'Yass River' signs at each end. However, some 18 kilometres upstream, where the river passes beneath Wamboin's Norton Road via a culvert built in the late 1980s or early 1990s, close to the Norton Road/Wirreanda Road intersection, no such signage was to be seen.

In November 2025, at my suggestion, the Wamboin Community Association (WCA) wrote to the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council requesting that Yass River signage be installed at the Norton Road crossing. Despite follow-up emails, nothing was heard from Council. However, in early March 2026, 'Yass River' signs appeared—almost miraculously—at each end of the crossing. The WCA wrote to Council thanking them for installing the signs.



The Yass River: The Yass River is the principal watercourse of the Wamboin/Bywong district, along with Brooks Creek. Both have physical and historical significance in the landscape.

The Yass River rises in the high country near the ACT border, in Kowan Gully (Cohen Creek on some colonial-era maps), south-west of Wirreanda Road. It flows northward beneath Norton Road, then west and north, forming the western boundary of the Parish of Wamboin. The river's 90-degree turns immediately north of the Norton Road culvert, and near the end of Fernloff Road, are notable features of the geomorphology of our area. The fascinating paleo-history dealing with the ancient Yass River, the elevation of the Cullerin Horst, and the course of Brooks Creek as it proceeds to join Yass River between Sutton and Gundaroo, warrants a separate telling.

From the Fernloff Road extension, the Yass River continues north and north-west to Yass, joining the Murrumbidgee River within the impounded waters of Burrinjuck Dam.

For Wamboin and Bywong residents, the river is a familiar feature. For historians, however, it presents a more complex problem: what was it originally called, and how did the somewhat strange name 'Yass' arise?

Early European encounters (1820): The river first entered the written record during the exploratory journeys of 1820, when Europeans began probing south-west from Lake George in search of the Murrumbidgee.

In October 1820, a party led by Charles Throsby, accompanied by Joseph Wild, James Vaughan, and two Aboriginal men (possibly Taree and Peroa, neither being from the region), crossed the range west of Lake George—very likely in present-day Wamboin—and encountered the headwaters of what is now the Yass River. They followed the stream northward for some distance before returning to their base camp where Taylors Creek enters the lake, via Brooks Creek and Gearys Gap.

A further expedition in December 1820 again traversed this country, confirming the presence of a north-flowing river—now known as Yass River—rising near the Lake George basin. These journeys represent the first documented European contact with the Yass River system in the Wamboin district.

'Boongaroon': the earliest recorded name: Significantly, the river was known to Throsby as 'Boongaroon': 'In a letter dated November 17, 1820, Throsby, under directions from the Governor, instructed Charles Throsby Smith, Joseph Wild, and James Vaughan, as follows :-"To proceed to Lake George (Wee-raa-wee) from thence you are to take your departure, and proceed to the stream of water (Boon-ga-roon) which I discovered running to the southward"'. Throsby was clearly in error in stating that the river ran southwards; then, as now, it ran towards the north. Given the October–December 1820 routes—where the expeditioners clearly met and followed the headwaters of the Yass River in what is now Wamboin—it is most plausible that 'Boongaroon' relates to those upper reaches, even if the 1820 description is imperfect.

The name 'Yass': competing explanations from the Yass Valley region: The modern name 'Yass' is widely accepted as being of Aboriginal origin, but its precise derivation remains contested. Three main explanations appear in historical sources: (1) 'Yarrh' – *the original river name:* linguistic analysis indicates that this may reflect an Aboriginal word ending in a trilled "r" sound, difficult for English speakers to reproduce. Later simplification likely produced 'Yass'. (2) *A descriptive Aboriginal term ('waters')*: some sources claim that 'Yass' means 'waters'. This interpretation is now treated with caution. (3) *Anecdotal colonial explanations:* according to the Geographical Names Board of NSW, popular stories attribute the name to an Aboriginal guide telling Hume 'Yass boss, plains' (1821), or a settler, Mr Angel, saying to Hume 'Yas, yas, plenty of clear country here' (1824). These explanations are almost certainly folk etymologies, reflecting later attempts to rationalise an unfamiliar word.

The Yass River carries a layered history: a physical presence shaping the Wamboin and Bywong landscape; an early exploration route in 1820; an Aboriginal name for its headwaters, 'Boongaroon', recorded but not definitively identified; and a modern name, 'Yass', derived from an Aboriginal word from the Yass Valley region, whose original pronunciation and meaning remain obscure. Taken together, these strands illustrate a broader pattern in south-eastern Australian history: the partial survival. Aboriginal placenames, filtered through early European hearing, spelling, and reinterpretation. (The references for this article are in a longer version, online at <https://tinyurl.com/mr3an25v>)